

Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward CoRE Report September 2018

This is the final report from the Commission on Religious Education. It is based on two years of consultation and consideration. The full report is available on the Religious Education Council (REC) website.

The report gives some evidence for the current landscape in Religious Education, proposes a new vision for the subject and makes eleven recommendations for the future of Religious Education in England. These include recommendations to change legislation and guidance for RE.

This detailed report does give some very interesting insights into the religious and non-religious landscape in Britain today and describes it as 'complex, diverse and plural'. The report will prove useful in helping us as we revise our Agreed Syllabus and think about the purpose, nature and breadth of Religious Education over the next few years.

It is too early to tell yet whether all the recommendations will be acted upon and what these may mean for RE, SACREs and schools. NASACRE have already responded to the report with the NASACRE Executive issuing a statement in the SACRE Briefing Issue 20:

“PLEASE NOTE: the CoRE report is NOT statutory and therefore all SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences should continue to operate as before. All Agreed Syllabi must still be implemented and reviewed in line with current legislation”.

I will keep SACRE updated of any developments based on the CoRE report.

On the next page are the 11 recommendations which I have categorised. The numbers in brackets refer to the number of the recommendation in the CoRE report.

Proposed statutory changes	Teaching support	Curriculum and Monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the title of the subject from Religious Education to Religion and Worldviews (1) • Make the proposed National Entitlement in RE statutory for all publicly funded schools (2) • Remove the requirement on local authorities to convene Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASC) and produce an Agreed Syllabus as this will no longer be necessary (4) • Amend legislation on SACREs, changing name to Local Advisory Network for Religion and Worldviews, changing membership groups, ringfencing funding (8) • Review the right of withdrawal from Religious Education (11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce national non-statutory Programmes of Study KS1 – 4 similar to National Curriculum subjects (3) • Increase support and training at Initial Teacher Education (6) • Strengthen CPD for teaching the national Programmes of Study with government funding for 5 years (7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review external accreditation in RE (GCSE, A Level, vocational) against National Entitlement when there is a general review of these specifications (5) • Strengthen monitoring of the subject e.g. Ofsted to monitor school compliance against National Entitlement, DfE to publish data on hours taught for all subjects (9) • DfE to review the impact of school performance measures (e.g EBacc., Progress 8) on the provision and quality of the subject. (10)

SACRE = Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
 CPD = Continuing Professional Development
 DfE = Department for Education
 EBacc = English Baccalaureate