

NASACRE UPDATES June to October 2012

Feedback from SACRES at the AGM

My SACRE looks to NASACRE for:

Consultation

Representation at policy/ national level (with REC); Guidance/representation?

Of policy developments; collective solidarity.

A possible model/draft syllabus to be used by small SACREs.

Advice, support, recommended articles, books for resources.

Up to date info about legislation and its impact upon RE e.g. National Curriculum Review. Academies.

Keeping SACRES informed of national picture and developments and of ways they can support. Less about research and more about HOW SACREs might support schools in (this) financially challenging climate. Examples of good practice.

Other comments:

NASACRE needs to emphasise that the real authority re RE lies with local authorities and their SACREs. As a consequence we expect more consultation with local SACREs prior to making representations with the Government, DfE or the REC (which claims to speak for the RE community).

Sharing what different SACREs do and who they? to – perhaps on NASACRE website. This would allow development of SACREs and development of good practice and experience. My own SACRE believes SACRE should be more proactive rather than reactive to Government initiatives. Developing a package for parents on what RE is. Any follow up to the work of the other year on Inter Faith Dialogue?

Rather concerned that the paper on CW is available for all and many people will not know all the difficulties with Circular 1/94. Until this paper has been agreed by NASACRE and AREIAC it should not be in the front page of the website. Many may not read it as a consultative paper. It could backfire and feed into those who are so anti CW as evidence to use fighting a change in the law.

SACRE Survey 2012 (selected sections)

This builds on the surveys of 2010 and 2011. The 2011 SACRE survey received 47 responses (30%) from SACREs. By mid-August the 2012 survey had received 69 responses and by early September this had increased to 71(46%).

Three responses did not identify the SACRE.

Of those SACREs responding, significant proportions reported that they still had:

- Specialist advisers and consultants – 84%
- RE Advisors/Consultants who were LA officers with knowledge of and access to local schools -72%
- LA clerks – 97%

How many days of support is your SACRE receiving? 57 answers

1-5	16	(28%)
6-10	8	(14%)
10-15	9	(16%)
16-20	7	(12%)
20-30	2	(4%)
.>30	15	(26%)

What budget is the LA providing for the SACRE in this financial year (2012/13)? 53 answers

None	4	(8%)
£1,000 or less	4	(8%)
£1,001 - £3,000	5	(9%)
£3,001-£5,000	10	(19%)
£5,001-£10,000	11	(21%)
£10,001-£15,000	14	(26%)
£15,001-£20,000	5	(9%)
>£20,000	9	(13%)

When will you next review your Agreed Syllabus? 57 answers

Currently doing so	15	(26%)
2013 -14	11	(19%)
2014-15	5	(9%)
2016-17	14	(25%)

To your knowledge, will the support you are receiving this year continue into 2013-13? 53 answers

Yes we have assumed continuation at this level	23	(43%)
Yes, but likely to be reduced	14	(26%)
Yes	42	(72%)
No	16	(28%)
Yes	42	(72%)
No	16	(28%)
No	2	(4%)
Uncertain	15	(28%)
Other	12	(22%)

Greatest concerns of your SACRE for the new academic year (September 2012 to July 2013)? 52 answers.

The stated concerns were:

- Continued **Support** for SACREs (27)
- The place of **RE in the curriculum (23)**
- Access to **academies (16)**
- **Monitoring of RE** in all schools (including academies) (11)
- Future **role of SACRE (12)**
- Review of **Agreed Syllabus (10)**
- Supporting schools (**monitoring provision for and standards in RE**) (9)

- Meaningful access for pupils to **non-Christian religious traditions**. (8)
- The **profile of the SACRE in the LA (8)**
- **Professional development** for teacher and RE leaders (3)
- Supporting schools on **collective worship (4)**
- **Teaching of RE** by non-specialists (2)

These are helping to shape and guide NASACRE priorities for the period 2013-2016.

Annual Reports - Send to NASACRE – note that many SACREs are also sending copies to the SoS (50 received to date, a number of SACREs running behind their own schedules because of local pressures.

ASCs – Minimalist approach maintained.

InterFaith Week -IFN Briefing

RE Subject Review – timetable and consultation points.

NASACRE and AREIAC's joint statement on Circular 1/94 and collective worship October 2012

Since March of this year NASACRE and AREIAC have been in contact with the Department for Education regarding the status of Circular 1/94 with respect to what this Circular says about collective worship. In the course of this correspondence it has been made clear that 1/94 has no legal or semi legal status, nor does the Circular have a quasi-legal status. It does not represent the Government's official advice on collective worship which schools are in some sense obliged to follow. Officials state that in this area local determination is a key strength and for this reason all schools and Academies can choose whether or not to use the Circular

The view of NASACRE and AREIAC is that collective worship can and should be an inclusive experience which, when done well, can make a valuable and highly positive contribution to life in general in all schools. All schools and Academies should be meeting the legal requirements for collective worship. However, we are aware that in attempting to do so many institutions experience difficulties which stem from statements which appear in Circular 1/94. The Circular is thus often a barrier to good collective worship. For this reason NASACRE and AREIAC advise that schools and Academies should not use Circular 1/94 but that their provision for collective worship should be guided by the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) and confirmed in the 1996 Education Act. NASACRE has provided a guide to Collective Worship for schools which is available on the website, highlighting good practice.