



Wandsworth

Chief Executive
Mike Jackson

Wandsworth Borough Council
Chief Executive's Group
The Town Hall Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PU

Date: 9th February 2023

For further information on this agenda, please contact the Democratic Services Officer: Ruth Wright on ruth.wright@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk, 020 8871 6035

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**MONDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.
WANDSWORTH QUAKER FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, 59
WANDSWORTH HIGH STREET, SW18 2PT**

SACRE Membership:

Group A – Christian and Other Religious Denominations: Mr Jatin Bhatt (Hindu Education Board), Mr Dominique Joseph Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church), Ms Sharon Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue), Ms Saffi Haines (Society of Friends), Rev. Rosamund Hollingsworth (the Methodist Church of Great Britain) (Society of Friends), Mrs Maria Liddy (Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark), Mr Colin Perry (Buddhapadipa Temple), Mr Paul Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is), Imam Khubaeb Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre), Mr Usman Shazhad Butt (Ahmadiyya Muslim Association) and Mr Harbans Singh Mehta (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara).

Group A Substitutes: Ms Shanta Chellappoo-Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is), Mr Nabhinandan Das (Hindu Society) and Mr Charan Singh (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara),

Group B – Church of England: Ms Ewa Bednarek, Mr Shaun Burns and Ms Rachel Croft.

Group C – Teachers' Associations: Mrs Claire Beecher (NEU), Ms Clare Hewitson (NEU), Ms Brigitte Sayers-Eugster (NASUWT) and Ms Claire Wood (NAHT).

Group D – Local Authority: Councillor Sana Jafri (Chair), Councillor Mrs Rosemary Birchall, Councillor Angela Graham and Councillor Norman Marshall.

Group D Substitute: Councillor Annan

Co-opted members – none

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes - 3rd October 2022

(Pages 5 - 12)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the SACRE held on 3rd October 2022 (attached) and to consider any matters arising.

3. Membership and Welcome

To receive a verbal update on the membership of the SACRE.

4. Wandsworth Community and Partnerships Service

Visiting speaker, Amelia Willis, to introduce herself and the Wandsworth Community and Partnerships Service.

5. SACRE Annual Report 2021/22

(Pages 13 - 26)

To consider the SACRE Annual Report for 2021/22 (attached).

6. 2021 Census Data on Religion

(Pages 27 - 30)

To discuss and note information from the 2021 Census regarding the religion question returns for Wandsworth and England (attached).

7. Government White Paper regarding schools changing to academies

To receive a verbal update on the White Paper.

8. National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) Update (Pages 31 - 56)

To consider the latest information from NASACRE.

9. Agreed Syllabus Conference

To note the details of the Conference, scheduled to take place immediately after the SACRE meeting.

10. Any Other Business

11. Future Meeting Dates

To note that the next SACRE meetings in 2023 are scheduled for:

- Monday 12th June 2023, at Wandsworth Town Hall
- Monday 2nd October 2023, location to be confirmed.

Proposed Spring 2024 date:

- Monday 4th March 2024, location to be confirmed.

All meetings start at 7.30pm.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
(SACRE) held at the Town Hall, Wandsworth, SW18 2PU
on Monday, 3rd October, 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Group A – Christian and Other Religious Denominations:

Mr Dominique Joseph Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church)
Ms Sharon Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue)
Mr Nabhinandan Das (Hindu Society)
Ms Sharon Docherty (Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark)
Mr Colin Perry (Buddhapadipa Temple),
Mr Paul Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is)
Imam Khubaeb Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre)

Group B – Church of England:

Ms Ewa Bednarek (St. Cecelia's CE School, Church of England Rep.)
Mr Shaun Burns (Southwark Diocesan Board of Education)
Ms Rachel Croft (Church of England Rep.)

Group C – Teachers' Associations:

Ms Clare Hewitson (NEU)
Ms Maria Liddy (NAHT)
Ms Claire Wood (NAHT)

Group D – Local Authority:

Councillor Juliana Annan (Chair)
Councillor Rosemary Birchall
Councillor Mrs Angela Graham
Councillor Sana Jafri
Councillor Norman Marshall

In attendance:

Mr Andrew Hough, Head of School Participation and Performance
Ms Lesley Prior, SACRE Advisor
Mrs Angela Rundle, SACRE Officer
Mrs Ruth Wright, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Rev. Rosamund Hollingsworth (the Methodist Church of Great Britain)
Mr Charan Singh (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara)
Mr Harbans Singh Mehta (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara)

2. Minutes - 21st March 2022

RESOLVED –

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education meeting held on 21st March 2022 were a correct record.

3. Minutes - 13th June 2022

RESOLVED –

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education meeting held on 13th June 2022 were a correct record.

4. Membership and welcome

The Chair reported that there had been some changes to the SACRE membership. She welcomed the new members to the group: Ms Sharon Docherty from the Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, Imam Usman Shahzad Butt from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, and Rev. Rosamund Hollingsworth from the Methodist Church of Great Britain. Since the previous meeting there had been two resignations, from Lieutenant Christopher Button and Imam Imran Ahmed Khalid. The Chair thanked them for their participation in SACRE.

It was also stated that Ms Croft had moved from Group C, as a representative for the NAHT, to group B, since changing occupation. Ms. Croft had wanted to remain in SACRE and had been nominated by the Southwark Church of England Diocese to be a member of Group B.

The Chair reminded members of the need to complete the SACRE Code of Conduct form.

Following a suggestion from Councillor Mrs Graham, it was agreed that the Chair would write to the members who had recently left SACRE to thank them personally.

Action:

Chair to write thank you letters to Lieutenant Christopher Button and Mr Imran Ahmed Khalid.

5. Details of Wandsworth community schools

The Chair explained that this item was for information. The paper was to inform SACRE members which schools were covered within the SACRE, together with their contact details. All Wandsworth community schools, including special schools and the Pupil Referral Units, were statutorily required to follow the Wandsworth Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

RESOLVED –

It was unanimously agreed that the document shared be received for information.

6. NASACRE briefing paper

The Chair asked Ms Prior to introduce the paper, provided for information. Ms Prior advised that the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) website contained a lot of helpful information for SACRE members and schools. The paper provided an update on important issues, including the NASACRE annual general meeting, inter faith work and training.

RESOLVED –

It was unanimously agreed that the briefing paper be received for information.

7. NASACRE training

Ms Prior informed members that NASACRE provided several training sessions over the year, including some that were specifically for new SACRE members. The forthcoming training dates had been provided for information. It was noted that SACRE members did not pay for attending NASACRE training, as this was provided by the Council. Therefore, if anyone wished to attend training sessions, whether free or had a cost, they were advised to contact Mrs Wright in advance, as she would need to inform NASACRE for log in details to be sent out.

RESOLVED –

It was unanimously agreed that the update be received for information.

8. OFSTED update

Ms Rundle provided a summary of the paper and provided details of the schools recently inspected by OFSTED with regard to their religious education offer – Broadwater, Smallwood, Our Lady of Victories Primary schools and Honeywell Junior School reports included comments on religious education. Honeywell Junior School had a 'deep dive' in RE as part of their inspection. A further school had been inspected, but the report had not been published in time to be included in the agenda pack. Ms Rundle confirmed that the start of the fourth paragraph in the report should read: 'There were no S48 inspections of VA schools with a religious character this year.'

