

NASACRE CONFERENCE 2023 REPORT BY DAVE LOMAX

The conference was held in London on the 22nd May 2023 at Fishmongers Hall. A wonderful building now associated with a terrorist attack which is a shame as it is beautiful in a interesting area- when I got bored I could look out on the Thames and the Shard. The food was also amazing.

We had 3 guest speakers,

- Dr. Kathryn Wright CEO of the Culham St. Gabriel's Trust who offer support to Sacre's. I have booked an online workshop with her.
- Charles Clark- former Education Secretary and Home Secretary in a Labour Government. Without being biased he was rather political but he did identify strengths and weaknesses of Sacre.
Strengths- community cohesion, strong values, the moral high ground, brings people from different communities and faiths together in a positive way and considers the outcomes for young people.
Weaknesses-financially weak, lack resources and have a marginal role, not always seen as important.
- Dr. David Smith who did a summary of the 2021-22 Sacre reports. He reported on a number of aspects to the reports,
 1. There are 153 local authorities in England, therefore 153 Sacre's. However, only 67 sent in a report. I don't understand this as I thought it was mandatory.
 2. 78% of Sacre's had funding. Implying that 22% did not get LA support.
 3. Most reports discussed RE but few considered collective worship
 4. Many reports gave no advice to schools or local authorities.
 5. 63% of reports considered GCSE RE but only 30% considered RE below key stage 4 and non-examination RE.

For me the best part of the conference was the opportunity to speak with people from other Sacre's. On my table there was a Council Official from Blackburn, 2 Sacre members from Surrey, a Sacre member from Essex (Surry and Essex clearly cover huge areas), a Sacre member from Waltham Forest in London and 2 people from Rochdale Sacre, one of whom was the LA school improvement officer! One thing we discussed was funding and it was very different. Rochdale get £2000, Essex £12000 and Surrey couldn't remember the amount but thought it was £20,000

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