

# Agenda

## Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 15 November 2024**

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Time: **2.00 pm**

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Place: **Conference Room 2 - Herefordshire Council, Plough  
Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE**

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Notes: New security barriers have been installed in the reception area of the Plough Lane offices, so please allow additional time to sign in and to reach the meeting room.

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Ben Baugh, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 261882 or e-mail [ben.baugh2@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ben.baugh2@herefordshire.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

# Agenda for the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

## Membership

|                         |                            |   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Chairperson</b>      | Geoff Sallis               | Humanism representative                 |
| <b>Vice-Chairperson</b> | Louise Barker              | Secondary school teacher representative |
|                         | Carolyn Ault               | Bahá'í faith representative             |
|                         | Mark Harrington            | Church of England representative        |
|                         | Samira Kairo               | Muslim faith representative             |
|                         | Jatinderpal Loyal          | Sikh faith representative               |
|                         | Jonathan Nicholas          | Church of England representative        |
|                         | Councillor Rob Owens       | Herefordshire Council                   |
|                         | Councillor Justine Peberdy | Herefordshire Council                   |
|                         | Ruth Stanier               | Quaker faith representative             |
|                         | Barry Stevens              | Church of England representative        |
|                         | Councillor John Stone      | Herefordshire Council                   |
|                         | Tracy Westlake             | Primary school teacher representative   |

## Agenda

|     |  | Pages         |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 1.  | <p><b>WELCOME AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY</b></p> <p>To welcome members to SACRE and to receive a thought for the day.</p>   |               |
| 2.  | <p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>   |               |
| 3.  | <p><b>NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>To receive details of any substitutes nominated to attend the meeting in place of a member of SACRE.</p>   |               |
| 4.  | <p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2024.</p>   | 5 - 6         |
| 5.  | <p><b>WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>To respond to any written questions from members of the public received in advance of the meeting.</p>  |               |
| 6.  | <p><b>AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE FEEDBACK: CONTRIBUTING LOCAL INFORMATION</b></p> <p>To consider matters to inform the revised syllabus; a draft model will be circulated to SACRE members separately.</p> |               |
| 7.  | <p><b>PROPOSED OUTLINES FOR 2025 RE LAUNCH CONFERENCES</b></p> <p>To receive details for launching the 2025 RE Agreed Syllabus.</p>  | 7 - 8         |
| 8.  | <p><b>ANNUAL SACRE REPORT DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>To discuss and agree the format and content of the annual SACRE report.</p>  | To follow     |
| 9.  | <p><b>THREE COUNTIES SECONDARY RE CONFERENCE 25 JUNE 2024 FEEDBACK</b></p> <p>To receive feedback from the secondary RE conference held in 2024.</p>   | 9 - 12        |
| 10. | <p><b>TEACHER SUPPORT (NETWORK MEETINGS)</b></p> <p>To receive an update from Tracy Westlake.</p>  | Verbal report |
| 11. | <p><b>SACRE TRAINING</b></p> <p>To explore training opportunities available for SACRE members.</p>   |               |
| 12. | <p><b>NATIONAL RE UPDATES FOR SACRE</b></p> <p>To receive updates on national news, including the Department for Education's call for evidence for the Curriculum and Assessment Review.</p>               | 13 - 18       |
| 13. | <p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is <a href="#">Friday 14 March 2025, 2.00 pm</a></p>  |               |



**Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in Conference Room 2 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Friday 5 July 2024 at 3.00 pm**

**Board members present in person, voting:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Mrs Carolyn Ault           | Bahai faith                            |
| Peter Fawcett              | Roman Catholic, Archdiocese of Cardiff |
| Mark Harrington            | Church of England representative       |
| Samira Kairo               | Muslim faith                           |
| Jonathan Nicholas          | Church of England representative       |
| Councillor Rob Owens       | Herefordshire Council                  |
| Ruth Stanier               | The Quaker Faith                       |
| Geoff Sallis (Chairperson) | Humanism                               |
| Barry Stevens              | Church of England representative       |
| Councillor John Stone      | Herefordshire Council                  |

Others present in person:

|               |                               |                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pamela Howell | School Improvement Advisor    | Children and Young People |
| Stephen Pett  | RE Today, Consultant to SACRE |                           |

**104. RE CONFERENCES**

Stephen Pett noted that the initial evaluations of the Secondary RE Conference was very positive.

The Chair agreed that the level of presentations was very impressive.

