



**STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
AGENDA**

6.00 pm

**Monday
21 March 2022**

Members **29**: Quorum **9** ***BUT*** a minimum of **one** representative must attend from each group

Representative Groups (current membership)

Group A

**Representing
Christian denominations and
other religious
denominations and beliefs (17):**

Mr Peter Feinson, Baptist
Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith
Mr Om Dhir, Hindu
Mr Sansar Narwal, Sikh
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Sunni Muslim
Rabbi Lee Sunderland, Jewish
Mr Tariq Mahmood, Sunni Muslim
Mrs Jenny Fox, Salvation Army
Mrs Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church
Pastor Aloysius Peter, Pentecostal Church
Mr John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church
Mr Nasir Mubashar, Ahmadiyya Muslim
Mr Luthaneal Adams, Pagan Federation
Barry Smith, United Reformed Church
Wendy Brice-Thompson, Roman Catholic

Group B

**Representing the
Church of England (3):**

Mrs Stephanie Ellner
Ruth Everett
Marlene Wylie

Group C

**Representing
teachers (4):**

Clare Beech
Kathryn Everitt
Terry Riches

Group D

**Representing the
Local Authority (5):**

Councillor Philippa Crowder
Councillor Judith Holt
Councillor Jason Frost
Councillor Osman Dervish
Councillor Viddy Persaud

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Maureen Smith 01708 433665
SACRE@haverling.gov.uk**

Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

Announcement of the arrangements in case of fire or other events which might require the evacuation of the meeting-room or building.

Please turn off or mute any mobile phone

AGENDA ITEMS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - IF ANY, TO RECEIVE

2 NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

To note any substitute members present at the meeting and welcome any new members.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021 (attached) and to address any matters arising therefrom.

4 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY (Pages 1 - 2)

To receive oral and written reports from the Primary and Secondary phase representatives and to comment on them or propose action as necessary.

5 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pages 3 - 8)

To receive oral and written reports and to comment on or propose action as appropriate.

6 SCHOOL WEBSITE MONITORING

To receive an update on school website monitoring.

7 SACRE SELF-EVALUATION

To consider arrangements for completing a self-evaluation exercise for Havering SACRE.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Any member may raise issues previously notified to either the Chairman or the Clerk (unless the issue relates to a matter arising from the meeting itself or is of an urgent nature, when the Chairman will determine whether to allow it or not).

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To agree the date of the summer term SACRE meeting and consider meeting arrangements for SACRE moving forward.

**MAUREEN SMITH
Clerk to SACRE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

8 November 2021 (6.00pm –6.40pm)

The meeting took place via zoom (video-conferencing platform)

Present:

Representing Christian denominations and other religious dominations and beliefs (Group A):

Wendy Brice-Thompson, Roman Catholic (Chair)
Peter Feinson, Baptist
Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church
Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith
Sansar Narwal, Sikh
George Prinn, Humanism
John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church
Barry Smith, United Reform Church
Rabbi Lee Sunderland, Jewish

Representing the Church of England (Group B):

Stephanie Ellner

Representing teachers (Group C):

Clare Beech
Kathryn Everitt

Representing the Local Authority (Group D):

Councillor Judith Holt
Councillor Viddy Persaud

Professional adviser:

Julia Diamond-Conway (JDC)

Michelle Morgan – Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, especially George Prinn who was joining SACRE as a Member of the Humanist Society.

Apologies for absence were received from the following; Jenny Fox, Marlene Wylie, Cllr Dervish, Cllr Frost and Cllr Crowder.

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Initials

The absence of the following Members was noted; Pastor Aloysius Peter, Kamal Siddiqui, Nasir Mubasher, Om Dhir, Ruth Everett and Terry Riches.

2. NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

SACRE Members were advised that Kirsty Fanning had resigned. All wished to share their thanks for her contribution on the committee.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2021 AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1. The notes of the meeting held on 29 June 2021 were received and agreed.

3.2. Matters arising from the minutes, not included elsewhere on the agenda, were as follows:

- 3.2.1. **Anti-racist materials (Minute 8, refers):** Ruth Everett was not in attendance and therefore no update was received regarding the sharing of the resources discussed.

4. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY

A report detailing local activities had been provided prior to the meeting.

It was highlighted, that with the resignation of Kirsty Fanning, there were no secondary representatives on the committee. It was agreed that JDC would get in contact with Kirsty to see if she had any colleagues that she might recommend to take her place. Cllr Persaud added that she would also approach her secondary contacts.

ACTION: JDC / Cllr Viddy Persaud

5. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The report on national developments had been provided in advance of the meeting.

The Chair shared an interest in attending the Worldviews virtual training being run by NASACRE that week. The Clerk agreed to send the appropriate information to the Chair.

ACTION: HGS

6. ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was received. JDC reiterated that the outcomes for 2020-21 were Teacher Assessed Grades which had not yet been validated however the expectation was that there would unlikely be any significant

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changes. It was acknowledged that it was difficult to compare Teacher Assessed and Public Examination Grades.

The Chair agreed to send on her foreword to be included in the report.

ACTION: Chair

The report was agreed.

7. WORLDVIEW VIDEO

JDC advised that the Worldviews concept within RE was becoming more influential and that for some, the preference would now be to rename Religious Education to 'Worldviews Education.' Debates regarding this were ongoing and it was anticipated that further resources would be produced by the Religious Education Council.

JDC summarised that there were 2 types of Worldviews; personal and organised (this terminology however may change over time). Your organised Worldview comes from an institution, such as Christian or Muslim, for example Worldviews however personal Worldviews were beliefs and hidden assumptions which shape how an individual would see the World. For example a Muslim child could have a different personal Worldview to another Muslim child despite them sharing the same faith.

JDC advised that there had been a number of reports which had concluded that RE had to be amended in order to reflect the World as it is today; Worldviews teaching would include every child and not just those who practised a Faith. However the Government had advised that there were no current plans to change legislation regarding this.

SACRE Members watched the Theosthink-tank video on the meaning 'Worldviews.'

Thoughts from SACRE Members following the video were as follows:

- Although it was vital to have such debates, these needed to be in addition to the religious practices that a faith has. Such discussions should be aimed at secondary school pupils who were more mature and are able to appreciate more what is going on around them.
- It is important for individuals to look at life through their own eyes and whatever view they subscribe to, they must be able to investigate for themselves and not accept a view without questioning it.

- Worldviews is a more popular term for some as it includes those who are non-religious. Humanism UK had also produced a short document to explain the concept; the link was provided as follows:
<https://humanists.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021-07-05-LD-Non-religious-worldviews.docx>
- Although it was accepted that not everyone had a specific Faith, concern was shared that Worldviews could 'dilute' religion. It was highlighted however that by not discussing 'Worldviews' then this was somewhat 'diluting' the often deeply committed and ethical positions of others who did not have a religion. All agreed that it would be important, should Worldview become more prominent in schools that people with and without Faiths would be respected.
- Ofsted were using the terminology when undertaking Inspections however the current Agreed Syllabus had been confirmed and therefore there would be no changes to its content in the near future.
- Reassurance was given that teachers were already showing respect in their schools for those children with and without religions. The important aspect was to ensure that discussions represented a 'rainbow' of religious and non-religious views and thoughts.

The Chair thanked SACRE Members for their thoughts. JDC stated that Worldviews was a work in progress and that it was not yet clear in what format this would be brought into the classroom in the long term; it was essential that those with and without Faith on SACRE were comfortable with whatever future advice SACRE gives. The role of SACRE was to ensure that whatever the content/terminology, that once confirmed the committee would make sure that they were happy with it and that teachers had the resources available that were compatible with what needed to be taught. It was anticipated that much more information would be published over the next year; SACRE would need to monitor this.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to discuss.

9. DATES OF MEETINGS IN THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

The following date was noted for the next meeting:

Monday 21 March 2022 at 6pm

Depending on the COVID situation at the time, some SACRE Members suggested that they would like to meet face to face in the spring term; the

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potential venue of Romford Evangelical Church was discussed. Dawn Ladbrock would check with the Deacon.

ACTION: D Ladbrock

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

**Chair's
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Havering SACRE, Local RE update: Spring 2022

Since the last report, 3 CPD sessions have been held virtually for primary RE teachers within the borough:

- 24th November 2021: how to turn one of the borough's unit plans into an effective medium-term plan for a class.
- 13th January 2022: diversity within a religion, scrutinising audits and questionnaires to work out how to move RE forward within individual schools
- 1st March 2022: evaluation of draft unit plans to accompany the new Agreed Syllabus, what good RE is and is not.

The RE Today advisory team are currently in the process of creating new full unit plans to accompany the Agreed Syllabus decided on by SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

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Inspecting RE: An examination of OFSTED inspections

The publication of the [Religious Education Research Review](#) was greeted positively by many teachers.

NATRE has examined the inspection reports published between 1st May - 14th Oct 2021. NATRE investigates whether inspectors are taking account of the factors identified in the research and if this is improving the potential of inspections to drive up standards in RE. A detailed article outlining sample reports and themes is available for NATRE members.

