# RE Subject Leaders' Newsletter

## Central Bedfordshire SACRE

**Spring Term 2026**

*Wishing you a happy new year and hoping the term has started well for you.*

## What is a SACRE?

SACRE stands for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education; this is a statutory body whose role is to advise Central Bedfordhsire LA and support schools with religious education (RE) and collective worship.

Part of the support SACRE provides includes the locally agreed syllabus for RE, which sets out the statutory requirements for the subject and what schools can use to plan the RE curriculum.

But we want to support you even more!

All schools are invited to the next **bespoke in-person CPD** and network session for all Central Bedfordshire schools. These sessions will be FREE for all schools to attend, irrespective of whether State, Free or Academy.

Our next **subject leaders' session** on **4th March** will be delivered by Stacey Burman from **2pm** to **4pm** at Sandy Secondary School, Engayne Avenue, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG191BL.

This session will boost your confidence to lead RE by clarifying **Ofsted** expectations, develop your **subject knowledge**, and provide some examples of meaningful RE - whichever curriculum package or examination syllabus you may currently follow. Bring along your current curriculum planning documents and samples of pupil learning to support our discussion.

## Pupils' Interfaith Conference Programme

Participating **secondary** schools have received their resource packs for pupils to prepare for the online conference event on 15th **January** 2026. We have speakers from 6 religions and worldviews to give their responses to religious persecution based around the question: **"Why remember?"** and we very much look forward to seeing the artwork the pupils produce.

Meanwhile, have you heard the recommendation of RE becoming part of the **National Curriculum**?

You can watch this video to better appreciate the processes and questions this raises, and why this may not be so straightforward.

## Collective Worship

All schools have a duty to provide **Collective Worship** which is "mainly of a broadly Christian character."

We are working with schools and representatives from a range of religions and non-religious worldviews to create some **practical** resources that will inspire and stimulate inter-belief dialogue among pupils within a pragmatic and **flexible** model for schools.

*Would you like a first glance at these resources?*

Contact the RE Advisor for more information or to join our team of pilot schools!

Get ready for **Holocaust Memorial Day** on **27th January** with this year's theme and free resources.

## Sharing lived experiences

RE HUBS

You can also get in touch with some trained speakers to visit your pupils, or arrange a visit to their place of worship via the **RE Hubs.**

*Why not invite someone to talk about how they celebrate a particular festival?*

*Having trouble with those pesky 'Belief in X is the most important' AQA questions?*

You can see how best to support your **GCSE students** through here.

Plus there are lots of reports, written by teachers for teachers you can look at here.

## In the meantime….

We send best wishes to all those celebrating now and in the coming weeks. Some of these religious **festivals** include:

6 January: Guru Gobind Singh birthday (Sikh)
Epiphany (Christianity)
15 February: Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
14 January: Makar Sankranti/Pongal (Hindu)
17 January: Muhammad's Night Journey (Islam)
18 January: World Religion Day (Multi)
23 January: Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
1 February: Tu Bish'vat (Jewish)
4 February: Night of Forgiveness (Islam)
15 February: Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
18 February: Start of Ramadan (Islam)
Start of Lent (Christianity)

*Please note, this is not an exhaustive list. Further events and key dates can be found here.*