Stephen Pett added that the feedback will be typed up and brought back to SACRE at a future meeting. Regarding the Primary Conference, the Hereford Academy were thanked for accommodating the conference. Tracy Westlake was praised for her session at the conference and her practical ideas. Positive feedback was also received for the 'speed-dating' function deployed at the conference.

Midge Ault noted that she enjoyed the 'speed-dating' function and found it a stimulating way of interacting with other teachers.

Pam Howell added that she attended the Primary Conference and found the experience as a whole very positive particularly in getting to know other teachers and staff from Herefordshire.

**105. NATIONAL SACRE NEWS UPDATE**

Stephen Pett provided a brief overview on National SACRE news.

**106. TEACHER SUPPORT (NETWORK MEETINGS)**

The Board noted the summary provided by Tracy Westlake in the agenda pack.

**107. ANY MATTERS ARISING**

Peter Fawcett announced that he was leaving SACRE as a member.

The Board thanked Peter Fawcett for his time served on the committee.

Cllr John Stone thanked Stephen Pett for all his work on the RE school conferences.

**108. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is 15 November 2024, 14:00-17:00.

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm

**Chairperson**

# Launching the 2025 RE Agreed Syllabus:

**DATE TBC**

**Venue: TBC**

The statutory review of the Herefordshire agreed syllabus every five years has taken place. This launch conference is a chance to see the changes and learn how to apply them. The day focuses on practical responses and guidance for the classroom. It includes clear advice on what makes for rich, engaging RE for you and your pupils – as well as meeting Ofsted requirements.

The revised agreed syllabus retains most of the 2020 key questions and the approach, but key amendments include:

- adapting to a new Religion and Worldviews (RW) approach to RE
- integrating Ofsted's 3 forms of knowledge (substantive, 'ways of knowing' and personal knowledge)
- more systematic coverage of non-religious worldviews (especially Humanism)
- offering additional, alternative units on anti-racism, caring for the earth and multi-disciplinary RE, and using more local examples
- including more detail on assessment techniques
- providing more materials to support teachers with developing subject knowledge

This syllabus will be a **statutory requirement for all maintained schools** without a religious character and it is recommended for all academies. The Diocese of Hereford recommends it for Church schools, being fully compatible with *Understanding Christianity* and the *RE Statement of Entitlement for CE schools*.

The syllabus comes with sample curriculum plans, guidance on assessment and detailed support materials, including medium-term planning.

| Programme for the day  | In addition:   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>9.30-11.00 Session 1: Welcome &amp; Introducing the syllabus</b><br/>Exploring the key features of the revisions to the agreed syllabus; what stays the same, what is new, and why. Focus on classroom ideas to put into action, and an introduction to a religion and worldviews approach.</p> <p><b>11.30-1.00 Session 2: Applying 'ways of knowing' in RE: practical strategies</b><br/>Sharing some active ideas to put the syllabus revisions into practice, responding to current moves in RE towards a religion and worldviews approach, and to Ofsted's description of 'ways of knowing'.</p> <p><b>2.00-3.30 Session 3: Long-term planning, helping pupils to remember, and engaging pupils' personal worldviews</b> Practical guidance on constructing coherent long-term plans and takeaway ideas for embedding learning. This session also explores the complexity of pupils' worldviews and practical ways of exploring non-religiousness in the classroom.</p> <p>Evaluation and thanks<br/><b>Close at 3.30pm</b></p> | <p>Those attending the day will gain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Access to the new RE syllabus</li> <li>■ Access to Additional support materials online, including all materials used in the day</li> <li>■ RE network opportunities</li> </ul> <p>There will be the opportunity to order a supporting scheme of work, and to browse and purchase RE Today resources (to buy and take away, with invoices going to your school after the event).</p> |

## Who is the conference 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 the developments in the new syllabus and to explore best practice in RE.

## Aims:

- To explore excellent practice for implementing the revised Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, in the context of Ofsted's inspection framework, the Ofsted RE research review, and the RE Council's National Statement of Entitlement 2024
- To provide practical support and guidance to schools in thinking about planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE in line with the Herefordshire syllabus, 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: £100 or £160 for two teachers from the same school

Booking details attached. Please email to [mark@retoday.org.uk](mailto:mark@retoday.org.uk) or post to **RE Today Services, S5-S6 , 1 Devon Way, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2TS**

## Why should I come to this conference?

Apart from the once-in-five-years importance of seeing the new agreed syllabus for RE, these events are rich opportunities to develop your thinking and expertise in RE, with many practical ideas and resources, and a chance to talk with colleagues from other schools. Here are just some of the comments from teachers at the 2024 SACRE conference:

- *Informative, interesting, lots of practical ideas that can be used across key stages. Thank you.*
- *Great, informative day allowing us to share ideas with others who are passionate about RE.*
- *Well run, full of practical ideas to take straight back to school. Really inspiring. I really enjoyed seeing the real life examples from Tracy's classroom. Super venue - good lunch!*
- *The whole day has been very informative and really useful. I have taken away lots of useful strategies and ideas.*
- *All parts of the conference have been extremely useful and have given me lots of ideas to try out myself and to share with colleagues. It was also a great opportunity to network with other RE leaders.*
- *All parts of the conference have been well delivered and helpful. The venue has been great. A really enjoyable day. Thank you!*
- *Really important for RE. The teaching, learning and our professionalism. Friendly. Supportive - sense of 'we are here alongside you... you might like to try coming this way'.*
- *Lots of useful ideas to feedback at school, especially ways to help with sticky knowledge. Will fit in with our action from Ofsted. The meeting worldview reps was extremely useful, some really informative.*
- *A really well organised conference with a mixture of discussion and activities which can be used back in the classroom. Being face to face has been useful to talk to other teachers of RE. Will help to develop next steps of the curriculum.*
- *Very informative, well resourced and organised. Presented well - interesting and clear.*
- *Very useful and informative as always. Great ideas to take away and use in the classroom. Always relatable and delivered with children in mind by experienced practitioners.*
- *Slides useful for spreading the ideas to other staff. Good range of activities and ideas. Tricky to see visuals and boards from the back.*

See booking form on next page



Three Counties Secondary RE Conference 25 June 2024

EVALUATIONS: 30 delegates, 20 responses

|   | excellent | good | satisfactory |
|---|-----------|------|--------------|
| <b>Explaining atheism: getting to grips with non-religion</b><br><i>Stephen Pett</i>                          | 95%       | 5%   |              |
| <b>Rich study of Islam at KS3 for exam excellence at GCSE and beyond...</b> <i>Ian Nicholson</i>              | 75%       | 20%  | 5%           |
| <b>Worldviews: current research, excellent practice</b><br><i>Chris Hancock</i>                               | 58%       | 42%  |              |
| <b>Beyond the spec: developing a coherent GCSE curriculum</b><br><i>Ian Nicholson</i>                         | 65%       | 30%  | 5%           |
| <b>Encountering Jews, Hindus, Christians and Sikhs at KS3: real lives, real living</b><br><i>Stephen Pett</i> | 67%       | 28%  | 5%           |
| <b>Venue: how do you rate it?</b>   | 100%      |      |              |
| <b>Overall value of the conference</b>  | 95%       | 5%   |              |

**Comments on the conference:**

1. Always thought-provoking – lots of new ideas as ever
2. Lovely opportunity to meet and reflect on our practice. Resources from RE Today are great.
3. It has been fantastic for a non-specialist – everyone has been amazingly helpful
4. The level of knowledge assumed re Islam was too academic! As a newbie, it lost me so I didn't manage to access this bit.
5. Really helpful resources and sessions!
6. This has been really interesting for meeting other professionals in RE, and thinking about curriculum design through a worldview perspective was particularly helpful.
7. Excellent – really insightful. My brain hurts, but in a good way! I'm excited to take this on as I start my teaching career. Thank you to everyone for such a great day.
8. Really positive – affirming, encouraging and motivational
9. Really inspiring! Lots of new ideas which are easily accessible and will really engage students. The speakers made me think outside of the box, and want to go back to school and evaluate the curriculum.
10. A day of reflection, inspiration and networking. So lovely to have face to face training again! RE is experiential and cannot always be delivered over a screen. Final session was exceptional.
11. All very good as usual!
12. Some interesting ideas/information but a lot of things which were not overly relevant and won't affect/inform my practice... sorry.
13. Wow! Could we please have more on Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhi, etc?
14. Amazing content! The only issue is the applicability to groups with low ability/lack of basic knowledge
15. Really interesting topics were covered. More practical applications for the classroom would be welcomed. Consider a non-specialist session to discuss approaches to RE when your team includes non-specialists.
16. Really useful. Have a very long 'to do' list from today's CPD
17. As always, an amazing and inspirational day. So many useful and practical ideas for the classroom.
18. Informative, well delivered, well presented and resourced.

