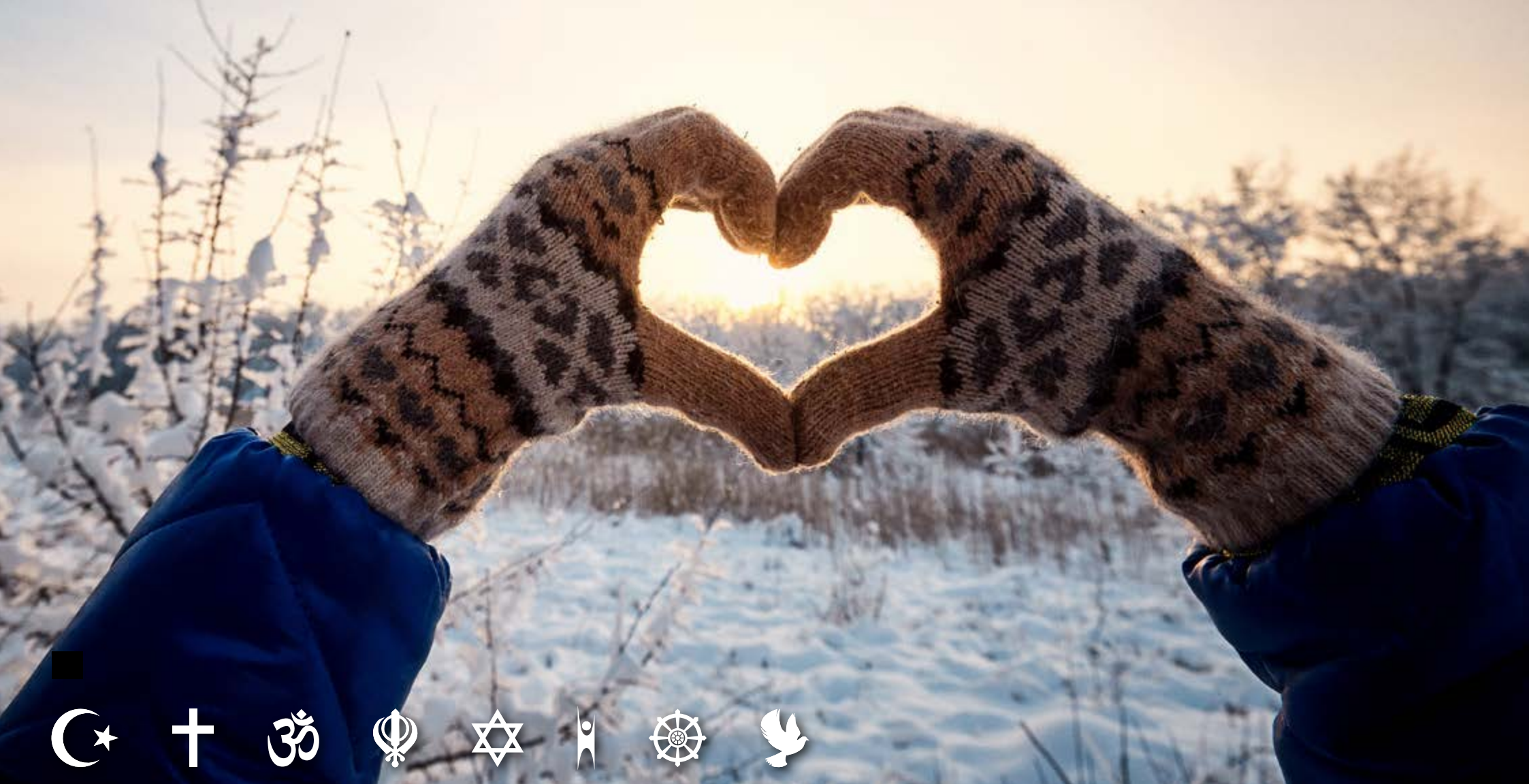


SACRE



Northumberland
County Council

Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for Northumberland



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If you would like to submit an article and/or images for inclusion in the next newsletter please contact [Dave Cookson](#).



Welcome Caroline!



Northumberland SACRE are delighted to announce the appointment of Caroline Weir as our new part time RE Consultant.

Caroline studied Theology at Durham and subsequently trained as a secondary RE teacher. She has taught RE in secondary schools in the North East for ten years and most recently has been working as an RE Advisor for the Church of England dioceses of Durham and Newcastle supporting colleagues across all phases. Alongside this, Caroline also works for Christian Aid as part of their Schools Team coordinating the Global Neighbours accreditation scheme which seeks to empower children and young people to be active global citizens.

