



# City of Wolverhampton SACRE

## 15 June 2023

**Time** 4.30 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Other Committees  
**Venue** MS Teams

### Membership

Martin Gomberg (Chair)	Representative of the Jewish Community
Jaswinder Singh Chaggar (Vice Chair)	Representative of the Sikh Community
Akeel Ahmed	Representative of the Muslim Community
Tanya Athwal	Representative of Teachers' Professional Association
Councillor Chris Burden	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Kay Cresswell-Green	Association of Teachers and Lecturers Representative
Ourmala Devi	Uplands Junior School Representative
Laura Jude	Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council
Alison Smith	Representative of the Church of England
Ven. Bante Tejwant	Representative of the Buddhist Community
Rebecca Wood	Representative of the United Reformed Church
Janine Wright	Representative of the Church of England

### Information

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

**Contact** Shelley Humphries  
**Tel/Email** Tel: 01902 554070 email: [shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

# Agenda

## PART 1 – Items open to press and public

*Item No.*    *Title*

### MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1            **Welcome and Introductions**
- 2            **Apologies**
- 3            **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 6)  
[To approve the minutes of the meeting of 9 March 2023 as a correct record.]
- 4            **Matters Arising**  
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2023.]
- 5            **Report from Religious Education (RE) Today** (Pages 7 - 16)  
[To receive an update report from RE Today.]
- 6            **Local Authority Updates**  
[To receive updates from the Local Authority.]
  - 6a          **Finance Process Update**  
  
[To receive proposals on the process for agreeing in-year funding allocations and payments.]
  - 6b          **Westhill Project Update**  
  
[To receive an update on the progress of the Westhill Project.]
- 7            **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**  
[To receive an update on Ofsted findings during the last quarter.]
- 8            **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.]
- 9            **Dates of further meetings**
- 10          **Any other business**

 <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">CITY of WOLVERHAMPTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">City of Wolverhampton SACRE</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Minutes - 9 March 2023</h3>
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## Attendance

### Members of the City of Wolverhampton SACRE

Martin Gomberg (Chair)	Representative of the Jewish Faith
Laura Jude	Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council
Alison Smith	Representative of the Church of England
Janine Wright	Representative of the Church of England

### In Attendance

Lat Blaylock	RE Today
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | Item No. | Title   |
|----------|---|
| 1        | <p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b><br/>Resolved:<br/>That the meeting proceed on an informal basis with any agreed actions being ratified by consultation with Board members not present.</p>  |
| 2        | <p><b>Apologies</b><br/>Apologies were received from Jaswinder Singh Chaggar.<br/><br/>Apologies were also received from Emma Bennett.</p>  |
| 3        | <p><b>Declarations of interest</b><br/>There were no declarations of interest.</p>  |
| 4        | <p><b>Minutes of previous meetings</b><br/>Resolved:<br/>That the minutes of the meetings of 7 October 2021, 28 April 2022 and 15 December 2022 as a correct record be approved subject to ratification by consultation with Board members not present.</p> |
| 5        | <p><b>Matters Arising</b><br/>There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.</p>   |

6 **Report from Religious Education (RE) Today**

Lat Blaylock, RE Today presented the Report from Religious Education (RE) Today and highlighted key areas of interest.

In addition to this, attention was drawn to a piece of research that found that schools offering GCSE RE often had pupils who performed well in RE examinations which it was hoped would encourage more schools into offering the legally required level of RE at Key Stage 4.

It was noted that statistics had shown that there was a national shortage of specialist teachers of RE, which was thought to be a contributory factor negatively impacting the amount of time currently spent teaching the subject in schools. It was reported that just under a third of Wolverhampton primary schools offered less than 60 minutes per week on the subject.

In response to a query around how the information within the report was shared, it was noted that a schools' version (without the 'Questions for SACRE' section) was usually forwarded to schools via contact lists provided by the Local Authority.

Thanks were extended to Lat Blaylock for compiling the resources and information within the report as it was felt these were invaluable, particularly for subject leaders who did not specialise in RE.

Resolved:

That the Report from Religious Education (RE) Today be received.

7 **Finance**

Laura Jude, Representative for City of Wolverhampton Council delivered a presentation for the Finance item.

Approval was sought for payment of an invoice from RE Today for 2022 -2023 which covered support for two City of Wolverhampton SACRE meetings and training for Wolverhampton Primary Teachers at a total cost of £1,870.00 inclusive of VAT.

