



**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: Monday, 8 July 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

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 - 14)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 22 January and 19 March 2024.

3. Monitoring of Standards

To receive an update on the Monitoring of Standards.

4. Review of SACRE development plan

To review the SACRE development plan.

- 5. Quality Kite Mark training for organisations or places of worship offering visits into schools**
To consider Quality Kite Mark training.
- 6. Feedback on SACRE school visits**
To receive feedback on SACRE school visits from Cllr Webb and Cllr Knight.
- 7. Feedback from the NASACRE Conference**
To receive feedback from the NASACRE Conference from Taco Michiels and Diane Norton.
- 8. RE Hubs newsletter** (Pages 15 - 18)
To receive the RE Hubs newsletter.
- 9. NASACRE Update** (Pages 19 - 32)
To receive NASACRE Briefing 39.
- 10. Correspondence on complaints/determinations**
A verbal update will be given on complaints received and the determinations in respect of those complaints.
- 11. Any Other Business**
- 12. Future meeting dates**
15 October 2024 at 6pm at West Offices
27 January 2025 at 6pm at Wet Offices
11 March 2025 at 6pm at West Offices
15 July 2025 at 6pm at West Offices

Democracy Officer

Angela Bielby

Contact Details:

Telephone – (01904) 552599

Email – a.bielby@york.gov

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

If you require this document in an alternative language or format (e.g. large print, braille, Audio, BSL or Easy Read) you can:



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www.york.gov.uk/BSLInterpretingService

Select 'Switchboard' from the menu.



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

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.

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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].

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Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	19 March 2024
Present	<u>Group B</u> Sue Bland (Remote)
	<u>Group C</u> Andy Tod Diane Naughton (Remote)
	<u>Group D</u> Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) Cllr Emilie Knight Cllr Sarah Wilson
	<u>LA Officer</u> Maxine Squire (Assistant Director, Education and Skills)
Apologies	Karen Vincent (Group A) Penny Coppin-Siddall (Group A) Ian Hodgson (Group A) Daryoush Mazloum (Group A) Ben Rich (Group A) Imam Ammar (Group A) Joseph Everdell (Group B) Councillor Martin Rowley BEM (Group D)

57. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6:00pm)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Karen Vincent, Penny Coppin-Siddall, Ian Hodgson, Daryoush Mazloum, Ben Rich, Imam Ammar, Joseph Everdell, and Councillor Rowley BEM. There were no declarations of interest.

58. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6:01pm)

Resolved: That the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2024 be deferred to the next meeting.

Reason: This meeting was inquorate and therefore could not transact business on the agenda.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Members discussed the minutes, and it was:

Resolved: That the following comments would be taken to the next meeting for approval:

- A correction was needed to the spelling of Andy Tod's name.
- The last line of Minute No. 51, paragraph 1 could be deleted.
- Ben Rich did not leave the meeting at 6:37pm.
- The Annual Report to NASACRE and the DfE had been submitted.
- The first primary school visits had occurred in Fulford, with the Chair, Councillor Knight, and Sue Bland attending.
- The LA Officer was liaising with Fishergate Primary on the possibility of a future visit.
- The Chair, and Vice Chair had RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated the plan and this was included within the agenda.
- Regarding Minute No. 55, the Chair discussed the possibility of contacting young people for future attendance at SACRE meetings.

Reason: This meeting was inquorate and therefore could not transact business on the agenda.

59. Monitoring of Standards (6:15pm)

The LA Officer presented the report and highlighted that Academy and LA maintained schools were using the agreed syllabus despite there being no requirement to.

Members discussed prioritising the generation of subject networks across maintained schools, and maintaining contact details for Religious Education across schools. It was mentioned that York Interfaith was helpful in forming connection between faiths and the community.

The LA Officer commented on the possibility of the establishment of a task and finish group for investigating ways of improving responses to the annual survey, and members discussed ways to improve responses for the next survey.

Resolved: That the following comments would be taken to the next meeting for approval:

- Diane Naughton would visit the Maintained Group on behalf of York SACRE.

Resolved: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Reason: This meeting was inquorate and therefore could not transact business on the agenda.

60. Review of SACRE development plan (6:32pm)

It was reported that the Development Plan had been devised by the Chair, Vice Chair, and Councillor Rowley BEM.

Members discussed the Development Plan and the following points were raised:

- A sentence introducing SACRE members could be added to the website.
- Primary and Secondary School leaders could be invited to share their thoughts during Compare and Contrast Visits.
- The LA Officer had contacted all schools for an updated contact list in September.

Resolved: That the following comments would be taken to the next meeting for approval:

- That Councillor Knight would adopt the action of drafting SACRE leaflets, along with seeking additional support from Interfaith.
- A discussion on the new development plan would be scheduled for a future SACRE meeting, with the current plan ending this year.
- SACRE would receive a plan by Penny Coppin-Siddal in a future meeting on potential activities for SACRE to partake in with schools during Interfaith Week.

Resolved: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Reason: This meeting was inquorate and therefore could not transact business on the agenda.

61. NASACRE Update (6:51pm)

The LA Officer presented the report and members discussed the possibility of two members attending the NASACRE Conference on 20 May 2024, it was discussed that Taco Michiels and Sue Bland could take these places.

Resolved: That the following comments would be taken to the next meeting for approval:

- That SACRE approves Taco Michiels and Sue Bland's attendance of the NASACRE Conference on behalf of York SACRE.
- That feedback from the NASACRE Conference be added to a future meeting.

Resolved: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Reason: This meeting was inquorate and therefore could not transact business on the agenda.

62. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (6:54pm)

It was reported that there had been no complaints to SACRE and it was:

Resolved:

- i. That this item be deferred to the next meeting.
- ii. That the following comments would be taken to the next meeting for approval:
 - That SACRE would research and test the SACRE of Kirklees Council's Quality Mark which was developed for recommended RE providers and visitors.

Reason: This meeting was inquorate and therefore could not transact business on the agenda.

63. Future meeting dates (6:59pm)

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

64. Any Other Business (7:00pm)

Jerusalem Trust Education Strategy

The LA Officer noted that SACRE had been contacted by the Jerusalem Trust who offered small grant programmes to schools for the purpose of promoting Christianity. It was reported that the Jerusalem Trust had asked SACRE to distribute their details to local schools in order for them to assist with funding applications.

Resolved: That the following comments would be taken to the next meeting for approval:

- That the contact details of Jerusalem Trust would be distributed to local schools by SACRE.

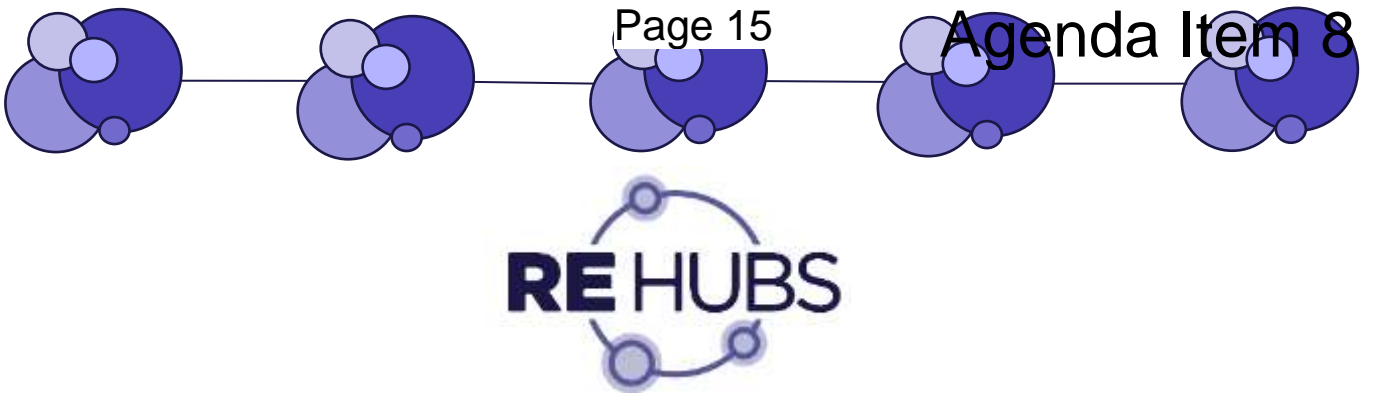
Resolved: That this be deferred to the next meeting.

Reason: This meeting was inquorate and therefore could not transact business on the agenda.

Cllr Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.09 pm].

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Summer term news 2024

Deep and Meaningful? The Ofsted religious education subject report



The long-awaited religious education subject report was published on 17th April 2024 reporting key findings and recommendations for high quality religious education following visits to fifty schools across England. The report highlights the importance of Religious Education as an academically rigorous and personally inspiring subject helping young people make sense of the complex, multifaceted nature of belief in modern Britain.

You can read the full report here: [Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1170424/Deep_and_meaningful?utm_campaign=ofsted-re-report)

Schools Week have published a useful summary of the report.

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/ofsted-criticises-limited-and-poor-quality-re-lessons/>

You can read the joint media release from the Religious Education Council and NATRE here: [Ofsted RE report response FINAL 170424.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](https://natre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Ofsted-RE-report-response-FINAL-170424.pdf)

Teaching School Hubs: Briefing Paper on Religious Education

This short [briefing paper](#) sets out some of the ways in which the RE (religion and worldviews) community can support Teaching School Hubs. This includes providing subject specific knowledge of policy about the subject, content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, and opportunities for teachers to engage with educational theory and research.



New Features on the RE Hubs Website

RE Calendars

<https://www.re-hubs.uk/upskill/re-calendars/>

Are you unsure of what is going on in any given year within different religions and non-religious traditions? We have started to curate a useful place for you to find the answers! This includes a link to the SHAP audio glossary - a very useful resource to support the pronunciation of religious terminology.

RE Calendars



Date

Virtual Tours

A new area of our resources section provides links to virtual tours of a range of places of interest and worship. Find out more here: [Virtual Tours \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk)



Blogs

Blogs are a quick way to connect with current thinking and discussion. For example, this reflection by RE Hubs Lead Jennifer Harding on the Report on the Teaching Provision of Religions, Values and Ethics in Schools in Wales (National Centre of RE for Wales at Bangor University <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/history-law-social-sciences/national-centre-for-religious-education-in-wales>)

Read the blog: [HTTPS://WWW.REONLINE.ORG.UK/2024/04/16/AMALGAMATING-RELIGION-VALUES-AND-ETHICS/](https://www.reonline.org.uk/2024/04/16/amalgamating-religion-values-and-ethics/)

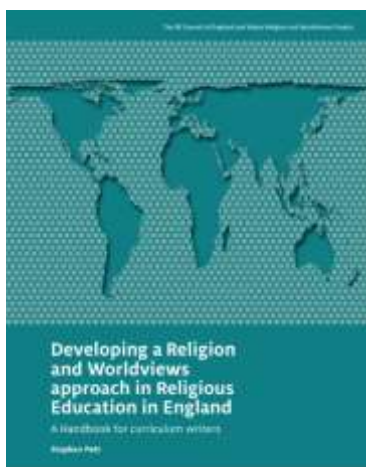
And do not forget the Events Calendar!

[Calendar \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk)

View, sign up for, or share, events that support RE and RVE for example:

[In Conversation: P4C and RE - SAPERE](#)

Religious Education Council's Religion and Worldviews approach curriculum toolkit



The Religious Education Council of England and Wales launched a new curriculum toolkit on 2nd May 2024. This toolkit aims to help schools in England develop a high quality RE curriculum using a religion and worldviews approach. The toolkit contains a handbook for curriculum developers, three curriculum frameworks, and the National Content Standard for RE in England.

The toolkit is the culmination of a three-year Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom project, with the authors drawing on academic research, classroom experience, and further consultation on the landmark 2018 report from the Commission on RE, which recommended steps to both adopt an academically rigorous approach to the subject and reflect the nature of belief and practice in modern Britain.

The resources are available for all teachers, senior leadership teams, and curriculum developers to use in their own contexts. Building on existing best practice in schools, the REC has developed them in partnership with teachers in different communities from multi-academy trusts to schools with a religious character.

[WELCOME TO THE RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS APPROACH TO RE TOOLKIT – REC \(RELIGIOUSEDUCATIONCOUNCIL.ORG.UK\)](https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk)

AREIAC & NASACRE will be running webinars over the next few months to help people unpack the treasure trove contained within these new materials. Look out for further information from your RE Hubs Lead on how to access these webinars.

