For teachers and schools in the north

The RE Newsletter

SUMMER TERM 2 JULY 2026

NEWS AND EVENTS

Inspiration and Insight from the NASACRE conference 2026

This year's NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) Conference, held in Liverpool on the 18th May, proved to be an inspiring and thought-provoking day for members of Oldham SACRE. Bringing together teachers, advisers, academics, local authority representatives and faith community members from across the country, the conference celebrated the collaborative work of SACREs while exploring the future of Religious Education.

One of the strongest themes throughout the day was the role of Religious Education in building cohesive communities. Amy Ark from the Faith and Belief Forum shared practical examples of how schools and communities can work together to promote understanding between people of different faiths and worldviews. Particularly inspiring was the organisation's work to involve parents more actively in their children's Religious Education, recognising the important role families play in developing respectful dialogue and understanding.

Professor Vanessa Ogden also offered an insightful perspective on the growing importance of SACREs in promoting social harmony, especially as discussions continue around the possibility of a future national curriculum. Her keynote highlighted the unique contribution that local expertise and community partnerships make to high-quality Religious Education.

The conference also provided valuable opportunities to network with colleagues from across England, sharing ideas, celebrating good practice and reflecting on common challenges. For Oldham SACRE, these conversations generated fresh thinking about how we can continue to support schools and strengthen our local work.

One particularly memorable session showcased the innovative projects recognised through the Westhill Awards. Several initiatives demonstrated practical ways of making local curricula more representative of the communities they serve. One project identified a significant faith community that was largely absent from local curriculum planning, leading to meaningful engagement with that community and greater representation in Religious Education. This prompted valuable discussions within the Oldham delegation about our own local demographic data and how we might better ensure that all faith and worldview communities are represented and heard.



We returned from Liverpool with renewed enthusiasm, new professional connections and plenty of practical ideas to explore. Conferences such as NASACRE remind us that Religious Education continues to play a vital role in fostering understanding, inclusion and community cohesion. We look forward to building on what we learned and sharing these ideas with schools across Oldham in the coming months.

Spirited Arts 2026 – deadline approaching 31st July 2026

NATRE's annual cross-curricular art competition is underway. If you haven't submitted your entries yet, don't worry there is still time. Join the many schools who are getting creative and empowering their pupils to articulate their thoughts and opinions about religion and worldviews through the arts.

Winning/highly commended artwork will be displayed at NATRE's online Spirited Arts Gallery and there will be 40 prizes up for grabs plus certificates for all schools entering to give to their pupils as recognition for taking part in a national competition.

Submit your entries here (link)

Oldham SACRE Local Spirited Arts (Oldham and Tameside schools only)

Please find below the flier for the Oldham SACRE Local Spirited Arts exhibition entry opening. You will also find a student friendly copy of the flier attached to the newsletter email.



Invitation to Hindu RE Teachers

Are you a primary or secondary RE teacher who identifies as Hindu? A PhD study at the University of Cumbria is exploring the experiences and perspectives of Hindu educators in Religious Education. Participants are invited to take part in two focus groups and an individual interview.

To find out more detailed information and express your interest, please contact jane.yates3@uni.cumbria.ac.uk

For more information: https://www.cstg.org.uk/scholarship-programmes/doctoral-scholarship/jane-yates/

Your Voice Matters: Shape the Future of Primary RE

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) has launched its bi-annual primary survey. This is your chance to make sure the reality of RE in your 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.

It takes just a few minutes, is completely anonymous, and is open until the 31st July. Every response makes a difference.

You can complete the survey here

Fairfield School – World Religion Day Celebration

In the Spring term Fairfield School celebrated World Religion Day. The day consisted of different stations set up around school that explored and showcased different religions. Pupils were able to practice making Challa bread as part of Judaism, baptize a baby for Christianity and listen to a talking Quran as part of Islam. Feedback from the day included "It was a good opportunity to look at similarities and difference between religions" and "having the opportunity to explore different religions in different ways".









NATRE How do I become an RE teacher campaign?

