



# CUMBRIAN SACRE NEWSLETTER

## Autumn: 2023

(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**

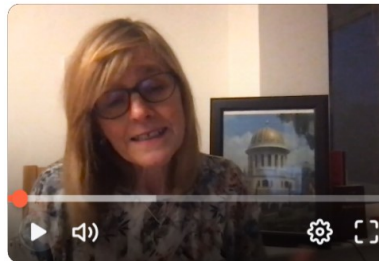
Working for Cumberland Council  
and Westmorland & Furness Council



*Cumbrian Updates, National Updates, Resources & CPD, Forthcoming Events*

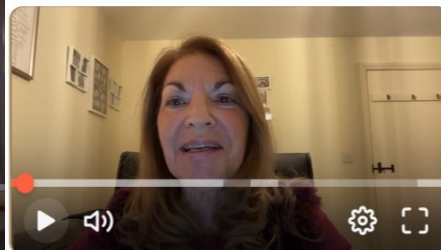
### Cumbrian Updates:

Karen - my personal  
worldview story



faith  
Key words: worldview, religion, Bahá'í,  
Bahá'í faith

Shelia - My personal  
worldview story



Keywords: worldview, religion, Jewish,  
Judaism



Listen to Karen and Shelia tell their personal worldview story. Click on their images.



Have you signed up to the free VVRE resources? Click on the VVRE Logo above.

### Cumbrian SACRE has a New Chair & Vice-Chair

Cumbrian SACRE now has a new Chair and Vice-Chair. The newly elected Chair is Karen O'Donoghue. She is our Baha'i member on Cumbrian SACRE. Karen has been a committed and active member of SACRE for many years. She led the development of the '[Buried Treasure](#)' Project and is a 'voice' in the Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) (see page 18). Karen has visited schools to both facilitate the 'Buried Treasure' project as well as explain the Baha'i faith.

Our new Vice-Chair is Dr Shelia Gewolb who is our Jewish member on Cumbrian SACRE. She has also been a committed member for many years. Sheila is a participant on the VVRE Project and was involved in bringing the '[Jewish Living Exhibition](#)' to Cumbria. She has visited many schools in Cumbria and beyond to explain the Jewish faith.

We are very fortunate that both Karen and Sheila have agreed to be elected to these offices. You can click on their images above to hear their 'worldview story' from the VVRE digital resources.

## Cumbrian Updates: (Continued)

### New Members of Cumbrian SACRE

**Michael Watmough** has joined SACRE on Committee A as the new member for the Religious Society of Friends (commonly known as Quakers). Michael has over 40 years of experience working in education, mostly for children with special educational needs and disabilities. He remains passionately committed to equalities and inclusion. He is currently chair of governors of a Primary School.

**Rebekah Ackroyd** joins the SACRE as a representative at the University of Cumbria where she works as a Lecturer in Education, teaching on undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Rebekah's background is in secondary Religious Education and she has worked in schools in Lincolnshire, Birmingham and Blackburn. In her research she is interested in RE pedagogy, values education and creative approaches to teaching and learning. She looks forward to collaborating on projects between the university and the SACRE in order to help support new and in-service teachers.

Three new Councillors join Neil Hughes (Westmorland & Furness, Lib Dem) on Committee D which include: Elaine Lynch (Cumberland, Labour), Sue Sanderson (Westmorland & Furness, Lib Dem) and Chris Southward (Cumberland, Lib Dem).

**Councillor Elaine Lynch:** *'I am the new Cumberland Council Executive Member for Lifelong Learning and Development which includes everything to do with Education and SEND. I am a retired Secondary School teacher and Head of Sixth Form, spending more than 30 years teaching at The Nelson Thomlinson School in Wigton. I am a local lass, born and bred in Aspatria, and actually attended Nelson Thomlinson before going off to university in Sheffield, the first in my family to do so. I studied History at Sheffield then went to Exeter University to do my PGCE before moving to Bedford for my first teaching post in a multi-cultural school where I taught Humanities at Key Stage 3 and History at exam level.*

*On moving back to Wigton, I continued to teach History at all levels and also RE at Key Stage 3 and 4, following the Cumbria SACRE RE syllabus. I really enjoyed teaching RE, exploring a range of faiths and important ethical issues from different perspectives.*

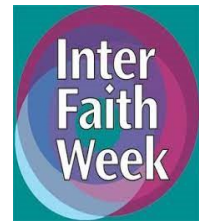
*The education of our children and young people in Cumberland is something that I am very passionate about. A good education is the key to success and a religious education is vital to ensure that all our children and young people have the opportunity to develop their knowledge of the different faiths and ideas that make up our world so that they can be understanding of others and learn to live in harmony together.'*

**Councillor Sue Sanderson:** *"I am currently Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, Education and Skills for Westmorland and Furness council. I have been both a District and County Councillor. I was a primary school teacher with a specialist qualification in SEND sponsored by Wigan Metropolitan Borough. I moved to Cumbria with my family in 1986 when the Code of practice was introduced. I worked for Learning Support then became a primary teacher/SENCo and subsequently Headteacher of a primary school.*

*I took on the role of a school improvement adviser for Lancashire County Council based in the north and specialising in SEND, then moved on to the Monitoring and Evaluation team a County wide team supporting schools through inspection. My specialism was SEND and I was given the additional responsibility of the SACRE. I worked closely with the RE advisory teacher being responsible for the review of the syllabus. We also made close links with Bradford SACRE and developed a Youth SACRE. I was then asked to run a secondary special school for pupils with SEMH difficulties aged 11 to 16 which had gone into special measures they were all boys. We got it out of special measures and it was (and still is) good. I then retired and became a councillor and I am so pleased to help with SACRE."*

## **Cumbrian Updates:** (Continued)

### **Inter Faith Week (12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023)**



Inter Faith Week takes part across the UK every year in November. This is a great time to celebrate the faiths within your school's community. This year, RE Teachers in Cumbria Local Group is holding an online meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm, prior to Inter Faith Week 2023, to help schools plan towards future events. Cumbria have a wealth of speakers available from a wide variety of faiths and beliefs. These speakers are happy to come into school and share their faith or belief with teachers and pupils. Obviously, schools need to plan these opportunities well in advance. SACRE members, Wendy (Buddhist), Shelia (Jewish) and Karen (Baha'i) are already booked to visit schools in Cumbria during November. If RE Leaders would like to learn more then please book/sign up at [Local Groups \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk) This meeting will be on Zoom and is free.

Additional Inter Faith Week resources and information can be accessed on the [Inter Faith Week website](#). We were delighted that the VVRE Project activities for Inter Faith Week last year with sixth forms (West Lakes Academy and William Howard School) were included as a case study in the [Inter Faith Week 2022 report](#) on page 37. This report has lots of ideas for activities for schools.

