

# HSACRE



## HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND HILLINGDON AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 4 November 2015</b>	<b>Members</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	Carole Jones (Vice-Chairman) Councillor Keith Burrows Councillor Carol Melvin Councillor Peter Money Councillor John Morse Councillor Susan O'Brien Daniel Norris Connie Dusek Lil Osborn Jay Lakhani Angela Lount Amir Ahmed (Syed Amir Ahmed) Naseem Bint Amir Jamal Pasha Nicole Schnackenberg Stephen Horsman Heather Steady Jasvir Singh Rayat Robert Harwood Mary Coulthurst Melanie Dring Elenor Paul Debby Mitchell Leonora Smith Gail Butler
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend this meeting</b>	

Published: Tuesday, 27 October 2015

## Agenda

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### Chairman's Announcements

- |   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| 1 | To Agree Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 June 2015 | 1 - 2         |
| 2 | HSACRE Annual Report 2014                            | 3 - 12        |
| 3 | Feedback on Junior Art Competition                   | Verbal Report |
| 4 | Election of Chairman                                 | 13 - 18       |

The Chairman of HSACRE, Revd Daniel Norris, took the decision to resign with immediate effect on 23 October. This was due to work commitments having increased to the point where Daniel was no longer able to offer the time that he would wish to commit to the Hillingdon SACRE.

SACRE Members are invited to elect a new Chairman. An overview of the role of SACRE Chairman is set out on page 13.

### Agreed Syllabus Conference Agenda

- |   |                               |         |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|
| 5 | Agreed Syllabus Questionnaire | 19 - 84 |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|

## Minutes

### HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

16 June 2015



Meeting held at Yeading Junior School, Carlyon  
Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0NR

	<p><b>Committee Members Present:</b> Carole Jones (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Carol Melvin, Councillor Peter Money, Councillor John Morse, Amir Ahmed, Mary Coulthurst, Robert Harwood, Elenor Paul, Melanie Dring, Debby Mitchell and Nicole Schnackenberg</p> <p><b>Also Present:</b> Duncan Struthers, Adviser to SACRE, Richard Cawley, Hayes Muslim Centre.</p> <p><b>LBH Officers Present:</b> Ainsley Gilbert, Clerk.</p>
1.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Naseem Bint Amir, Councillor Keith Burrows, Stephen Horsman, Angela Lount, Daniel Norris, Councillor Susan O'Brien and Jamal Pasha.</p>
2.	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be accurate.</p>
3.	<p><b>ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR</b></p> <p>Daniel Norris was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Carol Melvin. This was seconded by Mary Coulthurst and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Carole Jones was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Amir Ahmed. This was seconded by Councillor Carol Melvin and agreed unanimously.</p>
4.	<p><b>FINANCE UPDATE</b></p> <p>Duncan Struthers, Adviser to SACRE, explained that detailed accounts had been prepared for the past financial year. There was a surplus left at the end of the financial year, however, there was still some expenditure to be taken from that surplus, as some planned events had been delayed. He and the Vice Chairman thanked Holy Trinity School for managing SACRE's budgets so carefully.</p>
5.	<p><b>TRAINING REPORT</b></p> <p>Ainsley Gilbert, Clerk to SACRE, explained that a training session had been held on 'Teaching the Three Religions' on 23 April 2015. The course had been very well received by those attending. Members noted the very positive feedback received, and suggested that further courses be offered. Members felt however that these courses ought to be held at different locations to encourage teachers from those areas to attend. They also felt that better advertisement of the courses ought to be planned. There were 23 teachers at the course from 16 different schools at the event.</p>

6.	<p><b>NASACRE MEETING UPDATE</b></p> <p>Duncan Struthers, Adviser to SACRE, explained that he and Lil Osborn had attended the NASACRE conference. The meeting had discussed the potential for a national R.E. Syllabus, and potential roles for SACREs if this were introduced. Members noted that the requirements for collective worship might well also be changed, and that it was worrying that SACREs might continue to meet without a properly defined role.</p>
7.	<p><b>HAYES CARNIVAL</b></p> <p>Duncan Struthers, Adviser to SACRE, explained that there would be a tent at Hayes Carnival, hosted by Hillingdon Interfaith Network (HifN), but also displaying the artwork produced as part of SACRE's 'Celebrating Faith' Competition.</p>
8.	<p><b>SACRE ADVISER'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Duncan Struthers, Adviser to SACRE, explained that an Interfaith Event would be held on 2 July at Swakeleys School for Girls from 12pm. Schools had been asked to send students from a wide range of backgrounds and faiths to participate in the afternoon's discussions. At Duncan Struthers request, the meeting agreed that he write to schools about the importance of the termly Secondary Heads of R.E. meetings.</p> <p>He also explained that HSACRE's Ramadan guidelines had been updated and distributed to schools. Members discussed the flexibility in requirements which Islamic Leaders were able to allow in order to ensure that children's education and health were not harmed by observance. Amir Ahmed emphasised the importance of involving families and community leaders in decisions about fasting and prayers, but noted that the purpose of these requirements was to help people to worship, rather than to be a burden.</p> <p>The meeting of HSACRE ended at 8.15pm.</p>
9.	<p><b>THE APPROACH TO THE REVIEW OF THE SYLLABUS</b></p> <p>The meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference began at 8.15pm.</p> <p>Members discussed the report, making points about the need for the questionnaire to be revised, the importance of getting as much evidence as possible from schools, an electronic version of the survey being made available and the explicit inclusion of Humanism in the syllabus, with points being made both for and against its inclusion.</p> <p><b>It was resolved that -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Members submit their comments on what the survey ought to contain by email.</li> <li>b) The Chair, Vice Chair and Adviser meet to redraft the questionnaire.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference closed at 8.45pm.</p>
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.45 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Ainsley Gilbert on 01895 250692. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

## HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### ANNUAL REPORT 2014

**Contact:** Duncan Struthers - Advisor to SACRE

#### REASON FOR REPORT

To present the HSCARE 2014 Annual Report to SACRE Members for comment ahead of formal sign off by Cllr. David Simmonds, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services.

#### OPTIONS OPEN TO HSACRE

1. To note the contents of the report and provide any comments.
2. To agree the report prior to formal sign off by Cllr Simmonds.

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# HSACRE

HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The current HSACRE was inaugurated on 22 February 1989 and this is its twenty-third Annual Report in accordance with its constitution and statutory obligations.

## **CONTENTS**

1. Foreword by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
2. Membership
3. Chairman's report
4. Meetings in 2014
5. Financial statement
6. Advice given to the Authority by SACRE
7. Publications and events
8. Monitoring and review



**1. FOREWORD BY THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, CLLR. DAVID SIMMONDS CBE**



*It gives me great pleasure to introduce this twenty third Annual Report of Hillingdon's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education [SACRE].*

*It is good to see that SACRE is taking an active role in ensuring that our teachers have access to the training they need to give the best possible quality of education, and I am grateful for their work in organising these sessions. The feedback from those attending these sessions has been good, and shows the value placed upon these by teachers.*

*Hillingdon SACRE has a clear commitment to encouraging children to explore issues of faith, and the interfaith conferences arranged in schools, which always lead to a lively and informed debate, are well supported by SACRE members.*

*I would like to thank SACRE's members, and those who support it, for their hard work over the year, and encourage them to continue this, especially as the Agreed Syllabus is due for its quinquennial review in 2015.*

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

HSACRE members are from four distinct groups and the committee is only quorate when representatives from every group are present:

**GROUP A** – Representatives of all faith groups in Hillingdon, including representatives from the Christian community, but not members of the Church of England. HSACRE works to ensure that along with representatives from all the major world faiths, it works with all communities within the Borough and welcomes their representation so long as they recognise the emphasis placed on inclusion by HSACRE.

**GROUP B** - Representatives from the Christian Church of England.

**GROUP C** - Representatives from each of the teachers' professional associations.

**GROUP D** - Hillingdon Councillors.

A list of members of each committee is included as an appendix.

**Clerk** - Steven Maiden (Democratic Services) served as clerk during 2014.

**Advisor** - Duncan Struthers.

## **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This year, Hillingdon SACRE has continued to promote high quality learning and teaching in RE by providing professional development opportunities for teachers. We have been delighted to support teachers from 12 different primary schools in Hillingdon to access a one day training course delivered locally by Fiona Moss, Senior RE Consultant at RE today. The one-day course enabled participants to develop their subject knowledge of key aspects of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The course was rated highly by participants who unanimously stated they felt more confident and prepared to teach RE as a result of participating in the training. We were also delighted to provide a further opportunity for teachers to attend the popular Walk Through The Bible training course. This was repeated at the request of schools and those who participated felt more confident in teaching children about the Bible, an area that nationally has been identified as a concern in the teaching of RE.

Since the period covered by the Annual Report, Hillingdon SACRE has begun consultation with schools and other stakeholders to establish whether a review of the Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus is required.

In order to promote engagement and reflection on 'faith', it is planned to hold a children's art competition to coincide with the Hayes Carnival. It is also planned to hold a conference in 2015-16 to support schools to promote British Values through RE.

I would like to thank all members of the Hillingdon SACRE for the commitment they have shown to supporting RE in our schools and for the contribution they make to promoting mutual respect and understanding among our young people.

#### **4. MEETINGS OF HSACRE IN 2014**

Full meetings of HSACRE were held on:

11 March	2014	Civic Centre
17 June	2014	Civic Centre
5 November	2014	Civic Centre

One meeting was not quorate.

In addition to the full meeting of SACRE, there were a number of subgroup meetings and the continuing progress of the Inter-Faith Forum and of Youth Events.

#### **5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

SACRE requested and received a delegated budget of £5900 as well as being well served through democratic services.

#### **6. ADVICE GIVEN TO THE AUTHORITY BY SACRE**

- i) Advice is given annually to the authority on Religious Education and Worship paragraphs in its information booklets for families entering a particular phase of education.
- ii) Responses to Freedom of Information requests regarding the nature and responsibilities of SACRE.

#### **7. PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS**

Inset courses.

Presentation at the Hayes Carnival in a faith tent.

#### **8. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

Comments on this report are welcomed. These should be sent to:

Jon Pitt – Democratic Services, 3E/05, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1UW, or by emailing [jpitt@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:jpitt@hillingdon.gov.uk)

## APPENDIX 1 - Members during 2014

### GROUP A

Baptist	Vacant
Hindu	Vacant
Methodist	Angela Lount
Muslim	Amir Ahmed
Hillingdon Assembly of Muslim Youth	Naseem Bint Amir
Quaker	Carolyn Appleby (resigned) / Vacancy
Jewish	Mike Gettleson
Roman Catholic	Vacant
Hillingdon Area Salvation Army	Heather Steady (resigned?) / Vacancy
Sikh	Jasvir Singh Rayat
Buddhist	Connie Dusek
United Reform Church	Vacant
Bahai	Lil Osborn
British Humanist Association	Richard Thomas

### GROUP B

Church of England	Hilary Stone
	Mary Coulthurst
	Elenor Paul
	Daniel Norris

### GROUP C

National Union of Teachers	Ian Harper
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	Jean Nunnery
National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers	Vacant
VOICE (formerly PAT)	Vacant
National Association of Headteachers	
Headteacher – Yeading Junior School	Carol Jones
Association of Secondary School and College Leaders	Vacant

### GROUP D

Local Authority	Councillor Mike Bull Councillor Keith Burrows Councillor Carol Melvin Councillor Avtar Sandhu
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## **OFFICER SUPPORT DURING 2014**

London Borough of Hillingdon Committee Services	Steven Maiden Democratic Services 3E/05 Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge Middlesex UB8 1UW
Consultant for Hillingdon SACRE	Duncan Struthers

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## THE ROLE OF the SACRE CHAIR

## PRESENTATION AND NOTES

### PRESENTATION

#### HOW DOES A CHAIR GET APPOINTED?

- SACRE Chairs are appointed or re-appointed annually.
- The LA has the power to appoint in principle.
- Failing this, the SACRE needs to set up an open and fair process itself for appointing its Chair.
- Some SACREs 'rotate' the Chair annually.
- Other SACREs have a set time limit for a Chair's term of office, or re-appoint the same Chair indefinitely.

#### THE SACRE CHAIR'S ROLE: OVERVIEW

Elements of the role of a SACRE Chair:

- **Generic** (or general) – what the Chair of any meeting needs to do;
- **Specific** – the particular responsibilities of a SACRE Chair;
- **Strategic** – furthering the cause of RE more widely.

#### GENERIC ASPECTS OF THE ROLE

- setting the agenda for meetings;
- ensuring SACRE members receive proper notice of meetings, and documentation in advance of meetings;
- conducting the meetings effectively and pleasantly;
- ensuring the business is dealt with, decisions are recorded, minutes are kept and circulated;
- enabling SACRE members to participate and contribute;
- appointing a Deputy Chair (optional);
- arranging authorisation should there be a need to act between meetings.

**SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE ROLE OF SACRE CHAIR**

- The main specific role is to **ensure that the SACRE fulfils its statutory duties and responsibilities.**
- The ultimate aim is to seek the best possible RE and collective worship for pupils.
- The Chair needs a clear grasp of technicalities within the SACRE remit, e.g. membership structure, how to make decisions, ‘determinations’, the legislative parameters.
- The Chair may need to liaise with the LA’s legal department over these legal dimensions.
- The Chair leads the SACRE in the ongoing process of the SACRE’s own self-evaluation and development.

**THE STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES OF THE ROLE**

- The SACRE Chair is potentially a key advocate and motivator for religious education within the LA.
- The SACRE’s interfaith dimension offers the possibility of initiatives and collaboration in the wider community, e.g. in citizenship; promoting community cohesion; responding to significant events or issues.
- Much of this creative activity will go beyond the legal remit of the SACRE, and is strictly optional.
- However, it is a natural extension of the SACRE’s work, and will serve to enhance the role and standing of RE.

**SOME KEY TASKS FOR A SACRE CHAIR**

To ensure:

- that a plan for the annual cycle of meetings and generic items is in place;
- that representation of each of the groups is maintained;
- that SACRE produces guidance documentation for both RE and CW;
- that relevant and appropriate training is available for members, including induction of new members;
- that an annual report is produced and issued;
- that a Deputy Chair/executive group is available to undertake tasks in case of the Chair’s absence.

**DUTIES OF SACRE**

- A SACRE’s main duty is to advise its LA on religious education, as taught in accordance with the LA’s agreed syllabus, in community, foundation and voluntary controlled schools.
- SACRE also gives advice on collective worship in community schools and other schools within the LA which have no specific religious character (normally all except voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools).



SACRE must also:

- ensure the LA reviews its agreed syllabus every five years;
- consider requests from schools to be released from the requirement to provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (a determination);
- publish an annual report of its work.
- The Education Reform Act (1998) sets out the central aims of the school curriculum, to which RE contributes through:
  - promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils (and of society);
  - preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

See also current statements about the curriculum in

- 'Every Child Matters',
- 'The Primary Curriculum'
- 'The Secondary Curriculum'.

## NOTES

### THE ROLE OF A SACRE CHAIR

#### THE LEGAL SITUATION

Following the Education Reform Act 1988, each local authority (LA) is required by law to maintain a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), whose basic structure of four 'Groups' is likewise set out in law, together with the SACRE's duties and responsibilities. The power to appoint a Chair for the SACRE rests with the LA. However, if the LA fails to appoint a Chair, chooses not to exercise its rights, or delegates its power to the SACRE itself, it is the responsibility of the SACRE itself to create a fair and open process for appointing a Chair from among its members. There are different models for how this may be done. Some SACREs, for instance, rotate the position of Chair of SACRE annually so that each Group takes it in turn to nominate the Chair. Others have time limits on the position of Chair and still others keep or re-elect the same Chair until he/she wishes to resign.

#### THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SACRE CHAIR

Some aspects of the role are clearly **generic** and pertain to the Chair of any organized meeting, for instance: setting agendas; conducting meetings effectively; ensuring that the business is dealt with, that any decisions are made and recorded, and that minutes are kept and followed up; enabling all members to participate and contribute in meetings; establishing a process for authorizing the Chair to act between meetings and for appointing a Deputy Chair, etc. Much of this may be spelt out in the SACRE's locally drawn up Constitution or Terms of Reference (if these exist). These generic responsibilities are important, but our main focus here is those aspects of the role which are specific to the SACRE context.

