

# Learn Teach Lead RE newsletter



June 2026

## What do you know about Sikhs, and the right to carry a kirpan?

There has been significant press coverage over recent days regarding the [murder of Henry Nowak](#). Much has been made of the fact that the man who murdered Henry is a Sikh, and that he was carrying a kirpan.

For a Sikh to become a member of the Khalsa, they must undergo the Amrit Sanchar ceremony. This sacred initiation commits the individual to a strict daily spiritual discipline and to wearing the Five Ks (sacred articles of faith). The kirpan is one of these 5.

But, what exactly does the [law say about carrying knives](#) for religious reasons? Well, they are allowed if they are part of a religious practice. It is important to note that the knife Digwa (Henry's killer) used for the crime was a larger, second knife, not his kirpan.

You can find out more about who Sikhs are [here](#). See a statement from Sikh MPs on P5.

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.

**LTLRE hub meetings this term:**

**SWIFT professional RE community:** Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Jun

**Celebration of RE:** Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> June

## LTLRE conference 2026

**RE: Academically Rich, Socially Connective**

St Mellion, nr Saltash on Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> October, cost £90

Keynotes: Katie Freeman and Joyce Miller

**For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)** (See P3 for flyer)

## Secondary RE research

Find out about joining a research project on Supporting Good Talk in RE. [Contact here](#). See P4

## Any Questions

Join the open online forum to [ask questions](#) about teaching **Judaism** Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June 3.45-4.45pm (P6)

Join the [Any Questions](#) Islam forum 3.45-4.45pm on Mon 15<sup>th</sup> June.

## RE in the NC

Update: we are still awaiting a decisions to be made by the DfE. We hope to hear more later this month. [See NATRE news](#).

## TrueTube updates

Keep up with [new videos](#) on TrueTube, including A Portrait of the Buddha.

## NATRE Primary Survey 2026

Take part in the NATRE [Primary Survey](#) here. This is your chance to make sure the reality of RE in your primary classroom is heard where it counts.

## 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](#), [School Speakers](#)

Find the RE visitors list [here](#)



## LTLRE South West (Area 1) Summer Hub Meeting



Twilight RE Network Group

**4:00-5.15pm on Thursday 18th June**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzRIYWRIIMmItZDI1MS00MmQ3LThhN2UtMTExYyYyNTJjMTc0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c205c44a-1aa0-4076-8a41-71c317d09a3a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229c1e2062-39ca-4d8b-97ae-4b5b25c35527%22%7d)

[join/19%3ameeting\\_MzRIYWRIIMmItZDI1MS00MmQ3LThhN2UtMTExYyYyNTJjMTc0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c205c44a-1aa0-4076-8a41-71c317d09a3a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229c1e2062-39ca-4d8b-97ae-4b5b25c35527%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzRIYWRIIMmItZDI1MS00MmQ3LThhN2UtMTExYyYyNTJjMTc0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c205c44a-1aa0-4076-8a41-71c317d09a3a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229c1e2062-39ca-4d8b-97ae-4b5b25c35527%22%7d)

# Summer Celebration of Great RE across the region

**Free and open to all teachers and HLTAs teaching RE – primary, secondary and special school**

If any of you have something you'd like to share from your RE classroom, please get in touch with Belinda [belinda.twiggs@stmichaels.education](mailto:belinda.twiggs@stmichaels.education), we'd love to hear from you. Or just come along to listen and enjoy!

Everyone is very welcome

For more details, please find our email contacts here:

<https://ltlre.org/areas/region-1-2/>

Hubs are affiliated to the National Association of Teachers of RE [www.natre.org.uk/](http://www.natre.org.uk/)

For further details of our programme and its partners, please visit our website [www.ltlre.org](http://www.ltlre.org)

**Click here to join the meeting:**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MzRIYWRIIMmItZDI1MS00MmQ3LThhN2UtMTExYyYyNTJjMTc0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c205c44a-1aa0-4076-8a41-71c317d09a3a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229c1e2062-39ca-4d8b-97ae-4b5b25c35527%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzRIYWRIIMmItZDI1MS00MmQ3LThhN2UtMTExYyYyNTJjMTc0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c205c44a-1aa0-4076-8a41-71c317d09a3a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229c1e2062-39ca-4d8b-97ae-4b5b25c35527%22%7d)

