

Notice of Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education



Date: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 at 4.00 pm

Venue: Teams Meeting (Online)

Membership:

Chairman:

V Saunders

Vice Chairman:

L Ford-Horne

R Lawton

S Knight

N Ford

B Joshi

S Hawksworth

M Kanamia

D Kenchington

P Thomson

B Kaur

J Kelly

E Culy

P Ruffle

K Barker

S Jones

B Watt

C Jones

R Hamalienko

S Garner

T Willis

Cllr R Burton

Cllr M Cox

Cllr M Le Poidevin

D Pegg

All Members of the Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6052>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Nicky Hooley or email Nicky.hooley@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3 March 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

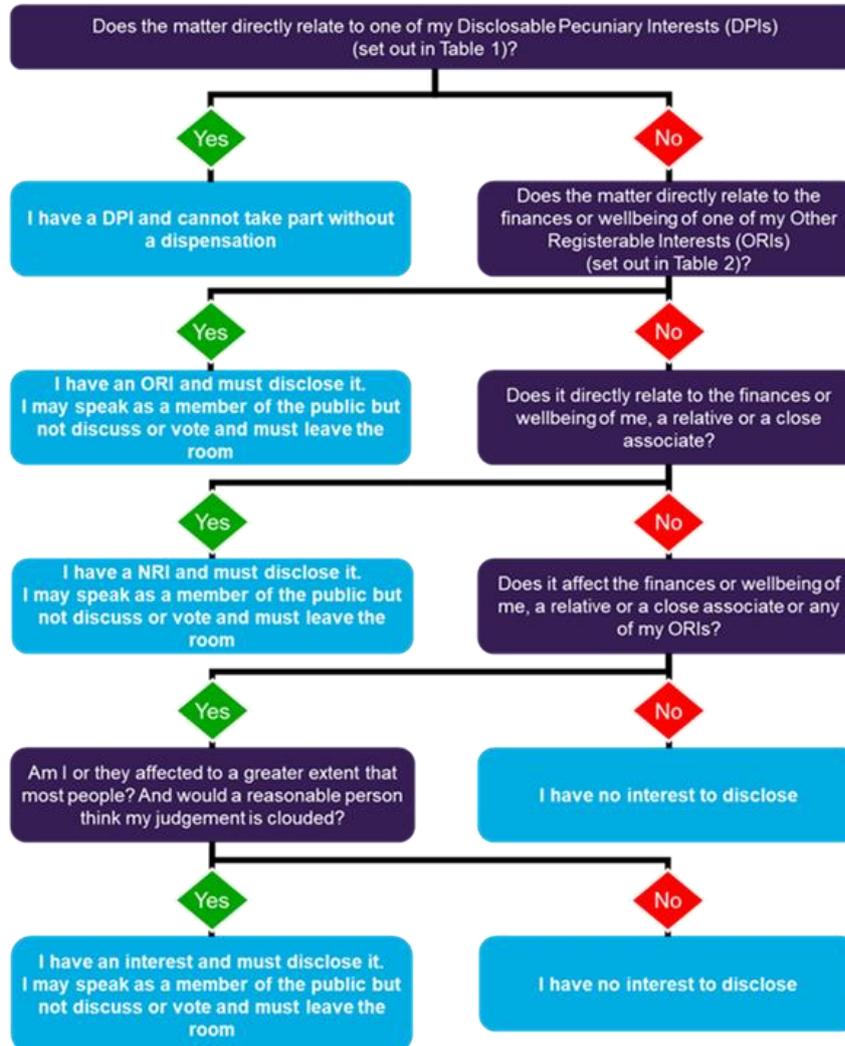


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

- 1. Apologies**
To receive any apologies for absence from members of the Committee.
- 2. Welcome**
To receive any introductions and welcome.
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes** 5 - 6
To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2025.
- 4. Matters arising from minutes**
To raise and discuss any matters arising from the minutes.
- 5. Feedback from conference** 7 - 10
To receive the Conference Evaluation report.
- 6. Action plan and update** 11 - 12
To review the action plan and receive any updates.
- 7. Update on Hubs**
To receive an update on Hubs.
- 8. Holocaust Memorial Day**
To discuss plans for Holocaust Memorial Day.
- 9. Dates of future meetings**
The next meeting will be held on 24 June 2026.
- 10. Any other business**
To receive any urgent items of business, that have been agreed with the Chair before the meeting.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

