

Latest news and updates from NASACRE

NASACRE NEWS

Essential reading for SACREs

Issue: 2



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Chair's Welcome

Happy New Year to you all!

It is a privilege to work alongside other Executive Members and two more of our most recent colleagues, Lorna and Jane, introduce themselves below, each bringing a wealth of experience and their own perspective to inform and support our work.

Your Exec representatives (Trustees!) continue to work to support SACREs and RE across England and what follows gives a flavour of that work. As we move into 2026,

there is much happening in the world of RE, not least of which is the work to be done to implement the recommendations from the [Curriculum and Assessment Review](#). We published our response on 5 November and if you have not already, you may access it [here](#). More [below](#).

Our annual conference and webinars are such an important part of NASACRE's work in supporting SACREs. Use the website as much as you can to find information about our work and how it may benefit you and your SACRE. You might even offer contributions to share your SACRE's work!

Inter Faith Week in November was a huge success and some of the work involving schools and SACREs is described below. NASACRE has been part of the IFW steering group for the last two years.

A couple of quick points for your information:

1. Please check that your [contact details](#) on our website are up-to-date and contact Marie admin@nasacre.org.uk with any changes. Please ensure that your contacts consent to NASACRE holding their data and making it public. Under GDPR, you must inform us of any changes, so that we can delete old contact details and replace them with up-to-date ones.
2. We have added two documents to the *Shared Materials* section (for which your SACRE needs to be a subscribed member SACRE). The first is an example of a Vision and Values statement from Buckinghamshire SACRE, to stand alongside a Code of Conduct. The second is a wonderful guidance booklet on Ramadan from Lewisham Islamic Centre and Lewisham SACRE. This is both aesthetically and educationally brilliant!
3. It is interesting to note that Ash Wednesday and the first day of Ramadan fall on the same day, 18 February. This provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on common themes such as fasting, reflection, striving to be the best you can be, and concepts such as sacrifice, spiritual, community. These can link lives of Christians and Muslims, building bridges into pupils' lives and worldviews, and to current global issues. SACREs could support schools in building powerful learning and reflection supporting RE, collective worship and SMSC.
4. Don't forget to share with your SACRE members and contribute to [RE Hubs 3-year celebration and feedback](#).

Meet the New Exec

2 more members of the new Executive introduce themselves.

Lorna John



I am delighted to join NASACRE as a member of the Executive and to contribute to its vital work in supporting high-quality Religious Education. I have been a Head of Religious Education for over twenty years, teaching in both the UK and internationally and have been an active member of Croydon SACRE for two decades. More recently, I have been nominated as Vice Chair.

I have completed the two-year Culham St Gabriel's Trust Leadership Programme, which played a significant role in shaping the design and impact of our new Agreed Syllabus. Throughout my career, I have been committed to developing a genuinely global and worldview-rich approach to RE. This has included welcoming Sikh priests and musicians from the Golden Temple of Amritsar into the classroom, supporting students in meeting the Dalai Lama and travelling to NATO Headquarters in Brussels to speak about peace and reconciliation, showcasing students' work from the *Heartstone Storycircles* project.

I look forward to bringing this experience and perspective to NASACRE and to working collaboratively with colleagues nationally to strengthen and champion Religious Education.

Jane Yates



I joined Cumbria SACRE over 15 years ago as the Humanist member. I became the Chair for 8 years and am now the RE Adviser, which also involves leading RE CPD throughout the year and organising an annual RE conference. I was involved in navigating the intricacies of Local Government reorganisation and the changes this brought to the new Cumbrian SACRE, supporting schools in the newly formed unitary authorities of Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness.

I am the Northwest RE Hubs Lead and am involved in running teacher and speaker training for Humanists UK, recently becoming the Co-ordinator for Assemblies for All. Previously I was an RE and P4C Lead at a primary school for many years and also taught KS3 RE at a large secondary school, both in North Cumbria. I am an alumna of the CStG Leadership Programme and now involved in mentoring on the programme.

In addition to RE, I am a Thoughtful/SAPERE Philosophy for Children (P4C) trainer and work with schools across England, Scotland and Wales – and sometimes internationally. This year, I joined the University of Cumbria to start a PhD, with funding from Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

Curriculum and Assessment Review (CaAR)

Work is currently underway to establish an agreed way forward across the sector. Dr Vanessa Ogden is leading a Task and Finish Group and there will be a structured approach to enable the initial report to be submitted to the Government by the end of March. Dr Ogden has set up an Expert Advisory Group to oversee the process and two reference groups:

- Faith and Belief Group
- Teacher Group

NASACRE and AREIAC (the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) will have a proactive role to play in these developments, as we work across both teaching and faith and belief communities.

There is real momentum and rationale behind this move, but also some genuine concerns amongst some teachers and SACREs about what this might mean for the future. There are definitely potential wins here, but also possible notes of caution to be considered, and the next couple of months will be crucial as the Task and Finish Group pulls together a collaborative way forward.

NASACRE will be a key part of this collaboration and the importance of a continued role and place for SACREs is high on the agenda. We will update you on our [website](#) [noticeboard](#) as things progress and encourage your SACRE to discuss thoughts, enthusiasms and concerns.

Local Government Reorganisation

NASACRE is raising awareness within the Local Government Association and the DfE of the impact that Local Government Reorganisation will have on those SACREs affected. Our guidance for SACREs can be found [here](#) and please note that our webinar on 22 January ([see below](#)) will be extended by half an hour at the start to focus on reorganisation, for any SACREs affected (6.30-7pm).

Webinars to support effective SACREs

NASACRE provides a comprehensive [programme](#) of webinars to develop SACRE members' skills. To book a place on any of the sessions, email admin@nasacre.org.uk

Spring Term

22 January 2026, 6.30-8pm [Note earlier start time to allow 30 minutes for discussion about the Local Government Reorganisation for those affected. Non-affected SACREs should join for 7pm, as previously advertised.]

***How to ensure your SACRE is fit for purpose
(Chair/Vice Chair & LA Link Officer focus)***

23 February 2026, 7-8pm

Being an effective SACRE Clerk Pt.4 (looking at nomination processes)

10 March 2026, 7-8pm

How might SACRE use freely available resources to support high quality RE?

Spring Term webinars are free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package: £25 for a subscribed SACRE and £35 for a non-subscribed SACRE

Oak Academy

Following our Autumn webinar about Oak Academy Resources, NASACRE has prepared a statement which can be found on the [website](#).

NASACRE In Conversation

An overview of the Autumn Term NASACRE In Conversation sessions across English RE Hubs

Nine regional NASACRE In Conversation meetings were held November–December 2025. These meetings provided valuable insights into the successes, challenges, and priorities of SACREs across England.

Recurring themes emerged across multiple regions, including:

- The impact of **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** on SACRE structures, funding, and agreed syllabuses. To help with this, we have a [webinar on 22 January](#) to help SACREs affected. We have provided some clear [guidance](#) for SACREs:
- The need for **updated constitutions, codes of conduct, and improved membership recruitment**. Advice on these is already available on the [NASACRE website](#), including the recently revised [NASACRE handbook](#).
- Persistent challenges for SACREs with **annual report submissions and data collection**, particularly from academies.
- Strong consensus on the **importance of RE and the implications of the Curriculum and Assessment Review (CaAR)**.
- The value of **RE Hubs** as a national connector, alongside concerns about sustainability of funding.

- Ongoing issues of **community cohesion**, including prejudice, intolerance, and tensions in schools around difference and diversity – withdrawal from RE and collective worship.

If you have areas that you would like to discuss further in the next ***In Conversation*** sessions, please contact your NASACRE Exec link person.

The website already has details of the next round of ***In Conversation sessions*** which take place on various dates during March. These are free sessions, aimed at SACRE Chairs, Vice Chairs, LA Officers and Advisers.

Conference and AGM

SACREs: Bringing Communities Together

18 May 2026 10:30-3:30pm at the Hilton Liverpool City Centre Hotel

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speakers will be:

- ***Dr Vanessa Ogden, CEO of Mulberry Schools Trust (CaAR Report, Chair of the current Task & Finish Group to shape the future of RE)***
- ***Carrie Alderton, CEO of the Faith and Belief Forum.***

Delegate costs

Every subscribed SACRE can send a maximum of 5 delegates; others will go on a waiting list.

NASACRE-subscribed SACREs	
Number of delegates (booked together)	Price, including a choice of 2 online workshops in June
1	£125
2	£230
3	£315
4	£380
5	£445
Bonus offer for subscribed SACREs: +£100 for an unlimited number of other SACRE members to attend 2 online workshops running over 4 days in the first week of June	

Non-subscribed SACREs can send a maximum of 3 delegates; others will go on a waiting list.

Non-subscribed SACREs	
Number of delegates (booked together)	Price, including a choice of 2 online workshops in June
1	£165
2	£305
3	£415

Further details about workshops will follow, once sessions are confirmed.

Does your SACRE have something to share at the June online workshops?

We'd love to hear from SACRE members who have examples of good practice, resources or experiences they would be willing to share as part of our series of virtual workshops after the NASACRE Conference. We are keen for an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from one another.

We are looking to provide virtual workshops on the conference theme of **SACREs - Bringing Communities Together**. This might be a SACRE project or event, a successful approach, or a challenge that has led to helpful learning.

If your SACRE has something you'd be happy to contribute to a workshop, please let us know by **Friday 23rd January 2026** - admin@nasacre.org.uk

Westhill/NASACRE Awards

There is still another year for your SACRE to consider whether to bid for funding from the **Westhill Endowment Fund**; the deadline for the next round of applications is **28 February 2027**. The new 2-year cycle allows for SACREs to take more time over projects, creating the opportunity to develop ideas more fully and to bid for a larger grant. NASACRE hopes that this will allow for projects to have greater impact and leave a greater legacy. More information about the bid process and the criteria for the 2027 round will follow soon.

Shared Materials

As mentioned in the [Chair's welcome](#), a new document has been added to the [Shared Materials](#) section of the website.

Buckinghamshire's vision and values document is an example of where a SACRE has discussed its purpose, vision and values linked to the aims of their agreed syllabus, and made it into a statement to sit alongside their Code of Conduct.

This helps to ensure all representatives buy into the ethos of RE in an educational setting and the partnerships involved. Buckinghamshire SACRE is sharing this, not as a model document, but as an attempt to clarify what being part of their SACRE involves. We hope that this might help other SACREs to develop their own vision and values.

Ramadan

SACREs may wish to provide advice to their schools on catering for the needs of Muslim pupils and staff during the holy month of Ramadan which will start approximately Tuesday 17 February 2026; on the first day fasting will be roughly from 5:29am to 5:24pm. The precise date of the start of the month is dependent on a sighting of the moon.

Muslims approach Ramadan with enthusiasm, and it is customary for them to congratulate one another on its arrival and again at the end of the month for completing the fast.

Because fasting is an obligation for Muslims, teachers can take opportunity to be more inclusive by teaching the pupils about Ramadan and inviting guest speakers from the local Muslim community to explain about how it is marked and what it means to them. This helps Muslim pupils to feel more comfortable fasting within school.

Schools can value and build on the spirit of the month by planning themes based on Ramadan in collective worship / assemblies. Schools may also enter the charitable work of Ramadan by raising funds for the poor and needy.

The month of Ramadan ends with the festival of Eid ul-Fitr, which will take place on either 19 or 20 March. Local mosques will publish prayer and fast times to help schools appreciate better the impact of the change of the rhythm of life at home on the lives of their pupils.

Your SACRE's own published Ramadan advice would be a welcome addition to NASACRE's sharing page! Please send it to Marie admin@nasacre.org.uk

Jewish Culture Month April-May

The Board of Deputies has officially launched Jewish Culture Month - a new nationwide celebration that will run during the Jewish month of Sivan (16 May - 14 June 2026). This new initiative will accentuate the positive experiences of British Jews and their contribution to our society by giving a platform to Jewish cultural institutions. There will be support for Jewish centres, including synagogues, schools, and charities, to open their doors to local schools and other groups, and encouragement to British cultural institutions, public bodies and schools to celebrate British Jews. Consider whether your SACRE could encourage something similar in your area.

National Inter Faith Week 2025

The theme for Inter Faith Week 2025 was **Community: Together We Serve**, highlighting how people of different faiths and beliefs can come together in service and share values. The week coincided with the Remembrance period.

The annual event at Braithwaite Hall was organised by the local interfaith group **Faiths Together in Croydon**, in collaboration with local SACRE members. The programme featured a musical contribution from a primary school, speeches from faith representatives and participation from a local Scout group.

One school presented on how people of different faiths contributed to the war efforts within the borough, titled *United in Valour: The Commonwealth Heroes of Croydon*.

The event was well attended by faith leaders and members of local communities, as well as both the Civic Mayor and the Executive Mayor.



During **National Inter Faith Week 2025** pupils and staff in Coventry and Warwick took part in a range of activities exploring this year's theme, encouraging the school community to learn about different faiths and beliefs, celebrate shared values, and take part in acts of service that make a positive difference.

Across the week, classes engaged in discussions about how people of different religions and worldviews contribute to their communities. Pupils learned about the importance of kindness, cooperation, and respect, and reflected on how these values are expressed in a variety of traditions.

A number of activities took place in school, including:

- **Community service projects** such as collecting donations for local charities and supporting environmental initiatives.
- **Visits and talks** from representatives of different faiths, giving pupils the chance to ask questions and learn from lived experiences.

- **Creative work** with pupils producing artwork, poems, and digital pieces exploring what service and community mean to them.
- **Reflection opportunities** where pupils considered how they can contribute to a more caring and inclusive school environment.

The week helped pupils deepen their understanding of the diverse beliefs within our wider community and recognise the values that unite us. It reminded us that by working together, we can build a school culture rooted in respect, empathy, and shared responsibility.

Other examples of [interfaith activities](#) are on the website.

Is your SACRE subscribed?

Subscribed SACREs have voting rights and access to additional material on the NASACRE website as well as savings on training webinars and AGM attendance. The cost for the annual subscription is kept as low as possible. We list all the advantages on the [website](#) and give details of how your SACRE may subscribe. Subscribed SACREs should have received a new NASACRE username and password for the academic year 2025-26.

Please inform admin@nasacre.org.uk if your SACRE has not received it.

Items for your next Agenda

- Check that your SACRE has subscribed and paid into the new NASACRE bank account (Account Number: 67410361 Sort Code: 08-92-99)
- Check that all the details for your SACRE are correct on the NASACRE [contacts page](#) and inform admin@nasacre.org.uk of any changes needed
- Book SACRE members in for [training sessions](#)
- Discuss the latest [analysis of SACRE annual reports](#) and the recommendations
- Look out for the mailing from NATRE to individual SACREs with your DfE schools' data – including Summer 2025 full course results
- SACREs may wish to consider whether they need a vision and values statement; see the example from [Buckinghamshire SACRE](#)
- Check out the NASACRE [noticeboard](#) for all the latest news and information.
- Feed back and discuss the summary points from the Autumn NASACRE [In Conversation](#) sessions
- Discuss how SACREs can make a contribution to community cohesion

