

NASACRE Constitution 2023

1. The Name of the Association

The name of the Association shall be the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE).

2. The Mission of the Association

NASACRE's Mission Statement shall be:

- ❖ NASACRE exists to strengthen local SACREs and to support them in carrying out their statutory duties and responsibilities.
- ❖ NASACRE represents and celebrates SACREs at a strategic national level.

3. Basis of membership and duties

- 3.1 Every SACRE in England is affiliated to NASACRE and each SACRE shall be invited to subscribe to the Association, membership being renewable annually on payment of an annual subscription. These subscribed member SACREs constitute the Council.
- 3.2 The Council shall meet at least once annually; this meeting shall be known as the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It will be deemed to be quorate when one quarter of subscribed SACREs is represented.
- 3.3 Each subscribed SACRE shall be entitled to send any number of representatives to the meetings of the Council, but on any matter on which the Council takes a vote, subscribed SACREs shall each be entitled to cast **one** vote only.
- 3.4 The Council shall be responsible for review and amendment of the Constitution, as appropriate.
- 3.5 A majority of one half plus one of the Council shall be necessary for any amendment to the Constitution.

4. The Honorary Officers

Honorary Officers shall be nominated by a SACRE and must be an officer to, or a member or co-opted member of, that SACRE.

These shall be elected for a period of two years and shall comprise:

- 4.1 The Chair
- 4.2 The Vice Chair
- 4.3 The Assistant to the Chair
- 4.4 The Secretary
- 4.5 The Treasurer

The Vice Chair / Chair / Assistant to the Chair is a 6 year term of office with 2 years in each Officer role, the Vice Chair being elected to automatically move into the next role after two years. At any one time, 3 officers will be on the Executive at different stages of these roles. If at any time, one of these Officers is unable to continue, the Executive may appoint a temporary substitute from the other two post holders until the next AGM. The Exec may extend period of service on the Committee to ensure posts are filled.

An Honorary Officer may relinquish their office at any time. If an Honorary Officer is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings they shall be deemed to have relinquished their office and would need to seek re-election at the next Council AGM if they so desired.

5. The Executive Committee (the Exec)

Exec members shall be nominated by a SACRE and must be an officer to, or a member or co-opted member of, that SACRE. Similarly, a person co-opted by the Exec would normally be an officer to a SACRE or a member of a SACRE, but in some cases their specific area of expertise might be deemed more significant than the aforementioned criteria. Exec members are elected to serve for 3 years.

The Exec comprises the elected Honorary Officers together with no more than eight other members elected by the Council. The Exec has the power to co-opt up to three additional members. The Exec shall include the following roles:

- 5.1 Communications Officers who shall have oversight of the Association's communications strategy and communications, including the SACRE *Briefings* sent to SACREs
- 5.2 Conference Organisers who shall have oversight of the Annual Conference in partnership with the Secretary and the Treasurer
- 5.3 Development Officers who shall oversee the production of a Development Plan and report to the Exec and Council on its progress

With the agreement of the Exec, the roles set out in 5.1 – 5.3 may be shared between members of the Exec. Members of the Exec shall serve for a period of three years, after which time they must seek re-election by the Council at the AGM. Normally, members of the Exec should not serve more than six years consecutively. Co-opted members shall normally serve for two years when a review by the Exec will take place; they may serve as a co-opted member for up to six years consecutively.

If a member of the Exec misses three consecutive meetings, they may be deemed to have left the Committee.

The Exec shall be responsible for the planning of other activities and events in fulfilment of the aims of the Association.

6. Subscriptions and Finance

There shall be a membership fee, which shall be fixed from time to time by the Council. This fee shall not be deemed as the payment for the Annual Conference, which is additional to the annual meeting of the Council (AGM).

7. Winding-up

If for any reason the Association was to be dissolved, any assets remaining in the Association's bank account(s) shall be divided equally between those SACREs which were subscribed members at the time of the dissolution of the Association, once all other outstanding debts have been cleared.

