

South Glos SACRE RE newsletter

June 2026

What do you know about Sikhs, and the right to carry a kirpan?

There has been significant press coverage over recent days regarding the [murder of Henry Nowak](#). Much has been made of the fact that the man who murdered Henry is a Sikh, and that he was carrying a kirpan.

For a Sikh to become a member of the Khalsa, they must undergo the Amrit Sanchar ceremony. This sacred initiation commits the individual to a strict daily spiritual discipline and to wearing the Five Ks (sacred articles of faith). The kirpan is one of these 5.

But, what exactly does the [law say about carrying knives](#) for religious reasons? Well, they are allowed if they are part of a religious practice. It is important to note that the knife Digwa (Henry's killer) used for the crime was a larger, second knife, not his kirpan. You can find out more about who Sikhs are [here](#). See a statement from Sikh MPs on P4.

For RE support, contact Ed Pawson at efpawson@gmail.com.
Church schools contact: Laura Harris Laura.Harris@bristoldiocese.org or Julia Watts julia.watts@bristoldiocese.org



Learn Teach Lead RE



LTLRE hub (twilight) meetings are **free and open to all teachers of RE**, primary and secondary, wherever you are based. See LTLRE [website](#) for full details.

LTLRE hub meetings this term:

[Church Visits in Bath](#) Tues 9th June

[Oak resources for RE in South Glos](#) Thur 18th June

[Visit Bedminster Quaker Meeting House](#) Thur 9th Jul

Bristol RE conference 2027

Save the date for the Bristol and S Glos SACRE RE conference.

Fri 5th Feb 2027

New venue: St Michael's Centre, Stoke Gifford

South Glos RE syllabus

Have your say: please complete this [short questionnaire about the S Glos RE syllabus](#).

WIRE Award

[WIRE Award](#) and [WIRE Gold](#): open to all South Glos schools. [Apply now](#) to be recognised for your commitment to better RE.

Transport subsidy available

Any Questions

Join the open online forum to [ask questions](#) about teaching **Judaism** Wed 10th June 3.45-4.45pm (P5)

Join the [Any Questions](#) Islam forum 3.45-4.45pm on Mon 15th June.

TrueTube updates

Keep up with [new videos](#) on TrueTube, including A Portrait of the Buddha.

SACRE members needed

Are you interested in finding out about joining a SACRE? We are looking for new teacher reps in South Glos. SACRE meets three times a year to support and monitor RE and CW in local schools. Get in [contact](#) if you'd like to know more.

NATRE Primary Survey 2026

Take part in the NATRE [Primary Survey](#) here. This is your chance to make sure the reality of RE in your primary classroom is heard where it counts.

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](#), [School Speakers](#)



LTLRE Hub Meeting

Twilight network meeting for all primary teachers of RE in South Glos and Swindon schools

4-5pm on Thursday 18th June 2026 (online)

Oak resources for RE

We have carried out a mapping exercise to show where the new, fantastic and free [Oak Academy resources](#) can be used to teach the primary sections of the South Glos/Swindon RE Today Syllabus

Please join us for an introduction to this exciting new set of resources

Presented by Adam Roberstson (Oak Academy lead for RE)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88990936589>

For more information contact Ed Pawson efpawson@gmail.com

**Free and open to all teachers and HLTAs teaching RE at Primary and Secondary.
Everyone is very welcome.**

Primary hub leader – Tracy at tracy.moorhouse@mangoschool.uk

Secondary hub leaders – Caroline Smith caroline.smith@cset.co.uk and Leanne Murley Leanne.murley@cset.co.uk

Hubs are affiliated to the National Association of Teachers of RE www.natre.org.uk/

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88990936589>
For more information contact Ed Pawson efpawson@gmail.com



Bristol RE Hub Meeting

Twilight network group for all primary and secondary teachers who teach RE

Thursday 9th July 2026 from 4:30 - 5:15pm

This is an in person meeting at **Bedminster Quaker Meeting House,**

Wedmore Vale, Bristol BS3 5HX

We are very lucky to be joined by **Jenni Lister who is a member of the Quaker community here in Bristol. She will be there to talk to us about Quaker worship and the community in Bristol.**

Please book your space via **Eventbrite [here](#)**

**Free and open
to all teachers and HLTAs teaching RE at Primary and Secondary.
Everyone is very welcome. If you have requests for what we should look at in
future Hub meetings, please let us know.**

More details: Primary – Hannah at HWelch@horfieldce.org.uk
Or Rachel at laker@stjohnsprimary.org.uk

Secondary – Merryn at mevans122@redlandgreen.bristol.sch.uk
Or Alice at ASarbicki175@redlandgreen.bristol.sch.uk



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Statement from Sikh MPs on the murder of Henry Nowak

We stand in solidarity with the family and loved ones of Henry Nowak following the senseless and tragic loss of his life.

Our thoughts are with them as they continue to endure unimaginable grief. Nothing can lessen the pain of losing a son, brother and friend in such horrific circumstances.

This case was about the murder of Henry Nowak by Vickrum Digwa. It was not about religion or racism. It was the criminal act of an individual who alone bears responsibility for his actions.

A jury found Digwa guilty of murder and he has been sentenced to life imprisonment. The legal process operated as it should with no special treatment afforded, no religious exemption protected criminal behaviour, and justice was delivered through the rule of law. The judge was clear that Digwa abused the responsibilities that accompany religious freedoms and that his actions stirred racial tension and caused fear within the Sikh community itself.

Across the country, Sikhs have responded with an outpouring of sympathy and condolences for Henry's family. Sikh organisations, gurdwaras and community leaders have been swift, public and unequivocal in condemning Digwa's actions and the false claims he made in an apparent attempt to evade responsibility for his crime.

We are deeply distressed by the circumstances surrounding Henry's death, including the body worn video footage and the treatment he received in his final moments. The questions that have been raised deserve proper examination through the ongoing processes already under way. Henry's family deserve answers, and confidence that lessons will be learned.

At a time when emotions are understandably raw, we urge people not to allow the actions of one murderer to divide communities or fuel hostility towards innocent people. The Sikh community shares the grief, shock and anger felt across the country. We mourn Henry Nowak, stand with his family, and support the pursuit of truth, justice and accountability.

Jas Athwal, Chair of APPG British Sikhs
Satvir Kaur MP
Kirith Entwistle MP
Warinder Juss MP
Preet Kaur Gill MP
Harpreet Kaur Uppal MP

Sonia Kumar MP
Jeevun Sandher MP
Baggy Shanker MP
Gurinder Singh Josan MP
Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP

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...



Wed 10th June 2026, 3.45-4.45pm

Any question answered



by Anna Silver,
Education Officer

Monthly informal drop in session

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

For Zoom link see attached text

Next date: Wednesday 10th June, 3.45-4.45pm

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82062123392?pwd=cWEfOEHZmdS4xLEUln1ztRmjCg9EPw.1>

Meeting ID: 820 6212 3392

Passcode: 889491