

Latest news and updates from NASACRE

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NASACRE NEWS

Essential reading for SACREs

Issue: 3



This issue includes:

- [Chair's Welcome](#)
- [NASACRE Conference](#)
- [Webinars to support effective SACREs](#)
- [Future subscription charges](#)
- [Westhill/NASACRE Awards](#)
- [Curriculum and Assessment Review](#)
- [The Curriculum Time Survey](#)
- [NASACRE In Conversation](#)
- [RExChange](#)
- [Protecting What Matters](#)
- [Is your SACRE subscribed?](#)
- [Items for your next Agenda](#)

Chair's Welcome

Welcome to our third newsletter.

So much is going on at the moment and NASACRE Exec has been very active working on behalf of SACREs and both RE and collective worship.

The most obvious activities without a doubt have been our involvement with the Curriculum and Assessment Review and also Local Government reorganisation. We hope that those of you facing this had the opportunity to attend our webinar in January.

Protecting What Matters

The recent policy paper from the government states clearly the role RE and SACREs have to play in the plans for building stronger communities. More information about this can be seen [below](#) and also in our [statement on the website](#).

Speaking of the website, we have been working on a new design. The content will remain the same, but accessing and searching it will be clearer and more user-friendly, to use the jargon (unless, of course, the jargon has changed!). We will be seeking the views of some of you and anticipate it being up and running before the conference.

As you will see [below](#), the conference is shaping up very well. Have you booked your places yet? You only have until the **4th May** to do so! Remember the post-conference workshops as well. We are looking forward to seeing you in Liverpool on **Monday 18th May**.

An interesting social media development is NASACRE's presence on LinkedIn. This is a way for NASACRE to inform people of events, developments and documents. If you are on [LinkedIn](#) please follow us!

We move into the last term of the academic year and the schools you work with will be working hard with their pupils to prepare and support them for tests, exams, transitions and change.

We wish you all the best for the summer term and look forward to seeing you at conference.

Bill Moore
Chair

In-Person NASACRE Conference

SACREs - Bringing Communities Together

18 May 2026

Bookings close at 5pm on Monday 4th May



We are delighted that this year's conference is in the Hilton Hotel Liverpool: 3 Thomas Steers Way, Liverpool L1 8LW

It is a great location just a 15-minute walk from Liverpool Lime Street Station, and we have a wonderful large room

in which to run our day together.



There are networking opportunities over refreshments from 10:30am as well as over lunch. The conference starts formally at 11am and finishes by 3:30pm.

2026 is our first AGM as a CIO, and we have made small improvements to the conference day; for details, please [click here](#). All the booking information and prices can be found on the [Conference and AGM](#) page of the NASACRE website. The full programme for the day is also available on this page.

We have two fabulous keynote speakers that we are really looking forward to hearing.



In the morning we have Carrie Alderton, CEO of the Faith & Belief Forum, who will speak on “**Connection over Division: Lived Experience, Belonging, and the Role of RE in Social Cohesion**”.

In an era where belonging is increasingly contested and weaponised, RE has a vital role to play in helping young people understand themselves, others, and the communities they are part of. This keynote shares practical examples (from the work of the Faith & Belief Forum) of how lived experience in the classroom can foster connection, empathy, dialogue and belonging. For SACRE members, this is a timely opportunity to reflect on how their work can connect classrooms with families and communities, and to seize RE’s unique potential to strengthen social cohesion.



In the afternoon, we have Dr Vanessa Ogden, CEO of Mulberry Schools Trust, who will speak on “**Rejoicing in Difference: SACREs' Role in Building Social Harmony**”.

Having just completed running the Task and Finish work for the DfE to consider whether RE should become a subject within the National Curriculum, Dr Ogden will update SACREs on her findings as well as her vision for how SACREs can contribute to social harmony.

There will also be updates on our current WESTHILL/NASACRE grant awardees’ projects, as well as opportunities for your SACRE representatives to network and participate in thinking together about what our keynote speakers have said.

Elections

As a CIO, our constitution states that at every NASACRE AGM, one third of the elected

charity trustees retire from office (although they may seek nomination and re-election). Therefore, this year (and each year) there are 4 vacancies for trustees. SACREs in paid-up membership are invited to nominate one candidate for election as trustee to serve on the NASACRE Executive; the normal length of service is 3 years. Being a member of the Exec is an active role, requiring a commitment of time and energy to support the work of NASACRE in serving the SACREs. Exec members are volunteers and do not represent specific SACREs or faith groups. In 2026 we are looking for new trustees who can help with finance, communications and conference organisation. Nominations are made [online](#) by **11th May 2026**.

Conference workshops 1st - 4th June 2026 online

We are very grateful for all your ideas for workshops and for some SACREs who are prepared to lead some excellent sessions for us in June. [Click here](#) to see our programme – there are 8 workshops to choose from.

Every conference delegate can attend 2 workshops.

SACREs can purchase attendance at 2 workshops for other SACRE members not at conference, or your whole SACRE - great, affordable CPD for SACRE members.

Here are a couple of quotations from SACRE members last year:

“Really useful to find out what other SACREs do - the workshops were timely and very useful.”

“Coming today has been extremely helpful.”

Webinars to support effective SACREs

NASACRE provides a comprehensive programme of webinars to develop SACRE members, and we are pleased with the success of this year’s programme so far.

Our final webinar of the academic year is on 25th June 2026 from 6:30-8pm:

So, you’ve joined your local SACRE...

This is a free webinar for any SACRE member, whether your SACRE is subscribed or not, running twice a year so that any new members joining SACRE during the year can come on training. It exists to help new SACRE members understand their role, how SACREs work, their statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to a SACRE’s work.

To book a place on this final session of the year please email: admin@nasacre.org.uk

Future subscription charges

The Executive has decided to combine the price of NASACRE membership and the webinar programme into one annual subscription charge. Many LAs have asked for us to have one fee, rather than processing 2 separate fees.

For 2026-27, our new combined subscription charge will be £185. This is a £10 increase from our 2025-26, to cover inflation and our rising costs.

Invoices will be sent to SACRE Clerks by the end of June.

Westhill/NASACRE Awards

There are four SACRE projects currently underway: Barnet, Camden, Haringey and Sunderland and each of them will be presenting for a few minutes at the conference in Liverpool.

It's not too early to begin thinking about whether your SACRE wants to apply for the money to fund a project, as the next round of bids needs to be submitted by 28th February 2027.

As current thinking around RE, worship and spirituality are focusing more on community cohesion, NASACRE has slightly altered the scope of the bids and is looking for projects that promote Unity, Community and Diversity. We are maintaining the current two-year cycle, so awards made in 2027 will have an opportunity to bid for up to £12,000, with projects to be completed by the summer of 2029. There will be an expectation that projects will be presented, either at conference, or in one of the workshops that follow.

All the essential information that a SACRE needs to read prior to completing an application form is on the [NASACRE website](#), along with the application form.

Curriculum and Assessment Review and Consultation on Programmes of Study

In March, having had the opportunity to read the draft programmes of study for RE, we signed a declaration recommending to the Secretary of State for Education that the draft programmes of study for RE be included in the National Curriculum. Whilst we recognise that this will not, in itself, be the solution to all the challenges facing RE, we did, on balance, believe that this is a bold and necessary step towards strengthening our subject and the work of SACREs.

We added a brief statement to the general response:

The NASACRE Executive has discussed the proposals and supports the draft

programmes; we appreciate the work and partnership approach that has been demonstrated throughout their development. We are keen to continue to work with others in the RE sector to strengthen and support the provision of high-quality religious education in all schools. NASACRE Exec recognises that, whilst this is a significant and timely step to secure the future of RE, much still remains to be done. We believe that an enhanced role for SACREs will contribute powerfully to achieving this and will do all we can to develop the capacity of SACREs to fulfil this role, in partnership with other RE bodies and the government.

We now await the Secretary of State's response and, assuming that she agrees to this, there will be a process of consultation and a Phase Two, in which colleagues in the RE sector will work together to implement the recommendations.

The Curriculum Time Survey

Thank you to those SACREs who have completed the Curriculum Time [survey](#). Early data shows that about 95% of Agreed Syllabuses have a recommended time for RE and for almost all it is 5% of curriculum time, or an hour a week, or similar. The survey is open to the end of April.

NASACRE In Conversation

We were delighted to have over 75 SACREs and 130 people present at our regional *NASACRE In Conversation* events in March.

The main points raised were:

- The importance of **local context** in SACRE structures and decision-making
- The growing role of SACREs in **community cohesion**
- The need for **inclusive and consultative approaches** in curriculum development
- Concerns on how the **right to partial withdrawal** is being used to withdraw from a study of certain religions by parents
- It is helpful to **network** on representation on SACREs, codes of conduct and a having/creating a SACRE vision
- A number of regions had SACREs sharing how they are **doing things jointly** as a cost-cutting solution to move forward and make resources go further.

The NASACRE Chairs will raise these points with the DfE and MHCLG in the summer term, to ensure the voice of SACREs is heard nationally. We continue to be grateful for RE Hub support in running these meetings, as well as for all the SACREs who were able to attend.

RExChange

RExChange is a biennial online conference organised by Culham St Gabriel's Trust, with a steering group made up of major RE organisations (e.g., NATRE, AULRE, AREIAC, TRS-UK, NASACRE). It brings together teachers, researchers, advisers, and wider RE professionals to share research, explore new ideas, and strengthen the link between classroom practice and academic scholarship. It will take place on **Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October 2026** and the [call for papers](#) is out now.

This would be a great opportunity for SACREs to showcase their effective work with schools. Even if you don't present, it is free to attend and booking will open in May.

Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom

Through our contacts with both the DfE and the MHCLG, we have been able to raise awareness of the important role that SACREs play in promoting good education and positive community relationships. This is not just through RE, but also through collective worship, where schools share human and educational values. As bodies which hold different faith and belief values together, SACREs are well placed to support in an inclusive and educational way, exploring what we hold in common and how we experience, express and respond to our shared human values. This important role of SACREs has now been recognised and reflected in the recent policy paper *Protecting what matters: towards a more confident, cohesive and resilient United Kingdom*. This is an encouraging development involving the DfE and the MHCLG working together. NASACRE is exploring with them how SACREs can be strengthened and better supported.

Is your SACRE subscribed?

Subscribed SACREs have access to additional material on the NASACRE website and training webinars, as well as savings on AGM attendance and voting rights. The cost of the annual subscription is kept as low as possible. On the website there is a [document](#) listing all the advantages and giving details of how to subscribe if you are not already subscribed.

Invoices for the academic year 2026-27 will be sent to SACRE Clerks by the end of June. A new username and password will be sent to subscribed SACREs on 1st September.

Note there will be a new combined subscription and training charge of £185 for 2026-27 ([see above](#)).

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 of any changes needed
- Book SACRE members for [conference](#)
- Check out the NASACRE [website](#) for all the latest news and information
- Revisit your SACRE's vision and values
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