

# Haivering SACRE, National Update

## 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Spirited Arts: NATRE's annual competition for creative RE

Once again, in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of its work, the Spirited Arts competition has had over 25 000 entries nationwide and some stunning winners are available to view on the NATRE web gallery where themes for the next competition are also announced. There are 5 themes:

- "We have more in common than that which divides us." (Jo Cox MP, in association with the Jo Cox Foundation)
- God's good earth? ("Beautiful World, wonderful God?) An environmental theme in RE
- Searching for God
- A view of the world. Connecting to current ideas about worldviews
- Celebrations: Big days and big ideas

NATRE are providing online recorded training about the competition and schemes of work for primary and secondary schools to use to engage with the opportunities. It runs for the full year till 31/7/22.

*How could we encourage our schools to take part in this?*

### Holocaust Memorial Day 2022

Holocaust Memorial Day is 27<sup>th</sup> January. SACREs, LAs and schools can find a wide variety of resources on the [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust](#) website. The Trust is keen to encourage schools to mark HMD, especially at a time when hate crime, intolerant/extremist views, anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hate is increasing. There are several resource providers for Holocaust Education.

*How does SACRE support events such as Interfaith Week and Holocaust Memorial Day?*

### Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

After being paused in March 2020, the Church of England Education Office (CEEO) announced that SIAMS inspections would resume in October 2021. A new national team has been appointed to manage the restart and schedule inspections in the future. More information, including a list of schools likely to be inspected in the academic year 2021-2022, can be found here: [SIAMS Inspections | The Church of England](#) .

### NASACRE News

2021 was NASACRE's first online conference, with multiple speakers and 10 breakout rooms hosting over 200 delegates. The conference report can be found [here](#).

The 2022 AGM and Conference will be held at the **Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday 23 May 2022**. The theme is *Ambitious SACREs* and the NASACRE conference team is now beginning to pull the programme together. Thanks for all your suggestions about what you need from our training days to support your local work.

NASACRE have put together an online training programme this year. Some sessions may be of especial interest to SACRE members. The programme can be found [here](#).

*How can SACRE engage with NASACRE in the coming academic year?*

## Research into public perception of an education in religion and worldviews

In summer 2021, Culham St Gabriel's Trust commissioned a survey to understand more about public perception of an education in religion and worldviews. The language used in the questions was chosen to try to avoid these misconceptions and to collect a more accurate set of data about what people thought about modern RE.

### Some key findings:

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, with a further 65% agreeing that the subject has an impact on people's ability to understand each other in wider society.

Find out more here: [Research into public perception of an education in religion and worldviews \(natre.org.uk\)](https://natre.org.uk)

*How can SACRE capitalise on these findings to further improve RE provision in the LA?*

## Religious Studies: Public Examinations

### Call for National Plan as Religious Studies GCSE entries fall

The number of pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies in England and Wales has fallen slightly in 2021, despite previously remaining stable since 2017. To safeguard the subject, the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and the National Association of Teachers of RE are calling for a National Plan, as recommended by the Commission on RE in 2018, to be funded by Government.

In England, RS GCSE entries for the full course fell by 2.4 percent to 221,419 compared with 226,767 in 2020. In Wales, entries rose by 3.6 percent from 9,997 in 2020 to 10,358 in 2021. Overall entries in England, including both full and short courses, fell by 3.4 percent to 237,091, compared with 245,544 in 2020. In Wales, combined entries fell by 5.4 percent from 15,436 in 2020 to 14,583 in 2021.

By comparison, GCSE entries to other humanities increased this year, with Geography entries up 4.1 percent to 274,715 and History up 0.8 percent to 286,706.

### Hundreds more opt for Religious Studies at A-level in 2021

The number of Religious Studies A-level exam entries has increased 6.1 percent year on year. The subject outperformed other A-level subjects as a whole, which increased by 5.1 percent, with a greater increase than most other humanities subjects. Read NATRE's full press release here: [A Level results media release FINAL v2 10-08-21.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](#)

*How do these figures compare with the picture in our LA? What action (if any) should SACRE be taking?*

## CPD and networking opportunities

### Strictly RE - 29 & 30 January 2022

Strictly RE is back! NATRE will be hosting its national annual conference online throughout the last weekend in January. Strictly RE updates will appear on the [NATRE](#) website.

### #REChatUK twitter forum

**Occurs the first Monday of every month in term time.**

The next one is 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, on the topic of teaching about the Hindu dharma.

## Buddhist Resources: A request for help

Culham St Gabriels is asking for assistance from members of the Buddhist community with project to produce resources.

Dr Kate Christopher writes that the request comes from:

"A former Teach:RE student who is a Buddhist is working on a website for teachers to access resources on Buddhism. She has given us this text and link to a survey.

*We are a group of teachers and Buddhists who wish to translate our knowledge and experience in teaching Buddhism to children and teenagers into useful resources for others. This [short survey](#) aims to find out what would be the most helpful. We are seeking to build a picture of the needs regarding Buddhism, of those working in the area of teaching religion and ethics in schools.*

*We are grateful for your input and ideas.  
All the best,  
Amalee Rycroft and colleagues*

## Resources

### What's Your Worldview?

Here is a video clip to help teachers and leaders of RE understand the concept of 'worldview': [WHAT'S YOUR WORLDVIEW? \(QUIZ\) - YouTube](#)

### Check out the REtoday Library website

This fantastic resource lets you explore all our REtoday magazine content on a searchable, indexed website.

There is no quicker way for you to find inspiring, practical RE lesson ideas and more.

NATRE members get **FREE** access to Professional REflection articles and can **SAVE £10** off the annual subscription.

[Home » REtoday Online Library \(retodaylibrary.org.uk\)](#)

### Gender and Religion Today: School Resources

The Woolf Institute has developed an online course called Gender and Religion Today and related age-appropriate materials for teachers searching for new, accessible materials to support classroom teaching across UK national curriculum. They centre on a new series of short videos, offering a fresh way to teach and consider religion through the lens of gender.

Find more details here: [https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/outreach/education/gender-and-religion-today-school-resources?utm\\_source=emailmarketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=professional\\_natre\\_members\\_newsletter\\_with\\_download\\_september\\_2021&utm\\_content=2021-09-22](https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/outreach/education/gender-and-religion-today-school-resources?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=professional_natre_members_newsletter_with_download_september_2021&utm_content=2021-09-22)

### Research for RE

RE:Online has had a bit of a refresh - check it out and access some of the latest research online.

Don't miss 'Research of the Month' featuring a different piece of research each month.

Visit the website: [Research of the Month - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](#)

### Visiting a Mosque: a free resource for teachers

Teachers can now access the free online resource pack, *Visiting a Mosque*, by following this link:

[www.visitmymosque.org/for-re-teachers](http://www.visitmymosque.org/for-re-teachers)

The pack is intended to support and empower RE teachers in organising and delivering school visits to places of worship, such as mosques. There are also signposts to “virtual” mosque tours included in this pack as an additional resource and to increase familiarity and confidence when organising in-person visits.

*How can SACRE ensure that teachers are aware of and have access to access to good quality teaching and learning resources to support RE in its schools?*