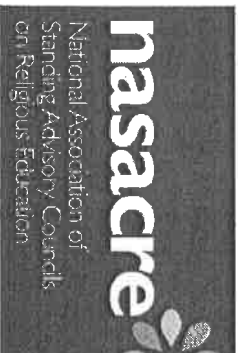
Note

The association is in process of registering as a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation**.

May 2023

NASACRE CIO Registration York – 20th May 2024

- 1: Introductions
- 2: Why are we registering as a CIO?
- 3: What do we need?
- 4: The Draft Constitution
 - Mission
 - Membership
 - Mechanisms
- 5: What's Next?
- 6: Membership Consultation and Feedback

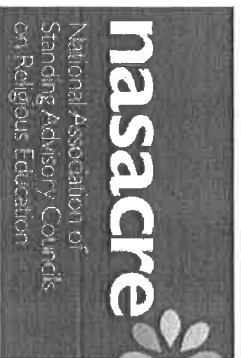


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Why are we registering as a CIO?

The NASACRE Executive decided to register as CIO in 2023 in order to:

- Secure the future of NASACRE
- Enable NASACRE to write contracts and (potentially) employ staff
- Strengthen NASACRE's ability to apply for (and win!) grants/bids
- Meet the conditions of the bank for a bank account
- Protect the Executive and manage their liability as individuals

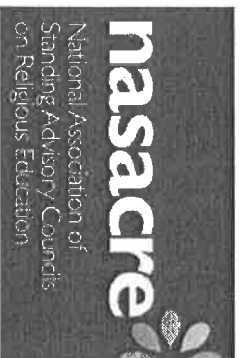


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What do we need?

The Charity Commission requires NASACRE to provide:

- Evidence of authorisation/approval to use the name
- Appropriate charitable aim(s)
- An appropriate constitution/governing document

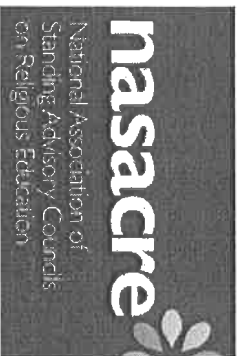


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The Draft Constitution

- NASACRE's current constitution (set in 2023) is 2 pages long
- The Draft Constitution, developed from the Charity Commission's own template) is nearly 28 pages long!
- Some of the major changes are summarised in the supporting paper

It is a *DRAFT* Constitution – nothing has been finalised yet



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NASACRE Mission

The NASACRE Mission (Objects) is proposed as:

- a) The Charitable Purpose of strengthening and supporting all local SACRES across England in their duties including any future duties that might be required of SACRES following a change in the law.
- b) The Advancement of Education (the subject of Religious Education) through strengthening and supporting all local SACRES across England in their duties, including but not limited to providing
 - i) services, education, advice, information and resources to and through local SACRES
 - ii) workshops, conferences, seminars and/or lectures to and through local

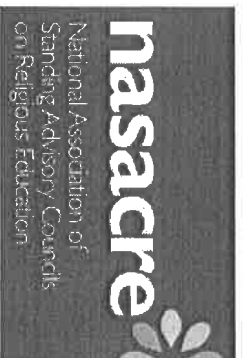


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NASACRE Membership

The Draft Constitution allows:

- any English SACRE that has paid subscription to be a Member, with full voting/nominating rights
- the Board of Trustees to establish other (non-voting) forms of Associate Membership

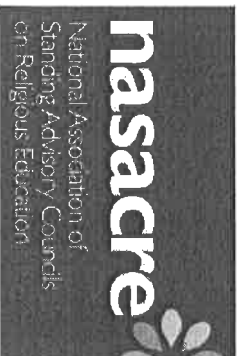


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NASACRE Mechanisms

The Draft Constitution sets out lots of mechanisms for how NASACRE will run as a charity, including:

- Nominating, voting for and getting rid of Trustees
- Trustee numbers and Terms of Service
- How General Meetings are called and run
- How to manage assets if the charity is wound up

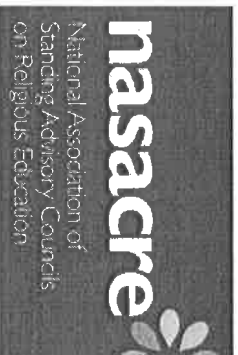


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NASACRE – What’s Next?

