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**SACRE briefing 23**

1 message

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6 September 2019 at 11:35

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National Association of  
Standing Advisory Councils  
on Religious Education

## **SACRE BRIEFING**

### **Issue: 23**

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## Welcome from the Chair

I hope that your summer has been as good as mine! We certainly needed it after a busy summer term. Of course, the AGM and conference was a major part of our work at NASACRE, and we are pleased to share in this Briefing some of the excellent work that was discussed by various people at the conference. We also have a longer-term development plan, which again there are details of below.

Politically (at the time of writing!) we have a new Prime Minister, and a new Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson. We understand that he has shown interest in RE in the past (for example by asking **questions** in Parliament about RE) and his wife was a primary school teacher, so we are hoping for positive things from him. I wrote to congratulate him on his appointment and he **replied**. Nick Gibb continues as Schools' Minister and has continued to make statements in the House about the need for schools to provide RE in line with statutory requirements, and about SACREs, like this one in early September:

*All state funded schools are required by legislation or by their funding agreements to teach religious education (RE) to all registered pupils aged 5 to 18 years. Teaching RE is also part of schools' activity to meet their legal duty to promote young people's spiritual, moral and cultural development.*

*Each area is required to have a locally agreed syllabus for RE that maintained schools without a religious designation must follow. This is monitored by each area's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE). As part of school inspections from September 2019, as set out in Ofsted's published School Inspection Handbook, inspectors will take account of the religious education taught as part of assessing the quality of education provided by the school. It is not Ofsted's role to inspect denominational religious education in faith schools as part of its inspections. This provision is inspected separately under section 48 of the Education Act 2005.*

You may also have noticed that there was a further mention of SACREs in parliament in June from Stephen Timms (MP for East Ham) who suggested that SACREs might be able to play a role in the implementation of RSE (Relationships and Sex Education- compulsory for all schools from 2020) in schools. Nick Gibb was suggesting that schools might well want to consult with parents and the wider community (including faith communities) as the plan to implement the new curriculum, and Stephen Timms stated:

*I recognise that in some areas there may well be a question about the capacity of the [SACREs] to undertake such a consultation. In other areas, however, they are certainly well up for doing it. The SACRE is in most areas, I think, quite a wide and representative body that is currently focused purely on religious education. The suggestion that emerged [from a meeting he had with faith groups] was that its remit might be extended to take in local plans for implementing the relationships and sex education statutory instrument.*

Nick Gibb stated that he would consider the suggestion. (Full debate [here](#))

This was followed by a joint meeting in July of the All Party Parliamentary Groups for Faith and Society and Religious Education, which members of the NASACRE Executive attended, and again highlighted the potential of SACREs to be a safe-space for bringing together religious communities, educators and the authority to discuss issues such as SRE. Stephen is particularly interested in this, as he has seen the good work that his local SACRE, Newham has done in this area.

This sort of broadening of SACREs remit appears to be what SACREs have been seeking to do: in our [survey](#) of Member SACREs in 2017, Over 4/5 of SACREs said that would like to play a wider role in relation to community cohesion and inter-faith and faith/society relations more generally, with 7/8ths of SACREs already having a role beyond school religious education and collective worship. The Commission on RE's Final Report *The Way Forward* has in its recommendations (8e) that SACREs might:

- v. provide advice to schools and school providers on matters of religion and belief in schools
- viii. promote good community relations within and outside schools.

I have spoken to Stephen Timms and have made it clear that such additional work would only be possible in many places with significant investments in resourcing SACREs. There are risks that need to be considered: not all SACREs currently have sufficient professional advice from an advisor with expertise in RSE and not all SACREs have the correct balance of people on them to represent the broad spectrum of religious views (in particular) about RSE.

The DfE currently have no particular plans in this area, but I think it is an idea well worth pursuing with the DfE, the Schools Minister and other politicians. In my opinion, a SACRE seems a sensible place for consultation about RSE within an LA

as a safe space for local faith communities to be part of that. But I would be wary at the moment of asking SACREs to take anything additional on or produce definitive advice; I think it could be a place for others leading on RSE to go and be accountable maybe or to talk through plans.

Please let me know your SACREs thoughts and any examples of practice in this area.

It is now a year since the publication of the Commission on RE's final **Report**. The RE Council has produced a strategic plan to move forward with the implementation of the recommendations in *The Way Forward*, and are hoping to convince the new Education Secretary to implement a national plan for RE. Central to this is the vision that:

*"The subject should explore the important role that religious and non-religious worldviews play in all human life. This is an essential area of study if pupils are to be well prepared for life in a world where controversy over such matters is pervasive and where many people lack the knowledge to make their own informed decisions. It is a subject for all pupils, whatever their own family background and personal beliefs and practices."* (John Hall in the Foreword to *The Way Forward*)

One of the key recommendations was that there should be a 'National Entitlement', something that the NASACRE Executive has always supported. What I would recommend SACREs to do is to compare the Commission's National Entitlement statement with your Agreed Syllabus. You might ask: is the CoRE RE 'right'? Is there anything missing? Are there things included which shouldn't be? Or are there things which your agreed syllabus might benefit from including next time it is reviewed? I would be really interested in hearing the thoughts from a number of SACREs around the country. It is important for NASACRE to know which parts of the CoRE recommendations that we can all get behind.

Part of the plan includes funding to work with NASACRE to pilot a number of SACREs working in the way envisioned by Recommendation 8 (LANs), whilst still carrying out all the statutory duties of a SACRE. I am excited by this and will be fascinated to see how the pilot works out. If your SACRE is interested in being in the pilot, do please get in touch. The pilot will work best with a variety of large and small, effective and struggling SACREs.

This term will see the first schools inspected by Ofsted under the new inspection framework. Inspectors will usually conduct a 'deep dive' into 3-6 areas of the curriculum. This could include RE. Challenging questions will be asked of senior and curricular leaders about the intent, implementation and impact (3Is) of the curriculum. SACREs may well want (and may already have started) to support schools in clarifying these in relation to the Agreed Syllabus. I have prepared an exemplar **letter** to schools which SACREs may find useful as a first step, and there is further advice below.

Your Autumn Term meeting looks like a busy one! Have a great term, and do stay in touch.

Paul

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## Meet the NASACRE Executive

It was great to meet so many SACRE representatives at our conference in Manchester. If you don't know who we all are, please look [here](#).

We are delighted to welcome Alex Klein from Salford SACRE to the Exec, who will serve a three-year term. Find out more about Alex via the above link.

A huge thank you to Sushma Sahajpal and Nasr Moussa Emam, whose terms have come to an end, for their enormous contribution to the work of NASACRE. We are extremely grateful for all they have given to support the work of SACREs around the country. Elizabeth Jenkerson's term has also ended, but she will be co-opted for the next year, in order to facilitate the smooth organisation of next year's conference.

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## NASACRE Development Plan

The Development Team of the Executive, ably led by Sushma Sahajpal, has been analysing and reviewing NASACRE's work within our five aims, to ensure that we are best serving our SACRE members.

A workshop group at the NASACRE conference engaged with this document and provided feedback, which will inform the ongoing monitoring of the Development Plan.

Here is an [overview](#) of the plan, and also see the article below about the advantages of membership. If you have any feedback or suggestions, do please let us know, as this helps our ongoing evaluation process.

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## Feedback from NASACRE Conference & AGM - 22 May 2019

*Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships; RE near and far (local, national, global)*

Thank you to all who completed the Delegate Feedback form at the annual [conference](#); we really do look at them very carefully.

As some of you may know we considered a few northern locations for our “non-London” year, but we decided on Manchester as an act of solidarity with the city after the awful attacks there in 2017. Some greatly appreciated the selection of Manchester and a large number remarked on how close the hotel was to Manchester Piccadilly station - only about a two-minute walk! The narrow meeting room, common to many hotels in the area, presented its difficulties, not helped by many late bookings!

The two keynote speakers, Peter Bull and Professor Julian Stern, were inspiring, challenging and thought-provoking, but, as usual, it was the workshops, table discussions and networking that delegates thought would be most beneficial to their SACREs. Some said that they were new to their SACRE - new to RE really - and were impressed by the involvement of SACREs in schools and communities. As usual, most wanted more time together, more time to discuss, to ask questions, to consult together. We’re already planning for the 2020 conference and AGM, and hoping to find a way that we can spend more time sharing and discussing the future of RE in our schools.



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## Why subscribe to NASACRE?

