

Dear Lord Nash

The Slough SACRE thanks you for your letter about the importance of SACREs across the country. As members we are pleased to have the value of our work recognised.

We were pleased to read of your recognition of the vital importance of good religious education for all pupils. We have a responsibility to monitor and support RE in the schools we serve. The changing roles of local authorities and the current style of Ofsted reports makes this difficult for us, along with the focus, time and commitment schools have to attach to other areas of the curriculum for which they are more publically accountable. Linked with this we are also concerned about how we should relate with academies and free schools. The Academies Commission Report of 2013 made it clear that local authorities should champion children and young people in their areas including their access to a broad and balanced curriculum. As responsibility for RE is delegated to local authorities, their SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences, we are interested to know how you recommend we should liaise with those schools now outside of local authority control?

Our SACRE is fortunate in the support it receives from the local authority. However, we work in partnership with a number of neighbouring SACREs which are not so well supported. You have judged the work of SACREs to be important and valuable so we are interested to know if there are any plans to call local authorities to account in relation to their responsibilities to support and resource SACREs?

We very much welcome the proposal to commission an analysis of Annual SACRE Reports so that a report about the work of SACREs nationally can be produced to support our continuing efforts.

Regards

Jo Fageant  
On behalf of the Slough SACRE