

# Notice of Meeting

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## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 4.30pm**  
**Online**

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Janet Giddings on 01635 519644  
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**Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on  
Tuesday, 8 March 2022 (continued)**

**To: Group A - Other Faiths Members:**

Mobasshir Mushtaq (Muslim), Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Jewish) and Revd David Taylor (Thatcham Baptist Church)

**Group B – Church of England Members:**

Val Bolan (Church of England), Robin Sharples (Church of England) and Mary Stagg (Church of England)

**Group C – Teaching Association Members:**

Amanda Bedding (NEU), Clare Hawkins (NASUWT) and Chris Ward (NEU)

**Group D – WBC Councillors:**

Councillor Lynne Doherty, Councillor Billy Drummond, Councillor Tony Linden and Councillor David Marsh

**Professional Consultant:** David Rees

**Guests:** Revd Julie Howell (Church of England), Dilip Ladwa and Roseanna Obsiye

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# Agenda

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<b>1 Welcome and Apologies</b>	
<b>2 Membership</b>	
2.1 Maria Pratico has moved away and resigned from SACRE	
2.2 New Members: Dilip Ladwa in Group A; Roseanna Obsiye (was Looker) in Group C	
2.3 LA Adviser role	
<b>3 Minutes of the last SACRE Meeting</b>	5 - 10
To sign and approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021.	
<b>4 Actions (not covered elsewhere)</b>	
<b>5 2021-22 Budget Update and Action Plan - David Rees, Professional Consultant</b>	11 - 12
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6.1 West Berks RE exam results – Janet Giddings	
6.2 Secondary & Primary Networks – David Rees	

**Agenda - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to be held on  
Tuesday, 8 March 2022 (continued)**

- 7 **Hub - David Rees, Professional Consultant**
  - 7.1 Update on *Real People Real Faith* videos
  - 7.2 New Syllabus, including survey for schools
  - 7.3 Continue to note berkshiresacrehub.blogspot.com
  
- 8 **Newsletter - David Rees, Professional Consultant** 13 - 18
  
- 9 **Strictly RE - David Rees, Professional Consultant**
  
- 10 **Equality & Diversity**
  
- 11 **May and November Meeting Dates and Venues**
  
- 12 **Any Other Business**

**Exclusion of Press and Public**

RECOMMENDATION: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description contained in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 specified in brackets in the heading of each item. [Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution refers.](#)

- 13 **Support for Individual Schools**
  - 13.1 Park House RE provision - David Marsh/Billy Drummond
  - 13.2 Kennet, Theale Green & Trinity 6<sup>th</sup> form events - David Taylor

Sarah Clarke  
Service Director: Strategy and Governance

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## **WEST BERKSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2021 VENUE: MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

#### **Present:**

##### **Group A – Other Faiths Members**

Mobasshir Mushtaq (Muslim), Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Jewish) and Revd David Taylor (Thatcham Baptist Church)

##### **Group B – Church of England Members**

Val Bolan (Church of England), Maria Pratico (Church of England), Robin Sharples (Church of England) and Mary Stagg (Church of England)

##### **Group C – Teaching Association Members**

Amanda Bedding (NEU), Clare Hawkins (NASUWT) and Chris Ward (NEU)

##### **Group D – WBC Councillors**

Councillor Lynne Doherty (Leader of the Council), Councillor Billy Drummond (Ward: Newbury Greenham), Councillor David Marsh (Ward: Newbury Wash Common)

**Professional Consultant:** David Rees

**Guests:** Revd Julie Howell, Dilip Ladwa, Roseanna Looker

**Also Present:** Janet Giddings, Clerk

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor Tony Linden (Ward: Tilehurst Birch Copse)

#### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Linden who was attending a meeting at Theale Fire Station and from Pamela Voss, Equality & Diversity Officer, West Berkshire Council.

