

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 5.00 pm

To be held as an online meeting

Membership:

Chair: Basma ElShayyal (Chair)

Vice Chair: Helen Mooney

Adviser: Nadia Nadeem

Representatives of:

- Brent's other faiths and denominations
- Church of England
- Teachers Representatives
- Local Authority

For further information contact: Abby Shinhmar, Governance Officer
Tel: 020 8937 2078; Email: Abby.Shinhmar@brent.gov.uk

The SACRE meeting will be open for the public and press to attend as an online virtual meeting. The link to view the meeting live will be available [HERE](#)

Agenda

Item	Page
1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence	
2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair	
To undertake (following its deferral at the previous meeting) the annual election of the SACRE Chair & Vice-Chair.	
Members are asked to note that in accordance with the SACRE Constitution:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The local authority has agreed not to exercise their right to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair, meaning the appointments will be a matter for SACRE to agree; and• The appointment of Chair & Vice Chair will be for a one year term of office covering the 2023-24 academic year, with future elections to take place at the last SACRE meeting of each preceding academic year.	
3 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 4
To consider and approve the minutes from the last SACRE meeting held on Thursday 13 July 2023.	
4 Determinations	5 - 8
4.1 Members are asked to review the determination application which has been received from Stonebridge School.	
4.2 To note the following school with an expired determination:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uxendon Manor School	
5 SACRE Membership	9 - 10
To receive an update on SACRE membership (details attached) including current vacancies.	
6 General SACRE & RE Update	
To receive an update from the SACRE Advisor on any general SACRE or	

RE related issues.

7 General NASACRE Update

11 - 28

To consider the NASACRE update provided by the SACRE Advisor along with the most recent NASACRE bulletin (copy attached).

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Date of Future Meetings

SACRE is asked to note the remaining programme of dates identified for meetings during the 2023-24 academic year, as follows:

- Thursday 8th February 2024 at 5pm.

This will be undertaken as an online meeting, unless otherwise notified.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 8 February 2024

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 (SACRE)**

Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 13 July 2023 at 5pm

Attendees (in remote attendance):

<p>GROUP A <i>(A committee of persons representing such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area)</i></p>	<p>Basma ElShayyal (Sunni Islam, Chair) Sheralyn Snaith (Baha'i) Bhupinder Singh (Sikhism)</p>
<p>GROUP B <i>(A committee of persons representing the Church of England)</i></p>	<p>Steve Taylor (Church of England)</p>
<p>GROUP C <i>(A committee of persons representing such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area)</i></p>	<p>Kim Wilson</p>
<p>GROUP D <i>(A committee of persons representing the authority)</i></p>	<p>Cllr Tazi Smith Cllr Neil Nerva</p>
<p>In attendance:</p>	<p>Nadia Nadeem (SACRE/RE Advisor) Shirley Parks (Brent Council - Safeguarding Performance and Strategy) Jen Haskew (Brent Council - Head of Setting and School Effectiveness Service) Helen Tulloch (Brent Council – School Effectiveness Service) James Kinsella & Abby Shinhmar (Brent Council - Governance Team) Shaun Cremin (Associate Member)</p>

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair noted apologies had been received from Group A membership: Suzan Tokan and Michelle Goldsmith (Humanism), Sally Strauss (Judaism), Sarah Cawte

(Pentecostal Churches) and Dawn Titus (Roman Catholic) & Group C membership: Helen Mooney (Vice Chair) and Ian Slade.

Given the number of members present, it was confirmed that the meeting was not quorate. It was, however, agreed by those members present that the meeting should continue on the basis that any formal decisions made would be subject to formal ratification at the next quorate meeting.

2. **Election of the Chair and Vice Chair**

In view of the meeting not being quorate and apologies for absence submitted by Helen Mooney (Vice Chair) it was **AGREED** that the election of Chair/Vice-Chair for the 2023 - 24 academic year be deferred until the next SACRE meeting with Basma ElShayyal to continue as chair pending the outcome of the next election process.

ACTION: Abby Shinmar

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising**

It was **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2023.

4. **Determinations (if any)**

Basma ElShayyal, Chair, advised that there was one determination to be considered at the meeting – Stonebridge School.

In considering the determination application, SACRE noted the limited detail which had been provided in support. Given the incomplete nature of the application it was **AGREED** that consideration should be deferred to the next meeting, pending submission of the required supporting information.