Ms. Docherty added that S48 inspections (regarding the religious character of a school) had restarted in Catholic schools. This could mean further S48 inspections, now under the auspices of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) would be forthcoming.

Councillor Mrs Graham and Mr Burns asked whether the Headteacher at Honeywell Junior School would like to speak at a future SACRE about their positive OFSTED inspection regarding RE. Ms Rundle suggested that the RE lead could be invited to speak at the RE subject leaders meeting, as part of a network meeting, and then ask Headteacher's view about speaking to SACRE.

Councillor Mrs Graham also asked if the OFSTED information could be shared on the SACRE website. Ms Rundle advised that the best path was to bring the matter to the RE subject leaders for them to consider the findings.

RESOLVED –

It was unanimously agreed that the update be received for information.

Actions:

- Ms Rundle to provide an updated OFSTED report to include the latest inspection. (Attached to these minutes)
- Ms Rundle to ask the Headteacher of Honeywell Junior School whether she would be willing to attend a SACRE meeting.

9. Government White Paper regarding schools changing to academies

Mr Hough, Head of School Participation and Performance, gave a verbal report on how the white paper may impact upon the role of the local SACRE. He added that there was a NASACRE newsletter that provided further details about this matter. It was noted that the White Paper was being deliberated in the Houses of Commons and Lords, stated that all schools should join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) by 2030, although the White Paper did not contain provisions that would compel all schools to become an academy. Nevertheless, the result would be that there might not be any schools under local authority control in the near future, and therefore not under the remit of the local SACRE.

Ms Prior reported that NASACRE were in conversation with the DfE about the implications of the White Paper and the loss of SACREs and their statutory remit. It was asked what the Wandsworth SACRE could do, in order to voice concerns about the White Paper. Ms Prior replied that at present it may be prudent to wait for her to ascertain this from NASACRE leaders and she would then feed back to the group. This was because a co-ordinated approach could be suggested to councils, for instance, whether a joint letter would be sent by councils, or local authorities could be encouraged to approach the DfE directly. It was unanimously agreed SACRE was an invaluable group and resource to all schools, including academies. Ms Prior added that RE remained a compulsory subject as it is protected in law. However, it was noted that schools could be deemed as 'outstanding' by OFSTED whilst not offering RE, meaning that the requirement was not being adhered to. The result was that this obligation was not enforced in inspections and schools were not held to account by the DfE.

Ms Prior stressed that it was important that SACRE continued with their plans to revise the Agreed Syllabus, as it would last a further five years. After then time, SACRE should revisit the national and local situation.

There followed a discussion about the take up SACRE resources within Wandsworth academies. Ms. Rundle said that the primary academies had engaged with the materials more than the secondaries. It was advised that similar participation levels occurred with the Faith Trails. However, efforts would continue in order to try and engage academies in promoting RE, as they were very much seen as being within the 'Wandsworth family'.

Action:

Ms Prior to inform the SACRE over the course of action advised by NASACRE to voice concerns about the ramifications of the White Paper.

10. Agreed Syllabus Conference

Ms Rundle explained that the SACRE formally needed to request the Local Authority (LA) to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to decide matters regarding the new Agreed Religious Education Syllabus. Details from the NASACRE website about how the process works were included in the agenda pack. Ms Rundle added that a link to the current Agreed Syllabus were in the pack and had been discussed at the previous meeting.

There were no questions about the information provided, so a vote was taken for the LA to be formally requested to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference. Ms Prior advised that Councillors and LA staff should abstain from the vote, because they could not vote for action they are being asked to undertake.

RESOLVED –

Councillors and LA staff abstained; the rest of the SACRE attendees unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Ms Prior advised on the steps to be taken following the vote. The Council would need to check with the nominating body for the SACRE representatives that the representatives could be on the Conference. This would be undertaken in writing by the clerk, with the stated assumption that if no reply was received, then no objections would be filed. Working groups with teachers would be created to produce the material for the Conference. The Conference itself would be held after a short SACRE meeting, as very similar memberships were involved, although they would be separate meetings. Ms Prior stated that until such time as the Conference approves the new Agreed Syllabus, the current one remained in place.

Ms Rundle asked whether any members wanted to be involved in the syllabus working groups. Several members agreed to this:

Mr Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church)
Ms Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue)
Mr Das (Hindu Society)
Mr Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is)
Imam Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre)
Ms Bednarek (Church of England Rep.)
Mr Burns (Southwark Diocesan Board of Education)
Ms Croft (Church of England Rep.)
Councillor Mrs Graham
Councillor Jafri
Councillor Burchill

There were discussions about communications with schools. It was suggested that SACRE writes to all schools, including academies, to further raise its profile, reiterate the protected status of RE, encourage involvement in the Agreed Syllabus revision process and ascertain perceptions regarding RE in general. Ms Rundle mentioned that she had previously sent a survey to schools 18 months after the current Agreed Syllabus had been put in place, but had received limited replies, especially amongst academies.

It was commented that schools may want complete lesson plans, rather than outlines and a syllabus. Ms Rundle said that at the Subject Leaders Meeting, lesson information was discussed, and one school had shared a full lesson programme. It was added that lesson resources maybe particularly helpful for less experienced teachers in RE. Nevertheless, although it was said that some local syllabuses did include lesson plans, it would make the document huge. Furthermore, although there were lesson resources around, differentiation and adaptations for individual classes were essential, as generic materials could not cover this fully. However, the Agreed Syllabus contained Faith Trail information, details about places of worship in the borough and signposting to authentic resources, which were all seen as invaluable.

Actions:

- Mrs Wright to write to the LA with the request that an Agreed Syllabus Conference is held.
- Mrs Wright to write to the nominating bodies for representatives.
- Ms Rundle to start work with groups relating to the Conference materials.
- Ms Rundle to consider an approach to all schools, including academies to raise the profile of SACRE, the Agreed Syllabus revision work and the status of RE.

11. Draft Religious Education Council handbook

The Chair noted that the draft handbook was included in the agenda pack. Ms Rundle explained that the SACRE members would consider the draft in small discussion groups. The attendees split into three rooms of mixed SACRE groups for 25 minutes. The purpose of the discussions were not to provide feedback, but to engage with the handbook. Ms Rundle commented that the handbook was due to be revised in 2024 and SACRE would look at the new version in due course.

The feeling of those present was that the discussions were helpful, in encouraging participation with the draft.

RESOLVED –

the draft handbook be noted as a resource and will be updated in due course.

12. Any other business

Ms Coussins reminded SACRE members that they were warmly invited to Sukkot celebrations at Wimbledon Synagogue on 15th October 2022.

Ms Coussins also asked that future SACRE meetings did not coincide with religious festivals. As such, the next meeting date was discussed, as there was a clash.

Actions:

- Ms Rundle to check whether the Friend's Meeting House would be able to re-schedule the next SACRE meeting, possibly to 27th February, as that date seemed acceptable for most people.
- Mrs Wright to inform members of any meeting date change, as soon as possible.