The main **specific** role of a SACRE Chair is to manage the work of SACRE in accordance with statutory requirements and local circumstances. For convenience, a SACRE's basic responsibilities are set out below, always remembering that the ultimate aim underpinning the legal requirements is to seek the best possible religious education and collective worship for pupils in schools.

In addition, the Chair needs a clear grasp of the role and processes of a SACRE, including technicalities involved in areas such as Group and SACRE membership, 'determinations', and how SACRE decisions should be reached, and must be prepared to consult with the LA's legal department where necessary regarding these technical matters. The Chair is also responsible for leading the SACRE in its own self-evaluation and development/training programmes.

Further aspects of the Chair's role may be described as **strategic**. Being a SACRE Chair provides many opportunities for furthering the cause of religious education at all levels: the

SACRE Chair is potentially a key advocate and motivator for RE within the LA. Moreover, a SACRE's inter-faith dimension can lead to SACRE initiatives and collaboration in the wider community (e.g. promoting community cohesion and engaging in issues of citizenship and identity), in which the Chair would have a leading role. These strategic aspects enable a SACRE and its Chair to go beyond their legal remit into creative and visionary activities, which, while strictly optional, are natural extensions to the bread and butter work, and enhance still further the role and standing of RE.

## **DUTIES OF SACRE:**

A SACRE's main duty is to advise its LA on religious education as taught in accordance with the LA's agreed syllabus in Community, Foundation and Voluntary Controlled schools.

SACRE also gives advice on collective worship in Community schools and other schools within the LA which have no specific religious character (normally all except Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools).

SACRE must also:

- ensure the LA reviews its Agreed Syllabus every five years
- consider requests from schools to be released from the requirement to provide collective worship of which the majority is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. (Such a request, if granted, is called a "determination".)
- publish an Annual Report of its work

The Education Reform Act 1998 sets out the central aims of the school curriculum, to which RE contributes, through:

- promoting the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Moral, Physical development of pupils and of society;
- preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

## **SOME KEY TASKS FOR A SACRE CHAIR**

**To ensure that:**

- a plan for the annual cycle of meetings/venue and generic items is in place
- the LA seeks to maintain proper representation in each of the four Groups
- SACRE produces guidance documentation for both RE and CW
- a Vice Chair/executive group is in place in case of the Chair's absence
- relevant and appropriate training is available for members
- the SACRE has an ongoing programme of self-evaluation and development

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## AGREED SYLLABUS QUESTIONNAIRE

### SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

**Contact:** Jon Pitt - Clerk to SACRE  
**Telephone:** 01895 277655

#### REASON FOR REPORT

To provide a summary of responses to the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) questionnaire in order to assist SACRE in determining whether a review of the existing syllabus should be undertaken.

#### OPTIONS OPEN TO HSACRE

1. To note the feedback provided and provide any comments.
2. To determine whether to recommend that the existing syllabus should continue, whether the existing syllabus should be adapted or whether to write a new syllabus and recommend this for adoption by the local authority. Further information about consideration of the Review of the Agreed Syllabus can be found in Appendix A. The current Agreed Syllabus is attached as Appendix B. Full results of the survey are attached as Appendix C.

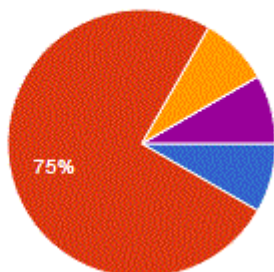
#### BACKGROUND

A survey in relation to the Agreed Syllabus was circulated to schools across the Borough during September and October 2015. The main purpose of the survey was to ascertain whether schools felt that a review of the Agreed Syllabus should be undertaken.

A total of 12 schools responded to the ASC questionnaire. Therefore, the following results should be treated with caution as this relatively low number of responses is not necessarily representative of all schools in the Borough. Overall, the results suggest that the schools in the Borough feel that the current Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus reflects the needs of their pupils, with only one respondent suggesting that a full review of the Syllabus should be undertaken.

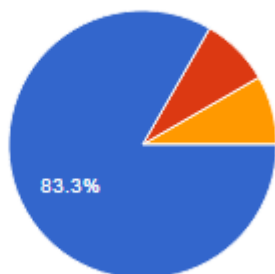
## Results Breakdown

### Position at School



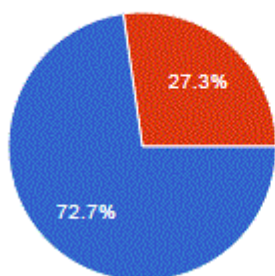
Headteacher	1	8.3%
RE Coordinator	9	75%
RE Teacher	1	8.3%
Student	0	0%
Other	1	8.3%

### Does your school use the current Hillingdon agreed syllabus?



Yes	10	83.3%
In part	1	8.3%
No	1	8.3%

### Does the current syllabus reflect the needs of the students in your school?



Yes	8	72.7%
In part	3	27.3%
No	0	0%

### Which areas does the Agreed Syllabus Conference need to address?

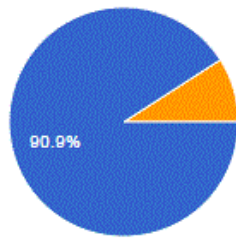
Only the respondents who answered 'in part' to the previous question answered this question:

**Response 1** "Pupils from different faith backgrounds, for example, Jehovah's witnesses. The current one refers to 'west and east'. It is not clear which religions this refers to. Maybe it would be more helpful to try to distinguish between monotheistic and polytheistic, however that is still possible debateable."

**Response 2** "Needs to be more affirmation of agnostic / atheistic positions."

**Response 3** "Media representation of faith communities. Media representation of faiths. Humanism."

**In the light of this do you think the conference should:**



Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time

10

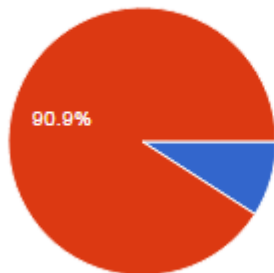
Carry out a mini-review, looking at only a small portion of the syllabus?

0

Carry out a full review now

1

**From classroom experience, would you recommend any additions to the current strands?**



Yes 1 9.1%

No 10 90.9%

**Q. Please provide details of what you feel needs to be added to the current syllabus**

Only the one respondent who answered 'yes' to the previous question answered this question:

**Response 1:** "More acknowledgement / coverage of animistic / shamanistic / indigenous traditions that exist outside of organised 'world' faiths."

**Q. Are you aware of any other useful publications which would be helpful to consider? If so, please give details of these, and a brief summary of why you recommend them.**

None of the respondents suggested any publications.

**Q. If you are from a non-Christian faith and willing to assist in the review, please provide your details below.**

Two respondents from a non-Christian faith (1 x Buddhist and 1 x Muslim) indicated that they would be willing to assist with a review.

**Q. If you have any other views/comments you would like to be considered please submit them here**

One respondent provided a substantive additional comment:

**Response 1:** "It would be useful to have some more resources and schemes of work to help us when teaching RE."

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## THE REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS

### 1. Requirement for a Review

The local education authority is required, by Section 375 of the Education Act 1996 (Schedule 31), to convene an agreed syllabus conference not later than five years after the current agreed syllabus was adopted. For Hillingdon, this means that such a conference was required to convene by 9 July 2015, as the current syllabus was adopted on 9 July 2010. The conference convened for the first time on 16 June, following a meeting of HSCARE.

2. The Agreed Syllabus Conference consists of members drawn from the same four committees as SACRE, and as a result most local education authorities simply appoint the membership of SACRE to membership of the committees at the conference. To date, Hillingdon's Agreed Syllabus Conference has adopted this format.
3. In the event that HSCARE chooses to recommend a review of the Agreed Syllabus, it is for the local education authority to convene such a review.

### 4. The Process for a Review

Once convened, the Agreed Syllabus Conference may either:

- a) Recommend that the existing syllabus should continue to be the agreed syllabus.
- b) Adapt the existing syllabus, or write a new syllabus, and recommend this for adoption by the local authority.

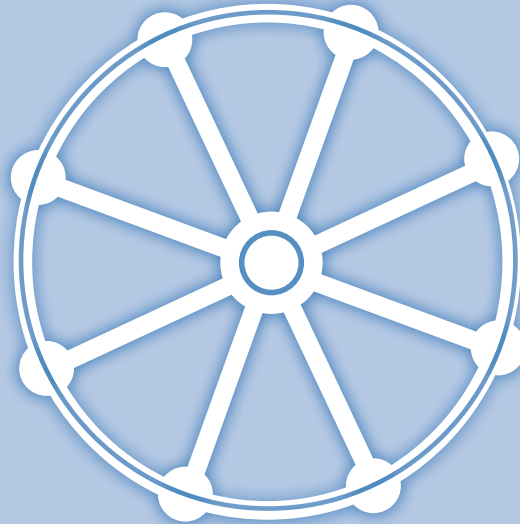
In making either of the above recommendations, the four committees of the conference must be in unanimous agreement (although those committees may have disagreements amongst themselves). Should this be impossible to achieve, the Secretary of State will be asked to appoint a body to prepare a syllabus; it should be noted however, that this provision is rarely used.

5. The costs of carrying out the review, for example room hire, are likely to be small. Should a new or altered syllabus be agreed, this would need to be printed and distributed to schools and faith groups, which would cost more. SACRE has been allocated a budget of £3,100 for printing in the next financial year, which is expected to any such costs.

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# Hillingdon Religious Education Syllabus

Hillingdon Standing Advisory Council  
for Religious Education





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# Introduction


The timing of this new Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus follows the introduction of a secondary and more recently primary revised National Curriculum and an Early Years Curriculum. Members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) of the Hillingdon Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (HSACRE) warmly recommend this revised syllabus to schools. With the National Curriculum now focusing on stage rather than age this flexibility is reflected in this syllabus and given the increasing focus on the Early Years, the Foundation Stage content is now made statutory for this new syllabus.

Faith and Values is a compulsory new and innovative strand that contains material shared by everyone with a faith background but also by others who would claim not to have a faith.

We trust that our Agreed Syllabus will greatly assist schools in this task of delivering Religious Education.

It has been my privilege and honour to chair the conference. It has taken many hours of devoted voluntary work from both faith group representatives and teachers, always working in harmony to reach this stage. Throughout, there was a sense of unity and commitment and those times of heated discussion were always spiced with realism and determination to reach an understanding that would equip teachers to deliver the Agreed Syllabus.

Members of SACRE will continue to offer support to schools as they implement this syllabus, working to make Religious Education both rewarding and exciting to all pupils. SACRE is also determined to continue on an increasing drive in support of a thorough agreed provision for young people participating in learning from 16 to 18.



**Duncan Struthers**  
Chair, Agreed Syllabus Conference, 1997-2010

We are delighted to introduce this new Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. This new syllabus will now replace the existing syllabus from 2000 to assist schools in delivering exciting and effective religious education. This syllabus is the culmination of hard work by teachers, faith group representatives, councillors and officers of the local authority and reflects the drive for inclusivity across our ever more diverse faith communities. It supports our commitment to education, community cohesion and inter-faith networking and seeks to encourage pupils to reflect upon and develop their own values and to learn from one another. It focuses on the skills that are important to religious education whilst encouraging young people to interpret and analyse this learning experience to help develop pupils qualities essential for their future citizenship.

This syllabus is the result of first class thinking and extensive consultation among all groups, particularly young people.



**Chris Spencer**  
Corporate Director: Children Services



**David Simmonds**  
Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member  
for Education and Children's Services

# The purpose of Religious Education

The place of Religious Education (RE) in the curriculum of maintained schools in England has not changed since the 1944 Education Act. While the National Curriculum excluding RE was first introduced in 1988 the distinctive place of Religious Education whose content is determined by a locally agreed syllabus for maintained schools that do not have a particular faith character has remained. For details, see Appendix 2, School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Religious Education and physical education are the only curriculum subjects that have to be taken throughout the years of statutory education, and within schools up to the age of 19, unless parents withdraw their children from RE or the young people over 18 seek to do so themselves. The governments of the United Kingdom have continued to state that RE “is a very important subject in the school curriculum”. Along with sex education and the National Curriculum, RE forms the basic curriculum of every maintained school in England for children and young people from 5 to 16.

For most people throughout the world, religious beliefs embedded in a vast array of faiths provides the underpinning for the ways they live their lives and provides a significant contribution to their

decision making with regard to right and wrong action. Given this, the study of religion both in terms of its content and its practices is crucial to the achievement of an educated person in England today. RE can thus make a fundamental contribution to community cohesion, citizenship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Nevertheless, children and young people must have also an understanding of what it is to be someone of no religious faith. Furthermore, the fact that the locally agreed syllabus is produced with the involvement of all aspects of the local community and its schools, including those that are not tied to the locally agreed syllabus, helps ensure that it supports community cohesion, including inter-faith working. To achieve this RE must be taught in an objective and pluralistic manner, and not as indoctrination into a particular faith or belief.

A number of legislative changes within and beyond the world of education in both Britain and Europe have implications for RE. The Human Rights Act 1998, the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 and the Equality Act 2006 contribute to the ‘bigger picture’ within which RE is provided in schools and experienced by children and young people.

# The aims of Religious Education in Hillingdon

The following aims will be delivered in all maintained schools and academies in Hillingdon unless their trust deeds identify an alternative syllabus or the school's designated denomination links to another syllabus.

To enable children and young people, according to their ability and level of development to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religions, principally Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism all of which are represented in Hillingdon
- learn from different world religions and provide opportunities to explore and express their own responses and personal beliefs
- understand the relationship between beliefs and practices
- develop an understanding of the influence of faiths, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures
- develop personal learning and thinking skills pertinent to Religious Education, such as questioning, investigation, communication, expression and evaluation and to promote the ability to make reasoned, critical and informed moral judgements
- combat prejudice.

Further we expect Religious Education to:

- encourage children and young people to respect and value the right of people to hold differing beliefs, including those with no faith, and to cultivate understanding and respect in a society with a diversity of faiths.

And in line with Section 78(1) of the 2002 Education Act to:

- contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and help prepare children and young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

# Religious Education – inclusion issues

## – SEN and gifted and talented

### Pupils with Special Educational Needs

All students in mainstream schools should have access to the Religious Education curriculum which should be differentiated according to individual learning needs. This includes SEN pupils where their needs in Religious Education will be similar to their needs in other subjects.

### Identifying gifted pupils in Religious Education

Some pupils with good ability in RE do much less well in other subjects. These pupils may be nurtured within a faith community or have a religious world view of their own, bringing particular knowledge, sensitivity and experience to RE. Some pupils might have particular spiritual giftedness, whether or not they are part of a religious tradition. These pupils can generally be identified through discussion, held within an ethos of respect, which can also be used to stimulate further learning and progress.

Pupils who are gifted in RE are likely to:

- show high levels of insight into, and discernment beyond, the obvious and ordinary
- make sense of, and draw meaning from, religious symbols, metaphors, texts and practices
- be sensitive to, or aware of, the numinous or the mystery of life, and have a feeling for how these are explored and expressed
- understand, apply and transfer ideas and concepts across topics in RE and into other religious and cultural contexts.

In more general terms, they may also:

- have highly-developed skills of comprehension, analysis and research
- show quickness of understanding and depth of thought.

The identification of pupils who are gifted in RE should be approached on the basis of distinct RE ability, skills, competencies and insights. The teacher's professional judgement is crucial.

RE teachers who know their pupils and their work, and bring professional talent, expertise and awareness to the subject, are best placed to identify gifted pupils. However, especially if not RE specialists themselves, they will probably find it helpful to talk to other teachers.

It is important that the full range and scope of RE activities and learning experiences give pupils access to high levels of attainment. When planning activities, teachers will need to be sensitive to pupils' preferred learning styles and give them a variety of opportunities to learn. Pupils with high levels of language skills may need to develop a conceptual framework through which to acquire relevant information and understand its significance and use.

(Based on the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency guidance - November 2009)

### Assessment in Religious Education

(see appendix 1 for additional non-statutory guidance)

#### Attainment Targets

There are two Attainment Targets for Religious Education in Hillingdon:

AT 1, **Learning about religions**, is concerned with giving pupils knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, teachings, customs and practices of different world faiths.

