

Learn Teach Lead RE newsletter



September 2025

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.

For RE support, contact Ed Pawson at efpawson@gmail.com. Church schools contact: Jo Hunter jo.hunter@exeter.anglican.org



Learn Teach Lead RE



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

Devon hub: Thurs 20th Nov

SWIFT professional community: Wed 25th Nov

Cornwall hub: Thurs 27th Nov

LTLRE conference 2025

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion through a Religion and Worldviews approach to RE

Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam: Understanding the Rich Diversity of the Global Christian Community

A wide array of workshops for primary and secondary, including a special feature on Lived Experience and Pilgrimage.

St Mellion, nr Plymouth

Fri 17th Oct

Cost: £80

Book [here](#). See flyer on P3-5

Interfaith Week 2025

Are you making plans for [Interfaith Week 2025](#)? Taking place from 9th-16th 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](#).

Access [local Religion and Worldviews visitors](#) for RE

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 7-9

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 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 23rd Oct. See P6

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.

Events are being planned for Exeter on Tuesday 27th Jan 2026

RE MAT leaders

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

Teachers of RE in all phases of education are invited to attend the 2025
South West Peninsula LTLRE 13th Annual Conference

LTLRE Area 1 Conference 2025

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion through a Religion and Worldviews approach to RE

Friday 17th October 2025
9.30-3.30pm

St Mellion Conference Centre, Nr Plymouth
Cost: £80

Keynote speakers:

Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam

Understanding the Rich Diversity of the Global Christian Community

Katie Freeman

Pilgrimage is 'praying with your feet'

Plus a special focus on the Camino, Hajj and Lived Experience in RE



Workshops will include:

- Unpacking the new RE syllabus
- Using Lived Examples in the classroom
- A practical guide to AI in secondary RE
- Consolidating knowledge for new RE leaders
- Unpacking Muslim worldviews
- Assessment in RE: a practical guide
- Oak Academy: introducing exciting new ways to teach RE
- Engaging ways to teach Core RE at KS4

For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)

Timings	Details
9.00am	Arrival and welcomes
9.30	Ed Pawson, Jo Hunter and Greg Parekh Introduction to the conference
9.35	Keynote 1 –Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam Christianity: one faith, many colours Drawing on her own experience, Anjali will reflect on the why it is so important to represent a diversity of expressions of the Christian faith in RE.
10.40	Refreshment break
11.00	Workshop 1
11.55am	Lunch break
12.55	RE Updates and Local Groups
1.20	Workshop 2
2.15	Cake and Tea
2.20	Keynote 2 – Katie Freeman ‘Pilgrimage is praying with your feet’
2.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ‘lived experience of the Camino’ - Jeremy Roberts and Tim Johns • How did Hajj change my life?
3.15	Evaluations and Close

Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam is the Racial Justice Project Lead in the Diocese of Bristol. Born in Sri Lanka, she moved to the UK as a child. As a former RE teacher she continues to engage with the educational system as a parent, school governor and priest as well as leading training for schools, church and RE leaders. In her racial justice work she leads on a contested heritage project and, among other things, is passionate about intercultural worship and promoting global cultural awareness in the life and ministry of the Church. anjali.kanagaratnam@bristoldiocese.org

Katie Freeman is the RE lead at Bickleigh Down CofE Primary School nr Plymouth and Chair of NATRE (The National Association of Teachers of RE). Katie leads the LTLRE Plymouth hub and is the author of extensive primary RE resources. kfreeman@bickleighdown.devon.sch.uk

Workshop	Leader	KS	Notes
Consolidating knowledge for new primary RE leaders	Cliffy Banfield , Nicki Bonell	1, 2	Whether you are an experienced teacher or quite new to the classroom, this workshop aims to give you the tools to lead RE across your primary school setting with confidence. It will give guidance towards relevant resources and support materials.
Creative storytelling in RE	Kate Vernon	1, 2	Ideas to incorporate storytelling into your everyday teaching, to engage and challenge children from EYFS to upper KS2 and beyond, and to provide them with valuable opportunities for spiritual reflection.
Lived Examples and How to use them in the Classroom (Primary)	Paul Marvin	1, 2, 3	In this workshop we explore how to find lived examples of worldviews and the different ways of capturing people's thoughts and beliefs. We look at how these lived examples can be used in the classroom, what has worked well and any barriers to overcome.
Reimagining RE: the AI REvolution	Greg Parekh	3, 4	A practical guide to using AI in the secondary RE classroom
Diversity within and between worldviews: how the Oak resources can help	Adam Roberts on	3	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 Religion and Worldviews programme.

