



North Somerset Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

SACRE News – Spring Term 2023

Spring into RE!



Hello and welcome to your Spring SACRE newsletter! My name is **Adam Robertson** and I am the adviser for North Somerset SACRE. I hope that you have had a happy start to 2023. The nights are getting shorter and, despite the cold, new life is stirring underground!

The RE newsletter this term includes:

- Apply for the Wire Award!
- North Somerset LTLRE Hub Teach meet
- Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos RE conference!!!!
- Strictly RE: Tickets still available!
- Diocese of Bath RE conference
- World Hijab Day and ideas for teaching this in RE Islam lessons
- **FREE CPD** for Subject Leaders, ECTs and more!
- **Links to the new Census 2021 data on religion in your area!**

How can I help? The role of SACRE is to create and monitor the agreed syllabus for RE in our local area, and to advise the local authority on matters relating to the provision and quality of RE. **If you would like some advice about RE in your school, please contact me for a chat.** I am happy to offer advice about anything to do with teaching, learning and curriculum issues. I can help any types of schools or academies in the North Somerset local area!

My email is adam@retoday.org.uk

See our new SACRE area website here: [SACRE annual report, agendas and minutes | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

Start Here - Have you applied for the Wire Award?



SACRE knows there is lots of fabulous RE being taught across our area. It is delighted to offer the chance for schools to receive the Wire Award to celebrate great RE!

The Wire Award is open to **all Primary, Secondary and Special** schools. It aims to encourage pupils to learn about **diversity** in our local area. To achieve it, you are asked to evidence **just three things:**

1. A teacher in your school **attends some RE CPD** this academic year – for example, the RE Hub on 17th November!!
2. **Either** – arrange a visit to a place of worship. **Or invite in a visitor to speak** to a class/school from a worldview that is **NOT** Christian. The visitor can be a ‘**virtual visitor**’ – e.g. speaking online! Look at the [link to the synagogue](#) later in the newsletter!
3. **Enter an RE competition** (for example – Spirited Arts – see later!) or **invite parents** to an exhibition of your learning about RE in the school!!

Just three simple steps could enable you to receive the highly coveted Wire Award – **presented by a member of SACRE to pupils in your school!** A great way to raise the profile of RE

Please contact Adam at adam@retoday.org.uk for more information.

North Somerset RE Hub: the place to meet teachers and find support!



The North Somerset RE Hub is a Teach meet for all teachers – primary and secondary – to get together to share good practice and discover new ideas and resources. Coming to the Hub will also get you one part of the evidence for the Wire Award!

The next meeting is on **Monday 6th February** from **4pm – 5pm online via zoom: Meeting ID: 885 3299 5122 Passcode: 232529**

The theme is: **Teaching Humanism** and will be led by Matt Evans from Humanists UK – who lives in Bristol and is a great speaker!

Please contact the Hub leader - Rachel Mills (RE subject leader, All Saints Primary School) RMills@allsaintsprimaryschool.org.uk or **Adam** for more information. Hope to see you there!

A brilliant local way to get some quality RE CPD!

Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and Swindon SACRE present

Annual RE Conference 2023

Friday 3rd February, 9.30-3.00, Engineers' House



***Religion and
Worldviews for a
fast changing
world***



KEYNOTE—Religion, Worldviews and Change

Dr Kate Christopher is a secondary R&W teacher in London, as well as working part-time for Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

Why Religion and Worldviews, why change at all? In this keynote session RE adviser will explore the thinking behind the Religion and Worldviews approach and the reasons why evolution of the RE curriculum is promoted. How does a Religion and Worldviews approach allow children and young people to engage with the big questions facing our communities and our planet? Through practical examples Kate will consider the scope and potential of such an approach for pupils of all ages.

Also—a great range of workshops to support RE & worldviews throughout the curriculum, including visiting speaker — Luke Donellan Director of Understanding Humanism, who will provide a Primary and a Secondary workshop.

The conference is face to face only. £110 per delegate at the conference venue, £150 for two from the same school.

FIND OUT MORE: To register please visit Eventbrite [HERE](#) or contact Ali.Driver@bristoldiocese.org or laura.harris@bristoldiocese.org

Strictly RE! The best online conference for RE is back!!



Includes recordings and downloads of seminars!

