



**City of  
Doncaster  
Council**

**Agenda**

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To all Members of the

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION (SACRE)**

Notice is given that a Meeting of the above Committee is to be held as follows:

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

**Date:** Thursday, 6th July, 2023

**Time:** 4.30 pm

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**Items for Discussion:**

	<b>Page No.</b>
1. Apologies for absence.	
2. Declarations of Interest, if any	
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2023.	1 - 8
<b>A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded.</b>	
4. SACRE budget 2023/24.	
5. Member Training - SEND TRAINING 12/07/23.	

**Damian Allen  
Chief Executive**

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Issued on: Thursday 29th June 2023

**Governance Services Officer for this meeting**

Sarah Maxfield  
01302 736723

6. National Update for SACRE's Summer Term 2023 - Lat Blaylock. (Attached) 9 - 18
7. Draft SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 (To Follow).
8. Reports from NASACRE Annual Conference delegates.
9. Update on REsources project - communication with schools and next stage.
10. Westhill Grant - success and plans for implementation of the project.
11. Membership of SACRE.
12. Involving teachers, schools and MATs in the work of SACRE.
13. Succession planning.
14. Date and time of next meeting.

### **Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

Chair – Mr Bob Kiddle

Vice-Chair – Councillor Glynis Smith

Councillors Yetunde Elebuibon, Steve Cox and Sue Knowles.

Mr Shaheed Syed, Muslim

Mr Behdad Teimoori, Baha'i

Lucy Saxton, Roman Catholic

Mary Sivaanbu, Hindu

Mrs Pahani Kaur, Sikh

Mr Harvey Kasin, Jewish

Ms Jemma Gelder, Church of England

Mr Andy Wright, Church of England

Vanessa Gregory, Church of England

Amy Roddam, Methodist representative

Sally Faulkener, Christian denominations and other religions representative

Ms Tara Moxon, National Education Union

Ms Danielle Heath, National Education Union

Mrs Jugtinder Singh, National Education Union

# Agenda Item 3

## CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL

### STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

THURSDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 2023

A HYBRID MEETING of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER DN1 3BU on THURSDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 2023, at 4.30 pm.

#### PRESENT:

Chair - Mr Bob Kiddle (Humanism)  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Glynis Smith

Councillors Sue Knowles and Tracey Moran, Danielle Heath, Pahani Kaur, Mr B Teimoori, Tara Moxon, Sally Faulkner, Harvey Kasin and Jugtinder Singh

#### Also in attendance

Lat Blaylock, RE Today consultant  
Jane Reed, Head of Service Education

#### APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jane Cox, Mrs M Sivaanbu, Vanessa Gregory and Amy Roddam

#### 54 QUORUM OF MEETING

It was noted that there was not a quorum of Members in attendance at the meeting to hold an official meeting. However, it was agreed that the meeting would continue on an informal basis to consider the agenda, with all decisions formally ratified at the next quorate meeting of the Committee.

#### 55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY

No declarations were reported at the meeting.

#### 56 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER, 2022

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a true record.

#### Matters Arising

Minute No 46 - The Chair encouraged all Members if they had not already done so to view all the useful tools and resources on the NASACRE website.

Minutes No 48 – Lat Blaylock reported that unfortunately the SEND event had been postponed.

Minute No 49 – Lat stated that whilst the turnout was low, the discussion went really well

Minute No 50 – Resource project on the agenda for discussion.

Minute No 51 – The Chair stated that the introduction of the “Whats App” Group was really welcomed and he would encourage others to join.

Minute No 52 – The Chair stated that this would be looked at on an on-going basis.

57 SACRE APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER.

The Committee received a report which informed Members of the new appointment of Jugtinder Singh (Teacher Associations (NEU) to SACRE. The Chair and Committee welcomed Jugtinder to the Committee.

Also present was Jane Reed, Head of Service for Education who was attending for Stephanie Douglas. Jane stated that she had recently joined the Council and looked forward to working with the Committee.

AGREED that:-

- (1) The appointment of Jugtinder Singh – Teacher Associations (NEU) representative to SACRE be noted; and
- (2) The current Membership of SACRE as detailed at Appendix 1 be noted.

