

# Public Document Pack



## Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Rebecca Little

**Email:** [Rebecca.Little@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Little@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Tel direct:** 01670 622611

**Date:** Tuesday, 5 July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** to be held in **CONFERENCE ROOM 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **WEDNESDAY, 13 JULY 2022** at **4.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

**To Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) members**



**Daljit Lally, Chief Executive**  
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF  
T: 0345 600 6400  
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# AGENDA

## PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

### 1. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

To note the membership and terms of reference of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the 2022/23 Council year as agreed by Annual Council at the meeting on 4 May 2022 as follows:-

**4 members  
(2:1:1 Min Gp)**

**Quorum: 1 Member from each Group (Committee A, B, C & D)**

**Chair: G. Renner Thompson**

**Vice Chair: A religious representative**

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Green Party</b>	<b>Ind Non-Grouped</b>
G. Renner Thompson	L. Bowman			N. Morphet	
T. Thorne					

*(In addition, there are 19 other members who have an education background or an interest in religious education).*

#### **Terms of Reference**

To advise the Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in County schools, and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to the Council, or as the Council may see fit.

An update will be provided by the Clerk on the recruitment of new members

### 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

To note the election of Councillor G. Renner-Thompson as Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the ensuing 2022/2023 Council year as appointed by Council on 4 May 2022.

### 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

### 4. MINUTES

(Pages 1

Minutes of the meeting of the Northumberland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), held on Wednesday, 2 February 2022, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Chair

Minutes of the meeting of the Northumberland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), Agreed Syllabus Conference, held on Wednesday, 6 April 2022, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, and signed by the chair.

## 5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the ensuing 2022/2023 Council year.

## 6. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required where a matter arises at a meeting;

- a. Which **directly relates to** Disclosable Pecuniary Interest ('DPI') as set out in Appendix B, Table 1 of the Code of Conduct, to disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote and not to remain in room. Where members have a DPI or if the matter concerns an executive function and is being considered by a Cabinet Member with a DPI they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with the matter.
- b. Which **directly relates to** the financial interest or well being of a Other Registrable Interest as set out in Appendix B, Table 2 of the Code of Conduct to disclose the interest and only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain the room.
- c. Which **directly relates to** their financial interest or well-being (and is not DPI) or the financial well being of a relative or close associate, to declare the interest and members may only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak. Otherwise, the member must not take part in discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.
- d. Which **affects** the financial well-being of the member, a relative or close associate or a body included under the Other Registrable Interests column in Table 2, to disclose the interest and apply the test set out at paragraph 9 of Appendix B before deciding whether they may remain in the meeting.
- e. Where Members have or a Cabinet Member has an Other Registrable Interest or Non Registrable Interest in a matter being

considered in exercise of their executive function, they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with it.

NB Any member needing clarification must contact [monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk). Members are referred to the Code of Conduct which contains the matters above in full. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

**7. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION**

To receive an update from Caroline Weir, Part-time RE Consultant about the provision of RE in-service training and contacts with schools since the last related meeting. To receive an update from C. Weir (RE Consultant) regarding the provision of RE in-service training and contacts with schools since the last related meeting.

**8. SCHOOL WORKFORCE DATA**

(Pages  
11 - 12)

To receive and discuss the School Workforce Census data

**9. FEEDBACK ON THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE LAUNCH**

To receive an update from C. Weir (RE Consultant) regarding the event launch of the Agreed Syllabus held on 28 June 2022.

**10. NASACRE ISSUES**

(Pages  
13 - 20)

**The NASACRE Newsletter**

To receive the latest newsletter– for information.

Reminder of web site link: [www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk) for other interesting articles which Members may wish to view.

**11. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2022 REPORT CARD**

(Pages  
21 - 26)

To receive the Religious Education 2022 Report Card.

**12. REVIEW OF NASACRE CONFERENCE AND TRAINING EVENTS**

(Pages  
27 - 30)

**A)** To receive a review of the NASACRE Conference and AGM from C. Weir (RE Consultant) and J. Miller

**B)** To receive a verbal review of NASACRE Training Events attended by

SACRE members this academic year

- 13. SACRE SUB-COMMITTEE** (Pages 31 - 32)
- To receive a report from J. Miller, Chair of the Sub-committee on future work for SACRE.
- 14. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE ACTION PLAN SEPTEMBER 2021 TO AUGUST 2023** (Pages 33 - 36)
- To monitor the Northumberland SACRE Action Plan September 2021 – August 2023
- 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- The next meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education will be held on Wednesday, 9 November 2022
- 16. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**
- To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

**IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:**

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>			
<b>Item to which your interest relates:</b>			
<b>Nature of Interest i.e. either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Table 1 of Appendix B to the Code of Conduct, Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest (as defined by Appendix B to Code of Conduct) (please give details):</b>			
<b>Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?</b>		Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>	No - <input type="checkbox"/>

## Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

**"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest"** means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

**"Partner"** means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

### Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest.

Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

### Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

### Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in **Table 1**) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
- c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2** you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied

9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well- being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.



## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

At a meeting of the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** held in Meeting Space, Block 1, Floor 2, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

#### **PRESENT**

D. Van-Der-Valde  
Vice-Chair, in the Chair.

#### **COUNCILLORS**

L. Bowman

N. Morphet

#### **TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES**

A. Duffield

#### **CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES**

C. Hudson  
P. Rusby

#### **REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS**

J. Miller  
T. Marley

#### **CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES**

S. Dearlove

#### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

D. Cookson

Head of School Improvement

Ch.'s Initials.....

R. Little  
C. Weir

Assistant Democratic Services  
Officer

RE Consultant

There was one observer present.

#### **64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Renner-Thompson, Councillor Thorne, J. Cousin and B. Rasa.

#### **65. MINUTES**

T. Marley stated that he had given apologies for the last meeting.

D. Van-Der-Velde made a comment from Holocaust Memorial Day explaining that she felt perturbed that there had been no involvement from schools and she would be willing to assist and work with Northumberland County Council, Newcastle Council and North Tyneside Council by sharing ideas and collaborating.

L. Bowman followed on by stating that the Holocaust Memorial Day service was solemn and the Rabbi had been well received, but reminded members that there had been many incidents since WW2 and up to the present day including the situation in Ukraine.

C. Weir explained that she had not received any advice on the service to give to schools, which was corroborated by D. Cookson who explained that the information had not been provided until two days before the service.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on Wednesday, 8 December 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

#### **66. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION**

C. Weir updated members explaining that she had been completing work on a new syllabus, which would be discussed in more detail in the ASC meeting following SACRE and had been providing informal support to schools regarding curriculum queries.

