

A response to Lord Nash's letter to SACREs

NASACRE welcomes Lord Nash's letter and thinks that SACREs should discuss the letter and its implications for their own Local Authorities. SACREs are encouraged to write to the Under Secretary of State for Schools to:

- thank him for the letter;
- support the proposal to commission an analysis of Annual Reports and produce a report about SACREs nationally on that basis;
- point out that SACRE members are not volunteers but appointed members of a statutory body and, that whilst they offer much to their local authorities (LA) in terms of social and cultural capital, their main purpose is to advise the LA on religious education and collective worship;
- ask the Under Secretary of State how the Department for Education is going to hold local authorities to account in relation to their responsibilities to support and resource SACREs;
- ask the Under Secretary of State about the relationship SACRE should have with Academies and Free Schools in light of the Academies Commission Report 2013 where local authorities are seen to be the champion of children and young people and therefore advocates for a broad and balanced curriculum, including RE which is the only curriculum responsibility of LA.

The Director of Children's Services and the appropriate Portfolio holder should be sent a copy of Lord Nash's letter with SACRE's response.