#### **2 Membership - Janet Giddings, Clerk**

The Chair, Revd David Taylor, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the preferred venue was Newbury Mosque but due to current Covid-19 restrictions the meeting would be held online. He introduced Rose Carberry, Acting Principal Adviser for School Improvement. Rose Carberry took over from Donna Fox and is a former Headteacher.

A discussion took place about Membership of SACRE. David Taylor invited Dilip Ladwa and Roseanna Looker, currently attending as guests, to consider joining SACRE as Members.

There remains a vacancy for a LA Adviser, discussed at the last meeting following the resignation of Rachel Manley, Headteacher, Yattendon CE Primary School. Robin Sharples stressed the importance of the role within SACRE. Involvement was welcomed by Amanda Bedding with regard to changes to the syllabus in the next year, assessments and Ofsted. Clare Hawkins suggested approaching a non-faith Head, leading in RE and Collective Worship. David Taylor was keen to build on the close

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 2 NOVEMBER 2021 - MINUTES

relationship SACRE has with primary and secondary schools through the Network Meetings established by David Rees.

**Action:** David Taylor asked Rose Carberry if she could approach a non-faith Primary Headteacher about joining SACRE. He offered to send details of SACRE's remit.

### 3 **Election of Chair & Vice Chair for Academic Year 2021/22 - Janet Giddings, Clerk**

The Clerk, Janet Giddings, invited nominations from Members to stand as Chair of West Berkshire SACRE. Val Bolan nominated David Taylor, seconded by Mobasshir Mushtaq. All Members indicated their approval with a show of hands. David Taylor was appointed Chair of West Berkshire SACRE.

The Clerk, Janet Giddings, invited nominations from Members to stand as Vice Chair of West Berkshire SACRE. Val Bolan nominated Clare Hawkins, seconded by Chris Ward and Cllr Billy Drummond. All Members indicated their approval with a show of hands. Clare Hawkins was appointed Vice Chair of West Berkshire SACRE.

### 4 **Minutes - David Taylor, Chair**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 5 **Actions (not covered elsewhere)**

5.1 Updated SACRE Overview

**Action:** David Taylor to share with SACRE Members via email

### 6 **Annual Report - David Taylor, Chair and David Rees, Professional Consultant**

David Rees presented the Draft Annual SACRE Report 2020-21. He explained that NASACRE had issued an Annual Report template to ensure standards were met. The report would not be submitted until December so Members would have the opportunity to comment.

**Action:** David Taylor to share the Draft Annual SACRE Report 2020-21 with Members.

### 7 **Schools**

7.1 West Berks RE Exam Results – Janet Giddings, Clerk

Exam results were received from some, but not all secondary schools.

Clare Hawkins said schools were made aware of exam topics this year to enable students to focus their revision.

**Action:** Janet Giddings to contact those secondary schools who had not supplied their exam results.

7.2 Secondary and Primary Networks – David Rees, Professional Consultant

The latest Secondary Network Meeting covered recovery learning, return to studying and how to motivate students. Extra help and support is available thanks to additional funding received from West Berkshire Council in 2020.

The next Primary Network Meetings are due to take place during the next two half terms and on a termly basis in future.

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David Rees was exploring options to engage with RE Leaders in schools during the pandemic. Ideas include sharing resources such as free materials, educational website links and videos. A virtual conference was also under consideration. Rose Carberry offered to share resources with Headteachers on behalf of SACRE. This was welcomed by David Rees who wanted to make sure his communications were reaching those involved in teaching RE.

Members discussed the success of recent classroom videos. It was agreed that post-pandemic it may be possible to record visits to schools and places of worship that could be shared.

### 7.3 Covid Recovery Support – Clare Hawkins, NASUWT

Clare Hawkins announced that 78 care packages containing the book “Make Every RE Lesson Count” were distributed to local secondary schools recently. Two of the ten secondary schools in West Berkshire accepted the offer of RE tutoring sessions. Clare also ran an online session “So you’re new to leading RE” and CPD sessions to discover new denominations such as Zen Buddhism.

