

# South Glos RE newsletter



**September 2025**



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## Concepts and stories in RE

*"Cognitive psychology has shown that the mind best understands facts when they are woven into a conceptual fabric, such as a narrative, mental map, or intuitive theory. Disconnected facts in the mind are like unlinked pages on the Web: They might as well not exist."*

Steven Pinker

*"Our brains privilege stories."*

Daniel Willingham

[Mary Myatt](#) talks about the way concepts act like learning baskets, serving to collect and link our subject knowledge into meaningful patterns. The 2024 [Ofsted RE subject report](#) points to the importance of creating a curriculum where pupils can 'build up a connected conceptual framework about religion and non-religion.' Stories are an important vehicle for the development of conceptual knowledge.

Does your RE curriculum identify key stories to read and concepts that run through topics and across units?

Here are some [primary RE story books](#) recommended by Mary Myatt.

## South Glos SACRE conference

**Exploring Diversity: rich traditions within and across religious and non-religious communities**

Keynote: Fiona Moss (Culham St Gabriel's Trust)

Plus great workshops and presentations for primary and secondary teachers

Engineer's House, Bristol

Fri 6th Feb

£120 per delegate (£75 for second delegate)

Free to teachers in South Glos schools

Booking [here](#) (see P3 for flyer)

## WIRE Award and WIRE Gold

The [WIRE Award](#) and [WIRE Gold](#) are open to all schools and academies in S Glos. [Apply now](#) to be recognised for your commitment to inclusivity and better RE. (See P4)

## Interfaith Week 2025

Are you making plans for [Interfaith Week 2025](#)? Taking place from 9th-16<sup>th</sup> November, it aims to raise awareness of the diverse contributions of faith and belief communities and promote understanding among people of different religious and non-religious beliefs.

[Ideas: invite school speakers](#), visit Places of Worship, set up discussions, cultural events and activities etc

## Israel-Palestine Education

Book a [Solutions Not Sides](#) visit to your school. SNS has been teaching skills of empathy, active listening, communication, critical thinking and conflict resolution through exploration of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict since 2010. SNS will be leading secondary school sessions in the SW in January 26 and there's still availability: Mon 19/1, Tues 20/1, Fri 23/1/26. Highly recommended! Book early!

## NATRE secondary survey

**Secondary teachers:** please complete NATRE's [RE teacher survey](#) to help campaign for our subject!

## RE Hubs

Visit the [RE Hubs](#) website for all your RE needs: accredited [School Speakers](#), [Places of Worship](#), [Advertise RE Jobs](#), [Resources](#), [Calendar of CPD Events](#), [Local Groups](#).

## Islam survey 2025

The British Muslims census [report](#) provides useful facts about the diverse makeup of the Muslim population in the UK in 2025. There are some useful graphics [here](#). See P 6-8

## Mo Farah on Hajj

*"My faith has remained important to me throughout my career. To visit Mecca fulfilled a dream of mine."*

Mo Farah [Facebook post](#)



## Malala on the Qur'an

*"I started learning the Qur'an with translation at around age 10 and remember that it had these powerful messages about doing good and being a virtuous person. They made a big impression on me then and have stayed with me ever since."*

Malala Yousafzai [Facebook Post](#)



## Muslim England footballer

[Djed Spence](#) has become the first Muslim to play for the senior England men's football team.

## Reform winning over Christians

New [polling](#) shows how Reform UK is disrupting our previous understanding of how Christians vote in British elections.

## Christianity is under-reported

[Christianity is not accurately reported](#) in Britain today, giving a narrow and stereotyped view and failing to reflect the reality of the fast-changing and diverse UK church.

## Judaism- Any Questions

Join the [informal drop-in session](#) 3.30pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. See flyer on P5

## Picture news

[Picture news](#) offers great ways for your pupils to encounter current affairs and spark their interest in the world around them. [Special offer - free sample](#) for the start of a new school year.

## AI in RE

In The Missing Link podcast [AI and RE](#) Kryss McInnis shares some excellent ideas on the use of AI in RE, redefining AI as a creative and reflective tool, rather than just a short cut to complete tasks.

