

# Learn Teach Lead RE newsletter

January 2026



## 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 P4 for the letter: 'Dear Teacher'.

## HMD 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.

HMD events in Exeter are now fully booked, but the speaker, [Tim Locke](#), son of a survivor, would be available to do other talks in the area on Mon 26/1, Tues 27/1 (pm) or Wed 28/1. Please [contact me](#) if you'd like to know more.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. See P2 for Zoom link.  
**Islam teacher helpline:** 3.45pm on Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Jan

## Farmington Scholarships

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

## Secondary Christianity

[Hazel Britton](#) is offering RE support for teaching Christianity in secondary schools, see P3

For RE support, contact Ed Pawson at [efpawson@gmail.com](mailto:efpawson@gmail.com). Church schools contact: Jo Hunter [jo.hunter@exeter.anglican.org](mailto: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, wherever you are based**. See LTLRE [website](#) for full details.

**Plymouth hub:** Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Mar

**SWIFT professional community:** Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Mar

**Cornwall hub:** Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Mar

## Finding RE visitors

- New [site](#) for contacting Muslim visitors
- Access [local Religion and Worldviews visitors](#)
- RE Hubs [School Speakers](#)

## Spirited Arts 2026

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

## Ofsted changes and RE

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

## The Bible in 5 minutes

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

## Knowledge about worldviews

To find out about a religion or worldview, try accessing the [KNOWLEDGE](#) section of RE Online. Or the [FACTSHEETS](#) on Religion Media Centre site.

## 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](#).

# 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**



by Anna Silver,  
Education Officer

**Monthly informal drop in session**  
(for monthly dates and zoom links email  
[anna.silver@bod.org.uk](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> 2026

Zoom link:

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

Meeting ID: 893 4963 7244

Passcode: 279652

## Offering support for the teaching of Christianity to secondary RE

My name is Hazel Britton and I offer support on the teaching of Christianity to secondary RE departments. As the former Head of RE at St Peter's School in Exeter, and now as a practising vicar in the Church of England, I have a really good understanding of what schools need in order to teach about Christianity more effectively.

I can offer to:

visit the school as a Christian school speaker ([RE Hubs](#) accredited)

coordinate a range of local Church leaders and Christian speakers across the denominational and theological spectrum

recommend speakers and charity representatives for the GCSE themes, in addition to Christian beliefs and practices

advise on trips to different Churches

recommend input from various businesses and charities for PSHE/SRE etc

Offering opportunities for students to engage with the 'lived experiences' of Christians in the local area is a big factor in improving understanding and behaviour. It can also significantly develop students' understanding of the diversity and unity of the Christian faith.

I am based near Exeter, and can offer support across Devon either in person or online. I don't charge for my support for better teaching of Christianity in schools.

## 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**

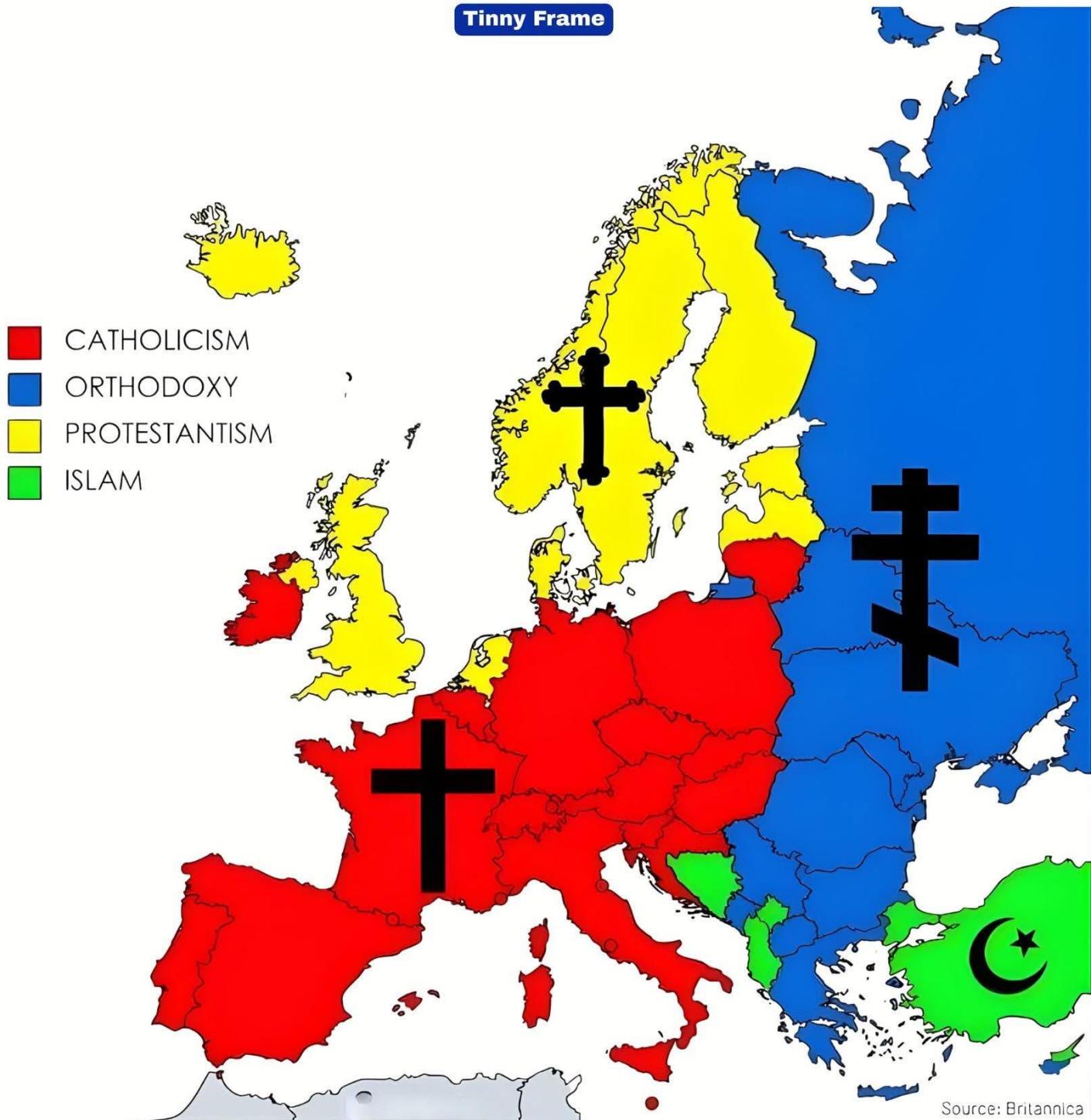
Israeli educational psychologist Haim Ginott writes about a letter that teachers would receive from their principal each year

*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.