David Taylor thanked West Berkshire Council for providing the funding for this project.

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This Item was discussed in Part II of the meeting:

### 7.4 Support for Secondary Schools

- a) Park House: Councillor David Marsh, Councillor Billy Drummond
- b) John O’Gaunt: David Taylor, Chair

## 8 **New Agreed Syllabus - David Taylor, Chair and David Rees, Professional Consultant**

The West Berkshire SACRE Syllabus 2018-2023 is due to be updated but would be delayed to 2024 as a result of the pandemic. David Taylor explained there would be the option to work with our five neighbouring SACREs or as an individual committee. He felt the benefits of collaboration outweighed the cost (£900) which would be the majority of the SACRE budget. Val Bolan stated her support for the proposal to work with other SACREs and Rabbi Zvi Solomons agreed the Pan Berkshire Syllabus worked well and should be continued.

Action: David Taylor to contact the Pan Berkshire Hub to confirm West Berkshire SACREs commitment to working together on the new syllabus.

## 9 **Hub - David Taylor, Chair and David Rees, Professional Consultant**

The Real People, Real Faith videos were discussed at the last Hub meeting. David Taylor was keen to hear how they were received by teachers. Amanda Bedding had used the videos in lessons and thought they were a great resource. Roseanna Looker was aware of the videos and was keen to integrate them but had not yet had the opportunity to do so.

## 10 **Newsletter - David Rees, Professional Consultant**

David Rees invited Members and guest to contribute to the newsletter which is sent out during the second week of each term. The next issue is January.

## 11 **2021-22 Budget Update and Action Plan - David Rees, Professional Consultant**

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 2 NOVEMBER 2021 - MINUTES

David Rees presented the Budget Update and Action Plan which sets out in detail the actions required to achieve SACRE's Core Business Aims which are:

- A. To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership
- B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools
- C. To support the ongoing work of the Pan Berkshire Hub

Members were aware of the difficulties of maintaining collective worship in schools during the pandemic. Many have risen to the challenge by holding virtual assemblies.

### 12 **Equality and Diversity - David Taylor, Chair**

David Taylor intends to invite Pamela Voss, Equality & Diversity Officer, West Berkshire Council to a future SACRE meeting to participate in a discussion on the membership of SACRE.

### 13 **Next Meeting Dates and Venues to Agree - Janet Giddings, Clerk**

David Taylor and David Rees will propose dates for meetings in 2022. The first meeting will be held in March. The venue is dependent on Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time of the meeting.

### 14 **Any Other Business**

Rabbi Zvi Solomons mentioned upcoming dates in the Jewish calendar (Hanukkah, Holocaust Memorial Day) as well as Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Billy Drummond said West Berkshire Council had commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day previously but not in recent years.

### 15 **Part II - Live Stream ended 17:49pm**

### 16 **Part II - Live Stream ended 17:49pm**

7.4 Support for Secondary Schools

a) Park House: Councillor David Marsh, Councillor Billy Drummond

Cllr David Marsh was keen to ask the school about their RE provision. He had positive discussions last year with the Headteacher, Tom Goodenough, who is no longer in post. The new leadership team started in September 2021. Park House School is in Cllr David Marsh's Ward. Cllr Billy Drummond expressed an interest in supporting him so they will work together and report back at the next SACRE meeting. David Taylor thanked them for the way they have approached this.

b) John O'Gaunt: David Taylor, Chair

David Taylor visited John O'Gaunt recently and met with the Head of Humanities and MFL, Tony Hammond. He confirmed Years 10 and 11 regularly attend RE lessons and the school is fulfilling its obligations regarding RE provision.

David Taylor asked Members if they had visited or intended to visit any schools. Amanda Bedding said she was trying to contact Denefield School.

