

Agenda

Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 10 March 2023**

Time: **2.00 pm**

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

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

For any further information please contact:

Simon Cann, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01432 260667

Email: simon.cann@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call Simon Cann, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260667 or e-mail simon.cann@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

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

Membership

Group A	Mr Fawcett Mrs Ault Venerable Tenzin Choesang* Ms. Stanier Mr Sallis	Roman Catholic representative Baha'i faith representative Buddhist faith representative Quaker faith representative Humanist representative
Group B	Mr Debenham Mr Harrington Mr Nicholas	Church of England representative Church of England representative Church of England representative
Group C	Ms. Westlake Mrs Barker**	Primary Teacher representative Secondary Teacher representative
Group D	Councillor Harvey Councillor Hewitt Councillor Stone	

*Chairperson

**Vice Chairperson

Agenda

		Pages
1.	WELCOME AND PRAYER To welcome members to SACRE and receive a prayer.	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
3.	NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details of any named substitutes.	
4.	MINUTES To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 th November 2022.	7 - 12
5.	RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
6.	SACRE BUDGET ISSUES 2023 An update on consultancy service funding.	
7.	SACRE CONSTITUTION CHANGES For the members to consider potential changes to the SACRE constitution.	
8.	HEREFORDSHIRE CENSUS 2011-2021 An update on the Herefordshire Census 2011-2021.	13 - 14
9.	HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2022 To consider and approve the Herefordshire SACRE Annual Report September 2021 - August 2022.	15 - 24
10.	GCSE/A LEVEL EXAM RESULTS An update on GCSE and A Level RE Results.	
11.	RE CONFERENCES 2023 UPDATE An update on primary and secondary RE conferences for 2023.	25 - 30
12.	NATIONAL SACRE TRAINING An update and discussion on National SACRE training.	
13.	NATIONAL SACRE UPDATES An update on National SACRE activity.	
14.	NATIONAL RE UPDATES	31 - 40

National RE Updates for Spring 2023.

15. AOB

Any other business.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

July 2023 (day to be confirmed)

November 2023 (day to be confirmed)

The Public's Rights to Information and Attendance at Meetings

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO: -

- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage). Agenda can be found at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings
- Please note that filming, photography and recording of meetings is permitted provided that it does not disrupt the business of the meeting.
- The reporting of meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the reporting to ensure that they comply.
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

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

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire or emergency the alarm bell will ring continuously.

You should vacate the building in an orderly manner through the nearest available fire exit.

You should then proceed to the Assembly Point which is located in the car park at the front of the building. A check will be undertaken to ensure that those recorded as present have vacated the building following which further instructions will be given.

Please do not allow any items of clothing, etc. to obstruct any of the exits.

Do not delay your vacation of the building by stopping or returning to collect coats or other personal belongings.

Minutes of the meeting of Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE) held in Plough Lane on Friday 18 November 2022 at 2.00 pm

Board members in attendance voting:

Carolyn Ault	Bahai faith
Lou Barker	Secondary School Teachers
Venerable Tsuiltrim Tenzin Choesang	Buddhist
Stewart Debenham	Church of England
Peter Fawcett	Roman Catholic representative, Archdiocese of Cardiff
Mark Harrington	
Jonathan Nicholas	Church of England
Anna Nugent	County Ecumenical Officer, Herefordshire
Ruth Stanier	The Quaker Faith
Councillor John Stone	
Tracy Westlake	Primary teacher representative

Note: Board members in attendance remotely, e.g. through video conference facilities, may not vote on any decisions taken.

Others present in person:

Adam Robertson	RE Today
Louise Tanner	Admissions and 14 to 19 Curriculum Manager

Others in attendance remotely:

Simon Cann	Democratic Services Officer
------------	-----------------------------

35. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked Adam Robertson for stepping in at such short notice.

Anna Nugent delivered the thought for the afternoon around Inter Faith week and read out an act of commitment by the faith communities of the UK for a shared act of reflection and commitment, which was made at the House of Lords as part of the Millennium celebrations:

“In a world scarred by the evils of war, racism, injustice and poverty, we offer this joint Act of Commitment as we look to our shared future.

We commit ourselves, as people of many faiths, to work together

*for the common good,
uniting to build a better society,
grounded in values and ideals we share:*

*community,
personal integrity,
a sense of right and wrong,
learning, wisdom and love of truth,
care and compassion,
justice and peace,
respect for one another,
for the earth and its creatures.*

*We commit ourselves,
in a spirit of friendship and co-operation,
to work together
alongside all who share our values and ideals,
to help bring about a better world
now and for generations to come.”*

This was followed by a minute of reflection.

The Chair informed the group that she was able to send (through a charity associate visiting London), a bouquet of flowers from Herefordshire SACRE to Hyde Park, in respect of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Chair also announced that Anna Nugent would be stepping down from her role in SACRE in January 2023 and wished her well for the future.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hewitt, Stephen Pett, Geoff Sallis and Alison Naylor.

37. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

Louise Tanner substituted for Alison Naylor.

38. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 8th July 2022 were unanimously approved as accurate and correct.

39. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

No questions were received from members of the public.

40. APPOINTMENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Tracy Westlake was unanimously approved as the primary school representative for Herefordshire SACRE.

41. RE CONFERENCES 2023 UPDATE

Adam Robertson provided an update on primary and secondary conferences for 2023.

Secondary Conference

Three Counties Secondary Conference, Thursday 22 June 2023, Packrup Hotel, Tewkesbury, GL20 6EL

Agenda:

- Worldviews, diversity, disciplines and personal knowledge: applying new thinking in RE
- Progressed learning about Muslim worldviews from Y7 to GCSE: 5 practical and inspiring examples
- Decolonising RE? Interpretation, context and power
- Global RE, Global Christianity: startling examples of a worldview you thought you knew
- Non-religious worldviews: studying diverse expressions
- Evaluations

Key points raised by the council:

- Chair happy to open the conference.
- The committee felt that it was a strong programme and were particularly interested in decolonising RE.
- Praise for the venue (Puckrup Hall Hotel), which allowed for attendees to car share.

Primary RE Conference

Council decided on July 4th as a date.

The council felt the event should be in-person. With recordings (if permitted) of speeches and workshops made available after the event - to encourage people to turn up on the day

The council members were keen to see the following featured at the primary school conference:

- A workshop on assessment and effective ways of assessing.
- Impactful teaching and ways of remembering.
- Multidisciplinary RE and how to approach and evidence it (link with EYFS)
- Ofsted and RE
- EYFS RE
- Ways in through art: encountering religions

Special needs conference could be held in the autumn, but would have to be in person.

42. SACRE MEMBERSHIP AND PROPORTIONALITY

SACRE discussed issues surrounding membership and proportionality.

