



Department  
for Education

Ms Katy Staples  
Adviser to Swindon SACRE  
c/o Stuart Figini  
Civic Offices, Euclid Street  
Swindon  
SN1 2JH

Department for Education  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London, SW1P 3BT

Tel: 0370 000 2288

[www.gov.uk/dfe](http://www.gov.uk/dfe)

Email enquiry form:

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Dear Ms Staples,

Thank you for your letter of 13 April, addressed to Lord Nash, about the role of SACRES in promoting the teaching of Religious Education (RE). As Parliament has now dissolved in the period leading up to the General Election, I have been asked to reply as an official in the department.

The department is aware that many individual SACRES, along with NASACRE, are working hard to make academies aware of the advantages of teaching the agreed syllabus and to encourage them to participate in the family of schools that their local SACRE supports. NASACRE is also identifying and disseminating good practice that can help SACRES develop constructive working relationships with academies in their local areas. We will consider what more the department can do to encourage academies who wish to work more closely with their SACRE, and more importantly to ensure that academies are aware of their statutory duties to provide RE for all their pupils.

The analysis of the SACRE reports will help officials to identify good practice but, more importantly, it will also help to ensure that all local authorities are fulfilling their statutory duties, including providing the appropriate level of support and resource to their SACRE. The resourcing of the SACRE is a matter for the local authority. If the analysis of the annual reports does identify significant problems then we will consider what further action is necessary.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

**James Brazil**

**Lead Drafter - Ministerial Correspondence Team**