The drive to recruit more teachers to RE is underway! Please see flier and share with anyone you know that may be interested in pursuing a career in RE teaching.

https://natre.org.uk/how-do-i-become-an-re-teacher/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



Farewell to Liam Spencer

We bid farewell to Liam Spencer, one of our RE Advisers at Pennine Learning, who is moving on. Liam has worked with us for a few years, delivering networks across Tameside, conducting RE reviews and undertaking work as part of the Pennine Team. He will be missed and we wish him all the best for the future.

New member of Pennine Learning

We are pleased to welcome Amy Wilby to the Pennine Learning Team as Lead Personal Development Network Coordinator for Kirklees. In this role, Amy will be leading on the development and coordination of the Personal Development Network across the area, supporting schools to strengthen their provision for pupils' wider development. This will include work around PSHE, careers education, character and wellbeing, and ensuring a coherent, high-quality offer that helps schools share practice and continue to improve outcomes for all young people.

Interfaith Event Online

The theme of this year's interfaith event is 'A Good Life: Learning from religion and worldviews.

The event gives primary pupils an opportunity to hear about and explore codes of behaviour followed by people from different faith and belief communities.

Resources, short films and ideas for creative activities will be provided and there will be an opportunity to meet faith representatives in a 'live' question and answer session via Zoom in November – date TBC.

Cost: £40 per class/screen; £130 for up to 4 screens.

Bookings esther@penninelearning.com
Other queries helen.rivers@leeds.gov.uk

Faith trails for interfaith week

South Kirklees Faith and Belief Forum are planning walking Trails and visits for Kirklees schools, 8th – 19th November:

- Quaker meeting house: Quaker and Humanist interfaith discussion (Upper KS2/KS3)
- Huddersfield town centre faith trail - Mandir-Gurdwara-Mosque
- Huddersfield faith trail - Mosque and Gurdwara/New Testament church

Cost/ donation:

- £90 per class for the 3-centre visit
- £60 per class for the 2-centre visit

Expressions of interest to: helen@penninelearning.com


STRICTLY RE 2027
SAVE THE DATE!
SAT 30 JANUARY 2027
VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED
THE 3Cs
CURRICULUM
Inspiring RE for every learner
CASE STUDIES
Real stories, real impact
COMMUNITY
Together, we make a difference
A day of inspiration, practical ideas and connection for everyone teaching RE.
INSPIRE • EXPLORE • CONNECT
NATRE
National Association of Teachers of Religious Education
SPEAKERS & VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!
WWW.NATRE.ORG.UK

Be the Change: AYLA Webinars & Diocesan Opportunities

AYLA continues to grow across schools and dioceses nationwide, equipping children and young people to become courageous, compassionate leaders who are empowered to make a difference within their communities and beyond. Rooted in the Church of England Vision for Education, the programme develops leadership, character, pupil voice, and meaningful social action through engaging and accessible resources for pupils from KS1 through to Post-16.

Schools delivering AYLA consistently report increased confidence, deeper pupil engagement, stronger opportunities for student leadership, and meaningful links to Personal Development, SIAMS, SMSC, and collective worship. At its heart, AYLA encourages young people to recognise that leadership is not reserved for a select few but is something that can be lived out through service, courage, hope, and action.

Whether schools are already delivering the programme or are simply curious to find out more, their upcoming webinars provide a fantastic opportunity to explore the resources, hear about the impact in schools, and ask any questions about implementation.

Upcoming webinars:

Primary Webinars:

- 13th August - 1:15pm

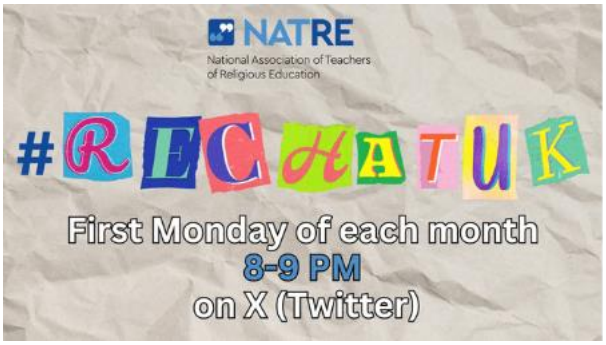
Secondary Webinars:

