

Registered Charity no. 1212494

2025 CONFERENCE & AGM

SACREs taking a stand:

positive responses to controversial issues

Monday 19 May 2025, 10:30-15:30

The following 8 nominations were received:

Name:	SACRE:
Anne Andrews	Bracknell
Catherine Hughes	St Helens
Claire Ramalli	East Sussex
Jane Yates	Cumbria
Jo Backus	Lambeth
Justine Ball	Isle of Wight
Lorna John	Croydon
Sheila Gewolb	Rutland

Name of Nominee

Anne Andrews

Name of SACRE

Bracknell

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE about background and experience of working with SACRE

After teaching in secondary and primary schools, since 2014 Anne has been working for the Diocese of Oxford as RE adviser, offering support, training, and conferences to the 283 schools in the area. Since 2015 she has been adviser to three SACREs and member of a fourth, working closely with Local Authorities to run networks and training for community schools. She has recently stopped advising SACREs and is now a member of Group B on Bracknell Forest SACRE. She has been on NASACRE exec since 2021, sharing the communications brief and helping to overhaul the NASACRE website.

NOMINEE STATEMENT about the ways in which they hope to contribute to NASACRE

Anne's experience of running training and writing newsletters for the Diocese and for the three SACREs she advised has demonstrated her communication skills. The experience of working on the briefings and the website over the last few years has further enhanced these skills as well as given her an insight into the workings of NASACRE. The ability to communicate clearly and concisely is essential for the completion of the briefing, as well as the ability to work to tight deadlines. Anne has demonstrated these skills throughout her working life. She would value the opportunity to continue in that role.

Name of Nominee

Catherine Hughes

Name of SACRE

St Helens

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE about background and experience of working with SACRE

I have been the St Helens SACRE Chair for over 4 years and now I am vice chair. During my time as chair, I established a network with the RE leads in St Helens and provided support and guidance through various ways including CPD, newsletters and meetings. I also wrote and developed a number of policies for schools to adapt for their own use. I grew the SACRE to ensure we had members from different faith communities, and we utilised their expertise to provide resources and guidance through our newsletter and CPD for specific occasions and events.

NOMINEE STATEMENT about the ways in which they hope to contribute to NASACRE

I will continue to support NASACRE through their CPD programme as well as their annual conference. I will continue to play an active role in the 'in conversation meetings' to support SACREs in the North West. As a teacher, I will be able to continue to share my experience and knowledge of teaching RE in the classroom and the support that is needed through this valuable point of view.

Name of Nominee

Claire Ramalli

Name of SACRE

East Sussex County Council

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE about background and experience of working with SACRE

I currently sit on three SACREs as Local Authority Advisor; East Sussex, Hackney and Sutton. I have been working as a SACRE Advisor for the past five years and within that time have supported or led on: reviewing, implementing and training for SACRE members and teachers on Locally Agreed Syllabi's. I have single handedly organised a borough wide syllabus launch, involving SACRE members, local Religious and worldview leaders, Headteachers and RE Leads. I reliably attend and or lead SACRE meetings, set meeting agendas and work closely with SACRE members and advise Headteachers and RE Leads across the three local authorities.

NOMINEE STATEMENT about the ways in which they hope to contribute to NASACRE

I would like to be considered as a potential executive member of NASACRE, supporting with the development plan, training and conference. I have attended many of the online NASACRE training sessions and AGM's so understand how important these are in supporting local SACREs.

I have sat on the AREIAC Executive since 2022 so have insight into the potential activities, time and commitment that this role will entail.

Name of Nominee

Jane Yates

Name of SACRE

Cumbrian SACRE

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE about background and experience of working with SACRE

I have been an active member of Cumbrian SACRE for around 15 years as the Humanist Member. From 2015 until 2023 I was the Chair and am now the Professional RE Adviser. Most recently I have been involved in leading the review and creation of our locally agreed syllabus and delivering accompanying CPD for teachers. In 2022-2023 I played a key role in navigating the Local Government Re-Organisation for Cumbria County Council to two unitary authorities. I worked closely with the LA and their legal team to form the new and single 'Cumbrian SACRE' serving both Cumberland and Westmorland &

NOMINEE STATEMENT about the ways in which they hope to contribute to NASACRE

I would like to stand as an Executive Member for NASACRE, with a particular focus on Training and Conference. I have much experience in organising our SACRE conferences and running all the RE CPD for both my LAs. I would bring relevant skills in terms of organisation and programming for NASACRE. In my role as North West RE Hubs Lead, I bring experience of running NASACRE In Conversation events in the North West with Executive members. My various roles for Humanist UK for Assemblies for All and Understanding Humanism would hopefully develop stronger connections with Humanist UK for NASACRE.

Name of Nominee

Jo Backus

Name of SACRE

Lambeth SACRE

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE about background and experience of working with SACRE

I taught RE in London and Hertfordshire schools between 1975 and 1991, designing and developing RE curricula and mentoring RE PGCE trainees. Between 1991-2012 I was a Senior Lecturer at Bath Spa University, becoming course leader for PGCE RE (secondary) and developing a new Secondary RE course. Additionally, I lectured in the Study of Religions, Philosophy and Ethics department at Undergraduate and Masters levels. I have worked with several SACREs; currently the roles include:

- Buddhist representative for Wiltshire and Swindon SACREs
- Co-opted Buddhist representative for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Working with SACREs I have facilitated

NOMINEE STATEMENT about the ways in which they hope to contribute to NASACRE

This is my second year as a member of the NASCRE Executive Committee.

I have:

- Attended and contributed to executive meetings and two AGMs
- Worked with colleagues on NASACRE becoming a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). My work as a trustee for the Inter Faith Network and Network of Buddhist Organisations aided my understanding of some of the processes involved.
- Contributed to the executive team assessing submissions to the Westhill-NASACRE - Developing Diversity Awards project.

Should I be elected, I think my skills and expertise would be aligned to the area of development planning.

Name of Nominee

Justine Ball

Name of SACRE

Isle of Wight

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE about background and experience of working with SACRE

I've worked with Hampshire and IOW SACREs as advisor for ten years. I have been co-chair of AREIAC for two years and had four years on their executive, so I bring excellent knowledge of both how SACREs work and the wider world of RE. I work as the South East RE Hubs lead, so I bring comprehensive knowledge of the resources and expertise in the South East. I have organised Hubs and NASACRE meetings for the South East and bring a further twenty years of adult and primary education experience with me, including six years as a Primary School Governor.

NOMINEE STATEMENT about the ways in which they hope to contribute to NASACRE

As a member of the training and conference team for NASACRE, I will bring my experience of both adult and primary education with me and contribute to helping ensure a high quality training and CPD programme is delivered for all SACRE members. I will work to gain feedback from SACREs about what they need and work with the team to deliver this. I am totally committed to helping SACREs feel they have the skills and knowledge to deliver their much needed role effectively.

Name of Nominee

Lorna John

Name of SACRE

London Borough of Croydon

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE about background and experience of working with SACRE

I have been a RE HOD for over two decades in a Secondary Academy and have extensive experience within Croydon's SACRE being a member of the Teacher's group since 2007 and recently elected as Vice Chair whilst developing a new Agreed Syllabus. My roles have also included mentoring Beginning Teachers and HODs and curriculum development for a Multi Academy Trust.

My RE career journey has taken me from an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the NATO Headquarters. I have also welcomed priests from the Golden Temple of Amritsar. I thrive in environments that promote inclusivity and representation.

NOMINEE STATEMENT about the ways in which they hope to contribute to NASACRE

Statement- Development Category-

Drawing from my experience as a practicing teacher and school leader, I aim to represent the needs of the classroom and schools at the national level. My involvement in NASACRE conferences, workshops, and webinars has deepened my understanding of the challenges and opportunities in Religious Education. I am hardworking and passionate about fostering inclusive, high-quality RE and look forward to collaborating with colleagues to positively influence national policy and enhance local SACREs. I will draw on my insights from interfaith experiences and international engagement to champion high-quality, inclusive RE at both local and national levels.

Name of Nominee

Sheila Gewolb

Name of SACRE

Rutland Council

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE about background and experience of working with SACRE

I have been a Jewish educator for over 40 years and lead the Board of Deputies Outreach Education Working group. I have been a member of Rutland SACRE for three years where I am part of the Planning and Development Sub-group with a special interest in the Social Cohesion working group. I have also been on the Cumbrian SACRE for 14 years and I am the Jewish faith representative on Peterborough, Torbay and Merthyr SACREs/SAC. I have been an executive member of NASACRE for seven years as a Development Officer.

NOMINEE STATEMENT about the ways in which they hope to contribute to NASACRE

I have been an Executive Officer on NASACRE since 2018 with specific responsibilities as a Development Officer. We are currently experiencing a sea-change in the way RE and World Views are being taught and supporting SACREs is more vital than ever. As an experienced SACRE member, I am aware of the training that is needed and as a member of the new NASACRE executive, I will be positioned to participate in this work. My added experience as a school speaker, which allows me to engage with RE teachers, also provides an insight into how SACREs can be more effective.
