

## National Updates

### Report of NASACRE AGM 2014

**Rising to the Challenge Keynote speaker** Stephen Lloyd, MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Religious Education

Spoke with passion. Though it was polling day he still gave us his time, though he was expecting the audience to be made up mainly of teachers. As an atheist teenager, he enjoyed arguing with his RE teacher. There is so much misinformation about the world's religions that RE is more important than ever. Young people need to address the big questions such as 'Why are we here?' It empowers them to be free from zealots and from suspicion of people who are different. It is about freedom and truth. The APPG has 80 members and has been lobbying the DFE over the unintended consequences of the government's reforms. He is concerned that many free schools are run by fundamentalists. He believes that the passion is stronger and that grassroots teachers are undervalued by the secretary of state, the DSFE and even, sometimes, their own schools.

Because of slashed budgets, many SACREs lack administrative support. Get your local MP and Eric Pickles to remind local authority of its responsibilities.

Education is not a commodity but contributes to the health of democracy.

The LA is still responsible for children, even if they are in academies and free schools (these schools get funding for RE so SACREs have a right to advise and support them.)

### Chair's Report

In December, David Hampshire and I had a very useful meeting with officials at the Department for Education in which the statutory role of SACREs was once again recognised and where we were assured that the government has no plans to change the current legislative arrangements for RE.

NASACRE hopes that an annual analysis of SACRE Reports might be reinstituted in the coming academic year, subject to a bid for charitable funding which is being made in collaboration with the RE Council

### Other national updates

#### Teach RE Course

The Culham St Gabriel's *Teach RE* course has been revised to try to meet many of the needs identified in both the Ofsted *Realising the Potential* report and the APPG report on RE: *The Truth Unmasked*. This distance learning course is designed to support teachers' subject knowledge, and also to provide opportunities to apply this to classroom practice. The course is appropriate for all teachers of RE or those planning to teach the subject.

Teachers from primary, special and secondary schools are already signing up for the course, and many have begun to develop schemes of learning and multi media presentations as part of their course work. A limited number of funded places are still available for HLTAs to take the course. If you would like more information about the course or funded places please email [trec@cstg.org.uk](mailto:trec@cstg.org.uk).