

SACRE National Updates from RE today: Spring 2020

Ofsted reports – the ‘three Is’ and RE

In late November 2019 NATRE published a document showing all the Ofsted reports (published by the end of November) that mentioned RE. There are 101 of them! Teachers including middle and senior leaders might find it interesting to discuss some of the points that have emerged so far.

The document also picks out some of the key themes from the reports.

Read the **Ofsted primary and secondary Autumn 2019 NATRE report** here.

How will SACRE communicate with schools who get particularly positive reports or reports that show areas for improvement?

CBP 7167: House of Commons Library paper on RE in England – Autumn 2019

This new paper (Autumn 2019) outlines over 30 pages of guidance which has great authority because it comes from the HoC Library. In one sense it represents current law, practice and thinking in the most up to date possible way. It includes a wide range of valuable hyperlinks to the key policy documents. We should consider drawing the attention of HTs to this document, which can be found at:

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7167>

Guidance on RE and collective worship in academies

In 2012, NATRE supported the Department for Education in the production of some ‘Questions and Answers’ about Religious Education and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools. This document has now been updated to a new format and should be helpful to teachers and others looking for guidance on Government Policy with references to legislation.

Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools

This document is also linked to and from: **Religious Education guidance in English schools non-statutory guidance 2010**

Collective Worship

Some of you may have noticed some coverage in the **press** last term regarding two children who had been withdrawn from Collective Worship in a primary school in Oxfordshire. The school concerned is a community primary. Although it has joined the Oxford Diocesan MAT, Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST), this didn’t change the status of the school. It must still provide daily collective worship of a ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’ in line with current legislation. One family, supported by Humanists UK, chose to withdraw their children from this Collective Worship, as is their right. The parents were seeking a judicial review because they felt that during CW, the school should provide an alternative of equal educational worth for their children to attend.

Before the Judicial Review took place the family and the school **agreed** an **out of court settlement**. The DfE have clearly stated that this case has no immediate implications for SACREs or schools.

‘The complaint was settled by the two parties outside of court and as such has no bearing on current legislation or the current national policy on collective worship’

Legislation and guidance have not been altered and community schools should still continue to provide a daily act of Collective Worship of a broadly Christian nature, unless a determination is in place, or parents withdraw their children. There is no requirement for the school to provide alternatives for children withdrawn from CW, although as a result of the case, schools and SACREs may receive enquiries and requests.

What does SACRE know about Collective worship in schools? What support might be given to schools?

Increase in Secondary RE ITE trainees

Recruitment for secondary trainees of RE has seen a dramatic boost this year after the DfE accepted our argument that it needed to do more to encourage and support applicants. Bursaries were increased from £4,000 to £9,000 and subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) courses were funded such as the **TeachRE 200 hours course** which is endorsed and certified by NATRE.

The end result is we have a bumper crop of trainees for 2019-20 and we reached 93% of our target. This will make it easier for schools ensure more pupils in all schools to have access to high quality teaching. In 2018-19, we reached only 58% of the target, so this is a significant step forward.

Wales

In October 2019, the Welsh Government issued a consultation on Ensuring Access to the Full Curriculum for all pupils. The Welsh Government have decided that there will no longer be a right to withdraw from RE and RSE as part of the new curriculum. The Welsh government have also decided to rename the subject as Religion, Values and Ethics.

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-ensuring-access-full-curriculum>

Timing of SATs tests in 2021: Adaptations available for Muslim pupils

In 2021, Eid-ul-Fitr is likely to begin on the evening of Wednesday 12th May. Given the significance of the festivities the DfE are aware that pupils are likely to be absent from school and so have given advice to schools on how to rearrange tests for some or all pupils if deemed necessary.

How will the LA make sure schools understands the guidance?

NASACRE National Conference and AGM 2020: Monday 18th May "Authority in RE"

The **2020 NASACRE Conference and AGM** will be held on Monday 18 May at: Crowne Plaza London - The City, 19 New Bridge St, London EC4V 6DB

The hotel is across the road from Blackfriars underground (Circle and District line)) and mainline station. It is less than a 10 minute walk from the excellent, modern and very fast Thameslink service.

