

The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants



Supporting and developing leadership in RE and collective worship

Executive News

Conference/s 2024: going forward AREIAC and AULRE (Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education) are in discussion about the possibility of holding a joint conference in the Autumn of 2024.

The AREIAC Exec is also considering a possible online/hybrid one day event in the summer of 2024

AREIAC website - accessing the members' resources

The screenshot shows the AREIAC website homepage. At the top, it features the title 'The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants' and the AREIAC logo. Below the title is a navigation menu with buttons for Home, About, Find an Expert, Conference, RResources, Regional Groups, and Links. A 'Log In' button is located in the top right corner. The main content area includes a description of AREIAC as an organization for specialist educationalists, a list of resources such as 'AGM and National Meetings', 'Butterflies', 'Controversial Issues', 'Covid-19', 'News Archive', and 'Opportunities', and a section for 'EVENTS / NEWS' with a 'download' link for 2023.

Thanks to those of you who have already signed up the new format on the website. The generic password has now been discontinued so if you have not then you need to register. You will see the 'log in' button on the top right-hand side of the website - if you click on this you will see where it says, "New to this site? Sign Up.

This should be a quick and simple process:

1. Click on Sign Up
2. Add an email (please use the email you use for your AREAIC membership)
3. Create a password (we do not store this)
4. Tick the "I'm not a robot box"
5. Click on "Sign Up"

You will then be able to use this email and password access to the restructured pages of the site. If you have any issues please contact Paul **HOPKINS** (webmeister) at web@areaiac.org.uk

AREIAC Professional Development & Networking

We are arranging a series of webinars during the year. All are free for AREIAC members*. All events are held on Zoom and a link will be sent out a few days beforehand.

Offers or ideas for other webinars are always welcome and this list will be revised during the year.

Unless otherwise indicated please book by emailing alastair@penninelearning.com or chair@areiac.org.uk

*non members £15 unless otherwise indicated

Female Experiences of Religion: Tuesday 26th October, 2023

Many thanks to Rizwana Rehman for a great, stimulating and inspiring webinar on Female Perspectives on Religion on Wednesday 4th October.

[The recording is now on the website](#)



Collective Worship: Monday 20th November, 2023

The session will explore the opportunities and challenges of collective worship and look at advice and guidance available for schools. Further details to follow.

'Paganism' or 'paganism'; What's the Difference? Tue. 5th December 2023: 1600-1700

Using the 2021 Census data as a starting point, Belinda Twigg will look at the modern pagan world and its complexities. Coming from a Worldviews approach, there will be some suggestions and discussion on making sense of 'Nature Connected Spiritualities' for inclusion in agreed syllabi, pedagogy and learning.



Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe? Monday 8th January 2024: 1600-1730

Generative AI has sprung onto the scene in the last year and is having impacts on all walks of life. This webinar will be led by Paul Hopkins and will explore some of the ways that G-AI can be used in schools as well as personally to improve efficiency as well as a general question and answer session.

**The RE Subject Report: Date early in 2024:** to be advised

We expect the long-anticipated subject report in RE to be published towards the end of the autumn term and will be arranging a presentation and discussion early in the new year.

**Open House Drop In:** Tuesday 6th February 2024 1600-1730

Termly 'open zoom' for members to call by with news, explore issues with fellow members, or hear about any latest information on RE. Hosted by AREIAC Executive member.

**RE Quality Mark:** Thursday 22nd February 2024: 1600-1700.

Reflecting on the experience of the REQM and how it can support schools and SACREs in promoting good religious education. The webinar will be led by director, Linda Rudge, and Jake Womack, whose maintained secondary school was recently awarded the gold mark.

Handling Sensitive Issues around Religion in Schools: Monday 29th April 2024: 1600-1730

The wide range of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds of the children and young people attending schools can be a great source of strength, learning and resilience. It also requires us to be informed, sensitive and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all, maximising opportunities and limiting the scope of banana skins. Alastair Ross, Claire Clinton and Jan McGuire explore strategies and guidance, with opportunities for sharing experience, asking questions and finding wisdom from others.

**Open House Drop In:** Monday 20th May 2024: 1600-1730

Termly 'open zoom' for members to call by with news, explore issues with fellow members, or hear about any latest information on RE. Hosted by Justine Ball.

Obituary

Some AREIAC members with longer memories may recall Paul King who was the HMI for RE in the 70s and 80s. A true gentleman with a real commitment to quality RE he did much to promote and support both teachers and the teaching of the subject in changing and challenging times. A graduate of Durham University, Paul taught in secondary schools in Birmingham, Lichfield and Bath before becoming Devon County Education Adviser for RE in 1971. He was the Founding Chairman of the Richmond Fellowship House in Exeter, a member of the Christian Education Movement's General Council for some years and also chaired the National RE Teachers Committee.

