



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

D. A. R. E.

Diocesan School Adviser's RE Newsletter
Spring 2023

From your Diocesan Schools' Adviser

Happy new year!

Welcome to the first DARE newsletter of 2023!

This issue contains the latest in RE news and some important updates to be aware of. Please share with interested colleagues. I look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Kind regards,

Gemma 😊

Gemma Taylor

Gemma.taylor@cofesuffolk.org

Update – the syllabus 2023 training



Please sign up for new syllabus training for all RE subject leaders:

Thursday 23 February 2023	9.30-12.00	Zoom for Church of England schools and academies	Gemma Taylor, Schools' Adviser	£60 for subscribing schools /£120 for others
Tuesday 23 May 2023	9.30-12.00	Zoom for Community primaries and academies	Gemma Taylor, Schools' Adviser	£60 for subscribing schools /£120 for others

Enquiries to the Education Administrator:
Jacqui.studd@cofesuffolk.org

The syllabus is a statutory document for locally maintained schools and must be implemented for September 2023 at the latest. Academies are invited to adopt the new syllabus. All Church of England academies are advised to do so by the DBE.

Update – ADDITIONAL syllabus training for your school staff



New Syllabus Staff Training for teachers of RE

- This session can be used by RE subject leaders as an introduction to the syllabus for their teachers.
- Monday 5th June 2023 via zoom 3.45-5pm. All schools can attend live. The session will also be recorded and shared for schools to use later.
- Join Zoom Meeting
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89740054538?pwd=VjQ1ZUcyQnJvNWVCQXk5UThLaFpJZz09>

Update – ADDITIONAL syllabus training for whole school training

New Syllabus 'check in chats' for teachers of RE by phase

- These optional drop-in sessions are for teachers of certain phases to access additional support about implementing the new syllabus.
- More information to follow. All via zoom 3.30-4.30pm.

EYFS Monday 3rd July

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85059170209?pwd=aDJlTVlFNEg3Vm1YV09yYk10emtsUT09>

KS1 Tuesday 4th July

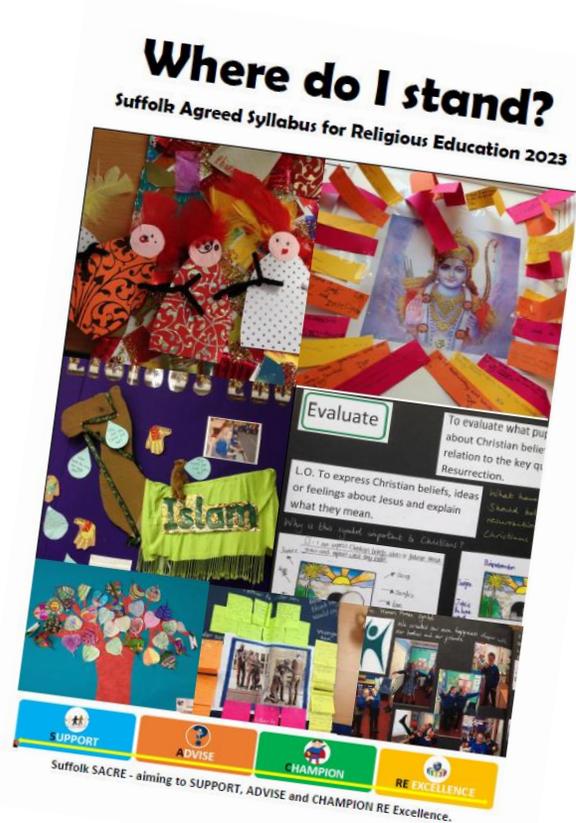
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LKS2 Thursday 6th July

