

To: SACRE
From: Georgie Mulhall
Re: NASACRE AGM Feedback

The AGM focussed on business and Young People's Faith Groups. The AGM started with a keynote address from Professor Brian Gates, Chair of the RE Council. He discussed the following points:

- ❖ National Strategy – the RE Teaching Commission Report has reviewed the strategy and discovered positive and negative points. Proposals suggest better CPD provision. A proposed £60 million to support RE!!
- ❖ ITT in RE is poorly provided for and we desperately require teachers to be reflective practitioners
- ❖ SACRE has a public accountability to support RE and should bring value to RE in schools
- ❖ SACRE, in relation to the RE Council report should support community cohesion
- ❖ Concerns about the NS terminating Agreed Syllabuses were discussed. It was acknowledged that they vary in quality. They will continue until they cease to be necessary??? This point was not clarified.
- ❖ It was acknowledged that some SACRE's are more inclusive than others e.g. having co-opted humanists, Bahá'í faith members, youth members
- ❖ Inter-faith groups were mentioned and their energies praised
- ❖ Concerns raised by a SACRE member, regarding parents being allowed to remove their child from RE lessons. This was addressed by the RE Council who are considering a review of the statutory arrangements, previously established in 1973.
- ❖ A concern was raised about RE not being included in RE OfSTED inspections. OfSTED replied by discussing SACRE's SEF and schools own SEF. Schools can request that they would like to share good work in RE with an HMI. This was thought to be an unlikely move from schools.
- ❖ A question was raised regarding concerns about the RE GCSE, which focuses on knowledge and content rather than concepts, skills and processes. QCA responded by favouring the teaching of key concepts as they raise the level of challenge to improve standards and the relevance of RE. GCSE courses to be reviewed. No date given. The NS focuses on 6 key concepts. Therefore, this would encourage other syllabuses to move away from focussing on content to improve standards in learning in RE.

Inter-faith Groups

- ❖ Portsmouth stood out! They had a varied programme of activities that they have sustained. Many groups had organised one off events but at this stage, had not continued their work.
- ❖ 19 groups applied for grants. Good quality over-all. 6 groups were successful, Portsmouth being one and the only group being awarded a second grant. I thanked NASACRE and praised the work of Interfusion.
- ❖ Presentations received from Hull, Blackburn, Kirklees, Surrey, Tameside and Newham. Newham, in my opinion had worked very well to support pupils and teachers. They had produced as DVD to support sex education in schools, providing a faith response to issues. Faith leaders contributed to the DVD. This SACRE appears to very much be involved with pupils at a school level.