



CUMBRIA SACRE NEWSLETTER

Summer: 2022

(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 Primary RE Conference

Around 50 delegates joined us for the first face-to-face Cumbria SACRE conference since June 2019. It was wonderful for members of Cumbria SACRE and teachers to spend a full day together with a focus on diversity and inclusion in RE. We began by watching a slide show of photographs kindly sent in by RE teachers from across the County. This showed a wide range of inspiring and creative RE, from visits and visitors, to class activities and expressive writing (see the back of the newsletter). Teachers were then engaged in responding to three questions: *Why do you think RE is important? Will an education in religion and worldviews impact on your RE curriculum? If so, how? and What CPD do you need to support your RE curriculum?* The responses from these questions will be used to support the current revision of the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Adam Robertson (RE Today Advisor) was the main presenter of the day. His recent experience in the classroom shone through each inspiring session. In the morning, teachers considered how do they ensure that good RE is inclusive and diverse, and how do they ensure there is diversity within and between worldviews.



In the afternoon, teachers and pupils from Asby Endowed School provided an excellent presentation about their involvement in the Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project. They talked about their preparation work on understanding the idea of worldviews, and their two virtual encounters with ‘voices’ from Abrahamic and Dharmic faiths - some of who attended the conference.

Claire Clinton from RE Matters/Newham SACRE joined us virtually to present a workshop on controversial issues while Adam ran a workshop for EYFS teachers on exploring culture and religion. Finally, Adam ran a session on creative approaches for using texts and stories. We were also joined by Laura Goad and Debbie Watson from Cumbria DEC. A wonderful day!

Cumbria Updates: (continued)

Appointments in the Education Department of the Diocese of Carlisle (CofE)

A New Director of Education

The Diocese of Carlisle – the Church of England in Cumbria – has appointed a new Director of Education to lead its team supporting 104 church schools across the county. Charlotte Tudway – the current Deputy Director of Education – will take over the role next month from Vanessa O’Dea, who earlier this year announced she is to move on from the post.



Charlotte studied law at university before practising as a solicitor. After having children, she re-trained as a primary school teacher and worked in Church of England Schools in Hertfordshire as a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Deputy Headteacher and was a Headteacher, before her relocation to Cumbria in 2019. She followed her husband, Stephen, when he was appointed Priest-in-Charge of Broughton and Duddon and Kirby Ireleth parishes.

Charlotte worked in a part time role for the Diocese before her appointment as Deputy DDE in March 2020. She has since specialised in providing support for schools undergoing the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspections which focus on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. Charlotte has also worked on school improvement, training and guidance, admissions, individualised school support and liaison with our team of Diocesan Consultants.

Transform your RE with Belonging and Believing

Explore the real lives of eight children each from a different religion or worldview with Gill Vaisey’s new books for EYFS. Two RE leads in Cumbria have been testing out these new books across EYFS and KS1 over the spring and summer terms. Fiona Fletcher from Inglewood Infants and Laura Storey from St Bees reported how enthusiastic the children have been about the books about how they can relate well to each child in the books. They have helped to develop an understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews from an early age. More information about the books and details on how to purchase the books are on this [link](#). Gill very kindly came and provided a free online workshop for teachers in Cumbria last term which was very well attended.

Cumbria Updates: (Continued)

Carlisle Cathedral Labyrinth Project

This year, Carlisle cathedral celebrates 900 years. As part of that celebration, Church of England schools across the diocese were invited to take part in an exciting project. Using a classroom pack, designed specifically for the project, 63 schools learned about the history of labyrinths and why people go on pilgrimages, in preparation for designing their own school tile for a collaborative labyrinth.

Lazonby CE School was one of many schools that looked at their community and what it means to them. After bringing many ideas together, a design was created by the children and painted onto the tile.

The result of all the tiles coming together, to create a labyrinth that could be walked, was a collection of colour, hope and diversity from across our diocese.

The labyrinth was displayed in the Fraternity at Carlisle Cathedral and was visited by the public and the visitors to the Leavers' Service last week. The reflection and feedback from the visiting children was wonderful to hear and see. A truly inspiring project.

