

To all Members of the

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION (SACRE)**

AGENDA

Notice is given that a Meeting of the above Committee
is to be held as follows:

VENUE Room 008 - Civic Office
DATE: Wednesday, 25th May, 2016
TIME: 4.30 pm

Items for Discussion:

1. Appointment of Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of Interest, if any
4. Pre-meeting Item 10 mins
Akeela Mohammed – Faith and Culture Sub-Group
5. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November, 2015 5 mins
6. Matters Arising 5 mins
- A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded.**
7. Membership and Attendance JD
Membership Updates from the Clerk 10 mins
Enclosure 1

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Issued on: Tuesday 17th May, 2016

Governance Officer
for this meeting:

Amber Torrington
(01302) 737462

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 8. | SACRE Briefing 11
Enclosure 2
Log in details | PC
5 mins |
| 9. | Governing Body Agenda Item - Summer Term 2016
Enclosure 3a and 3b | PC
5 mins |
| 10. | Conferences attended
Inspiring RE Conference 4th March, Rotherham
NASACRE Conference and AGM 17th May, London | BG/Rev
TM
10 mins |
| B. Items where the Public and Press may be excluded. | | |
| 11. | Presentation: 2015 Religious Studies Examination Results | JD
10 mins |
| 12. | Draft SACRE Annual Report 2014-15
For SACRE to approve
Enclosure 4 with appendices 1-3 | JD/PC
15 mins |
| 13. | Information Exchange
SACRE Spring 2016 e newsletter
Member updates e.g. Doncaster Interfaith Initiative
Inspiring RE Conference for Teachers 4/3/16 | 10 mins |
| 14. | Date and time of next meeting | |

Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Local Authority Representatives

Councillor Nuala Fennelly
Councillor James Hart
Councillor Sue Knowles
Councillor Majid Khan

Christian and other religious denominations

Mrs J Gessler, Jewish
Mr B Gillham, Balby (Doncaster) Society of Friends
Mr R Iball, Methodist
Mrs P Kaur, Sikh
Rev T McCreedy, Doncaster Interfaith
Ms S Norburn, Humanist
Ms J Stephenson, Baptist
Mr S Syed, Muslim
Mr B Teimoori, Baha'i
Lucy Saxton, Roman Catholic
Vacant, Buddhist
Vacant, Hindu/Buddhist

The Church of England

Ms J Crowther
Mr M McGuigan

Teachers' Association

Mrs P Cassidy, National Union of Teachers

Ms A Nicolson, National Union of Teachers

Mr T Griffiths, National Association of Headteachers

2 Vacant posts Association of Teachers and Lecturers

1 Vacant post National Association of Schoolmaster/Union of Women

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DONCASTER STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Minutes of the Doncaster SACRE meeting held at
the Civic Office on 26 November 2015
4.30 – 6.30pm

Present: J Gessler, S Norburn, R Iball, J Stephenson, S Syed, B Teimoori, P Kaur, B Gillham, Rev McCready, M McGuigan, P Cassidy, Councillor N Fennelly, Councillor K Rodgers

In attendance: J Duhig (Clerk to SACRE), A O'Mara (Note taker)

Pre meeting: M Winters (Campsmount Academy)

Apologies: K Scovell, N Walker, M Williams, Councillor Hart & Councillor Knowles

Item		Lead
	Pre agenda Item Melanie Winters delivered a presentation to the group detailing the work undertaken as part of her Farmington Fellowship research grant 2014/15. The work involved the exploration of faith stories with a group of pupils to understand their meaning and reinterpret them in today's modern world. Samples of the stories were shared with SACRE and members were given the opportunity to ask questions relating to the learning. SACRE were encouraged to hear of the positive impact of the research and how the children valued the opportunity to "think for themselves". To further develop their skills BG suggested the pupils could produce their own stories.	
1	Apologies and Introductions The apologies noted above were recorded and accepted.	
2	Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2015 The minutes were agreed as a true record.	KR
3	Matters Arising Action: Councillor Rodgers to address Item 9 from the minutes of 24 March 2015 relating to links to the Youth Council.	
4	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Councillor Rodgers was re-elected as Chair. Rev T McCready was elected as Vice Chair	JD
5	Membership and Attendance A summary of the current membership was provided. The current constitution was discussed and it was agreed that there was a need to	JD

