



# CUMBRIA SACRE NEWSLETTER

## Autumn: 2019

(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 Conference 2019

We were delighted that so many RE teachers could join us at our annual conference at Stoneybeck Inn in June. Dilwyn Hunt gave food for thought about assessment, then afternoon workshops by Compassion Matters and Cumbria SACRE. Some seventeen local and national organisations were represented, providing market place stalls for resources and information. There was also an opportunity to hear from local teachers and SACRE members on topical issues for the classroom. Katherine France, the North Ambassador for RE, was joined by her students from The Queen Katherine School to talk about their role as RE Student Ambassadors.



**Bookings are already being made for the next Cumbria SACRE conference on 23rd June 2020:-**

***“What does the new Ofsted framework mean for your RE curriculum?”***

Please see more details on the last page of this newsletter.

## Cumbria Updates: (Continued)

### Westhill Award Buried Treasure Project Update

Cumbria SACRE were one of six SACREs nationally to be successful in our bid for £4,000 of funding from the Westhill NASACRE Awards for 2018-19. Our project, Buried Treasure involves pupils in KS2/3 transition activities. Pupils take part in a day event approaching sacred texts as explorers and creating a treasure chest of “gems” to be shared with others and available as a lasting resource. The Buried Treasure resource was developed by Baha’i representative, Karen O’Donoghue, in conjunction with a small working group. A short trial of the resource was carried out in January 2019 at Burneside C of E Primary School.

In June, a full day was held at The Queen Katherine School (QKS), Kendal, involving five local primary schools (St Cuthbert’s Windermere, Castle Park, Milnthorpe Primary, Selside & Dean Gibson schools). The day was led by Karen and facilitated by Cumbria SACRE faith reps (Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Baha’i), QKS RE Ambassadors and their RE teacher, Katherine France. The resource was showcased at the Cumbria SACRE conference in 2019 in a workshop led by Katherine France and Jane Yates. The next stage of the project will involve further transition days, and the publication of a resource for schools.



### Ofsted RE Successes

Congratulations to Dowdales School on the strength of the religious studies department being recognised in their recent Ofsted report:-

*“Teachers and pupils display strong subject knowledge which leads to high engagement and the correct use of subject terminology. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is promoted well, for example through the religious studies and citizenship curriculum. Pupils are regularly challenged to think about social justice, human rights, equalities and more, which helps them develop a strong moral purpose.” OFSTED Sept 2019*

Please send us your Ofsted quotes where they mention religious education/studies to include in our newsletter. We would also welcome hearing about your experience of the new Ofsted framework in relation to RE/RS. The new Ofsted framework will be a focus for our next Cumbria SACRE newsletter.

## **Cumbria Updates:** (Continued)

### **Children's Ethos Conference**

Rydal Hall was the venue for the inaugural children's 'Vision and Ethos Conference' in Carlisle Diocese. Children from St Mark's Natland, St Oswalds, Burneside, Grayrigg and Crosthwaite CE Primary schools led the morning event. There were practical workshops on wisdom, hope, community and dignity for staff and children to engage with. The creation of bags of wisdom, crosses from around the world, hearts of hope and a collage representing the dignity of all of God's children aided thoughts and reflections. The 12 schools who attended left inspired and enthused about the event. Our hope is that other groups of schools may feel encouraged to run similar events across the county. If this is something you are interested in please contact [Deborah.smith@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:Deborah.smith@carlisle-diocese.org.uk) in the first instance.



### **Member of SACRE Becomes Director of Education for the Manchester CofE Diocese**

We would like to congratulate Deborah Smith on her successful appointment as Director of Education for the CofE Diocese of Manchester. We would like to thank her for her contribution to Cumbria SACRE and for all the many things she has done for education and RE in Cumbria as Deputy Director of Education in the CofE Carlisle Diocese. We wish her our best wishes for the future in her new post which begins in November.



### **Cumbria SACRE Autumn Term Meeting**



Our recent Cumbria SACRE meeting was hosted by West Lakes Academy in Egremont. We were joined by RE staff and Year 8 students for a faith & belief question time with Cumbria SACRE members. Paul Smalley, Chair of the National Association of SACREs, gave invaluable input on the new Ofsted framework and other important issues.



## National Updates

### Examination Results in Religious Studies 2019

#### **GCSE Religious Studies National Results**

- The numbers of pupils in England and Wales taking GCSE Religious Studies full course and short course have fallen for the third year in a row (full course down 1.6% from 2018 to 237,862 candidates and the short course down 19.7% to 27,384; although the Religious Studies short course remains by far the most commonly taken GCSE short course, accounting for 94.4% of all short course GCSEs).
- When the entries for the full course and short course GCSE are combined, the picture is of significant decline in the number of pupils taking a qualification in Religious Studies. Entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses) in England and Wales peaked in 2011 at 461,795. Today's figures show a decline in entries of 42.6% in eight years with almost 200,000 fewer pupils achieving a qualification in RS at the end of KS4.
- However, overall during the last decade there has been a positive growth in numbers taking the full course GCSE. In 2009 there were 170,303 entries for Religious Studies in England and Wales. The number of entries increased every year until reaching a peak in 2016. While there has been a decline since this peak, the number of pupils receiving a full course GCSE in Religious Studies is still 39.7% greater than in 2009.

#### **A Level Religious Studies National Results**

- The number of students taking an A level examination in Religious Studies (RS) has again reduced in 2019, although this decline is less than in 2018 (figures show a drop of 5.1% in 2019 and 22.8% in 2018 since peak numbers in 2016). This decline, though, comes in the context of a smaller cohort of 18 year olds this year and so an overall reduced number of A level entries in all subjects.
- However, the growing number of secondary schools in England and Wales that are failing to provide Religious Education to all pupils until the age of 16 is continuing to impact Religious Studies A level entries. The latest data from the Department for Education's School Workforce Census suggest that a third (33.4%) of all schools are failing in their legal duty to offer the subject, which in turn has consequences for A-level entries.

### Right of Withdrawal from RE

A study carried out by Liverpool Hope University in the *British Journal of Religious Education (BJRE)* showed the majority of questioned headteachers are in favour of revoking the withdrawal laws in RE. The research published 41 per cent of school leaders interviewed said they had received requests for students to be withdrawn from teaching about one religion. Most of these requests were in relation to teaching about Islam.

Dr David Lundie, one of the involved researchers, commented:

*“RE is bound up with the fundamental British values of mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths, so it is hard to see how a school could support such a right [the right of withdrawal] without impacting on this wider duty of the school to prepare children for life in modern Britain.”*



## National Updates (Continued)



### **The Religious Education Council (REC)**

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

#### **REC Response to 2019 Examination Numbers (as detailed above on page 3)**

Rudolf Elliott Lockhart, Chief Executive, of REC has made the following comment among others:

*“Today’s figures show the long term impact in England of reforms introduced when Michael Gove was Secretary of State for Education. The exclusion of short course GCSEs from the performance indicators by which schools are monitored, coupled with Religious Studies not being included in the Ebacc, has had a disastrous impact on RS at GCSE. There are now almost 200,000 fewer key stage 4 pupils studying for a qualification in Religious Studies than there were in 2011. This is particularly distressing given how popular the subject is with pupils and how relevant it is in today’s world. Last year the independent Commission on Religious Education offered proposals for how to secure the future of religious education that had widespread support from stakeholders across education. It is time that the Government engages fully with the recommendations and for it to take action to support high quality religious education for all pupils in all schools.”*

See full article in the news section of RE Council

<https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/a-level-results-day-2019/>

#### **REC Led Survey of Secondary RE Teachers:**

As part of the Beyond the Ordinary Campaign, the REC led a consortium, including NATRE and RE on a survey of secondary education teachers in England and Wales. The research was conducted as part of the campaign to attract graduates to train as RE teachers.

Some key findings included:

- a. 92 per cent of RE teachers surveyed are inspired by the opportunity to broaden students’ perspectives and understanding of the world.
- b. 80 per cent said that they are inspired by exploring religious and non-religious worldviews.
- c. 95 per cent say that the subject is more or equally relevant than ten years ago.
- d. Nine out of ten are surprised or delighted at least once a week by students’ reactions, and one in four every lesson.
- e. Nine out of ten RE teachers are motivated to explore big questions.
- f. 60 percent of teachers draw inspiration from discussing issues that are in the news on a daily basis and that they are contributing to a better society.

## National Updates (Continued)



### **The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)**

(Twitter: @NASACRE, [www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk))

(The NASACRE briefing is not published until October so there will be a more detailed NASACRE update in the Spring newsletter)

#### **Role of Church of England on SACREs & ASCs**

Michael Metcalf, NASACRE's treasurer, has written a personal piece about the role of the Church of England (SACRE Committee B) members over the years. He highlights:

- The important role that Anglican members of SACRE, working with others, have fulfilled in the 'pioneering development', and 'fruitful maturity' of SACREs.
- The continuing positive role of Anglican members in giving stability and contributing additional resources to SACREs in the present 'time of uncertainty' as LAs' roles and responsibilities in schools have changed and been diminished.
- Therefore, Michael Metcalf regrets that the final report by the Commission on RE makes no reference to this positive role. Instead, it proposes to replace SACREs with Local Area Networks (LANs) in which 'faith communities are grudgingly mentioned last of all' as potential members. "Dioceses" (inclusive of RCs) appear just before this, last in the list of school providers.'

The stimulus for Michael Metcalf to write this piece this came from a tweet in RE: ONLINE linked to an article about the Recommendation 4 of the CoRE Report.



### **The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE)**

(Twitter: @NATREupdate, [www.natre.org.uk](http://www.natre.org.uk))

#### **NATRE Response to Religious Studies Results 2019 (as detailed above on page 3)**

Ben Wood, Chair of NATRE, made the following comments about A level:

*"The continuing problem of schools failing to provide RS at KS4, and thus failing in their statutory duty, is impacting on the number of students taking the option of A-level Religious Studies. At a time when high levels of religious literacy have never been more important, it is sad to see so many young people are not given the opportunity they deserve, especially when teachers of RS see the many benefits this course offers young people."*

He has also commented on GCSE number of entries for 2019:

*"Research indicates that over half of secondary schools without a religious character fail to provide RE at KS4, and that this lack of provision is more pronounced in schools with higher numbers of disadvantaged students.*

*It is not fair that so many young people are not given the full breadth of education they require, and we call on the government to take stronger action in ensuring that all schools provide high quality RE for all of their students."*

## National Updates (Continued)

### The RE Quality Mark

( Twitter: @REQualityMark , [www.reqm.org](http://www.reqm.org) )

**The RE Quality Mark (REQM)** is a subject award scheme, managed by the RE Council. Its principal aim is to celebrate good RE in all schools. It is designed to be a mechanism for whole school improvement beyond religious education, since its main focus is enhanced pedagogy. The REQM enables the dissemination of quality RE through networking, and provides a structure and framework for SACRES (and other monitoring bodies) to map high quality religious education. Materials for subject development and self-evaluation are freely available on the REQM website. REQM award holders (please see the new map at <http://reqm.org/winners>) have been contributing to several national and regional conferences this year, including the *Learn Teach Lead RE* conference in York, 'Strictly RE' (London) and 2020 RE in Crewe. Their presentations have shown clearly the positive impact of the process of the award on curriculum and professional development, and the benefits of achieving Bronze, Silver or Gold. If Cumbria SACREs want to organise an event focused on REQM we should contact the Project Manager, Linda Rudge.