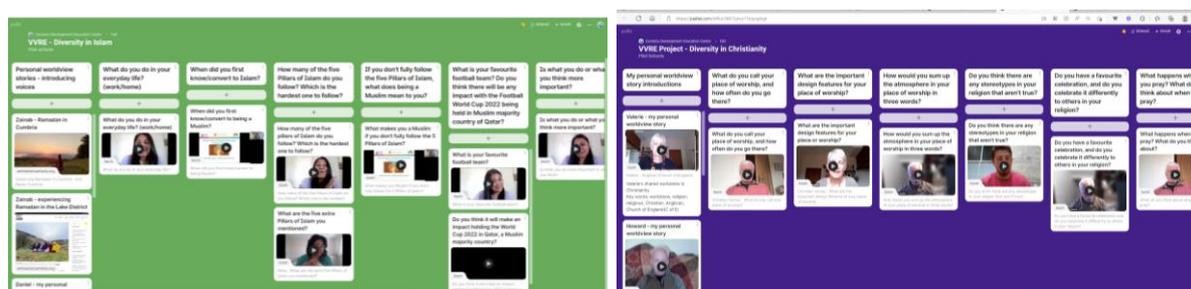


Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) Project

This term the focus of the VVRE project has been on facilitating events with voices on **diversity within religion and worldviews**. Two virtual events have been held with students from William Howard School, near Brampton. As part of their learning around the shared worldview of Christianity, one class of Y7 students virtually met five Christian voices with something to say about Anglican, Orthodox, Quaker, Methodist and Free Church denominations. A Y8 class virtually met three voices with something to say about Shi'a, Sunni and Sufi traditions of Islam as part of their learning about the opportunities and challenges of following the five Pillars of Islam in Modern Britain. You can read a full write up of this experience on the school website [here](#).



Both events were recorded and have been made into a digital resource which was used across both year groups, and is available for any schools across Cumbria to pilot.



It's also been inspiring to see how teachers have been using the pilot digital resources that were developed last term on Abrahamic and Dharmic traditions, and on Humanism. Teachers in KS1 to KS5 have used them as part of classroom teaching or with students using the resource independently. It's encouraging to see how versatile the resources are with schools using the full resource or dipping in to use individual film clips as a stimulus for Philosophy for Children for example. Some schools have used the resources as preparation for a virtual or face-to-face visit by one of the voices. Please contact jane-cumbriasacre@outlook.com if you would like to pilot the resources or be involved in future facilitated events e.g. 6th form conference or primary events. Further information about the VVRE project [here](#).

Philosophy for Children (P4C) through RE and Collective Worship in West Cumbrian schools

For the past 18 months, four schools in West Cumbria have been taking part in the SAPERE P4C Going for Gold project funded by WELL (Western Excellence in Learning & Leadership). All the schools have been able to see the potential for using the P4C approach within RE and Collective Worship. At St Bees Village School, weekly P4C sessions have been carried out as part of Collective Worship provision with each class keeping a wonderful record of their thinking and reflections in class books. Recently, children at St Bees were involved in a whole school philosophy day from nursery to Y6 using a powerful Iranian picture book stimulus, raising concepts such as kindness, hope, war, poverty and the climate crisis. Kells School in Whitehaven has plans in the pipeline to use P4C as part of assemblies starting in September. St Begh's Catholic Primary School has used a P4C approach as part of RE lessons. Recently, children explored the concept of 'community' and 'temptation' through a P4C approach using visual and film stimuli. At Monkway Juniors, their focus has been as part of the reading curriculum in a weekly P4C session. However, the skills that children are developing in P4C are transferring over into other areas of the curriculum, including RE.

It's been wonderful to see the progress these schools are making and the enthusiasm of the children. Congratulations to St Begh's Catholic Primary School for achieving their SAPERE Bronze Award, and to Monkway and St Bees Village School for submitting their applications. Local SAPERE P4C trainers Jane Yates and Gina Parker (Mullarkey) have been training and supporting the four schools and look forward to seeing how schools progress to Silver and beyond.