#### **The Aims of Inter Faith Week are to:**

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels.
- Increase 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.
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

#### **Remembrance**

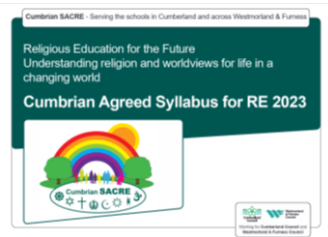
- Inter Faith Week coincides with Remembrance Sunday. Multi-faith remembrance services and activities are a key part of Inter Faith Week and reinforce good inter faith relations and understanding between people of all beliefs, whether religious or nonreligious.
- Civic Remembrance events and activities are typically organised by local authorities across the country, and many are run on a multi-faith basis. Local inter faith groups often play an important role in these activities.
- Remembrance looks back; it is also a place from which to look forwards and reflect on how to work together for a peaceful and just world.

#### **Mitzvah Day**

The final Sunday of Inter Faith Week is also Mitzvah Day, a Jewish-led day of social action involving people of all faiths and none working together in their local communities <https://mitzvahday.org.uk/> Each year, many 'Inter Faith Mitzvah Day' activities take place to jointly mark Inter Faith Week and Mitzvah Day. If your school is interested to take part in Cumbrian activities collecting clothes for local asylum seekers or choir visits to local nursing homes, please contact Abigail Mann on [post@abigailmann.com](mailto:post@abigailmann.com)

## Cumbrian Updates: (Continued)

### Religious Literacy needed for challenging times



*“RE is primarily about enabling pupils to make academically informed judgements about matters of religion and belief which shape the local and global landscape. High-quality RE is about developing pupils’ religious literacy. In the context of this syllabus, being religiously literate means that pupils will have **the ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religious and non-religious worldviews**. Pupils will be able to make sense of religion and worldviews around them and begin to understand the complex world in which they live.”*

Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023, page 4

*“Pupils are encouraged to explore how religious and non-religious worldviews relate to each other, recognising diversity within and between personal and organised worldviews. This will enable pupils to reflect on the significance of interfaith dialogue and the important contribution this can make to combatting prejudice and discrimination, including racist and/or religious hate crime such as Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. Teachers should be role models of inclusivity and acceptance encouraging pupils to be respectful and accepting towards people with different religious or non-religious worldviews to their own.*

Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023 page 6

We have all felt deep shock and heartbreak at the events in Israel and Gaza over the past weeks. As teachers we are conscious of our responsibilities. We are also deeply aware that many friends and colleagues are directly and indirectly affected by the tragic violence, humanitarian need and fear that has engulfed the region. This deep personal impact applies to many in our local communities, including students, teachers and parents.

This is a time for both solidarity and sensitivity. The current situation is in no sense a war between Jews and Muslims. Continuing to educate children and young people about Judaism, Islam and other religions and world views is critical. We know that our schools are places where pupils can grapple with difficult and contested questions in a context of integrity, though of course this has to be done with great care, timing and judgment.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews has prepared a [letter](#) for headteachers and governors that offers advice on pastoral support and challenging antisemitism.

The Muslim Council of Britain has produced some [guidance](#) which similarly challenges both antisemitism and islamophobia and to calls for our communities to avoid division, despite different and deeply held views.

The DfE has recently contacted schools with advice, including some recommended sources of support for schools in England. You can read on the government website [here](#).

*The above is a summary from a recent communication from AREIAC (Association of Religious Education Inspectors and Consultants).*

The Parliament on the Word’s Religions has made the following [statement](#).

## **Cumbrian Updates(cont)**

### **Cumbrian SACRE Agreed Syllabus 2023 – Year of Implementation**

RE Today Services  
National RE Adviser,  
Julia Diamond-Conway



We are delighted to inform you that the main speaker for the next Cumbrian SACRE RE Conference (Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024) will be National RE Adviser, Julia Diamond-Conway. Prior to joining RE Today in 2014, Julia was a primary teacher for 14 years. During this time, she was an Advanced Skills Teacher for both RE and Behaviour for Learning which allowed her to work with a large number of colleagues and pupils from several schools within her local authority. Julia advises a SACRE in London and was involved in setting up [Ambassadors of Faith and Belief schemes \(AFABS\)](#). This is a scheme where sixth formers are trained to give Q & A about their faith or belief in primary schools. More information about Julia [here](#).

The main focus of the conference will be to:

- Prepare teachers for implementing the new Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus as a planning tool, exploring supportive resources and assessment practice.
- Gain fresh insights, strategies and subject knowledge to take away and implement in your own school setting.
- Understand how RE subject leaders can best monitor standards in RE.
- Understand how FoRB (Freedom of Religion or Belief) principles can contribute to excellent RE.

### **Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for RE FREE Online CPD**

Jane Yates (RE Adviser to Cumbrian SACRE) and Laura Watson (Deputy Director for Education for Carlisle Diocese) ran the first in a series of free online CPD to introduce the new Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for RE. The next opportunity to attend this training is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November either at 1-2.30pm or 4-5.30pm. Below is an example of action planning from the groups. Please see the back page for the CPD flier and booking details. Plans are also in place for CPD for school governors.

### **Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for RE CPD – disciplinary approaches to RE**

In the spring term, Jane and Laura will also run a series of face-to-face Agreed Syllabus CPD on each of the disciplinary approaches: Theology, Philosophy and Human Sciences. Booking fliers on the back page. Places are limited and bookings have already been very popular.

### **SAPERE Level 1 Philosophy for Children (P4C)**

In conjunction with SAPERE, the national charity for P4C, a Level 1 Foundation P4C course will be hosted at Robert Ferguson School in Carlisle on 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February. Please book on course ID 6355 via the SAPERE website [here](#).

## Cumbrian Updates: (Continued)

### Grasmere School visit St Bega, St Mungo and St Herbert Orthodox Church Braithwaite, Keswick by Phil Lambert

We are an Orthodox Church Community founded by Fr John Musther near Keswick. The church itself is a typical Orthodox Church with icons everywhere, candles, the lingering fragrance of incense and few chairs.

In June this year we were thrilled to welcome Jo Goode the headteacher of Grasmere School and 11 children aged 8-9, with two adult assistants.

*How though should we enable these bright children with their interest and curiosity to be able at many levels to understand this strange to them chapel? We started by bringing them into the kitchen and lounge area for us to get to know each other. It was a good time that helped us all relax- including me!*

We really wanted the children to “experience” our place of worship with all their senses. Before they came into church we asked them leave their hats and coats behind and to use their eyes and noses but not their lips as they entered the church. They were fantastic and entered quietly and sat down.

