

Harrow SACRE Annual Report

2017 - 2018

Harrow SACRE

Harrow COUNCIL LONDON

Foreword

The London Borough of Harrow is among the most religiously diverse boroughs in the country and the Harrow Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has a special and well established relationship with Harrow Council and the communities it serves. Statistics from the 2011 Census remain helpful in illustrating the diversity of the Local Authority.

Harrow has the highest religious affiliation in England and Wales and is ranked as having the:

- highest percentage of Hindus (25.3%)
- highest percentage of Jains (2.2%)
- second highest percentage of Zoroastrians (0.1%)
- second lowest percentage of residents declaring No Religion (9.6%).

The Census data also reveals that 37.3%% of residents have identified themselves as Christian, 12.5% as Muslim, 4.4% as Jewish, 1.1% as Buddhist and 1.2% as Sikh.

Harrow is also defined by its ethnic profile, having the:

- second highest percentage of residents of Indian origin (26.4%) and the highest percentage of residents who have described themselves using the category of 'Other Asian' (11.3%)
- highest ranking of residents identifying their country of birth as South and Eastern Africa (9.9%), Kenya (4.9%), Sri Lanka (4.3%) and Romania (2.2%)
- highest percentage of residents who identified themselves as British only (41.6%), indicating a high degree of integration
- a significant relocation of Eastern European families into Harrow since 2011.

The 2011 National Census revealed that Harrow's population is estimated to have increased to 239,100; this figure is 15.6% higher than the 2001 Census showed, and the recently published Office for National Statistics 2014 Mid-Year Estimates show a further increase to 246,011. Harrow's population is now at the highest recorded level, based on records going back to 1901. The 0-4 age group has increased by 5,418 between mid-2001 (12,058) and mid 2014 (17,476), which represents a 45% increase. There have also been increases across all the statutory school age groups. The 2011 Census showed that Harrow's residents were born in approximately 200 different countries and the percentage of Harrow's residents born in the UK is the 6th lowest ranking nationally. Harrow is ranked 7th nationally (and in London) for ethnic diversity and 2nd for religious diversity in London.

At the time relevant to this report there are 62 schools in Harrow, 42 primary schools with nursery classes in 26 of these schools, 12 high schools, 1 all-through (4-18) school, 2 primary special schools, 2 high school special schools, one alternative provision secondary school, one nursery school and one pupil referral unit. There are 15 academy schools; 8 high schools, one primary special school, one all-through (4-18) school and 5 primary schools. There are five free schools; an alternative provision secondary school, 2 primary schools and 2 high schools. The number of schools judged to be good and outstanding on inspection far exceeds the national average.

Introduction

Harrow SACRE had another busy year in 2017-18. It was a year of consolidation in using the new Agreed Syllabus and SACRE members gave a great deal of their time and energy to producing and delivering high quality RE for schools. There are now lesson plans for all the primary units thanks to the subject leaders of RE. They have shared their expertise and the quality of RE is healthy. Our Agreed Syllabus is indeed a *locally* agreed syllabus and teachers throughout the borough, supported by Lesley Prior, devised the syllabus and SACRE council members' added insight and knowledge of their own faith to support the work.

Members of SACRE also worked with the LA and updated and published helpful guidance for those involved with examinations during Ramadan. http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200086/school_and_college/1627/standing_advisory_council_for_religious_education_sacre

The Harrow SACRE considered at length how to monitor RE and each member of SACRE was allotted a school and considered how RE was referred to on the school website. This proved to be very encouraging and was a helpful way of engaging with the school in a positive way: Harrow schools are regularly teaching RE and making it meaningful.

In our SACRE meetings we regularly discuss matters of national importance. Although the role of the SACRE hasn't changed in law we have discussed the arguments about the changing role of SACRE particularly with the growth of academies.

In July 2018 we were asked to look again at our guidance about Religious Observance and Absence. We took advice and have re-drafted our guidance. We are very grateful to the Local Authority who gave us legal advice. Harrow Local Authority continues to support SACRE well and promotes the work we do with and in schools.

Alison Stowe
Chair Harrow SACRE

Matters considered by SACRE in 2017-2018

a) Monitoring of the implementation of the agreed syllabus

At the beginning of the autumn term, SACRE members considered major national reports on RE: key findings suggested that schools nationally are not always fulfilling their legal obligations with regard to RE.

