

Agenda

Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 15 March 2019**

Time: **3.00 pm**

Place: **Committee Room 1 - The Shire Hall, St. Peter's
Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX**

Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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Agenda for the meeting of the Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE)

Membership

Group D	Councillor J Stone (Chairman) Councillor EPJ Harvey Councillor MT McEvelly	
Group A	Mr Burbidge Canon Nugent Mrs Ault Ven. Choesang	Roman Catholic representative Free Church representative Bahai faith representative Buddist faith representative
Group B	Mr Debenham Mr Nicholas	Church of England representative Church of England representative
Group C	Mr Caldicott Mrs Barker	Primary teacher representative Secondary teacher representative

Agenda

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2018.	7 - 10
4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
5. 2019/20 SACRE BUDGET UPDATE To receive an update on the 2019/20 SACRE budget.	11 - 14
6. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018 To consider the Religious Education examination results for 2018 and note the numbers of students entered for RE GCSE courses.	15 - 22
7. RE CONFERENCES To receive details of the primary and secondary RE conferences.	23 - 30
8. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE To consider recent national initiatives and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.	31 - 34
9. MEETING DATES 2019/20 To note the dates below for meetings of SACRE in 2019/20: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 November 2019• 20 March 2020	

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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

SHIRE HALL, ST PETER'S SQUARE, HEREFORD, HR1 2HX.

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Minutes of the meeting of Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE) held at Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford HR1 2HX on Friday 9 November 2018 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Members: Lou Barker, Mr P Burbidge, Mr Debenham, Kate Mayglothing and MT McEvelly

In attendance: Councillor EJ Swinglehurst, Cabinet Member Children and Families

Officers: Alison Naylor and Stephen Pett

9. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed new members of SACRE: Mr Pat Burbidge, (Roman Catholic representative); and Mr Stewart Debenham (Church of England representative).

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Swinglehurst, The Cabinet Member Children and Families to the meeting.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Ault, Mr Caldicott, Ani-la Choesang, Councillor Harvey, Mr Nicholas and Canon Nugent.

11. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

Mrs Kate Mayglothing acted as a substitute for Mr Ben Caldicott.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2018 are agreed as a correct record.

13. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

No questions received.

14. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2019 AND PRIMARY RE SURVEY

SACRE received a report concerning feedback from the 2018 primary and secondary RE conferences. The report contained details of the feedback together with a list of attendees at the conferences since 2011. It also provided the draft primary RE survey for SACRE to consider and proposed arrangements for professional development in 2018-2019.

Stephen Pett, RE Today, introduced the report and advised SACRE that RE Today had won the tender for the provision of RE support to the Council over the next two years in Herefordshire. As part of its contract with the Council there would be the provision of webinars to support staff training in schools; it was yet to be determined whether the webinars would be broadcast live to enable interaction with participants or record a webinar for circulation with schools and interested parties. Mr Pett also introduced the Primary RE Survey which had been considered previously and suggested that a further question to schools could be to ask what they would consider the best way to receive training in future.

SACRE considered the feedback from the 2018 conferences and professional development and raised the following points:

- The feedback concerning the half day conferences was mixed and it was explained that schools located at a distance from the selected venue for the conference would prefer a full day programme. SACRE was broadly in agreement that a full day conference was preferable;
- The feedback on the content of the conferences had been positive however there was concern that there had been an attempt to undertake too much content in the half day provided;
- The content of the forthcoming primary conference in 2019 was considered. SACRE suggested the following topics: the use of the internet/social media; mental health; tolerance; and common ground between religions and beliefs;
- In terms of the content of the conferences it was explained that in-depth examination of subject matter e.g. Islam or Buddhism would be useful particularly to those teachers who were not specialists in the subject.
- The trend of decreasing numbers of schools in attendance at conferences since 2011 was considered and it was queried whether a question should be put to primary schools as part of the RE survey to understand why they did not come to the conferences.
- SACRE considered the provision of webinars at forthcoming conferences and agreed that in 2019 a live webinar should be attempted and one should be recorded and circulated to schools as a resource. It was suggested that the webinar could be promoted in Spotlight with a link provided to the resource to schools.
- The arrangements for the secondary conferences were also discussed and it was confirmed that an arrangement with the three counties would be undertaken in 2019. SACRE was supportive of the arrangements for the secondary conferences which it was felt should not change following the receipt of positive feedback from the 2018 conferences.
- It was explained that teacher members of Worcestershire SACRE had worked with University of Worcester to secure funding from Culham St Gabriel's Trust to host a pupil and teacher day on 21 June 2019. The outcomes of the day would be assessed to determine if it was a success and whether such a format should be explored for the secondary conferences in future. For 2019, it was decided that the Worcester model should not replace the teacher conference.
- SACRE considered details of the 2018 conference on RE in special schools which had taken place across the three counties and noted the positive feedback received.

RESOLVED: that SACRE notes the report and asks RE Today to consider those comments raised in the finalisation of the programmes for the 2019 conferences and the RE Primary survey.

SACRE considered its annual report and expressed thanks to RE Today for its production. It was agreed that it was important for SACRE to list and emphasise those achievements it had accomplished during the year.

It was confirmed that the RE results from 2018 would be included in the report once they were available.

RESOLVED: that SACRE approves the 2017/18 and delegates authority to the clerk to finalise the document prior to its publication and circulation.

16. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018

SACRE received and noted an update on the RE results from 2018. It was confirmed that the results had not yet been compiled but it was likely that this would occur shortly. Once the results had been produced they would be distributed to members of SACRE and included in the annual report. It was requested that an agenda item on the examination results was added to the next meeting of SACRE in March 2019.

17. COMMISSION ON RE REPORT

SACRE received a report concerning the outcomes of the Commission on RE report published in September 2018 and the recommendations contained in the report. Mr Pett introduced the report and explained that there had been a mixed reaction to the contents of the report. The recommendation to increase bursaries for RE teachers was supported but feedback from NASCRE had expressed disappointment at the lack of mention in the report of the excellent examples of RE provision in place across the country. The report contained recommendations which were substantial and which would potentially have a significant impact upon SACRE and locally agreed syllabuses.

SACRE raised those points below in the discussion which followed:

- It was felt that the inclusion of an RE Ebacc should have been proposed as a recommendation in the report;
- The use of the term 'worldviews' was felt to be vague and insubstantial. It was noted that it was difficult to increase the appeal of a subject without diluting its core content.
- It was hoped that the new framework that was being adopted by Ofsted to look at subjects holistically would enhance the profile of RE in schools.

