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National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 39

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Introduction

From Co-Chair, Bill Moore

Welcome to this edition of SACRE Briefing.

We hope those of you who were able to attend, enjoyed and benefited from the conference in York and the ensuing webinars. For those who were not able to attend, the papers are [here](#). We will be running a webinar from **7-8pm on 9 July**, to discuss our proposed CIO status. Please contact [Marie](#) if you would like to send a representative. We hope you will discuss this in your SACRE meeting, using the [materials](#) emailed out last month, and then email any comments or questions to Mike McMaster.

We will be continuing our training package of webinars next year and encourage you to subscribe to the package. This is a good opportunity for SACRE members to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding and thus to be able to contribute to your important work.

As you can see from this *Briefing*, there is a lot going on in the world of RE! We are at a critical stage with developments from the REC and the

publication of the long-awaited **Ofsted Subject Report**. Some of these materials can seem confusing to teachers who will need careful guidance about how they can and should be applied.

And on top of that, there is the General Election! It would be great if you could contact the candidates in your area to remind them of the importance of RE and Collective Worship in our schools and of the work we do as SACREs. Schools are in a good position to promote vital mutual understanding and respect across religion and belief, and SACREs enable them to do so. This is all subject to the proviso, of course, that we have the teachers, the CPD, the initial teacher education (ITE) and the resources to do so... it doesn't hurt to draw this to your candidates' attention!

To that end, and following previous suggestions made by our recently retired Patron, the Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke, we have drafted **a letter** for your SACRE to modify and send to your parliamentary candidates in the imminent election, should you so wish. The aim of this action is to impress upon those elected as MPs, the importance of RE, both within the curriculum and in promoting community cohesion.

After a long stint as our Chair, guiding us through very challenging times, Linda Rudge is at last able to step down. We would like to thank her for her wisdom and leadership. As those who attended conference will know, we now have an interim arrangement in which three former Chairs (Paul Smalley, Denise Chaplin and I/Bill Moore) will be working together in the Chair's role.

In addition to thanking Linda, we are also remembering two colleagues who sadly died this year, Elizabeth Jenkerson and Lesley Prior.

Elizabeth had served on NASACRE for over ten years and took on the vital role of being our conference organiser for most of that time. She did this with good humour, imagination and excellent organisational skills, helping us to develop a support programme for our membership.

Lesley began her 'stint' on the six-year Chair's cycle in 2013, but she

stayed on to support our work through some difficult times. She had tremendous energy and passion for RE and brought wide experience from her work in Local Authorities and the London Diocese. She was a widely loved and respected member of the 'RE Community' and will be sorely missed.

We send our thoughts and best wishes to both families.

Thank you all for the work you do as volunteers for both RE and Collective Worship. NASACRE wishes you all the best for the summer and we look forward to working with you in the next academic year!

NASACRE Conference 2024

How can SACREs support high-quality RE and Collective Worship?

On 20 May, more than 80 delegates from SACREs around the country gathered at the York Hilton for our annual conference. NASACRE's Chair Linda Rudge and our outgoing Patron, the Rt Hon [Charles Clarke, spoke](#) of the challenge of how SACREs choose to respond to the political opportunities afforded by an election. Two days later, the announcement of a General Election on 4 July created a fresh urgency!

SACRE members were encouraged to think about how they might tackle the challenges of teacher recruitment, for example. The open letter published in *The Telegraph* earlier this year may have played a role in ensuring the reinstatement of the RE Bursary, but the withdrawal of the subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) courses for RE continues to make things difficult for providers of ITE and trainees alike.

While SACREs remain a good place for people to come together to support RE and Collective Worship, their main problem is often lack of funding, so it is hard to plan ahead. Syllabus reviews are expensive and LA support is often reliant on one or two individuals, whose work is at risk when they move on or retire. Kathryn Wright outlined some of the work that Culham St Gabriel's is doing around the [Freedom of Religion or Belief \(FoRB\)](#),

another current theme that SACREs may be well-placed to address.