The need to consider the future of Religious Education (RE) is paramount in the current political and educational climate, where uncertainty and implementation of reform are in place. You know that your SACRE exists to uphold the law, which states that RE must be taught in all schools and it is a SACRE’s responsibility to advise the local authority on what needs to be done to improve RE and Collective Worship (CW) for local schools. Through your SACRE, local communities and teachers can influence directly what pupils learn in the subject for which we care so much.

SACREs need to be supported; the future of the subject is at stake and direction and guidance are required for RE to thrive. This is where NASACRE can help. The Executive Committee has close links with the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) and the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) and has an active voice, that represents your SACRE. NASACRE holds membership of the RE Council of England and Wales (REC) and the Inter-Faith Network UK (IFN) and NASACRE represent the interests of your SACREs at meetings with the DfE and the REC, thereby representing your interests at a national level.

We exist to help you promote and sustain the subject we care for. We seek to promote inter-faith understanding and sensitivity, to promote professional development in RE and to campaign passionately for adequate and satisfactory levels of resourcing RE to achieve these aims.

NASACRE does not stand still. We have just published a new five-year development plan. Our vision is that NASACRE will:

- assist SACREs to fulfil your responsibilities
- represent your common concerns to other bodies
- assist in the training and mutual consultation with members
- encourage the development of SACREs in, for example, becoming an online community and
- undertake other activities appropriate to SACREs, as may benefit RE and CW.

We want you on board, and hope that you will join or re-join us next year!

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## SACRE Buddy Systems

Is your SACRE particularly strong? Or are you struggling? Some SACREs are joining up with other local SACREs to strengthen their capacity. If you are interested in this, perhaps contact SACREs that are doing this, to find out how they make it work:

- Hampshire works together with Portsmouth and Isle of Wight
- Coventry and Warwickshire
- Hull and East Riding
- The North-North-West SACRE Hub meets termly for mutual support, with a flexible and open membership. It often brings together people from Cumbria, Lancashire, Blackpool, Bury, Wigan, Halton, Warrington, Bolton and Rochdale SACREs. If your SACRE is in the 'North-North-West', contact [advisory.support@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:advisory.support@lancashire.gov.uk) for further details and an invite to the next meeting.

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## Looking for new Faith Representatives

If you are looking for faith representatives, here are some ideas about how to find suitable reps:

For Jewish representatives, contact [Sara Perlmutter](#) at the Board of Deputies of British Jews

For Church of England and Roman Catholic representatives, contact your local dioceses

For other Christian representatives, contact the [Free Churches Group](#).

For other faith representatives in your area, contact or visit your local [Inter Faith Network group](#).

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## Ofsted advice

Some SACREs have been providing NATRE's advice on the new [Ofsted framework for 2019](#) to schools in their areas. There appears to be an increased focus on Religious Education in this framework, with its statutory nature highlighted and the potential of RE becoming a curriculum focus area during an inspection. NASACRE joins other RE bodies in welcoming this change.

This provides both an opportunity for SACREs to reassert their support for RE in their schools, and greater weight for insisting on compliance.

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## Compliance in RE

Many delegates at the NASACRE conference were keen to learn about the SACRE's role in ensuring compliance to legislation around RE. Many SACREs have found the [letter](#) from Neil Lawson of the Curriculum Unit of the Department for Education useful it set our DfE expectations around:

- The requirement to teach RE (including what is expected from academies and free schools)
- Advice about the application of the agreed syllabus, and whether qualifications can be stipulated as part of that
- How to handle reports of a school not meeting its duty to teach RE

It is extremely useful to have this advice set out in writing, and we hope that this will help SACREs to be proactive in challenging schools of all types to provide the very best RE. To help SACREs to be proactive with all schools in alerting them to the expectations of the DfE and Ofsted, we have prepared a [template letter](#), which SACREs might like to amend and send out to schools at the start of this term. Do let us know if you use this and what the response is.

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## National Recommendation on SACRE Funding

We were shocked at the results of our recent survey about how little of the Central Services School Block (CSSB) is being used by Local Authorities on SACRE business. Many SACREs are allocated far less than 1%. We have discussed these figures with the

DfE and are now setting out a national recommendation.

