

National RE Updates for SACRE from RE Today - Summer 2026

New-style Ofsted reports: what do they say about religious education?

Nikki McGee from the NATRE executive committee has reported on the mentions of RE in the first 160 new-style Ofsted reports. She concludes that around half of reports on schools without a religious character refer to teaching of religious beliefs or faiths. This suggests that RE is no longer as overlooked as it has been.

Number of new-style Ofsted reports up to 16 th February 2026		Explicit mentions of RE	
Primary	118	58	49%
Secondary	39	17	44%
Cross Phase	3	1	33%
Total	160	77	48%

Very few references appear under the curriculum and teaching heading of the reports. Most of these references are under the personal development and wellbeing section. Some references are made to pupils lacking sufficient knowledge or being unable to recall what they have been taught.

Overall, half of reports of schools rated 'strong standard' (the second from top grade on new Ofsted reports) for personal development and wellbeing include explicit teaching about faith or religious beliefs.

- It is encouraging that new reports recognise the important contribution of RE in preparing pupils for life
- It is concerning that the lack of focus on RE as a rigorous curriculum subject with its own distinctive knowledge and disciplinary approaches might lead to schools diluting the academic depth of the subject and absorb it into broader pastoral or values-based provision.

Read Nikki's full report for NATRE here: <https://natre.org.uk/news/what-are-the-new-style-ofsted-reports-saying-about-religious-education/>

National Policy Paper: Building a Cohesive Society

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government have published a policy paper: [Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom](#). The paper sets out a cross-government strategy to strengthen social cohesion, resilience and public confidence. It aims to do this in a range of ways, including by:

- reinforcing shared values and local pride
- investing in places and grassroots projects
- improving prevention and early intervention to reduce hate, extremism and social division
- using the Online Safety Act to curb harmful online content and algorithms

- enhancing local-central partnership and protections for vulnerable groups.

The paper mentions the place of RE in helping young people to understand how shared values shape the UK, and the role of SACREs in celebrating faith and belief communities and their role in community cohesion.

Jerusalem Trust Summer Funding Round 2026 Now Open

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase Christianity resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state-funded schools in England and Wales.

Secondary school grants are currently still available this summer term. Schools should read the FAQs and the application criteria prior to submitting their funding request which can be accessed at www.regrants.org.uk. Primary school grants are no longer open for summer term due to high demand.

The NASACRE Conference and AGM

This year's conference theme is: *SACREs – bringing communities together*, the conference and AGM will be held in Liverpool on Monday 18th May. Keynote speeches will be given by Carrie Alderton, CEO of the Faith and Belief forum and Vanessa Ogden. In addition to the main conference programme on 18th May, there will be eight helpful online workshops in the week commencing 1st June.

To find out more and book a spot, please use this link: <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/>

Westhill/NASACRE Awards

The next round of these awards will be made in February 2027. SACREs wishing to apply are encouraged to start thinking about what they might like to achieve now. Organisers are especially looking for projects promoting unity, community and diversity. SACREs can bid for up to £12 000 for projects which will be completed by summer 2029.

NASACRE's website currently gives examples of four projects which were funded last year. These are:

“Barnet: This project will seek to identifying missing nuance by examining a wide range of resources.

Camden: This project will see pupils engaging in inter-faith conferences, and training students in Y12 and 13 to be able to share their beliefs in primary schools.

Haringey: This project seeks to provide the children with better experiences of RE by developing workshop and community celebration opportunities, materials, ‘living voice’ videos, transcripts and activities.

Sunderland: Exploring Faith and Diversity through Art will deliver a series of art based workshops to explore religious stories and symbols.”

To find out more, please go to: <https://nasacre.org.uk/westhill-nasacre-awards/> .

NATRE Survey

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) is currently conducting its biannual primary survey. This is the chance for all those involved in delivering RE to pupils aged 4-11 to make sure the reality of RE in the primary classroom is heard where it counts. This evidence is used directly with government and Ofsted to influence decisions on curriculum, training and support. Previous surveys have exposed gaps in RE time and training, and driven national attention as a result. With major decisions about the future of RE underway, primary teachers must not be invisible.

