

## Eastern Summer term news 2026

### What is new on the RE Hubs Website?

#### New Blogs

Jane Yates RE Hubs Lead for the North West has written on Nobody Stands Nowhere: Why Stories from the Real Lives of Religious and Non-Religious People Transform RE

You can read the blog here: [Blogs](#)

#### News & blogs



Read latest news & blogs

#### New pod on the RE Hubs website

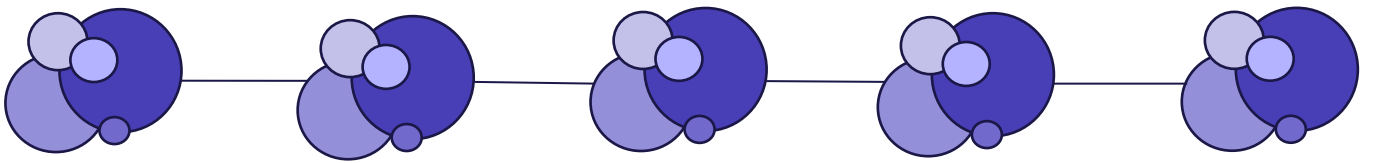
We have a new pod on our website to support anyone thinking about becoming an RE Teacher. This section includes information on educational grants, subject knowledge enhancement courses and blogs and podcasts. Do take a look and share widely if you can: [Thinking about becoming an RE teacher?](#)

Thinking about becoming an RE teacher

#### Tackling issues in RE

#### New resource on the website

In Tackling issues in RE there are all sorts of new resources we have found and signposted for teachers and schools in here. You can find it here: [Tackling issues in RE](#)



## New event on the RE Hubs Calendar

The First Jewish culture month (16<sup>th</sup> May -16<sup>th</sup> June 2026) has been added to the RE Hubs Calendar. Clicking on the event takes you to a website with lots of information about the event. [Calendar](#)

Key < > today May 2026

England

- East Anglia
- East Midlands
- London
- North East

May 14, 2026

May 16, 2026

- Jewish Culture month - - Free

May 17, 2026

Do you have events coming up? Why not put them on the RE Hubs calendar [using this form](#). It is free to advertise if your event is free and there is a small cost if it is a paid for course or event.

## RE Hubs training

### NATRE & RE Hubs CPD Training for Local Group Leaders – Muslim Voices Q&A panel

✨ Join us for our next session on 19 May 2026 6.30-8pm! It is for teachers who lead a local group – whether you are affiliated to NATRE, an LA or a diocese. If you haven't yet taken part, this is a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, and strengthen your RE leadership of your local group.

**Leaders of Local Groups Meeting**  
19<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm to 8pm

Book your place QR code for online meeting

This meeting will provide you as a local group leader:

- Top tips for growing your RE Network
- Meet leaders speaking about their networks, how they plan and develop them
- Learn more about teaching about Islam through our Muslim panel

**KHADIJA MAHIR**  
RE Lead, Primary teacher, Culham St.Gabriels leadership programme, Barnet SACRE

**WAQAR AHMEDI**  
Member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Head of RS, Prior's Field School, author of several books, runs CPD nationally and NATRE Executive

**SHAMMI RAHMAN**  
Race Equality Adviser and EDI consultant offering practical equity and inclusion consultancy for both corporate and education sectors.

**ZAMEER HUSSAIN**  
Religious Studies Consultant for large Multi Academy Trust in London, has contributed to several books, including one on Shia Islam for teachers.

**SHABNAM KHALIQ**  
Head of RS, BlueCoat Oldham, leads CPD nationally and is leading the Oldham and Tameside RS secondary network and NATRE Executive

🔗 Booking [on this link](#).

Justine Ball and Chris Giles, RE Hubs Leaders

### MAT RE Lead Network

Brought to you by NATRE, AREIAC & CStG, this national network is a fantastic opportunity for you as the RE Leader across your MAT/Federation to explore and network high-quality RE.

