Learning to grow younger: connecting with younger generations through church and school

Saturday 17th October 2026
1:30 – 3pm

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Growing Younger – what's it all about?

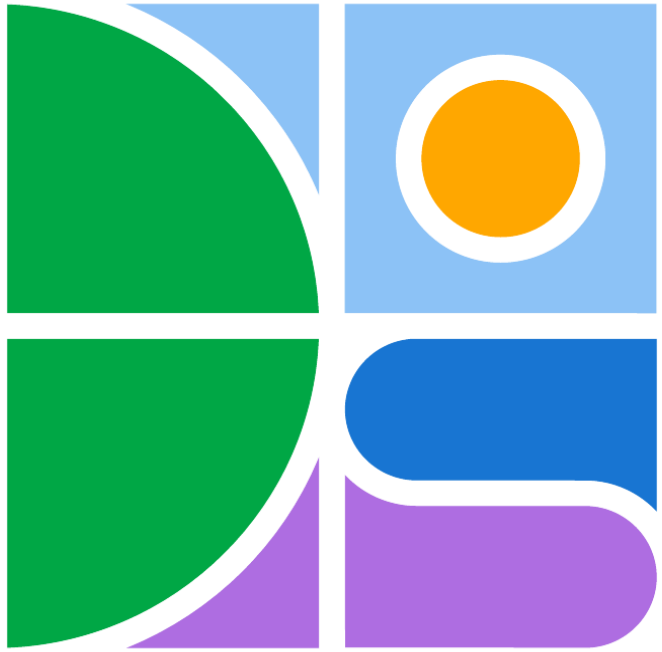
Head of Growing Younger	Keli Bolton
Growing Younger Advisor (CYF)	Susie Coopey
Growing Younger Advisor (YP&YP)	*To be appointed*
Growing Younger Enabler (Digital Engagement & Youth Voice)	Liv Wordley

Who are the SDBE and what do we do?



Working in partnership





Raising young leaders

St Francis Church, Salisbury (Case Study)



Sophie’s Story

What can we learn from St Francis, Salisbury

- *Relationships are key and need time.*
- *Prayer needs to underpin everything.*
- *Learning to lead needs investment.*
- *Opportunities to lead.*
- *Model grace not judgement.*





Rooted in the Church CofE Research 2016

Some thoughts from a young adult...

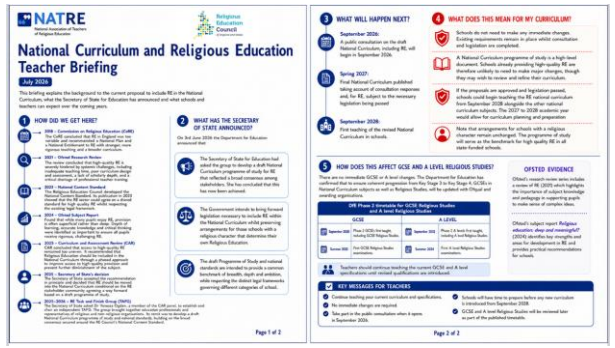


- We are the Church RIGHT NOW!
- Ask us what we think
- Give us the opportunities
- BE the hope that younger generations need

Religious Education and Worldwide views and Collective Worship

Current National Picture

National Curriculum


NATRE

National Curriculum and Religious Education Teacher Briefing

July 2026

This briefing explains the background to the current proposal to include RE in the National Curriculum, what the Secretary of State for Education has announced and what schools and teachers can expect over the coming years.

1 HOW DID WE GET HERE?

2 WHAT HAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOUNCED?

On 3rd June 2026 the Department for Education announced that:

3 WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

4 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY CURRICULUM?

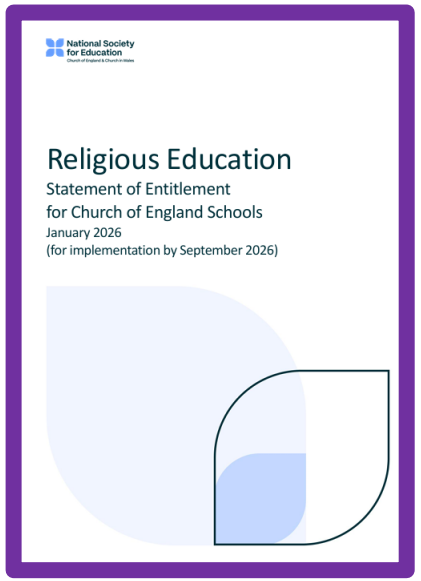
5 HOW DOES THIS AFFECT GCSE AND A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

