

NASACRE Updates

20th July 2026

NASACRE Conference 2026:

Date

Monday 18 May 2026

Location

Hilton Hotel Liverpool

“SACREs - Bringing communities together”

- Over 100 delegates attended in Liverpool, with keynotes, AGM business, table discussion and updates from the NASACRE Executive.
- The conference connected RE and SACRE work directly to social harmony, belonging and community cohesion.
- A recurring theme was that schools need safe, brave and well-informed spaces for pupils to learn about lived belief and worldview diversity.

NASACRE 2026: Keynote Speakers And Takeaways

Professor Vanessa Ogden CBE

Keynote: “Rejoicing in Difference: SACREs’ Role in Building Social Harmony.”

Takeaway: SACREs can be anchors for social harmony by supporting quality RE, local encounter and understanding across difference.

Amy / Amandeep Ark, Faith & Belief Forum

Keynote: “Connection over Division: Lived Experience, Belonging, and the Role of RE in Social Cohesion.”

Takeaway: positive encounter reduces prejudice and builds empathy; classrooms need safe, brave shared spaces.

Deborah Weston - Policy Update

Takeaway: RE National Curriculum reform is moving forward, but legislation, SACRE roles, workforce pressure and implementation support must be handled carefully.

Overall Message

SACREs should not be seen only as statutory committees. The conference framed them as community connectors helping schools build belonging, religious literacy and respectful dialogue.