Key issues discussed were:

- Need for Sikh, Islam and Hindu representatives.
- Difficult to find members from minority faiths in some instances they can't attend every meeting, so perhaps the board could approach them for input as required.
- Need to encourage people who will be able to communicate well in a school environment.
- Use Spotlight, teacher networks and hospital chaplain to reach out for members.

Action: Ruth Stanier to approach local Muslim contact about providing input on Islam.

Action: Louise Tanner/Alison Naylor to put message out through Spotlight.

43. WORLD VIEWS UPDATE

Adam Robertson provided an update on World Views.

It was explained that in relation to World Views the RE community had move on organically (rather than being led by government) and that the RE Education Council had commissioned Stephen Pett to produce a World View resource. This resource was intended to build a framework on which syllabus writers might be able to develop a curriculum that took into account and drew from the World View approach:

[REC Draft Handbook Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom: developing a worldviews approach \(religiuseducationcouncil.org.uk\)](https://www.reeducationcouncil.org.uk/REC-Draft-Handbook-Religion-and-Worldviews-in-the-Classroom-developing-a-worldviews-approach)

It was explained that the approach would provide a statement of entitlement, which would present a recommendation and guidance as to how much every child should be entitled to in terms of quality and breadth of education.

It was noted that religions were not fixed or set in stone and that they changed over time. The resource would provide a vision as to what might help people on their journey.

SACRE was shown and talked through the World View mixing desk, which was a tool that would enable certain themes to be faded up and a down depending on individual preference, this would be useful in gaining an insight into individual or group thinking on a variety of themes.

The resource would assist in envisaging what the next RE syllabus in Herefordshire might look like and the conferences would help bring this in.

It was stressed that the resource and World Views was not a checklist of expectations, but a mechanism for selecting content. Not everything would be included, in the same way that the syllabus for history would not attempt to cover all of history.

It was pointed out that local schools could start looking at how they could incorporate World Views into their existing syllabuses, rather than waiting for the new syllabus.

It was decided that Herefordshire SACRE would be provided with additional training on World Views to be delivered over the course of forthcoming meetings.

44. SACRE BUDGET ISSUES FOR 2023

Herefordshire SACRE unanimously agreed that it wished to renew/extend its contract with RE Today if that was possible. The Chair explained she would discuss renewal/bid options with RE Today to see if it could freeze its rates - with a view to suggesting a rollover to the finance office.

Action: Louise Tanner to contact Malcolm Green about available options and consider changes to procurement roles. Join up with Malcolm Green and Alison Naylor. Cllr John Stone to assist with pitch if necessary.

45. SCHOOL WORKFORCE DATA

Adam Robertson briefed the council on the data provided, but stressed that the data was not to be considered as complete:

[Herefordshire Workforce Data 2022.pdf](#)

It was questioned whether tutor time in assembly was sufficient to cover off an adequate amount of RE education. Certain schools in the county may need following up, especially with regards to Key Stage 4 teaching.

The council considered whether subjects such as history/geography would be taught in tutor time/assembly and concluded they wouldn't.

Action: Alison Naylor to follow up on Adam's research and seek clarification from schools about delivery and quantity of RE. Pick up in March meeting.

46. ANNUAL SACRE REPORT DISCUSSION

Nothing to report.

Approved: Stephen Pett to circulate information to the Council members in preparation for the next meeting.

47. UPDATE ON ANY NEW RE INITIATIVES

The Herefordshire SACRE update provided in the agenda was taken as read:

[Herefordshire SACRE RE Updates Autumn 2022.pdf](#)

The Chair explained that for an extra £50 NASACRE were offering a deal whereby anybody on the council could participate in NASACRE seminars on the website for the whole year.

Approved: The Council unanimously agreed to take up the NASACRE deal.

48. AOB

None.

49. MEETING DATES 2023

10th March 2023

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified

Chairperson

CENSUS 2011:	Population	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Humanist	Religion not stated
Gloucestershire	596,984	379,144	1,772	2,222	539	5,741	449	2,940	159,496	211	44,681
Herefordshire	183,477	124,403	562	228	131	364	80	893	41,766	72	15,050
Shropshire	306,129	210,268	792	378	127	989	256	1,113	69,725	123	22,481
Worcestershire	566,169	382,240	1,268	1,145	355	7,466	1,413	2,061	131,861	172	38,360
Monmouthshire	91,323	57,101	269	162	65	239	47	391	26,018	43	7,031
Powys	132,976	82,120	567	324	80	235	49	798	37,050	67	11,753
West Midlands	2,736,460	1,471,780	9,119	59,768	3,060	332,684	116,715	15,181	554,152	469	174,001
Birmingham	1,073,045	494,358	4,780	22,362	2,205	234,411	32,376	5,646	206,821	219	70,086
England	53,012,456	31,479,876	238,626	806,199	261,282	2,660,116	420,196	227,825	13,114,232	14,252	3,804,104
ENGLAND AND WALES	56,075,912	33,243,175	247,743	816,633	263,346	2,706,066	423,158	240,530	14,097,229	15,067	4,038,032

CENSUS 2021:	Population	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Humanist	Religion not stated
Gloucestershire	645,079	317,610	2,383	3,777	688	9,347	761	2,031	266,775	183	40,042
%	100	49.20	0.40	0.60	0.10	1.40	0.10	0.31	41.40	0.03	6.20
Herefordshire	187,039	102,614	646	384	142	790	117	508	68,404	70	12,962
%	100	54.90	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.40	0.10	0.27	36.60	0.04	6.90
Shropshire	323,601	179,516	895	557	182	1,708	760	773	119,482	92	18,931
%	100	55.50	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.50	0.20	0.24	37.00	0.03	5.90
Worcestershire	603,679	319,892	1,691	1,882	416	10,881	2,310	1,485	228,889	99	34,958
%	100	53.00	0.30	0.30	0.10	1.80	0.40	0.25	37.90	0.02	5.80
Birmingham	1,144,912	389,406	4,340	21,997	1,687	341,811	33,126	5,084	276,227	100	69,856
	100	34.00	0.40	1.90	0.10	29.90	2.90	0.44	24.10	0.01	6.10
England	56,490,038	26,167,904	262,437	1,020,539	269,295	3,801,182	520,090	231,470	20,706,073	9,575	3,400,553
		46.3%	0.5%	1.8%	0.5%	6.7%	0.9%	0.4%	36.7%	0.02%	6.0%
ENGLAND AND WALES											