Ch.'s Initials.....

**RESOLVED** that the report and information discussed be noted.

**67. NASACRE NEWSLETTER**

**RESOLVED** that members had received this information via email.

**68. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE ACTION PLAN SEPTEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2023**

D. Cookson explained to members that whilst the aim to have a new syllabus by January 2022 had not been achieved, work was underway to finalise a new syllabus which would be discussed at the ASC.

KS4 and KS5 results would be monitored for the exams that were expected to take place in the summer term, however monitoring of collective worship had been paused due to Covid but would restart when able to.

The SACRE newsletter had moved to an online format with 113 views since it had been set up. Members discussed how to engage more with RE teachers and promote the newsletter, suggestions included utilising Northumberland Communications team and sending letters to teachers.

There had been some interest in sending a delegate to the annual NASACRE conference, a handful of parties had shown interest and would be granted funding, but numbers were yet to be decided.

Members discussed collective worship in school with the statement on the action plan regarding monitoring the number of pupils withdrawn and offering advice on schools on how to make collective worship inclusive to all pupils.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**69. SACRE SUB-COMMITTEE**

J. Miller addressed members and explained the reasons behind creating a sub-committee to promote SACRE, generate enthusiasm, discussion and debate to understand the issues RE teachers were facing in schools.

D. Cookson explained the terms of reference on agenda item 9 could be adopted into the SACRE sub-committee.

Members of the sub-committee were agreed as follows:

Ch.'s Initials.....

J. Miller – Chair and Clerk  
Cllr L. Bowman  
S. Dearlove  
A. Duffield  
C. Hudson  
T. Marley  
D. Van-Der-Velde

**RESOLVED** that this was noted.

**70. STATUTORY ANNUAL NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE REPORT FOR 20/21 ACADEMIC YEAR**

A draft report had been circulated following the previous meeting for comments from members. J. Miller had noted the absence of exam result figures but this was due to the impact of Covid and pupils not sitting traditional exams.

J. Miller asked that School Workforce Census data be circulated to members for discussion at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that this was noted.

**71. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

It had been agreed at the previous SACRE meeting that S. Dearlove would be moved from a co-opted member to a member of Committee A “REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES AND FAITHS”, which required the constitution to be updated and refreshed.

D. Cookson suggested any comments should be emailed to him within the next four weeks, and that members would vote next meeting to adopt the updated terms of reference.

**RESOLVED** that this was noted.

**72. URGENT BUSINESS**

Members enquired if “Introductions” could be added to the agenda and “Urgent Business” could be changed to “Any Other Business”

M. Khan and C. Naylor advised that they wished to resign from their positions.

Ch.’s Initials.....

D. Cookson informed members that the clerk to SACRE would contact the National Bodies for their nominations on potential members.

**73. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted for 27 July 2022, but this could potentially be moved to two weeks earlier.

**RESOLVED** that this was noted.

**CHAIR:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Ch.'s Initials.....

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## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

At a virtual meeting of the **Agreed Syllabus** on Wednesday, 4 April 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

### PRESENT

C. Weir  
In the Chair

### COUNCILLORS

L. Bowman

G. Renner-Thompson

### TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES

C. Curtis

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES

C. Hudson

### REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

D. Van-Der-Velde

### CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES

S. Dearlove

### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

R. Little

Assistant Democratic Services Officer

33 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr N. Morphet, J. Miller and D. Cookson

34 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on Wednesday, 2 February 2022, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

35 **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

C. Hudson explained that he had started contracted work in local schools in Religious Education however did not claim to represent Northumberland County Council at these visits.

36 **AGREED SYLLABUS**

C. Weir welcomed those present and asked for any questions or feedback regarding the Agreed Syllabus, Model B. In response to questions, the following information was provided:

- The planning day to create localised units had to be postponed due to low numbers. The session was not viable and, as such, localised units would not be included in the Locally Agreed Syllabus launch in Summer 2022. .
- If members that initially suggested the creation of localised units would still like to proceed with this work, any such localised units that they produce could be circulated to schools after the event.
- RE Today would not require viewing of any localised units produced by members.
- The projected date of launch of the syllabus would be 28 June 2022. Members were requested to put this date in their diaries and invited to attend the event to show their support and to have an opportunity to meet teachers and explain to them more about what SACRE is.
- D. Cookson had been working with Northumberland Academy Schools on whether they would require a licence for the completed syllabus.

A vote was taken to agree on Model B and was as follows:

Councillors – For

Teachers Associations/Unions Representatives – For

Church Of England Representatives – For

Representatives Of Other Churches & Faiths – For

**RESOLVED** that members were in agreement that the proposed syllabus be adopted.



**CHAIR.....**

**DATE.....**

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School name	Religious character	School type	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% mixed hours - RE	% all hours - RE 2020	% all hours - RE 2019	Change from 2019 to 2020 in total hours of RE
Corbridge Middle School		Community school	4.4	4.1	.	.	.	.	4.2	3.7	Increase
Haydon Bridge High School		Foundation school	5.2	4.8	2.1	1.3	12.0	.	5.2	4.6	Increase
Seaton Sluice Middle School		Community school	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Whytrig Community Middle School		Community school	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tweedmouth Middle School		Community school	6.3	5.8	.	.	.	.	6.0	6.0	Increase
Glendale Middle School		Community school	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Berwick Middle School		Community school	3.9	3.9	.	.	.	.	3.9	3.9	No change
The Duchess's High School		Community school	1.8	3.7	3.7	0.9	2.0	.	2.4	2.8	Decrease
James Calvert Spence College		Community school	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Astley High School		Community school	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Berwick Academy		Academy converter	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cramlington Learning Village		Academy converter	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.6	.	0.3	0.3	No change
Bede Academy	Christian	Academy sponsor led	5.7	5.9	5.7	7.8	7.6	.	6.0	0.7	Increase
Ashington Academy		Academy sponsor led	2.3	3.2	0.0	0.0	1.6	.	1.5	1.4	Increase
Bedlington Academy		Academy sponsor led	5.8	4.9	0.0	2.4	0.0	.	2.3	2.1	Increase
The Blyth Academy		Academy sponsor led	4.3	3.6	4.7	3.4	0.0	.	3.2	3.8	Decrease
NCEA Duke's Secondary School	Church of England	Academy sponsor led	4.4	4.0	4.2	4.1	2.9	.	3.2	3.1	Increase
Ponteland High School		Academy converter	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.5	.	3.8	2.6	Increase
Morpeth Chantry Middle School		Academy converter	4.4	4.4	.	.	.	.	4.4	4.6	Decrease
Morpeth Newminster Middle School		Academy converter	2.8	2.6	.	.	.	.	2.7	3.0	Decrease
The King Edward VI Academy		Academy converter	.	.	4.7	5.3	1.5	.	3.2	3.1	Increase
Thomlinson Church of England Middle School	Church of England	Academy converter	5.1	5.1	.	.	.	.	5.1	4.6	Increase
Highfield Middle School		Academy converter	4.3	4.6	.	.	.	.	4.4	3.7	Increase
Prudhoe High School		Academy converter	.	.	3.9	2.6	2.4	.	3.1	3.1	No change

