

Inside this issue:

Page 2— Training for  
RE GCSE

Page 3—Mandela  
Exhibition

Page 4—Building  
Bridges and Primary  
Exemplifications

Page 5—Free Area  
Network Meetings,  
Commission on RE

Page 6—SACRE Visits

Page 8—Farmington  
Scholarships and Lent  
Resources

Page 9—Withdrawal  
from RE

Page 10—RE through  
Music and NATRE  
Secondary Survey

Page 11—RE Defini-  
tions and How does  
RE fit into Frame-  
works?

The **Gujarat Hindu Society** was established in 1965 to cater for the needs of the local community in Preston and share information about the Hindu faith.

Visits to the **temple** are popular with local schools and organisations. A guided tour of the prayer hall is provided by an experienced guide followed by a question and answer session.

For further information, please click [here](#).



This image above shows two of the deities in the temple.

# **STOP THE PRESS!**

## **Two Day Workshop for GCSE Religious Studies**

### **RS Success: GCSE**

**Target audience: All teachers of GCSE Religious Studies full or short course**

**Key Stage: 4**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

This two-day course will help you to improve outcomes for students in the GCSE Religious Studies, giving practical strategies for avoiding common pitfalls and for strengthening students' responses. The days will include workshops such as:

- What can we learn from the results so far?
- Making systematic study of religion exciting and engaging
- Approaches for tackling some of the trickier content
- Improving students' extended writing and evaluation skills
- Help with Humanism (and other non-religious worldviews)

This course can be booked via the LPDS site within [www.lancsngfl.ac.uk](http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk)

Course Presenter: Angela Hill RE Today Services

*Angela has extensive knowledge of external examinations in Religious Studies in England in Wales. As well as being a longstanding examiner, she has provided training throughout England for Eduqas and has undertaken extensive consultancy and authorship contracts to support the reformed qualifications. She has also co-authored commercial textbooks to support the new GCSE in Wales.*

## Lancashire RE consultant Joanne Harris becomes North West Regional Ambassador for Regional Working

Joanne is Head of Humanities at Broughton High School (11-16 secondary school in Preston, Lancashire). She co-ordinates the Preston NATRE network group and is an examiner for OCR. Her department was a pilot school for the RE Quality Mark (REQM) and has worked with the RE Council as part of the Young Ambassadors scheme.



'I love the fact that teaching RE is never boring, even after 20 years of teaching. One thing that excites me about RE at the moment is the sense that the RE community are really beginning to think about the nature and purpose of RE and working together to ensure that the subject is understood and valued.'

You can follow her on Twitter on [@JoanneH RE](#)

## Mandela: The Official Exhibition



'Nelson Mandela: The Official Exhibition' is an essential cultural experience that will enrich learning for history, PSHE, citizenship, RE, English and many other subjects, and will support SMSC development throughout your school. Most suitable for groups aged 11 and over, students will first encounter Nelson Mandela as a child, and explore how each stage of his life shaped his journey to become the globally recognised face of the anti-apartheid struggle and South Africa's first black president.

For more information, please [click here](#).

**What are my special qualities?**

What aspects of being human should we celebrate?  
What skills, talents and qualities exist in our community?

**Search for personal meaning**

**Shared human experience**

**Living religious traditions**

**Beliefs and values**

Pupils will learn about the story of Pentecost and how Christians today might celebrate Pentecost

Pupils will explore Christian beliefs about the Holy Spirit and the impact that believing in the Holy Spirit might have on the life of a believer.

**What do Christians mean by the 'Holy Spirit'?**

They will learn about the fruit of the Spirit – the characteristics of a Christian individual or community inspired by the Holy Spirit

Pupils should investigate different forms of worship in Christianity and why the Holy Spirit is important for some forms of worship.

*Let's pray  
Patience  
Kindness  
Gentleness  
Self-control  
Peace  
Love*

**Who or what inspires me?**

**How can I make the best use of my talents?**

Have you been keeping up with the new **Primary Exemplifications** on the RE section within [lancsngfl.ac.uk](http://lancsngfl.ac.uk)? Please [click here](#) for more information.

