For teachers and schools in the north

The RE Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026 AUTUMN 1

NEWS AND EVENTS

RE and the National Curriculum

The Religious Education Council (REC) has published a response to the Secretary of State for Education's announcement of a public consultation on Religious Education's inclusion in the National Curriculum.

Read the REC response

A Good Life — interactive interfaith experience 25th November 2026

Join us for an exciting interactive interfaith experience designed especially for primary pupils. A Good Life gives children the chance to discover, explore and ask questions about values from a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. Through engaging activities, short films and discussion, pupils will explore how values and beliefs shape actions and behaviour.

The highlight of the event is a LIVE Zoom Q&A, giving pupils the opportunity to meet faith and belief communities and representatives and ask their own questions.

We'll provide everything you need to take part:

- Engaging resources
- Short films
- Creative activity ideas
- A live, interactive Zoom Q&A with faith and belief representatives

Event details

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 1.30pm

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

An exciting opportunity to spark curiosity, encourage big questions and bring learning about religion and worldviews to life.

Bookings: esther@penninelearning.com or use the codes below| Queries: helen@penninelearning.com

Free to Kirklees schools, funded by SACRE.

Kirklees order form - A Good Life - An interfaith event for Primary schools (Kirklees) – Fill in form

All other areas order form - A Good Life - An interfaith event for Primary schools – Fill in form



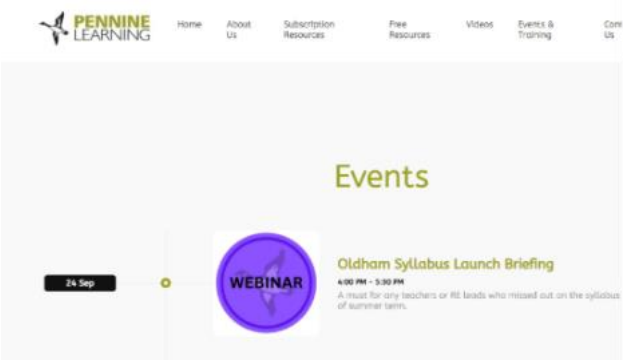


Pennine Learning Events 2026-2027

Thanks to everyone who attended our networks and courses last 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 this 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.

All the dates are published on our website. 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 6th May 2027

Strictly RE 2027 Keynote Speaker Announcement

NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) has announced **The Rt Hon Charles Clarke** as the keynote speaker for **Strictly RE 2027**.

A former Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Charles Clarke is currently a Visiting Professor at both Lancaster University and King's College London. He remains a leading voice on education, religion, belief, and the future of schools.

Framed around the theme *"Building on the past, looking to the future,"* the conference aims to **Inspire, Explore, and Connect** educators across the field.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, 30 January 2027
- **Venue:** Eastside Rooms, Central Birmingham

Bookings are now open.



New – Pennine Learning Facebook Page

We're excited to launch this new space where we'll be sharing the latest updates, helpful resources, behind-the-scenes content, and exciting announcements.

Whether you're looking for practical tips, event news, or just want to stay in the loop, this is the place to be.

Hit the "Follow" button today to join our growing community, stay connected, and never miss an update. We would be glad to have you — feel free to give us a like, drop a comment, and say hello! Pennine Learning Facebook.

Pennine Learning Curriculum Conversations – RE professionals

Is your Religious Education curriculum delivering maximum impact? To help RE leads strengthen, refine, and champion their subject with confidence, we're offering focused, one-to-one Curriculum Conversations.

Designed to provide practical support tailored specifically to your school's needs, each session gives you dedicated time with an RE specialist to review your current provision, address key challenges, and explore fresh ideas.

What's Included:

- 1-Hour Online Session: A deep dive into your curriculum, intent, and implementation with expert guidance.
- Follow-Up Written Report: A clear, practical action plan summarizing recommendations and next steps to share with your leadership team.

Investment: £75 full package.

Whether you're updating your long-term plans, preparing for inspection, or looking for practical ways to keep learning engaging, a Curriculum Conversation gives you the clarity and tools to move forward.

Book your session today to secure your slot and take the next step in enhancing RE at your school – contact enquiries@penninelearning.com.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

RE Hubs — Understanding Humanism

The RE Hubs training calendar includes free training from Understanding Humanism, with sessions for primary teachers on 29 September and secondary teachers on 1 October. You can access more training opportunities here - Calendar.

Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam introductory CPD event

Date: Monday 19 October 2026
Time: 13.30 - 16.00
Venue: British Muslim Heritage Centre, College Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8BP

RE Today is running a **FREE practical introductory CPD session** as part of the launch of their new 'Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam' CPD programme, live and in person at the iconic British Muslim Heritage centre, in Manchester.

Built on authentic Muslim voices and trusted RE expertise, this is a unique opportunity to speak to the course writers, ask questions and be one of the first to sample what this amazing new resource can bring to your classroom.

