

 <p>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</p>	<h1>City of Wolverhampton SACRE</h1> <h2>8 October 2020</h2>
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Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Other Committees
Venue MS Teams

Membership

Members of City of Wolverhampton SACRE

Information

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

Contact Shelley Humphries
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 554070 email: shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Agenda

PART 1 – Items open to all attendees

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Welcome and Introductions**
- 2 **Apologies**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 4)
[To approve the minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2020 as a correct record.]
- 4 **Matters Arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2020.]
- 5 **Report from Religious Education (RE) Today** (Pages 5 - 10)
 - 5a **RE Today Update**

[To receive an update from RE Today.]
 - 5b **Anti-Racist Religious Education Resourcing Project**

[To receive an update on the Anti-Racist RE Resourcing Project.]
- 6 **City of Wolverhampton SACRE Annual Report 2019 - 2020 - (To follow.)**
[To approve the City of Wolverhampton SACRE Annual Report 2019 - 2020.]
- 7 **Secondary Education**
[To discuss RE provision for Secondary Education.]
- 8 **Local Authority Update**
[To receive an update from the Local Authority.]
- 9 **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**
[To receive an update on Ofsted findings during the last quarter.]
- 10 **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter**
[To receive an update on findings from SIAMS and Inspection 48 Visits.]
- 11 **Any other business**
- 12 **Dates of further meetings**
10 December 2020
11 March 2021
20 May 2021

 <p style="font-size: small;">CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">City of Wolverhampton SACRE</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Minutes - 5 March 2020</h3>
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Attendance

Members of the City of Wolverhampton SACRE

Martin Gomberg (Chair)	Representative of the Jewish Community
Akeel Ahmed	Representative of the Muslim Community
Ourmala Devi	Uplands Junior School Representative
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Rev. Stephen Jackson	Representative of the Baptist Church
In Attendance	
Lat Blaylock	RE Today
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
Laura Jude	Disadvantaged Pupils' Advisory Teacher

Item No. Title

1 Welcome and Introductions

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mark Cooper, Rebecca Wood, Yvonne Fegan and Father Craig Fullard.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved:

1. That the minutes from the meeting of 23 May 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.
2. That the minutes from the meeting of 10 October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5 Report from Religious Education (RE) Today

Lat Blaylock, RE Today presented the Spring 2020 SACRE National Update report from RE Today and highlighted some key points for noting.

CBP 7167: House of Commons Library paper on RE in England – Autumn 2019: It was agreed that the House of Commons Library Paper would be circulated to Headteachers of maintained schools and academies.

Timing of SATs tests in 2021: Adaptations available for Muslim pupils: It was agreed that the potential date of 12 May 2020 for Eid-ul-Fitr be noted and advice shared with schools ahead of this time in order for them to make alternative arrangements for testing. It was noted that SAT testing dates were flexible and this

could be accommodated to allow pupils to observe the festival. It was queried whether there were any other festivals of a similar nature that may affect other examinations and it was clarified that if any flagged up that would affect as many students, this would be reported. It was highlighted that there were websites available that provided information on other religious festivals.

Art in Heaven and Spirited Poetry:

It was outlined that there would be an art and poetry competition held by NATRE which was open to primary and secondary pupils. It was reported that it was free to enter and Wolverhampton SACRE agreed to encourage Wolverhampton schools to take part by sharing the competition details with headteachers.

NASACRE National Conference and AGM 2020: Monday 18 May 2020:

It was reported that the event would take place at the Crowne Plaza, London and would cost £70 to attend, which would be covered in the budget. It was highlighted that the guest speaker would be Matthew Purves, Ofsted's Deputy Director, Schools which meant that there would likely be items of interest on the agenda.

Akeel Ahmed, Representative of the Muslim Community stated he was unable to attend and suggested he could try and identify someone. It was also suggested that a teacher could attend on behalf of SACRE and report back. Laura Jude, Disadvantaged Advisory Teacher agreed to identify a teacher from a Wolverhampton school to attend and report back.

