



National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 38

This issue includes:

- **Introduction**
- **Conference**
- **Business Meeting**
- **National Content Standard (NCS)**
- **REady for Work Campaign**
- **RE Hubs**
- **Closure of the Inter Faith Network**
- **Subscribing to NASACRE**
- **Webinar programme**
- **Website update**
- **Items for your next Agenda**

Introduction

We are very pleased that the 'in conversation' events hosted by the RE Hubs and the Executive were so well attended and lively. We are working to take on board suggestions arising from those meetings and to secure charitable funding to support further events.

In this Briefing we are delighted to share information about our upcoming Conference and AGM.

As you know our Executive is made up of volunteers, who seek to work together in the best interests of all member SACREs. Executive members have busy 'other' lives and as our work has grown over the last few years, this has stretched everyone working on the Executive.

arrangement by becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which means that NASACRE will at long last become a legal entity! This will enable us to apply for funding to finance projects and other areas of work for the benefit of our members. The work towards this has taken a lot longer than we had first hoped. We will, of course, continue to update you on progress.

David Levien who was elected as Vice Chair in 2023, has resigned from the Executive to focus on his work with SACREs in the North West. We thank him for his work over the past year.

At the next AGM, Linda - our current Chair - will step into the Assistant to the Chair role as planned in line with our current constitution, which leaves us without a Chair.

Bill Moore is currently acting as Vice Chair until the AGM, where we hope that we will be able to elect a new Vice Chair nominated by a SACRE.

We are proposing that 3 former Chairs on the Exec (Bill, Denise and Paul) might act as Co-Chairs until the newly-elected Vice Chair is ready to fill the Chair role in a year or two, either solo or as a job share.

Be assured we have a great Conference planned for May, with an ongoing extensive CPD offer, and we continue to work to represent all SACREs on the national stage. We are grateful for your continued support.

Conference

How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?

Download the [conference programme](#).

How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?

Monday 20 May 2024, 10:30-15:30
Hilton York



X handle: [@NASACRE](#)
Tag us: [#NASACRE24](#)

Time	Details
10:15 10:30	Arrival, refreshments and networking Registration desk
11:00	Welcome and introduction from the Chair - Linda Rudge Message from Our Patron - Charles Clarke
11:10	Session 1: A year in the world of RE - Paul Smalley & Dr Kathryn Wright
11:30	Table discussions 
11:45	Session 2: The Big Ambition: the importance of high-quality RE for happy, healthy and successful childhoods Keynote speaker: Dame Rachel de Souza Children's Commissioner for England <i>Dame Rachel was appointed as Children's Commissioner in 2021. In this role she has unique legislative powers, is an advocate for children across the country, and represents children's needs across Government. As a teacher, head and multi-academy trust founder, Dame Rachel built a reputation for turning around failing schools in deprived parts of the country.</i>
12:15	Qs to keynote speaker from Young Ambassadors for RE
12:30	Table discussions Opportunity for Q/A/comments from the floor 
12:50 LUNCH	<i>There is a space available for prayer during lunchtime</i>
13:45	Session 3: 30 ideas about how activist SACREs can make a positive difference for the future of RE Keynote speaker: Lat Blaylock <i>Lat has been an RE adviser to several SACREs over the years. He is the former editor of REtoday magazine. He has written many RE resources including 'Picturing Christianity', 'Big, Big Questions' and 'Spiritual Engagement' (a folder of ideas for 16-19 RE), training many thousands of teachers.</i>
14:15	Table discussions Opportunity for Q/A/comments from the floor 
14:40	Westhill Awards 2024 - winners announced
14:50	Business meeting AOB (notified by 5pm, Friday 10 May 2024)
15:25	Closing comments from the Chair followed by refreshments

Every SACRE can send a maximum of 2 delegates, after which delegates will go on a waiting list.

Subscribed SACREs: Conference fee is £120 per delegate to include a choice of 2 online workshops in June.

Subscribed SACREs can pay an extra £50 so that another 2 of their members can each attend 2 workshops.

Non-subscribed SACREs: £160 per delegate which also enables them to attend 2 workshops.

Delegates have a choice of **online workshops** running over 4 days.

How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?

National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education

Virtual Workshops		
5-6 pm		
7-8 pm		
Twitter handle: @NASACRE Tag us using: #NASACRE24		
Mon 3rd June	1 of 2 workshops 5-6 pm	<p>The RE Council's National Content Standard - how it might support the work of SACREs & Agreed Syllabus Conferences</p> <p>Presenter: Deborah Weston</p> <p>Brief: <i>This workshop aims to explore the potential of the National Content Standard (NCS) for RE in England to help raise standards in RE. The NCS is designed to work within the current legislative framework for RE in different types of schools, including Academies, LA maintained schools and those with or without a religious character. It does not prescribe a set of content, but rather suggests a set of principles for the selection of content and a benchmark for what constitutes 'high-quality RE'. SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences can then choose to evaluate their work whilst remaining free to devise a syllabus for their context.</i></p>
	2 of 2 workshops 7-8 pm	<p>Analysis of annual SACRE reports 2024</p> <p>Presenter: Dr David Hampshire</p> <p>Brief: <i>This is the third year running that David has analysed data from the SACRE annual reports with the DfE; he will be presenting the findings and provide SACREs with the opportunity to reflect on their own practice.</i></p>
Tues 4th June	1 of 2 workshops 5-6 pm	<p>SACRE Chairs: Membership of your SACRE</p> <p>Presenter: Catherine Hughes</p> <p>Brief: <i>This workshop is especially for SACRE Chairs and Vice Chairs who want to think about and reflect on effective strategies to ensure their SACRE has the active membership it needs to function well. The workshop will also benefit Chairs who are new to the role, in leading meetings and ensuring an active membership.</i></p>
	2 of 2 workshops 7-8 pm	<p>Making your SACRE work for you</p> <p>Presenter: Claire Clinton</p> <p>Brief: <i>This workshop will provide plenty of case studies, examples and practical ideas of how a SACRE can support RE & CW in schools, whatever your SACRE budget!</i></p>

		7-8 pm
		Twitter handle: @NASACRE Tag us using: #NASACRE24
Wed 5 th June	1 of 2 workshops 5-6 pm	<p>NASACRE & Westhill grants: winners 2022-2023 <i>The Leicester Schools Peace Project - SACRE and peace education in the new Leicester RE Agreed Syllabus</i></p> <p>Presenter: Leicester SACRE</p> <p>Brief: <i>This project began in 2020 by discovering local peace stories - partnerships with peace groups, University of Leicester, RE teachers and Leicester SACRE, together with fundraising and adding peace studies as an additional dimension in the city's new agreed syllabus.</i></p>
	2 of 2 workshops 7-8 pm	<p>How RE Hubs can provide support for your SACRE</p> <p>Presenters: RE Hub Leads with Claire Clinton</p> <p>Brief: <i>A chance to find out more about RE Hubs UK's aims, website and how the programme can support the work of your SACRE. From our Kite-marked training for Places of Interest and school speakers, to high quality resources and training for RE teachers.</i></p>
Thurs 6 th June	1 of 2 workshops 5-6 pm	<p>How SACREs can create their own tables using DfE data to support their monitoring role</p> <p>Presenter: Deborah Weston</p> <p>Brief: <i>This will be a practical workshop demonstrating how you can find Department for Education school level data and create tables for your specific local authority. You can record information such as GCSE attainment for Religious Studies at 9-4 and 9-5, compare attainment for boys and girls, check performance for other subjects and with national averages. This information will give you the basis for a conversation with schools as part of SACRE's monitoring role and present opportunities to celebrate success in individual schools or to ask questions about apparent under-performance.</i></p>
	2 of 2 workshops 7-8 pm	<p>To Ofsted and beyond! Some thinking about, and sharing a toolkit for, developing whole school SMSC</p> <p>Presenter: Bill Moore</p> <p>Brief: <i>SMSC is more than an Ofsted tick-box, though the Ofsted criteria do provide a helpful tool for development. In this webinar, we will explore a deeper educational rationale for SMSC and how you can support schools to see it as a central aspect of improving schools. We will consider a toolkit that you can share with schools to identify, monitor and develop whole school provision and how this sits within a wider – and deeper – vision for education.</i></p>

Whilst we hope that you will join us in York in person, we also offer an online Zoom option for up to 25 delegates (at the same price). Please state this on the booking form.

When **booking**, please let us know your **dietary needs**.

Click for further information about getting to **Hilton York**

Business Meeting

The NASACRE AGM will not be held at Conference this year. Instead, we'll have a Business Meeting to outline our plans taking NASACRE forward as a CIO, and to consider a draft CIO constitution. Other future plans are under discussion - we'll keep the **Conference webpage** updated with the new documentation.

Eventually, when we finally hold the AGM later in the year, we'll need to elect new Exec/Board members. Please be proactive in your SACRE to begin considering which of your members may have the time and the skill-set to join our NASACRE team.

National Content Standard (NCS)

Entitlement Statement for syllabus writers/creators, ensuring they develop a broad and balanced curriculum.

The NCS has been endorsed by many RE professional organisations; NASACRE has agreed to recommend the NCS to SACREs as a document for Agreed Syllabus Conferences to consider.

REady for Work Campaign

This new project is being led by **Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBE, DL, FCA**.

Employers are being urged to **sign a Call to Action** pledging support for students who have expressed an interest in a high quality education in religion and worldviews as preparation for the future workplace.