Before retiring he worked as an independent Consultant and Inspector. Many will remember the advice and support he gave to teachers involved in the REAP project in the mid-1980s. The project developed innovative ways of using religious artefacts that advanced the subject beyond what was merely descriptive and informative but instead opened up opportunities to explore religious items in depth. He died in mid-September at the age of 87 and will be much missed, not least by his wife Sue, who was formerly an RE teacher and subject leader.

Regional RE Hubs

www.re-hubs.uk

The RE Hubs continue to grow. An amazing 140 local groups now advertise on the website. Click on the link above to explore opportunities nationally and in your area. If you would like your group to be featured OR to advertise an event in your area go to Register you local group on the website - www.re-hubs.uk

International Research Project

My name is Annegret Märten and I am a researcher at King's College London. I am working with Professor Linda Woodhead (Head of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies). We are part of a large research project called 'Nonreligion in a Complex Future'. This is a multi-national project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). <https://nonreligionproject.ca/>

We are investigating how RE is taught in major cities in three different countries: England, Brazil and Canada. The attached [Participant Information Sheet](#) gives more details. I was wondering whether you might be able to share this information with your network of RE teachers (or even speak to me yourself). Interviews would take one hour and can take place in person at a place of the participant's choosing, or online. The interviews would be carefully anonymised.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with me via my email address: Annegret.1.marten@kcl.ac.uk

News from the REC

www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk

For further information about the recently published national content standard visit the REC website. "It's about the standard, not the stuff" National Content Standard. Access from [this link](#).

Updates from the Culham St. Gabriel's Trust



If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter from CSGT or add an information or news items please email kate@cstg.org.uk

“An exciting time for Culham St Gabriel's, as we welcome the new National Content Standard, and present our new strategy. This comes in light of a warning by MPs about the inconsistent quality of RE. Make use of a free resource bringing sociological perspectives to teaching about Muslims. Read about a multidisciplinary approach at Key stage 3, new research investigating religious worldviews of same- sex relationships on the GCSE spec and an exploration of female authority in Islam. Don't miss your chance your chance to apply for our new CTeach scholarship”.

Kate Christopher

Lead Consultant Professional Development, Culham St. Gabriel's @katechristo4

National Content Standard

This represents a step closer towards a nationally- recognised standard for high-quality religious education, providing clarification and enhancing academic rigour. The Trust wholeheartedly welcomes this move.

New CSTG Strategy

Check out CSTG's response to shifts in education, RE and society in our updated strategic objectives. Including influence at government level, public perception of Religion and Worldviews and empowering the next generation of teachers, read how surveys have influenced this update.

[Introducing our New Strategy - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://cstg.org.uk)

Develop your Expertise - CTeach Scholarship

Have you heard about this exciting opportunity from CSTG? We have created a NEW scholarship programme to support teachers in attaining the first module of the Chartered College of Teaching's CTeach award, or 'Chartered Teacher'. This is a fully- funded, mentored programme.

[CTeach Scholarship Programme - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://cstg.org.uk)

Deadline for applications: 25th November 2023.

Blogs

Discovering Muslims - Sociological Perspectives in the Classroom. Read how experts in Islamic studies created training and practical resources for teachers embracing diversity and data. Matt Vince, one of the team at Cardiff University behind the 'Discovering Muslims in Britain' resource reflects on the process. [Teaching Islam: Creating the 'Discovering Muslims in Britain' Resource - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](https://reonline.org.uk)

In the Classroom - A Multidisciplinary Approach at KS3

Shell Sullivan reports on how she and her team brought thinking from Ofsted and the Commission on RE (2018) on a multidisciplinary approach to their KS3 curriculum.

[A Multidisciplinary Approach for KS3 - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](https://reonline.org.uk)

Resource of the Month - Discovering Muslims Resource

Move beyond stereotypes and explore diversity when teaching about Islam and Muslims. Created by a team at Cardiff University. It is designed for Key stage 3 but Primary teachers and GCSE teachers will find a wealth of information and ideas, so don't overlook this resource!

[Resource of the Month - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](https://reonline.org.uk)

Useful Resource - FREE Book on Shi'a Islam

To support our theme of the Abrahamic faiths, here is another chance to access [last month's resource](#), a downloadable book for teachers on Shi'a Islam. [GCSE Religious Studies Shi'a Islam: Beliefs and Practices - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](#)

Research of the Month - Diversity and Progression in Religious Studies

We present [Research of the Month - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](#); Head of RS Hayley Ellen explores how addressing EDI topics can enhance discussion and understanding in Philosophy and RS A Level. Hayley raises questions concerning perceptions of RE or RS in schools and progression to the next level for students.