Lost your password? Contact [advisory.support@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:advisory.support@lancashire.gov.uk).

**Looking for a local place of worship to visit? Wanting to track down a suitably vetted faith speaker?**

**Building Bridges** is working in partnership with Lancashire SACRE to provide schools with specialist support to bring Religious Education to life and promote community cohesion.

Schools can get support with faith visits and visitors, special assemblies and promoting British values. For further information [click here](#).

## Free Area Network Meetings

These FREE area network meetings are being provided to support teachers in using the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus to provide effective teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education.

Teachers will also have opportunity to consider Religious Education updates, share good practice and discuss challenges and dilemmas with consultants and colleagues from other schools.

### Venues:

**East:** Hapton CE (VC) Primary School—Thursday 4th April

**North:** Bowerham Primary & Nursery School—Monday 1st April

**Central:** Lea Community Primary School—Wednesday 20th March

**South:** Pinfold Primary School, Scarisbrick—Thursday 25th April

**Ref: REL102—to book a place please [click here](#).**

## Looking for something fun to get involved with in the Summer Term?

Why not enter the NATRE Spirited Arts Competition?

The annual competition starts at the beginning of every school year and runs through to 31 July, in order to enable teachers to incorporate the art competition into their RE lessons. Many schools have an 'Art in Heaven' unit of work or a special learning RE/arts week.

To see the themes for 2019 and how to enter please [click here](#).

**SPIRITED ARTS**

The Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds, has recently replied to the Commission on RE report. The letter can be seen by [clicking here](#) alongside the response from NATRE and the RE Council.

### **What are your views?**



# What are our SACRE members up to?

## Visit to Marsden Heights Community College, Nelson

One of the highlights of being a member of the Lancashire SACRE is to be able to visit schools and meet the young people and teachers doing fantastic work together. This was certainly the case when I was kindly invited to visit Marsden Heights Community College in Brierfield by Mrs Tibret Sarfraz who is also a member of the SACRE and head of RE at the school. We were delighted to discover that we had a shared history, having both previously attended Edge End High School (but decades apart!); a secondary school that had existed on a nearby site.

It was immediately evident that the college has a positive ethos reflected in the warm relationships I saw between staff and their students and also the respectful and professional way colleagues work together. Underpinning the whole life of the college is a set of core values that have been chosen by the students. The values, highly evident in the learning environment, provide a firm foundation for the young people, who come from a rich and diverse variety of backgrounds and cultures.

The college has a wonderful resource in the 'Inspiration Room', a creatively utilised and versatile space for young people to quietly reflect, engage with and encounter religious festivals.

I was lucky to be able to talk to members of the RE department (there are 6 teachers, 4 of whom are RE specialists). The department is also currently providing a placement for a PGCE RE student. The teachers spoke enthusiastically about the subject and the curriculum, which is enriched by the use of visitors and visits. I also met Sonia Brooks who is working with Lancashire County Council as a consultant to provide much appreciated support for primary teachers in the implementation of the recent Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE and also by organising primary RE network meetings.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Alyson Littlewood, headteacher, and the students and staff of Marsden Heights Community College for the very warm welcome I received. It was a joy to meet you all! A special thanks goes to Tibret for giving up her entire morning to host my visit and for being such a great ambassador for the school.

Wishing you all every success in the future!

***Joan O'Rourke, member of the Lancashire SACRE***



## Visit to Moorside Primary School, Lancaster.

In February the Chair of SACRE and two other SACRE members had the pleasure of visiting Moorside Primary School in Lancaster to learn more about RE in the school. Roger Shone, the Head Teacher, and Janine McGregor, the subject leader for RE, explained the school's approach and we were able to see this in action by

visiting two lessons and meeting KS1 and KS2 children. We discussed some of the reasons why RE is so successful in the school. One key factor was the importance that the school gives to subject leadership for all subjects. This means that Janine has working time to evaluate and develop RE and to lead staff development in this large primary school. RE is well integrated into the overall curriculum, being taught, where possible, as part of the school's general topic-based approach, or in subject-specific lessons when subject links are not strong. The enquiry approach is a key feature, with a strong emphasis on asking questions, discussion and drawing on children's own experiences and existing knowledge. With more than 30 nationalities



