



CUMBRIA SACRE NEWSLETTER

Summer: 2018

(Twitter @CumbriaSACRE #CumbriaSharingRE)

**“Our aim is to enrich the quality of learning in R.E. and Collective Worship for all pupils in Cumbria”:
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

Cumbria Updates, National Updates, Resources & CPD, Forthcoming Events

Cumbria Updates:



Cumbria SACRE Meeting at the Mosque in Whitehaven

Cumbria SACRE members were very grateful that the mosque in Whitehaven was able to host SACRE's last meeting on June 7th. Items discussed included the SACRE conference, SACRE's monitoring responsibilities, national updates and updates from SACRE members. Minutes of SACRE meetings can be found at:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

This term has been a particularly successful for Cumbria SACRE:

Cumbria Representation on the Executive Committee of the National Association for SACREs

Dr Sheila Gewolb, the Jewish representative on Cumbria SACRE, was successively elected onto the Executive Committee of NASACRE. The Executive Committee meet every term to: plan events, discuss issues, to represent SACREs in meetings with the DfE and the RE Council etc., to participate in national conferences and initiatives, to work with organisations such as the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education. Dr Sheila Gewolb is also Senior Vice-President on the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Cumbria Has Won An Award

Cumbria SACRE was one of five SACREs to be awarded a grant of £4,000 from the Westhill Endowment Trust for their project bid: **Buried Treasure**. This project will work with primary and secondary schools in Cumbria to produce a creative and practical resource for exploring religious texts. Westhill/NASACRE Awards encourage schools to engage with diversity through projects which will generate compelling learning experiences in RE for young people, relevant for today's context. For more information on Westhill: <http://www.westhillendowment.org/home>

National Updates



The Religious Education Council (REC)

(www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk , Twitter: @RECouncil, Instagram: [religiouseducationcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/religiouseducationcouncil))

The much awaited interim report by CoRE (Commission for RE) '[Religious Education for All](#)' was published in September 2017. This is an independent report initiated by the RE Council. An on-line consultation was launched which closed on 4th December. The final report is due out on September 12th, 2018. The report clearly lays out how RE is a vital subject for education in the 21st century. However, the Commission is **"unanimous in the view that RE faces a perilous future without strategic, urgent intervention."** Although they found much evidence of high-quality and provision of RE, this is inconsistent due to various reasons. The report says:

"Pupils are experiencing a lottery in their access to high quality RE. Evidence presented to the Commission made clear the impact that the type of school had on the extent to which RE is provided: while 6.5% of schools that follow an RE curriculum determined by their religious character devote no part of their curriculum time to RE at key stage 4, the figure is 20.7% for schools required to follow a locally agreed syllabus for RE and 43.7% for academies without a religious character. This inequality of provision means that many children are being disadvantaged by being denied RE." CoRE 2017

The report makes the following recommendations:

- A national entitlement for religious education
- Holding schools to account for the provision and quality of RE
- A renewed and expanded role for SACRES
- A national plan for improving teaching and learning in RE



National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

(Twitter: @NASACRE, www.nasacre.org.uk)

2018 has marked the 25th anniversary of NASACRE. NASACRE actions have included:

- The Chair of NASACRE has taken part in the Theos Think Tank sessions to try to build consensus around some of the big issues in RE. Discussions included teacher recruitment and initial and continuing training. A report from Theos will follow: <https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/>
- NASACRE continues to meet with officials from the DfE to discuss how they can best ensure schools, academies and LAs are meeting their responsibilities in the provision of R.E. NASACRE have also worked with Deborah Weston (Tower Hamlets, Redbridge, Thurrock and Havering SACREs and NATRE) to put together a really useful guide about why and how a SACRE can fulfil its monitoring role. A pdf of Deborah's useful information sheet and links to further information can be found at <http://nasacre.org.uk/useful-documents>.
- NASACRE is suggesting that SACREs could capitalise on the forthcoming BBC Pledge 2019 'Year of Religion' across all platforms. This follows a recent BBC report **Religion and Ethics Review** (Dec 2017) which has a definite focus on young people and enabling them to access high quality, age-appropriate information about religions and beliefs in an accessible way.
- NASACRE and the National Association of Teachers of R.E. are investigating the right of withdrawal from R.E.