58 MEMBERSHIP 2021 CENSUS DATE - WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT DONCASTER. DO WE NEED TO REVISIT OUR MEMBERSHIP?

The Chair invited discussion on the membership of SACRE. He acknowledge that the composition of the Council and membership was something that officers were responsible to advise on. He referred to their being no Buddhist representative on SACRE. He stated that the numbers referred to in the census were for the country as a whole. It was suggested that Lat provide a list of the numbers to the next meeting.

Discussion also took place in regard to other representatives on the Board. It was noted that there was a vacancy for a Head Teacher representative and suggested that it may be worth speaking to a loyal attendees of the Primary Network Group to seek a representative.

59 THE RESOURCES PROJECT (VERSION 1.2 ATTACHED):- IS IT READY FOR PUBLICATION? ON THE DMBC WEBSITE AND BY E-MAIL TO SCHOOLS? EXTENSION TO MORE COMMUNITIES? IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF VISITS? TOO MUCH INFORMATION OR NOT ENOUGH?

The Chair provided an update with regard to the Doncaster Resources project and a copy of the document was open for discussion. He suggested that a copy of the document could be made available on the Councils website and a copy be forwarded by email to all schools with a view to extending the resources to more communities.

He sought Members views on when the document should be revisited in terms of updating and adding to it.

SACRE welcomed the document and felt it was a really good resource to have. It was suggested that the document should be amended once all information from interested parties had been received to see what the reaction had been. Lat stated that it had been mentioned at the Primary Network Group and they were keen for the document to be provided.

The Chair stated that he had started to contact secondary schools. However had not managed to take any further action on this. Jane Reed indicated that there was a database of email contact for schools, these would be collated and forwarded in order for a copy of the document to be forwarded to all schools, this would take place outside of the meeting.

It was agreed that it would be useful to know what contacts had been made with school, prior to the document being updated and published.

AGREED that

- (1) The resources project document be noted;
- (2) A copy of the document be forwarded to all schools for comment with a view to publishing on the Council's website.

60 NASACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - MONDAY, 22 MAY 2023 - 10.30 AM - 15.30 PM, FISHMONGERS HALL, LONDON (MAXIMUM 2 MEMBERS PER SACRE AT £120 PER DELEGATE + TRAVEL).

The Chair asked members if they wished to attend the NASACRE Annual Conference, he indicated that he would be happy to attend. If anybody was interested in attending they were to get in touch with him outside of the meeting.

In terms of any expenses to and from the conference, Jane Reed advised that this would be something she would need to discuss with Stephanie Douglas outside of the meeting and confirm at a later date if expenses would be paid for by the Council.

61 NASACRE ONLINE TRAINING: 21 FEBRUARY 2023, (4.00PM - 5.30PM) - 'BEING AN EFFECTIVE SACRE CLERK'. 14 MARCH 2023, (7.00 PM - 8.30 PM) - 'SO, YOU'VE JOINED YOUR LOCAL SACRE...'

The Chair sought Members interest with regard to the on-line training facilitated by NASACRE. If anyone was interested they could find the information on the NASACRE website and anyone was able to attend.

62 NATIONAL UPDATE FOR SACRE'S SPRING TERM 2023 - LAT BLAYLOCK.

Lat Blaylock, advisor to SACRE, presented an update from RE Today, which outlined the key issues nationally at the present time.

Points of interest to note included the following:-

- From a survey carried out, 67% of people appreciated the presence of religious education. It was also noted that those children who undertake the study of RE as a GCSE are more likely to do well in other subjects;
- In regard to the Westminster Debate, it was noted that it was against Government recommendations to have less than 60 minutes of RE taught in schools, some of the schools were within Doncaster and action was required;
- Theos Report – interesting references within the report
- New2RE – This is a new offer for teachers. It was advised that there are many classes with teachers that are specialists in other studies and not RE;
- Inclusive Judaism – Lat re-iterated the range of classroom resources available to schools to encourage inclusivity and diversity
- Free webinars for Primary and Secondary ECTs – Early Career Teachers were offered a number of courses and webinars, providing the chance to talk to more experienced teachers giving advice on classroom strategies.

