

SACRE National Update: Spring 2020

Ofsted reports

In late November 2019 NATRE published a document showing all the Ofsted reports (published by the end of November) that mentioned RE. There are 101 of them! Teachers including middle and senior leaders might find it interesting to discuss some of the points that have emerged so far.

The document also picks out some of the key themes from the reports.

Read the **[Ofsted primary and secondary Autumn 2019 NATRE report](#)** here.

How will Worcestershire SACRE communicate with schools who get particularly positive reports or reports that show areas for improvement?

Guidance on RE and collective worship in academies

In 2012, NATRE supported the Department for Education in the production of some 'Questions and Answers' about Religious Education and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools. This document has now been updated to a new format and should be helpful to teachers and others looking for guidance on Government Policy with references to legislation.

Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools

www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools

This document is also linked to and from: **Religious Education guidance in English schools non-statutory guidance 2010**

Collective Worship

Some of you may have noticed some coverage in the **press** last term regarding two children who had been withdrawn from Collective Worship in a primary school in Oxfordshire. The school concerned is a community primary. Although it has joined the Oxford Diocesan MAT, Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST), this didn't change the status of the school. It must still provide daily collective worship of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' in line with current legislation. One family, supported by Humanists UK, chose to withdraw their children from this Collective Worship, as is their right. The parents were seeking a judicial review because they felt that during CW, the school should provide an alternative of equal educational worth for their children to attend.

Before the Judicial Review took place the family and the school **agreed** an **out of court settlement**.

The DfE have clearly stated that this case has no immediate implications for SACREs or schools. IT stated: 'The complaint was settled by the two parties outside of court and as such has no bearing on current legislation or the current national policy on collective worship'.

Legislation and guidance have not been altered and community schools should still continue to provide a daily act of Collective Worship of a broadly Christian nature, unless a determination is in place, or parents withdraw their children. There is no requirement for the school to provide alternatives for children withdrawn from CW, although as a result of the case, schools and SACREs may receive enquiries and requests.

What does Worcestershire SACRE know about Collective worship in schools? What support might be given to schools?

Increase in Secondary RE ITE trainees

Recruitment for secondary trainees of RE has seen a dramatic boost this year after the DfE accepted our argument that it needed to do more to encourage and support applicants. Bursaries were increased from £4,000 to £9,000 and subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) courses were funded such as the **TeachRE 200 hours course** which is endorsed and certified by NATRE. The end result is we have a bumper crop of trainees for 2019-20 and we reached 93% of our target. This will make it easier for schools ensure more pupils in all schools to have access to high quality teaching. In 2018-19, we reached only 58% of the target, so this is a significant step forward.

Timing of SATs tests in 2021: Adaptations available for Muslim pupils

In 2021, Eid-ul-Fitr is likely to begin on the evening of Wednesday 12th May. Given the significance of RE the DfE are aware that pupils are likely to be absent from school and so have given advice to schools on how to rearrange tests for some or all pupils if deemed necessary.

How will Worcestershire SACRE make sure schools understands the guidance?

NASACRE National Conference and AGM 2020: Monday 18th May "Authority in RE"

The **2020 NASACRE Conference and AGM** will be held on Monday 18 May at: Crowne Plaza London - The City, 19 New Bridge St, London EC4V 6DB

The hotel is across the road from Blackfriars underground (Circle and District line)) and mainline station. It is less than a 10-minute walk from the excellent, modern and very fast Thameslink service.

Coffee and tea and pastries will be available from 10,30 and we will start at 11 AM. The keynote speaker is Matthew Purves, Ofsted's Deputy Director, Schools.

A number of excellent workshops will be offered (see **conference programme**); you will need to indicate your preference of workshops when you book. Also, please make certain you indicate any dietary requirements.

At the conference, there will be some filming for an informational video about SACREs and NASACRE at the conference. If you don't wish to be filmed, there is a place on the booking form to indicate this. Please make sure you complete this; you will then be issued with a special badge to indicate that you should not be filmed.

This promises to be an outstanding conference and all SACREs are encouraged to send representatives. Bookings can be made **here**.

Who could represent Worcestershire?

Resources for schools:

British Library *Discovering Sacred Texts* resource free online

www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/discovering-sacred-texts-highlights-from-the-british-library-is-now-online/

www.bl.uk/sacred-texts