The NEW Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam – CPD programme is designed to help you:

• Embed this amazing resource into your classroom

• Teach Islam with greater confidence and accuracy

• Deepen your own subject knowledge

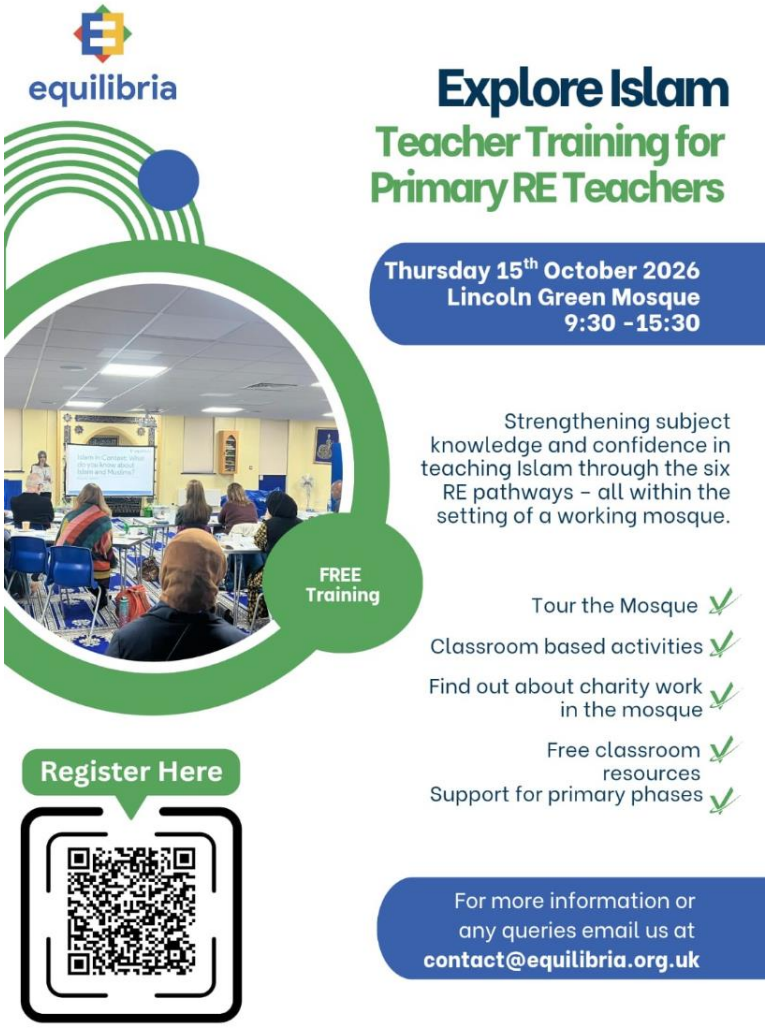
• Confidently address common misconceptions

• Support colleagues across your school

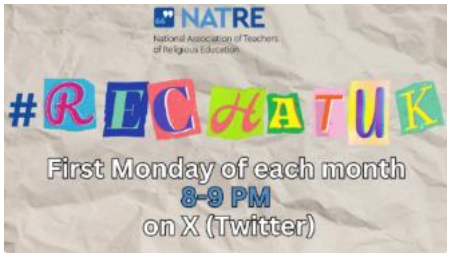
Book your place today – limited places available: https://www.retoday.org.uk/school-support/book-your-free-cpd-understanding-muslims/

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



#REChatUK – Join the monthly Twitter chat for religious education



#REchatUK is a monthly x (Twitter)-based professional development chat hosted by NATRE for RE teachers across the UK. This takes place the first Monday of the month from 8-9pm. This platform provides a space for educators to share ideas, resources and best practices, while discussing key topics in RE with support from experts and peers. It's an accessible, informal way to connect and grow within the RE teaching community.

To join the conversation, follow @NATREupdate on x (Twitter) and use the hashtag #REchatUK in your tweets. Connect with a vibrant community of RE professionals, expand your teaching repertoire and gain valuable inspiration and support.

#REchatUK dates for 2026/27:

Autumn Term

Date	Theme
5th October	Assessment in RE
2nd November	Teaching to the top
7th December	Adaptive teaching

Spring Term

Date	Theme
4th January	Strictly RE
1st February	Visual RE
1st March	Teaching sensitive topics
20th April	Outdoor RE

Summer Term

Date	Theme
11th May	Case studies
1st June	PP & SEND in RE
6th July	Yearly round up

REXChange – Free online conference

REXChange is a free online conference hosted by Culham St Gabriels with the aim of linking teachers, advisors, researchers and more in the Religious Education world together and is a fantastic opportunity to hear about what is happening in our wonderful subject. This year it will build on many of the ideas shared at conference around research, the 'state' of RE in the Four Nations of the UK and how we might navigate and prepare for changes on the horizon in our settings.

Use this link to sign up for your free place and if you book before 11 September you will get a goodie bag in the post of things to keep you going during the conference!

Find out more here: https://www.reonline.org.uk/free-cpd-and-events/upcoming-events/rexchange-2026/

AREIAC Events

AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) provides leadership, support, research, and teaching in Religious Education, hosting all listed meetings on Zoom with full details and regional meeting information available on their website.

