

For teachers and schools in the north

The RE Newsletter



SUMMER TERM 1

APRIL 2023

NEWS AND UPDATES

DEVELOPING SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE: RESOURCES AND WEBINARS FOR TEACHERS

Religious education requires a wide knowledge of religious and non-religious worldviews. This puts great demands on teachers of RE – especially non-specialists. In order to address this, we are offering a series of twilight online webinars to develop subject knowledge and explore teaching strategies and resources for the classroom. This is aimed mainly at primary RE teachers but will also be useful subject knowledge development for many secondary colleagues.

Each session includes expert input with interactive sessions to build knowledge, confidence and resourcefulness in teaching the major world faiths and beliefs. The seminars will deepen understanding of these traditions and offer ideas and strategies to deliver lessons in the classroom. 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 27th April 2023 - Buddhism**
- **Monday 26th June 2023 - Sikhi**
- **Thursday 13th July 2023 - Hindu Dharma**
- **Tuesday 26th Sept 2023 - Judaism**
- **Tuesday 21st Nov 2023 - Islam**
- **Tuesday 23rd January 2024 - Christianity**
- **Thursday 14th March 2024 - Humanism**



Cost: £30 per webinar or £120 for all seven. To book or enquire, please contact Ian Ross on enquiries@penninelearning.com

Subject knowledge for A Level RE teachers

A list of suggestions is available at RE Online on subject knowledge for teachers of A Level Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Studies: a history of the Silk Roads, world religious populations and a website for Philosophy A Level. See the full list [here](#).

Introduction to RE Subject Knowledge

What is the subject knowledge of Religion and Worldviews, and how do you go about improving yours? Try this new, FREE, short online self-study course: 'Introduction to Subject Knowledge' [here](#).

Enriching religious education and understanding through visits and visitors

Why not develop and enrich RE subject knowledge for pupils (and staff) by arranging a visit to a local place of worship, or by inviting a faith representative to visit an RE lesson? The current Faith visits directories for West Yorkshire and Tameside can be accessed [here](#).

PRIMARY INTERFAITH EVENT EXPLORES 'FAITH AT HOME'

'Home' is an online interfaith event for primary schools on **June 15, 2023**. Primary-aged pupils are invited to meet local faith representatives and find out how they practise faith in their daily lives. Age-appropriate resources will be provided, and the event concludes with an online question and answer session so that pupils can ask questions and find out more about how faith is practised in Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Jewish homes.

Cost: £30 per class/screen, £70 for up to 3 classes/screens. For further details and booking contact helen@penninelearning.com

HOLOCAUST CENTRE NORTH LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR YEARS 5 - 13



Holocaust Centre North, based at the University of Huddersfield, seeks to raise awareness of human rights, freedom and equality by exploring one of the darkest chapters in contemporary history. They are dedicated to telling a global history through local stories by collecting, preserving and displaying the documentary evidence and testimony of survivors and refugees who built new lives as members of northern communities after the Holocaust.

The learning programme is designed for Upper Key Stage Two (Years 5 and 6), and secondary students. Sessions are designed to deepen students' knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences and legacies of the Holocaust. At Holocaust Centre North this means addressing common misconceptions, fostering critical thinking skills, and highlighting why it is important to study the Holocaust in the present. By engaging with the Collections, students will learn about the history of the Holocaust through the stories of survivors and refugees who made new lives in the North of England.

"The quality of what is on offer here is excellent – the exhibition space is very engaging, and the discussion of roles and responsibilities has real modern relevance" – Year 12 teacher

"I found this exhibition very informative as it gave a lot of room for different stories and backgrounds. They also encouraged everyone to discuss and challenge different opinions which led to more information being learnt." – Year 8 student.

Further information can be found on the website www.hcn.org.uk as well as information about the **Travel Subsidy Scheme** where we may be able to support with coach fees to visit!



WHY TEACHING RE MATTERS: THE CRISIS IN RE TEACHER EDUCATION



There is a crisis in RE teacher education. We have been aware for some time that teachers undertaking primary teacher education courses have not been receiving enough RE in their programmes. Some progress has been made at primary level – but the problems for **secondary RE** have become increasingly apparent. Pat Hannam argues that children 'are not robots' and the next generation of well-trained, passionate RE teachers is of prime importance. [Read Pat's blog: Why Teaching RE Matters](#)

Beyond the ordinary campaign: Help to find the next generation of RE teachers!