Resolved:

1. That the House of Commons Library Paper would be circulated to headteachers of Wolverhampton maintained schools and academies.
2. That the potential date of 12 May 2020 for Eid-ul-Fitr be noted and advice shared with schools ahead of this time in order for them to make alternative arrangements for testing.
3. That Wolverhampton SACRE agree to encourage Wolverhampton schools to take part by sharing the competition details with headteachers.
4. That Laura Jude, Disadvantaged Advisory Teacher agreed that a teacher from a Wolverhampton school would be asked to attend NASACRE National Conference and provide feedback to Wolverhampton SACRE.

6 **Agreed Syllabus Updating**

Lat Blaylock, RE Today provided a verbal update on the Agreed RE Syllabus. It had been noted that the RE Syllabus for Wolverhampton was reaching the end of its five-year period and was due to be reviewed. It was also noted that much of the terminology required an update for example, language used in respect of relationships and sexuality. It was agreed that the scheme of work should remain the same as this had proved to be a useful tool and it was only the syllabus that needed refreshing.

Lat Blaylock, RE Today reported that he could review the syllabus and update it accordingly. It was agreed that Lat Blaylock, RE Today would refresh the syllabus only.

It was noted that the refreshed syllabus needed to be approved by May to be in place for the Autumn 2020 term therefore it was agreed that following the next meeting of

Wolverhampton SACRE, the SACRE Agreed Syllabus Conference would meet to make the decision, as required by law.

It was suggested that, once approved, the document would be made available online with paper copies supplied upon request. It was agreed that the Council's Communications team would work up the visual element and a launch event could be arranged to raise the profile. The Molineux, Georgian Room at the Art Gallery and the City Suite were suggested as potential venues.

Resolved:

1. That Lat Blaylock, RE Today provide a draft of the refreshed syllabus for consultation and approval by the Agreed Syllabus Conference as part of the next meeting of Wolverhampton SACRE.
2. That a launch event be scheduled following final approval of the RE Syllabus.

7 **Final Plan for Collective Worship Guidance**

Lat Blaylock, RE Today presented the Final Plan for Collective Worship Guidance document which provided refreshed guidance and advice for schools on leading collective worship and developing a school policy statement for collective worship.

It was reported that the document would be launched at the next Primary Network Meeting and would be made available online for schools to access easily. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills would be invited to the next Primary Network Meeting. It was also agreed to include details of the launch at the Primary Network Meeting on the Headteacher Bulletin.

Resolved:

1. That the Final Plan for Collective Worship Guidance be noted.
2. That the Cabinet member for Education and Skills be invited to the next Primary Network Meeting.
3. That a launch be considered for the refreshed Collective Worship Guidance at a Primary Network Meeting and details shared on the Headteacher Bulletin.

8 **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**

Laura Jude, Disadvantaged Advisory Teacher provided a verbal update on the Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter. It was noted that 10 inspections had been carried out and that there had been no specific mentions of religious education to report however, feedback had been positive when describing the ethos or culture of the schools visited. It was also noted that an increased number of schools had been rated either good or excellent.

It was highlighted that, in terms of Progress 8 scores, figures were reported to be well in line with the national standard. It was agreed that given the levels of deprivation within the City, this was an achievement worth noting.

Resolved:

That the Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter be noted.

9 **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter**

Laura Jude, Disadvantaged Advisory Teacher offered a formal apology as the SIAMS and Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter were not available for this

meeting. It was agreed that they would be shared with members of Wolverhampton SACRE and published with the minutes.

Resolved:

That the SIAMS and Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter would be shared with members of Wolverhampton SACRE and published with the minutes once available.

10

Any other business

It was noted that the Constitution and membership for Wolverhampton SACRE needed to be reviewed and this would be explored for approval at future meeting. A number of vacancies were noted and it was agreed that Laura Jude, Disadvantaged Advisory Teacher would approach the Diocese for a suitable representative. Councillor Dr. Michael Hardacre offered to seek a union representative.

Resolved:

1. That the Wolverhampton SACRE Constitution and membership be reviewed for approval at a future meeting.
2. Laura Jude, Disadvantaged Advisory Teacher would approach the Church of England Diocese for a suitable representative.

