

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
**Report of the Director for Children and Families**  
**An Update on NASACRE**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on key issues that have developed or arisen since the last meeting of SACRE.

**2 Summary**

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on a number of NASACRE issues. These are matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report.

**4 Background**

4.1 NASACRE is the national body of SACRE's. National meetings and conferences are held to which members of SACRE are invited and encouraged to attend. The chair and the adviser attended a National conference on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023, at Fishmongers Hall London. This was the first face to face conference since COVID-19. This was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference. There were award ceremonies for those who have made contributions to SACRES over the years. Our chair was nominated for an award. See Nomination.

4.2 Members will be briefed on any key developments.

**5 Equal Opportunities**

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**6 Financial implications**

6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

**Contact Officer:                      Mary Gale                                      07816374873**

## The programme included the following:-

- 10:30 Arrival and registration, refreshments and display space
- 11:00 Welcome and introductions - Linda Rudge (Chair of NASACRE)
- 11:15 **Keynote Address 1: An education in religion and worldviews - the next 30 years? Dr Kathryn Wright**  
*Kathryn is the Chief Executive of [Culham St Gabriel's Trust](#), an endowed charitable foundation whose vision is for a broad-based, critical reflective education in religion and worldviews contributing to a well-informed, respectful and open society. Kathryn leads the strategic direction of the Trust.*
- 11:35 Table discussions on keynote 1
- 11:50 Break
- 12:10 **Keynote Address 2: The role of SACREs in the emerging educational landscape. Our Patron, Rt Hon Charles Clarke**  
*Charles holds Visiting Professorships at Lancaster University and Kings College London. In 2015 he co-wrote, with Professor Linda Woodhead, "A New Settlement, Religion and Belief in Schools".*
- 12:30 Table discussions on keynote 2
- 12:45 Introduce nominees for elections (notified by 5 pm, Friday 12 May 2023)
- 13:00 LUNCH - *there is a space available for prayer during lunchtime.*  
Voting for elections
- 13:45 Westhill Awards Winners announcement
- 13:55 National analysis of SACRE annual reports: **Dr David Hampshire**  
*A former Assistant Director at the Inter Faith Network for the UK and ex-Chair of NASACRE, David is currently the Senior Policy Adviser for Historic Places of Worship at Historic England. This is the second year running that David has analysed the data from the SACRE annual reports and he will be presenting his findings.*
- 14:15 Table discussions and questions to speakers
- 14:30 30 years Celebration  
- SACRE 30 years Quiz  
- SACRE Awards- see below for nomination information
- 14:55 Business Meeting
- 15:20 Closing remarks - Chair
- 15:30 Close

## Nomination for Preb Michael Metcalf- Staffordshire SACRE- nomination by Mary Gale RE adviser to Staffordshire SACRE



Dear Nomination Committee,

I am honoured to nominate Preb Michael Metcalf for the following award

- *A SACRE member who has made a significant impact in your area.*

The reasons for this are many.

### **Potted History**

Michael is a retired Anglican priest previously serving as a vicar and rural dean; Diocesan Director of Education; Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies and RE and OU Tutor. Michael has an MA in Maths and Theology from Cambridge and an MA from Birmingham in research in modern church music. He is a founder member and treasurer since 1993 of the National Association of SACREs.

### **Reasons for nomination**

As a longstanding member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, Prebendary Michael Metcalf has played an instrumental role in the promotion of RE education in the region since SACREs were set up after the 1988 Education Act, when Religious Education (RE) was confirmed as a compulsory part of the curriculum and it became a statutory requirement for every Local Authority (LA) to appoint a SACRE. He has represented the Diocese of Lichfield on Staffordshire SACRE to the current day, with a short break in the middle years. In 2002 he was nominated as Chair of SACRE by Committee A. He was duly elected and has remained in that position to this day.

Throughout his tenure, Michael has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to improving the quality of RE education for students across Staffordshire. He has worked tirelessly to promote inclusivity and diversity ensuring that all have access to a well-rounded education that respects and celebrates the beliefs and cultures of all faiths. In addition, he has worked on the National SACRE body since 1993 supporting developments nationwide- his influence is far reaching. He has only recently retired from this elected post.

Under Michael's leadership, the Staffordshire SACRE has developed innovative programs and initiatives that have helped to raise standards and improve outcomes for students. He has worked closely with teachers, educators, advisers and inspectors (including Paul Bellingham, Heather Farr, Emma Jardine Phillips and for the past 8 years with Mary Gale) across the region to provide guidance, support, and commissioned training, guiding all to develop the skills and knowledge needed to deliver effective RE education. We are particularly proud of his support for the Staffordshire SACRE **Explore, Engage**

**and Reflect** project- a legacy project from the 2017 Westhill grant, which continues in Staffordshire schools to this day.

Michael's contributions have not gone unnoticed. He is widely respected and admired in Staffordshire and throughout the Lichfield Diocese by his fellow colleagues and members of SACRE, who have praised his dedication, passion, and expertise. His ability to engage in intellectual debate has been a source of inspiration and motivation for countless stakeholders. His life experiences are a major factor in his ability to guide and support those working in the RE field. His impact on education especially on RE in Staffordshire and the Lichfield Diocese is immeasurable. His contribution towards the writing of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus over the years has been considerable, especially the writing of the very recent 2023 revised syllabus. This was launched in February 2023.

In recognition of his exceptional contribution, I wholeheartedly recommend Preb. Michael Metcalf for this award.

He is a deserving candidate who has had a positive impact on generations of students.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Mary Gale Adviser to Staffordshire SACRE and Governance Professional Nationwide*