**Action:** Janet Giddings to send contact details for Denefield School to Amanda Bedding

Meeting Closed at 17:57pm



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**West Berkshire SACRE action plan Apr 2021 – updated Feb 2022 - draft**

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>People Responsible</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Autumn 2021</b>	<b>Winter/Spring 2022</b>	<b>Summer 2022</b>
<p>A. CORE BUSINESS</p> <p>To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership</p>	1. Fill membership vacancies	Ongoing	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk		Ensure West Berkshire SACRE is representative of the West Berkshire area. An ongoing process		
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, teacher meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Autumn 2021 Spring 2022 Summer 2022	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year  SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting LA officers and Adviser prep time	Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	TBD
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2021	SACRE Adviser and clerk with foreword by SACRE Chair	SACRE chair	Compile new report using NASACRE template (training on 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	Send to NASACRE by Dec 2021	
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting and discuss updates	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
	5. Subscribe to NASACRE Representation at annual NASACRE conference & AGM Attend other relevant and useful events	Ongoing	SACRE clerk  SACRE Adviser TBD Adviser to find out and inform	Subscription £105 <i>SW SACRE conference fee and advisor time</i> <i>NASACRE Conference and AGM - SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference</i>	Subscription to NASACRE £105 - <i>NASACRE Conference and AGM</i> <i>SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference x1 day?</i>	Annual Subscription rate £105	<i>SACRE Adviser attended NASACRE AGM Monday 24 May 2021 Virtual</i>  <i>NASACRE AGM 2022 Birmingham</i>
	6. Monitor the locally agreed syllabus – especially in the lead up to review	Ongoing  Part of the Pan Berkshire Hub plan	SACRE	Increased budget when review process begins again – next syllabus review began 2021/2 through the Hub	Early stages of review initiated through the hub – questionnaires considered	Questionnaires to be distributed and results collated	

<i>B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools</i>	1. Make connections with RE leaders through primary networks	Ongoing – increased due to virtual support	SACRE Adviser	Adviser time	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October - 4-5.15pm Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2022  Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2022  TBD
	2. Make connections with RE leaders through secondary networks	Ongoing	SACRE Adviser/ SACRE Chair/ Teacher rep	Adviser time if needed	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> October - 3.30pm (DR)	Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2022 (DR)
	3. Collate and Distribute a termly newsletter	Termly	SACRE Adviser – SACRE members to offer suggestions	Adviser time	Sept 2021	Jan 2022	April 2022
	<i>4. Subject Leader support sessions</i>	<i>2021-22</i>	<i>SACRE RE adviser &amp; Teacher rep</i>	<i>Adviser time if needed</i>	<i>Extra funding made available for extra support?</i>		
C. To support the ongoing work of the Pan Berkshire Hub	Consolidate and develop the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub.	Next hub meeting – TBD	SACRE members to attend where possible	Part of the hub commitment - £900 paid to Oxford diocese – reviewed yearly	To become a SACRE agenda item at each meeting  Adviser attended June 2021 & Sept 2021 & March 7 <sup>th</sup> 2022 Next meeting tbd		
	Consolidate and develop the Crossing the Bridges directory	ongoing	SACRE members to link with faith communities	Hub will need someone to take charge of this.	To become a SACRE agenda item at each meeting		
	Contribute to the development of the 'Real People, Real faith' video clips	Ongoing (extended due to lockdown)	SACRE members	Part of the hub contribution – follow up work could be commissioned	Updates at each meeting as part of Hub update		
	<i>Inform schools and contribute to /participate in Hub conference</i>	<i>TBD 2022?</i>	<i>SACRE members Hub links SACRE Adviser</i>	<i>Unknown?</i>	<i>Updates at each meeting</i>		

*Italicised points are up for consideration*

## Winter Term 2022 RE Newsletter

As the new western calendar year starts, we want to wish you all the best with the new term. Whilst we are all sadly used to living with the Covid-19 situation we are well aware that schools will face massive challenges and require support.

