

## Notice of a public meeting of

### SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)

To:

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)

Imam Amar (Faith/Muslim)

Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish)

Mark Jones (Faith/Buddhist)

Fleur Kennedy (Faith/Bahai'i)

Colin Lewisohn (Faith/Humanist)

Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan)

Tony Lawton (Faith/Catholic)

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)

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, 10 March 2026

**Time:** 6.00 pm

**Venue:** West Offices

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 6)  
To receive and note apologies for absence.

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 7 - 12)  
To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 14 October 2025.
- 3. SACRE Annual Report** (Pages 13 - 20)  
To approve the SACRE Annual Report.
- 4. Review of the Agreed Syllabus**  
**To discuss the** Review of the Agreed Syllabus.
- 5. Update from Interfaith**  
To receive an update from Interfaith.
- 6. Delivery of the SACRE Development Plan**  
To review the SACRE development plan. The plan is shaped around the five key functions of SACREs contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit.
- 7. SACRE Visit to Joseph Rowntree School,  
Wednesday, 25 March 2026**
- 8. NASACRE News Issue 2** (Pages 21 - 32)
- 9. Correspondence on complaints/determinations**  
A verbal update will be given on complaints received and the determinations in respect of those complaints.
- 10. Any Other Business**
- 11. Future Meeting Dates**  
21 April 2026 at 6:00pm at West Offices

Democracy Officers

Angela Bielby

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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.

## Alternative formats

To request reasonable adjustments or to provide this document in an alternative language or format such as large print, braille, audio, Easy Read or BSL, you can:



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**We can also translate into the following languages:**

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 آسب کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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**Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members**

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

<b>Type of Interest</b>	<b>You must</b>
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) <b>OR</b> 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) <b>OR</b> 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.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	14 October 2025
Present	<p><u>Group A</u>  Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)  Imam Amar (Faith/Muslim)  Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish)  Colin Lewisohn (Faith/Humanist)  Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan)  Tony Lawton (Faith/Catholic)</p> <p><u>Group B</u>  Joseph Everdell (CoE)</p> <p><u>Group C</u>  Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree School)</p> <p><u>Group D</u>  Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) (City of York Council)  Cllr Emilie Knight (City of York Council)  Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)</p>
In Attendance	<p><u>LA Officer</u>  Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills, City of York Council)  Stephen Pett (RE Today)</p>
Apologies	Councillor Rowley, Karen Vincent, Fleur Kennedy, Sue Bland and Mark Jones

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### **11. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6:02pm)**

Apologies for absence were received and noted for Karen Vincent, Mark Jones, Fleur Kennedy, Sue Bland and Cllr Rowley. Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. There were none.

[Penny Coppin-Siddall arrived at 6.03pm]

## **12. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6:06pm)**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held on 15 May 2025 and 15 July 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Matters arising: Maxine Squire reported that the next school visit would be on 26 November 2025 to Joseph Rowntree School. Cllr Knight and Ben Rich undertook to attend the visit. Following a question from a Member regarding the informal meeting, Maxine Squire noted that she would send out an update. It was noted that the Chair had visited York Mosque and he noted that the informal meeting had been arranged to address flag flying and how SACRE could support RE teachers.

## **13. School Survey 2025 (6:13pm)**

Maxine Squire reported that the School Survey focussed on a review of the Agreed Syllabus and areas where RE teachers needed additional support. She noted that there had been increased and more detailed responses due to the survey being online. She added that responses had been received from 7 out of 9 secondary schools and 18 primary schools and there had been a lot of support for the Agreed Syllabus with some suggested changes. Teachers also responded that they felt confident in teaching RE. The results showed that the demography of RE teachers was white British and a third were Christian, a third were of no faith and there was a younger demographic. The results also showed Christianity and Islam being the faiths taught in schools and teachers noted that they would benefit from more curriculum resources. The two teacher SACRE members were asked and explained their experience of teaching the Agreed Syllabus and Diocesan curriculum in their respective schools.

Resolved: That the contact lists, core offer and links to trusted sources of information would be updated.

Reason: To ensure the information was up to date.

## **14. Renewal of SACRE development plan (6:35pm)**

Stephen Pett, RE Advisor at RE Today, whose syllabus was used by York SACRE, was introduced to members. Maxine Squire confirmed that the current Agreed Syllabus could be extended. Stephen Pett explained that RE Today was a charity and that York had used the RE Today syllabus since 2016. He outlined the Agreed Syllabus options from RE Today as being Option 1 the systematic approach and Option 2 the religion and world views approach. He detailed what was contained in each of their curriculum and the feedback from Gloucestershire schools using the Option 2 syllabus.