Research Update

Humanities Education in the new Welsh Curriculum. Jasmine Jacques- Butterworth reflects on the creation of a new unit on Martin Luther King enables pupils in Wales to explore a full and rich, multidisciplinary Humanities approach, encompassing religion, values and ethics. Relevant and useful for teachers in all jurisdictions. [Cross-Curricular-Humanities-Scheme-of-Work-.pdf \(reonline.org.uk\)](#)

Religious Attitudes and Same-Sex Relationships

How do religious views on same-sex relationships intersect with the Equalities Act, academic enquiry and the GCSE exam syllabus in one Birmingham school? [Read Helena Moore's fascinating and important research in this area.](#)

[The teaching of religious attitudes towards homosexuality in the Religious Studies classroom: An exploration of pupil reflections. - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](#)

First Years of Teaching - Report on Early Career Teachers

What inspires people to become RE teachers? How do they experience their first two years, what makes them leave the profession and what helps them flourish in their careers? [Read Mark Plater of Bishop Grosseteste University's report into Secondary RE Early Career teachers.](#) This is a valuable and timely study and raises many questions about policy, finding, training and the future of the profession. [The First Years of Teaching RE - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](#)

Thinking About Research - Masters Scholarship Programme

CSTG's Masters Scholarship programme is now open all year round. Receive funding towards a Masters as well as a supportive 'community of practice' and lots of opportunities to share your research. The next deadline for applications is in January 2024. Find out more here:

[Masters Scholarship - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://cstg.org.uk)

CPD for Teachers on Parental Leave - The MTPT Project

We are delighted to be partnering with this innovative and valuable project to offer two fully-funded places on the MTPT's coached, flexible Accreditation programme

Find out more and sign up here: [Parental Leave | MTPT](#)

Primary ITE Course - Find out about these FREE courses with a Webinar

Are you involved in Primary ITE and looking for RE support? Why not try our e-learning courses designed for this phase and stage? Find out about what the courses offer you with a webinar.

The courses are designed for Year 1 and 2 ECTs 1 and their mentors or teachers, however all are welcome. For further information and to sign up click on the link below:

[Are you a Primary Early Career Teacher? Looking for support with teaching RE? - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://cstg.org.uk)

Date: 8th November 2023 - Time: 4:30- 5:30pm. This is an online webinar (Zoom)

In Other News

Pupils Lack Quality RE - A Warning from MPs

More than 30 MPs have written to the Education Secretary to warn that pupils are suffering when the quality of RE is inconsistent, or non-existent. Read more here: [Pupils lack quality religious education, MPs warn - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](#)



Religion Media Centre - Creating Connections

Check out these unique events bringing together local religious groups and media professionals in six cities in England this autumn: happening in Bradford, Coventry, Newcastle, Liverpool, Bristol and Norwich over September and November. [Creating Connections between the media and religion in six cities this autumn - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](https://reonline.org.uk)

Those from SACREs, schools, faith groups and wider education networks are all welcome - these innovative events are an incredible opportunity for local networking, learning and collaboration.

#REchatUK

To join in, follow us on Twitter (X) at [NATREupdate](#) and use and use the hashtag #REchatUK in your tweets.

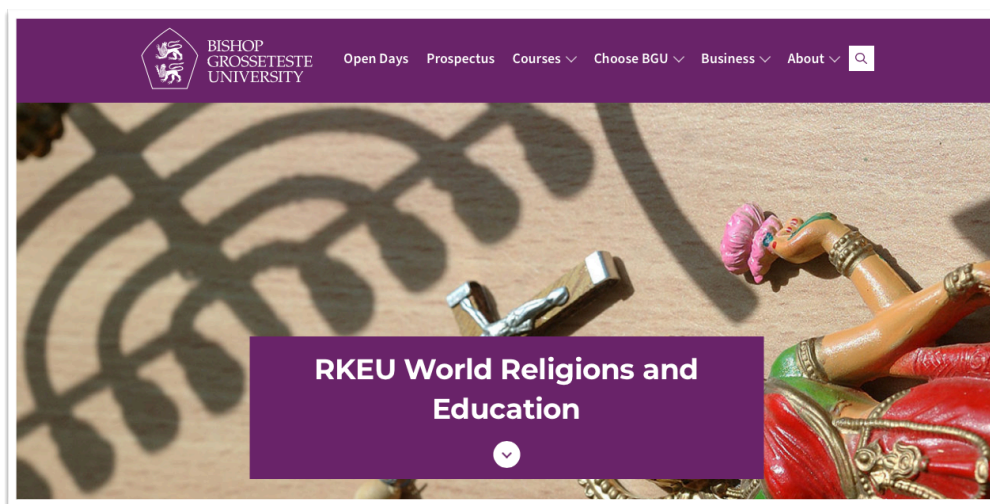
- 6 November 2023 – RE and the climate crisis
- 4 December 2023 – Encounters with lived religion

#REchatUK is hosted by the NATRE Executives and takes place on the first Monday of each month from 8 pm until 9 pm on Twitter. <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/rechatuk>

Interfaith Week 12th-19th November, 2023

To support schools marking Interfaith Week there are activity ideas and resources available here:

[Schools - Resources - Inter Faith Week](#)



Launch of The World Religions and Education Research Unit

A celebration to launch WRERU: the World Religions and Education Research Unit, at Bishop Grosseteste University will be held on Thursday 23rd November from 4.00-9.00 pm (UK time).