- 12th August - 1:15pm

For further information about AYLA, please contact Victoria Jones: victoriajones@churchofengland.org

Further details and booking information and online booking can be found here: www.nse.org.uk/ayla/whats-on

#REChatUK

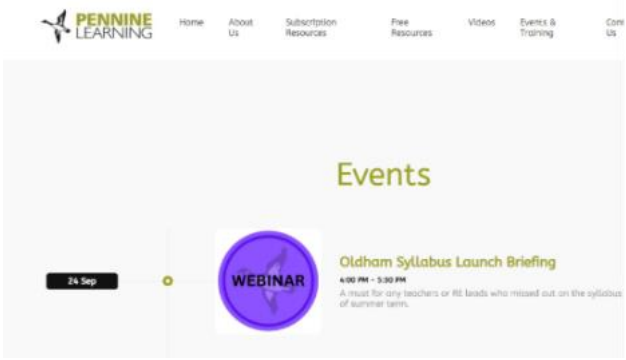


#REChatUK takes place on the first Monday of the month, from 8-9pm. These fast-paced, fun and informative discussions are a great way to discover new ideas, resources and conversations. The forum is also an effective place to network and meet new people on Twitter. Follow @NATREupdate on Twitter, and the hashtag #REChatUK. An overview of the dates and themes for the rest of 2026 are below.

September 7th 2026	ITE in RE
October 5th 2026	Assessment in RE
November 2nd 2026	Teaching to the Top

December 7th 2026	Adaptive Teaching
January 4th 2027	Visual RE
March 1st 2027	Teaching Sensitive Topics

Pennine Learning Events 2026-2027



Thanks to everyone who attended our networks and courses this year. We really enjoyed running them, as we do every year, and we hope that you found them useful and informative.

Please find below a list of dates for networks and curriculum courses that we have on our schedule for next academic year. All dates are subject to change, but please do save the dates as they are currently set so that you can attend next year.

We will be publishing all the dates on our website over the summer along with the fliers. As always we will send regular reminders so that those who benefit from attending these networks and courses can get involved!

Networks

Kirklees Primary

- Thursday 22nd October 2026
- Thursday 11th March 2027
- Thursday 10th June 2027

Leeds Primary

- Tuesday 13th October 2026
- Thursday 18th March 2027
- Thursday 17th June 2027

Tameside Primary

- Thursday 15th October 2026
- Thursday 25th February 2027
- Thursday 24th June 2027

Oldham Primary

- Wednesday 30th September 2026
- Wednesday 1st February 2027 (Online)
- Wednesday 30th June 2027

Manchester/Salford Primary

- Thursday 5th November 2026
- Thursday 11th February 2027
- Thursday 24th June 2027

Manchester/Salford Secondary

- Wednesday 4th November 2026
- Wednesday 10th February 2027
- Wednesday 23rd June 2027

Leeds/Kirklees Secondary

- Wednesday 18th November 2026
- Tuesday 2nd February 2027
- Wednesday 7th July 2027 (conference)

Kirklees Personal Development Networks

Online meetings (Set by Kirklees)

- Monday 30th November 2026
- Tuesday 23rd March 2027
- Wed 7th July 2027

Doncaster Primary

- Thursday 12th November 2026
- Thursday 4th March 2027
- Thursday 8th July 2027

Doncaster Secondary

- Wednesday 7th October 2026
- Wednesday 27th January 2027
- Wednesday 19th May 2027

Courses

- Kirklees RE primary coordinators - Tuesday 24th November 2026
- Leeds RE Primary Coordinators - Thursday 25th February 2027
- Manchester/Salford RE Primary Coordinators - Tuesday 6th July 2027
- Sefton RE Primary Coordinators - Tuesday 9th March 2027
- Oldham RE Primary Coordinators - Thursday 29th April 2027
- Doncaster RE Primary Coordinators - Thursday 20th May 2027

Calling all RE ITT's! Have your say!