Stephen Pett was asked and confirmed that there could be a modernised version of the thematic approach. He was also asked and explained that the world view approach allowed for some thematic approach. A Member noted concern in moving away from what teachers said that they like as shown in the feedback from the school survey. A member asked if SACRE could have a third options for a modernised syllabus as well as Options 1 and 2.

Members discussed the Agreed Syllabus Conference, with Stephen Pett advising that RE Today could extend the licence by a year and that they could look at amendments to the current Agreed Syllabus. Following discussion, it was;

Resolved:

1. That the Agreed Syllabus be delayed by a year.
2. At the January meeting look at options for the Agreed Syllabus with Stephen Pett in attendance.
3. The Chair to email members for their views on the Agreed Syllabus

Reason: To renew the Agreed Syllabus.

### **15. Update from Interfaith (7.13pm)**

Penny Coppin-Siddall noted that SACRE working with York Interfaith would be an opportunity to look at unity. Maxine Squire agreed to circulate their newsletter to York schools.

### **16. Views of RE Teachers (7.15pm)**

The Chair explained that he wanted unity to be part of the syllabus and the new syllabus would be an opportunity to address unity between communities. A member asked if schools could be asked about how they were dealing with the issues with flags and Maxine

Squire explained that schools had been finding the situation very difficult with maintained Headteachers needing be careful and supportive around discussions regarding flag. The Chair noted that he was working with York Mosque regarding engagement with school. Following discussion the Chair noted that clarity was needed on what schools were doing and how SACRE could support them.

Resolved: Maxine Squire to ask schools about their approach to the flag flying at the Schools Forum meeting and following day and feedback to members at the next SACRE meeting.

Reason: For SACRE to see how it could support schools.

#### **17. NASACRE News Issue 1 (7.31pm)**

The latest NASACRE briefing was noted.

#### **18. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (7.32pm)**

It was noted that no complaints had been received, and no determinations submitted. It was noted that headteachers would be reminded of their duties in relation to RE and the need to submit determinations to SACRE.

#### **19. Any Other Business (7.32pm)**

It was agreed that the Chair and Maxine Squire would meet to discuss the Development Plan.

Maxine Squire reported that a Headteacher had reported an increase in parents withdrawing their children RE and she undertook to remind schools about the process for withdrawing children from RE.