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Latest news and updates from NASACRE

[View this email in your browser](#)



National Association of  
Standing Advisory Councils  
on Religious Education

## SACRE BRIEFING

**Issue: 31**

*This issue includes:*

- **Welcome and Update from the Chair**
- **REC Worldviews Project**
- **New website**
- **Conference 2022 - Ambitious SACREs**
- **Elections**
- **Annual Reports**
- **Contact details for your Clerk and your Chair**
- **Parliamentary Roundtable Call for a National Plan**
- **SACREs and Teaching School Hubs**
- **NASACRE's Online Training Programme**
- **Westhill Awards**
- **AREIAC Annual Conference**
- **Items for your next agenda**

### Welcome and Update from the Chair

Sometimes we all need to take a breath - and I had to do that when I looked at this *Briefing*. Sometimes it's important not to say too much - and I need to be brief for this *Briefing*.

Page 13

Your NASACRE Executive Committee has been working as hard as ever to keep members' interests and agendas at the forefront of strategic developments and practical support. Our current CPD programme for members is revealing the wealth of expertise in SACREs across England, and the importance of partnerships and joined up thinking across the UK - and globally. What really matters has surely become a focus and a poignant question for us all. The beating heart of any enterprise in education has surely to be the constant RE factor - what does it mean 'to be'.

We are looking for like-minded, but curious and confident, individuals to join our Executive Committee team, and I invite anyone who might be thinking to take this step, to book into our session on 30th March to meet members of the current committee. If you can't be there, please have a chat to me on [chair@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:chair@nasacre.org.uk).

Specifically, one of the key roles to be filled is that of Vice Chair - we have been without one since I was catapulted into the Chair two years ago but colleagues have been there to step in. I'm happy to stay on (circumstances permitting) for two years more in order to work with any SACRE colleague elected to this vital role. I can offer warm support and the shared expertise and enthusiasm of a great team.

Vice Chairs usually become Chairs under NASACRE's constitution - and then help out as Executive Assistant, but none of this is set in stone (constitutions can be changed and/or interpreted) and the main consideration is your suitability for a role that requires:

- a sound working knowledge of SACREs and their statutory responsibilities
- some experience of the complexities of the world of RE and collective worship
- the support and nomination of your SACRE
- continued support of your SACRE over 2-6 years
- confidence to speak (with guidance) at national events and organisations
- working knowledge of NASACRE's mission, aims and objectives
- the patience and humour to deal with the Chair and to stand in when required at meetings, events and in preparing correspondence.

Please come and join us - you will be welcomed!

We mustn't forget to congratulate our Admin Officer, Marie, on the birth of Kiara in February. Marie is managing to juggle her NASACRE duties alongside new-Mum duties, for which we are most grateful. Thank you so much, Marie! Sterling work!

## REC Worldviews Project

NASACRE is a named partner organisation in this project managed by the RE Council of England and Wales, and funded by the Templeton Foundation. Four members of the Exec attended briefing meetings this month and we recommend that SACREs and local advisers look at the details, if you are interested in submitting an expression of interest (EoI) with local schools and other partners. Successful EoIs will be taken forward to the tendering stage of the work. There will be three successful teams invited to write exemplar curriculum frameworks for RE.

Please see <https://bit.ly/REC0122>

You are most welcome to ask further questions for clarification - write to [info@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk).

The REC looks forward to receiving EOIs **by 31 March at the latest**.

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## New website

We continue to work on our new website which was not - for all sorts of reasons - quite ready to go live in December, as we had hoped it would be.

We are now expecting to launch it at our AGM. We'll alert all SACREs as soon as we are live, sending the new password for Subscriber Content to all paid-up SACREs.

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## Conference 2022 - Ambitious SACREs

**23 May 2022 at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham**

<https://www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/burlington>

After two years of being unable to meet face to face, we are delighted that we shall finally be able to hold our conference in Birmingham and catch up with colleagues and friends – old and new! The Burlington Hotel has kindly held our booking over from 2020 and has been most helpful throughout this challenging period. We are confident the staff will provide a warm welcome and make us feel safe and cared for throughout our stay.

Whilst we do hope that many of you will be able to join us for this year's NASACRE AGM & Conference in person, we also offer an online audio option for our theme **Ambitious SACREs**.

Click [here](#) to view the programme.

**Venue:**

Macdonald Burlington Hotel in the centre of Birmingham is found amid the stunning architecture of the city's beautiful New Street, just a 2 min walk from Birmingham New Street Station (literally across the street). Now fully air conditioned with modern amenities and free WiFi.

**Travel:**

Located near the A38(M), off M6(J6), postcode B2 4JQ for satellite navigation systems. There are no car parking facilities at the hotel for guests, however the hotel has concessionary rates for 2 parks in the city centre (further details on the hotel website). There is a charge for bringing a car into Birmingham.

**Cost:**

All delegates who pay to attend Conference, either in person or virtually, will have access to their choice of 2 workshops which will take place online in June.

**Face to face**

Subscribed SACRE: £95 per person

Non-subscribed SACRE: £120 per person

**Virtual**

Listen live and/or later to recordings of the 3 keynotes and AGM via Zoom (may be in addition to a f2f delegate):

Subscribed SACRE:

£40 via Zoom for one delegate

£60 for two delegates

£80 for 3+ delegates

Non-subscribed SACRE: £70 per person

Conference bookings will be open on Friday 18th March. To book your place, visit the [Conference and AGM 2022](#) page of the website. An invoice will then be sent to your LA for payment.