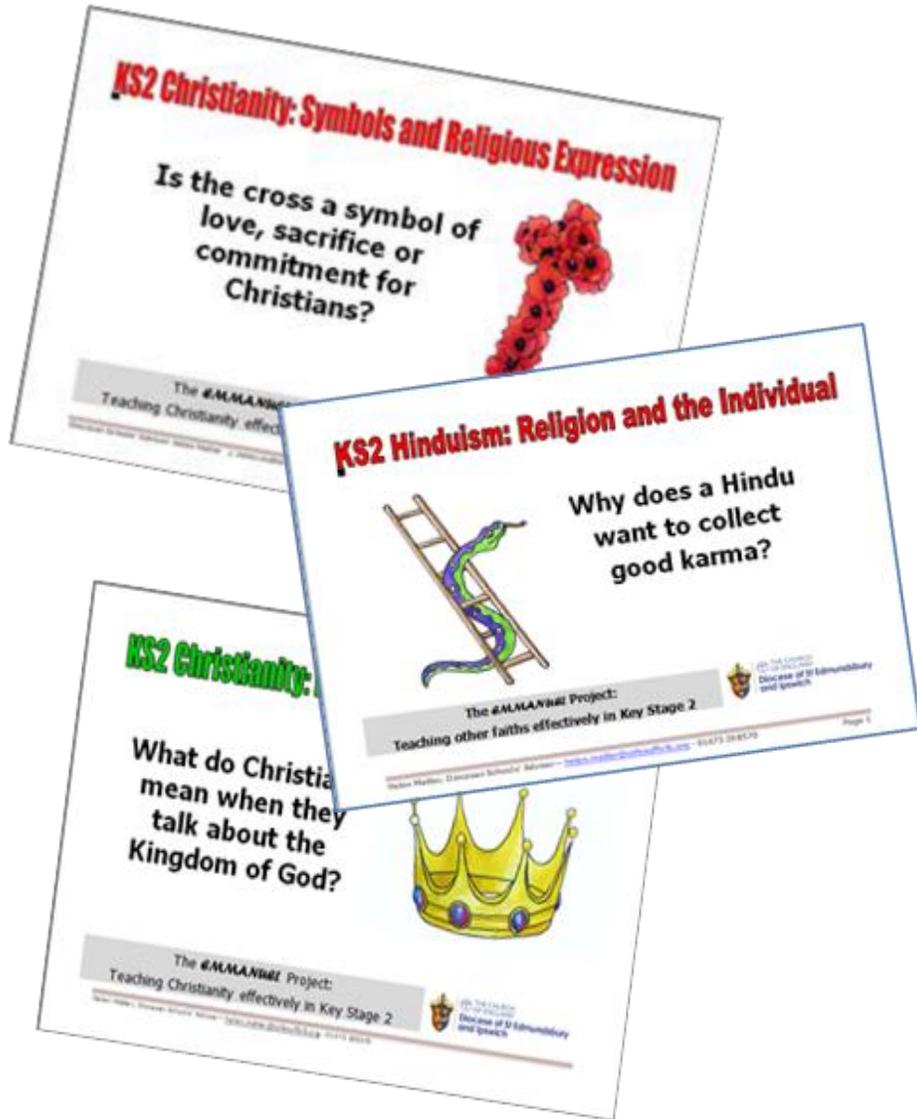
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85044347147?pwd=cWxscGphb1JjRXFIZjREdXlKeGZSZz09>

UKS2 Monday 10th July

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81645103681?pwd=c2lRS0FzQVJlUyOZNNURXRtdWdEVaUT09>



Update – Vote for your NEW KS1 Emmanuel Project unit



Schools who implement the 2023 syllabus will require a new KS1 unit.

Which new Key Stage 1 Emmanuel Project unit would you prefer?

- What stories help a Buddhist learn loving kindness?
- How does a Hindu celebrate devotion to a deity at the festival of Holi?
- What do Humanists think about to ensure they make good decisions?
- How can you tell the word Waheguru is important to Sikhs?

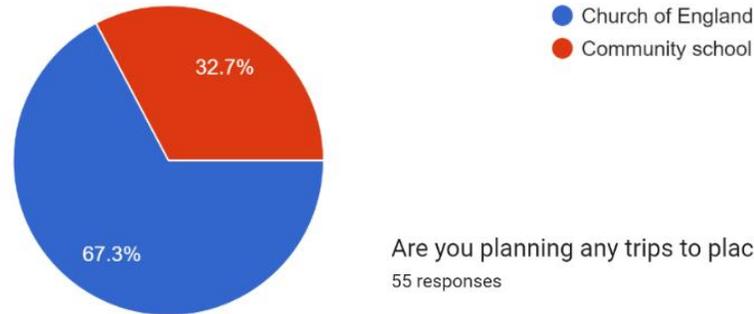
• **Vote here:**

• <https://forms.gle/6SpWLD1hY1DjoYBm8>

Visiting places of worship - survey results

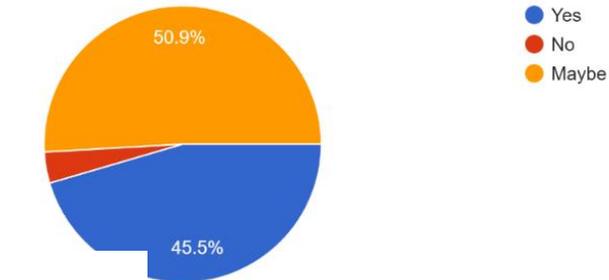
Which type of school are you?

55 responses



Are you planning any trips to places of worship this academic year including non-Christian places of worship?

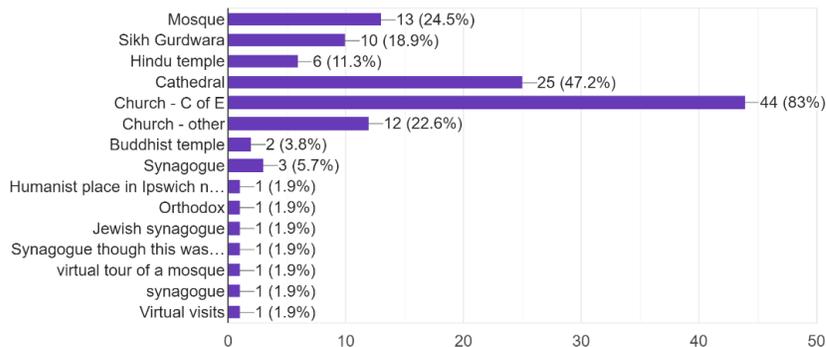
55 responses



Which of the following visits to places of worship has the school offered on at least one occasion?

