

ITEM 6

National SACRE Updates

Summer 2023

Report on NASACRE Conference and AGM

Celebrating 30 Years: SACREs for the Future

NASACRE's annual conference, its 30-year celebration and AGM took place at Fishmongers' Hall, London, on Monday 22nd May 2023. It was attended by over 60 SACREs across England, as well as two representative from WASACRE in Wales. It was the first face-to-face conference and AGM since the pandemic.

Report to SACRE

Keynote Address 1 – Dr Kathryn Wright

An education in religion and worldviews – the next 30 years?

- Reflected on how SACREs strengthen voices, e.g. teacher voice.
- SACREs supporting innovation, through agreed syllabuses. E.g. Birmingham, Norfolk, some of which have had national and international influence and recognition
- Representing community - SACREs working with NASACRE and CSTG – e.g. 'in conversation with'
- SACREs help to celebrate education in religion and worldviews – helping children and young people to navigate life in a multi-religious and multi-secular world.

Challenges and opportunities ahead for SACREs

- Strengthening partnerships
 - Multi Academy Trusts – **is there a MAT link on your SACRE?**
 - Does Government do God? Review by Colin Bloom – controversial but does recommend a strong education in religion and worldviews.
- Supporting understanding
 - A religion and worldviews approach, including critical hermeneutics, positionality and disciplinary approaches
 - Providing and signposting professional development
- Representing the religion and worldviews community
 - Recruitment of RE teachers is a critical issue – likely that we will only be able to recruit half the teachers required – SACREs can use lobbying power
 - Supporting calls for a National Plan
 - Importance of freedom of religious belief (FoRB).

Keynote Address 2 – NASACRE Patron, Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke

The role of SACREs in the emerging educational landscape

Author, with Professor Linda Woodhead, of *A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools.*'

- *Political disarray and polarization since the Brexit campaign and vote in 2016*
- *As a result, attention was focused on Brexit and its implications, and discussing change in areas like education became difficult.*
- *School improvement plan is fractured and differentiated – not a coherent school improvement process*

Where do we stand now?

- *Hopefully moving towards greater stability and less polarization – both Sunak and Starmer are centrists*

Can we influence educational debates in a way that is powerful and constructive?

SACREs have particular strengths:

- *SACREs have the advantage of a moral high ground – they aim to promote community cohesion, give voice to people of diverse faiths and beliefs;*
- *SACREs are a direct force for community cohesion, being diverse people together in a positive and constructive way;*
- *SACREs are locally based – they bring local people together to affect change in positive ways, building on unique characteristics of their own communities;*
- *SACREs deal with children, young people and with education;*

SACREs have weaknesses:

- *Limited money and resources – local governments often keep SACREs on a very 'tight string'*

BUT, who else can do the work that they do so well?

We need to minimize weaknesses and maximise our strengths.

The forthcoming general election will involve people making choices about the values they wish to see, in society and, more specifically in education.

Ofsted appoint new Acting Subject Lead for RE



Hazel Henson HMI was appointed as acting subject lead for RE in March 2023. She has a background in primary education.

Children's Commissioner shares her view on RE with former pupil

Shammi Rahman, recently interviewed The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza. Dame Rachel is a previous RE teacher and headteacher and Shammi, is a former secondary teacher and now a Race Equality Adviser. Dame Rachel was her RE teacher!

Dame Rachel says, 'a former RE teacher myself, I believe RE teachers have a crucial opportunity to teach children about the wider world and principals of fairness and equality. It was great to talk about how different faiths can teach us different things, for example treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves; having compassion for others; and celebrating the beauty of life in our environment.'

Listen to their conversation here: [Conversation with Shammi Rahman: The importance of Religious Education | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/conversation-with-shammi-rahman-the-importance-of-religious-education/)



CURRENT RE COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

Wire Award



The Wire Award – Widening Inclusivity in Religious Education is open to **all primary, secondary and special** schools. It aims to encourage pupils to learn about **diversity** in our local area. To achieve it, schools are asked for evidence of **just three things**:

1. A teacher attends some RE CPD this academic year.
2. Either – arrange a visit to a place of worship. Or invite in a visitor to speak to a class/school from a worldview that is **NOT** Christian. The visitor can be a 'virtual visitor'
3. Enter an RE competition (for example – Spirited Arts – see later!) or invite parents to an exhibition of your learning about RE in the school!!

NATRE Spirited Arts 2023 – a reminder

Will the LA's schools join hundreds of from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition? Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form pupils can think of. Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE?