In order for them to see what kind of thing went on, I then venerated the icon of Christ Pantocrator (the ruler of all) and the icon of the Mother of God (Mary) which are in the middle of the chapel and lit a candle.



I then sang the “Trisagion” three times which is a very special and holy hymn and if they wished I said they could join in. They did too!

After that the questions flowed about icons, movements such as crossing oneself, why we touch the floor when we cross ourselves, incense (which was not lit but they smelled the gum and they noticed the fragrance in the room) and so forth. So many moving questions from why there is gold in icons to, “Is God real?”!

## Cumbrian Updates: (Continued)



They covered a lot of ground and they loved the idea that the candle is made of beeswax ( the prayer of the bees) and incense the prayer of flowers and gum used by God's blessing to prepare us and our church for worship and a sign of our prayers lifting up to God.

We talked about Holy Communion and how babies, children and then the old and infirm receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion first. They were surprised but pleased. There were also questions about fasting and the prayer of the body.

The interest and engagement of the children for an hour was amazing. The most moving part was at the end. I invited those who wished to come and light a candle. Most did remembering out loud a relative who had died. Sometimes they lit one just for themselves. It was really touching.

The text from St John Chrysostom on the door by the chapel was very appropriate so I read it to them twice, *“Those who we love and close are no longer where they were: they are now wherever we are”*.

For us it was lovely to have the school come and visit our place of worship. It was also very helpful and stimulating to hear and have to answer all the questions - even with a “I don't know”. Our own faith is invigorated experiencing it afresh having to answer questions that are not ours. It was at the time and on reflection a moving experience. Many thanks to Jo Goode and the pupils of Grasmere School for coming to see us. We are always pleased to have visits from all schools with primary and secondary.



Huge thanks to Phil Lambert for taking the time to write this wonderful description of the RE visit. Phil is a member of our community of 'voices' as part of the Cumbria VVRE Project and is accredited with the RE Hubs Kitemark. You can find Phil's contact details on the Places of Interest section on the North West RE Hubs [website](#).

## Cumbrian Updates: (Continued)

### Jewish Living Exhibition

Morton Academy will be hosting The Jewish Living Exhibition that has previously been housed in Tullie House for three days in November. This is a cross-curricular opportunity for their students to learn about the Jewish faith and hear the testimonies of those who survived the Holocaust. The school is delighted to be able to host an opportunity for RE Leads to attend a private preview.

Private preview

#### **The Jewish Living Exhibition**

presented by Rabbi Jeff Berger

&

#### **An abridged version of Kitty's time on the run, fleeing the Nazis and time spent in Auschwitz**

presented by Moira Hart & Peter Hart

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 4-6pm**

at Richard Rose Morton Academy  
Wigton Road, Carlisle CA2 6LB

RSPV [Rachael.Ryan@rrma.org.uk](mailto:Rachael.Ryan@rrma.org.uk)

For further information about how we can bring this exhibition and Kitty's story to your school please contact [info@jleecumbria.org](mailto:info@jleecumbria.org)

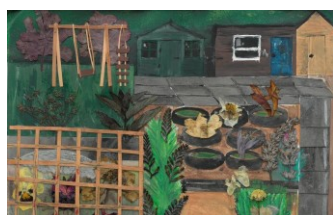
### Other relevant opportunities and links

North West RE Hubs Jewish School Speakers [School speakers \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk/school-speakers)

Jewish Centres and Museums on the RE Hubs website [Resource Centres \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk/resource-centres)

Holocaust Education page on the RE Hubs website [Holocaust Education \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk/holocaust-education)

### Spirited Arts 2023 Winner in Cumbria!



Congratulations to Willow (age 10) from Ghyllside School for being a winner this year!

#### **The Garden**

**Category:** *Sacred Space and Holy Buildings*

I did my garden as my sacred space because I don't have a holy building or a sacred place, but this is where I go to when I'm stressed out and when I need to think. I listen to the bird songs and let my brain breathe in nature.



# National Updates

## The Lack of Trained RE Teachers

### 1.) Open Letter to the Education Secretary

More than 30 MPs and peers have written to the Education Secretary, highlighting that school pupils receive tokenistic religious education or none. The MPs are blaming this on a lack of trained teachers and funding for the poor quality of religious education. They argue that this leaves children ill-prepared to understand their own and others' worldviews, hindering their ability to participate in society.



A copy of the open letter is available here: [Letter-to-Secretary-of-State-for-Education-Religious Education.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](#)

The Daily Telegraph published this on 17<sup>th</sup> September: [Pupils receive a tokenistic religious education, cross-party MPs and peers tell Gillian Keegan \(telegraph.co.uk\)](#)

**STOP PRESS:** On Tuesday, 10 October, the Department for Education in England published its plans for bursaries for trainees in the 2024-25 recruitment cycle as follows:

For 2024 to 2025 we are offering bursaries of:

- £28,000 in chemistry, computing, mathematics and physics
- £25,000 in biology, design and technology, geography and languages (including ancient languages)
- £10,000 in art and design, English, music and RE

While this is good news, challenges in teacher recruitment still remain.

More information here [Funding: initial teacher training \(ITT\), academic year 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### 2.) Religion Media Centre Briefing on Shortage of RE Teachers

The Religion Media Centre is an independent, impartial body helping journalists and media professionals cover world religions and beliefs. It highlighted in a September briefing the shortage of religious education (RE) teachers. Only six people have come forward to train as RE teachers in Wales, and in England, no RE teacher training courses have reached their target of entries.



Hundreds have their applications pending because their degrees have not been finalised due to the university lecturers' strike action. Dr Tim Hutchings, from the University of Nottingham, told the briefing that there was a dangerous cycle emerging in the study of Religious Education: fewer students are choosing to study Theology or Religious Studies at university and fewer still choosing to train to teach RE whereas GCSE entries are stable (RE remaining as the 7<sup>th</sup> most popular subject) and A-level results only show a slight dip in entries.

Teachers, academics and advisers told the briefing that Headteachers want to include RE in the curriculum as the understanding of religion is vital in a global society, but the lack of specialist teachers is an issue. The RE council is campaigning for the government to create a national plan to support high standards in RE provision and bursaries to encourage new teachers. Source: NATRE website.

You can watch the full briefing on this link [Shortage of RE teachers "dangerous cycle" within religious education \(natre.org.uk\)](#)

## National Updates (Continued)

### Update on the RE Hubs

(RE Hubs on X (formerly Twitter) @RE\_Hubs Facebook: RE Hubs England & Wales)

**RE Hubs:** exists to improve connections and interactions between different parts of the RE/RVE/R&W Eco-System, enabling teachers to teach with greater confidence through their access to the support, knowledge, training and resources available in their nation/region. Please check out the website [www.re-hubs.uk](http://www.re-hubs.uk)

**Places of Interest and School Speakers:** this section is growing for schools in the [North West](#). Please do take a look and recommend any speakers or places to [sign up](#) to the free CPD so they can gain the RE Hubs [Kitemark](#) and be included on the RE Hubs website.