This may be before the pandemic or more recently.

53 responses



Just under 50% of schools have organised a visit to a non-Christian place of worship.

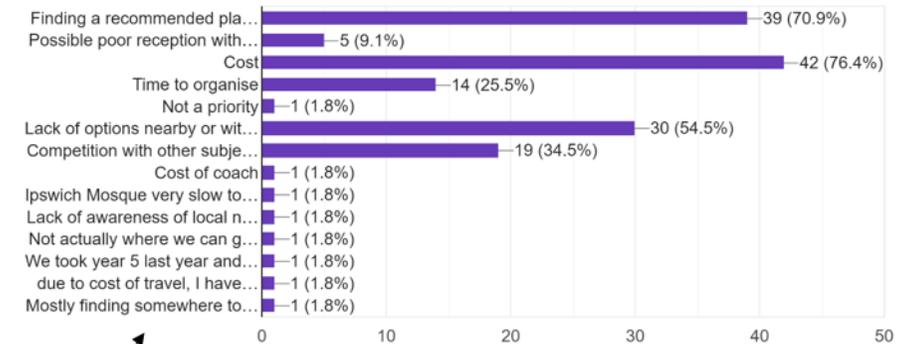
Has your school ever successfully organised a trip to a non-Christian place of worship?

55 responses



What are the factors which make running a trip difficult?

55 responses



1. Finding a recommended place to visit
2. Possible poor reception with parents
3. Cost
4. Time to organise
5. Not a priority
6. Lack of options nearby or within a reasonable travel distance
7. Competition with other subjects means RE misses out

Visiting places of worship - your recommendations

← Places of worship to visit Shared 25 places

Jewish Community Synagogue
4.0 ★★★★★ (7)
Synagogue · Colchester

Add note

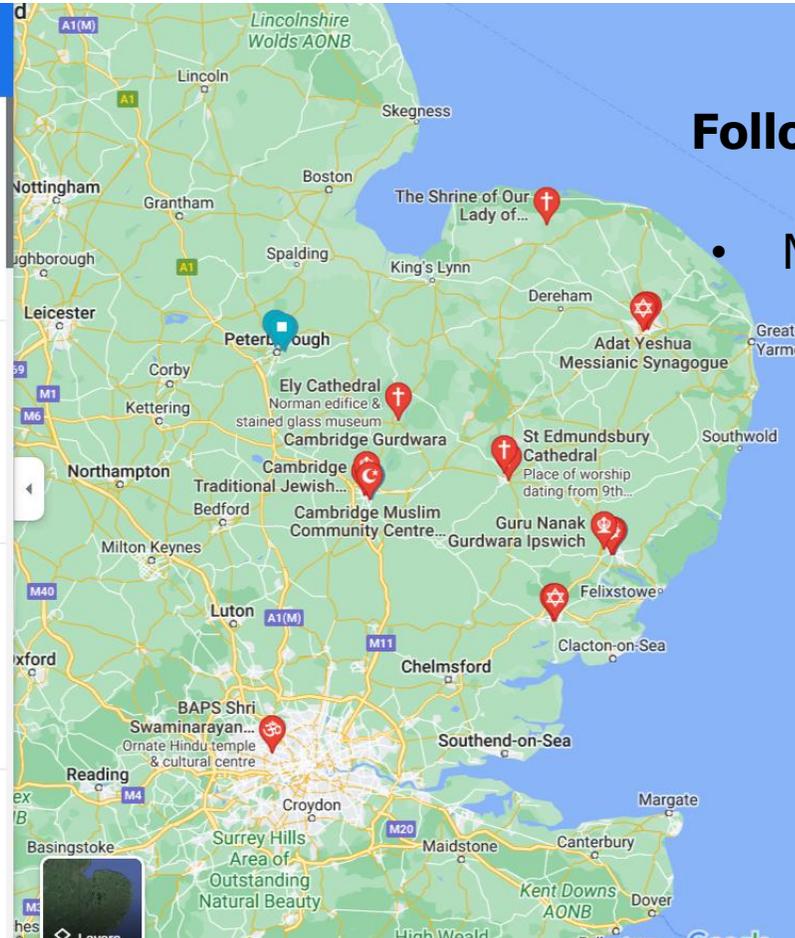
Colchester Mosque
4.8 ★★★★★ (110)
Mosque · Colchester
Open 24 hours

Add note

Cambridge Muslim Community Centre and Masjid
4.9 ★★★★★ (66)
Mosque · Cambridge
Open · Closes 10PM

Add note

Cambridge Gurdwara
4.6 ★★★★★ (45)
Gurdwara · Cambridge



Follow the link for a map of your recommendations

- Map <https://goo.gl/maps/V8VBovC13dvBDWnF8>

Padlets for teachers of RE

Please continue to share the worldview padlet links with teachers of RE. They include subject knowledge support, useful resources and signposts, videos of places of worship and people talking about their faith. New things added all the time!

