

NEWS AND EVENTS

FIVE MORE LEEDS SCHOOLS RECOGNISED AS 'SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY'



Schools of Sanctuary has an accredited scheme which offers awards to schools who meet the standards of welcome to refugees and asylum seekers in their areas. Find out more about Schools of Sanctuary [here](#).

Ann Nicholl (Leeds SACRE) writes: "Many schools in Leeds are seeking to become Schools of Sanctuary, and this is a credit to the strength of our local communities. Five schools in Leeds have received the award this year. The schools were Abbey Grange Academy, Christ Church Academy, St Stephen's Primary School, Co-op Academy and Woodhouse Grove School.

On Thursday June 27th, a celebration was held in the Civic Hall in Leeds, in the presence of the Lord Mayor, to present these schools with the award. Each school gave a short presentation about their efforts to gain the award and there were words of encouragement from the Lord Mayor and the local councillor for the Kirkstall area.

It was a most joyous occasion, and it is hoped that more schools will become Schools of Sanctuary in the future."

MOSQUES OPEN FOR 'VISIT MY MOSQUE' OPEN DAY IN SEPTEMBER

'Visit my Mosque' Open Day gives members of the community an opportunity to visit their local mosque and meet members of their local Muslim community. Find details of local mosques on the 'Visit my Mosque' website [here](#).

Events include Qur'an recitation, opportunities for discussion and live prayer. Refreshments will be provided.



Ashton Central Mosque Hillgate St, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 9JA will be open from 11.00am – 3.00pm on Saturday 28th September. Further details here: www.ashtoncentralmosque.com/calendar/vmm24/

Jamia Masjid Noor, Crosland Road, Huddersfield, HD1 3JS will be open from 12.00 – 4.00pm. Further details here: www.jamiamasjidnoor.co.uk or contact info@jamiamasjidnoor.co.uk

INTERFAITH WEEK EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS

Interfaith Week (November 10 – 17) is a great opportunity for pupils to explore interfaith issues and for schools to build relationships with faith and belief groups in their community.

'Autumn Festivals': An Interfaith online event for primary pupils on Thursday November 21st. This is an opportunity to learn about some of the festivals celebrated in Autumn, and to meet members of local faith and belief communities in an online Q and A.

Two-faiths visit: Explore a church and a mosque with a short walk between in Dewsbury town centre. For further information and to book school interfaith events contact helen@penninelearning.com

Interfaith week sensory story time

Why not book a multi-sensory story time for Early Years and Key Stage One during Interfaith week? The session includes stories, activities and Q and A session with local Muslim author, Saffiya Shabeen. Her beautifully written and illustrated stories will be available for schools and parents to purchase. For booking and further details contact youandmepublications@gmail.com or visit the website [here](#) for books, activities and teacher resources.

Interfaith Week resources for schools

The Interfaith Network has now closed, but their website continues to offer ideas and resources for in-person classroom and whole-school activities. Interfaith Week resources and events can be [accessed here](#). There are free [secondary school resources](#) and [primary resources](#) to help teachers when covering inter faith activity in the UK, especially but not exclusively in the lead up to and during Inter Faith Week.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL SACRE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!

Are you passionate about religious education and collective worship in schools? Do you want to contribute to shaping the future of Religious Education (RE) in your local community? Join your local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) today!

What is SACRE? SACRE works alongside the local council to oversee and improve the quality of Religious Education in schools. SACRE is made up of representatives from various faiths and denominations, local councillors, and teachers.

Why Join SACRE?

- Make a meaningful impact on RE and collective worship in your community.
- Participate in CPD opportunities as meetings take place in different places of worship.
- Share your expertise and insight to guide schools on matters of faith and education.
- Help to design and maintain the local agreed syllabus for RE.

Time Commitment: SACRE meets four times a year and includes an element of CPD for members.

Who Are We Looking For? We are especially welcoming new members from the Sikh, Muslim and Jewish faiths. Primary and secondary teachers and headteachers are encouraged to apply - your professional input is invaluable to the work we do. If you would like more information, contact enquiries@penninelearning.com

AN INTERFAITH WELCOME FOR STUDENTS AT KIRKLEES COLLEGE



North Kirklees Interfaith and the Empathy group attended the "Welcoming fairs" at Pioneer and Springfield colleges, Dewsbury. Students and staff members were invited to write messages of peace, hope, inclusivity, diversity and kindness on wooden tags.

