

Agenda

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday, 24 February 2021, 2.00 pm
Online only

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Worcestershire County Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to: Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a public meeting, conducting remotely by videoconferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access via a link on the Council's website to the Council's You Tube Channel. The Agenda papers and background papers can be accessed electronically on the Council's website. Members of the public and press are permitted to report on the proceedings.

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 843579 or by emailing democraticServices@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Wednesday, 24 February 2021, 2.00 pm, On-line only

Membership:

Group A (Representatives of Christian and other faiths)

Mr G Bounds (Free Church Representative), Ade Couper (Quaker Representative), Mrs T Khawaja (Muslim Representative), Mr J Loyal (Sikh Representative), Mrs C Parker (Methodist Representative), Dr Y Stollard (Jewish Representative) and Mrs L Thorne (Ba'hai Representative)

Group B (Church of England Representatives)

Danielle Evans (Church of England) and Rev Duncan Hutchison (Diocese of Worcester)

Group C (Representatives of Recognised Teachers Associations)

Charlotte Betteridge (NASUWT) and Mr C Giles (Teacher Representative)

Group D (Elected representatives of the Local Authority)

Mr M E Jenkins (Worcestershire County Council), Mr R C Lunn (Worcestershire County Council) and Dr K A Pollock (Worcestershire County Council)

Co-opted Representatives

Ms E Hill (University of Worcester)

Agenda

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To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Kate Griffiths, Committee Officer on 01905 846630, KGriffiths@Worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website.

Date of Issue: Monday, 15 February 2021

Item No	Subject	Page No
9	Any Other Business	
10	Future Meeting Dates DATES 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 17 June 2021• Thursday 14 October 2021 All at 2.00pm venues to be notified.	

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Thursday, 15 October 2020, Online only - 2.00 pm

Minutes

Present:

Mr Robin Lunn, Chairman, Mr Graham Bounds, Ms Kate Cope, Mr Ade Couper, Mr Chris Giles, Mr Matthew Jenkins, Mrs Tasnim Khawaja, Mrs Tracy Lister, Mr Jatinder Loyal, Mrs Christine Parker, Mr Ken Pollock and Mrs Lindsay Thorne

Also attended:

Mr Stephen Pett, RE Today - Adviser to SACRE
Ms Nikki Jones – School Improvement Lead,
Worcestershire Children First

689 Position of Chairman and Membership

The Clerk outlined that the Chairman Lindsay Thorne had requested to step down from the Chair due to other commitments. Vice Chairman Robin Lunn had agreed to act as Chairman for the meeting. It was proposed that Robin Lunn remained as Chairman until after the County Council elections in May 2021 and then an election of a SACRE Chairman and Vice-Chairman would take place at the June meeting so that the process returned to being back in line with the Constitution. Members agreed with this suggestion, so Robin Lunn took the Chair and Lindsay Thorne became Vice Chairman.

690 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Danielle Evans, Ellie Hill, Tracey Lister and Yvonne Stollard. Tracey Lister no longer represented the Diocese as an RE Advisor so had stepped down from SACRE.

The Chairman welcomed Nichola Jones to the meeting as the new representative from Worcestershire Children First. Nikki explained that she was a School Improvement Advisor.

691 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes were agreed to be a correct record of the meeting.

The Chairman wished to highlight a matter arising from the minutes: minute 685, paragraph 3; whether schools were teaching sufficient RE.
Stephen Pett explained that a complaint had been made by parents in another part of the country, that an academy had failed to comply with its Funding Agreement regarding the provision of RE. The school

692 Syllabus launch and encouraging schools to register for access to syllabus

failed to uphold the complaint so the parents complained to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) who also failed to uphold the complaint. Ofsted declared the complaint outside its remit. NATRE contacted the ESFA and broadened the scope to the entire Academy Trust and the complaint was then upheld and the Trust revised their RE provision. The initial school in question now teaches RE as a discrete and distinct subject, rather than being part of the Life Skills programme.