Members were advised the supporting information required to complete the application had already been requested from the school which Helen Tulloch advised would be followed up after the meeting. **ACTION: Helen Tulloch**

5. **General SACRE & RE Update**

SACRE considered a summary factsheet detailing the results of the 2021 National Census relating to a breakdown of Brent's population by religion. Jen Haskew provided a brief overview and SACRE noted:

- The insightful nature of the detail and key points outlined along with the relevance to the membership and operation of SACRE. In noting the breakdown by population, the Chair felt it would also be useful to compare against any similar data available on the breakdown of the school population across the borough by religion. **ACTION: Jen Haskew** to review available data and update next meeting.
- The usefulness of the data in seeking to support wider policy development and teaching support with members specifically highlighting the low % of population across the borough and individual wards recorded as having "no religion" when compared elsewhere.

- The additional work being undertaken by the Council in regards to the breakdown of Census data by ward, which could also be shared with SACRE once available.

SACRE **AGREED** to note the Census Factsheet detailing the breakdown of Brent's population by religion, which it was felt provided a useful reference point for the future consideration of wider policy development and teaching support.

6. **General NASACRE Update**

SACRE welcomed Nadia Nadeem to the meeting as newly appointed SACRE/RE Advisor who provided a brief update on the NASACRE Annual Conference that had taken place in May 23. Members noted the outline of the main focus of discussion during the Conference, which had included the shortage of RE teachers and work being undertaken to address community cohesion along with the summary of the keynote address provided by Dr Kathryn Wright (Chief Executive Culham St Gabriel's Trust).

In considering the update provided the Chair welcome the lead being taken by NASACRE in seeking to strengthen and raise the profile of activities designed to promote wider community cohesion through schools including engagement around the content of assemblies. Members also welcomed the focus on the shortage of RE teachers, which it was felt further highlighted the need to ensure appropriate training and ongoing professional support remained available. Basma ElShayyal (as Chair) felt it important to also recognise the support which had been provided within Brent through the RE Advisor provision.

In terms of available training and professional development, Nadia Nadeem highlighted the extensive range of CPD training and webinars available through NASACRE for SACRE members with the training offer and information available through the RE Hub focussed specifically on teaching staff in schools. As a result, it was **AGREED** that further details on the training programme available would be provided for inclusion within the Headteacher Bulletin. **ACTION: Nadia Nadeem**

As no further issues were raised the Chair thanked Nadia Nadeem for the update provided.

7. **Any Other Business**

7.1 **SACRE Membership**

Basma ElShayyal advised that she had been made aware of interest amongst teaching representatives in joining SACRE, should any vacancies in that membership group become available. It was **AGREED** that details would be provided for review, as any vacancies were identified.

7.2 **Links between Brent SACRE & Multi Faith Forum**

Reverend Steve Taylor (who was joined online by Reverend Ali Taylor as a member of the Brent Multi Faith Forum) highlighted the potential scope for SACRE to consider in establishing closer working relationships with the Brent Multi Faith Forum given the Forum's interest in the RE Hub and wider

engagement and links with faith communities across the borough. The potential benefits in terms more joined up working were highlighted, particularly in terms of the membership of both bodies and engagement with schools, which was supported as an approach to be developed by members of SACRE. In recognising the need to ensure Head Teachers were fully involved in proposals relating to engagement with schools, Shirley Parks advised that she would be willing to attend a future meeting of the Multi Faith Forum to advise on the role of SACRE. In order to progress the approach, it was therefore **AGREED** that a further discussion be undertaken at a future SACRE meeting on the scope of any partnership working and links that could be established between the Multi Faith Forum and SACRE (including any programme of school visits) **ACTION: Shirley Parks/Jen Haskew**

7.3 Dates of Future Meetings

AGREED the remaining programme of dates identified for meetings during the 2023-24 academic year, as follows:

- Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 5pm
- Thursday 8th February 2024 at 5pm

It was noted that these would continue to be undertaken as online meetings, unless otherwise indicated.