Following the update, the Chair sought comments from the Committee.

Firstly, the Chair commented that he was shocked by the number of children who were withdrawn from RE lessons in school. Lat stated that some children are withdrawn but parents are happy for them to sit at the back of the room and complete other subjects. He also stated that there was comprehensive guidance available to parents within the RE Syllabus which explains what their child would be learning. It was suggested that it may be worth inviting some parents into schools to provide further information and guidance and explain what their child would be learning which may avoid or minimise withdrawals.

Discussion took place around introducing an exemplar model. It was advised that SACRE have an agreed syllabus and whilst guidance could be built into future training policy, Lat advised that he would be hesitant on using an exemplar model or policy.

A query was made as to why children were being withdrawn and whether teachers should be asking why. It was noted that RE studies should not be looked at as children practicing religion but learning about different faiths. It was suggested that some parents may be afraid of the subject and whether it could be influencing their child.

All members agreed that it could be worth sending further information out to parents on the subject of RE, highlighting that the child would not be learning religion in practice just providing their child with knowledge of other faiths and beliefs. Jugtinder Singh stated that her school had sent out a letter to parents previously which could be shared with Committee, this would hopefully show religion in a more positive light.

AGREED that the RE Today National Report for the spring term be noted

63 WESTHILL AWARDS - UP TO £4,000 FOR PROJECTS WHICH ENGAGE SCHOOL CHILDREN AND PROVIDE COMPELLING LEARNING EXPERIENCES. SEE ATTACHED FOR IDEAS THAT HAVE WON A WESTHILL AWARDS IN THE PAST.

The Chair introduced the item which advised SACRE on Westhill Awards. He stated that this was an opportunity to apply for funding of £4,000 for projects which engage school children and provide compelling learning experiences.

He presented an example of a project as follows:-

- Involving children/students coming together with leaders of religions and world views with the aim at producing dialogue and mutual understanding of religion and breaking down prejudices and accepting other people's view points.

Lat advised that this would be an excellent project and had experience of working with SACRE's on such projects. He pointed out that the funding could pay for teacher cover and learning resources and would volunteer to assist with an application. He went on to advise that money had not been awarded to Doncaster before and Westhills were always looking for new applicants.

AGREED that a sub-committee be formed comprising of Jugtinder Singh and Tara Moxon, assisted by Lat in putting an application forward.

64 DELTA ACADEMIES TRUST PROGRESSION DOCUMENT (ATTACHED). DO WE FEEL THE KNOWLEDGE IS ACCURATE? IS THERE ANYTHING THAT NEEDS ADDING? IS THE PROGRESSION, RIGHT? IS THERE ANYTHING THAT NEEDS CHANGING?

The Chair sought comments with regard to the Delta Academies Trust Progression document.

Tara Moxon, wished to point out that in the interest of declarations, she was from a Delta Trust School. However, this information had been collated at a higher level.

Lat advised SACRE that whilst the information was interesting, in his professional opinion he would advise SACRE to note the document only. He stated that SACRE have an agreed syllabus which explains RE Studies in much more detail and whilst the information is of interest, the document was not complete and doesn't advise on teaching and learning.

AGREED to note the Delta Academies Trust Progression document.

65 NASACRE AWARDS - MOST ACTIVE MEMBER AND/OR MEMBER WHO HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. DO WE HAVE ANY NOMINATIONS?

The Chair sought comments from SACRE with regard to nominations and whether SACRE wished to nominate anyone for an award.

Whilst there were no nominations put forward, the Chair stated that if anyone would like to nominate anybody in the future to get in touch with him for further discussion.

66 WIDENING INVOLVEMENT - INVITING VISITORS TO OUR MEETINGS: HEADTEACHERS, RE TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND LEADERS OF FAITH/WORLD VIEW COMMUNITIES. MEETING IN PLACES OF WORSHIP AND/OR SCHOOLS. VISITING SCHOOLS AS SACRE MEMBERS. IDEAS?

