

# Report on NASACRE – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

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The focus of the day can be summarised in two key questions:

- 1) How do we raise the profile of RE within schools and the national community?
- 2) How do we raise the funding and profile of SACREs to enable them to answer question 1?

**Stephen Lloyd** (Lib Dem MP and chair of APPG on RE) explained the role and vision of the APPG, highlighting the need for SACREs to lobby MPs. The focus is on the need for trained teachers of RE and the consequent funding requirements for ITT and CPD. The shortage of teachers of RE is hidden by the fact that anyone who teaches RE for an hour a week is automatically counted.

Questions from the floor echoed his concerns and his answers clearly point to the need for SACREs to be more engaged with the political process and make the demands of RE and the rationale behind RE more clearly understood.

**In the Business meeting** a further range of issues was highlighted; among them the issue of performance related pay, a lack of funding for SACREs and the questions over the RE provision in free schools and academies.

**The two workshops** showed the way in which other SACREs are engaging with their communities, in the provision of projects, awards, websites, running events, organising speakers and above all building relationships across communities and schools.

Similar Issues were raised by **Helen Harrison** (REC deputy chair), when she outlined the need for SACREs to make a difference to every teacher of RE.

**Lesley Prior** summed it all up by suggesting **20 things that SACREs** could do:

- 1) Contact local MP & get them onto APPG
- 2) Get all teaching unions on SACRE and ask them to get support resolutions passed by union
- 3) Engage with ITT or teaching schools in our area
- 4) Engaging with press & media locally & nationally and social media too
- 5) Encourage schools to go for REQM (perhaps fund it if possible)
- 6) Find out who is in charge of academy chains & free school and get them onto SACRE
- 7) Ensure that there is LA scrutiny; submit annual report for scrutiny
- 8) Get the Youth Voice and SACRE into schools
- 9) Hold SACRE meeting in school and include a training meeting for teachers
- 10) Report any school not doing RE properly
- 11) Make links between Post 16 RE and ITT –
- 12) Develop resource collection to loan to schools (!)
- 13) Support & monitor collective worship as there is no CPD to support it
- 14) Sponsor competitions for schools – artwork, writing?
- 15) Work with faith visitors – shared training to equip visitors for schools work
- 16) Young Ambassadors – SACRE needs to work alongside young people
- 17) Engage with school governors
- 18) Broaden the working party for agreed syllabus – use local people to help produce it
- 19) Find out if there are any RE SLEs and get them on the SACRE
- 20) Ensure that everything feeds into better RE in the classroom

**Which of these needs to be a priority for Bracknell Forest SACRE?**