



**Notice of a public meeting of
SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)**

To: SACRE members

Group A

Such Christian denominations and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, will approximately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.

Karen Vincent (Faith/Catholic)

Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

Ian Hodgson (Faith/Humanist)

Daryoush Mazloum (Faith/Bahai'i)

Imam Amar (Faith/Muslim)

Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish)

Group B

A groups of persons representing The Church of England.

Sue Bland (CoE)

Joseph Everdell (CoE)

Group C

A group of persons to represent such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area.

Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree School)

Andy Tod (Ralph Butterfield Primary School)

Diane Norton (York St John University)

Group D

A group of persons representing the City of York Council. In this case of Elected Members appointment to this group should ensure political balance and state which political group they represent. As an alternative, the Council may appoint representatives such as a governors association.

Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) (City of York Council)

Cllr Emilie Knight (City of York Council)

Cllr Martin Rowley BEM (City of York Council)

Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)

LA Officer

Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills,
City of York Council)

Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (Pages 1 - 2)

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members]

2. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2024.

- 3. Monitoring of Standards** (Pages 9 - 16)
To receive an update on the monitoring of Standards in RE including the Ofsted Annual Report and the Schools Survey, Autumn 2023
- 4. Review of SACRE development plan** (Pages 17 - 22)
To review the SACRE development plan. The plan is shaped around the five key functions of SACREs contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit.
- 5. NASACRE Update** (Pages 23 - 32)
To receive NASACRE Briefing 37.
- 6. Correspondence on complaints/determinations**
A verbal update will be given on complaints received and the determinations in respect of those complaints.
- 7. Future meeting dates**
8 July 2024 at 6pm at West Offices
15 October 2024 at 6pm at West Offices
27 January 2025 at 6pm at West Offices
11 March 2025 at 6pm at West Offices
15 July 2025 at 6pm at West Offices

Democratic Services Officer

Angela Bielby

Contact Details:

Telephone – (01904) 552599

Email – a.bielby@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 **(01904) 551550**

Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

This page is intentionally left blank

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	22 January 2024
Present	<u>Group A</u> Karen Vincent Penny Coppin-Siddall Ian Hodgson Daryoush Mazloum Imam Amar Ben Rich (Vice Chair) <u>Group B</u> Sue Bland Joseph Everdell <u>Group C</u> Taco Michiels Andy Tod Diane Norton <u>Group D</u> Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) Cllr Emilie Knight Cllr Martin Rowley BEM Cllr Sarah Wilson
Apologies	Andy Tod (Group C) and Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills)

48. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6.18pm)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Andy Todd and Maxine Squire.

49. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6.19pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2023 be approved and signed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

The Chair reported that a programme of schools visits was to be arranged and the website had been updated. Concerning the Development Plan, this was to be RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated by himself, Cllr Rowley and Ben Rich. It was noted that the school survey results would be presented at the next meeting. It was suggested that good internet access was needed at external venues should they be used for future SACRE meetings. It was noted that it was not a legal requirement for SACRE meetings to be webcast.

50. Annual Report 2022-23 (6.24pm)

A Member noted that at GCSE the highest achieving groups were of Indian/Asian heritage (28 pupils) and those young people with English as an additional language (57 pupils) and they asked whether this correlated across other GCSE subjects. The Chair undertook to follow this up with Maxine Squire.

Resolved: That the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 be approved.

Reason: In order for the Annual Report to be submitted to NASACRE and the DfE.

51. Monitoring of Standards (6.28pm)

Members received the Ofsted Annual Report 2022-23 on RE. They discussed the monitoring of RE standards in schools. Referring to the Annual Report, Members noted that York schools were doing well in RE, and the Chair noted the positive comments in the report. It was noted that there has been an impressive SACRE monitoring visit to Ralph Butterfield School and it was suggested that there needed to be more SACRE monitoring visits to schools. A Member suggested that there were two functions of RE in school, to perform well in RE exams and to prepare for life in a multicultural society.

