

SACRE National Update: Spring 2020

Ofsted reports

In late November 2019 NATRE published a document showing all the Ofsted reports (published by the end of November) that mentioned RE. There are 101 of them! Teachers including middle and senior leaders might find it interesting to discuss some of the points that have emerged so far.

The document also picks out some of the key themes from the reports.

Read the [Ofsted primary and secondary Autumn 2019 NATRE report](#) here.

Ofsted has made it clear in correspondence with NASACRE (The National Association of SACREs), that Religious Education is just as likely to be chosen as the subject of a Deep Dive as any other subject but there are no quotas. Sean Harford (National Director of Education for Ofsted) says:

“We have been very clear, both to our inspectors and publicly, that RE should absolutely be considered as one of the subjects for potential inclusion in inspections as one of the four to six deep dives. We do not, however, set quotas, or any central expectations as to what subjects should and should not be included in general, or for any specific school. The subjects are chosen by our inspectors, in consultation with school leaders, on the basis of what will provide the best evidence of the school's curriculum and ethos.” Nov 2019

[How will SACRE communicate with schools who get particularly positive reports or reports that show areas for improvement?](#)

Guidance on RE and collective worship in academies

In 2012, NATRE supported the Department for Education in the production of some ‘Questions and Answers’ about Religious Education and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools. This document has now been updated to a new format and should be helpful to teachers and others looking for guidance on Government Policy with references to legislation.

[Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools](#)

This document is also linked to and from: [Religious Education guidance in English schools non-statutory guidance 2010](#)

[Should SACRE include a link to this document in a briefing to Headteachers and advise the authority to share it with Governors?](#)

Collective Worship

There was coverage in the [press](#) last term regarding two children who had been withdrawn from Collective Worship in a primary school in Oxfordshire. The school concerned is a community primary. Although it has joined the Oxford Diocesan MAT, Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST), this didn't change the status of the school. It must still provide daily collective worship of a ‘wholly or mainly of a

broadly Christian character ” in line with current legislation. One family, supported by Humanists UK, chose to withdraw their children from this Collective Worship, as is their right. The parents were seeking a judicial review because they felt that during CW, the school should provide an alternative of equal educational worth for their children to attend.

Before the Judicial Review took place the family and the school [agreed](#) an [out of court settlement](#).

The DfE have clearly stated that this case has no immediate implications for SACREs or schools.

‘The complaint was settled by the two parties outside of court and as such has no bearing on current legislation or the current national policy on collective worship’.

Legislation and guidance have not been altered and community schools should still continue to provide a daily act of Collective Worship of a broadly Christian nature, unless a determination is in place, or parents withdraw their children. There is no requirement for the school to provide alternatives for children withdrawn from CW, although as a result of the case, schools and SACREs may receive enquiries and requests.

What does SACRE know about the issues raised in the revised guidance and by the legal case? What support might be given to schools?

Increase in Secondary RE ITE trainees

Recruitment for secondary trainees of RE has seen a dramatic boost this year after the DfE accepted our argument that it needed to do more to encourage and support applicants. Bursaries were increased from £4,000 to £9,000 and subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) courses were funded such as the [TeachRE 200 hours course](#) which is endorsed and certified by NATRE.

The end result is we have a bumper crop of trainees for 2019-20 and we reached 93% of our target. This will make it easier for schools ensure more pupils in all schools to have access to high quality teaching. In 2018-19, we reached only 58% of the target, so this is a significant step forward.

What does SACRE know about initial teacher training taking place in schools in the authority?

Wales

In October 2019, the Welsh Government issued a consultation on Ensuring Access to the Full Curriculum for all pupils.

The Welsh Government have decided that there will no longer be a right to withdraw from RE and RSE as part of the new curriculum.

The Welsh government have also decided to rename the subject as Religion, Values and Ethics.

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-ensuring-access-full-curriculum>

Timing of SATs tests in 2021: Adaptations available for Muslim pupils

In 2021, Eid-ul-Fitr is likely to begin on the evening of Wednesday 12th May. Given the significance of RE the DFE are aware that pupils are likely to be absent from school and so have given advice to schools on how to rearrange tests for some or all pupils if deemed necessary.

Schools have been advised about this decision. Are there other matters linked to our remit that the local authority might wish to refer for discussion?

NASACRE National Conference and AGM 2020: Monday 18th May "Authority in RE"

The [2020 NASACRE Conference and AGM](#) will be held on Monday 18 May at: Crowne Plaza London - The City, 19 New Bridge St, London EC4V 6DB

The hotel is across the road from Blackfriars underground (Circle and District line) and mainline station. It is less than a 10 minute walk from the excellent, modern and very fast Thameslink service.

Coffee and tea and pastries will be available from 10,30 and we will start at 11 AM. Our keynote speaker is Matthew Purves, Ofsted's Deputy Director, Schools.

