



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Florence Eshalomi MP
*Minister for Homelessness, Democracy,
Communities and Faith*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

[Sent via email only]

17 September 2026

Dear SACRE Chair,

Submission of SACRE annual reports and updated reporting framework

I am writing to you as Minister of State with responsibility for Faith and Communities.

As you will be aware, Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education have a statutory duty to publish an annual report 'as to the exercise of their functions and any action taken by representative groups on the [SACRE] ... during the last preceding year' (Education Act 1996). The Government recently committed in [Protecting What Matters](#) to promote the role of SACREs by supporting improved analysis of these annual reports, to better understand the role they play in communities including in relation to cohesion. As you will know, social cohesion is not necessarily expected to form a part of teaching on religious education, but there are strong and evident links between teaching on religion and belief and strengthening social cohesion.

My department has therefore provided funding to NASACRE to undertake analysis of SACRE annual reports for the academic year 2025-2026. This analysis will help government build a stronger evidence base on how SACREs are contributing to their local area, including in relation to cohesion, religious literacy, and the challenges and opportunities facing the provision of religious education and collective worship locally.

To support this enhanced analysis, NASACRE has also updated the annual reporting framework that can be used by SACREs when preparing reports. This updated framework is intended to improve consistency and clarity in reporting, which will in turn help formal analysis to identify where SACREs are helping to build social cohesion. NASACRE will also provide guidance and online training sessions to support SACREs in using this revised framework.

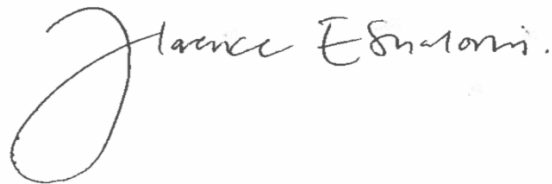
I would like to use this letter as an opportunity to **encourage your SACRE to submit your annual report in line with the revised framework, by 30 December**. Doing so will help to ensure that the national analysis is as complete and useful as possible – not just for government, but also for yourself as a SACRE. As normal, **reports must be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education** and should ideally also be shared with NASACRE and your local authority.

I have attached a copy of the 2026 Framework for SACRE Annual Reports.

I am grateful for the significant work SACREs continue to undertake across the country, often drawing together local authorities, schools, faith and belief communities and wider partners. Your work makes an important contribution to children and young people's understanding of different faiths and beliefs, and to maintaining constructive relationships within local communities.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this important work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Florence Eshalomi." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'F'.

FLORENCE ESHALOMI MP

Minister for Homelessness, Democracy, Communities and Faith