



National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 32

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Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to our final Briefing for this academic year.

As you will have seen from Conference proceedings on the new website **2022: Ambitious SACREs**, the Association ends the year on an ambitious note as we look forward to 2022-23, and **NASACRE's 30th Anniversary year**.

We had several changes to the Executive committee at our AGM, saying some fond farewells to long-standing and highly respected members of the association – Alex Klein, Roy Galley and Michael Metcalfe. We look forward to working with Saquat Ali, our new Treasurer, as he steps into the role that Michael has held since NASACRE began.

As members will know, we are always looking for nominations to the Executive committee, and especially for the role of Vice-Chair. Currently, without an elected Vice-Chair, our collaborative ways of working mean that various colleagues have offered time and expertise to support the Chair's role and to take on specific tasks to share the load. I am grateful to them all, especially our Executive Assistant, Paul Smalley, who is continuing in this role for the coming year.

If there was space, I'd thank everyone on the team individually, but Claire Clinton deserves a special mention at this point in the year. She and her team have organised a highly appreciated and well-attended CPD programme for NASACRE members, and next year's is already planned and advertised (below). Claire is also to be congratulated as the new **National Director of RE Hubs**

As always, we respond as quickly as we can to individual queries from SACREs – but don't forget our **FAQs** as some answers are already available. *This Briefing* contains several reminders about material that is already on our site – thank you to Marie and Matt for all that has been done to manage the transfer of data and the archive.

Member SACREs have been reminded that contact details provided by your Clerks are publicly available on the site.

One of the most pressing queries this term was (and is) the meaning and potential impact of the government's White Paper on Education for RE and Collective Worship, and the subsequent Schools Bill – currently progressing through the House of Lords. Our regular scheduled meetings with DfE advisers and officials, and with partner associations within the Professional RE Group (PREG), enable us to influence decisions and to stay informed about fast-moving situations – and as I write, a new Secretary of State has just been announced. We look forward to helping the DfE to brief The Right Honourable James Cleverly MP on the long-standing contributions SACREs and local government have made to Religious Education and to wider issues connected with the place of religion and worldviews in schools and beyond.

NASACRE has continued to publish reports – please see the forthcoming report by Dr David Hampshire on the analysis of annual SACRE reports – and to innovate in terms of communications and publicity. When discussing RE and its impact in society with other associations and with government departments, we have been impressed with the 'RE Report Card' disseminated through **REThinkRE**, and we are working on a similar presentation to cover the work of SACREs. Watch this space in the autumn!

In the meantime, thanks to Denise Chaplin and Anne Andrews for compiling this Briefing. I wish everyone a restful and relaxing summer, and look forward to meeting again next year.

NASACRE Conference and AGM 2022

This year, we held our second online Conference and AGM.

If you missed it, or want to catch up, there is a **summary** on the website along with the AGM reports. For more information on the feedback from the new format for SACRE Annual Reports, see section 2.3 below.

We plan to hold our 2023 NASACRE conference face-to-face in London. Watch out for more information soon.

Here we share with you some of the key conference messages and publicly available resources:

Westhill/NASACRE Award project - Interfaith Encounters for Pupils and Teachers by Barking and Dagenham SACRE. This project organised a range of subject knowledge enhancement sessions across a range of faiths and venues. These events were filmed and are **available to view**. These sessions were a response to the **survey into teacher subject knowledge**.

Westhill/NASACRE Award project - RE Subject Knowledge Enhancement Programme by Coventry and Warwickshire SACREs featured live events where SACRE members gave a tour of places of worship, a talk on their tradition and answered questions for teachers. Short subject knowledge films were produced by a professional filmographer for use in schools to support teacher subject knowledge and these were supplemented with 'road maps' (sharing approaches and resources for teaching each tradition) and image banks. These will be made available for any schools or SACREs to use **here**.

Westhill/NASACRE Awards

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

This year, NASACRE again encouraged individual SACREs (or SACREs in partnership) to apply for a Westhill/NASACRE Award for 2022-23 up to £4,000.

2022-23 winners:

Bristol SACRE

Pairs of KS3 pupils will be carrying out videoed interviews with selected faith/non-religious representatives tapping into creative/ethical aspects of their lives, followed by a larger 'sharing' conference and class discussions.

Building on Leicester's engagement with peace-building, and on a newly devised "Peace Tour" within the city, the project will develop a scheme of work on Peace for KS1 through to KS4, linked to the Agreed Syllabus and with assembly material.

