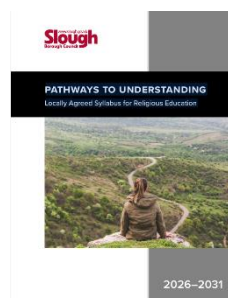


Happy New (Academic) Year! Hopefully your summer break proved refreshing and that you have had a positive start to the new school year. There is a long term ahead and much that is going on.

Access Pathways to understanding, Slough Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education [here](#)

SACRE is considering some very minor adaptations to see if we can re-instate a Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus. In the meantime, this is the statutory document.



Professional Development

There are plenty of opportunities for CPD for RE teachers, either in the shape of training events, or online support and resources.

Local Networks

In 2025-26, after discussions with those who attended this year, we are changing how our networks will be run. In the Autumn and Spring Terms, we will run a separate Primary and Secondary network in each term. Then in the summer term there will be a combined Primary and Secondary network.

The dates for this year are as follows.

Autumn Term

Primary **Wednesday 1st Oct 4.00pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86556151529?pwd=3UJmHbxsGHWSLQGAXBoPq8cP8lqz1L.1>

Secondary **Wednesday 15th Oct 4.00pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81613615038?pwd=Ch4wesTcfGPSI4qaSunxAtFcqwPSiW.1>

Spring Term

Primary Wednesday 28th Jan 2026 4.00pm

Secondary Wednesday 11th Feb 2026 4.00pm

Summer Term

Combined Wednesday 10th June 2026 4.00pm

Please note that these are also open to Special Schools.

All will be online via Zoom. I have a mailing list and send out the link via this. If you wish to be added, please contact me (bjvmoore@justbmoore.com) with your email and school, stating whether Primary or Secondary. If an all-through school, I suggest your primary and secondary years RE leads attend the appropriate meeting for their phase.

The Primary agenda will focus on

1. your views/issues re the new agreed syllabus
2. Training for the AS
3. Inter Faith Week and
4. The Oak National Academy materials
5. AOB

The Secondary agenda will focus on

1. your views/issues re effective RE/RWVE at KS3
2. Training for the AS / a worldviews approach
3. Inter Faith Week and
4. The Oak National Academy materials
5. AOB

There will be a half day training for Primary teachers in the week beginning 20th Oct. Details will be sent out when final arrangements have been confirmed.



Strictly RE 2026

Date: Saturday 31 January 2026 **Time:** 8.45AM-4.50PM

Cost: £185. **Early bird discount: Save £15** (book before 31 October 2025). NATRE members will receive £25 off the ticket price.

Venue: Voco St. John's Hotel, Solihull

Further info and booking [NATRE Strictly RE 2026: National Religious Education](#)

If you are not yet a member of NATRE, I strongly recommend subscribing. The termly mailing is well worth it and you get full access to the [NATRE website](#). They provide excellent support for Primary, Secondary and Special schools, including in-person and on-line training.



They also run a monthly webinar for those [new2RE](#) plus other courses, support and resources. The site is open access, but membership gives greater support and materials.



Culham St Gabriel's Trust

[REOnline](#) provides excellent support both for subject leaders and for teachers. Particularly helpful for teachers is their subject knowledge section:



They also provide some excellent videos on aspects of RE and recent research and a search facility for resources by key stage and content.

Part of the research/development work they do is through their **focus weeks**, an example is below:

Focus week: Primary RE: Can it provide a window on the world for pupils?

Focus Week: Primary RE: Can It Provide a Window on the World?

The **Leadership Programme** is well worth considering if you wish to extend your experience beyond the classroom and school:

[Leadership Scholarship Programme - Culham St Gabriel's](#)

Here is a link to the [Festival calendar](#) on their website.

RE Hubs



[REHubs](#) is developing fast! You can access this for:

- [Courses and events](#)
- [Finding local RE Groups](#)
- [Finding local places of interest](#)
- [Finding school speakers](#)
- [Finding resources](#)
- [General news and blogs from the RE community](#)

You can also get involved in the work of the RE Hubs.



for head teachers and teachers of Religious Education and associated subjects

Farmington Scholarships 2026-27

Applications for the academic year 2026/27 are now open and details of how to apply can be found at this link [Farmington Scholarships](#). The closing date for applications 26th January 2026.

These have been career changers for some and professional boosts for everyone involved. This is probably the CPD Gold-Standard not just in the RE world, but in education as a whole. They are fully funded and allow for research into an area of interest to you. SACRE would be most interested to hear if you are offered a scholarship place and to celebrate your progress and work with other schools. They have a new email address: institute@farmington.ac.uk

Up-coming national events:



Interfaith Week 2025 9th-16th November

'Community: together we serve'

*"The role of RE and interfaith education in schools is central to building a cohesive society. I am proud to support our educators as they foster not only knowledge, but also the values of tolerance, respect and understanding. **These are the values that will help children build confidence in their identity and will help them thrive in our diverse***

country."

Lord Khan of Burnley

The theme this year **Community: Together We Serve** is designed to reflect the fact that all faiths and beliefs have at their heart the ways in which we treat other people and contribute to stronger and safer communities. Whether it be the 'Golden Rule', the concept of sewa, or mutual aid, communities work together for our mutual benefit. Interfaith work can and should contribute significantly to this.

Why celebrate Interfaith Week?