All participating schools will receive a free NATRE resource and be entered into a prize draw.

It is helpful to have as many primary schools participating as possible, so SACRE may choose to make schools in the Local Authority aware of this survey. The survey itself takes just a few minutes, is completely anonymous, and is open until 31 July. Every response makes a difference.

To complete the survey, please follow the link at: <https://natre.org.uk/news/your-voice-matters-shape-the-future-of-primary-re/>

Jewish Culture Month

Jewish Culture month will last from 16th May to 16th June 2026. This coincides with Sivan, the third month in the Jewish calendar. It celebrates British Jewish culture, community and creativity. So far, over 100 events are planned across the country, spanning food, comedy, art, architecture, fashion and more. National institutions spotlighting their Jewish treasures will include the British Museum, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, National Portrait Gallery, V&A, Museum of the Home and the Science Museum. Events are happening up and down the country, from Manchester (home to Britain’s second largest Jewish community), to Norfolk, Newcastle, Stockport, Oxford, Leeds, Liverpool, Bath, Cambridge, Margate and many more.

To find out more, please go to: <https://jewishculturemonth.org.uk/>

SACRE may wish to advise schools that there are specific Jewish Culture Month in Schools resources to help in planning for this month: [Jewish Culture Month in schools | Jewish Culture Month](#) .

Inter Faith Week 2026

Save the date! Inter Faith Week 2026 is planned to take place between 8th and 15th November. It is hoped that this will build on the successes of Inter Faith Week 2025, which are detailed in

this report: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/the-inter-faith-week-report-community-together-we-serve> .

2025 saw an increase in school involvement with Inter Faith Week, with resources from the ifw4schools website used with over 665 000 pupils across the country. SACRE may wish to let schools know that over the coming months that the <https://www.ifw4schools.co.uk/> website will be updated with information, resources and ideas related to Inter Faith Week 2026, so that school staff can plan for this week ahead of time.

NASACRE Training

In addition to the conference and AGM, NASACRE is offering a webinar this term to people who are new to SACRE. The session is entitled *So, you've joined your local SACRE...* and will be held on 25th June 2026, from 6:30pm-8pm. For more information, please go to <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/> .

Please remember that recordings and presentations of some past NASACRE training sessions can be found at: <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/presentations-recordings/> .

Courses from RE Today

Primary Phase Courses

Exploring Sikh Worldviews through Authentic Voices

12th May 2026 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Debbie Yeomans – National RE Adviser

This engaging RE CPD session supports primary teachers to build confidence and clarity in teaching about Sikhi. It includes a clear subject-knowledge overview, ready-to-use lesson ideas, insights from a Sikh guest speaker sharing lived experience, and four sample lesson sequences. Participants receive a free curriculum book with practical resources, and the session ends with a Q&A to deepen understanding and support confident classroom practice.

Impactful Teaching of Judaism

16th June 2026 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Judaism. This will focus on the substantive content within Judaism to exploring how disciplinary knowledge can be harnessed to provide theological, social science and philosophical teaching and learning activities.

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and learning activities. This course complements the RE Today publication Exploring Jewish Worldviews, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a primary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your school this will support them in delivering this important Abrahamic faith.

Impactful Teaching of Hindu Dharma

2nd July 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Julia Diamond-Conway – National RE Adviser

This engaging 90-minute course is designed for primary staff who teach about Hindu Dharma, or who would like to deepen their understanding. Suitable for all levels of experience, from those in ITT to experienced RE subject leaders, it will strengthen subject knowledge, extend understanding of Hindu Dharma as a lived and diverse tradition, and build confidence in teaching it well.

Participants will explore practical pedagogical approaches and adaptable lesson ideas, thoughtfully linked to ways of knowing in RE, helping pupils engage deeply and progress well in their learning about Hindu Dharma. There will be clear takeaways for classroom practice, whatever your level of expertise.