Pictured from left to right: Julie Roper (SACRE), Janine McGregor (RE Subject Leader), Roger Shone (Headteacher), Carolyn Read (SACRE), Peter Martin (Chair of SACRE)



represented at the school there are families from a wide range of religious backgrounds and, where appropriate, relatives are able to visit lessons to share their personal experiences and answer the children's own questions. The profile of RE is promoted throughout the school, including in the hall, by colourful and interactive displays. Parents appreciate how RE helps children to be open minded and respectful of diversity and we saw for ourselves how the children are able to reflect on their own lives, feelings and values.

**If you would welcome a visit from a member of Lancashire SACRE, please contact:**

**[Misbah.Mahmood@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Misbah.Mahmood@lancashire.gov.uk)**

## Lent resources for young people

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development has created new Lent 2019 resources for primary schools.



This could be used directly with pupils, or others might want to use this to study what one denomination of the Christian church does to mark the period of Lent.

For more information, please [click here](#).

## Farmington Scholarships

2019-20 applications Farmington Scholarships are now being accepted.

The aim of the Farmington Institute is to support and encourage teachers of Religious Education in schools, and Headteachers working on values and standards. The Institute awards Scholarships to UK teachers of Religious Education in schools and headteachers, publishes discussion papers and arranges conferences.

For further information [click this link](#).

## Ramadhan visits at The Ibrahim Mosque, Burnley

The Ibrahim Mosque, Clegg Street, Burnley BB10 1AX welcomes visitors to share in a meal during Ramadhan during fast opening times (45 minutes before sunset). Dates when the Mosque will be open to visitors are: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Meals will be served after evening prayers and people will be able to see the mosque, prayers and ask questions. All are welcome (male, female, people of faith or none).

If you wish to attend please inform the Lancashire Council of Mosques by phone, text or email: Phone: 01254 692289 (10.15am – 2.45pm), Mobile: 07739516239, Email: [admin@lancashiremosques.com](mailto:admin@lancashiremosques.com).

For more information please visit: <https://masjidibrahimburnley.uk/>



# Guidance: Dealing with Withdrawal from RE.

Lancashire SACRE have recently uploaded a one page document to provide immediate support when dealing with this issue. [Click here](#) for information.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: PARENTS' RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILD

### The law states that:

- If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from receiving any religious education at the school, then the school must comply;
- As schools act in loco parentis, a school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parents from RE unless the child is lawfully receiving religious education elsewhere;
- Withdrawal time should not be used to teach other curriculum areas e.g. additional mathematics sessions;
- If a parent so requests, and so long as the local authority is satisfied that this will not interfere with the child's attendance at school other than at the beginning or end of any school session, a pupil may be withdrawn from the school premises to receive religious education elsewhere of a kind which is not provided in the school during the periods of time that the child is so excused.  
It should be noted that arranging alternative religious education is extremely rare.
- If a parent wishes their child to receive alternative religious education that cannot be provided elsewhere (as above), the school is required to allow such education within the school as long as it does not consider there are special circumstances in which it would be unreasonable to do so. **Any arrangement must not incur any extra cost for the school.** This usually would mean that parents could send in RE materials for the pupil to work on during RE lessons
- Students aged 18 or over have the right to withdraw themselves from RE, and can do so without giving any explanation.  
(School Standards and Framework Act, 1998)

### How should a parent make the request?

- All requests should be made to the headteacher;
- The process should be clearly outlined on the school website;
- A written record should be made of the request, any discussion and the outcome.
- The request should be reviewed annually.

### Can the headteacher ask the parent to reconsider?

- Parents considering withdrawal should be asked to contact the headteacher to arrange a discussion.
- The school can ask why the parent wishes to withdraw the child but cannot require a reason to be given;
- It is reasonable for the headteacher to explain the approach to religious education:
  - In Lancashire community and voluntary controlled schools RE is inclusive and explores what it means to be human;
  - It is not indoctrinating or nurturing children in a faith or promoting any particular belief system;
  - RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### Can a parent withdraw their child (ren) from particular parts of RE rather than from the subject as a whole?

