



RE@Bucks

## Newsletter for RE Leads in Buckinghamshire

### Autumn 2025

### Bucks SACRE



#### Newsletter Sept 2025

Happy New (academic) Year from SACRE! I hope that the start to the new term has been going well. If you are new to Bucks and/or new to leading RE/RS in Bucks, welcome and please do get in touch. This is a significant year as we will be starting the process of reviewing and renewing the agreed syllabus – doesn't time fly. We await the result of the Curriculum and Assessment Review, so depending on whether there is any change in the legislation, this could be the last 'Challenging RE' syllabus, first developed way back in 2006.

#### Professional Development

*There are plenty of opportunities for CPD for RE teachers, either in the shape of training events, or online support and resources.*

#### Primary Local Networks

**Primary RE Teacher** networks are held termly and this year there will be two separate meetings one North and one South. You can choose which to attend, depending on your school and/or where you live. These networks are designed to help you as teachers share what you are doing, raise questions, contribute ideas and express concerns/issues, so that you can support each other. They are also a means of CPD and of keeping up-to-date. **They are all hybrid**, though attending in person has a real advantage, and run from **4-5pm**.

##### Autumn Term

Tues 7/10/25	North	<a href="#">Buckingham Park CE Primary</a>	Jill Bailey
Weds 8/10/25	South	<a href="#">Iver Village Infant Academy</a>	Maddison Lukin

##### Spring Term

Tues 3/2/26	South	<a href="#">Chesham Bois</a>	Sarah Pimenta
Thurs 5/2/26	North	<a href="#">Coleshill Infant School</a>	Kath Wijayatilleke

##### Summer Term

Tues 9/6/26	North	Venue tbc please volunteer!
Thurs 11/6/26	South	Venue tbc please volunteer!

**If you are not yet on the mailing list**, email Tahira Parveen( [tahira.parveen@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:tahira.parveen@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) ) to be added.

#### Secondary Networks 4.30-5.30pm

These are run for all secondary schools and there will be one each term.

<b>Autumn</b>	14/10/25	online
<b>Spring</b>	11/3/26	hybrid – venue tbc
<b>Summer</b>	2/7/26	hybrid – venue tbc

## Local CPD

### SMSC Training for leaders of Personal Development/ SMSC

Wednesday 12th November 1-4pm Venue: King's Church, Amersham

This **FREE** half-day course is for **Primary, Secondary and Special School Senior and Middle Leaders who have a responsibility for Personal Development and SMSC.**

Delegates will develop a stronger understanding of the potential of SMSC as a tool for improving schools and leave with a means to identify, develop and monitor this statutory requirement of school leadership.

**Speaker: Bill Moore, SACRE adviser**

Places are limited so please email Tahira Parveen, SIS, to secure your place now:

[Tahira.parveen@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tahira.parveen@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

## National



### Strictly RE 2026

**Date:** Saturday 31 January 2026 **Time:** 8.45AM-4.50PM

**Cost:** £185. **Early bird discount: Save £15** (book before 31 October 2025). NATRE members will receive £25 off the ticket price.

**Venue:** [Voco St. John's Hotel, Solihull](#)

Further info and booking [NATRE Strictly RE 2026: National Religious Education](#)

If you are not yet a member of NATRE, I strongly recommend subscribing. The termly mailing is well worth it and you get full access to the [NATRE website](#). They provide excellent support for Primary, Secondary and Special schools, including in-person and on-line training.



They also run a monthly webinar for those [new2RE](#) plus other courses, support and resources. The site is open access, but membership gives greater support and materials.



[REOnline](#) provides excellent support both for subject leaders and for teachers. Particularly helpful for teachers is their subject knowledge section:



Knowledge Resources Research Leadership Professional Development



Baha'i



Buddhist worldview traditions



Christian worldview traditions



Contextualising the diversity of worldviews



Hindu worldview traditions



Humanist worldview traditions



Jain



Jehovah's Witnesses



Jewish worldview traditions



Muslim worldview traditions



Pagan



Rastafari



Sikhi worldview traditions



Soka Gakkai



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Zoroastrian

They also provide some excellent videos on aspects of RE and recent research and a search facility for resources by key stage and content.