[Ben Rich left the meeting at 6.37pm]

It was noted that schools had RE syllabuses to follow. The Chair undertook to work with Maxine Squire on arranging visits to two primary schools, one religious and one non-religious. It was suggested that the visits take place when the results of the schools survey had been received. It was noted there was a task and finish group for the school questionnaire.

Resolved: That SACRE Monitoring Visits to two primary schools (one religious and one non-religious) be arranged, to be followed by a visit to a secondary school.

Reason: In order to monitor RE standards.

52. Review of SACRE development plan (6.40pm)

It was reported that the Development Plan would be RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated by himself, Cllr Rowley and Ben Rich. The Chair highlighted NASACRE training on 26 June 2024.

A Member asked whether a reference to non-religious world views needed to be included in the description for Group A on SACRE.

Following discussion it was:

Resolved: That the Chair suggest that the description for Group A be amended to include a reference to 'religious traditions and world views' in the Constitution.

Reason: To include a reference to all world views as well as religious denominations on SACRE

53. NASACRE Update (6.50pm)

Members received NASACRE Briefing 36. With reference to the NASACRE Westhill Awards a Member asked if a SACRE event could be held in York. The Chair explained that some work needed to be done before organising an event and he suggested that SACRE could look at what other SACREs had done for this. It was suggested that the awards process needed to be made known to schools and that schools could apply to York SACRE with a project to bid for funding for a Westhill/NASACRE award. Karen Vincent (Group A Member and secondary school RE teacher) noted that she had received information about the NASACRE Westhill Awards, and Taco Michiels (Group C Member and secondary school RE teacher) noted that he was not aware of the awards. He suggested that a Youth SACRE could be formed and asked if SACRE could apply for funding towards this. Following discussion it was:

Resolved:

1. That SACRE investigate sharing information on NASACRE Westhill Awards more widely with York schools.

2. That the SACRE offer to schools be developed.

Reason: In order to improve the SACRE offer to schools.

54. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (7.00pm)

It was reported that there had been no complaints to SACRE.

Resolved: That Members be updated on complaints.

Reason: In order to be kept updated on complaints to SACRE and determinations of complaints.

55. Any Other Business (7.01pm)

Feedback from SACRE meeting with Young People

Prior to the SACRE meeting a number of SACRE Members informally met with young people of different faiths. The Chair asked Members for feedback on the meeting, namely what they picked up from the young people and what SACRE could do as a result of the discussions at the meeting. Members gave the following feedback:

- The meeting was really useful and positive and Members needed to be mindful of their responses when young people make different points.
- There was a balance between discussion versus examination. It was suggested that this could be a future agenda item.
- A Member asked whether there should be some guidance on how SACRE school visits should work.
- A Member asked if SACRE should be looking at how to support different groups going into schools. A Member noted that they had suggested to a young person at the meeting to approach their youth council about this and she added that there was guidance on the NATRE website on this.
- Members discussed how to respond to a complaint made by one of the young people at the meeting and made a number of points relating to different faith groups visits to schools. It was noted that Olivia Seymour (Assistant Director of Education, York Diocese) offered training on this with two Members having attended the training.
- Members discussed the teaching of RE in schools and the Chair noted that if SACRE was aware of the incorrect teaching of RE in schools, this could be reported to the DfE. A number of suggestions were made as to how to address when mistakes had been made in the teaching of RE in schools. This included schools contacting faith leaders for support in teaching a faith. It was suggested that parents should be encouraged to address errors in schools.

- A Member noted the different requirements in balancing the teaching of short courses versus long courses.

After feedback on the informal meeting with young people was given it was:

Resolved: That the Chair write a letter of thanks to the young people for attending the meeting through their faith representors.

Reason: To express SACRE's gratitude to the young people for attending the meeting.

56. Future meeting dates (7.30pm)

19 March 2024 at 6pm at West Offices

8 July 2024 at 6pm at West Offices

Cllr Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.15 pm and finished at 7.32 pm].