SACRE members were encouraged to use the hope offered by the sobering [Deep & Meaningful? Ofsted RE report](#) to push for action, engaging parliamentary candidates to talk about RE and the seriousness of the need to engage with religious and non-religious worldviews. Whenever and whatever changes in the months ahead, SACREs can talk to those in power to keep RE and matters of faith and belief on the agenda. That might be the retention of the bursary, the reintroduction of funding for SKE, for the Government (of whatever colour) to endorse the [National Content Standard](#) (NCS), and for RE to be part of a post-election curriculum review.

After some discussion time, where delegates had the chance to consider what actions their SACREs might take and question the speakers about how they might do that, the focus moved from challenges to ways that some organisations seek to address them, through a series of videoclips. When played to your SACRE meeting, they give a powerful message: AREIAC's [Young Ambassadors for RE](#) Pupil Voice project (funded by CStG), the [Big Ambition](#) of the Children's Commissioner for England, [Dame Rachel de Souza](#), and Lord Bilimoria's [REady for Work](#) campaign. All of these projects will encourage SACRE members to be RE activists in election times, to challenge both local and national policy makers.

SACREs were encouraged to keep up to date by subscribing to the [NASACRE Noticeboard](#). The NASACRE website also has shared examples of Collective Worship guidance from a range of SACREs, from which subscriber SACREs may gather ideas about how to support and monitor provision.

The highlight of the afternoon was a whistle-stop tour of [35+ Ideas for activist SACREs](#) presented by Lat Blaylock. He threw down a challenge... if every member of every SACRE became an 'activist for RE' there could be 3000 people working to make RE better. He raised the issue that often SACREs struggle to engage with academies and some schools, suggesting they offer 3 'carrots' before making a challenge!

Lat shared a range of ideas from engaging schools in the RE

Today/NATRE *Spirited Arts* competition, holding local heats and exhibitions, to lobbying politicians - and especially local councillors - to take up the RE baton. Other ideas included cross-phase workshops, such as inter-faith climate panels, and training Secondary students to go into Primary schools and talk about their faith traditions, with artefacts as prompts. He encouraged SACREs to think about partnership working, either with each other, local cathedrals or dioceses, but particularly schools and colleges, and when a new faith representative is needed, considering a teacher for that place. SACREs should support MATs, offer what schools need and seek the funds to make a splash!

Conference finished with a brief business meeting and the winners of this year's NASACRE/Westhill Awards were announced. Look out for exciting projects in Bromley, East Sussex and Hampshire!

If you are reading this as a teacher, consider finding out what your local SACRE is doing. Could they use an enthusiastic 'activist' to get them going, or are they already doing a great job, and you are the one missing out...?

Business Meeting: a proposed NASACRE CIO constitution

In the conference business meeting, Mike McMaster gave a **presentation** regarding NASACRE's move to register its legal entity as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is an important step for the organisation and so we invite you to share the new draft NASACRE constitution with your SACRE. We need your feedback and ask you to respond to Mike (mike@barnabasconsulting.co.uk) with any comments and questions by **Friday 28 June 2024** at the latest.

[NASACRE Constitution 2023](#)

[Draft NASACRE Constitution May 2024](#)

[Proposed CIO Constitution changes](#)

We are offering an opportunity from **7-8pm on 9 July** for SACREs to send a rep to discuss the plans with Mike and Exec members, before our registration

is submitted.

If you would like to attend, please email admin@nasacre.org.uk and Marie will send you the Zoom link.

Subscribing to NASACRE

Is your SACRE a [subscribed member](#) of NASACRE?

If not, you are missing out on subscriber-only content & a range of other benefits:

- answers to FAQs about SACRE's work
- opportunity to take advantage of a generous [virtual training package](#) for any number of your SACRE members
- access to training resources
- opportunity, at reduced cost, to attend the annual NASACRE conference and other meetings.

If you want to check your subscriber status, look for the coloured NASACRE 'flower' logo after the name of your LA on the [SACRE Contacts](#) page.

The rates for 2024-25 will be:

Annual subscription: **£115**

Additional training package: **£60**

Invoices for 2024-25 annual subscription will be sent to SACRE clerks at the beginning of July

Contact admin@nasacre.org.uk with any queries regarding your membership.

Webinar programme

The next in our successful series of webinars is for those who are new to SACRE.

Wednesday 26 June 2024, 6:30-8pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...*

This is a rerun of the **free** September session, hosted by Exec members, 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.