She has experience of creating, developing and delivering engaging RE at KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form (both A Level RS and statutory RE). She has worked as a Key Stage 3 RE Coordinator, a Head of RE and has also supported teaching and learning across a secondary school as a Lead Practitioner. Caroline is a member of Durham and Sunderland SACREs, and is looking forward to working with Northumberland

SACRE and getting to know colleagues and schools across the county.

Making RE accessible for students with special educational needs in something Caroline feels particularly strongly about and she has several years' experience of teaching students with moderate learning difficulties and visual and hearing impairments. Caroline firmly believes that when RE is taught well it can be transformative for young people and the communities in which they live.

If you would like support from Caroline please contact her via caroline.weir@drmnewcanglican.org



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Resources to aid RE Teaching

The Northumberland LA School Improvement Team are curating resources across many subjects, including RE. Their collection can be found [here](#).

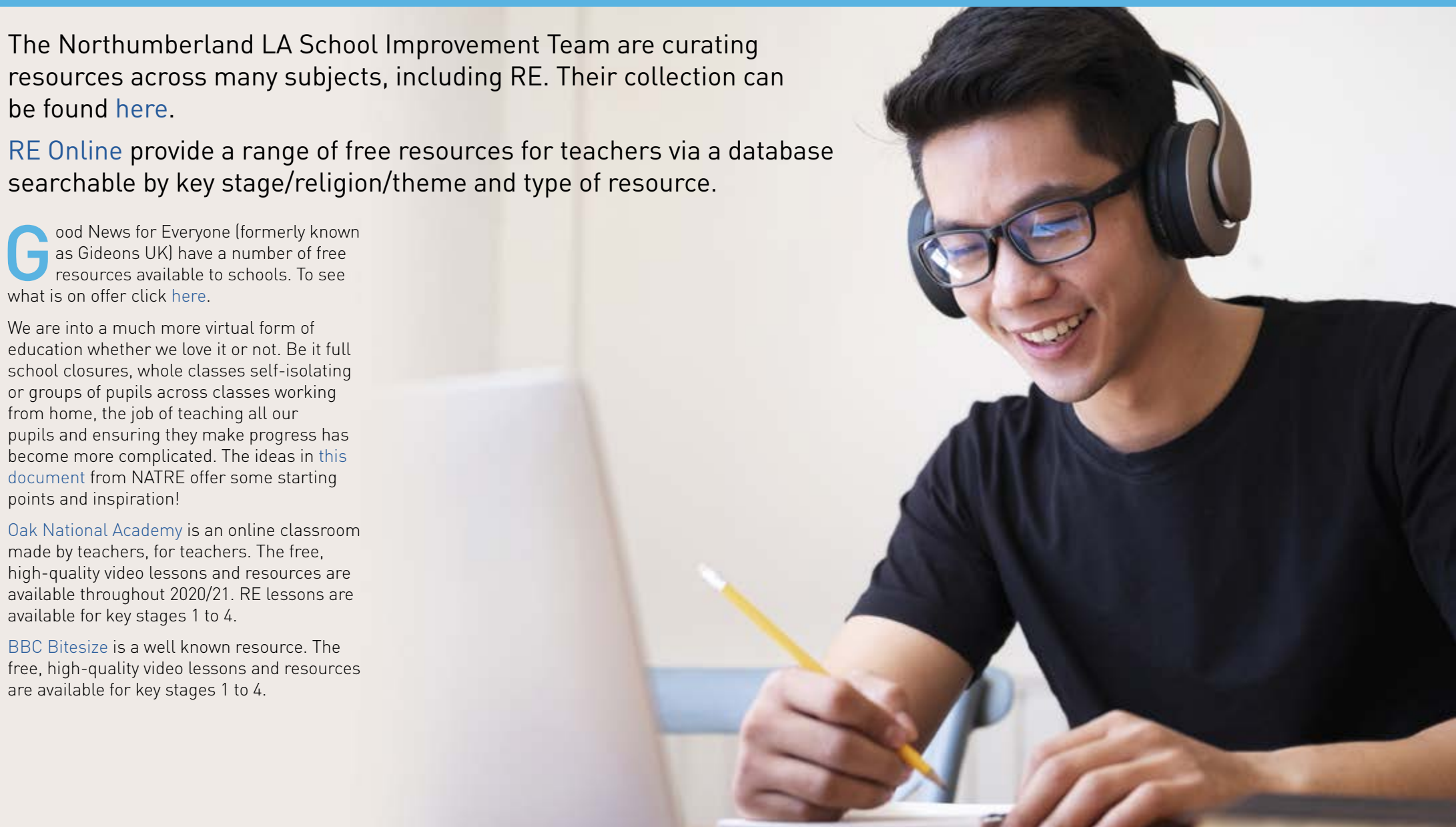
[RE Online](#) provide a range of free resources for teachers via a database searchable by key stage/religion/theme and type of resource.

