

## 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.