SACRE wishes to send out a sincere thank you to all teachers and schools for the way in which you have shown and will undoubtedly continue to show dedication to children and education during these difficult times. We recognise the challenges you have faced and want you to know that we are here to support you with your RE wherever possible.

SACRE wishes RE teachers to know that support is available. One of the ways SACREs can support teachers is by running virtual RE network meetings and producing newsletters designed to inform you of some or all of the following.

- Local and national RE developments
- Free classroom resources
- Upcoming CPD opportunities
- News from faith communities – national and local

### Virtual Networks

SACRE is supporting RE by running virtual RE networks as twilight sessions each term – these are run by the RE Adviser to SACRE David Rees.

**This term we are planning a mega network joining with other areas to showcase a new resource for KS2&3 entitled 'Faith in the Town'**

A flyer has also been sent to schools – here is a flavour of what the network will include 'Find out about teaching resources bringing together history and RE, focusing on Christian faith in the Industrial Revolution.

There is growing interest in the potential of disciplinary studies in RE, such as history, theology or philosophy. This can be understood as looking through different lenses, such as a historical lens, to gain a rich understanding of the subject matter.

Ever wondered what History would actually look like in RE? How could it support understanding of religion and belief? RE Adviser Kate Christopher has created practical teaching resources (KS2- 3) using current historical research into Christian faith during the Industrial Revolution . Find out how pupils in RE can think like historians and explore faith, meaning and hope as life changed forever in the Industrial Revolution.

The teaching resources contain instructions for teachers, practical, classroom-ready resources for pupils and supportive notes where necessary for teachers' enhanced understanding of this period. This is the first example of historical thinking in RE, come along and see what you think.'

This meeting will be virtual and held on the following date.

- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm**

If you would like to attend or receive information about support for RE please email David on [david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com) - zoom links will be sent to those who confirm.

SACRE would like to thank all the schools who have sent their RE leaders' details and email addresses to David - It would be really helpful if any schools who have changed RE leader could let David know

the RE lead's school email address so he can directly keep them updated on what support is available.

### **Do you teach RE in KS3 or above? New! Free RE Forum launching in 2022**

Steph Rann at The Gryphon School, Dorset is working with other Secondary Hub Lead Practitioners to set up an RE Forum for those teaching KS3-KS5.

All are welcome. Please email Steph at [Stephanie.Rann@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Rann@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk) to sign up. She will send you details of dates (**the first is Tuesday February 15th**) and how to join the virtual meetings.

### **Berkshire Hub**

A reminder that the SACRE website for the Berkshire hub was set up last year– the idea is for this to be a site holding certain resources for teachers including the 'Crossing the Bridges' database of places of worship. The Pan Berkshire funded video clips '**Real People, Real Faith**' are also housed here as a link to 'you tube', please click the link below to see what is currently on the website

<https://berkshiresacrehub.blogspot.com/>

**Real People, Real Faith** – This was a series of interviews filmed in locations across Berkshire, featuring local faith communities answering questions about their faith. Two questions, specific to each key stage were asked across the range of venues and in most venues, several people answered each question. This allowed pupils and teachers to explore some of the diversity both between and within faith communities. The same six communities were interviewed at each key stage. Each film has a page of notes outlining the key questions and concepts, with a brief summary of the answers and some suggested follow-on activities.

The video clips are also housed on the NATRE website

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/real-people-real-faith/>

Further interviews with other religion and worldview communities have been recorded, hopefully these will be made available soon. There are also plans for more interviews to be filmed this year.

### **Agreed syllabus review**

As you will know from previous newsletters we are approaching the time when we will need to start the review process for the agreed syllabus – it is vital that we have feedback from RE leads and schools about the existing syllabus and what support you would like in future.