- [Teaching about Christian worldviews \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)
- [Teaching about Muslim worldviews \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)
- [Teaching about Jewish worldviews \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)
- [Teaching about Sikh worldviews \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)
- [Teaching about Buddhist worldviews \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)
- [Teaching about Hindu worldviews \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)
- [Teaching about Humanist worldviews \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)

The screenshot shows a Padlet interface for 'Teaching about Jewish worldviews'. The header includes the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich - Education Team + 18h and the tagline 'Promoting excellence'. The main content is organized into several columns and rows of cards:

- Background reading for teachers:** Contains a 'Teachers guide' card with a table titled 'A teacher's guide to Judaism' and a 'Jewfaq' card.
- Core Knowledge:** Features a 'Teaching Judaism concept map Gill' PDF card with a diagram showing relationships between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Sensitivities to be aware of:** Includes a 'Sensitivities' card with text about 'Nothing Offends with Faith Exposed' and a 'Read this' card titled 'Teaching Judaism: Some Common Misconceptions by David Hampshire'.
- Different Jewish streams to represent:** Contains a 'Jewish Streams' card with text defining Orthodox, Hasidic Jews, and Progressive Jews (including Reform and Liberal).
- Listen to Jewish voices:** Features two video cards: 'KS2 Jewish people' from YouTube and 'the kippah' from BBC.

Padlets for RE Subject leaders

[For community primary and academy RE Subject Leaders \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)

[For C of E RE Subject Leaders \(padlet.org\)](https://padlet.org)

Lots of resources to help and support RE subject leaders.

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich - Education Team • 1mo

For community primary and academy RE Subject Leaders

Promoting excellence

For help and support

Contact

Gemma Taylor
Diocesan Schools' Advisor
gemma.taylor@cofesuffolk.org

Other padlet links

These are really good resources!

A padlet for each worldview taught in the Suffolk syllabus. Including helpful subject knowledge, videos of speakers, 360 degree tours of places of worship and contact details. Do share these with your teachers!

[diocese of st edmundsbury](#)

Teaching about Muslim worldviews

[Buddhist worldview traditions](#)

For the subject leader

What are your next steps as an RE Subject Leader?

DOCX

self assessment grid

Pupil book study - a way of reviewing your RE curriculum

The Suffolk RE Syllabus

Do I need to follow the syllabus?

CP - Yes you do. **All Suffolk local authority maintained schools are required by law to follow the Suffolk RE syllabus.**

Academy - you need to provide RE in accordance with the same bit of law as those who write a syllabus. If you check this is what your funding agreement will say. That is your RE curriculum must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'. The way to do this is to follow the Suffolk syllabus, another syllabus from somewhere else in the country or write your own.

Emmanuel Project

Purchase information

cofesuffolk.org

The Emmanuel Project

All assessment sheets

ZIP • 2 MB

All

ALL knowledge organisers for EP 2020

There is a new SIAMS framework for September 2023.

In a nutshell:

- Judgements replace grades.
- Each school needs to have a theologically rooted Christian vision.
- High level inspection questions with a focus on impact replace exhaustive lists of criteria.
- Each school's specific context plays a greater role than at present.
- Trust accountability for academies is brought to the fore.



IQ7 What is the quality of religious education in voluntary aided and former voluntary aided schools, and in former voluntary controlled schools in which denominational religious education is taught?

- What is the quality of teaching?
- How well do pupils make progress in their learning as a result of a balanced and well-structured religious education curriculum?¹
- How does assessment inform teaching and learning?

IQ6 Is the religious education curriculum effective (with reference to the expectations set out in the [Church of England's Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education](#))?

- How do school and trust leaders ensure that the provision, profile, and priority of religious education in all key stages reflect its place on the curriculum of a Church school?
- How do school and trust leaders ensure that the religious education curriculum is challenging, accurate, well-sequenced, well-balanced, relevant, and diverse?
- How do school and trust leaders ensure that religious education is well-resourced, and that continuing professional development for staff has an impact on the effectiveness of the curriculum?

IQ6 is the RE question for ALL C of E schools.

An additional question (IQ7) is added for VA schools around the quality of RE teaching.

Things of interest in the RE community

RE Grants

[The Jerusalem Trust \(regrants.org.uk\)](http://regrants.org.uk)



The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase resources for use in RE lessons.

- Applications to the fund can only be made for Religious Education (RE) resources about Christianity. These can include textbooks, bibles, teacher resources, artefacts, CD-ROMs, DVDs and online subscriptions for use in RE lessons. Only resources which focus solely on the Christian religion are eligible.

Not funded:

The fund is not intended for use towards the purchase of resources for assemblies, personal, spiritual or social development, computer hardware, consumables, gift giving, prayer areas, reflection gardens or other school activities such as visits, specialist workshops, visitors or teacher training, for example.