The government's guidance is clear:

*An LA should fund and support a SACRE and an ASC satisfactorily in line with the duty to constitute or convene each of these bodies and to enable them effectively to carry out their functions.*

*(Religious Education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010, page 11)*

The following can reasonably be expected to be funded from the CSSB:

- a clerk
- a professional officer who has expertise in RE curriculum design;
- a publicly accessible place to meet;
- the reasonable expenses of members;
- publishing the agreed syllabus and other SACRE materials (including agendas and minutes), most usually on the LA website.
- NASACRE subscription and AGM attendance

The national recommendation is that an LA should allocate **at least 2%** of the CSSB to SACRE in order that SACREs can carry out their statutory duties.

We advise each SACRE to look up your LA's CSSB [here](#). Work out whether your LA is allocating 2% to SACRE. If it is not, write to the LA, explaining what the national recommendation is and asking when the LA is likely to fund SACRE adequately. Note that, in a year in which an Agreed Syllabus review is needed, it is likely to require much more than 2% of the CSSB, if the review is to be done properly.

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## Collective Worship

At the AGM and Conference, a noticeboard task encouraged delegates to record their thoughts about how far the Collective act of Worship is a live issue for their SACREs, and how any support they offer has impacted on schools. It clearly is a live issue and the Exec Committee is keen to take this matter further during the coming year. NASACRE supports SACREs in all aspects of their work, including Collective Worship.

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## National RE Ambassadors - update

Led by the National Ambassador for RE networks, Naomi Anstice, the 10 Regional Ambassadors are now two terms into their two-year project to connect grass root teachers to RE networks, support and research opportunities. Here Naomi gives us a taster of some of their objectives:

- One of the Ambassadors' roles is to facilitate a local leaders' regional conference, where there is currently nothing on offer. The Ambassadors are meeting together in July to discuss their ideas for conferences during the next academic year. If your SACRE would like to get involved, do contact your Ambassador. If you are already working with other local SACREs to provide training for network leaders then let us know how we can assist you.
- All regions now have Facebook groups to promote news and events from the local area. SACREs are welcome to publish their own news on these pages so do get in touch in order to reach more teachers.
- All Regional Ambassadors are supporting the creation of new local groups and are looking for new local leaders. Do you have a teacher involved with your SACRE who is looking to extend their professional development and lead a group for local teachers to share good practice? We would be happy to support them with ideas and practical tips, alongside NATRE's Local Group Officer. Perhaps there is a Gold REQM school you have worked alongside, where you know there is a proactive teacher whom we could get in contact with. We are also looking for Specialist Leaders in RE; do you know of one in your area?
- Many of the Regional Ambassadors have been invited to and attended local SACREs to talk about the Regional Project. Whilst distance (and time) may prohibit them attending all SACREs, you could email them to ask if they would like to send you an update about any local opportunities.
- We are also building links with local universities and providers of Initial Teacher Training, to connect those who are looking for a career in RE with local groups ready to support them in the classroom. Our thanks to TRS-UK (the umbrella organisation for University Theology and Religious studies departments) who have provided many introductions over the last few months. If you have any associate teachers, do ask them to get in contact with their Regional Ambassador.

Finally, my thanks for inviting me to lead a session at NASACRE AGM in Manchester. It was great to have an opportunity to network with everyone and to receive NASACRE's support for the project.

You can find your Regional Ambassadors [here](#) or email [naomi@natre.org.uk](mailto:naomi@natre.org.uk)

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## Living out Shared Space

At the NASACRE AGM in May, I was struck by the huge range of experience and expertise in the room. NASACRE is probably unique in bringing people together from such diverse backgrounds and communities with a shared purpose of improving religious education in our schools. Having 'shared purpose or common goals' is one of the conditions that Allport (1954) claims can lead to successful intergroup contact. I was privileged to be able to share something of the Contact Theory hypothesis and Religious Education at the AGM. The project I talked about was a joint collaboration between NATRE and the University of Bristol. Put simply, as well as common goals, there are 3

other conditions which Allport claims are required for successful intergroup contact to take place:

- members of the group having equal status
- undertaking tasks through genuine cooperation
- the importance of social or institutional support from a figure with authority or the wider community.

### Continue reading

Dr Kathryn Wright, CEO, Culham St Gabriel's Trust

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## Subsidised NATRE membership for struggling primary schools - nominate a school near you for Primary RE 1000 and kick-start better RE in their school!