19. Always useful to meet others. And interact and share ideas. Such a wealth of ideas and knowledge among us.

**Gloucestershire syllabus is being revised to apply an RW approach. Herefordshire and Worcestershire syllabuses are being renewed, with minor tweaks from 2020. Any comments/requests/suggestions for what would be helpful for secondary schools?**

20. Resources on personal experiences. Guest speaker connections.

21. Students need to see religion as relevant to their lives

22. Examples of non-religious views to use/incorporate beyond Humanism

23. Clarification on the recommended and statutory requirements for RE hours

24. Ideas and resources for ways/topics/themes in which minority/ancient religions and worldviews could be brought in to contrast/provide historical and intellectual context

25. It has been talked about for a while but we cannot prep/create until we know what tweaks/changes are included, so...

26. Allowing for cross-curricular and blended teaching approaches

27. Some great examples of lived experiences but more examples of how to embed them in teaching and learning

28. Pleased Worcestershire syllabus won't change too much! Perhaps including a unit of work on worldviews would be helpful

29. Please minimise changes. Keep the high level of support and resources that teachers can buy please

30. More emphasis on history. Small glance into new age/alternative beliefs/views/religions etc. More variety?

31. Will reflect upon the AS. Was well considered.

32. Would love to be involved in review of Herefordshire syllabus (NW)

33. Signpost to resources (Heref)

34. As a Gloucestershire school, we are looking forward to seeing how we can implement a religion and worldviews approach and how to shape the curriculum we have. I would certainly appreciate a more bespoke training session when this is complete with a 'workshop' feel giving time/discussion for adapting our curriculum.

35. What would be a useful pick up for schools when primaries have missed out teaching Rs. Many students arrive with misconceptions; We don't want to be made to say your primary school is wrong. Really like using snowflake worksheets and mixing desk and pictures.

**Actions you will take to follow up from this conference**

36. Share new ideas with staff

37. Read!

38. Review using a core creed to pivot GCSE teaching from. Use texts to analyse and link to main concepts. Work collectively with neighbouring schools

39. Using data from the sessions to evaluate our curriculum and think about how/what we include.

40. Think about how I can use imagery/poetry/scripture more effectively.

41. Use of the key pieces of text to focus GCSE content around; mixing desk; ensuring Sikhi is used in my new school.

42. Dept meeting. Embed more images and sacred texts into SoW

43. Incorporate more artwork and imagery in to both the KS3 and KS4 curriculum. Use more sources to link the KS4 curriculum – make students learn for themselves, connecting the curriculum

44. To use pictures more in the syllabus at KS3, 4 and 5. To include pictures more at ... local NATRE group. Rethink the way we use scripture and the lived practice of people's beliefs. The impact of worldviews, real lives/real living, [www.whoseworldviews.com](http://www.whoseworldviews.com)
45. Review opportunities for use of imagery when referring to Jewish/OT concepts and narratives, to enrich study and understanding of Christianity
46. I will consider how to incorporate Chris' findings into my SoL and definitely use some of the reasons for atheism as the basis for a questionnaire but will need adapting for it to be useful.
47. Will check out RE Today and further materials
48. Explore buying a NATRE membership and subscribing to RE Today. Exploring additional resources.
49. Use the 'free listing' strategy. Make more use of questions for quantitative and qualitative data on worldviews. Review sequence of schemes. Re-think application of lived experiences. Use of art/images.
50. I am overhauling the KS 3 curriculum and today has given me lots to think about and how to approach this huge job!
51. Use of worldview and ways of knowing to be embedded into lessons.
52. Continue to develop our new KS 3 units on fuzzy belief. Look at surveys for student views (use Chris's research).
53. Questions raised with SLT: How do we ensure we are covering the curriculum in depth? How do we ensure thorough teaching of Islam without looking first at the knowledge?

**Suggestions/requests for future support in Gloucestershire/Herefordshire/Worcestershire**

54. KS3 Assessment please – this is an area we want to develop
55. Guidance on assessment in RE. What can be done to bring more consistency in the county and country?
56. How to assess RE at KS2 and 3. Hugo had some interesting ideas and has written in REtoday about coding and how to use this. Could he speak at a future conference? Francis Ling on the RespectRE site is also very useful in this area.
57. N/A beyond those mentioned above re support and resources for new 'worldviews' approach
58. Teach meets are useful, although I sometimes forget they're happening.



# National RE Updates for SACRE from RE Today Autumn 2024 for Herefordshire SACRE

## Calls for a National Plan for Religious Education

The number of students taking full course Religious Studies in England and Wales at GCSE has remained stable at 233,288 following a 0.5% rise in entries from 2023 making it one of the most widely studied humanities at GCSE.