AT 2, **Learning from religion**, is concerned with enabling pupils to explore the ideas and beliefs of different world faiths and their own ideas, attitudes and beliefs.

RE seeks to teach pupils specific skills related to these processes and to foster key attitudes. It covers fundamental questions about life and different responses to them and provides the opportunity for pupils to apply what they have learnt about the different world faiths to their lives and their communities.



## Assessment in Religious Education

Assessment is an integral part of a pupils learning curve: levels according to the Qualifications and Development Agency (QCDA) model should be awarded both for AT1 - learning about religion and AT2 - learning from religion. It is important to recognise that in Religious Education pupils are taken on a journey, especially in terms of AT2 and with this in mind there will be occasions where it may not be possible to award levels to all pieces of work.

### Assessment guidance for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3

A good assessment framework raises the expectations of teachers and makes them aware of the potentially high standards their pupils might achieve. It helps teachers sharpen the focus on what is being taught and why. It enables them to identify strengths and weaknesses in pupils' attainments and plan the next steps in their learning. It provides the means to chart progress, and makes pupils and their parents, carers and guardians clear about particular achievements and targets for improvement.

Assessment should therefore help pupils and teachers recognise and celebrate achievement, and should motivate the learner.

Effective assessment requires:

- identification of a clear focus for a unit or lesson
- clear planning of objectives
- careful consideration of learning experiences
- opportunities to demonstrate achievement
- regular evaluation.

A range of assessment models should be applied across the Religious Education curriculum.

## Reporting on Religious Education Schools

The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) jointly publish Assessment and reporting arrangements (ARA) booklets for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. These are updated annually.

Headteachers of maintained schools have a duty to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the National Curriculum in their schools. This includes assessment and reporting for all students, including those following Diploma courses of study.

Therefore, schools will need to ensure that, as a minimum, annual reports to parents, carers and guardians include a statement about the pupil's progress and achievement in Religious Education, and that a copy of the annual report is retained within the pupil's file.

Information based on such reports must be given to the Governing Body and that statutory requirements, as laid down by the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), with regard to the transfer of information between schools is met.

## Academies

Academies should fully comply with these assessment and reporting arrangements.

## Governing Bodies

Governing Bodies of maintained schools have a duty to ensure the school meets the requirements of the EYFS and the National Curriculum, including assessment and reporting arrangements.

## London Borough of Hillingdon

Local authorities have a duty to ensure that maintained schools and other EYFS providers administer the Ofqual statutory assessment and reporting arrangements appropriately. They must ensure schools and other EYFS providers understand and follow the requirements set out in the ARA.

## Religious Education in the Early Years Foundation Stage

While the EYFS Framework does not identify RE as statutory it includes statutory standards with regard to a child's Personal, Emotional and Social Development that encompass understanding and respect for different beliefs. Furthermore in relation to Knowledge and Understanding of the World there is a requirement that these children should begin to know about their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people.

Within the two areas, Specialness and Belonging and Community children need to explore their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs and be introduced to those of other people, learning to value diversity and to respect other people's beliefs and practices.

It is important that the children's own experiences are the starting point for learning and that they all feel secure and valued. The children in this stage will have varied experiences, beliefs, cultures and

ideas. They need to know that their own background and beliefs are recognised and valued while also learning to recognise and value those of other people. Good Religious Education at this stage should provide a forum for everybody to share from his or her culture and beliefs.

The following should be covered in the foundation stage:

## EYFS RE - Stepping Stones

### Specialness

Step 1 – Be aware that some places/things/people and times are special. Know some of these that are special for them and their families.

Step 2 – Be aware that different things/places/people and times can be special for different people. Know about some of these.

Step 3 – Know about some festivals, rituals, people, places and things, the stories behind them and the way they are celebrated or respected.

### Belonging and Community

Step 1 – Know some of the groups they personally belong to (eg. Class, school, family, faith, club etc) and their key features.

Step 2 – Know some of the groups other children belong to and some of their key features.

Step 3 – Know about some faith communities and know about a place, story, person from those communities. Know that things change and that some changes are marked with ceremony.

## Curriculum provision for Religious Education

### Curricular requirements

The revised Agreed Syllabus continues to be based on the recommended minimum time allowance for the teaching of Religious Education in schools of 5% of curriculum time, identified in the Dearing Report (1993).

In practice this generally works out as about:

- 30-36 hours per year Key Stage 1
- 38-45 hours per year Key Stage 2
- 38-45 hours per year Key Stage 3
- 30-36 hours per year Key Stage 4

No specific proposal is made for Key Stage 5 although a minimum of 30 hours of curriculum time should be allocated to Religious Education across each year.

Normally, Key Stage 3 covers years 7, 8 and 9 with Key Stage 4 covering years 10 and 11 although some schools have redefined this, normally starting Key Stage 4 in year 9.

Schools should use the above as a guide both across and within Key Stages.

Where Key Stages are redefined, the guidance should be taken across the years involved.

This also applies to the revised National Curriculum where although not a part of the National Curriculum, the proposals are for Religious Education to be delivered within a cross-curricular approach.

Care is needed in adopting a cross curricular approach to ensure that there is a specialist Religious Education staff member involved with the planning and delivery.

There is no requirement for the teaching of Religious Education in nursery classes, but it is statutory that children under five in reception classes are taught Religious Education. For students in post-16 education Religious Education is also compulsory for those at school. Schools have considerable freedom as to how that may be delivered.

Collective worship is not Religious Education though it may contribute to the delivery of the subject.

## Faith and Values Strand

Faith and Values is seen as an important new strand in teaching Religious Education. It contains material shared by everyone with a faith or faith background but also by others who would perhaps claim not to have a faith. It is a compulsory new strand at each Key Stage.

Schools may wish to consider if this strand meets the Community Cohesion requirements of the SEF and how best this strand can be used to engage all students.

In addition to the religions below, other religions, philosophies and belief systems may be referred to within this strand. Schools should consider the needs of their communities in both extending their knowledge and understanding of the wide and divergent faiths throughout the known history of man as well as those beliefs and practices within our own cultures.

## Other strands

The syllabus identifies six world religions as central to the study of Religious Education: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism.

Faith and Values and Christianity must be taught at each key stage.

Schools are free to determine which of the other religions, in addition to Christianity, they will teach at each key stage, subject to the following recommendations.

**In order that pupils encounter a wide range of faith beliefs, at least one non-Abrahamic faith should be studied at Key Stage 1-2 and at least one in Key Stage 3.**

The Faith and Values Strand will require time and schools should ensure that the whole syllabus is covered in the depth required for the faiths included.

Schools should not attempt to cover more than those recommended at each key stage.

### Key Stage 1

Faith and Values, Christianity and **only one other**, from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism or Sikhism.

### Key Stage 2

Faith and Values, Christianity and **at least two, but no more than three**, other religious traditions should be taught.

**Schools should monitor to ensure that at least one non-Abrahamic faith has been studied within Key Stages 1 and 2**

### Key Stage 3

Faith and Values, Christianity and **at least one, but no more than four**, other religious traditions should be taught.

### Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 all pupils, except those withdrawn by their parents, should pursue a course in Religious Education. Some schools have translated this in delivering the subject within a GCSE course in either year 10 or 11. This is acceptable as long as it meets the criteria required in covering the external examination syllabus within the time allowed.

## Strands delivered at Key Stages 1-4

In planning for the curriculum delivery, the aim should be for a transparent delivery of both attainment targets for each strand.

Whilst this can be realistic for AT 1, the Attainment Target 2 – Learning from religion, is concerned with enabling pupils to explore the ideas and beliefs of different world faiths and their own ideas, attitudes and beliefs. This often takes longer to deliver.

Schools will have to balance the opportunities in sharing and learning about their own widening faith communities whilst ensuring that Religious Education maintains depth and rigour.

In determining which religious traditions are to be studied, schools should consider the nature of the pupil intake, the ethos of the school and, if a high school, where possible, the practice of 'feeder' schools.

The time devoted to teaching about any one religious tradition will depend on a number of factors, most notably the number of different religious traditions to be studied. For each of the six world religions this syllabus determines the essential or core body of material to be taught at each key stage.

The syllabus is not a scheme of work and additional topics may have to be included in order for the relevance of the syllabus topic to be properly understood and should be thought of as the minimum to be covered.

As with the previous syllabus, schools may wish to teach the different religious traditions either systematically or thematically. They may prefer to create a scheme of work that offers a mixture of the two methods. In making their decision they should be aware that pupils need a reasonable working knowledge of one religious tradition before it is compared to another. If false comparisons, confusion and superficial judgements are not to be made when teaching thematically there is a need to bring out differences between religions as well as similarities. Teachers need to beware of drawing unhelpful or misleading parallels. Pupils' understanding of and reflection on different religions and religious issues is often greatly enhanced by some comparative study.

In changing from the previous syllabus, the 'Attitudes and Links to Human Experience' has generally been reflected in the new 'Faith and Values Strand'. Relating religious belief and experience to human experience, in general, and the pupils' own experiences, in

particular, is considered vital to allow them to receive a full Religious Education.

At Key Stage 4 pupils should follow a recognised external examination course for Religious Education or Religious Studies.

## **Key Stage 5**

### **Post-16 Religious Education**

It is a requirement that all registered 16-19 year old pupils in maintained schools study Religious Education unless withdrawn by parents or by request from students themselves, if over 18 years of age.

Schools must ensure that all students have the opportunity to access Diploma courses which include Religious Education, A/S and 'A' level courses in Religious Studies or similar.

Religious Education offers students a great deal. Carefully planned and thoughtfully delivered it can allow students an opportunity to reflect on religious, philosophical, moral and ethical issues and relate these to the work they are doing within other areas of the curriculum. Equally, they may be given the opportunity to develop their own beliefs and opinions and the ability to make sound and reasoned judgements in preparation for life beyond school. The aims of Religious Education remain the same as for pupils in other key stages, however as there is considerable diversity of needs, interests and attitudes among this age group there is no prescribed programme of study. Schools must determine the most appropriate courses for their pupils.

The time allocation for Religious Education for pupils in years 12 and 13 should be flexible, but Religious Education must be delivered as part of a coherent and identifiable programme. Schools might consider offering various Religious Education topics as modules within a cycle of complementary studies units, as weekly sessions or as day conferences, but needs to be alongside or within a general programme of Religious Education.

Schools are free to use any of the material set out in earlier key stages or to devise a course based on the themes mentioned in the Post 16 section. Similar recommendations are that schools review the diplomas on offer.

The ASC recommends that the SACRE produce a non-statutory document on current post 16 practice for Religious Education.

## **Faith experience**

Previous Agreed Syllabi have strongly recommended the benefit from visiting faith communities. This continues to be the advice of this revision, specifically that all students should have opportunities to visit at least two places of worship at each of the Key Stages 1, 2 and 3.

Where this contributes to an understanding that the faith is a vibrant important part of the lives of the participants, the visit helps appreciate the importance of the building in the community.

On a more pragmatic level, there are a limited number of non-Christian buildings within easy reach of most schools in the borough.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference recommend another way of helping students appreciate that religion is an important part of people's lives; by inviting colleagues, parents, members of faith communities as well as faith leaders to come into school and be asked to talk about their personal faith journeys within lessons.

The syllabus review recommends that the SACRE investigate how best this route can be achieved, possibly by providing training and resource materials for visitors.

An additional route is for schools to consider holding their own Inter Faith Networking events. The borough Youth Inter Faith Networks are becoming increasingly welcomed with the majority of schools now participating.

## **Religious Education**

# **Key Stage 1**

# Religious Education

## Key Stage 1

### Faith and Values Key Stage 1

#### Key areas of understanding

- Life stances – what makes me 'ME'?
- The communities where I belong
- Keeping a perspective on life
- BIG questions – 'Dealing with *stuff*'

#### Key ideas

##### Life stances – what makes me 'ME'?

- Knowing that what I believe may be different to what others believe.
- What do I value – have I a choice and do I exercise it?
- Being happy and secure.

##### The communities where I belong

- Sharing.
- How do I know what you are thinking and what makes a community different?
- Awareness of the ways faiths relate to the community and the wide range of places of worship.
- Rites of passage – the families I belong to.
- Keeping a perspective on life.
- An understanding that a belief can be a journey for people.

##### BIG questions – 'Dealing with *stuff*'

- What do we do to make others happy?
- Do animals have feelings like us?

## Christianity Key Stage 1

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Christians believe in a God who is like a loving father/parent who created the world.
- Christians believe God's love is for everybody as shown through parables.
- Christians believe that Jesus (God's son) is God's gift to the world.

#### Teachings

- Jesus is God's son, who lived on earth and showed the Father's love to all. What is known about his life reflects this love.
- Jesus was a healer and showed that people need to be free from pain and misery.
- The Bible is a very special book for Christians. It contains teachings about God and Jesus.

#### Response from a believer

- Christians are followers of Jesus, knowing that following Jesus affects the way people live.
- Forgiveness is at the basis for Christian belief.
- Jesus taught that humans should care for each other and share their belongings.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Christmas and Easter are significant Christian festivals, in terms of God's gift to humankind and how it is celebrated.
- Understanding the themes and symbols associated with Christmas, such as birth, light and journeys.
- Different ways in which Christian festivals are celebrated in various parts of the world.

#### Place of worship

- Christians get support and encouragement through worshiping in communities (churches) where they are encouraged in their faith.

Christianity is a major world faith.

## Buddhism Key Stage 1

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

Siddhartha Gautama – the Buddha's life and that he was a wise person, not a god.

#### Teachings

Stories of the Buddha, a human prince who lived in northern India a long time ago, who gave up wealth and status to achieve understanding of human experience and enlightenment.

Introduction to the Tipitaka.

#### Response from a believer

- Buddha – his values and teachings.
- Happiness comes through behaving in a particular way by:
  - kindness
  - generosity
  - truthfulness
  - patience
  - not harming any living thing.
- Features about Buddhist communities, supportive of each other, living out the teachings of Buddha.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Celebrations of life and knowledge.

#### Place of worship

- Buddhists give reverence to the Buddha with shrines at home and in temples.

Buddhism is a major world faith.



## Hinduism Key Stage 1

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Different ways in which [Brahman](#) is represented. Brahman as an impersonal supreme being. That there are not many Gods but many ways to think of the God as different personalities fulfilling different roles (Pluralism).

#### Teachings

- The followers of Hinduism are known as Hindus.
- Stories associated with deities, including [Rama](#), [Sita](#) and [Ganesh](#), found in the Hindu scriptures.

#### Response from a believer

- Devotion to God, respect for all things and all people.
- Love and family respect. [Dharma](#) – learning how to live with others, both in family and society.
- Vegetarianism. Not harming or hurting any living thing.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Various rites of passage – particularly including birth and marriage.
- [Divali](#) and some details of how it is celebrated.

#### Place of worship

- A shrine is a focus for daily worship.
- Know what might be found in a Hindu shrine and understand the purpose of each object.
- The idea of devotion to a particular deity.
- Dress codes (covering of heads and removal of shoes as marks of respect).

Hinduism is a major world faith.

## Islam Key Stage 1

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Allah, the one true God, the basis of the faith. Creator of all good things.

#### Teachings

- The followers of Islam are known as Muslims.
- The [Qur'an](#) is the holy book and contains:
  - a) stories about prophets of [Allah](#)
  - b) guidance about how people should behave.
- Know some key facts about [Muhammad](#) and his life, the messenger of God, the most important prophet of Allah.

#### Response from a believer

- Muslims are obliged to perform prayers and this entails five daily prayers.
- The Qur'an is written in Arabic and that the words are special so the book is treated very carefully.
- The Qur'an is read and recited in Arabic.
- Muslims have choices in the ways they behave and efforts should be made to be in communication with Allah at all times.
- Respect for the Qur'an and of drawings and images.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- The festivals of Eid – following [Ramadan](#) and [Haji](#).

#### Place of worship

- The importance of the mosque as a centre of the community.
- Dress codes (removal of shoes) and codes of conduct (separate areas of worship for women and men).

Islam is a major world faith.

“This Arabic ‘logo-type’ is composed of the words ‘Salla-llahu alaihi wa sallam’ – peace and blessings of Allah upon him. They are used by Muslims every time the Prophet Muhammad is mentioned. Similar respect is accorded to the other Prophets.