## RE Hubs



[REHubs](#) is developing fast! You can access this for:

- Courses and events
- Finding local RE Groups
- Finding local places of interest
- Finding school speakers
- Finding resources
- General news and blogs from the RE community

You can also get involved in the work of the RE Hubs.

### Aims of RE Hubs programme:

- To improve communication between teachers, professional development and resource providers, and research communities
- To improve connections and interactions between different parts of the RE/RVE/R&W Eco-System
- To be an information exchange to increase accessibility for all teachers to local and regional professional development and research
- To enable teachers to teach with greater confidence through their access to the support, knowledge, training and resources available in their region.
- To create a sustainable long-term model for future provision

## Things to look out for



**FARMINGTON  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

for head teachers and teachers of Religious Education and  
associated subjects

### Farmington Scholarships 2026-27

Applications for the academic year 2026/27 [Farmington](#) Scholarships will open in **October 2025** 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 2026. 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. SACRE would be most interested to hear if you are offered a scholarship place and to celebrate your progress and work with other schools. They have a new email address: [institute@farmington.ac.uk](mailto:institute@farmington.ac.uk)

## Up-coming national events:



**Interfaith Week 2025 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November**

**'Community: together we serve'**

*"The role of RE and interfaith education in schools is central to building a cohesive society. I am proud to support our educators as they foster not only knowledge, but also the values of tolerance, respect and understanding. **These are the values that will help children build confidence in their identity and will help them thrive in our diverse country.**"*

Lord Khan of Burnley



The theme this year **Community: Together We Serve** is designed to reflect the fact that all faiths and beliefs have at their heart the ways in which we treat other people and contribute to stronger and safer communities. Whether it be the 'Golden Rule', the concept of sewa, or mutual aid, communities work together for our mutual benefit. Interfaith work can and should contribute significantly to this.

### Why celebrate Interfaith Week?

Engaging with Interfaith week will help contribute towards:

- Your statutory duty to promote Community Cohesion
- Celebrating diversity within your school and local communities
- Exploring pupils' individual identity and shared humanity
- Developing and strengthening your school values, ethos and community
- Building stronger links with your local communities
- Your statutory duty to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of your pupils.

Ideas for schools can be found on the website [Home | Interfaith Week](#)



News from  
Holocaust Memorial  
Day Trust

### Holocaust Memorial Day 27th Jan 2026 'Bridging Generations'

"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.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past - to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future. 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."

For more information and support, visit the [HMD website](#)

## Recent national developments and statutory requirements:

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 Locally Agreed Syllabus, 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 Oak National Academy RE materials

These have now been released and are based on the principles of the Oak National Academy. **They are not a syllabus and cannot be used as a syllabus**, but as resources, adaptable power-points, worksheets and quizzes that you can use selectively **to support some aspects of the teaching of the Agreed**

**Syllabus.** They are all of the same Oak Academy structure and allow you to access subject knowledge. You can use them to help explore some of the enquiries within the Bucks Agreed Syllabus. You can access them [here](#).

## 2. The DfE curriculum review

In March this year, the review panel published its [interim report](#). RE was mentioned specifically:

### **“Subjects not on the national curriculum**

RE and RSHE are subjects that schools are required by statute to provide, but which do not form part of the national curriculum. Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision.

Similar sentiments have been raised in the Call for Evidence responses and in a Review roundtable with RE organisations. In contrast, the DfE provides statutory guidance for RSHE. It is currently reviewing the existing guidance in parallel with this Review and we will ensure that any implications of its findings are considered as we move into the next phase of work.

For these subjects, there is a balance to be struck between securing an entitlement to high quality content for all, and, particularly in the case of RE, the need for flexibility to be retained for different school types (i.e., schools with a religious designation and those without). We will consider these points through our analysis of each different subject before publishing our final report.”