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STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2025

Present: Vincent Saunders in the Chair

Councillors L Ford-Horne (Vice-Chair), R Lawton, Knight, B Joshi, P Thomson, J Kelly, Cllr R Burton and Cllr M Le Poidevin

45 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Claire Jones.

46 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

47 Welcome and introductions if necessary

48 Opening reflection

The Chair advised that they had recently spoken with a pupil about body image. This conversation had led to the realisation that a pupil of 12 years old, with SEND, could see beyond the external body image and that what is important is on the inside.

49 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2025 were agreed as a true and correct record. Following a request for clarification, it was advised that Vince Saunders is the Chair, Councillor Burton was considered as a Vice Chair to assist the Chair on a particular matter, and following the meeting Linda Ford-Horne had agreed to be the Vice Chair for the remainder of this year.

Voting: Unanimous

50 SACRE's Role in Supporting Cohesion and Calm Amid National Tensions linked to Planning for next conference (GP, DR, VS)

It was advised that the Chair and Vice Chair had been considering a list of people to approach to speak at the next conference. It has been felt that inviting guest speakers could be expensive and there was a wealth of knowledge in the local community that could be called upon. A meeting would be held soon with Georgie Pender to progress this. It was explained that they head of Community Involvement would be invited to this meeting to advise how to link with the wider community and consider mutual issues with such bodies as the Police and voluntary sector. This meeting would be held on 6 February 2026. A suggested working title for this work was 'Preventing Tensions'. It was suggested that Interfaith Network Dorset could be contacted, regarding their recent work on removing barriers, for a further area of consideration.

51 Update on checking R.E teachers list (VS)

The Chair advised that schools had been contacted, requesting contact details for the lead RE teachers. Whilst feedback was being waited for the lack of corrections being requested was

hopeful. It was suggested that this exercise of reviewing lists of RE teachers should be carried out twice a year.

52 Update on reaching out to schools (DR, VS)

The committee received an update on the work regarding reaching out to schools and how best to support them. However, as only about 12 out of the 96 local schools fell under the local authority, it was difficult to know how best to support these schools with religious education needs. It was hoped to expand these visits and maintain progress.

Those on the committee whose job role included visiting schools, offered to talk to the schools about the work of the SACRE, as it was agreed that repeating the message about the work carried out by this SACRE would be helpful. It was agreed to circulate a summary of what SACRE does for this purpose. It was advised that all schools still have the onus on them to follow locally agreed syllabus', unless they consciously decided not to. It was agreed that it be asked if schools were aware of this.

53 Action plan update (DR)

It was recognised that the action plan was a rolling update of activities. It was agreed that updates from school visits be included.

54 Hub report

It was explained that there was an ambition to increase the number of hubs in Dorset, as geographically it was a large area, which can hamper meeting attendance. Work was being done to set up the infrastructure for establishing new hubs.

Learn Teach Read Area three – there was a desire for all schools to access this, which supported providing excellent religious education, this would provide a consistency across the area.

55 AOB to be notified to Chair before the meeting

It was advised that an interfaith network event would be held on Saturday 15 November, between 2 - 4:00pm, at Bournemouth library. The event would be an opportunity for various world religions to be represented, providing information and signposting.

It was advised that a grant application had been successful in relation to project roots. Work had been continuing with primary school teachers to help them recognise anti-Semitism. Further work was to include the creation of a toolkit to allocate to schools to help with awareness. Consideration was given as to whether other faith groups may find such a toolkit useful. The committee were advised about the Dora Love project which enabled year 8 pupils and above to look at projects against prejudice.