#### **20. Future meeting dates (7.35pm)**

January date tbc

10 March 2026 at 6.00pm at West Offices

21 April 2026 at 6.00pm at West Offices

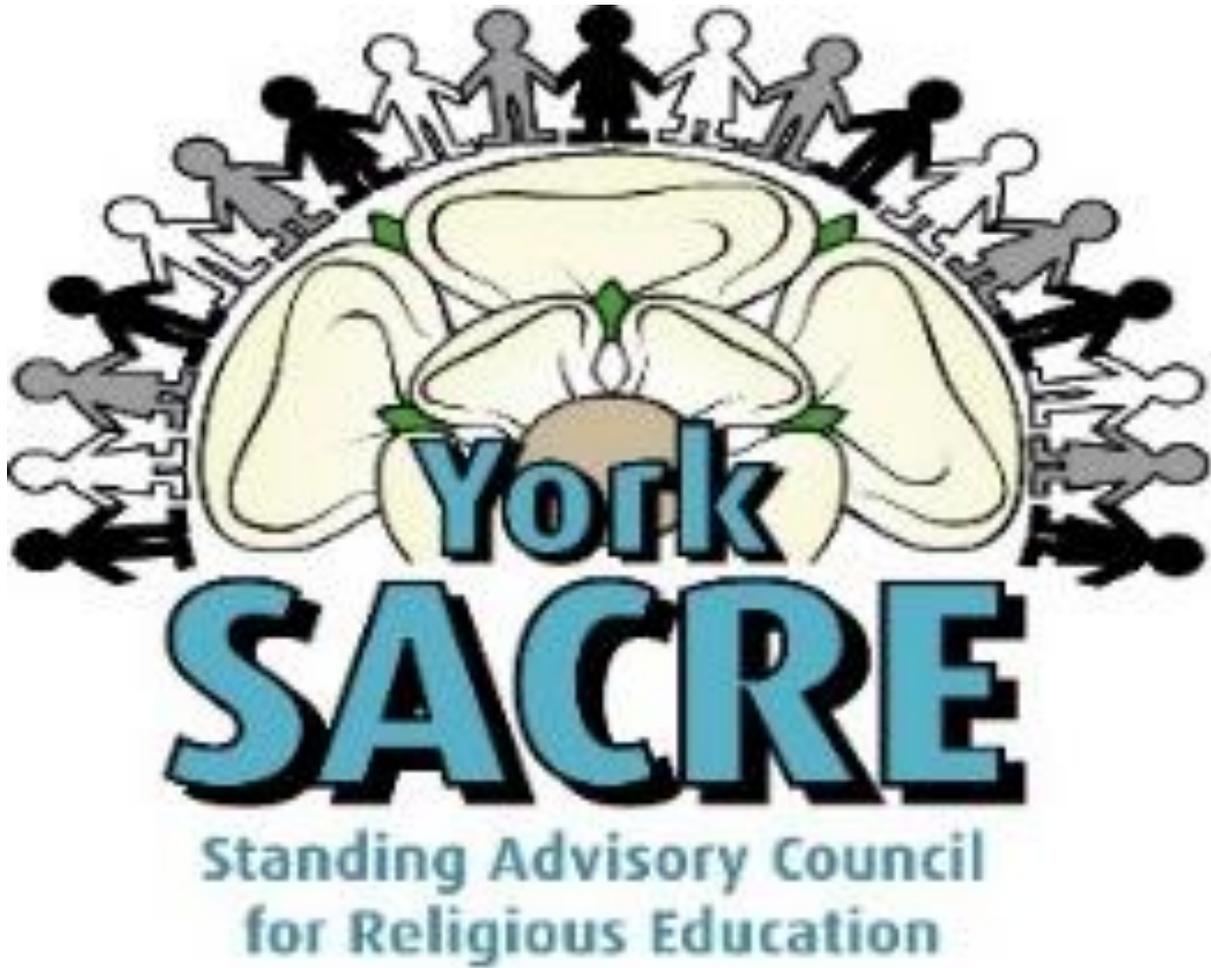
Cllr Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.35 pm].

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**City of York SACRE Annual Report 2024-25**



**1. Introduction**

**Foreword by the Chair of SACRE**

**Cllr Bob Webb, Executive Member for Children and Education**

## Meeting and Attendance 2024-25

City of York SACRE met five times in the academic year 2024-25.

During the academic year 2024-25 City of York SACRE met in hybrid meetings. Ensuring and maintaining quoracy for SACRE meetings is a continuing area for improvement. The introduction of hybrid meetings has proved helpful, particularly for teachers in committee C, however, securing consistent attendance to ensure that all meetings throughout the year are quorate remains a priority.

York SACRE welcomed new members to Committee A in 2024-25 and this has increased the number of faith groups represented on SACRE.

The attendance, by Committee, is set out below:-

Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2025	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Committee A Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities	4	3	4	4	4
Committee B Representing the Church of England	1	0	1	2	1
Committee C Representing teachers	2	2	2	2	0
Committee D Representing City of York Council	3	3	4	3	2
LA Officer	1	1	1	1	1
Total	10 (Quorate)	8 (Inquorate)	11 (Quorate)	11 (Quorate)	7 (Inquorate)

A focus on the SACRE development plan, a report from the Local Authority officer (including a focus on standards) and a report on national NASACRE and RE professional organisations updates are standing items at each meeting. In 2024-25 there has also been a focus on beginning the review of the Agreed Syllabus.

## 2. RE (statutory responsibilities)

### Locally agreed syllabus

There are 17 primary, 2 secondary and 1 special maintained schools who follow the City of York Locally Agreed Syllabus

There are 27 primary, 4 secondary and 1 special academies who have adopted the City of York Locally Agreed Syllabus

Separate regulations covering maintained special schools require them to ensure that as far as practicable every pupil receives opportunities to explore RE. The City of York Agreed Syllabus 2021-2026 includes specific guidance and support for Special Schools. Special Schools use the City of York Locally Agreed Syllabus, at least partially, and adapt it to meet the needs of the pupils.