A short survey has been created to help give you a platform to share your thoughts – SACRE urges you to fill this in as soon as possible – the deadline is **February half term** – the survey can be accessed here <https://forms.office.com/r/YNQUzRLNCT>

### **Upcoming events and CPD Opportunities**

Face to face CPD opportunities were not possible during the COVID 19 outbreak however the RE world arranged virtual conferences and events, these successfully ensured that people could still connect and learn about the latest developments. Some face -to-face events may well be attempted in the upcoming months but virtual cpd is still likely to be popular especially as it cuts down on needless travelling around the road networks. Here are a few events which will be happening in the next term, others are in the pipeline too and we will try to make you aware of these local and national events as we hear about them.

- **CREative and REinspiring Annual RE Conference - Thursday 31st March** (9.30am -3.30pm)  
This event will be delivered through Zoom.  
Adam Robertson from RE Today is the Keynote Speaker and he will be speaking on "**Beyond the binaries: beauty, breadth and depth in Islamic and non-religious worldviews**".  
There will also be inspiring sessions led by Zameer Hussain on "**Diversity within Islam**"

and Luke Donnellan on “[Humanism as a non-religious Worldview](#)”

There will also be a choice of three workshops in the morning and three more in the afternoon to inspire your teaching! These include:

- Humanism KS2-3
- Primary Islam EYFS-KS2
- Secondary Islam KS3-5
- Designing the Jigsaw of RE Learning by **Discovery RE**
- Non-religious Worldviews – Thinking about Ethics in RE
- Motivating Learning in RE

Come along – as we promise you will be RE-inspired!

The conference is free for Salisbury diocese PSA schools, there is a small charge for other schools from other areas, all are welcome.

Click here <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/learning/courses/psa-subscription-course-creative-and-reinspiring-7640> to book your place

Zoom links for the conference will be sent once a booking is confirmed. The link for each workshop will be sent out in the week running up to the conference, so delegates can choose which sessions to attend on the day. All workshops will be recorded, so delegates can attend two on the day and watch the others afterwards.

- **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Each year the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust provide high quality educational resources to help commemorate historical and modern examples of genocide. The website says ‘Holocaust Memorial Day is One Day – **27<sup>th</sup> January** – that we put aside to come together to remember, to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be One Day in the future with no genocide. We learn more about the past, we empathise with others today, and we take action for a better future’

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2022 is **One Day**. There are many ways to interpret the theme, some of which are outlined here. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HMD-2022-Theme-Vision.pdf>

The main website can be accessed here <https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

This year’s resources can be found on <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/> or

Primary - <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/schools/primary-schools/>

Secondary - <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/schools/secondary-schools/>

And SEND <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/schools/send-schools/>

- **Strictly RE**

Whilst we will always try to find free events to circulate to teachers, some other not free events are worth sharing like the ever-popular NATRE run **Strictly RE** conference. This will be running again on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> January and still named ‘Strictly RE at Home’. This year the conference offers 3 keynote speeches and will have a strong focus on:

- Worldviews
- Dharmic traditions
- Ways of knowing

There will also be a range of seminars on a wide variety of topics and across all key stages including:

- Better Writing in RE (Primary)
- Dealing with controversial issues in RE (Cross-phase)
- Juggling depth, breadth, worldviews, challenge and essentialism in a KS3 curriculum (Secondary)
- Hindu Concepts of the Divine (Secondary)
- Multi-arts and sacred texts: making a difference through researching your teaching (Cross-phase)
- How to be a champion for RE in your school and beyond (Cross-phase)
- Diversity within the Buddhist worldview (Secondary)
- Food and Faith: Teaching about food as an expression of faith, belief and identity (Secondary)
- Children making progress in 4-7 RE (Primary)
- Worldviews within Islam - the Primary edition (Primary)
- Authentic Sikh RE (Secondary)
- How can we improve student writing in RE? (Secondary)

Booking can be made through the NATRE website following this link

<https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2022/>

- **Farmington scholarships** - Applications for the 2022/23 Farmington Scholarships are now open. These are Scholarships available to teachers of religious education and associated subjects in UK secondary, primary, and special needs schools. Head teachers who wish to undertake research into either religious education or values education are also eligible to apply.