OFSTED EVIDENCE

KEY MESSAGES FOR TEACHERS

[RE Council Information page]

Statement of Entitlement Sept 2026


National Society for Education

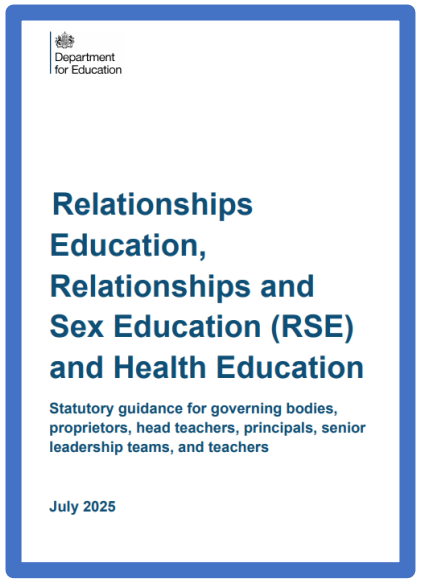
Religious Education

Statement of Entitlement for Church of England Schools

January 2026

(for implementation by September 2026)

RSHE Documentation

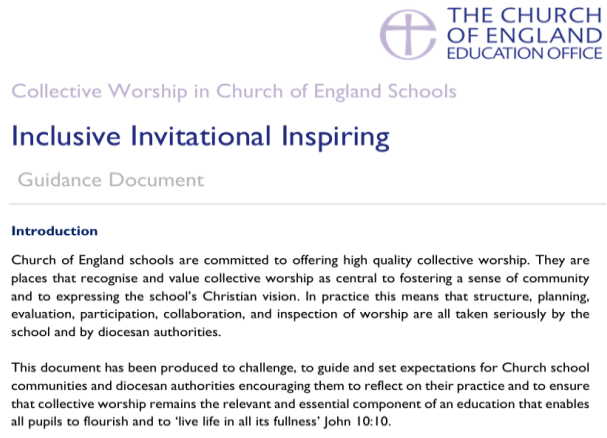

Department for Education

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, and teachers

July 2025

New Collective Worship Guidance


THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

Collective Worship in Church of England Schools

Inclusive Invitational Inspiring

Guidance Document

Introduction

Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration, and inspection of worship are all taken seriously by the school and by diocesan authorities.

This document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10.

Supporting Schools…

RE Lessons

Leadership and Governance

…by being you

Collective Worship

Spirituality

Spirituality …



Jesus calms the storm



Self	Where are you in this? How would you be acting?	Has there been a time when you have been scared and needed reassurance?	How does this story affect you? What is there to learn and take away?
Others	Who are the other people in this?	How do they feel? Is this fair to the others?	What responsibility did Jesus have for others? What made him act? Did this grow their relationships?
Beauty	Where is the beauty in this story? Should we try to tame nature?	How does this story make you feel about nature?	Does it help you appreciate our world more?
Beyond	Does this story point to something bigger than us? Is there any mystery here?	What is the deeper meaning? Have you experienced a storm of life? What was it like? What helped you?	What does it teach me? How might I act differently?

Spirituality …

Focus: Y4 - History Egyptians	  
In	• What's your experience of Egyptian discoveries? • How does archaeology make you feel?
Out	• Who are the people affected by discoveries and discovering? • How might they feel? How does this influence your views of exploring and archaeology?
Up	• Will there always be things to be discovered? • Will there always be mysteries? • What is the point of exploring and discovering?

Intergenerational Worship



SAMUEL & ELI

1 SAMUEL 3:8-9

The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, `Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening. '"

SPIRITUALITY: REBECCA NYE

Children's spirituality often operates at a non-verbal level, in art, play, movement and through the sensory.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Relationships not programmes
- Invitation not expectation
- Clapping / mutuality
- Creative church for all
- The brilliant gift of all ages

- Show & tell
- Children's song
- Signs vs actions
- Wondering questions
- Lack of visibility for children
- Full integration/ participation, not just all age services


After this child friendly song, our young people will be going off to their Sunday school groups so the adults need suffer them no longer.

WELCOME

- How ready are we REALLY to welcome new people?
- New people, new practice
- Intentionality





SUPPORTING CYP IN CHURCH

- Build a culture of intergenerational relationships
- Share & hear personal stories of God at work
- Include all ages in leadership and worship
- Recognise that CYP are equal members in the body of Christ
- Unconditional welcome
- Provide a safe space to ask questions, grow and develop
- Support and develop youth leaders & volunteers





So, what next...?

- It takes everyone to change the culture...
- Imagine the future...



Katie's closing thoughts

Q&A

Creative prayer