

National Updates

NASACRE

NASACRE's national conference will take place on **Thursday 24th May** at **Merchant Taylor's Hall** in the City of London. The role of vice-chair of NASACRE is vacant at present and there will be some places to be filled on its executive committee by the time that this event takes place. SACREs have been asked to consider whether any of their members will stand for a role.

At the AGM there will be a vote on this motion:

"That the Annual Subscription to NASACRE be increased to £105 per SACRE for the Academic Year 2018-19 and thereafter."

SACREs are asked to register their vote ahead of time if they are not sending a representative to the AGM. If a vote is not registered, the SACRE will be regarded as having voted in favour of the motion.

Please be aware that there will be a two day conference in Crewe run by NASACRE along with NATRE, AREIAC (Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and AULRE (Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education). This conference is entitled *20:20 RE: Practice, Policy and Powerful Knowledge* and will take place in October.

SACRE ACTIONS:

Decide upon whether a member should attend the national conference.

Decide upon whether a member should stand for a role on the NASACRE executive committee.

Vote upon the NASACRE annual subscription increase.

British Library Focus on RE

The British Library runs free RE workshops for primary and secondary pupils. They have an extensive collection of sacred texts, both early and modern. The library is now creating a new online learning resource allowing visitors to explore sacred texts. A survey has been sent out in order to make this resource interesting, relevant and useful. The questions on the survey clearly indicated that the library are hoping this resource will have strong links with RE, including to the new GCSE and A Level. A link to the survey was sent to primary RE Subject Leaders in Havering.

BBC Religion and Ethics Review

The BBC brought out its report entitled BBC Religion and Ethics Review in December 2017. The report has a focus on young people and helping them access good quality information about religions and beliefs that is age appropriate and easily accessible. 'Mainstreaming' of religion in drama and elsewhere is highlighted in order to put religion into the mind of viewers in a positive way. The report recognises that both journalists and editors need better training in the field of religion and belief. The BBC has pledged to make 2019 a 'Year of Beliefs' across all of its platforms which may well have positive influence on RE classrooms.

SACRE ACTIONS: Discuss and decide upon SACRE's actions in relation to the British Library resources and BBC Religion and Ethics Review in light of SACRE's functions in its Terms of Reference:

- (a) To advise the local authority upon such matters connected with collective religious worship in community schools, foundation schools and academies (where invited) which do not have a religious character. This may include, in particular, methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- (b) To advise the local authority on the religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus as the local authority may refer to SACRE or as SACRE may see fit.

- (c) To require the local authority - if requested by a majority of the representative groups of SACRE (other than that representing the LBH) - to review any Agreed Syllabus for the time being adopted by the local authority by the convening of a statutory Conference in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
- (d) To assist the local authority with monitoring inspection reports on RE, collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- (e) In each year, to publish a report to the local authority as to the exercise of SACRE's functions.