Herefordshire Census 2011-2021

% Christian 2011	67.8	% Christian 2021	54.9	% Change	-19.0	% Buddhist 2011	0.3	% Buddhist 2021	0.3	% Change	-2.0	% Hindu 2011	0.1	% Hindu 2021	0.2	% Change	60.9	% Jewish 2011	0.07	% Jewish 2021	0.1	% Change	40.1	% Muslim 2011	0.2	% Muslim 2021	0.4	% Change	101.6	% Sikh 2011	0.04	% Sikh 2021	0.1	% Change	129.3
------------------	------	------------------	------	----------	-------	-----------------	-----	-----------------	-----	----------	------	--------------	-----	--------------	-----	----------	------	---------------	------	---------------	-----	----------	------	---------------	-----	---------------	-----	----------	-------	-------------	------	-------------	-----	----------	-------

% Total Pagan Traditions 2011	0.17	% Total Pagan Traditions 2021	0.21	% Change	25.6	% other religion other than pagan traditions 2011	0.3	% other religions other than pagan traditions 2021	0.3	% Change	-13.9	% Humanism 2011	0.039	% Humanism 2021	0.037	% Change	-4.8	% No religion other than Humanists 2011	22.7	% No religion other than Humanists 2021	36.6	% Change	60.9	% Religion not stated 2011	8.2	% Religion not stated 2021	6.9	% Change	-15.9
-------------------------------	------	-------------------------------	------	----------	------	---	-----	--	-----	----------	-------	-----------------	-------	-----------------	-------	----------	------	---	------	---	------	----------	------	----------------------------	-----	----------------------------	-----	----------	-------

Pagan traditions include:

Animism, Druid, Heathen, Mysticism, New Age, Occult, Pagan, Pantheism, Reconstructionist, Shamanism, Thelemite, Vodun, Wicca, Witchcraft.

Herefordshire
Standing Advisory Council on Religious
Education

Annual Report Sept 2021-August 2022



Contents

Herefordshire.....	0
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.....	0
Annual Report Sept 2021-August 2022.....	0
1. Introduction.....	2
1.1 Foreword.....	2
1.2 Overview of the work of SACRE.....	2
2. Religious Education.....	3
2.1 The locally agreed syllabus and RE in schools.....	3
2.2 Standards and monitoring of RE.....	3
2.3 Teacher training and materials and advice for schools.....	3
2.4 Other information.....	5
2.5 Advice given to the local authority.....	5
3. Collective worship.....	5
3.1 Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship.....	5
3.2 Determinations.....	5
3.3 Teacher training provided.....	5
3.4 Other information.....	5
3.5 Advice to the Local Authority.....	5
4. Links with other bodies.....	5
4.1 National Bodies.....	5
4.2 Local bodies.....	5
5. SACRE involvement in the Local Area.....	5
6. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority.....	5
6.1 Professional and administrative support.....	5
6.2 Membership, representation and attendance.....	6
6.3 Training for SACRE members.....	6
6.4 Finance.....	6
7. Appendices.....	7
7.1 SACRE membership.....	7
7.2 Circulation details for this Annual Report.....	7
7.3 Herefordshire GCSE results.....	8

1. Introduction

1.1 Foreword

Lama Tenzin Choesang

Chair of Herefordshire SACRE

1.2 Overview of the work of SACRE

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body set up to advise the Local Authority on matters related to religious education and collective worship. Its members are drawn from teachers, Local Authority representatives including Councillors, faith representatives from the Church of England and a range of Christian denominations, and representatives from other religious and non-religious groups represented in the region.

SACRE's key functions include monitoring the provision and quality of RE, and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training. This is primarily done through the review and implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, a process which is required every five years. This is followed by on-going monitoring of its effectiveness in the light of changing national education policy.

SACRE endeavours to offer maximum support to schools through its use of conferences and local groups. This year, SACRE held three meetings: Friday 19 November 2021, Friday 11 March 2022 and Friday 8 July.

The Local Authority officer is Alison Naylor, Head of Learning and Achievement.

A brief overview of each meeting can be found below:

19 November 2021 (hybrid: in-person and via Zoom)

- *SACRE working group proposal*
- *Draft annual report*
- *Plans for professional development: report on primary and secondary summer conferences 2021; proposals for 2022; SACRE member training; Diocesan training*
- *SACRE membership*
- *Updates on any new RE initiatives, including REC worldviews project and Ofsted RE Research Review*

11 March 2022 (hybrid: in-person and via Zoom)

- *SACRE budget*
- *Briefing from NASACRE representative*
- *RE conferences 2022*
- *Updates on any new RE initiatives*

8 July 2022 (Hybrid: in-person and via Zoom)

- Feedback from summer RE conferences
- Ofsted: inspecting RE
- Primary and secondary school surveys
- Worldviews update
- NASACRE membership
- Updates on any new RE initiatives

2. Religious Education

2.1 The locally agreed syllabus and RE in schools

The Herefordshire agreed syllabus was launched in 2020, during the pandemic. The syllabus and an accompanying training video were distributed to all schools in June, and a follow-on training conference was set up via Zoom for schools to attend. Termly network meetings and annual summer conferences have focused on the implementation of the syllabus and developing teaching and learning. SACRE believes that most, if not all, primary academies are using the Herefordshire agreed syllabus. Not all secondary academies are using it in full, although many use it to inform their practice.

2.2 Standards and monitoring of RE

This is the first year since 2019 that GCSE and A level Religious Studies examinations results can be reviewed. Data on these results can be seen in Appendix 7c below. SACRE thanks teachers who have supported students and taught them in extremely difficult circumstances.

SACRE regularly reviews school workforce survey data when it is available, reviewing school websites and surveying schools to explore provision further.

OFSTED reports can also provide a way of monitoring RE. SACRE heard a briefing on OFSTED inspections at its summer meeting. The new OFSTED inspection framework and RE research review appear to be bringing a renewed focus on RE in schools where RE was struggling to get sufficient curriculum time.

2.3 Teacher training and materials and advice for schools

Network meetings

SACRE teacher representative, Tracy Westlake, has been running a NATRE-affiliated local group each term. She hosted online/in-person events on [date]... X teachers joined to talk about...

The Diocese of Hereford runs regular online and in-person training sessions throughout the year, which has included:

[list]

SACRE primary RE conference, 4 July 2022

The annual primary RE conference took place online via Zoom. 22 schools attended. It was led by Stephen Pett and Adam Robertson from RE Today.

The programme included workshops on the following themes:

- Ways of knowing
- Worldviews
- Teaching about Hindus in KS2

- Opening up texts and stories 5-11s

All delegates who responded rated the overall value of the conference as good or excellent.

Representative feedback included:

- *More accessible online. It was really useful being shown materials/ activities that can be used in class.*
- *Good day, lots to take away. Interesting to start thinking about where RE is going in the future.*
- *Really informative with great ideas for resources and activities that can be taken back into the classroom.*
- *Very interesting - particularly about 'worldviews' and 'different ways of knowing'. Much appreciated. Thank you Adam and Stephen.*
- *I really enjoyed the sessions which were informative and very useful practical activities for the classroom*
- *Very informative and lots of great ideas.*

SACRE secondary RE conference, 23 June 2022

Herefordshire SACRE collaborates with Gloucestershire and Worcestershire SACREs in putting on a secondary conference each year. This year it was in-person after the online event in 2022. 13 delegates attended from the three counties.