National Updates (Continued)



The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE)

(Twitter: @NATREupdate, www.natre.org.uk)

- The **RE State of the Nation** research about secondary school provision for RE has been published with survey responses from **790 secondary schools**. This extensive quantitative research was commissioned by NATRE, REC and RE Today. The report estimates that 800,000 pupils lose out on religious literacy, with no religious literacy being taught in a quarter of all state secondary schools, raising serious implications for community cohesion and inclusivity. The research found **25% of all schools surveyed** said a weekly RE lesson to ensure pupils understand different religions and beliefs is not available. But some good news - entries for Religious Studies A level 2017 remain high with the fastest growth among arts, humanities and social sciences.
- **New2RE** is designed to support teachers in the first three years of teaching and help develop subject knowledge and confidence as a teacher of RE. The programme is free to the teacher, subject to a contribution of £120 from the participating school, and permission from the head. For further information:
<https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/new2re-programme-2017-2020/>
- The **bi-annual NATRE primary teacher survey** is online
<https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/natre-primary-survey-2018/> **Teachers get a £5 RE Today voucher on completion!**
- The **Shared Space Project** is a joint project between the University of Bristol and NATRE, researching the best ways of promoting community relations in RE lessons. It comes in the wake of increases in hate crime in UK schools. <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/the-shared-space-project/>

REQM

**RE Quality
Mark**

The RE Quality Mark

(Twitter: @REQualityMark , www.reqm.org)

The **RE Quality Mark** is a REC project celebrating good RE in schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

- Research into the impact of the quality mark award in schools has been taking place. The results of the research are gradually being announced through their website.
- Many schools (and SACREs) use the self-evaluation process, which is freely available as a download, to benchmark school provision and progress in RE. *REQM on Twitter: @REQualityMark*
- The REQM is increasingly attracting grants to support schools/application costs, including most recently, The Hockerill Foundation (Chelmsford & St Albans) adding to The Westhill (Midlands), St Matthias (South West) and Sarum St Michael Trust (Salisbury). The Culham St Gabriel's Trustees have approved a grant to support the RE Council with a review of the REQM criteria and process and will be involving the NASACRE Executive in this review.
- A PowerPoint presentation introducing the REQM is available to local networks and assessors.

Resources & CPD

Resources for RE

- i. Resources from the **Interfaith Network for UK**:
Inter Faith week website: www.interfaithweek.org
A century of stories: www.centuryofstories.org.uk
- ii. On **BBC Teach**: 26 short films for 11-14s in the '**A-Z of Religion**'. *Atheism, Burka, Creation Stories, Darwin, Extremism, Forgiveness, Goddesses, Heaven, Idols & Icons, Jesus, Kosher, Laws, Meditation Prayer, Numbers, Omnis, Prophets, Qur'an & other holy books, Rituals, Saints, Temples, Uncertainty, Virtue, Wealth, Xenophobia, Yom Kippur, Zoroastrianism.* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3IKZp31jBVJ2v3C2h1V03kz/a-to-z-of-religion-and-beliefs>
- iii. Excellent RE resources and debate on **RE:ONLINE** (www.reonline.org.uk @REOnline) including **What happens in...?** Six A3 colourful cutaways helping pupils in KS1&2 explore basic information about places of worship, thinking about the significance for believers. Published by RE Today.
- iv. RE-Definitions is a new app. for RE teachers produced by CSTG (www.cstg.org.uk) and TrueTube. The app. provides handy access to the pronunciation and meaning of more than 200 key terms. It provides accurate, clear, **resource-linked** definitions of key terms in seven religions and beliefs, in ethics and philosophy and in the study of religions and beliefs: <http://re-definitions.org.uk/> or download directly from the **Apple App Store** or **Google PlayStore**: search 're-definitions'
- v. **The British Library** is creating a new online learning resource that allows visitors to explore the richness and diversity of the collection of sacred texts, contextualised through discursive articles exploring and celebrating this religious diversity. Researchers have sought feedback through a survey.
- vi. **Building Understanding and Critical Thinking about Extremism and Terrorism.** A national Philosophy for Children (P4C) Project has developed a bank of teaching materials in response to the Manchester Arena Attacks for RE/PSHE/Citizenship lessons. Subject to a successful funding bid with Google Innovation, 50 schools in Manchester, Liverpool, Newham, Sheffield, Lancashire and Cumbria will be invited to be involved during Autumn 2018. For more information: janeyatesp4c@outlook.com
- vii. The **2018/19 Shap working party calendar** will be available from late July. This calendar is recognised as the best festivals calendar on the market for all formal and informal settings. Covering 13 faiths notable dates and with space for your own organisation's additions.
@shapcalendar <http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/calendar.html>
- viii. **Conscience & Conviction in World War I: KS2/3 materials by the Quakers in Britain.** 15 May marked Conscientious Objector's Day in commemoration of people motivated by faith and conscience to refuse to kill, a right secured in Britain in World War I. The two resources 'Conscience' and 'Conviction' have been created to highlight a selection of moral paths taken as a result of the war. Learners pursue a critical thinking project, considering how people responded to the questions they faced and exploring their own reactions.
<http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/teaching-resources-2#heading-1>
- ix. **Cumbria Development Education Centre** has a new website <https://www.cdec.org.uk/> and this link has their RE boxes <https://www.cdec.org.uk/gallery/resource-boxes/RE-boxes/23/> available for loan to schools.