Due to Covid-19 the Syllabus launch scheduled for June 2020 had been postponed, initially to 9 November but now to 14 January. The Syllabus had been made available online and schools could request a password for access to the syllabus as well as being able to download a webinar about the Syllabus. To date 163 Worcestershire schools had applied for the password so around 80 schools still needed to be reached.

Nikki Jones informed SACRE that an Education and Early Help bulletin went to schools at least weekly and details of the online conference for January would be included and details would also be included in future editions. School Improvement Advisors would be asked to pass on the information to schools and the Department for Education would be informed.

Nikki explained that as the number of positive Covid cases increased in Worcestershire, Head Teachers were very busy managing their schools and reacting to any positive cases. This meant that it was more sensible to move the conference to be held in January. On 26 November there would be a Primary School Heads meeting, and Stephen would be invited to attend this meeting to talk about the Syllabus and encourage schools to attend the conference. Kate Cope said she would pass the details of the conference to her network of teachers.

The Conference would be for Primary, and First and Middle Schools. There would be a small fee for each school and a recording would be made available afterwards. The conference would consist of a long afternoon and include three sessions about the intent of the new syllabus, implementing it and the impact it would have. Members suggested that the Interfaith Forum would be valuable to have at the conference.

A secondary conference was being organised by Chris Giles for next summer.

RESOLVED that:

- a) A conference covering the use of the syllabus would be arranged for January 2021.
- b) Stephen Pett would attend the Primary School Heads meeting to speak about the syllabus and the conference
- c) Details of the syllabus and conference would be distributed through the Education and Early bulletin

Note - Following the meeting the date of the conference was changed to 27 January, due to a Diocese event being run on the original date in January.

693 Local NATRE Groups in Worcestershire and West Midlands

Chris Giles gave an update on the Local NATRE groups. There had been a meeting the previous week and one earlier in the summer term. The next meeting would be held on 11 February from 4.00-5.00pm and would give RE Teachers the opportunity to share ideas and resources. There were also plans for there to be some joint meetings with the Rivers Multi-Academy Trust. Part of his role as Regional Ambassador was to set up more local groups and enable them to become self-sustaining.

The secondary conference scheduled for November had been cancelled due to Covid but it had been re-arranged for next summer.

Kate Cope explained that there had been two different Diocese groups meeting last year, one in Bromsgrove and one in Malvern. The Malvern group hoped to continue but had not yet met this year.

Chris mentioned various faiths that were happy to host visits from schools or provide speakers to come into schools, including the Mosque at Tallow Hill in Worcester and Worcester Cathedral. Daniel Parnell, Education Officer at the Cathedral provided downloadable resources. The list of contacts would be made available to SACRE members.

RESOLVED that this update was noted.

694 Future Plans

The County Council had agreed that the agreement with RE Today to supply an Advisor to SACRE would continue for a further three years. Stephen proposed that that the three-year plan which had originally covered 2017-2020 should be updated.

The original plan had covered:

1. Supporting and monitoring teaching and learning in RE
2. Monitoring and review of the Syllabus
3. Partnership working
4. Collective worship
5. Monitoring the contribution of SACRE to SMSC.

SACRE members agreed that an updated three year plan was a good idea.

Members were asked to send ideas for what should be included in the plan to Stephen by Christmas so that a draft plan could be considered at the next meeting.

The possibility of an online survey to schools was discussed. It was decided that it would be best to send a survey to schools in the summer term to check that the syllabus was being used. Workforce data should be part of monitoring schools and once that had been considered then SACRE could decide how to proceed if there were any schools who did not appear to teaching a sufficient amount of RE.

RESOLVED that:

- a) **A draft three year plan would be presented at the next meeting**
- b) **Schools would be sent a survey in the summer terms once schools had been given the chance to attend the conference and implement the use of the Syllabus**

695 National RE Update

Stephen Pett brought various items of news to SACREs attention and suggested that although this information was produced for SACRE, it could also be sent to schools in the bulletin.