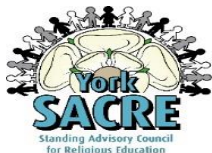
This page is intentionally left blank

Findings from the SACRE School Survey 2023

1. The purpose of the school survey is support York SACRE in its statutory responsibility to monitor provision for Religious Education in the city. It forms one of the sources of information that SACRE can use to make recommendations to City of York Council about the strengths and areas for development of that provision, how good practice might be shared and what support might be offered.
2. The survey ran during the autumn term of 2023 and closed on 10th November 2023. Responses were received from 11 primary schools and 3 secondary schools. This response rate was in line with previous years.
3. The survey focused on the following areas:
 - Strengths and areas for development
 - Quality and standards
 - Continuing Professional Development
 - Timetabling of R.E.
 - The use of the Agreed Syllabus
4. This report provides the members of SACRE with a summary of the information gained from the survey. SACRE members are asked to consider the outcomes and to identify any areas that can be used to inform the SACRE Development Plan.

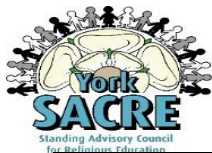
Summary of findings from the 2023 School Survey

5. This report will provide a summary of the findings from the primary and secondary school responses and will begin with responses from primary schools.

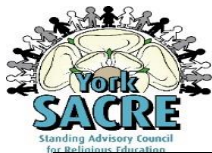


Primary School Responses

<p>1) Strengths</p>	<p>Staff understand the importance of RE.</p> <p>Good planning in place</p> <p>Cross school celebrations of RE</p> <p>Skilled and enthusiastic staff</p> <p>Celebrating diversity in school through special events</p> <p>Hope Sentamu Learning Trust have a Trust RE development group</p> <p>Termly Topic Launch days where members of different faiths are invited in to deliver first hand, quality experiences.</p> <p>Whole Class RE Books showcasing learning, which move with the children as they progress through school.</p>
<p>2) Areas for Development</p>	<p>Re-establishing school visits and visits to school from faith representatives.</p> <p>Having access to a bank of religious artefacts that can be loaned to schools</p> <p>Developing planning further through key questions etc</p> <p>Raising the profile of RE through displays</p> <p>Developing links with local faith groups</p> <p>Being able to buy resources within a limited budget</p> <p>Assessment in RE</p> <p>To continue to ensure that children who are PP/SEND make rapid progress by utilising a range of teaching approaches (i.e. drama,</p>



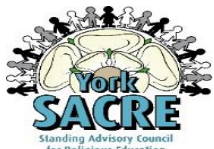
	<p>music, dance, debate) to ensure that pupils progress, regardless of their wider needs/obstacles to their learning.</p> <p>To ensure that as staff approach the second stand of split units for the first time, they utilise the understanding of the previous academic year whilst also catering to those children who are starting their learning on a unit for the first time.</p> <p>Improving long-term recall of key aspects of different religions and improve the teaching of substantive versus disciplinary knowledge.</p>
<p>3) Examples of best practice to share</p>	<p>Sharing key religious festivals with all staff through a bank of videos Class RE big books, the books are completed as a class from Reception and progress each school year. They are also used to support transition. Knowledge organisers for all the units taught Topic Launch/Immersion Days each term, where parents are invited to share in their child's learning.</p>
<p>4) Quality and standards</p>	<p>Book scrutiny, lessons observations, learning walks, pupil voice</p>
<p>5) Continuing professional development</p>	<p>Links with teachers in the cluster (South York) More externally provided CPD would be welcomed. CPD for new subject leaders</p>



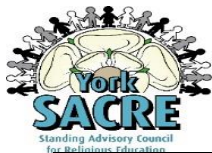
	Useful to have an RE Hub in York Hope Sentamu Learning Trust have trust RE development days York Primary RE cluster SIAMS briefing delivered by Olivia Seymour.
6) Timetabling of RE	Timetabled as a separate subject and delivered between 30 minutes to 1 hour a week.
7) Use of Agreed Syllabus	Hope Sentamu Trust use RE Today Syllabus B