The programme, and evaluations, were as follows:

	excellent	good
Religion and worldviews Stephen Pett	100%	
Approaches to Sikh worldviews Lat Blaylock	100%	
Ways of knowing Stephen Pett	85%	15%
TeachMeet Local teachers	54%	46%
Overall value of the conference	100%	

Representative feedback included:

- *Thank you so much for giving up your time. Really enjoy/interested in research behind worldviews and how to explore worldviews. Practical examples modelled by Lat - thank you! Loved how we explored ideas and turned methods upside down.*
- *This is my annual 'plugin'! I love meeting other RE teachers and gaining such amazing knowledge and understanding.*
- *Excellent day with amazing resource is that can be adapted and taken into the classroom. Great to see some different approaches to how to deliver resources to students.*
- *Superb as usual. Inspirational and directly relevant to RE now. Lovely update on current dialogue and looking ahead.*
- *Excellent day full of useful ideas and links to learning. Good to be able to plan in some more up to date ideas. Good to share with others, making links.*
- *Fantastic day to really 'hone in' on key skills. Great content on both pedagogy and faith / worldview. World views was great to get to grips with. I liked the practical suggestions for use in the classroom.*
- *So good to be able to work collectively and in the real world again. I met some stimulating and supportive colleagues which is vital.*
- *Really enjoyed the segment on world views and excited to see how this develops. The venue was excellent! Really enjoyed the depth of the content on Sikhi.*

2.4 Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about RE during the year.

2.5 Advice given to the local authority

No advice was given to the Local Authority.

3. Collective worship

3.1 Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

SACRE has found it hard to monitor collective worship over the past few years. It is noted that schools found different ways of delivering Collective worship virtually during the last difficult year.

3.2 Determinations

No determinations have been requested in the year 2021-22.

3.3 Teacher training provided

No SACRE training on collective worship has been provided in 2021-22, although the Diocese of Hereford continues to support its schools in this area.

3.4 Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about collective worship during the year.

3.5 Advice to the Local Authority

No advice was given to the local authority around the provision of collective worship.

4. Links with other bodies

4.1 National Bodies

- Herefordshire SACRE is a member of NASACRE. Its newsletters are circulated to all members. Stephen Pett, adviser to SACRE presented a workshop on the Worldviews Project to NASACRE members in February 2022, with Professor Trevor Cooling.
- Stephen Pett, RE Today, connects SACRE with NATRE, and provides national updates at each meeting. Reports from NATRE, including the School Workforce Data and regular primary and secondary surveys have proved useful to SACRE when monitoring schools.
- Information from the RE Council has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.
- The REC Worldviews Project draft resource offering guidance on a Religion and Worldviews approach (May 2022) has been a helpful resource for discussion for SACRE.

4.2 Local bodies

Hereford Diocese provides excellent support to SACRE and local schools.

Several members of SACRE are members of Herefordshire Interfaith Group, which runs a number of events each term, as well as organising a biennial Interfaith Peace Service for International Day of Peace at Hereford Cathedral.

5. SACRE involvement in the Local Area

SACRE updates governors and headteachers on resources and training via a bulletin.

6. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority

6.1 Professional and administrative support

Clerk to SACRE:

Simon Cann
Democratic Services Officer
Herefordshire Council
Plough Lane | Hereford | HR4 0LE

Local authority officer:

Alison Naylor
Head of Learning and Achievement
Children and Families
Herefordshire Council
Plough Lane | Hereford | HR4 0LE

Adviser to SACRE:

The LA has a contract with RE Today Services. Stephen Pett is the RE Today national adviser who delivers the contract to Herefordshire LA and SACRE.
RE Today Services
Imperial Court, Sovereign Road, Birmingham B30 3FH

6.2 Membership, representation and attendance

SACRE regularly reviews membership and seeks representation from local communities. Current vacancies, and repeated absences are discussed by the Chair and LA Officer.

All groups have been represented according to SACRE's terms of reference at each meeting.

6.3 Training for SACRE members

The SACRE Clerk, Chair, LA Officer and RE adviser are on hand to advise SACRE members.

All members are invited to attend the training provided for schools. Several SACRE members attend the primary conference each year, providing support to the RE adviser and spending time meeting and supporting teachers. Members often attend NASACRE CPD and the Southwest SACRE conference, reporting back to members.

A presentation was given by Mr Paul Smalley from NASACRE at the 11 March meeting.

6.4 Finance

Herefordshire County Council supports SACRE with an annual budget of £5000. This covers the cost of the support from RE Today Services, who have supported Herefordshire SACRE for over a decade, and 20% of it accumulates to cover the cost of agreed syllabus renewals every five years.

7. Appendices

7.1 SACRE membership

Group A - Organisation		19 Nov 2021 Hybrid mtg	11 March 2022 Hybrid	8 July 2022 Hybrid
Baha' i community	Mrs C Ault	✓	✓	Mr P Hulme (substitute)
Buddhist community	Lama Tenzin Choesang (Chair)	✓	✓	
Free Churches	Canon A Nugent		✓	
Humanist	Mr G Sallis		Joined	
Hindu community	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
Jewish community	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
Muslim community	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
Quaker community	Ms R Stainer	✓	✓	✓
Roman Catholic Church	Mr P Fawcett	✓	✓	✓
Sikh community	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
Group B: Church of England				
	Mr S Debenham	✓*	✓*	✓
	Mr M Harrington	✓	✓	✓
	Mr J Nicholas		✓	
Group C: Teacher representatives				
Primary teacher	Mr B Caldicott (until March 2022)			
Co-opted primary teacher	Ms T Westlake	✓	✓	
Secondary teacher	Mrs L Barker (Vice Chair)	✓	✓	✓
Special school	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
Group D: Local Authority				
	Cllr E Harvey		✓*	✓
	Cllr J Hewitt	✓		
	Cllr J Stone	✓	✓	✓
In attendance				
Clerk to SACRE	Mr M Evans (Nov 2021) Mr S Cann (March 2022-)	✓	✓	✓
LA Officer	Ms A Naylor	✓	Ms E Farr (substitute)	✓
Adviser to SACRE	Stephen Pett, RE Today	✓	✓	✓

*Denotes virtual attendance

Also in attendance on 19 Nov 2021: Strategic Finance Manager, Democratic Services Officer*,
Democratic Services Technical Officer

Also in attendance on 11 March 2022: Governance Support Team

7.2 Circulation details for this Annual Report

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies.