These findings indicated that:

- in secondary schools RE is not always taught to all age groups as required by law;
- RE is more likely to be left off the curriculum in academies
- RE has a higher profile in LA schools where a locally agreed syllabus is followed;
- overall, faith schools have the best track record for providing RE.

Members noted that SACREs have an interest in all schools whether they are LA maintained schools or academies.

The Chair of SACRE agreed to write to Headteachers to remind them of SACRE's role and responsibilities. She informed them that SACRE will be monitoring RE provision in schools through their websites. In her letter, the Chair encouraged schools to communicate with SACRE to share examples of good practice or to seek advice. The Adviser and Chair of SACRE developed a proforma for members to use in this context and interested members were given a list of schools to review (desktop activity).

b) RE Commission: Interim Report on RE

In the autumn, SACRE considered the Interim Report produced by the independent Commission on RE, set up by the RE Council of England and Wales.

The report contained several key recommendations:

- There should be a national entitlement statement for RE: this is not the same as a national syllabus and there would still be local input. This recommendation was largely welcomed by members who saw it as good news for SACREs, especially those which, like Harrow, have a keen sense of ownership of the locally agreed syllabus. The entitlement should be for all types of schools.
- Schools should be held to account for the provision and quality of RE: members welcomed this recommendation as it addresses their own concerns that Ofsted is not challenging those schools who are not fulfilling their legal obligations in relation to RE.
- There should be a National Plan to improve teaching and learning in RE: the average training time devoted to RE for those becoming primary school teachers is three hours. With this amount of preparation, it can be seen that

the variety and diversity represented in a typical Harrow classroom would be a challenging prospect, so members welcomed the proposal to raise this considerably and improve resourcing in the subject.

- There should be a renewed and expanded role for Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs): members were pleased that the report recognises that SACREs have an important role in promoting RE and fostering good community relations. They are aware that SACREs are not always properly resourced by their local authorities and are pleased that Harrow is fortunate in this respect.

A small working group completed a comprehensive response to the draft report and submitted it to the Commission on behalf of SACRE.

NASACRE hosted a training day on the Interim Report and its recommendations in Birmingham. Both the Chair of SACRE, Alison Stowe and the RE Adviser, Lesley Prior were able to attend. They found it a very useful and stimulating day. The keynote speakers were two commissioners involved in producing the draft report, Professor Denise Cush and Dr Anthony Towey; along with the Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke (Secretary of State for Education 2002-4) and Lat Blaylock, Editor of RE Today, they were also on the panel. Lat Blaylock made an impassioned plea for SACREs and local determination of RE.

The conference was well attended with 55-60 people present. A rich conversation took place which fed into the working group's responses to the consultation on behalf of SACRE.

c) Guidance for Schools (available on Harrow SACRE website):

During the year, SACRE revisited, reviewed and updated where necessary its guidance for schools on:

- Ramadan
- Days of Religious Observance

d) Determinations

The Adviser to SACRE reminded members about the role, nature and purpose of determinations in relation to Collective Worship and she and the Chair undertook to support schools submitting initial applications or seeking to renew a previous one. A major piece of work for SACRE in 2018-19 will be to review existing guidance on this process, as well as on Collective Worship in general.

e) SACRE Members' Visit to Cedars School (Mary Abbott and Gill Ross)

Mary, who teaches at Cedars, invited SACRE's two Jewish representatives - Gill Ross and Doreen Samuels - to visit the school at the time when Year 1 children were considering "Why do we have special days?" and Year 2 classes were doing a topic on "Why do we have rules?"

Mary explained to members that she had taught three sessions with Year 1 about special days and in particular Jewish special days in preparation for the visit. With Year 2 she had looked at the Ten Commandments and school rules. Gill and Doreen then spent an afternoon with these year groups.

Gill explained that the session had been a pleasure to plan using the key questions from the Agreed Syllabus. She and Doreen had used a structured approach and from this had developed another session for Newton Farm School. SACRE members were delighted to hear that it was a wonderful experience and the school was very welcoming. They heard that the session was engaging, fast-paced and age appropriate and that it gave the children an experience that demonstrated the importance of a living tradition. It demonstrated that SACRE members can have a direct and active role in supporting teachers in schools and also highlighted ways in which the agreed syllabus is being implemented.