RESOLVED: That SACRE notes the outcomes, recommendations and implications of the Commission on RE report.

18. PLANNING FOR REVISION OF THE 2015 - 2020 AGREED SYLLABUS

SACRE received a verbal update from Mr Pett regarding planning for the agreed syllabus conference. It was proposed that on the day of the next meeting of SACRE there would also be an Agreed Syllabus Conference to begin the review of the agreed syllabus. There is a statutory duty for the agreed syllabus to be considered and reviewed every five years. SACRE could ask for updates and inclusions in the existing syllabus or decide to produce an entirely new syllabus. The existing syllabus was adopted in 2015, licensed from RE Today, and the license runs out in 2020; RE Today are looking at methods of updating the current syllabus with the inclusion of supplements rather than drafting from new. Mr Pett will present a range of options for SACRE to consider at the Agreed Syllabus Conference in March 2019.

SACRE raised those comments below in the discussion which followed:

- The link to Understanding Christianity was queried and the level of resource to support the existing syllabus was raised. It was explained that this could be incorporated into the syllabus and other elements removed if that was the decision resulting from the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

RESOLVED: that SACRE agrees the re-establishment of the Agreed Syllabus Conference at the next meeting in March.

19. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE

SACRE received the report of new initiatives in RE which was introduced by Mr Pett. He explained that the report contained details of: increases in funding for bursaries for RE teachers; a recent question asked in Parliament concerning the primary teaching of RE; an update on forthcoming conferences and projects from NATRE; and proposals for the establishment of a network of RE ambassadors across the country. SACRE questioned how the ambassadors would be appointed and Mr Pett undertook to provide more information on recruitment.

The recruitment of RE staff to schools was queried and the Head of Learning and Achievement confirmed that there was not a problem with recruiting RE staff in Herefordshire. It was commented that an interesting question on a prospective RE survey of secondary schools should ask if the RE teachers were non-specialist in the subject.

RESOLVED: that SACRE notes the update on new initiatives in RE.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The committee noted a change to the next meeting date. The previously published date of 15 March 2019 had now been changed to 1 March 2019 to ensure that SACRE met before purdah ahead of the local elections in May 2019.

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm

Chairman



Meeting:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
Meeting date:	15 March 2019
Title of report:	SACRE BUDGET 2019/20
Report by:	SACRE Lead Officer, Head of Learning and Achievement

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To note the budget for SACRE for 2019/20.

Recommendation

THAT: the SACRE budget for 2019/20 be noted.

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To note the budget for 2019/20.

Key considerations

- 3 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county Schools.
- 4 £9589.00 will be in the SACRE budget for 2019/20. This is to cover the cost of the contract with RE today and also to pay for the Curriculum review and update (or

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Matthew Evans on Tel (01432) 383690

whatever the SACRE committee decides is necessary for the curriculum update/review at the meeting on 15 March)

Equality duty

- 5 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6 The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires the council to consider how it can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that 'due regard' in decision making in the design of policies and the delivery of services. The provision of religious education seeks to contribute positively to the specific duty by increasing the understanding and tolerance of all religions in local communities.

Resource implications

- 7 A budget of £9589.00 has been allocated to SACRE for 2019/20.

Legal implications

- 8 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county Schools.

Risk management

- 9 There are no risks associated with this report.

Consultees

- 10 None.

Appendices

- None.

Background papers

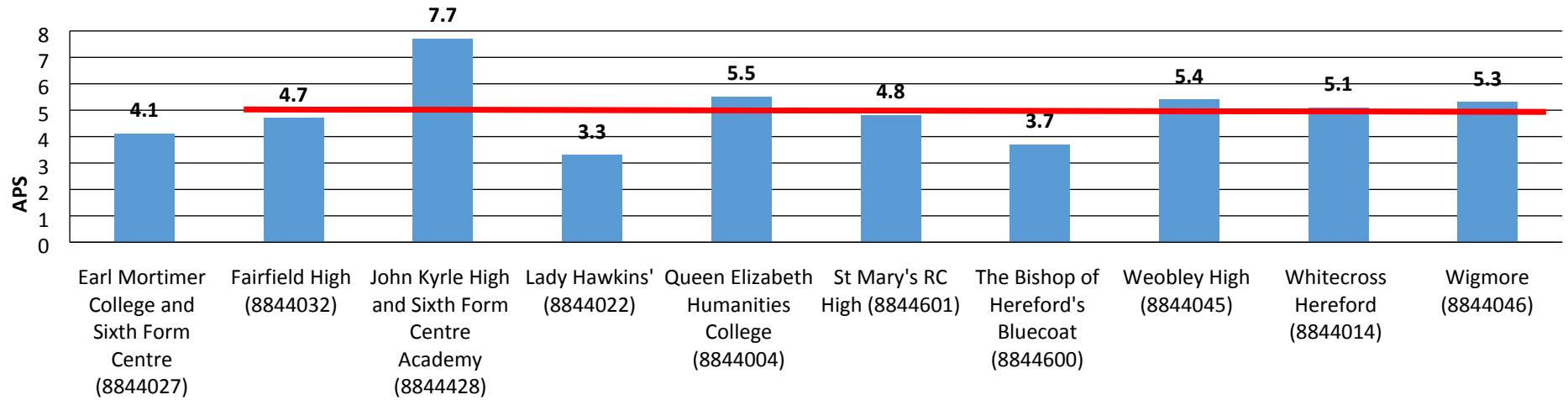
- None identified.