Fazila (co-chair of NKI) commented: "The students enjoyed the activity and shared some of their lived experiences regarding their chosen topic with us. We had a wonderful time learning about their aspirations and discussing their written messages."

Some of the students took the tags home while others gifted the tags to NKI to display during Interfaith week on a return visit to the colleges and at various other venues in Kirklees.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL CALLS FOR A NATIONAL PLAN FOR RE

Religious Education (RE) is the most underfunded subject per student, despite being one of the most widely studied humanities subjects at GCSE. RE subject leaders have called on the new Education Secretary for support. GCSE entries for full-course Religious Studies in England and Wales remain steady at 233,288, marking a 0.5% rise from 2023. Read the full REC article [here](#).

The number of students taking A-Level Religious Studies in England and Wales has dropped by 1.5% to 15,201, following a peak of 21,577 in 2015 after steady growth from 2003. RE subject leaders are calling for a national strategy to improve resources and to help the subject grow again. Read the REC article [here](#).

You can help to highlight some of the issues in Religious Education by **contacting your MP**. There are two ways to do this:

- If you tweet, tag your MP and tell them to visit stand F13 at the Labour Party Conference this week. Further details can be found [here](#)
- Write to your local MP. There is a pre-written letter that you just need to adapt. Send this to your local MP via email. Search their name to find this on the parliamentary website. Find all the details [here](#).

A final task would be to report that you have done this to NATRE using the survey link which can be found [here](#).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ON THE BBC: WHY SHOULD WE TEACH RE?



Why teach RE in schools? Watch an interesting discussion about the place of RE in the curriculum shown recently on BBC Sunday Morning Live. The discussion begins at approximately 38 minutes from the start of the programme. Link to BBC iPlayer [here](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE WEBINARS ON WORLD FAITHS: BOOK NOW!

Develop your subject knowledge of religion and worldviews by meeting and hearing from someone who practises their faith, as well as exploring teaching strategies and resources. Each webinar will welcome a guest from the respective faith/ belief tradition who will share first-hand perspectives and answer questions about the faith or its teaching in school.

All twilight sessions run from 4.00-5.30 pm

- Thursday 26th September - Buddhism
- Tuesday 16th October – Islam
- Thursday 22nd November - Humanism
- Thursday 16th January 2025 – Sikhi
- Tuesday 11th February 2025 - Judaism
- Monday 28th April 2025 – Christianity
- Wednesday 11th June 2025 – Hindu Dharma



The webinars are aimed mainly at primary RE teachers but will also provide useful subject knowledge development for many secondary colleagues.

Contact enquiries@penninelearning.com for information and bookings.

COURSES, NETWORKS AND SUPPORT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADERS

If you have not already discovered the local RE networks, why not join us this academic year? Primary and Secondary RE Networks meet termly. They are a great way to meet other teachers to share ideas and resources.



Primary RE Networks in 2024/25 – dates for your diary:

Calderdale (1300 - 1530): 9th October, 4th March, 3rd June

Kirklees (1300 - 1530): 8th October, 10th March, 11th June

Tameside (1600 – 1730): 22nd October, 25th February, 17th June

Leeds (1315 – 1500; 1545 -1730): 15th October, 12th March, 10th June. Book via Leeds for Learning

Please contact enquiries@penninelearning.com for details of primary networks.

Secondary Networks: Kirklees/ Calderdale/Leeds (0900 – 1500): 14th November , 3rd February, 7th July.

Please contact jake@penninelearning.com for details about secondary networks.

Don't panic! Practical and effective leadership of Religious Education:

Friday 15th November (0900-1530) Technorth, Leeds.

Book via www.leedsforlearning.co.uk

Friday 25th October (0900-1530) Savile Park at Heath, Halifax

Book via debby.simpson@calderdale.gov.uk

BOOK NOW FOR RE: EXCHANGE – FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE

This free virtual two-day conference brings together teachers and researchers in an exchange of knowledge and practical expertise in RE.