The meeting closed at 5:46pm

Basma ElShayyal
Chair

1. Name of School:
The Stonebridge School
2. Head Teacher:
Michelle Anderson
3. Pupils to whom application applies:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This application applies to the whole school.
4. Outline reasons for application:
The school is very religiously and culturally diverse. In order to recognise the diverse beliefs that our children and their families hold, The Stonebridge School would like to continue with the Collective Worship that encompasses the wide range of faiths, belief system and traditions that the school has delivered for a number of years.
5. Outline details of consultation with governors:
The governors met on the 13.06.2023 and overwhelmingly voted to renew the application.
6. Outline of details of consultation with parents:
No parents objected within the timeframe.
7. Outline of proposed provision for collective worship
In class taught lessons, whole school assemblies and class assemblies.
8. Signature of Head Teacher: <i>Michelle Anderson</i>

The Stonebridge School Primary School

Collective Acts of Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at The Stonebridge School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. In line with Section 394 (1) of the Education Act 1996, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on a multi faith approach. The school has a determination from SACRE which lifts the requirement for collective worship of a "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character".

The Collective Worship Policy of The Stonebridge School Primary School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of The Stonebridge School Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- ♣ reflect on that matters or issues considered worthy
- ♣ consider spiritual and moral issues
- ♣ explore their own beliefs
- ♣ develop their own spirituality
- ♣ reflect on the direction of their lives
- ♣ reinforce positive attitudes
- ♣ participate and respond
- ♣ reflect on what it means to be human
- ♣ consider the wonders and concerns of the world

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Stonebridge School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will

enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' at their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The RE curriculum leader will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies, RE and PSHSE lessons

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets, these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made after the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Withdrawal

All assemblies will be conducted in a manner that is sensitive and inclusive to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly







THE STONEBRIDGE SCHOOL

Learning for life

Interim Executive Head : Ms Karen Giles

Head of School: Ms Michelle Anderson

 www.stonebridge.brent.sch.uk
 020 8965 6965
 admin@stonebridge.brent.sch.uk
 Shakespeare Avenue
 Stonebridge
 London, NW10 8NG

DATE

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

All schools are required by law to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. This should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' unless a school has a 'determination'. In Brent, schools have the choice of following a multifaith approach as recommended by Brent SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) or following an approach devised by the school.

At this school, we do not promote any particular faith and we aim to provide collective worship that can include the whole school community, pupil and adults. Collective worship contributes to pupils' spiritual and moral development and can help to develop the values shared by the whole school community.

For the past 5 years, we have had a 'determination' and have been following the Brent SACRE's multifaith approach. The school governors have decided that it would be suitable for our school to continue this. A 'determination' must be renewed every five years. The time has come to do this again, and before we apply to Brent SACRE for this, we would like to seek your views.

If you do not agree with our decision, please return the slip below. I would also very much like you to contact me so that I can hear your concerns. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you agree with our decision.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

I, _____ (Print Name) do not agree with the school's proposal

to continue the multifaith approach to collective worship.



Current SACRE Membership List 2023/24					
Groups	Denomination/belief/faith/group	Name	06/10/22	09/02/23	13/07/23
A	Baha'i	Sheralyn Snaith	X	X	X
A	Buddhism	Rupa Monerawela	X		
A	Hinduism (Brent Hindu Samaj)	Deva Samaroo			
A	Hinduism (Saiva Siddanta) (Vacancy)				
A	Islam (Shi'a)	Andleeb Naqvi			
A	Islam (Sunni) - Chair	Basma El Shayyal	X	X	X
A	Jainism	Manhar Mehta	X	X	
A	Roman Catholicism	Vacancy			
A	Pentecostal Churches	Sarah Cawte			
A	Sikhism	Bhupinder Singh	X		X
A	Zoroastrianism	Malcolm Deboo			
A	Zoroastrianism	Yazad Bhadha			
A	Humanism	Michelle Goldsmith		X	
A	Humanism (substitute member)	Suzan Tokan			
A	Judaism	Sally Strauss	X	X	
A	Christian Orthodox (Vacancy)				
B	Church of England	Steve Taylor	X	X	X
B	Church of England	Graham Marriner			
B	Church of England	Andrew Teather			
B	Church of England	Mark Newton			
C	Associations Representing Teachers	Andrew Bate			
C	Associations Representing Teachers - Vice Chair	Helen Mooney		X	
C	Associations Representing Teachers	Ian Slade	X	X	
C	Associations Representing Teachers	Vacancy			
C	Associations Representing Teachers	John Roche			
C	Associations Representing Teachers	Kim Wilson			X
D	The Authority (Municipal Year 2018)	Cllr Neil Nerva		X	X
D	The Authority (Municipal Year 2018)	Cllr Tariq Dar			
D	The Authority (Municipal Year 2018)	Cllr Tazi Smith	X	X	X
	Associate Member	Shaun Cremin			X
Group A: Christian denominations and other religions reflecting the principal religions of the area - Up to 16 Members					
Group B: CoE - up to 4 members					
Group C - Professional Teacher & Head Teacher Associations recognised by LA and others rep education interests - up to 6 members					
Group D - Local Authority Members - up to 4 members					