**Standards and monitoring of RE**

There were 24 inspections of York Schools between September 2024 and July 2025. 19 primary schools were inspected, 1 secondary special school and 4 secondary schools. No concerns about R.E. were raised through these reports.

**Key Stage 4 Results**

	<b>Entries</b>	<b>Grade 4+%</b>	<b>Grade 1-9%</b>
2025	768	81.4	99.16

**Key Stage 5 Results**

4 out of the 5 11-18 secondary schools in the City plus York College entered students for the A2 level examinations in Religious Studies. Huntington had 16 entries; All Saints 14, Archbishop Holgate’s 12 and Fulford 9. York College entered 106.

<b>Entries</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>172</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>174</b>

**Teaching, training and materials and advice for schools**

The results from the annual survey to schools are being used to inform the SACRE Development Plan and to identify priorities for further training and advice for schools during the academic year 2024-25.

During 2024-25 York SACRE has continued to promote the support that can be accessed via the Regional R.E. Hub.

The 2024-25 Schools Survey has been used to gain feedback on the Agreed Syllabus to inform the review:

- The current syllabus is felt to be helpful and many responses felt it needed to be updated rather than completely changed
- Resources to support specific lessons were felt to be a need
- NATRE resources were identified as being detailed and helpful
- It was felt that study of the following faiths should be central in any revised syllabus: Buddhism, Sikhism, Christianity and Islam

The review of the Agreed Syllabus will be considered during 2026/27 and this will be completed in the context of the findings of the Curriculum and Assessment review.

City of York SACRE received no formal complaints regarding RE provision in the academic -year 2024-25.

### **3. Collective Worship**

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework and in the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE published guidance in 2017 to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance is available on the City of York SACRE website ([www.york.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.york.gov.uk/sacre)).

Schools may apply to SACRE for a determination in order to provide Collective Worship of a non-Christian or other form. As in previous years, no determinations were requested by schools.

There were no complaints registered with City of York SACRE in 2024/2025 in respect of collective worship.

### **4. Links with other bodies**

City of York SACRE has a long- standing relationship with York Interfaith Group. York Interfaith Group have set up a mechanism to support visits and visitors to York schools.

City of York SACRE continues to support the York Holocaust Memorial Day event.

### **5. City of York SACRE's own arrangements**

During the academic year 2024-25 City of York SACRE continued its close relationship with City of York Council's Democratic Services. An officer in the Local Authority's Democratic Services Section acts as Clerk to SACRE.

During 2024-25 a review of the SACRE development plan took place. This review of the development plan has been designed to ensure that SACRE has a clear focus on agreed areas of work which will require a programme of activity to be developed between SACRE meetings. This will then allow members to receive regular updates on the progress of actions identified in the development plan.

The visibility of York SACRE remains a priority, particularly to ensure that it is better understood by schools. This will be promoted through providing opportunities for hearing the voices and experiences of R.E. teachers to ensure that SACRE has a clear understanding of the quality and effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in York.

In 2024-25 the members of York SACRE also discussed the importance of supporting schools with work to support community cohesion and this will continue to be a focus for York SACRE as it looks to engage with the breadth of faith and non-faith communities in the City.

<b>Review of the Agreed Syllabus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members to ensure that a plan for the review of the syllabus has been actioned</li><li>• SACRE to have more opportunities to engage with RE teachers and children and young people to understand the quality and impact of the Agreed Syllabus</li></ul>
<b>Promote improvement in standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SACRE to sponsor a conference for RE teachers and run webinars linked to the Agreed Syllabus</li><li>• Continue school visits with a focus on secondary schools</li><li>• Promote the RE Hub resources</li></ul>
<b>Contribute to cohesion across the community and promotion of social and racial harmony</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to build links to all faith groups in York</li><li>• Continue to have a wide range of members on SACRE</li><li>• Arrange an annual engagement event with children and young people</li></ul>

The people who serve on York SACRE are invited to do so by the Corporate Director of Children’s Services and Education on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four “committees” each comprising representatives of specified groups.