Public examination entries and results in RS GCSE and GCE AS and A level in 2018

GCSE Short Courses are not counted in the Performance Table Attainment and Value Added Measures. In 2018, an additional 20 reformed GCSEs which includes RE were graded on a 9-1 scale were sat by pupils for the first time, along with the English language, English literature and mathematics GCSEs which were reformed in 2017.

GCSE Religious Studies Full Course

Local Authority level data (non-denominational schools only)

Year	Entries	9-1 (A*-G)	9-4 (A*-C)	9-5	9-7((A*-A)	Grade 9	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4
2017-18	1191	99.1%	74.9%	61.7%	28.2%	6.5%	8.6%	13.1%	18.2%	15.3%	13.2%

Year	No. entries	% cohort	A*	A	B	C	A* - C	A* - G
2016-17	1,140	55.6%	9.8%	23.7%	22.4%	19.4%	75.3%	98.6%
2015-16	1,227	57.7%	9.2%	24.9%	21.6%	17.7%	73.3%	98.8%
2014-15	1,126	53.0%	11.7%	20.4%	26.0%	18.5%	76.6%	98.8%
2013-14	499	27.0%	14.0%	24.2%	26.3%	15.6%	80.2%	98.4%
2012-13	305	18.0%	14.1%	27.2%	25.2%	15.4%	82.0%	99.0%
2011-12	179	10.7%	25.7%	30.2%	21.2%	14.0%	91.1%	98.9%
2010-11	113	7.0%	25.7%	28.3%	17.7%	15.9%	87.6%	99.1%
2009-10	211	11.0%	13.7%	25.1%	27.2%	17.3%	83.5%	99.5%

Source: Harrow KS4 Data

National Data (provisional)(Please note this data includes all schools)

Year	Entries	9-1 / A*-G	9-4 / A*-C	9-5	9-7 / A*-A	Grade 9	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4
2017-18	213791	98.0%	71.7%	60.2%	29.8%	7.1%	10.1%	12.6%	16.0%	14.4%	11.5%

Year	No. entries	A*	A	B	C	A* - C	A* - G
2016-17	264,527	10.3%	19.6%	23.3%	18.4%	71.6%	97.9%
2015-16	268,759	10.8%	19.0%	23.3%	18.5%	71.6%	97.8%
2014-15	269,511	11.1%	19.0%	23.3%	18.8%	72.2%	97.9%
2013-14	259,359	11.2%	19.3%	22.7%	18.5%	71.7%	97.6%
2012-13	229,009	11.6%	19.9%	23.0%	19.1%	73.6%	98.2%
2011-12	210,602	11.9%	20.2%	22.9%	19.1%	74.1%	98.4%
2010-11	195,109	11.8%	20.2%	22.7%	19.0%	73.7%	97.3%
2009-10	176,350	11.8%	19.9%	22.9%	18.8%	73.4%	98.5%

2016, 2017, 2018 Source: DfE Statistical First Release KS4 provisional "SFR48_2016_subject_tab

2010 to 2015 Source: http://www.bstubbs.co.uk/gcse.htm

AS Level

Local Authority level data (non-denominational schools only)

Year	No. entries	A	B	C	D	E	A - B	A - E
2017-18	20	15%	5%	40%	10%	20%	20%	90%
2016-17	35	2.9%	11.4%	5.7%	25.7%	14.3%	14.3%	60.0%
2015-16	30	3.3%	6.7%	16.7%	20.0%	20.0%	10.0%	66.7%
2014-15	13	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	46.2%	23.1%	7.7%	92.3%
2013-14	16	6.3%	37.5%	0.0%	43.8%	6.3%	43.8%	93.8%
2012-	5	40.0%	40.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	80.0%	100.0%

13								
2011-12	13	0.0%	46.2%	15.4%	0.0%	15.4%	46.2%	76.9%

Source : Harrow KS5 Data

National Data (2016 provisional, 2011 to 2015 final) (Please note this data includes all schools)