Schools in the diocese have had a lot of success here securing funding for resources!

Walk Through the Bible NEW Easter resource

The resource will include:

- 4 fully planned and resourced lessons.
- Short interactive videos to get the ball-rolling - we'll be recording these in Jerusalem in January.
- Objectives linked to R.E., P.S.H.E., and Citizenship.
- A colourful and comprehensive booklet for children to complete, including stories from the Bible and opportunities to reflect and respond.
- A 2 week English plan for UKS2 that links to the Easter videos.



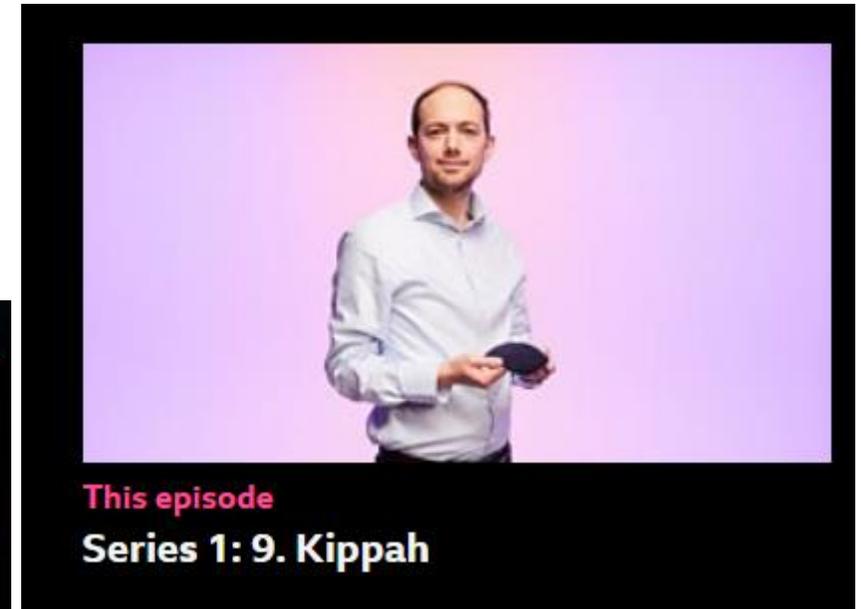
All of this comes at **no cost to your school**. However, there are only a limited number available. Use [this link](https://www.bible.org.uk/Easter.php) to sign up today so you don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity.

<https://www.bible.org.uk/Easter.php>

What's on your head? - BBC

Check out this series on BBC iPlayer which has people talking about their different styles of dress, helping pupils learn more about the world around them and different people within.

[BBC iPlayer - Whats on Your Head?](#)