13. Future meeting dates

No further comments were made on this, other than that above.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

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Wandsworth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual Report for the academic year September 2021- August 2022

1. Introduction

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Chair's welcome

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this report as the new Chair of Wandsworth SACRE. The 2021-22 academic year was another atypical year for Wandsworth SACRE following a slow return to normal post the pandemic. We did however return to the practice of three meetings during the year, two of which were virtual. It was a delight to meet in person in the summer term, and for this meeting to be hosted at one of our places of worship, where we enjoyed a presentation and tour of Balham Mosque.

We welcomed new members this year – in Group A Ms Saffi Haines from the Religious Society of Friends; Mr Jatin Bhatt and Mr Nabinhandan Das, Hindu society; and in Group D, Councillors Jafri, Marshall and myself.

Wandsworth SACRE has continued with its work to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally as well as academically. We participated in the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) AGM and continue to follow with interest developments in RE nationally, for example the ideas presented by Dr Richard Kueh, HMI and adviser to Ofsted, in the Research Review Series: Religious Education, and the Religion and World Views in the Classroom; developing a Worldviews Approach - draft handbook from the REC.

Our SACRE actively seeks to ensure all children in Wandsworth have access to high quality and challenging RE and we provide support to primary RE subject leaders through the teachers' network meetings, now taking place in person again. These are free of charge to maintained schools and we urge school leaders to recognise the importance of allocating school time for staff to attend. We also produce a termly newsletter which signposts resources, draws attention to issues of interest in the RE world and highlights forthcoming festivals among other features.

Pupils' learning in RE has been enhanced by the Faith Trails which have allowed our children to experience exciting learning opportunities while promoting an ethos of respect for others. They have built on their understanding of their own and other cultures and beliefs while also celebrating the religious and cultural diversity found in Wandsworth.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to members of Wandsworth SACRE and all others who work so hard to support RE in Wandsworth.

Councillor Juliana Annan
Chair, Wandsworth SACRE

Overview

1. This annual report of Wandsworth SACRE outlines the work of SACRE during the academic year 2021 to 2022. After the absence of examination data in the last two years, it has again been possible to include GCSE or A-level statistics for Religious Studies for the past year as an appendix to this report, with thanks to the Wandsworth Research and Evaluation Unit, which provides this information.

Meetings held in the reporting year

2. Wandsworth SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2021 – 2022. Meetings are held in the evenings. Two of these were held virtually using Teams, but it was a delight to be able to be in person again for our summer term meeting. This was held at Balham mosque, and preceded by a tour and presentation by the Imam.

Attendance was generally good, but sadly one meeting was inquorate. New members were welcomed, including from the Society of Friends and a new Hindu member and deputy. There was again no attendance by Salvation Army, the Methodist church, the Sikh member nor the Humanist co-optee however. The summer meeting welcomed three new councillors, including a new chair, as Wandsworth Council moved from a Conservative to a Labour majority in the May elections.

3. The NASACRE briefing is a standing item at all SACRE meetings.

Autumn Term Meeting 2021

4. Meeting held on Monday, 4th October 2021.

Information was given on the new Faith Trails initiative, to be launched that week, where upper key stage 2 primary pupils would visit three contrasting places of worship on the same day. The first trail was to the Buddhist Buddhpadipa temple, the Wimbledon Synagogue and Our Lady and St Peter Catholic church, and pupils from two of the teacher Group C SACRE members would pilot it. The documentation relating to the trail, such as feedback and guidelines, were discussed.

Workforce data received from NATRE on RE teachers and time allocation in state funded Wandsworth secondary schools was considered, and ways in which SACRE could support them, for example by setting up a secondary RE teachers' network. The primary network was functioning well.

It was agreed to sign up for NASACRE's training plan, which would enable all members to attend any training provided by NASACRE free of charge.

Spring Term Meeting 2022

5. Meeting held on Monday, 21st March, 2022.

The SACRE Annual Report for 2020-21 was presented and discussed.

An introduction was given to Wandsworth SACRE's new website, easily accessed directly from the main Council website, and with links to key documents with SACRE members would find helpful.

SACRE's Guidance on Collective Worship was reviewed, and updates agreed.

A full evaluation was given on the Faith Trails initiative. The first one had been very successful and the LA Officer was asked to develop further trails as well as set up further dates for the Wimbledon Trail.

The LA Officer reported that a forum for secondary teachers of RE had been set up but attendance at the first virtual meeting had been disappointing.

Summer Term Meeting

6. Meeting held on Monday, 13th June 2022

The LA Officer reported back on the NASACRE conference which had been held online. The feedback provided by the conference was also provided. The world views draft handbook was discussed, as well as the ideas presented by Dr Richard Kueh, HMI and adviser to Ofsted, in the Research Review Series: Religious Education. In particular, depth versus breadth was discussed and the importance of finding the right balance to prepare young people for the complexity of modern life in Britain.

Two additional schools would be taking part in the Wimbledon Faith Trail the following week. A pilot for the Balham Faith Trail, which would visit the Balham Mosque, Balham Mandir (Hindu) and St Mary and St John the Divine CE church was launching the week after.

The Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) was now five years old and due for review. It was a completely new document at that time and much training had been provided for primary teachers on it. Members considered the syllabus and were of the mind that it should be retained but updated. It was not possible to take the decision to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) as the meeting was inquorate.

2. Religious Education

Syllabus

The current Wandsworth Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) was launched in September 2017. Due to the new directions in RE relating to Worldviews and forthcoming commissions for exemplar syllabi, it would be updated rather than replaced. SACRE meeting time has been set aside in the autumn and spring to meet with working parties from the ASC, once convened.

Monitoring and standards

Standards in RE in secondary schools are normally monitored by scrutinising the exam data from GCSEs and A level. See appendix.

A trawl was also made of Ofsted reports to look for references to RE and SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development). This was done and reported upon in the first meeting of the new academic year, October 2021. Section 48 reports are also sent to SACRE, but due to the break in the carrying out of inspections, there were none in the last year.

The workforce data for secondary schools, produced by NATRE was discussed, and follow up made to schools where there had been no submission, or where time allocation to RE appears low. It should be noted that in Wandsworth, only one secondary school is a community school, while with the exception of one voluntary aided school, the others all have academy status. Some primary schools are working towards the REQM. Two schools currently hold the award.

Continuing professional development

The primary RE subject leaders' network met virtually twice in the autumn and spring terms, and in person in the summer term. High quality training was delivered by a professional RE consultant. The foci for meetings in the last year were:

- Rumi and Islam as a Worldview (autumn 2021)
- Islam continued, Nation of Islam, Antiracism, Egyptian Women's mosque movement (spring 2022)
- Judaism, Big Ideas and World Views (summer 2022)

Other support for schools

The email network group set up by the LA SACRE Officer has continued to enable members to keep in touch with each other to seek advice and share good practice. It includes some subject leaders from independent schools as well as LA community schools.

The LA SACRE Officer produces a termly newsletter which has a calendar of events including major faith festivals, signposts good practice and shares resources.

SACRE has produced guidance for schools on Ramadan, which is updated annually (see appendix).

No complaints about religious education in schools were referred to SACRE this year.

3. Collective Worship

No monitoring of collective worship, either of quality or compliance to statutory requirements, took place during the year. No requests for determinations were received during the year. No schools in Wandsworth have been given determinations in the past.

