

Summer term news 2024

Deep and Meaningful? The Ofsted religious education subject report



The long-awaited religious education subject report was published on 17th April 2024 reporting key findings and recommendations for high quality religious education following visits to fifty schools across England. The report highlights the importance of Religious Education as an academically rigorous and personally inspiring subject helping young people make sense of the complex, multifaceted nature of belief in modern Britain.

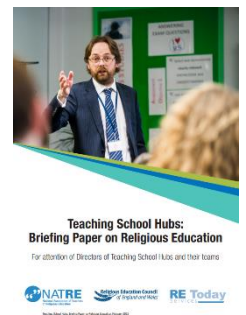
You can read the full report here: [Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1170424/Deep_and_meaningful?_ga=2.141111111.170424.20240417.170424.170424)

Schools Week have published a useful summary of the report. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/ofsted-criticises-limited-and-poor-quality-re-lessons/>

You can read the joint media release from the Religious Education Council and NATRE here: [Ofsted RE report response FINAL 170424.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/media/170424/ofsted-re-report-response-final-170424.pdf)

Teaching School Hubs: Briefing Paper on Religious Education

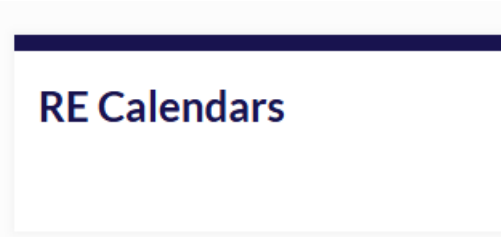
This short [briefing paper](#) sets out some of the ways in which the RE (religion and worldviews) community can support Teaching School Hubs. This includes providing subject specific knowledge of policy about the subject, content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, and opportunities for teachers to engage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

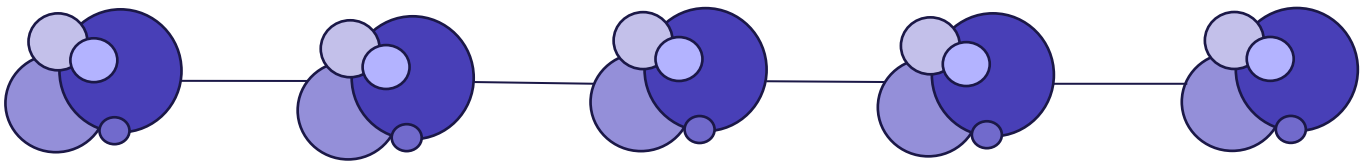


New Features on the RE Hubs Website RE Calendars

<https://www.re-hubs.uk/upskill/re-calendars/>

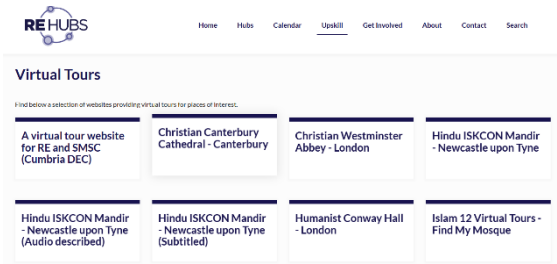
Are you unsure of what is going on in any given year within different religions and non-religious traditions? We have started to curate a useful place for you to find the answers! This includes a link to the SHAP audio glossary - a very useful resource to support the pronunciation of religious terminology.





Virtual Tours

A new area of our resources section provides links to virtual tours of a range of places of interest and worship. Find out more here: [Virtual Tours \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk)



Blogs

Blogs are a quick way to connect with current thinking and discussion. For example, this reflection by RE Hubs Lead, Jennifer Harding-Richards, on how Religions, Values and Ethics can be embedded withing the curriculum in Wales.

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/2024/04/16/amalgamating-religion-values-and-ethics/>

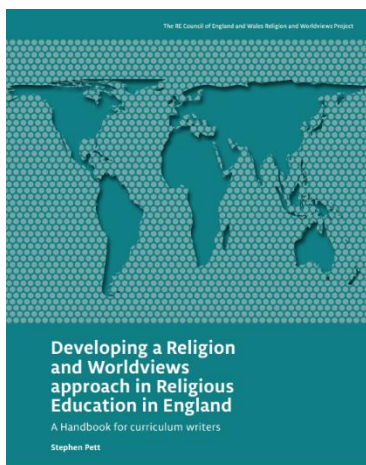
National Centre of RE for Wales at Bangor University – Research into how RVE is embedded within the curriculum for Wales.

The report will be posted imminently on the website of the National Centre of RE for Wales at Bangor University: <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/history-law-social-sciences/national-centre-for-religious-education-in-wales>)

And do not forget the Event Calendar!