223,034 students took RS GCSE (full course) in England, an increase of 0.3%. In Wales 10,254 students took the subject, an increase of 6.4%. For the third year running, the number of students taking a GCSE short course rose in England, this year by 9.5% to 20,627. In Wales however, entries fell by 27.1% to 2,201.

This is despite an ongoing challenge in recruiting specialist teachers amidst a gulf in government funding. Recruitment targets were missed in 11 of the last 12 years during which time school workforce data show that 51% of those teaching RE mainly teach another subject and also that the number of teachers of RE has remained roughly the same since 2011, despite the number of entries growing.

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) and the National Association for Teachers of RE (NATRE) have now called on the new Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson MP, to introduce a National Plan for RE that provides a fair allocation of resources and prioritises the subject as part of Labour's plans to recruit more specialist teachers.

RE has recently seen a restoration of the teacher training bursary, but a shortage of specialism in schools remains a challenge given the long-term growth of the subject. The number of those recorded as teaching RE has remained roughly the same since 2011 at 16,200, while those delivering Geography and History lessons has risen by 1,700.

## Religious Studies remains a popular GCSE despite specialist teacher recruitment challenge

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## A Level Religious Studies steady in England

The overall trend in A level entries for Religious Studies over the last 5 years has been fairly stable in England. Since 2020 entries in England had a fall of just under 0.5% from 14,564 to 14,499.

Even though the trend for entries in England is downwards, this is within a context where most Humanities subjects have experienced a fall in entries and most science, technology, engineering and maths subjects have seen an increase. It is worth noting that financial incentives for schools will have boosted these entries including the advanced maths premium scheme and a number of schemes established to boost science learning in schools.

Of the Humanities, Religious Studies in England was one of the smallest decreases between 2023 and 2024 at 1.3%.

## RE Teaching in English Secondary Schools

Just under one in six schools tell the DfE that they provide no RE in year 11 – a breach of the law. But there are rarely any consequences.

NATRE has been reporting on the data from the workforce census for the last nine years. Its agreement with the DfE allows them to share this information with school providers, SACREs and Academy Trusts.

This year's data shows slightly fewer schools offering no RE in year 11, but it is still the case that just under one in six schools told the DfE that they do not offer RE to this year group at all and far more admit to not providing RE to pupils who do not choose a GCSE Religious Studies as one of their options. In both these cases, this means that effectively, pupils' religious education ends when they are just 13 or 14 years old, when the law in England requires that the subject be taught to age 18.

You can read the full report here: [NATRE-School-Workforce-Report-2024](#)

## DfE Curriculum and Assessment Review

The DfE has set up a Curriculum and Assessment review and is looking for evidence to guide it as it reviews the national curriculum, statutory assessment and qualification pathways.

the Review will seek to deliver:

- An excellent foundation in core subjects of reading, writing and maths.
- A broader curriculum, so that children and young people do not miss out on subjects such as music, art, sport and drama, as well as vocational subjects.
- A curriculum that ensures children and young people leave compulsory education ready for life and ready for work, building the knowledge, skills and attributes young people need to thrive. This includes embedding digital, oracy and life skills in their learning.
- A curriculum that reflects the issues and diversities of our society, ensuring all children and young people are represented.
- An assessment system that captures the strengths of every child and young person and the breadth of curriculum, with the right balance of assessment methods whilst maintaining the important role of examinations.

They are calling on anyone with an interest in education to respond. To help them analyse the responses, they ask that we use the online system wherever possible.

Visit [www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/improving-the-curriculum-and-assessment-system](http://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/improving-the-curriculum-and-assessment-system) to submit your response. Deadline is 22 November.

NASACRE has written a response that it is keen for SACREs to consider. Its summary points are:

1. **NASACRE is passionate about high quality RE and seeks this for all pupils across England**, as a subject that enriches all school curriculums.
2. **NASACRE seeks to support all SACREs around the country**; evidence from [SACRE funding in England 2023](#) provides a national education picture which has changed dramatically in the last 15 years.
3. **NASACRE supports the non-statutory [National Content Standard for RE](#) as a first conversation between all education providers in England**. Through the curriculum review, we would like the government to build upon this work in order to provide a clear framework for all schools to be held accountable for the RE they provide for their pupils.
4. **NASACRE supports RE continuing to make a vital contribution to statutory requirements for schools to promote SMSC development and community cohesion**. RE, along with other curriculum subjects, can provide helpful experiences, knowledge and understanding of diversity and difference within a local community, and regionally, nationally and globally in terms of religious literacy.
5. **NASACRE is concerned about the local funding of SACRE's work and its impact on syllabus development**. NASACRE would like to see ring-fenced funding for the support for RE and SACREs. The [2023 FOI report](#) provides evidence of SACREs not being funded, nor given adequate professional support in order to review and publish an Agreed Syllabus.
6. **NASACRE is also concerned about how a SACRE's work can be limited through a lack of budget to provide local high quality CPD** around implementing the agreed syllabus and engagement with local communities.