Are there any primary schools in your area who rarely engage with SACRE or with RE events? NATRE has received generous funding to offer subsidised membership to eligible primary schools. Designed to increase access to RE resources to schools across the UK, primary schools with little or no exposure to NATRE and require additional support are eligible.

The **Primary RE 1000** project provides bronze membership for two years instead of the usual one-year at a highly subsidised rate. The schools accepted to join the project will receive:

- A digital starter pack to kick start better RE in their schools
- Over 1000 free-to-use classroom resources
- Links with a local group of RE teachers to share best practice
- NATRE membership at a subsidised price (£55 instead of £150!)
- Opportunities to attend high quality training
- And much more...

This is only possible due to generous funding and is offered on a first-come first-served basis until the quota is filled.

Submit your recommendations:

If you have schools that you would like to recommend for eligibility, please email [mandeep@natre.org.uk](mailto:mandeep@natre.org.uk) with the school name and postcode. There is no limit on the number of recommendations, but schools must pass the eligibility criteria determined for the project to receive the subsidised membership.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the **Communications Executive Mandeep** or telephone 0121 415 3968.

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## Research for RE

Following the NASACRE conference, workshop leader Kevin O'Grady from Culham St Gabriel's writes:

"It was a real pleasure to attend your Manchester conference on May 22. Whilst I'm particularly grateful to those of you who came to my session, and provided such a good discussion on how a SACRE might make use of the Research for RE website, I also came away encouraged by the energy and commitment of the conference in general. I hope you'll find interest in the **presentation** we're now circulating to you, which is my conference session edited to include different SACRE members' ideas about using Research for RE. I was delighted that those in my session felt that the website would indeed be a useful resource for a SACRE. Do please pursue this further, initially by registering as a user at <http://researchforre.reonline.org.uk/> and having a first look at the materials. You might then like to go through the presentation, and perhaps talking through it at a SACRE meeting. If at any stage you'd like to have a conversation with me about the site and ways in which to make use of it, do please email me on [Kevin@cstg.org.uk](mailto:Kevin@cstg.org.uk)"

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## Agreed Syllabi

In each briefing we have been alerting you to Agreed Syllabi which you might like to look at, adapt or adopt, if you are in the process of reviewing your own syllabus. We would like to remind SACREs that it is for each individual SACRE/ Agreed Syllabus Conference to make its own decisions about what is best for their particular context. By naming local authorities, we are providing you with a range of different approaches and syllabi from which you can make an informed choice. NASACRE as a body does not endorse (or recommend) any particular syllabi.

The following SACREs have recently reviewed and published their agreed syllabi:

### **Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees**

We have been alerted to the new 2019 local agreed syllabus for Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees ***Believing and Belonging*** which may be downloaded from <https://penninelearning.com>

It is supported by a large bank of resources available on subscription, including over 70 units of work now available online in the West Yorkshire RE Resources Hub. There are sample resources for Years 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9 to download from the homepage.

### **Lewisham**

The new Lewisham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education *Learning together through Faith and Beliefs* was formally adopted by Lewisham Council last summer and includes requirements for RE in EYFS through to and including Key Stage 5. Lewisham SACRE welcomes expressions of interest from other SACREs who might wish to adopt or adapt their syllabus or any of its Key Stage requirements. Costs will be negotiated, dependent on how much of the syllabus you are interested in; Lewisham would also wish for recognition of their original work, forming the basis for any final published work. You can find the syllabus on the Lewisham Council website by searching for Religious Education. Please contact **Denise Chaplin** to discuss any section/s which interest you.

## Big Ideas for RE

Agreed Syllabus Conferences who are constructing a new Agreed Syllabus may wish to look at the work of Barbara Wintersgill and the **Big Ideas for RE** project.

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## REQM/SACRE links

Is your SACRE aware of the **Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM)** established in 2012?

The REQM is now managed by the **RE Council of England and Wales**, based in London, and it is managed by **NASACRE Exec** member Linda Rudge. Schools are awarded the REQM by an accredited assessor, at one of three levels – Bronze, Silver or Gold. The award is valid for three years. The cost of the award is £475 each time the school applies. Some local SACREs have supported schools in their applications, either through advice or through subsidising the costs. Other SACREs find the scheme helpful in monitoring local RE, or in helping schools to plan their subject and professional development. REQM schools have reported back to SACREs, and some teachers have been asked to join their SACRE through this networking. The REQM criteria are designed to promote school improvement across the curriculum, as well as in the subject of RE.