	<p>review the details of the committee structure. Committee A should accurately reflect the faith position in Doncaster and it was noted that to provide a balance additional Committee B members would be required. Representation on Committee C continues to be a concern which the current twilight session of SACRE has not appeared to remedy.</p> <p>Action: John Duhig to revise the terms of reference/constitution.</p>	
6	<p>Reply from Lord Nash</p> <p>PC summarised the communications between Lord Nash and SACRE since the start of the year. Hard copy correspondence was shared with the group. Doncaster SACRE's concerns with regards to the provision of Religious Education at KS4 and academy influence were noted. The analysis of Annual Reports commissioned by the DfE is welcomed as it will identify common areas of concern from SACREs across the country and bring with it an increased rigour. It is crucial that Doncaster SACRE's annual report accurately identifies its' work and provides a clear focus on areas of concern. A draft of the annual report will be circulated to all members for input. SN queried what proactive interaction we had with our academies. PC outlined a summary of the LA support that had been provided to academies, including use of the locally agreed syllabus, distribution of the e-newsletter, invitations to training events, and the inclusion of SACRE information on the DMBC website. PC confirmed that SACRE's approach is inclusive of all educational settings.</p>	PC
7	<p>Westhill Submission</p> <p>PC expressed her gratitude to BG for his work on the Westhill submission, which was collated in a very tight timeframe. BG shared some thoughts as to how the idea could be further developed, which included increased teacher and pupil involvement and to align more closely to the curriculum. For future submissions it was felt that a working party approach would be beneficial.</p> <p>Action: SACRE- If anyone would like to be involved in progression of the Heritage and Town Trail please contact BG on the email address provided.</p> <p>Action: PC to seek expressions of interest from schools on the next e newsletter.</p>	PC
8	<p>Interfaith Event Hawthorn Primary</p> <p>Eight faiths were represented at the event which involved attendance at the KS1 assembly and question based classroom work in KS2. Four of the representatives were members of SACRE. The event proved to be a very enjoyable and successful experience for all involved. The children engaged well with the visitors and it was an excellent opportunity for self-expression and discussion of moral issues. There were even some thought provoking questions to challenge the group. PC enquired about the capacity of Interfaith to deliver to more schools and the feedback secured on the day indicated those present would be happy to be involved.</p> <p>Action: PC is to include an item in the next E-newsletter to be issued. Expressions of interest to be sought from schools.</p>	BG

	<p>NF also commented that the opportunity to utilise the Youth Council and children in care to deliver/support these sessions could be considered. At secondary level an approach to Pippa Dodgshon from Hall Cross Academy might be recommended. Not only might Pippa be interested in in her own academy being involved, she might act as a link to other interested secondary Headteachers. Interfaith events could be incorporated into “Diversity Days” which are held in some of the secondary settings.</p>	
9	<p>E Newsletters</p> <p>The autumn SACRE e-newsletter and current SACRE briefing correspondence have been shared with representatives. A reminder that full access to the NASACRE site requires log in and password as previously advised.</p> <p>Action: AO to contact NASACRE to ensure our contact details are up to date.</p>	PC
	<p>Items where the public and press may be excluded in accordance with grounds specified in the Local Government Act 1972, as amended</p>	
10	<p>Analysis OfSTED Reports 2014-2015</p> <p>Detailed analysis at primary and secondary level has previously been completed and incorporated into the annual report. On this occasion, in view of the concerns re KS4 provision, the sample was completed purely on secondary settings. A summary of the findings from both the reports and evidence from the schools website was presented. Five academies made up the sample.</p> <p>A number of concerns were highlighted, and despite the fact that religious education provision is a statutory requirement for all pupils (unless withdrawn by their parents) there was some evidence of no teaching of RE beyond Year 9 at one secondary academy. The issue of non-compliance does not appear to have been followed through in the OfSTED report for this academy. When PC sought professional advice it seems that similar instances of non-compliance have been evidenced in Ofsted reports in other LAs. The advice from OfSTED appears to be that they do not operate on a compliance checking model.</p> <p>NF commented that she would be interested to know if the lack of provision in this academy was as a result of parents “opting out” or a decision by the school.</p> <p>JS enquired if we have an obligation to respond to this in our capacity as SACRE. It was suggested that a supportive approach to the academy, highlighting SACRE’s concerns via a letter would be the best course of action. NF suggested Damian Allen, Director should be aware of the situation.</p> <p>Action: PC to draft a letter to be sent from the Chair. Copy letter to be provided to DA.</p>	PC
11	<p>The Way we Work</p> <p>A review of SACRE’s approach and activity was tabled as a point for</p>	JD

	<p>discussion with views being sought from those present. There is evidence of good elements in SACRE's work, and clear similarities on areas of focus when compared to SACRE agendas from other LAs. However, NF commented that there may be the opportunity for a more innovative approach with an "out of the box" perspective rather than assume similarity is desirable. This year and last have clearly been most active for SACRE and BG's efforts were recognised. In terms of improvements moving forward BG suggested an increase in school based activities and KR suggested the need to prove value and worth in line with the recent spending review</p>	
12	<p>Information Exchange</p> <p>Jim Foy is to speak at SACRE's Spring term meeting following the launch of the Faith & Culture Safeguarding Group in October 2015. A view will be sought as to how the group's work might link with SACRE.</p> <p>PC attended the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector launch in November 2015. Information packs detailing the small and large grants programme 2015-2018 were left with the group. Should you require a copy please contact Angela O'Mara (angela.o'mara@doncaster.gov.uk).</p> <p>PC advised that the Inspiring RE Conference is to be held on 4 March 2016. This will be advertised via Professional Learning and the Common Room and an email will be circulated to all schools.</p>	PC
13	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Freedom of Information request submitted to the DfE for RE short course results has now been received. A similar request will also be submitted for 2015's results.</p> <p>Rev Tom advised of an event held during National Interfaith week which explored the topic of Islamophobia. It proved to be of great interest and attendance was significantly higher than usual with approximately 70 people in attendance, including the Civic Mayor.</p> <p>SS confirmed an open day at the Mosque is being planned for May 2016. Any interest, advice or suggestions should be channelled through PC.</p>	KR
14	<p>Date and time of Spring Term Meeting</p> <p>The meeting will be held on 23rd February 2016 at 4.30pm in Room 007A at the Civic Office, Waterdale.</p>	

MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
Committee Group	

FAITH GROUP/ORGANISATION CONTACT DETAILS (if applicable)

Name	
Position Held	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

This page is intentionally left blank



Latest news and updates from NASACRE

[View this email in your browser](#)

SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 11

This issue includes:

- [NASACRE Conference and AGM 2016](#)
- [Educational Excellence Everywhere: implications for SACREs](#)
- [Fit for purpose? A critique of the REC's Framework for RE](#)
- [The RE Quality Mark](#)
- [A new resource](#)
- [You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes, but it helps](#)
- [NASACRE Membership 2015-16 and 2016-17](#)
- [SACRE member survey](#)
- [All Party Parliamentary Group on RE report](#)
- [DfE audit of SACRE annual reports](#)
- [A request from NASACRE MemSec](#)

NASACRE Conference and AGM 2016

Shaping the future

May 17th 2016 | Central Hall Westminster | London.

Conference programme

11:00 Arrival, registration and coffee

11:30 Welcome and introductions

11:40 Keynote address: **The Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss**

- 12:10 Question time
- 12:45 Business meeting
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:15 Keynote address: **Professor Adam Dinham**
- 15:00 Discussions and questions
- 15:35 Table discussions/panel discussion
- 16:15 Closing remarks from Chair
- 16:30 Close

The **Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE**, formerly President of the Family Division of the High Court was the first female Lord Justice of Appeal and until 2004, was the highest-ranking female judge in the United Kingdom. She has chaired many high profile enquiries and inquests. Baroness Butler-Sloss served as Chair for the recently published Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life: [**Living with Difference**](#).

Professor Adam Dinham is Professor of Faith and Public Policy at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is also Chair of the British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group (Socrel), Professor of Religious Literacy, Diakonhjemmet University College, Oslo, Norway and Honorary Stephenson Professor of Leadership, Religion & Society, Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies, Sheffield University, UK. With Martha Shaw, Professor Dinham is the co-author of [**RE for REal: The future of teaching and learning about belief**](#).

Delegate cost: £100 member SACREs; £125 non-member SACREs

NASACRE is seeking nominations for Treasurer, Secretary and two Executive members and is proposing some changes to our Constitution.

For further information and to make a booking, visit the [**Conference and AGM 2016 page**](#) of the website.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Nominations close May 6th
- Bookings close May 8th

AGM Papers and information

All documents and support papers together with venue details can be found on the [2016 Papers](#) page of the website. Documents can be downloaded from this page. Conference papers will not be available on the day.

A reminder about downloading AGM papers will be sent to conference delegates and colleagues who made bookings about a week before the conference.

Educational Excellence Everywhere: the implication for SACREs

Chair of NASACRE, David Hampshire writes:

In March 2016 the government published the White Paper: *Educational Excellence Everywhere*. The White Paper sets out the government vision for schools which, if the proposals become law, will have an impact on SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences.

Firstly, there is the intention that every school will become an Academy by 2022. As agreed syllabuses do not have to be used by Academies, the question arises as to whether a local authority will need to review its agreed syllabus as required by the 1996 Education Act and the Statutory Instrument 1304 (1994). Similarly, SACREs were established to advise the local authority on RE and collective worship. If local authorities have no schools for which they are responsible, will they need advice on these two areas of school life?

Secondly, the White Paper indicates that the government will reconsider the role of local authorities and their functions. It is not clear whether this includes SACREs or not. If they are to be reformed, on what basis would this happen? Or, will they simply be abolished? The White Paper is silent on this issue.

Thirdly, statements on the National Curriculum in the White Paper are significant. The government seeks to set a standard that Academies will be able to go beyond in the National Curriculum but no Academy will have to follow it. Will the government seek to establish a national standard for RE given that no locally agreed syllabus would have to be followed? What is strongly indicated in the White Paper, is that Multi Academy Trusts will have responsibility for curriculum and therefore, what will be the requirements placed upon them for religious education

and, further, collective worship? The issue of funding agreements is significant here, especially as all existing Academies (without a specifically religious foundation) have the current definition of RE and collective worship written into those agreements – which cannot be retrospectively changed – and a clear reference to Agreed Syllabuses.

Finally, it is important to focus on the current situation. Many White Papers have proposed changes that have not come about. However, certain things are clear:

1. For the time being, the current law remains in place. Local Authorities have to appoint and maintain a SACRE as set out in statute and statutory instruments.
2. Agreed syllabuses have to be reviewed at least every five years and a revised syllabus published on the recommendation of an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
3. These functions have to be maintained even in authorities that currently have no schools to which an agreed syllabus or SACRE's advice applies.
4. SACREs have to report annually to the Secretary of State on the advice they have given and the response to that advice.

