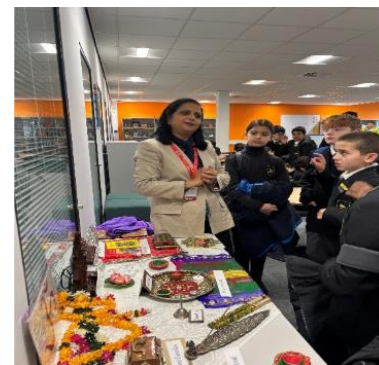


## NEWS AND EVENTS

### From Community to Classroom: A Celebration of Worldviews at The Brian Clarke Academy



On Friday 27th March, Year 7 students at The Brian Clarke Academy took part in a dedicated Faith Day, stepping off timetable to explore and celebrate the diverse worldviews within school and the wider Oldham community.



The event developed from the success of our Ethos Ambassador programme. With an overwhelming number of applicants, we expanded the initiative and now have 30 students across all year groups supporting collective worship, leading competitions, and promoting understanding of different worldviews.



As our first major event as a new department, we focused on Year 7 to establish strong foundations for future expansion. The day centred on students celebrating their own perspectives while learning about others. Students from across the school contributed video responses about their beliefs, resulting in a rich mix of faith and non-faith viewpoints.

Given the varied Religious Studies experiences within the cohort, we aimed to provide meaningful first-hand encounters. Many students had not visited a place of worship beyond assemblies, so we arranged visits to three welcoming local venues, despite timetable constraints. In addition, a visiting Hindu speaker shared artefacts and engaged students in discussion.

The value of professional networks was evident throughout. Support from Oldham SACRE, connections from the Festival of Light, and contributions from the Oldham Interfaith Forum were instrumental. These partnerships highlight the benefits of engaging with local communities when planning similar events.

Students also enjoyed an energetic performance and talk from The Message Trust on the theme of Easter, prompting both participation and reflection.



The day concluded with form-time reflection, where students reviewed their learning and were introduced to the NATRE Spirited Arts competition. Throughout the day, students recorded their experiences in workbooks, which were returned filled with thoughtful reflections and new knowledge.

Although the event required significant organisation, the support of local faith leaders and community groups made it both manageable and highly rewarding.



### Interfaith Week Faith Panel – St Luke’s Beeston



Afsha Hussain, Leeds SACRE Muslims representative, writes – ‘The interfaith panel we hosted at St Luke’s School Beeston was a brilliant way to mark Interfaith Week. Our school is very diverse with children from a wide range of faith backgrounds, but it was a fantastic opportunity for our children to meet and to ask questions of people from different faiths. The children

were engaged throughout and interested to hear the from the different faith traditions on a variety of subjects from beliefs about God, festivals, food laws and even what pets the guests had. It was an incredibly valuable experience and one we will look to repeat in the future.’ Any Leeds schools wanting to do something similar can contact Leeds

SACRE clerk - [michael.oates@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:michael.oates@leeds.gov.uk).



### North Kirklees Interfaith members meet students at Thornhill Community Academy



A Christian and Muslim panel answered many sincere, challenging questions about faith and its impact. In two sessions of one hour each, the panel met almost 60 students, who are either considering taking Religious Education (RE) GCSE or are already in their first year of the course. The head of RE, Mrs Halawani-Jackson at Thornhill Community Academy was grateful to the panellists for speaking so openly and candidly about their beliefs and lived experiences. She said that their honesty created a meaningful and engaging discussion for everyone involved. Kirklees schools who might wish to arrange a similar event can contact [nkinterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:nkinterfaith@gmail.com).

DfE issue short message of thanks for RE sector

## Update from the Department for Education



The Department is clear that high quality RE can develop children's knowledge of the religious and non-religious traditions of Britain and other countries, and foster understanding between people with different beliefs.



Following the publication of the Curriculum and Assessment Review, colleagues across the Religious Education sector have undertaken thoughtful and detailed work on the potential inclusion of RE in the national curriculum.



We are grateful for the excellent collaboration that has made this possible and look forward to continuing to work closely with the sector on next steps.



High quality RE builds knowledge, promotes understanding and strengthens our society.