Keynote speakers include Dr Jasjit Singh, Associate Professor, University of Leeds and Chine McDonald, Director, Theos Think Tank

Friday 18th – Saturday 19th October 2024 via Zoom.

More details and booking information [here](#).



HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE THAT?

Have you ever wondered if you are pronouncing a word correctly when you are teaching RE? The Shap Calendar group have produced a resource to help, working with members of different religious communities. Click [this link](#) to find a glossary of religious terms, together with their correct pronunciations.

SCHOOL RESOURCES AND WORKSHOPS

BELIEVING AND BELONGING RESOURCES: NOW INCLUDES EY AND FOCUS UNITS

Planning with the syllabus: The RE planning folder is still available to support the new RE syllabus for West Yorkshire. Over 60 units of work provide lesson planning for EYFS, key stages 1-3 and non-examined KS4. A one-off subscription costs £220 per school (no annual payment – this lasts five years). Samples of units are available [here](#). To set up a subscription to the units of work, contact business.solutions@kirklees.gov.uk

Resources to support the units of work: A full set of Powerpoint resources is now available to support all core and focus units from EYFS to Key Stage 3. Current subscribers will have access to EY and focus unit Powerpoints at no further charge.

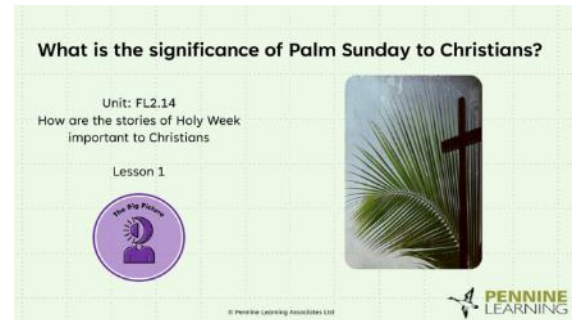
September offer price for **new** subscribers:

£490 (+VAT) for all EYFS, KS1 and KS2 core and focus units

£390 (+VAT) for all KS3 core and focus units

This is a one-off subscription with no annual renewal. Please note that Powerpoint resources are being published in three tranches over 2024-25. Ask us for the timetable to help you with your long-term plan.

To order or enquire contact enquiries@penninelearning.com



PICTURE NEWS: FREE SAMPLE ASSEMBLY AND POWERPOINT OFFER

Picture News provides schools with resources to enable children to understand, reflect on and talk about the news. By teaching about current news stories, children are given a voice to engage with real-world events - for example discussing how communities united after the summer riots. Schools can receive a free sample Picture News pack, including a ready-to-use PowerPoint, to try out the resources before subscribing.

Request a free sample [here](#) or visit the Picture News website [here](#).

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP: INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND ASSEMBLIES

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. In practice, this allows schools to focus on broad, universal and important themes common to world faiths and non-religious worldviews, such as compassion, forgiveness, generosity and charity. It allows schools to remember specific festivals or stories from Christianity and other world faiths, and to bring secular perspectives to these stories.

Together with other requirements to promote tolerance of different faiths and non-religious beliefs, it is wise to interpret the instructions with sensitivity and realism, demonstrating the fundamental value of tolerance for all. The focus will vary according to the ethos, circumstances or foundation of the school.

Information, resources and ready-prepared assemblies about themes and festivals can be found on websites including:

- The Shap Calendar Group <https://www.shapcalendar.org.uk/>
- The RE Online Festivals Calendar <https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>
- Assemblies for All <https://assembliesforall.org.uk/>

CELEBRATE FAIRTRADE WITH FAIR AND FUNKY WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE



'Love Fairtrade' is the perfect workshop to introduce Fairtrade to primary pupils. The one-hour workshop teaches knowledge and understanding of global issues through creative activities linked with art, geography, DT, citizenship and sustainability. The workshop can be adapted to suit early years, KS1 or KS2 – all materials are provided.

Fairtrade conference 2025 Early Bird bookings now open! Schools are invited to bring 8 children and up to 2 members of staff to the Fairtrade conference on March 5th, 2025. Book before October half term for a 10% discount.