"Beyond the Ordinary" is [a new campaign led by education lecturers and teacher training experts](#) to encourage more people to consider teaching RE as a career. Religious Education inspires young people to tackle life's big questions and develop their own worldview. Good RE teaches students to argue persuasively, to reason logically, to think critically and to understand with empathy.

RE faces a desperate shortage of candidates for teacher training and trained RE teachers find themselves in huge demand! Visit and share the [campaign website](#) and [campaign video](#) with students and across your networks so that the next generation of RE teachers can be recruited.

BRITISH RELIGION IN NUMBERS: USING THE 2021 CENSUS IN THE CLASSROOM

A Religion and Worldviews approach can involve bringing contemporary data into the curriculum. RE Online Resource of the Month presents three teachers' work in bringing data about religion and belief into their lessons, using the British Religion in Numbers database. Read about the BRIN resource [here](#)

Nadia Nadeem, a Primary teacher, was one of three teachers involved in the British Religion in Numbers classroom project. Read Nadia's blog about her involvement with BRIN in the classroom [here](#).

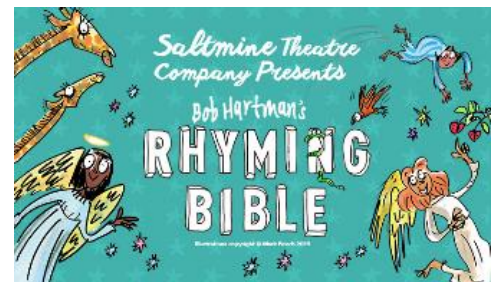
Using information from the census in RE and citizenship: You can detailed information on the ONS website [here](#). Data about religion in each local area is presented in a colourful, visual format using interactive maps [here](#).

Read a summary of the census results in this [NATRE news article](#) and this [video from the Religion Media Centre](#).

NATIONAL AND LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SALTMINE THEATRE COMPANY RHYMING BIBLE MUSICAL ON TOUR IN THE UK

Saltmine Theatre Company is a theatre company with a Christian ethos that creates and tours faith-motivated productions and workshops throughout the UK. Saltmine's current production *Rhyming Bible* (based on Bob Hartman's popular book) is a creative resource for KS1 and KS2 to support the RE curriculum in schools. This hour-long production works well for pupils in school years 1-6. It can be accompanied by an interactive workshop for KS2 pupils. The production is touring and there are dates available in May 2023 and spring 2024. For information about *Rhyming Bible* and a promotional trailer visit saltminetrust.org.uk



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ECO CONFERENCE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Fair and Funky are running an OUTDOOR ECO CONFERENCE at Holme Valley Campsite to coincide with World Environment Day on **Monday 5th June**. The conference will celebrate the planet's diversity and raise awareness of the role we all play in looking after our local environments.

Primary schools are invited to bring up to 8 students and two members of staff to the event, at a cost of £135. For further information and booking visit www.fairandfunky.com/school-events/ or e-mail helen@fairandfunky.com

'IN CONVERSATION': FREE EVENTS COMING UP THIS TERM

Monday 15th May 2023 16:00- 16:40: Learning from Experiences in Lebanon

Join Dr Nayla Tabbara and friends, who will join us from Lebanon, to share her groundbreaking work on diversity, solidarity and safeguarding of human dignity. They developed education programmes on religious social responsibility and living well together. Book via CSTG website here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events



Monday 19th June 4.30-6pm: Primary Teachers Engaged in Research

This is an extended event featuring primary practitioners undertaking Masters research. Kevin O'Grady and Justine Ball will be in conversation with: Nadia Nadeem (Christian ethics, farming and animal welfare) Ian Coles (Using direct discussion and encounter in primary RE) and Killian Barrett (Catholic values and serving the poor through the primary curriculum and RE). Book via CSTG website here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events

All In Conversation events are recorded, so you can catch up any you missed by following [this link](#).

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR NEW NATRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NATRE, the National Association for RE Teachers, are seeking serving RE teachers to join their Executive Committee. Do you know of anyone who is keen to serve the teaching community and step up to leadership? All phases and school types considered. Closing date for nominations: **16th May 2023**

Nominate a colleague for the NATRE exec on the [website here](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

FREE SELF-STUDY SHORT COURSES ON RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS



Culham St Gabriel's now has nine FREE self-study short courses for teachers available on their website. A new **subject knowledge course** explores a religion and worldviews approach to substantive content. All courses are free and designed to take about 90 mins (for introduction courses) and a little longer for other courses. Details [here](#).