The final report is expected in November and we will take account of its findings as we **review the Bucks Agreed Syllabus for 2027-32** (see below)

## **The Bucks Agreed Syllabus 2027-32: Challenging RE V**

We are now reviewing the Agreed Syllabus in readiness to produce the new one for September 2027. We have had feedback from teachers through last year and it was on the whole positive. Nationally it is well thought of. We plan to gain feedback from pupils through the members of the different network groups. We anticipate that the main developments will be in KS3, the use of concepts for progression and finalising support materials.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) is setting up a writing panel of teachers, as we have done in previous years. We would like seven primary (Early Years, KS1 and KS2) and five secondary (two Grammar and three Upper School) teachers to work on this over the Spring and Summer terms. This is voluntary work and is excellent professional development. If you are interested, please contact Bill ([bjvmoore@justbmoore.com](mailto:bjvmoore@justbmoore.com)) with a brief description of your experience. Please note that, especially in Primary, your experience of teaching RE is as important as your subject knowledge or expertise in Religious Studies.

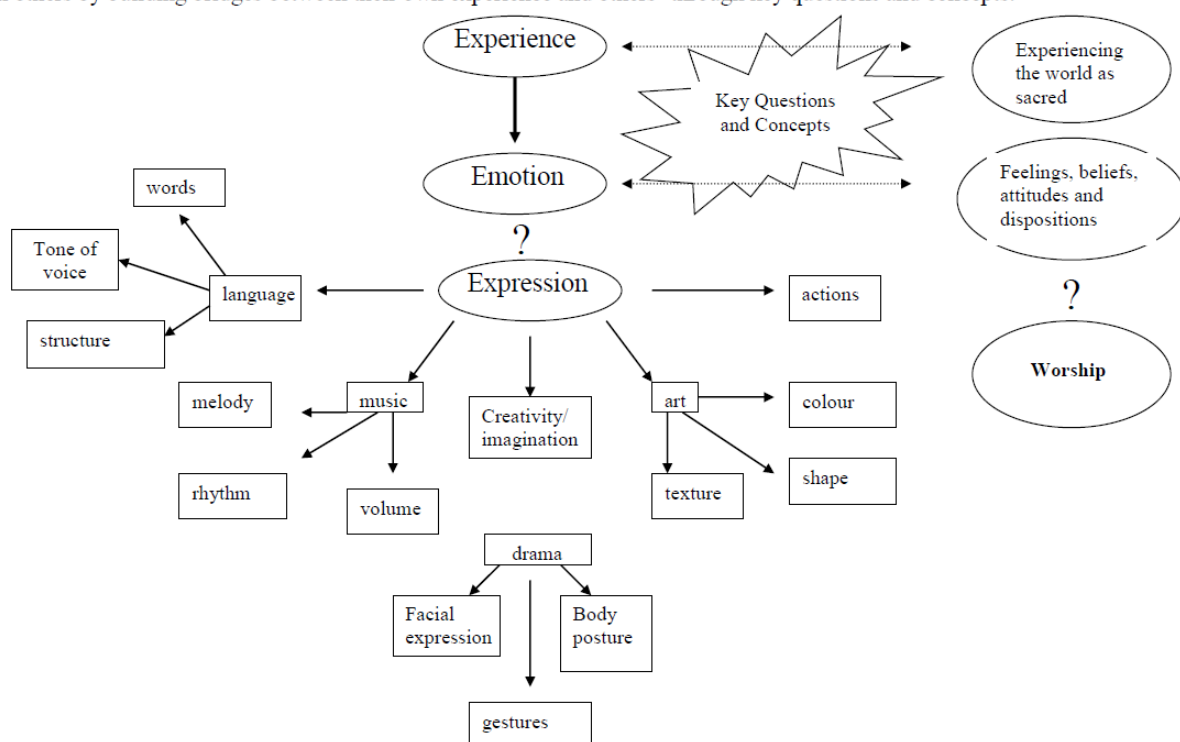
Key elements of the syllabus will be:

- Developing the enquiry and worldviews approach
- Building on the use of concepts to enable planning and progression

## Learning Process



Creativity in RE.A structure to explore the link between experiences, feelings and how we express these. This enables us to help pupils to reflect on their own experiences and feelings, develop their ability to express their feelings and to empathise with others by building bridges between their own experience and others' through key questions and concepts.



**Have you joined the OxonBucksRE local Facebook group?** If not, you can do so by clicking [here](#).

Wishing you all the best for the coming school year!

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