



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2025

Members

Group A: *Dr Bernard Arambepola, Hasan Boluceh, Nick Chanda, Rabbi Emanuel Levy, Rabbi Danny Newman, Marina Robb, Kaj Seth, Dr John Strange, Mohammad Tariq Sediq, Muneerah Ali, Panos Fellas* **Vacancies x 7**

Group B: Father Vince Sheehan, (*Vice Chair*), Judith Tomiokas **Vacancies x 4**

Group C: Jenny Barton, *Caroline McGivern*, Josh Newham, Rachel Knightley, *Suzanne Rowson* **Vacancies x 2**

Group D: Cllr Mahym Bedekova, *Cllr Doris Jiagge*, Cllr Emma Supple, *Cllr Reece Fox, Peter Nathan, Lucy Nutt*

Italics denotes absence

Also Attending/invited

Julia Diamond-Conway – RE Advisor (RE Today)

Felicia Ferraro – Enfield SACRE Advisory Clerk

Ozlem Onay – Assistant Headteacher at Fern House School (Observer)

Parag Kapoor – RE Teacher at Heron School (Observer)

Andrew Fost – (Observer)

The meeting was held at Prince of Wales Primary School and Rachel Knightley was thanked for hosting the meeting. Members were reminded that it was good to have the meetings at different places of worship or at a School, which was greatly welcomed.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

NOTED apologies of absence had been received from:

- Suzanne Rowson
- Caroline McGivern
- Tariq Sediq
- Bernard Arambepola
- Muneerah Ali
- Kaj Seth
- Cllr Reece Fox
- Ozlem Onay (Observer)

RESOLVED to agree to the above absences.

NOTED that no apology of absence was received from Rabbi Danny Newman

The Enfield SACRE recognised the importance of members' attendance at meetings to ensure that the essential work of the SACRE is completed effectively. If individual members find it difficult to attend meetings, they may wish to consider whether an alternative member of their community would be able to take on the role. Please remember to provide apology of absence to Felicia Ferraro, the Clerk if you cannot attend a meeting.

Fortunately, there was a member of each group so the meeting was quorate.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members and observers to the meeting.

All members were asked to kindly introduce themselves.

(a) Appointments

NOTED the Chair's urgent action for the appointment of Panos Fellas to SACRE as a Humanist representative with effect from the last meeting on 10 June 2025 to Group as discussed and agreed at the meeting. Membership details were updated accordingly by the Clerk.

RESOLVED to appoint the following members:

- (i) the new appointment of Parag Kapoor, RE Teacher at Heron School as a Teacher Representative of Group C;
- (ii) the new appointment of Andrew Frost, as a Baptist Representative from Group A;
- (iii) a SACRE induction pack be forwarded to new members and access to Governorhub be granted.

ACTION: CLERK

RESOLVED that the appointment of Ozlem Onay, Assistant Headteacher at Fern House School be deferred to the next meeting in the Spring term 2026, as apologies of absence had been received.

ACTION: CLERK

(b) Resignations

NOTED that there were no resignations to report.

(c) **Non-Attendance**

NOTED

- (a) that if a member was absent for three or more consecutive meetings for any reason not acceptable to the Council, there would be deemed to be a vacated place to be filled by the appointing body for that member.

REPORTED the

- (c) absence of Cllr Doris Jiagge, no apology received at 10 June 2025 meeting or 11 November 2025 meeting;
- (d) absence of Hasan Boluceh, no apology received at 10 June 2025 meeting or 11 November 2025 meeting;
- (e) absence of Cllr Reece Fox, no apology received at 10 June 2025 meeting;
- (f) absence of Rabbi Danny Newman, no apology received at 11 November 2025 meeting.

(d) **Vacancies**

(i) **Members**

NOTED that there continued to be a number of vacancies on SACRE, at present count 16. See full membership details which were attached with the agenda and supporting meeting documentation emailed by the Clerk for the 11 Nov 2025 meeting. This changed due to appointments made at the 11 Nov meeting to Group A and C. Clerk would update the membership spreadsheet, but details below had been amended and were correct:

Group A – 7 vacancies (Membership 18)
Group B – 4 vacancies (Membership 6)
Group C – 2 vacancies (Membership 8)
Group D – **no vacancies** (Membership 6)

RESOLVED that trying to appoint more members continued to be pursued. It had been discussed and agreed at the previous meetings that a more personal approach was required to fill the aforementioned vacancies and all members were asked to consider what they could do to progress the difficulty in appointments. Membership for 2025 schedule to be amended in light of the aforementioned membership changes.