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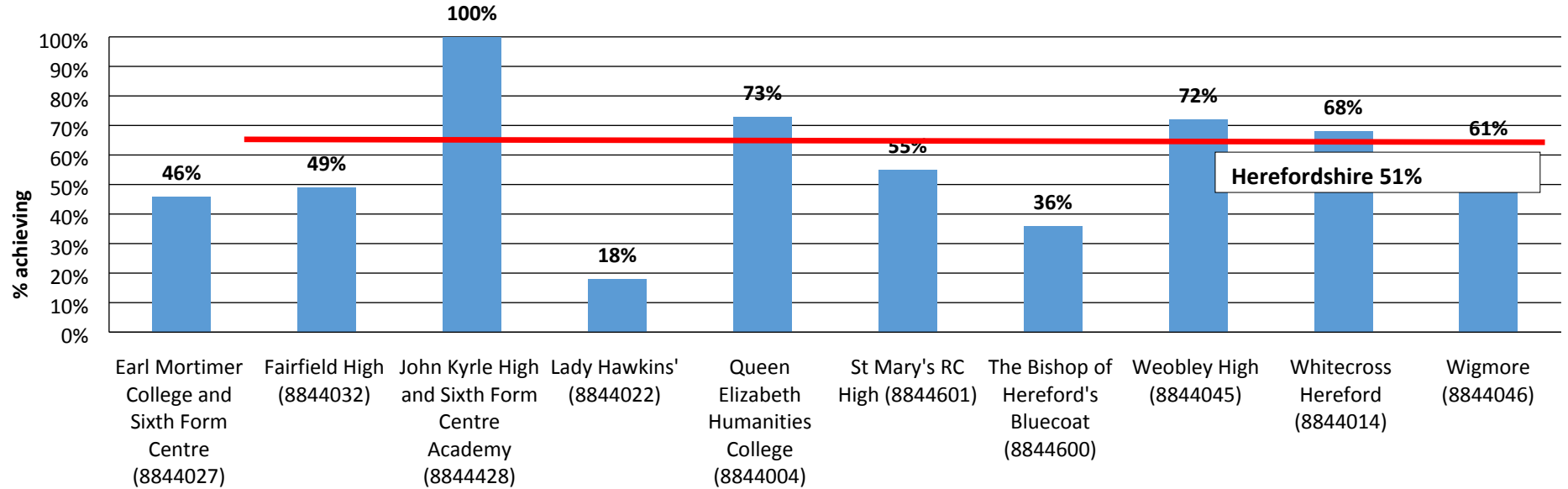
Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Matthew Evans on Tel (01432) 383690

	DFE	Cohort			ACTUAL RESULTS						PUPIL PROGRESS						
					Avg Point Score			% Grade 5+			Avg Point Score			% Grade 5+			
		2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	
Herefordshire (884)	884	647	679	721	4.6	4.4	4.8	51%	45%	53%	-0.58	-	-	-	10%	-7%	0%
Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre (8844027)	4027	72	88	110	4.1	4.1	5.3	46%	39%	63%	-0.53	-	0.27	0.75	-5%	11%	15%
Fairfield High (8844032)	4032	94			4.7			49%			-0.57			-	15%		
John Kyrle High and Sixth Form Centre Academy (8844428)	4428	26	81	58	7.7	5.3	5.5	100%	60%	74%	0.79	-	-	0.47	9%	-1%	2%
Lady Hawkins' (8844022)	4022	17		21	3.3		3.7	18%		29%	-1.5		-	1.14	38%		-
Queen Elizabeth Humanities College (8844004)	4004	15	67	58	5.5	3.1	3.6	73%	19%	29%	0.28	-	-	0.89	10%	16%	23%
St Mary's RC High (8844601)	4601	145	149	146	4.8	5	5.2	55%	55%	59%	-0.3	0.12	0.32	-4%	2%	7%	
The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat (8844600)	4600	191	195	216	3.7	3.9	4.3	36%	36%	41%	-1.21	-	-	0.49	21%	16%	-9%
Weobley High (8844045)	4045	50	53	61	5.4	5.7	6	72%	66%	77%	-0.2	0.25	0.79	2%	10%	17%	
Whitecross Hereford (8844014)	4014	19	16	8	5.1	6.1	4.9	68%	81%	63%	-0.24	0.59	-	0.25	5%	7%	1%
Wigmore (8844046)	4046	18	11	25	5.3	4.5	4.7	61%	45%	56%	-0.19	-	-	0.03	-6%	9%	1%
Robert Owen Academy (8844000)	4000		19	18		2	2.8		5%	17%		-	-	1.92	0.55	-	-9%
Herefordshire Pupil Referral Service (8841109)	1109			1			4			0%			1.76				85%

