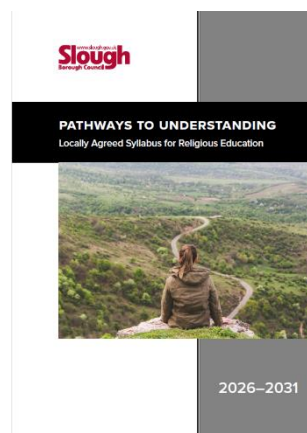


Well, we are nearly at the end of a very long summer term and I hope you are all managing to stay on your feet!

## Important notice

The agreed Syllabus has been adopted by Slough Borough Council, but there has been some controversy in some SACREs. We are considering how we could bring all six of the Pan-Berks SACREs together, but in the meantime, continue to plan from the Slough Syllabus 2025. If there are to be any changes, they will not impact in any significant way on your planning.



## 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 next year are as follows.

Autumn Term	Primary Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 4.00pm
	Secondary Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 4.00pm
Spring Term	Primary Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 4.00pm
	Secondary Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 4.00pm
Summer Term	Combined Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

There is some strength in holding meetings in person. We will consider whether we want to move towards this over the course of next year.

## Sea of Faith National Conference

‘Education for this life’

Thursday 24 and Friday 25 July 2025

At the Coram Conference Centre, Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ

A special conference examining the potential threats and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence for education and building on the Sea of Faith’s work to develop ‘Solarity’, ‘Big Ideas’, and children’s education in Religion and Worldviews.

Details and booking can be found [here](#).



## Resources



### Real People Real Faith

A series of interviews filmed in locations across Berkshire, featuring local faith communities answering questions about their faith. Two questions, specific to each key stage were asked across the range of venues and in most venues, several people answered each question.

This allows pupils and teachers to explore some of the diversity both between and within faith communities. The same six communities were interviewed at each key stage. Each film has a page of notes outlining the key questions and concepts, with a brief summary of the answers and some suggested follow-on activities.



We keep repeating this, but membership of NATRE is such a good source of support and development. Individual membership runs from £90 per year and school membership from £170. <https://www.natre.org.uk/membership/schools/> This includes a termly mailing and access to materials on their website, plus discounts.



### TERMLY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOOKS TAILORED FOR YOU!

Did you know that if you join NATRE you will receive a termly mailing in September, January and April created by RE Today as part of your membership?

Within this mailing, our members get:

- Termly REtoday magazine (including Professional Reflection, the journal of NATRE), which focuses on classroom practice and current RE-related news and developments.
- Termly curriculum book from our latest series, with practical classroom activities.

PLUS all of the other benefits that NATRE membership have to offer – [Find out how you can join](#).

If you are a NATRE member the sections below will allow you to access the e-resources related to each publication.

Specific aspects include:

A monthly webinar for those

[new2RE](#) plus other courses,

support and resources. The site

is open access, but membership gives greater

support and materials.





## Jigsaw RE webinars on demand

Jigsaw RE provides open access videos on some aspects of RE, whether you use their scheme or not. They have produced a series of nine on different worldviews. See

the link below to access.

<https://jigsaweducationgroup.com/news-and-events/webinars/> and free resources for all schools : <https://jigsaweducationgroup.com/teaching-toolkit/free-resources/>

Jigsaw now also produces a termly magazine

[Bigger Picture Magazine | Jigsaw Education – Insights for PSHE & RE](#)



## National and regional RE Hubs

**RE Hubs:** [The RE Hubs](#) website has provided two free webinars so you can find out about [how RE Hubs can support your school](#) and how to make the most of the places of interest and speakers from religious and non-religious worldviews who are featured on the RE-Hubs website [how to make the most of our places & places!](#)



## New resource Windows into Buddhism

*Windows into Buddhism* brings together in one place trusted, original and interesting resources on Buddhism from all traditions in a lively and engaging way. It especially aims to serve those who are teaching and studying Buddhism in schools. The website is freely accessible from around the world both to the education sector and the general public.

At the moment, the resources are for **Secondary Schools**, though they have topics and planned resources for Primary as well. You can subscribe to their newsletter.

Access the website [here](#)

## Up-coming national events:

### Spirited Arts 2025

The new 2025 themes:

- Living in a Diverse World
- Stories that Change Lives
- Thinking about God
- Sacred Places
- All God's Creatures?
- Making Sense of Life



**Are you planning entries for your school? Please let SACRE know if you do and share any work in the next newsletter. The deadline for submission is 31<sup>st</sup> July.**

## **Inter Faith Week 2025**

The good news is that NASACRE and others have collaborated to ensure that IFW will run again this year with the active support of the Government. It will run the week beginning Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November and there will be a theme and a website to support schools. Further details at the start of next term, but please put the date in your diary and discuss with your SLT. If you run any events or initiatives in your school, please let SACRE know and also use the national website to celebrate your contribution to the week.

## **REOnline leadership scheme and Farmington Scholarships 2025-26**

In our last newsletter, we sign-posted two wonderful opportunities. **SACRE would love to know of anyone who applied for either of these, and also support you in sharing and celebrating your work.**



### **Holocaust Education Charity -Generation 2 Generation (G2G) speakers for schools**

Generation 2 Generation (G2G) provides trained and engaging speakers to schools for Year 6 and upwards to tell their families' Holocaust Experiences. All the speakers are descendants or close friends of Holocaust Survivors, and their presentations include testimony given by the Survivor or in some cases by those who did not survive in the form of letters or diary entries.