RE is about meaning. The AI algorithm is not neutral. Can AI understand the sacred?

## Humanism: the word

Today, the [word 'humanism'](#) is widely understood to describe a non-religious worldview. But, the word 'humanism' has a long history, and its meaning has varied across time and according to the context in which it is being used.

## RE programmes for KS3 and 4

Message from Lat Blaylock: These BBC [programmes](#) for GCSE RS (and 11-14s) are rather unknown, but I'm proud of them. They are usefully collected all together in one place on this link. Build them into your schemes of work if you like them.

## Education and the Holocaust

*"Education is not memorizing that Hitler killed 6 million Jews. Education is understanding how millions of ordinary Germans were convinced that it was required. Education is learning how to spot the signs of history repeating itself."*

Noam Chomsky

## HMD 2026

The theme for [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) (HMD) 2026, 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us.

## RE MAT leaders

Do you lead RE across a MAT? Training opportunities [here](#).

**BRISTOL, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE, WILTSHIRE & SWINDON  
SACRE PRESENT**

# **ANNUAL RE CONFERENCE 2026**

**FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 9.30-3.00PM**

**ENGINEERS HOUSE, BRISTOL BS8 3NB**

**Cost: FREE for teachers in South Gloucestershire**

**£120 per delegate, £75 for second delegate\* [BOOK HERE](#)**



## *Exploring Diversity* rich traditions within and across religious and non-religious communities



### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: FIONA MOSS**

Fiona Moss is the Education and Programmes Manager for Culham St Gabriel's Trust. Previously, Fiona was a successful primary teacher of RE before becoming an Adviser with RE Today and NATRE CEO.

*Fiona will explore how a religion and worldviews approach to teaching RE - both content and pedagogy - supports understanding of the richness of communities.*

Also: Special Feature on Pilgrimage and 'Lived Experience' including panel discussion with people from diverse religion and belief traditions

Plus: A wide variety of workshops for primary and secondary teachers

Conference booking link [here](#)



**Be recognised for your commitment to Inclusivity and better RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Award is for **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE** schools and academies.

It is **FREE** to take part and you only have to complete 3 activities:

1. Someone from your school attends an RE conference or an RE Hub meeting.
2. Take a group of your pupils to visit a place of worship that is not Christian (or a majority faith represented in your school).
3. Arrange an encounter day or RE event and invite a member of SACRE, or Enter a Competition to do with RE (such as Spirited Arts).

[Register your interest](#) and receive your free WIRE pack



WIRE Award is a project initiated and administered by [South Gloucestershire](#) Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACRE).

SACREs are independent bodies which consider the provision of religious education in the area under the jurisdiction of its Local Authority, advising it and empowered to require a review of the locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education.



More details [here](#)

[Register your interest](#) and receive your free WIRE pack



# Are you an RE teacher with questions about Judaism?

A chance to ask anything you like...

**Open to primary and secondary teachers who teach Judaism**

Why don't all...

What's the difference between...

I don't understand which...



**Thurs 23rd October, 3.30-4.30pm**

**Any question answered**



**BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF  
BRITISH JEWS**  
ADVOCACY | DEMOCRACY | COMMUNITY

by Anna Silver,  
Education Officer

## Monthly informal drop in session

(for monthly dates and zoom links email  
[anna.silver@bod.org.uk](mailto:anna.silver@bod.org.uk))

For Zoom link see attached text

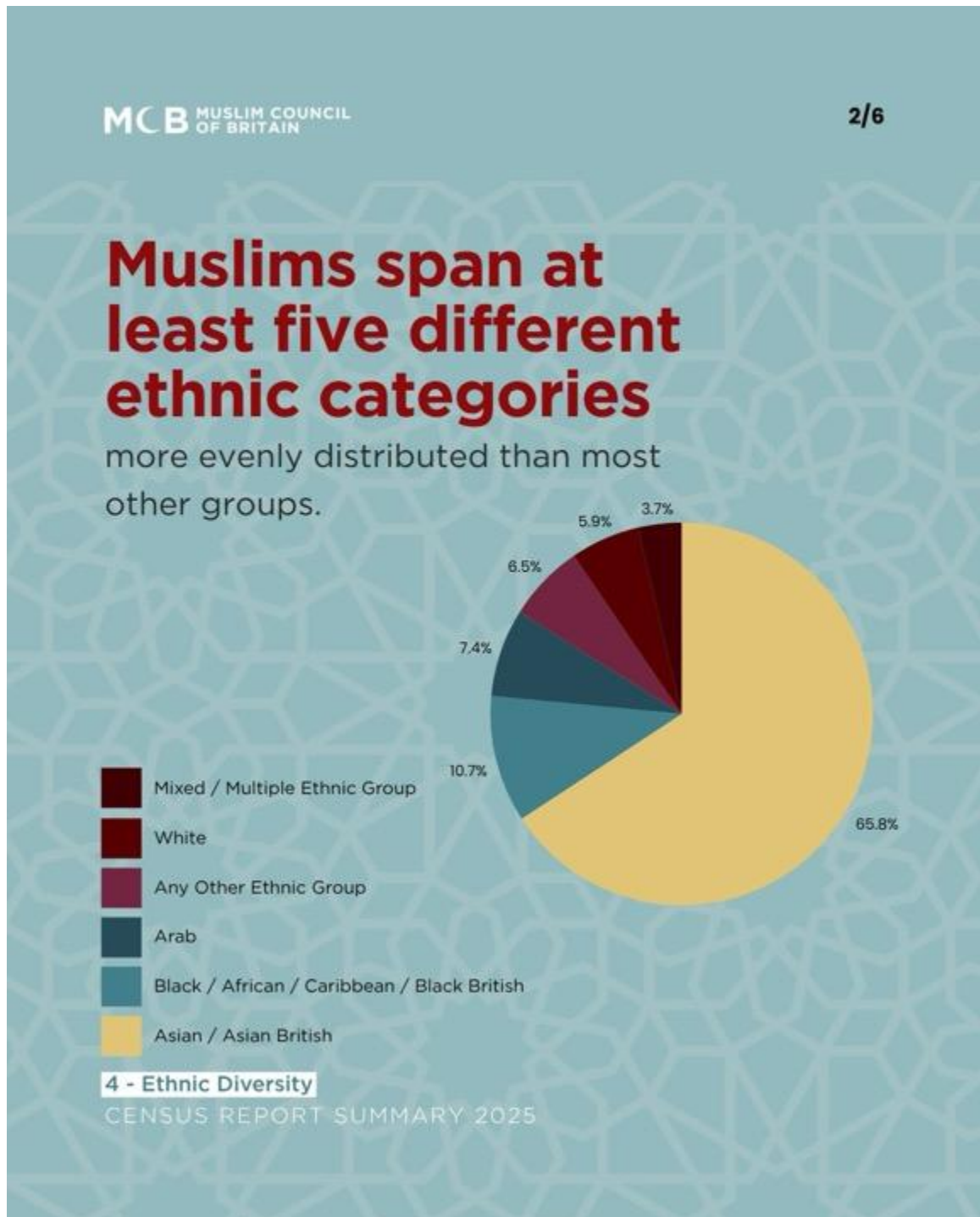
Zoom link (not on flyer):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83506826246?pwd=P1V7Y00lvyBzzvx fSjcuSPJDnj6gza.1>

Meeting ID: 835 0682 6246

Passcode: 632738

# Graphics from the 2025 Census Report on British Muslims



[Graphics](#) from Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) Facebook post  
See [full report](#) from the 2025 Islam survey



**1 in 3 of the  
UK's Black  
and Minority  
Ethnic  
population is  
Muslim**

**2 - Demographic Dividend**

CENSUS REPORT SUMMARY 2025



## **British Muslims are diverse and multi-ethnic**

And contrary to some narratives,  
historical labour and housing  
patterns are better explainers of  
clusters of Muslim communities  
than initiatives to self-segregate.