The Chair sought Members views on widening involvement and inviting visitors to such as head teachers, RE teachers, students or leaders of faiths to SACRE meetings to share their knowledge and experience of their roles.

Members agreed that this would be a good idea and the Chair would look to take this task on board.

Tara Moxon NEU representative stated that she would be happy to share with SACRE what her school does in terms of RE.

A suggestion was put forward to hold SACRE meetings in other venues such as a school or a place of worship. It was advised that there would be the requirement to have hybrid facilities available for those members who were unable to attend physically and as SACRE was a public meeting there would be a requirement to provide public access. It was agreed that this be looked at for a future meeting.

AGREED that Tara Moxon present to SACRE a brief (10 mins) outline of what was taught in terms of RE at her school at the next SACRE meeting.

67 DONCASTER SACRE ANNUAL REPORT (TEMPLATE ATTACHED) - SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY 31ST MARCH 2023.

The Chair introduced the item, stating that SACRE are required to produce an Annual Report. A template had been produced to help with the completion of the report.

AGREED that the Vice-Chair, Councillor Glynis Smith in consultation with Lat would undertake the task of producing the report.

The Chair stated that there were also links on the NASACRE Website of published Annual Reports would help with completion.

68 CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN RE/WORLD VIEWS EDUCATION - THE ROTHERHAM SACRE PROJECT.

The Chair commented that some SACRE's celebrate excellence and go into schools to present awards, he asked whether this was something Doncaster SACRE would be interested in.

Lat provided Members with an example from Gloucestershire. He stated that schools were presented with certificates for a particular project as a mark of quality of excellence. He also advised that schools can be awarded RE Quality Mark. However schools are required to pay for this and whilst some SACRE's provide a subsidy, it was not clear if Doncaster would be able to offer that in light of the current budget position.

Jugtinder Singh wished to highlight to SACRE that she was looking at applying for RE Quality Mark for her school. The Chair offered to attend the school to provide support and discuss the application. He also offered this to any school which was something to keep in mind.

69 WORKPLAN UPDATE.



The Chair invited comments with regard to the work plan and whether any member wished to add any items.

Lat stated that whilst there had been success in engaging teachers for the Primary Network Group, he wished that this year priority should be given to finding teachers to attend a Secondary Network Group.

The Chair and Members agreed this a way forward but also stated that if there was anything further to add to the work of the Committee then Members are to come forward with those items.

70 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

AGREED that the next meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education be held on Thursday, 6th July, 2023 in the Civic Chamber, Civic Office at 4.30 p.m.

CHAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SACRE News – Summer Term 2023

The role of SACRE is to create and monitor the agreed syllabus for RE in our local area, and to advise the local authority on matters relating to the provision and quality of RE and school collective worship. SACRE is eager to respond to teacher-needs and school requests for RE help.

### National RE news for Teachers!

This paper is a short digest of some useful items of interest about RE in the summer term 2023. Wherever possible we have provided hotlinks to additional web based resources.



16 What is your religion?  
This question is voluntary

- No religion
- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Any other religion, write in

### Using the 2021 Census Data in RE

The 2021 Census data has now been released and we can use it to look at the results with pupils, and compare with the local area. Here are some tips on how to make the most of it!

1. Explain to pupils or students that the religion was question was voluntary. People over 18 had to choose which box to tick.
2. Show pupils the **results for the UK as a whole**: what do they notice? Note the **large fall in the number of people who identify as Christian, and the large rise in the number of people who tick 'no religion'**. Ask pupils why that might be.
3. Look at the **results for our area – local authority and region**. Can students notice some similarities and differences to the national picture?
4. Either show to the class, or allow students to investigate for themselves, the Census data on the internet. Use this link: below. **You can find clickable maps that allow you to zoom in on your really local area and search by religion**. Can students see how their area compares to the wider area? How is it similar, how is it different?  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021>
5. A helpful presentation by Sarah Bateau from Elmlea Junior in Bristol is available from NATRE - could be used together with the local data from our area. Email me on [lat@retoday.org.uk](mailto:lat@retoday.org.uk) if you would like some PPT slides for the census. **Could you use this in an RE unit of work?**