No complaints regarding collective worship in the community schools of Wandsworth were referred to SACRE during the year. SACRE has produced guidance for schools on collective worship, which was reviewed this year (see appendix).

Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

There were no FOI requests during the past year.

4. Links with other bodies

Wandsworth SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

One meeting per year has in the past been held jointly with Wandsworth's Multi Faith Forum. The agenda for this chosen to reflect the interests of both bodies. This has not happened during the time of virtual meetings.

There are good links with the Church of England Diocese of Southwark and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, whose advisers to Wandsworth's VA schools are much valued by the schools themselves and the School Improvement Service.

5. Other SACRE local involvement

SACRE gave its approval to the LA Officer to arrange Faith Trails for pupils to visit different places of worship local to each other on the same day. This began during the 21-22 academic year. The trails have been planned to each include a place of worship for Christians; another non Christian Abrahamic faith and a Dharmic faith. The length of trail varies from 0.5 mile to 1.4 miles, easily undertaken on foot and with a picnic, or indoor lunch possibilities, when necessary.

Two schools each piloted two trails during the year, before they were offered to other schools. The first trail was the Wimbledon Parkside Trail, visiting the Buddhapadipa Buddhist Temple, before going on to the Wimbledon Synagogue and then Our Lady and St Peter Catholic church. The second trail was the Balham Trail, visiting the Balham Mandir, Balham Mosque and St Mary and St John the Divine Anglican church. Four other schools have taken part so far, with a longer list signed up for summer 2023. Evaluations from hosts and schools have been extremely positive and pupils' work from the visits of a high standard, showing much thought and perception.

6. SACRE's Administrative Arrangements and Financial Support

SACRE meetings are clerked by a Democratic Services Officer from Wandsworth Council. An officer is provided to support the LA. Specialist RE professional support for SACRE is provided by an external consultant, Lesley Prior, who supports a number of London SACREs.

The annual budget for support for SACRE in 2021-22 was £6000, the same as in 2020-21. This funds the external consultant, LA SACRE Officer, NASACRE membership and other incidental expenses. Wandsworth Town Hall normally provides a room for meetings, but as noted, these have been held online (two meetings) and at the mosque (one meeting) in the past year.

Membership

While some members have been in place for a number of years, there is always some movement in the membership, but vacancies are quickly addressed. One meeting in the past year was inquorate. There was no fall off in attendance due to the move to online meetings necessitated by the pandemic however.

Group A contains representatives of all the major faiths and some denominations or branches within them, and three nominated deputies for some faiths. The Humanist member

is currently co-opted, but arrangements have been made for the Humanist member to request full membership of Group A. This offer has not yet been taken up.

Training

The LA Officer attended the online NASACRE conference in 2022. SACRE is also happy to fund a certain amount of training for members and has signed up to NASACRE's training package.

7. Appendices

Tables of exam results for the year 21-22

CPD provided for schools – see above

SACRE has provided advice for schools on Collective Worship -

[wandsworth_sacre_guidance_on_collective_worship.pdf](#)

and on Ramadan

https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/media/10197/sacre_ramadan_guidance.pdf (updated annually)

In addition to the DfE and NASACRE, the report is circulated to SACRE members and schools.

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SACRE- FEBRUARY 2023

STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATIONS IN 2022

Introduction

This paper summarises the Wandsworth and England results for 2022 Religious Studies GCSE and A Level examinations. It provides more detailed data for Wandsworth down to school level.

This is provided for information and discussion.

Summary of national data

Outcomes are still provisional to date (software to be updated with final data in April). Headline figures are as follows:

The key outcomes for Religious Education in England at KS4 in 2022

- There were 144,010 entries for the full course in GCSE Religious Studies (RS), a significant decrease from 2019 (207,720).
- There were 7880 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, an increase from 2019 (4,350).
- There were 151,890 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses) compared with 2019 (212,070).
- Over the past eight years numbers taking RS examination courses has dropped; it is interesting to note the comparison with 2015 when 338,138 students sat a GCSE in RS.

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2022

Summary of Wandsworth data

- 1,029 students sat a Religious Studies (RS) examination in Wandsworth in 2022, not much below the numbers in 2019 (1,052).
- 952 students sat the GCSE full course, and nine the GCSE short course. This was an increase in full course from 804 in 2019. Nationally, the numbers taking the full course dropped by a third, but they almost doubled for the short course.
- As for previous years, the number of students in the cohort has been included in the data, which shows the wide variation in the percentage of a cohort opting for RS. There was again a great divergence between schools in this: St Cecilia's, St John Bosco and Graveney entered all or almost all their students; Chestnut Grove the vast majority and Ashcroft about half.
- The lowest proportion was at Ernest Bevin where it was around 8% of the cohort.
- Ark Putney again entered no students as it is not offered as a GCSE option. Southfields did not enter any students this year, although it is normally an option.
- Only Francis Barber PRU entered students for the short course.
- It is not surprising that church schools enter more pupils, as RS is entitled to a defined amount of curriculum time, 10% in Catholic schools.
- The points score averages for Ashcroft, Graveney, Chestnut Grove, Burntwood and Harris were comfortably above the LA average; St John Bosco and St Cecilia's perceptibly below. These schools do however enter nearly all their pupils, although by contrast, so does Graveney which had high outcomes. The LA average of 5.9 was much higher than the national average of 5.3.
- This was the third year since the change in the gradings for RS GCSE, from the old A* - G, to the 9 point scale, with 9 the highest outcome possible, and above the old A* grade. 4 is considered a standard pass at GCSE and 5 a strong pass. Direct comparison cannot therefore be made with the results of 2017 and earlier.
- However, Wandsworth students performed better than the national averages, with an average points score of 5.9, up from 5.7 in 2019, compared with 5.3 for all schools nationally. The highest average points (6.5) were earned at Ashcroft, the lowest at St John Bosco (4.9) Only St Cecilia's (5.1) and St John Bosco were below the national average.
- Overall the indicator of grades 9 - 4 showed that Wandsworth was again above the national average – 85% compared with 75.3% national, and above the LA 2019 9-4 average of 78.9%

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2022

- In Wandsworth there were 68 entrants for A Level, down from 105 in 2022. All passed with at least an E grade.
- There were 14,950 candidates for religious studies A level in England, again down from the previous exam year and showing a continuously falling trend.
- There are no results for AS level this year. According to the REU, all Wandsworth students studying RS went directly into an A level qualification.
- At A level, the percentage A* - B comparator, in Wandsworth rose to 72% up from 51.4% in 2019. Above this were Bolingbroke, with all three students getting A – B*, and Ashcroft with 89% (19 students) doing so. Burntwood, Chestnut Grove and Graveney were below. Wandsworth was above the national average in both A*- B (national 68.1%) and A* - E, national (99.1%.)
- Although it is sad that the numbers taking A level have dropped, it is great to see that Wandsworth students have achieved above the national averages at both GCSE and A level in every comparator, and above the LA's own outcomes in 2019.