The current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

**Committee A - Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-**

Karen Vincent joined August 2022 (Catholic)

Ben Rich (Jewish)

Keith Albans (Methodist)

Iman Abid Salik (Muslim)  
 Deborah Evans joined March 2021  
 (Religious Society of Friends)  
 Vacant (Salvation Army)  
 Vacant (Sikh)  
 Fleur Kennedy (York Baha'i Community)  
 Penny Coppin-Siddall (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)  
 Colin Lewisohn (Humanist)  
 Dee Boyle (Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan)  
 Mark Jones (Buddhist)

**Committee B - Representing the Church of England:-**

Sue Bland (Diocese of York)  
 Joseph Everdell

**Committee C - Representing Teachers:-**

Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree)  
 Diane Norton (University of York St John) joined SACRE in October 2023

**Committee D - Representing the City of York Council are Councillors:-**

Emilie Knight (Lib Dem)  
 Martin Rowley (Con)  
 Sarah Wilson (Labour)  
 Bob Webb (Labour) appointed Chair June 2023

**In attendance:-**

Maxine Squire (Education Adviser)  
 Angela Bielby (Clerk)

**Finance – annual budget**

York’s SACRE is assigned an annual budget of £3,500. A summary of spend in 2024-25 is shown in the table below:

Item	Total Spend
NASACRE annual membership fee for 2024-25	£115.00
NASACRE conference fees	£240.00
<b>Total spend 2024-25</b>	<b>£355.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£3,145.00</b>

**Circulation**

This report is circulated to:

- NASACRE

- Department for Education
- City of York Council Children, Communities and Culture Scrutiny
- City of York schools
- SACRE members representative bodies

Latest news and updates from NASACRE

## **NASACRE NEWS**

**Essential reading for SACREs**

**Issue: 2**



*This issue includes:*

- [Chair's Welcome](#)
- [Meet the New Exec](#)
- [Curriculum and Assessment Review \(CaAR\)](#)
- [Local Government Reorganisation](#)
- [Webinars to support effective SACREs](#)
- [NASACRE In conversation](#)
- [Conference and AGM](#)
- [Westhill/NASACRE Awards](#)
- [Shared Materials](#)
- [Ramadan](#)
- [Jewish Culture Month](#)
- [National Inter Faith Week 2025](#)
- [Is your SACRE subscribed?](#)
- [Items for your next Agenda](#)

### **Chair's Welcome**

Happy New Year to you all!

It is a privilege to work alongside other Executive Members and two more of our most recent colleagues, Lorna and Jane, introduce themselves below, each bringing a wealth of experience and their own perspective to inform and support our work.

Your Exec representatives (Trustees!) continue to work to support SACREs and RE across England and what follows gives a flavour of that work. As we move into 2026,

there is much happening in the world of RE, not least of which is the work to be done to implement the recommendations from the [Curriculum and Assessment Review](#). We published our response on 5 November and if you have not already, you may access it [here](#). More [below](#).

Our annual conference and webinars are such an important part of NASACRE's work in supporting SACREs. Use the website as much as you can to find information about our work and how it may benefit you and your SACRE. You might even offer contributions to share your SACRE's work!

Inter Faith Week in November was a huge success and some of the work involving schools and SACREs is described below. NASACRE has been part of the IFW steering group for the last two years.

A couple of quick points for your information:

1. Please check that your [contact details](#) on our website are up-to-date and contact Marie [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk) with any changes. Please ensure that your contacts consent to NASACRE holding their data and making it public. Under GDPR, you must inform us of any changes, so that we can delete old contact details and replace them with up-to-date ones.
2. We have added two documents to the *Shared Materials* section (for which your SACRE needs to be a subscribed member SACRE). The first is an example of a Vision and Values statement from Buckinghamshire SACRE, to stand alongside a Code of Conduct. The second is a wonderful guidance booklet on Ramadan from Lewisham Islamic Centre and Lewisham SACRE. This is both aesthetically and educationally brilliant!
3. It is interesting to note that Ash Wednesday and the first day of Ramadan fall on the same day, 18 February. This provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on common themes such as fasting, reflection, striving to be the best you can be, and concepts such as sacrifice, spiritual, community. These can link lives of Christians and Muslims, building bridges into pupils' lives and worldviews, and to current global issues. SACREs could support schools in building powerful learning and reflection supporting RE, collective worship and SMSC.
4. Don't forget to share with your SACRE members and contribute to [RE Hubs 3-year celebration and feedback](#).

## Meet the New Exec

2 more members of the new Executive introduce themselves.

## Lorna John



I am delighted to join NASACRE as a member of the Executive and to contribute to its vital work in supporting high-quality Religious Education. I have been a Head of Religious Education for over twenty years, teaching in both the UK and internationally and have been an active member of Croydon SACRE for two decades. More recently, I have been nominated as Vice Chair.

I have completed the two-year Culham St Gabriel's Trust Leadership Programme, which played a significant role in shaping the design and impact of our new Agreed Syllabus. Throughout my career, I have been committed to developing a genuinely global and worldview-rich approach to RE. This has included welcoming Sikh priests and musicians from the Golden Temple of Amritsar into the classroom, supporting students in meeting the Dalai Lama and travelling to NATO Headquarters in Brussels to speak about peace and reconciliation, showcasing students' work from the *Heartstone Storycircles* project.

I look forward to bringing this experience and perspective to NASACRE and to working collaboratively with colleagues nationally to strengthen and champion Religious Education.

## Jane Yates



I joined Cumbria SACRE over 15 years ago as the Humanist member. I became the Chair for 8 years and am now the RE Adviser, which also involves leading RE CPD throughout the year and organising an annual RE conference. I was involved in navigating the intricacies of Local Government reorganisation and the changes this brought to the new Cumbrian SACRE, supporting schools in the newly formed unitary authorities of Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness.

I am the Northwest RE Hubs Lead and am involved in running teacher and speaker training for Humanists UK, recently becoming the Co-ordinator for Assemblies for All. Previously I was an RE and P4C Lead at a primary school for many years and also taught KS3 RE at a large secondary school, both in North Cumbria. I am an alumna of the CStG Leadership Programme and now involved in mentoring on the programme.

In addition to RE, I am a Thoughtful/SAPERE Philosophy for Children (P4C) trainer and work with schools across England, Scotland and Wales – and sometimes internationally. This year, I joined the University of Cumbria to start a PhD, with funding from Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

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## Curriculum and Assessment Review (CaAR)

Work is currently underway to establish an agreed way forward across the sector. Dr Vanessa Ogden is leading a Task and Finish Group and there will be a structured approach to enable the initial report to be submitted to the Government by the end of March. Dr Ogden has set up an Expert Advisory Group to oversee the process and two reference groups:

- Faith and Belief Group
- Teacher Group

NASACRE and AREIAC (the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) will have a proactive role to play in these developments, as we work across both teaching and faith and belief communities.

There is real momentum and rationale behind this move, but also some genuine concerns amongst some teachers and SACREs about what this might mean for the future. There are definitely potential wins here, but also possible notes of caution to be considered, and the next couple of months will be crucial as the Task and Finish Group pulls together a collaborative way forward.

NASACRE will be a key part of this collaboration and the importance of a continued role and place for SACREs is high on the agenda. We will update you on our [website](#) [noticeboard](#) as things progress and encourage your SACRE to discuss thoughts, enthusiasms and concerns.

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## Local Government Reorganisation

NASACRE is raising awareness within the Local Government Association and the DfE of the impact that Local Government Reorganisation will have on those SACREs affected. Our guidance for SACREs can be found [here](#) and please note that our webinar on 22 January ([see below](#)) will be extended by half an hour at the start to focus on reorganisation, for any SACREs affected (6.30-7pm).

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## Webinars to support effective SACREs

NASACRE provides a comprehensive [programme](#) of webinars to develop SACRE members' skills. To book a place on any of the sessions, email [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk)

## Spring Term

**22 January 2026, 6.30-8pm** [Note earlier start time to allow 30 minutes for discussion about the Local Government Reorganisation for those affected. Non-affected SACREs should join for 7pm, as previously advertised.]

***How to ensure your SACRE is fit for purpose  
(Chair/Vice Chair & LA Link Officer focus)***

**23 February 2026, 7-8pm**

***Being an effective SACRE Clerk Pt.4 (looking at nomination processes)***

**10 March 2026, 7-8pm**

***How might SACRE use freely available resources to support high quality RE?***

Spring Term webinars are free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package: £25 for a subscribed SACRE and £35 for a non-subscribed SACRE

## **Oak Academy**

Following our Autumn webinar about Oak Academy Resources, NASACRE has prepared a statement which can be found on the [website](#).

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## **NASACRE In Conversation**

### **An overview of the Autumn Term NASACRE In Conversation sessions across English RE Hubs**

Nine regional NASACRE In Conversation meetings were held November–December 2025. These meetings provided valuable insights into the successes, challenges, and priorities of SACREs across England.

