

## Local Authorities will continue to receive funding for SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences.



Earlier this year, in response to a parliamentary question, Nick Gibb MP; Minister for School Standards, made a commitment that SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences, **will continue to be funded by central government once the Education Services Grant is abolished** at the end of this financial year (2016-17).



In terms of future funding, NATRE has been in correspondence with the Department for Education and can now confirm that SACREs will be funded through the central school services block (CSSB) from 2018-19, which is one of the blocks in the national funding formula.



NATRE remains concerned that **there appear to be very large variations between local authorities in the proportion of this government grant that is spent on the work of SACREs.**

It might be interesting to those of you involved with SACREs to note that SACREs are listed under the column headed '**Responsibilities held for all schools**' as opposed to that headed, 'responsibilities held for maintained schools only'. This may be a recognition that the work of SACREs usually has an impact on academy schools and not just on the schools maintained by the local authority.

Teacher representatives involved in SACREs may wish to:

- share this document with your local SACRE Chair and Adviser (where there is one in post)
- ask that SACRE funding is placed on the agenda for the next meeting
- ask questions about funding at meetings. In particular:
  - what percentage is of the grant is spent on SACRE in the authority?
  - Has this figure been benchmarked against decisions in other authorities?
- share what they learn with NATRE so that we can monitor the situation in partnership with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs).

### Technical Information to pass on to your local authority

For further information, see the [NFF Policy Document](#) and the [2018-19 Operational Guidance](#) (specifically paragraph 133 see extract in **appendix A**). Try to ignore the error in the title for SACRE 😞

The schedules (sch) referenced in the table are those in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017. They concern expenditure in connection with the authority's functions in relation to the standing advisory council on religious education constituted by the authority under section 390 of the 1996 Act(b) or on the reconsideration and preparation of an agreed syllabus of religious education in accordance with Schedule 31 to the 1996 Act.

## Appendix A

### Statutory and regulatory duties -extract

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of children’s services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)</li> <li>• Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)</li> <li>• Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)</li> <li>• Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools’ budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)</li> <li>• Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)</li> <li>• Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority’s chief finance officer’s responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)</li> <li>• Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)</li> <li>• Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)</li> <li>• <b>Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)</b></li> <li>• Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functions of LA related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Sch 2, 56)</li> <li>• Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Sch 2, 73)</li> <li>• Functions relating to the financing of maintained schools (Sch 2, 58)</li> <li>• Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Sch 2, 57)</li> <li>• Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Sch 2, 58)</li> <li>• Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority’s chief finance officer’s responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 for maintained schools (Sch 2, 59)</li> <li>• Functions made under Section 44 of the 2002 Act (Consistent Financial Reporting) (Sch 2, 60)</li> <li>• Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 61)</li> </ul>