For further details please contact admin@nasacre.org.uk

Our '**24-'25 webinar programme** is shaping up with our usual sessions to support your SACRE, as well as topical ones.

So far, we have **free** sessions for all SACREs on:

- becoming a SACRE member
- NASACRE in conversation
- being an effective councillor on your SACRE.

The following webinars are charged, either on a one-off basis or through the (great value!) annual subscription of **£60**, giving unlimited access for all your members to training sessions on:

- Ofsted's subject report on RE and what we can learn from it
- Working with schools and applying for a NASACRE/Westhill grant
- Being an effective SACRE Clerk
- Working as an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

Webinars always include guests sharing practice from around the country to inspire and support your SACRE.

Website update

Exec members have been reorganising and streamlining the NASACRE website, so please ensure your SACRE members are encouraged to access it. Check out new pages, the [Noticeboard](#) and how subscribing SACREs can access and [share useful documents](#).

Inter Faith Week: 10 - 17 November 2024

NASACRE is working with a number of other organisations to secure the continuation of Inter Faith Week (IFW) in 2024, following the closure of the Inter Faith Network (IFN). The Faith and Belief Forum has taken over a database of contacts and the [Inter Faith Week website](#) is also being maintained.

The link to the survey below provides the opportunity for you to transfer your data from the IFN to the Faith & Belief Forum, so that you can be kept in touch about IFW: [Survey Link](#)

The Faith & Belief Forum will now be acting as data controller for the IFN's IFW contacts. By completing this form, you consent to the Faith & Belief Forum holding your data securely for the purposes of being updated about IFW. You can unsubscribe from emails at any time, by emailing info@faithbeliefforum.org

RE Hubs

RE Hubs is pleased to announce that there are over 500 places of interest and school speakers live on www.re-hubs.uk, providing schools with kite-marked visitors and places to visit. Many SACREs have advertised the monthly webinar programme, but there's still room for more on the [RE Hubs website](#). Can you help to advertise it to others? [Click here for a flyer](#) to share with your contacts.

RE Hubs now produces a termly newsletter to SACRE Clerks and Chairs, highlighting changes and improvements to the website, and welcomes

SACRE feedback.

If your SACRE is holding events and training for teachers, you can freely advertise any free events on the RE Hubs calendar:

<https://www.re-hubs.uk/calendar/>

Upload an event here:

<https://www.re-hubs.uk/get-involved/register-cpd-event>

REady for Work Campaign

REady for Work campaign - ReThinkRE

There has been much media coverage of this project, which was presented at the Conference in York. There are now over 40 campaign supporters.

- [HR Director](#)
- [Religion Media Centre](#)
- Premier Radio (interview with Ed Pawson)
- [Anglican Mainstream](#)
- [Premier Christian News](#)
- [Church Times](#)
- City AM accepted the offer of an article by-lined to Lord Bilimoria, to be considered for publication after the General Election.

Please continue to encourage employers among your contacts to sign the [Call to Action](#) and engage with the campaign on social media.

HMD January 2025

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in genocides in other places such as Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 is ***For a Better Future***. SACREs may wish to inform their schools so that they can plan how best to mark the day.

The 2025 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

The [Holocaust Memorial Day website](#) contains information about the theme and many resources, including some practical suggestions such as [Take Action for a Better Future](#).

The Trust hopes that HMD 2025 can be an opportunity for people to come together, to learn both from and about the past, and to take actions to make a better future for all.

Urgent business & other items for your SACRE agenda

- **Sign up** new members for [NASACRE webinar on 26 June](#)
- Consider the [CIO constitution and proposals](#); comments to [Mike McMaster](#) by 28 June
- **Sign up** to feed back on CIO status on 9 July
- Contact prospective parliamentary candidates to raise the importance of RE and inter faith dialogue
- Consider how your SACRE can answer the [Call to Action](#) and draw the attention of employers and business leaders to the [#RE4Work](#) Campaign
- Discuss the [NCS](#) and the [R&W Toolkit](#)
- Submit [SACRE's annual report](#) for 2022-23, if you've not already done so
- Familiarise your SACRE with changes to our [NASACRE website](#) and consider whether you have documents to share (subscriber SACREs)

- **Pay your membership subscription & training package for 2024-25 (invoices will be sent to SACRE Clerks at the beginning of July)**



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