



## February 2024

We are delighted that feedback about the new format of the SACRE newsletter has been positive. If you missed our previous newsletter in January, you can read it [here](#). SACRE newsletters are sent out to all schools and are also available on the SACRE section of your Council website. See overleaf.

**Cumbria RE Teachers Group (FREE):** Nearly seventy primary and secondary RE teachers are registered in this group. Twenty attended our recent online meeting in February where Katherine France and Jane Yates shared highlights and valuable learning from NATRE's national Strictly RE conference. This ranged from Hermeneutics from 4-7, use of ChatGPT in RE, and diversity in Christianity. It was agreed the next local group meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April will focus on **assessment**. Please register on the RE Hubs website [here](#). A full summary of the meeting is also sent out to members of this group.

**Do you teach RE to three or more year groups at once?** [Sign up](#) to find out about an upcoming networking opportunity.

**Disciplinary Approach to RE:** It's been valuable to meet so many RE teachers face-to-face on recent CPD in Kendal and Wigton. In the Theology CPD, participants had the opportunity to experience various tools for interpreting images, texts and stories from different schemes or units of work. Delegates were also able to work together in small groups and share how they have reviewed their long-term whole school RE planning against the new Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for RE 2023. It is encouraging to hear that teachers are feeling reassured their existing plans can be **re-framed** and **enhanced** through a disciplinary approach, with religious literacy at the heart.

**Secondary School Survey:** Thank you for completing the recent online survey on recruitment, retention and training of RE across Cumbria. The findings will be discussed at our next SACRE meeting in March. If you haven't yet completed the survey, please click [here](#). The deadline has been extended to 29 Feb 2024.

## Spotlight on upcoming CPD

**FREE online governor training** on 30<sup>th</sup> April (6-8pm): *Is your school ready to implement the new Cumbria RE syllabus?* Book via Cumberland School Development

**Diary Dates 2024** (*Book via School Development unless otherwise specified*)

**27<sup>th</sup> Feb:** FREE online SAPERE Consider P4C and RE 2pm–2.45pm Book [here](#)

**14<sup>th</sup> March:** Disciplinary Approach to RE (Human Sciences) *Greenhill*

**18<sup>th</sup> March:** Disciplinary Approach to RE (Human Sciences) *J36 Rural Action Centre*

**18-22<sup>nd</sup> March:** Life exhibition in Barrow. More information [here](#).

**20<sup>th</sup> March:** FREE online SAPERE webinar on P4C and SEND with a focus on RE and science. 3.30pm - 4.45pm. Book [here](#).

**18<sup>th</sup> April** Cumbria RE Teachers Group 4pm. Focus: Assessment

**28<sup>th</sup> April:** National MAT Leads RE Network Meeting - download flier [here](#)

**30<sup>th</sup> April:** FREE School Governor CPD. *Is your school ready to implement the new Cumbria RE syllabus?*

**22<sup>nd</sup> May:** Spirituality, RE and Good Learning in Secondary School with Lat Blaylock (Chorley) More information [here](#).

**4<sup>th</sup> June:** Cumbria SACRE RE Conference North Lakes Hotel.

## #CumbriaSharingRE

**Religious festivals in March:** Teaching and learning about religious festivals will be more authentic when planned during the period of the festival, especially if members of your school community are celebrating.

**March** is a busy month for festivals starting with Ramadan (Muslim) on 11<sup>th</sup>, Naw Ruz (Baha'i New Year) 20<sup>th</sup>, Purim (Jewish) on 24<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday and Holy Week (Christian) from 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, and Holi (Hindu) on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Supporting the needs of your Muslim pupils and staff during Ramadan fasting:** The routine of Muslim families is entirely different during Ramadan. Young children may well become more tired or excitable during school time, even if they are not fasting themselves. Those students who are fasting may become very tired and thirsty during the school day.

**Invite school speakers to RE lessons or as a sixth form enrichment opportunity:** Teachers from Keswick School started this half term with a panel of faith and belief speakers for their A Level Religious Studies students. RE Hubs speakers [here](#).

**Meet young Muslim Ambassadors for Faith and Belief:** Muslim AfFAB sixth formers from London will meet virtually with KS2 classes on 6<sup>th</sup> March between 2pm-3pm. If your class is interested, please email [reteacherscumbria@outlook.com](mailto:reteacherscumbria@outlook.com).

**Get involved in a Parental Engagement Project for RE:** Schools in the Morecambe Bay area are invited to join an exciting new project called 'Identity Unboxed' with the [Faith and Belief Forum](#). Please see the website [section](#) for more information and expression of interest form.

**Is your school a UNICEF Rights Respecting School?** Cumbrian schools are taking the lead on a new AREIAC Project funded by Culham St Gabriels to support Young Ambassadors for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB). Email

[reteacherscumbria@outlook.com](mailto:reteacherscumbria@outlook.com) for more information.

**Apply for funding to support your RE:** Monkway Primary School in Whitehaven were successful in a [grant application](#) for £500 and were able to buy artefacts to support their RE from [Muslim Learner Services](#) and [REonDemand](#).

**Help inform the future of RE:** Take part in national RE surveys. A new Personal Knowledge survey by the University of Huddersfield is available on the [RE Hubs website](#).

**Take your RE leadership to the next level:** Culham St Gabriel's run a successful and fully funded leadership programme for RE. Information [webinar](#) 27.02.24. Application deadline 22.03.24. Full information [here](#).

**Book your place on the annual Cumbrian SACRE RE conference on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024:** A detailed programme will soon be circulated to schools by Westmorland & Furness School Development. Keynote speaker: RE Today National Adviser, [Julie Diamond-Conway](#).

See the [North West section](#) of the RE Hubs website to **upskill** yourself through CPD, news, blogs, free resources, research, grants or find opportunities to **enrich** RE in your classroom through accredited school speakers, places of interest and local groups. See new **Together for Humanity: resources** for contentious topics

**Cumbrian SACRE websites** with statutory and non-statutory guidance for RE and Collective Worship:

**Cumberland Council [website](#)**  
**Westmorland & Furness [website](#)**

**Facebook:** [RE Teachers in Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness](#) 162 members  
**Twitter X:** [@SACREcumbria](#).