The network provides opportunities for:

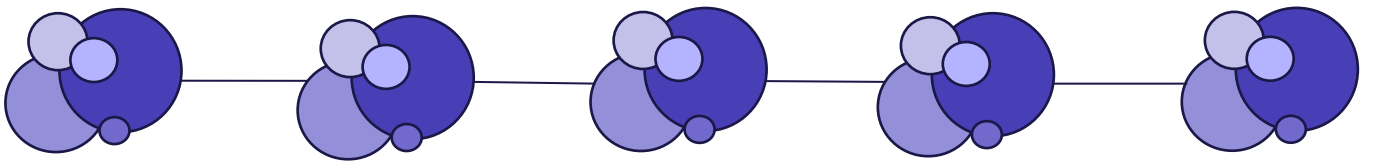
- High-quality leadership: Top tips from others in this role.
- Networking opportunity: Meet RE Leads in MATs across the country.
- High-quality RE: National updates & links to opportunities and resources for your MAT.
- We will be joined by **Dr Vanessa Ogden** for our next meeting which will be on **21 April 2026 from 4.00 - 5.30 PM** to learn more about the Curriculum and Assessment review report and what this means for RE.

Cost: FREE for NATRE and AREIAC members. If you are not a member of these organisations, then there is a fee of £100 to attend.

Access [flyer](#). **BOOK YOUR PLACE [HERE!](#)**

## RE Hubs School Speaker & Places of Interest Training





As RE Hubs celebrates three years, our School Speaker and Places of Interest training continues to grow from strength to strength. What began as a small initiative to connect schools with authentic voices has become a national network of accredited speakers enriching pupils' learning in meaningful and memorable ways.

So far, 852 people have completed the training, reflecting the commitment of religion and belief communities, and individuals who want to support high-quality Religious Education (RE) & Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE). Teachers consistently tell us how much they value the opportunity to take pupils to places of interest and bring accredited speakers into the classroom—people who can share lived experiences, personal stories, and perspectives that deepen pupils' understanding of the diverse world around them.

**We'd love to reach our next milestone of 1,000 accredited speakers.** If you can signpost someone to the training, please do. The training is a free 90-minute session, leading to an RE Hubs kitemark and the option to be listed on our website. By joining our training or signposting potential speakers, you're helping create richer, more meaningful encounters for pupils.

Find out more about our training dates here: <https://www.re-hubs.uk/uploads/rehubs-training-flyer-v4-202526-4.pdf>

## **A spotlight on one of our Steering Group Organisations – AREIAC**

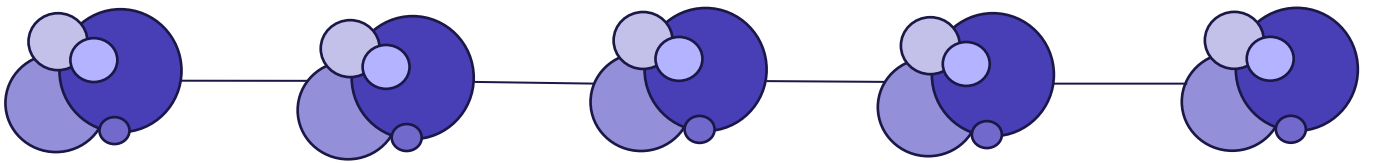
AREIAC is an established professional association for RE leads across England and Wales. AREIAC members work on the frontline, training and supporting RE teachers new to the profession as well as supporting established RE teachers and RE regional leads supporting RE networks. AREIAC has a very diverse membership and the RE leads work within Local Authorities, SACRE's, Dioceses, Faith schools, MATs and Trusts, teacher training programmes, RE Policy and as curriculum writers for RE: they have a unique position in the RE community to provide support to Religious Education teachers and leaders.



Membership benefits include a termly newsletter, webinars, online conferences and RE support, in personal annual Conference and regular regional meetings with colleagues. Would you be interested in finding out more? Would you benefit from being a member of AREIAC? Please contact your regional lead: <https://www.areiac.org.uk/members-section>

## **Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom.**





The government released a Policy Paper published on 9th March 2026. The report talks about RE, religious literacy and SACREs positively.