Teachers of RE in all phases of education are invited to attend the 2026 South West Peninsula LTLRE 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

*'You can only be safe and secure in a society that practices tolerance, cherishes harmony and can celebrate difference'. Rabbi Hugo Gryn*

**LTLRE Area 1 RE Conference 2026**  
**RE: Academically Rich, Socially  
Connective**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026**  
**9.30-3.30pm**

St Mellion Conference Centre, Nr Saltash  
Cost: £90

**Keynote speakers:**

**Katie Freeman: the Place of RE in the Curriculum**

**Joyce Miller: RE and Social Cohesion**

**Panel session to include Zoroastrian, Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, Humanist, Christian, Buddhist speakers**

**Workshops will include:**

- Inspiring RE at Early Years/KS1
- Planning and assessment in primary RE
- Being scholarly in secondary RE
- Authentic Christianity
- Diverse perspectives and 'lived experience' from faith and belief speakers
- How to create local RE
- RE and SIAMS for CofE schools

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

## **Secondary RE teachers in Exeter/East Devon area Join a research project on Supporting Good Talk in RE**

Good pupil talk is fast becoming an important priority and for RE that means understanding more about the experiences of children, their confidence or reluctance to speak about matters of belief, worldviews and spirituality, and teachers of RE who often have to navigate tricky topics, viewpoint diversity and diverse spiritual traditions and expressions. Can we do more to help understand and support good talk in RE?

Our research centre at Canterbury Christ Church University has started a program of research in this area. If you work in a secondary school in the Exeter and East Devon areas and think your school might like to participate with a next phase of this work, a big listen research project, please get in touch. [bob.bowie@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:bob.bowie@canterbury.ac.uk)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

## **Statement from Sikh MPs on the murder of Henry Nowak**

We stand in solidarity with the family and loved ones of Henry Nowak following the senseless and tragic loss of his life.

Our thoughts are with them as they continue to endure unimaginable grief. Nothing can lessen the pain of losing a son, brother and friend in such horrific circumstances.

This case was about the murder of Henry Nowak by Vickrum Digwa. It was not about religion or racism. It was the criminal act of an individual who alone bears responsibility for his actions.

A jury found Digwa guilty of murder and he has been sentenced to life imprisonment. The legal process operated as it should with no special treatment afforded, no religious exemption protected criminal behaviour, and justice was delivered through the rule of law. The judge was clear that Digwa abused the responsibilities that accompany religious freedoms and that his actions stirred racial tension and caused fear within the Sikh community itself.

Across the country, Sikhs have responded with an outpouring of sympathy and condolences for Henry's family. Sikh organisations, gurdwaras and community leaders have been swift, public and unequivocal in condemning Digwa's actions and the false claims he made in an apparent attempt to evade responsibility for his crime.

We are deeply distressed by the circumstances surrounding Henry's death, including the body worn video footage and the treatment he received in his final moments. The questions that have been raised deserve proper examination through the ongoing processes already under way. Henry's family deserve answers, and confidence that lessons will be learned.

At a time when emotions are understandably raw, we urge people not to allow the actions of one murderer to divide communities or fuel hostility towards innocent people. The Sikh community shares the grief, shock and anger felt across the country. We mourn Henry Nowak, stand with his family, and support the pursuit of truth, justice and accountability.

**Jas Athwal, Chair of APPG British Sikhs**  
**Satvir Kaur MP**  
**Kirith Entwistle MP**  
**Warinder Juss MP**  
**Preet Kaur Gill MP**  
**Harpreet Kaur Uppal MP**

**Sonia Kumar MP**  
**Jeevun Sandher MP**  
**Baggy Shanker MP**  
**Gurinder Singh Josan MP**  
**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP**

# 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...



**Wed 10th June 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

Next date: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 3.45-4.45pm

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82062123392?pwd=cWEfOEHZmdS4xLEUln1ztRmjCg9EPw.1>

Meeting ID: 820 6212 3392

Passcode: 889491