At the launch, we'll also be 'launching' the professorships at BGU of myself (Julian Stern) and Leslie Francis, with our inaugural professorial lectures, and launching the latest book by John Holdsworth, Hidden in Plain Sight.

There are more details about WRERU, and about the lectures and book, on the attached flyer, and on the Eventbrite page (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wreru-launch-tickets-710976920107?aff=oddtcreator>) where you can book attendance. There are 47 current members of WRERU of whom 28 are visiting or honorary staff, ten are established staff, and nine doctoral researchers.

The launch will be a 'real' event, at BGU in Lincoln, with some drinks and nibbles (and easy parking, for those driving here), and it will also be online (on zoom), so I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. It will be lovely to see you there! And if you know of others who would be interested, do please pass this invitation on to them.

All the very best, Julian Stern.

Bring Peace Building to your classroom



solutions not sides

Who We Are Teachers Students News Community Donate Contact

A critical approach to education on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

A critical approach to education on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Solutions Not Sides, a registered charity, aims to tackle Antisemitism, Islamophobia and polarisation around the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the UK.

The non-partisan programme has been formulated with the input of both Israelis and Palestinians as well as senior members of Jewish and Muslim communities, and is designed to prepare students to make a positive, solutions-focused contribution to debates on Israel-Palestine.

The first workshop tours have been in London and Bradford and the organisation is already seeing how their work is impacting students and providing them with skills such as critical thinking and conflict resolution.

They will be hosting further tours across England with Palestinian and Israeli speakers joining the workshops in person. The dates of these tours are the following weeks:

London 20 – 24 November

Lancashire 11 – 15 December

Birmingham 22 – 26 January

Manchester 5 – 9 February

Leicester 12 – 16 February

Leeds 4 – 8 March

London 11 – 15 March

London 12 – 17 May

Luton 1 – 5 July

London 8 – 12 July

There is limited availability on all of the tours so schools should book early for their students. If none of the above dates are suitable there is the possibility of booking a hybrid workshop outside of the tour weeks.

Contact: Tasha Davies, Programmes Coordinator, Solutions Not sides

Tel: +44 (0)207 074 4357

Email: tasha@solutionsnotsides.co.uk - www.solutionsnotsides.co.uk

An Introduction to Judaism and Sikhism

A new film series available to schools

A series of short films for Religious Education, funded by Westhill Trust and West Yorkshire SACREs, has been completed. There are two sets of films in the series, one set filmed at a synagogue and the other at a Gurdwara, both filmed in Leeds by a local film company.

The films were initiated by Leeds SACRE and are intended to enable pupils to hear and learn from faith communities, even if they are not able to visit faith centres in person. The films will also provide useful preparation and follow-up for those schools who include visits as part of their RE curriculum.

A special event at Bridge Community Church, Leeds, celebrated the completion of the Synagogue series and the Gurdwara series. The launch event in June 2023 was attended by members of West Yorkshire SACREs, RE advisers and teachers, and representatives from the Jewish, Sikh and other faith communities. Guests heard from the film-maker, Ed, about the process of producing the films. Gail and Gurmukh shared their experiences of working with their respective faith communities to arrange the interviews and the filming.

The films are freely available to be used in schools. They can be accessed on the Pennine Learning website: <https://www.penninelearning.com/videos/>

The RE Podcast

The first dedicated RE podcast for students and teachers in bite-size weekly episodes: Series 10 episodes broadcast during September and October include:

- E1 The One When I Went To The Holy Land
- E2 The One About Assessment In Primary RE
- E3 The One Where Every RE Lesson Counts
- E4 The One Where I Lose My Religion
- E5 Losing My Religion Part 2

Available on **Spotify** or wherever you access your podcasts



The 2023 / 24 Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals

The image shows a detailed calendar grid for the year 2023-24. The columns represent months from August to July. The rows represent weeks. Various religious festivals are marked with icons and text throughout the calendar, including Christmas, Easter, and other major religious events.

The 2023-24 calendar will be available in eCal format from mid-July and in the printed A2 wall chart format from mid-August. The price will be held more the 10th year at £4 for the eCal £6 for the wall chart or £10 for both. For more details see:

www.shapworkingparty.org.uk

The best and most reliable calendar and essential addition to any RE department, staffroom or the advisors' or consultants' office.