

Members and guests:

188 attended; there were 206 registered to attend, representing 90 SACREs (83 of them paid-up members)

+15 speakers/workshop leaders +2 Admin (as detailed on Excel register)

*A summary of the day's events and discussions is available from the **NASACRE AGM 2021** webpage, together with PowerPoint presentations and edited clips from keynotes & other sessions.*

Programme:

Welcome and introductions

Linda Rudge welcomed delegates from her virtual Chair, thanking SACRE members for coming together for the first time for an online NASACRE AGM! She thanked the Exec for their work in bringing everything together. Some of the meeting was recorded.

The Rt Hon Charles Clarke, Patron added his welcome and congratulated NASACRE on the choice of title of the day. He said that we need openness and flexibility in the current climate of Brexit - and more lately COVID - as we talk with Government and other stakeholders. He urged SACREs to come up with clear thinking strategies, to reinforce the importance of religion within society.

First Keynote Address

Sources of Authority in Religions/Worldviews and RE

Prof Denise Cush: Emeritus Professor of Religion and Education at Bath Spa University

Recording of Linda's opening, Charles' welcome and Denise's keynote:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7y26Rc-EGY8cT_rxTbyThw3UD0I-Qxndclx-dwBMJqmJxlbTuC6XoSJe3vJ5s47.nqkmmSP4JrmwnsAo
Passcode: 2!Ufef!m

Table Discussions 1

Delegates worked in table groups morning and afternoon to consider over-arching questions, their comments collected and collated for use by the Executive.

1. Who do you think has the most power/authority in RE?
2. Who do you think should have more power/authority in RE and why?
3. How can we as SACREs influence those in power/authority well?
4. If we all understood 'authority' as a chance for service, what difference do you think this would make in RE?

Second Keynote Address

RE and the Quality of Education in the Education Inspection Framework

Richard Kueh: OfSTED's subject lead for Religious Education

Table Discussions 2

1. Given that the Locally Agreed Syllabus is an authority for the construction of a school's RE curriculum, what consideration do SACREs need to have to ensure this curriculum is of high quality?
2. Another key area of authority for teachers is the professional training they receive; what can SACREs do to support teachers' access to high quality RE training?
3. As SACREs, how do we model authority in a positive way for the diverse range of schools in our local RE community?

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Workshops

In the morning and again in the afternoon, delegates attended a range of workshops, allocated in advance:

- a. *Making sacred text scholarship and the multidimensionality of meaning central (Bob Bowie)*
WESTHILL AWARD WINNERS b, c, d:
- b. *Real People, Real Faith: Bringing local faith communities into the classroom (Anne Andrews)*
- c. *RE-Live: example lesson plans that use Big Ideas for RE (Dave Francis) AND*
Supporting Local RE with Local Experts - Collective Worship Video Project (Adrian Black)
- d. *Inclusion through RE (Jane Allinson and Adam Robertson)*
- e. *Quality RE through local authority and national frameworks (Linda Rudge)*
- f. *New SACRE annual report template proposal (Neil Lawson)*
- g. *What do SACREs need to know and understand about worldviews? (Ruth Flanagan)*
- h. *Where now with worldviews? (Trevor Cooling)*
- i. *How can national data help SACREs speak with authority? (Deborah Weston and Paul Smalley)*
- j. *What makes a text sacred? (Kate Fowler & Annika McQueen)*

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Westhill Awards

Michael Metcalf expressed NASACRE's appreciation to Westhill for continuing to fund the awards and he announced the winners for 2021. The Awards Panel received seven applications for an Award. Two more applications missed the deadline and were excluded. The Panel conferred via email and agreed that Awards should be offered to:

Bromley
Leeds
Nottinghamshire
Tameside
Wolverhampton

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Question Time

Table groups submitted questions for the panel – Richard Kueh, Denise Cush, Kathryn Wright, Bob Bowie, Trevor Cooling, Paul Smalley, Lesley Prior, chaired by Linda Rudge.

The questions asked - and some of the points raised - were:

How does the OfSTED research review inform the training of OfSTED inspectors in respect of RE?

- RK said that he works on inspector training and the report would inform the future training.

How can you know what a high quality outcome looks like in RE?

- KW said that the OfSTED review informs and the Norfolk syllabus adds a view of high quality RE.
- RK said we can think about what pupils are building towards – the end goals. High quality RE **may** have more than one of these features
- DC mentioned you can't generalise "All Muslims think..."
- PS asked: does your syllabus state the high level outcome
- LP said it's about the children and young people receiving the curriculum – are they religiously educated?

How does an HLTA/TA/teacher become 'authoritative' in RE?

- PS said schools should facilitate those it has designated to become authoritative
- TC said schools expect a degree of professionalism from those leaders
- LP said we should make sure TAs are included in training
- BB added that we must expect those teachers to know what they're talking about! RE must be on a par with other subjects. Specialists should be truly 'specialist'

How can there be an increase in the provision of good initial teacher training?

- PS said there isn't a problem with provision, but funding can present a problem. There are not enough high quality people coming forward to be RE teachers
- LP said at Primary level, students find RE is undervalued when they go into school

What is the panel's view of the proposed switch to the worldview paradigm?

- RK said that Deep Dives were looking to see if school leaders are equipped by their school to teach their subjects. For some, there are clear limitations.
- TC said it's important to say the worldview paradigm is not a name change for the subject, just a change in the fact that the subject becomes about EVERY human being.
- DC added that we are deconstructing 'isms', making the subject relevant to everyone in a new way

Have exam boards hijacked authority for what is taught in RE?

- PS thought no but Ofqual might have done!
- KW said we need to speak up
- BB said the power of the market in the system, where one board in dominant puts pressure on other areas of the market!

AGM and Business Meeting 2021

- 1. Apologies:**
Basil Mann – Hounslow
Cllr Gareth Gould – Cheshire West and Chester
Steph English – Bolton
Chrissy McLeod – Liverpool
Paula Newman – Windmill Hill Primary School
- 2. Adoption of the draft Minutes for EGM 2020:** The draft Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the EGM held online on 17 November 2020. Denise Chaplin (Lewisham) proposed and Ken Johnson (Nottinghamshire) seconded their adoption; all were in favour. There were no matters arising.
- 3. Chair's report:** Linda Rudge introduced her report (previously posted on the website). She thanked fellow Executive members for all their efforts for the association.
- 4. Secretary's report:** there were no questions arising from the Secretary's report, already posted online.
- 5. Accounts and Treasurer's report:** Michael Metcalf drew attention to his report on the association's accounts for the calendar year 2020, posted online. There were no questions.

He talked about the future of the Treasurer's role which he has fulfilled since the association began and he informed the meeting that Saquat Ali (Newham) has volunteered to shadow his role, with a view to being ready to accept a handover in the future, maybe as an elected member of the Executive. Saquat then introduced himself.

Bill Moore (Buckinghamshire) proposed that the accounts be accepted, Mark Janes (Kirklees) seconded and the meeting unanimously adopted them.

- 6. Executive:** Linda paid tribute to the work of Exec, as member Emily Norman steps down.

New Executive Committee appointments

Sue Holmes (Secretary) introduced the election result for the 2021-24 term:

- There were five nominations for three vacancies on the Executive: Anne Andrews (Windsor and Maidenhead), Denise Chaplin (Lewisham), Sheila Gewolb (Cumbria), Sandra Teacher (Barnet), Alan Shaw (Barnet).
 - Voting had taken place during the day and the following candidates were elected to serve on the Exec Committee for the next 3 years: Anne Andrews, Denise Chaplin, Sheila Gewolb.
- 7. Matters arising from the Minutes, not previously addressed:** there were none.
 - 8. AOB:** There was no other business notified in advance.
 - 9. SH** introduced the new **NASACRE website** that Matt the website designer is working on, explaining to members what changes were likely to be made.

Closing remarks

Linda Rudge drew the day to a close, thanking everyone for joining in virtually on an historic occasion. She especially thanked those Executive members who had taken responsibility for organising it, Claire Clinton for hosting and also, behind the scenes, Marie Cooper, NASACRE Administrator and Georgina Neil.

Drawing attention back to the three themes she had picked out for NASACRE - resilience, flexibility and commitment - Linda restated NASACRE's commitment to strengthening its commitment to RE through its member SACREs.