

South Glos SACRE RE newsletter



January 2026

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

The consequences of treating people as 'other'

Eva Schloss, Holocaust survivor and step-sister of Anne Frank, has died aged 96. In 2024 Eva said: "We must never forget the terrible consequences of treating people as 'other'. We need to respect everybody's races and religions. We need to live together with our differences. The only way to achieve this is through education, and the younger we start the better."

See P8 for the letter: 'Dear Teacher'.

HMD: 27th January 2026

The theme for [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) (HMD) 2026, 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder of the responsibility of remembrance. Resources for [primary](#) and [secondary](#) schools.

Ofsted changes and RE

NATRE has summarised how Ofsted's '[Renewed Education Inspection](#)' Framework will affect RE.

RE artefacts

[Starbeck](#) is the specialist school supplier of exciting & unusual religious & cultural artefacts

Any Questions

Judaism: Join the informal drop-in session 3.45pm on Tues 20th Jan. See P6 for Zoom link.

Farmington Scholarships

[Farmington scholarships](#) are open. Research an RE topic of your choice. Closing date: 26th Jan 26

Spirited Arts 2026

[Spirited Arts](#) competition is open. It is a fantastic way to engage pupils and boost the profile of RE.

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: Tues 10th Feb (see P 5)

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 P3-5 for flyer)

The Bible in 5 minutes

[Watch](#) the Bible come to life, Genesis to Revelation.

WIRE Award and WIRE Gold

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

Finding RE visitors

RE Hubs [School Speakers](#)

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](#).

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](#)



Diversity Within...

including diverse representations of
religions and worldviews in the RE classroom



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: FIONA MOSS

Fiona is the Education and Programmes Manager for Culham St Gabriel's Trust. 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 Pilgrimage and 'Lived Experience' panel discussion with people from diverse religion and belief traditions
- Workshops including: teaching Christianity as a diverse world faith, including diverse opinions in GCSE RS, religious perspectives on masculinity and femininity AND MORE for all key stages.

South Glos/Bristol RE Conference Fri 6th Feb 2026
Engineers' House, Bristol BS8 3NB

	Activity	Facilitator/Room
9.00 - 9.30	Arrival, registration and 'breakfast' refreshments	
9.30 - 9.40	Welcome and Introductions	Laura Harris, Julia Watts, Ed Pawson Clifton Suite
9.40 - 10.40	Keynote presentation Exploring how we can teach about the rich traditions within and across religious and non-religious communities	Fiona Moss, Culham St Gabriel's Clifton Suite
10.40 - 11.00	Refreshment break	
11.00-12.00	Group and panel discussions: Exploring diversity of perspectives Interviewing and dialoguing with Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Humanist voices	Ed Pawson with Iris Segall, Ramila Patel, Norah El-Gohary, Bhadra, Julia Beckett et al Clifton Suite
12.00 - 12.50	Lunch	
12.50 – 13.10	Local updates and Hub networking	Laura Harris/ Julia Watts/ Ed Pawson LTLRE Hub leads
13.10 - 14.05	Workshop 1	
14.05 – 15.00	Workshop 2	
15.00	Close	

13.10 – 14.05

Workshop 1

Workshop	Leader	KS	Notes
Lived Examples of religion and beliefs and how to use them in the Classroom	Paul Marvin and Rachel Mills	1, 2	In this workshop we will look at how to go about finding lived examples of religious and non-religious worldviews and the different ways of capturing people's thoughts and beliefs. We will also look at how these lived examples could be used in the classroom, what has worked well and any barriers to overcome.
The importance of local learning in RE	Rebakah Guy	2, 3	This session will focus on how locality units can help build an understanding of diversity and lived experience within RE. It will explore how working with local people and places helps to bring RE to life and create high-quality, meaningful experiences for pupils.
Exciting and innovative new Religion and Worldviews resources for KS3 and 4	Adam Robertson	3, 4	This session will explore ways the new Oak Academy resources for RE can support the planning and teaching of a diverse and pupil-friendly KS3 and 4 Religion and Worldviews programme.

14.10- 15.00

Workshop 2

Workshop	Leader	KS	Notes
Great RE for Early Years and KS1	Emma Batcup	FS, 1	This session will explore multisensory ways RE can be covered in FS/KS1 looking particularly at aspects of belonging, special places, special times, special stories and special people.
How to teach about Christianity as a Diverse, Global Faith	Laura Harris	2, 3	This session will explore on the why it is so important to represent a diversity of expressions of the Christian faith, and how this can be achieved in the classroom.
Critical, complex secondary RE	Merryn Evans	3, 4	Merryn will be sharing a set of carefully curated case studies which she has designed to enable students to critically engage with complex realities in the classroom. This will showcase work from the recent Freedom Declared project, focusing on Freedom of Religion or Belief.



LTLRE Hub Meeting

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

Tuesday 10th February 4pm-5pm

Online

Understanding Islamic Worldviews

Join us for an online session with our guest speaker Is'Haaq Jasat talking about Islamic worldviews with both a Primary and Secondary focus.

How might it change some of the ways we teach RE? How can we use some ideas to improve RE in our classrooms? Come along and find out in our RE hub!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85025120479>

Meeting ID: 850 2512 0479

**Free and open
to all teachers and HLTA's teaching RE at Primary and Secondary
Everyone is very welcome!**

More details including online meeting details: Primary - Katy Thomas at k.thomas@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk and Ed Pawson edpawson@gmail.com

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

Zoom link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85025120479>

Meeting ID: 850 2512 0479

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...



Tues 20th Jan 2026, 3.45-4.45pm

Any question answered



BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS
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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

Teaching about Judaism

Monthly Q&A drop in session online - Any teacher who teaches about Judaism is welcome and no question is a silly one!

Please pass this onto any relevant colleagues.

3.45-4.45pm on Tuesday January 20th 2026

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89349637244?pwd=8QofFAalGbXaZuHzGvfkjCeHm8AZrj.1>

Meeting ID: 893 4963 7244

Passcode: 279652

The changing landscape of faith in Britain

A [survey for the think-tank](#) The Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life, has charted the movement of people towards faith and away from organised religion in Britain, and concludes that the decline in Christian affiliation discovered in the 2021 census “does not reflect a disappearance of religion but rather a diversification and personalisation of belief”. 39 per cent of those surveyed had given up faith for atheism / agnosticism. But 49 per cent had joined another faith tradition or spiritual movement. People were selecting traditions from a marketplace “according to what they seek, whether it be structure, solace, balance, or transcendence”. The survey was conducted by Whitestone Insight, among 2,774 UK adults who self-identified as having had a change in religious belief. It found that among Christians, 55 per cent had left, with two thirds becoming atheist/agnostic, 20 per cent experiencing weakened faith, nine per cent adopting Wicca or Paganism, three per cent becoming Buddhist and two per cent turning to Islam. The most cited reason for leaving was a lack of belief in God or the supernatural, followed by doubts about doctrine. Often this was prompted by bereavement. The survey also found 36 per cent of all those surveyed had turned to Christianity, not enough to counterbalance those who left, but driven by the feeling of a personal connection with God, a sense of purpose and community. The report says that Islam showed a modest gain, with the most distinctive single external life factor marking the faith change as global events such as war, followed by financial or career pressures. It also says: “Reasons for becoming Muslim included a sense of purpose as the most selected option (41%) .. and a personal connection to God at 33%”. Dharmic traditions, particularly Buddhism, attracted converts seeking improved wellbeing. Paganism, Wicca, and broad spiritualism, showed noticeable growth with nearly one in ten of all respondents newly affiliated to these traditions. Atheism was the largest single worldview to attract new people, but the survey concludes: “While atheism tends to provide cognitive clarity, it rarely brings the emotional, communal, or psychological benefits associated with faith-based transitions; most atheists in the survey reported no significant post-transition wellbeing gains.” *The Changing Landscape of Faith in Britain: Rebirth, Renewal and Reimagining* is [here](#). Times report [here](#). Telegraph report [here](#)

Holocaust Education

Help your children become human

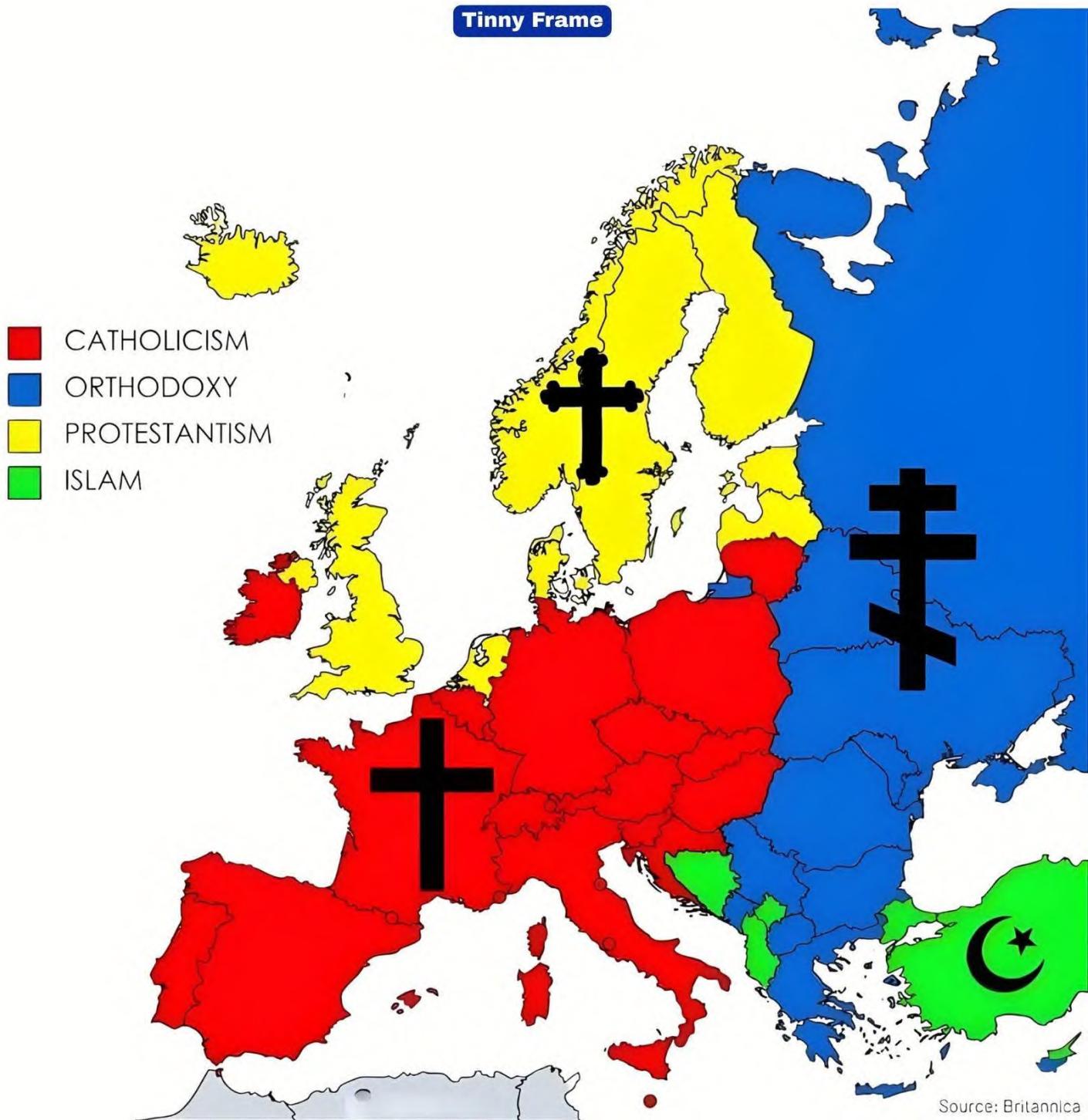
Israeli educational psychologist Haim Ginott writes about a letter that teachers would receive from their principal each year

Dear teacher,
I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no person should witness: gas chambers built by learned engineers. Children poisoned by educated physicians. Infants killed by trained nurses. Women and babies shot by high school and college graduates.
So, I am suspicious of education.
My request is this: Help your children become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths or educated Eichmanns. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human.

<https://teachinghistorymatters.com/2012/04/02/so-i-am-suspicious-of-education/>

DOMINANT RELIGION IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Tinny Frame



Source: Britannica

This image is a bit simplistic, but it does give a picture of the way the majority religion or denomination of a country varies across Europe. It shows how Southern Europe has historically been dominated by the Catholic tradition, Northern Europe is Protestant and Eastern Europe is Orthodox.