This year, schools have been sharing their experiences again through national conferences and through regional events. Quotes from their presentations show the validity and value of the award in terms of teacher confidence, improved local contacts and the enhancement of local networks.

Please contact **Linda** for further details, or to ask for a visit to your local SACRE from a member of the team.

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## Liverpool SACRE: Alsop High School

At the NASACRE conference, Peter Bull from **Alsop High School** spoke about the

SACRE as a 'beacon of hope'.

***Students at Alsop High School have launched their new promotional film "Alsop Is More Than A School" in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Peter Brennan. The short film celebrates that Alsop is #MoreThanASchool.***

This year Alsop celebrates its centenary. The Centenary Working Group worked alongside the School Council and consulted extensively with the students to develop a strategy to engage and reach out to the North Liverpool community.

The students wanted to communicate a shared vision that Alsop is more than just a school and that togetherness is at the heart of the school community. They wanted to inspire young people to achieve and promote a culture that challenges low aspirations, builds self-esteem and promotes the "Yes, I can do it" mentality.

Mr Wilson, Headteacher comments:

***"We are thrilled with the film. It reinforces 'the Alsop way.' It demonstrates that through teamwork, our students journey along a pathway to academic excellence. The words are the thoughts expressed by Alsop students and they demonstrate our school goes the extra mile to support and nurture all members of the school community."***

The film launch took place during a special assembly, to welcome Mr Chris Wilson as Headteacher of Alsop. The assembly included readings and musical items with the theme of working together for the common good.

During the assembly, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool formally welcomed Mr Wilson to Liverpool. He told the assembled students that he hoped, "Mr Wilson will receive a warm welcome and that soon he will feel at home in our city."

**The promotional film can be viewed [here](#).**

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## **Greenwich SACRE: Knife Crime Project**

In the April meeting of the Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE, Kayleigh Thomas - Senior Community Safety Officer of the local Authority gave a presentation regarding the work of the Safer Communities Team in 'Youth Crime and Gangs'. The situation of knife crime within London is serious; by June 2019, there were 56 murders because of knives in London.

The Safer Communities Team works in: Anti-Social Behaviour, Hate Crime, Youth Crime and Gangs, Violence Against Women and Girls, the Prevent Agenda and Crime data and analysis. The work of the Youth Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Project Officer involves working with vulnerable and disaffected young people who may otherwise be

drawn, lured or forced to join criminal gangs, who often exploit them. This Officer supports safeguarding processes and has an in-depth and current knowledge of local gangs. In response, the officer co-ordinates commissioned services to schools, offers bespoke training sessions for staff and workshops for children and young people. There is also a liaison with police and cross-borough working.

The team also works with the following organizations: St Giles Trust SOS Project, Youth Offending Service programmes, Non-Violent Resistance Programme (NVR), Safeguarding / Social Care which can offer re-housing gang members, their families or victims and providing opportunities into education, employment or training 1-2-1 support and assessment.

Royal Borough of Greenwich believes it is worthwhile sharing the valuable work of the Safer Communities Team and therefore help to disseminate the information to faith-based members. There are reported desires in political circles to treat knife crime as a medical concern - as if it were a disease - but if faith communities can help in any way, by liaising with its young members, it can be part of a solution.

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## Milton Keynes Youth SACRE

We were delighted to hear from Milton Keynes SACRE at the NASACRE conference about their Youth SACRE project. This may prove very useful for other SACREs considering a Youth SACRE, or give new ideas to existing ones.

### MKIAC Art Exhibition on Faith and Nature



- During interfaith week, our Eco schools leader Mrs. Chrisman and Mrs Rahman attended the Milton Keynes Islamic Arts and Culture interfaith event with four students. Jessica Nuttall, Nicholas Day, Hope Brown, and Tomasz Sierko, spoke eloquently and passionately on the theme of Faith and its interaction with the environment and nature at the
- Several people from the public including the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Deputy Mayor Cllr Sam Crooks, Dr. Julie Mills CEO and Principial of MK College, Anouar Kassim MBE and Countess Elizabeth Howe, the Patron of the Milton Keynes Islamic Arts and Culture Organisation praised the students on their talks.
- Students engagement with the audience was moving, each individual captured the essence of the subject, their words and delivery were uplifting and were very well received by the audience.