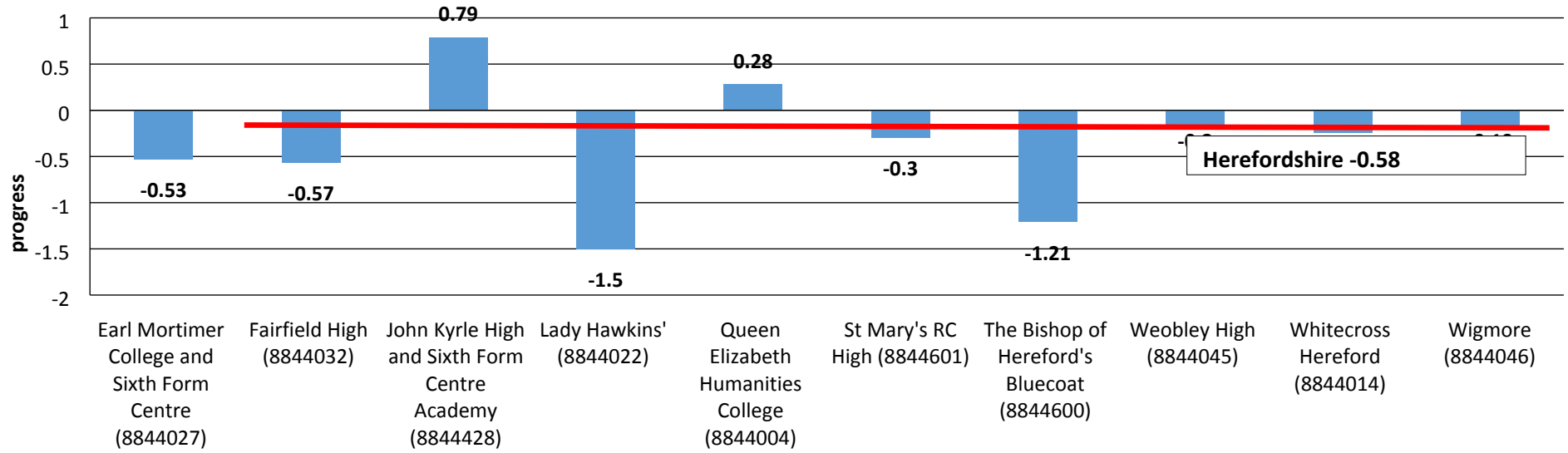
Avg Point Score



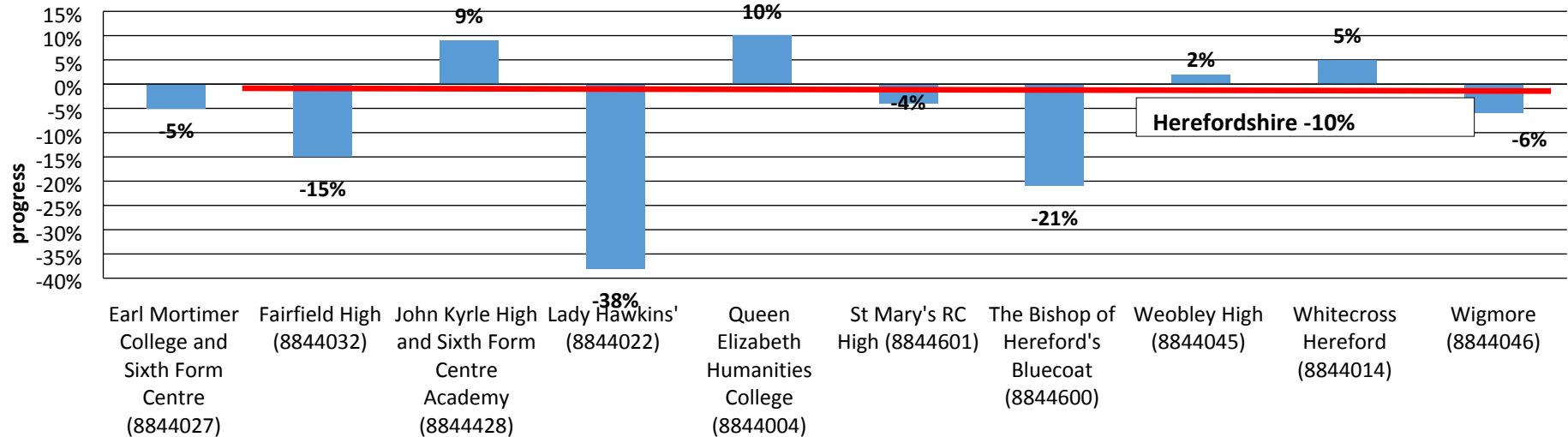
% Grade 5+



Progress - Avg Point Score



Progress - Grade 5+



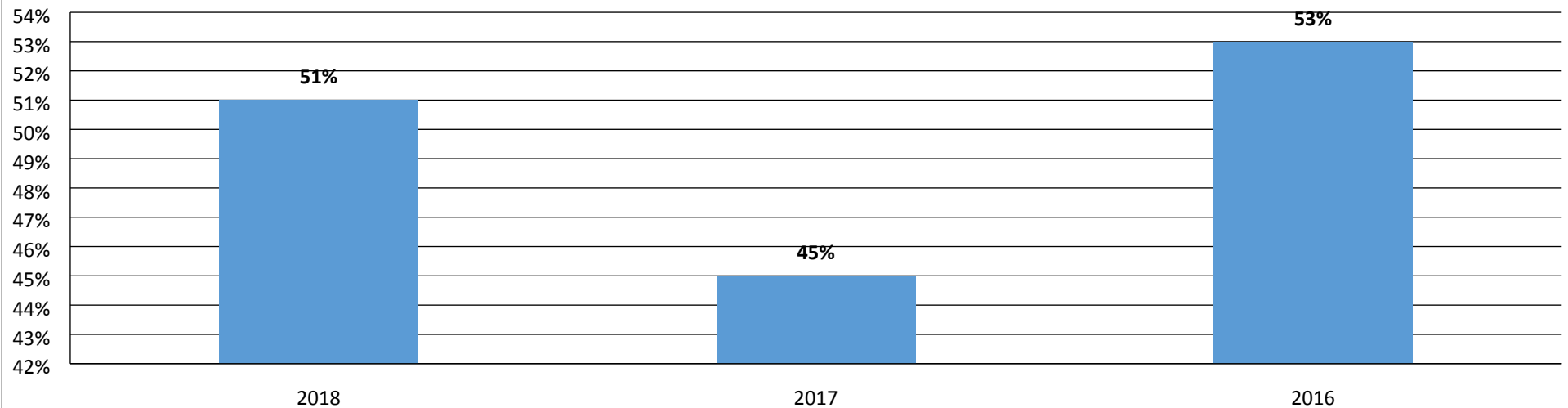
School performance summary 2018 Religious Studies GCSE

2018	DfE	Pupils	Actual results		Pupil progress	
			Avg Point Score	% Grade 5+	Avg Point Score	% Grade 5+
Herefordshire (884)	884	647	4.6	51%	-0.58	-10%
Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre (8844027)	4027	72	4.1	46%	-0.53	-5%
Fairfield High (8844032)	4032	94	4.7	49%	-0.57	-15%
John Kyrle High and Sixth Form Centre Academy (8844428)	4428	26	7.7	100%	0.79	9%
Lady Hawkins' (8844022)	4022	17	3.3	18%	-1.5	-38%
Queen Elizabeth Humanities College (8844004)	4004	15	5.5	73%	0.28	10%
St Mary's RC High (8844601)	4601	145	4.8	55%	-0.3	-4%
The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat (8844600)	4600	191	3.7	36%	-1.21	-21%
Weobley High (8844045)	4045	50	5.4	72%	-0.2	2%
Whitecross Hereford (8844014)	4014	19	5.1	68%	-0.24	5%
Wigmore (8844046)	4046	18	5.3	61%	-0.19	-6%

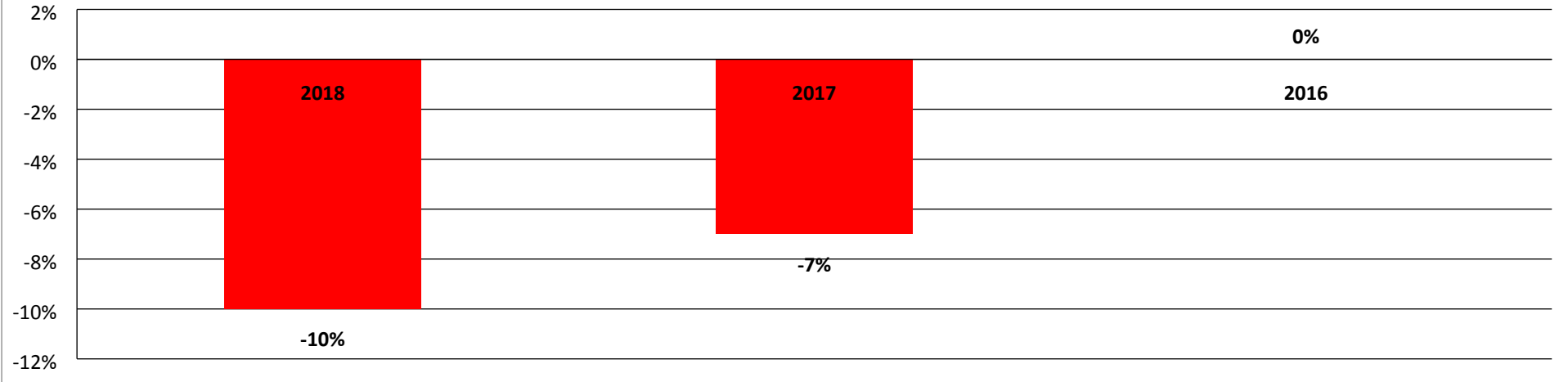
2017	DfE	Pupils	Actual results		Pupil progress	
			Avg Point Score	% Grade 5+	Avg Point Score	% Grade 5+
Herefordshire (884)	884	679	4.4	45%	-0.43	-7%
Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre (8844027)	4027	88	4.1	39%	-0.27	-11%
John Kyrle High and Sixth Form Centre Academy (8844428)	4428	81	5.3	60%	-0.44	-1%
Queen Elizabeth Humanities College (8844004)	4004	67	3.1	19%	-0.89	-16%
Robert Owen Academy (8844000)	4000	19	2	5%	-1.92	-29%
St Mary's RC High (8844601)	4601	149	5	55%	0.12	2%
The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat (8844600)	4600	195	3.9	36%	-0.86	-16%
Weobley High (8844045)	4045	53	5.7	66%	0.25	10%
Whitecross Hereford (8844014)	4014	16	6.1	81%	0.59	7%
Wigmore (8844046)	4046	11	4.5	45%	-0.34	9%

2016	DfE	Pupils	Actual results		Pupil progress	
			Avg Point Score	% Grade 5+	Avg Point Score	% Grade 5+
Herefordshire (884)	884	721	4.8	53%	-0.06	0%
Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre (8844027)	4027	110	5.3	63%	0.75	15%
Herefordshire Pupil Referral Service (8841109)	1109	1	4	0%	1.76	85%
John Kyrle High and Sixth Form Centre Academy (8844428)	4428	58	5.5	74%	-0.47	2%
Lady Hawkins' (8844022)	4022	21	3.7	29%	-1.14	-23%
Queen Elizabeth Humanities College (8844004)	4004	58	3.6	29%	-0.89	-23%
Robert Owen Academy (8844000)	4000	18	2.8	17%	-0.55	-9%
St Mary's RC High (8844601)	4601	146	5.2	59%	0.32	7%
The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat (8844600)	4600	216	4.3	41%	-0.49	-9%
Weobley High (8844045)	4045	61	6	77%	0.79	17%
Whitecross Hereford (8844014)	4014	8	4.9	63%	-0.25	1%
Wigmore (8844046)	4046	25	4.7	56%	-0.03	1%

Herefordshire - % achieving Grade 5+



Herefordshire - Progress % achieving Grade 5+



**Percentage of pupils, at the end of key stage 4, entered for religious studies courses (full and short courses)¹ by school², Local authority³ and nationally⁴.
Year: 2017/18
(Revised)⁵**

Coverage: England

1. Includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.

2. Includes pupils in all schools, who are eligible for inclusion in school level performance measures. Schools are only included if they are included in the the Department's school performance tables. The inclusion of the school level inclusion filter means that a slightly different number of pupils are included than in the local authority and national aggregations.

3. Includes pupils in state-funded schools only (as per the Department's established methodology for local authority data). This is therefore a different cohort to the school and national aggregation (excludes independent schools). Also only includes pupils eligible for inclusion in local authority level results, which again, varies from the school and national level aggregations.

4. Includes pupils in all schools, who are eligible for inclusion in national level performance measures - again, this varies slightly from the number included in school and local authority aggregations.

5. Figures are based on final data.

. = Not applicable.

Aggregation level	Unique Reference Number (URN)	Establishment Number	School name	Local Authority number	Local Authority name	School religious character	School type	Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4	Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 entering				Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C/9-4 as a proportion of those entering				Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C/9-5 as a proportion of those entering				No entries for religious studies (%)	
									Full course only	Short course only	Full and short course	Total	Full course only	Short course only	Full and short course	Total	Full course only	Short course only	Full and short course	Total		
21	Schools	116936	8844015	Aylestone School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	CY	74	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	116941	8844027	Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	CY	81	88.9	0	0	88.9	59.7	.	.	59.7	45.8	.	.	45.8	11.1
	Schools	116952	8844045	Weobley High School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	CY	96	52.1	0	0	52.1	90	.	.	90	72	.	.	72	47.9
	Schools	116991	8844600	The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Church of England	VA	203	94.1	0	0	94.1	47.6	.	.	47.6	36.1	.	.	36.1	5.9
	Schools	116992	8844601	St Mary's RC High School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Roman Catholic	VA	147	98.6	0	0	98.6	69	.	.	69	55.2	.	.	55.2	1.4
	Schools	117036	8846004	Hereford Cathedral School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Church of England	IND	74	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	117045	8846007	Lucton School	884	Herefordshire, County of	None	IND	32	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	117048	8846010	Cambian Hereford School	884	Herefordshire, County of	None	INDS PEC	3	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	117055	8847007	Westfield School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	CYS	3	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	131353	8846011	Queenswood School	884	Herefordshire, County of	None	INDS PEC	13	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	135662	8846905	The Hereford Academy	884	Herefordshire, County of	Christian	AC	119	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	135672	8846906	The Steiner Academy Hereford	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	AC	25	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	136399	8844428	John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	ACC	191	13.6	0	0	13.6	100	.	.	100	100	.	.	100	86.4
	Schools	136405	8844046	Wigmore School	884	Herefordshire, County of	None	ACC	91	19.8	0	0	19.8	77.8	.	.	77.8	61.1	.	.	61.1	80.2
	Schools	136803	8844058	John Masefield High School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	ACC	145	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	137073	8844021	Kingstone High School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	ACC	75	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	Schools	137608	8844022	Lady Hawkins' School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	ACC	57	29.8	0	0	29.8	35.3	.	.	35.3	17.6	.	.	17.6	70.2
	Schools	137703	8844004	Queen Elizabeth High School	884	Herefordshire, County of	None	ACC	59	25.4	0	0	25.4	80	.	.	80	73.3	.	.	73.3	74.6

Schools	139189	8844014	Whitecross Hereford	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	ACC	147	12.9	0	0	12.9	84.2	.	.	84.2	68.4	.	.	68.4	87.1
Schools	139607	8847003	Barrs Court School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	ACCS	16	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
Schools	140868	8844032	Fairfield High School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	ACC	96	97.9	0	0	97.9	64.9	.	.	64.9	48.9	.	.	48.9	2.1
Schools Local authorities	141487	8847008	The Brookfield School	884	Herefordshire, County of	Does not apply	ACCS	12	0	0	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
				884	Herefordshire, County of			1644	39.4	0	0	39.4	64	.	.	64	50.7	.	.	50.7	60.6

Support for Primary RE in Herefordshire

Herefordshire SACRE offers the following opportunities to support RE teaching in your school:

Annual RE Conference **Wednesday 26 June 2019**

9.30am-3.30pm

High-quality training, with a focus on practical classroom ideas and resources.