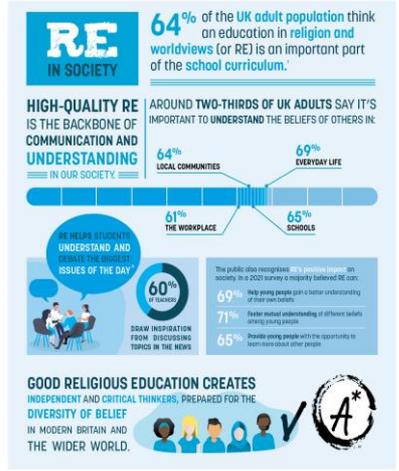
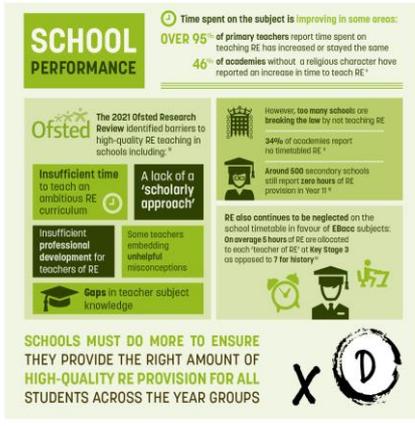
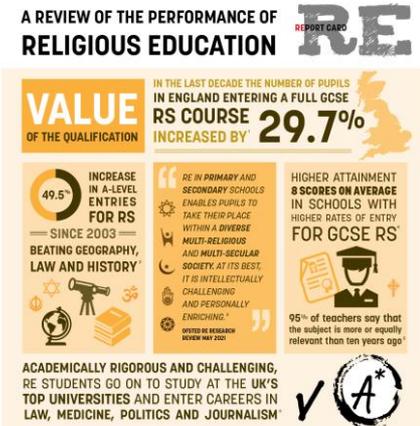
If your school is interested in the SAPERE Going for Gold programme, please contact Jane Yates jane-cumbriasacre@outlook.com who will put you in touch with the SAPERE Schools Officer. If you are interested in developing your Collective Worship through P4C, please get in touch. We are potentially exploring the possibility of a project to share practice and develop this further.

Cumbria Secondary Student Census 2022 – Religion and Worldviews

A reminder that the secondary student census is still open for students in KS3-KS5 to complete. So far over 1000 students across Cumbria have taken part. Please contact jconnolly@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk if you would like your school to be involved. It only takes a few minutes for students to complete.

National Updates

The 2022 RE Report Card: “School and government performance on religious education failing record number of students, says landmark data review”



¹ <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/all-for-national-plan-to-religious-studies-gcse-entries-still/>
² <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/news/20-2/>
³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education/condition>
⁴ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/news-studies-re-gcse-improve-over-all-academic-achievement/>
⁵ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/news-satisfied-are-re-teachers/>
⁶ <https://blogs.bps.com/2021/08/04/encourage-students-with-a-humaniies-background-to-become-doctors/>

⁷ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/news-re-of-primary-teachers-report-time-spent-on-teaching-re-has-increased-or-stayed-the-same/>
⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>
⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>
¹⁰ <https://www.natre.org.uk/guides/NSS%2021%20Infographic.pdf>
¹¹ <https://www.britishteachers.org.uk/documents/2018/teology-religious-studies.pdf>

¹² Religion & Worldview survey by Sonnet on behalf of Gullham St Gabriel's Trust, June 2021
¹³ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/news-satisfied-are-re-teachers/>

The biggest state of RE report for five years has just been published. This report grades (as can be seen in the images above) the performance of schools, government and the subject itself in an overview of five years of data. This comprehensive review of data has been carried out by a team from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), and RE Today Services. The data comes from a variety of sources, including an Ofsted subject report, public surveys, school workforce data, freedom of information requests, and interviews with teachers and students

The most significant findings of this review are:

- A 50% increase in A-level entries for Religious Studies (RS) since 2003, beating Geography and History,
- Higher Attainment 8 scores than average in schools with higher rates of entry for GCSE RS,
- 46% of academies without a religious character have reported an increase in time to teach RE,
- The number of students taking a Religious Studies GCSE in England has risen by nearly a third in the last decade,
- Nearly two thirds (64%) of the UK adult population think that an education in religion and worldviews (or RE) is an important part of the school curriculum today,
- A further 65% agree that the subject has an impact on people’s ability to understand each other in wider society.