Masters Scholarship Programme Applications are now open for teachers and school leaders. Scholarships are also open to those who are not necessarily working in a school but are working in the field of religion and worldviews e.g advisers, SACRE members and so on. The deadline for applications is 23rd June. <https://www.cstg.org.uk/grants/individual/masters-scholarship/>

HUMANISTS UK FREE TRAINING DATES AVAILABLE

Understanding Humanism (the education branch of Humanists UK) offers training for teachers at both primary and secondary level to deepen subject knowledge of humanism (a non-religious worldview) and provide practical ideas for the classroom.

Primary training: Tuesday 16 May 2023, 16:00–17:30 £10pp

Secondary training: Thursday 18 May 2023, 16:00–17:30 £10pp

For further details and booking, visit the Understanding Humanism [training page here](#).

Could you be a teacher trainer for Humanists UK?

Humanists UK are looking for **new trainers to lead teacher training sessions** (online or in-person at venues around the country), delivering the course content effectively and answering teachers' questions. Email education@humanists.uk to register your interest.



HUMANISM FOR ALL AGES: NEW RESOURCES TO TRY IN THE CLASSROOM

Bring Humanism to life for **Early Years pupils** by trying out a new Culham St Gabriel's-funded digital tool in your classroom. The resource utilises 'VAT' - Vocabulary, Artefact and Text - to help pupils explore what it means to belong and believe in a humanist family. Find the FREE resources on the [website here](#).



'**Understanding Humanism**' is a new textbook on humanism for university students, teachers, and anyone who is curious about the world. To celebrate the launch, Humanists UK are bringing together a panel of experts for a fun and lively exploration of humanism in all its aspects in an online event on **May 17 2023, 1900 – 2015**. The event is free to teachers and students. [Book your place here](#).

AREIAC CONFERENCE: LEADING AND INSPIRING RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS

AREIAC 2023 conference will take place on 2nd and 3rd July 2023 at the Woodland Grange Hotel and Conference Centre, Leamington Spa. The conference theme is "Leading and Inspiring Religion and Worldviews Education". The

focus will be on supporting all those who lead RE as teachers, advisers, consultants, trainers or SACRE members. Speakers so far include Lat Blaylock, Paula Webber, Justine Ball, Claire Ramalli, Linda Rudge and Tania ap Sion.

Delegates can choose to attend both days or either on a residential or day delegate basis. There is a special student day delegate rate @ just £60 per day for Sunday and / or £90 for Monday.

For further information and rates for members/non-members visit the [AREIAC website](http://www.arei.ac.uk) or contact Gill Vaisey conference@arei.ac.uk or telephone 01594 516490

SEND AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: A DAY OF IDEAS AND REFLECTION

This course provides an important opportunity for teachers in SEND settings to develop Religious Educational practice, share ideas and challenges and support each other. The day will provide numerous ideas to think about introducing key areas of Religious Education to pupils with a range of special needs. The course is on **Wednesday 12 July, 9-3.30** at Danum Gallery, Library and Museum, Doncaster DN1 3BZ.

Further details are available at <https://buy.doncaster.gov.uk/Event/196114> the course is open to anyone; delegates from outside Doncaster will need to e-mail BuyDoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk to make the booking for you, or email Sameena.Choudry@doncaster.gov.uk

SIGNPOSTS: ADDRESSING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN RE AND CITIZENSHIP

'Signposts' is a training module that aims to support educators in dealing with human rights and citizenship issues linked to religions and non-religious worldviews in their educational context. Every chapter of Signposts states the key points, refers to the possible controversial issues raised, as well as the relevant competences for democratic culture needed to address them. Four fundamental practical questions are posed: how do those issues affect me as a person? As a teacher? What can I do? What do I need to develop? The module is a "ready to use" tool for teacher training, it has been piloted and tried in initial teacher education and in practising teacher training, both face-to-face and online.

A link to 'Signposts' and further information can be found [here](#).