Venue: Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School
Hampton Dene Road, Tupsley, Hereford HR1 1UU

Course leaders: Fiona Moss and Stephen Pett, RE Today

Sessions include:

- **Literacy and RE**
A range of practical strategies to explore using poetry and texts in RE.
- **Ofsted and RE**
In the light of the new Ofsted Framework, how can we show the intent, implementation and impact of RE? Thoughtful ideas to consider and implement in your school.
- **Creative RE**
A selection of active strategies to get pupils thinking hard, learning lots and expressing their learning in creative ways.
- **Teaching Islam and Hinduism**
Some imaginative classroom ideas and resources to try out while deepening your subject knowledge.

Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders, TAs and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about how the new syllabus is being implemented, as well as to explore best practice in RE.

Aims

- To support schools in making progress with the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabuses for RE, with its increased flexibility and extra support for planning RE, and its focus on living religion and belief
- To provide practical strategies, guidance and resources for teachers and subject leaders in planning creative, thoughtful, rigorous RE to promote deep learning and the personal development of pupils
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Fee:

£30 or £50 for two teachers from the same school, including refreshments and resources

Booking form attached.

Why should I attend?

Primary conferences have been held in Herefordshire for many years now. Feedback is always excellent. It meets its aim of being practical, refreshing and inspiring, giving teachers resources to try out and take away, to adapt and apply in their own contexts.

Here is a representative selection of comments from Herefordshire teachers from 2017 and 2018:

- A very useful course full of lots of interesting, valuable and useful ideas that can be implemented in the classroom. Good provision of resources that can be used in the classroom straight away. *Wigmore Primary*
- Fantastic conference full of brilliant ideas to share with others back at school. Thank you. *Holmer CE Academy*
- Great as always! *Trinity Primary, Hereford*
- Thank you so much for an interesting day. Some lovely practical activities for the classroom; I shall use these! *Clifford Primary*
- Thank you. Enjoyed it. Lots of new ideas to bring RE to life. *St Thomas Cantilupe*
- It has been really informative and very inspiring.
- Very useful. Given me lots of ideas and suggestions to take back to school.
- Great advice given and reassurance of what good practice/assessment looks like. Lots of ideas to use in the classroom.
- Thank you, Stephen and Fiona. Your knowledge and expertise are truly inspiring!

Free webinar

Meaningful and manageable assessment for RE in the primary school

4-5pm Tuesday 9 April 2019

Location: Online

Trainer: Fiona Moss

Cost: FREE for Herefordshire primary schools

This one-hour session will explore meaningful and manageable assessment for learning strategies to use in Primary RE. Five steps for planning a unit of work, with meaningful but not overburdening assessment. Sign up and take part online with some or all of your colleagues. Have a term's RE CPD through this thought-provoking exploration of the issues and practical solutions.

Payment: As this is a free webinar, once you have registered you will receive your confirmation enabling you to join in on the day.

Book your place: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5970171514311448066>

**Booking form:
Hereford SACRE Primary Conference**

Venue: Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School

Wednesday 26th June 2019

Fee: £30 or £50 for two teachers from the same school

Full Name:	
School Name:	
School Address:	
	Postcode:
Telephone:	
Email address:	
Special Dietary Requirements	

Payment details:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice the school
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque, payable to RE Today
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay by Visa, Mastercard or Switch
Invoice/ Credit Card billing address:	
	Postcode:
Card number:	
Expiry Date:	Start Date:
Security code <small>(last 3 numbers on signature strip)</small>	Issue no. (Switch)
Signature:	
Date:	

Send to: RE Today Services, 5-6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham B30 3FH
Telephone: 0121 458 3313 **Email to:** mark@retoday.org.uk

Deeper thinking: deeper learning

9.00am – 3.30pm

Tuesday 25 June 2019

(Registration and refreshments from 8.30am)

Venue: Puckrup Hall Hotel, GL20 6EL

8.30	Registration and refreshments
9.00-10.00	<p>Session 1: Better thinking, better writing for GCSE Angela Hill <i>The reformed GCSE specifications make much greater demands on students not only in terms of increased content, but also in terms of the skills needed to analyse, evaluate and write at length. We will explore some practical strategies for encouraging better writing and deeper thinking that will help enhance students' GCSE performance.</i></p>
10.00-11.00	<p>Session 2: Deeper thinking in Islam: contexts and case studies Stephen Pett <i>Trying out some practical ways of deepening engagement at KS3, to take students beyond 'essentialised' pictures of Islam into richer and more nuanced understandings.</i></p>
11.30-12.30	<p>Session 3 Getting students thinking: enquiry-based learning and practical philosophy in RE Angela Hill <i>This session will explore ways of tapping into your learners' natural curiosity to raise engagement and to foster the delivery of high impact lessons and better outcomes in RE. Practical philosophy in RE means encouraging students to think and speak like philosophers, engaging in enquiry with others. In this session, you will be introduced to activities, techniques and resources to lead learners towards deeper thinking, as well as the development of essential 'soft skills' needed to engage effectively in critical discussion and debate. We will consider the benefits and potential challenges of introducing and developing philosophical approaches in RE lessons.</i></p>
1.30-2.30	<p>Session 4 Exploring and handling the diversity of non-religious worldviews Stephen Pett <i>In the light of new research from Understanding Unbelief, a major international research project from the University of Kent, this session will explore practical ideas for examining diverse non-religious worldviews and ways of engaging with non-religious students in your classes.</i></p>
2.30-3.15	<p>Session 5: TeachMeet: <i>Five-minute slots to share practical and relevant ideas for your classroom. Sign up overleaf to offer an idea that works!</i></p>
3.15	Evaluations and close

Fee: £95 or £170 for two teachers from the same school

Why should I come on this conference?

- It will be practical and inspiring, with a focus on a rich variety of resources, ideas and strategies to try out and then implement in your school.
- It gives a great opportunity to meet other colleagues, making new contacts, building links and sharing ideas.
- All resources used on the day will be available to download after the event.
- RE Today and NATRE resources will be available to browse and buy.

