

Conference & AGM

SACREs taking a stand:

positive responses to controversial issues

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

[Stratford Town Hall, Newham](#)

*All papers were posted online in advance (see Conference Programme).
A summary of the day's events and discussions is on the [NASACRE AGM 2025 webpage](#)*

Attendance

See detail on conference Excel attendance register. There were 102 registered to attend (one extra delegate was added on the day), including one speaker + 13 Exec, representing 63 SACREs. 92 attended; there were 10 non-attendees.

Apologies

Jo Backus and Linda Rudge (Executive)

Delegates were welcomed to the first AGM of the new NASACRE CIO.

1. **Minutes of Business Meeting** held on 20 May 2024 in York were taken as read and agreed as a true and accurate record; there were no questions arising. There had been no opportunity to hold an AGM in the last year as intended, since NASACRE was only registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in March 2025.
2. The **Chair's** and **Secretary's reports** were taken as read (on the website); there were no questions arising. Bill paid tribute to Michael Metcalf who was present, and his long-standing service as NASACRE Treasurer.

Treasurer's report and Accounts: Saquat Ali drew attention to his report, gave an overview presentation summary of the balance of the association's accounts for the calendar year 2024. There are currently more paid-up SACREs than in the last 10 years or so. He mentioned that our new CIO status from March 2025 enables the appointment of a P/T professional Executive Officer (EO) for the next year, and also that that we can hopefully grant-fund some new initiatives. There was a question about honorary solicitor and chartered accountant support for the association. The former is in hand and offered freely. SACREs are welcome to suggest suitable accountants. The Coop Bank offers free banking.

3. **Webinars 2026:** Claire Clinton drew attention to the online workshops that follow conference and encouraged delegates to register their 2 choices for June. She invited SACREs to offer new ideas for sessions they'd like to see in the future.
4. **New Executive:** With NASACRE's new CIO status and 2024 extended Constitution has come the necessity to elect up to 12 trustees. Existing Exec members Bill Moore, Claire Clinton, Denise Chaplin and Saquat Ali had offered to be the first trustees to register the organisation. The Exec had also, for the sake of continuity, agreed they should take the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Assistant to the Chair, and Treasurer respectively. That left another 8 trustees to be elected to the Executive and 8 nominations were received from the membership. All are duly elected:

Anne Andrews, Jo Backus, Sheila Gewolb and Catherine Hughes will serve a second term and Justine Ball (Isle of Wight), Lorna John (Croydon), Claire Ramalli (East Sussex), Jane Yates (Cumbria) will serve their first 3 years. Their roles and contribution to the association's business are to be decided at the next Exec meeting on 24 June. It was noted that there is currently no one fulfilling the role of Secretary and that that is a key trustee role, which is under discussion. Role definitions will necessarily change if an EO is appointed. The areas of work covered by Exec members will be decided at their first meeting on 24 June.

Paul Smalley (Co-Chair), Linda Rudge (Assistant to the Chair), Sue Holmes (Secretary), Sukaina Manji and Manjit Kaur all stepped down from the Exec. Thanks were expressed to each for their service to NASACRE, especially those that had served additional years, because they couldn't step back due to COVID and then the process of CIO registration. Some may be coopted back to support the Exec as appropriate once the areas of work have been defined.

Any Other Business: There was no other business previously notified.

Westhill Awards go to the following SACREs:

- Barnet
- Camden
- Haringey
- Sunderland

Google Drive links to presentations:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Z8Ra_r7jhWJh1fx87Ft6hHlxztjhxpgG

Feedback:



Table questions to Trustee Panel:

- Why a CIO?
- Can you use your CIO status to attract wider funding? If yes, how might this be used (including supporting SACREs)?
- How was the current trustee panel selected/elected?
- Your AGM is next Agenda item, then why have you chosen yourself just before AGM?
- Are we nearer a National Content Standard and moving away from Agreed Syllabi (therefore schools can choose their own curriculum resources)?
- If there is a statutory National RE Curriculum, what will be the role of SACREs?
- When in an LA there are no other religious community spaces (other than Christian churches) how would you make contact with faiths that are not represented on your SACRE?
- In the light of recent political developments, how might NASACRE support SACREs with systems and processes for safeguarding psychological safety of members?
- Does central Government care about SACREs?
- We have Ministers from the DfE make promises before and nothing happened
- What is Collective Worship?