

Useful websites for Primary Beginner teachers and trainees

This document has been produced by a group focusing on supporting Primary Initial Teacher Education convened by Culham St Gabriels. The group is made up of Educational Consultant Paul Smalley, Helen Sheehan from Sheffield Hallam University , Rhiannon Love from the University of Winchester, Imran Mogra from Birmingham City University, Ruth Flanagan from the University of Exeter, Lizzie Yeomans from Liverpool John Moores and Fiona Moss.

Helen Sheehan and Lizzie Yeomans led on this document.

What are the main organisations?	What are the key documents?	How do I develop my subject knowledge?
<p>Organisations that support RE/RVE/RME with resources, advocacy, subject knowledge and training and much more.</p> <p>As a teacher these may be your first port of call for support. Many schools and individuals are members of these organisations. Check if your school is a member so you can access all they have to offer.</p> <p><u>NATRE</u></p> <p>The National Association of Teachers of RE is dedicated to supporting and empowering professionals in the field of Religious Education (RE). There are also many resources for non-members. They also hold the annual Strictly RE conference.</p> <p><u>STARME</u></p> <p>The Scottish Teachers association of RME (Starme) aims to facilitate exchange between teachers</p> <p><u>ACTRE</u></p> <p>The Association of Teachers of Catholic Religious Education (ACTRE) serves those teaching RE in Catholic schools by providing high quality professional development.</p>	<p><u>National Content Standard for Religious Education in England</u></p> <p><u>OFSTED Research Review</u></p> <p><u>OFSTED RE Subject Report</u></p> <p><u>Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance</u></p>	<p><u>CSTG E-learning</u></p> <p>Culham St Gabriel's Free short e-learning courses. Start with Beginners teachers 1-3 and then move onto others starting with the introductory courses and then the digging deeper courses.</p> <p><u>RE:ONLINE subject knowledge essays</u></p> <p>The RE:ONLINE knowledge section has very detailed essays on a series of religious and non- religious worldviews</p> <p><u>SHAP audio glossary</u></p> <p>This website offers definitions for key vocabulary and, most importantly, pronunciation of key terms.</p> <p><u>Religion Media Centre factsheets</u></p> <p>Factsheets are written by academics, journalists and commentators to explain the context and background of current religion stories, including information on festivals.</p> <p><u>Festivals Calendar</u></p> <p>A festivals calendar on RE:ONLINE provided by the Shap working party.</p>

How do I teach RE?	Are there any examples of planning and progression?	How can I find information about visits and visitors?
<p><u>Video animations</u></p> <p>Nobody Stands Nowhere is a powerful introduction to the idea of a personal worldview.</p> <p>Welcome to a religion and worldviews approach tries to capture what the approach might mean in classrooms, 1st two mins primary.</p> <p><u>Examples from the classroom</u></p> <p>These seven short films, showing classroom ideas in action</p>	<p><u>Big Ideas for RE</u></p> <p>Big Ideas for RE. A series of programmes of study and exemplar units of learning.</p> <p><u>RE Today Exemplar</u></p> <p>https://natre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/RE-Today-Primary-RE-Curriculum-Overview.pdf</p> <p><u>Oak National Academy</u></p> <p>Some SACREs may also be able to provide local schemes of work</p>	<p><u>RE-Hubs</u></p> <p>The RE Hubs website has information about opportunities for visits in your local area (in England and Wales) and details of speakers from different communities who will visit schools to speak to pupils. It also has a page of curated virtual tours.</p> <p>https://www.re-hubs.uk/get-involved/school-speakers/</p> <p>https://www.re-hubs.uk/get-involved/places-of-interest/</p> <p>https://www.re-hubs.uk/upskill/virtual-tours/</p> <p><u>Visit my Mosque</u></p> <p>Virtual visits, 360 degree films and guidance on Mosque visits</p> <p><u>RE:ONLINE – Voices from Religion and Worldviews</u></p> <p>Answers to pupil questions from people from a series of different religious and non- religious worldview communities about their beliefs and about places of worship.</p> <p>https://www.reonline.org.uk/resources/voices-from-religion-and-worldviews/</p> <p>https://www.reonline.org.uk/teaching-resources/places-of-worship-voices-from-religion-and-worldviews/</p>

Where can I find resources for the classroom?