Taking place online for the third year, the conference themes explore: **depth, diversity and Abrahamic worldviews**

Before the weekend: 13 weekday seminars

On the weekend: 3 keynotes, 21 workshops, seven virtual staffrooms

Workshops include:

- Keynote from the amazing **Mary Myatt** on curriculum
- Lat Blaylock: **Greater depth in primary RE**
- Luke Donnellan: Understanding **Humanism**
- Creating a **core RE Programme for KS4** (Secondary)
- Adam Robertson: **Teaching Judaism** in the Primary school
- Gillian Georgiou: **Assessing Pupils Progress 5-16**
- **Special RE** (Crossphase)
- Preparing for **Ofsted**

Pay for the weekend, get access to recordings and downloads for ALL sessions!

You don't have to attend all the sessions – you will get access to all of them after

These are available for **ONE YEAR**, so you can keep going back to them and share them with your staff!

All this for just £135!!!

Book here: www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2023/

Brilliant CPD: RE conference with Katie Freeman

Not to be missed! An exciting RE conference focussing on great teaching of Religion and Worldviews within your RE curriculum. Katie Freeman is a practitioner in a VA primary school, but is representing RE at national events, including the recent Labour and Conservative Party conferences. Katie is currently the Chair of NATRE.

Join us at Flourish House in Wells, Somerset for a great day.

Cost: **£55 per person**. Your School will be invoiced after the event.

Book Here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/re-conference-with-katie-freeman-tickets-469091845337?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Encounter Christianity: Fantastic local support for your teaching of Christianity



FREE and Brilliant:

Encounter Christianity is a Bristol based charity, aimed at enriching the religious education of local pupils. Our aim is to support schools in their delivery of the [Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE](#). All our materials are based on the syllabus.

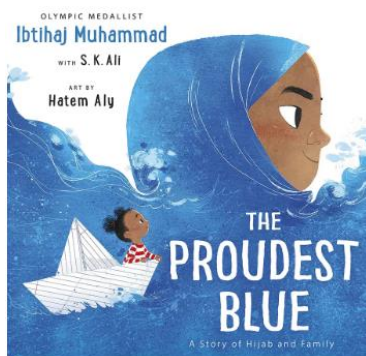
Encounter Christianity offer a range of tailored workshops from KS1-4 based on questions in the local syllabus. They will come to your school to

offer FREE lessons. Lessons generally last about 1 hour and involve story telling, investigations, crafts, drama, small group activities and digging deeper through interactive forms of discussion.

Booking now for Terms 5 and 6.

Find a list of their lessons here: <https://encounterchristianity.co.uk/key-stage-2>

World Hijab Day on Wednesday 1st February – Ideas for teaching Islam!



World Hijab Day takes place on Wednesday 1st February.

See below for some suggested resources if you would like to mark it in your school. For example, at a Bristol secondary school, the pupils who wear hijabs are invited to wear their favourite one that day, rather than their plain uniform ones.

This CBeebies programme is great for Reception and Y1:<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0oosf7k/whats-on-your-head-series-1-2-hijab>

This book is really good for Y2,3,4:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/t/the-proudest-blue/>

You can find out more about the author here: <https://www.ibtihajmuhammad.com/>

For Years 3,4,5,6:

This is the 16 yr old who designed the hijab emoji talking about how and why she did it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLYPMOfsLDI>

A short BBC Teach video about a girl starting to wear hijab when beginning secondary school:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks2-my-life-my-religion-hijab/zhdxfcqt>

These are 6 women who wear hijab, including the founder of World Hijab Day

<https://aboutislam.net/family-life/gender-society/our-picks-for-world-hijab-day-top-6-role-models/>

Thanks to Sarah Bateau from Elmlea Junior in Bristol for these ideas!

National RE news for Teachers!

THE ARTS SOCIETY BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham faith visits

The Arts Society Birmingham has worked with six faith communities to a fantastic resource on 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.**

This website is amazing if you find it hard to get to a place of worship. Or try these ideas:

1. Show the video of the place of worship to pupils before you visit one. Pupils can then compare the two places!
2. Use the quiz for retrieval practice!
3. Use the guides to build up vocabulary and link to artefacts!

Visit the site here: <https://birmingham-faith-visits.theartsociety.org/>

NATRE Spirited Arts 2023 – new themes announced

Will your school 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 6 themes

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us."
2. Green faith, green future? ['God's good earth?']
3. Where is God today?
4. Faith in action, values in action.
5. Sacred space and holy buildings
6. All God's creatures?