Their aim is not only to keep these stories alive but also to promote tolerance and understanding. *The theme for next year's Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January 2026, is 'Bridging the Generations' which is exactly what G2G was established to do.*

All presenters receive continuous support and training to ensure they deliver high quality, age appropriate, historically accurate and engaging presentations. The presenters also have a DBS Enhanced Certificate. G2G has shared the following feedback from teachers.

*"The story of your father was riveting, and you communicated the messages of looking out for prejudice and the good of individualism terrible circumstances in such an effective manner."*

*"Your talk was wonderful, and students continued to approach staff to give their thoughts on it after you had left."*

*"To see 40plus autistic students sat intently listening to every word speaks volumes."*

There is no fee for the speakers (but G2G ask schools to consider making a donation or contributing towards travel costs).

Please do share this information with RE, History and Humanities, Sixth Form Lead colleagues etc.

For information about booking a speaker please use this link:

## New Updated KS2 Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA)



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK  
YOUTH TRUST  
*Be the Change you want to see*

Archbishops' Young Leader Award (AYLA) has launched a **brand-new** version of the **KS2 Award** for use by schools from September 2025, that will enhance pupils' leadership journey and support schools further to create a **culture of justice and responsibility**. The unit topics and much-loved central character Archie remain, but a brand-new design threads through the resource, with a wide range of new activities organised under the headings **Spark, Discover, Act** to help explore local, national and global communities.

If you already run the AYLA, you don't need to do anything, the team will be in touch as usual before your renewal point.

**Information Webinars for schools new to the AYLA** If you've not run the **AYLA** before, find out more about the programme through free online sessions this term. For more information and sign up for a session, please visit [www.abyyt.com/events](http://www.abyyt.com/events).

## RE pedagogy



### The importance of Oracy

Discussion; debating; exploring; think, pair, share; questioning – examples of tools to develop in deep and meaningful RE. All these demand a good element of 'oracy'. Recently, the Oracy Commission [published a report](#) on the power and place of oracy in education.

"Oracy means articulating ideas, developing understanding and engaging with others through speaking, listening and communication. Polling conducted on behalf of the Commission found that over 80% of business leaders and parents support more time being spent on the development of young people's oracy skills at school....

"Our education system should equip young people to ask questions, articulate ideas and formulate powerful arguments. However young people express themselves and communicate, we should be providing opportunities for them to deepen their sense of identity and belonging, listen actively and critically, and learn a fundamental principle of a liberal democracy – being able to disagree agreeably. Parents want it, the economy demands it, democracy needs it, teachers welcome it and our children deserve it."

### Oracy in RE promotes:

- Deepening understanding:

Through discussions, debates, and reflective talk, students of all ages can explore religious concepts, practices, and beliefs in a more profound way. These skills can be developed age-

appropriately from Early Years onwards through reflecting on and sharing personal experience in the classroom and beyond.

- Developing critical thinking:

Oracy encourages students to analyse information, evaluate arguments, and form their own informed opinions about religious and ethical matters. These skills can be developed age-appropriately from Early Years onwards through skilful questioning by the teacher.

- Fostering empathy and tolerance:

Engaging with diverse perspectives through oracy from the Early Years onwards helps students develop empathy for others and appreciate the richness of different religious traditions.

- Building communication skills:

Oracy equips students with the skills to articulate their thoughts clearly, listen attentively, and participate respectfully in conversations about religion and belief.

- Promoting respectful dialogue:

Oracy provides a framework for engaging in meaningful dialogue about sensitive topics, fostering an environment of respect and understanding.

### **Examples of oracy in RE:**

- Think-Pair-Share

Reflecting on their own views and experience, discussing with a partner and then sharing as a whole-class discussion.

- Discussions and debates:

Structured discussions and debates on religious or ethical issues allow students to explore different viewpoints and develop their argumentation skills, building on the teacher's and their own questions.

- Role-playing and drama:

Engaging in role-playing scenarios can help students understand religious practices and beliefs from different perspectives.

- Presentations and talks:

Presenting religious or ethical arguments, or sharing personal reflections on faith, builds confidence and communication skills.

- Interfaith dialogue:

Opportunities for interfaith dialogue and discussion with individuals from different religious backgrounds can broaden understanding and promote tolerance.

### **Resources for Oracy in RE:**

- **Link: Voice 21** <https://voice21.org/> : provides resources and frameworks for developing oracy in schools.
- **Oracy Cambridge** (<https://oracycambridge.org/> ) : offers guidance and resources for integrating oracy across the curriculum, including RE.
- **RE:ONLINE re:online** (<https://www.reonline.org.uk/2025/03/14/oracy-in-religion-and-worldviews-education/>): explores the role of oracy in Religious and Worldviews Education.
- **Jigsaw Education Group** (<https://jigsaweducationgroup.com/teaching-toolkit/articles-updates/transforming-childrens-lives-through-oracy-the-jigsaw-approach/>): offers a framework for oracy development in RE.

By intentionally integrating oracy into Religious Education, educators can empower students to become confident, informed, and respectful communicators who are well-equipped to engage with the complexities of religion and belief in the world.

**RE Online, as one of their ‘focus week’ events, ran a webinar on Oracy:**



#### **Focus week: Oracy in RE: Do we need to talk more?**

How important is oracy in Religious Education (RE), Religious and Values Education (RVE), and Religious and Moral Education (RME)?

You can find the information and the link to the video [here](#). This is so much more than ‘debate’ and needs to be in all phases and ages of education.

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SACRE is grateful for all that you do in your schools and communities to provide deep and meaningful RE. We would love to hear from you! **If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, or have a suggestion for a pedagogical theme, or want to share something with other schools, please get in touch!**

Best wishes for the long-awaited summer! Let’s hope that warm weather continues and that you all have a wonderful and well-earned break!

Bill Moore

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