Year	Number of entries	% of all entries	A	B	C	D	E	A - B	A – E
2017-18	4,060	2.3%	18.0%	20.9%	21.7%	19.0%	11.2%	38.9%	90.8%
2016-17	9,799	1.9%	19.1%	21.0%	23.1%	16.6%	10.9%	40.1%	90.7%
2015-16	28,865	3.2%	19.4%	23.5%	23.0%	16.3%	9.6%	42.9%	91.7%
2014-15	30,498	2.8%	20.4%	22.7%	23.3%	16.1%	9.6%	43.1%	92.1%
2013-14	29,519	2.6%	20.5%	21.6%	22.4%	16.5%	10.2%	42.1%	91.1%
2012-13	27,447	2.4%	20.0%	22.2%	22.5%	16.5%	10.4%	42.2%	91.6%
2011-12	26,259	2.3%	20.2%	21.1%	22.9%	16.9%	10.5%	41.3%	91.5%

Source: 2012 to 2018 DfE Statistical First Release

A Level

Local Authority level data (non-denominational schools only)

Year	Number of entries	A*	A	B	C	A* - B	A* - E
2017-18	62	6.5%	21.0%	30.6%	24.2%	58.10%	100%
2016-17	65	3.1%	18.5%	24.6%	33.8%	46.2%	98.5%
2015-16	39	0.0%	12.8%	28.2%	38.5%	41.0%	100.0%
2014-15	39	5.1%	10.3%	41.0%	28.2%	56.4%	97.4%
2013-14	24	4.2%	29.2%	45.8%	12.5%	79.2%	91.7%
2012-13	25	0.0%	8.0%	28.0%	44.0%	36.0%	100.0%
2011-12	29	0.0%	10.3%	58.6%	27.6%	69.0%	100.0%

Source : Harrow KS5 Data

National Data (2018 provisional, 2011 to 2017 final) (Please note this data includes all schools)

Year	No. entries	% of all entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A* - B	A* -E
2017-18	16832	2.3%	4.6%	18.2%	29.3%	25.8%	14.4%	5.7%	52.1%	97.9%
2016-17	22,066	3%	5.7%	18.6%	30.8%	25.8%	13.0%	4.8%	55.1%	98.7%
2015-16	22,641	3%	5.6%	18.7%	30.5%	25.6%	13.6%	4.9%	54.8%	98.9%
2014-15	21,273	2.8%	5.6%	19.1%	30.1%	25.3%	13.7%	5.1%	54.8%	98.9%
2013-14	19,838	2.7%	7.0%	18.7%	28.3%	25.1%	14.2%	5.4%	54.0%	98.8%
2012-13	19,171	2.5%	5.6%	20.8%	28.9%	24.7%	14.0%	5.1%	55.3%	99.1%
2011-12	18,849	2.4%	5.7%	20.3%	29.4%	24.5%	13.7%	5.4%	55.4%	99.0%

Source: DfE Statistical First Release

MANAGING THE SACRE AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, SCHOOLS AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- **Membership and Meetings**
- **Partnership with Harrow Council**
- **Partnership with Schools**
- **Partnership with NASACRE and the RE Council of England and Wales**

a) Membership and Meetings

The SACRE meets four times a year, twice in the autumn term in order to devote time to the Annual Report and to respond to the additional requests from schools for advice in that period and once in each of the spring and summer terms.

In 2017-18, these meetings took place on:

- 26th September 2017
- 5th December 2017
- 22nd March 2018
- 28th June 2018

SACRE has continued its efforts to recruit teachers to the SACRE via their professional associations, including one to represent the academy schools. The constitution allows for up to 6 teachers.

HARROW SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2017 -2018

Chair: Alison Stowe (Group C)

Vice Chair: Cllr Camilla Bath (Group D)

Group A - Religious Traditions and Christian Churches

- Ms Mercedes Afnan: Baha'i
- Ven Sumaner Sramaner: Buddhist
- Mike Bishop: Christian (Free Church Federal Council)- *until 28 June 2018*
- Neville Ransley: Christian (Catholic)
- Ciara O'Flaherty: Christian (Catholic)
- Vijay Hirani: Hindu (Swaminarayan)
- David Cryer: Humanist (Harrow Humanists)
- Varsha Dodhia: Jain
- Gill Ross: Jewish
- Doreen Samuels: Jewish
- Zafar Khalid: Muslim (representing Harrow Muslim Council)
- Cllr Zia Baig: Muslim - *until 26 September 2017*
- Asad Omar: Muslim
- Vacancy: Rastafarian
- Paramjit Singh-Kohli: Sikh
- Phiroza Gan-Kotwal: Zoroastrian

