

Committee Report

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Meeting	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Date	25 MARCH 2024
Title	NATIONAL AND LOCAL RE MATTERS
Report of	PROFESSIONAL ADVISER TO THE SACRE

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national developments, for example the work of the Religious Education Council (REC), the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust.
2. NASACRE is running its annual Westhill/NASACRE award and has invited SACREs to submit their applications for an Award. The £4000 (max) award is intended to fund a SACRE-led project that will enhance the quality of RE and or collective worship in local schools, with the potential to have wider, lasting impact. The theme for this year is *Education into Diversity*. The [Westhill website](#) and the NASACRE website has further information. **The closing date for applications is 31 March.**
3. The NASACRE annual conference is **Monday 20 May 20 24. It is in York, but also available online for SACRE members. The theme is:**
How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?
SACRE members are invited to contact the SACRE clerk if they wish to attend and there is a maximum of 2 delegates per SACRE.
4. There is one further NASACRE webinar coming up this year:

Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm:
So, you've joined your local SACRE...

Please contact the SACRE clerk if you wish to attend this event.

5. Nationally, the Ofsted Annual Report from the Chief Inspector for the year 2022/23 refers to RE being of poor quality across England. The report can be referenced here: [The Annual Report of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2022/23 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114141/Annual-Report-2022-23-Childrens-Services-and-Skills.pdf) . SACRE members are encouraged to read the report and be aware of the national picture, although it is not reflected locally. The Ofsted subject report on RE is due out this year and will be circulated as soon as it is available.
6. RE Hubs continue to run FREE Places of Interest and School Speaker training (POI &SS). The next dates for training are, 26 March, 18 April 2024 and all are online. SACRE members are encouraged to register for training if they have not already and to pass the details onto other school speakers they might know. Further details are available here: [Register as a school speaker \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk/register)
7. NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) has produced a toolkit for schools on bullying and belief:

'This Bullying and Belief toolkit is a resource to support schools to deal with the topic of religious bullying. It contains five 60-minute lessons for Primary and Secondary schools, with resources and films on which to base your teaching within RE lessons. Alternatively, the five lessons have been planned so that they can run as a drop-down day or be used in tutor time or in PSHE sessions. The toolkit also contains resources for organising assemblies around this theme.'

It is available for free on the NATRE website: [Bullying and belief Toolkit Booklet Aug 2020.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/resources/bullying-and-belief-toolkit-booklet-aug-2020.pdf)
8. The University of Nottingham is running a film making competition for GCSE and A-Level RE students. The theme this year is "Our Changing World: Census 2021 and Religion". There is a prize of £100 for the winning GCSE and A-Level entrant. More information can be found here: [David-Garlick-Prize-Competition-2024 \(nottingham.ac.uk\)](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/centres/religious-education/david-garlick-prize-competition-2024)
9. AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and AULRE (Association for University Lecturers in Religion and Education) will be holding a joint conference on June 20th-21st at Newman University, Birmingham.
10. AREIAC will be running a webinar 'Handling Sensitive Issues around Religion in Schools' on Monday 29th April 2024 1600-1730.
11. A repeat of the Governor training session that was held in July 2023 took place on 12 March 2024 with governors representing 11 different schools on the Island. The theme of the training was understanding RE and Collective Worship in school and the role of SACRE and governors in supporting high quality RE and Collective Worship.
12. A secondary Youth Voice event for RE took place on Friday 1 March at The Bay Church of England Secondary school, with young people from The Bay, Carisbrooke, Medina and Christ the King schools. Members from our SACRE were able to visit the event and to support it and will report back to SACRE during the meeting. The focus for the day was the question

Recommendation

That SACRE notes the report.

Do you need to be religious to be a good steward?’

13. The purpose of SACRE Youth Voice event was to allow students the opportunity to express what matters to them, which will help inform SACRE in identifying priorities for RE provision on the Island and exploring what resources and opportunities SACRE can provide and support with. Feedback from schools has been that a current concern for young people on the Island is the challenge of human caused climate change. This event aimed to allow year 9 students to explore in more detail issues surrounding this cause. Students took part in a series of workshops, had the opportunity to work together in discussing the issues raised and shared their perspectives and vision for the future.

The event was very successful with positive comments received from the young people who attended. Ideas for further Youth Voice events are welcomed.