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## Elections

At the AGM we hope to elect a Vice Chair, a Treasurer, a Secretary and two Executive Committee members.

NASACRE is looking for SACRE members who can offer skills either in project management, or IT skills relevant to the delivery of online training and working with our website manager. Their SACREs should be clear that they have a good skill match before approving their nominations.



Newly elected members often shadow an 'experienced hand' on the Executive and take their role over gradually.

Download further details and nomination forms [here](#).

### **Wednesday 30 March 7-8pm - Meet the Exec!**

NASACRE is offering a Zoom session for SACRE members to find out a little more about the different roles for which we seek nominations in our upcoming elections. So please advertise it to your SACRE members if they may be interested in standing for election to our Exec.

Please [contact Marie](#) to register for the Zoom link.

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## **Annual Reports**

Please remember to submit your SACRE's Annual Report to [us](#) and to the [DfE](#).

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## **Contact details for your Clerk and your Chair**

NASACRE needs to have contact details for Clerks, Advisers, LA officers and Chairs to ensure that information gets to the right people.

Other national bodies make use of [NASACRE's list of SACRE contacts](#) for getting in touch with your SACRE, e.g. faith organisations, the DfE and the REC. As the first meetings of the calendar year often bring changes to personnel, please ensure that you keep the details that NASACRE holds for your SACRE up to date. Please send your amendments to [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk).

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## **Parliamentary Roundtable Call for a National Plan**

### **MEDIA RELEASE from NATRE**

A Parliamentary Roundtable was held to discuss the future of religious education (RE) in schools. In March, MPs and Peers met with students, parents, academics and subject leaders over concern that RE in schools is being both underfunded and undervalued.

Attendees, including some SACRE members, spoke of the subject's unique ability to

provide time for young people to discuss and debate their own beliefs around issues in theology, philosophy and ethics, as well as religious and non-religious worldviews.

The discussion also focused on concerns over the future of RE. Deborah Weston OBE, spoke of the urgent need for a National Plan for RE. No central government money has been spent on the subject in the last five years and 22 per cent of schools are not fulfilling their legal requirement to teach it.

MPs supported action, reiterating their support for the subject and the need to invest in high quality provision. There was consensus among the MPs in attendance for the need for a cross-party commitment to provide proper funding and support for RE in their upcoming manifestos.

The press release is available to read on the [NATRE website](#)

### **HOT OFF THE PRESS!**

**Since the roundtable, several attendees have already used a template letter to write to the Education Select Committee to ask about plans for an inquiry into RE in Schools.**

**If SACREs would like a copy of this template letter to allow members to ask their local MPs to do the same, please email [deborah@retoday.org.uk](mailto:deborah@retoday.org.uk).**

**The RE Policy Unit hopes that this sort of inquiry could be a first step towards a National Plan for RE.**

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## **SACREs and Teaching School Hubs**

Does your SACRE have links with your local Teaching School Hub? Do SACRE members know where your local hub is?

Here is a link to a [short briefing paper](#) on the website of the Religious Education Council which sets out some of the ways in which the RE (religion and worldviews) community can support Teaching School Hubs (TSHs). This includes providing subject-specific knowledge of policy about the subject, content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge and opportunities for teachers to engage with educational theory and research.

There is a good rationale for SACREs to connect to and support their local TSH:

- SACREs are statutory bodies and are government funded to (amongst other duties) advise "... on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and

provision of teacher training" in their area. This sits centrally within the work of TSHs.

- As TSHs provide ITT, including for Primary teachers who all need to reach subject-specific standards in RE, a TSH should welcome engagement with local SACREs.

SACREs should find out about and seek to make links with their local provider, in order to support the delivery of quality RE.

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## NASACRE's Online Training Programme

Our next **training session** will be **7-8pm, 15 March:**

### *Self-evaluation of your SACRE*

This session will update Chairs, Vice Chairs and SACRE Advisers on the newly refreshed **NASACRE self-evaluation toolkit** (available to subscribing SACREs) and how SACRE can use it to create and progress your development plan.

Free to all SACREs.

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## Westhill Awards

Over the last sixteen years, the Westhill/NASACRE Awards have successfully given SACREs opportunities to enhance their capacity to generate high quality experiences in RE (or collective worship) for their schools.

NASACRE is now encouraging and inviting individual SACREs (or SACREs in partnership) to apply for a Westhill/NASACRE Award for 2022-23. Awards of up to £4,000 may be applied for via the **application form** on our website.

Projects should offer school pupils the opportunity to engage in compelling learning experiences in RE (or collective worship), within the broad theme of "education into diversity", understood as diversity across the spectrum of faiths and worldviews.

Any SACRE wishing to submit an application is strongly advised to look at the **revised** briefing notes which accompany the online application form.

For queries, advice or further information, please contact **Michael Metcalf**, the convenor of the Awards Panel.

**Closing date: 31 March 2022**

**Page 19**

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# AREIAC Annual Conference, 4 & 5 July in Coventry

## Plurality in Religion and Worldviews: Exploring Lived Traditions

Featuring a range of speakers, this conference may be of interest to the teacher members of your SACRE, as delegates will explore some less familiar worldviews and meet a range of faith representatives.

For full details, look at the [AREIAC website](#)

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## Items for your next agenda

- Book places for your SACRE members on relevant online training events
  - Agree who will attend the Annual Conference and how; submit applications
  - Consider nominating someone to NASACRE Exec, as there are various opportunities to serve ([see Elections item above](#))
  - Consider applying for a NASACRE/Westhill Award
  - Check that we have your most recent contacts on our [website](#)
  - Submit your Annual Report
  - Find out about your local Teaching School Hub and consider ways for SACRE to make links.
- 



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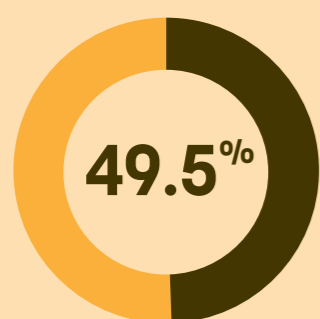


# A REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**VALUE**  
OF THE QUALIFICATION

IN THE LAST DECADE THE NUMBER OF PUPILS IN ENGLAND ENTERING A FULL GCSE RS COURSE INCREASED BY **29.7%**



**INCREASE IN A-LEVEL ENTRIES FOR RS**

**SINCE 2003 BEATING GEOGRAPHY, LAW AND HISTORY**



*RE IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENABLES PUPILS TO TAKE THEIR PLACE WITHIN A DIVERSE MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND MULTI-SECULAR SOCIETY. AT ITS BEST, IT IS INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGING AND PERSONALLY ENRICHING.*