- ..., Director of Children's Services, Herefordshire LA
- Cllr ..., Cabinet Member for Education, Herefordshire LA
- The Department for Education (Central Government)

- NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies of Herefordshire schools
- All members of Herefordshire SACRE, for distribution to the bodies/communities they represent

7.3 Herefordshire GCSE results

This is the first time since 2019 that externally marked GCSE examinations have been sat by students. In 2020 and 2021, grades were determined by teachers as externally marked examinations could not take place due to the disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Herefordshire GCSE results

No of pupils	Number of GCSE entries	% Full Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades	% Short Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades
1768	605	34.2%	71.4%	14.1%	63.5%

National GCSE results

No of pupils	Number of GCSE entries	% Full Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades	% Short Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades
650366	221124	34%	76.8%	2.6%	65.5%

A level results were not available at the time of writing.

Thoughtful RE: creativity, progress, diversity

Tuesday 4th July 2023

Venue: Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, HRI IUU
9.00am-3.45pm

A day of inspiring support and ideas for your RE classroom. A suite of practical ideas and guidance for implementing the new agreed syllabus, from current theory to classroom practice. Clear advice on what makes for rich, engaging RE for you and your pupils – as well as meeting Ofsted requirements.

9.00 Welcome and introduction **Lama Choesang, Chair of SACRE**

9.15-10.15 **Session 1: Ways in through art Stephen Pett**

Simple, practical and creative ways to use Christian, Hindu and Muslim art to open up subject knowledge in RE and to develop skills in interpreting for 7-11s.

10.30-11.30 **Session 2: Building knowledge and progression in primary RE Adam Robertson**

How can we build knowledge and show progression using the syllabus? How can we help pupils to remember what they have learnt? How can we assess their progress? Practical strategies to implement in your planning and teaching.

11.45-12.45 **Session 3: RE and Early Years Tracy Westlake and Adam Robertson**

Exploring how the latest EYFS requirements apply to RE, with examples of good practice in understanding the world of religion and beliefs.

1.45-2.45 **Session 4: Multidisciplinary RE Stephen Pett**

In RE we can ask different kinds of questions and use different methods to find out the answers. This session will explore the idea of using the questions and methods from the academic disciplines, such as theology, philosophy and sociology. This ties in with the Herefordshire agreed syllabus and Ofsted's recent interest in 'ways of knowing'. Practical strategies to try out and take away!

Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A 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 and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about and explore best practice in RE.

Aims:

- To explore excellent practice for implementing the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, in the context of Ofsted's inspection framework
- To provide practical support and guidance to schools in thinking about the intent of the syllabus and planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE to implement it, increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding, as well as their personal development
- To give teachers confidence in planning and delivering great RE, deepening subject knowledge and skills
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Cost: £95 or £150 for two teachers from the same school

Booking details attached. Please email to mark@retoday.org.uk
or post to **RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH**

**Booking form:
Herefordshire Primary RE Conference:**

Thoughtful RE

Tuesday 4th July 2023

Venue:

Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, HR1 1UU

Fee:

£95 per delegate, or £150 for two teachers from
the same school

Full Name:											
School Name:											
School Address:											
	Postcode:										
Telephone:											
Admin email address:											
Attending teacher(s) email addresses											
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:											

Send to: RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH
Tel: 0121 458 3313 **Fax:** 0121 285 1816
Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk

Three Counties Secondary RE Conference

Thursday 22 June 2023

Puckrup Hall Hotel, Tewkesbury, GL20 6EL

This will be a practical conference to explore a mix of active strategies and classroom resources. There is a focus on current issues in RE – from diversity to decolonising, worldviews to ‘ways of knowing’.

8.45-	Registration and refreshments
9.00-10.00	Worldviews, diversity, disciplines and personal knowledge: applying new thinking in RE <i>Stephen Pett</i> Practical responses to recent developments. An opportunity to look forward to syllabus developments – 2024 for Gloucestershire, 2025 for Worcestershire and Herefordshire.
10.15-11.15	Progressed learning about Muslim worldviews from Y7 to GCSE: 5 practical and inspiring examples <i>Lat Blaylock</i> Exploring Muslim worldviews to create a coherent progression, drawing on diverse contexts and applying varied ways of knowing
11.30-12.30	Decolonising RE? Interpretation, context and power <i>Becky Davidge, University of Worcester</i> What does it mean to draw attention to the legacies of power in our presentation of religion(s) in RE? Some thoughtful strategies
	Lunch
1.15-2.15	Global RE, Global Christianity: startling examples of a worldview you thought you knew <i>Lat Blaylock</i> This session will present 6 startling examples of Christianity that show it is not what you think. Going global and local, historical and prophetic, this session will challenge your presentation of Christianity to 11–14-year-olds.
2.20-3.20	Non-religious worldviews: studying diverse expressions <i>Stephen Pett</i> Applying disciplinary approaches to studying positive expressions of non-religiousness, including organised worldviews (e.g. Humanism) and individual or personal accounts (e.g. the worldviews of many of your pupils).
3.20-3.30	Evaluations

You will receive an electronic copy of all resources used on the day to take away, with additional material available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources from RE Today Services will be available to purchase or order on the day at discounted prices.

Fee: £95 per delegate; £150 for two delegates from the same school.

Booking details attached. Please email to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to **RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH**

Why should I attend this conference?

- An opportunity to meet colleagues and share ideas
- Receive a rich variety of resources for classroom use
- Receive up-to-date, creative and inspiring training on things that matter in RE

But don't just take our word for it!

100% of attendees in 2022 rated the conference excellent!

- Thank you so much for giving up your time. Really enjoy/interested in research behind worldviews and how to explore worldviews. Practical examples modelled by Lat - thank you! Loved how we explored ideas and turned methods upside down.
- This is my annual 'plugin'! I love meeting other RE teachers and gaining such amazing knowledge and understanding.
- Excellent day with amazing resource is that can be adapted and taken into the classroom. Great to see some different approaches to how to deliver resources to students.
- Superb as usual. Inspirational and directly relevant to RE now. Lovely update on current dialogue and looking ahead.
- Excellent day full of useful ideas and links to learning. Good to be able to plan in some more up to date ideas. Good to share with others, making links.
- Fantastic day to really 'hone in' on key skills. Great content on both pedagogy and faith / worldview. World views was great to get to grips with. I liked the practical suggestions for use in the classroom.
- So good to be able to work collectively and in the real world again. I met some stimulating and supportive colleagues which is vital.
- Really enjoyed the segment on world views and excited to see how this develops. The venue was excellent! Really enjoyed the depth of the content on Sikhi.

90% of 2021 online attendees rated the day as excellent!

