

**2020 Crewe conference, 13-14th October- report from Chris Hudson, who was also presenting a seminar on behalf of *Barnabas in Schools*.**

Over two days, we had 150 professionals (mostly secondary teachers, academics and RE advisors, but some primary too), mulling over the latest issues- especially the Commission for RE's new recommendations for the subject. Some significant learning points were made by Joyce Miller, one of the Commissioners who appeared as a platform speaker:

1. 'Religion and Worldviews' (as a new suggested name for the subject) is a part-acknowledgement of the fact that despite 40 years of RE being taught on a non-confessional basis, its stock remains low. If we're going to do 'RE' differently, then a new name will be needed as part of a rebrand.
2. The creation of a statutory National Entitlement for RE will necessitate the end of local agreed syllabuses- and new centrally determined national non-statutory guidance documents for the subject. These will need to approach the content differently, studying a much more dynamic world of faith and belief as lived out by believers- and not just the propositions of what the different religions say they believe in. This new guidance would need to be created by a smaller committee appointed by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales.
3. Whatever replaces SACREs (Local Advisory Networks for Religion and Worldviews?), it will need to involve a partnership of teachers and active leaders of local faith networks: 'professionals and confessionals' working together. (Later, Claire Clinton, advisor for Newham SACRE delivered a stunningly enthusiastic seminar on 'Making SACREs work for you', which unconsciously gave concrete form to the Commission recommendations, with many practical ideas.)
4. The 'Withdrawal from RE clause' has to stay for now, because removing it would place schools in a vulnerable legal position with regard to the European Court of Human Rights... But if the legal composition of SACREs changes, that may change.