Click [here](#) for video clip.

The Youth SACRE was also involved in suggesting ways forward with the locally agreed syllabus and guidance booklet. The students were very much involved in the revising of the syllabus as they gave their thoughts on the previous one and the SACRE adapted it to meet their needs, as well as the aims of RE.

This year, they are getting other secondary schools in Milton Keynes to hold the meetings, to attract new schools in different catchment areas. The aims are always to support teachers, whether specialists or non-specialists, and make sure the students learn something new, in working collaboratively. These meetings are held 5/6 times a year and open to Year 5 pupils all the way through to Year 13 students.

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## Hampshire SACRE: Religious Literacy Project

Hampshire LA has been working with Brunel University on a research project around Religious Literacy within RE. The outcomes of the work can be found [here](#).

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## Westhill Award Winners 2019

The following SACREs were successful in bidding for a Westhill Award for their projects:

Bromley - production of a SACRE Calendar: religious, secular, multi-faith events, using artwork from a borough-wide competition for all KS1 and KS2 pupils.

Cambridgeshire - pioneering research programme, developing resources and processes to enable and enhance pupil encounters with religious diversity.

Lambeth - developing the use of Faith Trails, drawing on local faith communities for resources for a KS2 RE Unit of Work: *Understanding Faith and Belief in Lambeth*.

South Gloucestershire - extending the WIRE (Widening Inclusion in RE) Award project to schools with little diversity, and to secondary schools with little RE

Warwickshire - videoing RE teacher network meetings, to strengthen teachers' subject knowledge across principal religions and world views

Wokingham / Pan-Berkshire Hub - extending the Pan-Berkshire Hub initiative to Wokingham, developing *Real People, Real Faith* recordings of interviews with faith members.

**Perhaps your SACRE can start thinking about applying for a grant next year, to support an exciting project. Details of the scheme are [here](#).**

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## 2019-20 NASACRE Membership

The updated log-in details that gives your SACRE access to the password protected

sections of the NASACRE site, were sent out to clerks of member SACREs on 1st September.

You can now check if your membership status has been updated by checking in the **SACRE Directory**. There is a small 'NASACRE flower' next to a SACRE name in the SACRE Directory if the new subscription has been received. So please check your SACRE's membership status for 2019-20 and if necessary arrange or chase up payment of the membership fee.

## Items for your Autumn Term SACRE Meeting

- Discuss how to support schools in preparing for the new Ofsted Framework, using the template letter.
- Give space for individuals who attended the AGM and Conference to report back from it.
- Discuss your SACREs opinion on being a 'safe space' to discuss RSE, or if you would like to/feel able to do so. Feed this back to us along with any examples of work you have done in this area.
- Discuss if your SACRE would like to be part of the LAN pilot and let us know if you would.
- Look at the Overview of the NASACRE development plan and send feedback.
- Undertake a comparison of the CoRE National Entitlement and your Agreed Syllabus (or set up a sub group to do so). Again, send feedback!
- Ensure that your NASACRE subscription for 2019-20 has been paid.
- Consider how you might work together with other SACREs locally/regionally.
- Continue to challenge schools and academies in your area who appear to not be compliant with the requirement to provide RE for all pupils in all schools in all years. Let NASACRE know about your struggles and successes.
- If you have not done so, consider how well your SACRE is funded, and if less than 2%CSSB, take this up with the LA, informing them of the National Recommendation on SACRE funding.
- If you have not done so, contact your new Regional Ambassador to see how you can best work together.
- If you have not already done so, consider if there are any primary schools in your area who might benefit from the Primary 1000 scheme.
- If you have any good practice to share, please let us know so we can include it in the next briefing!
- Consider inviting Kevin O'Grady to your SACRE to talk about Research for RE.
- Consider inviting one of the REQM team to a future SACRE meeting.
- Start thinking about if your SACRE would like to apply for a Westhill/NASACRE grant next year for a new project.
- Let us know if you are holding any events or launching your new Agreed Syllabus
- Ensure that your annual report has been sent to the **DfE** and to **NASACRE**

- Please check your SACRE **contact details** are correct on the NASACRE website and let us know if any need updating
- Do make use of the **training resources** on the NASACRE website for any new SACRE members, and contact the relevant authority if you need representatives on a group.



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