

**From:** [NASACRE Administrator](#)  
**To:** [Vinothan Sangarapillai](#)  
**Subject:** SACRE briefing 33  
**Date:** 02 November 2022 20:16:30

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Beware – This email originated outside Camden Council and may be malicious. Please take extra care with any links, attachments, requests to take action or for you to verify your password etc. Please note there have been reports of emails purporting to be about Covid 19 being used as cover for scams so extra vigilance is required.

Latest news and updates from NASACRE

[View this email in your browser](#)



# SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 33

*This issue includes:*

- **Welcome and Update from the Chair**

- **Calling all members...**
- **The Education White Paper**
- **Westhill Awards 22-23**
- **NASACRE website**
- **Conference 2023**
- **2022-23 Subscriptions**
- **SACRE Annual Reports**
- **NASACRE's online Training Programme for 2022-23**
- **FOI Request revisited**
- **Monitoring Data sent to all SACREs**
- **STOP PRESS**
- **Other RE work and News**
- **Introduction to Religion and Worldviews: free, short, online courses**
- **Book Review - Religion and Worldviews**
- **Inter Faith Week (IFN)**
- *Ordinary People* **theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023**
- **REQM**
- **Regional RE Hubs**
- **Items for your next Agenda**

## Welcome and Update from the Chair

Since our last Briefing in July, we have heard from many SACREs about their agendas, and especially about government reforms to education; two of the articles below should be helpful as we prepare for anticipated changes.

Our Strategy sub-group met at the end of October and the White Paper is top of our agenda. We will also warmly welcome our Patron, Charles Clarke MP, to speak with us on this topic as part of our CPD programme on 17th November. Also, on our immediate action list is NASACRE's continued participation in the Professional RE Group, organised through the RE Council. A particular interest at the moment is in initial teacher education recruitment and retention.

SACREs have a responsibility in this area, and we will report more in our next Briefing.

We have also been working hard as an association to effect the changes that face any organisation when the Treasurer role is handed over, and we are in good hands – thank you Michael and Saquat, and also thanks to Marie our Administrator for making everything work in time for the annual membership subscription round.

The Executive committee has a great deal to do, and not only in terms of responding reactively to political and administrative change. David Hampshire's insightful **review and analysis of annual SACRE reports** challenged us to keep up our proactive conversations with the Department for Education,

focusing on the advice SACREs provide to local authorities and what actions are taken as a result. We're delighted to say that we have already had one meeting with the Department this term and thank the DfE officials for clarifying so many issues and for listening to our concerns – and our successes. SACREs and NASACRE need to think about how we describe and report the impact of our work on RE and collective worship and this is something we will be addressing on our website as well as in an 'infographic' to be published soon.

There is also a great deal of enjoyable and creative opportunity for SACREs and schools highlighted in this edition of the Briefing. It's time to start preparing for the Westhill/NASACRE awards, and Inter Faith Week is coming up with all it offers to schools and our other networks.

All this takes volunteer time and energy – and once again we are appealing to the membership to help us recruit a Vice-Chair for a vibrant and creative association. Are you the person to step forward? Or do you know someone who might....?

And finally, as we look forward to our pearly 30th year as an association, and a celebration at our Conference in May, we can be proud of the pearls of wisdom that emerge from our membership and the people they work with in schools, local authorities, faith communities, universities and beyond. We also know that pearls emerge in oysters through the effects of grit and irritation – I'm not going to risk extending the metaphor, but we all wish you well as we work together for the benefit of the subject, its teachers, and those who learn with them in these difficult times.

---

## Calling all members...

*Please can you help us in our ongoing search for a Vice-Chair? We have been operating without a colleague formally in this role for more than two years and we know there are members of SACREs out there who would be brilliant in the role. The VC usually becomes the Chair and then the Executive Assistant to NASACRE so we know it looks like a daunting 6 year commitment.*

<https://nasacre.org.uk/about/constitution/>

But those who have enjoyed the role say the time flies... the VC sometimes chairs Exec meetings, and especially subgroups, but also covers invitations to external meetings with other networks. Someone with enthusiasm and appropriate skills emerging from their work with SACREs would be very welcome on our team.

Linda is staying on as Chair for the moment, and Paul is still Executive Assistant, so you would have lots of support. Both are very happy to work with those who are even just thinking about this step, as are all members of the Executive committee who are currently 'acting' VCs by default, and by commitment, as we meet the needs of the association.

We know the next Vice-Chair of NASACRE might not be reading this, but we hope they know someone who is!