RE Hubs

Aims of RE Hubs Project



Improve connections: "Subject leadership that can identify high-quality sources of training to further their RE knowledge in policy, subject content, subject pedagogy and RE research." (*Ofsted RE Research Review 2021*)



Improve confidence in teaching: "Confidence was particularly low for those teaching Religious Education (38%)". (*Working lives of teachers and leaders 2023*) "Half of primary school teachers lacked confidence in teaching RE and more than half of secondary school RE teachers had no qualification or appropriate expertise in the subject." (*Ofsted RE Research Review 2021*)



Improve communication: "RE in primary and secondary schools enables pupils to take their place within a diverse multi-religious and multi-secular society. At its best, it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It affords pupils both the opportunity to see the religion and non-religion in the world, and the opportunity to make sense of their own place in that world" (*Ofsted RE Research Review 2021*)



Information exchange platform: Championing ambitious Religious Education/Religion, Values & Ethics/Religion & Worldviews (RE/RVE/R&W), in order to support schools to deliver brilliant lessons to every child. Sharing best, evidenced-based, researched teaching practices from experts. (*Adapted from Opportunity for all 2022*)



Create a long-term model for subject specialist teachers: "At primary and secondary level, pupils should be taught by teachers who have secure subject and curriculum knowledge, who foster pupils' interest in the subject and who are equipped to address pupils' misunderstandings." (*Ofsted RE Research Review 2021*)

A reminder that your SACRE can advertise FREE monthly kite-marked training (by RE Hubs) for places of interest and school speakers, to ensure they are up-to-date with high quality practice in education. If you run training in your LA, please contact director@re-hubs.uk to find out how you can gain our kite-mark for those completing your training. Click [here](#) to access our flyer which details training dates and times.

RE Hubs, working with NATRE and AREIAC, have 2 upcoming meetings you might be interested to highlight to your schools and teachers:

1. **MAT leads in RE network** - 25 April, 4-5:30pm. Click [here](#) for further details and a flyer. FREE for NATRE & AREIAC members.
2. **Leading a local RE network** - 17 April, 4-5:30pm. Click [here](#) for further details and a flyer. FREE virtual CPD.

great support and resources for RE.

If you would like us to link to a resource that isn't up on our site yet, please do get in touch with **Claire Clinton**, the lead director.

Closure of the Inter Faith Network

It is with great sadness that I write this piece on the **closure of the Inter Faith Network**. Many will be aware that government funding for the organisation has been withdrawn. IFN's Board has now agreed a solvent closure date of 30 April; the office will remain open until Monday 29 April.

For more than thirty years the organisation has worked diligently to fulfil its aims to work through 'education, advocacy, and creation of opportunities for meeting, to:

- widen public awareness of the religious traditions in the UK, including their distinctive features and their common ground
- increase inter-faith understanding and cooperation and good relations at all levels of society.

Engagement between the IFN and bodies such as the REC (Religious Education Council) NASACRE and individual SACREs has provided a useful conduit for exploring ideas about interfaith in educational contexts. This has resulted in, for example, helpful publications to aid teachers in the classroom.

The organisation's web content is testimony to its inspiration and success in these ideals, whether it's in celebrating Inter Faith Week, providing ideas for good practice (locally and nationally) or encouraging youth interaction through, for example, sport.

For further interest:

Statements and messages - News - The Inter Faith Network (IFN)

Inter faith activity - The Inter Faith Network (IFN)

Resources - The Inter Faith Network (IFN)

News - The Inter Faith Network (IFN)

I cannot but agree with a participant attending one of the organisation's Annual Meetings who said, given our current context, "If we did not have an IFN, we would desperately need to invent it for the work it undertakes!"

Jo Backus, Exec Member

Subscribing to NASACRE

Is your SACRE a subscribed member of NASACRE?

If not, you will be missing out on the subscriber only content on the webpage and a range of other benefits:

- answers to FAQs about SACREs' work
- opportunity to take advantage of a generous **virtual training** package for any number of your SACRE members
- access to training resources
- opportunity, at reduced cost, to attend NASACRE conference and other meetings.

The rates for the current year are:

Annual subscription: **£105**

Additional training package: **£50**

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

Webinar programme

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

Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm:

So, you've joined your local SACRE...

A rerun of the September session, 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.

FREE session - for further details please contact admin@nasacre.org.uk

Website update

Exec members have been reorganising and streamlining the **NASACRE website**. Please encourage your SACRE members to access the site, check out new pages, the **Noticeboard** and how subscribing SACREs can **share their documents**.

Items for your next Agenda

- Sign up for **NASACRE Webinars**
- Consider who to nominate for election to the Exec and who to book for the **York Conference** (by 10 May)
- Discuss the **NCS**
- Submit your SACRE Annual Report (2022-23) if you've not already done so
- Familiarise yourself with the changes made to the **NASACRE website** and consider whether you have any documents you can share (subscriber SACREs only)
- Consider how your SACRE can draw the attention of employers to the **REady for Work campaign** for employers and business leaders



Follow us on Twitter

Copyright © 2024 NASACRE, All rights reserved.

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