**RE Hubs:** are offering a number of different free training opportunities for **MAT RE Leads** and **Local Group Leaders** – new and existing. Please do circulate these to any schools you are involved with.

Booking links:

- [New to leading a local RE group training \(28.9.23 part 1; 19.10.23 part 2; 23.11.23 part 3\) \(office.com\)](#)
- [MAT Hubs Leads for RE networking meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April \(4 PM - 5.30 PM\) \(office.com\)](#)
- [Local group leader training 15th November 2023 from 4pm \(office.com\)](#)

Jane Yates (RE Adviser to Cumbrian SACRE) is the North West RE Hubs Lead. This is a part-time post of two days a month. She can be contacted on [northwest@re-hubs.uk](mailto:northwest@re-hubs.uk)

**RE HUBS**  
**MAT LEADS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NETWORKING MEETING**

TAKE YOUR RE MAT LEADING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

**25th April - 4:00 TO 5:30PM**

**Networking opportunity**  
Meet RE Leads in MATs across the country.

**High-quality leadership**  
Hear from other MAT RE leads about how they have engaged & informed SLT on RE

**High quality RE**  
Find out where other MAT RE leads go to support RE learning

This event will be free for all RE leads in MATs.  
After this session, NATRE or AREIAC members will be able to attend for free. If you are not a member of either organisation, we encourage you to subscribe or a fee will be payable to attend our next meeting on 25.4.24

**BOOK NOW** [www.re-hubs.uk](http://www.re-hubs.uk)

**RE HUBS**  
**New to leading a local RE group training**

Are you new to leading a local group?

Join us for 3 twilight sessions exploring effective local group leadership and have the opportunity to share ideas and network with fellow local group leaders!

We are offering this training twice in the academic year 2023-2024

**28 SEPT** 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

- Reflecting on our own RE leadership journey
- How local groups can be effective for people from a variety of backgrounds & understandings.
- Thinking about andragogy as a tool for leading local groups

**19 OCT** 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

- How to provide high quality INSET
- Practical ideas and resources for planning your local group meetings
- How to look after your own learning and reflections on effective practice in RE

**23 NOV** 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

- How to build and sustain supportive networks
- How to publicise your local group
- How to stay on top of 'up to date' knowledge & understanding of current issues & concerns about the teaching of RE both locally & nationally

**Book your place**

**RE HUBS** **NATRE**  
NATRE & RE Hubs are starting together to deliver some FREE CPD to those who lead a local group.  
Our first virtual webinar will be on:

**Andragogy - how adults learn?**

Would you like to know more about the difference between pedagogy and Andragogy and how this informs you as a local group leader?

Would you like to have greater confidence in delivering training in an adult context?

Do you worry about having the skills to lead CPD with your peers?

If you say 'yes' to any of these then come along to our webinar on andragogy to find out the top tips for running effective CPD with adults.

**15 NOV** 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM  
**Book your place**

## National Updates (Continued)

### The Religious Education Council (REC)

( [www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk) ,

X (Formerly Twitter): @RECouncil, Instagram:

[religiouseducationcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/religiouseducationcouncil) )



**National Content Standard released:** The RE Council's National Content Standard was released in September 2023. It provides a non-statutory benchmark for syllabus providers and other bodies to evaluate their work. It is specifically for use in England. It is not a curriculum, and it does not determine precisely what content schools should teach. Rather it is a standard by which different RE curricula, content, pedagogy, and provision can be benchmarked. More information [here](#). Cumbrian SACRE are confident that the new syllabus reflects this standard and members of the working group will be looking in more detail in November as part of their evaluation process and new development plan.

### A Level Results:

Sarah Lane Cawte, Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), has said in response to a decline in the number taking A level Religious Studies:

*"These results show the really concerning impact that teacher retention and recruitment is having on the subject. For the last two decades, A level Religious Studies has been a success story with growing numbers of entries and impressive results that have opened up a world of opportunity, particularly for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, providing them with access to top universities and careers in law, journalism and teaching.*

*"That legacy is now threatened. A teacher training bursary and a fair allocation of resources to the subject would help reverse this trend and ensure RE continues to thrive as it has done for the last decades."*

Religious Studies A level exam entries have decreased by 3.5 percent in England and 24 percent in Wales. The fall comes as the overall number of A level entries in England and Wales increased this year by 2 percent from 812,124 in 2022 to 830,312 in 2023. 14,690 students took an RS A level in England in 2023 compared with 15,216 in 2022, while in Wales entries were recorded at 748, a fall from 982. A level entries for RS also fell last year by 2.7 percent, despite a 6.1% increase in 2021. Between 2003 and 2022, A level RS has been one of the fastest growing subjects at A level, with an increase of 39 percent in the number of entries to the subject.

The fall follows the launch of a campaign to recruit a new generation of RE teachers to the subject, with the Religious Education Council of England and Wales warning that a shortage in specialist teachers means some schools, particularly in the Midlands and North East, are now struggling to offer the subject at A level.

A level Religious Studies is the humanities subject most likely to be taken by disadvantaged pupils. Research by the FFT Education Datalab has found that this group is twice as likely to choose to study A level Religious Studies than their peers.

## National Updates (Continued)

### GCSE Results:

Religious Studies remains a popular GCSE despite specialist teacher recruitment challenge. The number of students in England and Wales taking a GCSE course in Religious Studies has remained stable at 253,906, up by a margin of 0.3% from last year. The slight rise in entries comes as a campaign supported by cross party politicians intends to attract a new generation of teachers to the subject, focusing on the restoration of training bursaries. The latest UCAS data showed applicants to train to teach the subject had fallen by a one-third.

The number of GCSE entries this year means that RS is taken by more students than Business Studies, Design and Technology, and Art and Design at GCSE. Despite this, the number of hours of RE taught by teachers with no post-A level qualification remains one of the highest at 26%. Half of teachers delivering RE lessons spend most of their timetables teaching a different subject. This has led subject leaders and politicians to reissue their call for a National Plan for the subject and for the reinstatement of bursaries for trainee RE teachers.

Sarah Lane Cawte, Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), said:

*“RS is one of the most popular subjects at GCSE, yet bizarrely it does not receive the corresponding funding and support. Teacher training applications have not recovered since the axing of the bursary in 2021, and no money has been spent on the subject for five years. We want an even distribution of funding across the curriculum to ensure young people taking the subject receive their fair share of support from the government.”*

Father of the House, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, who first called for a National Plan for the subject after chairing a parliamentary roundtable on its future last year, also responded to the results:

*“RE continues to play a pivotal part in the education of young people across the country, allowing them to understand and academically engage with some of the moral and theological debates that continue to inform our society. A National Plan would scale out a modern and relevant curriculum in the faiths, cultures and beliefs of modern Britain taught by highly trained and committed teachers. Neglecting the subject in this fashion does a disservice to the quarter of a million young people who take it at GCSE every year.”*

The subject results in full were:

**England and Wales:** England and Wales RS overall, up 0.3%, by 847, from 253,059 to 253,906, England and Wales RS full course, up 0.1%, by 319, from 231,730 to 232,049, England and Wales RS short course up 2.5%, by 618, from 21,239 to 21,857

**England:** England RS overall, up 0.4%, by 1,009, from 240,240 to 241,249

England RS full course, up 0.2%, by 429, from 221,983 to 222,412

England RS short course up 3.2%, by 580, from 18,257 to 18,837

For all previous news items from the RE Council please see the [news section](#) on their website.

## National Updates (Continued)

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

*NATRE on X (formally Twitter).*

**@NATREupdate**



### **NATRE Executive Election Results 2024-2027:**

20 teachers were elected to serve on the NATRE executive committee. This consists of 10 primary and 10 secondary teachers. A further group of people will be co-opted to form the full executive for 2024-2027. Thank you to Katherine France for being a member of the executive over the last three years and for continuing to represent NATRE on Cumbrian SACRE. There are no Cumbrian executive members this time, but please do consider putting your name forward in 2027! [NATRE Executive 2024-2027 Election results](#)

### **NATREs Call to Action with MPs:**

In late September and early October, teams of teachers from NATRE joined representatives from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), Culham St Gabriel's and RE Today to attend the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat party conferences.

This lobbying work that NATRE do on the behalf of teachers is really important because it enables them to take the voices of teachers and pupils to policy makers. At the party conferences, they shared the importance of high-quality RE for all pupils in all schools, talking about the need for a national standard in the subject, sharing constituency data related to RE with MPs, SACRE members, local councillors and party members and talking about what high-quality RE looks like in Primary and Secondary classrooms.

If you would like to find out more about what YOU can do please read the information [Your Voice Matters: NATRE's Call to Action to ask your MP to meet us now!](#)

### **A Level and GCSE Results 2023:**

NATRE have published detailed reports covering GCSE and A level RS in both England and Wales. They reveal many similarities and some differences between the two nations in relation to trends over time. It is clear that the removal of the short course from performance tables has had a devastating impact on the number of children leaving school with a qualification in Religious Studies. In many cases, the loss of the short course has coincided with an increase in the number of schools reporting zero hours of timetable time for RE in year 11 in the school workforce data. At A level, entries have remained fairly stable over recent years in England but in Wales, there is a step decline, of around 33% since 2020. The reasons for this need further investigation.

You can view reports for both A Level and GCSE 2023 results here [NATRE analysis of GCSE and A level examination data for Religious Studies reveals interesting variations between nations and regions](#)

## National Updates (Continued)

### The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

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



### SACRE Regional Meetings:

In November, a series of new regional meetings will be held for SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs, LA officers and professional support officers, working with their RE Hub lead and NASACRE Exec member. This session taking place in regions will allow for a smaller number of SACREs to come together; it continues NASACREs conversation with their membership, to share good practice, national and local news and giving time for SACRE leadership teams to raise, discuss and help to support each other.

In the North West, there is already an established termly meeting convened by Lancashire SACRE as the North West SACRE Hub. Rather than duplicate this meeting, this will be included as part of the existing agenda. This meeting is currently attended by Shelia Gewolb and Jane Yates from Cumbrian SACRE.

### Humanism and Group A of SACREs:

A recent judgement has been made concerning the position of Humanists on Group A of SACREs. In the case of *Bowen v Kent County Council* Justice Constable clarified that applications for Group A membership from persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs should be considered in the same way as applications from those who represent holders of religious beliefs.

NASACRE has been long asking the DfE to issue guidance to Local Authorities regarding the position of non-religious Worldviews on Group A, and they are pleased that this guidance was issued in August.

In brief, the guidance reiterates that the make-up of a SACRE is a matter for Local Authorities (not SACREs themselves), and that the membership of Group A should ensure that relevant traditions and beliefs in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected. This representation may include non-religious belief systems where they are analogous to a religious belief.

NASACRE advises that SACREs may wish to advise their Local Authorities that they should review the constitution of the SACRE following publication of the 2021 Census data in the light of this guidance.

More guidance can also be found on the NATRE website. [Guidance for local authorities about membership of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education \(SACREs\) \(natre.org.uk\)](http://natre.org.uk)

## National Updates (Continued)

**The Association of RE Inspectors,  
Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC)**  
*AREIAC on X (formally Twitter): @areiac*



### AREIAC Annual Conference:

The AREIAC 2023 conference (Leading and Inspiring Religion and Worldviews Education) took place on 2nd and 3rd July 2023 at the Woodland Grange in Leamington Spa. A new approach this year saw the conference begin on Sunday 2nd July, from 11a.m. and the conference was based in and around the local area where delegates explored and considered how diverse and pluralistic representation in our communities can make an impact on the quality of RE / RVE in our schools. This included visits to a gurdwara and a mosque in Leamington Spa followed by a presentation from the St. Philip's Centre based in Leicester.

Monday was based at Woodland Grange and provided a stimulating mix of presentations and discussion – aimed at considering delegates roles as leaders - in curriculum design, supporting SACREs and SACs, working with and being supported by the variety of partner organisations, and looking at ways in which delegates can continually develop their careers – whatever stage they are at.

Speakers included Paula Webber, Justine Ball, Claire Ramalli, Linda Rudge and Tania Apsion. A panel of representatives gave updates on their organisations. Jane Yates from Cumbrian SACRE gave a presentation about the Cumbria Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) Project as part of the popular 'Show and Tell' slots and ran a stall so delegates could look at the VVRE digital resources.

**AREIAC website:** for more information about AREIAC membership, free training and information please see the website [Home | areiac](#)

### Young Ambassadors for Freedom of Religion or Belief

AREIAC is delighted to be partnering with Culham St Gabriels Trust (CStG) in a new project to develop the next generation of **Young Ambassadors for the Freedom of Religion or Belief**. The new project which runs until 2025, enables two English regions to develop and facilitate key teaching practitioners and young advocates for the Freedom of Religion or Belief ([FoRB](#)). The first Hubs to take on the challenge are the South West and the North West. We are delighted that The Queen Katherine School and Grayrigg Primary School will be the lead schools in the North West. North West RE Hubs Lead, Jane Yates will mentor both schools alongside members of AREIAC and the FoRB team. This is a [parliamentary outreach project](#) that links to other programmes such as the [Rights Respecting Schools](#) agenda. Watch this space as the project unfolds and opportunities for other schools in the North West to be involved become available. Please contact [northwest@re-hubs.uk](mailto:northwest@re-hubs.uk) for more information.

## Resources & CPD

- **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](mailto:cumbriamosquevisits@awaz.info)

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

Dr Shelia Gewolb (Judaism) [she1la46@aol.com](mailto:she1la46@aol.com)

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

Jane Yates (Humanist) [jane-cumbriasacre@outlook.com](mailto:jane-cumbriasacre@outlook.com)

**RE Hubs:** do check out the new 'blogs' section on the RE Hubs website [Blogs \(re-hubs.uk\)](http://blogs.re-hubs.uk)  
There are 28 blogs on a range of relevant topics from planning to research.

**RE Online Research:** [The lived religious beliefs and experiences of English Hindu teenagers at home and at school - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](http://reonline.org.uk) by Joseph Chadwick. This interesting and relevant research describes what Hindu students think is lacking (or needed) from RE. This includes:

- 26 (out of the 30 students involved in the study) referred to the importance of Hindu values, and the need to reflect these in curriculum coverage: **equality, honesty, non-violence and love.**
- These can be, but should not be, obscured by attention to Hinduism's 'strangeness' or exotic appearance.
- Informed teaching about the meaning of **yoga** is lacking, but should be included; the same also applies to **puja**.

**RE Online Resource of the Month - Shia Islam GCSE Text Book:** FREE book on Islam, focusing on Shia Islam. This book is kindly given to users of RE:ONLINE by the Al Khoei Foundation, who published the book in 2017, when Shia Islam was first included in the GCSE. The Foundation wish to make the book freely available to all teachers so as many people as possible can benefit from it in RE classrooms.

Although the book covers GCSE themes, it offers a useful history of Shia Islam and an understanding of practices and beliefs today. If Shia Islam is something you always wanted to know more about, look no further. Written by RE Adviser Zameer Hussain and scholar Ahab Bdaiwi, this offers a clear and comprehensive introduction to Shia Islam. You can access the free book [here](#).

**NATRE membership resources** <https://www.natre.org.uk/membership/>

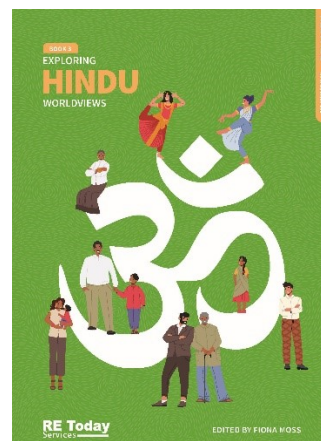
**The Bible: the Big Story** addresses the challenge of teaching the Bible in a dynamic, coherent and relevant way for 11 – 14s. It comprises lesson outlines for teachers, varied learning activities, photocopiable resource pages, assessment ideas and stimulating original art works. Published 2023 Reduced price of £1 Link [here](#)

**Stories of Faith** This book aims to help you to plan and use such strategies to get the most out of these great stories, which have resonated with such depth of meaning for countless generations of people of faith. The activities, designed to engage pupils' imagination, participation and response, whilst set in the context of a particular story, have a wider application and can be adapted to explore other stories. Reduced price of £1.50 Link [here](#).



## Resources & CPD continued

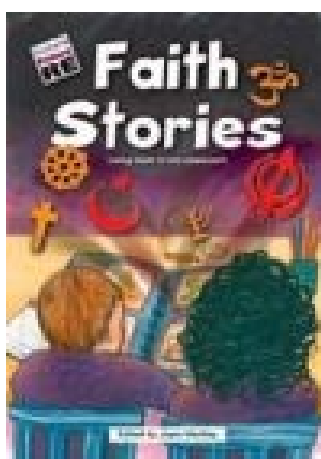
**Exploring Hindu Worldviews (Primary):** This volume provides knowledge-rich substantive content about Hindu weddings, festivals such as Holi, Raksha Bandhan a Ganesha Charturthi, Ganesha Murtis, inspirational figures and the understanding and impact of the concept of ahimsa. Younger pupils can explore Holi and Raksha Bandhan actively through photographs and stories. Marriage is a significant rite of passage and images from 'Auntie Anita's' wedding make an excellent photo album, available to members as an ebook with flippable pages. The importance of Ganesha to Hindu devotees is investigated through stories and a festival. Inspiring figures Jalaram Bapa and his wife Virbai, are shared, with an example of a mandir that honours this guru. Finally the key concept of ahimsa is unpacked through philosophy, thoughts of young Hindus, and two charity case studies.



**Investigating Hindu Worldviews (Secondary):** The third in our Investigating Worldviews acknowledges the complexity and diversity of Hindu tradition and seeks to present something of this for the classroom together with practical knowledge.

Surveys from 2001 and 2023 give voice to young Hindus in Britain. Hindu traditions in the UK are further explored with a look at demographic data and places of worship, including an outline of different kinds of mandirs in England. Case studies consider the impact of Hanuman in the lives of some Hindus and an example of Dharma in action. The role of gurus in the UK and beyond is explored with a personal account from a devotee and examples of four contemporary Hindu gurus. Students investigate the significance of pilgrimage from a personal reflection and develop their own knowledge of key sites which demonstrate the importance of the river Ganges to many Hindus.

**RE Today** new website and new schemes of work for primary  
<https://www.retoday.org.uk/>



**Share a Story with...** An interactive CD-ROM with six stories from religious traditions and a 32-page booklet of creative teaching ideas for using stories with 4 – 7s in RE. Published by RE Today 2023. Link [here](#).

## Resources & CPD continued

### Local CPD and resources

**Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE)** This free digital resource is now available for all schools in Cumbria to use. The resource includes 100+ filmed responses to questions from Cumbrian pupils to our community of 'voices' from different religion and worldviews. These cover both Dharmic and Abrahamic religious worldviews and the non-religious worldview of Humanism. Not only is this a powerful resource for the classroom but teachers have also said how valuable it is for developing subject knowledge and as part of a disciplinary approach to RE. More information about this resource and a link to obtain the full resource on the Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC) website [here](#). Do also check out the CDEC [Virtual Tours](#) for RE and SMSC, [Resource packs](#) and [RE Boxes](#) pages too.

**Buried Treasure** A Cumbria SACRE Project completed in 2020 to engage students in sacred texts. Perfect theological and philosophical approach to RE. More information about this project and the associated Unit of Learning: *What can we learn from religious texts?* can be found on the Cumbrian SACRE websites for [Cumberland](#) and [Westmorland & Furness](#).