## Religion and worldviews in our local area: Census data from 2021.

Teach pupils about the changing demographics of religion and belief in the UK, with an emphasis on these local statistics. Teach them about the global spread of religion and belief as well: the local, national and global pictures are each important

	No religion (number)	Christian (number)	Buddhist (number)	Hindu / Sanatan Dharma (number)	Jewish (number)	Muslim (number)	Sikh (number)	Other religion (number)	Not answered (number)
<b>Bedford</b>	63,243	88,178	629	3,045	232	13,059	4,114	2,014	10,711
<b>%ages</b>	34.1	47.6	0.3	1.6	0.1	7.1	2.2	1.1	5.8
<b>Central Bedfordshire</b>	126,001	140,903	996	3,035	620	3,965	1,399	1,362	15,971
<b>%ages</b>	42.8	47.9	0.3	1.0	0.2	1.3	0.5	0.5	5.4
<b>Luton</b>	39,580	85,297	664	7,438	246	74,191	3,032	1,115	13,697
<b>%ages</b>	17.6	37.9	0.3	3.3	0.1	32.9	1.3	0.5	6.1

## NATRE Spirited Arts 2023 – new themes announced

Will your school join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition? Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form pupils can think of. Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE? Closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### The 6 themes

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us"
2. Green faith, green future? ['God's good earth?']
3. Where is God today?
4. Faith in action, values in action.
5. Sacred space and holy buildings
6. All God's creatures?



More details here [www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/](http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/)

## Ofsted appoint new Acting Subject Lead for RE

Hazel Henson HMI was appointed as acting subject lead for RE at OFSTED in March 2023. She has a background in primary education as a former Derbyshire head teacher.



## Children's Commissioner shares her view on RE with former pupil

Shammi Rahman, recently interviewed The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza for RE Today magazine. Dame Rachel is a previous RE teacher and headteacher and Shammi, is a former secondary teacher and now a Race Equality Adviser. Dame Rachel was her RE teacher!

Dame Rachel says, 'a former RE teacher myself, I believe RE teachers have a crucial opportunity to teach children about the wider world and principals of fairness and equality. It was great to talk about how different faiths can teach us different things, for example treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves; having compassion for others; and celebrating the beauty of life in our environment.'



Listen to their conversation here: [Conversation with Shammi Rahman: The importance of Religious Education | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#)

## RE Hubs – Website now live!



RE Hubs website is now live at [www.re-hubs.uk](http://www.re-hubs.uk). RE Hubs aim to connect those who can provide resources with those who need them and create a neutral platform being RE professionals together.

Many organizations serve RE/RVE/R&W education in the UK, from places of worship and school speakers to CPD partnerships and resource providers. However, until now, there hasn't been a single place to equip, enable, and signpost everyone within the community.

## NATRE Secondary Survey



The NATRE survey of secondary RE teachers is now underway and open until Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Everyone who completes the survey will receive a £5 coupon for the RE Teaching Resources online shop as well as being entered into a prize draw to win a NATRE School Enhanced membership worth £270. The survey is here: [NATRE Survey - Secondary 2023 \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://surveymonkey.co.uk)

## Culham St Gabriel's launch FREE new self-study course

Digging Deeper: Subject Knowledge, this short, self-study course builds on the introduction level course and is available for FREE. Find out more here: [Culham St Gabriel's Trust Moodle \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://cstg.org.uk)

## Understanding Humanism launches new animation and free resources

Understanding Humanism has launched a new animation 'One Life, live it well' voiced by author and presenter, Alice Roberts. Accompanied by classroom activities, this simple but beautiful animation illustrates how humanists try to approach life: [One Life, Live It Well: watch our new animation narrated by Alice Roberts » Understanding Humanism](#)

They also have available new free resources for children in early years, and the stories of four amazing humanist women who changed the world.

## Training and CPD opportunities and other support

### Free webinars for primary and secondary ECTs – a taster for NATRE ECT membership

Early Career Teachers have access to a range of free support through a series of online sessions. 'Café' sessions give you a chance to talk with experienced teachers and experts from different worldview backgrounds. The taught sessions offer expert input with a focus on practical classroom strategies.