Group B - Church of England

- Mary Abbott
- Reverend Kate Blake
- Reverend James Power

Group C - Teachers' Associations

- Manju Radia - *until 22 March 2018*
- Alison Stowe
- Teri-Louise O'Brien

Group D - Local Authority

- Cllr Camilla Bath, Conservative
- Cllr Ghazanfar Ali, Labour
- Cllr Kairuk Kareema Marika, Labour – *to 24 May 2018*
- Cllr Paymana Assad, Labour - *from 24 May 2018*
- Cllr Simon Brown, Labour (Reserve)
- Cllr Manji Kara, Conservative (Reserve) *until 24 May 2018*
- Cllr Margaret Davine, Labour (Reserve) *until 24 May 2018*
- Cllr Angella Murphy-Strachan, Labour (Reserve) *from 24 May 2018*
- Cllr Dr Lesline Lewinson, Conservative (Reserve) *from 24 May 2018*

Lesley Prior (LDBS) is Adviser to the SACRE on behalf of the Corporate Director of People Services.

Members have served throughout 2017-2018 except where otherwise indicated.

In Attendance:

Vivian Wright, Clerk to the SACRE

The Harrow SACRE Website

The SACRE website is accessible from the Council's website. It is updated with the agendas and minutes of SACRE meetings and the SACRE Annual Report (see www.harrow.gov.uk/SACRE)

The website raises the profile of the Harrow SACRE.

It includes easier access to the calendar of meetings and to Harrow SACRE briefing documents, such as the guidance on:

- **Days of Religious Observance**:
  insert link here
- **Fasting During Ramadan**
  http://www.harrow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7960/harrow_sacre_guidance_on_ramadan
- **Faith Matters in PE**
  http://www.harrow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7605/faith_matters_in_pe

b) Partnership with Harrow Council (and the Agreed Syllabus Conference - ASC) 2016-17

The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

The Agreed Syllabus should be reviewed every five years by the ASC. The last locally agreed syllabus was published in 2008. The review of Harrow's Agreed Syllabus was delayed until the publication of the new National Curriculum and guidance from the RE Council. It met to review the syllabus and once the syllabus was agreed on 18th April, 2016, the ASC was dissolved. Harrow SACRE worked closely with Harrow Council to establish the Agreed Syllabus Conference and all members of the SACRE agreed to be appointed to the Conference and support its work. Members considered the guidance set out in the DfE circular based on the Education Reform Act of 1988 (Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010). Once the Agreed Syllabus was adopted by Harrow Council it became a statutory requirement for maintained schools. Voluntary aided schools with a religious character are not required to deliver the Agreed Syllabus, nor are Free Schools and Academies. However, Free Schools and Academies have to provide RE and fulfil the statutory requirements and many choose to do so by voluntarily following the locally agreed syllabus. Non-denominational academies and free schools must meet statutory requirements although not necessarily through the locally agreed syllabus.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference was established in September 2014. Julie Crow was appointed as Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference and Mary Abbott as Vice-Chair. A small working party consisting of all groups was established to agree the principles for the Agreed Syllabus, to confirm the special adviser and oversee the development of the syllabus on behalf of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. This working party was chaired by the Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. In the summer of 2015 it completed the initial tasks and confirmed the agreement of the ASC to these steps. The work of the ASC was separately minuted although an update was provided regularly to the SACRE.

Consultation with Teachers and Professional Development

In conjunction with the revision of the Agreed Syllabus, a teachers' working party met with the RE Consultant Lesley Prior for three afternoon sessions.

- 13th October 2015
- 3rd November 2015
- 24th November 2015

These sessions focused on:

- current issues in RE and in education more widely, both locally and nationally, including statutory and non statutory documentation and guidance
- the opportunities and challenges offered by the existing agreed syllabus and the needs of staff and pupils
- principles of curriculum design in RE

In total, about fifteen teachers were involved and in the main, they came from primary schools, so the focus was initially on EYFS and Key Stages 1 and 2, though the same principles they identified could be broadly applied across all ages and phases of schooling.