OFSTED RE RESEARCH REVIEW MAY 2021

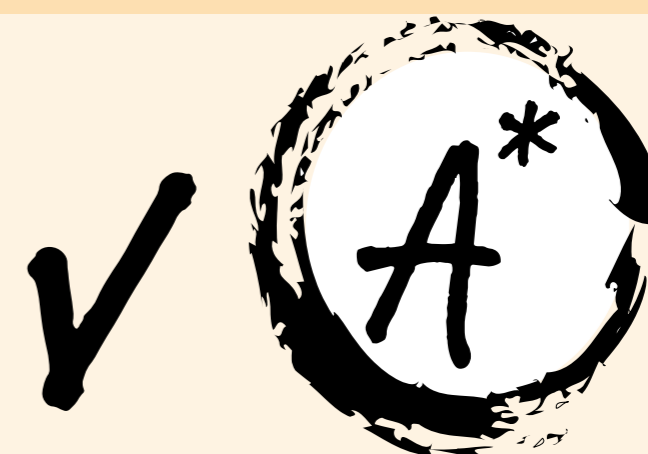


**HIGHER ATTAINMENT 8 SCORES ON AVERAGE IN SCHOOLS WITH HIGHER RATES OF ENTRY FOR GCSE RS**



**95% of teachers say that the subject is more or equally relevant than ten years ago**

**ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS AND CHALLENGING, RE STUDENTS GO ON TO STUDY AT THE UK'S TOP UNIVERSITIES AND ENTER CAREERS IN LAW, MEDICINE, POLITICS AND JOURNALISM**



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/call-for-national-plan-as-religious-studies-gcse-entries-slip/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/news07-20-2/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education#conclusion>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/does-studying-rs-gcse-improve-your-overall-academic-attainment/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/how-satisfied-are-re-teachers/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/08/04/encourage-students-with-a-family-background-to-become-doctors/>

# RE IN SOCIETY

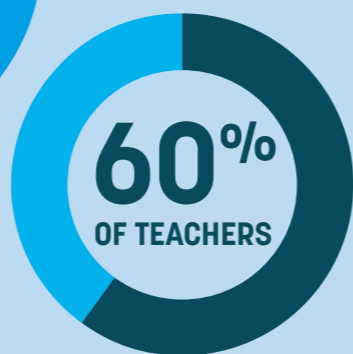
**64%** of the **UK adult population** think an education in **religion and worldviews** (or RE) is an important part of the **school curriculum**.<sup>7</sup>

**HIGH-QUALITY RE IS THE BACKBONE OF COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING IN OUR SOCIETY.**

**AROUND TWO-THIRDS OF UK ADULTS SAY IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE BELIEFS OF OTHERS IN:**



**RE HELPS STUDENTS UNDERSTAND AND DEBATE THE BIGGEST ISSUES OF THE DAY**<sup>8</sup>



**DRAW INSPIRATION FROM DISCUSSING TOPICS IN THE NEWS**

The public also recognises RE's positive impact on society. In a 2021 survey a majority believed RE can:

- 69%** Help young people gain a better understanding of their own beliefs
- 71%** Foster mutual understanding of different beliefs among young people
- 65%** Provide young people with the opportunity to learn more about other people

**GOOD RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREATES INDEPENDENT AND CRITICAL THINKERS, PREPARED FOR THE DIVERSITY OF BELIEF IN MODERN BRITAIN AND THE WIDER WORLD.**



<sup>7</sup> Religion & Worldview survey by Savanta on behalf of Culham St Gabriel's Trust, June 2021

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/how-satisfied-are-re-teachers> Page 22

# SCHOOL PERFORMANCE


 Time spent on the subject is **improving in some areas:**

**OVER 95%** of primary teachers report time spent on teaching RE has increased or stayed the same

**46%** of academies without a religious character have reported an increase in time to teach RE<sup>9</sup>



The 2021 Ofsted Research Review identified barriers to high-quality RE teaching in schools including:<sup>10</sup>

**Insufficient time** to teach an ambitious RE curriculum 

A lack of a **'scholarly approach'**

**Insufficient professional development** for teachers of RE

Some teachers embedding **unhelpful misconceptions**



**Gaps** in teacher subject knowledge



However, **too many schools** are breaking the law by not teaching RE

**34%** of academies report no timetabled RE<sup>11</sup>



Around **500** secondary schools still report **zero hours** of RE provision in Year 11<sup>12</sup>

**RE also continues to be neglected** on the school timetable in favour of **EBacc** subjects: **On average 5 hours** of RE are allocated to each 'teacher of RE' at **Key Stage 3** as opposed to **7** for history<sup>13</sup>



**SCHOOLS MUST DO MORE TO ENSURE THEY PROVIDE THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF HIGH-QUALITY RE PROVISION FOR ALL STUDENTS ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS**



<sup>9</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/over-95-of-primary-teachers-report-time-spent-on-teaching-re-has-increased-or-stayed-the-same/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>

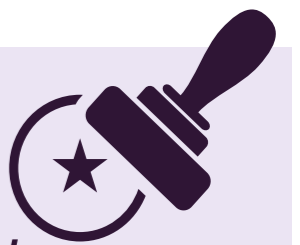
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/NSS%202021%20Infographic.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> [www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/documents/288/theology-religious-studies.pdf](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/documents/288/theology-religious-studies.pdf)



# GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

**“ THE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT RE IS IMPORTANT. GOOD QUALITY RE IS ESSENTIAL IN DEVELOPING CHILDREN’S KNOWLEDGE OF BRITISH VALUES AND TRADITIONS, AND THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES. RE IS A VITAL PART OF FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING AMONG DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS...”**



MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOL STANDARDS, ROBIN WALKER



**YET DESPITE THIS...**

**£0 SPENT ON RE PROJECTS BETWEEN 2016-2021**

**AT A TIME WHEN:**<sup>14</sup>

**ENGLISH:  
£28.5  
MILLION**

**MUSIC:  
£387  
MILLION**

**MATHS:  
£154  
MILLION**

**SCIENCE:  
£56  
MILLION**

**AMIDST A DECADE LONG CRISIS IN ATTRACTING NEW TALENT:**

**The 2021-22 teacher training bursary for RE was scrapped despite RE teacher recruitment targets not being met for nine of the last ten years.**<sup>15</sup>