Date – Mondays 4.00-5.30pm	Topic
12 June	Taught session: Focus on Sikhi
10 July	Café NATRE: Subject knowledge Christianity

A further programme will be available from September. ECT webinars booking link [www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/](http://www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/)

## NATRE: new membership packages!

NATRE is the largest membership organisation that promotes, defends and supports RE teachers and RE teaching. It does this through producing high-quality resources and CPD, lobbying government, being involved in conversations with the DfE and Ofsted, Local Authorities and SACREs, telling teachers' stories and experiences and being a voice for all teachers.



Membership packages for students, ECTs, teachers, schools, RE professionals and RE enthusiasts!

Details: [www.natre.org.uk/membership](http://www.natre.org.uk/membership)

## NATRE: welcome webinars for new members

New NATRE members are invited to a monthly welcome webinar. This will help them use their NATRE membership and enjoy it to its fullest!

### What will they learn?

- How to Access NATRE resources
- Access online termly mailing resources
- Access Local Groups area
- Take the best out of the NATRE monthly newsletter
- How to redeem your REtoday library membership
- How to use your membership discount

**Members can register their interest to attend a webinar at this link.**

[www.natre.org.uk/member-login/natre-members-welcome-webinar/](http://www.natre.org.uk/member-login/natre-members-welcome-webinar/)

## BBC expands early years RE resources

There are new resources for 4 and 5 year olds for RE / RME and RVE from BBC Bitesize Reception. These include some simple craft activities and some recipes for festive food with clear and simple ideas to bring the world of religion alive for small children. The subject is connected to work in the fields of expressive arts and design, helping pupils with their understanding of the world particularly in the field of religion and belief. These new materials cover Christmas, Easter, Eid Al Adha, Vaisakhi, Divali and more and have now gone live. They include video clips made for the age group, activity sheets and information for teacher-use. Lat Blaylock, who contributed to the work says: 'I'm really pleased to see that BBC have made such a diverse and well thought out contribution to Early Years learning about religion and belief. Teachers will find this is a little treasure trove.'

Here is a link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z24kqyc> [Religions, festivals and celebrations](#)

## Celebrating 25 years of children's emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing

2023 is an exciting year for Fischy Music as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary! Celebrations are already underway with free online concerts streaming live every month throughout this year, so whole classrooms and assembly halls of children can join in with 30 minutes of uplifting songs! Founded in 1998 by Stephen Fischbacher, Fischy Music ([www.fischy.com](http://www.fischy.com)) is a children's charity, writing songs for and with children to nurture positive mental health and help them express and manage a range of emotions.

Songs are at the heart of everything we do, with Health & Wellbeing and RE & Collective Worship songs and teaching resources made available to children, families, schools and churches. In addition to live events, our innovative song-streaming platform, Fischy Music Online has made it easy for teachers everywhere to access over 140 songs and teaching resources, with new songs regularly added.

*“Fischy Music songs open an emotional door allowing children to have the confidence to discuss issues and problems that we might otherwise not pick up on.”* Teacher, St Philomena’s Primary School, Glasgow

As well as the many health benefits of singing, the positive impact of the messages in the songs, like ‘build up one another’ and ‘we can make a difference in this world of ours’ stay with children as they grow up. Schools can subscribe to Fischy Music Online to access over 140 songs. The RE Package includes resources created in conjunction with Lat Blaylock, RE Today, to help staff use music well in RE and connecting to significant Christian concepts (eg from Understanding Christianity). The resources can be used by all staff and are useful in all primary schools wherever you want to enable spiritual reflection and can also be used in assemblies and services for collective worship. To find out more, email: [info@fischy.com](mailto:info@fischy.com)

## Educate Against Islamophobia (EAI)

**Educate Against Islamophobia (EAI)** has recently published a plethora of educational materials for the Early Years, primary schools, high schools and educational practitioners across the U.K. The teaching and learning materials are reflective of the respective curriculums and national frameworks, and offer learners with learning opportunities that are applicable to their respective nations.

### Early Years resources:

- Amna & Amy Storybook
- 2 lesson plans.