7. **NASACRE has concerns from its analysis of SACRE annual reports** about LAs meeting the legal requirement to submit their annual report to the DfE.
8. **NASACRE is working well in partnership with [RE Hubs](#)** and this is improving our ability to bring SACREs together.
9. **NASACRE looked at how SACREs function and what could be improved through its 2022 report [Still Standing](#)**. NASACRE would want to see the 1988 / 1996 legislation reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose in a 21<sup>st</sup> century education system.

#### **NASACRE Exec, October 2024**

- NASACRE is urging all SACREs to consider submitting evidence they have about their local RE.
- NASACRE point out that it is essential that SACREs do not copy the sentences above; points must be phrased differently to be read - the DfE has systems that review submissions, and anything copied is deleted.

It is important for Herefordshire SACRE to consider its response. How should we respond to this national review?

#### **Interfaith Week 2024**

**Interfaith Week** will be taking place from 10th – 17th November 2024.

A consortium of organisations, former members of the IFN, are working in partnership to ensure that the week can run this year. Further partners will be engaging as the week becomes nearer and more detail will be available in the autumn term. In the meantime, colleagues from the consortium suggest schools and SACREs plan to raise the profile and celebrate the importance of Interfaith dialogue. The suggested theme educational establishments might use is ‘sharing my story – building our future’. Further information can be seen [here](#).

#### **Open University Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub**

The Open University Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub can be accessed by all interested parties [Religion, belief and worldviews hub | OpenLearn - Open University](#) . The Hub provides resources for schools and educational settings to support the delivery of RE in classrooms from Early Years through to post 16 education. The focus of the Hub is ‘Religion and Belief’ as a protected characteristic in UK legislation. Materials on the Hub have been provided by colleagues from The Open University, with classroom resources and online CPD opportunities for leaders and teachers of RE.

#### **Strictly RE 2025**

The annual NATRE conference for all RE professionals returns on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and will be face to face following recent online conferences. This has become the annual date in the diaries of those within RE and will be held at Leonardo Hotel in Birmingham. Click on the link to register interest in attending Strictly RE 2025. [NATRE Strictly RE 2025: National Religious Education Conference](#)



## Upcoming RE Today Courses for the Autumn Term

For more details on any of these courses, click here: [www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/?page=1](http://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/?page=1)

### PRIMARY

**cREative primary RE – Julia Diamond-Conway 20/11/2024 and 19/3/2025**

How can I ensure children are engaged in RE lessons? What strategies can I use to make sure pupils are inspired during RE? This session is packed full of ready-to-use ideas for anyone who wants to engage pupils more fully in RE sessions. There will be a focus on the Spirited Arts competition 2024. Perfect for all primary practitioners who teach RE including Early Career Teachers, Subject Leaders and Teaching Assistants; with a wide range of practical classroom ideas for primary RE, there is sure to be something for everyone.

### SECONDARY

**Understanding Christianity - Secondary (Online) – Stephen Pett 05/12/2024**

This course will help you with the implementation and delivery of Understanding Christianity - a substantial resource for teaching Christianity for 11-14s.

**GCSE RS – better thinking, better writing, better results – Angela Hill 10/02/2025**

This session offers practical strategies to help pupils to avoid some of the some common pitfalls of the GCSE RS examinations. We consider ways to approach teaching the GCSE that will encourage deeper, more critical and analytic thinking, along with ideas to keep everyone engaged. This session will offer tips for refining pupils' exam technique, too.

**Peaceful and purposeful discussion in RE – Angela Hill 3/3/2025**

The best RE is not afraid of controversy! This session will explore practical strategies for helping pupils engage in peaceful and productive discussion of contested issues in RE.

### Cross PHASE

**NEW! Introducing a Religion and Worldviews approach 12/2/2025**

What is a religion and worldviews approach? How is it different from current RE practice? What are the benefits to teachers and pupils? A practical introduction, drawing on the new RE Council Handbook and Frameworks, including resources and strategies, to show how to enrich and deepen pupils' understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews.

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