

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM COURSE IS A GREAT SUCCESS

Equilibria held their very first "Understanding Islam" training day for teachers and professionals at Makkah Mosque, Leeds in October. Thirty-seven teachers from Yorkshire and Tameside attended the event, which was supported and funded by local SACREs and Pennine Learning.

Attendees heard a recitation of the Qur'an from Imam Qari Asim MBE, observed congregational prayers and had a tour of the beautiful mosque which houses a stunning dome decorated in intricate Arabic calligraphy. Teachers also learnt about Islamophobia from Muhammad Abubakar who represents MEND and heard from Alastair Ross, RE Consultant for Leeds who spoke about Islam in the curriculum and led a session on sensitivity and awareness. Feedback shows teachers learned a lot from the day course and were especially grateful to take away their special gift from the local community of a large box full of Islamic Artefacts and resources.



Feedback from teachers:

"This is an exceptional course. Well presented and full of different activities. The day was so refreshing! It was so valuable to be with other professionals and have such a worthwhile day out"

"Fantastic day with a wealth of relevant and helpful information from people who absolutely know their stuff."

"It was an amazing experience being able to gain an insight as to what happens inside a mosque. The course itself was informative and I took away so much from it - including the out of this world resource box!"

To register your interest for a similar course, or to find out about Equilibria's other services such as Mosque visits and assemblies, visit their website: www.equilibria.org.uk

SECONDARY TEACHERS INVITED TO RE NETWORK MEETING IN LEEDS

Teachers in Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds are warmly invited to attend the first Secondary RE Network of the year on **Wednesday November 16th 2022**, 9.00am – 12 noon at Cockburn School, Leeds, LS11 5TT. The session will cover assessment in Secondary RE, transition and supporting the C19 recovery through RE as well as time for networking and support.



Leeds teachers please book via Leeds for Learning or contact caroline.dodgeon@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk

This is part of the Kirklees network package: Kirklees teachers need to book a place via Kirklees Business Solutions.

Calderdale teachers please contact jake@penninelearning.com

SHARING THE JOURNEY: PRACTICAL ADVICE ON SENSITIVITY TO FAITHS

The wide range of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds of the children and young people attending our schools can be a great source of strength, learning and resilience. It also requires us all to be informed, sensitive and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all.



To support this work, a handbook has been prepared with practical advice for school leaders and teachers around areas of sensitivity to faiths and beliefs. The title, *Sharing the Journey*, reflects the importance of understanding the diverse cultures, perspectives and beliefs of pupils and staff in schools, while recognising our common human journey.

It is designed to support schools in understanding the needs of pupils from various faith communities. Linked to this, it will be helpful in developing positive and empathetic relationships with those communities too. Recognising and embracing diversity is a key objective for the success of any community. As microcosms of the wider community, schools face both challenges and opportunities to nurture respect and understanding. This advice is offered as practical support for schools in this role.

The handbook will be sent to schools during the autumn term and you can also download a copy on the resources page at www.penninelearning.com.

SACRE SURVEY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

If you have not yet completed the survey for your school, please do so as soon as possible. The survey only takes 5 minutes to complete. Click on the relevant link and it should take you directly to the correct questionnaire for each local authority area:

Calderdale <https://forms.office.com/r/X3APDBu36b>

Kirklees <https://forms.office.com/r/gqZj7gXfXW>

Leeds <https://forms.office.com/r/xEE2gYmBcc>



INTERFAITH WEEK EVENTS IN WEST YORKSHIRE

There are lots of events in our area during Interfaith Week. Here are some that may be of interest:

Tuesday, 15 November, 10am - 4pm: The Dignity of Women - Scriptural Reflections Exhibition at the Blackley Centre, Elland HX5 0TD. The exhibition will relate to the verses from different Religious Scriptures including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian regarding the status and honour of women.

Exhibition of Kirklees Community Quilt on the theme of HOME. The quilt will be on general display at Dewsbury Library Mon 14, Tues 15 and Wed 16 November and at Huddersfield Parish Church Thurs 17 and Fri 18 November.

Thursday, 24 November 6.30pm - 7.45pm: Annual Celebration Event at Halifax Town Hall, HX1 1ZS. Including renewal of Calderdale's Faith Covenant with keynote speaker The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP.

For information about Interfaith events contact Nisar.Mayet@kirklees.gov.uk or Sail.suleman@calderdale.gov.uk or visit www.interfaithweek.org

Interfaith Week resources for schools can be [accessed here](#). The Interfaith Network offers free [secondary school resources](#) and [primary resources](#) to help teachers when covering inter faith activity in the UK.



Don't forget to include **non-religious worldviews**. You can [book a FREE visit](#) (online or in person) from a trained school speaker to talk about humanism and answer questions. Speakers are very happy to visit alongside representatives of other religions and beliefs. The [Understanding Humanism](#) website provides FREE resources for ages 5-18. There are information sheets, presentations, activities, films, assessment ideas, and humanist perspectives on a wide range of questions and topics.

ISLAM WEBINARS FOR PRIMARY RE LEADERS AND TEACHERS

Imran Kotwal is running a series of webinars in November and December to help Primary RE leads/staff to develop subject knowledge and confidence in teaching Islam. All webinars include PPT slides and training materials.

- 21st November 4-5 pm: Prophets in Islam
- 8th December 4-5 pm: Life of Prophet Muhammad - Key events
- 14th December: 4-5 pm: What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?
- 15th December: 4-5.30 pm: Hadeeth Study - Teachings of Prophet Muhammad

Follow [this link](#) to book a place:

If you would like Imran Kotwal to visit your school, either face-to-face or virtually to lead an Islam assembly, pupil workshop, a session for parents and or Islam training for your staff - please visit www.muslimlearnerservices.org

GET CREATIVE WITH FAIRTRADE AT THE FAIR AND FUNKY PRIMARY CONFERENCE

Book now to join the Fair and Funky conference during Fairtrade Fortnight at The Tolson Museum in Huddersfield on Friday 24th February 2023. It is a day of creative learning around Fairtrade through arts, literacy, chocolate tasting, games and more! Many schools bring their school council representatives, their eco club or pupil premium students. Workshops are accessible for children of all ages and abilities.



Each school is invited to bring 8 students and 2 members of staff at a cost of £135. All participants receive a Fairtrade goody bag and each school a Fairtrade football.

Places are limited so please email helen@fairandfunky.com to book a place.

NATIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS

BIBLE SOCIETY WRITING OPPORTUNITY FOR KS2 CHRISTIANITY RESOURCES

The education team at Bible Society is looking for contributors to a forthcoming series of KS2 RE classroom resources. The work will involve writing quality content and designing engaging tasks and questions that will help students to explore the Bible text and understand how it influences Christian beliefs, practices and ways of living.

If you're interested or would like to find out more, please contact Mike.Otter@biblesociety.org.uk or 07887 688 947

FOREGROUNDING TEACHERS' VOICES: SECONDARY AND PRIMARY RE SURVEY

New survey! The project "Foregrounding Teachers' Voices" is finding out what teachers in England and Wales really think about the current state of RE and its future. The survey is open to all primary and secondary teachers of RE at all types of schools. Project leaders are Dr Tim Hutchings (University of Nottingham) and Dr Céline Benoit (Aston University), and the project is funded by Culham St Gabriel Trust. The project team will be creating new, free CPD resources for RE teachers in spring 2023, so this survey also asks what teachers would find most helpful. The survey is completely anonymous and should take 15 minutes to complete. Follow [this link](#)

RE HUBS PROJECT ANNOUNCES NEW REGIONAL LEADERS FOR RE

A new RE Hubs project has been launched to represent and support Religious Education across the country. One of the aims is to develop a well-resourced and up to date Regional Hub website facilitating information and knowledge exchange. This will go live in November.

A new team of regional leaders for RE has been recruited to build relationships with advisers, dioceses, universities, SACREs, LAs, governors, MATs, teaching school hubs, places of worship and more. The regional leads are all RE practitioners with many years of experience. Claire Clinton is leading this team. Our regional leaders are Olivia Seymour (Yorkshire & Humber) and Naomi Anstice (North West). Follow [this link](#) for more information.

Naomi Anstice will be hosting the next **#REchatUK Twitter** conversation on Monday 5th December. The theme is 'RE in your region'. [#REchatUK](#) takes place on the first Monday of each month from 8 – 9pm on Twitter.

SOLUTIONS NOT SIDES LAUNCHES OLIVE BRANCH AWARD FOR SCHOOLS

Solutions Not Sides (SNS) is an education programme that aims to tackle Antisemitism, Islamophobia and polarisation around the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the UK. Their new Olive Branch Award gives schools multiple ways to engage, from school sessions to teacher training, art and photography murals, to letter exchanges with their peers in Palestine and Israel.



The Olive Branch Award makes sure that all students have the chance to talk about tough issues. This does not happen from a one-time conversation, and everyone learns and develops differently. The award supports schools to become safe and empowered spaces to talk and learn about tough issues through focusing on four key skills: active listening, empathy, critical thinking, and social and emotional learning. Schools can join and collect leaves for their Olive Branch by participating in SNS sessions and exclusive new programmes. Schools receive discounts for their programmes, exclusive resources, are invited to our annual Olive Branch Award conference, and also get priority spots at two Student Leadership Programmes: Bridge-builders and the MUN.

For more information visit www.solutionsnotsides.co.uk/our-work/olive-branch-award

IN CONVERSATION SERIES: FREE ONLINE SEMINARS IN AUTUMN 2022

Monday 21st November 7-7.40pm - In conversation with Professor Trevor Cooling and Dr Kate Christopher

Theme: Understanding Understanding! What do we mean by understanding?

Monday 19th December 4.30-5.10pm - In Conversation with Dr Kevin O'Grady

Theme: Conceptualising religion and worldviews for the school

Sign up here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events

LIFE EXHIBITION MULTI-MEDIA EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE TO VISIT SCHOOLS

The Life exhibition is a multi-media experience designed for primary school children that complements and works alongside existing RE teaching. It helps them to explore what Christians believe and understand how the story of Jesus is the key to Christianity. The exhibition is an immersive experience, using interactive tablets, quizzes, films, songs, QR codes, graphics and a discussion café, with lessons lasting for about an hour. It is aimed at Year 5 and 6 pupils, although sessions can be adapted to include pupils in Year 3 and 4.



The exhibition is housed in a purpose-built vehicle that transforms into a large interactive learning area, so it doesn't require inside space. This means it can visit a whole host of venues: schools, car parks, show grounds or town centres. It is often FREE to schools, thanks to the sponsorship of local churches.

For more information visit [their website](#) or contact kevin@countiesuk.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH RELIGION AND VALUES WITH A FARMINGTON SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the 2022/23 Farmington Scholarships are now open. These are Scholarships available to teachers of religious education and associated subjects in UK secondary, primary, and special needs schools. Headteachers who wish to undertake research into either religious education or values education are also welcome to apply.

Scholarships cover the cost of tuition, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher (up to MPS 6). Scholarships last for a maximum of 30 days and can either be taken at a local university or can be home-based with a local tutor. Further information and an application form can be found on the [Farmington website](#)

RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS FILMS AND FREE SELF-STUDY COURSES

Culham St Gabriel's has commissioned and launched a series of eleven short films to promote an education in religion and worldviews across many areas of public life. Individuals from a range of different perspectives and from different walks of life explain why an education in religion and worldviews matters to them. The films can be [viewed here](#)



Culham St Gabriel's is also offering two new FREE self-study short courses for teachers:

- Digging Deeper: Religion and Worldviews
- Digging Deeper: Curriculum

Previous courses, still available, include an Introduction to Religion and Worldviews and Curriculum planning. The courses take about 60 – 90 minutes to complete. [Browse courses here.](#)

STRICTLY RE ONLINE 2023: DEPTH AND DIVERSITY IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Strictly RE online conference takes place on 28 - 29 January 2023. Key conference themes are Depth, Diversity and Abrahamic Worldviews. Optional seminars include:

- Thinking out loud - joining the dots to help children think more critically (Primary)
- Introducing Philosophy and Philosophers to the Primary Classroom (Primary)
- Dharmic Lenses on Climate Crisis (Secondary)
- Creating a core RE Programme for KS4 (Secondary)

[Click here](#) for details and booking form.

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

FOLLOW THE STAR – NEW FREE RESOURCES FOR ADVENT

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust invites schools to explore some of the journeys made in the Christmas story and to consider how these can help and inspire us on our own journeys in life. Look at the journeys made by Mary as she visits Elizabeth, by Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem and by the shepherds and wise men as they travel to meet and celebrate Jesus.



Over four weeks the free resource explores what we can learn from these journeys and how they can inspire us to reach out and make a difference to others in our communities this Advent. The resource can be used in the classroom or in collective worship.

[Follow this link](#) to find out more.

CHRISTMAS RESOURCES AND CURRICULUM PLANNING FOR EARLY YEARS



The big book [Puddles and The Christmas Play](#) is a must to use with Early Years pupils at this time of year. Puddles longs for a part in the Christmas play! On each Sunday of Advent, Puddles watches the children practise and wishes she could join in.

When the day of the play arrives, Puddles' help is needed - is this the chance of playing a part that Puddles has been waiting for?!

Books at Press offers cross-curricular planning which gives great ideas for early years RE. For £2.99 it comes with three classroom activities to download. There are some free EYFS curriculum planning documents always available on the website too. Visit [Books at Press website](#) for details.

STORY TENT WEBSITE OFFERS NEW RESOURCES FOR KS2 STORYTELLING IN RE

The Story Tent website has been updated with new content and information. You will find easily accessible online teaching materials to support KS2 pupils as they learn more about Religion and Worldviews through the lens of story. The events section highlights upcoming workshops which are designed to build confidence, provide resources and enrich the RE teaching experience. There are also bi-monthly sessions of Scriptural Reasoning for teachers, providing new classroom resources developed in partnership with Coventry Cathedral.

Visit www.storytent.concordant.online for more information and resources.



WHAT'S ON YOUR HEAD?

This series of CBeebies films is available on BBC iPlayer. It has people talking about their different styles of dress, helping pupils learn more about the world around them and different people within it. [This episode](#) looks at Richard, who is Jewish; he shows his kippah and talks about why he decided to wear one.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION: FILMS, RESOURCES AND WORKSHOPS FOR ALL AGES

Worlds Apart is a short animation by Emily Downe produced by Theos, that travels through a whirlwind of questions surrounding the science and religion debate. [Watch it here.](#)

Exploring Big Science and Faith Questions in the Classroom: The Faraday Institute is running bite-sized training sessions for teachers. The courses will provide you with brand new classroom resources, covering questions such as:

How can RE help with teaching science? How can wonder in creation be part of science? How can combining perspectives from both science and faith help tackle big issues?

Visit the [Faraday Institute website](#) for more information about events, training and resources for schools.

Pennine Learning is on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



The [Pennine Learning website](#) offers resources including guidance and advice for RE, SMSC and Equalities.

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