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*Statement on the publication of Ofsted's Research Review in RE.*

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NASACRE Executive Committee members welcome the publication of the [Research review series: religious education](#) from Ofsted. We are pleased that it reiterates the legal position that all schools are required to teach RE to all pupils at all key stages (including sixth form), except for those withdrawn.

The Review (published 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021) reminds readers that RE in LA maintained schools must follow the agreed syllabus and that Academies (without a religious designation) must arrange for RE to be taught to all pupils in accordance with the general requirements for agreed syllabuses or choose to follow a locally agreed syllabus to ensure a high-quality curricular provision. We are pleased that it acknowledges the usefulness of the Agreed Syllabus in providing high-level outcomes that subject leaders go on to use as they design their school-specific RE curriculums and states that RE teachers and leaders need to be clear about the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus, where it applies. We also consider it useful that Ofsted has noted that most locally agreed syllabuses are constructed on the assumption that the amount of curriculum time given to RE is at or above 5%.

We would suggest that SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences take note of the features that high-quality RE may have and ensure that their Agreed Syllabus enables the construction of curriculums in schools which have these features. There may be work to do to ensure that the syllabus is clear about what knowledge pupils should build through the syllabus to ensure that they 'get better' at RE. They may need to look again at the substantive knowledge, ways of knowing and personal knowledge that is prescribed in the syllabus. They may need to consider the assessment practices laid out in the syllabus.

All of these implications may well need increased resource and LAs should be ready to fund SACREs to help ensure that schools are delivering high-quality RE in their area.

We look forward to hearing from Dr. Richard Kueh, Ofsted's Subject Lead for RE at the NASACRE AGM and Conference on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May (<https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2021>). We also look forward to the publication of our report into SACRE funding on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May which will show the importance of sufficient funding being allocated to enable SACREs to help schools deliver high-quality RE to all pupils.

**Paul Smalley.**  
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12<sup>th</sup> May 2021