Policy paper

## **Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom**

This publication sets out this government's vision for a fair, tolerant and decent country and the steps we are taking to tackle threats to social cohesion.

*Working closely with faith and belief communities, we will expand Inter Faith Week, boost faith and belief literacy in government and wider society, and strengthen the role of Religious Education, including through improved engagement with Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs).*

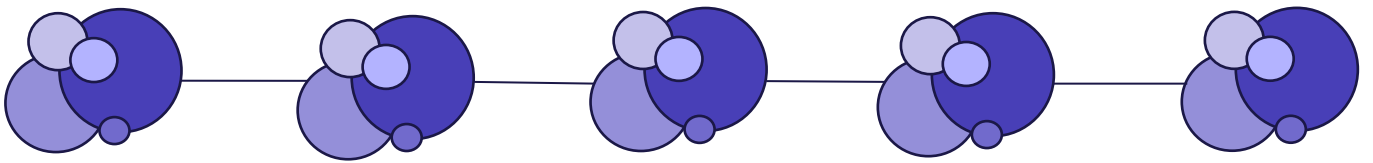
*We will:*

*Drive up standards in the teaching of Religious Education. We will carefully consider including Religious Education in the national curriculum, subject to the sector reaching consensus on the content of, and approach to delivering, a curriculum. (Pg 24)*

You can read the report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-what-matters-towards-a-more-confident-cohesive-and-resilient-united-kingdom>

NASACRE have written a statement on the report which you can read here: <https://nasacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/statement-26-03-10.pdf>

## **An interesting read – New PEW Research Report**



Pew Research Center



Do you need to believe in God to be moral and have good values? Views on this question vary widely around the

world, according to a 2025 Pew Research Centre survey. The report explores whether adults in 25 surveyed countries think belief in God is necessary to be moral and how those views have changed over time. You can read the report here: [Is belief in God needed to be moral? Many in US, other countries say no | Pew Research Center](#)

## Building Bridges through Service

The Inter Faith Week 2025 Report is officially here! Under the theme “Community: Together We Serve,” this year’s programme reached new heights in fostering connection and social action. Key Highlights:

- 430+ activities hosted across the country.
  - Stronger Partnerships: Increased collaboration between faith groups, local councils and businesses.
  - Next-Gen Leadership: A significant rise in youth-led initiatives and digital engagement.
- As we look towards 2026, our focus shifts to even earlier planning and deepening our impact through diverse national leadership and direct social action. Read the full report to see how we are growing together:

[https://www.interfaithweek.org/uploads/IFW\\_Report\\_2026\\_Single\\_Pages.pdf](https://www.interfaithweek.org/uploads/IFW_Report_2026_Single_Pages.pdf)

## What’s new from Understanding Humanism

Understanding Humanism has launched a fantastic new **free video** to support young people’s understanding of **secularism**. Secularism presents a solution to the challenges of living together in a diverse society in which people identify with a wide variety of religions and beliefs. Its principles are supported by humanists as well as many religious people.



Secularists are people who believe that

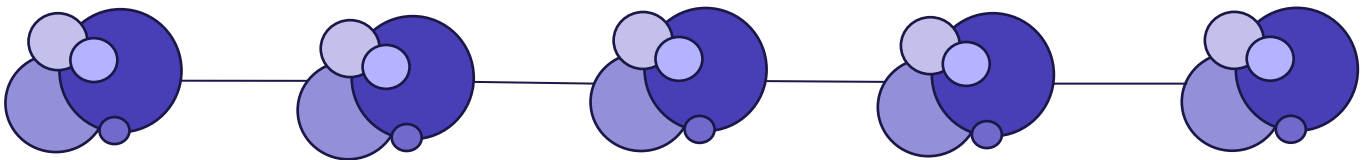
1. There should be a **separation** between religious institutions and state institutions
2. Individuals should have **freedom** of religion or belief, and be free to reject or change their beliefs
3. *There should be **equal treatment** and no privilege or discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief*

*This beautiful new **animation** presents the case for secularism on the grounds of freedom, fairness, and peace. We hope it will provide a stimulating conversation starter in the classroom on how we can all live well together.*