1654 Councillors Le Poidevin and Burton left the meeting.

56 Dates of future meetings

It was advised that the national SACRE Conference would be held on 6 February 2026. The next meeting of this Committee would be held on 11 March 2026.

Duration of the meeting: 4.00 - 5.00 pm

Chairman at the meeting on
Wednesday, 12 November 2025

RE Teachers' Conference 2026 – Evaluation Report

Date of event: 6 February 2026

In attendance: 32 **Maintained Schools:** Highcliffe St.Mark, Mundeford Junior, Somerford, Linwood, Winchelsea (apologies)

Respondents: $n = 16$ delegate surveys

1) Executive summary

- **Overall value:** Delegates rated the day 4.19/5 for usefulness and 3.88/5 for helping them break down prejudice in classrooms.
- **What landed best:** Tied top were Many Faiths Together – Panel and Solutions Not Sides – Keynote (5 mentions each), followed by Updates on National Policy (3), Solutions Not Sides – Workshop (2), and Many Faiths Together – Speed Dating (1).
- **Repeat attendance:** 100% of respondents said they would attend annually if permitted.
- **Preferred timing:** Most favoured Spring 1 (before February half-term) (5), with additional support for Spring 2 (3) and Summer 2 (after May half-term) (3). Autumn windows were less preferred.
- **Strong positives from open feedback:** Organisation, Merley House as a venue, lunch, high-quality speakers, rich networking, powerful lived-experience from Many Faiths Together, practical input from Solutions Not Sides, and useful training on answering difficult questions.
- **Clear “Even Better If”:** ensure primary/secondary balance; record interfaith speakers for classroom clips; allow more Q&A with interfaith panel; establish/advertise a secondary RE network; create an artefact library and pre-vetted visitor directory; provide guidance on parental withdrawal; issue regular SACRE updates; explore a multi-faith event for pupils.

2) What went well

2.1 Event experience & logistics

- The day was described as well organised and welcoming, with staff helpful throughout; Merley House was praised as a conducive venue; lunch was repeatedly highlighted as great.

2.2 Content quality & speakers

- **Many Faiths Together:** reported as *powerful* and authentic lived experience, strengthening subject knowledge and confidence.
- **Solutions Not Sides (SNS):** compelling keynote with practical ideas and strong relevance to tackling prejudice; the workshop was appreciated, especially for middle/secondary phases, praised for practical classroom insight (e.g., why facts alone may not land when students feel threatened).

RE Teachers' Conference 2026 – Evaluation Report

2.3 Professional community & networking

- Delegates valued networking time, cross-phase conversations, and exposure to multiple faith perspectives in one place.

3) Areas for development (“Even Better If”)

3.1 Planning & communication

- Publish the full provisional agenda before sign-up to help colleagues (and their managers) judge relevance and secure release.
- Clarify phase balance in advance; several felt the day leaned secondary.

3.2 Interfaith engagement

- Build in longer Q&A so delegates can ask their own questions.
- Record interfaith contributions to create short classroom-ready clips, as it's not always possible to bring visitors in.
- Explore a multi-faith pupil event to give children first-hand encounters with lived religion.

3.3 Leadership pressures & parental withdrawal

- RE leads reported being assigned multiple roles, making it harder to lead RE and leaving some feeling pushed out. Increased requests for withdrawal, particularly regarding religions other than Christianity, were reported; schools want clear procedure and advice.

3.4 Resources, artefacts, and external links

- High demand for: a BCP/SACRE artefact library; a pre-vetted visitor directory (faith speakers/places of worship); regular SACRE updates in a concise digest; and a more usable SACRE webpage to centralise info and contacts.

