



The Diocesan
Board of
Education

RE News



Welcome to the summer term edition of RE News. This edition reflects on the announcement that RE will be part of the National Curriculum from 2028. It also shares the work of some of our incredible RE leaders and teachers across the region, along with ideas and resources to support your RE curriculum.

As ever, if you have anything to share in the next edition of RE News, please do get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you!

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Special points of interest

- Celebrating excellent practice in RE
- The latest news and views from around the country
- Exciting new resources to support you in the classroom

A National Curriculum for RE

On the 3rd July 2026, Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson announced that sector consensus has been reached and that, as a result, RE will become part of the National Curriculum. She stated that, “[l]earning about the world’s great faiths and traditions teaches children not just about the world, but how to live alongside... one another within it”.

This announcement has been widely welcomed across the RE community.

Proposed programmes of study and national standards for RE have been developed by the RE Task and Finish Group, which brought together education professionals alongside representatives of religious and non-religious organisations across England. These will be published as part of a public consultation on the future content of the National Curriculum in September 2026.

The programmes of study and national standards set out a nationally consistent framework for RE. This covers a balance of substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge that provides a benchmark of breadth, depth and ambition that can be applied consistently across England.

The current arrangements for faith schools (e.g. Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh schools) and schools of religious character (Church of England and Methodist schools) to deliver RE in accordance with their faith and tradition will be preserved. In these schools, there will be an expectation that the RE curriculum reflects the breadth, depth and ambition of the National Curriculum programmes of study and standards.

Andy Wolfe, chair of the Church of England’s National Society for Education, stated: “We fully support the government’s vision both for RE to become part of the National Curriculum and also to ensure that the arrangements for church schools are fully preserved in order to continue to support their strong and embedded practice in the teaching and leadership of RE.”

Sarah Lane Cawte, Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, said: “I welcome the Secretary of State’s recognition of the unprecedented consensus across religious and non-religious communities, educators and professional bodies. A National Curriculum for RE will ensure every child, in every school, receives their entitlement to high quality religious education – in both religious and non-religious traditions – that is academically rigorous and personally inspiring.”

“Learning about the world’s great faiths and traditions teaches children not just about the world, but how to live alongside... one another within it...”

These programmes of study and standards cover Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4, recognising the legal requirement that all children and young people study RE up to the age of 16, whether they are entered for a formal qualification at KS4 or not.

As is the case for other National Curriculum subjects, schools will have the freedom to build on the requirements of the RE programmes of study to reflect their context and needs.

The draft programmes of study support pupils to encounter a breadth of religious and non-religious traditions, studying matters of importance to organised and individual ways of living, key moments of communal identity, such as festivals and rites of passage, the influence of religion and belief on culture and society, and the ways in which beliefs, values, traditions and practices are expressed and reflected in the local area.

Katie Freeman, Chair of The National Association of Teachers of RE, said: “We welcome this historic consensus and most importantly the collaboration and dialogue that has taken place amongst all involved in the process. Placing RE in the National Curriculum will put it on an equal footing with other subjects, end the ‘postcode lottery’ of provision and ensure all students receive access to high-quality RE.”



The 2025 Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus:

Working Together

Since the launch of the 2025 Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus for RE, teachers across the region have been thinking about how to revise the RE curriculum in their schools and academies. The updated syllabus takes a [religion and worldviews approach to RE](#), which includes a focus on developing pupils' understanding of and ability to use the different 'ways of knowing' (disciplinary knowledge). It also seeks to engage pupils in asking questions about religion and belief by presenting them with tangible, lived examples. A religion and worldviews approach ultimately aims to support pupils to recognise that 'no-one stands nowhere' so that they become more aware of their own positionality.

It has been a real privilege to continue to spend some time this term working alongside primary and secondary RE leaders and teachers from across Lincolnshire. Together, we have been thinking about how to translate the syllabus into curriculums that reflect the context and meet the needs of pupils in our schools.