It is also the case that Local Authorities are legally responsible for the education, training and recreation of all children and young people up to the age of 19 (and in some cases, 25 as a consequence of the Children Act 2004). This responsibility includes the religious education of pupils in whatever educational establishment they might be in, whether within or beyond the boundaries of the Authority. Hence, SACREs have a clear role in ensuring that the quality of religious education and collective worship is high for all children whether they are in a maintained community school or not.

Fit for purpose?

A critique of the Purpose of Study and Aims of the REC's 2013 Framework for RE

NASACRE's Treasurer shares a personal perspective on the RECs Framework for RE

Disclaimer: This article represents the views of the writer only. It should in no way be taken as reflecting the views of NASACRE or Staffordshire SACRE.

Recent reports charting the present fragmentation of RE envisage a national

syllabus in RE, as part of the way forward. More recently still, the government appears suddenly to be taking steps to tackle the situation. Currently, the REC's proposed **National Curriculum Framework for RE** (2013) is at the forefront of the stage. It is therefore a matter of acute urgency and gravity to consider whether the Framework is fit for purpose, before it is too late and the Framework - or something very similar - is adopted and imposed by default, whether we like it or not.

A few months ago, I found myself heading up the re-writing of Staffordshire's Agreed Syllabus, as Chair of Staffordshire's SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference. To set the ball rolling, I started to look more closely at the Framework. I took particular interest in the opening sections, on the Purpose of Study and on the Aims of RE, which provide the rationale for the whole Framework. I discovered that I was experiencing some quite strong negative reactions to the text. This article is accordingly an attempt to articulate those reactions cogently and coherently, in order to test them out with colleagues, and to stimulate serious and urgent debate.

My main initial reaction had been one of disappointment and a feeling of anticlimax. Could this really be the document which would attract, motivate, and inspire the next generation of RE teachers, subject leaders and advisers? Where was the sense of enthusiasm for Religious Education, and a proper recognition of the "buzz" and the enjoyment that good RE can generate among pupils? A torrent of worthy but pedestrian prose smothered the presentation like the proverbial wet blanket. Perhaps I was being unfair; the text of the Framework had hardly been devised to "sell" RE to the world at large, but at least it might have made more effort to be upbeat about RE.

My further reactions are arguably much more serious. The first of these is that the Framework appears to be uninterested in what pupils bring with them into the school situation from their homes and communities, and how this interacts with their work in RE. The Framework states right at the start that RE sets out to "provoke challenging questions..."; but it does not apparently set out also to respect and recognise pupils' existing identities, their emerging faith, or the communities they may already belong to. The pupil is conceived of as an individual without any roots, who must be helped to find their lonely way in the world without reference to anything already there for them beyond the school gates.

This individualistic and arid ideology is compounded by an excessive emphasis on rational skills and processes, at the expense of adequately appreciating the

affective element in religion, and indeed in life itself. According to the Framework, religion is there to be “explained”, “analysed”, “appraised”, “evaluated”. The awkward fact that there is a non-rational dimension to religion (even maybe to non-theistic stances also) is quietly swept under the carpet. In consequence, the Framework appears to be biased in favour of a quite aggressive rationalistic stance over against religion, all religion, and to be promoting – consciously or unconsciously - a secularist critique of religion as such.

One factor which may be at work here is the pressure to ensure that RE is academically rigorous and respectable, and can robustly defend its corner in comparison with other subjects. This is a fair concern, but only up to a point. There is an inescapable tension between the academic study of religion, and the inclusive character of Agreed Syllabus RE, a tension exemplified by the problems that arise for schools and Agreed Syllabuses as they seek to cater for Key Stage 4 pupils.

It seems to me that the Framework has too much of an eye on GCSE performances and programmes, and on the hoops exam pupils will have to learn to go through, and not enough of an eye on the needs, capabilities and interests of the general pupil. Is a GCSE course really the most appropriate strategy or model for every pupil, to build on what has gone before? Does not the GCSE goal distort the essence of RE, and introduce an unwanted emphasis on rationally manipulating religious data and knowledge, to satisfy some external arbiter?

So, is the Framework “fit for purpose? No, it is not, as far as its underlying philosophy is concerned. Can it be rescued and re-jigged? Not without much hard thinking and reflection. It’s not a simple matter of modifying the text here and there. Who’s going to do this work? You and I. If we don’t engage with the task now, it may be too late. The Framework is already there, warts and all, in the forefront of the stage.

The RE Quality Mark

**Are all your schools aware of the RE Quality Mark?
Could your SACRE encourage or support them?**

The RE Quality Mark award acknowledges and celebrates outstanding RE, recognises good practice and provides a powerful tool for development. Schools

which have applied for the award have found that it affirms the work they are already doing, raises the profile of the subject and gives them ideas and confidence for developing their practice even further. There are **winners** throughout England and it is encouraging to read the **positive comments** which both pupils and staff make about the difference that good RE can make.

The criteria based School Evidence Form enables RE subject leaders to determine their award level and also helps them to consider critically five different aspects of practice:

- Learners and Learning
- Teachers and Teaching
- Curriculum
- Subject Leadership
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The cost of the REQM is £475. SACREs may consider offering small grants to support interested schools. Cheshire West and Chester SACRE for example, offered £100 towards schools applying for the REQM on a first come first served basis. In addition, schools which have fewer than 150 pupils, are categorised by Ofsted as "requiring improvement" or in "special measures", may be eligible for a £275 grant.

Visit the **REQM website** for further information.

A new resource

Dealing with SACRE member issues is a companion piece to the code of conduct and SACRE constitution documents and provides advice if a SACRE member becomes a problem.

You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes, but it helps.

Our intrepid sleuth Michael Metcalf reveals all.

"*Why can't we access the whole of the NASACRE website?*" (Message from
Borsetshire SACRE)

"Because you need a new user name and password each year." (Reply from
Treasurer/Membership Secretary)

"*Then why haven't we been given a new user name and password?*" (Borsetshire
SACRE)

"Because you haven't paid your annual subscription yet." (Treasurer/Membership
Secretary)

"Oh yes we have."

"Oh no you haven't."

"Oh yes we have"

This interchange, or something like it, happens many times each year, and is a source of much frustration and inconvenience on both sides. So how DO we know if your SACRE has paid its annual subscription? (Or Conference/AGM fee, etc)

A few SACREs/LAs (Local Authorities) still pay by CHEQUE and snail mail. Cheques are easy. There is never any problem about linking a cheque to its originating LA or SACRE.

The great majority of LAs now use electronic credit transfers, known as BACS. Two things can happen at this point. Either the LA sends me a separate notification telling me that the transfer is being made, or it does not send me any notification.

If I have received notification, I take this as proof of payment, even if the actual transfer date into NASACRE's account is later than the date of notification. Again, there is rarely any problem linking a notification with the originating SACRE and LA, though sometimes a bit of routine detective work may be necessary to pair all this up with the actual payment entry in the monthly bank printout (see below).

But what if I receive no separate notification? How do I then know that Borsetshire SACRE has paid its annual subscription? This is when life begins to get interesting. I scour the bank printouts to track down any payments which have appeared out of the blue, and cannot be paired up with any notification. I then have to become Sherlock Holmes, and work out which LA each of these mystery payments has come from. This is not a straightforward task, since the printout gives only limited or ambiguous details.

Some linkings have become familiar friends. I have learnt, for instance, that Babcock 4S relates to Surrey, but Babcock LDP to Devon. Serco Ltd is North East

Lincs, while SCCAPORS is Suffolk. Two new ones have had me scratching my head: SIL indicates Liverpool, but S4E T/A Services is from Birmingham. It's the ambiguous ones which cause the real problems, not helped by the fact that the abbreviation CC can stand for both County Council and City Council. You might like to try and identify the following, all real examples from the printouts: LCC, WBC, LBR, DMBC, DBC, BMBC, NCC, NCC1, SCC, RUT (*answers below*)

If every LA issued a notification with each BACS payment, there would be very little problem. In practice, quite a number of LAs fail to notify BACS payments, perhaps as part of a cost-cutting regime. (This is self-defeating, as the staff time used when a payment has to be verified is far greater than the time taken to send a notification in the first place.)

As the funding squeeze tightens, more and more LAs may become non-notifiers, so what can YOU do to help the situation?

1. Please be patient! While human error can and does happen, there are some intrinsic difficulties for us with many LAs in verifying whether they have paid their Annual Subscriptions etc.
2. Please check (if you can) whether your LA, or finance agency, issues notifications with BACS payments. If they do not, it is sometimes necessary for us to request you to extract further information (e.g. date of payment) before payment can be verified at our end.
3. Please follow up the progress of your payments within your own LA's systems. Quite often, a Purchase Order needs to be raised within your LA, and a code number attached to our invoice. This is routine, and is rarely the cause of a hold-up in the payment. It is far more likely that someone in a particular LA has failed to act. For instance, you could ask to be notified when your LA's payment has been achieved, and keep enquiring until it has.
4. Please be patient! And don't hesitate to contact us if there seems to be a delay or other problem in acknowledging your payments.
5. Please accept our thanks for your patience and understanding!

Answers to bank printout indicators:

(I can't guarantee that these are 100% correct, even now. It's an inexact science.)

LCC Leeds City Council

WBC Wokingham Borough Council

LBR London Borough of Richmond

DMBC Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

DBC Darlington Borough Council

BMBC Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

NCC Norfolk County Council (but there's a mystery entry under the same initials which doesn't quite tally, and is probably Nottingham City Council)

NCC1 Northumberland, apparently

SCC Southampton City Council

RUT Richmond upon Thames (NOT Rutland)

Yes, I know we have Richmond twice, under different indicators, but that's part of the hell of it, particularly when LAs join forces or share resources and staff and do not inform us. Quite frankly, it's a nightmare! May I refer you to 1 and 4 above.

As we are currently in the invoicing season, both for the Conference and AGM and in June the issue of annual subscriptions, it would help us tremendously if you could act as Dr Watson and pursue payments as appropriate with your respective local authorities.

NASACRE membership 2015-16

(and membership 2016-17)

To view all the resources on the website, **your SACRE needs to be a member of NASACRE**. Locked areas are indicated with a white padlock and require you to log in.

Log-in details for the website were changed in September and this information was sent to the clerks from SACREs from which we have received payment of the annual membership subscription.

Clerks have been invited to share the new login with members. If you have not yet received this information, **please contact your [SACRE clerk](#)**.

If you are a **SACRE clerk** and have not received the log-in information email but think your invoice (first sent 5th June 2015) has been paid, please email the **[Treasurer](#) providing full details regarding payment**.

Invoices for the academic year 2016-17 will be issued in June in the hope that your payment will be received by 31st August and therefore in time for you to receive the new username and

password in early September.

SACRE member survey

What is RE for? A SACRE member survey.

"I wish to thank all SACRE members who completed the online survey and those who sent me completed paper copies."

Results can be seen [here](#).

Mark Plater

All Party Parliamentary Group on RE report

Paul Smalley, Vice Chair of NASACRE provides a report of the APPG on RE meeting held in January

Combating extremism, and promoting community cohesion and character development: the contribution of Religious Education to schools

The first meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Religious Education since the election was held on 19th January 2016. Fiona Bruce MP, Chair of the APPG, welcomed around 80 people including a number from the NASACRE Executive and local SACREs to Committee Room 10 of the Houses of Parliament. The speakers were mainly drawn from the Birmingham SACRE, with Nigel Genders giving a CofE perspective and David Hampshire, Chair of NASACRE able to bring some wider national thinking.

First to speak were Ron Skelton and Adiba Khan Head and Head of RE from Broadway school in Birmingham. Their school was held up as an example of good practice as they use faith and interfaith work to ensure they have 'rounded' pupils: promoting British values and developing character in RE. Their (mostly Muslim) pupils visit different places of worship, such as a synagogue, and are encouraged to discuss controversial issues, such as jihad.

Ranjit Singh Dhanda of the Nishkam Schools Trust, also based in Birmingham, suggested that faith inspires 'character' and therefore all children need to learn RE

and to explore their own faith wherever they are at school. He spoke of how the Sikh tradition of respecting all faiths underpins the trust's schools. He wanted to ensure that existing legislation is upheld and put into practice to empower local SACREs and local authorities.

Marius Felderhof co-author of the book: *Teaching Virtue - The Contribution of Religious Education*, explored the way Birmingham SACRE had been used by the authority after the Trojan Horse affair. He advocated a strengthening of inter-faith networks and suggested that 'RE and collective worship are essentially about character development'. He also recommended that all SACREs should be properly funded, that GCSE RS be included in the EBacc, RE teachers better trained in 'character' development, and increased funding for research.

David Hampshire, chair of NASACRE, focused on challenging the contemporary understanding of all extremism as being evil, and argued that extreme pacifism (as exemplified by the Quakers) or generosity (such as that of St Anthony) should be celebrated in schools. He stated that RE cannot change the world in an hour a week, but offers the opportunity to look at countervailing narratives, so that pupils can critique the totalising narratives of violent extremism – remembering that even our narrative about extremism itself is unfairly linked to Islam. He noted that the CORAB report alleges that there is too much positive spin on religions and yet there is a Christian heritage of dissent and protest. He questioned why, if RE has an important role to play in combatting extremism (as the Secretary of State suggests) it is not in the EBacc and not mentioned as part of the Prevent agenda.

Nigel Genders Chief Education Officer for Church of England asked 'What is RE for?' and suggested that viewing RE primarily as a means to an end risks distorting its primary purpose: of promoting theological enquiry and religious literacy. He said RE can make a contribution to combatting extremism, or developing community cohesion and character building, but we need to keep some separation between Prevent and RE. RE should focus on the impact of faith in the lives of believers, and provide the tools to answer the big questions, such as the source of identity that so many young people are searching for. He wants the whole curriculum used to develop SMSC and character.

Professor James Arthur, Director of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtue at Birmingham University, ended the presentations by giving a short history of the development of character education, an area he claims has consensus across all main political parties and for which interest is expanding globally. He thinks that education is more than simply examination success and schools should be value

driven, involved in teaching intellectual, civic, moral and performance virtues.

There were a number of questions from the floor, including questions about the purpose of RE, the training of RE teachers and whether a National RE Curriculum or greater accountability measures are the best way to improve the subject's standing.

DfE audit of SACRE Annual Reports

As members will know it is a **statutory requirement for SACREs to publish an annual report and to send this to the Secretary of State, ideally by the 31st December each calendar year**. Since the abolition of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency in 2011 there has been no analysis of SACRE annual reports.

In light of this, the DfE has approached the RE Council to work with us to produce an analysis of reports. In order to do this, a template is to be produced which will allow easier analysis, although this is not compulsory. Currently, the [template for Annual Reports](#) on the NASACRE website is recommended and any new template for use will not be in place for this year due to time-scales.

As part of this process **SACREs will be asked by the DfE to send copies of their Annual Report to NASACRE** electronically, which many do already. It is important though that SACREs continue to send a copy of their report to the Secretary of State as required, as a result of the changes brought in by the Education Act 2011.

Thank you to those SACREs who have already submitted [reports](#) for the year 2014-15.

Please email your SACRE report as **one** document in **PDF format** with a **maximum size** of approx **3Mb** to: memsec@nasacre.org.uk

A request from NASACRE MemSec

When SACRE Officers change or move on, it is sometimes difficult to remember to let me know of those changes. However, it is vital if your

SACRE is not to miss out on important mailings (including *SACRE Briefing*) that you provide up to date information.