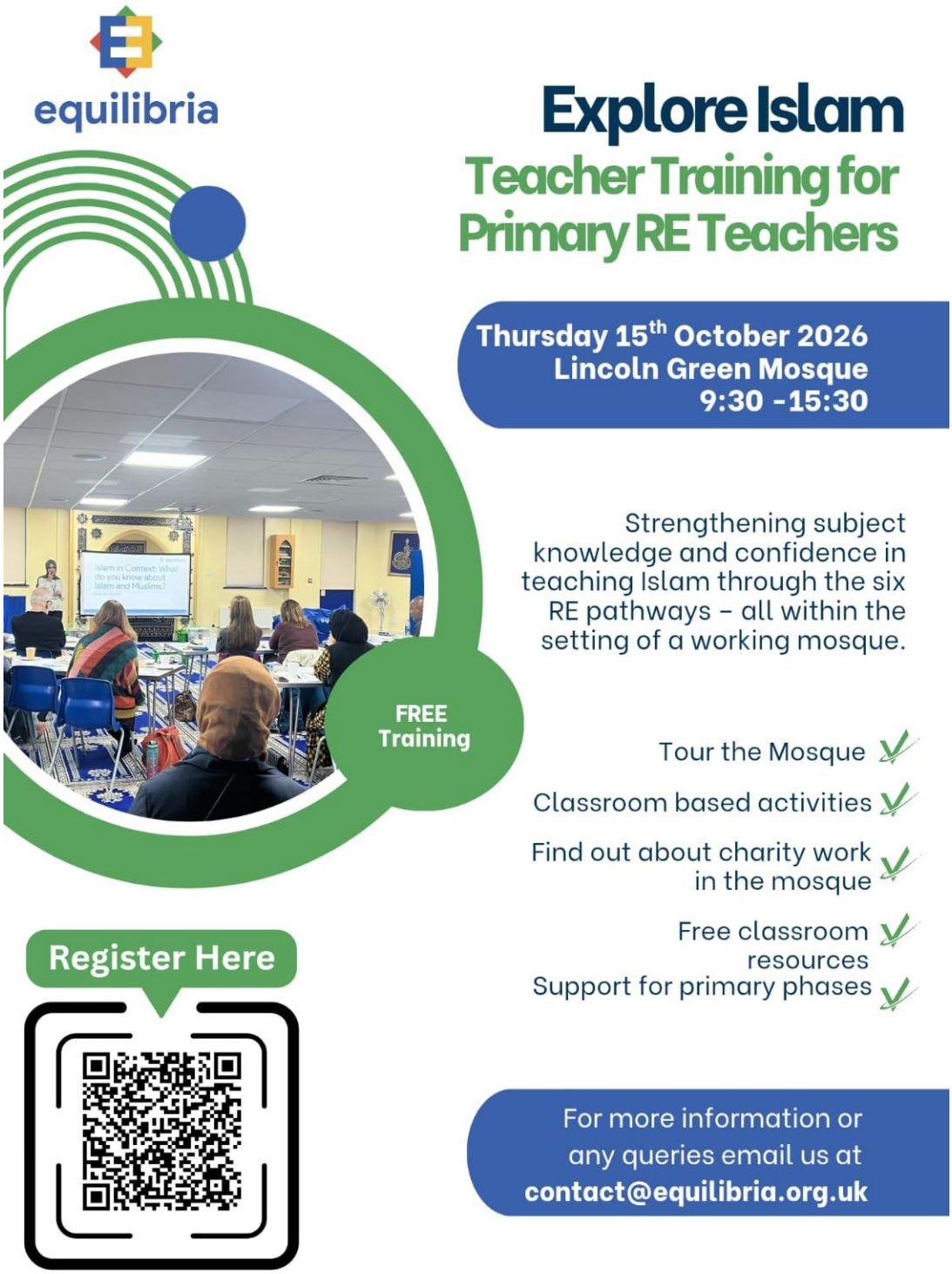
If you are completing an RE Initial Teacher Education programme in 2025–26, NATRE would like to hear about your experiences. NATRE would like to gather information about the views and experiences of trainee Religious Education teachers in the 2025–26 cohort as they reach the end of their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programme. This evidence will help inform NATRE's discussions with ministers, policymakers and teacher educators on issues relating to Religious Education within ITT. These include the importance of subject knowledge enhancement courses, the impact of bursary provision for RE trainees, and other factors affecting recruitment, preparation and retention within the profession.