Over summer term, two groups of teachers have met in Grantham schools to keep working on practical exemplification for the classroom. The primary group, which met at West Grantham Church of England Primary Academy, focused on mapping out some autumn term units of study. The secondary group, which met at The King's School, mapped out a sequence of learning exploring Community and Identity through Sikh worldviews using the tangible lived experience of Princess Sophia Duleep Singh.

Our huge thanks go to the schools that have so generously hosted these planning workshops. We are also hugely grateful to all the teachers who have attended this term's planning workshops and contributed to building a bank of case studies that will be offered to all Lincolnshire schools. These will be finalised over the summer holidays and then made available to all Lincolnshire schools in September 2026.



Princess Sophia Duleep Singh selling "The Suffragette" outside Hampton Court Palace, where she has a suite of apartments.

EXPLORING GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

High quality RE introduces pupils to diversity within the worldviews they are studying, as well as providing them with the questions and tools to help them understand how context affects different lived expressions of religion and belief.

Pupils at St Faith and St Martin's Church of England Junior School have been learning more about diversity within Christian worldviews, exploring different expressions of Christianity around the world.

The RE lead, Jake Sime, writes:

"At Saint Faith and Saint Martin Church of England Junior School, we celebrate World Hello Day annually, using it as an opportunity to explore and appreciate the rich diversity of cultures and ethnicities from around the world. This celebration is thoughtfully linked to our church values, with a particular focus on Christianity and how it is expressed and practised in different countries and cultures. Alongside this, we also recognise and celebrate other key religions represented within the key country they are focusing on, ensuring pupils develop a broad understanding and respect for a range of beliefs. Through these celebrations, we actively showcase the diverse backgrounds within our school community, promoting equality, inclusion and mutual respect, reinforcing our commitment to valuing every individual, and driving advocates for change in our community "



FARMINGTON COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Throughout this academic year, a group of primary and secondary RE leads from across the region have met together as a community of practice. The group has been generously supported by The Farmington Institute.

We have discussed a wide variety of topics, including how to support pupils to develop a more critical awareness of their own positionality, how to communicate with parents who have worries about the RE curriculum, and how to engage with the lived reality of religion and belief through case studies.

The participants have shared examples of good practice in their own settings, outlined particular challenges they face and supported each other by sharing resources and ideas. It has been a real pleasure and inspiration to meet with this group; we are going to continue to meet in the next academic year to keep building on the ideas we have begun to develop this year.

Our thanks go to The Farmington Institute for their ongoing support of this opportunity, as well as to each of the RE leads and their respective schools:

Rebecca Brown—Kirkby La Thorpe Church of England Primary School

Brigid Carley—Spalding Grammar School

Jo Garrard—John Spendluffe Technology College

Inga Greet—Healing Academy

Claire Hearth—Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

Penny Wooddisse—Frederick Gough School



DEVELOPING LEADERS

As we move towards a National Curriculum for RE, there is an increased need for access to high quality RE professional development. This is particularly the case for secondary schools, where the data tells us that in 82% of schools, the RE curriculum is delivered, at least in part, by teachers with other subject specialisms. The 2025 NATRE secondary survey indicated that 47% of RE departments had no access to internal professional development and 41% had no access to external professional development. 29% of schools saw a decrease in RE specialist teachers in 2025, whilst only 12% saw an increase.

In this context, it is wonderful to see some secondary schools in the region growing regional and national leaders of RE. During this academic year, William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School has supported two members of the RE Department to pursue leadership development opportunities.

Hollie Marshall has recently completed a Farmington Scholarship, presenting her research at the Farmington Conference held at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. Her research focused on driving inclusive Religious Studies through the use of dual coding.

Rosie Simons has also recently completed the two-year Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Scholarship Programme, during which she researched ways of developing essay writing skills for A Level Religious Studies. Like Hollie, Rosie has presented her research at an academic conference and has written for RE publications.

Congratulations to both for their hard work and commitment!