### News from RE Online

RE Online is a free quality-controlled website designed to support teachers with many different aspects of teaching and leading RE. They produce newsletters every month as well as creating teaching resources and knowledge pieces on all the major faiths and worldviews, these are designed to help improve subject knowledge. <https://www.reonline.org.uk/>

The popular series of 'In Conversation' interviews is continuing this year – this term the following are scheduled

- Wednesday 26th January 7-8pm In conversation with... Assistant Professor Tim Hutchings and Dr Jasjit Singh titled 'How is religion changing in a digital age?'
- Wednesday 9th February 4.15-5.15pm In Conversation with...Dr Ana Souto titled 'Mapping Sacredness'
- Wednesday 9th March 4.15-5.15pm In Conversation with... Justine Ball titled 'An approach to decolonising teaching about Jesus in primary schools'
- Wednesday 23rd March 4.15-5.15pm In Conversation with...The Jewish Museum London Team titled 'Teaching Inclusive Judaism'

To book on any of these follow this link <https://www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events/in-conversation/> and click the Eventbrite link

RE Online also houses the SHAP festivals calendar - Here are a selection of the festivals due to take place from the principal religions and worldviews this term

- 16<sup>th</sup> January - World religion Day – Baha'i
- 17<sup>th</sup> January – Tu B'shevat - Jewish New Year for Trees
- 14<sup>th</sup> February – Parinirvana – Buddhism (Mahayana)
- 1<sup>st</sup> March – Shrove Tuesday – Christianity
- 1<sup>st</sup> March – Lailat-ul-Miraj – Islam



- 1<sup>st</sup> March – Mahashivrati - Hindusim
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Ash Wednesday (Lent) – Christianity
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – Purim - Judaism
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – Holi – Hinduism
- 18<sup>th</sup> March – Hola Mohalla – Sikhi
- 20<sup>th</sup> March – Spring/Vernal Equinox – Pagan
- 21<sup>st</sup> March – Naw-Ruz – Baha’i
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Ramadan starts - Islam

Information on each of these can be found by following this link

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>

### New resources

- **Visit my Mosque: RE Teachers Resources**

This new resource is intended to support and empower Religious Education (RE) Teachers in organising and delivering school visits to places of worship such as mosques.

“Virtual” mosque tours have also been included to increase familiarity and confidence when organising in-person visits as well as offer an alternative to those without a Mosque nearby

The resource includes video clips, 360-degree tours and activity sheets

Visit my Mosque - <https://www.visitmymosque.org/for-re-teachers/>

- **BBC programmes** – Being Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh – These 40-minute programmes are available for the next two months by following the link below <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p096g86x/episodes/player>
- The **RE:QUEST** website has been relaunched. The website states that it is ‘A space for resources to help RE teachers and their students explore the Christian faith’ This resource for RE teachers offers Christianity resources from KS1-KS3, it is free to access and the new site gives the ability to save resources to boards to organise work. <https://request.org.uk/>

### Social Media

- #REChatUK twitter forum – this occurs the first Monday of every month in term time.
- NATRE Facebook page
- RE Teachers in South Central – Facebook
- RE in the South West- Facebook
- RE Teachers forum - Facebook

I hope that the term goes well for you all. Please do keep in touch and let us know how your RE is going. If you would like to be involved in helping connect with other RE leaders then please let me know on the email supplied earlier. I hope I will see some of you at the network on January 27<sup>th</sup> – Dr Kate Christopher is an inspirational person and speaker and it is a real treat to have her come to our network.

I hope you all stay safe and healthy and thank you for all your hard work

David Rees SACRE RE Adviser

January 2022

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