

ST NICHOLAS  
COLE ABBEY

[www.culham.ac.uk/coleabbey](http://www.culham.ac.uk/coleabbey)

A NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
LONDON



VISUALISATION

## A TRULY EXCITING VISION

To bring a closed heritage building to life with a 21st Century purpose.

Since 1144, St Nicholas Cole Abbey has variously served the City of London in many ways. Now there is an additional opportunity for it to serve the country as a whole, by providing a unique and much needed National Centre for Religious Education.

The Centre's work and activities will reach out, to benefit children and teachers nationwide. Its resources will be web-networked to all schools through its associated REonline.

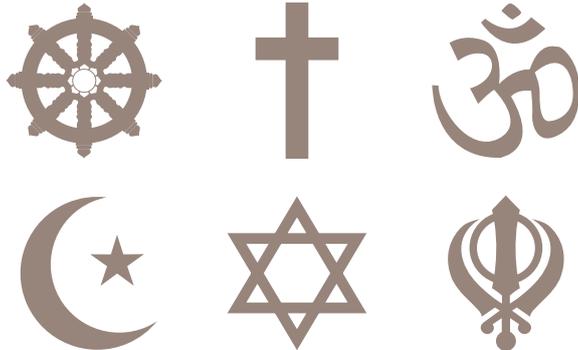


## RELIGION PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN:

- Individual lives
- British society
- International affairs

The religious and spiritual dimension is a potent force in individual lives and in society as a whole – both for good and sometimes for ill. In this country nearly 80% of adults identify in various ways with a religious faith. Religion forms a vital undergirding both for individual ethics and for public morality.

The future stability of British society depends significantly on a greater awareness and understanding of the ways different religious faiths define themselves and coexist. An understanding of international relations requires an appreciation of the various ways different societies interact in their cultural and religious contexts.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE):

- Develops children's understanding of Christianity and other world faiths
- Helps equip young people to live more harmoniously in a multifaith society which has its roots in Christianity
- Is a foundation for community cohesion and a more stable society

RE is a statutory subject in schools. Children learn about and learn from Christianity and the other main

faiths represented in Britain. Over 60% of all children now take a GCSE in RE and at A level it is one of the fastest growing subjects. An understanding of the religious dimension of human life helps children to grapple with questions of meaning and purpose, to develop a personal ethic, to appreciate heritage, to handle difference and to mature into responsible citizens in 21st century Britain.





## THE CENTRE WILL:

Provide RE with a national physical focus easily accessible in the heart of the capital.

Be the home base for the Religious Education Council.

Provide office space for related RE organisations.

Host national and regional meetings, lectures and seminars.

Be a religious trail focus for school parties and tourists.

Offer professional development for RE teachers.

Provide on-line and other resources.

Offer exhibition space.

Provide café/restaurant facilities and an outdoor terrace.

Enable public access to the inside of a Wren building currently closed.

Relate RE to Heritage Education.



# MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The Council is representative of the full range of faith communities and professional associations with an interest in Religious Education throughout the educational system.

Acorn Trust

Al-Khoei Foundation

Association of Christian Teachers

Association of Jewish Teachers

Association of RE Inspectors  
Advisers and Consultants

Association of University Departments  
of Theology and Religious Studies

Association of University Lecturers  
in Religious Education

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Bloxham Project

Board of Deputies of British Jews

British Humanist Association

British Sikh Education Council

Buddhist Society

Catholic Association of Teachers,  
Schools and Colleges

Catholic Bishops' Conference

Catholic Education Service  
for England and Wales

Christian Education

Church in Wales Education Division

Church of England Education Division

Clear Vision Trust

Council of African and  
Afro-Caribbean Churches

Council of Christians and Jews

Culham Institute

Farmington Institute for  
Christian Studies

Free Church Education Unit

Independent Schools Religious  
Studies Association

Institute of Jainology

Inter Faith Network for the UK

International Society for Krishna  
Consciousness Educational Services

Islamic Academy

Islamic Cultural Centre

Methodist Colleges and Schools

Muslim Council of Britain

Muslim Educational Trust

National Association of Standing  
Advisory Councils for RE

National Council of Hindu Temples (UK)

National Society

National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is  
of the United Kingdom

Professional Council for  
Religious Education

Religious Education and  
Environment Programme

RE Today Services

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Roman Catholic National Board  
of RE Inspectors and Advisers

Russian Orthodox Diocese of Amphipolis

Shap Working Party on World  
Religions in Education

Sikh Education Council

Stapleford Centre

Union of Muslim Organisations  
of UK and Eire

Vivekananda Centre

Wales Association of SACREs

Working Group on Sikhs in Education

World Congress of Faiths

*An Abrahamic Garden is envisaged for this open space next to the Centre representing Christianity, Islam and Judaism in harmony through their roots.*



# A NEW ERA



Culham is an endowed educational charity formed out of the closure in 1980 of a Church of England teacher training college. It is spearheading the Centre's development on behalf of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales.

## APPEAL FOR FUNDS

Conversion of St Nicholas as a heritage building	£5,500,000
125 year lease purchase	£850,000
Equipping as a centre for RE	£300,000
Assistance with start up costs for 3 years	£240,000
<b>Total request</b>	<b>£6,890,000</b>

For further details, see [www.culham.ac.uk/coleabbey](http://www.culham.ac.uk/coleabbey)  
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Architect - Hutchinson Studios

Brochure designed and produced by ABA-design.



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