However:

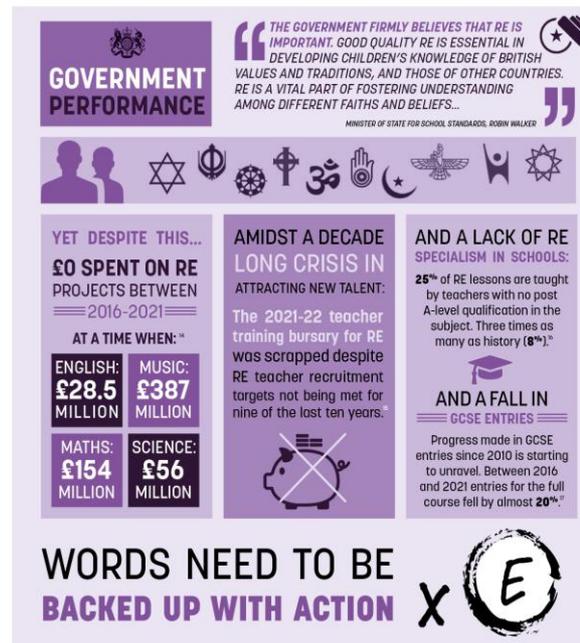
- Almost 500 secondary schools are still reporting zero hours of RE provision in Year 11,
- Around 34% of academies are reporting no timetabled RE,
- No government money has been spent on projects specifically designed to support RE in the last five years,
- The Department of Education has missed its recruitment target for secondary RE teachers in 9 of the last 10 years,
- In 2020 – 21 the Department of Education has failed to include RE in the list of subjects attracting Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Bursaries giving trainee teachers for RE no financial support.

National Updates (Continued)

The 2022 RE Report Card continued

The 2022 RE Report Card wants high quality RE and Worldviews taught to all pupils in all schools by well-qualified and trained teachers. The report believes this can be achieved by:

1. Reinstating the teacher training bursary for Religious Education,
2. Schools ensuring high quality provision by adopting the vision for RE set out in the 2018 CoRE report, 'Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward'.
3. Ofsted working with those schools not currently teaching sufficient RE to ensure they comply with the law.
4. Government recognising public, parent and pupil support for the subject by properly funding it in line with the rest of the curriculum.



[†] <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/NATRE%20News/REPU%20March%20Roundtable%20Report.pdf>

^{††} <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/NATRE%20News/REPU%20March%20Roundtable%20Report.pdf>

^{†††} DfE School workforce census (NATRE Freedom of Information request 2019)

^{††††} <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/GCSE%20results%20media%20release%20FINAL%2012-08-21.pdf>

Report card summary data (as pictured in this newsletter) can be downloaded from www.rethinkre.org/re-report-card

Religious Education in England: Underfunded and Undervalued? (Religious Education Policy Unit Virtual Parliamentary Roundtable Report)

The RE Policy Unit Parliamentary Round Table, chaired by MP Peter Bottomley ('Father of the House'), on March 1st brought together pupils, parents and leading speakers in the area of religious education and interested parliamentarians to discuss the continued value that RE brings to children and young people across England.

Responding to the latest data from the 2022 RE Report Card (as summarized above), Sir Peter Bottomley said:

“Looking at the performance data on this report card, too many young people are not getting a fair deal when it comes to religious education. In neglecting the subject, we leave a gaping hole in our school curriculum. At its best, RE prepares young people for the ethical, moral and religious debates that influence life in modern Britain and the wider world.”

Read the full report [here](#)

Read MP Peter Bottomley's article [We need a National Plan for religious education - Politics.co.uk](http://Politics.co.uk)

National Updates (Continued)

RE Policy Unit publishes briefing for Directors of Teaching School Hubs

The teaching school hub programme is described by the Department for Education as, “a network of 87 centres of excellence for teacher training and development, focused on some of the best schools and multi-academy trusts in the country.” [Read more about them.](#) The remit of Teaching School Hubs has obvious links with the work of Standing Advisory Councils on RE (SACREs), especially in relation to the training of teachers.