Good News for Everyone (formerly known as Gideons UK) have a number of free resources available to schools. To see what is on offer click [here](#).

We are into a much more virtual form of education whether we love it or not. Be it full school closures, whole classes self-isolating or groups of pupils across classes working from home, the job of teaching all our pupils and ensuring they make progress has become more complicated. The ideas in [this document](#) from NATRE offer some starting points and inspiration!

[Oak National Academy](#) is an online classroom made by teachers, for teachers. The free, high-quality video lessons and resources are available throughout 2020/21. RE lessons are available for key stages 1 to 4.

[BBC Bitesize](#) is a well known resource. The free, high-quality video lessons and resources are available for key stages 1 to 4.



Could your school be a worthy winner?

We are pleased to announce that for 2021 the Accord Inclusivity Award will, as usual, be given to schools that can demonstrate their commitment to inclusion. We have every confidence there are schools in Northumberland that could easily secure the Award and urge such schools to consider applying for it.

Are you a school promoting an inclusive ethos committed to the growth of mutual understanding, especially on the grounds of religion, belief and ethnicity? If so, the 2020 Accord Inclusivity Award is well worth considering because it rewards schools that work hardest to promote these aims.

The annual Accord Inclusivity Award is now in its twelfth year and former Award winners have displayed a wide range of high quality and thoughtful work, with most having excelled at RE. For example, Old Basford Primary School in Nottingham, [stood out](#) for having recognized that its RE had been neglected and for implementing an impressive overhaul of its provision of the subject.

The annual Award is listed by Ofsted as a way for schools to complement their duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (to advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations and tackle discrimination).

The Award is free to enter and open to all state funded schools in England and Wales. Accord has tried to make the process of applying as simple as possible. Most of the questions the [nomination form](#) poses will have already been answered, if not seriously considered, in material already produced by the school for Ofsted, the school prospectus, newsletters or internal policy documents. For more information on the Award please visit <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2021/>.

The 2021 Award will be judged by another respected and experienced panel. Previous judges have included former Education Secretary, Lord Baker; former Director of the UCL Institute of Education, Prof Becky Francis CBE; Shadow Foreign Secretary, Lisa Nandy; the Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson; and journalist and political commentator, Ian Dale.

The deadline for entries is Sunday February 21st 2021 and prizes will be awarded in the Spring. Please contact Accord at paul@accordcoalition.org.uk or on 020 7324 3071 with any queries.



Scholarships for teachers from the Farmington Institute

Applications for the 2020 to 2021 Farmington Scholarships are now open. These are scholarships for teachers of Religious Education and associated subjects in UK secondary, primary and special schools. Headteachers who wish to undertake research into either Religious Education or Values Education are also eligible to apply.

Scholarships for teachers from the Farmington Institute Scholarships cover the cost of tuition, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale.

Scholarships last for a maximum of 30 days and can be taken at a local university (the Farmington Institute has links with 12 universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) or be home-based with a local tutor.

Further information and an application form can be found on the Farmington Institute website: <http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/>

The website above reveals that the Farmington Institute has links with York, Durham and Glasgow universities, all of which are within relatively easy travelling distance for teachers and headteachers living or working in Northumberland.

The SACRE recommends this as an excellent way for teachers and headteachers to refine their knowledge, skills and understanding about Religious Education and Values Education.



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Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2021

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is, as always, on 27th January, and we are confident that many Northumberland schools have already planned events on or around this date. The theme for 2021 is “Be The Light In The Darkness”, so it is likely that many events will reveal what happens when people from different backgrounds share a common concern for the preservation of human life irrespective of issues such as race, ethnicity, religion, belief, gender, sexuality and/or ability/disability.

Needless to say, many examples of how groups of people are marginalised and scapegoated can be examined both in the past and today. All these are worth reflecting on. This year’s theme is intentionally broad and open-ended. If your school has yet to confirm how HMD will be commemorated, we suggest that an outstanding starting point for ideas is the HMD Trust website (www.hmd.org.uk), where, among other things, you can find out what is happening in other parts of the country and access lots of excellent teaching and learning materials.