- NATREs Spirited Arts competition proved popular during lockdown and had received over 30,000 entries
- Lat Blaylock had worked with teachers and produced resources for Black Lives Matter
- Exams – GCSE: Following a previous decline in the number taking the course, numbers are now improved. GCSE exams for next year have been pushed back by 3 weeks following the disruption to schooling from covid
- There was some concern that in 2021 SATs were due to take place at the same time as Eid-ul-Fitr. Guidance had been issued by the DfE about rearranging tests for pupils
- The £9,000 bursary which had been available for RE teachers has been dropped by the Government. Arts and humanities grants had also

been stopped.

- Strictly RE would take place online at the end of January 2021

It was agreed that a letter could be sent out to schools giving details from the SACRE update.

RESOLVED that:

- a) This update be noted; and**
- b) Stephen Pett to adjust update for schools early in Spring term.**

696 How Schools will celebrate Christmas with current restrictions

The Chairman queried how schools would be planning to celebrate Christmas with the current restrictions.

Chris Giles explained that assemblies were being held online and various performances were being planned which would involve instrumental solos rather than group performances. Dance would also work individually. It was suggested that singing could be done outside if it was socially distanced.

It was pointed out that it was not just Christmas but other celebrations such as Divali and Eid. Teachers were coming up with different ways of celebrating, for example some harvest festivals were celebrated in bubbles and activities were filmed so they could be shared with other groups afterwards.

697 The Viability of a Twitter Account for SACRE

Chris Giles asked members of SACRE what they thought about having a twitter account for SACRE. Other groups had a twitter account such as RE Chat UK and it could be used to share information about courses or resources. It could be useful for professional development for teachers and although the benefits may not be huge it could be argued that it was important for SACRE to have a voice.

There was some discussion around whether twitter was a better platform than facebook. It was felt that twitter was picked up more and the format was more concise.

RESOLVED that SACRE Members supported the idea of a Twitter account for SACRE and that Chris Giles would set it up for a trial run to see if it was a useful tool.

698 Feedback from Members

One Member hoped that there had been some entries in the Spirited Arts Competition from a humanist as well as a religious point of view.

The representatives of different faiths and communities

such as the Ba'hais, Sikhs and Quakers reported that they had managed to meet online during lockdown and had held various regional meetings or open mic nights.

A video had been produced about how Sikhs coped with lockdown and daily deliveries had taken place to vulnerable people within the communities.

Worcestershire Interfaith Forum had provided help and support to faith communities and had helped schools with teaching online.

699 Any Other Business

None

700 Future Meeting Dates

Future meeting dates were:

Wednesday 24 February 2021

Thursday 17 June 2021

Thursday 14 October 2020

All at 2pm. Venues to be notified.

The meeting ended at 3.15pm

Chairman

RE with intent and impact: creative, thoughtful RE that makes a difference!

Tuesday 15th June 2021 ONLINE

9.15am-3.45pm

15 June if joint with Herefordshire/regional conference.
Mon 28 June if Worcs alone.

A day of inspiring support and ideas for your RE classroom. A suite of practical ideas and guidance for implementing the new agreed syllabus, from long-term planning to classroom practice. Clear advice on what makes for rich, engaging RE for you and your pupils – as well as meeting Ofsted requirements.

9.15-10.15 Keynote 1: Ofsted and RE Fiona Moss

In the light of the 2019 Ofsted Framework, and using the new Worcestershire agreed syllabus, how can we show the intent, implementation and impact of RE? Thoughtful ideas to consider and implement in your school.

10.30-11.30 Workshop A: Teaching about Muslims and Hindus: practical strategies Stephen Pett

Using stories, art and activism to open up some of the core concepts in the syllabus, encountering something of the diversity of Muslim and Hindu living.

11.45-12.45 Workshop B: RE and climate justice. Fiona Moss

How do religions view the natural world? How should people treat it? Why have things gone wrong? A thoughtful, dynamic, practical session that will harness your pupils' concerns for global climate justice and explore some religious and secular ethical issues and responses.