---

## The Education White Paper

NASACRE has continued to discuss with the DfE the implications of the Education White Paper and the School's Bill.

We understand that with the current political turmoil the School's Bill is currently 'paused'. However, it appears that the governmental aims - including all schools to be part of a strong Multi Academy Trust by 2030 - are unchanged, with each new Education Secretary. We are continuing to work with DfE officials so that ministers and advisers are aware of the potential implications for RE of such a move, and we are committed to working together to ensure that the support given by many SACREs is not diminished under any new structure. SACREs should continue to fulfil all their statutory duties, and other support activities, and should expect that they receive sufficient funding to enable them to carry out these duties from the CSSB allocated to LAs. NASACRE is intending to once again ask all LAs about SACRE Funding (via an FOI request) this term.

---

## Westhill Awards 22-23

Applications are open for the next round of NASACRE/Westhill awards, and all the information can be found on the [NASACRE website](#). Also on the website is the recording and PowerPoint from the [training session](#) exploring the process and the criteria.

What one SACRE did and the impact:

*The £4,000 funding received from NASACRE/Westhill gave the Berkshire SACRE Hub an invaluable start on what would become a key initiative across the county, sustained and expanded well beyond its planned scope. Initially, filming took place in the Reform Synagogue in Maidenhead, the Hindu Mandir and Shi'a Mosque in Reading and an Anglican church on the outskirts of Bracknell. The project was wholeheartedly supported by all six SACREs and continued funding has enabled many more films to be produced, bringing to bear wide-ranging faith perspectives on the key questions at all Key Stages that form the backbone of the Berkshire Agreed Syllabus. Alongside teachers' notes, these films have become an invaluable resource for RE teachers both within and beyond the county, providing rich and thought-provoking opportunities for pupils of all ages to engage with the lived reality of faith today.*

---

## NASACRE website

Hopefully by now you are aware of our new **NASACRE website** and have noticed our **new 'sharing' area**. This is an opportunity for SACREs to showcase their latest work – projects, syllabuses, publications and achievements.

Please send **Marie** links to your documents, news and events that you are happy to share.

---

## Conference 2023

On **22 May 2023 in London**, NASACRE will hold its first in-person conference since 2019. This will be NASACRE's 30th (Pearl!) anniversary so will be a very special event. Please save the date and more details will follow as soon as the venue is confirmed.

---

## 2022-23 Subscriptions

At your next SACRE meeting please check that your annual subscription of £105 has been paid, so your SACRE doesn't miss out on all the benefits of subscribed membership, including access for all SACRE members to the areas of the **website** where extra resources and supportive information can be found.

Remember that for an extra £50, any or all of your SACRE members may attend as many of the **online training** events as they choose.

---

## SACRE Annual Reports

Your SACRE has received an email with a link to the **analysis of SACRE annual reports** that was carried out last year by Dr. David Hampshire. Take some time to see how your SACRE compares with the national picture.

The **new template** for annual reports - issued last year - makes this kind of analysis possible, so NASACRE and the DfE politely request that SACREs use this new format.

Remember to send reports to **admin@nasacre.org.uk** and to the **DfE**.

---

## NASACRE's online Training Programme for 2022-23

Did you know our online webinar programme started in September? Did any of your new SACRE members attend that session? If not, the PowerPoint and recording of the training is freely available to all SACREs and can be found [here](#) on our website.

Find [here](#) a link to our webinar programme for 2022-23. You will see there is plenty to support SACRE and all your members throughout the year. We again have a special offer: for a one-off fee of £50 you may book any/all SACRE members for their choice of sessions.

We hope you will join us at our next webinars:

**17 November** from 7-8pm: the webinar will feature NASACRE's patron Charles Clarke, who will be focusing on positive ways forward for SACREs.

*This session is £20 to subscribed SACREs and £30 to non-subscribed SACREs (who have not paid for the training package).*

---

## FOI Request revisited

In 2020, NASACRE sent out a Freedom of Information (FOI) request about LA funding of SACREs to all LAs. From the responses to this, the DfE contacted those LAs who reported no SACRE funding or support for RE & Collective Worship. NASACRE published a [report](#) on the findings and ran a [webinar](#).

Two years on, we are issuing another Local Authority FOI request, to ask about current funding of SACREs to see what the situation is now. This will help us in our work with the DfE, and in supporting SACREs to fulfil their statutory duties.

We are pleased to say Edge Hill University will be carrying out this piece of research for NASACRE.