## Thoughtful Philosophy for Children (P4C)



Date April 2026



Congratulations to Thoughtful P4C (formerly SAPERE P4C) who received the inaugural British Philosophical Association 2026 Prize for Service to UK Philosophy (not by professional academic philosophers). You can read more:

<https://www.thoughtful.org.uk/latest/thoughtful-wins-national-philosophy-award/>

Why not join the next free Consider P4C Taster event on 30 June, 2.15-3.00. To find out more and book: <https://www.thoughtful.org.uk/courses/consider-p4c/>

Thoughtful P4C has recently launched a brand-new website: [www.thoughtful.org.uk](http://www.thoughtful.org.uk)

## News from NATRE



### Subject Leader Toolkits

NATRE have launched a new subject leader toolkit for secondary RE leads: a comprehensive collection of resources designed to support secondary school subject leaders in developing and enhancing the teaching and leadership of Religious Education.

This toolkit provides a wealth of guidance, practical strategies, and key resources to support Secondary RE Leads in leading Religious Education / Religion and Worldviews with confidence. Whether it is refining the curriculum, supporting staff development, or advocating for the subject's value, you'll find useful documents, research, and best-practice examples to strengthen subject leadership.

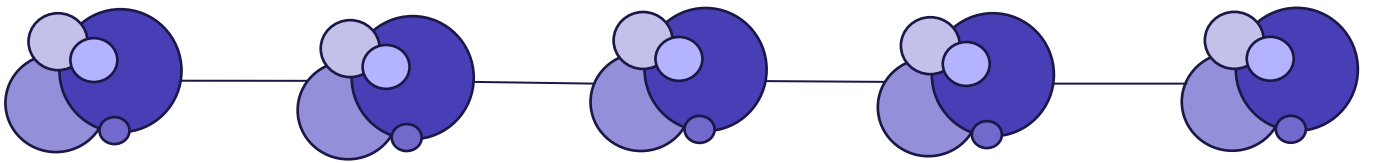
All materials in this toolkit have been compiled by experienced secondary members of the NATRE Executive and advisers from RE Today, ensuring high-quality, relevant, and practical support for subject leaders. You can access the toolkit here: <https://natre.org.uk/secondary-subject-leader/>

Primary RE Lead? don't forget there is also already a primary RE subject leader page here: <https://natre.org.uk/primary-re-curriculum/primary-subject-leader/>

## REChatUK

NATRE's monthly Twitter forum, #REChatUK takes place on the first Monday of the month, from 8-9pm. These fast-paced, fun and informative discussions are a great way to discover new ideas, resources and conversations. The forum is also an effective place to network and





meet new people on Twitter. Follow [@NATREupdate](#) on Twitter, and the hashtag #REChatUK. An overview of the dates and themes for the rest of 2026 are below.

<b>April 20<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>	Outdoor RE
<b>May 11<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>	Case studies
<b>June 1<sup>st</sup> 2026</b>	PP & SEND in RE
<b>July 6<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>	Yearly Round up
<b>September 7<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>	ITE in RE
<b>October 5<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>	Assessment in RE
<b>November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026</b>	Teaching to the Top
<b>December 7<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>	Adaptive Teaching

## **AULRE/AREIAC Annual Conference 2026 Hosted at Birmingham City University**

Dates: Monday 15th - Tuesday 16th June 2026

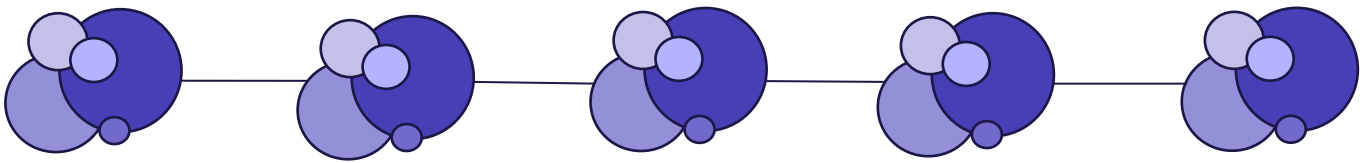
RE:Generation

Challenge and Evolution in the RE Curriculum

Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education (AULRE) and Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) is delighted to announce its 2026 joint conference, at Birmingham City University, City South Campus, Edgbaston, B15 3TN, 15th-16th June 2026.