1.45-2.45 Workshop C: Multidisciplinary RE Stephen Pett

Ofsted have started talking about 'disciplinary knowledge' or 'ways of knowing'. What does this actually look like, and how can we do it in the current syllabus? Practical ideas and resources on festivals and ideas of God.

3.00-3.45 Keynote 2: RE updated! What is going on in the world of RE?

An introduction to some of the key developments in the RE world, including the idea of worldviews. Opportunities for on-going support for RE will be presented, including online resources and local teacher groups. A boost for the next academic year!

Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A range of resources will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about and explore best practice in RE.

Aims:

- To explore excellent practice for implementing the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE, in the context of the new Ofsted Framework
- To provide practical support and guidance to schools in thinking about the intent of the syllabus and planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE to implement it, increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding, as well as their personal development
- To give teachers confidence in planning and delivering great RE, deepening subject knowledge and skills
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Cost: £95 per school. Attend as a staff for all or part of the day!

Booking details attached. Please email to mark@retoday.org.uk
or post to RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH

Booking form:
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Primary RE Conference:
RE with intent and impact
Tuesday 15th June 2021
 Fee: £95 per school

Full Name:			
School Name:			
School Address:			
	Postcode:		
Telephone:			
Admin email address:			
Attending teacher email address:			
Payment details:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice the school		
Invoice/ Credit Card billing address:			
			Postcode:
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque, payable to RE Today Services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay by Visa, Mastercard or Switch		
Card number:			
Expiry Date:		Start Date:	
Security code (last 3 numbers on signature strip)		Issue no. (Switch)	
Signature:			
Date:			

Send to: RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH
 Tel: 0121 458 3313 Fax: 0121 285 1816
Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk

Deeper thinking, deeper learning

Date: 25th June 2021

Online via Zoom

9.15am-3.30pm

This will be a practical conference to explore a mix of practical strategies and classroom resources. There is a focus on issues that matter – from anti-racist RE (examining ways of promoting well-being in plural communities) to Ofsted (exploring ideas of disciplinary knowledge). Our popular ‘TeachMeet’ slot gives you the chance to share great classroom ideas that work – for live or online working.

9.15-10.45 Anti-racist RE Lat Blaylock

How can we encourage students to learn about religion and beliefs, racism and prejudice in challenging ways that promote the well-being of all in our richly plural communities? Practical ideas and resources to help you plan and provide excellent learning in the classroom.

11.15-12.45 Multidisciplinary RE Stephen Pett

Ofsted is talking about substantive’ knowledge and ‘disciplinary’ knowledge. What do they look like in RE? This session will look at how we can enable students to apply different methods to examine and evaluate the content of RE. For example:

- How do the methods and conclusions of theology and psychology differ about ideas of God?
- What insights can students gain about religious and non-religious worldviews from RS and sociology?
- What difference does it make if you apply methods of theology and natural sciences to environmental issues?

Break

1.30-2.45 Picturing Islam, picturing Muslims Lat Blaylock

This session will explore Islamic life and faith in the UK and beyond through visual culture, providing teachers with numerous ready-to-use creative ideas. It will connect some central concepts in Islam to some concrete examples of Muslim life and practice, enabling students to recognise how these play out in the lives of Muslims across time – from seventh-century Arabia to today – and across place – from the UK to the US, North Africa, the Middle East, India and Indonesia.

2.45-3.30 TeachMeet

Five-minute slots to share practical and relevant ideas for your classroom. Sign up to offer an idea that works!

You will receive an electronic copy of all resources used on the day to take away, with additional material available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources from RE Today Services will be available to purchase or order on the day at discounted prices.

**Fee: £95 per school – use this for departmental training.
Several teachers can attend together or through the day**

Booking details attached. Please email to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to
RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH

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Worcestershire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Draft Development Plan 2020-2022

The functions of SACRE¹

The key function of SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus.² This includes:

1. Monitoring the provision and quality of RE, and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on
 - methods of teaching
 - choice of teaching material
 - provision of teacher training
2. Monitoring the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus, including whether any changes need to be made to improve the quality of teaching and learning in RE, whether in the syllabus itself or the support offered in implementing the syllabus. Central to this is the review of the locally agreed syllabus within five years of the last review.
3. Maintaining a partnership between SACRE, LA and other bodies. This includes preparing an annual report.
4. Handling applications for determinations from 'wholly or mainly Christian' acts of collective worship.
5. Monitoring the contribution of SACRE to the promotion of SMSC.

This development plan relates to these five key aspects of the work of Worcestershire SACRE.

¹ Religious Education in English Schools, DCSF 2010

² Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996

1. Supporting and monitoring teaching and learning in RE

Action	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Progress and evaluation
Supporting improvement			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable a programme of (online) RE teacher network meetings for primary teachers, set up and run regionally by local Hub Leaders, affiliated to NATRE 	Twice a year	SACRE / RE adviser / Hub leaders	At least three regional network meetings, twice a year; with increasing numbers of participants, evaluations giving satisfaction rates of over 95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer an annual SACRE conference (online) for primary teachers to raise standards of teaching and learning; involve Hub leaders where possible 	Annually	SACRE / RE adviser	Maintain high attendance rates and evaluations giving satisfaction rates of over 95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support an annual SACRE conference (online) for secondary teachers, combining with local Teaching School and neighbouring SACREs (Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire) 	Annually	SACRE / RE adviser / Specialist Leader in Education	Increasing numbers of participants, with evaluations giving satisfaction rates of over 95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To run at least one day course for special schools, from Worcestershire and surrounding counties, supporting their planning and provision for RE 	Spring/summer 2021	RE Adviser	Day courses run with attendance from at least 50% Worcestershire schools, over 95% satisfaction in feedback
Monitoring standards			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive reports from RE teacher network meetings 	SACRE meetings	RE Adviser / SLE / Diocesan advisers	Reports demonstrate a coherent and effective programme of support, with increasingly active involvement from teachers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of evaluation/feedback from courses, network meetings and annual SACRE conference 	As appropriate	RE adviser	Record advice from teachers and report to SACRE. Provision of support to show that account has been taken of this feedback.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of school inspection reports from SIAMS and any relevant feedback in Ofsted reports 	Primary – autumn mtg Secondary – summer mtg	RE adviser / Uni of Worcs/ Diocesan officer	Reports give a clear analysis of the achievements, trends and areas to address.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive a report from the C of E and RC Dioceses outlining developments relating to RE in church schools in Worcestershire 	Summer annually	Chair of CE committee/ Diocesan officers	Report presented and informs SACRE members of the activities planned and completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To utilise other means of monitoring RE in schools, including visits to schools and online survey 	From Summer 2021	LA / SACRE members / RE adviser	Additional means of monitoring RE available to complement inspection findings.

2. Monitoring and review of Worcestershire agreed syllabus

Action	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Progress and evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support schools in the implementation of the revised agreed syllabus through a programme of activities including courses, network meetings and resource development (see Hub Leaders and network meetings above) 	Summer 2021 On-going	SACRE / RE adviser	Evaluations giving satisfaction rates of over 95%.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor the implementation of the 2020 agreed syllabus using an online survey; use monitoring to inform provision of CPD 	Summer 2021	SACRE / RE adviser	Feedback from schools gathered, evaluated and reported on, with a satisfaction rate of 90% good or better.

DRAFT

3. Partnership between SACRE, the Local Authority and other bodies

Action	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Progress and evaluation
Local Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive presentations from LA officers relating to local and national initiatives which have an impact on teaching and learning in RE 	As required	LA officer / SACRE member to identify need	SACRE members' evaluation and feedback. Where appropriate, impact seen in RE support and training.
Faith communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and maintain guidance for schools on Visits and Visitors in RE To promote and support school involvement with Interfaith/National Faith Week in autumn term 	Autumn annually Summer term annually	Regional ambassador /Diocesan officers/ Uni of Worcs / Worcs InterFaith Forum	Amendments and additions added to Visits and Visitors Guidance online.
Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue a programme of presentations to SACRE by teachers exemplifying good practice Develop effective methods of communicating with schools to encourage participation in network groups, conferences etc, including email list and use of local newsletters online 	On-going On-going	RE adviser /Diocesan adviser SACRE / RE adviser	Programme of presentations continues with minimum of one presentation per year. Feedback from teachers about best ways to receive information; accurate email contacts list updated regularly
National bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce an annual report To liaise with the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), the RE Council, National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and other relevant organisations in raising issues relating to RE and collective worship at a national level. 	Autumn On-going	RE adviser SACRE members	Report completed, agreed by SACRE and sent to NASACRE and DfE for January each year Ensure representative attendance at annual conferences where appropriate.