11

Dates of further meetings

It was noted that provisional dates were:

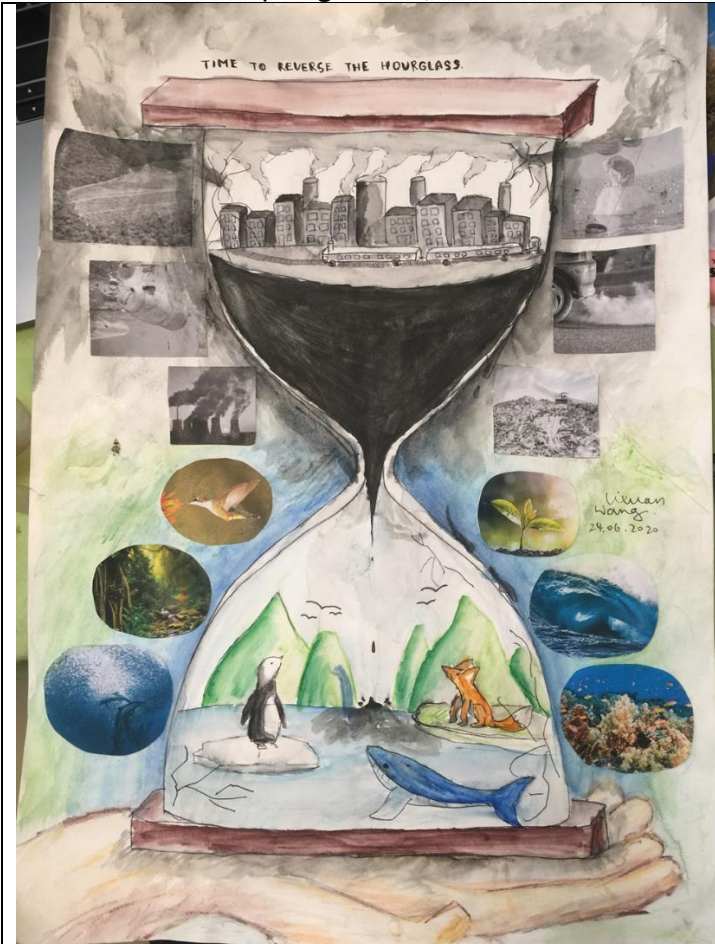
- 21 May 2020
- 08 October 2020
- 11 March 2021
- 20 May 2021

SACRE National Update: Autumn 2020

NATRE's Spirited Arts competition: results and next year's competition

The competition has attracted record entries this year – it was a popular lockdown activity set by hundreds of teachers, and the YouTube lesson to accompany it was viewed about 14 000 times. Many of our schools have taken an interest in this competition. There are over 30 000 entrants.

Here is one of the inspiring entries, the best of which can be viewed at www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts



This piece is called **The Hourglass**. I wanted to show a contrast between what the earth was like, and what it was now without a too obvious division of the page. I did not base it on a particular religion, but on the overall belief that God is watching over us, holding our hourglass with his hand. I got my inspiration from a picture of an hourglass with the mountains, the forests, all flowing down into the other side of the hourglass, where it is all rubbish and pollution. I've switched the concept subtly. Instead of the wonderful nature flowing and rotting into trash, I decided that it would be the other way round: the black tar that shows our pollution is flowing and dark drops are contaminating the Bright nature on the other side of the hourglass, and the animals are watching in vain. The whole hourglass is cracking. I wanted to show that if one system breaks, then, like the Buddhists say, the whole interconnected and interdependent community will fall. I have put pictures of the opposing sides on either end of the hourglass, they are examples of the wonderfulness of nature, and the heart wrenching truth of what we have done with our planet; on the bottom, corals, birds, forests, and on the top toxic fumes, fossil fuels, plastic, pollution, landfills, and deforestation. I hope that when people see this piece, they will see God's good Earth, and realise what we are doing to it, and strive to reverse the damage before the hourglass breaks.

