

National RE Updates for SACRE from RE Today Summer 2025 for Walsall 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“Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision.”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 all 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.

<https://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.

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. There are a range of training dates available through the RE hubs website for the next academic year. Potential speakers, which may include members of SACREs can register at [Register as a school speaker](#)

For teachers of RE, there is a free 30 minute CPD video to show how to make the most of RE hubs' speakers and places to visit. The film can be accessed at: [How to make the most of our places & people!](#)

Spirited Arts 2025

NATRE has announced the subject areas for its annual Spirited Arts competition for 2025. This annual competition asks pupils to use their creative talents to explore questions of religious and non-religious worldviews.

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 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.

<https://www.regrants.org.uk/>

World Humanist Day – 21st June 2025

Please note this event has happened, but it's good to be aware that it happens every year and that a virtual tour of Conway Hall is available via the RE Hubs website.

<https://www.re-hubs.uk/upskill/virtual-tours/>

World Humanist Day is celebrated every year on 21st June and it has been celebrated since the 1980s. It's an opportunity for humanists all around the world to publicise the positive values of humanism and to share the global concerns of the humanist movement. There are a number of free resources for schools available at [Understanding Humanism](#) to support schools in teaching Humanism in the RE curriculum. There is also a free CPD event for teachers entitled 'Using the Conway Hall Virtual Tour in the Classroom on 3rd June 2025 and this can be booked at [Training » Understanding Humanism](#).

British Board of Deputies question and answer session for teachers

The last question and answer session for this academic year will be on Monday 14th July, 3.45-4.45pm. Please do pass the flyer and zoom link onto any teachers who may find it useful.

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86011287321?pwd=aX6CT0SXbx9hreqIsF26AFK53p72Al.1>

Meeting ID: 860 1128 7321

Passcode: 676203

Upcoming RE Today Courses for the Summer Term and beyond!

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

Cross Phase CPD

Mentoring your RE ECT

17th September (Morning 9.30 am – 12.30 pm)

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.

Primary Phase CPD

Understanding Christianity

Half Day 1 – 19th May (Afternoon 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm)

Half Day 2 – 16th September (Afternoon 1.00 pm – 4.00pm)

Half Day 3 – 14th January (Afternoon 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm)

Get the confidence and subject knowledge to teach about Christianity: Text Impact Connections through this tried and tested course which is supported by a substantial whole-school teachers' handbook.

Many locally agreed syllabuses include requirements for teaching Christianity that are directly supported by this resource. This resource supports good quality teaching about Christianity and can be used within the requirements of your syllabus guidelines.

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

30th 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.

Secondary CPD

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.

Are you an RE teacher with questions about Judaism?

A chance to ask anything you like...

Open to primary and secondary teachers who teach Judaism

Why don't all...

What's the difference between...

I don't understand which...



Tuesday 14th July, 3.45-4.45pm

Any question answered



by Anna Silver,
Education Officer

Informal drop in Q & A session:

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86011287321?pwd=aX6CT0SXbx9hreqIsF26AFK53p72Al.1>

Meeting ID: 860 1128 7321 Passcode: 676203