

## NATRE's annual primary survey 2022 – let schools have their say!

NATRE is conducting this survey to obtain information about the current state of RE in all types of schools for Primary age children so that it can continue to support the teacher in the classroom by raising awareness of the impact of government policy on RE.

NATRE is asking for schools to take a few minutes to answer as many of the questions as they can. It is offering a 'thank you' to schools for completing the survey: they will receive £5 off RE Today publications, training or NATRE membership, *and* enter schools into a free prize draw, for a chance to win a FREE platinum NATRE membership for one year!

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

Complete the survey here: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NATREprimarysurvey2022](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NATREprimarysurvey2022)

How can SACRE encourage schools to fill in the survey? This kind of date is so useful when lobbying the government for support for our subject.

## NASACRE's SACRE Self-evaluation tool

The NASACRE development group has worked hard on reviewing, updating, and improving the SACRE self-evaluation tool. This tool will enable SACREs to consider their effectiveness in all areas of its work in order to produce a targeted and costed Development Plan in partnership with your LA.

The SEF is available [here](#) for use at SACRE meetings.

## NASACRE's new online training programme

NASACRE members can access these recorded sessions [here](#) along with the slide shows and resources. The programme for 2021-22 can be accessed [here](#).

Can anyone from SACRE attend any of these? Which might be useful?

## NATRE Spirited Arts 2022

Will schools from our area 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 5 themes

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us."
2. God's good earth? ("Beautiful World, wonderful God?")
3. Searching for God
4. A view of the world.
5. Celebrations: Big days and big ideas

Find out more details here [www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2022/](http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2022/)

How can SACRE encourage schools take part in this competition? Can this link in with anything going on locally? Some SACREs have held local Spirited arts competitions and worked to display entries in a local museum. Is this something this SACRE might consider?

## 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 Draft Resource sets out a proposed rationale for a religion and worldviews approach, building on the developments since the 2018 Commission report. It incorporates a revised **draft National Statement of Entitlement (NSE)**, which gives a clear description of an education in religion and worldviews, intended to set a benchmark for high-quality teaching and learning. The Resource then offers practical guidance, including how the draft NSE might be used 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 Draft Resource is primarily written to inform three Framework Development Teams, who will work over the next 18 months to apply the draft NSE and the guidance to their own contexts. During this process, the Draft Resource will be tested and revised in the light of that experience. The Project team has put it into the public domain in this draft state, in order to be transparent about the process, to give people an opportunity to comment, and to offer a description of a worldviews approach for future conversations. A revised final Handbook will be published in 2024, with three example frameworks, sample units of work and pupil responses.

You can download copies of the Draft Resource here: [www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/projects/draft-handbook-and-nse/](http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/projects/draft-handbook-and-nse/)

This offers some ideas for moving towards a worldviews approach in RE. How might SACRE consider this and its implications for our local syllabus?

## RE report card 2022

The RE Policy Unit from the RE Council has gathered together data on RE from the last five years and written a report card on the state of RE. There is some excellent news (such as how schools with higher rates of GCSE RS entry get higher Attainment 8 scores!) but far too much bad news (34% of academies report no timetabled RE).

Below are two of the cards. The full set can be found here: [www.rethinkre.org/re-report-card](http://www.rethinkre.org/re-report-card)

How can SACRE respond? One way is to alert local MPs to the information here, with particular reference to the lack of Government funding given to the subject in the last 5 years (see graphic on the right). How else can we use the data?

### £0 SPENT ON RE PROJECTS BETWEEN 2016-2021

AT A TIME WHEN: "

ENGLISH:  
**£28.5**  
MILLION

MUSIC:  
**£387**  
MILLION

MATHS:  
**£154**  
MILLION

SCIENCE:  
**£56**  
MILLION

# A REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



## VALUE OF THE QUALIFICATION

IN THE LAST DECADE THE NUMBER OF PUPILS  
IN ENGLAND ENTERING A FULL GCSE  
RS COURSE **INCREASED BY 29.7%**

**49.5%**  
INCREASE  
IN A-LEVEL  
ENTRIES  
FOR RS  
SINCE 2003  
BEATING GEOGRAPHY,  
LAW AND HISTORY\*



“RE IN PRIMARY AND  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
ENABLES PUPILS TO  
TAKE THEIR PLACE  
WITHIN A DIVERSE  
MULTI-RELIGIOUS  
AND MULTI-SECULAR  
SOCIETY. AT ITS BEST,  
IT IS INTELLECTUALLY  
CHALLENGING  
AND PERSONALLY  
ENRICHING.”