Secondary School Responses

1) Strengths	Subject specialist teachers. Good GCSE and A level results Positive pupil voice shows pupils enjoy the subject Depth and breadth of the curriculum.
2) Areas for Development	Recommendations for/links with inspiring external speakers – particularly for KS5 students, from a range of faiths and philosophical stances. A system where all the local teachers of RE can resource dump and share. Like SOW/Ppt's etc. Exam results, recruitment for KS5 Updating resources and responding to issues as they arise Assessment in KS3



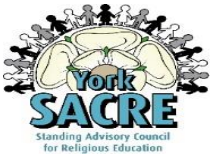
3) Examples of best practice	Curriculum planning How the agreed syllabus has been implemented
4) Quality and standards	Lesson observations and regular drop-ins/learning walks Work Scrutiny Student Voice Monitoring Exam Results Regular meetings with line manager, Subject leader meetings
5) Continuing Professional Development	CPD provided by exam boards Regular curriculum CPD within trust about mapping out the curriculum Local RE group proving very difficult to set up. Difficulties in communication with other colleagues
6) Timetabling of RE	School A KS3 – 1 hour per week Year 10 – 1 hour per week Core RPE plus 2 GCSE classes Year 11 – 1 GCSE class plus 12+ hours of core RPE provided during PHSE time.



	<p>KS5 – A-level plus some whole school provision (part of departmental targets this year)</p> <p>School B (academy) Pupils have 1 hour a week on RE.</p> <p>School C (LA maintained)</p> <p>KS3 – 2 hrs per fortnight</p> <p>KS4 – 2 hrs per fortnight (Y11 have assemblies and SMSC RS related tasks)</p> <p>KS5 – A level = 9hrs – rest of KS5 have assemblies and SMSC related tasks</p>
7) Use of Agreed Syllabus	<p>School A (LA maintained) Our provision Y7-10 core follows a curriculum designed by us which embraces Local Agreed Syllabus and recommendations from Ofsted.</p> <p>School B (Academy) RE Today Syllabus B</p> <p>School C (LA maintained) Using Agreed Syllabus</p>

Points for consideration

- Responses to the survey were detailed and schools that did respond provided a range of supporting materials including curriculum plans. However, rate of response is still low. For 2024 should SACRE form a working party to refresh the survey and develop a different format e.g. a google form or other smart survey format.



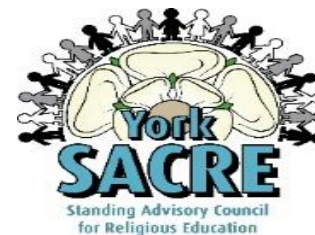
7. The information provided by the survey is helpful in providing an overview of Religious Education. There is clearly good practice in York schools, but mechanisms to share this more consistently need to be developed. The maintained schools heads group has recently started subject network meetings and the feedback from these has been very positive.
8. In the survey sample there were a number of new subject leaders, all commented that they would find it valuable to have support for new subject leaders
9. There were also comments about access to resource banks and building links with visitors from different faith communities.

Maxine Squire

Local Authority Adviser to SACRE

March 2024

This page is intentionally left blank



York SACRE – DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2024

The York SACRE development plan is shaped around the five key functions of SACRES contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit. These are:

1. To improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders
2. Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE
3. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus
4. Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship
5. Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony

York SACRE has begun a programme of self-evaluation activity using the NASACRE self-evaluation tool that underpins identified priorities.

City Of York SACRE: Development Plan 2022 – 2024

Priority 1 and 5: Improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders; Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony							Notes
Target: Raise awareness of and support for the work of City of York SACRE and RE as a subject							
Intended Impact: The work of SACRE is more visible in the City of York							
Actions	Timescale	People involved	Success Criteria	R	A	G	
Increase the profile of SACRE in the community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend governor forums • Profiles of SACRE members on website • Regular newsletters 	Autumn 2022	Members of SACRE Clerk to SACRE	All York schools and local and wider community aware of the role of SACRE	X			The membership has been updated but profiles are not present, not attending governor forums or regular newsletters
Continue to review the membership of SACRE to ensure that it continues to represent all significant Faith groups in York and to increase the number of teachers	On-going	Members of SACRE	SACRE membership includes all significant Faith groups in York and increased number of teachers			X	We have increased membership in terms of humanists and number of teachers but we need to look to increase other groups, such as Hindus.
Support the Interfaith logo competition	Autumn 2022	Chair of SACRE LA Adviser support SACRE Members of SACRE	Schools have a better understanding of the work of Interfaith York			X	This action was achieved, but has it led to better understanding of interfaith?