This session forms part of a series of courses exploring the principal religions and non-religious worldviews encountered in UK RE/RME/RVE classrooms. You are welcome to attend this as a standalone session or join others in the series. The course accompanies the book Exploring Hindu Worldviews by RE Today Services; copies can be purchased at a reduced rate when booking.

Secondary Phase Courses

Impactful Teaching about Non-Religious Worldviews

16th June 2026 4.00 pm - 5.30 pm

Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of matters of central importance in non-religious worldviews.

This will focus on substantive knowledge about the diversity of non-religion, using scholarly approaches, investigating data and findings from research projects in from disciplines of sociology, anthropology and psychology. It will provide example teaching and learning strategies.

This course complements the RE Today publication Investigating Non- Worldviews, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important component of RE.

Impactful Teaching about Judaism

24th June 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of matters of central importance in Judaism.

This will focus on substantive knowledge about the diversity of Jews and Judaism, using scholarly approaches, investigating sociological data, and applying theological and philosophical methods. It will provide example teaching and learning strategies.

This course complements the RE Today publication *Investigating Jewish Worldviews*, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important Abrahamic religion.

Impactful Teaching of the Hindu Dharma

30th June 2026 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Hindu Dharma. This will focus on the substantive content within the Hindu Dharma to exploring how disciplinary knowledge can be harnessed to provide theological, social science and philosophical teaching and learning activities.

This course complements the RE Today publication *Investigating Hindu Worldviews*, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important Dharmic religion.

Impactful Teaching of Sikhi Worldviews

2nd July 2026 3.30 pm -5.00 pm

Angela Hill – National RE Adviser

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Sikhi.

This will focus on developing subject knowledge for 11-14's. It will also explore how disciplinary knowledge (ways of knowing) can be harnessed to provide theological, social science and philosophical teaching and learning activities.

This course complements the RE Today publication *Investigating Sikhi Worldviews*, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important Dharmic religion.

Understanding Christianity

7th July 2026 9.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser

This course introduces the Understanding Christianity approach, deepening teachers' understanding of core theology and the Bible's big story while developing skills in theological and hermeneutical thinking. It demonstrates strategies for engaging pupils with texts and shows how the resource supports strong foundations for 11–14s in line with a religion and worldviews approach and the National Content Standard.

Impactful Teaching of Buddhism

8th July 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of matters of central importance in Buddhism.

This will focus on substantive knowledge about the diversity of Buddhists and Buddhism, using scholarly approaches, investigating sociological data, survey responses from 60 Buddhists, using case studies, applying literary methods to interpreting texts. It will provide example teaching and learning strategies.

This course complements the RE Today publication Investigating Buddhist Worldviews, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important Dharmic religion.

Cross Phase Courses

Leadership Update (RE Update)

20th May 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

24th June 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser

Debbie Yeomans – National RE Adviser

This series of leadership briefings develops understanding of national changes affecting the management and teaching of RE across all school settings. With curriculum changes on the horizon and new inspection frameworks emerging, it provides up-to-date information and guidance on leadership responsibilities for RE, from SLT and middle leaders to governors and trust boards, alongside opportunities to ask questions and engage with current developments in the world of RE. Ian (Secondary) and Debbie (Primary), both former SLT members, will be around to answer phase specific questions at the end of the session.

Whole staff training or bespoke support for your school

Looking for ways to refresh your teaching, upskill your team or overhaul your RE provision?

For over 40 years RE Today has been working with teachers and schools providing knowledge, practical support, and up-to-date thinking in the ever-changing education environments. No challenge in RE is too big or too small, simply get in touch and see how we can help.

We can help! Take your teaching to the next level with our expert-led professional development, resources and support, designed to equip you to inspire and engage every pupil in your RE lessons, helping them to achieve deeper understanding and impactful learning.

Whatever your needs, INSET Day, or dedicated support by an RE Adviser complete the enquiry from below and we will be happy to help! [Complete enquiry form](#)