Resources & CPD (continued)

Resources:

Visits and Visitors:

Points of contact for information about RE visits and visitors in Cumbria:

Mohammed Dhalech (Islam) cumbriamosquevisits@awaz.info

Wendy Ridley (Buddhism) wendyridley1@gmail.com

Dr Shelia Gewolb (Judaism) Sheila.Gewolb@bod.org.uk

Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i) kareninkendal@gmail.com

Jane Yates (Humanism) janeyatesp4c@outlook.com

It is hoped to extend this list in subsequent newsletters.

CPD

- i. For training opportunities, the new **TEACH:RE** course: <http://www.teachre.co.uk>
- ii. **Where in the world?** is an active 2-hour CPD session from Barnabas in Schools for primary teaching staff, that explains how to creatively teach about Christianity as a world faith, using a broader, more diverse range of expressions to those normally experienced in the UK. The course's resource book has recently been accredited for use with the National Society's Understanding Christianity project. A similarly-themed Barnabas RE Day of drama, storytelling and discussion is also available for lessons in primary schools and academies. <https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/whereintheworld>
- iii. **CPD for School Governors about R.E.** entitled '**Do We Need Religious Education Now More Than Ever?**': to explore current thinking on the contribution of Religious Education in schools, to examine the specific requirements of the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for RE, to consider great RE resources, challenges and opportunities for our schools. These CPD sessions will be in the evening from 6pm to 8pm at the following dates and venues:

08 October 2018	The Auctioneer, Carlisle
09 October 2018	Westmoreland Agricultural Group, Kendal
14 November 2018	St Michael's Church, Falcon Place, Workington, CA14 2EZ
06 February 2019	Chill Out Zone, Whitehaven
27 February 2019	Penrith Rugby Club
28 February 2019	Phoenix Business Centre, Phoenix Road, Barrow-

For further information contact: schooldevelopment@cumbria.gov.uk

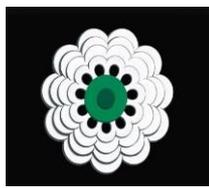
- iv. **National Conferences:** 1. The *20:20 RE Practice, Policy and Powerful Knowledge conference* will be held on 13/14 October -a comprehensive conference bringing together four RE professional associations – AREIAC, AULRE, NASACRE & NATRE. 2. AREIAC Conference 2018: '*REflecting Plurality in RE*' The Association of RE Advisers Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC) summer conference will be taking place in Bristol on 2nd and 3rd July 2018. Contact: areiacconference@gmail.com 3. Understanding Humanism Teachers' Conference: 10th July 2018 Conway Hall, London <https://humanism.org.uk/education/teachers2018/>
- v. **Funding:** For Masters funding: <http://www.cstg.org.uk/how-we-help/3forre/>
- vi. Closed Facebook Group: **RE Teachers in Cumbria**

Forthcoming Events:



Kendal Unity Festival (June 23rd 2018) and **Carlisle Unity Festival** (July 8th, 2018) These Unity Festivals (the first in Kendal) are about promoting understanding and celebrating the diversity of people and cultures. The purpose of the festivals is to bring knowledge, support, interaction, activity and fun in the areas of unity, community and diversity. The main programmes on both days will take place between 10am and 4pm. For more information:

<https://equalitycumbria.org/awaz-cumbria/news/kendal-unity-festival>
<https://equalitycumbria.org/awaz-cumbria/news/carlisle-unity-festival-8th-july-2017>



Remembering Srebrenica 2018 in Cumbria (July 11th, 2018). Srebrenica Memorial Day, paying tribute to the victims of genocide, sending a clear message to future generations to say: 'Never Again'. Memorial planned to take place at Cumbria House, 117 Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 1RD

For more information:

<http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/events/2018-events-in-the-north-west/>

Two sessions are planned in October/November for teachers on how schools can engage with Srebrenica Memorial Day – details to follow in next SACRE newsletter.

The Jewish Living Experience Exhibition: will be opening at Hawkeshead from Monday 16 July, 6-8pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Inter Faith Week 2018 - 11-18 November: The three aims of the week are:

1. Strengthening good inter- faith relations at all levels.
2. Increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society.
3. Increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

For further information: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>