- Yes. However, the headteacher should explain that the aspect is important within the RE programme:
  - Visit to a place of worship: it should be made clear that the purpose is to find out about why, where and how worship takes place and is not to participate in worship. The school might consider whether the parent could be invited to accompany the group;
  - A faith visitor to school: parents, pupils and visitor should be clear that the purpose is to educate and learn about the experience of a person of faith, not for the visitor to attempt to proselytise;
  - A particular religion: this has to be challenged as it is disrespectful of a whole group of people and a disservice to the child's education. Headteachers should draw the parent's attention to the relevant school policy/policies supported by Lancashire Authority's policy on dealing with racism / racist incidents / Islamophobia / Antisemitism and the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus;
  - Schools must respect the requirements of some faith groups on such matters as the prohibition on pictorial depictions of God or not participating in Christmas activities.

### Can children be withdrawn from other subjects when there is an element of religion in the programme?

- Generally not – for example, when studying the Catholic and Anglican churches in the Tudor period or a religion-inspired piece of music or art when the learning objectives relate to those subjects;
- However, if religious education is taught as part of an integrated programme the parental right must be respected when the learning objectives are those of religious education.

For further advice and case studies please refer to the NATRE guidance uploaded to the SACRE website on [lancsngfl.co.uk](http://lancsngfl.co.uk)

More detailed guidance is available in a NATRE publication which can be found [here](#).

## Interested in developing Religious Education through music?

Music is an important part of working with and understanding all the key concepts of the RE curriculum. The words of religious music form part of the beliefs, teaching and sources of the religions and beliefs being studied, as well as being relevant to the practice and way of life, and a key form of expressing meaning.



Please [click here](#) for more information.

### **NATRE Secondary Survey is now live!**

NATRE is conducting this secondary survey (its seventh) to obtain information about the current state of RE in all types of schools so that it can continue to support the teacher in the classroom by raising awareness of the impact of government policy on RE.

As a thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, NATRE is giving a £5 voucher code to all respondents to use on RE Today publications.

**Closing date: Friday, 12th April 2019**

If you wish to take part in the survey, please [click here](#) for more details.

Alternatively, if you would like to sign-up to for a NATRE membership, please [click here](#). Packages start at £55 per year.

### **Free Resources to support the teaching of Religious Education**

Warwick university are making available two sets of curriculum resources for use in Early Years/Primary School settings.

To view please [click here](#).

## How does R.E fit into the newly proposed Education Inspection Framework?

[Click here](#) to see the draft version of the handbook.

Particular reference to RE is to be found in paragraphs 33-37, 159 and 161 where there is reference to curriculum narrowing

What is the intent of your RE curriculum? How do you ensure that teachers have the subject knowledge to deliver it well? How do you measure and demonstrate impact?

A support document to help subject leaders consider Intent, Implementation and Impact for RE will be released shortly.

## RE Definitions – a new app for RE teachers

RE-Definitions is a new app for RE teachers giving handy access to the pronunciation and meaning of more than 200 key terms. As an app on mobiles and tablets, and as a website on PCs, it's for non-specialists who want to understand the words and how to pronounce them with confidence and for specialists who want to brush up on their knowledge. RE-Definitions provides accurate, clear, **resource-linked** definitions of key terms in seven religions and beliefs, in ethics and philosophy and in the study of religions and beliefs.

Please [click here](#) to visit the website. Alternatively you can download the app from the Apple App Store or Google PlayStore, just search 're-definitions'.

## Needing Help?

Finding the Agreed Syllabus a challenge? Not sure how to assess in RE? Needing to increase subject knowledge of a specific religion? Wanting to raise the profile of RE in your school? Committed to developing the effectiveness of the subject leader for Religious Education?

Our consultants can offer 1:1 support for individual teachers and school based INSET in addition to running marketed courses. Normal consultancy rates apply.

To make an enquiry please contact: [advisory.support@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:advisory.support@lancashire.gov.uk)