[Calendar \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk). View, signup for, or share, events that support RE and RVE for example: [In Conversation: P4C and RE - SAPERE](#)

Religious Education Council’s Religion and Worldviews approach curriculum toolkit

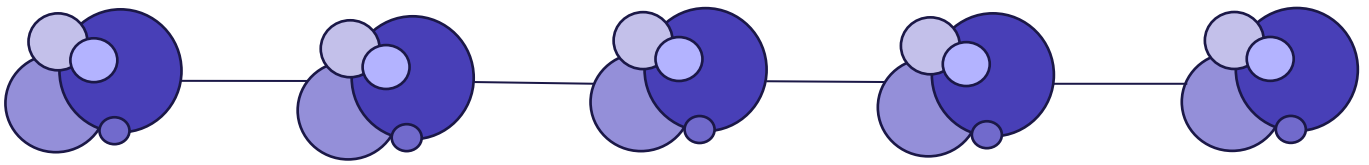


The Religious Education Council of England and Wales launched a new curriculum toolkit on 2nd May 2024. This toolkit aims to help schools in England develop a high quality RE curriculum using a religion and worldviews approach. The toolkit contains a handbook for curriculum developers, three curriculum frameworks, and the National Content Standard for RE in England.

The toolkit is the culmination of a three-year Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom project, with the authors drawing on academic research, classroom experience, and further consultation on the landmark 2018 report from the Commission on RE, which recommended steps to both adopt an academically rigorous approach to the subject and reflect the nature of belief and practice in modern Britain.



Date



The resources are available for all teachers, senior leadership teams, and curriculum developers to use in their own contexts. Building on existing best practice in schools, the REC has developed them in partnership with teachers in different communities from multi-academy trusts to schools with a religious character.

[WELCOME TO THE RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS APPROACH TO RE TOOLKIT – REC \(RELIGIOUSEDUCATIONCOUNCIL.ORG.UK\)](https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk)

AREIAC & NASACRE will be running webinars over the next few months to help people unpack the treasure trove contained within these new materials. Look out for further information from your RE Hubs Lead on how to access these webinars.

Launch of the Open University Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub

The Open University's Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub is now live:
<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/religionandworldviews>

The Hub provides accessible resources on religion. It highlights 'Religion and Belief' as a protected characteristic in UK law. Contents and resources include:

- Classroom resources for primary, junior, secondary and sixth form, including: 360-degree tours of London's religious buildings 60 Second Adventures in Religion animations with David Mitchell.
- Continuing Professional Development materials on religion, belief, and diversity for those working in teaching, healthcare, and the wider public sector.
- Training and information on Religion and Belief as a protected characteristic, with resources including articles and videos on religious festivals and specialist resources for example on decolonising Religious Studies.



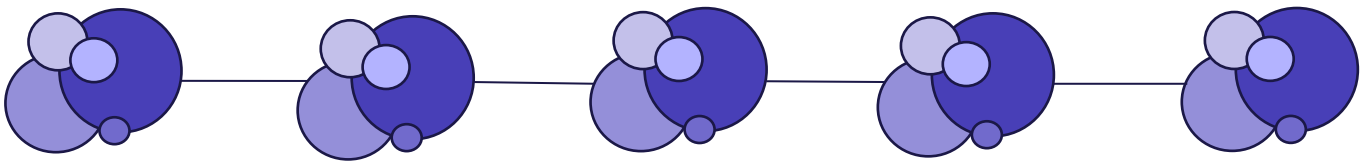
The content is made by experts in their field from the Religious Studies discipline area in the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in the Open University, along with colleagues in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Languages, the Faculty of Business and Law and OpenLearn. The Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub sits alongside the award-winning Race and Ethnicity Hub.

For more information, please contact liudmila.nikanorova@open.ac.uk or john.maiden@open.ac.uk

Research and Resource Development Opportunities:

Teachers of Buddhism throughout the Secondary Phase

Romana Meere is researching the teaching of Buddhism for her doctoral thesis Department of Education, University of Oxford,



Would you like to be a research participant? It will involve a 30–60-minute conversation, classroom observation over one or two days, some visual methods and photos of classroom displays. For more information or to register an interest, please contact RomanaMeereis@education.ox.ac.uk

Teachers of GCSE Religion/Religious Studies: Antisemitism in the context of GCSE Christianity

Dr Meredith Warren is inviting teachers to take part in a research project on whether antisemitism arises during GCSE teaching about Christianity: specifically on aspects of Jesus and the New Testament.

Participants will share lesson plans and/or activities for relevant taught sessions on Jesus's life and/or teachings, be interviewed on the curriculum covered and how you as a teacher approach the topic. All data will be kept completely anonymous.

3-4 teacher-participants will be chosen for the project. Participants will receive an honorarium of £50.

The research will be used to develop resources for teaching about antisemitism in GCSE contexts on the New Testament and Jesus.

For more information or to express an interest please contact Dr Meredith Warren: m.J.Warren@sheffield.Ac.Uk and/or visit this link: <https://bit.ly/gcse-re-study>

Teachers of A Level RS – support for the teaching of Christianity

Would you appreciate more detailed and deep professional learning to support the delivery of A Level RS?

We are hoping to fill this gap and need the input of serving teachers to help us shape the programme. Based at Sarum College and drawing on its resources in Theology, Religious Literacy and the interaction of faith and society, the PM Project wants to offer teachers academic depth, broad contextual understanding, and professional nourishment to sustain their work. Initially the focus is on schools teaching the Christianity units, although the program will include philosophical and ethical elements too. Can you help us design the style, scope, and content of this exciting programme?

We seek to convene a group of interested professionals, meeting online, to help identify what teachers need. Members of this group may go on to become members of our pilot cohort, but there is no obligation to do so.

For mor information or to register an interest contact Patrick Moriarty, Sarum Visiting Scholar, at PM.PROJECTS@ICLOUD.COM.