# Resources & CPD continued



Professional Development for School Based Staff and Governors

Cumbrian SACRE RE Conference 2024	
<b>Why engage in this Professional Development?</b>	This is the annual SACRE conference for Cumbria. The event will be offering teachers some inspiring training to support the new Cumbria Agreed Syllabus which is statutory from September 2024 following a year of implementation. At the heart of this syllabus is religious literacy through a disciplinary approach. Teachers will go away with some high-quality materials to use in their classroom and with improved subject knowledge.
<b>Who is this for?</b>	Primary Headteachers Primary and Secondary RE Leads Primary and Secondary Class Teachers and HLTA
<b>Training Provider(s):</b>	Julia Diamond-Conroy – National RE Adviser, RE Today Jane Yates – RE Adviser to Cumbrian SACRE Cumbrian SACRE Members Local Cumbrian pupils and their teachers
<b>Intended Impact and Outcomes:</b>	<b>Participants engaging in this Conference will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare teachers for implementing the new Cumbria Agreed Syllabus as a planning tool, exploring supportive resources and assessment practice</li> <li>Gain fresh insights, strategies and subject knowledge to take away and implement in your own school setting</li> <li>Understand how RE subject leaders can best monitor standards in RE</li> <li>Understand how FoRB (Freedom of Religion or Belief) principles can contribute to excellent RE</li> </ul>
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, 9.00am – 4.00pm
<b>Venue(s):</b>	North Lakes Hotel, Ullswater Road, Penrith, CA11 8QT
<b>Refreshments:</b>	Please note that refreshments and lunch will be provided at this course, please notify the WFC School Development Team of any dietary requirements.
<b>Course Fee:</b>	All Schools: £150.00
<b>Course Code:</b>	WFC #SACREConf24
<b>Booking:</b>	Places for this event can be booked via our <a href="#">WFC Professional Development SLA</a> . If you have any issues accessing the SLA, please email the School Development Team at <a href="mailto:school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk">school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk</a> to book your place.
<b>Cancellation Terms:</b>	A cancellation charge will apply for cancellations less than 5 working days before the event. This charge will also apply to non-attendees. If you are unable to attend or require any further information,



Professional Development for School Based Staff and Governors

Disciplinary Approach to Religious Education	
<b>Why engage in this Professional Development?</b>	These courses support the implementation of the new Cumbrian Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE). The new syllabus establishes a disciplinary approach in RE for the first time. It promotes the exploration of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews by learning to see these through theological, philosophical, and human science lenses. This is a series of three practical courses and each one will focus on a different disciplinary approach.
<b>Who is this for?</b>	Primary RE Subject Leaders and teachers Secondary RE Subject Leaders and teachers for Key Stage 3 Primary and secondary Philosophy for Children (P4C) leaders
<b>Training Provider(s):</b>	Jane Yates, RE Adviser, Cumbrian SACRE Laura Watson, Diocesan Deputy Director of Education, Carlisle Diocese
<b>Intended Impact and Outcomes:</b>	This professional development will enable participants to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed an understanding of the concept of a disciplinary approach to Religious Education</li> <li>Explore examples of the application of disciplinary questions</li> <li>Equip themselves to apply a disciplinary approach to RE in their context.</li> <li>Explore a range of available resources and teaching materials to support a disciplinary approach to RE</li> </ul>
<b>Course Fee:</b>	The new Cumbria Agreed Syllabus 2023 is available on the <a href="#">Cumbrian SACRE</a> page for Westmorland and Furness Council. Exemplar materials can be found on a bespoke Padlet <a href="#">Cumbrian SACRE Agreed Syllabus Exemplar Materials (padlet.com)</a>
<b>Date and Time:</b>	<b>Course A - Theological approach to RE:</b> Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2024, 1pm - 4pm <b>Course B - Philosophical approach to RE:</b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024, 1pm - 4pm <b>Course C - Human Sciences approach to RE:</b> Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024, 1pm - 4pm N.B. Delegates may choose to attend all three courses or can book on individual courses.
<b>Venue:</b>	J36 Rural Auction Centre, Unit 2, Crooklands, Milnthorpe LA7 7FP
<b>Refreshments:</b>	Light refreshments will be served during this event. Please notify the <a href="#">School Development Team</a> if you have any dietary requirements.
<b>Course Fee:</b>	All Schools: £50.00 per course, per person
<b>Course Code:</b>	WFC PD 26 (A-C)
<b>Booking:</b>	Places for this event can be booked via our <a href="#">WFC Professional Development SLA</a> . If you have any issues accessing the SLA, please email the School Development Team at <a href="mailto:school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk">school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk</a> to book your place.
<b>Cancellation Terms:</b>	A cancellation charge will apply for cancellations less than 5 working days before the event. This charge will also apply to non-attendees. If you are unable to attend or require any further information, please contact the School Development Team: <a href="mailto:school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk">school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk</a>



Cumberland's Training Events for School Based Staff and Governors

Religious Education for the Future	
<b>Course Outline:</b>	This online course supports the implementation of the new Cumbria Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE). This is the legal document for the teaching of RE in Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. Academics are also advised, and welcome to use this syllabus. The Locally Agreed Syllabus will become statutory from September 2024 following a year of implementation.
<b>Target Audience:</b>	Primary RE Subject Leaders Secondary RE Subject Leaders Senior Leaders Headteachers
<b>Course Providers:</b>	Jane Yates – RE Adviser, Cumbrian SACRE Laura Watson – Diocesan Deputy Director of Education, Carlisle Diocese
<b>Outcomes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To outline the intent behind the new Cumbria Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE</li> <li>To consider how the new Cumbria Locally Agreed Syllabus can be implemented in your school</li> <li>To create an action plan to ensure the new Cumbria Locally Agreed Syllabus impacts the religious literacy of the pupils in your school</li> </ul>
<b>N.B.</b>	The new Cumbria Agreed Syllabus 2023 is available on the <a href="#">Cumbrian SACRE</a> page for Cumberland Council
<b>Dates and Times:</b>	<b>Course A:</b> Wednesday 8 November 2023, 1.00pm – 2.30pm <b>Course B:</b> Wednesday 8 November 2023, 4.00pm – 5.30pm
<b>Training Platform:</b>	This training will be held on Microsoft Teams – the link to this event will be sent in the reminder email from Cumberland Education Services and Microsoft Outlook, within one week of the course date. Please ensure you have fully tested Microsoft Teams before the session for accessibility and understanding of the platform. This will allow all attending to make full benefit of the time available.
<b>Course Housekeeping:</b>	Please ensure you are familiar with Microsoft Teams and have an appropriate, confidential space available from which to join the meeting.
<b>Course Fee:</b>	All Schools: Free of Charge
<b>Course Code:</b>	CSD 23 29 (A - B)
<b>Booking:</b>	Places for this event can be booked in three ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered users can book through our online system SLA-Online <a href="#">SLA Online (sla-online.co.uk)</a></li> <li>By emailing the School Development Team at <a href="mailto:school.development@cumberland.gov.uk">school.development@cumberland.gov.uk</a></li> <li>By calling the team on 01228 221315 / 221316</li> </ul>