The process is:

- Member consultation and feedback from now to the end of June
- Consultation/feedback review by Working Group
- Redraft and Final Draft Constitution review by Executive
- Final Draft Constitution legal review
- Charity registration application, hopefully by September!



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NASACRE Member Consultation and Feedback

Please send your comments and questions to:

Mike McMaster – Barnabas Consulting
mike@barnabasconsulting.co.uk

By Friday 28th June 2024

Please be precise in your comments/feedback and, wherever possible, reference specific pages/sections of the Draft Constitution.



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**Significant Changes from the NASACRE Constitution 2023
to the Proposed CIO Constitution**

In 2023 the Executive applied for CIO status and submitted a short (2 page) Constitution to support that application.

In 2024 the Executive requested that Barnabas Consulting produce a revised Constitution to support a fresh CIO application.

The revised document is almost entirely based on the Charity Commission’s own template Constitution for a small charity. Barnabas Consulting has adapted the template to fit NASACRE’s original proposal wherever possible.

The new Proposed CIO Constitution is nearly 30 pages long as it has to use specific and legal language and definitions for key governance processes. Much of this detail does not change NASACRE’s original approach in significant ways. However, there are a few areas where the new Proposed CIO Constitution is significantly different:

	2023 Constitution	Proposed CIO Constitution	Comments
1	2: Mission	3: Objects	The first statement/object is effectively the same. The second statement (representation and celebration of SACREs) has been removed.
2	3: Membership and Duties - Membership	9: Membership of the CIO	Proposed CIO Constitution allows that any English SACRE can be a member (if they have paid their subscription!) Proposed CIO Constitution also allows the Trustees to create other (non-voting) forms of Associate Membership, but it does not define them.
3	3: Membership and Duties - Constitution changes	28: Amendment of Constitution	Proposed CIO Constitution increases the requirement to 75% of votes cast at a General Meeting for a Constitution change.
4	4: Honorary Officers - titles	12: Charity Trustees	Proposed CIO Constitution does not define multiple officer posts. However, it does allow the trustees to create such roles.

5	4: Honorary Officers - terms	13: Appointment of trustees 16: Reappointment of trustees	Proposed CIO Constitution (with 1/3 rd of trustees stepping down at each AGM) effectively has a 3-year maximum term of service for a trustee, and a maximum of 3 consecutive terms before they must break for at least 1 year. This would allow the trustees to operate the “rolling” officer roles (as per the 2023 Constitution) but does not define/require it in the Proposed CIO Constitution.
6	4: Honorary Officers - absence	15: Retirement and removal of trustees	2023 Constitution has absence from 3 consecutive committee meetings as deemed relinquishing of office. Proposed CIO Constitution has absence from all meetings in a 6-month period.
7	5: the Executive Committee - numbers	12: Charity Trustees	Proposed CIO Constitution requires minimum 3 trustees, maximum 12. Also the terms “Executive” and Honorary Officer are not in the Proposed CIO Constitution. The governing body is the Board of Trustees.
8	5: the Executive Committee - other roles	12: Charity Trustees	The 2023 Constitution defines other roles such as Communications Officer, Conference Organiser etc. These are not defined in the Proposed CIO Constitution, but the trustees have the power to create them as they choose.
9	7: winding up	29: Voluntary winding up or dissolution	The 2023 Constitution requires assets to be distributed to SACREs. The Proposed CIO Constitution requires the assets to be distributed according to the CIO’s charitable objects.