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2022

GCSE results in Wandsworth schools

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCSE Short Course

Centre	Entries				%A* - C (9 – 4 2018 onwards)				%A* - G/ave pts 2018 onwards			
	2017	2018	2019	2022	2017	2018	2019	2022	2017	2018	2019	2022
NCER National	12489	2490	4350	7880	45.9				94.4			
LA Comparator	162	25	13	9	34.5	24			95.1		n/a	
Ashcroft Technology Academy	0	0	0									
Battersea Park School/Harris Battersea	0	0	0									
Burntwood	159	0	0		35.2				95.1			
Chestnut Grove	0	0	0									
Elliott/ ARK Putney	0	0	0									
Ernest Bevin	0	1/176	0			0				2		
Garratt Park	0	0	0									
Graveney School	0	0	0									
Nightingale School	0	0	0									
Saint John Bosco College	3	0	0		0				66.7			
Southfields (GM)	0	0	0									
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	0	0	0									
Wandsworth Francis Barber (Pru)	0	24/49	13/49	9/38			7.7	11.1		n/a	n/a	n/a

2022 data is provisional

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2022

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCSE Full Course

Centre	Entries/NOR				%A* - C (% 9 - 4 2018 onwards)				%A* - G/ave pts 2018 onwards			
	2017	2018	2019	2022 Entries	2017	2018	2019	2022	2017	2018	2019	2022
NCER National	248210	162230	207720	144010	71.2	71.8	72.4	75.3	97.9	5.1	5.2	5.3
LA Comparator	886	778	804	952	78.1	82.6	78.9	85	98.9	5.8	5.7	5.9
Ark Bolingbroke Academy	13	9/102	45/111	28/104	61.5	100	82.2	79	100.0	8.0	5.6	5.5
Ashcroft Technology Academy	123	128/201	98/199	97/203	90.2	88.3	91.8	96	100.0	6.4	6.1	6.5
Battersea Park School/ Harris Battersea	0	10/101	23/115	33/166		100	91.3	88		6.2	6.4	6.2
Burntwood	111	51/262	60/264	86/261	67.6	84.3	80.0	91	99.1	5.9	6.0	6.2
Chestnut Grove	115	97/148	131/163	157/175	67.8	91.8	76.3	91	99.1	6.0	5.6	6.2
Elliott/ Ark Putney	0	0	0	0/118								
Ernest Bevin	46	21/176	6/175	13/164	100.0	90.5	83.3	100	100.0	5.5	6.5	5.8
Graveney School	236	249/258	245/255	269/281	87.3	86.3	84.1	89	100.0	6.1	6.1	6.3
Saint John Bosco College	68	56/62	37/45	121/130	51.5	71.4	83.8	73	88.2	4.8	5.8	4.9
Southfields (GM)	18	20/133	26/164	0/145	50.0	25.0	50.0		100.0	2.8	3.7	
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	141	137/137	133/135	148/148	80.1	73.7	62.4	70	100.0	5.2	4.8	5.1

Where old and new style of grading has had to be combined A* has been equated to 8 and C to 4 – please note that the NCER national only includes those RS courses that have Wandsworth school pupils enrolled on them

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2022

A& AS level results in Wandsworth schools (does not include sixth form colleges)

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCE AS level

Centre	Entries				%A-C	%A-B	%A-B	%A-E	%A-E	%A-E	%A-B	%A-E
	2017	2018	2019	2022	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2022	2022
NCER National	13910	16130	7180		70.2	35.8	36	93.3	86.4	87.6		
LA Comparator	108	159	130		76.9	52.2	60.8	96.3	93.1	95.4		
Ark Bolingbroke Academy												
Ashcroft Technology Academy	23	28	31		91.3	64.3	80.6	100	96.4	100		
Burntwood	0	7	0			-			28.6			
Chestnut Grove	12	31	38		56.3	80.6	63.2	100	100	100		
Elliott/ Ark Putney												
Ernest Bevin	11	9	0		81.8	44.4		90.9	88.9			
Harris Battersea	0	7	5			71.4	80		100	100		
Graveney School	23	50	48		69.9	54.0	54.2	100	98.0	91.7		
Saint John Bosco College	0	0	0									
Southfields		10	1			-	-		100	100		
St Cecilia's, Church of England School		17	7			23.5	-		82.4	71.4		

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2022

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCE A level

Centre	Entries				%A* - C (A*-B 2018 onwards)				%A* - E			
	2017	2018	2019	2022	2017	2018	2019	2022	2017	2018	2019	2022
NCER National	21289	16600	15980	14950	80.6	52.3	50	68.1	98.4	98	97.9	99.1
LA Comparator	109	82	105	68	73.3	52.4	51.4	72	98.2	98.9	96.2	100
Ashcroft Technology Academy	11	11	7	19	100.0	81.8	100	89	100.0	100	100	100
Bolingbroke Academy				3				100				100
Burntwood	28	19	17	9	50.0	42.1	23.5	56	96.4	100	88.2	100
Chestnut Grove	9	11	18	14	88.9	81.8	66.7	57	88.9	100	100	100
Ernest Bevin	4	4	9		75.0	25	22.2		100.0	100	88.9	
Graveney School	25	16	22	11	72.0	62.5	54.5	64	100.0	100	100	100
Harris Academy Battersea	2	0	5		50.0		80		100.0		100	
Saint John Bosco College	0	3	0			0				100		
Southfields	13	7	10		69.2	0	20		100.0	100	90	
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	17	11	17	12	94.1	54.5	64.7	75	100.0	90.9	100	100