Engaging with Interfaith week will help contribute towards:

- Your statutory duty to promote Community Cohesion
- Celebrating diversity within your school and local communities
- Exploring pupils' individual identity and shared humanity
- Developing and strengthening your school values, ethos and community
- Building stronger links with your local communities

- Your statutory duty to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of your pupils.

Ideas for schools can be found on the website [Home | Interfaith Week](#)



News from
Holocaust Memorial
Day Trust

Holocaust Memorial Day 27th Jan 2026 'Bridging Generations'

"This Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past - to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future. There are many things we can all do to create a better future. We can speak up against Holocaust and genocide denial and distortion; we can challenge prejudice; we can encourage others to learn about the Holocaust and more recent genocides."

For more information and support, visit the [HMD website](#)

Recent national developments and statutory requirements:

The last few years have seen the development of a number of initiatives and documents within RE. It is important to remember that there has been no change in the law and so all of these developments and resources are non-statutory. **The basis for planning your school RE curriculum remains the Locally Agreed Syllabus, for maintained schools, or the equivalent for Trust and other Faith or Academy schools.** However, these documents are all designed to support in the development, planning and implementation of high quality religious education.

1. The Oak National Academy RE materials

These have now been released and are based on the principles of the Oak National Academy. **They are not a syllabus and cannot be used as a syllabus**, but as resources, adaptable power-points, worksheets and quizzes that you can use selectively **to support some aspects of the teaching of the Agreed Syllabus**. They are all of the same Oak Academy structure and allow you to access subject knowledge. You can use them to help explore some of the enquiries within the Slough Agreed Syllabus. You can access them [here](#).

2. The DfE curriculum review

In March this year, the review panel published its [interim report](#). RE was mentioned specifically:

"Subjects not on the national curriculum

RE and RSHE are subjects that schools are required by statute to provide, but which do not form part of the national curriculum. Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision.

Similar sentiments have been raised in the Call for Evidence responses and in a Review roundtable with RE organisations. In contrast, the DfE provides statutory guidance for RSHE. It is currently reviewing the existing guidance in parallel with this Review and we will ensure that any implications of its findings are considered as we move into the next phase of work.

For these subjects, there is a balance to be struck between securing an entitlement to high quality content for all, and, particularly in the case of RE, the need for flexibility to be retained for different school types (i.e., schools with a religious designation and those without). We will consider these points through our analysis of each different subject before publishing our final report.”

The final report is expected in November .

A reminder about curriculum plans.

Schools must publish their curriculum on their website, providing an overview of each subject curriculum for each year group along with the curriculum intent, implementation and impacts statements. This includes RE. **Sough SACRE will be monitoring schools’ curriculum so that we can identify good practice and any support that might be needed.**

Resources

Islam

‘**Learn Islam**’ has been setup to help teachers by providing high quality materials related to Islam for free that has been verified, so that teachers are able to teach with more confidence.

Resources covering KS1-4 include:

- PowerPoints slides for Primary and Secondary Schools.
- Worksheets and Quizzes based on the slides to assess knowledge.
- 88 recorded words showing how to pronounce key Islamic terms.

Resources can be found at www.learn-islam.co.uk

Muslim Learner Services

‘Promoting a better understanding of Islam in Schools and Colleges’

Muslim Learner Services based in visits schools (in-person or virtually) and supports primary schools with Islam assemblies, pupil workshops, staff training and Islam teaching resources.

<https://muslimlearnerservices.org/>

Sikhi

Visit Guru Maneyo Granth Gurdwara and Without Shape, Without Form Exhibition

We would love to welcome you to book a visit to the gurdwara for teachers and students.

We regularly have schools visit the Gurdwara to complement their education in world religions. Children take part in a structured visit that can be tailored to each school’s individual requirements. Visits to date have included: Classroom workshops highlighting key tenets of the Sikh faith, guided tours of the [Without Shape Without Form Exhibition](#), where children explore Sikh history through art, tours of the Gurdwara, including the Darbar (prayer hall) and Langar Hall (free communal kitchen) where children and teachers join the congregation for a meal.

We offer a free, immersive 3 hour experience at the gurdwara. We have fully trained volunteers that deliver workshops tailored to the students. Each workshop gives a deeper insight into the life of Sikhs. We are also very grateful that we get to take students to visit the Without Shape Without Form gallery as part of their immersive experience. Each workshop that we deliver lasts up-to 30 mins. We then visit Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (our eternal guru) and then experience a taste of langar (free vegetarian meal).

To make a booking, or to find out more feel free to contact by email and I can answer any questions you may have.

Visit our website: [GMGG](http://gmgg.org)

Sandeep Kaur
info@gmggurdwara.com

Locality

I have had the privilege of visiting two excellent schools to learn about their RE provision. Last term I was invited in to **Penn Wood Primary School and Nursery** and this term to **Slough and Eton Church of England Business & Enterprise College**. I was blown away by the thoughtfully planned and stimulating RE at both schools. I am sure that there are more of you who have equally exciting and challenging RE. Please contact me to share!

Slough is such a vibrant place for religion and worldviews in schools and in the community! I have enjoyed my first year as adviser and look forward to meeting more people, learning about your schools and visiting places of worship and community significance.

SACRE hopes that this newsletter contains useful ideas to help you in the coming term. We will send another newsletter out at the start of the Spring term. SACRE sends very best wishes to you for the new term and as always commends you for all your hard work and dedication.

Best wishes for the new school year!

Bill Moore
Adviser to SACRE
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