

## **Chair's report for NASACRE AGM – May 2022**

Welcome to the AGM (and to the annual conference) for NASACRE members.

Our Secretary, Sue Holmes, has provided a brilliant and detailed report, as always, giving us an overview of the last year. Thanks to Sue for all her tireless work and expertise.

I am limiting my comments the Chair's report to the theme of our conference '*Ambitious SACREs*', covering events, discussions and decisions since we last met at the 2021 AGM.

### **AIMS**

The National Association too has always been ambitious for its members, and through the work and dedication of individual committee members.

As I reported last year, NASACRE's aims are encapsulated in its mission statement, and we hope you agree that this past year has been another example of success in strengthening the work of SACREs. This success is often achieved quietly, but sometimes its shouted from the educational and local government rooftops.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

This Executive committee has continued in their dedication to NASACRE and to your SACREs. Highlights (and public thanks) include:

- meetings with our Patron, Charles Clarke, and with members of the RE Policy Unit
- establishing the Strategy Subgroup so that our priorities can be met, shared and understood, and so that our association continues to flourish and to work efficiently
- helping SACREs continue their work online or face to face, and following up on DfE advice to local authorities about how this might be achieved
- working with our consultant to analyse SACRE annual reports – findings to be discussed here today
- celebrating SACREs, RE and its teachers through social media, competitions, through shared resources across SACRE boundaries, and through the flourishing CPD programme
- contributing to national projects such as the Templeton funded Religion and Worldviews Education project with the RE Council and other partner associations

- attending REC meetings, and bringing NASACRE's achievements and agenda to the wider community of those focused on religion and education
- working on the new NASACRE website – to be launched at the conference
- responding to individual requests for advice – and working with our editors and proof-readers to provide SACRE *Briefings*
- planning this conference with those who take a lead on the organisation of the annual event
- responding rapidly to the new White Papers on teacher training and on academisation, and to our DfE contacts, and joining in academic conference sessions tackling future trends and predictions
- and maintaining SACRE membership and databases

## **AMBITIONS**

NASACRE exists to serve its members and to strengthen their work. We have discovered again this year that strength comes from unity and diversity together, and that a SACRE's relationship with its local authority is a two way partnership.

My own ambition as your Chair is to help steer the organisation, and its members, through the realities of 'RE 2022', and to the AGM of 2023. Many years ago the adage '*to teach is to learn*' became part of my professional language – I still teach in various settings, but mainly, I hope, *I learn*.

## **THANK YOUs**

Several of the team are stepping down this year, and after many years of service to SACREs and to NASACRE.

As we say farewell to three of our current and long-standing executive committee members, (Michael Metcalfe, Roy Galley and Alex Klein) I would like to record here our thanks for their considerable contributions and their individual expertise.

NASACRE exec meetings won't be the same without you all, and we wish you well in all that you do and in all that you are – and we hope to see you again, somewhere, soon.

And thank you to members of NASACRE for everything you do for schools, for teachers, for the groups and communities you represent, and for Religious Education.