Where can I find written resources and toolkits?	Where can I find video resources?
<p><u>NATRE</u></p> <p>Search here for resources to teach RE. Many are member only, but a school or individual membership is an excellent purchase. Some resources are also available to non-members.</p> <p><u>Free stories</u></p> <p>50 free religious stories for you to use in your classroom.</p> <p><u>Storytent</u></p> <p>The Story Tent website provides easily accessible online teaching materials to support KS2 pupils as they learn more about Religion and Worldviews through the lens of story. There are a range of themes such as ‘How can we care for our planet?’ and ‘What makes a good leader’, with stories to download and videos of the narrated story to watch.</p> <p><u>Whose worldviews?</u></p> <p>An online tool that allows pupils to explore different worldviews, using interactive data-gathering. Older pupils can fill in their responses to questions about their idea of God, and</p>	<p>We have arranged these into two sections but many of the films in the pupil section are also useful for teacher subject knowledge. For virtual visits please see Visits and Visitors section.</p> <p><u>Educational Recording agency</u></p> <p>The Educational recording agency offers you free access to a wide range of high-quality, ad-free video content to support your lessons on religion, faith, and ethics. Their curated resources align with the RE curriculum and are available for instant streaming in your classroom. Curated <u>Primary resources</u> also available. This is where you will often find programmes that are no longer on BBC sites.</p> <p><u>Truetube</u></p> <p>Growing variety of films including animated stories, places of worship, artefacts, festivals and much more.</p>

the impact their worldviews have in their lives, and have their responses turned instantly into a graphic representation – a snowflake or a spidergram.

Bullying and Belief

The Bullying and Belief toolkit is a resource to support schools to deal with the topic of religious bullying.

Anti-Racist RE

These materials are designed to help teachers of RE at KS2 plan and provide excellent learning in the classroom that encourages pupils to learn about religion and beliefs, racism and prejudice in ways that promote the well-being of all in our richly plural communities.

Oxfam Policy and practice Education Resource

This revised and updated version of Oxfam’s popular guide recognises the seismic shifts in social and political contexts in recent years. It seeks to support educators in developing essential skills that allow learners to constructively discuss their own values and ideas, and develop as active global citizens.

Green RE

Free resources on nature, environment, faith, worldviews, and climate issues. These resources are designed for teachers to incorporate into their teaching

RE-Connect Environment and RE

Resources on religious and non-religious worldviews and the environment developed through REConnect project at Birmingham University. Resources created by teachers involved in the project. (part funded by Culham St Gabriel’s)

BBC Teach

Range of films including religions of the world stories, Treasure Champs stories and My life my religion series.

BBC Cbeebies

Series such as my first festivals, Let’s celebrate, What’s on your head? and What’s in my bag?

BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmdsg2p> 3-5 year olds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zxnygk7> 5-7 year olds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z7hs34j> 7-11 year olds

A series of short programmes on festivals, people and stories from religious and non-religious worldviews.

Pennine Learning

Films including interviews with people from a range of religions talking about aspects of their beliefs. Some good for teacher subject knowledge, some appropriate to show older pupils.