[Holocaust Learning UK](#) have created a Docufilm ‘OUT OF THE DARKNESS’, that allows students in Years 8 - 13 to see and listen to a Holocaust Survivor tell their story. It furnishes them with the historical and contemporary contexts with which to understand the Holocaust and to give them insights to help them build a safer, better future. Additional downloadable resources will be provided to enable teachers to prepare the students for the film and follow up afterwards.

The programme will be available for schools at **no charge** via our website, during February and March, to stream to students within school or via school into students’ homes, should this become necessary.

If schools wish to share with a larger audience what they did to commemorate HMD, send a summary to [Dave Cookson](#) and it will be published in a forthcoming SACRE Newsletter.



Forthcoming Important Festivals/Commemorations

5 January	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	(Sikh Nanakshahi Calendar)	25 March	Mahavir Jayanti	(Jain)
6 January	Epiphany	(Western Christian)	28 March	Holi	(Hindu)
6 - 7 January	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	(Orthodox Christian, Armenian Apostolic, Rastafarian)	28 March	Pesach/Passover	(Jewish)
27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day	(National)	29 March	Hola Mohalla	(Sikh)
28 January	Tu B'Shevat	(Jewish)	29 March	Lailat-al-Bara'a/Barat	(Muslim)
1 February	Imbolc	(Pagan)	29 March - 4 April	Holy Week	(Western Christian)
2 February	Candlemas/The Presentation of the Lord	(Christian)	02 April	Good Friday	(Western Christian)
8 February	Nirvana Day	(Buddhist)	04 April	Ch'ing Ming	(Chinese)
12 February	Darwin's Birthday	(National)	04 April	Easter Day	(Western Christian)
12 February	Yuan Tan/Chinese New Year	(Chinese)	08 April	Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Day	(Jewish)
16 February	Shrove Tuesday	(Western Christian)	13 April	Baisakhi	(Sikh)
17 February	Ash Wednesday	(Western Christian)	13 April	Start of Ramadan	(Muslim)
17 February - 3 April	Lent	(Western Christian)	20 April	Ridvan	(Bahai)
26 February	Purim	(Jewish)	21 April	Rama Navami	(Hindu)
26 February	Teng Chieh	(Chinese)	23 April	St. George's Day	(National)
1 March	St. David's Day	(National)	27 April	Hanuman Jayanti	(Hindu)
5 March	Women's World Day of Prayer	(Christian)	1 May	Beltane	(Pagan)
8 March	International Women's Day	(International)	02 May	Pascha/Easter Day	(Orthodox Christian)
11 March	Maha Shivaratri	(Hindu)			
11 March	Lailat-al-Miraj	(Muslim)			
17 March	St. Patrick's Day	(National)			
21 March	Naw-ruz	(Bahai, Zoroastrian)			

A searchable calendar of festivals is available [here](#).

The SACRE members

Committee A: Other Faiths

Mrs. J. Cousin: Roman Catholic Church

Reverend E. H. Marley, OBE: United Reformed Church (URC)

Represented by the URC: Baptist Church

Represented by the URC: Methodist Church

(SE Northumberland Ecumenical Area)

Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara: Hinduism

Mariam Khan: Islam

Harpal Singh: Sikhism

Joyce Miller: Buddhism

Mrs. D. Van der Velde: Judaism

Mr. A. Gillespie: Society of Friends

Committee B: Church of England

Mrs. E. Bainbridge

Mr. C. Hudson

Mr. P. Rusby

Reverend J. Scott

Committee C: Teaching Associations/Unions

Mr. A. Duffield (middle school teacher)

Miss C. Naylor (secondary/high school teacher)

Mr. T. Nicholls (secondary/high school teacher)

Ms. S. Walton (primary school teacher)

Committee D: Local Authority

Councillor D. Campbell

Councillor B. Crosby

Councillor G Renner-Thompson

Councillor T. Thorne

Co-opted Representatives

Mr. S. Dearlove: North-East Humanists

Maddy Wardingham (special school teacher)

Observer (representing the academies and free schools)

Vacant

Local Authority Officers in Attendance

Caroline Weir, Part-time RE Consultant

David Cookson, Commissioner for Secondary Education and Sixth Forms

Andrea Todd, Clerk to the SACRE, Democratic Services

