



November 2024

Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus: Increasing numbers of schools across Cumbria are including detailed learning about **Hindu Dharma** in their medium-term plans in light of the new Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for RE. It is encouraging to see schools reflecting on the [changing religious demographic](#) of their school community and reviewing which religions are taught **in detail**, especially for KS1 and KS2 pupils. Some exciting opportunities have opened up for our schools through the North West RE Hubs to encounter Hindu [school speakers](#) and visits to [Hindu temples](#) in Preston, Southport and [Newcastle](#).

Crosby on Eden CE School were recently joined by Aruna Patel and her 10 year old son Pavan (on his half term holiday) to enrich their learning about **Diwali**, the Hindu religious festival of light. The 5 days of Diwali are a major Hindu festival and also celebrated by other Dharmic faiths such as Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists. Each religion marks different historical events and stories. BBC Newsround has produced a helpful [series of films](#) for the classroom. Photos of Aruna's visit can be found on the Crosby on Eden School [Instagram](#) page.

SACRE Hindu member, Rashmi Manemi has kindly offered classroom-based assemblies about Diwali using a [presentation](#) from the Hindu Education Board. Such opportunities are memorable and enable pupils to encounter and ask questions about lived and local experience.

North West Y10 RE online event: Trainee RE teachers from Edge Hill University will facilitate a special online event for Year 10 pupils from across the North West on 17th Dec at 1.30-3pm. The RE Ambassadors from Queen Katherine School will also present about how they are championing RE in their school. Please email northwest@re-hubs.uk to be sent a copy of the event flyer.

Collective Worship CPD: thirty-six headteachers and teachers attended the free online CPD on improving the quality and provision of Collective Worship in October. The next opportunity to attend a session is 21st November at [1-2.30pm](#) or [4-5.30pm](#). Book via Westmorland & Furness School Development on chosen time.

CPD & events 2024-2025 (*Book via School Development or use link stated*)

9 Nov: [COWC Carlisle Faith Walk](#) around buildings of worship in the city. Meet at St. George's URC on West Walls. 2pm

10-17th Nov: [Interfaith Week 2024](#). Theme - Sharing my Story: Building my Future

13 Nov: 4pm An online opportunity to meet RE school speakers in the North West as part of Interfaith Week 2024. Register [here](#).

21 Nov: FREE Improving the Provision and Quality of Collective Worship (W&F)

22 Nov: Sikh AfABs online session for KS2 Contact reteacherscumbria@outlook.com

22 Nov: [COWC Community multi faith meal](#) (Carlisle)

Spring(date TBC): Online crash course in Philosophy with John Semmens (W&F)

10 Feb 2025: Disciplinary Approaches to RE (Cumberland), Wigton. Book [here](#).

6 March 2025: Disciplinary Approaches to RE (W&F), Kendal

13th & 14th March 2025: SAPERE Level 1 Foundation Course at the Quaker Tapestry Museum, Kendal. (W&F)

29th April 2025: FREE School Governor CPD Improving the Provision and Quality of Collective Worship (W&F)

17th June 2025: Cumbrian SACRE Conference with national RE Today adviser [Ian Nicholson](#), including a focus on Collective Worship and cohesion of the community. Information and booking [here](#).

RE Teachers in Cumbria (online) group
Join [here](#).

Religious festivals and global days:

Learning about religious festivals can be meaningful and inclusive as part of collective worship or assemblies. November sees celebrations for the Hindu festival of Diwali come to a close. It is also an important month for the Bahai faith, including the Birthdays of The Bab (2nd) and Baha'u'llah (3rd), Day of Covenant (25th) and the Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (27th). Extensive resources available from [Bahá'í RE – Resources for Schools](#).

See the **RE Hubs Calendars** [page](#) for calendars of festivals and global days.

Inter Faith Week 2024 brings opportunities for schools, such as KS2 pupils meeting Y12 Sikh AfABs, meeting RE school speakers, and Carlisle One World Centre's(COWC) new Bridging Faith Communities Year. See dates section.

RE Hubs North West: view the [website](#) to **upskill** yourself through CPD, blogs, exhibitions or grants. Find opportunities to **enrich** RE in your classroom through accredited school speakers, places of interest & teacher groups. Explore the new **controversial issues page** in [Resourcing RE](#) or read the termly [newsletter](#).

#CumbriaSharingRE

We actively encourage schools to showcase examples of RE and Collective Worship/assemblies on their social media, press, school newsletter or website.

St Cuthberts's Catholic Primary, welcomed Shelia Gewolb who shared her [Jewish faith](#) with Nursery to Year 6.

Culgaith C of E Primary School shared their pupil led assemblies on global themes such as [Hunger](#) and [clean water](#).

North Lakes School shared examples of [different visitors](#) to recent assemblies.

Please **share your RE and Collective Worship/assembly news** links with reteacherscumbria@outlook.com

Facebook: [RE Teachers in Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness](#) 175 members

Twitter X: [@SACRECumbria](#).

Community cohesion and interfaith:

One of the five aims of the new [Cumbrian SACRE Development Plan 2024-2029](#) is for SACRE to contribute to the promotion of cohesion across the community and become a key stakeholder in the work of both LAs. SACRE members Karen O'Donoghue (Chair) and Mohammed Dhalech attended a Cumberland Council Community Cohesion Workshop. Karen will be speaking at an upcoming partnership event by AWAZ Cumbria and Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership (WFDEIP) about the teaching of religion and worldviews in local schools.



Members of Cumbrian SACRE and staff from the University of Cumbria visited Carlisle Mosque after their recent SACRE meeting held at the university. Mohammed Dhalech organised the mosque visit and also gave detailed input during the SACRE meeting on the impact of the summer far-right violence and unrest on Muslim and ethnically diverse communities across Cumbria. Subsequent discussions centred on the role SACRE should play in best supporting schools.

Cumbrian SACRE members also heard from university staff Lisa McGregor about ITT provision for RE and from Sally Elton-Chalcroft, editor of the newly published [Teaching Religious and Worldviews Education Creatively](#). Order through **Hills Books** for £20 (RRP£24.99).

Cumbrian SACRE websites with statutory and non-statutory guidance for RE and Collective Worship.

Cumberland Council NEW website
Westmorland & Furness SACRE page