**AND A LACK OF RE SPECIALISM IN SCHOOLS:**

**25%** of RE lessons are taught by teachers with no post A-level qualification in the subject. Three times as many as history (**8%**).<sup>16</sup>



**AND A FALL IN GCSE ENTRIES**

Progress made in GCSE entries since 2010 is starting to unravel. Between 2016 and 2021 entries for the full course fell by almost **20%**.<sup>17</sup>

# WORDS NEED TO BE BACKED UP WITH ACTION



<sup>14</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/NATRE%20News/REPU%20March%20Roundtable%20Report.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/NATRE%20News/REPU%20March%20Roundtable%20Report.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> DfE School workforce census (NATRE Freedom of Information request 2019)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/GCSE%20results%20media%20release%20FINAL%2012-08-21.pdf>



# THE FUTURE OF RE



WE WANT A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION  
IN RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS  
FOR ALL PUPILS IN ALL SCHOOLS,  
TAUGHT BY WELL-QUALIFIED AND  
TRAINED TEACHERS

## WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS BY:

1

REINSTATING THE  
TEACHER TRAINING  
BURSARY FOR RE



2

SCHOOLS ENSURING HIGH-QUALITY  
PROVISION BY ADOPTING THE  
VISION FOR RE SET OUT IN THE 2018  
*CoRE REPORT RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS:*  
*THE WAY FORWARD*

3

OFSTED WORKING WITH THOSE  
SCHOOLS NOT CURRENTLY  
TEACHING SUFFICIENT RE  
TO ENSURE THEY COMPLY  
WITH THE LAW

4

GOVERNMENT RECOGNISING PUBLIC,  
PARENT AND PUPIL SUPPORT  
FOR THE SUBJECT BY PROPERLY  
FUNDING IT IN LINE WITH THE  
REST OF THE CURRICULUM

*I've really enjoyed the last two years studying RE, for not only the deeper understanding of life it intends, but the analytical mind it encourages.*

NAT, YEAR 9

### WHAT PUPILS SAY:



*RE is the one time in school where you can talk, listen and try to make sense of people, events and beliefs in the world.*

SHREYA, YEAR 10

### THE FINAL WORD:

*In neglecting religious education, we leave a gaping hole in our school curriculum. It leaves young people unprepared for the ethical, moral and religious debates that influence life in modern Britain and the wider world. Put simply, we miss an opportunity to positively enhance our children's and our society's future.*

SIR PETER BOTTOMLEY MP, FATHER OF THE HOUSE

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About 150 delegates from SACREs across the country met for the NASACRE AGM and conference held online for the second time. The conference was opened by Linda Rudge, chair of NASACRE, welcoming delegates and celebrating the continued and varied work of SACREs and NASACRE over the last two years. She set the context for the title 'Ambitious SACREs', pointing out that ambition can be 'admirable or unrealistic'. SACREs need to aim for admirable, and SACREs are still standing, not standing still. The ['Still Standing' report](#) is available to download from the [NASACRE website](#).

The first two presentations and discussions focused on Religion and Worldviews as well as the substance of the curriculum. The third was an analysis of SACRE reports submitted to NASACRE and the DfE. There were three keynote speakers, and each was followed by time in breakout rooms discussing what had been heard.

The first keynote speaker was Ed Pawson, the Vice Chair of the REC. He shared the new vision for the Religious Education Council that *'Every young person experiences an academically rigorous and personally inspiring education in religion and worldviews.'* The role of the REC is to campaign and advocate for good RE. It is a group with representatives from over 60 religious and non-religious groups. He also talked about the recent publication of a Draft Handbook on Religion and Worldviews, which is available [here](#). SACREs need to engage in the discussion about religion and worldviews.

Dr Richard Kueh (HMI) raised the challenge to SACREs about how they can support scholarly RE. He reiterated many of the key points raised in the Ofsted RE Research Review, published in May 2021. On the selection of content for a syllabus, he suggested that including a greater number of religions and non-religious worldviews did not guarantee a high quality of RE and that is an essential component of the discussion around syllabus design. Ambitious end goals, that reflect the scholarly nature of RE, are needed. A subject report on RE from Ofsted will be published this summer.

Just after lunch, the winners of this year's Westhill Awards were announced and Bristol, Leicester and Luton were successful. NASACRE and Westhill were disappointed by the low number of applicants and SACREs are urged to consider making a bid. If you need inspiration, remember that three of the June workshops will showcase last year's winners. There is also a recording of how to apply for an award in the online training section of the [NASACRE website](#).

Dr David Hampshire, former chair of NASACRE, presented his initial findings of the analysis of SACRE annual reports. The final report will be on the website and circulated to SACREs later this term. The key findings make for interesting reading, raising many questions that SACREs may wish to discuss. For example, resources made available to SACREs are very variable and the level of financial support had an impact on the effectiveness of SACREs. He focused on the fact that the primary function of a SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on RE and collective worship, and only a minority of SACREs reported that they had done that. NASACRE is in discussion with the DfE about the findings of report and further advice and training will likely be forthcoming.

The business meeting was short and as no nominations had been received for vacancies on the Exec, other than the formal appointment of Saquat Ali as Treasurer and the reappointment of Sue Holmes as Secretary, the Chair expressed the need for more people with the right skills to be nominated by SACREs to work with the Executive committee to help with challenges raised by the White Paper. After the business meeting, for which all the reports are available on the [NASACRE website](#), Webmaster Matthew Tullett gave delegates an overview of the new website, which was launched at the conference. The new site should be easier to use, more streamlined, with a better search function and aimed to work better on mobile devices. SACREs using the new website are asked to contact NASACRE if they experience any difficulties.

During her closing remarks, NASACRE Chair, Linda Rudge, thanked retiring Executive members Alex Klein and Roy Galley for their work. It was also time to say farewell to our Treasurer, Michael Metcalf, after 29 years and welcome Saquat Ali to the role.

As they left, delegates posted comments in the Chat, such as:

*Such a lot of supportive information and discussion. A day full of brilliant insight and interest.*

*Many thanks to all the Exec for an excellent and informative conference. Making the absolute best out of having to make it all happen on ZOOM.*

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## NASACRE Conference and AGM: Ambitious SACRES

The NASACRE AGM, 2022, took place online on 23 May.

### There were three keynote addresses:

1. **Ed Pawson**, deputy chair of the RE Council of England and Wales, who talked about the REC, its nature, work and current projects. Of key significance is the **Draft Handbook on Religion and Worldviews**, published in May, taking forward the recommendations set out in the report of the Commission on RE (CoRE). It can be found at:

<https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/REC-Worldviews-Project-Draft-Handbook-double-pages.pdf>

The Handbook offers a revised National Statement of Entitlement and suggests ways in which it can be used as the basis for constructing a syllabus and units of work on religion and worldviews. This project has been led by Stephen Pett of RE Today. There are three school-based teams which will test the contents of the Handbook with a view to publishing a final document in 2024.

The REC works closely with one of its members, the National Association of Teachers of RE which has appointed a Director, Claire Clinton, of their revised regional hubs project. There are nine hubs, each of which will have a 'lead' whose role will be to support and energise the teaching of religion and worldviews through the region. These posts have been advertised and we are part of the North East hub.

2. **Richard Kueh**, HMI, the subject lead for RE, who stated Ofsted's intention that RE should be 'intellectually challenging and personally enriching' for pupils as they explore our 'multi-religious and multi-secular society'. He reiterated the focus from last year's research review which identified three categories of knowledge: 'substantive' content and concepts; ways of knowing; and personal knowledge. The second part of this work will be a subject report, based on inspection data, which is in progress.

He emphasised the need for a curriculum that is 'collectively enough' for pupils to engage in our complex society rather than focusing on the weighting given to separate traditions - a focus on depth rather than breadth. On ways of knowing, he offered the analogy of 'percolating' knowledge from university level to classroom level (like all analogies, this is imperfect but his key point is the need for academic rigour).

3. **David Hampshire**, an RE Consultant, who has conducted an analysis of last year's annual SACRE reports for NASACRE which will be published in due course on their website. Out of a possible total of 153 annual reports, 57 were available at the time of the analysis. Many SACREs reported similar patterns and problems but of significance is that only a minority had fulfilled the statutory duty to offer advice to the local authority and a smaller minority gave the LA response. Where advice was offered it was in relation to the review of the Agreed Syllabus and to funding.

**Additionally:**

Each workshop was followed by break-out discussion groups and the day ended with a business meeting, the election of officers and the launch of the new website, which is much improved.

The Westhill awards were announced for this year: three were successful from four applications for five awards.

**Workshops:**

Following the AGM, a number of workshops will take place online. Those (to be) attended by us include:

- Reviewing the RE curriculum
- Ofsted support to schools
- Supporting RE teachers with enhanced subject knowledge (Westhill/NASACRE award)
- Developing the three VAT strands of Vocabulary, Art(efacts), and Texts within RE

Two of the workshops are given by SACREs which were awarded Westhill funding for their projects.

**Actions and issues arising from the AGM**

1. The Draft Handbook on Religion and Worldviews to be an agenda item at a SACRE meeting next year so that we can familiarise ourselves with its work and, if necessary, comment on the project.
2. The Ofsted subject report to be an agenda item when it is published.
3. SACRE should check the analysis of annual reports to see if there are ways in which we can improve our performance.
4. If all schools are to be academised following the White Paper, then the future role of SACREs is unclear.
5. SACRE should follow developments on the website: REthink.org.
6. SACRE members should familiarise themselves with the new NASACRE website and aim to keep up-to-date with national developments.
7. Members who attend any of the NASACRE training events can present a brief report to SACRE.

Caroline Weir

Joyce Miller

June 2022

## **Final Recommendations from SACRE sub-committee. For the academic year 2022-23**

### **Conduct and content of SACRE meetings:**

1. Meetings should be held in a space that is more conducive to conversation between members
2. Every SACRE meeting should include a time for discussion between members. It would be planned, led and would model good practice in discussion. Topics might include presentations by members on their worldview; a worldview in relation to classroom teaching; something that is problematic about a worldview; an issue where two members have different perspectives; the significance of an artefact etc
3. Teachers from schools where there is good practice in RE should be invited to present their work at one meeting each year
4. All meetings should have a key agenda item [which could include points 2) and 3) above]
5. SACRE should consider having hybrid meetings in an attempt to increase attendance and involvement by more members
6. The Chair should serve for a four-year period of office
7. A list of the CPD events held, their key topics, evaluation scores and attendance should be included in future annual reports, along with details of attendance at SACRE meetings by committee/ individual members

### **SACRE membership:**

8. SACRE should meet its constitutional requirement to have a member to represent the NAHT to enable better communication with head teachers, and to consider inviting a lecturer from higher education to represent their organisation

### **SACRE support for CPD:**

9. SACRE should support the roll-out of the new Agreed Syllabus and should consider ways in which this can be achieved, e.g. a CPD road-show and/or webinars
10. SACRE members, where appropriate, should support schools by visits to classrooms, accompanying teachers and pupils on visits to places of worship or other sacred spaces, and by offering Q and A Zoom sessions. A list of volunteers with their topics and special interests should be made available to teachers
11. SACRE should urgently investigate how it can support schools in relation to the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition in Newcastle

### **Additional support for schools**

12. SACRE should seek ways in which it can play a greater role in Holocaust Memorial Day

### **SACRE monitoring duties:**

13. SACRE should advise the Council on the need for support from school improvement services to gather data on how far schools meet their statutory duties, particularly with regard to the implementation of the new agreed syllabus
14. The Chair of SACRE and consultant/officer should have an annual meeting with the Director of Children's Services
15. Analysis of workforce data and examination results should be presented annually, along with any evidence from Ofsted reports on County schools

### **The Future of Northumberland SACRE:**

16. SACRE should continue to pursue the question of its status in relation to the Local Authority through further discussion with NASACRE and other national bodies

## **For the academic year 2023-4**

### **Conduct and content of SACRE meetings:**

17. SACRE members should take responsibility for contacting the Chair and officers to raise agenda items before meetings and, where appropriate, provide papers for circulation to enable an informed discussion when SACRE meets. These would include, e.g., resources developed by worldview communities; conferences attended; relevant projects, reports or research that affect RE/ CW

18. The development plan should spread responsibility for actions beyond the officers to include SACRE members, where appropriate

19. The development plan should identify topics for SACRE members' training , determined at the end of each academic year for the following year

### **SACRE membership:**

20. When the latest census data is published, we should look at the membership of Committee A and, if necessary, update the Constitution and seek new members

### **SACRE support for CPD:**

21. SACRE should investigate ways in which it can support teachers' continuing professional development in RE and Collective Worship by providing or promoting existing CPD modules to Head Teachers