### Building Stronger Communities in Manchester Event – student attendance encouraged



#### **Building Stronger Communities: Addressing Contemporary Racial and Religious Hatred**

29th June 2026 | 1:00-4:00pm  
Friends Meeting House, Manchester

Join us for an afternoon workshop in which we will explore activities from our contemporary Islamophobia and antisemitism resources to: consider the history and evolution of these prejudices; the role of social media in amplifying their spread; their impact; and what can be done to challenge them.

We are delighted to be joined by Rabbi Dovid Lewis and Dr Nasser Kurdy, who will be in conversation demonstrating the power of dialogue in bridging divides between the Jewish and Muslim communities.

#### **SPEAKERS**



**Dr Nasser Kurdy**  
Manchester-based surgeon and lay Imam



**Rabbi Dovid Lewis**  
Leads the south Manchester Jewish community



[Scan or click here to learn more and register](#)



## Jewish Culture Month 2026

The First Jewish culture month takes places from 16th May -16th June 2026. Jewish Culture Month is a cultural coming together on a scale and depth not seen before, with more than 100 events across the country spanning food, comedy, art, architecture, fashion, music and much more. Celebrations begin on 16 May and are timed to coincide with Sivan, the third month of the Hebrew calendar in which God gave the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai.

The month concludes when Anish Kapoor opens at the Hayward Gallery's Southbank Centre in London on 16 June. Public bodies and schools are invited to take part in the programme and learn about Jewish life via **learning** and **workplace programmes** – and maybe even via cheesecake, a dessert associated with the holiday of Shavuot, which takes place during the month.

Find out more via the website: [A celebration of British Jewish culture, community and creativity | Jewish Culture Month](#)

## SACRE Merit awarded in Kirklees

Congratulations to Charlotte Brocklehurst and her students for recently achieving the SACRE merit for local RE in Kirklees. The SACRE merit is similar to the REQM Bronze award, and is intended as a stepping stone for schools to apply for silver and gold REQMs. We are able to offer a limited number of free places supported by SACRE if you are interested contact [enquiries@penninelearning.com](mailto:enquiries@penninelearning.com).



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

### RE Hubs New Blogs

Jane Yates RE Hubs Lead for the North West has written on Nobody Stands Nowhere: Why Stories from the Real Lives of Religious and Non-Religious People Transform RE.

You can read the blog here: [Blogs](#)

### New pod on the RE Hubs website

RE Hubs have a new pod on their website to support anyone thinking about becoming an RE Teacher. This section includes information on educational grants, subject knowledge enhancement courses and blogs and podcasts. Do take a look [Thinking about becoming an RE teacher?](#)

### RE Hubs North West Primary Conference 2026

Opportunities in the North West this term include a wonderful conference for primary teachers on 21st May in Knutsford on Creativity, Imagination and the Arts. This conference is being hosted by the Chester Diocesan Board of Education and will be led by Lat Blaylock. Please see the poster on the next page and book on this link:

<https://chesterdbe.co.uk/re-conference-2026>.



## RE Hubs North West Secondary Conference 2026

Lat Blaylock will also be running a special conference for secondary teachers on 11th June in Chorley. This conference is titled: **RE-solutions: facing current challenges in secondary RE**. Please see the poster below and you can book on this [link](#).

### RE-Solutions: facing current challenges in Secondary RE.

A one-day RE course led by RE Today consultant Lat Blaylock. Hosted at St Michael's CE High School, Chorley on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**Cost:** £100 per delegate. Reduction to £80 per place if two or more teachers book together, i.e. from the same school or the same MAT. Includes lunch and refreshments.

**Venue:** Saint Michael's Church of England High School, Astley Rd, Chorley PR7 1RS (Near M61 J8 and M6 J28)

**Themes:** this year's event focuses on students' personal worldview development and uses examples from RE's diversity, inclusion and equity concerns to provide 12 practical and inspiring examples of how we solve the problems RE faces.

#### Programme:

Arrivals from 8.30am for coffee and welcome

#### Session 1: 9-10.30: Diversities: a world of religion and belief in all its splendour

I'll share 6 exemplar practical RE activities that engage with diversity in and between worldviews to energise learners in their thinking and creativity.