Members of City of Wolverhampton SACRE present approved the payment of the invoice, subject to ratification by consultation with Board members not present.

It was suggested that an alternative method of approving SLAs and other budgeting decisions could be explored to simplify processes. It was acknowledged that this information was often agreed as part of the Action Plan at other authorities. It was agreed that Democratic Services would facilitate a discussion between relevant parties and present options to SACRE to approve.

Due to the fact the meeting was inquorate, it was agreed to continue with the ratification by consultation process on this occasion until an alternative process could be established.

Resolved:

1. That the payment of the invoice for work undertaken by RE Today between December 2022 and March 2023 be approved, subject to ratification by consultation with Board members not present.

2. That an improved process for approving budgeting decisions be explored and options presented to SACRE for approval.

8 **Service Level Agreements for 2023 - 2024**

Approval was sought for Service Level Agreements (SLAs) quote for work to be carried out for the Local Authority by RE Today which was itemised and totalled £8,650.00, to come from the existing SACRE budget.

The work detailed was to be carried out over the 2023 – 2024 academic year and aligned with the Action Plan as presented and approved at the last meeting.

Resolved:

That the Service Level Agreements for 2023 – 2024 be approved, subject to ratification by consultation with Board members not present.

9 **Westhill Project Update**

Laura Jude, Representative for City of Wolverhampton Council provided a verbal update on the Westhill Project and reported that arrangements were underway for a second conference in the Summer 2023 Term.

Resolved:

That the Westhill Project Update be received.

10 **Local Authority Updates**

Laura Jude, Representative for City of Wolverhampton Council delivered the Local Authority Updates presentation which provided information updates on projects previously discussed at SACRE.

11 **Secondary RE Network Trial Options Update**

It was proposed that one half-day session take place per term in a face-to-face format hosted by a school. It was noted that the cost as outlined in item 7 would be £1,200 and had been approved along with the SLAs.

Resolved:

That the Secondary RE Network Trial Options Update be received.

12 **Use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) Options - Update**

It was outlined that at the previous meeting of SACRE, it had been proposed to establish a means of sharing the Wolverhampton RE Locally Agreed Syllabus and Scheme of Work with academy schools outside of Wolverhampton.

It was proposed to introduce a licensing system and that fees to external schools would be £150 per licence. It was also proposed that the discounted rate of £100 per licence would be offered when purchasing licences for multiple schools within the same Multi Academy Trust at the same time. Licence validity would run in line with the duration of the Locally Agreed Syllabus (until 2026).

Resolved:

That the proposals to share the Wolverhampton RE Locally Agreed Syllabus and Scheme of Work with external schools under licence be approved, subject to ratification by consultation with Board members not present.

13 **Support for Special School RE Leads Options - Update**

It was noted that this had been covered during the approval of the SLAs, namely the approval of six community of practice meetings, three of which focused on special schools.

Resolved:

That the Support for Special School RE Leads Options – Update be received.

14 **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**

Laura Jude, Representative for City of Wolverhampton Council reported that her team had undertaken an analysis of inspections across the West Midlands region and found RE had been a common ‘deep dive’ subject according to the most recent data.

In respect of published inspections, East Field primary school had been the most recent and RE had been taken as part of Humanities rather than a standalone subject.

Resolved:

That the Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter update be received.

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

Laura Jude, Representative for City of Wolverhampton Council reported that, following a SIAMS inspection, Christ Church CE Junior School had achieved an ‘excellent’ grading therefore congratulations were extended to the school. It was noted that SIAMS feedback had been positive of late and this continued the trend.

Janine Wright, Representative of the Church of England drew attention to the fact that an updated list had been shared amongst settings and a backlog had been reported in the inspection timeline, which may account for delays in published results. It was also highlighted that any settings due to be inspected in the next academic year would be inspected against the new framework.

Resolved:

That the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter be received.

16 **Dates of further meetings**

It was outlined that the next confirmed meeting was 15 June 2023 from 4.30 pm.

Proposed dates for future meetings were 19 October 2023 and 7 February 2024 with a start time of 4.00 pm.

In terms of the format of meetings, the Chair of SACRE suggested that although there were benefits to meeting in person, virtual meetings were convenient and queried if these arrangements would continue going forward. It was reported that an internal review of resources for all meetings was currently underway although views of SACRE members would be taken into account. It was noted that an update would be provided should the format change.

The Chair took the opportunity to give thanks to lead officers for facilitating meetings.