Key themes that are commented on are

1. Studying the curriculum in depth, knowing more and remembering more
2. A well sequenced curriculum to ensure that pupils learn the knowledge they need for later topics.
3. Planning an ambitious curriculum
4. 'Collectively enough' – is subject content 'collectively enough' for pupils to gain a good understanding?
5. Adequate curriculum time is given to RE, so that leaders can deliver an ambitious curriculum.
6. Developing pupils' personal knowledge helps them to relate the content to themselves (for example, their own prior assumptions).
7. There is sufficient training and professional development so that teachers have appropriate subject professional knowledge.
8. The importance of visits and visitors
9. Links to SMSC and Personal Development
10. Generally poor or non-existent provision
11. The importance of subject leadership

NATRE members can download the full document [on this link](#).

Could SACRE encourage schools to become members of NATRE to gain up to date information such as this? Is SACRE monitoring OFSTED reports? How far does SACRE training help support teachers to meet these descriptions of good quality RE?

Analysis of teacher survey on Secondary RE and RS

A ninth secondary NATRE Survey – July 2021 was conducted during the spring term of 2021 via a number of teacher networks supported by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), and RE Today Services. Conclusions can be drawn around provision, GCSE entries, timetabling and the supply of specialist RE teachers.

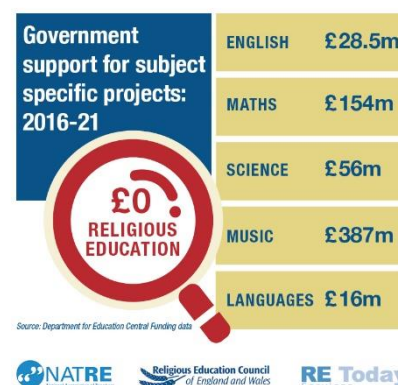
See the report www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/an-analysis-of-a-survey-of-teachers-on-the-impact-of-government-policy-on-student-opportunity-to-study-gcse-rs/

Are we aware of the picture in our schools? Are senior leaders aware of their duties around RE?

Religious Education and the lack of support by government funding

A written parliamentary question tabled has led to the government sharing that it has been supporting curricular projects in many areas of the curriculum, but has allocated no funds on religious education specific projects in the last 5 years.

The RE community are asking people to write to their MP to ask if this can be changed. According to a Savanta survey commissioned by Culham St Gabriel's Trust, 64% of UK adults agree that RE is an important part of the school curriculum today. Religious Education requires support by the government.



NASACRE Conference 2022 - Ambitious SACREs

Taking place in Birmingham on Monday 23 May, this conference will provide an opportunity for SACRE members to engage in discussion around issues of RE and Collective Worship. Keynote speakers will be Sarah Lane-Cawte (new Chair of the REC - Religious Education Council), HMI Richard Kueh (Ofsted) and David Hampshire, a previous chair of NASACRE, who will present the analysis of the most recent (2021) SACRE annual reports.

Additional sessions will look at the new SACRE audit tool, Westhill award winners, the Local area Network report and other topical issues of interest to SACREs.

Who can attend this on behalf of our SACRE?

LAN (Local Area Network) report

'Still Standing' – the REC Local Area Network Report is now live [here](#).

The report asks SACREs to consider the following points:

1. Reviewing SACRE membership in partnership with the LA to ensure that it is representative of the local community, and supports the religions and worldviews included in the Agreed Syllabus. Having a diverse range of voices with specific roles on SACRE is essential if an LA is to be able to discharge its legal responsibilities. SACREs can start the process of working with their LA to update membership now. This may require a change to the constitution or terms of reference; the LA legally approves your members and there is nothing in the present legislation that would hinder this.
2. Continue to build local partnerships with the LA to ensure necessary funding.
3. Within the present legislation regarding their ability to widen their membership, the CoRE report helpfully suggests SACREs think about adding to their membership - if they haven't done so already - education departments at museums and universities, local ITT providers, local RE CPD providers, training school hubs, parents, governors, pupil voice, academies and free schools, to name but a few possibilities. Widening representation and local buy-in strengthens the work of high quality RE in schools.

Claire Clinton, the report's author, believes that there are some useful documents developed by SACREs who participated in the project, for other SACREs to use in their work, including

- An audit tool for Agreed Syllabus reviews
- A simple participatory action research template
- A membership tool

NASACRE hopes that there will be an opportunity for SACREs to find out more about these tools and discuss the impact of the report at the (hopefully!) face-to-face May 2022 conference in Birmingham.

Spring Term 2022 National SACRE update

NASACRE's SACRE Self-evaluation tool

The NASACRE development group has worked hard on reviewing, updating, and improving the SACRE self-evaluation tool. This tool will enable SACREs to consider their effectiveness in all areas of its work in order to produce a targeted and costed Development Plan in partnership with your LA.

The SEF is available [here](#) for use at SACRE meetings.

There will be a workshop at the conference in May 2022 around how to use the tool to best effect.

Should this be on a future agenda, led by whoever attends the NASACRE conference?

NASACRE's new online training programme

NASACRE members can access these recorded sessions [here](#) along with the slide shows and resources. The programme for 2021-22 can be accessed [here](#).