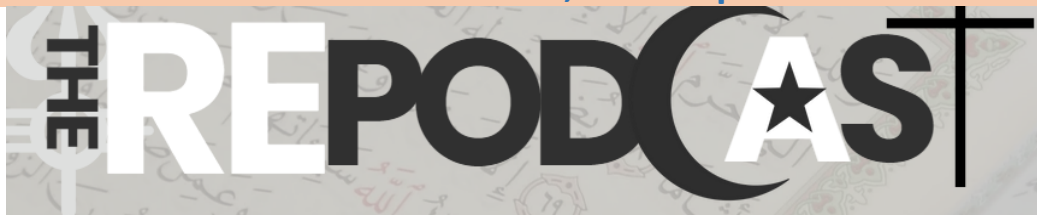
The deadline for this is Monday 31st July 2023

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us."
2. Green faith, green future? ['God's good earth?']
3. Where is God today?
4. Faith in action, values in action.
5. Sacred space and holy buildings
6. All God's creatures?

More details here www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/

Training, networking, and other support

The RE Podcast: FREE CPD for teachers, and RE professionals



The RE Podcast is an amazing resource for Teachers and Students. Hosted by the fabulous Louisa Jane Smith – who is a current Secondary teacher for RE. Each week she produces a podcast on a range of brilliant RE topics with fantastic guests. All the previous episodes are on the website.

<https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/> - or listen through your Mobile Podcast App!

FREE CPD for Early Career Teachers

Early Career Teachers have access to a range of free support through a series of online sessions. 'Café' sessions give you a chance to talk with experienced teachers and experts from different worldview backgrounds. The taught sessions offer expert input with a focus on practical classroom strategies.

Date – All Mondays 4.00-5.30pm	Topic
10 July	Café NATRE: Subject knowledge Christianity

ECT webinars booking link www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/

NATRE: new membership packages!

NATRE is the largest membership organisation which promotes, defends and supports RE teachers and RE teaching. It does this through producing high-quality resources and CPD, lobbying government, being involved in conversations with the DfE and Ofsted, LAs and SACREs, telling teachers' stories and experiences and being a voice for all teachers.



Membership packages for students, ECTs, teachers, schools, RE professionals and RE enthusiasts!

Details: www.natre.org.uk/membership

Culham St Gabriel's launch FREE new self-study course

Digging Deeper: Subject Knowledge, this short, self-study course builds on the introduction level course and is available for FREE. Find out more here: [Culham St Gabriel's Trust Moodle \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://Culham St Gabriel's Trust Moodle (cstg.org.uk))

Understanding Humanism launches new animation and free resources

Understanding Humanism has launched a **NEW animation** 'One Life, live it well' voiced by author and presenter, Alice Roberts. Accompanied by classroom activities, this simple but beautiful animation illustrates how humanists try to approach life: [One Life, Live It Well: watch our new animation narrated by Alice Roberts » Understanding Humanism](#)

They also have available new FREE resources for children in early years, and the stories of four amazing humanist women who changed the world.

AREIAC Conference – Leading and Inspiring Religion and Worldviews Education

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Bookings now open for the AREIAC 2023 conference. Everyone is welcome - RE / RVE school leads, advisers, consultants, trainers or SACRE / SAC members.

- **Date:** 2nd & 3rd July 2023
- **Location:** Woodland Grange Hotel and Conference Centre, Leamington Spa
- **Speakers:** Paula Webber, Justine Ball, Claire Ramalli, Linda Rudge and Tania ap Sion

To find out more and to book: [Conference | areiac](#)

RE Hubs – Website now live!

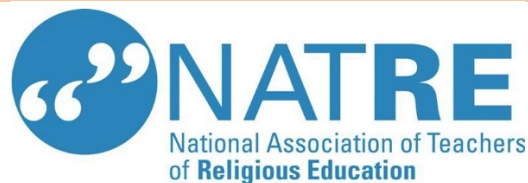


RE Hubs website is now live at www.re-hubs.uk. RE Hubs aim to connect those who can provide resources with those who need them and create a neutral platform being RE professionals together.

Many organizations serve RE/RVE/R&W education in the UK, from places of worship and school speakers to CPD partnerships and resource providers. However, until now, there hasn't been a single place to equip, enable, and signpost everyone within the community.

Wokingham's Hub is South East, led by Justine Ball.

NATRE Secondary Survey



The NATRE survey of secondary RE teachers is now underway and open until Monday 31st July. Everyone who completes the survey will receive a £5 coupon for the RE Teaching Resources online shop as well as being entered into a prize draw to win a NATRE School Enhanced membership worth £270. The survey is here: [NATRE Survey - Secondary 2023 \(surveymonky.co.uk\)](https://surveymonky.co.uk)