NASACRE UPDATES

- Recruitment of RE teachers was a national concern. The DfE target had been raised to over 600 but there were not enough courses available to achieve this. NASACRE would like to see bursaries for RE trainees such as those offered for other subjects, e.g. maths, science and geography. SACREs were asked to contact their local MPs to raise the concern about the national shortage. It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-chair write to the local MPs on behalf of SACRE.
- Charles Clarke, NASACRE patron, had given a presentation on SACREs being in a position to promote community cohesion. RE promotes inclusivity and tolerance and may help to encourage good behaviour outside the classroom. In Brent we can use the Faith Forum to promote these links?
- CC agreed that more information needs to be included in SACRE annual report on the impact of what we do around RE & CW. There should be more impact data to demonstrate successes. In Brent how do we as a SACRE monitor impact?
- NASACRE Members have received a list of the virtual workshops which were taking place following the conference. There is a fee of £50 per annum per SACRE which would allow any members to join workshops of interest.
- Humanism and Group A of SACREs

A recent judgement has been made concerning the position of Humanists on Group A. In the case of *Bowen v Kent County Council Justice Constable* clarified that applications for Group A membership from persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs should be considered in the same way as applications from those who represent holders of religious beliefs.

NASACRE have long been asking the DfE to issue guidance to Local Authorities regarding the position of non-religious Worldviews on Group A, and we are pleased that this guidance was issued in August.

In brief, the guidance reiterates that the make-up of a SACRE is a matter for Local Authorities (not SACREs themselves), and that the membership of Group A should ensure that relevant traditions and beliefs in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected. This representation may include non-religious belief systems where they are analogous to a religious belief.

SACREs may wish to advise their Local Authorities that they should review the constitution of the SACRE following publication of the 2021 Census data and in the light of this guidance.

London SACRE chairs, vice-chairs, LA officers &
SACRE consultants/advisers are invited to

‘IN CONVERSATION WITH NASACRE’

An opportunity for your SACRE to help NASACRE to:

- represent your perspectives and views at a national level
- understand your local context, your concerns and successes
- hear your views on national developments and opportunities

Date: 8th November 2023

Time: 6:30-8pm

Venue: On Zoom

Help your SACRE to be heard

*Email london@re-hubs.uk
for the zoom link*

From: NASACRE Administrator <admin@nasacre.org.uk>
Sent: 27 September 2023 09:00
To: ██████████
Subject: SACRE briefing 36

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SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 36

This issue includes:

- **Welcome from the NASACRE Executive**
- **Meet the new members of the NASACRE Exec**
- **30 years of NASACRE: SACREs for the Future**
- **Encouragement from our Patron**
- **NASACRE Westhill Awards Winners 2023**
- **Online 2023-24 Training Programme**
- **Westhill Awards 2024-25**
- **Party Conference Season - a message from NATRE**
- **RE Hubs - the new 'One-Stop Shop for RE'**
- **Humanism and Group A of SACREs**
- **The Inter Faith Network (IFN)**
- **Items for your SACRE Agenda**

Welcome from the NASACRE Executive

Welcome to another new academic year with all of its challenges and opportunities. The Autumn may be almost upon us and the torrid heat of summer may be receding in our minds, but there will be a lot of hot topics that your SACRE will need to tackle now and in the months ahead. NASACRE aims to keep you up to date with national issues and to provide a range of opportunities for you to talk to each other and to us. We are stronger together.

You may have new SACRE members at the start of term and we hope that by offering training for new members twice a year, we can help them to understand the work of SACREs and participate confidently as soon as possible. In turn this helps to strengthen your team. We offer a number of training and support webinars during the year, and you can see a brief summary of our current programme [here](#). Hopefully there is something for everyone!