The current syllabus was agreed in 2016 and is available via this link: http://www.harrow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9712/sacre_agreed_syllabus_2016

It is a revision of the previous syllabus, rather than an entirely new document and:

- retains the two attainment targets – in equal balance
- reflects the increasing diversity of faith and belief in Harrow, while allocating some prominence to Christianity
- is inclusive of eight other religions (Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism Islam, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism) and humanism (as an example of an ethical non theistic world view) and aspects of these must be included at each stage of schooling up to and including Key Stage 3, albeit with varying degrees of emphasis
- requires that assessment of each pupil's progress is carried out each half term
- retains the level statements for advice and support purposes although consideration is also given to new national advice on assessment without levels in RE

- acknowledges that there are many different ways of assessing pupils and of keeping records of the work they have done, including, but not restricted to written work in books or folders
- gives clear advice on how to plan academically rigorous and creative RE, without supplying a complete and detailed scheme of work
- outlines principles of curriculum planning in RE which focus on an enquiry/question led approach to the subject (see this link for details: http://www.reonline.org.uk/religious-education-in-the-new-curriculum/)

The Launch of the Agreed Syllabus

The syllabus was formally launched on 20th June 2017 at Norbury Primary School. SACRE members attended the Launch and made the occasion a happy event. The Chair received very positive feedback. There were lovely displays from all the faith groups and the atmosphere was truly celebratory. The event also provided good opportunities for networking.

c) The Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants

Harrow SACRE was a member of AREIAC for 2017-2018 (see www.areiac.org.uk).

d) Partnership with Local Faith Communities

- *Guidance on Days of Religious Observance and Pupil Absence*: This annual guidance and list of days of religious observance is one of the most valued services that Harrow SACRE provides to schools. It helps headteachers to decide how much leave may be allowed to pupils for religious observance. SACRE members work on this guidance over the summer ready to send out in the autumn. With so much relying on school attendance, SACRE recognises how vital it is for schools to have this guidance that comes with the authority of the faith communities. It is updated every year, using dates supplied by the SHAP Working Party on World Religions in Education. See www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/ for details.

  Guidance may be found here: http://www.harrow.gov.uk/SACRE

- *Fasting During Ramadan*: Schools have found this publication to be very useful and it has also been well received more widely. The Guidance is balanced and helps schools to manage over this period. Other LAs and SACREs, such as Hertfordshire would like to use it and these requests have been approved, providing that the work of Harrow SACRE is appropriately acknowledged. Cllr Ali (Group D) consulted local religious scholars about the document and received positive feedback from the Central Mosque and from Stanmore Mosque.

  See this link for access:
  http://www.harrow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7960/harrow_sacre_guidance_on_ramadan

e) Partnership with NASACRE

The NASACRE Conference and AGM (London 2018)

Harrow SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

Lesley Prior, Adviser to SACRE attended the NASACRE AGM and Conference at The Merchant Taylors' Hall in London on 24th May 2018.

The theme of this year's event was: ***Stronger Together - Celebrating the Power of Community***

Full details and copies of the relevant presentations can be found at: http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2018/2018-papers

A login is required to access these presentations.

The key note speaker was **Dr Vanessa Ogden**. She is the CEO of Mulberry Schools Trust, a Multi Academy Trust. She read Theology and Religious Studies at Manchester University, was an RE teacher, and served on the Commission on Religious Education (https://www.commissiononre.org.uk). At the formation of the first APPG on Religious Education, Dr Ogden said on the subject, *"It fundamentally hits the heart of what it means to be a human being and anything that allows young people to take that apart for themselves… is just so exciting; I don't know how you can resist it really*."

The Rt Hon Charles Clarke' (speaker at the NASACRE AGM in 2015) is Patron of NASACRE and attended this year's event too. He gave a brief introductory address about the importance of RE and participated in a panel session with other speakers at the end of the day.

Lesley Prior, RE Adviser, is former Chair of NASACRE (2013-15) and now Assistant to and member of the NASACRE Executive Group.

Lesley is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.