The storybook and accompanying lesson plans aim to support children in the Early Years to develop an awareness of equality, diversity and respectful behaviour and introduce learners to aspects of the Islamic identity.

### Primary school resources:

- Unit of work

The unit of work which comprises 6 lesson plans supports KS1-KS2/P2-P7 learners in developing positive attitudes towards diversity. This unit of work also aims to introduce learners to the Islamic identity and will enable them to explore some of the similarities and differences between Islam and other faiths/culture.

### High school resources:

- Unit of work

The unit of work which comprises 6 lesson plans supports KS3-KS4/S1-S4 learners in

developing an awareness of Islamophobia, including its manifestations and dangers. Learners will explore the issue of Islamophobia through a range of themes and lenses including human rights, anti-bullying and media literacy.

### Educator resources:

- Islamophobia awareness training session
- Equality, diversity and inclusion audit

The Islamophobia awareness training and EDI audit aims to promote an awareness of Islamophobia and equip practitioners with the understanding of how to address it in the school community. These materials will also assist educational practitioners to meet their Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010).

To download your free copy of EAI’s materials, visit: <https://eai.org.uk/>

If you would like to learn more about Educate Against Islamophobia’s work and services contact [info@eai.org.uk](mailto:info@eai.org.uk)



## Using Faith Inspired Art to Encourage Conversation, Enable Reflections and Inspire Action. Cheryl Homer, Westhill Endowment

RE Today and NATRE have always been great supporters of the arts and if you are wondering if using faith inspired arts in your school might be beneficial the answer is most likely 'yes'. But where do you start. Westhill Endowment are here to help, with years of experience working with faith inspired arts. The charity has 10 art collections which are available FREE\* to schools and community venues around the UK.

Many communities have already benefited from these resources which aim to encourage conversation, enable reflections, and inspire action. A Year 10 textiles student recently reflected on her experience with the Gethsemane Garments: "I liked the green garment [representing Hope] showing the rips and tears of the fabric, but with the sides being restitched to show signs of healing and positivity."

A Primary School Teacher reflected on a creative lockdown session provided by their local vicar using the exhibition Bald Statements: "The creative artwork [the children produced in response] has been thought provoking and the children were able to speak honestly on their feelings and experiences of lockdown."

The art collections come with a variety of themes and mediums, including free standing and wall mounted works of art. Additional materials such as booklets, education packs, and films are available. Westhill will also consider funding applications for events around your exhibition.

Westhill Endowment work one to one with all exhibition hosts helping you tailor your exhibition to suit your space and your audiences. If you'd like to know more, please contact Westhill's Arts Coordinator, Cheryl Homer, on [cheryl@westhillendowment.org](mailto:cheryl@westhillendowment.org) or check the website or social media. [www.westhillendowment.org](http://www.westhillendowment.org) [www.facebook.com/WesthillEndowment](https://www.facebook.com/WesthillEndowment)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCHKjKpunQoC4XSXD4j88XZA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHKjKpunQoC4XSXD4j88XZA)

*\*You may incur transport and insurance costs, please ask if this is applicable.*

## Anti-racist RE: continuing debates and widening resources.

Jonathan Marshall, MBE, ran a brilliant RE and interfaith centre in Plymouth before he retired. Thanks to Jonathan for drawing attention to resources which might compliment the NATRE anti-racist RE materials (<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-racist-re/>)

"I think teachers might find the work of the Equiano Project on anti-racist education helpful. In the true spirit of quality RE, some diversity of views might be welcome."

This black-led project may help teachers of RE who want to understand the complexity of an anti-racist RE approach: they should be encouraged to explore a range of different voices, one of which is to be found on the excellent website of "The Equiano project" <https://www.theequianoproject.com/>

See for example the video "Understanding the new politics of race" by Prof. John McWhorter. At just under twenty minutes, this perspective is an extremely helpful and profound insight into the background and current situation of anti-racism.