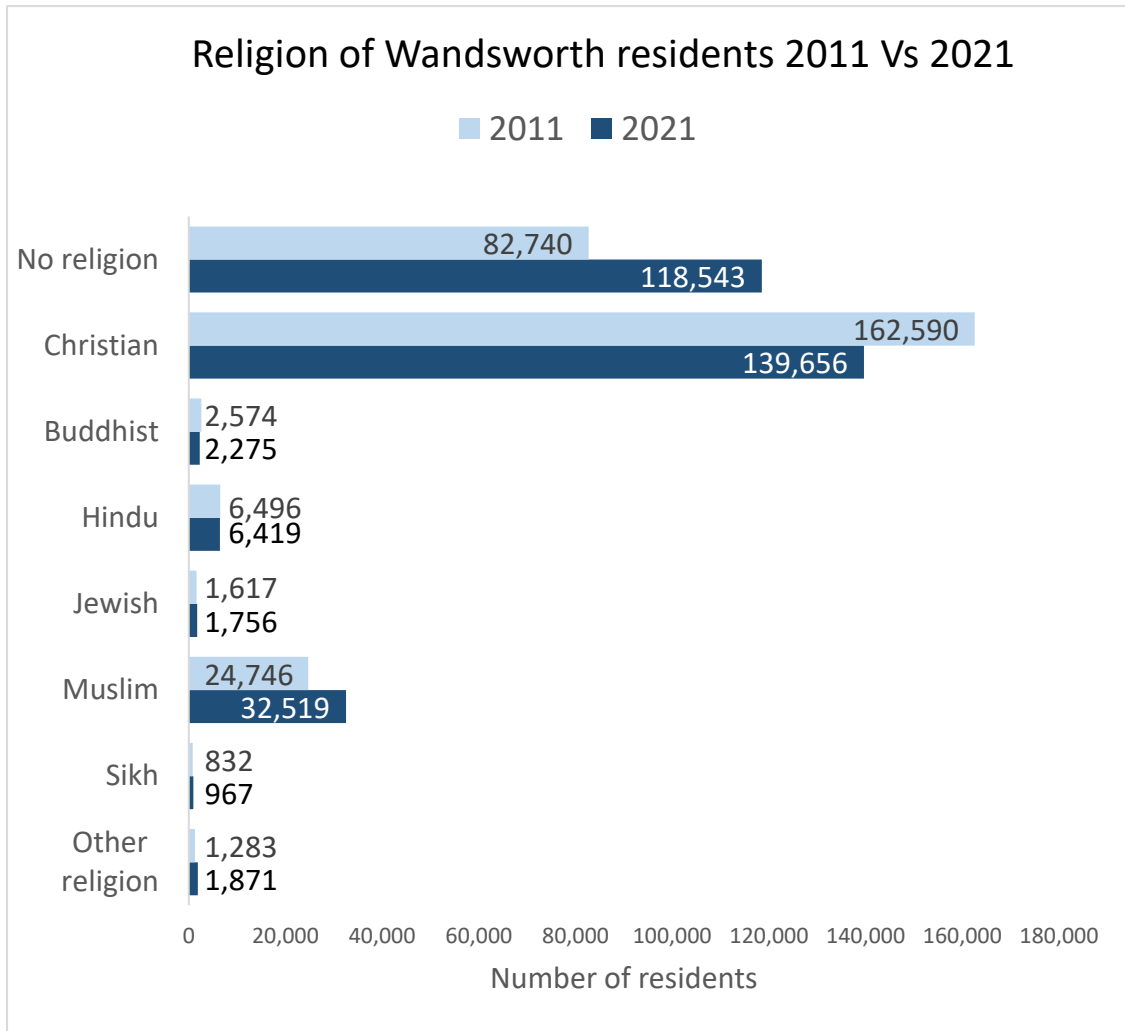
2022 data is provisional

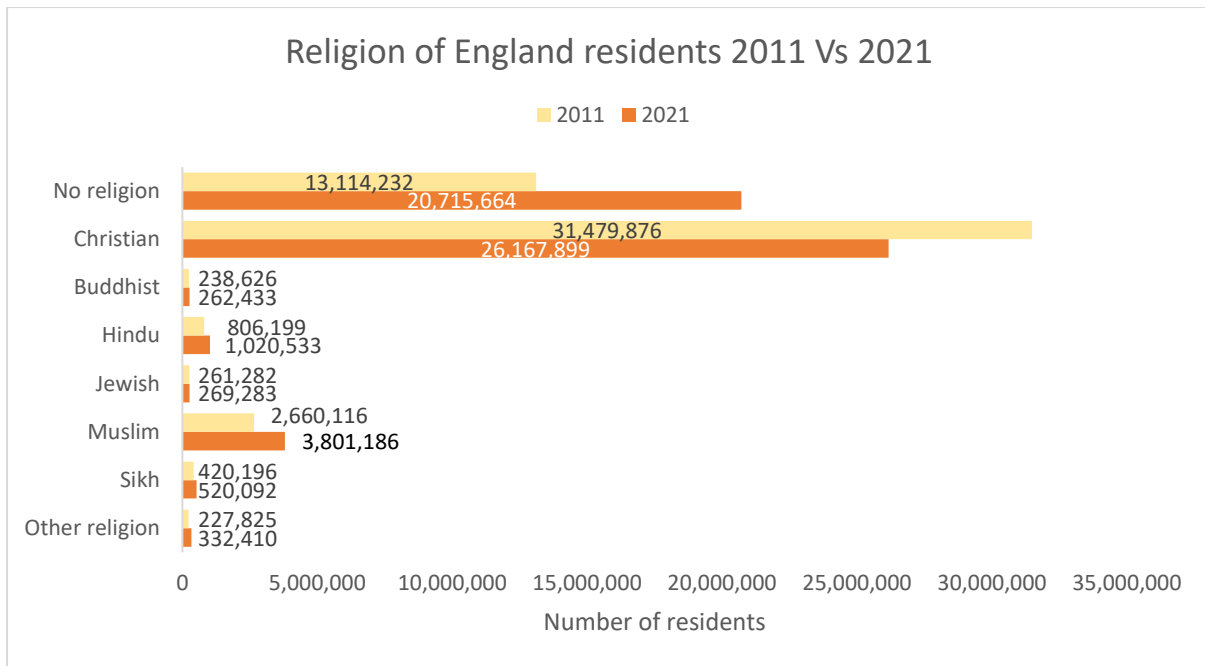
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Religion

Interactive map: 2021 Census Data Atlas | Religion

- Less than half (42.6%) of the borough is Christian. It is still the largest religion in Wandsworth, but has fallen by 10.4% points since 2011 (53%). This proportion is higher than Inner London (38%) and London (40.7%), but lower than England (46.3%).
- One in three (36.2%) of the borough's residents reported No Religion, an increase of 9.2% points since 2011. This proportion is lower than Inner London (31.7%) and London (27.1%) and similar to England (36.7%).
- Islam is the second largest religion in the borough (9.9%) as it was in 2011 and the number of Muslim residents has increased by +31.4% since 2011. This higher than Inner London (+20.8%) and (+30.2%) and lower than England (+42.9%).





Area	No religion	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	Not answered
Wandsworth 2011	27.0%	53.0%	0.8%	2.1%	0.5%	8.1%	0.3%	0.4%	7.7.9%
Wandsworth 2021	36.2%	42.6%	0.7%	2.0%	0.5%	9.9%	0.3%	0.6%	7.2%

Area	No religion	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	Not answered
England 2011	24.7%	59.4%	0.5%	1.5%	0.5%	5.0%	0.8%	0.4%	7.2%
England 2021	36.7%	46.3%	0.5%	1.8%	0.5%	6.7%	0.9%	0.6%	6.0%

TS031 - Religion (detailed)

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Population: All usual residents

Units: Persons

Date: 2021

Religion (detailed)	Wandsworth		London		England	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Total: All Usual Residents	327,501	100.00	8,799,725	100.00	56,490,047	100.00
No religion: Agnostic	321	0.10	6,076	0.10	30,352	0.10
No religion: Atheist	113	0.00	2,334	0.00	13,059	0.00
No religion: Free Thinker	2	0.00	38	0.00	290	0.00
No religion: Humanist	58	0.00	1,304	0.00	9,579	0.00
No religion: No religion	118,049	36.00	2,370,646	26.90	20,662,316	36.60
No religion: Realist	0	0.00	7	0.00	71	0.00
Other religion: Alevi	20	0.00	19,637	0.20	25,460	0.00
Other religion: Animism	6	0.00	118	0.00	733	0.00
Other religion: Baha'i	38	0.00	1,086	0.00	4,489	0.00
Other religion: Believe in God	38	0.00	686	0.00	2,313	0.00
Other religion: Brahma Kumari	3	0.00	91	0.00	229	0.00
Other religion: Chinese Religion	0	0.00	25	0.00	109	0.00
Other religion: Church of All Religion	0	0.00	3	0.00	22	0.00
Other religion: Confucianist	1	0.00	29	0.00	76	0.00
Other religion: Deist	16	0.00	228	0.00	1,036	0.00
Other religion: Druid	6	0.00	165	0.00	2,268	0.00
Other religion: Druze	16	0.00	445	0.00	619	0.00
Other religion: Eckankar	3	0.00	117	0.00	319	0.00
Other religion: Heathen	10	0.00	306	0.00	4,478	0.00
Other religion: Jain	76	0.00	17,521	0.20	24,887	0.00
Other religion: Mixed Religion	138	0.00	3,466	0.00	10,981	0.00
Other religion: Mysticism	0	0.00	31	0.00	137	0.00
Other religion: Native American Church	0	0.00	8	0.00	74	0.00
Other religion: New Age	4	0.00	60	0.00	373	0.00
Other religion: Occult	2	0.00	62	0.00	457	0.00
Other religion: Other religions	524	0.20	16,071	0.20	63,227	0.10
Other religion: Own Belief System	28	0.00	374	0.00	2,067	0.00
Other religion: Pagan	136	0.00	4,620	0.10	68,629	0.10
Other religion: Pantheism	15	0.00	352	0.00	2,158	0.00
Other religion: Rastafarian	66	0.00	2,126	0.00	5,802	0.00
Other religion: Ravidassia	1	0.00	1,283	0.00	9,564	0.00
Other religion: Reconstructionist	7	0.00	122	0.00	697	0.00
Other religion: Satanism	14	0.00	522	0.00	4,751	0.00
Other religion: Scientology	6	0.00	263	0.00	1,833	0.00
Other religion: Shamanism	12	0.00	1,303	0.00	7,624	0.00
Other religion: Shintoism	18	0.00	500	0.00	1,337	0.00
Other religion: Spiritual	330	0.10	6,919	0.10	29,918	0.10
Other religion: Spiritualist	142	0.00	3,206	0.00	30,994	0.10
Other religion: Taoist	29	0.00	794	0.00	3,525	0.00

Other religion: Theism	3	0.00	162	0.00	830	0.00
Other religion: Thelemite	0	0.00	37	0.00	209	0.00
Other religion: Traditional African Religion	7	0.00	344	0.00	651	0.00
Other religion: Unification Church	3	0.00	107	0.00	195	0.00
Other religion: Universalist	8	0.00	137	0.00	721	0.00
Other religion: Valmiki	0	0.00	141	0.00	1,034	0.00
Other religion: Vodun	12	0.00	110	0.00	246	0.00
Other religion: Wicca	36	0.00	925	0.00	11,946	0.00
Other religion: Witchcraft	6	0.00	111	0.00	967	0.00
Other religion: Yazidi	9	0.00	89	0.00	392	0.00
Other religion: Zoroastrian	77	0.00	2,053	0.00	4,029	0.00

In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, records have been swapped between different

Latest news and updates from NASACRE

[View this email in your browser](#)



National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 33

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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

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 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

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.*
-



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National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

SACRE BRIEFING

Issue: 34

This issue includes:

- [Welcome and Update from the Chair](#)
- [White Paper scrapped](#)
- [RExChange](#)
- [Freedom of Information \(FOI\) request](#)
- [2023 Conference and AGM](#)
- [Conference workshops](#)
- [SACRE teacher survey](#)
- [Westhill Awards](#)
- [NASACRE Online Training](#)
- [NASACRE website](#)
- [Other work and RE News](#)
- [Conceptualising Religion and Worldviews for the School by Kevin O'Grady](#)
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Welcome and Update from the Chair

Welcome to our first briefing of this new calendar year. The NASACRE Executive wishes you and your SACRE well, and thanks everyone for all their work to support the subject and its teachers. Let's celebrate the best of all our work together – this Briefing shows just how much is going on already and how we might share it. Top of our own celebratory committee agenda this term is the continued planning for our Conference and AGM in May. NASACRE is celebrating its 'Pearl Anniversary', and we hope to see as many of you as possible in person at the [Fishmongers' Hall, London](#). All the details are below.

New Executive Committee members are always welcome, and the nomination process is described here and on the website. We are still hoping that someone will be enthusiastic enough to stand for **the role of Vice-Chair**. The VC sometimes chairs meetings, and especially subgroups, but also covers invitations to external meetings with other networks and keeps the Chair on track. Someone with the appropriate skills emerging from their work with local authorities, SACREs or national/regional groups would be very welcome on our team. Please just drop me a line on chair@nasacre.org.uk if you would like to know more.

Since our last Briefing in October, we have continued our [CPD programme](#). Feedback shows that sessions are greatly appreciated and well attended. Thanks to all who have offered time as speakers and those who are hosting the events, and thanks to all of you who give up your time to attend. As an organisation NASACRE has a vibrant and well-informed community and these sessions demonstrate the range of experiences across England, the depth of knowledge and understanding about RE – and collective worship – that provide us with the authority to support you, and schools, and to advise others like the DfE. A particular 'thank you' at this time to anyone who has helped their local authority to respond to NASACRE's Freedom of Information request about funding.

We did say that we would report more in this Briefing on teacher recruitment

and retention in RE and I expect many SACRE members have picked up the depressing news through other networks and from local schools that the current situation with regard to recruitment of secondary teachers of RE is at a crisis point. The Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education (AULRE) is leading a campaign to address this issue. More to follow as the campaign progresses...

If you would like an antidote to this news, have a look at <https://www.cstg.org.uk/activities/campaigns/parent-survey/> to find out more about why RE is essential.

The RE Council of England and Wales (NASACRE is a member organisation) is also engaged in political campaigns – please have a look at <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/political-engagement/>

The REC would also appreciate any feedback on its draft resource to support the teaching of Religion and Worldviews <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/projects/draft-resource/> and some SACREs will be using this, and other resources such as <https://bigideasforre.org/> as they consider agreed syllabus reviews in partnership with their LAs. Many of these resources have been presented and discussed in our CPD programme over the last two years.

And more positive news still - SACREs and local authorities form an essential part of the structure supporting the subject and all its related areas every week of the year, including during the school holidays. Please have a look at the section on sharing resources mentioned below. We need to do more to share our good practice and all that SACREs do – including work that promotes inter-faith and cross-worldview dialogue and takes account of individual patterns of belief within traditions as well.

One opportunity to bring together SACRE members, teachers of RE and those who advise them will be at the AREIAC conference in July – please see details on the [AREIAC website](#) as they are posted.

Another celebratory event happening around now is NATRE's '[Strictly RE](#)' – it would be great to hear from SACRE members who attended.

And there is still time to apply for a [NASACRE Westhill Award](#) to celebrate work that is happening, or that needs support to launch it.

The new panel is looking forward to meeting to consider this year's applications – there is a recording on the CPD section of our website that helps SACREs consider their projects and how to apply.

I would like to acknowledge and celebrate all the efforts individuals are making through these very difficult times. Many people in our wider community are struggling for health reasons - including two long-standing members of our committee whom we are holding in our thoughts - or for financial and other anxieties in a world that seems to need an education in religion and worldviews more than ever.

'To teach is to learn' – and to teach RE is one of the sharpest learning curves in education. Thank you for helping each other (and me) to negotiate the bends and the gradients.

White Paper scrapped

You may have seen in the news that the government has decided to not proceed with the Schools Bill that was designed to enact the ideas in the 2022 Education White Paper. From speaking to DfE officials it seems clear that the intention of government is still the same - all schools are to be part of MAT by 2030. One major difference from March 2022 is that the Conservative party is no longer confident that it will be in power until 2030.