- Although very different - zoom! - still a fantastic day. As always I feel refreshed and positive about the future of RE. The ideas and topics were excellent and I will definitely be using many of the activities.
- I was surprised how close it came to the joy of attending a face to face conference. Lots of fantastic and inspiring ideas. Thank you both.
- As always, fantastic resources, ideas and new perspectives to explore. This conference reinvigorates me and at the end of this year, that has been especially needed! I particularly enjoyed the Anti-racist RS session. Thanks to all involved, brilliant.
- Wonderful day- great resources and really user friendly ideas. Marvellous.
- I can actually use all the ideas and resources in the classroom!
- Inspiring- it made me rethink my plans and critically examine my thinking on Islam

100% of 2019 attendees rated the day excellent!

- Excellent resources – informative and practical
- As always, excellent value for money and relevant materials with easily implemented ideas
- Always good to get together with like-minded people – new ideas every year.
- I absolutely love coming to these conferences and look forward to it each year. Stephen is so inspiring and always go back to my school with fresh and exciting ideas. Everybody should come to this!
- An excellent first experience. I enjoyed the diverse input.
- All very good, as per usual. Good length and variety of sessions linked clearly to research, resources, strategies and practice.
- This was my first RE Today conference and it was incredibly useful! I really enjoyed meeting new people and the quality of the content was amazing!
- Great resources and classroom techniques. GCSE support is always needed.
- This was a superb course. Angela and Stephen were so knowledgeable and great presenters. I've learnt so much! Thank you, this was a great event!

Booking form:
Three Counties Secondary RE Conference
Thursday 22 June 2023
Puckrup Hall Hotel, GL20 2EL
Fee: £95 per delegate; £150 for two delegates from the same school

Full Name(s):			
School Name:			
School Address:			
	Postcode:		
Telephone:			
Admin email address:			
Attending teacher emails:			
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 <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
Tel: 0121 458 3313 **Fax:** 0121 285 1816
Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk

Herefordshire RE: National Updates Spring 2023

Herefordshire SACRE receives updates on what is happening in the world of RE. We thought you might like to have this information – about resources and events, and other news updates. Please pass this on to members of your community, RE subject leads and others interested in RE.

Resources

Inclusive Judaism: resources from the Jewish Museum of London

Classroom resources, including an extensive image library, open up the diversity of Jewish communities. Developers, Shereen Hunte and Eliana Mendelsohn, say: *The teaching of Inclusive Judaism is important for many reasons and ensures that:*

- *The Jewish community is represented authentically.*
- *Students truly understand what it means to be Jewish, in all its diversity.*
- *We are able to connect to each other's experiences with empathy and compassion.*



See: [Inclusive Judaism - The Jewish Museum London](#)

Visits, videos and other resources for the classroom

THE ARTS SOCIETY BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham faith visits

The Arts Society Birmingham has worked with six faith communities to provide guidance and materials on six places of worship. Teachers can find a 4-page booklet, three videos introducing the building and community, and a related quiz for each place of worship.

Supported by a generous grant from Westhill Endowment Trust, The Arts Society Birmingham has collaborated with six different places of worship, Birmingham Faith Leaders and other organisations to produce resources designed to enhance a school visit, or to support a virtual visit, to a place of worship for children 8 to 13 years.

Actual visits to the places of worship may be arranged by contacting them directly. Contact details are provided on the Illustrated Guides. <https://birmingham-faith-visits.theartsociety.org/>

£600 grants for teaching Christianity

The Jerusalem Trust's

Small Grants to Schools Scheme

Resourcing the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state funded schools in England and Wales, with 60% awarded to secondary schools and 40% to primary schools.

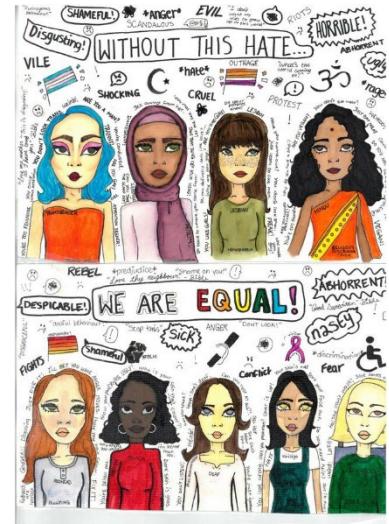
Details and application information: www.regrants.org.uk

NATRE Spirited Arts 2022 WINNERS!

Over 30,000 young people from around the world took part in the Spirited Arts competition last year, with entries from Australia, Bahrain and Thailand, as well as many from Stoke-on-Trent. 523 schools took part, selecting their pupils' best artworks, and sending 3196 entries for judging. 27 winners have been selected and are now in the [Spirited Arts online gallery](#).

Categories in the 2022 competition included:

- 'God's Good Earth?', which invited pupils to explore the threat of climate change and the beauty of the earth
- 'Searching for God', where pupils considered their personal search for God, regardless of whether they are atheist, agnostic, or believers in God, and
- 'A view of the world', where pupils were encouraged to explore their own worldview.



Mollie (13) - Winner

The competition is supported by the Jo Cox Foundation. This year entrants were invited to develop a creative response to the 2015 quote from the late Jo Cox MP: **"We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us"**.
www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2022/

NATRE Spirited Arts 2023 – new themes announced

Will your school join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition? Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form pupils can think of. Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE?

The 6 themes

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us."
2. Green faith, green future? ['God's good earth?']
3. Where is God today?
4. Faith in action, values in action.
5. Sacred space and holy buildings
6. All God's creatures?



More details here www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/

Training and CPD opportunities and other support

NATRE's annual Strictly RE conference took place in January 2023

The conference took place online for the third year. The themes explored: **depth, diversity and Abrahamic worldviews**.

Although the conference is over, **all sessions were recorded**, and schools can buy access to all the recording for only £135 (£115 for NATRE members)



Workshops included:

- Thinking out loud- joining the dots to help children think more critically (Primary)
- Introducing Philosophy and Philosophers to the Primary Classroom (Primary)
- Dharmic Lenses on the Climate Crisis (Secondary)
- Creating a core RE Programme for KS4 (Secondary)
- Interfaith conversations - exploring creative projects that deepen pupils' understanding in RE (Crossphase)
- Special RE (Crossphase)
- Championing and advocating for RE with parents (for SLTs)

To buy access contact courses@retoday.org.uk

Free webinars for primary and secondary ECTs – a taster for NATRE ECT membership

Early Career Teachers have access to a range of free support through a series of online sessions. 'Café' sessions give you a chance to talk with experienced teachers and experts from different worldview backgrounds. The taught sessions offer expert input with a focus on practical classroom strategies.

Date – All Mondays 4.00-5.30pm	Topic
13 Mar	Café NATRE – Subject knowledge Judaism
15 May	Taught session: Focus on Multidisciplinary RE
12 June	Taught session: Focus on Sikhi
10 July	Café NATRE: Subject knowledge Christianity

ECT webinars booking link www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/

Culham St Gabriel's 'In conversation' series

Extend your understanding of religion and worldviews, subject knowledge and pedagogy by listening in on conversations among teachers, researchers and other experts.