Launch of the Open University Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub

The Open University's Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub is now live:
<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/religionandworldviews>

The Hub provides accessible resources on religion. It highlights 'Religion and Belief' as a protected characteristic in UK law. Contents and resources include:

- Classroom resources for primary, junior, secondary and sixth form, including: 360-degree tours of London's religious buildings 60 Second Adventures in Religion animations with David Mitchell.
- Continuing Professional Development materials on religion, belief, and diversity for those working in teaching, healthcare, and the wider public sector.
- Training and information on Religion and Belief as a protected characteristic, with resources including articles and videos on religious festivals and specialist resources for example on decolonising Religious Studies.



The content is made by experts in their field from the Religious Studies discipline area in the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in the Open University, along with colleagues in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Languages, the Faculty of Business and Law and OpenLearn. The Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub sits alongside the award-winning Race and Ethnicity Hub.

For more information, please contact liudmila.nikanorova@open.ac.uk or john.maiden@open.ac.uk

Research and Resource Development Opportunities:

Teachers of Buddhism throughout the Secondary Phase

Romana Meere is researching the teaching of Buddhism for her doctoral thesis Department of Education, University of Oxford,

Would you like to be a research participant? It will involve a 30–60-minute conversation, classroom observation over one or two days, some visual methods and photos of classroom displays. For more information or to register an interest, please contact RomanaMeereis@education.ox.ac.uk

Teachers of GCSE Religion/Religious Studies: Antisemitism in the context of GCSE Christianity

Dr Meredith Warren is inviting teachers to take part in a research project on whether antisemitism arises during GCSE teaching about Christianity: specifically on aspects of Jesus and the New Testament.

Participants will share lesson plans and/or activities for relevant taught sessions on Jesus's life and/or teachings, be interviewed on the curriculum covered and how you as a teacher approach the topic. All data will be kept completely anonymous.

3-4 teacher-participants will be chosen for the project. Participants will receive an honorarium of £50.

The research will be used to develop resources for teaching about antisemitism in GCSE contexts on the New Testament and Jesus.

For more information or to express an interest please contact Dr Meredith Warren: m.J.Warren@sheffield.ac.uk and/or visit this link: <https://bit.ly/gcse-re-study>

Teachers of A Level RS – support for the teaching of Christianity

Would you appreciate more detailed and deep professional learning to support the delivery of A Level RS?

We are hoping to fill this gap and need the input of serving teachers to help us shape the programme. Based at Sarum College and drawing on its resources in Theology, Religious Literacy and the interaction of faith and society, the PM Project wants to offer teachers academic depth, broad contextual understanding, and professional nourishment to sustain their work. Initially the focus is on schools teaching the Christianity units, although the program will include philosophical and ethical elements too. Can you help us design the style, scope, and content of this exciting programme?

We seek to convene a group of interested professionals, meeting online, to help identify what teachers need. Members of this group may go on to become members of our pilot cohort, but there is no obligation to do so.

For more information or to register an interest contact Patrick Moriarty, Sarum Visiting Scholar, at PM.PROJECTS@ICLOUD.COM.

Latest news and updates from NASACRE

[View this email in your browser](#)



National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 39

This issue includes:

- [Introduction](#)
- [NASACRE Conference 2024](#)
- [Business Meeting: a proposed NASACRE CIO constitution](#)
- [Subscribing to NASACRE](#)
- [Webinar programme](#)
- [Website update](#)
- [Inter Faith Week: 10 - 17 November 2024](#)
- [RE Hubs](#)
- [REady for Work Campaign](#)
- [HMD January 2025](#)
- [Urgent business & other items for your SACRE agenda](#)

Introduction

From Co-Chair, Bill Moore

Welcome to this edition of SACRE Briefing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We send our thoughts and best wishes to both families.

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

NASACRE Conference 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Business Meeting: a proposed NASACRE CIO constitution

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

[NASACRE Constitution 2023](#)

[Draft NASACRE Constitution May 2024](#)

[Proposed CIO Constitution changes](#)

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

is submitted.

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

Subscribing to NASACRE

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

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

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

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

The rates for 2024-25 will be:

Annual subscription: **£115**

Additional training package: **£60**

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

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

Webinar programme

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

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

This is a rerun of the **free** September session, hosted by Exec members, to help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Website update

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

Inter Faith Week: 10 - 17 November 2024

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

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

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

RE Hubs

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

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

SACRE feedback.

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

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

Upload an event here:

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

REady for Work Campaign

REady for Work campaign - ReThinkRE

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

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

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

HMD January 2025

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

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

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

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

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

Urgent business & other items for your SACRE agenda

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

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



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