

National RE Updates from RE Today - Autumn 2026

The National Curriculum and Religious Education

The work of the task and finish group is complete and the secretary of state for education announced on 3rd July that the programme of study will be published and included in the public consultation on the revised national curriculum for RE in England in September. More information about the work to date can be found here:

https://natre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/National_Curriculum_RE_Briefing_final.pdf

Interfaith Week for Schools 2026 – Celebrating Diversity and Unity

The theme of the Interfaith Week this year is ‘Lighting the Way for a Shared Future’ and has been designed to celebrate the diversity of faiths and beliefs of students, families and the community. A key element of Interfaith Week is schools being able to use the IFW4Schools website, a hub of free resources, ideas and activities to help schools celebrate Interfaith Week. The resources have been handpicked by several expert interfaith and education organisations to enable teachers to deliver engaging lessons that build understanding, respect and connection across faiths and beliefs.

Schools can also be involved in a competition, building on the success of the 2025 poetry competition. Interfaith week will be held from **8th – 15th November**. Further details can be found at [Home | Inter Faith Week 4 Schools](#)

It is hoped that this year will build on the successes of Inter Faith Week 2025, which are detailed in this report: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/the-inter-faith-week-report-community-together-we-serve>.

Jerusalem Trust Autumn Funding Round Now Open

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 Christianity resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state-funded schools in England and Wales.

RE, Human Understanding and Technical Education

Following the announcements from the Prime Minister, Andy Burnham and the DfE regarding vocational education, NATRE have produced two infographics about the role RE has in high-quality vocational education from the age of 14. Focusing on the different vocational routes, the document outlines skills and knowledge which RE develops, such as communication, relationships, ethics and critical thinking. One of the key elements of this government initiative is that education should prepare young people for further education and work, and RE gives them the skills and knowledge to become responsible members of society. Both documents have been produced with the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and NATRE. There is also a document signposting to a selection of short films which highlight how RE develops knowledge, skills and values that are needed in every career path.

[Technical-skills-human-understanding-main-graphic.jpg \(1055×1491\)](#)

[Technical-skills-human-understanding-exemplar-table.jpg \(1055×1491\)](#)

[Technical-skills-human-understanding-film-clips.jpg \(1054×1492\)](#)

A Level Results for Religious Studies 2026

A Level results for Religious Studies were released on 13th August 2026 to 14,594 students in England and Wales. This signifies a drop of 2.7% in entries from 2025 and has prompted subject leaders to raise concerns that schools are not able to offer A Level Religious Studies due to a lack of specialist teachers. In England the number of students taking the subject at A Level saw a fall from 14,268 to 13,832 (3%). In Wales the number of students taking A Level Religious Studies rose slightly from 737 in 2025 to 762 in 2026.

Subject	Value	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Religious studies	Number of students	830	2,665	4,290	3,440	1,760	640	210
Religious studies	Percentage of students	6	19.3	31	24.9	12.7	4.6	1.5

The number of students who achieved Grade A* - C rose by 0.5% in both England and Wales and more girls took the subject (69%) than boys (39%). Subject leaders say that, despite the subject being the seventh most widely taken GCSE subject, this has not translated into A Level entries and that over the last five years entries have fallen by 12%.

Analysis of the school workforce data by the Religious Education Policy Unit shows that half of schools with sixth forms that enter pupils for GCSE Religious Studies do not offer the subject at A Level. Among schools without a religious character, this rises to 59%, compared to 17% of schools with a religious character.

GCSE Results for Religious Studies 2026

GCSE results were released to students on 20th August 2026. Entries in England rose slightly for GCSE Religious Studies to 218,602, a rise of 0.5%. The subject is now the seventh most widely taken subject out of the 58 offered.

The number of students in England who attained Grade 9 – 4 rose by 0.5% to 73.7% and the subject was taken by slightly more girls than boys (54% to 46%).

	Value	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
RS	Number	18,150	24,250	28,135	36,345	30,715	23,470	25,655	16,660	10,810	4,425
RS	Percentage	8.3	11.1	12.9	16.6	14	10.7	11.7	7.6	4.9	2

The three year trend for GCSE Religious Studies in relation to students attaining a Grade 7 or above has shown a year on year increase:

	2024	2025	2026
Religious studies	30.9%	31.0%	31.7%

All GCSE and A Level data is available from JCQ.

Young People and the National Conversation

October will see young people from the ages of 8 – 18 take part in **The National Conversation: Next Generation** to answer questions such as

- What does community mean to me?
- Where do we feel we belong?
- What brings people together?
- What could help us live well together?

A wide range of resources are available for schools to use, covering subjects including RE, to support children to take an active role to support the work of the Commission on Community and Cohesion, mirroring the adult national conversation which closed earlier this year.

Children will lead the national conversation in their setting and adults will be asked to report on the findings for inclusion in the national conversation report being undertaken by The University of Oxford. Submissions can take many forms to remove the burden of uploading too much evidence. All materials and detail can be found at www.thenationalconversation.org.uk and the date for submissions is 23rd October.

Understanding Muslims Understanding Islam

The RE Today series 'Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam' has been shortlisted in the Teach Primary and Teach Secondary Awards in the curriculum and foundation categories. This resource enables children and young people to engage with the matters of central importance in Islam as well as investigating Islam as a community and individual lived experience.



Courses from RE Today



Primary Phase Courses

Impactful Teaching of Sikhi – 13th October 2026 – 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Debbie Yeomans – National RE Adviser

Help! I'm the RE Subject Leader – 20th October 2026 – 9.30 am – 3.30 pm

Julia Diamond-Conway – National RE Adviser

Tried and Tested RE Teaching Ideas – 17th November 2026 – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Julia Diamond-Conway – National RE Adviser

Monitoring and Evaluation in RE – 24th November 2026 – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Debbie Yeomans – National RE Adviser

Understanding Christianity – 26th November 2026 – 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

(Day 2 – 9th February 2027 – 1.00 pm – 4.00pm and Day 3 – 9th June – 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm)

Julia Diamond-Conway – National RE Adviser

Secondary Phase Courses

What Happens In ... – 5th November 2026 – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser

Impactful Teaching of the Hindu Dharma – 7th December 2026 – 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser

Understanding Christianity – 10th December 2026 – 9.30 am – 3.30 pm

Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser

Cross Phase Courses

PrepaREd for a Complex World – 6th October 2026 – 4.00 pm – 5.45 pm

Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser

Whole staff training or bespoke support for your school

Looking for ways to refresh your teaching, upskill your team or overhaul your RE provision?

For over 40 years RE Today has been working with teachers and schools providing knowledge, practical support, and up-to-date thinking in the ever-changing education environments. No challenge in RE is too big or too small, simply get in touch and see how we can help.

We can help! Take your teaching to the next level with our expert-led professional development, resources and support, designed to equip you to inspire and engage every pupil in your RE lessons, helping them to achieve deeper understanding and impactful learning.

Whatever your needs, INSET Day, or dedicated support by an RE Adviser complete the enquiry from below and we will be happy to help! [Complete enquiry form](#)