

Learn Teach Lead RE newsletter



Spring 2025

RE in the National Curriculum?

Should RE be a National Curriculum subject? You may be aware that currently it sits outside the NC, as part of the Basic Curriculum, alongside Sex Education.

But, with a full-scale DfE Curriculum and Assessment Review currently taking place, there has been much talk about whether teachers of RE would be in favour of having a national curriculum.

The legal position is for maintained schools to follow an Agreed Syllabus which is drawn up by the local SACRE, with academies encouraged to use this syllabus, but free to plan, write or buy a different one.

The advantages of being in the NC would be

- more consistent provision across all schools
- a set of common standards
- more reliable progression across phases

However, one key question is: who would write the curriculum? Could we trust a future government not to use it for political purposes? REonline 'In Focus' offers further information.

What do you think? You may be asked for a view in a future consultation.

Ramadan 2025

Ramadan will be taking place from Fri 28th Feb to Sun 30th Mar 2025. [BBC resources](#)

Useful information has been produced by [Devon County Council](#) and [Lewisham Islamic Centre](#) as guidance for schools where Muslim children may be fasting.

Ramadan Football Festival

As part of Ramadan, Devon FA is working in partnership with the University of Exeter to run a Football event in [celebration of Ramadan](#). Join in by participating in a Community Iftar (fast-breaking).

6pm – 10pm Sunday 9th March

Venue: University of Exeter

See P6 for full details.

For RE support, please contact Ed Pawson at efpawson@gmail.com.
Church schools contact: Jo Hunter
jo.hunter@exeter.anglican.org



Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE, Area 1)



LTLRE hub (twilight) meetings are free and open to all teachers of RE, primary and secondary. See [LTLRE website](#) for full details.

Cornwall hub: Thurs 13th Mar

Mid Devon hub: Wed 26th Mar (see P8)

Exeter hub: Thurs 3rd April (see P7)

South Devon and Torbay hub: Thurs 26th June

LTLRE conference 2025: October (details to follow)

RE conferences

[Salisbury RE conference](#) (online): Wed 26th March with Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam £60

[Bath and Wells conference](#) (Wells): Fri 2nd May with Gillian Georgiou £50

RE Calendar Dates

The **RE calendar** on the [REonline](#) site has a useful listing of festivals and religious observances.

Awareness Days is a helpful site for [cultural events](#).

Lent 5th Mar – 17 Apr: [Pope Francis- 15 acts of love](#)

Easter Sunday 20th April: [Easter Explained](#)

Baisakhi Festival is [celebrated by Sikhs](#) on 14th April. It marks the formation of the [Khalsa](#).

RE Hubs

Visit the [RE Hubs](#) website for all your RE needs: accredited [School Speakers](#), [Places of Worship](#), [Advertise RE Jobs](#), [Resources](#), [Calendar of CPD Events](#), [Local Groups](#).

Access [local Religion and Worldviews visitors](#) for RE

MAT RE leaders' network meeting

Do you [lead RE across a MAT](#)? 4-5.30pm 1st April

Local network leaders' meeting

[Do you lead a local RE hub group](#)? 4-5.30pm 15 May

Understanding Humanism

[Understanding Humanism](#) is a great resource to support teachers exploring non-religious worldviews as part of an inclusive RE.

You can book a free, trained and [experienced visitor](#) to share their life experience and knowledge, bringing a personal dimension to young people's study of humanism that goes 'beyond the textbook'.

And teacher CPD [training](#) is also available to boost your subject knowledge.

[Short animation on Humanist ideas](#): in 'Human nature, human potential', Alice Roberts explores the questions at the heart of humanism: 'What are we?' 'What are we capable of?' and 'How should we make best use of our capacities?'.

The Bible in a Nutshell

The Bible in a Nutshell - High Bickington, North Devon EX37 9PN Wed 5th March

This **free** course will take you from Genesis through to Moses and the Promised Land, the Kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon, and onwards to the Exile Period and the coming of the Prophets. Booking [here](#). See page 5 for full details.

Bristol Bus Boycott

One of the Meanwhile, Elsewhere resources includes a worksheet about the [Bristol Bus Boycott](#), which took place in 1963 and was inspired by Rosa Parks' actions in Montgomery Alabama.