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

FREE CORONATION RESOURCES FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Coronation resources are available from the Church of England Education Office. The resources include:

- A podcast of children's Coronation stories
- A resource pack for schools and assemblies
- Coronation colouring packs, arts and crafts and other resources

Visit the Church of England web-site: www.churchofengland.org/coronation

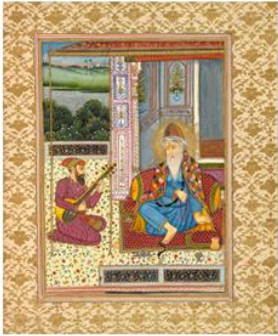
Find out more about the **Young Leaders Award Programme** for primary and secondary schools through free online sessions this term. Find out more about the impact of the programme on the website [here](#) and sign up for the webinars at www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/events



CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEWS ADVOCACY PROJECT FREE RESOURCES

These free KS2 resources are the result of a Culham St Gabriel's funded project hosted by the Diocese of Coventry to explore the plurality of Christian worldviews in the classroom. Go to the [Diocese of Coventry Board of Education website](http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org.uk) and scroll down till you reach the 'Christian Advocacy and Worldviews Project'. You will need to apply for the password to access all resources, which are free and ready to use.

BRITISH LIBRARY RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND HISTORY



Voices of the Holocaust looks at the events of the Holocaust through interviews with survivors and people who fled Nazi persecution before, during and after the Second World War. Learn about the build-up of anti-Semitic persecution in Germany in the 1930s, the spread of Nazi ideology across Europe, and the varied experiences of Jewish refugees coming to Britain. <https://www.bl.uk/voices-of-the-holocaust>

Discovering Sacred texts: Primary RE subject knowledge resources for primary focusing on texts from Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

<https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts/activities/key-stage-2-teaching-resources>

EMPOWERING VOICES: RELIGIOUS AND NON-RELIGIOUS WORLDVIEWS



The [Empowering Voices project](#) is a series of thirty-minute podcasts, each of which focuses on a particular worldview. Each podcast comprises an audio play written collaboratively by young people and a professional writer, an 'in-conversation' piece that picks up on the themes of the play, and an immersive soundscape. There are accompanying education packs for each podcast, aimed at KS2 to KS3.

The first two podcasts focus on the experience of [white reverts to Islam in Scunthorpe](#) and the second explores a [black Evangelical Christian worldview in Bristol](#).

Future podcasts include engagement with Hindu and Sikhi worldviews in the Midlands, Jewish worldviews in Hertfordshire, the experience of a Pakistani Humanist in the south west and a female experience of Anglican Christianity. If any schools or academies would be interested in piloting the podcasts and associated education packs please contact gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org.

ASSEMBLIES FOR ALL – FREE RESOURCES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Visit the [Assemblies for All website](#) for FREE access to hundreds of high-quality, inclusive assemblies for primary and secondary schools. The website features hundreds of interactive, meaningful assemblies made by education professionals, from charities like Amnesty, Unicef, and Oxfam, to organisations such as UK Parliament and the BBC.

ASSEMBLIES } *for all*

Assemblies are arranged by theme, organisation, key stage, and, for many of them, by a corresponding event in the calendar. The calendar contains notable dates across the year so that assemblies can be used to mark important events such as International Women's Day, World Environment Day, and Martin Luther King Jr Day.

EQUIP YOUR SCHOOL WITH FREE VALUES-BASED FINANCIAL EDUCATION



The Just Finance Foundation works directly with schools to improve financial education through the LifeSavers programme. Engaging students with values-based money lessons is important and develops key life skills.

Through their LifeSavers Programme you can access flexible lesson plans, beautiful storybooks, assembly resources and much more! JFF's financial education experts will also provide convenient CPD training and help connect you with other teachers. All programmes, training and

resources are delivered at no cost to your school. Find out more and get involved: <https://bit.ly/3S3pECH>

RE TODAY LAUNCHES NEW RE TEACHING RESOURCES SHOP

RE Today and NATRE have launched brand new RE Teaching Resources shop! Find everything from teaching guides, CPD opportunities, Schemes of Work and more to help you take your RE teaching to the next level.

[Visit the RE Teaching Resources shop website here.](#)



RESEARCH ROUND-UP

RESEARCH CASE STUDIES: ISLAMIC TEXTS AT GCSE AND SONG IN RE

In two new research case studies, Karen Steele reports her project on analysing Islamic texts at GCSE. Elaine Arundell investigates whether song in RE is just a fun activity or could have a meaningful impact on learning. Find these, and other research case studies, in the summary of [research case studies on RE:ONLINE](#)

RETOPEA PROJECT: RELIGIOUS TOLERATION AND PEACE

Professor John Wolff and friends have shared their 'RETOPEA' project, engaging young people in questions about religious tolerance, peace, history and the present day. Read how young people from diverse European countries created 'docutubes' to represent their thoughts and experiences [here](#).

Listen to the '[In Conversation](#)' recording to hear Professor Wolff talking about the project.



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.