

# Faith and Belief in the 21st Century

Guidance document  
for the Agreed Syllabus for RE



## Faith and Belief in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century The new Agreed Syllabus for RE for East Sussex 2022-2027

### Introduction:

Colleagues across East Sussex, led by SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) have been working over the last two years to plan for and review the Agreed Syllabus for RE. It is a statutory requirement that each local authority establishes an Agreed Syllabus Conference to lead the completion of the review process and to agree a new syllabus. In East Sussex we have consulted widely with schools, faith groups, parents and students before arriving at an agreement to work with a national organisation, RE Today, to support us in developing the new syllabus. The new syllabus has now been formally adopted and will be implemented from September 2022 for first teaching. The first year is always a transition year and schools may choose to work with a staged process for implementation in the first instance. We are very excited to have a new, relevant and up to date syllabus for all schools and academies in East Sussex that we believe is a significant step change from our current syllabus.

Not only do we have an exciting new syllabus, but we have a support package and additional materials that we are offering to schools. In this document you will find your quick guide to the new syllabus and to the key dates you need to note and book so that your school is fully prepared for teaching from September 2023.

### Agreed Syllabus;

The new syllabus will be available from the launch event and will be issued to schools in electronic form and hard copy, one per school, for every school and academy. This gives the outline of the legal teaching requirements, suggested content, assessment and timings.

The 5-year licence for the syllabus has been paid in full for every school through the SACRE budget. This is a significant investment and one that we hope all schools and academies will take full advantage of to enable you to meet the legal requirements in a vibrant and engaging way for all pupils.

### Schemes of Work:

To support the implementation of the syllabus detailed schemes of work are available for schools to purchase when they attend the launch event above. *Please note these are only available at a reduced rate where schools send a representative to the launch event.*

**Primary Schemes of Work for KS1 and KS2:** Full cost is £300 applied discount £140 = *discounted cost for schools attending the launch of £160*

**Secondary Scheme of Work for KS3:** Full cost £165 applied discount £77 = *discounted cost for schools attending the launch of £88*

The units of work offer substantial guidance on teaching and learning, with a range of thoughtful and creative activities you can use to plan your pupils' learning journey in response to the syllabus key questions. The units exemplify the syllabus planning approach so that you can create a coherent curriculum for your pupils.

### Launch Event:

There will be a FREE launch event online at which we hope and expect all schools and academies to be represented:

*Introducing the new East Sussex Agreed Syllabus 2022-2027*  
*Faith and Belief in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*  
*Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022*  
**9.15-3.30 Online via Zoom**

This conference will explore the new East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE. It will provide an opportunity to see the changes to the current syllabus and explore how it helps teachers in planning and delivering creative and effective RE, to inspire their pupils as well as meet the challenge of the new OFSTED Framework. Sessions will outline the wider context for RE and provide some inspiring and practical ideas for the classroom. There will be plenty of resources and ideas to take away and use in your classroom.

#### 9.15-9.30 Welcome and Introduction to the day

#### 9.30-11.00 Session 1: The intent of the new Agreed Syllabus: belief, impact, connections

This session will consider the place, purpose and value of RE for pupils, highlighting the developments and opportunities in the new syllabus. It will demonstrate how to use the syllabus to plan and teach engaging, thoughtful RE.

#### 11.30-1.00 Session 2: Implementing the Agreed Syllabus

This session will offer examples of excellent teaching and learning ideas, based on the syllabus, with a focus on creative strategies that enable pupils to recall their learning.

#### 2.00-3.30 Session 3: Impact: teaching and learning, achievement and assessment

This session will look at setting high standard with the new syllabus. It will explore more teaching and learning ideas, connecting them with methods of assessment, providing examples of ways to enable pupils to make good progress in RE.

Those attending the day will receive:

- Access to an electronic copy of the **syllabus**
- Additional materials and access to these online, including **all materials used on the day**
- The opportunity to purchase the detailed **schemes of work** at a substantially reduced rate

### Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary and secondary schools, including teachers, HLTAs, subject leaders and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about and explore best practice in RE.

### Aims:

- To introduce the new East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE, with its clarity, rigour, and inspiring support materials

- To provide practical support and guidance to schools in planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE to increase pupils' knowledge and understanding, as well as their personal development
- To give teachers confidence when planning and delivering great RE, and in dealing with core concepts in religions, deepening subject knowledge and skills in RE
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

**To book your places please use the link below:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMucOquqj0rGtUCHVok7f63AhosfBddF1K4>

Please note, all teachers who are coming should complete the registration form, so that all attending teachers receive the link.

### Network Meetings:

- Claire Rivers has been leading the Primary Network meetings and will continue to do so. These will take place in term 5, 1 and 3 over the next year. Dates for the Primary Network meetings can be found via the following link: [RE Network for All Primary Schools - East Sussex Learning Collaborative Network \(eslcn.org\)](https://www.eslcn.org) under the section News and Events. The next meeting is on 15 June.
- Claire Ramalli has been leading the Secondary Network meetings and they will continue over the coming year in term 5, 1 and 3. The next Secondary Network meetings are to be held on 23 February and 15 June.
- Note that these network meetings are provided free to schools, funded by SACRE

### CPD linked to the implementation of the new Syllabus:

#### Twilight CPD:

The first sessions will take place online with targeted support for the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus there will be one for primary and one for secondary in each of the terms 6, 2 and 4, over the coming year. These are again FREE to schools, being fully funded by SACRE. It will be especially effective CPD if more than one member of staff attends – why not use these as part of a school or department meeting?