AREIAC Webinars: Held on Thursdays from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM (unless noted otherwise) to offer opportunities to explore and develop together:

- **17th September:** *Non-religious worldviews in the RE classroom: a Farmington Scholarship Showcase*.
- **26th November (Extended 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM):** *Making It Happen: Developing RE Films Through Local Collaboration*.
- **11th February:** *Dare to ask: Putting powerful questions at the heart of primary Religious Education*.
- **12th April:** *Routes into Leadership in RE*.
- **13th May:** *So you want to set up as an independent?*
- **10th June:** *Getting into research in RE*

Virtual Staffroom: Informal catch-ups and chats over a cup of tea, scheduled for Mondays from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM on 09th November, 18th January, and 19th April.
The AREIAC Online Conference: A collaborative event to listen and learn from one another, taking place on Friday, 26th February from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Teacher Talk Connect 2027

On **Saturday 6th March 2027**, Teachers Talk Connect is back for another inspiring day of professional learning, networking and collaboration. The event will once again be held in **Manchester** at the beautiful Friends Meeting House.

As usual, the event will feature dedicated strands from subject communities, each hosting its own programme of talks, panel discussions and networking opportunities, including **English, Maths, Science, Primary, History, MFL, RS** and many more. In addition, they will cover thematic strands including **SEND and Inclusion, behaviour and oracy**, as well as special appearances from TTR hosts of Points of View. On the main stage, will be a range of outstanding mainstage speakers from across the education sector.

FREE for teachers. You can find out more, and volunteer to speak, here TTR Connect 2027 | Teachers Talk Radio.

SCHOOL RESOURCES AND WORKSHOPS



RE Hubs Inter Faith Week

This year Drawing on the symbolism of light across faiths and traditions, and inspired by Diwali, which takes place on the opening day of Inter Faith Week, the theme for Inter Faith Week 2026 celebrates the belief that, even in challenging times, communities can come together to build understanding, trust and friendship. Find out more here: https://www.re-hubs.uk/about/re-hubs-news/inter-faith-week-for-schools-2026/. Also includes **Inter Faith Week regional webinars.** A series of regional online webinars taking place between mid-September and mid-October. The webinars are a great opportunity for local interfaith groups and projects to network with each other, discuss common challenges and issues, and ask questions about the Week. They will include a presentation from a communications professional on how best to publicise activities. **North West webinar takes place on 5th October 2026, 5-6.30pm.**

Questions about Judaism - 20th October



Pennine Learning RE Christmas Units – coming soon!

Pennine Learning has introduced new RE Christmas Units for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, designed to complement your locally agreed syllabus and keep holiday learning fresh and engaging. These short, flexible units allow schools to introduce new themes, stories, and insights every year. For more information see the flier below.



New films from the Islamic Society of Britain on the RE Hubs

This is one of ISB's flagship projects, which has been developed over a decade and has far reaching impacts. The project has developed resources and training to enable individuals to engage with primary and secondary schools to supplement and enhance their teachings of Islam within the national curriculum, through interactive assemblies, classroom workshops and Mosque visits. Explore videos about life as a British Muslim and Ramadan Resource Packages. These can be used by students and teachers for Religious Studies lessons. Access them here https://isb.org.uk/our-projects/resourcesforteachers/.

'The Singing Bible' - every chapter sung in 16 musical styles, from sea shanty to hip-hop

A new website The Singing.Bible offers each chapter of the Bible set to music, from a selection of 16 styles including Jazz, Praise, Country, Hip-Hop, Sea Shanty and Barbershop Quartet. Sometimes the words are sung and sometimes they are read with a musical backing.

The collection holds 38,048 chapter recordings of all 1,189 chapters in all 16 chosen musical styles. Launched on 25 August, the site has already attracted more than one million plays across 194 countries.

It was created by a businessman from Colorado, Ron Forseth, who engaged a team of producers, engineers and managers, working alongside AI. He told the Religion News Service:"Music has an extraordinary capacity to make words stay with us. Our hope is that TheSinging.Bible helps scripture find its way into hearts, places and moments where people might not otherwise sit down and read". The Singing.Bible is free and comes with resources for use in worship and ministry.

https://thesinging.bible/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email#sbe/male/adult/sea-shanty/01-genesis/1

Bible Stories for Schools

Introducing Bible Stories for Schools - a wonderful new resource created by teachers, for teachers, designed to help build meaningful connections between primary schools and local churches.

Bible Stories for Schools offers free, ready-to-use resources designed to help schools and churches teach Bible stories in meaningful and engaging ways. These materials support school assemblies, collective worship and enrichment days in local churches, making biblical narratives memorable for pupils. The resources provide everything needed to bring Bible stories to life while fostering strong partnerships between churches and schools. You can access the materials here : https://www.biblestories.school/.

Picture News - Year of Reading resources

Alongside Reading Rocks and Teacher's Pet, Picture News are hosting some live assemblies and have put together some resources for the 2026 Year of Reading Campaign. All the details here - open to all primary schools https://picture-news.co.uk/blog-details/get-ready-to-read-with-our-exciting-new-reading-project.

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.