Luton SACRE

The funding will provide Phase 2 of a Climate Justice project, in partnership with a local youth charity: 75 secondary pupils will be developing artwork after a multi-faith workshop on "faith, nature, earth and climate", which will be exhibited and used as a stimulus for further creative responses.

A fourth project is still under consideration.

SACREs are reminded that NASACRE offers a training event on how to apply for an award.

NASACRE's new website

The new **NASACRE website** has gone public!

Please let us know if you spot or experience any problems in using it; we're expecting the website to develop further as we go along. Your 2021-22 password will enable paid-up member SACREs to access a streamlined members' section which we hope to grow over the next couple of years.

We now have a place for sharing publications and information from SACREs and our partner associations. We're aware that SACREs publish advice to schools on many themes, and if you are happy to share your work, please send it (or a weblink) with a brief description to **Marie**, so that she might upload it. Showcasing the work of SACREs will also help NASACRE to raise their profile and celebrate the wide range of tasks in which they are involved.

NASACRE membership

If you are thinking about your membership and who should be part of SACRE, then do look at the **FAQ section** of the website and take note of the information given below.

Guidance from the DfE on these issues is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf

- a SACRE does not determine its own membership - that is a matter for the LA (the Council)
- if an LA were to seek its SACRE's advice on its own membership, then anything that the SACRE says is simply that - advice, not a definitive legal statement
- currently, representatives of Humanists UK have different positions on different SACREs - some do not include them at all, others include them as co-opted members with no voting rights and others include them as full members of Group A - and at least one LA has appointed a Humanist to Group D.

It might be assumed that LAs with Humanist representation on their SACREs decided on this latter option because:

- there are significant numbers of non-religious people in the local community and
- Humanism and other non-religious world views feature in the syllabus and must be studied - this reflects the picture at national level, where Humanists UK plays an appropriate role in developing and supporting high quality RE and is for example a member body of the RE Council etc.

The **Still Standing** report also has guidance and questions for SACREs to use to help them review their membership.

Subscriptions for 2022-23

Subscriptions for the year 2022-23 will be arriving with your SACRE Clerk soon.

When you arrange payment, please also ensure that **admin@nasacre.org.uk** has all the up to date details of your SACRE Clerk, Adviser, Chair and Local Authority officer. If your SACRE has a Twitter handle or Facebook page or a website, please include these details. Let NASACRE also know if your Local Authority hosts a Youth SACRE.

SACRE Annual Reports

Do encourage your SACRE to use the new annual report template.

NASACRE has worked with the DfE to draw up this new template for SACRE Annual Reports to make it easier to carry out an annual analysis of these reports for two main reasons:

- to identify and share exemplars of good practice more readily
- to identify where SACREs may be struggling to fulfil their legal obligations and the reasons for this, so that these might be addressed more effectively.

An early summary of the Annual Report evaluation was shared at the conference and the full report will be coming to your SACREs and shared on our website shortly.

Submission of the next round of Annual Reports should be by the end of the calendar year but at the absolute latest **by 31st March 2023**.

SACRE Self-evaluation tool

The revised **SACRE Self-evaluation tool** will help you to evaluate the effectiveness of your SACRE, to agree your priorities and to negotiate a budget to enable you to work on those priorities in partnership with your LA.

Use it to decide your priorities, to link it to your costed Development Plan and to inform your Annual Report.

NASACRE's online Training Programme for 2022-23

We are delighted to announce that NASACRE is running another year of webinars to support SACREs in their practice. Subscribed member SACREs can get unlimited access for their entire SACRE membership to all and any webinar for £50 annually – incredible value for professional development. All SACREs may book individual sessions – prices can be found [here](#).

1. 22nd September 2022, 7-8:30pm: [So, you've joined your local SACRE...](#)

This session will help new or inexperienced SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to this work.

2. 13th October 2022, 7-8:30pm: [Applying and gaining for Westhill/NASACRE award](#)

This session will help SACREs to understand the opportunities that applying for and gaining an award can offer a SACRE.

3. 17th November 2022, 7-8pm: [SACREs – a way forward..?](#)

Special guest: Rt Hon Charles Clarke

This session will continue the conversation we want to have with our membership around the government's White Paper on education, considering possible ways forward for SACREs.

4. 6th December 2022, 7-8pm: [How to effectively use pupil and teacher voice in your SACRE?](#)

This session will help SACREs to consider how using the voices of pupils and teachers within SACREs can enhance effective practice.

5. 19th January 2023, 7-8:30pm: [Being an effective Chair part 2](#)

This session will help SACRE Chairs to reflect on their present practice and share with other Chairs around the country some top tips for leading their SACRE's vision.

6. 21st February 2023, 4-5:30pm: [Being an effective SACRE Clerk](#)

This session will help SACRE Clerks to reflect on their present practice and share with other Clerks around the country some top tips for fulfilling the Clerk role within a SACRE.

7. 14th March 2023, 7-8pm: [What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations?](#)

In the light of the present legal position on Collective Worship, this session will share what a number of SACREs are doing to support Collective Worship practice in their schools.

statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to this work.

The Inter Faith Network (IFN)

NASACRE is a member of the Inter Faith Network which is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year. Their AGM took place remotely on **Tuesday 5 July** with the business meeting including voting through remote links. After the AGM had taken place, there was a session which included a series of short reflections. To start, IFN Trustee Professor Paul Weller reflected on the importance of the IFN's work to sustain the conditions for freedom of religion in the UK and its faith and public life dimension. It was timely as the International Ministerial Conference by the UK Government on Freedom of Religion or Belief was hosted while the AGM was happening.

Then, during a breakout session, members reflected on the importance of the IFN's work and its future in promoting and supporting inter-faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. As part of the reflection, it emerged that the IFN brought common interests together for various faiths and organisations and enabled voices to reach higher authority. NASACRE Chair Linda Rudge, in her reflections, congratulated the IFN on 35 years of positive and far-reaching contributions to inter faith dialogue. She mentioned how the two organisations had enjoyed mutually beneficial conversations, shared initiatives, and similar aims over many years of changing social and educational contexts.

Inter Faith Week 2022

Inter Faith Week takes place this year from Sunday 13th to Sunday 20th November. SACREs might start planning how to use the week as a platform to highlight and deepen inter faith and religion and belief dimensions of their work. The Inter Faith Network for the UK leads on this, making significant contribution to inter faith understanding, harmony and cooperation.

Each year thousands take part directly in Inter Faith Week activities, and millions encounter the week's positive messages through social media.

A useful Inter Faith week flyer can be downloaded [here](#).

If you or your schools would like to discuss ideas with one of the IFN team, you are welcome to ring 020 7730 0410 or email interfaithweek@interfaith.org.uk.

Draft REC handbook

The REC's Religion and Worldviews project is continuing. A year ago, the REC was successful in bidding for a sizeable grant from the Templeton World Charitable Foundation to produce exemplar frameworks and resources for Religion and Worldviews curricula. This follows the Commission on RE (CoRE Report, 2018) and the work by academics to clarify the vision of what was meant by 'Worldviews'.

The curriculum work is in three phases:

In Phase 1, RE Today won a contract to produce a draft handbook that would inform curriculum makers about what the Worldviews paradigm entails. Stephen Pett is leading the project and has published a draft curriculum resource, which contains guidance, explanation and includes a new iteration of the 'National Entitlement'. SACREs may wish to look at the resource and consider the ideas in upcoming Agreed Syllabus revisions. The REC is also looking for feedback on the published draft – it will change before final publication in 2024. You can read it [here](#).

The REC is funding three consortia (groups of teachers/curriculum designers) to try out the Draft Curriculum guidance to form exemplar frameworks (Phase 2) and exemplar resources to fit them (Phase 3). Phases 2 and 3 are just starting.

The three consortia are:

- led by Nikki McGee, involving schools from Inspiration Trust and other schools in East Anglia
- led by Jen Jenkins involving Coventry and Warwickshire SACRE schools and the Diocese of Coventry
- led by Gillian Georgiou, involving teachers from across England.

More details about the teams [here](#).

Items for your next agenda

- **Education White Paper** – to develop awareness of its relevance to SACRE and RE
- **RE Report Card** – discuss the statements and consider how you and your schools can use it
- Feed back to your members from NASACRE Conference and workshops
- **Draft REC handbook**
- Begin to use the **SEF Tool** to produce your annual development plan
- Consider whether to apply for a NASACRE/Westhill award for 2023-24 (closing date 31 March 2023). NB. there is **a seminar** on the application process early in the next training programme schedule
- Check that subscriptions have been paid and that all **contact details** are up to date; book SACRE members onto **online training** where relevant.
- Look out for the publication of the 2021 census data and ask your LA to consider whether your SACRE is fully representative of your local faith communities.



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