Nothing of this intention currently changes the roles or responsibilities of SACREs. Our Assistant to the Chair, Paul Smalley, has written an academic journal article suggesting a way forward, if the Government's ambitions are fulfilled. You can read that [here](#).

RExChange

The RExChange conference was held online on 7–8 October 2022. There were

many presentations of interest to SACRE members, including some given by SACRE Chairs and advisers. The sessions were recorded and you can view them [here](#).

Freedom of Information (FOI) request

As mentioned in our last Briefing and in an email to Chairs before Christmas, the **Freedom of Information (FOI) request** was sent out by NASACRE on 10 January 2023 to all Local Authorities. This focuses again on SACRE funding following our [previous report](#) in 2021. Please check that your LA has received this and is preparing to respond, as there is a deadline of 20 working days, meaning that answers should have been given by **Tuesday 7 February**.

2023 Conference & AGM

Celebrating 30 years: SACREs for the Future

Date: Monday, 22 May 2023

Time: 10:30am -15:30pm

Venue: Fishmongers' Hall, London

Twitter tag: #NASACRE2023

After three years of being unable to meet face to face, we are delighted that we shall finally be able to hold our Conference in London and catch up with colleagues and friends – old and new!

We aim to bring together many RE professionals, academics and those who champion RE and support SACREs, to celebrate **30 years of NASACRE** - our **Pearl Anniversary**.

Pricing: Prices are per delegate - maximum 2 per SACRE, after which a waiting list will be offered.

Subscribed SACREs

£120 per delegate. Each delegate may choose 2 virtual workshops delivered in June.

Bonus deal for subscribed SACREs

For £170, one delegate at conference plus 2 additional SACRE members (not attending conference) may each choose 2 virtual workshops in June.

Non-subscribed SACREs

£160 per delegate. Each delegate may choose 2 virtual workshops delivered in June.

ELECTIONS

At the AGM, we hope to elect our Vice Chair, and we have vacancies for up to 5 Executive members. This is a golden opportunity for your SACRE members to offer to contribute their skills and experience to the work of NASACRE. SACREs may nominate up to 2 candidates for election. Further details of the roles and nomination forms may be found [here](#). Nominations to secretary@nasacre.org.uk must be received by **5pm on Friday, 12 May 2023**.

AWARDS

We'll be celebrating 30 years as an organisation, and as part of that, we'd like to recognise SACRE members who have played a special part in the life of your SACRE over the last 30 years. We will share a PowerPoint at the Conference and later upload it to our website.

We're inviting SACREs to nominate, with a photo (jpeg) of the nominee and your reasons for selecting them. (Please ensure you have permission for us to display the image.)

Kindly nominate your member(s), past and present, under the 2 following categories:

- Most active SACRE member
- A SACRE member who has made a significant impact in your area

Please send any nominations via email to: admin@nasacre.org.uk by **5pm on Friday, 12 May 2023**.

30 YEAR MEMORY TIMELINE

To mark the 30 years celebration, we ask SACREs to send in photo/s (jpeg), so we can play a presentation during arrival and break time.

Any SACRE wishing to add their memories must send photos with a short message

by **5pm on Friday, 12 May 2023**, via email to: admin@nasacre.org.uk.

Further details and how to book a place can be found on the [conference page](#) of our website.

Conference workshops

Dates: Monday 5 June to Thursday 15 June

Times: Various - please see the programme on our [website](#)

Venues: Online using Zoom

Details: Each member may choose 2 virtual workshops delivered in June '23.

Workshops will include SACREs who have won Westhill/NASACRE Awards sharing their projects.

Don't forget to look at the bonus deal for subscribed SACREs.

SACRE teacher survey

NASACRE wants to consider the best timing for future AGMs and Conferences, so we have created a Google form for SACRE Clerks and Chairs to send to teacher members.

<https://forms.gle/Gxum6LLBNBgV6iVs5>

This survey should take no longer than 5-10 mins to complete and we'd really value as many responses as possible to enable us to make a good decision on the future timing of Conference each year.

Westhill Awards

There is still time to apply! Please have a look at the opportunities outlined in the website section. SACREs are often undertaking work already that would fit in with the award criteria.

NASACRE Online Training

Coming soon to a screen near you are the next **NASACRE training opportunities:**

21 February 2023, 4-5:30pm

Being an effective SACRE Clerk

Hosted by Exec members

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

14 March 2023, 7-8pm

What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations?

Host to be confirmed

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

26 June 2023, 7-8:30pm

So, you've joined your local SACRE...

Hosted by Exec members

Free online session

Last year, delegates said:

"Great way to see and be part of the bigger picture."

"I think the programme has been excellent this year, relevant and well-paced. Circulating materials afterwards has been productive and a useful aide-memoire."

To book a place on any session, or to purchase our training package, please email admin@nasacre.org.uk

NASACRE website

Have you looked at our new SACRE [sharing page](#) on the website, where there are several new items that may be of use to your SACRE, e.g., a letter of congratulation to schools for gaining an REQM award.

Is there something your SACRE could add, of use to other SACREs? If so, please send to our Administrator, Marie on admin@nasacre.org.uk

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.

Conceptualising Religion and Worldviews for the School by Kevin O'Grady – webinar report

[2022, Routledge, available in hardback or on Kindle]

On 19 December 2022, Culham St Gabriel's ran an in-conversation webinar with Kevin O'Grady about his book, published last summer. The author gave a summary of the recommendations that he drew from his research:

1. We need to pay attention to the CoRE report if we want to follow a worldviews curriculum, but international sources, such as the European Signposts project, should not be ignored.
2. Pupils need to examine and gain conceptual fluency in different theories of religion.
3. This means that there needs to be a clear definition of what is meant by worldviews, otherwise it is potentially too broad.
4. Teachers need a good understanding of the pedagogical background to RE, which has informed current practice.

5. RE needs to be set in the context of public good and give pupils opportunities for encounter and dialogue.
6. The Big Ideas approach to RE needs to be given positive consideration.

This was followed by a Q&A session, which covered issues of knowledge and disciplines in RE.

The vision of RE presented in this webinar would contribute to leaning about diversity, development of a pupil's own worldview and enable critical consideration of alternatives. It should be compatible with Church schools and faith schools and offer the ability to operate without examinations.

It envisions a radical change of the entire system, not just RE, which cannot be countercultural on its own.

A full recording of the discussion can be found on the Culham St Gabriel's [Vimeo Channel](#).

Regional REHubs

The [regional REHubs 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 website to be launched soon.

Upcoming dates:

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@regionalre hubs.co.uk

Items for your next agenda

- Use your [SEF](#) to design your development plan
 - Submit applications for a [Westhill Award](#)
 - Discuss and feedback on the REC resource
 - Ask your LA to answer the NASACRE FOI request by 7 February
 - Ask your LA about [2021 Census](#) data and consider whether you need to revise SACRE membership
 - Book for [NASACRE Conference](#) and webinars
 - Ask your SACRE Clerk to encourage your teacher members to fill out the Google form: <https://forms.gle/Gxum6LLBNBgV6iVs5>
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