



September 2024

The Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for RE is now statutory (Sept 2024) for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness. We welcome academies to use the syllabus. If you missed our programme of free CPD last year, there are recordings available: Autumn 2023 (teachers) [here](#) and April (school governors) [here](#). Exemplar resources [here](#). For Early Years, please use the syllabus in conjunction with the new [subject guidance](#) for RE (June 2024) produced by the Early Years Team in collaboration with Cumbrian SACRE.

Challenging Conversations: The summer of 2024 has seen widespread unrest in the UK. What began as peaceful protests quickly turned to scenes of far-right violence and destruction across cities and towns, fuelled by Islamophobic and racist misinformation. Muslim and ethnically diverse community members across Cumbria have suffered from Islamophobic and racist abuse, fear and anxiety as a result.

As schools reopen, the horrific events over the summer remind us of the need for vigilance in dealing with Islamophobia, racism, prejudice and hatred. Every child has a right to enjoy and be safe in their school environment, and that means they should not be subject to Islamophobic or racist behaviour including verbal abuse, bullying or threats.

The RE/R&W classroom often provides a space where sensitive and challenging conversations arise.

Do staff in your school feel prepared to engage with and support students to navigate conversations around Islamophobia and racism and deal appropriately with Islamophobic and racist incidents in the class and school?

[Challenging Conversations](#) – new SACRE Padlet to support Cumbrian schools.

AREIAC Young Ambassadors for RE Project: we are planning an online event for representatives from Year 10 with trainee RE teachers from Edge Hill University and the North-West SACRE Hub. Please email northwest@re-hubs.uk to express your interest.

Collective Worship - Survey and CPD: Last term, Cumbrian SACRE consulted with headteachers about Collective Worship through an online survey. A summary of the findings will soon be circulated to all schools and available on the SACRE section of Council websites

Free online CPD on improving the quality and provision of Collective Worship will be held on 16th October or 21st November at 1-2.30pm or 4-5.30pm. See below.

CPD Diary Dates 2024-2025 (*Book via School Development*)

17th Sept: RE Teachers in Cumbria Group

7th Oct 2024: Online - Understanding Humanism (Cumberland)

16 Oct: FREE Improving the provision and quality of Collective Worship (Cumberland)

12 Nov: Online crash course in Philosophy with John Semmens (W&F)

21 Nov: FREE Improving the Provision and Quality of Collective Worship (W&F)

10 Feb 2025: Disciplinary Approaches to RE (Cumberland), Wigton

6 March 2025: Disciplinary Approaches to RE (W&F), Kendal

13th & 14th March 2025: SAPERE Level 1 Foundation Course at the Quaker Tapestry Museum, Kendal. (W&F)

29th April 2025: FREE School Governor CPD Improving the Provision and Quality of Collective Worship (W&F)

17th June 2025: Cumbrian SACRE Conference with national RE Today adviser [Ian Nicholson](#), including a focus on Collective Worship.

Religious festivals and global days in September: Learning about religious festivals and global days can be a meaningful and inclusive way to provide **Collective Worship**. September begins with Ganesh Chaturthi – Birthday of Ganesh (Hindu) on 6th; Ethiopian New Year's Day (Rastafari) on 11th; The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday – Milad un Nabi on 12th (Sunni Muslim) and 17th (Shi'a Muslim); Harvest Festival (Christian) on 22nd; and Jashn-e Mehrgan (or Mihr Jashan) (Zoroastrian) on the 30th.

The United Nations **International Day of Peace** is on 21st September. The Peace Education Network has produced a pack called [Teach Peace](#) which includes 10 assembly ideas.

Fairtrade Fortnight starts on the 9th September. *Did you know that Places of Worship can gain Fairtrade status?* The Fairtrade Foundation has produced an interesting [booklet](#) about Islam and Fairtrade.

10th – 17th Nov: **Inter Faith Week 2024**—more information and resources [here](#).

See the **RE Calendars** [page](#) on RE Hubs website for more information and resources on calendars of festivals and global days.

#CumbriaSharingRE

In our newsletters, we showcase examples of how schools are sharing RE on social media, school newsletters, website or local news.

Crosthwaite CE Primary shared on [Twitter](#) about their 'Hindu Day' with Prags Birk from Cultural Educ-Asian Ltd @CulturalEduc

Please **share your RE school news** links with reteacherscumbria@outlook.com to include in future newsletters.

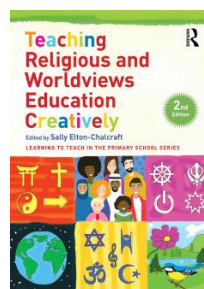
SAPERE Thinking Together in Science and RE: free webinar recordings and resources available for secondary science, RE and SEND teachers available [here](#).

Cumbria RE Teachers Group: Our next teacher group will be on Tuesday 17th September at 4pm and the focus will be: *Progression in RE*. We will hear from RE Leader, **Jane Reedy** from Ghyllside Primary and also headteacher **Claire Fleming** and RE Leader **Andrew Hoyle** from Holme St Cuthbert's schools who will share their recent experience of an Ofsted deep dive in RE.

Are you part of the **RE Teachers in Cumbria (online) group**? Join [here](#) to ensure you receive Zoom links and associated resources.

See the [North West section](#) of the RE Hubs website to **upskill** yourself through CPD, news, blogs, resources, exhibitions, research, grants or find opportunities to **enrich** RE in your classroom through accredited school speakers, places of interest and local groups. Explore the new **animations** [page](#) in the free resources [section](#).

Do you include learning about the **Quakers** when exploring diversity in Christianity? RE resources and opportunities to support the history of Quakerism in Cumbria [here](#).



This new [book](#) includes chapters by three SACRE members (Jane Yates, Rebekah Ackroyd & Georgia Prescott). You can order through **Hills Books** for £20 (RRP £24.99) plus free delivery: schools@hillsbooks.com or 01900 603031

Cumbrian SACRE websites with statutory and non-statutory guidance for RE and Collective Worship, including all previous newsletters.

Cumberland Council NEW [website](#)
Westmorland & Furness [website](#)

Facebook: [RE Teachers in Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness](#) 174 members
Twitter X: [@SACRECumbria](#).