

## **NASACRE AGM May 2008 Ofsted Report**

1. Ofsted's has received a number of responses, including a very welcome contribution from NASACRE, to its 2007 RE report 'Making Sense of Religion' – available as a download at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) - While the report was broadly welcomed, points were raised about, for example:
  - Ofsted's evidence base and the implications this has for the reliability of judgements
  - Whether Ofsted is advocating use of the NSNF and whether it is recommending it should become statutory basis for RE
  - The question of whether one or two attainment targets might be the best basis for planning and assessment in the subject
  - The suggestion that the statutory basis for RE in 6th forms might be reviewed
  - The difficulties SACREs face in monitoring the quality of provision in schools.
  
2. The current round of subject inspection involves 30 visits to primary and 30 to secondary schools each year. This year the visits include a wider range of LAs than in the previous year but we are trying to 'pair' visits so we go to both a secondary and primary in each LA – but this is not always feasible. The visits include as one focus the contribution made by RE to the promotion of community cohesion. We are also looking closely at a number of other threads including:
  - A continuing evaluation of the impact of agreed syllabuses in a wider range of local authorities
  - The teaching of Christianity
  - Continuity and progression in the RE curriculum
  - Innovation in the curriculum delivery of RE
  
3. We are now including visits to 'good practice' schools both as part of, and in addition to, our routine visits. We are seeking further examples of schools where exceptional good practice exists and would welcome suggestions – with an indication of the particular area of strength.
  
4. Ofsted has recently issued further guidance to Sec 5 inspectors to clarify the legal basis for RE and set out the responsibilities of inspectors in relation to checks on whether schools are fulfilling their statutory duties. We are now undertaking a systematic review of Sec 5 reports to identify evidence of references to both RE and collective worship. I will provide an indication of our initial findings at the meeting.

5. Ofsted is current developing guidance about the inclusion of a judgement on community cohesion in its inspections of schools from Sept 2008. Appropriate attention will be paid to 'faith' as a dimension of CC, where RE is likely to be a key player.
6. The 2008 HMI RE Conference - scheduled for 20 May 2008 – is being organised in partnership with NATRE with a focus on pedagogy in RE. It will bring together the RSAs appointed to support the roll out of the secondary curriculum and will also involve representation from QCA. As an outcome we hope to provide some useful steers about ways of extending the guidance linked to the non-statutory national framework.
7. A report of the 2007 HMI RE 'event' held jointly with SSAT - focused on Personalising Learning in RE – is being prepared for consideration for publication.
8. Currently considering, along with QCA, whether to review and update the SACRE Self-evaluation Tool published in 2004 to reflect the current context of SACREs more closely. NASACRE will need to be involved in any review.
9. Ofsted has continued to meet with SACREs from across the country to share our work with members and hear from SACREs about their work and concerns. Among the issues that have been raised are:
  - The issue of how SACREs can undertake their responsibility for monitoring the provision for RE/CW and the effectiveness of their Agreed Syllabus
  - The likely impact on RE of the secondary (and imminently, the primary) national curriculum reviews and the issue of how SACREs can respond
  - The implications for RE and SACREs of the new requirement on schools to promote community cohesion – to be inspected from Sept 2008