New RE syllabus for Devon, Torbay and Plymouth schools

The new syllabus is available [here](#). Password: DevonRESyllabus2024 or PlymouthRESyllabus2024.

Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam

This is an extensive [new resource](#) exploring lived Islam, using the voices of contemporary Muslims to open up what it means to be Muslim in Britain and beyond. The religion and worldviews approach applies different disciplinary tools, drawing on authentic sources from within Islamic tradition.

Is God making a come-back?

A [poll of 10,000 people](#) suggests Gen Z teens and twenties in Britain are more likely to say they are "spiritual" than older people, and less likely to identify as atheists than their parents or grandparents.

Jewish life in Britain

The Board of Deputies of British Jews has released a free online [KS3 resource about anti-Semitism](#). An introduction to Jewish life in Britain – culture, religion, and history explores the diversity within the Jewish community. Follow the link and register a password for your school.

A Level RS

Visit Joe Kinnaird's [website](#) for inspired ideas about teaching A Level RS: essay intros, powerful knowledge, 'They say, I say', Nietzsche and the nature of God.

Faith and Belief speakers

Develop your skills and build your confidence to become a [faith and belief school speaker](#). This FREE COURSE, led by qualified professional trainers, will provide you with the understanding of what's needed to become a schools visitor. The Mint, Exeter Sat 8th Mar (9.30-12.30).

South West Faith Education Services provide [educational workshops](#) and assemblies to schools throughout Devon. They offer inspiring sessions from Sikh, Hindu and Muslim speakers. See P3/4 for full details.

[Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity](#) facilitates visitors for RE in schools from different beliefs, faiths and cultures. Sessions explore common values, hopes and visions for the future well-being of the individual and community.

Meanwhile, Elsewhere

[Meanwhile, Elsewhere](#) is a great website which accompanies the History curriculum, but includes some interesting RE topics. Go to the period and topic you are interested in and introduce yourself to a whole new part of history that was happening around the same time, somewhere else in the world.

SOUTH WEST FAITH EDUCATION SERVICES

South West Faith Education Services is dedicated to delivering engaging educational workshops and assemblies to schools throughout Devon. Recently, they have delivered faith workshops and organized interfaith events across the South West to schools and other organizations. These workshops are both enjoyable and educational, conducted by DBS-checked Officers, and are designed to meet the specific needs of each school. Whether for Primary, Secondary, or Special Needs students, the sessions are aligned with the Agreed Syllabus and customized according to the school's requirements. We also cater for Private & Public facing organisations, Third Sector and Charities.

SIKH SPEAKERS

Chaz Singh is a member of the Sikh community and has substantial knowledge in Sikhi. He has lived in the South West for over 20 years. His background includes politics, community engagement, faith advising, and business. Chaz has won numerous awards for his groundbreaking work.

Saranjit Kaur is a Sikh female Entrepreneur who has been nominated for various awards and delivers these workshops too.



Chaz Singh | Saranjit Kaur
Sikh Education Officer
07950 957909
contactswass1@gmail.com

HINDU SPEAKER

Muhunthiny Sivasothy is from the Hindu faith. She has taught in schools in Hertfordshire and now in the South West. Her background is in business, and most recently, she has been involved in the community as a member of the local SACRE. She specializes in teaching Hindu faith, culture, and traditions.



Muhunthinhy Sivasothy
Hindu Education Officer
07949 401279
contactswass1@gmail.com

MUSLIM SPEAKER

Dolon Akter, a Muslim faith speaker, is a working mother of two who would like to share her knowledge as a Muslim living in Plymouth. As a faith speaker, Dolon will take the opportunity to educate students on the positive aspects of being a Muslim woman in her own words. In these workshops, students will have the chance to ask her questions directly, examine artifacts, and discuss cultural traditions, for example: Hajj, Fasting and Ramadan.



Dolon Akter
Muslim Faith Speaker
07950 957909
contactswass1@gmail.com

Please get in touch to book a date or simply to find out more.

Old Testament



VENUE

High Bickington
Community Centre
Little Bickington Lane
High Bickington
Umberleigh
EX37 9PN

Wednesday 5th March 2025
9am - 3pm

Please bring a packed lunch.

**Book your place by contacting
Gillian or Michelle.**

PROMOTER

Gillian Ashcroft
gashcroft@piltonbluecoat.
devon.sch.uk

Michelle Sampson
msampson@piltonbluecoat.
devon.sch.uk

Old Testament CPD Day for Primary Schools

The Old Testament is massive, it takes on average 56 hours to read.
It can be difficult to know how and where everything fits together.
We are here to help!

Learn the whole storyline in a few hours in our engaging and memorable sessions.
Increase your subject knowledge and discover resources to support your RE lessons.

Join us as we go from Genesis through to Moses and the Promised Land,
the Kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon, and onwards to the Exile Period
and the coming of the Prophets.



Walk Through the Bible is accredited by Understanding Christianity.



DEVON FA RAMADAN

KICK OFF CARNIVAL



Ramadan Football Festival

Sunday 9th March

6pm – 10pm

Venue: University of Exeter, Stocker Rd, Exeter EX4 4PY

The evening will include:

- Football Tournament
- Devon FA CPD Session on opportunities as a coach, volunteer and referee
- Break fast and participate in Iftar

Register as an individual or team via link below:

<https://forms.gle/GUgPwANic6noK7Wd8>

As part of Ramadan (Friday 28th February – Sunday 30th March), Devon FA is working in partnership with the University of Exeter to run a Football event in celebration of Ramadan.

This will include a Football tournament, Devon FA bitesize CPD sessions on coaching, refereeing & career pathways including Iftar (breaking of fast for Muslim's observing Ramadan).

This Ramadan Football Festival will be ***open for all faiths and religions, to help celebrate diversity & equality in Football. Females & males are welcome to attend and play.***



Learn Teach Lead **RE**

improving quality: building community



AN INVITATION TO

LTLRE

**Devon Hub Meeting for Exeter
Primary and Secondary Hub Meeting**

Twilight RE Network Group

4:00-5.00pm on Thursday 3rd April

In person at: St Peter's CofE School, Quarry Lane, Exeter EX2 5RB

[View directions on Google Maps](#)

(Please call 07584 244568 on arrival if there is no-one to meet you)

**Personal knowledge: why are we examining this and how can we
create positive opportunities to include this in our RE teaching at
Primary and Secondary level?**

With Ruth Flanagan – Subject Lead for Primary Humanities at Exeter University

Free and open to all teachers and HLTAs teaching RE.

Everyone is very welcome!

For more details, please contact us:

Kelly Keatley (Exeter hub) kkeatley@spexe.org
Frankie Rowsell (Exeter hub) Frankie.Rowsell@stcmat.org

Hubs are affiliated to the National Association of Teachers of RE www.natre.org.uk/

For further details of our programme and its partners, please visit our website www.ltlre.org

LTLRE hubs are funded through an award from The St Luke's College
Foundation. www.stlukesfoundation.org.uk/



Learn Teach Lead **RE**

improving quality, building community



AN INVITATION TO

LTLRE

Devon Hub Meeting for Mid Devon Primary and Secondary Hub Meeting

Twilight RE Network Group

4:00-5:00pm on Wednesday 26th March

In person at: Queen Elizabeth's School, **Barnfield Campus**, Crediton. EX17 3LU.

Please come to reception and sign in and one of the RE team will meet you on arrival.

(If you're running late or no one is in reception on arrival please call 07759982362)

Enhancing RE: Networking, Curriculum, Resources & Meaningful Knowledge

We are re-establishing the Mid-Devon Hub and would really love to bring together RE teachers in Mid-Devon. This meeting deliberately gives over some time over for networking and developing links between local school.

Please bring with you the following.

1. An area you would like some CPD input.
2. Two RE areas you are proud of in your school.

Agenda

1. The RE curriculum @ QE
2. Suggestions for free and local visitors
3. Using booklets in RE
4. A discussion on how to effectively incorporate meaningful personal knowledge in RE and Worldviews
5. Networking

Free and open to all teachers and HLTAs teaching RE.

Everyone is very welcome and there will be biscuits!

For more details, please contact us:

Rosie Lee (Mid Devon Hub Secondary) Rosie.lee@qe.devon.sch.uk
Amber Griffiths (Mid Devon Hub Primary) amber.griffiths@thelink.academy

Hubs are affiliated to the National Association of Teachers of RE www.natre.org.uk/

For further details of our programme and its partners, please visit our website www.ltlre.org

LTLRE hubs are funded through an award from The St Luke's College Foundation. www.stlukesfoundation.org.uk/