The Farmington Institute, based at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, was founded by the Hon Robert Wills following his experiences during the Second World War. He wished to explore practical ways to support young people to learn more about different cultures, values and beliefs in order to promote better understanding.

Every year, The Farmington Institute provides scholarships to primary, secondary and special school RE teachers and leaders, and to headteachers. The scholarship provides financial support to release the scholar for 30 days so that they can pursue a project relating to RE, philosophy, moral, ethical or character education



Culham St Gabriel's Trust was founded in 2012, bringing together two former charitable trusts. It has a vision for broad-based, critical and reflective religion and worldviews education contributing to a well-informed, respectful and open society.

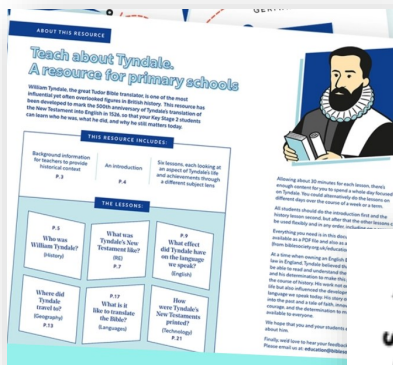
Culham St Gabriel's Trust supports RE leaders and teachers in a number of ways, including by providing [RE:Online](#), offering the Leadership Scholarship Programme, providing scholarships for Masters and Doctoral study, and offering grants for projects. The Trust also hosts the biannual REXchange conference (the next will be held in October 2026; book for free [here](#)) and regular focus weeks, online seminars and 'in conversation' sessions.



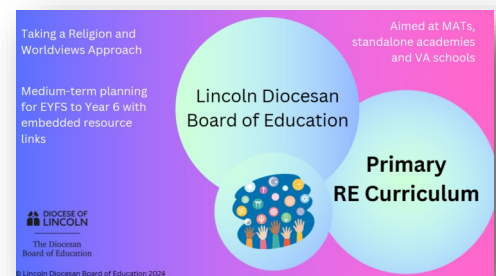


RE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The Bible Society has launched [a series of resources for primary and secondary schools](#) exploring the life of William Tyndale to mark 500 years since he produced the first translation of biblical texts into English.



The LDBE Primary RE Curriculum is now in use in more than 100 schools and academies across England. The curriculum takes a religion and worldviews approach to RE and provides medium-term planning from Early Years to Year 6. You can find out more about these materials [here](#) or contact gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org.



The Diocesan RE Adviser, Gillian Georgiou, has written a collection of Religious Studies case studies aimed at KS3. These case studies introduce students to historical and contemporary examples of lived religion and belief, supporting them to develop the 'ways of knowing' in RE and become more consciously aware of their own positionality. You can purchase these case studies [here](#).



The team behind [RE:Online](#) have been working hard to update the website. The relaunched site organises the resources and support into three categories: subject knowledge, teaching and learning, and professional development. Even if this is your go-to source for RE support and guidance, it is definitely worth an explore to see what has changed!

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Date	Time	Training
Tuesday 29th September 2026	1.30pm—3pm	RE Cluster Meeting Virtual Session, Open to All Free to Attend Booking links available in September
Tuesday 13th October 2026	1pm—3pm	RE Subject Leadership Virtual Session, Open to All £80 (SLA); £160 (non-SLA) Booking links available in September

The Diocesan RE Adviser is happy to carry out bespoke training on:

- ⇒ RE subject leadership
- ⇒ Types of knowledge in the RE curriculum
- ⇒ RE subject knowledge (religious and non-religious worldviews)
- ⇒ Developing disciplinary knowledge in RE
- ⇒ RE and assessment
- ⇒ A religion and worldviews approach to RE

She is also able to work alongside RE subject leaders to carry out RE reviews and provide RE curriculum support in schools, academies and MATs.

For more information, see our 2026/7 service level agreement [here](#) and our 2026/7 MAT partnership agreement [here](#).

For further details, please email the Diocesan RE Adviser at gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org.

To book, please see our [website](#).