

Learn Teach Lead RE newsletter



May 2026



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

Combatting anti-religious hate

With antisemitism and anti-Muslim hostility on the rise, the need for good RE is even more apparent.

[Jewish Culture Month](#) starts on 16th May, celebrating Jewish community and creativity. It's good to read about charities like [Nisa-Nashim](#) which brings Jewish and Muslim women together through social events.

The Quakers have recently published a useful guide to [Antisemitism](#) and schools also need to be aware that the [official guidance](#) is now to avoid using the term **Islamophobia**, in favour of referring to **Anti-Muslim Hatred**.

Ways of Knowing in RE

RE:ONLINE and NATRE are partnering to host a dedicated Focus Week exploring [Ways of Knowing: Diving into Different Disciplines](#) from 18th – 24th May.

Any Questions

Join the open online forum to [ask questions](#) about teaching **Judaism** Mon 11th May 3.45-4.45pm

Take a look at the new site for contacting **Muslim** visitors. Join the [Any Questions](#) Islam forum 3.45-4.45pm on Mon 18th May

RE in the NC

Update: national conversations are ongoing for the possibility of RE becoming an NC subject. We await a decisions being made by the DfE in the coming months. [See NATRE news](#).

SACRE members needed

Are you interested in finding out about joining a SACRE? We are looking for new teacher reps in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. SACREs meet termly to support and monitor RE and CW in local schools. Get in [contact](#) if you'd like to know more.

Learn Teach Lead RE



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

LTLRE hub meetings this term:

Growing up Sikh in Devon: Tues 19th May
GCSE examiner and primary Christianity chat: Wed 3rd Jun

SWIFT professional RE community: Wed 10th Jun

Celebration of RE: Thurs 18th June

LTLRE conference 2026

RE: Academically Rich, Socially Connective

St Mellion, nr Saltash on Fri 2nd October, cost £90

Keynotes: Katie Freeman and Joyce Miller

For more information and to register – click [HERE](#) (See P5 for flyer)

NATRE Primary Survey 2026

Take part in the NATRE [Primary Survey](#) here. This is your chance to make sure the reality of RE in your primary classroom is heard where it counts.

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](#), [School Speakers](#)

Secularism

Humanists UK have released an [animation](#) and some useful [resources](#) on secularism. Secularism does not mean the same as atheism. It is a political position on how we should organise society given a plurality of worldviews.

Why I'm an atheist

Former Love Island star, Shakira Khan, shares [why she became an Atheist](#)... and the question that made her rethink her beliefs.

Secondary RE leaders' toolkit

NATRE have launched their Secondary Subject Leader [Toolkit](#) — a comprehensive collection of resources designed to support secondary school subject leaders in developing and enhancing the teaching and leadership of RE.

Primary RE leaders' toolkit

NATRE Primary Subject Leader [toolkit](#) is the ultimate resource for primary school subject leaders seeking to enhance their Religious Education teaching.

Islam: Sunni and Shi'a

This short TrueTube film explores the key similarities and differences between the [Shia and Sunni](#) branches of Islam.

Pilgrimage

This recent series on the BBC's [Pilgrimage](#) is full of interest for RE lessons. In [Episode 2](#) (at 22:22 minutes) the conversation between Ash Blaker and the two Jewish women guides about their Reform Synagogue is fascinating. Interestingly, as a lapsed Jew from the Orthodox tradition, Ash struggles to find much in common with Progressive Jewish practice.

Prayer and Reflection

This [BBC page](#) hosts an invitation to sacred spaces across all four nations, from six of the UK's major faiths, during personal moments of spiritual and religious connection.

Ethiopian Bible tradition

The [Ethiopian biblical tradition](#) stands out as one of the oldest in the Christian world, rooted in a church that embraced Christianity in the 4th century. [The Ethiopian Bible](#) has 88 books, rather than the traditional 66. It's not just a religious artifact, but a cultural and historical treasure. It reflects Africa's deep role in shaping early Christianity and preserves voices, stories and teachings that broaden our understanding of the biblical world. Its survival is a reminder that the history of Christianity is far more global, diverse, and ancient than many people realize.

Are you an RE teacher with questions about Judaism?

A chance to ask anything you like...
Open to primary and secondary teachers who teach Judaism
Why don't all...
What's the difference between...
I don't understand which...
Mon 11th May 2026, 3.45-4.45pm
Any question answered
 BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS
ADVOCACY | DEMOCRACY | COMMUNITY by Anna Silver,
Education Officer

Monthly informal drop in session
(for monthly dates and zoom links email anna.silver@bod.org.uk)
For Zoom link see attached text

Judaism: Any Questions
Monday 11th May, 3.45-4.45pm
[Zoom link](#)
Meeting ID: 843 7913 4655
Passcode: 278417



Learn Teach Lead **RE**

improving quality: building community

AN INVITATION TO

LTLRE Devon Primary Hub Meeting

Twilight RE Network Group (online)

4:00-5.15pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026

**Topic: Growing up Sikh in Devon today
with Simran Singh (student at Torquay Boys Grammar School)**

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88350425200>



Free and open to all teachers and HLTAs teaching RE. Everyone is very welcome!

More details: Ed Pawson efpawson@gmail.com

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/

Topic: Devon LTLRE Zoom Meeting

Time: May 19, 2026 04:00 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88350425200>

Meeting ID: 883 5042 5200

All welcome



Plymouth LTLRE and NATRE RE Hub Meeting



Topics

- Updates on RE becoming a National Curriculum subject
- **Primary** with Katie Freeman: How to teach 'Authentic Christianity'
- **Secondary** with Matt Pitcher (experienced GCSE examiner): Matt will share an overview of the way the GCSE exam papers are structured and explain how to answer specific types of questions.

When: Wed 3rd June 2026

Phase: Primary and Secondary

Time: 4 – 5.15pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913387981>

Meeting ID: 819 1338 7981

Contacts: kfreeman@bickleighdown.devon.sch.uk

efpawson@gmail.com, tdavis@torbridge.net



Time: Jun 3, 2026 04:00 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913387981>

Meeting ID: 819 1338 7981

Teachers of RE in all phases of education are invited to attend the 2026
South West Peninsula LTLRE 14th Annual Conference

*'You can only be safe and secure in a society that practices tolerance, cherishes
harmony and can celebrate difference'. Rabbi Hugo Gryn*

LTLRE Area 1 RE Conference 2026
**RE: Academically Rich, Socially
Connective**

Friday 2nd October 2026
9.30-3.30pm

St Mellion Conference Centre, Nr Saltash
Cost: £90

Keynote speakers:

Katie Freeman: the Place of RE in the Curriculum

Joyce Miller: RE and Social Cohesion

**Panel session to include Zoroastrian, Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, Humanist,
Christian, Buddhist speakers**

Workshops will include:

- Inspiring RE at Early Years/KS1
- Planning and assessment in primary RE
- Being scholarly in secondary RE
- Authentic Christianity
- Diverse perspectives and 'lived experience' from faith and belief speakers
- How to create local RE
- RE and SIAMS for CofE schools

For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)

HUMANISM IN A NUTSHELL

1 PUTTING HUMAN BEINGS AND OTHER LIVING THINGS

AT THE CENTRE OF
YOUR
MORAL
OUTLOOK

2

SEEING THE WORLD
AS A

NATURAL
PLACE

AND LOOKING TO
SCIENCE & REASON
TO MAKE SENSE OF IT

3 PROMOTING
& SUPPORTING
HUMAN
FLOURISHING

AND CHAMPIONING
HUMAN RIGHTS

ACROSS ALL FRONTIERS
FOR EVERYONE!