Cumberland's Training Events for School Based Staff and Governors

Disciplinary Approach to Religious Education	
<b>Course Outline:</b>	This course supports the implementation of the new Cumbria Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE). The new syllabus establishes a disciplinary approach in RE for the first time. It promotes the exploration of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews by learning to see these through theological, philosophical and human science lenses. This is a series of three practical courses and each one will focus on a different disciplinary approach. Course A: Theology Course B: Philosophy Course C: Human Sciences
<b>Target Audience:</b>	Primary RE Subject Leaders and Teachers Secondary RE Subject Leaders and Teachers for Key Stage 3 Primary and Secondary Philosophy for Children (P4C) Leaders
<b>Course Providers:</b>	Jane Yates – RE Adviser, Cumbrian SACRE Laura Watson – Diocesan Deputy Director of Education, Carlisle Diocese
<b>Outcomes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To embed understanding of the concept of a disciplinary approach to Religious Education</li> <li>To give examples of the application of disciplinary questions</li> <li>To equip classroom practitioners to apply the disciplinary approach to RE in their context</li> <li>To explore a range of available resources and teaching materials to support a disciplinary approach to RE</li> </ul>
<b>N.B.</b>	The new Cumbria Agreed Syllabus 2023 is available on the <a href="#">Cumbrian SACRE</a> page for Cumberland Council. Exemplar materials can be found on a bespoke Padlet <a href="#">Cumbrian SACRE Agreed Syllabus Exemplar Materials (padlet.com)</a>
<b>Date and Time:</b>	<b>Course A:</b> Thursday 8 February 2024 <b>Course B:</b> Thursday 22 February 2024 <b>Course C:</b> Thursday 14 March 2024 All sessions will run from 1.00pm – 4.00pm N.B. Delegates may choose to attend all three courses or can also book an individual course.
<b>Venues:</b>	<b>Course A:</b> Greenhill Hotel, Red Dal, Wigton, CA7 8LS <b>Course B:</b> Greenhill Hotel, Red Dal, Wigton, CA7 8LS <b>Course C:</b> Greenhill Hotel, Red Dal, Wigton, CA7 8LS
<b>Refreshments:</b>	Please note that light refreshments will be available at this course
<b>Course Fee:</b>	All Schools: £50.00
<b>Course Code:</b>	CSD 23 30 (A - C)
<b>Booking:</b>	Places for this event can be booked in three ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered users can book through our online system SLA-Online <a href="#">SLA Online (sla-online.co.uk)</a></li> <li>By emailing the School Development Team at <a href="mailto:school.development@cumberland.gov.uk">school.development@cumberland.gov.uk</a></li> <li>By calling the team on 01228 221315 / 221316</li> </ul>
<b>Cancellation Terms:</b>	A cancellation charge will apply for cancellations less than 5 working days before the event. This charge will also apply to non-attendees. If you are unable to attend or require any further information, please contact the School Development Team: <a href="mailto:school.development@cumberland.gov.uk">school.development@cumberland.gov.uk</a>

## Action planning by teachers – 1-2.30pm group

- Research different schemes of work/plans available that may fit with our long-term planning
- Discussion with headteacher as we are a new academy
- First steps to work through
- Print core knowledge expectations
- Let us looking into how we, as a school, can implement Humanism into the scheme of work - thinking more in terms of world views
- Check for progression across the Key Stages - particularly in questioning skills
- Review planning
- Familiarise myself with new syllabus. Staff meeting to feedback at school. Review our scheme with the 3 disciplinary approaches in mind.
- Work with SPFL team to develop RE schemes of work, research existing resources, share with junior school for continuity
- To explore how staff of the changes looking at the disciplinary approach. Look at our scheme of work and create a summary of questions across the 3 areas showing progression and continuity
- We have been using quite a bit of school on developing 'RE and Worldviews' as a subject an approach to 'RE' and what this means. Next steps - doing more work with staff on what is meant by a 'multi-disciplinary approach' and how they can do this. Been doing quite a bit on developing discussions in class during RE and Worldviews.
- To expand to the Padlet
- Check current schemes of work. Communicate with staff what they think about current planning and discuss changes and what we want to continue with
- Look at current overview and how it fits to new disciplines. Reframe what is already in place where possible
- Look at our core questions and check these against disciplinary approach, continuity and progression.
- Needs to make more explicit with the areas of theology, philosophy and human sciences



## Action Planning by teachers – 4-5.30pm

- look at current plans - how can they be enhanced/alterd to include different approaches
- develop RE curriculum as school moves from single-form entry to mixed-age classes!
- review what is in place now - is there a balance of core knowledge and comparisons of the religions?
- Review questions - balance of approaches
- Look at current curriculum and ensure it is balanced between disciplines.
- Explore what is available for mixed aged classes



Examples of action planning by teachers on the Religious Education for the Future FREE online CPD in October.

## Resources & CPD continued

### National CPD & Funding

- **Free Self-Study RE Courses – Culham St Gabriels Trust:** Introduction to religion and worldviews, Introduction to curriculum and Introduction to research. To enrol please click [here](#).
- **Culham St Gabriel’s Trust Leadership Scholarship Programme** This programme aims to provide opportunities for emerging Religion and Worldviews\* leaders to expand and deepen their reflections on educational leadership in the subject, through receiving mentoring, structured challenges, research insights, inspirational networking events, and experience of professional development delivery. More detailed information [here](#).
- **Farmington Scholarships:** 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. Applications for the Farmington Scholarship for 2022-2023 will open in October 2022. More information [here](#).
- **NATRE** are providing regular online CPD with prices according to your NATRE membership status. More information [here](#).
- **The Jerusalem Trust: RE Grants for Schools** 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. More information [here](#).



## Cumbria RE Teachers NATRE (online) Local Group Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 4pm

Group Leader: Katherine France,  
The Queen Katherine School

If you are new, please sign up to  
the meeting via the North West RE  
Hubs Local Groups page

[www.re-hubs.uk](http://www.re-hubs.uk)



An opportunity for RE teachers to get  
to know our Cumbria ‘voices’ and find  
out more about online and face to  
face school visits.

This is a registered event as part of  
Inter Faith Week 2023

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

Supporting teachers in Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness