



Purpose: For Decision

# Committee Report

Committee	<b>ISLE OF WIGHT SACRE</b>
Date	<b>MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023</b>
Title	<b>NATIONAL AND LOCAL RE MATTERS REPORT</b>
Report of	<b>PROFESSIONAL ADVISER TO THE SACRE</b>

---

## 1. Purpose of report:

The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key national and local RE developments.

## 2. Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the report.

## 3. Executive Summary:

This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national developments, for example the work of the Religious Education Council (REC) and NASACRE as well as the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

## 4. Culham St Gabriel's Trust initiatives:

Culham St Gabriel's Trust continues to be involved in a number of initiatives and is the largest grant giving body supporting religious education [Homepage - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://www.cstg.org.uk).

These include:

Providing a range of virtual RE courses that are free to all on different aspects of RE. These are especially useful to new teachers, those teaching with no background in RE and those simply wishing to know more about the current world of RE. They include new 'Primary Beginning Teacher' courses. These can be found here:

[E Learning - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://www.cstg.org.uk)

CTeach course – providing the opportunity for RE teachers to study a module on general educational research from the Chartered College of Teaching and apply it to their own RE teaching. The closing date for this is the end of November 2023 and the course is funded by Culham St Gabriels Trust:

[CTeach Scholarship Programme - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://cstg.org.uk)

5. RE Hubs – This project was introduced to the SACRE last year. The South East section includes the a range of speakers and places of worship, including a link to the Portsmouth Directory of Places of Worship. The range of resources on the website continues to expand, which will be of real interest and use to the SACRE and to Island teachers, including information on further places of worship, speakers and training and CPD that are available for all. As noted in the previous National and Local Matters report, there is a need for more RE Hub accredited speakers in our area and speakers are accredited after completing the initial training. They can then advertise on the website. Further information can be found here:

[Explore RE in your Region \(re-hubs.uk\)](http://re-hubs.uk)

6. Sacred Texts British Library  
Resources created by the British Library were reported at the previous meeting and are a useful resource available online free of charge for all KS2 teachers on a range of different religions. They can be accessed here:

[Discovering Sacred Texts: Key Stage 2 teaching resources | The British Library \(bl.uk\)](http://bl.uk)

7. National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). NASACRE is the national body representing and leading on SACREs interests. A regular newsletter is circulated to SACRE members through their SACRE. In addition, a series of training sessions are offered for SACRE members to attend. The training program for 2023-4 is available on the NASACRE website here: [Virtual-training-programme-23-24.pdf \(nasacre.org.uk\)](http://nasacre.org.uk)
8. An open letter was sent to the Education Secretary Gillian Keegan in September and published in the Telegraph. This was signed by a group of cross-party peers and MP's. Of particular note is the claim that RE provision is "a postcode lottery", in which some children are receiving a comprehensive and well-taught education, while others receive "either tokenist RE or none at all" with 51% of children being taught by teachers without a specialism in RE. It also highlights that only 44% of the recruitment target for RE teachers will be met. The letter calls for teacher training bursaries for RE and a request for the government to set out what it is doing to improve RE teacher recruitment. [Pupils receive a tokenistic religious education, cross-party MPs and peers tell Gillian Keegan \(telegraph.co.uk\)](http://telegraph.co.uk)
9. NATRE, represented by Deborah Weston, also represented RE at an Education Select Committee hearing on recruitment and retention on 12<sup>th</sup> September where RE was formally described as a shortage subject by the committee. The transcript can be found here: [12 September 2023 - Teacher recruitment, training and retention - Oral evidence - Committees - UK Parliament](http://uk.parliament.gov.uk)
10. The Jewish Museum has produced a range of clips and resources for teaching inclusive Judaism. It aims to promote an authentic representation of Judaism in the classroom and make sure that the Jewish community is presented as a diverse living tradition. [Inclusive Judaism - The Jewish Museum London](http://jewishmuseum.org.uk)
11. There is a new Humanist film aimed at KS2 which looks at the scientific origins of life which will be very useful for teachers when teaching and debating with children about different beliefs about how the world came to be. The film can be found here: [Where do we come from? » Understanding Humanism](http://www.humanism.org.uk)

12. On Friday 29 September, the RE Council of England and Wales published their non statutory proposal for a National Content Standard for RE, drawing on their project about Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom. It's aim is to suggest a benchmark for high quality RE that syllabus writers can refer to in future when reviewing their syllabus, but it is important to remember that this is a suggestion to help with planning and writing high quality RE syllabi rather than a compulsory requirement. The document can be found here:

[National Content Standard for RE Released – REC \(religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk\)](https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/national-content-standard-for-re-released)