More details here www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/

Training and CPD opportunities and other support

Free webinars for primary and secondary ECTs – a taster for NATRE ECT membership

Early Career Teachers have access to a range of free support through a series of online sessions. ‘Café’ sessions give you a chance to talk with experienced teachers and experts from different worldview backgrounds. The taught sessions offer expert input with a focus on practical classroom strategies.

| Date – All Mondays 4.00-5.30pm | Topic |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 9 Jan | Taught session: Focus on Non-religious worldviews |
| 13 Feb | Taught session: Focus on Hindu Dharma |
| 13 Mar | Café NATRE – Subject knowledge Judaism |
| 15 May | Taught session: Focus on Multidisciplinary RE |
| 12 June | Taught session: Focus on Sikhi |
| 10 July | Café NATRE: Subject knowledge Christianity |

ECT webinars booking link www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/

Culham St Gabriel’s ‘In conversation’ series

Extend your understanding of religion and worldviews, subject knowledge and pedagogy by listening in on conversations among teachers, researchers and other experts.

Two conversations are programmed for the spring:

- 20 Feb: 4-00-4.40pm Learning from experiences in Lebanon: diversity, solidarity and safeguarding human dignity
- 20 March 4.30-5.10pm RETOPEA! Promoting religious peace and tolerance through history

Details and booking info here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events/in-conversation/

Extensive back catalogue here: www.reonline.org.uk/research/in-conversation/

NATRE: new membership packages!

NATRE is the largest membership organisation that promotes, defends and supports RE teachers and RE teaching. It does this through producing high-quality resources and CPD, lobbying government, being involved in conversations with the DfE and Ofsted, Local Authorities and SACREs, telling teachers’ stories and experiences and being a voice for all teachers.



Membership packages for students, ECTs, teachers, schools, RE professionals and RE enthusiasts!

Details: www.natre.org.uk/membership

NATRE: welcome webinars for new members

New NATRE members are invited to a monthly welcome webinar. This will help them use their NATRE membership and enjoy it to its fullest!

What will they learn?

- How to Access NATRE resources
- Access online termly mailing resources
- Access Local Groups area
- Take the best out of the NATRE monthly newsletter
- How to redeem your REtoday library membership
- How to use your membership discount

Members can register their interest to attend a webinar at this link.

www.natre.org.uk/member-login/natre-members-welcome-webinar/

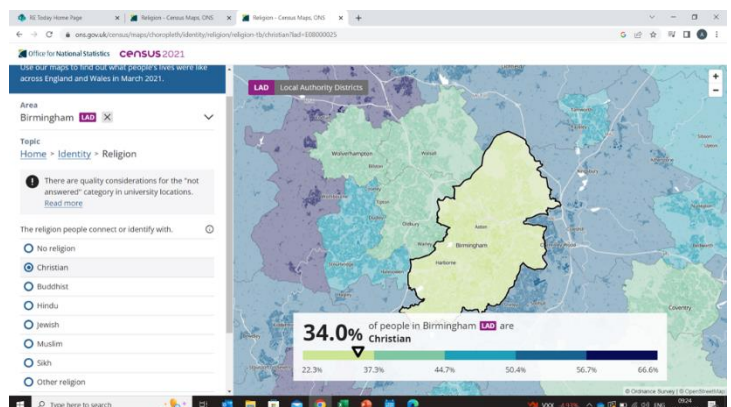
Other information

Office for National Statistics publishes responses to the question on religion in census 2021

- For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the population (46.2%, 27.5 million people) described themselves as “Christian”, a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% (33.3 million) in 2011; despite this decrease, “Christian” remained the most common response to the religion question.
- “No religion” was the second most common response, increasing by 12.0 percentage points to 37.2% (22.2 million) from 25.2% (14.1 million) in 2011.
- There were increases in the number of people who described themselves as “Muslim” (3.9 million, 6.5% in 2021, up from 2.7 million, 4.9% in 2011) and “Hindu” (1.0 million, 1.7% in 2021, up from 818,000, 1.5% in 2011).
- Wales had a greater decrease in people reporting their religion as “Christian” (14.0 percentage point decrease, from 57.6% in 2011 to 43.6% in 2021) and increase in “No religion” (14.5 percentage point increase, from 32.1% in 2011 to 46.5% in 2021) compared with England and Wales overall.
- London remains the most religiously diverse region of England in 2021, with over a quarter (25.3%) of all usual residents reporting a religion other than “Christian”; the North East and South West are the least religiously diverse regions, with 4.2% and 3.2%, respectively, selecting a religion other than “Christian”.

Explore our region and the surrounding area using this interactive online map:

www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps



How does the data for 2021 compare with 2011? How is our area similar and different to England and Wales as a whole?