Lixuan is 12

The competition for the next year is being launched and 5 themes are available to schools for them to engage and respond creatively. Can we, as a SACRE, promote the competition to all our schools? Could we run a webinar for them? Could we run a local round to the competition, to see what creative RE is going on here? Next year's closing date is 31st July 2021.

Themes for the coming year:

- "We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us."
- God's good earth?
- Where is God?
- Healing
- Inspiring!

Interfaith week

Inter Faith Week starts on Sunday 8 November and concludes on Sunday 15 November. The Week is a great opportunity for pupils to explore inter faith issues and for schools to build relationships with faith, belief and inter faith groups in their community. Here are some suggestions for schools for things you might want to consider doing this year:

- Work with your local inter faith group and SACRE to host a special virtual 'Question Time' via a social media platform
- Organise an exhibition in your school featuring information and objects about a range of religions and beliefs reflecting your local population (this could be virtually available to others)
- Celebrate the Week on your website, perhaps have a series of short videos where pupils share what they have learned in RE
- Organise a virtual tour of local places of worship to investigate the importance of faith in the lives of believers in your community
- Create an Inter Faith Week poster, artwork or multifaith calendar
- Host a dialogue about a topic such as 'shared values' or how people of different faiths and beliefs can live well together at a lunchtime event
- Make a video of events at your school held for Inter Faith Week For more about Inter Faith Week

Visit <https://www.interfaithweek.org/> and if you have specific questions or ideas you'd like to discuss email IFN's Assistant Director at david.hampshire@interfaith.org.uk.

Can those of you that represent religion and belief communities to offer your services?

Can schools be informed about this week- together with the suggestions above?

Is this an opportunity to liaise with Walsall for All to see if they have plans for this week that could link into RE lessons?

GCSE Results

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.

In England, RS GCSE entries for the full course fell by less than 1% to 225,719 compared to 227,913 in 2019. In Wales, entries fell by a similar amount from 10,129 in 2019 to 10,037 in 2020. Overall entries in England, including both full and short courses, fell by 2.3% to 243,786, compared with 249,443 in 2019. Full course entries in 2020 were still almost one third higher than in 2010. In Wales, combined entries fell by just under 2% from 16,327 in 2019 to 16,003 in 2020.

Until this year, there has been a gradual decline in full course RS GCSE entries since a peak in 2016, when 269,839 entries were recorded in England. Full and short course entries reached a high of 461,795 in 2011 but declined rapidly as schools in England opted not to enter pupils into the short course following Government policy changes, despite a requirement among all schools, including Academies, to provide Religious Education to all pupils at all key stages. In Wales however, the short course entries have not declined at the same rate and fell by just 3.74% (from 6,198 to 5,966). In England, short course entries fell by more than 16%. In general, these figures should be interpreted in the light of government policy – they don't say much about the popularity of the subject with students.

Today's figures, however, provide some optimism that the decline may be levelling off. The key outcomes for Religious Education in England and Wales at Key Stage 4 in 2020 are as follows:

There were 225,719 entries in England and 10,037 in Wales for the full course in GCSE RS, a fall of less than 1% from 2019 (227,913 England and 10,129 Wales).

There were 18,067 entries in England and 5,966 in Wales for the short course in GCSE RS, a decline of 16.1% in England and 3.74% in Wales from 2019 (21,530 and 6198 respectively).

There were 243,786 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses) in England, a decline of 2.3% from 2019 (249,443).

Despite a decline since the peak in entries, the number of pupils receiving a full course GCSE in Religious Studies in England in 2020 (225,719) is still 32% greater than in 2010 (170,767).

How is this reflected in our area? How should we be engaging with schools about these figures?

Anti-racist RE

NATRE and RE Today, working with the Free Churches Group and Methodist Schools, are launching a project to help teachers tackle racism in RE lessons. The project aims to:

- Enable a team of 60+ black, Asian and minority ethnic teachers of RE and members of different communities to articulate perspectives on the contributions of RE to anti-racist education, accessible for all teachers of RE
- Provide challenging and well planned resources, case studies, plans and lessons for teachers of RE in both primary and secondary schools to use in RE that challenge and confront racism and are also good RE, mounted and free from web platforms hosted both by RE Today and by the Free Churches Group and the Methodist Schools.
- Create a forum for teacher education and development in relation to anti-racist RE, recognising that practice in RE in this area is patchy and inconsistent (also online)
- Disseminate better practice in anti-racist RE widely, using the wide range of contacts and networks available to RE today

Wide partnerships to maximise the impact of the project have been used, including for example with NATRE and the Jo Cox Foundation. Teachers can access a planned unit of six topics for primary and of 8 topics for secondary RE, including ready to use resources and a wide range of support materials.

www.natre.org.uk/anti-racist-RE

Can our SACRE publicise this to schools? Would we like to invest some of our budget this year in primary and secondary CPD for schools in this area?

Changes in RS examinations for 2021

Ofqual released their decisions on 3rd August regarding the cohort of students who will be taking their GCSE's, AS or A levels in 2021. There are a few headlines to report. *Obviously, these decisions could change as the response to the pandemic develops but this reflects the current information that schools are working with.*

1. No change to the assessment arrangements for Religious Studies.

The report stated that there will be no change to the assessments in Religious Studies for the GCSE (short and full course) AS or A level. Thus, students will be assessed in the same manner as previous years.

Ofqual did recognise that:

“Many respondents were concerned about covering all the content, given the lost time and difficulty of covering it in a normal year. This was raised for most subjects at GCSE, AS and at A level.”

“Respondents often suggested this could be addressed through question optionality, which was discussed further below. In some subjects, for example, GCSE Religious Studies and GCSE English Literature, parallels were drawn with GCSE history and respondents urged that similar arrangements were made to enable content sampling in their subject.”

However, Ofqual decided against making changes to Religious Studies.

2. No decisions have been made about the dates for the examinations.

No decisions have yet been made with regards to the dates for the examinations for 2021. It is possible that July will be included in the timetable to allow for more teaching time. The reason for the delay is because Ofqual need to consult with other affected parties before making a decision.

As of 28.9.20 we are still waiting for an announcement – it is expected imminently. It is proving difficult for those undertaking course planning as they don't know how many teaching weeks to plan for students in Year 11 and Year 13.

As they reported:

“While there was support for delaying the exams, to allow more time for teaching, a number of risks and issues were highlighted in the responses, including concerns about the likely impact on the dates by which the results could then be published. The key decision for Ofqual on the timetable is whether to change our rules to allow the exams boards to offer exams in July 2021 as well as in May and June. However, changes to the exam timetable are not for Ofqual alone. We will work with DfE, the exam boards, colleagues in Wales and Northern Ireland, and higher education to undertake a further analysis of the options the risks and the mitigations before taking a decision.”

3. There will be further information on how student outcomes (i.e. grades) are to be protected.

Ofqual are currently considering how the grades or outcomes of students taking the examinations in 2021 can be protected. They have said:

“The Secretary of State has asked us to advise him in the coming months how we might ensure students' outcomes are protected through our approach to grading next year, as we did to protect the interests of students who took the reformed qualifications for the first time. Our approach- using statistical predictions to guide the first awards of reformed qualifications- worked well to protect the interests of students taking the reformed qualifications and we will consider its use next year. We did not consult on proposal for grading in summer 2021, but we will provide further information in due course.”

Here is a copy of their [statement](#) and [decisions](#) document on the changes that will be made.

Other related issues:

At the end of July, the Department for Education announced that from September all pupils should return to school. The guidance sets an expectation that *“the curriculum should remain broad and ambitious: all pupils continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment.”*

The DfE have advised that when planning for pupils' return to school in September, subjects should not be removed from the curriculum. In relation to Key Stage 3 the guidance states, *“the curriculum should also remain broad from year 7 to year 9 so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year, including...[.] Religious Education.”* Indeed, the suspension of subjects should only occur in *“exceptional circumstances”* and if this occurs, a school must be able to demonstrate that this is *“in the best interests of these pupils and should be subject to discussion with parents during the Autumn term.”*

For key stage 4 and 5 the guidance states that, *“the vast majority of pupils in year 10 and 11 are expected to continue to study their examination subjects.”* A year 11 pupil should only be advised to discontinue a subject in *“exceptional circumstances”*.