---

## Monitoring Data sent to all SACREs

Deborah Weston, NATRE Research Officer, has sent the school workforce data to all SACREs to support their monitoring activity. Deborah points out:

*This data was reported by schools to the DfE as part of the school census in November 2021. The national data trends were published in June, but this dataset was extracted from the data as part of a memorandum of understanding between NATRE and the DfE. Around 3000 schools are included in the sample which includes around 80% of state funded secondary schools but not all; some have not reported any data this year for a variety of reasons.*

*Points to note:*

1. I calculate that around 20% of schools that completed a curriculum return this year did not report RE but did report other subjects – some of those reported the more obvious '0.0%' last year.

2. Where schools reported that they allocate teaching hours to a specific year group, but have not included RE in that report, this is indicated by a dot in that year group column. SACREs are advised to investigate this issue as it appears unlikely that a discrete lesson of RE is being taught in these circumstances.

3. I've created a couple of new columns to indicate possible reporting issues e.g. where RE is either possibly not reported or under-reported but Philosophy is reported (instead?) This can easily happen if the lesson on the timetable is Philosophy and Ethics or even Philosophy, Religion and Ethics.

The usual health warning applies: This data is a conversation starter not a definitive indicator of what schools are doing so SACREs need to treat the information alongside other information such as the school website, public examination results (where available) and school visits. I always write to schools to ask them to clarify if there is no data or if the data suggests they are non-compliant.

The next step for a SACRE might be to use its statutory remit 'to advise the local authority' to formally report the fact that schools in their area have reported data to the DfE that suggests they are non-compliant with the law in relation to RE and in the case of academies, their funding agreements. The LA can be asked to investigate and report their findings back to SACRE after a conversation with a school leader.

To compare your local authority profile with the national picture, please use this report from the [NATRE website](#).

If your SACRE did not receive this data, please contact Deborah Weston directly on [deborah@retoday.org.uk](mailto:deborah@retoday.org.uk)

---

## STOP PRESS

The NASACRE Executive committee has agreed in principle to appoint an Executive (project) Officer to assist us all in some of the exciting work that has emerged from the increased activity of the association. The strategy group has been working on the details - please watch this space for further information!

---

## Other RE work and News

NASACRE reserves the right to publish news items from members of the Executive and from members of the association that the editors judge to be of interest to the

membership. These items reflect the views and aims of the individual or organisation, and not necessarily those of the Association. Unfortunately, limited editorial time and resources mean that we cannot accept all items submitted. Thank you for your understanding.

---

## Introduction to Religion and Worldviews; free, short, online course for SACRE members

As SACRE members, you will be aware of the shift within the subject to a Religion and Worldviews approach. If you would like to learn more about the ideas underpinning the approach, Culham St Gabriel's Trust are pleased to inform you about a new, free, online short course; Introduction to Religion and Worldviews. The course takes around 90 minutes to complete, it is interactive and can be accessed from any device, at your own pace.

The purpose of the course is to offer a basic, friendly introduction to Religion and Worldviews. The course has been designed for non-teachers as well as teachers. Any jargon is carefully defined and the course is accessible with absolutely no knowledge of the classroom. You will notice that there are other short courses on the website; further Introduction level courses as well as Digging Deeper level courses. Please feel free to take any further courses or recommend them to colleagues and teachers in your network.

All courses can be found here: <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

To find out more about the courses, join a free webinar on **3rd November 4-5pm**. Book a place via this [Eventbrite link](#).

This is a chance to ask questions or raise any issues. If you take the course, any comments are welcome, especially from SACRE members. Culham St Gabriel's is always keen to find out how they can improve their offer.

This is what one SACRE member said about the Introduction to Religions and Worldviews online course:

*'This course takes just over an hour to complete and is very interactive, using a range of different responses, from click boxes to reflections, for you to record your answers. The brief overview of the history and development of religious education in schools is very helpful in understanding the focus and rationale of the subject today. An overview of Religion and Worldviews enables a development of understanding what study of Religion and Worldviews education is, giving an opportunity to reflect on your own thoughts of how you view this approach. The practical teaching examples are extremely helpful in exploring how this approach can be applied in the classroom using real life examples followed by another opportunity for your own reflection which can help to develop your own thinking about the approach.'*



*The pupils' views provide very powerful testimony straight from the children and young people themselves as to the value of this subject. The question about confidence to move to this approach, whilst clearly aimed at teachers, allows governors, SACRE members and others invested in this subject to consider their confidence in the knowledge gained from this course. The assessment and final reflection on the course provide a very helpful summary of the learning and your own response to it.'*