[The short briefing paper](#) sets out some of the ways in which the RE (religion and worldviews) community can support Teaching School Hubs. This includes providing subject specific knowledge of policy about the subject, content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge and opportunities for teachers to engage with educational theory and research

The Religious Education Council (REC)

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

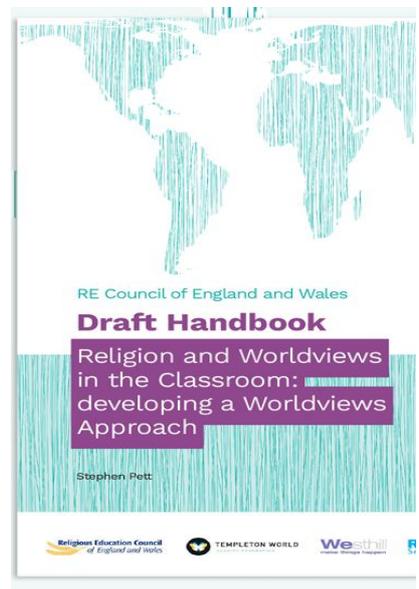


Draft Handbook for Religion and Worldviews

The RE Council has published its ***Draft Handbook for the Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom: developing a Worldviews Approach project.***

The Draft Handbook sets out a rationale for a religion and worldviews approach, building on the developments since the 2018 Commission report. It incorporates a revised National Statement of Entitlement (NSE), which gives a clear description of an education in religion and worldviews, and sets a benchmark for high-quality teaching and learning. The Handbook then offers practical guidance, including how to use the NSE to develop a syllabus or curriculum, applying ways of knowing, developing pupils’ personal worldviews, and what progress looks like in a worldviews approach

Stephen Pett of RE Today, on behalf of the REC, has developed this Draft Handbook. Three school-based teams will road test the first draft of this Handbook. During the next academic year, they will develop their own syllabus/curriculum work. This process of testing, will lead to a revised version of the Handbook, scheduled to be published in the Spring of 2024.



You can download copies of the Draft Handbook [here](#)

National Updates (Continued)

(REC update continued:)

RE Quality Mark

All the school application process and the award information is available on the REQM website <https://wwmw.req.org/>

National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE)



NATRE on Twitter: @NATREupdate

NATRE Response to the 2022 RE Report Card (data review)

Deborah Weston OBE, NATRE Research Officer, who led the data review has written:

“With record numbers of students taking the subject, it is a great shame that RE is being neglected by the Government, and marginalised by some schools, particularly in the academy system.

“The planned changes outlined in the Queen’s Speech provide a once in a generation opportunity to address most of the issues highlighted in this data. However, without a properly funded National Plan and a system of accountability for high-quality RE under the Government’s academy vision for all schools, we risk denying a generation of students access to this vital subject.”

Since the parliamentary roundtable discussion (as described on page 5), several attendees have already used a template letter to write to the Education Select Committee to ask about plans for an inquiry into RE in Schools. The RE Policy Unit hopes that this sort of inquiry could be a first step towards a National Plan for RE.

For more information see this recent press release from NATRE [Parliamentary talks over the future of religious education in schools sees call for a National Plan \(natre.org.uk\)](https://natre.org.uk/parliamentary-talks-over-the-future-of-religious-education-in-schools-sees-call-for-a-national-plan)

“How the Department for Education has managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory” – NATRE

Last summer NATRE reported that the revised Ofsted framework triggered a significant review of the curriculum in most schools. 23% of schools reported an increase in provision for RE. After years of decline, almost certainly caused by changes in performance measures and the subject being left out of the English Baccalaureate, this was a very welcome piece of good news. In addition, just over a 100 RE posts were advertised in the Times Educational Supplement, on Friday 27 May.

However, the government’s teacher supply model failed to recognise this increased demand for RE specialists. This means that the opportunity to put more RE trained specialists in front of children, will be missed. According to available data, at least 50% more posts have been advertised than there are trainees to fill them. Click here to read the full [report](#).

National Updates (Continued)

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

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



NASACRE Annual General Meeting:

The 2022 AGM and Conference *Ambitious SACREs* was held online on Monday 23 May 2022. This conference provided an opportunity for SACRE members to listen and engage in discussion in break out rooms following each keynote speaker.