Details of Fairtrade conference here: <https://www.fairandfunky.com/school-events/>

View all workshops here: <https://www.fairandfunky.com/category/school-workshops/>

SOLUTIONS NOT SIDES TAKE PEACE-BUILDERS ON TOUR IN THE NORTH

This academic year, SNS will be running tours in cities and regions across Yorkshire and the North-West. There is still time to book a workshop to help your students to understand and discuss current events in a safe space and to meet peace-builders from Israel and Palestine and talk about their experiences of conflict and peace activism.

- Manchester 28 October-1 November
- Leeds 4-8 November
- Bradford 10-14 February
- Lancashire 24-28 February
- Leeds/Bradford 5-9 May
- Manchester 12-16 May



Comments from students: "It has educated me and showed unbiased views which is necessary - very helpful and allows me to have an opinion on this topic" (Leeds)

"Makes me want to be more vocal and care more about international issues." (Bradford)

"Speaking to some of our learners, they felt that they understood the complexity of the situation far more, but also knew what was needed for peace" (Manchester teacher)

Book here: <https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/our-work/book-a-workshop>

GLOBAL NEIGHBOURS AWARD PROMOTES CLIMATE JUSTICE

Global Neighbours Award is an award for primary and secondary schools, accredited by Christian Aid and the Church of England. It encourages young people to become agents of change/courageous advocates in the areas of climate justice and global poverty and challenges stereotypes around these issues. There are 3 levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold. Visit the website for further details [here](#)

Local SACREs would like to encourage special schools/SILCs to consider going for the award. Christian Aid would be happy to support a special school in trialling the award to see how suitable it is for special schools and whether any adaptations need to be made. Please contact helen@penninelearning.com if you are interested in exploring this.

FAITH AND BELIEF FORUM RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SKILLS FOR DIALOGUE

Faith and Belief Forum creates spaces in schools, universities, and the wider community where people can engage with questions of belief and identity. Their programmes enable people from different backgrounds – both religious and non-religious – to meet, learn from each other and work together.

This unprecedented year has highlighted more than ever the need to support young people to learn **skills for dialogue**, with a focus on empathy and understanding, as they navigate our complex world and learn to discuss controversial issues.

Find resources to support skills for dialogue [here](#). Find information about other programmes such as schools linking [here](#).

HAND TO MOUTH: HELPING SCHOOLS TO REFLECT ON FAITH AND VALUES

Hand to Mouth is a charity that works in primary schools delivering creative RE lessons and assemblies that enable children and school communities to explore Christianity and reflect on their own spiritual journey and values. 'Amazing Journeys' helps children to think about different aspects of faith, ask big questions, and explore their own views and opinions. They also offer 'Amazing Journeys' for school staff, helping adults to think about their values

too, working on team building and how to face the challenges that our personal and work lives can hold. Visit the website www.handtomouth.org.uk or email office@handtomouth.org.uk to find out more.

UNDERSTANDING HUMANISM: VIRTUAL TOUR OF LONDON'S CONWAY HALL



London's Conway Hall is one of the UK's only two surviving buildings dedicated to the non-religious. Take a free interactive virtual tour of this beautiful building, steeped in nearly a century of humanist history. The tour has been designed specifically for schools to enrich teaching about non-religious worldviews.

There is a selection of free supporting materials help educators to get the most out of the virtual tour, including a teachers' guide, stories, and suggested activities for the classroom. Take the tour and find resources [here](#)

UK JEWISH FILM: FREE FILM-DRIVEN WORKSHOPS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

UK Jewish Film is an organisation dedicated to developing an environment in which Jewish film entertains, educates and enlightens diverse audiences. They have developed some film-driven antisemitism workshops for secondary schools. These free workshops have been run successfully at secondary schools in London, and they are hoping to expand the programme to other cities in the UK.

They would like to establish contacts with schools in Leeds who may be interested in running a workshop. Contact eliot.gelbergwilson@ukjewishfilm.org if you are interested in exploring this.

More information can be found here: <https://ukjewishfilm.org/antisemitism-and-film/>



Newsletter produced for teachers and schools in Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Oldham, Tameside and Sefton – and anyone else who might find it useful! Pennine Learning is contracted by these councils to support statutory responsibilities for RE and SACRE. We work hard to make sure information is correct and up to date but cannot accept liability for any errors or changes to third party information. Views and items do not necessarily represent the views of the Councils. To contact us please email enquiries@penninelearning.com.