Two conversations are programmed for the spring:

- 20 Feb: 4-00-4.40pm Learning from experiences in Lebanon: diversity, solidarity and safeguarding human dignity
- 20 March 4.30-5.10pm RETOPEA! Promoting religious peace and tolerance through history

Details and booking info here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events/in-conversation/

Extensive back catalogue here: www.reonline.org.uk/research/in-conversation/

Regional RE Hub leads in place and ready to go!

Under the leadership of Claire Clinton, Lead Director, a fantastic team of Regional Leads will be supporting ten regions of England and Wales. They have been recruited to build relationships with advisers, dioceses, universities, SACREs, LAs, governors, MATs, teaching school hubs and more. The Regional Leads will also act as conduits between the regional providers of research, CPD, resources, places of worship and so on for the benefit of all RE/Religion and Worldview stakeholders.

The Regional Hub structure aims to increase accessibility for all teachers to local and regional professional development and research, and to enable teachers to teach with greater confidence through their access to the support, knowledge, training and resources available in their region.

Details and the list of Regional Leads:

www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/the-regional-re-hubs-team-is-ready-to-go/

West Midlands regional hub lead is **Chris Giles**.

NATRE: new membership packages!

NATRE is the largest membership organisation that promotes, defends and supports RE teachers and RE teaching. It does this through producing high-quality resources and CPD, lobbying government, being involved in conversations with the DfE and Ofsted, Local Authorities and SACREs, telling teachers' stories and experiences and being a voice for all teachers.



Membership packages for students, ECTs, teachers, schools, RE professionals and RE enthusiasts!

Details: www.natre.org.uk/membership

NATRE: welcome webinars for new members

New NATRE members are invited to a monthly welcome webinar. This will help them use their NATRE membership and enjoy it to its fullest!

What will they learn?

- How to Access NATRE resources
- Access online termly mailing resources
- Access Local Groups area
- Take the best out of the NATRE monthly newsletter
- How to redeem your REtoday library membership
- How to use your membership discount

Members can register their interest to attend a webinar at this link.

www.natre.org.uk/member-login/natre-members-welcome-webinar/

NATRE Primary Subject leader support pages

NATRE have created a new resource the primary subject leader toolkit. This has many resources and links to support your role as Religious Education/ Religion and Worldviews subject leader. All the content detailed and linked in these pages has been written and collated by Primary members of the NATRE Executive and RE Today Advisers.

www.natre.org.uk/primary/primary-subject-leader/

Other information

Research into parent views on Religious Education

In summer 2021, the Culham St Gabriel's Trust (CSTG) commissioned a survey to understand more about public perception of an education in religion and worldviews. In the summer of 2022, CSTG commissioned another survey, this time exploring the views of parents about education in religion and worldviews. In both cases, the language used in the questions was chosen to try to avoid these misconceptions and to collect a more accurate set of data about what people thought about modern RE.

Some key findings about what parents talk about with their children:

- Around 8 in 10 discuss beliefs about the origins of life and the universe (78%)
- 7 in 10 discuss beliefs concerning what happens when we die (72%)
- 8 in 10 discuss beliefs that affect people's behaviour and decision making (77%)
- 7 in 10 discuss issues related to religious and non-religious worldviews that appear in the media (67%)

Find out more here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/campaigns/parent-survey/

Why does the rate of entry for GCSE RS vary so much around England? Does the 2021 Census provide part of the answer?

In answer to a parliamentary written question asked by Janet Daby MP and **answered by Nick Gibb MP in January**, the minister provided a table ranking each local authority in relation to the number of entries for GCSE Religious Studies in 2022. The range is significant; from 14.4% to 81.0%.

Looking for an explanation for this gap, NATRE tabulated the percentage of the population in each local authority that recorded they belonged to a religion in the 2021 Census alongside the average entries for GCSE. The correlation is interesting as you will see by the colour coded shading in the last column. Comparisons between the local authorities entering the most and the least students are worth noting as follows:

- An average of 57% of the English population, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census
- An average of 51% of the population, in the bottom 10 LAs in terms of entries for GCSE RS, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census.
- An average of 71% of the population, in the top 10 LAs in terms of entries for GCSE RS, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census.

The full table can be downloaded [here](#).

Even though this is correlation and not proven causation, SACREs may like to consider the following:

- How do entries in their LA compare with other LAs in their region and nationally?
- Does the census data provide part of the answer or not?
- Why do some LAs buck the trend implied by the census data – i.e. pupils appear to be more likely to be entered for GCSE RS in areas with a larger proportions of people who identify with a religious worldview?
- Might parental views of what their child should study be affecting curriculum design? See CSTG survey of parents above.
- What are the implications of the answers to these questions for Religious Education in England?

Find out more here: **Local Authorities entries for GCSE and census records**

Cross-party calls for RE National Plan after Westminster debate

London, 01 November 2022: A Westminster Hall debate heard cross-party calls of support for religious education, as MPs urged the Government to do more to protect the subject, they considered vital for young people in modern Britain.

The debate, entitled 'Religious Education in Modern Britain', was called by Conservative MP Martin Vickers who cited concerns about the number of schools fulfilling their statutory responsibility to teach the subject. At year 11, one school in five reported offering zero hours of RE.

www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/?news=re-in-modern-britain-westminster-hall-debate

Shortage of Specialist Secondary RE Teachers

NATRE and the RE Council's RE Policy Unit have collaborated with Culham St Gabriel's Trust on a Policy Briefing on the current shortage of subject specialist secondary teachers for religious education. It provides a useful source of information about the national picture of recruitment and for arguments to press for government action.

Key findings

- The DfE has missed its RE recruitment target in 9 of the last 10 years
- [25% of RE](#) lessons are taught by teachers with no post A-level qualification
- 51% of teachers of RE, mainly teach another subject (28% Geography, 27% History, 13% of English teachers)
- The number of graduates from Theology and Religious Studies courses in 2020/21 was approximately (including joint honours) 1300. Only around 10% of whom go on to enrol in ITT.
- RE teacher numbers have fallen by 1800 (-10.9%) since 2011.
- RE teacher recruitment is now a post code lottery, with areas such as the East-Midlands and the North East being particularly badly affected.
- Concerns have been raised by faith community members regarding representation and accuracy of RE.
- Positive [parental opinion](#) of the subject is around 70%, with a recognition that the subject is vital in the preparation of young people for life in the modern world.
- Despite this, DfE have spent [£0 on RE projects between 2016 and 2022](#). Maths has received £154 million.