Establish links with existing youth voice groups e.g. York Youth Council Access for All Show me that I matter	On-going	Chair of SACRE LA Adviser support SACRE	The voice of children and young people informs the work of SACRE		X		SACRE members have met with some young people on their experiences of RE in schools. However further work is needed to engage with the specific groups listed.
---	----------	--	--	--	---	--	--

Priority 2: Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE							Notes
Target: R.E. teachers are provided with high quality professional development which meets their needs and supports the delivery of the agreed syllabus							
Intended Impact: The quality of R.E. teaching in the City of York is consistently good or better							
Actions	Timescale	People Involved	Success Criteria	R	A	G	
Commission a programme of CPD to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus	2022-24	Members of SACRE RE Adviser to SACRE LA adviser to SACRE	95% of evaluations from CPD events are good and better. Take up for CPD increases.	X			

Re-establish secondary network meetings	Autumn 2022	RE Adviser to SACRE LA adviser to SACRE	At least 60% of schools attend network meetings	X			
---	-------------	--	---	---	--	--	--

Priority 3 and 4: Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus and Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship							Notes
Target: SACRE has an improved understanding of the provision of RE in York schools							
Intended Impact: York schools are compliant in meeting the statutory requirements for Religious Education							
Action	Timescale	People involved	Success Criteria	R	A	G	
SACRE will have an annual programme of reports from RE subject leads	2022-23 2023-24	SACRE members Primary and secondary RE subject leads	SACRE has an improved understanding of RE provision in schools	X			A report was written for Ralph Butterfield School
Collate all contact details for RE leads in primary and secondary schools	September 2022 September 2023 September 2024	LA Adviser to SACRE	SACRE has an updated directory of school contacts to improve communication with schools				This will need to be updated regularly.
School visits planned to share good practice and take feedback from schools to inform the work of SACRE. Widen the number of SACRE members who undertake school visits. This can include virtual visits and schools focus group opportunities.	2022-23 2023-24	SACRE members RE adviser to SACRE LA adviser to SACRE	Programme of visits/online meeting opportunities planned and agreed at SACRE board. Visit reports evaluated to identify support needs and actions for schools and SACRE		X		There was a visit to Ralph Butterfield school. 2 more visits to primary schools are planned in; one secular, one church.

This page is intentionally left blank

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Tr](#)

Latest news and updates from NASACRE

[View this email in your browser](#)



National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 37

This issue includes:

- **Welcome from the Chair**
- **Westhill Awards**
- **AGM and Conference**
- **Executive Committee Elections**
- **Subscribing to NASACRE**
- **Webinar Programme**
- **Website Update**
- **Ofsted and RE**
- **RE Hubs Update**
- **Holocaust Memorial Day 2024**
- **Ramadan 2024**
- **Items for your SACRE Agenda**

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the NASACRE Briefing and we wish you a peaceful and productive year. As you can see from this edition, the NASACRE Executive committee is already busy supporting members and liaising with subject associations and partners, and we are planning our AGM and conference in May.

Our theme in this Briefing seems to one of celebration in challenging times. Looking back over introductions to past Briefings, this isn't new. I have been overwhelmed again by the evidence of great RE – or in Religion and Worldviews education. There is some evidence to show the opposite, but we won't dwell on that here, although the OFSTED annual report findings are evidenced **below**. The report is clearly pointing towards government action on RE.