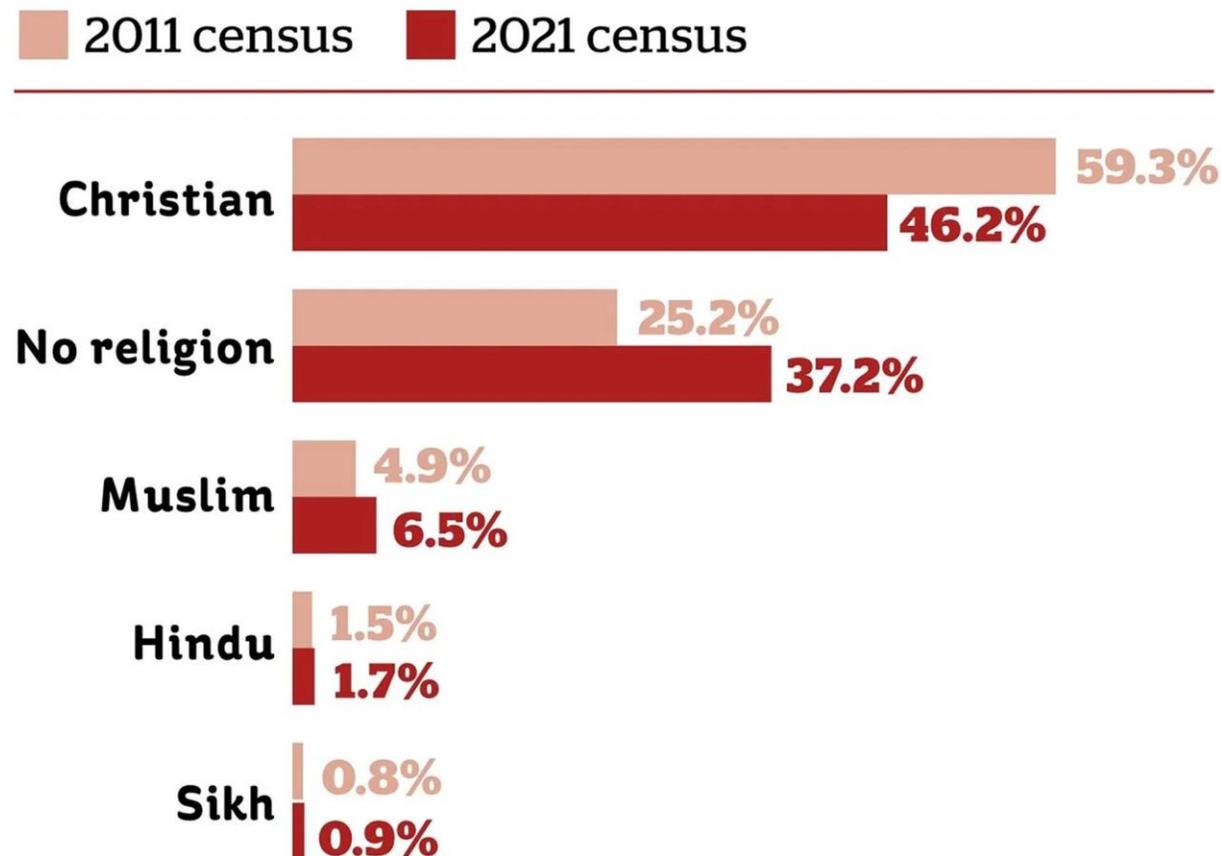


[Less than half of the population](#) in the UK identifies as [Christian](#) for the first time.

The proportion of people in England and Wales describing themselves as Christian dropped below 50 per cent in the 2021 census for the first time, [the Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) said](#).

At the time of the previous census in 2011, 59.3 per cent of people – 33.3 million – identified as Christian, but now the figure is 46.2 per cent, or 27.5 million people.

Religious composition of England and Wales



[Christianity's retreat from England, mapped - Big Think](#)

Free online training resources

Self-study short courses

Looking to develop your understanding and knowledge of the subject? Look no further than these free, short, self-study online courses for teachers.

[Culham St Gabriel's Trust Moodle \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://cstg.org.uk)

Introduction to Religion and Worldviews

What is a Religion and Worldviews approach? Maybe you have heard the...

0% Complete

Digging Deeper: Religion and Worldviews

Welcome to the Digging Deeper level Religion and Worldviews course. You hav...

0% Complete

Introduction to Curriculum

This course offers an understanding of what curriculum is and the central role it...

0% Complete



Withdrawal from RE – University of Exeter Survey

Withdrawal from RE

Survey of Teachers' Experiences

Do you receive requests for withdrawal from RE? How do you manage these requests?

Dr Jonathan Doney at the University of Exeter invites teachers to provide information regarding this issue.

For further questions, please email Dr Doney at J.Doney@Exeter.ac.uk.

For more information and the survey itself, follow this link:

[Sources of advice for withdrawal requests in RE \(office.com\)](#)

Farmington Fellowship – paid time out of class!

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS JANUARY 29th 2023

<http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/>

Farmington will pay for up to 30 days out of school for you to complete a research study of your choice. This could include writing materials for the new Suffolk RE Syllabus or the Emmanuel Project.

What subjects may be studied?

Headteachers may study any subject that would be of benefit to their school. School teacher Scholars are free to study any aspect of Religious Education or associated subjects they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. Occasionally the Institute, in conjunction with one of its partner universities or colleges, may advertise for an RE teacher to undertake research on a specific topic which is relevant to RE.

Parental attitudes to RE

A survey into attitudes among parents towards religious education has found that religious and philosophical themes are a major talking point at home between parents and their children.

[click here for more](#)



73% of UK parents

discuss beliefs and practices of people with different religious and non-religious worldviews with their child



70% say

70% of UK parents say RE lessons should teach about the social and historical context of different religious and non-religious worldviews



72% say

72% of UK parents say their child's RE lessons foster mutual understanding of others' religious and non-religious worldviews



72% say

72% of UK parents say their child's RE lessons provide an opportunity to openly discuss their beliefs with others



77% of UK parents

discuss beliefs that affect people's behaviour and decision making with their child



73% say

73% of UK parents say it is important to learn about the similarities and differences between beliefs and lived experience of different worldview traditions



78% of UK parents say their child's RE lessons provide them with an opportunity to learn more about other people's religious and non-religious worldviews

72% of UK parents say that RE lessons should include teaching that worldviews are complex and may comprise both religious and non-religious belief



67% say

67% of UK parents say what their child learns in RE lessons is important



66% felt

66% of UK parents felt their child's RE lessons did a good job in preparing young people to navigate life in multi-religious, multi-secular Britain



70% of UK parents

discuss how to respond when their child disagrees with someone else's worldview

99

70% felt

70% of UK parents felt that their child's RE lessons helped them to learn how to debate ideas around different religious and non-religious worldviews