Last year's conference was rated EXCELLENT by 100% of delegates!

Representative comments include:

- Great quality as ever – content of presentations and discussions based on these. Great use and examples of resources to immediately use and/or adapt. *CH Wycliffe College*
- Really good day. The morning sessions were especially useful. I always look forward to these conferences. Lat and Stephen are inspirational. *KP Maidenhill*
- It is so refreshing to come to a conference which is inspiring, gives you ideas that you put into practice, and makes you think. Brilliant! *MC Waddesdon*
- It is always good to meet people who share your passion for the most valuable subject on our curriculum. Being given resources that will excite and engage our young students is so valuable. Great value for money. Challenging and thought-provoking. A must for all secondary school teachers. *LBa Bishops Hereford*
- I found all the presentations engaging and will leave with a lot of practical ways to improve our RE – maybe even some whole-school improvement! *LE Ribston*
- Thought-provoking. Lots of ideas to take away. Useful to network with other teachers. *CG St Egwin's Middle School*
- An inspirational refresher. A reminder of why I teach this subject with excellent ideas to take home. *AR Bristol Free School*
- Excellent, generous sharing from Lat and Stephen. Always good to meet up with the RE community. *RD Uni of Worcs*
- Excellent. Now just need time to put it into practice. *JN Cleeve*
- Always makes me stop and think. Developing ideas and revisiting old ideas are all relevant. Sharing ideas is essential. The conference allows all of this to happen. *LC Bewdley*
- Excellent as ever. *JE Fairfield.*
- Lots of ideas to take back to school. I'd like to hear more about current research and what they may look like in RE. *JR. Chelt Ladies College.*
- Brilliant and practical ideas. *MD Pittville.*
- A really helpful, thought-provoking and useful (resources) day! Definitely come again! *FF St Benedicts Alcester.*
- Great day – so many ideas to go on with. Useful to engage with colleagues; to be encouraged that what we're doing is good and that there are ways to constantly improve. *JH Stroud High*

Speakers:

Stephen Pett is a national adviser with RE Today. He works with teachers and local authorities around the UK and writes and edits primary and secondary classroom resources. He has edited over 30 books for secondary teachers, including the series *Questions in RE*, *Essential RE*, and *Examining Religion and Belief*. Stephen led the development of the *Understanding Christianity* resource, is currently involved in developing RE materials for the University of Kent's major research project, *Understanding Unbelief*, and has just started work on RE Today's resource, *Understanding Islam*.

Angela Hill is a secondary national adviser at RE Today. An experienced teacher and Lead Practitioner of secondary RE in Wales, she has been a longstanding examiner and trainer for a GCSE examination board. She also led a two-year project promoting Philosophy for Children in primary and secondary schools across Wales in a national project for the Council for Education in World Citizenship. At RE Today she is currently developing resources for the BBC, leading training in GCSE and writing for publication.

Booking form:
Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Secondary RE Conference
Deeper thinking, deeper learning
Tuesday 25th June 2019
 Fee: £95 or £170 for two teachers from the same school

Full Name:			
School Name:			
School Address:			
	Postcode:		
Telephone:			
Email address:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – I will bring a 5-minute something for the TeachMeet!		
Special Dietary Requirements			
Payment details:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice the school		
Invoice/ Credit Card billing address:			
			Postcode:
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque, payable to RE Today Services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay by Visa, Mastercard or Switch		
Card number:			
Expiry Date:		Start Date:	
Security code (last 3 numbers on signature strip)		Issue no. (Switch)	
Signature:			
Date:			

<p>Send to: RE Today Services, 5-6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham B30 3FH Telephone: 0121 458 3313 Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk</p>
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Additional training opportunities for Herefordshire secondary schools:

Free webinar
Handling key Christian concepts for GCSE
Tuesday 10 July 2019, 4-5pm

Location: Online

Trainer: Stephen Pett

Cost: FREE for Herefordshire secondary schools

Exploring diverse Christian interpretations of the following concepts for GCSE:

- Atonement
- Salvation
- Life after death

This one-hour session will look at key ideas and classroom strategies that you can implement in your teaching.

Sign up and run a department meeting around this training session. Just log in and project onto your whiteboard!

Payment: As this is a free webinar, once you have registered you will receive your confirmation enabling you to join in on the day.

Book your place: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/3133636023812054274>

RE News update for Herefordshire SACRE February 2019

Commission on RE: A response from Damian Hinds

The Secretary of State for Education recently replied to the Commission on RE report. The letter can be seen at <http://bit.ly/CoREresponse>, along with the RE Council's response. The Secretary of State's response is disappointing, however the door is not closed to change. Further meetings are going on with members of NATRE and the REC which may result in some of the recommendations being met in the medium term. It is clear that there will be no legislative change in the current parliament but that does not mean there will not be further smaller scale support, for instance on training or withdrawal. NATRE continues to push in these areas.

A recent meeting of the APPG for RE heard from teachers about the view from the classroom and the need for change. There have been a whole host of questions in the Commons and the Lords. There have also been a series of letters to MPS. One letter from sixth-form students to Nick Gibb, Schools Minister elicited this reply

This is what Minister for Schools; Nick Gibb MP wants your Headteacher to know about RE provision. Are they "acting unlawfully"?

It is compulsory to teach RE in state funded schools at all key stages up to age 18, even if pupils have not chosen to study religious studies at GCSE or A level. Schools that are not teaching RE are acting unlawfully or, in the case of academies, are in breach of their academy funding agreements. Where the Department is informed that a school is not fulfilling their legal duty, they will investigate accordingly.

With best wishes.

Yr minister Nick

NATRE
National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

NATRE Primary Survey: what would be the response from Herefordshire schools?

Nearly half of trainee primary teachers have had between zero and three hours of RE training, new research by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) has revealed.

NATRE has launched the results of its national **NATRE Primary Survey 2018**. The survey of over 500 primary teachers from across the country has revealed some worrying truths about the provision for RE in primary schools.

A quarter of teachers report that colleagues within their schools have a lack of confidence in teaching RE, both in terms of what to teach, but also how to teach RE.

NATRE's research found:

- Nearly half of trainee primary teachers have had between zero and three hours of RE training
- 30% of primary RE teachers have had no subject specific training in the last year, not even in a staff meeting
- 1/3 of teachers who started teaching in the last 5 years have no qualification at all in RE, not even a GCSE.
- Over 50% of schools have an HLTA taking some of their RE lessons
- Many primary schools do not give adequate time for RE

This demonstrates the need for teacher training in line with recommendation six and seven of the Commission on RE report.