Please note: the SACRE database has been amended. An email address will now only be listed once. If for example, the clerk's email address is also the one used for contact with other SACRE Officers, then that email address will only be listed once and under the name of the clerk.

Click [here](#) to check details.

Click [here](#) to email new details.



[Follow us on Twitter](#)

Copyright © 2016 NASACRE, All rights reserved.

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

MailChimp

GOVERNING BODY AGENDA ITEM - SUMMER TERM 2016

TITLE OF ITEM:

GOVERNORS' LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

MAIN BODY OF THE ITEM

RE is a statutory entitlement for all pupils and is part of the requirement for all state-funded schools to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes RE. All schools must publish their provision for RE by academic year online.

The RE curriculum is locally determined by each Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE), which is responsible for producing its local Agreed Syllabus for RE. Maintained schools and many voluntary controlled schools who do not have academy status are required to follow their locally Agreed Syllabus and many academies and free schools choose to do so.

Governing bodies in all maintained schools have a statutory duty to ensure that provision is made for RE for all registered pupils, unless they are withdrawn by their parents. This includes all pupils in reception classes and sixth form.

Academies and free schools are contractually required through the terms of their funding agreement to make provision for the teaching of RE. Different requirements apply to schools with a religious character. Governors in these schools have a duty to ensure that the terms of their funding agreement are met.

An analysis of the 2015 student entries for GCSE Religious Studies in Doncaster has revealed that three secondary academies entered no students for examination in Religious Studies at KS4 and five other secondary academies entered less than 40 students (see paper enclosure).

The Academies Commission Report 2013 highlights the responsibilities that Local Authorities have for children and young people – which places Local Authorities as advocates for a broad and balanced curriculum, including RE. This duty of advocacy means that it is important that the Local Authority knows which RE syllabus is being followed by schools/academies not using the local Agreed Syllabus for RE, and/or not entering students for examination in Religious Studies at Key Stage 4.

(Extracts taken/adapted from the NATRE website)

RECOMMENDATION

The Governing Body is asked to:

- a. Receive and note the paper entitled “ Religious Education: What Governors Need to Know “
- b. Nominate a Governor with responsibility for RE to ensure that the statutory /contractual arrangements for RE are in place

c. Provide the Local Authority with details of the RE syllabus or syllabuses being followed across the Key Stages

**Are there any enclosures which will need to be circulated with this item?
If so please identify.**

“ Religious Education: What Governors Need to Know “

Indicate which schools: all categories below

Maintained Infant -
Maintained Junior
Maintained Primary
Maintained Special

Academy Infant
Academy Junior
Academy Primary
Academy Secondary

Pupils Referral Units

Free School

s:\cyps_governors\4\2014\officersagendaitemsforms.docx

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: WHAT GOVERNORS NEED TO KNOW

In brief, legislation about RE requires that:

- in maintained community, foundation or voluntary schools without a religious character, RE is taught in accordance with the local Agreed Syllabus;
- academies and free schools must teach RE within the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirements are that a syllabus must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain';
- schools with a religious designation may prioritise one religion in their RE curriculum, but all schools must recognise diverse religions and systems of belief in the UK both locally and nationally.
- for foundation and voluntary controlled schools with a religious character, RE must be taught according to the Agreed Syllabus unless, parents request RE in accordance with the trust deed of the school; and
- in voluntary aided schools RE must be taught in accordance with the trust deed.

RE must be included in the curriculum for all registered pupils, including all pupils in reception classes and sixth form, but excluding:

- pupils in nursery schools or nursery classes in primary schools;
- any person aged nineteen or above for whom further education is being provided at school; and
- any person over compulsory school age who is receiving part-time education.

NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE)

Doncaster GCSE entries in Religious Studies 2013-15:

Provider	2013 Full Course	2013 Short Course	2013 Total	2014 Full Course	2014 Short Course	2014 Total	2015 Full course	2015 Short course	2015 Total
A	0	131	131	0	0	0	0	1	1
B	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
C	107	15	122	88	0	88	105	1	106
D	0	23	23	0	60	60	11	50	61
E	23	202	225	76	154	230	203	0	203
F	76	0	76	119	0	119	127	0	127
G	17	176	193	35	188	223	46	157	203
H	37	0	37	59	0	59	36	2	38
I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J	20	0	20	20	0	20	8	0	8
K	212	18	230	260	0	260	261	0	261
L	0	0	0	0	109	109	27	0	27
M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N	44	47	91	35	96	131	61	0	61
O	11	68	79	11	82	93	2	0	2
P	57	123	180	61	129	190	50	108	158
Q	125	70	195	126	54	180	127	64	191
Total	11 schs 729	10 schs 873	13 schs 1602	12 schs 891	9 schs 873	14 schs 1765	13 schs 1064	7 schs 383	14 schs 1447

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

A Record of a Conference encouraging the provision of

INSPIRING RE

Context

The Conference was held at 'The Hub' in Rotherham for a full day on March 4th 2016. 'The Hub' turned out to be a former industrial building taken over and used by groups of Christians intent on developing a greater awareness of religion. It is dedicated to developing a spirit of tolerance, coupled with generating and fostering an interest in understanding the contribution of different faith traditions.