Deborah Weston attended a **Parliamentary Education Committee** along with representatives from other subjects to discuss teacher shortages, as well as how some schools can recruit and retain staff more easily than others. NASACRE will be working with Deborah and others in the RE community to strengthen conversations around this vital topic.

The Political Party Conference season is upon us and it is good to know that members of the RE community will attend these to raise issues important to RE and RE teachers, including the difficult issue of teacher shortages. Read [this item](#) to see what SACREs can do to support this work by holding conversations with your elected members or MPs.

Here is wishing your SACREs and your schools a successful year ahead.

Denise Chaplin, *on behalf of the NASACRE Communication Team.*

Linda is on leave at the moment and sends best wishes to all. Her Chair's foreword will return in the next edition.

Meet the new members of the NASACRE Exec

Several new Exec members were elected at our 2023 Annual Conference and AGM. They introduce themselves on the [website](#).

30 years of NASACRE: SACREs for the Future

NASACRE's Pearl Anniversary Conference, with more than 100 delegates from over 60 SACREs across the country, focused on some of the treasures of the past and looked forward to the golden nuggets of the future. Taking the lead from NASACRE's revised 2023 Constitution, which was approved by conference, Dr Kathryn Wright's keynote set the tone for the day. She challenged SACREs to recognise the things that they do well, and the role the NASACRE has played in strengthening, supporting, representing and celebrating the achievements of SACREs. Her vision for the future of SACREs is that they should continue to develop partnerships with Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) and build better relationships with the government and faith organisations. SACREs need to take a lead in developing the worldviews approach to RE and working to raise awareness of the need for more RE teachers to be recruited.

Recognising that there are challenges ahead formed a major part of the second keynote delivered by the Rt Hon Charles Clarke, Patron of NASACRE. He identified the fractured structure of the current education system as probably one of the greatest challenges, but said that if NASACRE and SACREs get involved in conversations with politicians as the next election approaches, there is an

opportunity to influence the future. Charles sees the strength of a SACRE as being able to promote effective social cohesion on a local level and believes that the provision of good RE in schools is a key to achieving that (see notes below).

Another key challenge, and one that was picked up by Dr David Hampshire in his **review of the SACRE annual reports**, is the lack of funding and resources made available to many SACREs. This reflects the fact that many Local Authorities do not yet fully appreciate the value that SACRE can offer their communities. NASACRE and SACREs need to talk openly about the challenges facing communities regarding social cohesion and emphasise the unique position they hold in being able to bring communities together.

If SACREs can learn from each other (and the review of their 2022 annual reports should help them do that), proclaim their achievements more confidently and hold Local Authorities openly to account, they can begin to influence the situation for the better.

Kathryn Wright reminded conference,

"We have a pearl - RE - and the best pearls are reflective. Challenges and opportunities lie ahead. The world is not the same as it was and SACREs need to think creatively, within the systems that exist. If RE is a treasured pearl, we need keep it on display and admire it."

Papers from the AGM can be found on our website.

Encouragement from our Patron

There are some key points from the speech given by our Patron, **Rt Hon Charles Clarke** that SACREs should consider discussing at their next meeting.

Charles Clarke identified that political issues over the past decade have made it difficult for the government to focus on implementing any changes in the educational arena. There has been little opportunity to redefine RE, despite the

numerous reports published. The fractured nature of the education system with the academisation and free school programmes has further impeded progress. He anticipates that as the political situation calms down, SACREs and NASACRE have the opportunity to ensure that they are leading the conversation.

SACREs have many **strengths** to offer in this debate. Unlike any other Local Authority organisation, SACRE intentionally brings together people from different communities. In principle, this means that SACREs are well placed to contribute to a more cohesive society. A good SACRE has local connections and contacts and well knows the local area. This knowledge and position gives SACRE a certain moral high ground. SACREs are also concerned with the lives of young people, and this is where long-term change needs to begin.

SACREs do also have their **weaknesses**. The government has not held Local Authorities to account for failing to fund SACREs according to the principles set down. Many SACREs are thus underfunded and marginalised, and so the picture is variable nationwide.

Below are some suggestions from Charles Clarke as **to how SACREs can maximise their strengths**:

- **Talk about the issues raised, highlighting the contribution of RE towards the promotion of community cohesion.**
- **Openly address the polarisation of society, again demonstrating the value of RE.**
- **Identify those who can help build local and national community cohesion.**
- **Ensure that LA members, particularly elected members, play a full part in SACREs.**

SACREs need to argue for their rightful role!