22. SACRE members, particularly on Committee A, should help the Consultant gather up-to-date information on places of worship and other centres, locally and regionally, that would welcome visits from school groups

23. SACRE members should help collate a list of names of people from religious communities and other worldviews who would be willing to visit schools or engage in Q and A Zoom conversations with pupils/teachers to support RE

24. When the AS is established, SACRE should work with the Consultant to identify and support training themes, including contentious issues, for teachers for the following academic year

### **Additional support for schools:**

25. SACRE should make a bid for Westhill funding to run a project in schools that would culminate in a day conference to which teachers, headteachers and governors would be invited. This should become the basis for future annual conferences

26. We should run the first of biennial sixth form conferences

27. SACRE should seek other partners with a view to hosting the Anne Frank Exhibition, or another major exhibition, in Northumberland

28. As part of its annual review, members should evaluate SACRE's webpage

### **SACRE monitoring duties:**

29. SACRE should work with the Governor Service so that school governors understand the Law and are able to provide challenge and support to their schools

### **The Future of Northumberland SACRE:**

30. SACRE should consider developing closer ties with other Northern SACREs and dioceses, similar to Lead Teach RE in the South West of England, with a view to sharing support for teachers.

Joyce Miller, on behalf of the sub-committee  
29 March 2022



## Northumberland SACRE Action Plan: September 2021 - August 2023

- To assist Northumberland schools to carry out their statutory functions with regard to RE teaching and collective worship
- To monitor, support and evaluate the implementation of the locally agreed RE Syllabus
- To provide training and support as may benefit RE teaching and collective worship

Objective	Action	Responsible	Cost	Success criteria/outcomes	Date achieved
<b>To produce an updated agreed syllabus by January 2022</b>	Complete the rewrite process started in 2021	RE Consultant LA Officers SACRE	£££	Updated agreed syllabus in place and available to schools from December 2021	December 2021
<b>To disseminate information about the new agreed syllabus</b>	Ensure that schools which MUST use the syllabus do so and know how to access its content	RE Consultant LA Officers	£	All school that MUST use the syllabus do so  The syllabus is easily accessible via the SACRE webpage on the NCC website	December 2021 – April 2022
<b>To support school staff as they implement the agreed syllabus</b>	Provide face to face briefings on the content of the agreed syllabus  Provide an online briefing on the content of the agreed syllabus  Continue with network meetings	RE Consultant LA Officers	££	All schools develop schemes of work which meet with the requirements of the syllabus.  Staff responsible for RE feel confident teaching the subject	January 2022 – July 2022
<b>To monitor implementation and delivery of the agreed syllabus</b>	Schools encouraged to submit examples of schemes of work to the SACRE  LA Officers report to the SACRE about delivery of the syllabus observed during visits to schools	RE Consultant LA Officers	£	Time allocated to RE conforms with the advice in the syllabus  Schools meet their statutory duties in relation to the agreed syllabus	April 2022 – July 2023
<b>To monitor results in RE/RS/philosophy and ethics exams</b>	Interrogate relevant exam results annually for examined KS4 and 5 courses, and compare such results	LA Officers	£	Report is submitted to SACRE at the Spring term meeting	Depends on the availability of data from Summer 2021 “exam” season

	with past trends both locally and nationally				
<b>To monitor the number of pupils and students withdrawn from RE</b>	Examine the number of pupils and students withdrawn from RE  Offer advice to schools about how to reduce the number of pupils and students withdrawn from RE	LA Officers	£	Report is submitted to SACRE at the Summer term meeting	June 2022
<b>To monitor provision of collective worship in relation to the 2021 NCC Collective Worship Policy</b>	Letter to all appropriate schools seeking confirmation that collective worship conforms with the advice in the 2021 policy	LA Officers	£	SACRE has a more accurate picture of collective worship provision in the County  SACRE has evidence to confirm to what extent legislative requirements as they apply to collective worship are being met	June 2022
<b>To monitor the number of pupils and students withdrawn from collective worship</b>	Examine the number of pupils withdrawn from collective worship  Offer advice to schools about how they can reduce the number of pupils withdrawn from collective worship	LA Officers	£	Report is submitted to SACRE at the Summer term meeting  Confirm that suitable alternative provision is made for pupils	June 2022
<b>Comply with the SACRE's statutory responsibilities</b>	Produce a 3-year SACRE action plan	LA Officers	£	Raised awareness of the SACRE's role and responsibilities among SACRE members and the local authority as a whole	September 2021
<b>To produce a SACRE newsletter for schools, which will include information about new RE resources and best practice</b>	Design a new online newsletter to replace the current printed version  Add relevant content to the newsletter in a timely fashion  Teachers and SACRE members contribute examples of good practice to disseminate	LA Officers	£	The newsletter is always "up to date"  Readership increases	From September 2021

<p><b>Produce an annual report about the work of the SACRE in line with NASACRE guidance</b></p>	<p>The Chair and LA officers to collate information and write the report</p> <p>On completion, the report to be circulated to all the usual recipients</p>	<p>LA Officers</p>	<p>£</p>	<p>Statutory duty is met and good work carried out by the SACRE, NCC and the County's schools affirmed</p>	<p>July 2022</p>
<p><b>Broaden the membership of the SACRE, thereby ensuring, a) all four voting committees have sufficient representatives for SACRE to be quorate, and, b) other stakeholders are represented through co-option or as observers</b></p>	<p>The Church of England, other faith communities, Teachers' Associations and the LA to be approached for representation, as appropriate. Other stakeholders to be approached for representation as co-optees, as appropriate</p>	<p>LA Officers SACRE</p>	<p>£</p>	<p>The SACRE embraces a rich variety of religions and beliefs, and accesses the viewpoints of a wide range of stakeholders, all of whom seek to improve RE and collective worship in the County</p> <p>The SACRE enhances its knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to RE and collective worship</p> <p>The SACRE is kept informed about concerns, priorities, developments, etc. nationally as they relate to RE and collective worship</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>To send a delegate to NASACRE's Annual Conference</b></p>	<p>A representative of/officer associated with the SACRE volunteers to attend the Conference and to report to the SACRE about the main outcomes</p>	<p>SACRE</p>	<p>££</p>	<p>The SACRE is informed about concerns, priorities, etc. of SACREs nationally, and about the latest developments in relation to RE and collective worship</p>	<p>Annually</p>

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