The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic; therefore, Arabic is the language of Islam, Islamic worship, theology, ethics and jurisprudence. Islam is inextricably linked with the Arabic language despite the variety of languages spoken by the believers.”



## Judaism Key Stage 1

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- God forgives those who are sorry and expects his laws to be obeyed.
- Belief in one God who created the world and who provides for people.

#### Teachings

- Followers of Judaism are known as Jews, whose early history is in the [Torah](#).
- Stories of the Torah, including those of creation, Noah, Moses and Joseph.
- The story of Moses' birth and how he became a leader of his people.
- The Ten Commandments.
- Jews remind themselves to teach children and to pray by having [mezuzot](#) on their doorposts.

#### Response from a believer

- Praying is having respect for knowing that they are in the presence of God.
- Children are taught to love God and their neighbour.
- The importance of the Sefer-Torah and the use of the Yad for showing respect. Other key leaders from the Torah, revealing how real people showed their love for God.
- Various symbols and processes are used to remind people of the need for prayer.
- Most men and women will cover their heads when praying.
- There are prayers when Jewish men may wear a [kippah](#), [tallit](#) and [tefillin](#).
- The importance of family life.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- The celebration of [Rosh Hashanah](#) (the Jewish new year).
- The festival of [Shabbat](#), a fundamental part of family life, is celebrated both at home and in the synagogue.
- Festivals like Passover are important reminders of God's love for His people.

#### Place of worship

- The [synagogue](#), as well as the home, is the place of worship for Jewish people.
- The [Rabbi](#), the spiritual leader and teacher of the congregation.

Judaism is a major world faith.

## Sikhism Key Stage 1

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Sikhs believe in one God.

#### Teachings

- The ten teachers are called Gurus, Guru Nanak was the first.
- The story of Guru Nanak's call to be 'a minstrel of God'.
- Some of the key teachings of Guru Nanak through stories about his actions, e.g. Guru Nanak and the 20 Rupees, Guru Nanak and Bhai Lalo.
- The teachings written in a book called the Guru Granth Sahib, a holy scripture.
- The 5 Ks. Know that the 5 Ks are part of the Sikh rahit (code of conduct).

#### Response from a believer

- Guru Nanak's hymns, teaching people about God and how to behave.
- The importance of the 5 Ks (origin, meaning and significance – they are referred to as symbols or articles of faith). Know that the Sikh turban is an essential part of Sikh dress.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- The birthday of Guru Nanak.

#### Place of worship

- Know that the Guru Granth Sahib is kept in the Gurdwara, a place of worship.
- On entering a Gurdwara, people cover their heads and take off their shoes as a sign of respect to the Guru Granth Sahib.
- The importance of community in Sikhi and the gurdwara as a centre for religious, cultural and social foci, for example, the classrooms, langar, charity and service in the wider community.

Sikhism is a major world faith.

## **Religious Education**

# **Key Stage 2**

# Religious Education

## Key Stage 2

### Faith and Values Key Stage 2

#### Key areas of understanding

- Life stances – what makes me ‘ME’
- The communities where I belong
- BIG questions
- ‘Dealing with *stuff*’
- Keeping a perspective on life

#### Key ideas

##### Life stances – what makes me ‘ME’

- A consideration of what individuals believed when they were younger.
- Have individuals changed their beliefs? If so what made them change their beliefs?

##### The communities where I belong

- How different faiths have developed and changed within their timescales.
- Community Cohesion.

##### BIG questions

- What is ‘truth’? Should we always accept what we are told?
- Can you ‘prove’ that what you believe is the case?
- What is meant by faith?

##### Dealing with stuff

- What about those with no faith?

##### Keeping a perspective on life

- Investigation through discussions (from a wide range of age groups) to find out if experience of life makes you more certain of what you understand and believe?
- Some ideologies teach that governments should be run by faith leaders, others that there should be no connections.
- What happens when there is a conflict between faith and the law?
- Should different faiths be allowed to have their own laws?

## Christianity Key Stage 2

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Christians believe that there is one God, who is the creator of the world, like a father to human beings and a source of comfort and strength.
- Miracles that show [Jesus](#)' power over nature (for example, the calming of the storm).
- The events of Holy Week and of Jesus' resurrection appearances.
- The stories that suggest Jesus' divinity and which teach beliefs about him, including the Christian belief that Jesus is still present in the world.
- God in human lives – miracles. Ways in which God cares for human beings. God communicating with human beings.

#### Teachings

- The creation stories from the [Bible](#) with particular reference to the relationship between God and mankind.
- Events from the life of Jesus:
  - the story of his nativity, his baptism and the events of his [baptism](#), his temptations
  - his ministry as recorded in the [Gospels](#).
  - the significance of his death.

#### Response from a believer

- Christians believe themselves to be followers of Jesus and regard their duty to follow his teaching and ideals to the best of their ability. This is discipleship. The teachings of Jesus as recorded in the [New Testament](#).
- The lives of some well-known Christians whose faith has shaped their lives, both national and international but also local people who may well be known to the community, including the young.
- Christians believe they are responsible stewards of the planet, including loving your neighbour.

### Festivals and celebrations

- The [Eucharist](#), how and why it is celebrated in at least one denomination and understand its meaning.
- The significance of [Christmas](#), [Easter](#) and [Pentecost](#) and know the biblical events that they celebrate. Know that these festivals are celebrated differently around the world.

### Place of worship

- Church as a Christian place of worship and key elements of a church.
- Know and understand the major differences between the church buildings of at least two different Christian denominations.
- How Christians worship.

## Buddhism Key Stage 2

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Places of Worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- [Siddhartha Gautama](#) – the Buddha’s life and that he was a wise person, not a god.

#### Teachings

- The life story of Siddhartha Gautama who became the [Buddha](#) including his birth and upbringing, the four sights which led to his renunciation, his years in the forest, and his final enlightenment (Bodhi tree).
- The Buddha is represented in many different forms and that these reflect different aspects of his nature.

#### Response from a believer

- The Buddha formulated a four-part understanding of the nature of life, which is known as the four noble truths.
- Buddhists promise not to harm living beings; take what is not given; misuse the senses; use wrong speech or take drugs or alcohol.
- Understand how Buddhist values permeate a Buddhist lifestyle.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Appreciate how the Buddhist community (Sangha) is made up. Know about the lifestyle of monks and nuns, and understand the symbols of the robes, shaven heads and alms bowls.
- Know how an alms bowl is used and understand its significance.

#### Places of Worship

- Buddhists give reverence to the Buddha with shrines at home and in temples.

## Hinduism Key Stage 2

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- [Brahman](#) is one but can be worshipped in many different forms, as different deities.
- Some of the deities are male and others female. The different characteristics and family connections, including [Shiva](#), [Parvati](#) and [Ganesha](#). Pluralism in practice – plural ways to reach God.

#### Teachings

- Ideas behind the cycle of life. The individual soul. Finding your inner self.
- The important stories of the deities, [Rama](#) and [Sita](#) (from the [Ramayana](#)).
- Family values and living with others.

#### Response from a believer

- Respect for life in all its forms – non violence, the concept of ahimsa and its implications.
- Belief that respect for life is important, God, other people, all forms of life and particularly the cow.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Appreciate that there are diverse communities each celebrating in diverse ways.
- Celebrations to include [Diwali](#), [Havan](#) and [Navratiri](#).

#### Place of worship

- The family shrine and [puja](#) in the [mandir](#).
- Understand the role of murtis in worship, the importance of devotion to deities.

## Islam Key Stage 2

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Values and teaching
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- [Allah](#), the one incomparable, indivisible God.
- Some of the attributes/names of Allah, e.g. the Compassionate One, along with appreciation of the 99 names of God.
- That Allah is the Owner and Provider of all things.

#### Teachings

- The purpose of creation is to serve Allah.
- The importance of the 5 pillars of faith.
- [Muhammad](#), his life and calling to be a prophet, the first revelations of the [Qur'an](#), the [Hijrah](#), and the return to [Makkah](#).
- The Qur'an, the revealed word of Allah and therefore is very special. Know the different ways in which respect is accorded to it.

#### Response from a believer

- Muslims pray five times a day (Salat), how Muslims prepare, by wudu and in their heart and prayer positions.
- Muslims seek to submit to the will of Allah in all things and by doing so achieve peace, and harmony with others and the environment.
- Muslims must share and be generous with their possessions.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Muslims are obliged to fast annually during the month of Ramadan. The purpose and benefits of fasting (sawm), both physical and spiritual. Know that the end of the fast is celebrated at [Id ul Fitr](#).
- The rite of [Hajj](#); understand the significance of Hajj and various rites within it.

#### Place of worship

- The mosque is the place of worship and a community centre, the basic parts of a mosque and their uses.

“This Arabic ‘logo-type’ is composed of the words ‘Salla-llahu alaihi wa sallam’ – peace and blessings of Allah upon him. They are used by Muslims every time the Prophet Muhammad is mentioned. Similar respect is accorded to the other Prophets.

The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic; therefore, Arabic is the language of Islam, Islamic worship, theology, ethics and jurisprudence. Islam is inextricably linked with the Arabic language despite the variety of languages spoken by the believers.”

## Judaism Key Stage 2

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- God is the creator who reveals himself through his chosen people.

#### Teachings

- The history of the people, as recorded in the [Torah](#) – the call of Abraham, the call of Moses, the plagues of Egypt and the exodus of the Israelites, and entry into the promised land
- The Ten Commandments.
- Understanding the meaning of the covenant.

#### Response from a believer

- Following the commandment, 'Love thy neighbour as thyself'.
- Many Jews are members of orthodox congregations whilst there are other congregations with different interpretations and observances.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- The Passover festival, [Pesach](#) and [Seder](#).
- Love of God is celebrated through prayer, particularly on [Shabbat](#).
- [Yom Kippur](#) – Day of Atonement and concept of forgiveness.
- Family life and its values, Shabbat and the Friday night meal.
- The work of the scribe, the reading of the weekly portion, the annual cycle of readings, the festivals associated with the Torah and the importance of regular Torah study.

#### Place of worship

- The synagogue is the place of worship for Jewish people, its features and the role of the rabbi.
- How the Torah is treated in the synagogue. The [menorah](#) and the Ark.

## Sikhism Key Stage 2

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Sikhs believe in one God ([Ik Onkar](#)) and that God is described as the Creator and Sustainer, the Universal Truth.

#### Teachings

- Belief in life, birth and actions.
- Understand the particular meaning of the word Guru.
- [Guru Nanak](#) (1469-1539) founded Sikhism.
- The symbol of the Khanda. Know that the [Nishan Sahib](#) is the Sikh flag and has the symbol of the [Khanda](#) on it.

#### Response from a believer

- The Guru Granth Sahib is the revelation of God's message and understand that Sikhs live in obedience to it at all times. Know how respect is accorded to it.
- Sikhs believe that everyone should work honestly to earn their living. The importance of service and honesty.
- The importance of equality (both by race and sex) in Sikhism and how this value is reflected in Sikh lives.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- The significance of holy days, ceremonies and stories. Birthdays of Guru Nanak, [Guru Gobind Singh](#) and [Vaisakhi](#).

#### Place of worship

- The importance of the [Gurdwara](#) as the centre of the community, The langar and its example of charity to the wider community.



## **Religious Education**

# **Key Stage 3**

# Religious Education

## Key Stage 3

### Faith and Values Key Stage 3

#### Key areas of understanding

- Life stances – what makes me ‘ME’
- The communities where I belong
- BIG questions
- ‘Dealing with *stuff*’
- Keeping a perspective on life

#### Key ideas

##### Life stances – what makes me ‘ME’

- Life choices.
- Which comes first, me, my faith or my role as a citizen?

##### The communities where I belong

- The history of religion through investigations of different cultures.
- Citizenship and community cohesion.

##### BIG questions

- How different faiths deal with the issue of death and the end?
- An investigation on what different faith stances teach about life after death.
- Are we really free?

##### Dealing with stuff

- West and East.
- An adventure into alternative ideologies and systems other than those in the west, including the dependence on commerce and wealth as important life stances.
- Consideration of the role of post-modernism on faiths. To consider the effect of the 20th century history, philosophies and science has had on belief systems.

##### Keeping a perspective on life

- Culture and faith.
- The place of faith in a democracy.

## Christianity Key Stage 3

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Belief in a loving God who is understood as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- God is both the creator and the sustainer of all life.
- Christians believe that Jesus is both human and divine, that he reveals the will of God and is the saviour of humanity. That Jesus is a historical figure as shown in contemporary writings.
- Jesus as part of the Trinity, as shown through his baptism and transfiguration.
- The Holy Spirit its significance and application to life.
- Analysis of the biblical passages about the Holy Spirit.

#### Teachings

- The creation stories of Genesis showing the relationship between God and mankind. Further investigations of the Old Testament exploring this relationship.
- The miracles of Jesus and their teaching significance.
- Selected passages about Jesus, including his birth, baptism, temptations, transfiguration, relationships with people, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension.
- Events from the life of Jesus are recorded by the Gospel writers. Know that different writers had different emphasis. Understand that these accounts are open to interpretation.
- The teachings of Jesus shown through parables, with particular reference to the Sermon on the Mount.
- The importance of the Bible and different ways in which it was both written and is now interpreted by various different Christian denominations.

#### Response from a believer

- Humankind is in need of God's loving forgiveness.
- Christians regard themselves as disciples of Jesus and understand some of the implications of discipleship.
- The implication of Christendom to the culture and of the significant differences for those churches outside of chistendom, reflecting on the tension between personal faith values and the surrounding culture.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Rites of passage (confirmation, membership and baptism as statements of parts of discipleship).
- Christians celebrate and commemorate important festivals in the Christian calendar including Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas and Pentecost.

#### Place of worship

- Christians worship in many ways both within the country and across the world showing a wide range of traditions.
- Christians express their understanding of God through a rich symbolic tradition with reference to a wide range of different ways of worship.

## Buddhism Key Stage 3

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- [Siddhartha Gautama](#) – the [Buddha](#)'s life and that he was a wise person, not a god.

#### Teachings

- Siddhartha Gautama was a human prince and know stories from his life including the four sights, his renunciation, his years in the forest and his final enlightenment, when he became Buddha.
- Siddhartha Gautama overcame suffering and achieved enlightenment.
- Out of compassion Siddhartha Gautama chose to teach others how they could overcome suffering.

#### Response from a believer

- The Buddha realised that life is [dukkha](#), and understand what this means. Understand what Buddhists mean by the four noble truths.
- Buddhists try to become free from hatred, greed and ignorance.
- There are different Buddhist philosophies and approaches each with its own character and begin to differentiate between them.
- Buddhists believe in [kamma](#) and understand that this means they believe that for every intentional thought, word and deed there is an effect.
- Know the five moral precepts and how Buddhists express these in their own lives.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Appreciate how the Buddhist community ([Sangha](#)) is made up. Know about the lifestyle of monks and nuns, and understand the symbols of the robes, shaven heads and alms bowls.
- Know how an alms bowl is used and understand its significance.

#### Place of worship

- Buddhists give reverence to the Buddha with shrines at home and in temples.

## Hinduism Key Stage 3

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- [Brahman](#) is the ultimate impersonal, formless and supreme being.
- Brahman is worshipped in many diverse forms each reflecting a different aspect.
- Interpret symbols associated with a limited number of deities. e.g. [Shiva Natarajah](#), [Vishnu](#) and Brahman. The essential nature's 'spirit', rather than body and mind, respecting all as the *spark* of God.

#### Teachings

- The Hindu scriptures, making clear the distinction between myth and philosophy.
- The Hindu concept of time as an endless cycle of creation, preservation and destruction.
- Idea of [moksha](#) and [samsara](#) (ie reincarnation).
- The characters and central stories of some of the following: [Krishna](#), [Vishnu](#), [Shiva](#), [Kali](#), [Durga](#), [Lakshmi](#), [Ganesha](#), [Rama](#), and [Hanuman](#).

#### Response from a believer

- [Dharma](#) and [karma](#). Seeing and serving God in man.
- Hindu society and the diversity. Seeing and serving God in man.
- The importance of vegetarianism, vows, yoga and fasting.
- Taking responsibility and accepting the consequences

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Family roles and customs.