Where there is good or excellent practice, it's important to celebrate it locally and nationally, and the Westhill Awards (**item below**) are a great opportunity to engage in promotion and celebration of innovative and positive practice. The **NATRE 'Spirited Arts' competition** (in its 20th year), and the **RE Quality Mark** and **WIRE Awards** are also used by some SACREs and schools to achieve similar aims. Is your SACRE aware of schools with these awards? Could you set up a project or event to share their work?

The Association is also aware of the need for members to be supported through challenges as well as positive achievements. The two are often co-dependent. As many prepare for Agreed Syllabus reviews, we offer training and networking to see you through the complexities of curriculum change and professional development (see **webinar programme section** and our March webinar). We have also noted key events for religions and worldviews below and encourage you all to discuss the significance of commemorations, festivals and rites of passage in your communities. SACREs have a vital part to play in interfaith dialogue and adult education, and the shared resources section of the website (see **website update section**) is where to look for SACREs that have experiences and resources to pass on.

And it is time (again) to start thinking about who could join us here on our Executive committee - please raise this on your agendas. NASACRE is not a national SACRE, it is a membership organisation that only exists because of the volunteer time and expertise shared with others, and the subscriptions from the membership and their local authorities.

Thank you all for your work locally, regionally, nationally – and we look

forward to hearing from you soon.

Linda

We're sad to report the peaceful passing of our Baha'i colleague Elizabeth Jenkerson, who faithfully served on the Exec for 10 years or more. We acknowledge her valued contribution to NASACRE, especially her enthusiastic work on planning our annual conference and AGM over several years.



Westhill Awards

It's the time of year for SACREs to submit their applications for a Westhill/NASACRE Award. The £4000 (max) award is intended to fund a SACRE-led project that will enhance the quality of RE and or collective worship in local schools, with the potential to have wider, lasting impact. The theme for this year is ***Education into Diversity***. The **Westhill website** has further information and reports from many winning projects.

The **NASACRE website** has more information, providing links to the application form/notes, as well as to a **recording of the autumn term webinar**. This session demonstrated the application process, the criteria and some examples of recently successful projects.

The closing date for applications is 31 March and winners will be announced at our 2024 AGM and Conference in May.

AGM and Conference

Monday 20 May 2024 #NASACRE24

Venue: Hilton York

Theme: *How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?*

Maximum 2 delegates per SACRE, after which a waiting list will be offered.

Whilst we hope that many of you will join us in person, we also offer an online Zoom

option at the same price.

For further details and to book, please visit the [Conference page](#) on our website.

Subscribed SACREs

£120 per delegate, including a choice of 2 online workshops to be delivered in June*

£170 per delegate, including a choice of 2 online workshops to be delivered in June*

which 2 additional SACRE members may attend

Non-subscribed SACREs

£160 per delegate, including a choice of 2 online workshops to be delivered in June*

£30 per delegate per online workshop

***ONLINE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

Dates: Monday 3 June - Thursday 6 June on Zoom at various times - details will be on the [website](#) once confirmed.

We will be running an inspiring range of workshops, and if your SACRE would like the opportunity to present work you are proud of, please email admin@nasacre.org.uk by the end of February. SACRE winners of Westhill/NASACRE Awards will be sharing their projects. Our conference organisers would be delighted to discuss with you how best to share your work.

Executive Committee Elections

We ask your SACRE to consider nominating up to two candidates to the NASACRE Exec. At the AGM, there will be elections for at least 3 new members, plus the Secretary and Treasurer roles. We shall be looking for skills in managing conference, communications and development planning. Further details, once confirmed, will be on the [website](#) with nomination forms.

Catherine Hughes, a member of St Helens SACRE, was elected last year.

She writes:

It has been a privilege to be elected on to the NASACRE Executive after being nominated by my SACRE. I have felt welcomed and that my personal skills and experience are valued, especially when I share my current experience from the classroom and from other teachers. It is a great opportunity to be part of such an important organisation that has such a national voice and a clear drive to ensure all students receive quality RE across the country. It has allowed me to develop my own CPD and understanding of SACRE and the work of NASACRE, as well as growing my own network of support and making national links.