Jonathan also draws attention to the 'Don't Divide Us' project, whose opening statement includes these key ideas: "We should treat everyone as an individual worthy of respect regardless of race, religion or the colour of their skin We call this colourblind anti-racism – it is based on freedom and tolerance – and we believe it is the best way to counter prejudice where it does exist. Britain is a successful multi-cultural society with a positive story to tell about race relations: We won't benefit from importing divisive political ideas from the US that don't reflect our history and which undermine our shared values today. See much more at: <https://dontdivideus.com/our-beliefs/>

## Philosophy of Religion resources from the FT!

Jack Robertson, RE teacher in north London, is working with the the Financial Times to offer free access to FT.com for all schools and colleges teaching sixteen to nineteen year old students. An FT subscription can support students in developing the broad knowledge that will help them stand out to examiners, universities and employers. A Philosophy Class page, [ft.com/philosophyclass](https://www.ft.com/philosophyclass), is available for teachers and students of philosophy and ethics. It brings together relevant articles from across the FT and provides accompanying questions that prompt students to reflect critically and make connections to areas of the A-level specification. There is also an IB Theory of Knowledge page for IB students.

Recent Philosophy Class articles cover topics from the ethics of climate protests and abortion to developments in AI and quantum physics, as well as interviews with philosophers such as MacAskill, Chalmers and Srinivasan.

Participating schools receive the same level of access to FT.com as regular subscriber. Check if your school is registered or register your interest via the Philosophy Class page or at [ft.com/schoolsarefree](https://www.ft.com/schoolsarefree)

Jack Robertson <[JRobertson@qebarnet.co.uk](mailto:JRobertson@qebarnet.co.uk)>

## Christian Aid Global Neighbours

The Global Neighbours accreditation scheme is an award scheme for schools run by the charity Christian Aid, in partnership with the Church of England Education Office. It is open to all primary schools and has recently expanded into secondary schools too. The scheme has been running for five years and celebrates the development of global citizenship and courageous advocacy in schools. Its aim is to encourage a deeper understanding of the world and for young people to be empowered to engage with and respond to global issues.

Schools can apply for a bronze, silver or gold award. To achieve accreditation, schools must demonstrate how they are fulfilling criteria relating to:

- Leadership, vision and values
- Teaching and learning
- Collective worship and spiritual development
- Pupil participation in active global citizenship
- Community engagement

For more information please contact Alison Brown (Global Neighbours Schools Programme Officer): [abrown@christian-aid.org](mailto:abrown@christian-aid.org)

## The RE Connect Environmental programme for RE

### Are you looking for ways to connect your RE teaching with the environmental crisis?

The RE:Connect Teacher Fellowship Programme is designed to help deepen teachers' understanding and confidence for exploring the environmental crisis through the lens of religions and worldviews in RE. The programme is not just about getting ideas, but also enhancing your teaching practice and professional network around this theme.



After a successful pilot of the programme in 2021-22, RE:Connect will be running again from September 2023, thanks to a grant from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust. There are places for **up to 10 teachers** of RE (primary and secondary) on the 6 month teacher fellowship programme. The initiative is run by Dr Jeremy Kidwell, Associate Professor in Theological Ethics at the University of Birmingham and Dr Ian Jones of St Peter's Saltley Trust, with input from experienced primary and secondary specialists, environmental scientists, climate activists and academic researchers in religion and environment.

The programme offers opportunities to:

- Deepen subject knowledge on the intersection of religion and ecology
- Work with cutting-edge subject specialists on religious ethics/practice, ecology, and climate change policy
- Work as part of a supportive and dynamic team to create and trial new approaches and resources for teaching on this theme
- Become a champion for teaching and learning on religion and environmental crisis

The Teacher Fellowship Programme involves monthly workshops from Autumn 2023 to Spring 2024, with tasks to undertake between workshops. Programme sessions will include one fully-funded weekend residential and 6-8 online evening sessions (roughly one per month). There is no cost of participation to the teacher or their school and Fellows receive a bursary of £500 to cover costs of participation plus travel expenses to enable attendance at in-person sessions.

**Interested?** Please contact Ian Jones ([director@saltleytrust.org.uk](mailto:director@saltleytrust.org.uk)) to register your interest. Selection for the programme is by a formal application process.

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