



# **WIGAN SACRE NEWSLETTER**

## **Autumn: 2020**

**Our vision is to enrich the quality of religious education and collective worship for all pupils in Wigan and to promote in schools the celebration of religious and cultural diversity.**

**Wigan Updates, National Updates, Resources and CPD**

## **WIGAN UPDATES**

**CPD for all Wigan primary teachers and leaders: (free of charge)  
Wednesday, January 20th**

### **“RE’s intentions, implementation and impact”**

**Wigan SACRE has arranged with ‘RE Today’ for a CPD Day for  
Wigan primary teachers and leaders on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> via  
Zoom**

The day will consist of three zoom sessions:

- 9am -10.20am
- 11am - 12.20pm
- 1.30 - 3pm

This one-day course, delivered via zoom, will enable Wigan primary teachers to work with Lat Blaylock of RE today. Teachers will receive:

- A thorough briefing on the requirements of OFSTED regarding the ‘EIs’, an ambitious RE curriculum and RE’s contributions to areas such as values, cultural capital and SMSCD
- 10 practical examples of learning activities which enable 4-11s to make progress and experience the impacts of great RE
- Inspiration and stimulus to improve RE across the primary school.

Full notes, curriculum ready learning activities and associated PowerPoint slides and video will be shared.

### **Lat Blaylock will Lead this CPD**

Lat Blaylock is a National RE Adviser working for RE Today, editor of RE Today magazine. Lat has written many RE resources. His CPD training courses attract several thousand teachers every year.

**To enroll please send your school email address to:  
Sharon Goodland, Governor Services: [s.goodland@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:s.goodland@wigan.gov.uk)**



## National updates

### **Religious Education Council (REC)**

[www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk)

Twitter: @RECouncil, Instagram: religiouseducationcouncil

### **Religious Studies A Levels:**

Religious Studies A- Level entries compare well against other humanities Religious Studies A-level exam entries has declined at a lower rate than 2020, performing better than some subjects despite a backdrop of overall changes to the examination system.

15,692 RS A-level entries were recorded in England and Wales this year, compared with 17,490 in 2019. Although this represents a decline of 11.5%, it compares favourably with Geography (down 16.2%) and History (down 15.1%). For a more detailed explanation and statistics see: <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/news07-20-2/>

### **Project on Worldview:**

The REC is in the middle of a major project on 'worldview' as a follow up to the Commission on RE. So far this has produced an academic literature review, which will soon be available on the REC website. This has been followed by a series of five consultation events in June involving 13 leading academics. The aim of this phase was to provide a robust academic underpinning for using worldview in RE. These position papers will then feed into the final stage of the project, which is a major consultation with all REC members. This consultation will last through to March 2021.

### **RE Quality Mark**

The RE Council of England and Wales has published the new criteria for the REQM award in both English and Welsh. These will be used for awards from September 2020. However, in the light of ongoing school closures and the national emergency (COVID19), the REC will run awards using legacy criteria (available on the REQM web site) until 1st January 2021. If a school applies for the award for the autumn term 2020, they can make a choice of criteria during the application process.

### **The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) (Twitter: @NASACRE, [www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk) )**

### **NASACRE Statement from Acting Chair:**

The NASACRE community is aware of the incredible work taking place in schools, in local authorities and their SACREs, and in the wider education community to make sure that pupils and students continue to receive a religious education. It might be called Religion and Worldviews, Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics, Religious Education (RE) – or something completely different - but the intentions are usually the same, and requirements haven't changed.

## National updates (Continued)

(NASACRE continued)

### **Groupings for Collective Worship:**

There has been discussion with some schools and with SACREs about groupings for Collective Worship – the guidance says that any groupings already in place within a school can be used for Collective Worship – traditionally, this has been interpreted to mean the whole school, key stage groups, year groups and individual class groups. In the present circumstances, other groupings such as ‘bubbles’, ‘pods’ etc formed by schools to manage appropriate social distancing could also be included in this list. This is in accordance with the legislation (Schedule 20 of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998). The DfE view is that this gives schools a lot of flexibility to conduct CW in any grouping that they think appropriate.