#### Session 2: 10.45-12.15: RE and values: respect versus arrogance, depth versus stereotypes, open hearts versus extremisms

5 approaches to RE that take note of the subject's missions for listening, dialogue and scholarly and reflective approaches to prejudice and ignorance in people's attitudes and values. Examples relating to Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Atheist ideas.

#### Session 3: 1-2.15: Sacred text and student learning:

In this session I will focus on some great strategies for enabling young people to engage with texts and scriptures, both for their own wisdom and for examination uses. Are some words holy? What should we do with them? How can we interpret them?

#### Session 4: 2.30 – 3.30: Challenges and solutions: four big challenges for RE today - and how to respond.

This session shares four major issues in RE recently and gives you some food for thought as well as some practical ideas to respond with 'kick-at-the-darkness' vigour.

#### Lat Blaylock, course provider, comments:

*"I'm excited to be running this day event which will give any RE teacher in secondary schools 12+ practical ideas for 11-16s. I like having the chance to think big in RE and to tackle the issues our young people face in relation to self expression, living together well and being deeper thinkers about life's big stuff. Come expecting to get energy and dynamic ideas for your role as a teacher of RE. Delegates will receive all the materials digitally and on paper."*

**To book:** Please complete this form by 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026: [RE-Solutions: facing current challenges in Secondary RE - Thursday 11th June 2026 – Fill in form](#)

You will receive a confirmation and invoice.

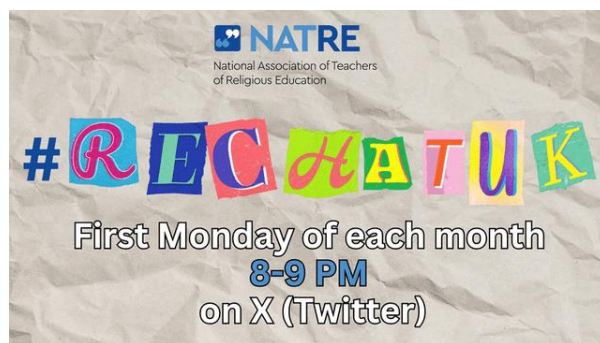
**Queries about booking:** Please contact Lesley Roberts ([lroberts@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:lroberts@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk))

**Questions about the course:** Please contact Jen Palfrey ([jpalfrey@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:jpalfrey@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk)) or Lat Blaylock ([lat@retoday.org.uk](mailto:lat@retoday.org.uk))



## 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.



<b>May 11th 2026</b>	Case studies
<b>June 1st 2026</b>	PP & SEND in RE
<b>July 6th 2026</b>	Yearly Round up
<b>September 7th 2026</b>	ITE in RE
<b>October 5th 2026</b>	Assessment in RE
<b>November 2nd 2026</b>	Teaching to the Top
<b>December 7th 2026</b>	Adaptive Teaching
<b>January 4th 2027</b>	Visual RE
<b>March 1st 2027</b>	Teaching Sensitive Topics

## Subject Leader Toolkits

NATRE have launched a new subject leader toolkit for secondary RE leads: a comprehensive collection of resources designed to support secondary school subject leaders in developing and enhancing the teaching and leadership of Religious Education.



This toolkit provides a wealth of guidance, practical strategies, and key resources to support Secondary RE Leads in leading Religious Education / Religion and Worldviews with confidence. Whether it is refining the curriculum, supporting staff development, or advocating for the subject's value, you'll find useful documents, research, and best-practice examples to strengthen subject leadership.

All materials in this toolkit have been compiled by experienced secondary members of the NATRE Executive and advisers from RE Today, ensuring high-quality, relevant, and practical support for subject leaders. You can access the toolkit here: <https://natre.org.uk/secondary-subject-leader/>