ONGOING ACTION: ALL MEMBERS/CLERK

The Chair kindly summarised some of the aforementioned points and thanked members for their in-depth honest input on this really important agenda item.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2025

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 June 2025, were **agreed** as a correct record.

RESOLVED that the agreed Minutes be uploaded onto the SACRE website and signed electronically as agreed on Governorhub by the Clerk.

ACTION: CLERK

The Chair kindly reviewed the summary actions and the Clerk added that notes in bold had been added against some of the relevant action for easy reference, which members found helpful.

RESOLVED that

- (a) members who had not already registered on Governorhub to do so asap and contact Felicia Ferraro if they had any issues or difficulties. A link to Governorhub was emailed to all members for easy access to the site.

URGENT ACTION: MEMBERS WHO HAD NOT SIGNED UP TO GOVERNORHUB

NOTED that Father Vince Sheehan had just before the meeting shared on the Governorhub noticeboard the following messages:

Under the Documents tab, I have uploaded a typical example of a PowerPoint presentation I use for Collective Worship at Freezywater St. George's school. I know I teach at a CofE primary school, but as Collective worship in community schools should be 'broadly Christian in nature', I'd thought I'd share in case it is useful.

Dear All, I have shown some of you this before, but here is a link for my YouTube channel. I was to build it up and use it for a repository for RE learning:

<http://www.youtube.com/@Cedarsongsandstories>

[View this post on GovernorHub](#) | Posted on 11th November at 16:37

Members thanked Father Vince Sheehan for the information/update.

The Chair added that she had thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the School.

All other actions had been duly completed as outlined above and there were no other matters arising that were not already being covered on the agenda.

4. GCSE INFORMATION

RECEIVED the GCSE CORE RE data for KS5 taught in Secondary Schools for the 10 hour allocation, a copy of which is included in the Minute book and available on Governorhub. Unfortunately, Suzanne Rowson sent apology for absence so this item needed to be deferred to the next meeting. Suzanne Rowson was thanked for putting the data together.

RESOLVED to defer an update from the GCSE data information to the next meeting and members to prepare questions to be emailed to the Chair and Clerk in advance of the meeting if possible and then shared at the meeting. To be added onto the agenda for the Spring term 2026.

ACTION: CLERK/ALL SACRE MEMBERS

Clerk's note: Josh Newham arrived at this point and provided apologies for lateness.

5. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT – FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2025

RECEIVED the SACRE Annual Report for the period 2024-2025, a copy of which is included in the Minute book and available on Governorhub.

NOTED that the report was almost ready and due for updating for submission to the DfE and NASACRE by 31 December 2025. The 2024 data was required to be included and Julia Diamond-Conway thanked the Chair for her wonderful input to the introduction of the report.

Julia Diamond-Conway guided members through the annual report and the following items arose out of discussion and questions:

NOTED that the following email below had been received by John Strange:

I'm not sure you want us to annotate the report with suggested changes, so I will just tell you the one point that struck me (in case I forget!)

Under standards and monitoring of RE, I suggest the first sentence should start: 'schools are not required to report to Enfield SACRE on attainment in RE at KS

I feel the current wording could detract from the following statement that reporting is required. The point being made is simply that those reports do not routinely have to be submitted to Enfield SACRE.

The above points were considered and agreed as an amendment to the report and John Strange was thanked for his input.

Following a question, no unvalidated data had been included in the previous reports. This point prompted some discussion about if it was worthwhile to include the unvalidated data moving forward. **In response to another query**, Lucy Nutt confirmed that the validated data would hopefully be available approximately in December 2025 or even January 2026. The timeframe was set by the DfE. The 2024 GCSE and A Level data could be added.

The Chair thanked members for their input and summarized the recommendations - the actions below were agreed.

RESOLVED that members agreed the proposed SACRE Annual Report 2024-2025 subject to the following:

- 2024 GCSE and A Level Data to be included, Lucy Nutt to obtain the data and share with Julia Diamond-Conway;
- unvalidated data from 2025 to be included as an appendix (with a disclaimer stating that if there were any significant changes from the unvalidated versus the validated data it would be reported in the subsequent Annual Report);
- once all the necessary amendments had been made and data included a final copy to be submitted to the DfE and NASACRE by the 31st December 2025 deadline date.

ACTION: JULIA DIAMOND-CONWAY/CLERK

6. UPDATE FROM SACRE RE ADVISOR

RECEIVED an Autumn term 2025 National RE update that was forwarded from Julia Diamond-Conway to the Clerk, which included details on RE CPD, networking opportunities and RE resources (see next page for full details).

Julia kindly guided members through each heading item and extracted specific areas of interest and information.

The following items arose out of discussion and questions/level of challenge.

Clerk's note: Jenny Barton joined the meeting at this point and provided apologies for lateness as she was stuck in traffic and had emailed the Clerk.

Interfaith Week 2025

Inter Faith Week is an annual initiative held in November that aims to strengthen interfaith relations across the UK. It aims to raise awareness of the diverse contributions of faith communities and promote understanding among people of different religious and non-religious beliefs. This year, Inter Faith Week 2025 will take place from **Sunday, 9 – Sunday, 16 November**.

Explore how to get involved: www.interfaithweek.org/events/about

Find out about local events: www.interfaithweek.org/

Resources can be found here: www.interfaithweek.org/resources

The theme of this year's Interfaith Week for schools is **Community: Together we Serve**.

Schools have a dedicated site for Interfaith Week: www.ifw4schools.co.uk/ This site includes carefully curated resources to support schools throughout the week and events running throughout it.

RE Today is a proud partner in the Interfaith Week for Schools initiative and is making resources freely available for all schools to use throughout the week. **These free resources can be found on RE Today's website at: [Interfaith Week for Schools 2025: Celebrating Diversity and Unity](#)**

Julia Diamond-Conway had attended the launch the previous week which was well attended by different generations and was heartening to hear.

RESOLVED that following recommendations raised at the meeting it was agreed that Julia Diamond-Conway would feedback to the Faith and Forum group whether information about the Interfaith could be published much sooner, July at the very latest, so Schools had more time to succession plan. It also seemed to clash every year with Anti Bullying Week and Remembrance Week. It was difficult to avoid clashing with everything but the Anti Bullying Week was particularly important. Feedback from Julia Diamond-Conway to be shared at the next SACRE meeting.

ACTION: JULIA DIAMOND-CONWAY

Ofsted's renewed Education Inspection Framework and Toolkit 2025

Ofsted has brought out a [new toolkit](#) to advise schools on the areas that will be evaluated and graded with the renewed inspection framework.

The National Association of Teachers of RE ([NATRE](#)) has produced a [slide show](#) that compares the current 2024 handbook with the new 2025 Toolkit (due for implementation from November 2025). The presentation highlights what continues and what's new for RE, including:

- RE's place in the **basic curriculum**
- the strengthened framing of the curriculum as an "**entitlement for every pupil**" (including pupils with **SEND**)
- the re-framed **Personal development and well-being** area (with explicit references to **faiths and beliefs** and **British values**)
- a clearer emphasis on **Inclusion** and **protected characteristics**
- explicit recognition of **prejudice-motivated bullying** (including on grounds of **religion or belief**), and
- expectations to **track participation** so all pupils including those with SEND, access RE and related opportunities.

NATRE's new Report Card: the state of RE in England 2025

64% of the UK adult population think an education in religion and worldviews (or RE) is important yet just under 1 in 6 schools report not offering it in year 11. The handy report card shows the current picture for RE: www.natre.org.uk/news/natre-publishes-a-new-report-card-on-re/

NATRE has been reporting on the data from the workforce census for the last ten years. It's agreement with the DfE allows us to share this information with school providers, SACREs and Academy Trusts.

This year's data shows slightly fewer schools offering no RE in year 11, but it is still the case that just under one in six schools told the DfE that they do not offer RE to this year group at all and far more

admit to not providing RE to pupils who do not choose a GCSE Religious Studies as one of their options. In both these cases, this means that effectively, pupils' religious education ends when they are just 13 or 14 years old, when the law in England requires that the subject be taught to age 18. You can read the full report here: www.natre.org.uk/news/dfes-school-workforce-census-november-2024-report-published-in-june-2025/

Masters scholarships

CSTG Masters Scholarship Programme offers teachers and others working in the field of Religious Education, Religion Values and Ethics or Religious and Moral Education (RE/RVE/RME) an opportunity to undertake relevant masters-level professional development at reduced cost, and to see the impact of it in their workplace e.g. in their teaching, advisory work. There are a very limited number of scholarship places allocated each year to UK residents. They will pay up to £4000 towards your masters fees. In most cases you will be employed as a qualified teacher, teaching assistant or HLTA in a school in the UK. However, applications will also be considered from those working as advisers, educators or researchers in other settings.

<https://www.cstg.org.uk/scholarship-programmes/masters/>

The next deadline for applications was 10th October 2025.

You must contact fiona@cstg.org.uk for a formal conversation before submitting your application.

Farmington scholarships

Every year Farmington supports around 30 primary and secondary teachers (including head teachers) working in RE or associated subjects (for example, philosophy or moral and ethical education, SEND). Farmington provides these teachers with the gift of time; up to 30 days out of the classroom to pursue a project of their own.

It provides a supportive supervisor and access to a university library, if needed, as well as running an Induction Day for new scholars. Scholars attend the Annual Conference the year before they hold their scholarship, and the Conference at the end of the year, where they present their research. Scholars also arrange a presentation of their research at their school – to other teachers, to governors, and to other interested people from the locality.

Applicants must have the written support of their head teacher and must have worked at their current school for two years when they start the scholarship. They accept joint applications from two or more teachers working on the same project (not necessarily at the same school), but both teachers must fill in an application form.

Farmington pays costs for a cover teacher for the school, as well as all costs for the conference, travel and the induction day.

A scholar based in the West Country may be designated that year's **St Luke's Farmington Scholar**, through a partnership with the St Luke's College Foundation which provides generous support.

Their partnership with the Temple Grove Schools Trust allows them to offer up to 6 **Temple Grove Farmington Scholarships** each year. These are available to primary teachers in any subject, with the aim of promoting excellence in primary teaching.

Applications for **2026-27** Farmington scholarships are now open, with a closing date of 26th January 2026. For queries, please email: institute@farmington.ac.uk. More information can be found on the following link: <https://farmington.ac.uk/farmington-institute-scholarship/>

Marina Robb advised that she had been very fortunate to have completed the Farmington Scholarship and highly recommended it. Members were very interested to hear what Marina Robb's experience had involved and all the opportunities it had provided in her career development. The Chair thanked Marina Robb for providing the feedback and Julia Diamond-Conway added that the Scholarship had been highly recommended. **Following a question**, Julia Diamond-Conway confirmed that Headteachers could also complete the Scholarship.

YouGov data on belief in God

YouGov has been collecting and collating data on beliefs about God. The data is displayed over a few years from 2019 to 2025 in relation to believing in a God/Gods, having no belief in God/Gods and that there is no God but there is a belief that there is something spiritual in the world. The data can be filtered in terms of age, gender, region and social background. The data is available on the following link [Brits' beliefs about God\(s\)](#)

Religious Media Centre updates

The Religion Media Centre is an impartial and independent organisation aiming to increase further cohesion and understanding in society by helping the media report and understand religion and belief. It does not promote any one religion or belief and has no editorial line other than religion matters. Instead, it exists to provide accurate, timely and relevant information to the media, enabling the public to be better informed. You can sign up for a weekly bulletin that will keep you up to date with the latest news relating to religions and faith. It also has 130 factsheets ideal for subject knowledge for SACRE members or teachers.

<https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/>

Muslim Council of Britain

A recent analysis of 2021 Census data from the Muslim Council of Britain reveals a more complex picture of British Muslim identity than assumed. Far from a single, uniform group, British Muslims reflect a range of ethnic backgrounds and cultural histories.

<https://muslimcouncil.substack.com/p/are-british-muslims-actually-ethnically>

Survey on Withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship in England

School staff are invited to take part in a brief online survey regarding withdrawal from RE and Collective worship in English schools. The survey is being conducted by Exeter University. It aims to gather information on how widespread the request for withdrawal is, and where requests are received, how they are managed, by whom, and with reference to what sources of advice and guidance (if any). The survey does not collect any identifying information, so responses will remain anonymous. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete,

and will remain open until 31st Dec 2025. All SACRE members were encouraged to complete it.

RESOLVED for all SACRE members to complete the survey.

ACTION: ALL SACRE MEMBERS

The survey can be accessed here: <https://forms.office.com/e/vMeinypKTx>

RE Hubs

Don't forget that the RE Hubs website offers extensive and growing links to people and places, locally and nationally. www.re-hubs.uk

FREE Training is offered for teachers leading local groups.

For new leaders: www.re-hubs.uk/uploads/new2leading.pdf

- Tuesday 7th October Session 1: 4-5:30pm
- Thursday 4th December Session 2: 4-5:30pm

For current leaders, a session on growing your RE network: www.re-hubs.uk/uploads/localleadercpd.pdf

- Thursday 20th November 2025 - 4 PM - 5.30 PM

Network for MAT RE Leads: www.re-hubs.uk/uploads/RE-Hubs-CPD-flyers-v2-202526-2.pdf

FREE for NATRE and AREIAC members

- 14 October 2025 - 4.00 - 5.30 PM Speaker: Emma Salter, leader of the personal knowledge in RE research project

Curriculum and Assessment Review

For the benefit of the newly appointed members Julia Diamond-Conway recapped the following information extracted from the last update in the Summer term 2025.

The Government is conducting a Curriculum and Assessment Review, led by Professor Becky Francis. The review aims to examine how the curriculum and assessment system can better serve young people in England.

In November 2024, NATRE submitted over 100 pieces of evidence to the review, highlighting the current challenges facing Religious Education. Other key organisations such as the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), NASACRE, and AREIAC also contributed, ensuring the review panel received a broad and well-informed set of perspectives from across the RE community.

In its [interim report](#) (March 2025), the review panel wrote:

“Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision.”

This statement reflects one of the most persistent concerns in the RE community: that provision and quality vary significantly between schools and regions, depending on school or trust policy, local authority capacity, and interpretation of legal requirements.

The panel is expected to explore in more depth the causes of these disparities and consider a range of potential solutions.

Importantly, the Department for Education has confirmed:

“The terms of reference do not prevent the Review from making recommendations for national or basic curriculum subjects that might require legislation. Ministers will take decisions on what changes to make, and how best to implement them, in light of these recommendations.”

This means that policy options such as:

- Including RE in the National Curriculum (currently it is part of the basic curriculum, which is compulsory but less regulated), and/or
- Introducing a National Content Standard for RE, possibly building on the widely welcomed National Content Standard developed by the REC, are all still viable possibilities.

This set of discussion cards is offered to support groups of teachers wishing to think about the implications of the interim report for RE in their school(s). [#REchatUK to Explore the Interim Curriculum and Assessment Review for Religious Education](#)

SACRE members comprehensively discussed some of the variances between different boroughs in terms of how RE syllabus was taught and what it covered, which prompted various constructive debates. **Following a question**, Julia Diamond-Conway clarified that if RE was agreed as being part of the National Curriculum it would not take effect until the earliest 2028.

A query was raised about the status of RE in schools of a religious character if RE becomes part of the National Curriculum. This is unknown at the moment, but may entail additional RE being taught in those schools.

RESOLVED that SACRE members be updated on further developments regarding RE being part of the National Curriculum. To be included in the next agenda for the Spring term for further discussion, hopefully more information would be available by then.

ACTION: JULIA DIAMOND-CONWAY/CLERK

Examination Results 2025

Summer 2025 saw, as always, excited and nervous 16- and 18-year-olds expecting the results of the GCSE and A Level Religious Studies examinations. There was a slight decrease in the number of A Level entries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for 2025 with the subject being studied by more girls than boys in this cohort.

NATRE has written an analysis of the results – you can find it here: www.natre.org.uk/resources/gcse-religious-studies-2025-national-report-for-england-and-wales/

The data below, for A Level Religious Studies is provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications (2024 is included for comparison)

Category	Subject	Year	Number Sat	A* %	A*-A %	A*-B %	A*-C %	A*-D %	A*-E %	A*-U %
A Level UK	Religious Studies	2025	16439	5.9	25.5	56.6	81.2	93.8	98.5	100.0
A Level UK	Religious Studies	2024	16622	6.0	25.7	54.9	78.8	92.6	98.2	100.0

	Subject	Sex	Year	Number sat	% of Total number sat	A* %	A*-A %	A*-B %	A*-C %	A*-D %	A*-E %	A*-U %
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A level UK	RS	Male	2025	4703	1.2	6.4	24.6	54.2	79.7	93.1	98.2	100.0
A level UK	RS	Male	2024	4839	1.2	6.1	25.4	53.2	77.1	91.7	97.9	100.0
A level UK	RS	Female	2025	11736	2.5	5.7	25.8	57.5	81.8	94.0	98.6	100.0
A level UK	RS	Female	2024	11783	2.5	6.0	25.8	55.6	79.4	92.9	98.2	100.0

21st August 2025 saw the release of the GCSE results in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The figures below show the UK wide figures as well as the figures for England, for the whole cohort and also included are the figures according to sex.

GCSE Full Course Religious Studies

Category	Subject	Year	Number Sat	7/A and above %	4/C and above %	1/G and above %	U and above %
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	2025	237515	32.1	73.4	97.9	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	2024	245019	31.4	72.7	98.0	100.0

Category	Subject	Year	Number Sat	7/A and above %	4/C and above %	1/G and above %	U and above %
GCSE England	Religious Studies	2025	217483	31.7	73.2	97.9	100.0
GCSE England	Religious Studies	2024	223034	31.1	72.5	98.1	100.0

Category	Subject	Sex	Year	Number sat	% of Total number sat	7/A and above %	4/C and above %	1/G and above %	U and above %
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	M	2025	108869	3.5	25.1	67.2	96.8	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	M	2024	111901	3.6	24.1	66.5	97.0	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	F	2025	128646	4.2	38.0	78.6	98.8	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	F	2024	133118	4.3	37.6	77.8	98.9	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	M & F	2025	237515	3.9	32.1	73.4	97.9	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	M & F	2024	245019	4.0	31.4	72.7	98.0	100.0

GCSE Short Course

Category	Subject	Sex	Year	Number sat	% of Total number sat	7/A and above %	4/C and above %	1/G and above %	U and above %
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	M	2025	12978	95.8	19.9	55.5	92.1	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	M	2024	13509	95.8	18.6	54.6	92.1	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	F	2025	12524	98.6	32.6	68.2	96.1	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	F	2024	12253	98.1	31.5	69.1	96.6	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	M&F	2025	25502	97.1	26.2	61.7	94.1	100.0
GCSE UK	Religious Studies	M & F	2024	25762	96.9	24.7	61.5	94.3	100.0

NASACRE Training

NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) continues to work to celebrate, support, strengthen and promote the work of local SACREs and represents their interests at a national level, including training for SACRE members.

- November 2025 (various), 6:30-8pm: NASACRE in Conversation (regions) Free session for all SACREs to attend - but specifically for Chairs, Vice-Chairs, SACRE consultants and LA link officers
- 4 December 2025, 4-5:30pm Supporting your SACRE as a Professional Advisor Free to SACREs who have bought the annual webinar package £25 for a subscribed SACRE and £35 for a non-subscribed SACRE
- 22nd January 2026, 7-8pm, Chair/Vice-chair & LA link officer focus How to ensure your SACRE is fit for purpose? Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package £25 for a subscribed SACRE and £35 for a non-subscribed SACRE
- 25th June 2026 So, you've joined your local SACRE... Free session for any SACREs to attend specifically for new members of SACRE

Julia Diamond-Conway advised SACRE about free training being arranged free of charge **on 19 January 2026, in the evening – exact time to be confirmed** about World Religious Views. Members agreed it was a great opportunity to get up to speed with all the various aspects of RE.

RESOLVED that details of the training be forwarded to the Clerk to send onto SACRE. Members to confirm their attendance as soon as possible so numbers could be advised.

ACTION: ALL SACRE MEMBERS

Clerk's note: Nick Chanda arrived at this point and provided apologies for lateness.

NATRE-supported webinar for teachers of A level Religious Studies

Libby Ahluwalia, an experienced examiner and teacher will be offering an online meeting for teachers of A Level Religious Studies in order to provide guidance and supporting on advising students with university applications. Libby will cover a variety of elements including choosing the correct course, writing a statement and interviews skills. The event is being held on Thursday 6th November between 6pm and 7pm. Any teacher who wishes to attend should email k.steele@worc.ac.uk to join the NATRE A Level group and to register for the event.

School Census Data

NATRE works with the Department for Education to collate information from the School Workforce Census about religious education teaching in England. www.natre.org.uk/news/dfe-school-workforce-census-november-2024-report-published-in-june-2025/.

The School Workforce Census allows the DfE to collect curriculum information from a large sample of secondary schools. Not all schools provided complete curriculum information. Where returned information on curriculum is mostly incomplete, the data for these schools has been removed from published analysis. In 2024, 2,800 secondary schools (81.0%) provided usable curriculum information.

1. There has been a decrease in the number of schools that report offering zero hours of RE in year 11 from 16.4% in 2023 to 14.4% in 2024. Whilst indicating an improvement, this equates to 1 in 6 schools are breaching their statutory duty to provide RE for all pupils in all year groups. It is worth noting that because the number of schools reporting other subject data but not RE has increased, SACREs will need to verify the levels of provision in those schools by another method. They will also need seek information from those who did not report curriculum data at all this year.

2. In 2024, more than 42% of state funded secondary schools reported offering less than 3% of curriculum time in year 11. However, this is a decrease from 46% in 2023. When this data is cross referenced with GCSE entries, it suggests that where schools report a small percentage of provision, this equates to a small GCSE option group. Again, this practice represents a breach of statutory duties because those pupils who do not opt for the GCSE course are entitled to their statutory RE. When the new Ofsted toolkit references pupil's entitlement, NATRE hopes that more attention is drawn to this.

3. The gap between levels of provision in schools with a religious character and those without has been widening each year. More than 81.3% of schools and academies with a religious character offer more than 3% of curriculum time in year 11 for Religious Education compared to 23% of schools and academies without a religious character. This level of provision is not a big ask for a core subject of the basic curriculum. In a 30-period week this represents just 45 minutes approximately each week. The time recommended to fulfil the requirements of most local agreed syllabuses is 5% i.e. about 75 minutes.

Upcoming RE Today Courses for the Autumn Term and beyond!

[For more details on any of these courses, click here: Professional Development Courses](#)

Primary Phase CPD

Primary - Understanding Christianity

13th November 2025 (afternoon 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm) – Julia Diamond-Conway

Get the confidence and subject knowledge to teach about Christianity: Text Impact Connections through this tried and tested course which is supported by a substantial whole schoolteacher's handbook.

Many locally agreed syllabuses include requirements for teaching Christianity that are directly supported by this resource. This resource supports good quality teaching about Christianity and can be used within the requirements of your syllabus guidelines.

Day 2 – 27th January (1.00 pm – 4.00pm) and Day 3 – 20th May (1.00 pm – 4.00pm)

Secondary CPD

Powerful Knowledge in RE

12th November 2025 (Afternoon 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm) – Angela Hill

What do learners need to know in RE? Is knowledge-rich RE dull and irrelevant to teenagers? With limited time and resources, how can we choose what to teach and what to leave out? In this session, we will think deeply about how knowledge in RE can empower those we teach and make them competent and independent learners.

Whole staff training or bespoke support for your school

Looking for ways to refresh your teaching, upskill your team or overhaul your RE provision?

For over 40 years RE Today has been working with teachers and schools providing knowledge, practical support, and up-to-date thinking in the ever-changing education environments. No challenge in RE is too big or too small, simply get in touch and see how we can help.

We can help! Take your teaching to the next level with our expert-led professional development, resources and support, designed to equip you to inspire and engage every pupil in your RE lessons, helping them to achieve deeper understanding and impactful learning.

Whatever your needs, INSET Day, or dedicated support by and RE Adviser complete the enquiry from below and we will be happy to help!

[Complete enquiry form](#)

The Chair thanked Julia Diamond-Conway for her comprehensive update to SACRE members. Julia thanked SACRE for their high level of challenge and questions which were welcomed.

7. FEEDBACK ON TRAINING

NOTED that members were provided with the opportunity to share feedback at the meeting on any training they had personally attended.

Members were all encouraged to access any of the free training resources/online training which is forwarded by the Clerk. Link to the training is at the end of these minutes.

NOTED that the following links to training attended and recommended by Panos Fellas was shared via email with the Clerk and detailed below:

<https://courses.theskillsnetwork.com/courses/level-2-suicide-self-harm-prevention-course>

RESOLVED that SACRE explore the training if they were interested in completing.

ACTION: ALL SACRE MEMBERS

8. SACRE MEETING DATES 2025/26

NOTED that the dates were set in accordance with school terms, religious dates, and Council meetings. However, the dates are subject to full Council approval in accordance with the Municipal Calendar.

SACRE groups were warmly invited to make recommendations, through the Chair, on matters and topics of business for future meetings.

Future meeting dates

Spring Term 2026 - Tuesday 10 February 2026

This date had been checked by the Council and Tariq – if there were any changes to the date the Clerk would inform members accordingly.

Summer Term 2026 Tuesday 9 June 2026 - TBC

Autumn Term 2026 Tuesday 10 November 2026 - TBC

NOTE: the Summer Term and Autumn Term 2026 dates above could not be confirmed until end of May 2026 when the Council calendar of Council meetings was available. The Clerk had sent the dates to the relevant contact in Democratic Services.

RESOLVED to update SACRE members of the Autumn Term 2026 meeting dates after the end of May and add dates onto the SACRE website, Governorhub and calendar invites be sent. The 10 February 2026 meeting was agreed and venue to be confirmed soon.

ACTION: CLERK

INFORMATION ITEMS

Improving SACRE's effectiveness

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/USEFUL LINKS

(a) National Inter Faith Week 9 – 16 November 2025

Inter-faith Held in the second week of November, Inter Faith Week aims to strengthen good interfaith relations, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities, and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

b) Useful Links

Enfield SACRE Website: <http://enfieldsacre.com/>

NASACRE LINK: <https://nasacre.org.uk/>

Most areas of the NASACRE website are open to all, but the log-in is required to access parts of the Resources section.

c) SACRE Website

NOTED that the Clerk advised SACRE members that since she had taken over as Clerk from Pauline Swain, she had very minimal involvement regarding the content of the website, as it was managed by a previous member of the IT team, who was now part of the traded service team. The member of staff was happy to upload documents and update content.

SACRE members thanked the Clerk for the update.

RESOLVED that the SACRE website be reviewed and information updated. Governorhub was also a very good central place to file all SACRE documentation for easy access.

ACTION: CLERK

d) Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January 2026

RESOLVED that details be obtained and shared with SACRE.

ACTION: LUCY NUTT/CLERK

SUMMARY ACTIONS OF THE MEETING ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE!!

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AGREED – 11 November 2025

MINUTE NO	ACTION AGREED	BY WHOM
2	SACRE welcome pack information to be forwarded to Parag Kapoor and Andrew Frost and Governorhub access be granted.	CLERK
2(a)	Appointment of Ozlem Onany for Teacher Representative Group C be deferred to the Spring term 2026 meeting as Ozlem had provided apology for absence for the meeting.	CLERK
2(c)	Absences to be recorded on attendance register and absence record.	CLERK
3	Agreed minutes of the 10 th June 2025 to be uploaded onto Governorhub, signed electronically by the Clerk as agreed and uploaded onto the SACRE website.	CLERK
3	All members to register on Governorhub if they had not already done so. Most members had registered.	ALL SACRE MEMBERS
4	GCSE data for KS5 RE taught in Secondary Schools, 10 hour allocation be brought back to the Spring term 2026 meeting as Suzanne Rowson had provided apology of absence for the meeting. Suggested that SACRE email questions to the Clerk in advance of the meeting to save time.	ALL SACRE MEMBERS/ CLERK
5	SACRE Annual report to be submitted to the DfE and NASACRE subject to the agreed actions/recommendations as outlined in the minutes. Data to be obtained by Lucy Nutt and added to the report.	CLERK/JULIA DIAMOND-CONWAY/ LUCY NUTT
6	Following recommendations raised at the meeting it was agreed that Julia Diamond-Conway would feedback to the Faith and Forum group whether information about the Interfaith could be published much sooner, July at the very latest, so Schools had more time to plan. It also seemed to clash with Anti Bullying Week and Remembrance Week. It was difficult to avoid all other events but the Anti Bullying Week was particularly important. Feedback from Julia to be shared at the next SACRE meeting.	JULIA DIAMOND-CONWAY
6	Survey on Withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship in England be completed by SACRE.	ALL SACRE MEMBERS
6	Update on RE being taught as part of the National Curriculum be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.	CLERK
6	Details of the 19 January 2026 training on World Religious Views be forwarded to the Clerk to email SACRE members. SACRE to confirm their attendance asap.	CLERK/JULIA DIAMOND-CONWAY
8	Venue for the 10 th February 2026 meeting be confirmed and shared with SACRE members, calendar invite to be updated to reflect venue details	CLERK

9(c)	That the SACRE website be reviewed and information updated. Governorhub was also a very good central place to file documentation for easy access.	CLERK
9(d)	Details of Holocaust Memorial Day be obtained and shared with SACRE	CLERK/ LUCY NUTT