OFSTED RE RESEARCH  
REVIEW MAY 2021

HIGHER ATTAINMENT  
**8 SCORES ON AVERAGE**  
IN SCHOOLS WITH  
HIGHER RATES OF ENTRY  
FOR GCSE RS\*



95% of teachers say that  
the subject is more or equally  
relevant than ten years ago\*

ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS AND CHALLENGING,  
RE STUDENTS GO ON TO STUDY AT THE UK'S  
TOP UNIVERSITIES AND ENTER CAREERS IN  
LAW, MEDICINE, POLITICS AND JOURNALISM\*



School and government  
performance on RE is  
failing a record number  
of students, says  
landmark data review.

More comment here:

[www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/school-and-government-performance-on-religious-education-failing-record-number-of-students-says-landmark-data-review/](http://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/school-and-government-performance-on-religious-education-failing-record-number-of-students-says-landmark-data-review/)

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Time spent on the subject is **improving in some areas:**

**OVER 95%** of primary teachers report time spent on  
teaching RE has increased or stayed the same

**46%** of academies without a religious character have  
reported an increase in time to teach RE\*

Ofsted

The 2021 Ofsted Research  
Review identified barriers to  
high-quality RE teaching in  
schools including:\*

Insufficient time  
to teach an  
ambitious RE  
curriculum



A lack of a  
'scholarly  
approach'

Insufficient  
professional  
development for  
teachers of RE

Some teachers  
embedding  
unhelpful  
misconceptions



Gaps in teacher subject  
knowledge



However, **too many schools are  
breaking the law** by not teaching RE

**34%** of academies report  
no timetabled RE\*



Around 500 secondary schools  
still report **zero hours** of RE  
provision in Year 11\*

RE also continues to be neglected on the  
school timetable in favour of EBacc subjects:  
On average **5 hours** of RE are allocated  
to each 'teacher of RE' at Key Stage 3  
as opposed to **7** for history\*



**SCHOOLS MUST DO MORE TO ENSURE  
THEY PROVIDE THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF  
HIGH-QUALITY RE PROVISION FOR ALL  
STUDENTS ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS**



## RE Council and NATRE at the Party Conferences

RE's interests will be represented at the Autumn Party Conferences of the Conservative and Labour Parties, where primary and secondary teachers of RE will be working with NATRE to take every opportunity to meet with parliamentarians and gain their support for our work towards a national plan for RE. The RE Community has had some success in gaining recognition of the needs of the subject in this way, but not much success yet in persuading the DfE to plan to improve RE.

Can local MPs help? Are they willing to support us?

## International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief

This conference is being held in London in July. Its five objectives are interestingly connected to RE:

- To raise awareness of:
  - the current challenges to Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) across the world
  - the relevance of FoRB to other human rights
  - best practice in preventing violations and abuses and protecting and promoting FoRB
- use UK leadership and experience in addressing human rights issues and our convening power to improve FoRB for all
- galvanise partner countries and stakeholders to work more closely together to promote and protect FoRB, including by working together to address FoRB violations and abuses
- encourage collective action by governments, human rights experts, civil society, academia and faith and belief actors to address FoRB challenges, exchange best practice, and build shared commitments
- to strengthen the voices of and build the capacity of defenders of FoRB, including religion and belief groups, inspiring future leaders and young people, and building and reinforcing global coalitions for collective action.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-ministerial-conference-on-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-london-2022-aims-and-objectives/international-ministerial-conference-on-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-london-2022-aims-and-objectives](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-ministerial-conference-on-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-london-2022-aims-and-objectives/international-ministerial-conference-on-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-london-2022-aims-and-objectives)

Could SACRE make use of the publicity and resources of the conference to further our own agenda of free thinking about religion and belief?