Workshop	Leader	KS	Notes
Teaching substantive knowledge at KS1	Katie Freeman, Sophie Greenaway	1	Katie and Sophie will be focusing specifically on RE at KS1, exploring creative ways to introduce key subject knowledge.
Unpacking the new RE syllabus	Belinda Twiggs	1, 2	Belinda will be exploring how we can use the new RE syllabus to teach better RE, focusing on specific units and introducing ideas from diverse worldviews.
Ways of Knowing in RE: using disciplinary characters	Abby Needs	1, 2, 3	Abby will be exploring what is meant by 'Ways of Knowing' and showing how we can use disciplinary characters to explore diverse perspectives.
Great RE at KS4 RE	Rachel Willcocks, Rosie Lee, Kelly Keatley	4	Practical examples of how to plan and teach a Religion and Worldviews approach at KS4, examined and core.
Community action in RE	Sky Scott	3, 4	Sky will be sharing her practical knowledge about how to recruit and train RE Young Ambassadors and how to run a successful community Iftar (fast-breaking) for Ramadan 2026., to engage your local Muslim families.

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)

For Zoom link see attached text

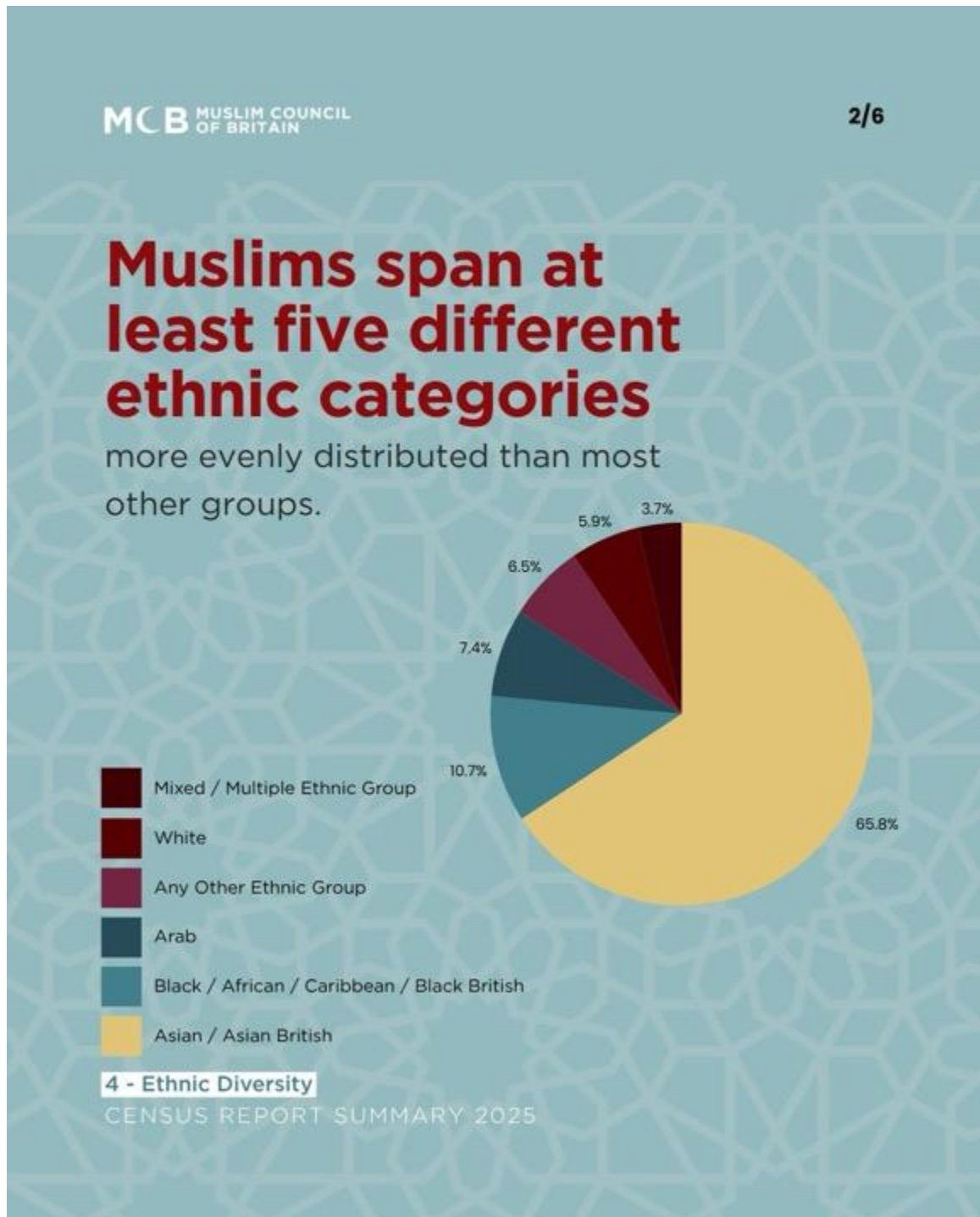
Zoom link (not on flyer):

<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.