Resolved:

That an update on City of Wolverhampton SACRE meeting format be shared should there be any changes to current arrangements.

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**Any other business**

There was no other business.

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## SACRE News – Summer Term 2023

The role of SACRE is to create and monitor the agreed syllabus for RE in our local area, and to advise the local authority on matters relating to the provision and quality of RE and school collective worship. SACRE is eager to respond to teacher-needs and school requests for RE help.

### National RE news for Teachers!

This paper is a short digest of some useful items of interest about RE in the summer term 2023. Wherever possible we have provided hotlinks to additional web based resources.



16 What is your religion?  
This question is voluntary

- No religion
- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Any other religion, write in

### Using the 2021 Census Data in RE

The 2021 Census data has now been released and we can use it to look at the results with pupils, and compare with the local area. Here are some tips on how to make the most of it!

1. Explain to pupils or students that the religion was question was voluntary. People over 18 had to choose which box to tick.
2. Show pupils the **results for the UK as a whole**: what do they notice? Note the **large fall in the number of people who identify as Christian, and the large rise in the number of people who tick ‘no religion’**. Ask pupils why that might be.
3. Look at the **results for our area – local authority and region**. Can students notice some similarities and differences to the national picture?
4. Either show to the class, or allow students to investigate for themselves, the Census data on the internet. Use this link: below. **You can find clickable maps that allow you to zoom in on your really local area and search by religion**. Can students see how their area compares to the wider area? How is it similar, how is it different?  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021>
5. A helpful presentation by Sarah Bateau from Elmlea Junior in Bristol is included in the newsletter – together with the local data from our area. **Could you use this in an RE unit of work?**

### NATRE Spirited Arts 2023 – new themes announced

Will your school join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition? Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form pupils can think of. Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE? Closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The 6 themes

1. “We have more in common than that which divides us.”
2. Green faith, green future? [‘God’s good earth?’]
3. Where is God today?



4. Faith in action, values in action.
5. Sacred space and holy buildings
6. All God's creatures?

More details here [www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/](http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/)

## Ofsted appoint new Acting Subject Lead for RE

Hazel Henson HMI was appointed as acting subject lead for RE at OFSTED in March 2023. She has a background in primary education.



## Children's Commissioner shares her view on RE with former pupil

Shammi Rahman, recently interviewed The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza for RE Today magazine. Dame Rachel is a previous RE teacher and headteacher and Shammi, is a former secondary teacher and now a Race Equality Adviser. Dame Rachel was her RE teacher!

Dame Rachel says, 'a former RE teacher myself, I believe RE teachers have a crucial opportunity to teach children about the wider world and principals of fairness and equality. It was great to talk about how different faiths can teach us different things, for example treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves; having compassion for others; and celebrating the beauty of life in our environment.'

Listen to their conversation here: [Conversation with Shammi Rahman: The importance of Religious Education | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#)



## RE Hubs – Website now live!



RE Hubs website is now live at [www.re-hubs.uk](http://www.re-hubs.uk). RE Hubs aim to connect those who can provide resources with those who need them and create a neutral platform being RE professionals together.

Many organizations serve RE/RVE/R&W education in the UK, from places of worship and school speakers to CPD partnerships and resource providers. However, until now, there hasn't been a single place to equip, enable, and signpost everyone within the community.

Wokingham's Hub is South East, led by Justine Ball.

## NATRE Secondary Survey



The NATRE survey of secondary RE teachers is now underway and open until Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Everyone who completes the survey will receive a £5 coupon for the RE Teaching Resources online shop as well as being entered into a prize draw to win a NATRE School Enhanced membership worth £270. The survey is here: [NATRE Survey - Secondary 2023 \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://surveymonkey.co.uk)

## Culham St Gabriel's launch FREE new self-study course

Digging Deeper: Subject Knowledge, this short, self-study course builds on the introduction level course and is available for FREE. Find out more here: [Culham St Gabriel's Trust Moodle \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://cstg.org.uk)

## Understanding Humanism launches new animation and free resources

Understanding Humanism has launched a **NEW animation** 'One Life, live it well' voiced by author and presenter, Alice Roberts. Accompanied by classroom activities, this simple but beautiful animation illustrates how humanists try to approach life: [One Life, Live It Well: watch our new animation narrated by Alice Roberts » Understanding Humanism](#)

They also have available new FREE resources for children in early years, and the stories of four amazing humanist women who changed the world.