## New KS1 resources BBC Bitesize: places of worship & examples of caring

Lat Blaylock writes: "I worked on these resources last year, and they are now free and available for all. Ready-to-use animations, information and graphics enable children aged 5-7 to understand places of worship and different ways that faith communities put their values into action. All are ready for you to use."

Start here: [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwv8q6f/articles/z8c22v4](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwv8q6f/articles/z8c22v4)

## New offer from 'Good News for Everyone': free Bible magazine to pupils and primary classrooms

The charity 'Good News for Everyone' – which used to be known as 'The Gideons' – have produced a 48-page magazine which provides children aged 7-11 with extracts from Bible stories, texts and teachings. The extracts include all the major Bible texts used in the 'Understanding Christianity' resources. There are questions for discussion and thinking, and quizzes, all illustrated in an age-appropriate style.

Good News for Everyone exists to give Christian scriptures away, and this new educational collection of Bible texts is available through schools to pupils – for example Good News for Everyone will be happy to send a visitor to schools to give a class set of copies for teachers to use and a personal copy to all school pupils for them to keep. The charity still visits secondary schools to distribute copies of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs free to pupils.

Contact: <https://goodnewsuk.com/bibles-for/education>



## New Resources for addressing antisemitism in schools

In 2021, there were 124,091 hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales with the instances of hate crimes rising at almost 10% a year. The instances are now more than double what they were a decade ago. Race and religion features as a main reason behind many of these crimes.

Teachers have been asking for materials to support them in raising awareness and providing opportunity for discussion and exploration of prejudice. In response, Judith Hayman, a former teacher and Holocaust Educator has created a free presentation and teacher guide exploring the to give teachers something as a basis for conversations. The resource is pitched for KS2/3 and explores different types of prejudice. It is flexible enough to be used either in assemblies or collective worship as well as cross curricular engagement in PSHCE, RE and History.

The resource is regularly updated with new examples and references. The teacher guide and presentation are available to download for free through the website [www.antisemitism.org/teachers](http://www.antisemitism.org/teachers) There are versions for the various settings, non-denominational, Catholic and Church of England.



Can we encourage our schools to use these resources and tackle this kind of prejudice more effectively?

## Visits, videos and other resources for the classroom

### 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.theartssociety.org/>

### RE:Quest

The **RE:Quest** website has refreshed and relaunched with a series of new resources on key Christian concepts such as Salvation, resources for pupils with additional needs and a series of new films. You can also create boards of resources for particular units or topics for pupils and teachers to access. Resources on the key concepts provide sample lesson plans too. <https://request.org.uk>

### Understanding Humanism

The **Understanding Humanism** website has relaunched with over 100 new FREE resources to support teaching about humanism and non-religious worldviews.

Resources for ages 5-18 organised into several core areas of knowledge to support young people's understanding of a humanist approach to life, humanist history, and the influence of humanism on the modern world. <https://understandinghumanism.org.uk>

### True Tube

The **Truetube** website has also had a refresh with a series of new films added for teachers in Primary and secondary schools. [www.truetube.co.uk](http://www.truetube.co.uk)

## Online training

Webinar series from University of Edinburgh

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/teachingbuddhism/2021/11/29/who-is-the-buddha-new-webinar-series-for-teachers-jan-march-2022/>

A series of webinars on the life of the Buddha – excellent for KS3 and KS4. The series has already started, but sessions are uploaded afterwards, so you can catch up later.

Register [here on Eventbrite](#)

Online seminar series from University of Chester

The Chester Uni A level webinar series have started. Look [here](#) to find out about the programme.

- Is Pure Land Buddhism Buddhism?
- Can God suffer and does it help?
- Love poetry in the Sufi Tradition.
- Self and Non-Self in Hinduism and Buddhism.
- Is Christianity irredeemably sexist?

Just some of the sessions on offer!

FREE RE e-learning courses

Culham St Gabriel's Trust has set up three online self-study courses.

- Introduction to Religion and Worldviews
- Introduction to Curriculum
- Introduction to Research

These courses are suitable for all involved in religious education including teachers and governors. All of the CSTG courses are free and designed to take about 90 minutes. You can complete a course in one session, or come back to it over a period of time. They are very flexible.

More courses will be added over the summer

<https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

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