- **Primary:**  
**Date:** Tuesday 28 June  
**Time:** 4.00-5.30  
**Focus:** Implementing the agreed syllabus  
**Tutor:** Fiona Moss National RE Adviser from RE Today
- **Secondary:**  
**Date:** Tuesday 5 July  
**Time:** 4.00-5.30  
**Focus:** Implementing the agreed syllabus  
**Tutor:** Stephen Pett National RE Adviser from RE Today

#### Understanding Christianity CPD:

The teaching of Christianity in the new syllabus is built around a resource called 'Understanding Christianity'. There are additional resource materials that schools

can access through CPD. Many of our Diocesan schools are familiar with this resource and already use this in school. For community schools and academies this is heavily subsidised by RE Today to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus.

### Secondary Understanding Christianity CPD:

**Date:** 11 July 2022 full day

**Location:** Online

**Trainer:** Stephen Pett

**Cost:** £210 for non-subsidised schools (subsidised cost is £60 for community schools and academies)

**(Discounts available for NATRE members! See website for details.)**

### BOOKING DEADLINE 4 JULY 2022

A day course introducing a substantial resource for teaching Christianity for 11-14s, laying the foundations for excellent learning at 14+/GCSE and A Level.

This day course will provide you with an overview of the Understanding Christianity approach, units of work strategies and activities, as well as specific classroom resources to support learning.

Join Stephen Pett for this virtual day course. Packed with the same knowledge and interactivity of a webinar, this training time gives more room for discussion, real-life examples with in-depth explanations and the usual wealth of expertise.

#### Teachers attending this course will:

- Be able to use this excellent and innovative resource package for a coherent curriculum teaching about Christianity 11-16
- Consider the place of concepts, creativity, theology and textual learning in RE through exploring inspiring examples of teaching and learning ideas, to help pupils learn in greater depth
- Develop their own skills as a teacher of RE by using this significant, fully resourced approach.

#### Book here:

[www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/understanding-christianity-secondary-online-6/](http://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/understanding-christianity-secondary-online-6/)

### Primary Understanding Christianity CPD:

The [Understanding Christianity](#) resource is a high quality, ambitious resource designed to offer pupils key concepts and **vocabulary**. The pedagogy builds on these concepts in each key stage. It is **carefully sequenced** to enable pupils to **progress** in their learning and **know more and remember more** about Christianity in a coherent and **systematic** way as they revisit material in **greater depth** each year.

#### How will it benefit schools in East Sussex?

The new East Sussex Agreed syllabus for RE is written with the Understanding Christianity units as an integral part of it. Accessing the training will mean:

- An introduction to the pedagogy, including visual resources that enable pupils to understand the key concepts in greater depth.
- Access to detailed lesson planning materials with a feast of creative teaching ideas
- Access to extensive classroom-ready photocopiable resources

Independent evaluation research has shown that teachers receiving the CPD have better subject knowledge, feel more confident and create better learning outcomes for pupils.

### What is the CPD offer, and how much?

Independent research from the Centre for Education and Monitoring shows that the best CPD is sustained across several terms, with opportunities to try out materials and meet again within a community of practice to explore how things have gone well and steps for greater progress.

Thanks to grant funding we are offering East Sussex schools a subsidy on the cost of a training course if you are a community school or academy without a religious character.

For **£60** (instead of the usual £210) you will have access to:

- **3 Half-day training sessions** to build teachers subject knowledge and confidence
- The full resource – **hard copy and digital** – to enable it to be taught from EYFS to Year 6. The resource comes with classroom ready materials to stretch pupils.

### Trainer:

The training is delivered by Adam Robertson, national adviser with RE Today. He was a primary teacher for 14 years, until summer 2021, and has used this resource in school with pupils since it was created.

### What do teachers say about it?

*“Fantastic. I have to say having received the training and resource pack there are so many ideas and so many materials that you can pick up and use – it has just been fantastic as a resource.” (Teacher, Community Primary School)*

*“Teachers who have embraced it and children who are doing it, absolutely love it.” RE Subject Leader, School, Community Primary School*

### How do I book the training?

Training is being offered **online** on the following dates. Teachers will need to attend all the dates to fully access materials.

**Session 1: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 1.00-4.30pm**

**Session 2: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 1.00-4.30pm**

**Session 3: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 1.00-4.30pm**

Please book using the link below:

<https://www.retoday.org.uk/school-support/professional-development-courses/understanding-christianity-east-sussex-primary-schools-cohort-1/>

<i>Free CPD</i>	<i>Additional training and resources for further support</i>
Agreed Syllabus launch 29 March Includes full day of training, the syllabus and support resources	Scheme of work, supporting thematic units, and units on religions other than Christianity Primary <del>£300</del> £160 at the launch Secondary: <del>£165</del> £88 at the launch
Twilight network meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary 24 March; 15 June</li> <li>• Secondary 23 February; 15 June</li> </ul>	Understanding Christianity training and resource, to support the units teaching Christianity in the syllabus Primary: starts 9 June, £210 for church schools, £60 for community schools / academies Secondary: 11 July, £210 for church schools, £60 for community schools / academies
Twilight webinars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary Tues 28 June</li> <li>• Secondary Tues 5 July</li> </ul>	