

A Worldview *and* a Commitment: *NASACRE and the politics of change - part 1*

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Commitments and community

- Our community shares these common aims:

To assist SACREs to fulfil their responsibilities;

To represent their common concerns to other bodies;

To assist in the training and mutual consultation of SACRE members;

To encourage the development of the SACREs;

To undertake such other activities, appropriate to SACREs, as may benefit RE and collective worship

Nasacre.org.uk

- Nasacre.org.uk – current website
- Welcome to NASACRE
- **NASACRE works to support, strengthen and promote the work done by local SACREs and represents the interests of members at a national level.**
- We provide a range of services for [member SACREs](#), including full access to our [training and support materials](#), other resources and [FAQs](#)
- Our digital communication [SACRE Briefing](#), is sent to **all SACREs**.
- To find out more about NASACRE's work, visit the [About](#) section.
- The [Support and Contacts](#) section provides advice as to which resources or NASACRE personnel might best help you.

Changing views of the NASACRE world....

- The handover from one Chair to another is a good time to review the aims and achievements of an association – it is a good time for a conversation – we will extend it through the Chat facility and online through the website and FAQs
- And after our business agenda we'll be hearing from some of those involved in one of NASACREs exciting projects – the Westhill/NASACRE awards – and I want to thank them all for joining us

Projects, pupils and purpose

Westhill NASACRE Awards

The first Westhill/NASACRE Awards were made in 2005. Since then there have been further annual rounds of Awards to SACREs, for local

What are Westhill/NASACRE Awards?



(27 years of)
Community,
consistency
and
commitment



- The Silver Anniversary (2018) of NASACRE showed us all how influential this organisation has been since it was established – from early beginnings in Birmingham (1992) to the formal launch at the Houses of Parliament in 1993, NASACRE has been here – but only because of its members
- And some of you will remember the outstanding attendance of SACRE members at the Crewe 2020 RE Conference....

Happy to
announce their
SACRE
membership –
conference
delegates at
Crewe, 2020:
RE conference



Conversation, creativity and consolidation

- **NASACRE:**

- exists to strengthen local SACREs and to support them in carrying out all their responsibilities
- stands for the value of RE within the whole school curriculum by supporting RE, which is determined locally
- considers that the work of SACREs and the Agreed Syllabus Conferences should involve genuine consultation at the local level with faith communities and teachers
- seeks to maintain and develop lines of communication with the DfE and other relevant bodies
- seeks to promote inter-faith understanding and sensitivity
- seeks to strengthen RE by promoting the key role of well-qualified teachers and advisers in all areas and facets of the subject
- seeks to promote professional development in RE through initial teacher training and in-service training
- campaigns for adequate levels of resourcing to achieve these aims
- intends to play a key role in any future debates about the place of RE and collective worship in school.

A view of 2020 SACREs

- Online
- No SACRE meetings
- More SACRE meetings
- Virtual agreed syllabus launches
- Advising schools
- Promoting events
- Linking with others

Worldviews, commitments and religion(s)

- *NASACRE is represented in discussions and reviews about any proposed national changes to the subject's curriculum (and name)*
- *Most recently, NASACRE representatives 'The Worldview Project Draft Discussion Papers' by Amira Tharani – part of the REC's currently in draft form with the RE Council and discussed at the Council's Second Regular General Meeting on 10th November*
- *The association's executive is committed to listening to members and to reflecting their broad range of views, but also encourages us all to use direct representation through consultations, and through other organisations*

Politics, places and pragmatism

- And the reference to the 'politics of change'...
- This might be seen as liberal definition of radical reform, but also a pragmatic descriptor of the daily realities of an effective democracy
- Change happens – we are part of it, and sometimes as a driving force.
- And some things don't seem to change....

Association, executive and membership

- NASACRE is not a national Standing Council for RE – it is an umbrella organisation bringing together SACREs across England in a association of common purpose and different approaches
- The Association now has 150 affiliated SACREs – the increase in numbers of course is partly due to the creation of new unitary authorities during this period
- But, there is clear evidence of an abiding sense of loyalty to the association and its ways of speaking for a diverse and often unrecognised community – diverse in terms of local government, catchment areas, SACRE membership and size, and often unrecognised in terms of their statutory functions and resources
- We can't always 'get it right' – but we try

Promises, promises.... and an appeal

- We welcome suggestions for changes, and we keep our members up to date through meetings and 'Briefings'
- With your help, NASACRE will keep RE at the top of many agendas
- We need a Vice-Chair – this will now happen at the next AGM and we need your nominations
- *What does your SACRE want to change?*

We are many
but one – 'one
and all'

- We have many viewpoints but one principal commitment – to speak together for, and with, the volunteers, faith community members, teachers, local officers, clerks and advisers, and the locally elected councillors who support and monitor one of the most important dimensions of education
- United through their statutory functions and status, and also their commitment to teachers and to learners of all ages, backgrounds and aptitudes, SACREs and their members share their experiences and individual views at local regional and national events for RE – and other matters –and NASACRE helps with guidance, competitions, reports, directories, and research

Priorities and plans

- A new website for NASACRE
- Liaison with OFSTED about inspection criteria and their intentions
- NASACRE's development plan
- SACRE annual reports
- Partnership work with other associations e.g. AREAIC and with the RE Council of England Wales, and WASACRE, our Welsh counterpart
- A pilot study into the possibilities of 'local area networks' as proposed by the Commission on RE (2018)
- Freedom of information requests into the funding of SACREs
- Liaison with the DfE about SACRE and community contributions to government agendas
- Researching Agreed Syllabuses and their status/accessibility
- Advising on collective worship and its new forms in schools during lockdown and other restrictions

Why?

- Teachers, councillors, representatives of religious and other worldviews, volunteers and education enthusiasts...we're all in this together
- NASACRE asks questions (of itself and others) that are so familiar from RE – *why are we here, where did we come from, where are we going, how should we live or operate, and what do we value?* And it offers answers through big ideas, operating through established traditions, sharing its very human experiences and definitely demonstrating individuality amongst its membership....

A personal wish-list for NASACRE -

- Long may we continue to support Religious Education – whatever it is called in schools or in public debates, it is still 'RE' – and we are still SACREs
- Long may we as statutory bodies and understanding people help teachers and schools, and also local government and democracy
- Long may we continue our conversational and collegiate approach to our work
- Long may NASACRE consolidate its aims, its values and its achievements
- *Thank you* – I look forward to hearing from you and how we might progress together in this new world for NASACRE and for us all