4) Evidence from the delegate survey

4.1 Overall ratings

- **Usefulness:** mean **4.19/5** (distribution: 5★=7, 4★=6, 3★=2, 2★=1).
- **Will this help break down prejudice?** mean **3.88/5** (distribution: 5=5, 4=7, 3=2, 2=1, 1=1).

4.2 Session highlights (most helpful part)

- Many Faiths Together – Panel (5 mentions)
- Solutions Not Sides – Keynote (5)
- Updates on National Policy (3)
- Solutions Not Sides – Workshop (2)
- Many Faiths Together – Speed Dating (1)

RE Teachers' Conference 2026 – Evaluation Report

4.3 Preferred timing in the academic year

- Spring 1 (before Feb half-term) – 5
- Spring 2 (after Feb half-term) – 3
- Summer 2 (after May half-term) – 3
- Autumn 1 – 2 | Autumn 2 – 1 | Unspecified – 2

4.4 Most challenging areas flagged

- Controversial issues / conflict, incl. Israel/Gaza (3)
- Visits & visitors (2)
- Parental withdrawal (2)
- Subject knowledge gaps (Buddhism, Islam, Humanism) and pupil-led discussion (1 each)

4.5 Priority CPD needs (themes from open responses)

- Visits & visitors (places of worship, external speakers) – 2
- Secondary RE network; GCSE/A Level/Core RE sharing – 2
- Subject knowledge: Humanism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism – 1 each
- Coaching/in-class support; pupil-led discussion strategies; literacy in RE; policy/SACRE comms; parental withdrawal; far-right/extremism – 1 each

Illustrative comments (anonymised):

- “Hearing from those with lived experience is always best, wanted to bottle some of what was said.”
- “Working a lot this year around belonging and community... would be great to connect with secondaries.”
- “Encouraging SLT of the importance of RE... don't have time to cover RE in the way it should be at my school.”

5) Conclusions

- The conference successfully met its core aims for most delegates: strong usefulness scores, high intent to return, and clear appreciation of lived-experience inputs. It built community and provided immediately usable ideas.
- There is a consistent call for infrastructure around RE: clearer advance info, stable networks (esp. secondary), guidance on withdrawal, and resource ecosystems (artefacts, vetted visitors, better SACRE comms).
- Balance the offer to ensure cross phase content, while retaining the strong interfaith and prejudice-reduction strands that delegates value.

RE Teachers' Conference 2026 – Evaluation Report

6) Recommendations & action plan

1. Confirm and publicise the Secondary RE Network (dates, leads, themes; cross-school sharing of GCSE/Core RE curricula). Owner: LA/SACRE. (Responds to repeated secondary asks)
2. Issue a SACRE “quick-read” digest (bullet-point update, links, key contacts) and start a termly cadence. (Improves comms)
3. Draft and circulate “Managing Parental Withdrawal from RE – Standard Procedure” with template letters, meeting scripts, and signposting to legal duties.
4. Scope recording permissions with Many Faiths Together/SNS and design short, captioned clips for classroom use. Owner: Conference Team. (Maximises impact of lived experience)
6. Pilot a BCP/SACRE Artefact Library (booking form, storage protocols, curriculum mapping).
7. Re-publish a pre-vetted visitor & places-of-worship directory (with safeguarding checks, practical guidance, and “how to host” tips).
8. Design a Primary-first strand for next conference (disciplinary approaches to Religion & Worldviews, planning exemplars, KS1–2 subject knowledge).
9. Run CPD on pupil-led discussion and literacy in RE (practical routines, sentence stems, oracy + vocabulary progression for KS3–5).
10. Offer SLT briefings on the value of RE (statutory position; contribution to community cohesion and SMSC; inspection expectations).

6.2 For next year's conference

11. Schedule in Spring 1 (most preferred) and signpost early.
12. Guarantee phase balance (label each session by phase; ensure a minimum number of primary and secondary -focused sessions).
13. Publish a “What's new this year?” banner to address perceptions of repetition and manage expectations.

7) Risks & mitigations

- Data protection / Safeguarding for recorded interfaith clips → Use speaker consent forms, edit for anonymisation where requested, and host behind a school-only access layer.
- Visitor quality assurance → Lightweight vetting (references, safeguarding check confirmation, scope statement) and post-visit rating by schools to keep the directory current.
- Workload for RE leads → Provide templates, ready-to-use resources, and coaching visits to minimise prep burden.

BCP SACRE action plan – updated February 2026

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Autumn 2026
<p>A. CORE BUSINESS</p> <p>To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership</p>	1. Fill membership vacancies	Ongoing	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk		BCP SACRE is representative of the BCP area. However, this needs to be constantly monitored Reviewed at each meeting		
	2. SACRE members attend termly meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Spring 2026 Summer 2026 Autumn 2026	SACRE Chair/SACRE Advisor SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Advisor to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting LA officers and Advisor prep time	11 th March 2026 4pm	TBD	TBD
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term each year	SACRE Chair	SACRE chair	To be completed Jan 2026 and sent to NASACRE by end of Feb 2026	Gather data for the report (ongoing)	Complete draft Autumn 2026
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting and discuss updates	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Advisor and SACRE	SACRE Advisor time	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
	5. Subscribe to NASACRE Representation at annual AGM & conference Attend other useful events	Ongoing	SACRE clerk SACRE Advisor	Subscription £105? <i>NASACRE Conference and AGM</i> – should we attend?	SW SACRE conference March 2 nd pm online DR will attend – SACRE members welcome	<i>NASACRE AGM and conference – Mon 18th May - Liverpool</i>	Subscription rate £105?
	6. Provide and review the agreed syllabus for RE	Review complete – launched January 2023	Agreed Syllabus conference from SACRE	Extra funding allocated for the process	Review completed – syllabus launched January 2023 – establish a teacher conference to follow up annually – review process will need to begin 2027		
	7. Monitor and advise on Collective Worship	ongoing	SACRE RE Advisors to feedback national developments	SACRE to decide on the time and support needed – costs may apply	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
B	1. Provide annual RE teachers and leaders conference	Build on the recent conferences	SACRE (& Advisor)	Partially funded by delegate charges	Conference held in Feb 2026	Follow up through networks and newsletters– Deliver an annual conference?	

To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools	2. Keeping up to date with RE News	ongoing	SACRE Advisor	None to SACRE	Making sure SACRE and teachers are connected and updated through engaging with or membership in NATRE, AREAIC, REQM, RE Hubs, RE Online, Culham St Gabriel's, etc – information circulated in SACREs and newsletters/networks		
	3. Collate and distribute a termly newsletter – these include NASACRE etc updates	Termly	SACRE Advisor – SACRE members to offer suggestions	Advisor time	Newsletter sent Jan 2026 SACRE members encouraged to contribute content	Newsletter due Apr 2026 SACRE members encouraged to contribute content	Newsletter due Sept 2026 SACRE members encouraged to contribute content
	4. Connect with RE leaders (for example through the Hub lead networks)	termly	Esther Culy and teacher reps	Feedback analysed – steering group to consider the next conference content and speakers	Hub networks being relaunched – Advisor to support if needed- dates to be sent out to schools in advance – feedback at each SACRE from network leaders Look at support and networks for Secondary RE teachers Establish student conference – which will in turn allow better networking for teaching staff.		
	5. To support regional RE conferences and engage in other RE CPD opportunities	Ongoing – particular focus on the SWSACRE & CREative REinspiring RE Conferences	SACRE members and Advisor		SW SACRE conference 2 nd March pm online 4 th March 2026– RE conference	Share work of our schools at a regional level for example St James and CCPS Invite schools to highlight their work at SACRE meetings	
	6. Support individual RE leaders and schools	ongoing	SACRE chair and advisor	Advisor time	Investigate the possibility of school visits – supportive emphasis Establish student conference – which will in turn allow better networking for teaching staff.		