REmatters films

<p><u>Spirited arts</u></p> <p>A free national art and RE competition that has been happening for over 20 years, run by NATRE. All forms of art accepted. Thousands of entries every year, 6 different themes to choose from. Entries need to be in by July.</p> <p><u>Free learning resources</u></p> <p>A series of free resources, organised by key stage, originally produced in the pandemic but still useful for homework, home learning and ordinary RE lessons.</p> <p><u>RE in picture books</u></p> <p><u>Book 1</u> <u>Book 2</u></p> <p>A series of picture books related to RE from a primary headteacher, Karl Duke</p> <p><u>REQuest</u></p> <p>A library of resources including subject knowledge, films, interactive resources and resource sheets to support teaching about Christian worldviews. RE:QUEST is owned by British Youth for Christ.</p> <p><u>Bayat al Fann</u></p> <p>A site to explore art & culture inspired by Islamic tradition, worth following on social media as they post images frequently.</p>	<p>You might like the 'Be who you are' films exploring different people from a range of religious and non-religious people. Designed for 5-7 year olds. For 7-11 year olds "who should I try to be' are films exploring the answer to this question from different people from a range of religious and non-religious people.</p> <p><u>Real People Real faith</u></p> <p>A series of interviews filmed in locations across Berkshire, featuring local faith communities answering questions about their faith. Two questions, specific to each key stage were asked across the range of venues and in most venues, several people answered each question. This allows pupils and teachers to explore some of the diversity both between and within faith communities.</p> <p><u>Virtual voices</u></p> <p>Virtual voices in RE individual and authentic 'voices' used the medium of film to provide meaningful descriptions and dialogues on their unique and lived experiences of religion and worldviews. (part funded by Culham St Gabriel's)</p> <p><u>Early years virtual resource</u></p> <p>Early years resource based on Gill Vaisey's belonging and believing series- currently you can learn about Wilf a humanist child. (part funded by Culham St Gabriel's).</p>
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Understanding Humanism

An extensive set of resources, films, lesson plans and subject knowledge on teaching about Humanism from Humanists UK. They also provide free CPD and visitors into schools.

Heart of Hinduism

Heart of Hinduism is an online set of resources from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

Heritage detectives

A series of films, booklets and other resources from the Jewish small communities network, particularly exploring heritage.

Reforming Christianity

A series of resources from a group of free churches including resources for 7-11 year olds about Martin Luther, the reformation and bible translation.

Bahai resources

A variety of resources created by the Bahai community to provide subject knowledge and some resources to use in the classroom.

Faith and belief forum

A variety of school programmes such as object connect, school linking and skills for dialogue as well as resources. They are also currently leading Interfaith week in England.

Empowering voices

Empowering voices, empowering worldviews (part funded by Culham St Gabriel's) Podcasts, audio plays, soundscapes and resources from an Islamic, Christian, Sikh, Hindu, Humanist and Jewish community. There is also an education pack for teachers to accompany each set of resources.

Jewish Museum

From exploring the free virtual collection of artefacts to exploring the (part funded by Culham St Gabriel's) Inclusive Judaism images there are lots of useful resources to use with pupils on the Jewish Museum website.

Film on Spirituality

Film designed to think about spirituality from a religious perspective. This film comes from the National institute for Christian Education research. Other films available on this site

Where can I find support?	Where can I find support for my assignments?
<p>Local SACRE – you can find contact details here</p> <p>RE HUBS</p> <p>NATRE local groups</p>	<p>British Journal of Religious Education (BJRE) -</p> <p>Journal of Beliefs and Values</p> <p>Journal of Religious Education</p> <p>Professional REflection</p> <p>RE Today</p> <p>These articles may offer a helpful starting point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farrell, F. and Lander, V. (2019) “We’re not British values teachers are we?”: Muslim teachers’ subjectivity and the governmentality of unease, <i>Educational Review</i>, 71:4, 466-482, DOI: 10.1080/00131911.2018.1438369 • Flanagan, R. (2021). Teachers’ personal worldviews and RE in England: a way forward? <i>British Journal of Religious Education</i>, 43(3), 320–336. https://doi.org/10.1080/01416200.2020.1826404 • Huth et al. (2021). Story in RE in the early years https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40839-021-00140-y https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40839-021-00140-y The use of story to teach religious education in the early years of primary school: a systematic review of the literature - <i>Journal of Religious Education</i> • O’Grady, K. & Jackson, R. (2020) ‘A touchy subject’: teaching and

	<p>learning about difference in the religious education classroom, <i>Journal of Beliefs & Values</i>, 41:1, 88-101, DOI: 0.1080/13617672.2019.1614755</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whitworth, L. (2020). Do I know enough to teach RE? Responding to the commission on religious education's recommendation for primary initial teacher education. <i>Journal of Religious Education</i>, 68(3), 345–357. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40839-020-00115-5• Yeomans, E. How a process of subjectification in ITE can challenge the paradigm of the expert teacher in primary religious education. <i>j. relig. educ.</i> 73, 385–400 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s40839-025-00278-z
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