



1. **Membership:** The current membership (23 June 2024) is as follows:

	Name	Organisation
<b>Group A: Christian denominations, other than Church of England, other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religions &amp; worldviews in the area (14)</b>		
1.	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
2.	Moira Dales	Roman Catholic
3.	Krishna Dasi	Director of Hinduism Education Services
4.	Chris Richards	Humanist
5.	Deb Martin	Quaker
6.	M Qasim Hussain	Islam
7.	Ezekiel Alawale	Majority Black Led Churches
8.	Pvail Singh	Sikhism
9.	Norman Randall	Jewish
10.	Dr Irfan Malik	Ahmadiyya Muslim Association
11.	Rev Anna Ratcliffe	Baptist Church
12.	<b>VACANCY</b>	Greek Orthodox
13.	<b>VACANCY</b>	United Reformed Church
14.	<b>VACANCY</b>	Methodist Church
<b>Group B: The Church of England</b>		
1.	Anne Lumb	Southwell and Nottingham Diocese
2.	Alison Milbank	University of Nottingham: Theology & Religious Studies
3.	Andrea Burrows	Lowdham Primary
4.	Kirsty Lacey	Bluecoat Aspley Academy (Secondary)
5.	Sarah Peek	St. Stephen's Primary
6.	Emmanuel Ofori	Governor, Berridge Primary & Bluecoat Aspley (Secondary)
<b>Group C: Teacher and Head Teacher Associations, and others representing educational interests (1-6, plus 1 Co-option)</b>		
1.	Louise Regan	National Education Union
2.	Nazia Iqbal	Chair of Governors, Middleton Primary
3.	Fiona Maciel	Governor, Carrington Primary
4.	Leanne Harwood	Governor, Dovecote Primary
5.	Samia Ishaque	Governor, Middleton Primary
6.	Ambreen Razak	Chair of Governors, Snape Wood Primary
7.	Claire Al-Hussaini	Leader of SEND/Safeguarding Djanogly City Academy
<b>Group D: The Local Authority (1-6)</b>		
1.	Councillor Cheryl Barnard	Bulwell Forest Ward
2.	Councillor David Mellen	Dales Ward
3.	Councillor Angela Kandola	Berridge Ward
4.	Councillor Neghat Khan	Dales Ward
5.	Councillor Saj Mohammed	Mapperley Ward
6.	Councillor Farzanna Mahmood	Radford Ward

**Recommendation:**

**GROUP A :** It is proposed that SACRE endorse Fr Julian Lowe, Orthodox Parish of Saint Aidan & St Chad, and Chaplain at the University of Nottingham to represent the Orthodox tradition.

He is part of the Thyateira Deanery, Archdiocese of Thyateira & Great Britain, Ecumenical Patriarchate. He has many connections to Nottingham having worked at Boots and worshipped for over 10 years within the Church of England. He was received into the Orthodox Church and chrismated in 2000, leading over time to ordination as Priest in October 2017. Fr Lowe has also contributed to Multifaith and Culture

Day events at Bluecoat School, Aspley Lane and has experience as a Samaritan Volunteer and prison ministry.

## 2. RE Monitoring Sub-Group:

SACRE members (Cheryl Barnard, Chris Richards, Fi Maciel, Anna Ratcliffe, Norman Randall) met as the RE Monitoring Group in May 2024. SACRE has a remit to:

- monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus
- provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus; provide advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training.

During discussion the group noted the following key points:

- ❖ The Monitoring Sub-group consider that any monitoring role SACRE undertakes, should arise from a supportive and positive approach. It should not focus predominately on deficits and data gathering. It is envisaged that actions undertaken by SACRE will support the sustainable development of religious education in the city and raise the profile and recognition of the benefits of high quality RE teaching.
- ❖ SACRE needs to understand the current picture of RE teaching and associated professional development to set a baseline view of provision.
- ❖ The RE Monitoring Sub-group needs to draw on relevant partnerships and expertise, including the Nottingham Schools Trust RE Network, Southwell and Nottingham Diocese, teaching unions, governor training and related organisations e.g., NASACRE, NATRE, The RE Resource Centre. Resources such as website audits and work undertaken by other SACRE's are available.
- ❖ Members and the organisations they represent could have opportunities and resources to support the professional development of school staff. This could be explored and collated.
- ❖ However, members of SACRE are volunteers, and SACRE needs to have sufficient capacity, knowledge of religious education and curricula expertise to fulfil this role effectively. This is not currently in place. Without dedicated time and expertise support this work will not lead to sustainable change and school improvement.

## Recommendation:

The SACRE Monitoring Sub-group recommend that:

- SACRE request funding from the LA SACRE budget 2024/5 to cover the cost of 20 days per year (supply teacher rate), approximately £10K for an appropriately qualified person to develop a baseline audit of religious education in the city, a gaps analysis and resultant work plan. This is additional to the cost of SACRE co-ordination.
- The Monitoring sub-group meet once per term to support this development.
- The LA Officer identifies any new resources/opportunities from SACRE members to support professional development.

## 3. NASACRE UPDATES

- **National Conference Feedback:** On 20 May, more than 80 delegates from SACREs around the country attended the annual conference. NASACRE's Chair Linda Rudge and our outgoing Patron, the Rt Hon Charles Clarke, spoke [Charles Clarke Speech HERE](#) of the challenge of how SACREs choose to respond to the political opportunities afforded by an election. Two days later, the announcement of a General Election on 4 July created a fresh urgency!

SACRE members were encouraged to think about how they might tackle the challenges of teacher recruitment, for example. The open letter published in The Telegraph earlier this year may have played a role in ensuring the reinstatement of the RE Bursary, but the withdrawal of the subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) courses for RE continues to make things difficult for providers of ITE and trainees alike.

While SACREs remain a good place for people to come together to support RE and Collective Worship, their main problem is often lack of funding, so it is hard to plan ahead. Syllabus reviews are expensive, and LA support is often reliant on one or two individuals, whose work is at risk when they move on or retire.

Kathryn Wright outlined some of the work that Culham St Gabriel's is doing around the Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) [HERE](#) another current theme that SACREs may be well-placed to address.

SACRE members were encouraged to use the hope offered by the sobering Deep & Meaningful? Ofsted RE report to push for action, engaging parliamentary candidates to talk about RE and the seriousness of the need to engage with religious and non-religious worldviews. Whenever and whatever changes in the months ahead, SACREs can talk to those in power to keep RE and matters of faith and belief on the agenda. That might be the retention of the bursary, the reintroduction of funding for SKE, for the Government (of whatever colour) to endorse the National Content Standard [HERE](#) (NCS), and for RE to be part of a post-election curriculum review.

How can SACREs meet the current challenges? A series of ideas and video clips provide some inspiration.

- AREIAC's Young Ambassadors for RE [HERE](#)
- Pupil Voice project (funded by CStG), the Big Ambition [HERE](#) of the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza [Speech HERE](#)
- Lord Bilimoria's Ready for Work [HERE](#)

The highlight of the afternoon was a whistle-stop tour of 35+ Ideas for activist SACREs (see Item: 6). If every member of every SACRE became an 'activist for RE' there could be 3000 people working to make RE better.

Lat Blaylock, RE Today National Advisor shared a range of ideas from engaging schools in the RE Today/NATRE Spirited Arts [Spirited Arts](#) competition, holding local heats and exhibitions, to lobbying politicians - and especially local councillors - to take up the RE baton.

Other ideas included cross-phase workshops, such as inter-faith climate panels, and training Secondary students to go into Primary schools and talk about their faith traditions, with artefacts as prompts. He encouraged SACREs to think about partnership working, either with each other, local cathedrals, or dioceses, but particularly schools and colleges, and when a new faith representative is needed, considering a teacher for that place. SACREs should support MATs, offer what schools need and seek the funds to make a splash!

All of these projects will encourage SACRE members to be RE activists and to challenge both local and national policy makers.

- **NASACRE Website** : Exec members have been reorganising and streamlining the NASACRE website, so please ensure do access it. Check out new pages, the Noticeboard [NASACRE Noticeboard](#) and now subscribing SACREs like Nottingham City SACRE can access and share useful documents [SACRE Shared Materials](#)
- **Inter Faith Week: 10 - 17 November 2024:** NASACRE is working with a number of other organisations to secure the continuation of Inter Faith Week (IFW) in 2024, following the closure of the Inter Faith Network (IFN). The Faith and Belief Forum has taken over a database of contacts and the Inter Faith Week website [Inter-Faith Website](#)
- **NASACRE Manifesto Letter:** Nottingham City SACRE has been encouraged to contact all Parliamentary candidates for the city constituencies in the election period to raise the profile of high-quality religious education (RE) and collective worship in our local schools and to seek support for this work. Draft letter enclosed.
- **NASACRE Proposal to be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO):** Members will be aware of the plans for NASACRE to become a CIO, and the draft Constitution is enclosed.