#### Place of worship

- Worship in the home and in the [mandir](#) including [Havan](#), [Arti](#) and [Puja](#)
- Pilgrimage in India.

## Islam Key Stage 3

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- There is one God, Supreme and Unique, and that the revelation given to the Prophet [Muhammad](#) is the final and complete revelation of [Allah](#) for all humans.
- Allah is both immanent and transcendent. Understand the meaning of the terms transcendent and immanent.

#### Teachings

- Key events from the life of Muhammad.
- The importance of the [Qur'an](#).

#### Response from a believer

- Worship is obedience to God in all aspects of life.
- Muslims worship Allah by [Taqwa](#): an awareness of God all day every day, and an effort to be in communication with Allah at all times.
- Dietary laws and rules of modesty and equality, including the [Hijab](#).

#### Festivals and celebrations

- The rite of [Hajj](#) – understand the significance of Hajj and various rites within it.
- The obligation to fast annually during the month of [Ramadan](#).
- Understand the trials and benefits of this, both physical and spiritual.
- Know how the end of the fast is celebrated at [Eid ul Fitr](#).
- The rites of birth, marriage and death are marked and celebrated in [Islam](#) and the key beliefs associated with each.

#### Place of worship

- Know the purpose, parts of and basic architecture of mosques.
- The importance of the mosque, Muslim community and the extended family.

“This Arabic ‘logo-type’ is composed of the words ‘Salla-llahu alaihi wa sallam’ – peace and blessings of Allah upon him. They are used by Muslims every time the Prophet Muhammad is mentioned. Similar respect is accorded to the other Prophets.

The Qur’an was revealed in Arabic; therefore, Arabic is the language of Islam, Islamic worship, theology, ethics and jurisprudence. Islam is inextricably linked with the Arabic language despite the variety of languages spoken by the believers.”

## Judaism Key Stage 3

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Creator God, as described in psalms, [Shema](#) and other stories. The divine presence of God (Shekhina) and action in history.

#### Teachings

- Creation stories as an example of God's relationship with creation.
- The [Torah](#) and [Tenakh](#) are of great importance to Jews.
- Understand how respect is shown to the [Sefer Torah](#), in its use in worship and study and in the manner in which it is treated in the synagogue and during the festivals of [Shavuot](#) and [Simhat Torah](#).
- Actions of God in history have served to liberate and support the Jewish people in exchange for their allegiance, and also on occasion to punish them.
- Jews use the [Shema](#) to remind them of their faith through [tefillin](#) and the presence of [mezuzot](#).
- Key symbols of Judaism: [menorah](#), [mezuzah](#) and [Magen David](#).

#### Response from a believer

- Jews seek to obey commandments set out in the Torah as a way of serving God and understand the nature and effect of these laws.
- The [mizvot](#) ensures that Jews are engaged in tzedaka (charity). Key values of tefillah, repentance and [tzedaka](#).

### Festivals and celebrations

- Family life and its values, [Shabbat](#) and the Friday night meal. Symbols of Sabbath candles and loaves of bread (cholas).
- The major festivals including Succoth, Rosh Hashanah, [Yom Kippur](#) and [Shavuot](#).
- Understand what is remembered and celebrated during the [Pesach](#) festival.
- The place of family and tradition, the sense of identity. The rites of passage are celebrated in Judaism and understand the central issues surrounding each one, including [Brit Milah](#), Bar/Bat Mizvah, Kiddushin (marriage), and death.

### Place of worship

- The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship and understand the role of the synagogue and the rabbi in the community. Understand the meaning of the ark and the temple in Jewish worship.

## Sikhism Key Stage 3

### Key areas of understanding

- Ideas of God
- Teachings
- Response from a believer
- Festivals and celebrations
- Place of worship

### Key ideas

#### Ideas of God

- Sikhs believe in one universal God (Ik Onkar), who is self revealing, the enlightener or Guru, self-consistent, immanent, and the Creator.
- Description of God in the Mool Mantra.

#### Teachings

- The importance of Guru Granth Sahib, the vak, the akhand path and its presence at important ceremonies.
- The teachings of the Guru Granth Sahib that are revered rather than the scripture itself.
- The outlines of the lives of Guru Nanak and some of the other ten Gurus and an understanding of their significance.

#### Response from a believer

- That Sikhs seek freedom from self-centredness and aim towards God-centredness.
- The symbolism of the 5Ks as Sikh articles of faith.
- Issues of prohibitions (ritually slaughtered meat, narcotics...).
- Principles of living, honesty, sharing of time and talents.
- Key values of equality.
- Sewa is a key value for Sikhs and how it is manifested in Sikh lives.

#### Festivals and celebrations

- Pattern and significance of naming, turban tying and other ceremonies.
- The significance of Vaisakhi as confirmation of the independent religion and nation by Guru Gobind Singh.
- Worship and ceremony; prayer, contemplation, importance of the hymns of Guru Granth Sahib.
- Rites of passage.

#### Place of worship

- The parts of a gurdwara and understand the importance of the sangat, the langar, the nishan sahib, khanda.
- Understand the importance of the gurdwaras as a focus for life within the Khalsa and as the place that houses the Guru Granth Sahib.
- The langar is used and the various rationales behind it, e.g. sewa (selfless service with humility), equality, sharing with others, non-discrimination, community.

# Appendix 1



# Assessment and Attainment Levels

## Attainment target scale

In order to support teachers in judging attainment, this guidance is linked to the latest national guidance on standards in Religious Education from QCDA, an eight level scale of attainment in Religious Education, which is published as part of DCSF/QCDA's Religious Education: non-statutory guidance in Religious Education document.

The scale is based on two Religious Education attainment targets that describe the knowledge, skills and understanding that pupils are expected to have reached by the end of the key stage.

The attainment targets consist of eight levels of increasing difficulty, plus a description of exceptional performance above level eight. Each level describes the type and range of performance that pupils should demonstrate.

In summary, the approach to assessment described here is principally designed to:

- maximise the progress and achievement of all pupils;
- improve the quality of teaching and learning;
- inform and improve reports to parents, carers and guardians; and
- be manageable and effective for teachers in the classroom.

## Identifying opportunities for summative assessment

A Religious Education scheme of work organises the content of the agreed syllabus into manageable units of work across the year groups of each key stage. Pupils should be given credit for achievement whenever it is demonstrated, whether informally or through planned activities. Each unit of work will provide information about pupils' attainment. Any classroom activity can be seen as an assessment opportunity, though not necessarily for all pupils at the same time. Therefore, teachers will frequently be using a range of formative and diagnostic assessment strategies throughout these units, to make sure that the next steps of learning are at a level appropriate for each pupil.

Schools will also need to consider how often they intend to make summative assessments linked to the eight level scale. This should be done either at the end of each half-term unit, or each full-term unit of work depending on the scheme of work.

## Beginning and end of unit assessment

At the start, or before the start, of a new unit of work, it is invaluable for both teachers and pupils to be aware of what pupils already know and understand. In this way, pupils recognise when they are adding new learning to their existing knowledge and understanding. Also, teachers are better informed of different pupils' starting points and can plan more effectively for every pupil. At the end of the unit, teacher and pupils are able to recognise and celebrate progress and achievement.

**Before the unit this is what I know about...**

Name:

Date:

**At the end of the unit this is what I have learned...**

Name:

Date:

## Pupil self-assessment

The involvement of pupils through reflection and self-evaluation is an essential part, not only of good assessment practice, but also of reaching a deeper understanding of Religious Education.

The following self-assessment frames are designed to fulfil both these objectives, and are particularly useful in providing evidence for attainment target 2. Short response sheets like these can help pupils to record their reflections and responses to experiences.

**We talked about...**

**And at the end I thought...**

**We discussed...**

**My opinion is...**

At the end of the school year, the teacher can select from the range of evidence that exists, and those pieces that provide the most useful evidence of achievement and progress for the next teacher.

## AT1 Learning about religion

How pupils develop their knowledge, skills and understanding with reference to:

Level	<i>beliefs, teachings and sources</i>	<i>practices and ways of life</i>	<i>forms of expression</i>
	<b>I can</b>	<b>I can</b>	<b>I can</b>
1	remember a Christian (Hindu, etc.) story and talk about it e.g. talk about the story of Diwali	use the right names for things that are special to Buddhists (Jews, etc) e.g. say "That is a Church", or "She's praying" when my teacher shows me a picture	recognise religious art, symbols and words and talk about them e.g. say "That is a Star of David" when my teacher shows me a picture
2	tell a Christian (Sikh, etc.) story and say some things that people believe e.g. tell the story of the birth of Jesus say that Christians believe in God	talk about some of the things that that are the same for different religious people e.g. say that Christians and Sikhs both have holy books	say what some Christian (Muslim, etc) symbols stand for and say what some of the art (music, etc) is about e.g. say that the cross reminds Christians that Jesus died on a cross
3	describe what a believer might learn from a religious story e.g. make a connection between the story of the forming of the Khalsa and the need for Sikhs to be brave in times of trouble	describe some of the things that are the same and different for religious people e.g. note how Muslims and Sikhs both treat their holy books with respect by keeping them higher than other books e.g note that Muslims and Christians both pray but in different ways	use religious words to describe some of the different ways in which people show their beliefs e.g. label a picture of Shiva Nataraja to show links with Hindu beliefs about God
4	make links between the beliefs (teachings, sources, etc.) of different religious groups and show how they are connected to believers' lives e.g. make links between Qur'anic and Biblical sources and Muslim and Jewish charities e.g. connect some sayings of Jesus with different Christian beliefs about animals	use the right religious words to describe and compare what practices and experiences may be involved in belonging to different religious groups e.g. use some Pali or Sanskrit terms in describing two different Buddhist types of meditation e.g. compare the way that Hindus and Buddhists might meditate	express religious beliefs (ideas, feelings, etc) in a range of styles and words used by believers and suggest what they mean e.g. draw and label the key features inside two churches, indicating their meaning for those who worship there
5	suggest reasons for the similar and different beliefs which people hold, and explain how religious sources are used to provide answers to important questions about life and morality e.g. compare different Jewish beliefs about the Messiah and say how different interpretations may come about, using biblical and other texts to illustrate their answers	describe why people belong to religions and explain how similarities and differences within and between religions can make a difference to the lives of individuals and communities e.g. write an account of Hajj which explains why many Shi'a Muslims will go on to visit the tomb of Ali because they believe that he was the rightful successor to the Prophet Muhammad	use a wide religious vocabulary in suggesting reasons for the similarities and differences in forms of religious, spiritual and moral expression found within and between religions e.g. produce a survey of different forms of creative religious expression and suggestions for similarities and differences between them

## AT1 Learning about religion

How pupils develop their knowledge, skills and understanding with reference to:

Level	<i>beliefs, teachings and sources</i>	<i>practices and ways of life</i>	<i>forms of expression</i>
	<b>I can</b>	<b>I can</b>	<b>I can</b>
6	<p>say what religions teach about some of the big questions of life, using different sources and arguments to explain the reasons for diversity within and between them</p> <p>e.g. complete a poster demonstrating two contrasting religious views on astrology and making reference to religious texts and teachings which support the alternative teachings</p>	<p>say what different practices and ways of life followers of religions have developed, explaining how beliefs have had different effects on individuals, communities and societies</p> <p>e.g. prepare a guide for Anglican Christians on the celebration of Easter in the Orthodox Church, showing how resurrection belief is expressed in different ways</p>	<p>use correct religious and philosophical vocabulary in explaining what the significance of different forms of religious, spiritual and moral expression might be for believers</p> <p>e.g. produce a booklet illustrating and explaining different sorts of symbolic expression involved in the life of a Buddhist monk or nun</p>
7	<p>present a coherent picture of religious beliefs, values and responses to questions of meaning and truth which takes account of personal research on different religious topics and a variety of sources and evidence</p> <p>e.g. using books and the internet, investigate Sikh beliefs about the importance of the Guru and do a presentation which coherently illustrates a variety of views</p>	<p>show how religious activity in today's world has been affected by the past and by traditions, and how belonging to a religion may mean different things to different people, even within the same religion</p> <p>e.g. produce two 'pen-pictures' of Muslims from different communities and explain how history and culture have influenced the way they put their faith into practice in different ways</p>	<p>use a wide religious and philosophical vocabulary as well as different forms of expression in presenting a clear picture of how people express their religious, spiritual and ethical beliefs in a variety of ways</p> <p>e.g. produce an illustrated guide to representations of Jesus from different times and cultures, explaining the Christian beliefs and values presented through the different media</p>
8	<p>analyse the results of different sorts of research and place different interpretations of religious, spiritual and moral sources in their historical, cultural, social and philosophical contexts</p> <p>e.g. research the internet and interview individuals to produce a contextual comparison of interpretations of the resurrection of Jesus</p>	<p>weigh up different points of view and come to a conclusion on how religions and beliefs make a difference to communities and societies in different times and places</p> <p>e.g. conduct a questionnaire and produce findings on whether religion has had a mostly good or bad effect on different local communities</p>	<p>use a comprehensive religious and philosophical vocabulary in weighing up the meaning and importance of different forms of religious, spiritual and moral expression</p> <p>e.g. select some items of Buddhist artistic expression for an exhibition and produce a booklet of explanations of the symbolism and impact of the items for Buddhist belief and practice over time</p>
EP	<p>provide a consistent and detailed analysis of religions and beliefs and of how religious, spiritual and moral sources are interpreted in different ways, with an evaluation of the different methods of study used to conduct the analysis</p> <p>e.g. write an article on 'mystical experience' which includes an evaluation of the research techniques used to gather information about it</p>	<p>evaluate in depth the importance of religious diversity in a pluralistic society and demonstrate how religion and beliefs have had a changing impact on different communities over time</p> <p>e.g. write a report on a local religious community which analyses their place within wider society and evaluates the factors which have affected how relations with other local groups have changed over time</p>	<p>use a complex religious, moral and philosophical vocabulary in effectively synthesising my accounts of the varied forms of religious, spiritual and moral expression</p> <p>e.g. prepare a 'virtual' tour of a local Place of worship which uses digital pictures of artefacts and architecture and includes consistent explanations of the symbolism employed in expressing religious, spiritual and moral beliefs ideas and feelings</p>

## AT2 Learning from religion

How pupils, in the light of their learning about religion, express their responses and insights with regard to questions and issues about:

<i>Level</i>	<i>identity and belonging</i>	<i>meaning, purpose and truth</i>	<i>values and commitments</i>
	<b>I can</b>	<b>I can</b>	<b>I can</b>
1	talk about things that happen to me e.g. talk about how I felt when my baby brother was born	talk about what I find interesting or puzzling e.g. say "I like the bit when Krishna helped his friend"	talk about what is important to me and to other people e.g. talk about how I felt when I gave a present to my friend and how I think that made my friend feel
2	ask about what happens to others with respect for their feelings e.g. say that some people dance, sing, recite for God	talk about some things in stories that make people ask questions e.g. say "Was Jonah hurt after being inside the big fish?"	talk about what is important to me and to others with respect for their feelings e.g. say "I agree with the rule about not stealing as stealing is not fair"
3	compare some of the things that influence me with those that influence other people e.g. talk about how Jesus influenced his disciples and how friends influence them	ask important questions about life and compare my ideas with those of other people e.g. ask why many people believe in life after death, give their view and compare with a particular religious view	link things that are important to me and other people with the way I think and behave e.g. talk about how listening to a story about generosity might make them behave when they hear about people who are suffering
4	ask questions about who we are and where we belong, and suggest answers which refer to people who have inspired and influenced myself and others e.g. write an imaginary interview with a member of a minority religious community, referring to the beliefs which sustain them	ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life, and suggest a range of answers which might be given by me as well as members of different religious groups or individuals e.g. write some questions about life after death and provide answers that refer to resurrection and reincarnation	ask questions about the moral decisions I and other people make, and suggest what might happen as a result of different decisions, including those made with reference to religious beliefs/values e.g. write a report about the environment and suggest what might happen depending on different moral choices that could be made
5	give my own and others' views on questions about who we are and where we belong and on the challenges of belonging to a religion and explain what inspires and influences me e.g. write a 'question and answer' style report on what it may like to be a member of a religious community in Britain today and outline what impresses them about this religious identity and community	ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life and suggest answers which relate to the search for truth and my own and others' lives e.g. write a short story which raises questions about what is 'true' and which relates to their own personal search for meaning in life	ask questions about things that are important to me and to other people and suggest answers which relate to my own and others' lives e.g. write a report on a moral issue in the news, interviewing key people in the debate and including religious views and the potential impact of those views on their own and others' lives
6	consider the challenges of belonging to a religion today with reference to my own and other people's views on human nature and society, supporting those views with reasons and examples	use reasoning and examples to express insights into my own and others' views on questions about the meaning and purpose of life and the search for truth	use reasoning and examples to express insights into the relationship between beliefs, teachings and world issues, focusing on things that are important to me