## Resources & CPD

### Cumbria CPD This Academic Year

#### Gill Vaisey Running Courses For Foundation Stage & KS1

Gill Vaisey will be running four CPD days around the county:

**Fun RE for the Foundation Stage - Exploring EYFS,**

**British Values SMSC and RE**

**25 November 2019 Greenhill**

**26 November 2019 Newby Bridge**

**Exciting RE for Key Stage 1 - Exploring RE, SMSC and British Values**

**16 March 2020 Greenhill**

**17 March 2020 Netherwood**



She is a qualified teacher and national consultant for R.E., specialising in primary and early years education. Working with educational colleagues she created 'Books at Press' in 2003 to help teachers deliver brilliant and fun Religious Education for younger children. The focus of her work is the development of better resources to help teachers and to offer training to help them work and think more innovatively about how to deliver the curriculum. She wants RE to be fun for the children, fun for teachers and easy to deliver. The website for 'Books at Press' is:

<http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/consultancy.html>

Please contact

[schooldevelopment@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:schooldevelopment@cumbria.gov.uk)

**For Booking Places on her Courses**

## Resources & CPD continued

### Cumbria CPD This Academic Year (overall summary)

Course Name	Course Code	Date	Time	Venue
Do we need religious education now more than Ever?	GST TS 189 A	04 March 2020	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Furness College, Barrow
Do we need religious education now more than Ever?	GST TS 189 B	10 March 2020	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Chill Out Zone, Whitehaven
Do we need religious education now more than Ever?	GST TS 189 C	11 March 2020	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Penrith Rugby Club
Cumbria SACRE RE Conference	TS 331	23 June 2019	9.00am – 4.00pm	Stoneybeck
Exciting RE for Key Stage 1 - Exploring RE, SMSC and British Values	TS 329 A	16 March 2020	9.00am – 4.00pm	Greenhill, Wigton
Exciting RE for Key Stage 1 - Exploring RE, SMSC and British Values	TS 329 B	17 March 2020	9.00am – 4.00pm	Netherwood
Fun RE for the Foundation Stage - Exploring EYFS, British Values SMSC and RE	TS 353 A	25 November 2019	9.00am – 4.00pm	Greenhill, Wigton
Fun RE for the Foundation Stage - Exploring EYFS, British Values SMSC and RE	TS 353 B	26 November 2019	9.00am – 4.00pm	Newby Bridge
Philosophy For Children (P4C) - Foundation Level 1	TS 330	18 and 25 March 2020	9.00am – 4.00pm	Netherwood
Philosophy for Children (P4C) For Governors	GST TS 186 A	6 November 2019	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Furness College
Philosophy for Children (P4C) For Governors	GST TS 186 B	12 November 2019	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Botcherby Community Centre
Philosophy for Children (P4C) For Governors	GST TS 186 C	14 November 2019	6.00pm – 8.00pm	St Michael's Church

For more information and booking places contact: [schooldevelopment@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:schooldevelopment@cumbria.gov.uk)

#### **Additional Courses:**

- 1.)SAPERE Level 2A Advanced Course, 13/14 November 2019, Penrith, Book through Cumbria DEC [office@cdec.org.uk](mailto:office@cdec.org.uk) .
- 2.)Transforming and Innovating P4C in Cumbria, May 2020, Ambleside, Book through University of Cumbria.