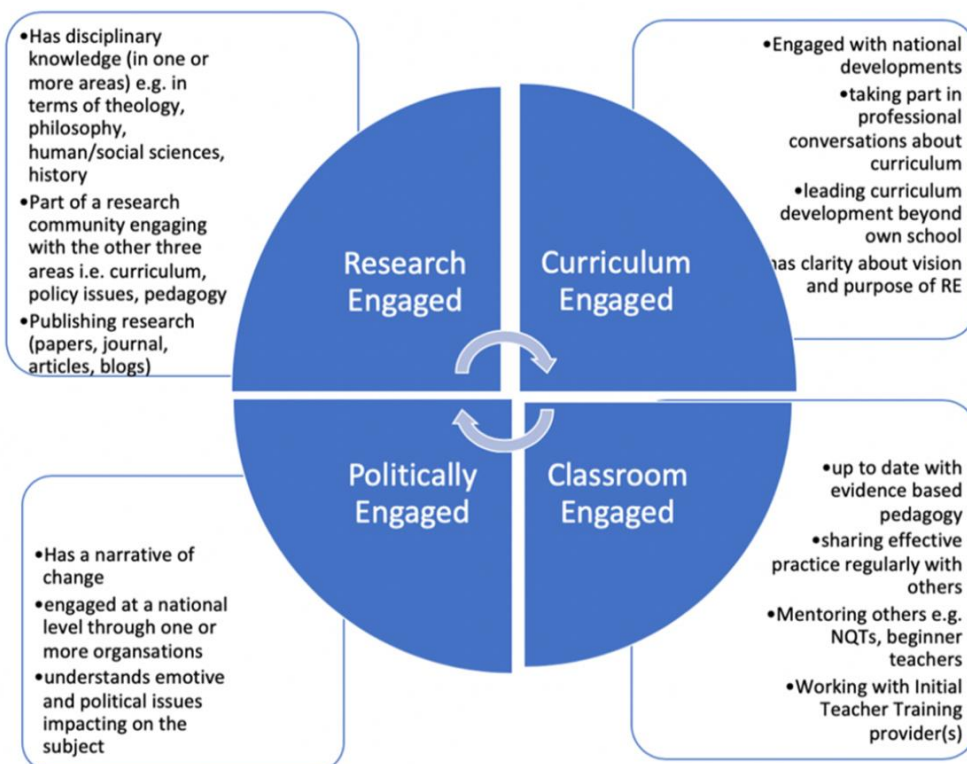
A number of excellent workshops will be offered (see [conference programme](#)); you will need to indicate your preference of workshops when you book. Also, please make certain you indicate any dietary requirements.

At the conference, there will be some filming for an informational video about SACREs and NASACRE at the conference. If you don't wish to be filmed, there is a place on the booking form to indicate this. Please make sure you complete this; you will then be issued with a special badge to indicate that you should not be filmed. This promises to be an outstanding conference and all SACREs are encouraged to send representatives. Bookings can be made [here](#).

Who could represent SACRE?

Culham St Gabriel's Pilot Leadership Programme

Culham St Gabriel's Trust are offering a pilot leadership programme for teachers of RE who are beginning to work regionally and nationally. The pilot programme will see approximately 16 teachers develop their expertise in four areas: Pedagogy, curriculum, research and policy. The Trust has created a small steering group representing the different RE organisations to oversee and shape the pilot programme over the coming year. If any SACRE members would like to know more about the programme please contact Kathryn Wright, CEO, Culham St Gabriel's ceo@cstg.org.uk



How can SACRE support school led networks in the area? Could individuals be encouraged to apply to join this programme?

Westhill Awards

Over the last fourteen years, the Westhill/NASACRE Awards have successfully given SACREs opportunities to enhance their capacity to generate high quality experiences in RE (or collective worship) for their schools.

Individual SACREs (or SACREs in partnership) may apply for a Westhill/NASACRE Award for 2020-21. Awards of up to £4,000 may be applied for via the [application form](#) here.

Projects should offer school pupils the opportunity to engage in compelling learning experiences in RE (or collective worship), within the broad theme of "education into diversity".

Any SACRE wishing to submit an application can read the [briefing notes](#) which accompany the online application form.

For queries, advice or further information, please contact [Michael Metcalf](#), the convenor of the Awards Panel.

Closing date: **31 March 2020**

What ideas might SACRE have that might form the focus of an application to Westhill? Might there be some work that could be appended to the annual conference perhaps?

RE Quality Mark

The [REQM](#), managed by the [RE Council of England and Wales](#), is led by Linda Rudge from Cornwall SACRE, supported by a team of 80 assessors across England and Wales.

Schools are awarded the REQM by an accredited assessor, at one of three levels – Bronze, Silver or Gold. The award is valid for three years. The cost of the award is £475 each time the school applies. Some local SACREs have supported schools in their applications, either through advice or through subsidising the costs. Some SACREs find the scheme helpful in monitoring local RE, or in helping schools to plan their subject and professional development. REQM schools have reported back to SACREs, and some teachers have been asked to join their SACRE through this networking. The REQM criteria have been reviewed, and the new criteria and school evidence form will be available in early 2020.

Linda will be leading a workshop on the new REQM and how it can help SACREs at NASACRE's annual [conference](#).

Please contact [Linda](#) for further details, or to ask for a visit to your local SACRE from a member of the team.

[How can SACRE encourage more schools to apply for the RE Quality Mark?](#)