Nominations must be received by 5pm on Friday, 10 May 2024

Subscribing to NASACRE

Is your SACRE a **subscribed member** of NASACRE?

If not, you are missing out on the subscriber-only content and a range of other benefits such as:

- 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 NASACRE conference and other meetings.

If you want to check your subscriber status, look for the coloured logo after the name of your LA on the **SACRE Contacts** page for further information. The rates for 2023-24 are:

Annual subscription: **£105**

Additional training package: **+£50**

Contact **admin@nasacre.org.uk** to update your subscription.

Webinar Programme

Since September we have run 5 webinars with over 145 people attending – so a lot has been going on and this next term is no less busy!

Recent feedback from participants:

The webinar programme is great as there is always clear information given, you get to see what others are doing around the country and often get to chat with colleagues.

Webinars provide me with lots of clarification. Good sharing of best practice always enriches me.

Please see below our webinars in the next three months.

(Sometimes we also have joint seminars with AREIAC.)

Thursday 18th January 2024, 6:30-8pm:**Using data effectively as a SACRE**

Special guest: Deborah Weston

Description: This session will help SACRE chairs/vice chairs and professional support officers to make effective use of the data that NATRE, NASACRE and the DfE provides, as well as ensuring that local data can be drawn upon.

Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.

Thursday 22nd February 2024, 4-5:30pm:**Being an effective SACRE clerk, part 2**

Led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton

Description: 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 the clerk's role within SACRE, focusing on minute-taking, SACRE composition and your constitution/terms of reference.

Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.

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 the National Association of Funeral Directors

Description: This session will help SACREs to reflect on what they do at present 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 themes in their Agreed Syllabus.

Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.

Tuesday 12th March 2024, 7-8pm:**Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference – legalities and processes**

Led by: Paul Smalley with Linda Rudge

Description: This session will share the legal process and best practice suggestions for convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for your SACRE.

Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.

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

Website Update

The Communications Group on the Executive, working closely with our Administrator Marie, is working hard to revamp the NASACRE website. We aim to make it more accessible and useful to all SACREs. You will find some new sections and see that others have been revised. One new page, which draws together materials previously posted in a range of sections, is the '**Managing SACREs**' page which is accessible to all SACREs and contains some items, e.g. relevant FAQs and responses that were previously password-protected for subscribing SACREs.

A **Noticeboard** is now included for all SACREs, where news and up-to-date information will be posted regularly.

Meanwhile, the '**Shared Materials from SACREs**' subscriber-only section where SACREs share their work with others, is reorganised. If you are a subscribing SACRE, please share useful advice and guidance when you can. If SACREs want to rebadge or use the work of others, please make sure you inform the original creators and acknowledge the work of others within your document.

The NASACRE website revamp is work in progress, so keep looking for more changes going live. We welcome your comments and suggestions to make the site even better!

Ofsted and RE

At the end of the Autumn Term, Ofsted published its **Annual Report** from the Chief Inspector. This year there were references to individual subjects, including RE:

RE in schools is generally of poor quality. Although it is a statutory subject, schools often consider RE as an afterthought. As a subject on the curriculum, it is undervalued. RE is a complex subject, and the lack of clarity and support from government makes schools' job harder. Some schools steer through these challenges well, but most do not. We found that:

- *many schools do not meet the statutory requirement to teach RE at all stages*
- *pupils are rarely taught enough substance to prepare them to engage in a complex, multi-religious and multi-secular society (where religion and non-religion play different parts in different people's lives)*
- *too often, schools do not teach topics in the RE curriculum deeply enough for pupils to develop a substantial understanding of the subject matter*
- *non-examined RE is typically not high quality.*

All pupils should develop a broad and secure knowledge of the complexity of religious and non-religious traditions. It will take coordinated effort by stakeholders to improve the quality of RE in schools:

- *schools need high-quality professional development to teach RE well*
- *curriculum publishers need to identify clearly what pupils will learn and when, building on knowledge over time, so that pupils develop a deep knowledge of the chosen religious and non-religious traditions*
- *the government should provide clear expectations about RE provision in schools. Schools should follow these. Current non-statutory guidance for RE should be updated and include clear information for schools about the breadth and depth of the syllabus they are expected to teach.*

These findings reflect what NASACRE and other RE organisations have been saying for many years, so there are really no surprises! Discuss this document at your next SACRE meeting and consider your response.

The long-awaited Ofsted *RE Subject Report* is due to be published soon, so please ensure that you keep your eyes open for that. We will get a link to it on our new **Noticeboard** page as soon after publication as possible.

RE Hubs Update

1. NASACRE was very pleased to partner with RE Hubs to hold nine *In Conversation* events across England during November. Notes were made of questions, ideas, concerns and developments at each meeting where SACREs sent a representative. The NASACRE Exec meets in early February to discuss and process these and we will let you know any updates. We are very grateful for the time given by many hard-working colleagues on SACREs and hope we can hold more such meetings in the future.
2. RE Hubs continue to run FREE Places of Interest and School Speaker training (POI & SS). Has your SACRE invited your religion and worldview representatives to do the training? Feedback from SACRE members: *The training was very informative, and it provided a good opportunity to discuss thoughts in the breakout groups. Very focused and engaging presentation where we were able to share and learn from experience. I thought that 90 minutes was just right! I will recommend this training to other SACRE members.*
Please advertise the **training flyer** to local worldview communities.
3. RE Hubs are now partnering with NATRE to run FREE training for those new to leading a local RE group and supporting other teachers.

If your SACRE has teacher members who are interested to help to lead your group or maybe to start up a new group, the next series of virtual trainings are:

Session 1 - Thursday 14th March @ 4-5:30pm

Session 2 - Thursday 18th April @ 4-5:30pm

Session 3 - Thursday 16th May @ 4-5:30pm

4. RE Hubs partner with NATRE and AREIAC to provide professional development opportunities for those advisers and teachers who already run a local RE support group. The next virtual meeting is:
Wednesday 17th April @ 4-5:30pm
5. RE Hubs partner with the REC, NATRE and AREIAC to work with MAT RE leads (those leading RE across several schools). Such new positions are starting to appear, so we are bringing colleagues together to learn from each other. The next virtual meeting is on 25th April @ 4-5:30pm and if your SACRE has a MAT rep or contact with local MATs, please highlight this opportunity.
6. SACRE members may find our website www.re-hubs.uk useful as we aim to be a one-stop resource for everyone involved in high quality RE/RVE/R&W.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) has been commemorated nationally on January 27th every year since 2001. This date was selected as it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest concentration and death camp, by the Soviet army in 1945. This year's theme, '**Fragility of Freedom**', reflects the persecution and genocides of 6 million Jewish men, women and children by the Nazis and more recent genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia and Darfur.

Many areas hold local events to mark this day and details can be found on the internet. We would be happy to share details on the NASACRE website of any events that are being organised or supported by SACREs.

For further information, please see the [Holocaust Education Trust](#).

Ramadan 2024

The Islamic calendar is lunar and has 354 or 355 days. Therefore, precise dates cannot be forecast as they depend on the sighting of the moon.

In 2024 Ramadan begins on March 10th plus or minus a day, dependent on the

moon sighting. Prayer times for Ramadan may be found on many mosque websites.

Eid-ul-Fitr (the festival marking the end of Ramadan) falls on 9th April (plus or minus a day).

Your SACRE may wish to remind schools to support the needs of Muslim pupils and staff during the fast. As in previous years, teachers will appreciate that the routine of Muslim families is entirely different during Ramadan. Young children may well become more tired or excitable during school time, even if they are not fasting themselves. Those students who are fasting may become very tired and thirsty during the school day.

Items for your SACRE agenda

- Share materials with your schools about Holocaust Memorial Day
- Ensure that schools have up-to-date Ramadan guidance
- Sign up for NASACRE webinars
- Explore the RE Hubs website
- Discuss the Ofsted report
- Consider nominations to the Exec and who to book for conference



Follow us on Twitter



Copyright © 2024 NASACRE, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