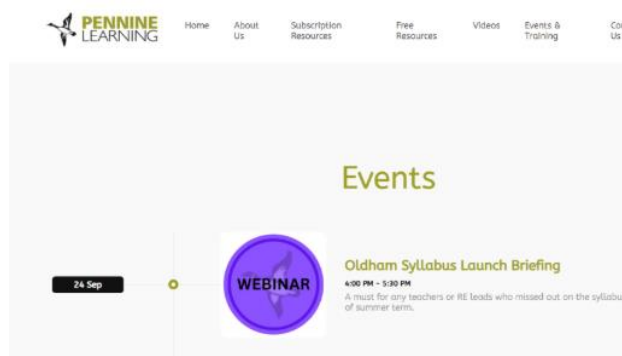
Primary RE Lead? don't forget there is also already a primary RE subject leader page here: <https://natre.org.uk/primary-re-curriculum/primary-subject-leader/>

## Pennine Learning Events

We've got a number of events and networks listed on our website now, with book now links, so you can access our year's programme covering all things RE! Please do take a look and join us while we work with teachers and schools to continue to enrich students' RE experience - [Events & Training - Pennine Learning](#).

### Dates for your diary (please see website for more info)

- Oldham Secondary RE Network (run by Shabnam Calic) – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Kirklees Primary RE Network – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- Believing and Belonging Webinar – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- Leeds Primary RE Network – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- Manchester/Salford Secondary RE Network – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026
- Tameside Primary RE Network – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- Manchester/Salford Primary RE Network – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- Oldham Primary RE Network – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026
- Leeds/Kirklees Secondary RE Network – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026
- Manchester/Salford Primary RE Coordinators Course – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026



## SCHOOL RESOURCES AND WORKSHOPS

### The Big School Workout: Live with Joe Wicks for Mental Health Week

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2.15-2.45pm (the afternoon post SATS)

Join Joe Wicks live from a Picture News school as he leads a high-energy workout for children to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week. Schools across the country will be taking part together, discovering how moving our bodies can boost our mood, build resilience, and support our mental wellbeing.

All you need to do is join the live session and get your pupils ready to move!

**Suitable for: All children in KS1 and KS2**

[Register here](#)



### What's new from Understanding Humanism



Understanding Humanism has launched a fantastic new **free video [Secularism » Understanding Humanism](#)** to support young people's understanding of **secularism**. Secularism presents a solution to the challenges of living together in a diverse society in which people identify with a wide variety of religions and beliefs. Its principles are supported by humanists as well as many religious people.

Secularists are people who believe that

1. There should be a **separation** between religious institutions and state institutions
2. Individuals should have **freedom** of religion or belief, and be free to reject or change their beliefs
3. *There should be **equal treatment** and no privilege or discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief*

This beautiful new **animation** presents the case for secularism on the grounds of freedom, *fairness, and peace*. We hope it will provide a stimulating conversation starter in the classroom on how we can all live well together.

## Thoughtful Philosophy for Children (P4C)

Why not join the next free Consider P4C Taster event on 30 June, 2.15-3.00. To find out more and book:

<https://www.thoughtful.org.uk/courses/consider-p4c/>

Thoughtful P4C has recently launched a brand-new website: [www.thoughtful.org.uk](http://www.thoughtful.org.uk)

## 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](http://penninelearning.com/free-resources).

**PENNINE LEARNING** Broaden horizons, stretch minds, build bridges

### Classroom resources available to compliment the syllabus

West Yorkshire's agreed syllabus for RE (from September 2024), Believing and Belonging, is now being implemented across schools.

To support schools, we have a full set of PowerPoints available to purchase that match the units of work.

**Task: The pojo tray**  
Cut out the images of the words from the multiplication.  
Stick the right words to the left picture.  
Stick the right explanation to the words.  
Stick the right picture to the explanation.

**Prior Knowledge Starter Quiz**  
What key terms do these images represent?  
Omnipotent, Devil, benevolent, Omnipresent, Healed, Evil, Atoned, Evil, Good, Tasty

**How and why do Jews pray in the synagogue?**  
The Jewish men wear a tallit, a tallit needs Jews that they following God's most subordinate way is.  
It Jewish men wear a tallit. These are small matter because taking passages from the...

Fully adaptable to suit your school's needs  
Designed by teachers, for teachers  
Full set of resources from EYFS-KS3  
Support offered through the Pennine Learning team

### **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](mailto:enquiries@penninelearning.com) for an order form (or [business.solutions@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:business.solutions@kirklees.gov.uk) for West Yorkshire planning).



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](mailto:enquiries@penninelearning.com).