Recurring themes emerged across multiple regions, including:

- The impact of **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** on SACRE structures, funding, and agreed syllabuses. To help with this, we have a [webinar on 22 January](#) to help SACREs affected. We have provided some clear [guidance](#) for SACREs:
- The need for **updated constitutions, codes of conduct, and improved membership recruitment**. Advice on these is already available on the [NASACRE website](#), including the recently revised [NASACRE handbook](#).
- Persistent challenges for SACREs with **annual report submissions and data collection**, particularly from academies.
- Strong consensus on the **importance of RE and the implications of the Curriculum and Assessment Review (CaAR)**.
- The value of **RE Hubs** as a national connector, alongside concerns about sustainability of funding.

- Ongoing issues of **community cohesion**, including prejudice, intolerance, and tensions in schools around difference and diversity – withdrawal from RE and collective worship.

If you have areas that you would like to discuss further in the next **In Conversation** sessions, please contact your NASACRE Exec link person.

The website already has details of the next round of **In Conversation sessions** which take place on various dates during March. These are free sessions, aimed at SACRE Chairs, Vice Chairs, LA Officers and Advisers.

### Conference and AGM

#### **SACREs: Bringing Communities Together**

**18 May 2026 10:30-3:30pm at the Hilton Liverpool City Centre Hotel**

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speakers will be:

- **Dr Vanessa Ogden, CEO of Mulberry Schools Trust** (CaAR Report, Chair of the current Task & Finish Group to shape the future of RE)
- **Carrie Alderton, CEO of the Faith and Belief Forum.**

#### **Delegate costs**

Every subscribed SACRE can send a maximum of 5 delegates; others will go on a waiting list.

NASACRE-subscribed SACREs	
Number of delegates (booked together)	Price, including a choice of 2 online workshops in June
1	£125
2	£230
3	£315
4	£380
5	£445
<b>Bonus offer for subscribed SACREs:                      +£100 for an unlimited number of other SACRE members to attend 2 online workshops running over 4 days in the first week of June</b>	

Non-subscribed SACREs can send a maximum of 3 delegates; others will go on a waiting list.

Non-subscribed SACREs	
Number of delegates (booked together)	Price, including a choice of 2 online workshops in June
1	£165
2	£305
3	£415

Further details about workshops will follow, once sessions are confirmed.

## **Does your SACRE have something to share at the June online workshops?**

We'd love to hear from SACRE members who have examples of good practice, resources or experiences they would be willing to share as part of our series of virtual workshops after the NASACRE Conference. We are keen for an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from one another.

We are looking to provide virtual workshops on the conference theme of **SACREs - Bringing Communities Together**. This might be a SACRE project or event, a successful approach, or a challenge that has led to helpful learning.

If your SACRE has something you'd be happy to contribute to a workshop, please let us know by **Friday 23rd January 2026** - [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk)

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## **Westhill/NASACRE Awards**

There is still another year for your SACRE to consider whether to bid for funding from the **Westhill Endowment Fund**; the deadline for the next round of applications is **28 February 2027**. The new 2-year cycle allows for SACREs to take more time over projects, creating the opportunity to develop ideas more fully and to bid for a larger grant. NASACRE hopes that this will allow for projects to have greater impact and leave a greater legacy. More information about the bid process and the criteria for the 2027 round will follow soon.

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## **Shared Materials**

As mentioned in the [Chair's welcome](#), a new document has been added to the [Shared Materials](#) section of the website.

Buckinghamshire's vision and values document is an example of where a SACRE has discussed its purpose, vision and values linked to the aims of their agreed syllabus, and made it into a statement to sit alongside their Code of Conduct.

This helps to ensure all representatives buy into the ethos of RE in an educational setting and the partnerships involved. Buckinghamshire SACRE is sharing this, not as a model document, but as an attempt to clarify what being part of their SACRE involves. We hope that this might help other SACREs to develop their own vision and values.

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## **Ramadan**

SACREs may wish to provide advice to their schools on catering for the needs of Muslim pupils and staff during the holy month of Ramadan which will start approximately Tuesday 17 February 2026; on the first day fasting will be roughly from 5:29am to 5:24pm. The precise date of the start of the month is dependent on a sighting of the moon.

Muslims approach Ramadan with enthusiasm, and it is customary for them to congratulate one another on its arrival and again at the end of the month for completing the fast.