### **Inter Faith Network for the UK:**

Mr Paul Smalley, nominated by NASACRE, was recently appointed as a Trustee for the next four years for the Inter Faith Network(IFN). NASACRE is a member of IFN UK in the membership category Educational and Academic Bodies (<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/members/list>). If you would like The IFN’s bimonthly bulletin can be received by subscribing to it at: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/ifn-e-bulletin> .The current bulletin and previous bulletins can be downloaded from the same webpage.

### **The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) (Twitter: @NATREupdate, [www.natre.org.uk](http://www.natre.org.uk) )**

#### **NATRE Statement on GCSE & A Level Results (from August 2020):**

NATRE has made a statement regarding the 2020 examination results. Two extracts from that statement are:

*“The mess the government has found itself in was entirely of its own making, and it has taken too long to respond to the many genuine concerns about the outcomes of this year’s A level and GCSE grading. Nobody doubts the difficult position the government was in when confronted by the effects of a pandemic, but they ought to have liaised more with the teaching profession to ensure that students were not put in such stressful situations”*

And:

*“The decision to revert to centre assessed grades is good news for pupils receiving their GCSE grades today. However, this U-turn has caused an enormous amount of distress and disruption to students, in particular those A-level students who may have missed out on their first-choice university. These students deserve every support possible at this challenging time.”*

## National updates (Continued)

(NATRE continued)

### **Government response regarding schools and RE:**

NATRE was pleased to see that Nick Gibb MP, Minister for schools, has given a clear and fulsome answer to a question from Luke Pollard MP regarding schools and RE. NATRE note from his answer that he restates that;

- State-funded schools in England have a duty to teach religious education to all pupils aged 5 to 18 years
- Where pupils do not choose Religious Studies as an examination subject, the requirement to teach religious education still applies.
- An agreed syllabus can stipulate that pupils follow an accredited qualification such as GCSE

He also clearly says that in the reopening of schools Religious education is one of the subjects that should be taught. For more detailed information see <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/schools-minister-reiterates-schools-duty-to-teach-re-to-all-pupils-aged-5-18/>

### **Productive Meeting with Shadow Minister:**

NATRE, the RE Council (REC) and RE Today had a very productive meeting with the Janet Daby MP on 12th October 2020. They learned that the Shadow Minister, who is the MP for Lewisham East, had served on Lewisham SACRE and was fully conversant with the issues surrounding the subject. Following the meeting, she entered the ballot to ask an oral question in parliament and was successful. For more details and a video of this meeting please see: <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/shadow-minister-for-faiths-janet-daby-mp-asks-the-minister-for-education-nick-gibb-mp-a-question-about-re/>

### **GCSE stability for 2020:**

The number of pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies in England and Wales has remained stable in 2020 despite ongoing challenges, reflecting the relevance of the subject and its popularity among young people. For more detailed and statistical information on this please see this link <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/religious-studies-gcse-proves-its-relevance-as-entries-hold-firm/>

### **Parental complaint about RE:**

NATRE was approached by a parent who was dismayed that discrete lessons in RE were being replaced by a combined life skills style programme and wanted to challenge the academy about it. The link below is to a chart that sets out the two year journey towards the re-establishment of RE at the academy. NATRE hopes that it demonstrates that it is possible to take action when pupils are not receiving their entitlement to RE and secure a change.

Encouraging parents to take action the Minister for Schools; Nick Gibb MP has repeatedly suggested that, people concerned about the level and quality of provision for RE to use the statutory school and academy complaints process.

Link to chart:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Additional%20Documents/Academy%20Complaint%20time%20line%202020%20-%20a%20case%20study.pdf>

## National updates (Continued)

(NATRE continued)

### **NATRE Analysis for the Provision of RE in Primary Schools – Autumn 2020:**

New research by NATRE has revealed that over 95% of primary teachers report time spent on teaching RE has increased or stayed the same. Almost a half (46%) of Academies without a religious character, almost a third (29%) of Agreed Syllabus Schools and a fifth (21%) of Schools including academies with a religious character report increasing their time for teaching RE.

This has been welcomed by NATRE who surveyed nearly 500 primary teachers from across the country. NATRE believe this finding has come about following many months of lobbying and working with a variety of partners including Department for Education (DfE), Ofsted, parliamentarians, and teacher organisations.

Ofsted's release of the new Education Inspection Framework (September 2019) emphasises the importance of a broad and balanced curriculum including RE for all pupils in all school types and the expectation of pupils 'to know more and remember more'.