[Access the documents here.](#)

Minister admits most Teachers of RE mainly teach another subject

In response to the **parliamentary written question** asked by Janet Daby MP, minister for school standards; Nick Gibb MP admitted that 51% of the total number of secondary teachers of RE spend most of their teaching timetable delivering a different subject. Only 27% of teachers of History, 28% of Geography and 13% of English fall into this category. This statistic lends further support for the call for immediate action to boost the number of trainee teachers of RE after the government, yet again, refused to offer trainees teachers of RE a bursary and, unsurprisingly, recruitment is currently down 32% on last year (22% for all subjects).

NATRE believes pupils deserve better, and that they should be taught by well-trained and qualified teachers. According to the government's own **teacher standards** (3), teachers must "demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge". It is difficult to see how these can be met when the proportion of specialist teachers is so low.

School leaders struggling to recruit RE specialists blame the DfE, especially as they **recently justified the decision**, on the basis that in one single year in the last ten (2020/21), the target was exceeded, conveniently ignoring the fact that it had previously **stated**, "In 2020/21, we saw an unprecedented increase in new entrants to ITT compared to the previous year, which was likely to be a direct result of the impact of COVID-19..."

You can find detailed arguments and statistics to support the case for action to support government action including the restoration of bursaries here:

[The case for ITT bursaries 2023](#)

NATRE survey of provision for RE in primary schools published

Key highlights from the survey show:

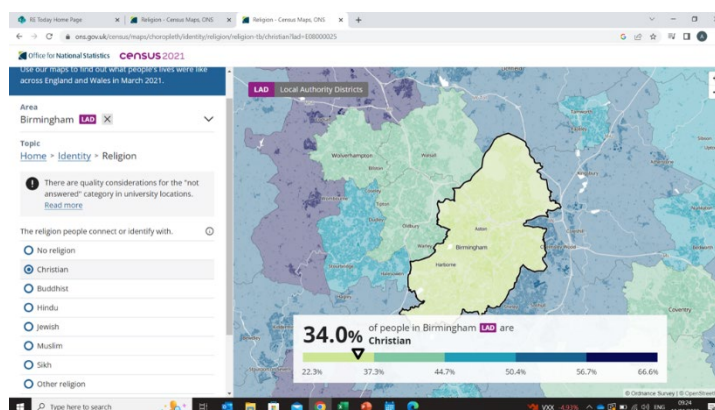
- The number of schools where pupils are withdrawn is increasing. 23% of schools report some withdrawal from RE (18.6% in 2020. and 16% in 2018).
- 96% of schools report that they make provision for RE for all pupils in their school.
- More than 40% of teachers report that they received between 0 and 3 hours of training to teach RE in their initial teacher training. 20% received none.
- 63% of schools say some RE is being delivered by adults other than teachers (TAs/HLTAs etc.)
- In 28% of schools, RE receives no budget or no set budget and is 30% less funding than foundation subjects.
- In just under a third of schools (31.5%) insufficient time (less than 60 mins) is being spent on the teaching of RE to ensure that pupils make good progress.
- In 80% of schools, subject leaders receive some training but 25% of other teachers receive none and report reduced confidence.
- In over 30% of schools, time for RE increased and in 30% of these, Ofsted has cited as the main reason: inspection comments, the Framework, or the Research Review in RE.



Read more [here](#) and an infographic [here](#):

Office for National Statistics publishes Census 2021 data on religion

- For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the population (46.2%, 27.5 million people) described themselves as “Christian”, a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% (33.3 million) in 2011; despite this decrease, “Christian” remained the most common response to the religion question.
- “No religion” was the second most common response, increasing by 12.0 percentage points to 37.2% (22.2 million) from 25.2% (14.1 million) in 2011.
- There were increases in the number of people who described themselves as “Muslim” (3.9 million, 6.5% in 2021, up from 2.7 million, 4.9% in 2011) and “Hindu” (1.0 million, 1.7% in 2021, up from 818,000, 1.5% in 2011).
- Wales had a greater decrease in people reporting their religion as “Christian” (14.0 percentage point decrease, from 57.6% in 2011 to 43.6% in 2021) and increase in “No religion” (14.5 percentage point increase, from 32.1% in 2011 to 46.5% in 2021) compared with England and Wales overall.
- London remains the most religiously diverse region of England in 2021, with over a quarter (25.3%) of all usual residents reporting a religion other than “Christian”; the North East and South West are the least religiously diverse regions, with 4.2% and 3.2%, respectively, selecting a religion other than “Christian”.



Explore our region and the surrounding area

using this interactive online map: www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps

Theos Report: Who are the Nones and what do they believe?



This report published on 24th November, shortly before the census data above was released explores the demography, beliefs and practices of Nones and then presents a cluster analysis of this group. It shows that Nones comprise a complex and sometimes counter-intuitive group with, for example, only 51% of them stating they “don’t believe in God,” and 42% believing in some form of the supernatural.

Download the full report here:

www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/2022/10/31/the-nones-who-are-they-and-what-do-they-believe

Draft Resource for Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom

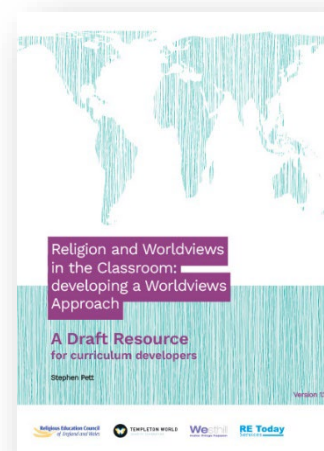
As part of a three-year Worldviews project, the RE Council of England and Wales (REC) has published a draft resource for Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom.

The resource sets out a rationale for a religion and worldviews approach, building on the developments since the 2018 Commission report. It incorporates a revised **National Statement of**

Entitlement (NSE), which gives a clear description of an education in religion and worldviews, and sets a benchmark for high-quality teaching and learning. The resource then offers practical guidance, including how to use the NSE to develop a syllabus or curriculum, applying ways of knowing, developing pupils' personal worldviews, and what progress looks like in a worldviews approach.

Sections include:

- What do people mean by 'religion'?
- What do people mean by 'worldview'?
- The value of worldviews
- Purposes for RE in a religion and worldviews approach
- **Revised National Statement of Entitlement**
- Developing pupils' personal worldviews
- Making good progress
- Applying disciplinary methods
- How to use the NSE to develop a syllabus
- How to use the NSE to develop questions and construct units of work
- Making good progress: three models



The resource is primarily written to inform three Framework Development Teams, who are currently working to apply the NSE and the guidance to their own contexts. During this process, the draft resource will be tested and revised as necessary, before the publication of a final Handbook, three example frameworks, sample units of work and pupil responses, in 2024.

You can download copies of here: www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/projects/draft-handbook-and-nse/

News updates created for Herefordshire SACRE by RE Today Services, February 2023

