

SACRE briefing 26

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SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 26

This issue includes:

- **Welcome and Update from the Acting chair**
- **Extraordinary General Meeting**
- **The Westhill/NASACRE Awards 2020-21**
- **NASACRE Annual AGM and Conference 2021**
- **Virtual SACREs**
- **Collective Worship**
- **Inter Faith Week 2020, 8-15 November**

Welcome and Update from the Acting Chair

Dear SACRE colleagues

This has been a remarkable year for all us, and for many it has been a difficult or distressing time. Our thanks to all of you for supporting RE and its teachers, schools and their provision for collective worship, and for dealing with all SACRE matters in a wide variety of personal and professional circumstances. A special thanks to all those of you in schools, or with family members and friends who are doing their best to keep education, and our children and young people, thriving.

This message is intended to reintroduce myself as a member of the Executive committee and to introduce myself as the Association's Acting Chair as announced on the **website**. These interim arrangements approved by the Executive committee, will be brought to members for decisions at an Extraordinary General Meeting in November, as we were unable to meet in May.

My background is in the initial and continuing education of teachers, especially in RE. I have worked as a qualified teacher, a local authority adviser, a consultant to SACREs, and as university lecturer and director of a research centre for the subject. Since 2012, I have worked with colleagues in schools, SACREs and universities to establish **Learn Teach Lead RE** networks in the south-west and the north of England, and I am also the project manager, on behalf of the RE Council of England and Wales, for the **RE Quality Mark**. My particular interests are in curriculum and professional development for RE, and I celebrate all the achievements we have made across the diverse and vibrant education settings and faith communities represented in NASACRE.

SACREs still provide most of the support and legislated curriculum for the subject, and much of the work is achieved through volunteer time with professional and local authority guidance and resources. You know that SACREs are also key to inter faith dialogue and community initiatives affecting much more than the subject of RE. We have an important year ahead as we continue this work, no doubt challenged by circumstances beyond our immediate control.

I commend the work of the Executive committee, our Officers, and our Administrator, and thank them all for their support to me and for taking such a collegial approach to the work and role of NASACRE's 'Chair', and for keeping everything going in the middle of the COVID-19 emergency. I also recommend the contents of this Briefing, and especially the recent statement on the **Black Lives Matter** movement.

Linda Rudge

Extraordinary General Meeting

We will be holding an EGM in late November. The date is yet to be confirmed and you will be notified in another Briefing in September. That meeting will be held in the morning from 10:00-12:00 probably on Zoom. Details of the platform we will be using will be confirmed and information and invitations will be sent to SACREs early next term.

The main purpose of the meeting will be:

- 1.** To agree on some changes to the NASACRE constitution in order to clarify and update it, formalising the steps the Association has taken on occasions when an elected officer cannot complete their term of office

2. To appoint a Vice Chair and Treasurer

One or two other short items may be added to the agenda if time permits - further details at the start of next term.

The Westhill/NASACRE Awards 2020-21

The Awards Panel had to operate at a distance electronically this time because of the coronavirus lockdown.

The Panel awarded to:

Barking & Dagenham SACRE £4,000

Barnet SACRE £4,000

Bath & NE Somerset SACRE £4,000

Coventry SACRE £4,000

Gloucestershire SACRE £4,000

Hearty congratulations are offered to the successful SACREs. Thumbnail outlines of the Award-winning projects will be shortly found on the NASACRE website.

A number of significant themes arose from the Award Panel's consideration of the six applications submitted from SACREs for a Westhill/NASACRE Award for 2020-21. These themes are shared here to help SACREs in preparing future applications.

(a) While it may not be possible to be boldly innovatory all the time, the Awards Panel will expect to see some element of newness in all submissions for an Award. Submissions which are genuinely innovatory will be given preference over others which are not.

(b) Preference will also be given to proposed projects which involve pupils directly in an educational activity. The Awards are not envisaged as a means of providing CPD support for teachers, important though that is.

(c) The use of the term diversity in the Awards Briefing Notes should be interpreted as referring specifically to religious diversity (including non-religious world-views). Other agendas relating to "diversity" lie outside the remit of the Awards.

The Briefing Notes will be revised before applications are invited for a Westhill/NASACRE Award for 2021-22. The revised Notes will reflect more clearly the above themes.

Michael Metcalf

We are looking to see if we can host on Zoom an afternoon or twilight in the Autumn term

where previous winners of NASACRE & Westhill Awards can present their winning projects to other SACREs. More news on this in next term's Briefing. If your SACRE would be potentially interested in making a presentation, please email Claire.clinton@rematters.co.uk to discuss possibilities.

NASACRE Annual AGM and Conference 2021

Our next AGM and Conference will be held on **Monday 24 May 2021** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel: London - the City.

The 2022 AGM and Conference will be held at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham on Monday May 23rd 2022.

Virtual SACREs

Many SACREs and ASCs will by now have held virtual meetings. These may continue throughout next term and for the foreseeable future.

This is still the most satisfactory way for SACREs to work whilst organising large gatherings and the risks for your members of travel on public transport continue to be a concern.

Please see the advice from the DfE that we published in our [previous Briefing](#) on virtual SACRE meetings.

Here is Newham SACRE enjoying their virtual meeting on 18 June. There were 28 members present and they were live on Facebook, as all council meetings in Newham have been during the lockdown.

Collective Worship

NASACRE is pleased to announce that in the coming months, members of the Executive will be working with colleagues from AREIAC (**The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants**) to review and update our shared guidance on Collective Worship.

In addition to their responsibilities in relation to RE, our member SACREs also have a key role in advising Local Authorities on Collective Worship in maintained schools under their control. NASACRE wishes to offer renewed support as they seek to fulfil this statutory duty within the current legal framework, including some additional advice in relation to current challenges posed by the COVID pandemic.

If your SACRE has produced its own guidance on Collective Worship, NASACRE would like to invite you to share this with the Executive and our AREIAC colleagues to enrich and inform our work together on this important project. Please send your materials to **Marie, our Administrator** by the end of August. We shall be pleased to acknowledge your contributions in our work.

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

Inter Faith Week 2020, 8-15 November

SACREs have been important in celebrating and promoting **Inter Faith Week** in their local authorities since its beginnings. 2020 will bring new challenges as a result of Covid-

19 and we know that some SACREs are already thinking about the implications of Covid-19 on RE and collective worship.

As no one can be sure of what restrictions will be placed on communities and their schools in November, it will be important to think creatively about what Inter Faith Week will mean for schools. Certainly during the lockdown period, the work of faith and inter faith groups has been highlighted in relation to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable, and that work will carry on into the future.

SACREs could encourage their schools to organise virtual tours of places of worship or to have a video conference with SACRE members, members of faith communities and inter faith groups. Schools might also find it useful to draw on existing 'virtual tours' that some of our more well-known places of worship have on their websites.

You can find more information about the Week at www.interfaithweek.org

Dr David Hampshire
Assistant Director Inter Faith Network for the UK



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