Because fasting is an obligation for Muslims, teachers can take opportunity to be more inclusive by teaching the pupils about Ramadan and inviting guest speakers from the local Muslim community to explain about how it is marked and what it means to them. This helps Muslim pupils to feel more comfortable fasting within school.

Schools can value and build on the spirit of the month by planning themes based on Ramadan in collective worship / assemblies. Schools may also enter the charitable work of Ramadan by raising funds for the poor and needy.

The month of Ramadan ends with the festival of Eid ul-Fitr, which will take place on either 19 or 20 March. Local mosques will publish prayer and fast times to help schools appreciate better the impact of the change of the rhythm of life at home on the lives of their pupils.

Your SACRE's own published Ramadan advice would be a welcome addition to NASACRE's sharing page! Please send it to Marie [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk)

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### **Jewish Culture Month April-May**

The Board of Deputies has officially launched Jewish Culture Month - a new nationwide celebration that will run during the Jewish month of Sivan (16 May - 14 June 2026). This new initiative will accentuate the positive experiences of British Jews and their contribution to our society by giving a platform to Jewish cultural institutions. There will be support for Jewish centres, including synagogues, schools, and charities, to open their doors to local schools and other groups, and encouragement to British cultural institutions, public bodies and schools to celebrate British Jews. Consider whether your SACRE could encourage something similar in your area.

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### **National Inter Faith Week 2025**

The theme for Inter Faith Week 2025 was **Community: Together We Serve**, highlighting how people of different faiths and beliefs can come together in service and share values. The week coincided with the Remembrance period.

The annual event at Braithwaite Hall was organised by the local interfaith group **Faiths Together in Croydon**, in collaboration with local SACRE members. The programme featured a musical contribution from a primary school, speeches from faith representatives and participation from a local Scout group.

One school presented on how people of different faiths contributed to the war efforts within the borough, titled *United in Valour: The Commonwealth Heroes of Croydon*.

The event was well attended by faith leaders and members of local communities, as well as both the Civic Mayor and the Executive Mayor.



During **National Inter Faith Week 2025** pupils and staff in Coventry and Warwick took part in a range of activities exploring this year's theme, encouraging the school community to learn about different faiths and beliefs, celebrate shared values, and take part in acts of service that make a positive difference.

Across the week, classes engaged in discussions about how people of different religions and worldviews contribute to their communities. Pupils learned about the importance of kindness, cooperation, and respect, and reflected on how these values are expressed in a variety of traditions.

A number of activities took place in school, including:

- **Community service projects** such as collecting donations for local charities and supporting environmental initiatives.
- **Visits and talks** from representatives of different faiths, giving pupils the chance to ask questions and learn from lived experiences.

- **Creative work** with pupils producing artwork, poems, and digital pieces exploring what service and community mean to them.
- **Reflection opportunities** where pupils considered how they can contribute to a more caring and inclusive school environment.

The week helped pupils deepen their understanding of the diverse beliefs within our wider community and recognise the values that unite us. It reminded us that by working together, we can build a school culture rooted in respect, empathy, and shared responsibility.

**Other examples of [interfaith activities](#) are on the website.**

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### **Is your SACRE subscribed?**

Subscribed SACREs have voting rights and access to additional material on the NASACRE website as well as savings on training webinars and AGM attendance. The cost for the annual subscription is kept as low as possible. We list all the advantages on the [website](#) and give details of how your SACRE may subscribe. Subscribed SACREs should have received a new NASACRE username and password for the academic year 2025-26.

**Please inform [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk) if your SACRE has not received it.**

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### **Items for your next Agenda**

- Check that your SACRE has subscribed and paid into the new NASACRE bank account (Account Number: 67410361 Sort Code: 08-92-99)
- Check that all the details for your SACRE are correct on the NASACRE [contacts page](#) and inform [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk) of any changes needed
- Book SACRE members in for [training sessions](#)
- Discuss the latest [analysis of SACRE annual reports](#) and the recommendations
- Look out for the mailing from NATRE to individual SACREs with your DfE schools' data – including Summer 2025 full course results
- SACREs may wish to consider whether they need a vision and values statement; see the example from [Buckinghamshire SACRE](#)
- Check out the NASACRE [noticeboard](#) for all the latest news and information.
- Feed back and discuss the summary points from the Autumn NASACRE [In Conversation](#) sessions
- Discuss how SACREs can make a contribution to community cohesion



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