There is a wider role for NASACRE in this debate:

- **NASACRE could make a 'manifesto for SACREs' setting out the strengths of SACREs.**
- **NASACRE needs to define its role, such as contributing to inter faith dialogue, using best practice info, such as from Westhill Award winners.**
- **Say that SACRE is central to the development of community cohesion across the country and set out the ways that could be done more successfully.**
- **Mention the values we want to see in society.**

Questions to discuss at your SACRE meeting:

How can we influence this debate in a way that is central and positive?

In which areas listed above is your SACRE doing well?

Can your SACRE suggest how NASACRE should best engage in this debate?

NASACRE Westhill Awards Winners 2023

At Conference, Westhill Awards were awarded to Doncaster and Bexley SACREs.

Doncaster's project is going to bring Primary pupils together with people from a range of worldviews. The project will be pupil-led, and activity days will be delivered in such a way as to ensure that they can be replicated in other venues. The resulting resources will be shared across all Doncaster schools after the event.

The project in **Bexley** is going to focus on storytellers, giving pupils an opportunity to hear stories told by faith representatives and at the same time providing teachers with the chance to see good storytelling in practice. There are

plans to make a strong link with the Local Agreed Syllabus. Booklets featuring the stories will also be shared across the borough.

If you have ideas for a project and would like to bid for funding, see the information **below** about how to apply for the next round.

Online 2023-24 Training Programme

We are delighted to announce that NASACRE is running another year of **webinars** to support SACREs in their practice. For £50 annually, subscribed SACREs can purchase unlimited access for all their members to each and every webinar, representing incredible value for professional development. SACREs may also book for individual sessions. There are separate rates for delegates from unsubscribed SACREs.

Monday 16th October 2023, 7 - 8:30pm:

Applying for and gaining a Westhill/NASACRE award

led by Linda Rudge & Anne Andrews

This *free session* will help SACREs consider the practicalities of applying for and gaining an award. Attendees will hear from previously successful SACREs sharing what the award has enabled their SACRE to do.

November 2023 – Regional meetings - for SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs, LA officers and professional RE support officers

Dates for each region can be found via the links below, along with details of how to book:

North West NASACRE regional meeting

North East NASACRE regional meeting

East Anglia NASACRE regional meeting

London NASACRE regional meeting

South West NASACRE regional meeting

South East NASACRE regional meeting
East Midlands NASACRE regional meeting
Yorkshire & Humber NASACRE regional meeting

Free session for all SACREs led by the local RE Hub lead and a NASACRE Exec member.

These sessions, taking place in regional groups, will allow for smaller numbers of SACREs to come together, continuing NASACRE's conversation with our membership, sharing good practice, disseminating national and local news and providing time for SACRE leadership teams to raise and discuss issues, thus supporting each other.

***Tuesday 5th December 2023, 7 - 8pm:**

How may SACREs effectively monitor schools?

led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton

This session is a chance for SACREs to come together and hear about and consider a range of strategies and practices that build relationships with schools and enable SACREs to monitor RE and Collective Worship.

***Thursday 18th January 2024, 6:30 - 8pm:**

Using data effectively as a SACRE

Special guest: Deborah Weston

A session for SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs and professional support officers to help them to make effective use of the data that NATRE, NASACRE and the DfE provides, ensuring local data can be drawn upon.

***Thursday 22nd February 2024, 4 - 5:30pm:**

Being an effective SACRE Clerk, part 2

led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton

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 their role; it will focus on minute-taking, SACRE's constitution/terms of reference and composition.

***Monday 26th February 2024, 7 - 8pm:**

Dealing with beliefs and practices about loss & death in your Agreed Syllabus

Led by Denise Chaplin and Paul Smalley with guests from the National Association of Funeral Directors.

This webinar will help SACREs to reflect on what they do currently to cover this aspect of the curriculum in schools. It will provide input from the national body of funeral directors, as well as examples from 2 different SACREs of their support work around these issues within their Agreed Syllabus.

***Tuesday 12th March 2024, 7-8pm:**

Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference – legalities and processes

Led by Paul Smalley with Linda Rudge

This session will focus on the legal process and consider best practice suggestions for convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for your SACRE.

Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm:

So, you've joined your local SACRE...

Hosted by Exec members

A rerun of the September *free session*, to help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.

**Prices for those sessions marked **

- Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package
- £20 for a full member SACRE
- £30 for an affiliated SACRE

To book on to any of these sessions, please email admin@nasacre.org.uk providing delegate name, email address and SACRE.

Westhill Awards 2024-25

NASACRE is once again joining with Westhill to offer awards of up to £4000 for innovative and enduring projects. Any project should offer young people meaningful opportunities to engage in compelling learning experiences in RE (or Collective Worship), within the broad theme of "education into diversity".

Any SACRE wishing to submit an application is strongly advised to review the briefing notes which accompany the application form. There is a webinar on **16th October** which will look at the application process and give interested SACREs an opportunity to hear from past winners. This is included in the NASACRE training package.

The application form and the notes can be found and downloaded [here](#).

Party Conference Season - a message from NATRE

In late September and Early October, teams of teachers from NATRE will be joining representatives from Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), Culham St Gabriel's and RE Today to attend the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat party conferences.

The lobbying work that the RE community does on your behalf is really important because it takes the voices of teachers and pupils to policy makers. At the party conferences we will be sharing the importance of high quality RE for all pupils in all schools, talking about the need for a national standard in the subject, sharing

constituency data related to RE with MPs, SACRE members, local councillors and party members and talking about what high quality RE looks like in primary and secondary classrooms.

The RE community needs you, our members, to support this work. SACREs can get involved by contacting local MPs or Councillors and asking them to meet with our team to talk about high quality RE for all pupils in all schools. In previous years, we have had amazing discussions because real teachers in real schools and RE community members have said that it was important to them that their MP spoke to us.

You can contact your MP through their website and via email. Some MPs also use Twitter/X, Facebook or Instagram DM.

Please contact them by the most appropriate means explaining why you, their constituent or a teacher in their constituency would like them to meet with us. Ask them to contact us directly by using the following email CEO@natre.org.uk or contacting Fiona Moss (NATRE CEO) @fionajmoss on Twitter/X, where her DMs are open.

The final way that you can support us is by using social media during the party conference to quote tweets and like or share our posts so that the importance of the campaign is shared with a larger audience.

The teachers we are sending to the three party conferences are both primary and secondary classroom practitioners and we at NATRE would like to thank them and their schools for their time. We would like to thank the other representatives from the RE community who will be giving up their time to speak out for our subject.

Thank you to each of you for contacting your MPs and being part of this important work.

RE Hubs - the new 'One-Stop Shop for RE'

Claire Clinton, Lead Director of RE Hubs, is delighted to announce the new website is live: www.re-hubs.uk

It is a freely available one-stop shop that seeks to help teachers and the Religious Education / Religion, Values & Ethics / Religion & Worldviews (RE/RVE/R&W) community locate resources, CPD, inspiration, visits, visitors and events.

The website is being kept up to date by the RE Hubs team, which comprises RE teachers and experts from across England and Wales, specialising in their local area. The newly developed website has, for the first time, a calendar for England & Wales for all stakeholders to advertise events.

Schools will be able to locate and contact speakers and places of interest for visits in the local area; these are trained by the RE Hubs team, and have the RE Hubs kite-mark. We invite SACREs to share the flyer for the FREE training to support those working with schools, as widely as possible, so the list of speakers and places will grow.

<https://www.re-hubs.uk/uploads/regionalrehub/rehubs-training-flyer-23-24.pdf>

For the first time in one central place, a teacher can find local group meetings taking place in their area and make contact with those who run them. New for 23-24 is FREE CPD for those leading local groups/networks in RE, offered in collaboration with NATRE. See [flyer](#) for more details

Finally, the 'Upskill' tab on the RE Hubs website has direct links to a wealth of free resources and contacts useful to all those in the RE/RVE/R&W eco-system from the latest news and blogs to podcasts.

The specific aims identified by the RE Hubs steering group are:

- To improve communication between teachers, professional development and resource providers, and research communities.
- To improve connections and interactions between different parts of the RE/RVE/R&W eco-system.
- To be an information exchange to increase accessibility for all teachers to local and regional professional development and research.
- To enable teachers to teach with greater confidence through their access to the support, knowledge, training and resources available in their region.
- To create a sustainable long-term model for future provision.

'RE Hubs' seek to build relationships with advisers, dioceses, universities, SACREs, LAs, governors, MATs, teaching school hubs and more. So, if you haven't heard from us as yet, do visit the website and get in touch with your Regional Lead.

The steering committee, with representatives from RE organisations AREIAC, AULRE, NASACRE, NATRE, REC and TRS-UK, are dedicated to this collaborative working approach. This project is facilitated by RE Today and supported by a number of funders, to whom we are grateful for their investment at the start of this key infrastructure programme for all those working in and supporting RE/RVE/R&W.

For further information contact:

Claire Clinton – director@RE-Hubs.co.uk

Humanism and Group A of SACREs

You may be aware of a recent judgement involving the position of Humanists on Group A. In the case of *Bowen v Kent County Council*, Justice Constable clarified that applications for Group A membership from persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs should be considered in the same way as applications from those who represent holders of religious beliefs.

NASACRE has long been asking the DfE to issue guidance to Local Authorities regarding the position of non-religious worldviews on Group A, and we are pleased that this **guidance** was issued in August.

In brief, the guidance reiterates that the make-up of a SACRE is a matter for Local Authorities (not SACREs themselves), and that the membership of Group A should ensure that relevant traditions and beliefs in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected. This representation may include non-religious belief systems where they are analogous to a religious belief.

SACREs may wish to advise their Local Authorities that they should review SACRE's Constitution, following publication of the 2021 Census data and in the light of this guidance.

The Inter Faith Network (IFN)

NASACRE is a member of the IFN and this report gives you information about their national meeting and AGM held on July 13th 2023 via Zoom. You can find out more about the IFN from their website: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk>

The topic under discussion was that of religious literacy, with a wide range of experts sharing their wisdom, sending delegates away with much thinking to do. One of the key ideas to emerge is that the definition of religious literacy is still contested, but at the same time considered an essential component of society. There are some implications for SACREs as they consider the disciplinary lenses of RE, the reliability of resources, particularly those accessed through the media and the role of inter faith dialogue in the classroom.

A report on the day, and videos of plenary presentations, will both be made available on the [interfaith.org.uk](https://www.interfaith.org.uk) website in due course.

Inter Faith Week 2023 was launched at the meeting by Minister David Bruton, Spiritualists' National Union and IFN Trustee on behalf of the IFN's Board of

Trustees. It is the IFN's largest project.

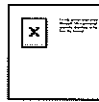
Inter Faith Week this year runs from 12-19 November. The Week is a tremendous opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of religion and belief literacy and to bring people of different faiths and beliefs together in creative and positive ways. The number of schools which took part in 2022 increased by a remarkable 47% on the previous year, indicating how useful they find it to add value to year-round RE learning. SACREs and their members also engaged in many areas and play an important part in the Week. In the run up to this year's Week, you may be interested to:

- Check out the ideas for schools activities for Inter Faith Week [here](#) and perhaps explore a joint activity with one or more of your local schools
- Encourage your local radio station(s) to pick up Inter Faith Week and to include a feature about how schools are taking part and the importance of good and well-resourced RE and/or write a piece for the local paper about this.
- Plan an activity and register it [here](#), requesting a free registration pack with poster, flyers, stickers and a social media card.
- Share any plans and events on social media channels using the hashtag #InterFaithWeek and tagging @IFweek on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter/X.

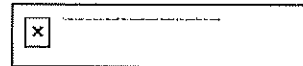
Items for your SACRE agenda

- Write and approve your annual report or make progress towards this, taking account of NASACRE's analysis of annual reports.
- Discuss the **points** raised by Charles Clarke.
- Check that your annual subscription to NASACRE has been paid.
- Book places on the **training programme**.
- Check with your LA on the place of Humanist representation on your SACRE in line with the recent **High Court ruling**.

- Check where you are in your agreed syllabus process.
- Are all your agendas and minutes available online e.g., on the LA's website and do you advertise your meetings as public?
- Plan how and when to use the **self-evaluation form**.
- Check that the new 2023-24 membership website password has been shared with your SACRE members.
- Advertise the **RE Hubs free training** to your community.
- Plan your events for **Inter Faith Week**.
- Contact your MP and local councillors to encourage them to engage with the teacher representatives during their **party conference**.



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