

National RE Updates for SACRE from RE Today Summer 2025 for Herefordshire SACRE.

Curriculum and Assessment Review

As reported in the previous National Update, the Government is conducting a Curriculum and Assessment Review, led by Professor Becky Francis. The review aims to examine how the curriculum and assessment system can better serve young people in England.

In November 2024, NATRE submitted over 100 pieces of evidence to the review, highlighting the current challenges facing Religious Education. Other key organisations such as the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), NASACRE, and AREIAC also contributed, ensuring the review panel received a broad and well-informed set of perspectives from across the RE community.

Thanks to NATRE's strong working relationships with government officials and parliamentarians, representatives were invited to attend meetings with the review panel, including a roundtable discussion with a specific focus on RE. Some of NATRE's evidence was directly included in materials presented by the panel.

In its [interim report](#) (March 2025), the review panel wrote:

"Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision."

This statement reflects one of the most persistent concerns in the RE community: that provision and quality vary significantly between schools and regions, depending on school or trust policy, local authority capacity, and interpretation of legal requirements.

The panel is expected to explore in more depth the causes of these disparities and consider a range of potential solutions.

Importantly, the Department for Education has confirmed:

"The terms of reference do not prevent the Review from making recommendations for national or basic curriculum subjects that might require legislation. Ministers will take decisions on what changes to make, and how best to implement them, in light of these recommendations."

This means that policy options such as:

- including RE in the National Curriculum (currently it is part of the basic curriculum, which is compulsory but less regulated), and/or
 - introducing a National Content Standard for RE, possibly building on the widely welcomed National Content Standard developed by the REC,
- are still viable possibilities.

However, these changes alone would not address all the systemic issues in RE. As such, a comprehensive National Plan for RE remains a central policy goal—something that includes improved teacher training, accountability mechanisms, curriculum support, and long-term investment.

This set of discussion cards is offered to support groups of teachers wishing to think about the implications of the interim report for RE in their school(s). [#REchatUK to Explore the Interim Curriculum and Assessment Review for Religious Education](#)

BBC Pilgrimage

The BBC series 'Pilgrimage' follows a group of celebrities as they take a journey of a lifetime. This series has many moments in it suitable for use in the RE classroom.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/mediapacks/pilgrimage-the-road-through-the-alps>

Truetube have a series of clips from previous series, along with downloadable lesson ideas. Search 'Pilgrimage moments' for the relevant clips and resources. www.truetube.co.uk/

Teachers need to register for a free Truetube account to be able to download resources and clips.

NASACRE

NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) continues to work to celebrate, support, strengthen and promote the work of local SACREs and represents their interests at a national level, including training for SACRE members.

Free Training

We have just missed the training on 24 June 2025, 6:30-8pm: [So, you've joined your local SACRE...](#)

There is a recording of an earlier version of this session: see <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/presentations-recordings/> This session will help new SACRE members understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.

The new programme for 2025-2026 will be available here: <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/>

RE Hubs

The RE hubs are offering training for speakers who would like to support schools bring to life their curriculum through first hand experience of meeting and talking with people from different religions and non-religious worldviews, as well as experts in social sciences, philosophy and theology.

Once the training has been completed then speakers are kite marked and then included on the RE hubs web site for the local region. Schools can then access a full list of speakers in their area to help bring RE to life in the classroom. Potential speakers, which may include members of SACREs can register at [Register as a school speaker](#)

Spirited Arts 2025

This annual competition asks pupils to use their creative talents to explore questions of religious and non-religious worldviews. There is still time to send entries from local schools to join in with the hundreds of schools from the UK and beyond who have already submitted artworks in diverse media.

This is the 21st year for Spirited Arts and there are six themes for pupils to choose from

- Living in a Diverse World
- Stories that Change Lives
- Thinking about God
- Sacred Places
- All God's Creatures? (Sponsored by [AIA](#) & [VinE](#))
- Making Sense of Life

Schools can submit up to 10 entries which should be received by the closing date of 31st July 2025. Full details are available at [Spirited Arts 2025 - Inspiring students to explore big questions through art](#)

The Jerusalem Trust: grants for schools

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 Christianity resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state funded schools in England and Wales.

Secondary school and primary school grants are currently available this term. The online form takes about 15-20 minutes to complete.

www.regrants.org.uk/

RE:ONLINE Useful websites, resources and films for primary RE

The Culham St Gabriel's Trust runs the RE:ONLINE website. They have curated a collection of resources for teachers of RE who are looking to apply a religion and worldviews approach.

Whether teachers are new to the subject or looking to deepen their knowledge, [this page](#) offers a selection of trusted organisations, subject knowledge sources, classroom-ready resources, and engaging films. Each section is designed to support high-quality, inclusive teaching and enrich pupils' understanding of diverse beliefs and worldviews. Teachers can explore the resources individually by section or download the full collection for ease of access.

[Useful Websites, Resources and Films For Primary RE - RE:ONLINE](#)

Upcoming RE Today Courses for the Summer Term and beyond!

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

[Primary Phase CPD](#)

Festivals Spotlight – Christmas

16th September (Afternoon 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm)

Why and how do people celebrate Christmas? Subject knowledge and effective and creative lesson ideas. A practical dip into Christmas using a sociological and a theological lens. Suitable for ECTs, Teachers, HLTAs and subject leaders.

Help! I'm the RE Subject Leader

25th September (Full Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm)

This one-day course will provide you with the knowledge and confidence to be an effective and inspirational RE subject leader in the primary school. Explore the role of the subject leader, using practical activities to develop your understanding of RE and your leadership and management skills. Focus on creative task setting, planning a scheme of work using your locally agreed syllabus or faith community guidelines, and effective and manageable monitoring and self-evaluation. Leave feeling motivated, inspired and equipped with ready-to-use ideas to engage staff and pupils.

Creative Primary RE

7th October 2025 (Half Day 9.30-12.30)

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 with ready-to-use ideas for anyone wanting to engage pupils more fully in RE sessions. There will be a focus on the Spirited Arts competition

2025. 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 will surely be something for everyone.

Secondary CPD

Understanding Christianity

15th July (Full Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm)

A day course introducing a new and substantial resource for teaching Christianity for 11-14s, laying the foundations for excellent learning at 14+/GCSE and A Level.

This day course will provide you with an overview of the Understanding Christianity approach, units of work strategies and activities, as well as extensive classroom resources to support learning.

New Curriculum Leader Secondary

15th September (Full Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm)

This one-day course will introduce you to the role of the Secondary Subject Leader for RE and is suitable for newly appointed colleagues and those wishing to refresh their thinking about and delivery of this fundamental middle manager role. Covering areas such as development planning, analysis of outcomes and supporting staff you will come away with a wide-ranging set of resources to support you.

Mentoring your RE ECT

17th September (Half Day 9.30-12.30)

This half day session will investigate the role of the ECT mentor for a new RE Teacher joining your school from target setting to support and guidance against the ECT framework with RE specific examples and input. You will be equipped to plan your mentor programme using the ECT framework; implement a programme of support for new teachers in your school, and define your role in relation to the role of the Professional Mentor as a subject specialist

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