4. Collective worship in county schools

Action	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Progress and evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handling applications for determinations from collective worship 	As and when applications received	SACRE	Determinations successfully resolved

5. Monitoring the contribution of SACRE to the promotion of SMSC

Action	Timescale	Lead responsibility	Progress and evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange one SACRE meeting a year to be held at a school or faith venue 	On-going	SACRE strategy group	Programme of visits under way with appropriate levels of attendance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive presentations from faith communities represented in Worcestershire 	On-going	SACRE	Programme of presentations under way

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Worcestershire SACRE National Updates from RE Today: Spring 2021

Government launches review into Faith Engagement

On 10 October 2019, the government [announced that Colin Bloom had been appointed](#) as the Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). As Faith Engagement Adviser, Colin is leading a review into how best the government should engage with faith groups in England. He will make recommendations to the Communities Secretary about how the government can best celebrate and support the contribution of faith groups, break down barriers and promote acceptance between faiths, and promote shared values while tackling cultures and practices that are harmful.

Colin Bloom's initial proposal is to structure the review around 4 main sections:

- the first section asks the question, "Are faith groups, places of worship and people of faith a force for good in society?"
- the second section explores the extent to which government and its agencies have sufficient faith literacy and considers the partnership between faith groups and the State
- the third section looks at some aspects where harm might be caused through religious or faith-based practices and a review of the government's role in tackling them
- the fourth and final section will be a set of recommendations for the government to consider and respond to.

This survey closed on 11th December 2020 SACRE will receive an update on the next steps in due course.

Ofqual – consultation on proposed changes to GCSE and A level examinations 2021

In light of the recent government announcement about the 2021 exams, NATRE has already been in contact with officials, and will continue to engage positively and constructively with both Ofqual and DfE as they consult about the replacement for exams. The consultation on the replacement for exams has not yet reported.

Subject knowledge Enhancement

Following the disappointing news that bursaries had been cut for most subjects including RE, it was really good news that Religious Education had been selected for funded subject knowledge enhancement courses. The funding will be available from April 2021 but hopefully will help support those people wishing to apply to teach RE who do not have a first degree in the subject. This decision follows intensive lobbying to make the point that about 84% of trainee secondary RE teachers do not have a degree in Theology or Religious Studies and therefore need support in developing their subject knowledge.

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske-courses>

Independent evaluation of the *Understanding Christianity* Resource

This report was published on 11th December. It presents findings and analysis from a study that examines the impact of *Understanding Christianity* in schools across England. The study, conducted by Dr Rachael Shillitoe at the University of Birmingham, seeks to evaluate the impact of RE Today's *Understanding Christianity* teaching resource amongst pupils and teachers across primary and secondary schools, with a particular focus on schools without a religious character. This study aims to find out the extent to which the resource has 'made a difference' to teaching and learning about Christianity in RE.

The report indicates that the response from pupils and teachers has been extremely positive, particularly in relation to the 'Big Story', pupil engagement and increased teacher confidence.

The full report can be viewed on the [Understanding Christianity](#) website, [available here](#).

NATRE curriculum symposium

NATRE are excited to announce that we will be running a 24-hour residential curriculum symposium in Autumn. There will only be 25 places for delegates therefore NATRE will be running an application process to attract delegates from a variety of school types and at a variety of stages on their curriculum design journey for RE/Religion and worldviews.