70% felt

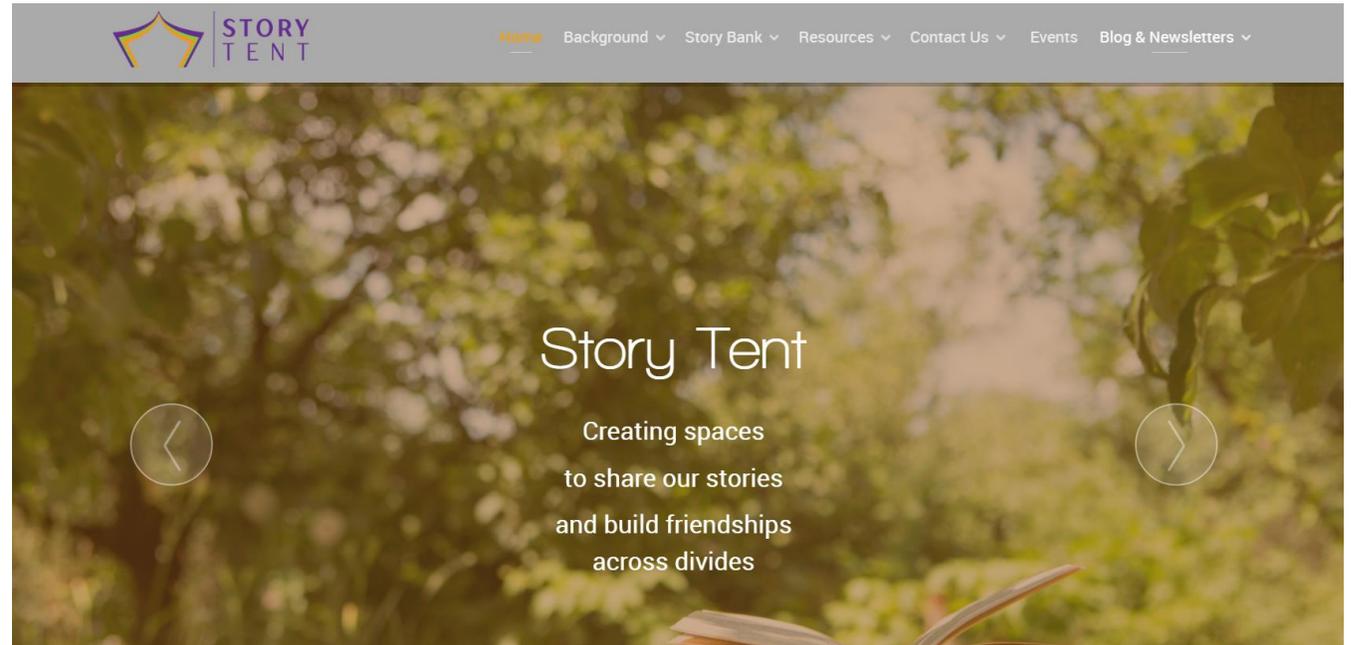
70% of UK parents felt that their child's RE lessons helped them understand their own beliefs better



69% of UK parents

said their child mainly accesses information about religious and non-religious worldviews from school

[Story Tent Online \(concordant.online\)](http://concordant.online)



The Story Tent offers easily accessible online teaching materials to support KS2 pupils to learn more about Religion and Worldviews through the lens of story. It provides resources that develop skills for intercultural and interfaith dialogue through an inquiry-based approach with an exploration of difference at its heart. The Story Tent equips pupils with the confidence they need to live well in our increasingly globalised and diverse societies. There is a bank of stories from a range of worldviews, covering topics such as Creation, Peace, Stewardship, Leadership, Justice, and Wisdom. Each story is read online, with a short introductory commentary.

Visual Commentary on Scripture



This website brings together the Bible and Art. It is organised according to books of the Bible and displays artwork from a range of periods and cultures.

[Visual Commentary on Scripture | VCS \(thevcs.org\)](http://thevcs.org)