NATRE hope to see this trend continue, with the resumption of Ofsted inspections to take place in the new year.

### **Ben Wood, NATRE Chair, has commented:**

"It is very good to hear that many primary schools are recognising the importance of RE by providing more time for teaching RE in what is a packed curriculum. This commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum is to be welcomed, as is Ofsted's ongoing commitment to 'deep dives' in RE. What is now especially important is that primary teachers of RE are given the subject specific training they need to ensure that the most is made of this time, enabling pupils to understand and explore the diversity of beliefs and practices they see in the world they are growing into."

To download the full report:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Free%20Resources/NATRE%20Primary%20Survey%202020%20final.pdf>

## Resources and CPD (continued)

### Resources for RE

- **NATRE Anti-Racist Resources for RE:** The project is generously supported initially by the Free Churches Group and Methodist Schools, and managed, written and edited by Lat Blaylock, RE Adviser and editor of *REtoday magazine*.  
<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-racist-re/?fbclid=IwAR2OQocbS06BwnHqva4-ORml4TlhRVoaHbWOfwKdKYiypzsYJ8NTg4IjJVQ>
- The **Inter Faith Network** is working to develop a resource for secondary schools, similar to that produced for primary schools in 2019. The writing of the materials is at an early stage but SACREs will be alerted when they are available.  
<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/learning-about-inter-faith-activity-a-primary-resource>
- **The Church of England** has produced faith sensitive and inclusive Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (RSHE) resources and guidance <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/relationships-sex-and-health-education>
- Newham **SACRE's Bullying and Belief Toolkit** is now hosted on the NATRE website; this is a Westhill NASACRE award project toolkit that came out of their winning grant on Bullying and Belief <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-bullying>
- **REonline:** [www.reonline.org.uk](http://www.reonline.org.uk) (as recommended for Cumbria Units of work)
- **Research in RE** <http://researchforre.reonline.org.uk/>
- **Free teaching resources for Key Stage 3 – Cardiff University:** please follow this link to these materials: [https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/2430314-Free-teaching-resources-for-Key-Stage-3?fbclid=IwAR27E\\_ILe\\_YqDPRNE5PhXFbklah9qnTXEr4gJZ2mzLl8Bun\\_ZN3Y9mQCoso](https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/2430314-Free-teaching-resources-for-Key-Stage-3?fbclid=IwAR27E_ILe_YqDPRNE5PhXFbklah9qnTXEr4gJZ2mzLl8Bun_ZN3Y9mQCoso)
- **New website from Imran Kotwal.** Imran Kotwal is a popular Muslim faith visitor to schools. His new website has resources and training for Islam. <https://smex12-5-en-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.islamresources.co.uk&umid=607147ae-28cc-4a82-8842-3f9d51f8ca27&auth=438558d5329f5814a0a31cfd8e89073841978136-cc72283824cc5fc547506615d5fb8924f5d199ed>

## Resources and CPD continued

### Further CPD (national) and Funding

- **Strictly RE online** – 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2021/>
- **Farmington Scholarships** are now open <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/farmington-scholarships-now-open/> The Scholarships are divided into two types: university-based and school/home-based. Teachers who live within a reasonable distance of one of the selected universities or colleges may be awarded a university-based Scholarship. The academic facilities of the colleges and universities are available for Scholars.
- For training opportunities, the new **TEACH:RE course**: <http://www.teachre.co.uk>
- For **Masters** funding: <http://www.cstg.org.uk/how-we-help/3forre/>
- **@RE\_PDPortal** tweets and retweets for all the latest professional development opportunities in RE
- **Beyond the Ordinary** – more information about training to be a RE teacher should visit [www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary](http://www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary).
- **Professor James Holt** from the University of Chester has been providing an excellent selection of FREE CPD for teachers which can still be viewed\_ <https://jamesdholt.com/cpd/>
- **NATRE** are providing excellent regular online CPD with prices according to your NATRE membership status <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/>
- **2021 RE and Philosophy for Children CPD** as part of the Cumbria's Training Events for School Based Staff administered by The School Development Team. These courses and the annual Cumbria SACRE RE conference will be advertised via direct email to school, schools portal and the School Development Facebook page.