## AT2 Learning from religion

How pupils, in the light of their learning about religion, express their responses and insights with regard to questions and issues about:

<i>Level</i>	<i>identity and belonging</i>	<i>meaning, purpose and truth</i>	<i>values and commitments</i>
	<b>I can</b>	<b>I can</b>	<b>I can</b>
6	e.g. write a news report on different Sikh attitudes to aspects of 'British' culture, explaining how Sikh views of human nature and society affect their views	e.g. produce a booklet of ideas about the 'Good Life' with reference to religious and non-religious points of view and their own conclusions	e.g. produce an e-media presentation on religious views of 'terrorism' with reference to religious and non-religious points of view and their own conclusions
7	give my personal view with reasons and examples on what value religious and other views might have for understanding myself and others e.g. produce a summary of my own personal and social relationships alongside an analysis of Hindu and other insights into human nature and community	give my personal view with reasons and examples on what value religious and other views might have for understanding questions about the meaning and purpose of life e.g. following research into samsara and nirvana, produce a dialogue I might have with a(nother) Buddhist about the future of humanity	give my personal view with reasons and examples on what value religious and other views might have for understanding what is important to me and to other people e.g. following research into Jewish and Humanist views on 'faith' schools, produce a report with my recommendations on an application for a new Jewish foundation school
8	weigh up in detail a wide range of viewpoints on questions about who we are and where we belong, and come to my own conclusions based on evidence, arguments, reflections and examples e.g. write an article entitled, 'What is a Jew'? making use of Jewish and non-Jewish points of view and coming to a conclusion that takes account of religious, cultural and philosophical perspectives	weigh up in detail a wide range of viewpoints on questions about truth and the meaning and purpose of life, and come to my own conclusions based on evidence, arguments, reflections and examples e.g. write a speech for or against the motion that 'science will one day remove all need for religion', and coming to a conclusion that takes account of religious, philosophical and historical perspectives	weigh up in detail a wide range of viewpoints on questions about values and commitments, and come to my own conclusions based on evidence, arguments, reflections and examples e.g. write a dialogue between a Muslim and Hindu on how religious insights might save us from environmental disaster and write a conclusion that takes account of religious and social perspectives
EP	analyse in depth a wide range of perspectives on questions about who we are and where we belong and provide independent, well informed and highly reasoned insights into my own and others' perspectives on religious and spiritual issues, with well-substantiated and balanced conclusions e.g. research one 'Eastern' and one 'Western' religious view of human nature and write a report with conclusions on how far the two can be harmonised	analyse in depth a wide range of perspectives on questions about truth and the meaning and purpose of life, and provide independent, well informed and highly reasoned insights into my own and others' perspectives on religious and spiritual issues, with well-substantiated and balanced conclusions e.g. research the history of human achievement and kindness within two religions/ belief systems and write a message in defence of human beings to an alien species who think it would be better to wipe us off the face of the planet	analyse in depth a wide range of perspectives on questions about values and commitments and provide independent, well informed and highly reasoned insights into my own and others' perspectives on religious and spiritual issues, with well-substantiated and balanced conclusions e.g. conduct research on different attitudes to religious believers and write a report with conclusions on whether there should be a law against religious discrimination



# Special Educational Needs Assessment in Religious Education

## P scales

Although the use of P scales is statutory for children with special educational needs who are working below level 1 of the National Curriculum, **it is recognised that they are not helpful in assessing AT1**, in that they are all content free. Schools will need to use P scales along with the National Attainment levels to reach a 'best fit' level.

The P scales are not to be used to assess children with EAL at any age unless they have additional special educational needs.

Performance - P level - descriptions:

### P1 (i)

Pupils encounter activities and experiences. They may be passive or resistant. They may show simple reflex responses, [for example, startling at sudden noises or movements]. Any participation is fully prompted.

### P1 (ii)

Pupils show emerging awareness of activities and experiences. They may have periods when they appear alert and ready to focus their attention on certain people, events, objects or parts of objects, [for example, becoming still in response to silence]. They may give intermittent reactions, [for example, vocalising occasionally during group celebrations and acts of worship].

### P2 (i)

Pupils begin to respond consistently to familiar people, events and objects. They react to new activities and experiences, [for example, briefly looking around in unfamiliar natural and manmade environments]. They begin to show interest in people, events and objects, [for example, leaning towards the source of a light, sound or scent]. They accept and engage in coactive exploration, [for example, touching a range of religious artefacts and found objects in partnership with a member of staff].

### P2 (ii)

Pupils begin to be proactive in their interactions. They communicate consistent preferences and affective responses, [for example, showing that

they have enjoyed an experience or interaction]. They recognise familiar people, events and objects, [for example, becoming quiet and attentive during a certain piece of music]. They perform actions, often by trial and improvement, and they remember learned responses over short periods of time, [for example, repeating a simple action with an artefact]. They cooperate with shared exploration and supported participation, [for example, performing gestures during ritual exchanges with another person performing gestures].

### P3 (i)

Pupils begin to communicate intentionally. They seek attention through eye contact, gesture or action. They request events or activities, [for example, prompting a visitor to prolong an interaction]. They participate in shared activities with less support. They sustain concentration for short periods. They explore materials in increasingly complex ways, [for example, stroking or shaking artefacts or found objects]. They observe the results of their own actions with interest, [for example, when vocalising in a quiet place]. They remember learned responses over more extended periods, [for example, following a familiar ritual and responding appropriately].

### P3 (ii)

Pupils use emerging conventional communication. They greet known people and may

Initiate interactions and activities, [for example, prompting an adult to sing or play a favourite song]. They can remember learned responses over increasing periods of time and may anticipate known events, [for example, celebrating the achievements of their peers in assembly]. They may respond to options and choices with actions or gestures, [for example, choosing to participate in activities]. They actively explore objects and events for more extended periods, [for example, contemplating the flickering of a candle flame]. They apply potential solutions systematically to problems, [for example, passing an artefact to a peer in order to prompt participation in a group activity].

**P4**

Pupils use single elements of communication, [for example, words, gestures, signs or symbols, to express their feelings]. They show they understand 'yes' and 'no'. They begin to respond to the feelings of others, [for example, matching their emotions and laughing when another pupil is laughing]. They join in with activities by initiating ritual actions or sounds. They may demonstrate an appreciation of stillness and quietness.

**P5**

Pupils respond appropriately to simple questions about familiar religious events or Experiences and communicate simple meanings. They respond to a variety of new religious experiences, [for example, involving music, drama colour, lights, food, or tactile objects]. They take part in activities involving two or three other learners. They may also engage in moments of individual reflection.

**P6**

Pupils express and communicate their feelings in different ways. They respond to others in group situations and cooperate when working in small groups. Pupils listen to, and begin to respond to, familiar religious stories, poems and music, and make their own contribution to celebrations and festivals. They carry out ritualised actions in familiar circumstances. They show concern and sympathy for others in distress, [for example, through gestures, facial expressions or by offering comfort]. They start to be aware of their own influence on events and other people.

**P7**

Pupils listen to and follow religious stories. They communicate their ideas about religion, life events and experiences in simple phrases. They evaluate their own work and behaviour in simple ways, beginning to identify some actions as right or wrong on the basis of the consequences. They find out about aspects of religion through stories, music or drama, answer questions and communicate their responses. They may communicate their feelings about what is special to them, [for example, using role play]. They begin to understand that other people have needs and to respect these. They make purposeful relationships with others in group activity.

**P8**

Pupils listen attentively to religious stories or to people talking about religion. They begin to understand that religious and other stories carry moral and religious meaning. They are increasingly able to communicate ideas, feelings or responses to experiences or to retell religious stories. They communicate simple facts about religion and important people in religions.

They begin to realise the significance of religious artefacts, symbols and places. They reflect on what makes them happy, sad, excited or lonely. They demonstrate a basic understanding of what is right and wrong in familiar situations. They are often sensitive to the needs and feelings of others and show respect for themselves and others. They treat living things and their environment with care and concern.



# Appendix 2

# Religious Education statutory obligations

## Section 69 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, Duty to secure due provision of Religious Education

- (1) Subject to section 71, in relation to any community, foundation or voluntary school:
  - (a) the local education authority and the Governing Body shall exercise their functions with a view to securing, and
  - (b) the head teacher shall secure, that Religious Education is given in accordance with the provision for such education included in the school's basic curriculum by virtue of section 352(1)(a) of the [1996 c. 56.] Education Act 1996.
- (2) Schedule 19 has effect for determining the provision for Religious Education which is required by section 352(1)(a) of that Act to be included in the basic curriculum of schools within each of the following categories, namely:
  - (a) community schools and foundation and voluntary schools which do not have a religious character,
  - (b) foundation and voluntary controlled schools which have a religious character, and
  - (c) voluntary aided schools which have a religious character.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part a foundation or voluntary school has a religious character if it is designated as a school having such a character by an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (4) An order under subsection (3) shall state, in relation to each school designated by the order, the religion or religious denomination in accordance with whose tenets Religious Education is, or may be, required to be provided at the school in accordance with Schedule 19 (or, as the case may be, each such religion or religious denomination).
- (5) The procedure to be followed in connection with:
  - (a) the designation of a school in an order under subsection (3), and
  - (b) the inclusion in such an order, in relation to a school, of the statement required by subsection (4),shall be specified in regulations.

## Provision of Religious Education

Provisions concerning RE can be found in sections 69 and 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Schedule 19.

All maintained schools should provide Religious Education (RE) and collective worship for their pupils, unless they have been withdrawn by their parents. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and sixth-form pupils are able to withdraw themselves. The right of withdrawal from RE and collective worship is set out in section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

RE in all community schools and all foundation and voluntary schools without a religious character must follow the agreed syllabus for the area. The agreed syllabus is drawn up by the LA, taking advice from local bodies. The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), a local body made up of representatives from faith groups, teachers and the LA advise on RE and collective worship issues, whereas the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), a subset of the SACRE, recommend new syllabuses.

The headteacher shares responsibility with the LA and the Governing Body for making sure that the RE requirements are met.

All locally agreed syllabuses must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are mainly Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) has issued non-statutory guidance on RE for schools.

The precise nature of RE at a foundation or voluntary school will depend on the religious character of the school. Whether a foundation or voluntary school has a religious character and the particular religion or religious denomination concerned is set out in The Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (England) Order 1999 (SI 1999 No. 2432), or, for schools approved to enter the maintained sector after 1 September 1999, the Order designating the school. There are no foundation special schools which have a religious character.

## Voluntary-aided schools with a religious character

RE in a voluntary-aided school with a religious character must be provided in accordance with the schools trust deed or, where provision is not made by a trust deed, in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified in the Order referred to above.

Where parents ask for RE to be provided for any pupils according to the locally agreed syllabus, and it is not convenient for them to attend a school at which the syllabus is in use, the Governing Body must make arrangements. This requirement is lifted if, because of any special circumstances, it would be unreasonable to do so.

## Foundation and voluntary-controlled schools with a religious character

RE in a foundation or voluntary-controlled school with a religious character must be provided in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for the area. However, where parents request it, provision may be made in accordance with the schools trust deed or, where provision is not made by trust deed, in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified in the Order referred to above. This requirement is lifted if, because of any special circumstances, it would be unreasonable to do so. The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that such Religious Education is provided for not more than two periods in each week. The headteacher shares responsibility with the LA and the Governing Body for making sure that the RE requirements are met.

## Teachers

Teachers cannot be required to teach RE except where the law provides otherwise. This would normally only apply in a maintained school with a religious designation.

Provisions concerning RE can be found in sections 69 and 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Schedule 19.

# Glossary

## Christianity

### Advent

Coming. The period beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (40 days before Christmas in the Eastern orthodox tradition). A time of spiritual preparation for Christmas.

### Altar

Table used for Eucharist, Mass, Lord's Supper. Some denominations refer to it as Holy Table or Communion Table.

### Anglican

Churches in full communion with the See of Canterbury. Their origins and traditions are linked to the Church of England, and are part of the Anglican Communion.

### Apostle

One who was sent out by Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel.

### Ascension

The event, 40 days after the Resurrection, when Jesus 'ascended into heaven' (see Luke 24 and Acts 1).

### Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent. In some Churches, penitents receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their foreheads.

### Atonement

Reconciliation between God and humanity; restoring a relationship broken by sin.

### Baptism

Rite of initiation involving immersion in, or sprinkling or pouring of water.

### Baptist

(i) A member of the Baptist Church, which grew out of the Anabaptist movement during the 16th century Reformation.

(ii) A Christian who practises Believer's Baptism.

### BCE

Before Christian Era.

### Bible

Christian holy book made up of both Old Testament and New Testament.

### CE

Christian Era. The Christian calendar dates from the estimated date of the birth of Jesus Christ.

### Christ

The anointed one. Messiah is used in the Jewish tradition to refer to the expected leader sent by God, who will bring salvation to God's people. Jesus' followers applied this title to him, and its Greek equivalent, Christ, is the source of the words Christian and Christianity.

### Christmas

Festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ (25 December, in most Churches).

### Church

The whole community of Christians.  
(ii) The building in which Christians worship.  
(iii) A particular denomination.

### Crucifixion

Roman method of executing criminals and traitors by fastening them to a cross until they died of asphyxiation; used in the case of Jesus Christ and many who opposed the Romans.

### Disciple

One of the biblical followers of Jesus Christ, one who follows Jesus today.

### Easter

Central Christian festival which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

### Epistle

From the Greek word for letter. Several such letters or epistles, from Christian leaders to Christian Churches or individuals, are included in the New Testament.

### Eucharist

Thanksgiving. A service celebrating the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, using elements of bread and wine (see Holy Communion).

### Evangelical

Group, or church, placing particular emphasis on the Gospel and the scriptures as the sole authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

### Evangelist

A writer of one of the four New Testament Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; a preacher of the Gospel.

### Father

Term used to describe God and his relationship with people.

### Font

Receptacle to hold water used in baptism.

### Forgiveness

Act of forgiving, pardoning.

### Good Friday

The Friday in Holy Week. Commemorates the day Jesus died on the cross.

### Gospel

Good news (of salvation in Jesus Christ).

(ii) An account of Jesus' life and work.

### Holy Communion

Central liturgical service observed by most Churches (see Eucharist, Mass, Lord's Supper, Liturgy). Recalls the last meal of Jesus, and celebrates his sacrificial and saving death.

### Holy Spirit

The third person of the Holy Trinity. Active as divine presence and power in the world and in-dwelling in believers to make them like Christ and empower them to do God's will.

### Holy Week

The week before Easter, when Christians recall the last week of Jesus' life on Earth.

**Icon/Ikon**

Painting or mosaic of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, a saint, or a Church feast. Used as an aid to devotion, usually in the Orthodox tradition.

**Incarnation**

The doctrine that God took human form in Jesus Christ. It is also the belief that God in Christ is active in the Church and in the world.

**Jesus Christ**

The central figure of Christian history and devotion. The second person of the Trinity.

**Lectern**

Stand supporting the Bible, often in the shape of an eagle.

**Lent**

Penitential season. The 40 days leading up to Easter.

**Lord**

Title used for Jesus to express his divine lordship over people, time and space.

**Love**

Doctrine of charity and care towards all.

**Mass**

Term for the Eucharist, used by the Roman Catholic and other Churches.

**Messiah**

Redeemer. Jesus Christ

**Miracle**

Supernatural act of power and often compassion.

**Nave**

Main aisle of a church.

**New Testament**

Collection of 27 books forming the second section of the Canon of Christian Scriptures.

**Old Testament**

That part of the Canon of Christian Scriptures that the Church shares with Judaism, covering the Hebrew Canon, and in the case of certain denominations, some books of the Apocrypha.

**Orthodox**

(i) The Eastern orthodox Church consisting of national Churches (mainly Greek or Slav), including the ancient Eastern Patriarchates. They hold the common Orthodox faith, and are in communion with the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

(ii) Conforming to the creeds sanctioned by the ecumenical councils, e.g. Nicaea, Chalcedon.

**Palm Sunday**

The Sunday before Easter, commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when he was acknowledged by crowds waving palm branches.

**Paschal Candle**

Candle lit during Eastertide to recall the resurrected presence of Jesus.

**Parable**

Narrative designed to elucidate meaning.

**Passion**

The sufferings of Jesus Christ, especially in the time leading up to his crucifixion.

**Pentecost**

The Greek name for the Jewish Festival of Weeks, or Shavuot, which comes seven weeks ('fifty days') after Passover. On the day of this feast, the followers of Jesus received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Pew**

Bench in a church, sometimes enclosed.

**Protestant**

That part of the Church which became distinct from the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches when their members professed (or 'protested' – hence Protestant) the centrality of the Bible and other beliefs. Members affirm that the Bible, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the ultimate authority for Christian teaching.

**Pulpit**

An elevated platform from which sermons are preached.

**Redemption**

Derived from the practice of paying the price of a slave's freedom; and so, the work of Jesus Christ in setting people free through his death.

**Resurrection**

The rising from the dead of Jesus Christ on the third day after the crucifixion.

The rising from the dead of believers at the Last Day.

The new, or risen, life of Christians.

**Rosary**

Beads used as an aid to meditation or prayer.

**Sacrament**

An outward sign of an inward blessing, as in baptism or the Eucharist.

**Lord's Supper**

Alternative term for Eucharist in some Churches (predominantly non-conformist).

**Sanctuary**

The part of the church considered most holy and containing the high altar.

**Sin**

Sin (original)

(i) Act of rebellion or disobedience against the known will of God.

(ii) An assessment of the human condition as disordered and in need of transformation.

**Son**

Description of Jesus Christ as Son of God

**Transfiguration**

Jesus Christ's change in form from earthly to heavenly.

**Trinity**

Three persons in one God; doctrine of the three-fold nature of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## Buddhism

### Anatta

No self; no soul. Insubstantiality; denial of a real or permanent self.

### Anicca

Impermanence; transience. Instability of all things, including the self.

### Atta

Self; soul.

### Bhikkhu

Fully ordained Buddhist monk.

### Bhikkhuni

Fully ordained Buddhist nun.

### Bodhi Tree

The tree (ficus religiosa) under which the Buddha realised Enlightenment. It is known as the Tree of Wisdom.

### Bodhisatta

A Wisdom Being. One intent on becoming, or destined to become, a Buddha. Gotama, before his Enlightenment as the historical Buddha.

### Buddha

Awakened or Enlightened One.

### Dalai Lama (Tibetan)

Great Ocean. Spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people.

### Dhamma

Universal law; ultimate truth. The teachings of the Buddha. A key Buddhist term.

### Dukkha

Suffering; ill; unsatisfactoriness; imperfection. The nature of existence according to the first Noble Truth.

### Dhammapada

Famous scripture of 423 verses.

### Enlightenment

As nibbana, a state of secure, perfect peace that follows complete freedom from greed, hatred and ignorance.

### Gautama

Family name of the Buddha

### Ihara

Dwelling place; monastery.

### Jataka

Birth story. Accounts of the previous lives of the Buddha.

### Kamma

Action. Intentional actions that affect one's circumstances in this and future lives. The Buddha's insistence that the effect depends on volition marks the Buddhist treatment of kamma as different from the Hindu understanding of karma.

### Khandas

Heap, Aggregate. The five khandas together make up the 'person' (form, feeling, perception, mental formation and consciousness).

### Nirodha

Cessation (of suffering). The third Noble Truth.

### Noble Truths

Four Noble Truths consist of the Buddha's understanding of the human condition: (i) what is wrong with life; (ii) why is it wrong; (iii) the good news that something can be done; (iv) what needs to be done.

### Magga

Path, leading to cessation of suffering. The fourth Noble Truth.

### Mahayana

Great Vehicle. One of the two main branches of the Buddhist tradition. The teachings that spread from India into Tibet, parts of Asia and the Far East.

### Mala

Also, Juzu (Japanese). String of 108 beads used in Buddhist practice (like a rosary).

### Metta

Loving-kindness. A pure love which is neither grasping nor possessive.

### Mudda

Ritual gesture, as illustrated by the hands of Buddha images.

### Nibbana

Blowing out of the fires of greed, hatred and ignorance, and the state of secure perfect peace that follows. A key Buddhist term.

### Panna

Wisdom. Understanding the trust nature of things.

### Sakyamuni

Sage of the Shakyas (the tribe of the Buddha). Title of the historical Buddha.

### Samadhi

Meditative absorption. A state of deep meditation.

### Samatha

One of the two forms of meditation.

### Samsara

Everyday life. The continual round of birth, sickness, old age and death which can be transcended by following the Eightfold Path and Buddhist teaching.

### Sanatha

A state of concentrated calmness.

### Sangha

Community; assembly. Often used for the order of bhikkhus and bhikkunis in Theravadin countries. In the Mahayana countries, the Sangha includes lay devotees and priests, e.g. in Japan.

### Sankhara

Mental/karmic formation. The fourth of the five khandas.

### Sanna

Perception. Third of the five khandas.

### Siddhattha

Wish-fulfilled. The personal name of the historical Buddha.

### Sutta

Text. The word of the Buddha.

### Tanha

Third; craving; desire (rooted in ignorance). Desire as the cause of suffering. The second Noble Truth.

### Theravada

Way of the elders. A principal school of Buddhism, established in Sri Lanka and South East Asia. Also found in the West.

### Tipitaka

Three baskets. A threefold collection of texts (Vinaya, Sutta, Abhidamma).

### Vedana

Feeling. The second of the five khandas.

### Vinnana

Consciousness. The fifth of the five khandas.

### Vipassana

Insight into the true nature of things; a particular form of meditation.

**Wesak or Vesak (Sinhalese)**

Buddha Day. Name of a festival and a month. On the full moon of Wesak (in May or June), the birth, Enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha took place, although some schools celebrate only the birth at this time, e.g. Zen.

**Zen**

Meditation. A school of Mahayana Buddhism that has developed in China and Japan

**Hinduism****Advaita**

One who teaches by example. Usually refers to a prominent or exemplary spiritual teacher.

**Ahimsa**

Non-dual. Refers to the impersonalistic philosophy that unqualifyingly equates God, the soul and matter.

**Arti**

Welcoming ceremony in which auspicious articles such as incense and lamps are offered to the deity or to saintly people.

**Ashram**

A place set up for spiritual development.

**Ashrama**

A stage of life (of which there are four) adopted towards material considerations but ultimately as a means to spiritual realisations.

**Atman**

Self. Can refer to body, mind or soul depending on context. Ultimately, it refers to the real self, the soul.

**Aum**

The sacred symbol and sound representing the ultimate; the most sacred of Hindu words.

**Avatar**

One who descends. Refers to the descent of a deity, most commonly Vishnu. Sometimes it is translated as incarnation which, although inaccurate, may be the best English word available.

**Bhagavad**

Gita The Song of the Lord. Spoken by Krishna, this is the most important scripture for most Hindus. Tradition dates it back to 3,000 years BCE, though most scholars attribute it to the first millennium BCE. Considered an Upanishad.

**Bhajan**

Devotional hymn or song.

**Bhakti**

Devotion; love. Devotional form of Hinduism.

**Bhakti-yoga**

The path of loving devotion, aimed at developing pure love of God.

**Brahma**

A Hindu deity considered one of the Trimurti, and in charge of creative power; not to be confused with Brahman or Brahmin.

**Brahman**

The ultimate reality, or the all-pervading reality; that from which everything emanates, in which it rests and into which it is ultimately dissolved.

**Brahmin**

The first of the four varnas, the principal social groups from which priests are drawn. Some writers, rather confusingly, use the spelling 'brahman', and the meaning only becomes clear in the context of a few sentences (see also Brahman and Brahma).

**Dharma**

Religion or religious duty is the usual translation into English, but literally it means The intrinsic quality of the self or that which sustains one's existence.

**Diva**

Light, normally ghee lamp, lit as offering to deity/ies.

**Divali**

Festival of lights at the end of one year and beginning of the new year, according to one Hindu calendar.

**Durga**

Female Hindu deity, form of the goddess Parvati, wife of Shiva.

**Ganesha**

A Hindu deity portrayed with an elephant's head – a sign of strength. The deity who removes obstacles.

**Ganga**

The Ganges. Most famous of all sacred rivers of India.

**Hanuman**

The monkey warrior who faithfully served Rama and Sita.

**Havan**

Act of worship in which offerings of ghee and grains are made into a fire.



- Holi**  
The festival of colours, celebrated in spring.
- Jati**  
Caste is the usual translation, meaning occupational kinship group.
- Jnana**  
Knowledge.
- Kali**  
Name given for the power of God that delivers justice – often represented by the goddess Kali.
- Karma**  
Action. Use of work to refer to the law of cause and effect.
- Krishna**  
Usually considered an avatar of Vishnu. One of the most popular of all Hindu deities in contemporary Britain. His teachings are found in the Bhagavad Gita.
- Lakshmi**  
The goddess of fortune
- Lotus**  
Flower Symbol of spirituality
- Madurai**  
Place of pilgrimage in South India.
- Mandala**  
A circle, area or community/group, may be a complex design to aid meditation.
- Mandir**  
Temple.
- Mantra**  
That which delivers the mind. Refers to a short sacred text or prayer, often recited repetitiously.
- Moksha**  
Ultimate liberation from the process of transmigration, the continuous cycle of birth and death.
- Murti**  
Form. The image or deity used as a focus of worship.
- Navaratri**  
The Nine Nights Festival preceding Dassehra, and held in honour of the goddess Durga.
- Nirvana**  
The cessation of material existence.
- Parvati**  
The consort of Shiva, also known by other names such as Durga, Devi, etc.
- Prahlada**  
Devotee of Vishnu, connected with the festival of Holi.
- Prashad**  
Sacred or sanctified food
- Puja**  
Worship. General term referring to a variety of practices in the home or mandir.
- Raja Yoga**  
Path of self-control and meditation to realise God.
- Rakhi**  
A bracelet, usually made out of silk or cotton, tied to give protection and to strengthen the bond of mutual love.
- Raksha Bandhan**  
The birthday festival of Rama
- Rama**  
The incarnation of the Lord, and hero of the Ramayana.
- Ramayana**  
The Hindu epic that relates the story of Rama and Sita, composed by the sage Valmiki thousands of years ago.
- Rangoli Patterns**  
Elaborate patterns made to celebrate Divali.
- Rig Veda**  
The first scripture of Hinduism, containing spiritual and scientific knowledge.
- Samsara**  
The world – the place where transmigration (the soul's passage through a series of lives in different species) occurs.
- Samskar**  
Sacraments designed to initiate a new stage of life.
- Seva**  
Service, either to the divine or to humanity.
- Shiva**  
A Hindu god. The name means kindly or auspicious.
- Shiva Natarajah**  
An image of Shiva involved in a cosmic dance of destruction.
- Sita**  
The divine consort of Rama.
- Trimurti**  
The three deities. Refers to Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, who personify and control the three gunas. They represent and control the three functions of creation, preservation and destruction. 'Trinity' should be avoided.
- Varanasi**  
City on the river Ganges, sacred to Shiva. It is one of the holiest pilgrimage sites and also an ancient centre of learning.
- Varnas**  
The four main visions in Hindu Society.
- Vishnu**  
A Hindu God. With Brahma and Shiva forms the Trimurti.
- Yoga**  
Communion; union of the soul with the Supreme, or a process which promotes that relationship. The English word 'yoke' is derived from yoga.



## Islam

### Adhan

Call to prayer. From the same root, Mu'addhin. (One who makes the call to prayer).

### Allah

The Islamic name for God in the Arabic language. Used in preference to the word God, this Arabic term is singular, has no plural, nor is it associated with masculine, feminine or neuter characteristics. (See Qur'an 2:255, 112:1-4) Pronounced Al-laah.

### Allahu Akbar

Allah is the greatest.

### Arafat

A plain, a few kilometres from Makkah, where pilgrims gather to worship pray and ask for forgiveness. This takes place on the ninth day of the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah, the day before Id-ul-Adha.

### Bilal

The first Mu'adhin of Islam (see Adhan), a companion of Prophet Muhammad, formerly an Abyssinian slave.

### Bismillah

In the name of Allah – phrase spoken prior to every action/deed.

### Dawud

David. A prophet of Allah to whom the Zabur (Book of Psalms) was given.

### Din

'Life transaction' or 'religion' of Allah – transaction between every being and Allah. Pronounced deen.

### Du'a

Varying forms of personal prayer and supplication.

### Fard

Obligatory duty according to divine law, e.g. offering Salah five times a day.

### Ghusl

Greater ablution. Formal washing of the whole body prior to worship (see wudu)

### Hadith

Saying; report; account. The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, as recounted by his household, progeny and companions. These are a major source of Islamic law.

### Hajj

Annual pilgrimage to Makkah, which each Muslim must undertake at least once in a lifetime if he or she has the means. A Muslim male who has completed Hajj is called Hajji or Al-Hajj, and a female, Hajjah.

### Halal

Any action or thing which is permitted or lawful.

### Haram

Anything unlawful or forbidden.

### Hijab

Veil. Often used to describe the headscarf or modest dress worn by women, who are required to cover everything except face, hands and feet in the sight of anyone other than immediate family.

### Hijrah

Departure; flight; migration. The migration of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions from Makkah to Madinah in 622 CE. The Islamic calendar commences from this event.

### Id

Happy occasion shared by all the community

### Ihram

The state or condition of strict discipline entered into to perform Hajj and Umrah. During this period, many normally permitted actions are placed out of bounds to pilgrims. Also, the name of the two plain white unsewn cloths worn by male pilgrims to indicate the brotherhood, equality and purity of the pilgrim. For women, the dress of ihram consists of their normal modest clothing.

### Ibrahim

Abraham. A Prophet of Allah to whom the 'Scrolls' were given.

### Id ul Adha

Celebration of the sacrifice, commemorating the Prophet Ibrahim's obedience to Allah and his willingness to sacrifice his son Isma'il.

### Id ul Fitr

Celebration of the completion of the fast of Ramadan, which is also the first day of Shawal, the tenth Islamic month

### Imam

Leader. A person who leads the communal prayer; a founder of an Islamic schools of jurisprudence. In Shi'ah Islam, Imam is also the title of Ali and his successors.

### Isa

Jesus. A Prophet of Allah, born of the virgin Mary.

### Islam

Peace attained through willing obedience to Allah's divine guidance. Pronounced Isslaam.

### Jibril

Gabriel. The archangel who delivered Allah's messages to His Prophets.

### Jihad

Personal individual struggle against evil in the way of Allah. It can also be collective defence of the Muslim community.

### Jinn

Being created by Allah from fire.

### Ka'bah

A cube-shaped structure in the centre of the grand mosque in Makkah. The first house built for the worship of the One True God.

### Makkah (Mecca)

City where the Prophet Muhammad pbuh wasborn, and where the Ka'bah is located.

### Masjid

Place of prostration. Mosque.

### Mihrab

Niche or alcove in a mosque wall, indicating the Qiblah – the direction of Makkah, towards which all Muslims face to perform salah. The Imarn leads the salah from the mihrab.

### Mina

Place near Makkah, where pilgrims stay on the 10th, 11th and 12th of Dhul-Hijjah and perform some of the activities of the Hajj.

### Minaret

Tower or turret, connected to a mosque from which the call to prayer is made.

**Minbar**

Rostrum; platform; dais. The stand from which the Imam delivers the khutbah or speech in the mosque or praying ground. Mu'adhin Caller to prayer (see Adhan), also written as 'muezzin'.

**Muhammad**

Praiseworthy. Name of the final Prophet.

**Musa/Moses**

A Prophet of Allah to whom the Tawrah (Torah) was given.

**Muslim**

One who accepts Islam by professing the Shahadah and willfully commits/ submits to the will of Allah. Pronounced mooslim.