## Training and CPD opportunities and other support

### Free webinars for primary and secondary ECTs – a taster for NATRE ECT membership

Early Career Teachers have access to a range of free support through a series of online sessions. 'Café' sessions give you a chance to talk with experienced teachers and experts from different worldview backgrounds. The taught sessions offer expert input with a focus on practical classroom strategies.

Date – All Mondays 4.00-5.30pm	Topic
12 June	Taught session: Focus on Sikhi
10 July	Café NATRE: Subject knowledge Christianity

ECT webinars booking link [www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/](https://www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/)

## NATRE: new membership packages!

NATRE is the largest membership organisation that promotes, defends and supports RE teachers and RE teaching. It does this through producing high-quality resources and CPD, lobbying government, being involved in conversations with the DfE and Ofsted, Local Authorities and SACREs, telling teachers' stories and experiences and being a voice for all teachers.



Membership packages for students, ECTs, teachers, schools, RE professionals and RE enthusiasts!

Details: [www.natre.org.uk/membership](https://www.natre.org.uk/membership)

## NATRE: welcome webinars for new members

New NATRE members are invited to a monthly welcome webinar. This will help them use their NATRE membership and enjoy it to its fullest!

### What will they learn?

- How to Access NATRE resources
- Access online termly mailing resources
- Access Local Groups area
- Take the best out of the NATRE monthly newsletter
- How to redeem your REtoday library membership
- How to use your membership discount

**Members can register their interest to attend a webinar at this link.**

[www.natre.org.uk/member-login/natre-members-welcome-webinar/](http://www.natre.org.uk/member-login/natre-members-welcome-webinar/)

## BBC expands early years RE resources

There are new resources for 4 and 5 year olds for RE / RME and RVE from BBC Bitesize Reception. These include some simple craft activities and some recipes for festive food with clear and simple ideas to bring the world of religion alive for small children. The subject is connected to work in the fields of expressive arts and design, helping pupils with their understanding of the world particularly in the field of religion and belief. These new materials cover Christmas, Easter, Eid Al Adha, Vaisakhi, Divali and more and have now gone live. They include video clips made for the age group, activity sheets and information for teacher-use. Lat Blaylock, who contributed to the work says: 'I'm really pleased to see that BBC have made such a diverse and well thought out contribution to Early Years learning about religion and belief. Teachers will find this is a little treasure trove.'

Here is a link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z24kqyc> [Religions, festivals and celebrations](#)

## Celebrating 25 years of children's emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing

2023 is an exciting year for Fischy Music as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary! Celebrations are already underway with free online concerts streaming live every month throughout this year, so whole classrooms and assembly halls of children can join in with 30 minutes of uplifting songs! Founded in 1998 by Stephen Fischbacher, Fischy Music ([www.fischy.com](http://www.fischy.com)) is a children's charity, writing songs for and with children to nurture positive mental health and help them express and manage a range of emotions.

Songs are at the heart of everything we do, with Health & Wellbeing and RE & Collective Worship songs and teaching resources made available to children, families, schools and churches. In addition to live events, our innovative song-streaming platform, Fischy Music Online has made it easy for teachers everywhere to access over 140 songs and teaching resources, with new songs regularly added.



*“Fischy Music songs open an emotional door allowing children to have the confidence to discuss issues and problems that we might otherwise not pick up on.”* Teacher, St Philomena’s Primary School, Glasgow

As well as the many health benefits of singing, the positive impact of the messages in the songs, like ‘build up one another’ and ‘we can make a difference in this world of ours’ stay with children as they grow up. Schools can subscribe to Fischy Music Online to access over 140 songs. The RE Package includes resources created in conjunction with Lat Blaylock, RE Today, to help staff use music well in RE and connecting to significant Christian concepts (eg from Understanding Christianity). The resources can be used by all staff and are useful in all primary schools wherever you want to enable spiritual reflection and can also be used in assemblies and services for collective worship. To find out more, email: [info@fischy.com](mailto:info@fischy.com)

## Educate Against Islamophobia (EAI)

**Educate Against Islamophobia (EAI)** has recently published a plethora of educational materials for the Early Years, primary schools, high schools and educational practitioners across the U.K. The teaching and learning materials are reflective of the respective curriculums and national frameworks, and offer learners with learning opportunities that are applicable to their respective nations.

### Early Years resources:

- Amna & Amy Storybook
- 2 lesson plans.