Can anyone from SACRE attend any of these? Which might be useful?

Religion and Worldviews in Religious Education

This new page on the REC website hosts a series of resources relating to worldviews. It includes a new animation from Jason Ramasami, well known animator and former RE teacher, that captures the key characteristics of how this new approach represents religions in the classroom, a Bibliography from Dawn Cox of articles, blogs and other material that have been published in response to the CoRE Report and a series of FAQs.

www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/worldviews/

The Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Programme

The programme is a one-to-two-year mentoring and coaching programme developing leadership skills in middle leaders. It is **free** to schools. Applications are open now for a September 2022 start. The programme works at 2 levels.

Stage 1

This stage is for those local or regional leaders who are beginning to work across more than one school. For example, leading Religion and Worldviews across a MAT or supporting other schools in a Federation and/or leading a local group or hub. Some NATRE Regional Ambassadors, SLEs, REQM Gold award RE leads or LTLRE Hub leads might find this Stage of CPD helpful.

Stage 2

This Stage is for teachers who have completed Stage 1 and/or for those who already have a regional/national role and would like to develop their expertise further. This stage is particularly for teachers/advisers who are likely to continue their specialism into senior leadership roles within or outside of their school situation. Those who are seeking to become advisers, ambassadors or an Executive member of one of the RE Organisations are particularly encouraged to apply.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN: Closing date for applications: 31st March 2022

For more details and a film outlining the programme go to www.reonline.org.uk/leadership/leadership-programme/

Spring Term 2022 National SACRE update

Who should we be encouraging to join this programme? Can we share this with schools?

NATRE Spirited Arts 2022

Will schools from our area join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition? Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form pupils can think of. Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE?

The 5 themes

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us."
2. God's good earth? ("Beautiful World, wonderful God?")
3. Searching for God
4. A view of the world.
5. Celebrations: Big days and big ideas

Find out more details here www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2022/

Lessons that make a difference

CSTG through RE:ONLINE have launched their blog writing competition. CSTG are inviting children and young people to write a 500-word blog or record a 2-minute audio or visual file about a Religion and about a Religion and Worldviews (or RE) lesson that has made a difference to them. Entries are due in by 14th March.

Winning entries will be notified and their blogs/vlogs posted on RE:ONLINE in Summer 2022.

www.reonline.org.uk/news/pupil-blog-competition-2022/

How can SACRE encourage schools take part in these two competitions? Can this link in with anything going on locally? Some SACREs have held local Spirited arts competitions and worked to display entries in a local museum. Is this something this SACRE might consider?

New offer from 'Good News for Everyone': free Bible magazine to pupils and primary classrooms

The charity 'Good News for Everyone' – which used to be known as 'The Gideons' – have produced a 48-page magazine which provides children aged 7-11 with extracts from Bible stories, texts and teachings. The extracts include all the major Bible texts used in the 'Understanding Christianity' resources. There are questions for discussion and thinking, and quizzes, all illustrated in an age-appropriate style.

Good News for Everyone exists to give Christian scriptures away, and this new educational collection of Bible texts is available through schools to pupils – for example Good News for Everyone will be happy to send a visitor to schools to give a class set of copies for teachers to use and a personal copy to all school pupils for them to keep. The charity still visits secondary schools to distribute copies of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs free to pupils.

Contact: <https://goodnewsuk.com/bibles-for/education>

Websites refreshed and relaunched

Spring Term 2022 National SACRE update

RE:Quest

The **RE:Quest** website has refreshed and relaunched with a series of new resources on key Christian concepts such as Salvation, resources for pupils with additional needs and a series of new films. You can also create boards of resources for particular units or topics for pupils and teachers to access. Resources on the key concepts provide sample lesson plans too.

<https://request.org.uk>

Understanding Humanism

The **Understanding Humanism** website has relaunched with over 100 new FREE resources to support teaching about humanism and non-religious worldviews.

Resources for ages 5-18 organised into several core areas of knowledge to support young people's understanding of a humanist approach to life, humanist history, and the influence of humanism on the modern world. '

<https://understandinghumanism.org.uk>

True Tube

The **Truetube** website has also had a refresh with a series of new films added for teachers in Primary and secondary schools.

www.truetube.co.uk

Online training

Webinar series from University of Edinburgh

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/teachingbuddhism/2021/11/29/who-is-the-buddha-new-webinar-series-for-teachers-jan-march-2022/>

A series of webinars on the life of the Buddha – excellent for KS3 and KS4. The series has already started, but sessions are uploaded afterwards, so you can catch up later.

Register [here on Eventbrite](#)

Online seminar series from University of Chester

The Chester Uni A level webinar series will be starting again soon. Look out [here](#) to find out about the programme. Details coming soon.

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