The DfE documentation can be consulted [here](#).

The NATRE summary of the implications of this guidance can be found [here](#).

Nick Gibb's written answer to a Parliamentary question on this subject can be found [here](#).

Can this information be shared with all Walsall secondary schools?

All Schools have a duty to teach RE to all pupils aged 5-18 even in current times

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.

We note from his answer below 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 explicitly stated as one of the subjects that should be taught

The Department's guidance on full opening of schools sets the expectation that schools teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn, but that they use their existing curriculum flexibilities within subjects to create time to cover the most important missed content.

- Religious education is explicitly stated as one of the subjects that should be taught. The guidance was published on 2 July and can be found [here](#).
- The Department's guidance on religious education is already available for both maintained schools and for academies and free schools. The guidance for maintained schools is [here](#).
- The guidance for academies and free schools [here](#).
- No additional guidance on this subject is therefore needed.
- Nick Gibb's answer to Luke Pollard's Parliamentary question on this subject can be found [here](#).

Can this information be shared with all Walsall headteachers and chairs of governors?

Do school improvement partners or similar know whether this guidance is being followed? Could they find out?

A reminder re Timing of SATs tests in 2021: Adaptations available for Muslim pupils

In 2021, Eid-ul-Fitr is likely to begin on the evening of Wednesday 12th May. Given the significance of RE the DFE are aware that pupils are likely to be absent from school and so have given advice to schools on how to rearrange tests for some or all pupils if deemed necessary.

How can our SACRE and LA make sure schools understands the guidance?

Increase in the number of secondary trainees

The number of **trainee teachers for RE is increasing**, with the provision for Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses proving to be a real help to those entering the profession with degrees in other Humanities subjects. While it is good to see this increase, these trainee teachers will need to spend time in schools with good RE teachers in order to develop their own practice and become good RE teachers themselves. This year we have recruited almost 100 extra trainees.

Can we let secondary headteachers know that there will be an increase in the pool of RS qualified teachers to recruit?

Can we encourage secondary schools to take a trainee? Birmingham University have recruited a large cohort?

Materials available for self-isolating pupils, socially distanced RE and any future lockdowns

To help teachers during this difficult time, RE Today is working hard to support NATRE by producing resources that ALL teachers can use and share with pupils and parents in order to support with home learning and also socially distanced RE in schools.

If teachers wish to sign up for the updates to inform you of new resources, then please sign up to the mailing list on the NATRE website. We have also made further resources available for NATRE members.

Access resources

Strictly RE: Online training for teachers

Date: 30 & 31 January 2021 (PLUS additional seminars leading up to Strictly!)

Location: Online

Full price: £100* (Price includes downloadable handouts and presentations from all sessions).

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT! Book before 31 October - only £85!

Prices start as low as £45 for NATRE members*

*NATRE members discounts available on top of early bird (Bronze: £20 off, Silver: £30, Gold & Platinum: £40).

Strictly RE is back, this time NATRE will be hosting its national annual conference online to keep you all safe, whilst still giving you everything you love about Strictly RE without having to leave your home.

With 24 seminars, 4 Keynotes, networking and discussion opportunities, Saturday night entertainment, we have something for everyone. There's lots to choose from, and we hope that you will **pick and mix** from across the month and weekend to create a programme that works for you. You do not have to attend a seminar at every time slot.

Keynote speakers include Richard Kueh, OFSTED RE subject specialist, Christine Counsell on curriculum construction and progression in RE, a panel on worldviews in RE and a panel on Anti-racist RE.

NATRE will be running twilight sessions throughout January, culminating in a weekend of keynotes, seminars and networking. These will be announced soon! Delegates who have already booked a place will be the first to hear about them and book their sessions.

Book soon to avoid missing out on our early bird discount which ends 31 October 2020.

Find out full details and book here.

How can we encourage teachers from our area to attend? Should we offer some financial support?

Some SACREs subsidise a number of teachers to attend and then share what they have learnt with other local teachers. Is this something that our SACRE would be able to do?