The storybook and accompanying lesson plans aim to support children in the Early Years to develop an awareness of equality, diversity and respectful behaviour and introduce learners to aspects of the Islamic identity.

### Primary school resources:

- Unit of work

The unit of work which comprises 6 lesson plans supports KS1-KS2/P2-P7 learners in developing positive attitudes towards diversity. This unit of work also aims to introduce learners to the Islamic identity and will enable them to explore some of the similarities and differences between Islam and other faiths/culture.

### High school resources:

- Unit of work

The unit of work which comprises 6 lesson plans supports KS3-KS4/S1-S4 learners in

developing an awareness of Islamophobia, including its manifestations and dangers. Learners will explore the issue of Islamophobia through a range of themes and lenses including human rights, anti-bullying and media literacy.

### Educator resources:

- Islamophobia awareness training session
- Equality, diversity and inclusion audit

The Islamophobia awareness training and EDI audit aims to promote an awareness of Islamophobia and equip practitioners with the understanding of how to address it in the school community. These materials will also assist educational practitioners to meet their Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010).

To download your free copy of EAI’s materials, visit: <https://eai.org.uk/>

If you would like to learn more about Educate Against Islamophobia’s work and services contact [info@eai.org.uk](mailto:info@eai.org.uk)

## Using Faith Inspired Art to Encourage Conversation, Enable Reflections and Inspire Action. Cheryl Homer, Westhill Endowment

RE Today and NATRE have always been great supporters of the arts and if you are wondering if using faith inspired arts in your school might be beneficial the answer is most likely 'yes'. But where do you start. Westhill Endowment are here to help, with years of experience working with faith inspired arts. The charity has 10 art collections which are available FREE\* to schools and community venues around the UK.

Many communities have already benefited from these resources which aim to encourage conversation, enable reflections, and inspire action. A Year 10 textiles student recently reflected on her experience with the Gethsemane Garments: "I liked the green garment [representing Hope] showing the rips and tears of the fabric, but with the sides being restitched to show signs of healing and positivity."

A Primary School Teacher reflected on a creative lockdown session provided by their local vicar using the exhibition Bald Statements: "The creative artwork [the children produced in response] has been thought provoking and the children were able to speak honestly on their feelings and experiences of lockdown."

The art collections come with a variety of themes and mediums, including free standing and wall mounted works of art. Additional materials such as booklets, education packs, and films are available. Westhill will also consider funding applications for events around your exhibition.

Westhill Endowment work one to one with all exhibition hosts helping you tailor your exhibition to suit your space and your audiences. If you'd like to know more, please contact Westhill's Arts Coordinator, Cheryl Homer, on [cheryl@westhillendowment.org](mailto:cheryl@westhillendowment.org) or check the website or social media. [www.westhillendowment.org](http://www.westhillendowment.org) [www.facebook.com/WesthillEndowment](https://www.facebook.com/WesthillEndowment)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCHKjKpunQoC4XSXD4j88XZA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHKjKpunQoC4XSXD4j88XZA)

*\*You may incur transport and insurance costs, please ask if this is applicable.*

## Anti-racist RE: continuing debates and widening resources.

Jonathan Marshall, MBE, ran a brilliant RE and interfaith centre in Plymouth before he retired. Thanks to Jonathan for drawing attention to resources which might compliment the NATRE anti-racist RE materials (<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-racist-re/>)

"I think teachers might find the work of the Equiano Project on anti-racist education helpful. In the true spirit of quality RE, some diversity of views might be welcome."

This black-led project may help teachers of RE who want to understand the complexity of an anti-racist RE approach: they should be encouraged to explore a range of different voices, one of which is to be found on the excellent website of "The Equiano project"

<https://www.theequianoproject.com/>

See for example the video "Understanding the new politics of race" by Prof. John McWhorter. At just under twenty minutes, this perspective is an extremely helpful and profound insight into the background and current situation of anti-racism.

