

NASACRE Update

- NASACRE has become a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**. It entered onto the Register of Charities as Charity Number 1212494. This is excellent news, as a CIO, NASACRE can do much more to support SACREs and is now a recognised 'legal entity' in the eyes of local authorities and the government!
- On 18 March, the interim report of the Curriculum and Assessment Review was published with a mention of RE on page 29:

[Curriculum and Assessment Review: interim report – GOV.UK](#)

“Subjects not on the national curriculum

RE and RSHE are subjects that schools are required by statute to provide, but which do not form part of the national curriculum. Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision.

Similar sentiments have been raised in the Call for Evidence responses and in a Review roundtable with RE organisations.

For these subjects, there is a balance to be struck between securing an entitlement to high quality content for all, and, particularly in the case of RE, the need for flexibility to be retained for different school types (i.e. schools with a religious designation and those without). We will consider these points through our analysis of each different subject before publishing our final report.”

The Review expects to recommend a phased programme of work in different subject areas and will publish its final report in autumn 2025. NASACRE is pleased and encouraged to see that the review recognises the need for issues in RE to be addressed. We look forward to being part of these discussions with others in our national RE community. We support recommendations that the government does more to strengthen and support RE.

- Lord Khan of Burnley, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lords Minister for Faith, Communities and Resettlement), recorded a message, where he demonstrated his commitment to communities and young people. He said that knowledge and understanding of religion changes people, encourages social cohesion and equips pupils with an ability to interact with all. Religious education celebrates diversity and creates connection, rather than suspicion and an opportunity to explore shared values. Lord Khan referenced the fact that RE is included in the Curriculum and Assessment Review process which is setting out to provide a rich broad and inclusive curriculum. as he was unable to be with us on the day. Lord Khan recognised that schools are working to foster respect and understanding.
NASACRE delegates commented that it is encouraging that Lord Khan is a politician who understands RE, recognising the academic as well as the personal contribution that the subject can make. They noted that there are governmental references to social rather than community cohesion, so SACREs need to consider to what extent that is different. There needs to be an emphasis on developing the skills of dialogue, cooperation and

other elements that will help achieve tolerance and respect and learning how to disagree well.

- Dr Joyce Miller's speech on *Identity, Community and Commonality*, where she set out to make some suggestion about what Religion and Worldviews can offer schools and society. The summary of her keynote can be found [here](#):
- The Ofsted Inspection Review is likely to impact RE with an increased focus on how pupils apply what they know. Rather than what do pupils know.