Keynote speakers included:

Ed Pawson (Deputy Chair of the REC - Religious Education Council) presented: Working together for high-quality education in religion and worldviews. Ed also introduced the Draft Handbook for Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom: Developing a Worldviews Approach. See REC section for more information about the draft handbook

HMI Richard Kueh (Ofsted) presented: The substance of the curriculum: high quality RE and Ofsted's inspection frameworks

David Hampshire, a previous chair of NASACRE, presented: A national analysis of the most recent (2021) SACRE annual reports. (see attachment for slides)

The AGM was conducted and Westhill award winners announced for 2022 including Bristol, Leicester and Luton SACREs. The new NASACRE website was launched and a panel discussion was held at the end of the day with Ed Pawson, Richard Kueh, Kathryn Wright (Culham St Gabriel's), David Hampshire, Paul Smalley and Lesley Prior.

Three members of Cumbria SACRE attended the conference. **The conference recording can be viewed [here](#). Passcode: XN+S5zSA**

NASACRE Website:

The new website was launched at the recent NASACRE conference. The link for the website is [here](#).

Resources & CPD

Resources and Opportunities for RE

- **Cumbria SACRE Visits and Visitors for RE.**

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) she11a46@aol.com

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

Jane Yates (Humanist) jane-cumbriasacre@outlook.com

See also the resources section of the Cumbria SACRE [website for further RE Visitors](#)

- **Spirited Arts Competition** Find out more and enter for 2022 [here](#)
- **CDEC Virtual Visits for RE and SMSC:** A comprehensive collection of websites for virtual tours in Cumbria and beyond for all main religions and worldviews. Website [here](#)
- **Big Questions, Big Answers** Vol 5, Investigating How We Live by Fiona Moss (RE Today) Link [here](#)
- **Challenging Knowledge in RE** Vol 5, Studying Prayer by Stephen Pett (RE Today) Link [here](#)
- **BBC Bitesize RE Resources for KS1** A visit to different places of worship & how do different religious and non-religious worldviews show they care
- **BBC Class Clips RE KS1** Religions of the World Stories [here](#)
- **Religion and Worldviews Champions** A range of individuals from all walks of life who have committed to be a religion and worldviews champion. Read more [here](#).
- **Belonging and Believing** New series by Gill Vaisey for EYFS and KS1 [here](#)
- **Empathy Day – 9th May** See [website](#) for resources
- **NATRE Subscription.** Starting at just £39 per year, there are a range of packages and discounts on resources and CPD. See [here](#).
- **REonline:** www.reonline.org.uk (as recommended for Cumbria Units of work)

CPD & Funding

- **Cumbria Virtual Voices in RE (VVRE)** A Cumbria SACRE/CDEC project funded by Culham St Gabriel's between Cumbria SACRE and CDEC. For project brief see [here](#).
- **Why is it important for young people to have an education in religion and worldviews?** Children and young people are growing up in a world where there is increasing awareness of the diversity of religious and non-religious worldviews. They will need to live and work well with people who hold different worldviews to their own. Learn more: <https://www.rethinkre.org/faqs-expanded#Q3>
- **Free Self-Study Courses - RE:ONLINE (reonline.org.uk)** What is Worldviews? How does it fit in with Ofsted and Teachers' Standards? What do you need to know as a new or experienced teacher about developments in RE pedagogy and aims? New short courses [here](#)
- **Muslim Learner Services** Workshops and CPD. Information and booking [here](#).
- **Archbishop of York Youth Trust** Details of courses [here](#)
- **AREIAC 2022 conference** on 4th and 5th July 2022 at the Windmill Village Hotel, Coventry More information [here](#)

Resources & CPD continued

CPD & Funding

- **Farmington Scholarships** <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/farmington-scholarships-now-open/> The Scholarships are divided into two types: university-based and school/home-based. Teachers who live within a reasonable distance of one of the selected universities or colleges may be awarded a university-based Scholarship. The academic facilities of the colleges and universities are available for Scholars.
- **TEACH:RE course:** <http://www.teachre.co.uk>
- For **Masters** funding: <http://www.cstg.org.uk/how-we-help/3forre/>
- **@RE PDPortal** tweets and retweets for all the latest professional development opportunities in RE
- **NATRE** are providing regular online CPD with prices according to your NATRE membership status <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/>
- **The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme** supports the teaching about Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase resources for use in RE lessons. Currently applications for the grants are being welcomed from Primary Schools
The link to the website and the application process is [The Jerusalem Trust \(regrants.org.uk\)](http://regrants.org.uk)

Local RE training opportunities:

- **Local RE CPD:** Following the Cumbria SACRE Primary RE Conference, School Development will also be running RE courses in the summer and autumn term for teachers and governors. Keep an eye out for courses with School Development on RE in the Outdoors, Philosophy for Children (P4C) and RE for secondary non-specialist RE teachers. See: <https://cumbria.sla-portals.co.uk/>
- **Muslim Learner Services - Promoting a better understanding of Islam** Imran Kotwal is a qualified teacher and has visited many schools in Cumbria. He offers primary and secondary school visits.
- The **Story Tent** offers easily accessible online teaching materials to support KS2 pupils to learn more about Religion and Worldviews through the lens of story. It provides resources that develop skills for intercultural and interfaith dialogue through an inquiry-based approach with an exploration of difference at its heart. The Story Tent equips pupils with the confidence they need to live well in our increasingly globalised and diverse societies. Next training on Wednesday 6th July at 4.15. Please register for this FREE event [here](#).





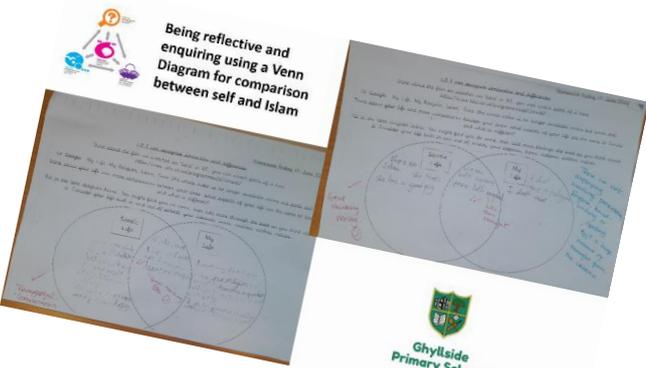
Being informed and reflection through a visit to Carlisle Cathedral

Robert Ferguson Primary School



Being expressive through creative art work of The Last Supper

Robert Ferguson Primary School



Being reflective and enquiring using a Venn Diagram for comparison between self and Islam

Ghyllside Primary School



Being expressive through Small stories - big messages

LAZONBY CE SCHOOL
Dream. Believe. Achieve



Experiential and reflective learning connected to Easter

LEVEN VALLEY C. OF E. SCHOOL



Being informed through a display of Muslim resources borrowed from Cumbria DEC

High Heskett CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



What can we find out about God's creation?

We shared the creation story from the Lion Storyteller Bible and thought about questions that we would like to know the answers to. We talked about the answers as a whole group.

Democracy - we shared our ideas and asked questions. We shared the Bible story, and asked about the Christian story of creation.

Dalton St Mary's C of E Primary School

RE Learning in Reception



Enjoying a langar style meal following learning about the Sikh virtue of humility.

Captain Shear's C.E. Primary School



Being informed and enquiring through a visit to Westminster Abbey



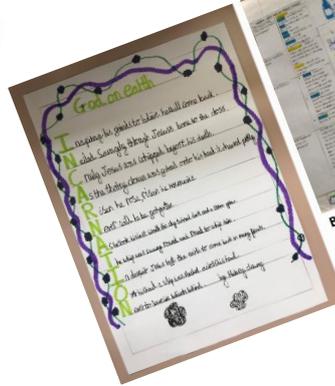
Cumbria SACRE member Shelia Gewolb informing about Jewish tradition on a school RE visit



Being informed through a visit from Imran Kotwal from Muslim Learner Services



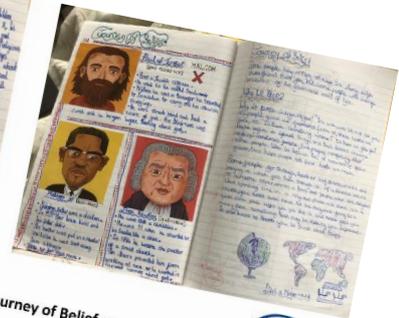
Kirkbride Primary School



Building on learning about Jewish tradition
Expression through poetry



Enquiring into the religious life journey of Malcolm X



Journey of Belief expressive writing



Easter Journey in the church



Islamic art with Imran Kotwal



With thanks to Cumbrian schools for photos at Cumbria SACRE Primary RE conference 2022