## Resources & CPD (continued)

### Resources for RE

- **REonline:** has been relaunched with fresh new content and search facilities. Further developments will take place over the coming year. [www.reonline.org.uk](http://www.reonline.org.uk)
- The **RE Today** new and improved website is now live! <http://www.retoday.org.uk/>
- **What's the big idea?** A creative writing A Level competition for Year 13 students by Chester University <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/theology-and-religious-studies/schools-engagement/whats-big-idea>
- **Putting Big Ideas into Practice** by Barbara Wintersgill with Denise Cush and Dave Francis FREE download <https://www.reonline.org.uk/resources/putting-big-ideas-into-practice-in-religious-education/> Useful for designing syllabus, schemes or units of work.
- **BBC Teach: Explorers.** Brand new series providing cross-curricular learning opportunities using the lives of five famous explorers from history. An example relevant to RE is the life of Ibn Battuta, who explored the Islamic world in the medieval era. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/ks2-ibn-battuta/zmqgnrd>
- **Religious Literacy: A way forward?** This report is the outcome of a Culham St Gabriel's Research 7 funded project. The aim of the project was to consider the idea of 'religious literacy' as an aim for religious education and as an organising principle for curriculum, pedagogy and assessment. The project was a collaboration between Brunel University London and Hampshire Advisory Service. <https://www.reonline.org.uk/news/religious-literacy-a-way-forward-for-religious-education/>
- **The Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals for 2019-20** is now available. Prices have been kept for a remarkable 7th year so the eCal (£4) and A2 printed wallchart (£6) are even better value. Used by schools, universities, the NUS, NHS, police, prisons, home office, councils, LAs this is the indispensable item for the staff room or RE classroom. More at [www.shapcalendar.org.uk/calendar.html](http://www.shapcalendar.org.uk/calendar.html) or contact [admin@shapcalendar.org.uk](mailto:admin@shapcalendar.org.uk)
- **Barnabas in Schools' *Creating Character* project** for primary schools provides challenging RE Days providing many pupil opportunities to pause, reflect, and discuss the values that build people up. Go to <https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/respect-resilience-and-responsibility> to find out more about this popular workshop, other *Creating Character* themes, and our free online teacher resources to support RE and collective worship.
- Examining Religion and Belief: Muslims Part 2 by Stephen Prett <https://shop.retoday.org.uk/190202>
- Did you know you can borrow **RE boxes** from **Cumbria Development Centre**? Boxes covering all the main faiths and can be loaned for half a term. Contact CDEC for more information <https://www.cdec.org.uk/gallery/resource-boxes/RE-boxes/23/>

#### Visits and Visitors:

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

Mohammed Dhalech (Islam) [cumbriamosquevisits@awaz.info](mailto:cumbriamosquevisits@awaz.info)

Wendy Ridley (Buddhism) [wendyridley1@gmail.com](mailto:wendyridley1@gmail.com)

Dr Shelia Gewolb (Judaism) [Sheila.Gewolb@bod.org.uk](mailto:Sheila.Gewolb@bod.org.uk)

Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i) [kareninkendal@gmail.com](mailto:kareninkendal@gmail.com)

## Resources & CPD continued

### Further CPD (national) and Funding

- For training opportunities, the new **TEACH:RE course**: <http://www.teachre.co.uk>
- For **Masters** funding: <http://www.cstg.org.uk/how-we-help/3forre/>
- **@RE\_PDPportal** tweets and retweets for all the latest professional development opportunities in RE
- **.Teach:RE Primary – an introduction**. This is a new FREE self-study course for beginner teachers, NQTs and HLTAs. It is designed to take 12 hours and is a specific response to the Commission on RE (2018) recommendation 6.  
<https://www.teachre.co.uk/teach-re-course/teachre-primary/>  
**Primary ITT Tutor Support Materials**. Culham St Gabriel's funded the development of a toolkit for Primary ITT tutors who are teaching beginner teachers about RE. The toolkit provides guidance and resources on a rationale for RE, pedagogy and practice, subject knowledge and wider curriculum issues relating to RE. The toolkit and resources are available <https://www.teachre.co.uk/itt-providers/primary-itt-tutor-toolkit/>
- Strictly RE 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Bookings now open <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2020/>

## Forthcoming Events:

### Bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab

On 30 October 2019 people all around the world will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of The Bab, Herald of the Baha'i Faith. For more information and details of creative responses to honour this unique occasion as well as an opportunity to view the specially produced film please visit

<https://bicentenary.bahai.org/the-bab/>

If you would like a Baha'i to visit your school please contact Karen O'Donoghue:  
[Kareninkendal@gmail.com](mailto:Kareninkendal@gmail.com)



### SACRE Annual Conference 2020 Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Stoneybeck Inn

The main presenter at our next SACRE Conference will be Fiona Moss. Fiona is an RE Advisor for RE Today Services and CEO of the National Association of RE Teachers (NATRE).

She is editor of RE Today's Primary RE series 'Inspiring RE', edited 'RE Ideas' and 'Opening up RE'. She was also one of the writers for the Understanding Christianity resource. She trains hundreds of teachers each year in schools and works with local authorities and dioceses across the country and worldwide. Main theme for conference is:  
**What does the new Ofsted framework mean for your RE curriculum?**



Please contact [schooldevelopment@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:schooldevelopment@cumbria.gov.uk)