

REFocus Issue 13 Autumn 2024

National events



FARMINGTON
SCHOLARSHIPS

for head teachers and teachers of Religious Education and
associated subjects

Farmington Scholarships 2025-26

Applications for 2025/26 Scholarships will open in **October 2024** and at that time their website will be updated with details of how to apply. The closing date for applications will be the end of January 2025. Check into their website ([Scholarships - Farmington Institute](#)) in October if you are interested.

These have been career changers for some and professional boosts for everyone involved. This is probably the CPD Gold-Standard not just in the RE world, but in education as a whole. They are fully funded and allow for research into an area of interest to you.

[Scholarships - Farmington Institute](#)

They have a new email address: institute@farmington.ac.uk



News from
Holocaust Memorial
Day Trust

Holocaust Memorial Day 27th Jan 2025 'For a better future'

"This Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

80 years on from the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, antisemitism (anti-Jewish hatred) has increased significantly in the UK and globally following the 7 October attacks in Israel by Hamas and the subsequent war in Gaza. Extremists are exploiting the situation to stir up anti-Muslim hatred in the UK. Many UK communities are feeling vulnerable, with hostility and suspicion of others rising. We hope that HMD 2025 can be an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all.

There are many things we can all do to create a better future. We can speak up against Holocaust and genocide denial and distortion; we can challenge prejudice; we can encourage others to learn about the Holocaust and more recent genocides."

School resources can be found [here](#).

Strictly RE 2025 is an in-person event!

This year the conference is a live event on Saturday 25th Jan 2025 in Birmingham. Booking details are found on the NATRE website <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictly-re/#fbform> and there may still be places left, but act quickly!

Interfaith week 2025 wb 10th November

Despite the closing down of the Inter Faith Network earlier this year, the National Association of SACREs with other partners is working to ensure that Inter Faith Week continues.

The main website is [here](#). A schools website will be live shortly. There is a theme this year:

Linking Faiths, Beliefs, and Communities: Sharing My Story: Building Our Future

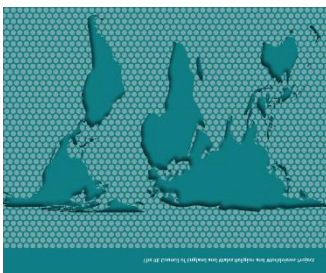
Recent national developments:

The last few years have seen the development of a number of initiatives and documents within RE. It is important to remember that there has been no change in the law and so all of these developments and resources are non-statutory. The basis for planning your school RE curriculum remains the Oxfordshire Locally Agreed Syllabus, 'Challenging RE' for maintained schools, or the equivalent for Trust and other Faith or Academy schools. However, these documents are all designed to support in the development, planning and implementation of high quality religious education.

1. The National Content Standard

As mentioned in last year's Autumn newsletter, the RE Council of England and Wales has produced a document to try to ensure that any Agreed Syllabus or equivalent used by Multi-Academy Trusts reaches a required standard to ensure that the RE curriculum planned in all schools is sufficiently robust, so that pupils in all schools receive their entitlement to high quality religious education. [The National Content Standard](#) does not specify what content must be studied, but rather sets a standard for the rigour and quality of curriculum provision. **It is designed for those who are referred to as 'curriculum publishers' not for subject leaders in individual schools**, though it may be of interest to you all. It has very useful appendices!

2. The Worldviews Toolkit from the REC



The RE Council of England and Wales has produced a document to support Syllabus designers and school curriculum developers to provide 'deep and meaningful' RE through a worldviews approach. This is a non-statutory guidance and toolkit for developing deep and meaningful RE adapting a religion and worldviews approach. If you are a subject leader, it is helpful to plan your school curriculum, but you should remember that the **statutory document for your curriculum**

is the appropriate agreed syllabus or equivalent. The whole resource and other relevant information can be accessed at <https://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/rwapproach/> .

It is important to reflect on what a RWV approach might be and that there is no one model being proposed. The original Commission on RE Report, 'Religion and Worldviews: The way forward' (2018) describes a worldview as being "a person's way of understanding, experiencing and responding to the world....This includes how a person understands the nature of reality and their own place in the world. A person's worldview is likely to influence and be influenced by their beliefs, values, behaviours, experiences, identities and commitments" (p4)

As such, any RWV approach will be more than just an academic study of beliefs and practices; it will recognise the experiential and emotional dimensions of our 'being-in-the-world'.

3. 'Deep and meaningful?': The Ofsted subject report for Religious Education

Whilst not a comfortable read, the [Ofsted Subject](#) report is useful for all involved in RE. From a subject leader's perspective, it contains helpful guidelines on what good RE looks like and what could be done to improve pupils' experience of RE. You might share some of this with other teachers, the SLT and your governors. In particular, ensuring adequate time and time-tabling are provided for pupils and that teachers receive training in the teaching of RE and especially their subject knowledge.

Local support and resources:

These are available on the Oxfordshire Schools website:

[RE subject support \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/re-subject-support)

[How to use the Enquiry Model \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/how-to-use-the-enquiry-model)

Oxford Schools Chaplaincy: We offer RE lessons, assemblies and support Christian Unions in secondary schools.

<https://www.oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org/>

OxonBucksRE local Facebook group you can join by clicking [here](#). Remember to answer the membership questions!

And don't forget about the RE Quality Mark

REQM is a highly prized validation of quality RE in a school and ranges from Bronze – Silver – Gold. However, it is not necessary to go for the accreditation! Simply using the criteria within your own school is a hugely useful RE improvement tool.

For more information and how to apply, <https://www.reqm.org/reqm-awards/how-to-apply/> SACRE is keen to promote REQM as a means to help improve RE not just in those schools that apply but also through them to support other schools across the county. If you are interested, please do apply and if possible contact Bill Moore (bjvmoore@justbmoore.com) so that SACRE can celebrate and share your achievement.



General support



<https://www.natre.org.uk/> <https://www.reonline.org.uk/>

REOnline also provides a [Festivals Calendar](#)

And Finally

This is my last newsletter as adviser to Oxfordshire SACRE. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with SACRE and Oxon schools and wish you all the best moving into the future.

Bill Moore (Adviser to SACRE)

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