Please note that your responses will be treated in the strictest confidence. Those completing the survey will not be required to give their name, the name of their ITT provider, or the name of their placement school(s), although they may choose to do so. Anyone opting to share their name should be assured that no individual trainee, provider or school will be identified in any report, publication or presentation arising from this survey. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this survey. Your views and experiences are important and will help inform future policy discussions and support the development of Religious Education teacher education.

Complete the survey here!

Equilibria Explore Islam: Teacher Training 15th October 2026 for Primary Teachers only

Equilibria invite you to their upcoming Explore Islam Teacher Training Day for Primary RE Teachers. Please complete the following form to register your interest. The event takes place on Thursday 15th October 2026 at Lincoln Green Mosque, Leeds from 9:30am – 3:30pm. The event is FREE and includes lunch and refreshments. This immersive day is designed to strengthen subject knowledge and confidence in teaching Islam, with content shaped by the six RE pathways outlined in the new syllabus – all within the setting of a working mosque. Highlights include training shaped by the six RE pathways, interactive, thought-provoking sessions and a Mosque tour and demonstration of practical activities. To register use this link https://forms.gle/HHK7cutorPQqeNEa6. For any queries, feel free to get in touch: contact@equilibria.org.uk



SCHOOL RESOURCES AND WORKSHOPS



Believing and Belonging – full resources and planning package

Our resources and planning package is now being used across a number of authorities in both primary and secondary settings. It is available at competitive prices to support your school in the effective and detailed delivery of the new Believing and Belonging syllabus in your school.

What is the Believing and Belonging syllabus?

The syllabus has two strands:

- **Beliefs and values** – developing understanding of world faiths and other beliefs in a multicultural context.
- **Belonging** – fostering respect for difference.

Together, these promote spiritual awareness, diversity, critical thinking, and reflection.

It is free to all schools in a local authority area or multi-academy trust that has adopted it as their agreed RE syllabus (via your local authority). Shortened handbooks for Doncaster and Oldham are available at *Free Resources – Pennine Learning*.

What materials are available?

We provide PowerPoints, teacher notes, and knowledge organisers for every unit (EYFS–KS3), plus planning from EYFS–KS4. All are matched to the syllabus.

What is the cost?

West Yorkshire:

- Resource package: £500 (+VAT) per school (5 years).
- Planning package: £220 (via Kirklees Business Solutions).

Other areas:

- Package: £720 (+VAT) per school (5 years).
- Oldham & Doncaster maintained schools: £300 (+VAT).
  Prices apply per key stage unless otherwise agreed (EYFS–KS3/KS4).

Are discounts available?

- 20%: academy trusts (all schools subscribe), schools with ≤150 pupils, ≤4 classes, or junior schools.
- 30%: single-phase Infant/Nursery schools.

Can I see samples?

Yes, at penninelearning.com/free-resources.

Do schools need both planning and resources?

Not essential, but strongly recommended. They are designed to work together.

How do schools subscribe?

Email **enquiries@penninelearning.com** for an order form (or **business.solutions@kirklees.gov.uk** for West Yorkshire planning).

PENNINE LEARNING

Newsletter produced for teachers and schools– and anyone else who might find it useful! Pennine Learning is contracted by several LA councils to support statutory responsibilities for RE and SACRE. We work hard to make sure information is correct and up to date but cannot accept liability for any errors or changes to third party information. Views and items do not necessarily represent the views of the Councils. To contact us please email enquiries@penninelearning.com.