Furthermore, though many teachers report no instances of withdrawal from RE, too many are reporting that selective withdrawal is being used, either to withdraw students from learning about Islam, or so that students only learn about Christianity.

To read the survey results go to <http://bit.ly/NATREprisurvey2018>

OFSTED Draft inspection framework

<http://bit.ly/Ofsted2019draft>

At first sight the new framework could be good news for RE with a clear focus on a broad and balanced curriculum. Page 13 will be of interest to schools and SACREs as it refers to RE and Collective Worship. Curriculum narrowing is warned against on page 42, this is good news for RE. Perhaps the most interesting part is p41, para 159 which asserts

Curriculum flexibility

158. The curriculum sets out the aims of a programme of education. It also sets out the structure for those aims to be implemented, including the knowledge, skills and understanding to be gained at each stage. It enables the evaluation of pupils' knowledge and understanding against those expectations.
159. All pupils in maintained schools are expected to study the national curriculum subjects, religious education and age-appropriate sex education.⁵⁸ Academies are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar in breadth and ambition to the national curriculum, including the requirements to teach English, mathematics, science, and religious education.⁵⁹
160. Schools taking radically different approaches to the curriculum will be judged fairly. The inspectorate recognises the importance of schools' autonomy to choose their own curriculum approaches. If leaders are able to show that they have thought carefully, that they have built a curriculum with appropriate coverage, content, structure and sequencing and are able to show that it has been implemented effectively, then inspectors will assess a school's curriculum favourably.

NATRE met with the deputy director of OFSTED and RE HMI to discuss this in detail in early February.

Withdrawal information

In all NATRE surveys, through conversations and in conversation with schools, places of worship and teacher unions we know that withdrawal from RE has become a more frequent and tricky issue for schools to deal with.

NATRE have written guidance and have made this available, jointly with the NAHT, to all schools. We can also send you the full document for free if you fill in the boxes with your details www.natre.org.uk/membership/guidance-on-withdrawal/

This guidance has been endorsed and shared by the DFE.

Do you know what parents can and can't withdraw pupils from? Do we know how many schools in Herefordshire have pupils withdrawn?

New secondary survey

NATRE is conducting this secondary survey (its seventh) to obtain information about the current state of RE in all types of schools so that it can continue to support the teacher in the classroom by raising awareness of the impact of government policy on RE.

We will be inviting Herefordshire secondary schools to take a few minutes to answer as many of the questions on the survey as they can. It could make all the difference. As our thank you to you for taking the time to complete this survey, schools will receive a £5 voucher code to use on all RE Today publications at the end of the survey.

NATRE will treat the responses with complete and absolute confidentiality; no schools or teachers will be identified in any use NATRE makes of the information provided.

Information from previous surveys has been used with the DFE, OFSTED, MPs, quoted in parliament and by unions. This is the best opportunity to show what the picture is in schools to decision makers.

Closing date: Friday, 12th April 2019 www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JY9WMWW

Year of Belief and values BBC

This year the BBC has set out to produce a whole series of programming across its platforms on religion and belief that may prove supportive to RE teachers. There will also be new animations on a series of religions for Primary schools on BBC Bitesize. For secondary schools there will be new programmes for KS3 RE and extensive information for students studying GCSE on BBC bitesize.

Primary 1000 Support for schools

NATRE has a new project to help schools who recognise the need to improve their RE provision. This innovative project responds to a very significant need in RE: that thousands of primary schools struggle to provide good RE for all pupils. The project will enable 1000 primary schools to offer 'Better RE' – which means: RE for thinking, creativity, standards and challenge.

The project has been designed to challenge, support and inspire primary schools where RE provision needs to change and improve the RE opportunities they give to pupils.

The three-year project has two phases. We have already raised funds for and commenced phase one.

Schools who get involved will be able to register as project members with the support of their senior leaders and a named teacher who will champion RE in the school.

Better RE will give schools targeted help and practical support, an online RE resource pack which includes a plethora of high-quality resources including the best online materials, great practical lesson ideas, planning guidance and support with subject knowledge, a sample policy statement, an audit tool and numerous ready to use learning ideas. We will aim to connect schools involved to

their local NATRE teacher group and years two and three will see regional RE conferences for the teachers involved as well.

NATRE has wide and long experience in supporting schools and responds to research and inspection findings about the low quality of RE in too many schools. We want all pupils to have access to good RE. A strength of this project is that it has been developed from the ideas of primary NATRE executive members, serving teachers of RE, local group leaders and grassroots activists.

Which schools could we nominate? We need to know a named RE subject leader?

Regional Ambassadors

At the end of October 2018, Naomi Anstice was appointed the National Ambassador for Religious Education Networks. She is an Assistant Head Teacher in Cheshire where she teaches RE to the whole school as part of the PPA provision. Naomi is also the RE Primary adviser for Cheshire West and a member of the NATRE Executive.

She will be working on this project a day a week. Here Naomi explains the project she will be leading for the next two years and introduces the regional ambassadors who have now been appointed:

'The aim of this project is to build a long-term sustainable structure to provide local support for RE teachers.'

- Connecting teachers to other teachers, local groups, hubs, advisers, SACREs and to a range of available opportunities and RE initiatives.
- Connecting teachers to both classroom-based and academic research
- Connecting teachers to regional and national CPD opportunities as well as resources which will inspire their classroom practice

This will be done through the creation of ten regional areas, each of which will have its own ambassador. These ambassadors will be developing, creating, coordinating local RE structures. Areas which already have strong support structures will be embraced and promoted whilst others may need creation and development according to local need.

These ambassadors bring a wealth of experience with them from a range of educational settings and will be working to network across their own areas, looking to support the creation of local groups where there are currently gaps. Each region will have web provision, so you can see what is happening in your area and to keep in touch with others in your area.

The regional ambassadors are allocated a day a month to support their region, so we will need to be realistic about what can be achieved in this time!

Our Regional Ambassador for the West Midlands is **Chris Giles**, a teacher from South Bromsgrove High School, member of Worcestershire SACRE, AST, SLE, NATRE exec member.

Read more about the Regional Ambassadors at <http://bit.ly/REambassadors>

You can follow and contact Naomi through twitter [@naomianstice](https://twitter.com/naomianstice) or email naomi.anstice@natre.org.uk who will pass on emails to the regional ambassadors.

Stephen Pett
RE Today/NATRE
Feb 2019