Jonathan also draws attention to the 'Don't Divide Us' project, whose opening statement includes these key ideas: "We should treat everyone as an individual worthy of respect regardless of race, religion or the colour of their skin We call this colourblind anti-racism – it is based on freedom and tolerance – and we believe it is the best way to counter prejudice where it does exist. Britain is a successful multi-cultural society with a positive story to tell about race relations: We won't benefit from importing divisive political ideas from the US that don't reflect our history and which undermine our shared values today. See much more at: <https://dontdivideus.com/our-beliefs/>

## Philosophy of Religion resources from the FT!

Jack Robertson, RE teacher in north London, is working with the the Financial Times to offer free access to FT.com for all schools and colleges teaching sixteen to nineteen year old students. An FT subscription can support students in developing the broad knowledge that will help them stand out to examiners, universities and employers. A Philosophy Class page, [ft.com/philosophyclass](https://www.ft.com/philosophyclass), is available for teachers and students of philosophy and ethics. It brings together relevant articles from across the FT and provides accompanying questions that prompt students to reflect critically and make connections to areas of the A-level specification. There is also an IB Theory of Knowledge page for IB students.

Recent Philosophy Class articles cover topics from the ethics of climate protests and abortion to developments in AI and quantum physics, as well as interviews with philosophers such as MacAskill, Chalmers and Srinivasan.

Participating schools receive the same level of access to FT.com as regular subscriber. Check if your school is registered or register your interest via the Philosophy Class page or at [ft.com/schoolsarefree](https://www.ft.com/schoolsarefree)

Jack Robertson <[JRobertson@qebarnet.co.uk](mailto:JRobertson@qebarnet.co.uk)>

## Christian Aid Global Neighbours Assessors Needed!

The Global Neighbours accreditation scheme is an award scheme for schools run by the charity Christian Aid, in partnership with the Church of England Education Office. It is open to all primary schools and has recently expanded into secondary schools too. The scheme has been running for five years and celebrates the development of global citizenship and courageous advocacy in schools. Its aim is to encourage a deeper understanding of the world and for young people to be empowered to engage with and respond to global issues.

Schools can apply for a bronze, silver or gold award. To achieve accreditation, schools must demonstrate how they are fulfilling criteria relating to:

- Leadership, vision and values
- Teaching and learning
- Collective worship and spiritual development
- Pupil participation in active global citizenship
- Community engagement

Christian Aid is looking to recruit to its pool of assessors for this scheme. An assessor looks at all the evidence provided, makes a judgement and writes a report for the school. At bronze level this is a document based assessment supplemented by a phone conversation. At silver and gold levels a school visit is required.

The role of assessor especially suits education professionals with experience of school leadership and advising or inspecting schools.

Global Neighbours assessors need:

- An informed interest in best global citizenship/global learning practice in schools and an understanding of best practice in pupil participation
- Excellent interpersonal and written communication skills
- Experience of evaluating the quality of educational practice and leadership in schools
- Proven ability to adhere to deadlines

Christian Aid provide training, ongoing support and reimbursement for time given. The hours for this role are occasional and flexible.

For more information please contact Alison Brown (Global Neighbours Schools Programme Officer): [abrown@christian-aid.org](mailto:abrown@christian-aid.org)

## The RE Connect Environmental programme for RE

### Are you looking for ways to connect your RE teaching with the environmental crisis?

The RE:Connect Teacher Fellowship Programme is designed to help deepen teachers' understanding and confidence for exploring the environmental crisis through the lens of religions and worldviews in RE. The programme is not just about getting ideas, but also enhancing your teaching practice and professional network around this theme.



After a successful pilot of the programme in 2021-22, RE:Connect will be running again from September 2023, thanks to a grant from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust. There are places for **up to 10 teachers** of RE (primary and secondary) on the 6 month teacher fellowship programme. The initiative is run by Dr Jeremy Kidwell, Associate Professor in Theological Ethics at the University of Birmingham and Dr Ian Jones of St Peter's Saltley Trust, with input from experienced primary and secondary specialists, environmental scientists, climate activists and academic researchers in religion and environment.

The programme offers opportunities to:

- Deepen subject knowledge on the intersection of religion and ecology
- Work with cutting-edge subject specialists on religious ethics/practice, ecology, and climate change policy



- Work as part of a supportive and dynamic team to create and trial new approaches and resources for teaching on this theme
- Become a champion for teaching and learning on religion and environmental crisis

The Teacher Fellowship Programme involves monthly workshops from Autumn 2023 to Spring 2024, with tasks to undertake between workshops. Programme sessions will include one fully-funded weekend residential and 6-8 online evening sessions (roughly one per month). There is no cost of participation to the teacher or their school and Fellows receive a bursary of £500 to cover costs of participation plus travel expenses to enable attendance at in-person sessions.

**Interested?** Please contact Ian Jones ([director@saltleytrust.org.uk](mailto:director@saltleytrust.org.uk)) to register your interest. Selection for the programme is by a formal application process.

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