The symposium will hear from both experts and practitioners in the area of curriculum design generally and curriculum design in for RE/Religion and worldviews.

[Curriculum Symposium Expression of Interest Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk)

Resources available to schools

Free Lockdown home learning from NATRE and RE Today

As a response to the amazing work that teachers and school staff are doing teaching pupils both in school and remotely NATRE and RE Today are offering their support by making all the home learning resources that were created for use by NATRE members in the last lockdown free to all schools. These multi-faith resources are all available on the NATRE website and offer support for home learning about religious and non-religious worldviews for primary and secondary school pupils.

More resources will be created and made available over the next few weeks.

www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/

Free resources for school assemblies and RE lessons from ‘Good News for Everyone’

“**Good News for Everyone**” (formerly known as **Gideons**) has worked with Lat Blaylock from RE Today to develop a range of free resources for school assemblies and lessons. All GNE visitors have received training for going into schools.

All their visitors to schools have been trained by Lat Blaylock and are still available to speak in assemblies and lessons. They offer of a free copy of the New Testament and Psalms (now including the Book of Proverbs) to pupils. Here’s the link: <https://goodnewsuk.com/node/778>

Anti-racist RE – free project resources from NATRE for primary and secondary schools

NATRE and RE Today, working with the Free Churches Group and Methodist Schools, have launched a project to help teachers tackle racism in RE lessons.

Wide partnerships to maximise the impact of the project have been used, including for example with NATRE and the Jo Cox Foundation. Teachers can access a planned unit of six topics for primary and of 8 topics for secondary RE, including ready to use resources and a wide range of support materials.

www.natre.org.uk/anti-racist-RE

Art in Heaven 2020 and 2021

- The 2020 Art in Heaven and Spirited Poetry competitions attracted record entries – lots of teachers set it in lockdown! flagship for ‘Spirited Arts’, our strategy to make RE more imaginative and creative.
- The latest website update is excellent – [take a look!](#) The relaunched 2020 section includes many amazing responses to last year’s themes, and our YouTube video to encourage entries had about 15000 views last year. We will be doing another of these for 2021.
- A Climate Justice theme features again this year: ‘God’s good earth?’ The most popular theme, overtaking the hardy perennial ‘Where is God?’.

Promote further study to your examination classes with these films of Graduates in Theology and Religious Studies

To study for a degree in Theology or Religious Studies is to open up a vast range of options for worthwhile careers. TRS-UK is launching a set of ten recently filmed interviews with TRS graduates in jobs as varied as television documentary-making, law, local government, public relations, education, and many more. These high-quality YouTube films are to be made available as ten individual (3-minute) filmed interviews and two 5-minute compilations, where graduates speak about the value of their degrees and show how they put their skills and knowledge to work in their jobs. They do not advertise a specific University, only the value of the degree and the doors it has opened for them.

[View careers playlist](#)
[YouTube TRS-UK](#)

The Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Programme: Finding your voice as a leader of Religion and Worldviews 2021-2022

Following a successful pilot programme in 2020-21 CSTG are now inviting applicants to be part of a new Cohort of Leaders for Change in 2021-22. This is an amazing opportunity for teachers.

Programme Outline

The funded programme aims to develop leaders in the following four areas: research, curriculum, classroom and politics

Stage 1: This stage is for those local or regional leaders who are beginning to work across more than one school. For example, leading Religion and Worldviews across a MAT or supporting other schools in a Federation and/or leading a local group or hub. Some NATRE Regional Ambassadors, SLEs, REQM Gold award RE leads or LTLRE Hub leads might find this Stage of CPD helpful.

Stage 2: This Stage is for teachers who have completed Stage 1 and/or for those who already have a regional/national role and would like to develop their expertise further. This stage is particularly for teachers/advisers who are likely to continue their specialism into senior leadership roles within or outside of their school situation. Those who are seeking to become advisers, ambassadors or an Executive member of one of the RE Organisations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Please go the website for more details, participant guides and the application form. Applications need to be in by March 31st.

Find out more [on the RE:Online website](#).

Stephen Pett
RE Today/NATRE
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