The ostensible aim of the event was:

To provide practical and creative ideas for secondary and primary teachers who wish to offer Inspiring RE in South Yorkshire Schools.

Participants

Around 50 participants gathered for the Conference, they were mainly female and mainly with a Primary School orientation, but Special and Secondary Schools were also represented. A number of those present made it clear that they were *'filling in'* for other colleagues and considered this a welcome treat and a time for reflection.

In addition to the school delegates there were: representatives of the local SACREs; members of PAIS, an organisation devoted to Christian outreach; and staff and supporters of the organisation RE TODAY who also provided the luminary presence of Lat Blaylock.

Structure of the Day and Content

The day was sensibly structured to deliver on a number of levels and to highlight issues which are currently appearing at the top of the RE Agenda. For

each issue I have highlighted one activity that I hope SACRE members will take pleasure in undertaking one of the tasks

Issue One: Imaginative RE.


This would provide a number of ways in which to enable imagination and spirituality to flourish amongst 5-14 year old children.

Lat Blaylock emphasised the need to engage creativity in many areas to deliver spiritual gains, including the use of music, architecture and literature as conduits for development. This involves children in addressing questions of *meaning*, exploring a range of different meaningful models, using poetry as *windows in my soul*, how religion impacts on teachers, schools and honesty. He identified the danger of closed minds He demonstrated a number of ways in which this could be achieved. For example try this exploration of art and imagery:


This is unique because...

**3 moments from Holy Week
Similar and different**

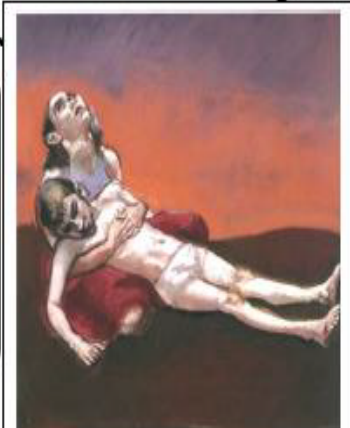
These 2 share...



These 2 share...



All three share...



These 2 share...

This is unique because...

This is unique because...

Issue Two: Encouraging deeper thinking about 'Values'

There is value in taking values and their exploration outside the trap of 'Britishness' and searching for inspiration and universal values more widely, throughout a range of faith communities. What do you make of this?:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">⦿ Always be truthful.⦿ Always be happy.⦿ Always face your troubles.⦿ Do all your work diligently.⦿ Be humble.⦿ Be just.⦿ Be generous.⦿ Don't lose your temper.⦿ Accept success or failure at work.⦿ Be polite.⦿ Never waste words.⦿ Always be compassionate.⦿ Aspire to do difficult tasks.	<h2 style="text-align: center;">HOW TO BE GOOD</h2> <p>These 16 ideas about how to be good come from a Hindu children's magazine.</p> <p>Which six do you agree with most strongly?</p> <p>Are there two you do not agree with?</p> <p>Say why.</p>
---	---

Try asking difficult questions like asking who was responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. Was it the Sanhedrin, the Pharisees, Pontius Pilate, Judas Iscariot, God, the Crowd, the Romans, the soldiers, Jesus himself?

It could be dissonance productive asking those considering this to think about this situation in *present* terms. For example, if Peter were alive today what would he write in a 'tweet' about the crucifixion?

It is probably crucial to address the question about the ways in which *British Values* are different from other societal values?

Issues Three & Four: Assessing RE after 'Levels' and Assessing where the Subject is heading

Levels have now been replaced by 'Outcomes' and there was a strong feeling at the event that things were now rather foggy and therefore, perhaps in the short-term more complex. Lat Blaylock had developed the idea of what he called *progress steps* which seemed to involve gathering new ideas and

developing new skills and knowing things. He called this approach '*The 8 Steps Up Approach*'. To some extent this invention of an interim model seems to demonstrate the lack of comprehensibility of the new approach adopted nationally and perhaps the weakness of current centralised thinking.

Concluding Thoughts

- There was clearly some unease and a feeling of being cut adrift with an incomprehensible and perhaps ill-thought out centralised assessment mode approach.
- There was great support for the notion that the South Yorkshire Hub should consider meeting regularly once a term joining with Vanessa in Rotherham to provide additional support and an forum for the exchange of insights materials doubts and concern.
- Perhaps some sort of on-going home-based evaluation of progress and developments will be essential in the Region in the future, especially in view of the sharing involved in the new political model for South Yorkshire.
- The *8 Steps Up Approach* was welcomed as a way of making progress as an interim measure
- The learning resources like those offered by *Lat Blaylock* and *RE Today* were highly valued especially in the generous and open-handed way in which they can be freely used. These resources have all been lodged with Pat who will distribute them widely, I know
- Other resources also exist in our Region. For example, *Pais GB* which is based in Rotherham, is the tip of an iceberg. It was established in 1992 and is anxious to provide a Christian faith-based model emphasising positive behaviour; contributing to RE delivery and collective worship in schools; providing a wide range of skills including languages; wishing to collaborate with churches and schools and seeking new ways of interacting.