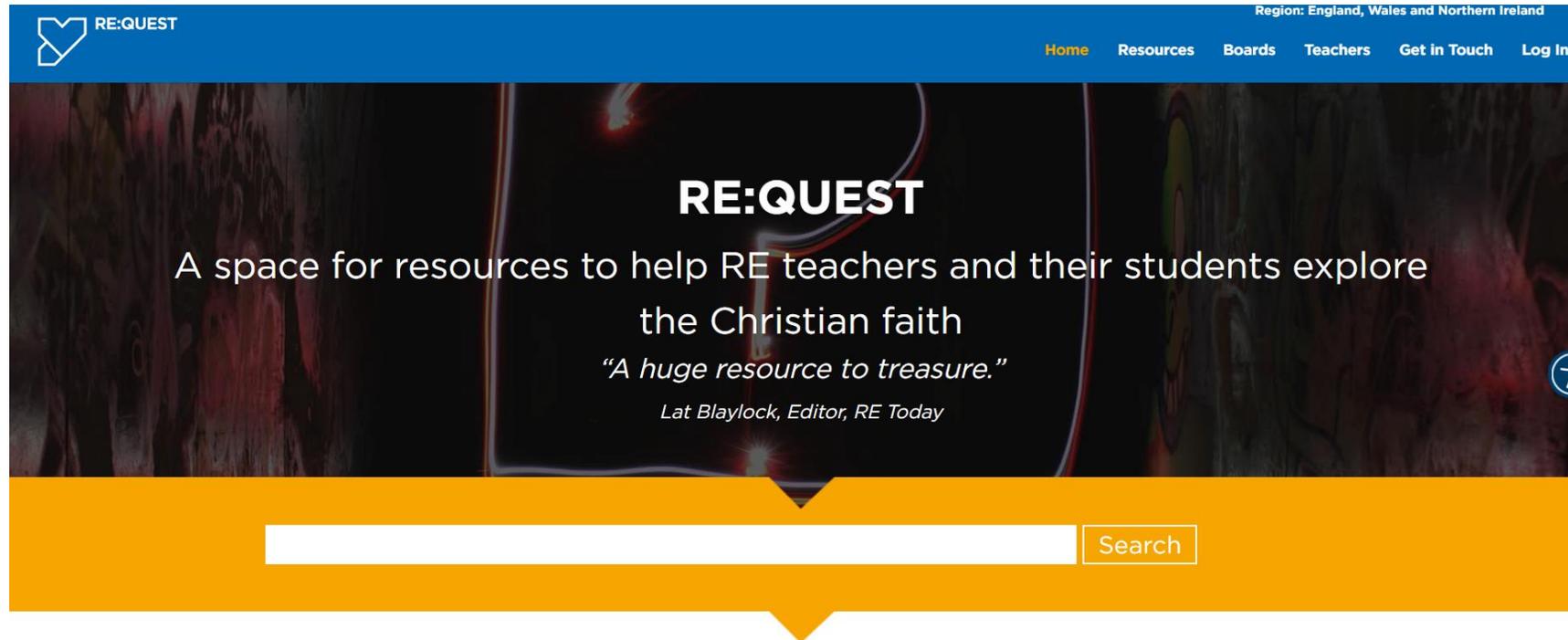
[Home | Bayt Al Fann](#)



Bayt Al Fann is a website with the strapline: 'a house for everyone, exploring art & culture inspired by Islamic tradition'. Containing both modern and ancient examples of Islamic art, as well as interviews with current Islamic artists this website has a range of images that would be suitable to explore in the classroom. The interviews and articles are likely to be more suitable for older students, but may give teachers an insight into the traditions and features of Islamic inspired art.

RE quest

[Home - RE:quest \(request.org.uk\)](http://request.org.uk)



The RE Quest website has been recently updated and has some helpful new features, as well as more up to date interviews and resources. It focuses exclusively on Christianity and has a wide range of video clips and information about Christian beliefs and practices. There is the facility to filter by Key Stage as well as topic. There is a new facility to create topic boards within the website, linking resources together as you want them, and there is an accessibility button which allows the user to change some of the ways that the page is presented. This should make the resources more accessible to a wider range of learners.

Training from the diocese

Religious Education/Collective Worship	
<p><u>New to Teaching RE</u> 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 27 September 2022• Tuesday 17 January 2023• Wednesday 26 April 2023	<p>Suitable for ECTs, RQTs, HLTAs, experienced teachers and anyone needing a refresher on teaching RE.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p><u>Inspirational Collective Worship</u> 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 5 October 2022• Tuesday 7 February 2023• Thursday 4 May 2023	<p>An opportunity to explore and develop a clear understanding of collective worship in CofE schools.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p><u>Collective Worship and RE for foundation governors</u> 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 11 October 2022• Wednesday 1 March 2023• Thursday 18 May 2023	<p>To support foundation governors this course will consider what 'good' collective worship and RE looks like.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>

<p><u>Diving Deeper in RE</u> 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 18 October 2022 • Wednesday 24 May 2023 	<p>Suitable for RE subject leaders in preparation for Ofsted and SIAMS inspections.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p><u>Assessment in RE</u> 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 3 November 2022 	<p>Suitable for all primaries, what does effective assessment in RE look like.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p><u>Spiritual Development in Primary Schools</u> 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 23 November 2022 • Thursday 23 March 2023 • Tuesday 27 June 2023 	<p>Suitable for heads, SLT, teachers, governors, clergy, curriculum leads</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p><u>Courageous Advocacy</u> 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 29 November 2022 • Thursday 6 July 2023 	<p>An opportunity to unpack and understand exactly what is meant by character development, social action and courageous advocacy.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p>Introducing the New Syllabus 2023 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 23 February 2023 • Tuesday 23 May 2023 	<p>To enable teachers to get to grips with the new syllabus and find out how to apply and use it successfully in their schools.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p>The Excellent RE Teacher – how to ensure the best pupil outcomes 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 9 March 2023 	<p>More information to follow</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p>Annual RE Subject Leader Update 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 14 June 2023 • Thursday 22 June 2023 	<p>A key update for RE subject leaders in school to ensure that they are up to date and compliant with the most recent guidance and advice.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>
<p>Annual Collective Worship Update 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 4 July 2023 • Thursday 13 July 2023 	<p>A key update for any collective worship leader in school to ensure they are up to date and compliant with the most recent guidance and advice.</p> <p>£60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools</p>