

South West SACRE conference 2026

The future of RE, the importance of SACREs

1:30 – 4.45pm Mon 2nd March 2026 (via Zoom)

Keynote speakers:

Dr Vanessa Ogden

Sarah Lane Cawte

Workshops

There will be a selection of workshop sessions to explore the impact of a possible NC on RE as a subject, and on the wider work of SACREs. Workshop leaders:

- **Justine Ball** (Adviser to Hampshire and Oxford SACREs)
- **Jane Yates** (Adviser to Cumbria SACRE)
- **Phil Lord** (Chair of NAPfRE, Wales)

Dr Vanessa Ogden is the CEO of the Mulberry Schools Trust in East London. She has been a key member of the DfE's Curriculum and Assessment Review panel and now leads the work of the Task and Finish group for the RE sector, to develop a draft National Curriculum for RE.

Sarah Lane Cawte is Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. She was formerly Chair of Swindon SACRE and is currently Chair of Essex SACRE. She works as the Education Officer for the Free Churches Group of England and Wales.

Cost: £20 per delegate

To register for the conference, contact your SACRE clerk who will arrange bookings. Alternatively, contact Ed Pawson directly:

efpawson@gmail.com

SW SACRE conference 2026

The future of RE and the importance of SACREs

Programme (online via Zoom)

Monday 2nd March 2026

Welcome to the SW SACRE conference for 2026.

This year we are excited to be welcoming 2 keynote speakers, with a selection of workshops on different areas of SACRE's work.

1.30 – 1.40pm	Introduction and welcome: Ed Pawson
1.40 – 2.20	Keynote: Sarah Lane Cawte
2.20 – 2.30	QandA
2.30 – 2.40	Break
2.40 – 3.30	Workshops (3 optional choices, see below)
3.30 – 3.45	Break
3.45 – 4.20	Keynote: Dr Vanessa Ogden
4.20 – 4.45	QandA

Workshop seminar choices

Lead	Topic	Details
Phil Lord (adviser to 4 SACREs and Chair of NAPfRE, Wales)	What is <i>Cynefin</i> and how might it be understood in an English context?	Phil will discuss the concept of <i>cynefin</i> , which means 'belonging place' or 'habitat'. It is a central feature within the new Curriculum for Wales, used to build identity, heritage and community connection. What could it look like in an English setting?
Justine Ball (Adviser to Hampshire and Oxford SACREs)	RE in the NC? What are the implications for SACREs?	Justine will explore the way SACREs could change, in the light of RE joining the National Curriculum. What are the strengths of SACREs that we would want to build on?
Jane Yates (Adviser to Cumbria SACRE)	SACREs and local govt reorganisation	Jane will talk through her experience of LA reorganisation and explore the implications for SACREs. This may well have contrasting outcomes in different areas across the country.

Conference Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85697831445>

Meeting ID: 856 9783 1445

The talk from Dr Vanessa Ogden can be accessed free of charge by SACRE members from anywhere in the country. Please register [here](#).