**Muzdalifah**

Place where pilgrims on Hajj stop for a time during the night of the day they spend at Arafat.

**Niyah**

Intention. A legally required statement of intent, made prior to all acts of devotion such as Salah, Hajj, Sawm or ablutions.

**Pbuh**

Peace be upon him, expression of respect made after mention of the Prophet Muhammad and all other prophets of Allah.

**Qadar**

Allah's complete and final control over the fulfilment of events or destiny.

**Qiblah**

Direction which Muslims face when performing Salah – towards the Ka'bah (see Mihrab).

**Qur'an**

That which is read or recited. The Divine Book revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Allah's final revelation to humankind. Pronounced Qur'aan.

**Rak'ah**

A unit of Salah, made up of recitation, standing, bowing and two prostrations.

**Ramadan**

The ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which fasting is required from just before dawn until sunset, as ordered by Allah.

**Sadaqah**

Voluntary payment or good action for charitable purposes.

**Salah**

Prescribed communication with, and worship of, Allah, performed under specific conditions, in the manner taught by the Prophet Muhammad and recited in the Arabic language.

The five daily times of Salah are fixed by Allah.

**Sawm**

An act of worship: fasting from just before dawn until sunset. Abstinence is required from all food and drink (including water) as well as smoking and conjugal relations during the fasting hours in Ramadan.

**Shahadah**

Declaration of faith, which consists of the statement, 'There is no god except Allah Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah'.

**Shari'ah**

Islamic law based upon the Qur'an and Sunnah.

**Sunnah**

All the traditions and practices of Allah, observed and recorded by his companions and followers.

**Surah**

Chapter of the Qur'an.

**Taqwa**

An awareness of Allah that permeates every aspect of life. Piety.

**Tawhid**

Belief in the Oneness of Allah – absolute monotheism as practised in Islam.

**Wudu**

Ablution before salah, a ritual washing of hands, face and feet.

**Zakah**

Purification of wealth by payment of annual welfare due. An obligatory act of worship.

**Zakat**

Money given as Zakah.

**Zakat-ul-Fitr**

Welfare payment during Ramadan.

**Judaism****Agadah**

Telling. Rabbinical teachings on moral values.

**Aron Hakodesh**

Holy Ark. The focal point of the synagogue, containing Torah scrolls.

**Bar Mitzvah**

Son of Commandment. A boy's coming of age at 13 years old, usually marked by a synagogue ceremony and family celebration.

**Bat Mitzvah**

Daughter of Commandment. As above, but for girls from 12 years old. May be marked differently between communities.

**Bimah**

Dais. Raised platform primarily for reading the Torah in the synagogue.

**Brit Milah**

Circumcision.

**Challah**

Enriched bread used particularly on Shabbat and during festivals.

**Circumcision**

Religious rite of Brit Milah, performed by a qualified mohel on all Jewish boys, usually on the eighth day after birth.

**Covenant**

Compact (between God and the Israelites).

**Gregger**

Rattle sounded at the mention of Hannah's during Purim services.

**Hagadah**

Telling. A book used at Seder.

**Halakhah**

The Way. The code of conduct encompassing all aspects of Jewish life.

**Hanukah**

Dedication. An eight day festival of lights to celebrate the re-dedication of the temple following the Maccabean victory over the Greeks.

**Hanukiah**

Nine-branched Hanukkah lamp used at the festival of Hanukkah.

**Havdalah**

Distinction. Ceremony marking the conclusion of Shabbat.

**Hebrew**

Ancient Semitic language; language of the Tenakh (Hebrew Scriptures) and used by Jews for prayer and study. Also, everyday language in Israel.

**Huppah**

Canopy used for a wedding ceremony, under which the bride and groom stand.

**Kashrut**

Laws relating to keeping a kosher home and lifestyle.

**Ketubah**

Document that defines rights and obligations within Jewish marriage.

**Ketuvim**

Writings. Third section of the Tenakh.

**Kiddush**

Holy. A prayer sanctifying Shabbat and festival days, usually recited over wine.

**Kippah**

Skull cap.

**Kosher**

Fit; proper. Foods permitted by Jewish dietary laws.

**Magen David**

Shield of David, popularly called Star of David.

**Matzah**

A flat cracker-like bread which has been baked before it rises; used at Pesach.

**Menorah**

Seven-branched candelabrum that was lit daily in the Temple.

**Mezuzah**

A scroll placed on door posts of Jewish homes containing a section from the Torah and often enclosed in a decorative case.

**Mezuzot**

Plural of mezuzah.

**Mishnah**

First writing down of the oral tradition. An authoritative document forming part of the Talmud, codified about 200 CE.

**Mitzvah**

Commandment. The Torah contains 613 Mitzvot. Commonly used to describe good deeds.

**Mitzvot**

Plural of Mitzvah.

**Noachide Laws**

Seven laws given to Noah after the flood, which are incumbent on all humankind. These laws form the foundation for a just society.

**Pesach**

Festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt. One of the three biblical pilgrim festivals. Pesach is celebrated in the spring.

**Purim**

Festival commemorating the rescue of Persian Jewry as told in the book of Esther.

**Rabbi**

My teacher. An ordained Jewish teacher. Often the religious leader of a Jewish community.

**Rosh Hashanah**

Head of the Year. Jewish New Year.

**Seder**

Order. A home-based ceremonial meal during Pesach, at which the Exodus from Egypt is recounted using the Haggadah.

**Sefer Torah**

Torah scroll. The five books of Moses hand written on parchment and rolled to form a scroll.

**Shabbat**

Day of spiritual renewal and rest commencing at sunset on Friday, terminating at nightfall on Saturday.

**Shavuot**

Weeks. One of three pilgrim festivals. Shavuot is celebrated in the summer, seven weeks after pesach.

**Shema**

Major Jewish prayer affirming belief in one God. The Shema is found in the Torah.

**Shiva**

Seven days of intense mourning following the burial of a close relation. During this period all ordinary work is prohibited.

**Shofar**

Ram's horn blown at the season of Rosh Hashanah.

**Siddur**

Order. Daily prayer book.

**Simchat Torah**

Rejoicing of the law. Festival celebrating the completion and recommencement of the cycle of the weekly Torah reading.

**Sukkah**

Tabernacle; booth. A temporary dwelling used during Sukkot.

**Sukkot**

One of three biblical pilgrim festivals, Sukkot is celebrated in the Autumn.

**Synagogue**

Building for Jewish public prayer, study and assembly.

**Tallit**

Prayer shawl. Four-cornered garment with fringes.

**Talmud**

Mishnah and Gemorra, collected together.

**Tefillah**

Self-judgement. Jewish prayer and meditation.

**Tefillin**

Small leather boxes containing passages from the Torah, strapped on the forehead and arm for morning prayers on weekdays.

**Tenakh**

The collected 24 books of the Jewish Bible, comprising three sections: Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim (Te;Na;Kh).

**Teshuva**

Repentance. Returning to God.

**Torah**

Law; teaching. The Five Books of Moses.

**Tzedaka**

Righteousness. An act of charity.

**Yom Kippur**

Day of Atonement. Fast day occurring on the tenth day after Rosh Hashanah; a solemn day of Tefillah and Teshuva.

## Sikhism

### Akhand Path

Continuous reading of the Guru Granth Sahib from beginning to end.

### Akal Purukh

Timeless being. A Sikh name for God.

### Amrit

Nectar. Sanctified liquid made of sugar and water, used in initiation.

### Amrit ceremony

The Sikh rite of initiation into the Khalsa.

### Anand karaj

Ceremony of bliss. Wedding ceremony.

### Ardas

Prayer. The formal prayer offered at most religious acts.

### Bandi Chhor Diwas

The Sikh festival which falls on the same day as the Hindu Diwali.

### Bhai Lalo

A humble carpenter who opened his house to Guru Nanak. The Guru preferred Bhai Lalo's simple food to the offerings of a local rich merchant.

### Bhai Kanhaya (Ghanaya)

A Sikh commended by Guru Gobind Singh for serving water to the enemy wounded.

### Chanani

Canopy over the scriptures, used as a mark of respect.

### Chauri

Symbol of authority of the Guru Granth Sahib. Fan waved over scriptures, made of yak hairs

### Darbar

Court. Place where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept and where people sit as the holy congregation (sangat).

### Gurbani

Divine word revealed by the Gurus. The Shabads contained in the Guru Granth Sahib.

### Gurdwara

Sikh place of worship. Literally the 'doorway to the Guru'.

### Gurmukh

One who lives by the Guru's teaching.

### Gurmukhi

From the Guru's mouth. Name given to the script in which the scriptures and the Punjabi language are written.

### Gurpurb

A Guru's anniversary (birth or death). Also used for other anniversaries, e.g. of the installation of the Adi Granth, 1604 CE.

### Guru

The giver of light or teacher. In Sikhism, the title of Guru is reserved for the ten human Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib. Ultimately through the Guru's word, the Guru or Enlightener is God.

### Guru Arjan

The fifth Guru who was the first Sikh martyr (1563-1606).

### Guru Gobind Singh

Tenth Sikh Guru. It is important to note that the title 'Guru' must be used with all the Gurus' names. Sikhs usually use further terms of respect, e.g. Guru Gobind Singh Ji or Guru Nanak Dev Ji, or prefix the name with the title Sri. Guru Granth Sahib

Primal collection of Sikh scriptures, compiled by Guru Arjan and given its final form by Guru Gobind Singh.

### Guru Nanak

The first Guru and the founder of the Sikh faith (1469-1539)

### Haumai

Egoism. The major spiritual defect.

### Hukam

God's will.

### Ik Onkar

There is only one Creator. The first phrase of the Mool Mantar. It is also used as a symbol to decorate Sikh objects.

### Japji Sahib

A Sikh name for God. A morning prayer, composed by Guru Nanak, which forms the first chapter of the Guru Granth Sahib.

### Jivan Mukh

Liberation from self-centeredness.

### Kachera

Traditional shorts. One of the five Ks (see panj kakke).

### Kakka

A letter of the Punjabi alphabet. See panj kakke.

### Kangha

Wooden comb worn in the hair. One of the five Ks (see panj kakke).

### Kara

Steel bangle worn on the right wrist. One of the five Ks (see panj kakke).

### Karah parshad

Sanctified food distributed at Sikh ceremonies

### Kaur

Princess. Name given to all Sikh females by Guru Gobind Singh (see Singh).

### Kesh

Uncut hair. One of the five Ks (see Panj kakke).

### Khalsa

The pure. The Sikh community who have taken amrit. Also the Sikh community, or nylon. It should not be called a 'fly whisk'.

### Khanda

Double-edged sword used in the initiation ceremony. Also used as the emblem on the Sikh flag.

### Kirat karna

Earning one's livelihood by one's own efforts.

### Kirpan

Benevolent protector of honour. Sikh sword; one of the five Ks (see panj kakke).

### Kirtan

Devotional singing of the hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib.

### Kurahit

Breach of discipline. Examples are adultery, smoking and use of intoxicants etc.

### Langar

Guru's kitchen. The gurdwara dining hall where food is served without distinction. Symbolises human equality and sharing.

### Manji Sahib

Small wooden platform on which the Guru Granth Sahib is placed.

### Manmukh

Self-orientated (as opposed to gurmukh).

**Mela**

Fair. Used of Sikh cultural festivals that are not gurburbs.

**Mool Mantar**

Basic mystical formula. The basic precept or statement of belief at the beginning of the Guru Granth Sahib.

**Nam simran**

Meditation of the divine Name (God Being) by repeating Sikh words for God "Waheguru" or "Satnaam".

**Nishan Sahib**

Sikh flag flown at gurdwaras.

**Panj kakke**

The five Ks. The five articles of faith worn by Sikhs. "Symbols", although used sometimes, should be avoided.

**Panj piare**

The five beloved ones. The first five Sikhs initiated into the Khalsa in 1699. Those who perform the Amrit ceremony today and lead Sikh religious processions (nagar kirtans), especially at major Gurburbs.

**Punjab**

Land of five rivers. Also spelt Panjab. The area of the Indian sub-continent now divided between India and Pakistan.

**Panth**

Path. Panth or Khalsa Panth is the Sikh nation.

**Ragi**

Sikh musician who sings compositions from the Guru Granth Sahib.

**Rahit**

Sikh internal and external disciplines representing the Sikh way of life, e.g. keeping the five Ks and reciting daily prayers.

**Sangat**

Holy Congregation.

**Sewa**

Service without expectation of reward directed at the sangat and gurdwara, but also humanity in general.

**Shabad Word**

Hymn from the Guru Granth Sahib; the divine word.

**Sikh**

Disciple, seeker after Truth. A person who believes in the ten Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib, and who has no other religion. For the Sikhs the word also means seeker after the Truth.

**Vak**

A random reading taken for guidance from the Guru Granth Sahib.

**Vaisakhi**

A major Sikh festival celebrating the anniversary of the formal confirmation of Sikh Khalsa Panth as an independent religion and nationality in 1699 CE.

**Waheguru**

Wonderful Lord. A Sikh name for God.

# Acknowledgements

Thanks to the many teachers who contributed immensely in making this syllabus review a rewarding experience to the students who worked through the Inter Faith events in setting the agenda for good Religious Education in the borough to the members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference for their time and enthusiasm in working together

## Agreed Syllabus Conference members

Cllr Shirley Harper-O'Neill	Elenor Paul
Cllr Keith Burrows	Jasvir Singh Rayat
Cllr Michael Bull	Jean Nunnery
Cllr David Routledge	Naseem Bint Ahmed
Cllr Avtar Sandhu	Hilary Stone
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Eric Blaire, Consultant	Geoff Edwards
Natasha Dogra, Clerk to Committee	Angela Lount
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School	Position at School	Does your school use the current Hillingdon agreed syllabus?	Does the current syllabus reflect the needs of the students in your school?	Which areas does the Agreed Syllabus Conference need to address?	In the light of this do you think the conference should:	From classroom experience, would you recommend any additions to the current strands?	Please provide details of what you feel needs to be added to the current syllabus.	Are you aware of any other useful publications which would be helpful to consider? If so, please give details of these	If you are from a non-Christian faith and willing to assist in the review, please provide your details below.	If you have any other views/comments you would like to be considered please submit them here.
Bourne Primary	RE Coordinator	Yes	Yes		Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No				
Warrender	RE Coordinator	No								Only just 'inherited' RE. My just retired Head-teacher wasn't aware of the agreed syllabus, but I did print the syllabus out. However, I have printed out what each year group are covering in R.E., but haven't yet had a chance to look at it.
Field End Infant School	RE Coordinator	Yes	Yes		Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No		No		It would be useful to have some more resources and schemes of work to help us when teaching RE.
Deansfield Primary School	RE Coordinator	Yes	Yes		Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No		no but I would happily read recommendations!	At this stage I do not feel I know enough about the review to agree, so no.	none at this stage
Widnham Junior School	RE Coordinator	Yes	In part	Needs to be more affirmation of agnostic/atheistic positions	Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	Yes	More acknowledgement/cover age of animistic/shamanistic/indigenous traditions that exist outside of organised world faiths		Buddhist (ex monk), willing to assist	
The Harefield academy	RE Coordinator	Yes	Yes		Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No		no		
Swakeleys School for Girls	RE Coordinator	In part	In part	Pupils from different faith backgrounds for example Jehovah's witnesses. The current one refers to west and east. It is not clear which religions this refers to. Maybe it would be more helpful to try to distinguish between monotheistic and polytheistic, however that is still possible debateable!	Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No			I am a Muslim convert from loosely Christian upbringing and I am willing to assist with the review.	
Highfield Primary School	Headteacher	Yes	Yes		Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No				
Oak Farm Junior School	RE Coordinator	Yes	Yes		Carry out a full review now?	No				
Harington School	Subject Leader	Yes	Yes		Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No		The current syllabus to my mind reflects our current religious make up within our school in Harlington if not the whole borough. Am not aware of any publications that can be taken into consideration.	I am a Christian	None thank you.
Barnhill Community High School	RE Teacher	Yes	In part	Media representation of faith communities. Media representation of faiths. Humanism.	Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No				
Glebe Primary School	RE Coordinator	Yes	Yes		Agree to continue using the current syllabus, noting that SACRE can request another review at any time?	No				

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