---

## **Book Review - Religion and Worldviews -**

### *The Triumph of the Secular in Religious Education*

Edited by L. Philip Barnes

*A serious analysis and review of the Commission on Religious Education's proposed worldviews framework for RE. **This book** argues that religious education has an important contribution to make to the aims of liberal education and examines whether the shift to a worldview's framework is capable of overcoming current weaknesses and initiating a new positive direction for the future.*

Review by NASACRE Exec member Michael Metcalf:

*"This book covers territory much of which will be familiar to anyone who has been involved in the RE world in the last decade or so. Many of the people centrally involved in producing the 2018 CoRE Report Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward had hoped to forge an "irresistible coalition" whereby RE could be reformed and revitalised, with new legislation. The book shows how such a hope proved to be unattainable, while the various essays raise profound questions about the philosophical and pedagogical weaknesses of the "Worldviews" bandwagon. This is a 'must-read' for all who are engaged in planning, presenting and developing RE in today's world."*

---

## **Inter Faith Week (IFN)**

A meeting of the Inter Faith Network (IFN) was held on Wednesday 7 September for representatives of educational and academic bodies, and national and regional interfaith organisations. An update on recent IFN activity was followed by a whistle-stop exchange of key news and current projects from members. The topic of 'Difficult Dialogues' was introduced by Georgina Bye, Co-Director of the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) and Indy Nottage, Executive Officer of the RE Council of England and Wales. Members then shared reflections of different approaches to sensitive and challenging conversations.

For more information:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/working-in-partnership-for-the-common-good-report-on-ifns-2022-national-meeting>

---

## Ordinary People theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

Genocide is facilitated by ordinary people. Ordinary people turn a blind eye, believe propaganda, join murderous regimes. Ordinary people were involved in all aspects of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, and in the genocides that took place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Ordinary people were perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, witnesses – and ordinary people were victims. For Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 the theme highlights the ordinary people who let genocide happen, the ordinary people who actively perpetrated genocide, and the ordinary people who were persecuted.

This theme will also prompt us to consider how ordinary people such as us, can perhaps play a bigger part than we might imagine in challenging prejudice today.

We are all ordinary people who can be extraordinary in our actions. We can all make decisions to challenge prejudice, stand up to hatred, to speak out against identity-based persecution, to shop responsibly.

Ordinary people are also the ones who drive Holocaust Memorial Day, who lead on community commemorations, who support and encourage everyone around them to take part in remembrance and education projects.

**Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | HMD 2023 Theme**

---

## REQM

SACREs are reminded of the useful subject and professional development frameworks provided (freely online) by the **RE Quality Mark** (RE Council of England and Wales) since 2012. Award schools in your area are often leaders of local networks and events.

Please contact [admin@reqm.org](mailto:admin@reqm.org) for further details.

---

## Regional RE Hubs

The regional RE Hubs project is pleased to announce **FREE training** for those interested in helping schools to deliver high-quality RE/R&W/RVE.

The training aims to help participants understand the purpose and context of RE/R&W/RVE in England and Wales and offers top tips for working well with schools by hosting visits or visiting schools.

The training session lasts 1.5 hrs, and sessions are running monthly for you to select one that fits your schedule.

After training, providers that have signed up to the agreed principles for working with schools will be accredited with the **RE Hubs Kitemark**. Providers will then be featured on the new website launched in January 2023.

Upcoming training dates:

Wednesday 16 November 11:30-1pm

Monday 12 December 9:30-11am

Tuesday 24 January 4-5:30pm

Monday 20 February 6-7:30pm

Thursday 23 March 2-3:30pm

Tuesday 18 April 9:30-11am

Wednesday 17 May 11-12:30pm

Tuesday 20 June 10-11:30am

To sign up, email [marketing@regionalrehubs.co.uk](mailto:marketing@regionalrehubs.co.uk)

---

## Items for your next agenda

- Holocaust Memorial Day
  - Using Workforce data
  - Your 2022 Annual Report and the 2021 analysis
  - NASACRE subs and training sessions
  - Inter Faith Week
  - SACRE Self Evaluation
  - NASACRE's next training on **17 November** with our patron Charles Clarke:  
*Positive ways forward for SACREs.*
- 



Follow us on Twitter

---



*Copyright © 2022 NASACRE, All rights reserved.*

Officers of all SACREs receive SACRE Briefing. This can be forwarded to other members of your SACRE. SACREs which are paid up members of NASACRE are able to view all content on the website.

**Our mailing address is:**

NASACRE  
CAN Mezzanine, 49-51 East Road  
London, N1 6AH  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

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