The conference is open to everyone with an interest in religious education from the four nations of the United Kingdom and beyond. We welcome researchers, teacher educators, advisers and classroom teachers. Those working in aligned fields such as Education Studies, Moral Education, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theology as well as from within Childhood and Youth studies may also be interested in attending and offering presentations.

Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aulreareiac-joint-conference-tickets-1982270887586?aff=oddtcreator>



AULRE/AREIAC  
Annual Conference 2026  
At Birmingham City University



### RE:Generation

Challenge and Evolution in the RE Classroom  
Monday 15th–Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026

To buy your ticket: <https://tinyurl.com/REGENERATION26>

To register an interest in speaking <https://tinyurl.com/regenerationform26>

To register stall for exhibiting: <https://tinyurl.com/regenerationform26>

1. What educational **philosophies** and **theories** can frame religious education for the next generation?
2. What fruitful **intersections** are there between theory, policy and practice in RE?
3. What **examples** of high quality religious education curriculum and teaching are emerging?

Keynote speech from: Gert Biesta



Gert Biesta ([www.gertbiesta.com](http://www.gertbiesta.com)) is Emeritus Professor of Public Education at Maynooth University, Ireland, and Professor II in the Department of Pedagogy, Religion and Social Studies, at the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway

**The AULRE AREIAC conference provides a space for fruitful dialogue between research and practice. At a time where there may be changes on the horizon - come and be part of the conversation about what happens in RE.**



## Eastern Region News

### Research Link Request from a Teacher in Cambridgeshire.

*"I'm an RE and Sociology a teacher at Long Road Sixth Form College looking to develop oracy to develop critical thinking, potentially using P4C/thinking circle models or a Harkness approach.*

*I am looking to connect with any RE teachers who have successfully developed this type of practice within A Level examined lessons. My work email is [missott@longroad.ac.uk](mailto:missott@longroad.ac.uk) Megan would love to link with A level teachers in the Cambridgeshire area and beyond."*

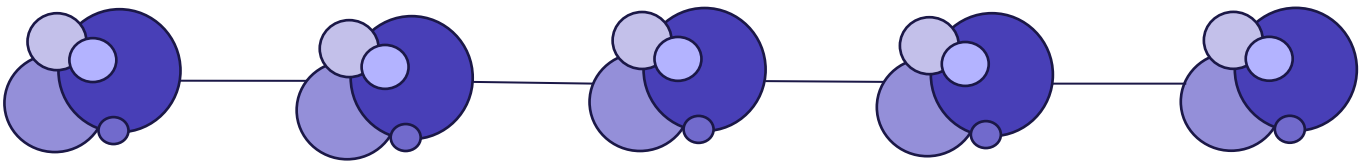
Megan would love to link with A level teachers in the Cambridgeshire area and beyond. Please share this with your teacher networks.

### Supporting and Linking with Local Interfaith Groups

It is encouraging to see the number of accredited school speakers and places of interest listed on the Eastern Region RE Hub steadily increasing. Feedback from teachers shows that this resource is highly valued, providing an important way to find high-quality speakers and visit opportunities to enrich RE teaching and the wider curriculum.

While most RE Hubs training is delivered online, in February 2026 the Director of RE Hubs, Claire Clinton, led a face-to-face training session for more than 20 members of Luton Council of Faiths. Representatives from a wide range of religions and worldviews are now connected through the Council via the Hub.





Many SACREs and local areas also support networks of faith and belief representatives, and some maintain directories that they share with schools. If you would like to link these directories to the Regional RE Hub, or arrange training for a larger group, please contact Katie Gooch at [eastanglia@re-hubs.uk](mailto:eastanglia@re-hubs.uk) to arrange a discussion.