Coffee and tea and pastries will be available from 10,30 and we will start at 11 AM. Our keynote speaker is Matthew Purves, Ofsted's Deputy Director, Schools.

A number of excellent workshops will be offered (see **conference programme**); you will need to indicate your preference of workshops when you book. Also, please make certain you indicate any dietary requirements.

At the conference, there will be some filming for an informational video about SACREs and NASACRE at the conference. If you don't wish to be filmed, there is a place on the booking form to indicate this. Please make sure you complete this; you will then be issued with a special badge to indicate that you should not be filmed.

This promises to be an outstanding conference and all SACREs are encouraged to send representatives. Bookings can be made **[here](#)**.

Who could represent our SACRE at the NASACRE conference?

Themes for the NATRE Spirited Arts ‘Art in Heaven’ and ‘Spirited Poetry’ competitions, 2020

There will be 40 prizes for each competition plus certificates for all schools entering to give to their pupils. 10 art and 10 poetry entries are welcome from each school. How can we encourage our schools to enter?

<p>Picturing Faith (Photo section!)</p>	<p>This is an innovation for our Art in Heaven competition. Pupils are invited to select up to 4 photographs from a visit to a place of worship (or another trip connected to RE) – preferably those taken by themselves, and give a brief commentary on the pictures to say what was great and what they learned from their visits. Comments about the emotions and the purpose of the place, not just ‘labels and captions’ are best. We suggest they are sent in a PPT presentation (or similar). If you have another way of responding to the theme ‘Picturing Faith’ then that is fine, please do send it in!</p>
<p>God’s good earth? (“Beautiful World, wonderful God?”)</p>	<p>Are we spoiling God’s good earth? Should we be thankful for it? Can we save it in time from the threats of climate change? The beauty of the earth is celebrated in many religions, but the human spoiling of the earth is a danger and a coming crisis. In this theme, learners are invited to explore ideas and beliefs about the natural world, human responsibility for the earth and ways of praying about climate justice. Great work will show some originality: the globe in God’s hands won’t win!</p>
<p>Inspiring!</p>	<p>What inspired you? A song? A quote? Another person’s life? A place? Religion offers people inspiration to live. Sometimes an inspirational life, a person’s example, a text or a piece of music crystallizes our inspiration. In this theme, you are invited to identify what inspired you from a religion – it doesn’t have to be your own faith, as inspiration tends to spill over the edges of religions. Explain through your art and text what connects your inspiration to spiritual or religious life.</p>
<p>Holy Words!</p>	<p>What words are holy for you? Select a saying or story you really love about peace, faith, unity, prayer or some other religious theme. Incorporate your holy words into your design or art and express the value and meaning of the words you have chosen in the images and art that you make. This theme has a close connection to the study of holy books and teaching from 2 or more different scriptures can be used, so get reading from the Torah and the Gospel, the Qur’an and the Gita, the Dhammapada or the Guru Granth Sahib. And add some words from a non-religious source of wisdom too if you like.</p>
<p>Where is God?</p>	<p>Atheists, agnostics and believers in God might all respond to this by expressing their sense of the search for God or finding God. Where’s God? In your heart, in prayer, in the temple or the universe? Or is she hiding? Is he not there at all? Looking for God, searching for him or her, matters: but how are we doing in finding God? Would you search with google or a ‘god-detector? Is God on Instagram or whatsapp? Can God be found by prayer or by looking among the world’s suffering people? This popular ‘Art in Heaven’ theme produces great work where pupils use ideas from religions clearly: The Jewish Psalms 42 and 43 are where it starts.</p>

All themes are suited to both primary and secondary pupils: teachers are advised to share them with RE classes in age appropriate ways.

Prizes: £25 prizes will be awarded to about 40 winners. Exceptional work from 14-19 students may win a prize of up to £100.

A PPT illustrating the themes with pupils’ work will be available in both primary and secondary versions and make a great way of introducing the competition – in a lesson, or to the whole school in assembly.

www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts