

AREIAC CONSTITUTION - AGREED AT THE AGM - July 2026

The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants



Supporting and developing leadership in RE and Collective Worship

The Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) (approved changes, July 2021, discussed by EXEC September 2025 and by EXEC January 2026- for discussion and agreement March 2026- for regional discussion and membership agreement at the AGM on 1st July 2026)

1. Name

The Association shall be called the “Association of Religious Education Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants” (AREIAC).

For the purposes of this document Religious Education (RE) also includes Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in Wales and Religious and Moral Education (RME) in Scotland.

AREIAC is a supportive Religious Education leadership association. It encompasses a diverse community of leaders with a shared passion for the development of a rich and meaningful religious education subject curriculum. We wish to nurture, care for, support and develop our subject leaders in their leadership role. We value diverse voices, within an environment of mutual respect and consideration.

2. Statement of Principles

AREIAC seeks to promote:

- the equal status of religious education with other curriculum subjects
- the contribution of religious education and collective worship to pupils’ spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development
- a high quality of teaching and learning in religious education which has opportunities for all pupils to study religious and non-religious worldviews.
- opportunities for pupils to develop their own beliefs and values, and to respect the rights of others to have different beliefs and values
- a religious education curriculum which challenges disadvantages and inequalities
- collective worship as an educational activity which protects and affirms the integrity of all those taking part
- links with international, national and local faith communities to advance the aims of religious education and collective worship in schools and colleges.

Nolan Principles: As an established professional association, we look to the Seven Principles of Public Life, a set of values which underpin public service in the United Kingdom.

They are: **Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, Leadership** – Holders of public office, and members of AREIAC, should act as examples to others and call out poor behaviour when they see it.

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3. Membership

Membership will be open to all those who subscribe to the Statement of Principles (2 above) of AREIAC, as well as to the AREIAC Code of Conduct, and who work to the Standards for CPD providers in RE and whose Religious Education leadership role and professional duties include one or more of:

- i) inspecting religious education and collective worship; and/or
- ii) professional advisers to Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs), Local Authorities (LAs), Multi Academy Trusts (MATs), diocesan education teams, schools, colleges and/or individual teachers within a regional or national setting in matters relating to religious education and collective worship.
- iii) writing or developing materials to support curriculum development or wider professional development with an established and respected Religious Education expertise

Our members **must** fulfil **at least one** of the following:

- have an established background in Religious Education classroom teaching (for example, QTS)
- work for LAs and/or in paid formal advisory roles for SACREs and/or dioceses
- be a Religious Education curriculum leader and deliver regional and/or national teacher professional development or commissioned teacher support to LAs, dioceses, Initial Teacher Training programmes or MATs
- have completed the Religious Education Leadership Scholarship Programme (Culham St Gabriel's (CStG)) or the Farmington Scholarship Programme and/or have accredited research in Religious Education pedagogy and practice.

The decision of the Executive as to whether an individual meets these criteria will be final.

The executive committee reserves the right, in extremis, to remove membership from any members deemed to be in breach of the principles in (2) or who have damaged, or who are in danger of damaging, the reputation of the organisation.

All paid-up members are entitled to:

- receive the regular newsletter and other update mailings,
- attend regional meetings, webinars and the AREIAC Annual General Meeting (AGM),
- attend the annual conference
- access restricted members only areas of the AREIAC website

Full membership: Paying the full annual subscription rate, for those working more than 50% in an RE leadership or advisory role.

Associate membership: Paying 50% of the annual subscription rate, for those who have part time responsibilities (50% or less) in an RE leadership or advisory role.

Retired membership: Paying a small published annual fee as agreed by the Executive.

Institution membership: Paying a negotiated fee dependant on numbers and status, for all members of an organisation.

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4. Management

4.1 The Executive Committee will comprise the following:

- i) Chair
- ii) Vice Chair
- iii) Secretary
- iv) Treasurer
- v) Membership Secretary
- vi) Executive Assistant
- vii) Conference Organiser or committee
- viii) National representation for Wales.
- ix) Regional Representatives.

Where a nation or region has a member who is an executive officer, that officer will be deemed to be the representative for AREIAC. Additional members can be appointed if nations or regions are not represented by the above post holders.

- x) Religious Education Council (REC) representative(s)

The Executive may co-opt further members for specific responsibilities as appropriate.

4.2 Elections

- i) The Chair will serve for two years in that capacity, after which they would normally become the Executive Officer for two years.
- ii) The Vice Chair will serve for two years in that capacity, after which they would normally become the Chair for the next two years.
- iii) The treasurer, secretary and membership secretary will serve for four years in that capacity (subject to review).
- iv) The regional and national representatives will serve for two years, followed by a further two years if re-elected by their groups. (subject to review).

4.3 Role of the Executive

The Executive will:

- i) Meet at least twice a year
- ii) Receive reports from regional group meetings
- iii) Be responsible for the content, planning and organisation of an annual National Conference
- iv) Act on behalf of the Association and report such actions to the AGM
- v) Co-ordinate the production of documents published on behalf of the Association
- vi) report to the regional groups on matters of current concern, through regional representatives and distribution of the minutes of the Executive meetings
- vii) Produce at least two newsletters each year and ensure the website is kept up to date
- viii) Represent AREIAC on national groups as deemed appropriate or directed by the chair: for example: Professional Religious Education Group (PREG)/REC/REHubs/CStG/Government Curriculum Meetings.

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4.4 Secretary

The Secretary will:

- i) Make arrangements for the conduct and organisation of all meetings as directed by the Executive
- ii) Record minutes of Executive and AGM meetings
- iii) Conduct correspondence of the Association

The Executive may delegate some of the duties to other members as they deem fit.

4.5 Treasurer

The Treasurer will act in accordance with the following guidelines:

- i) A separate bank account will be used for all money transactions
- ii) The account will be called the 'Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants'
- iii) Accounts for each year will be audited (according to legal need) and circulated to members with AGM documents for consideration
- iv) The Treasurer will handle the finances for the National Conference including speakers' expenses
- v) The National Conference accounts will be completed and submitted to the Chair for circulation to members within three months
- vi) There will be an annual subscription to the Religious Education Council

4.9 Vacancies to the executive

Any vacancy occurring during the period of office of the Executive may be filled by the Executive at its discretion until the next AGM.

4.10 Expenses

- i) Appropriate expenses incurred by Executive Committee members will be reimbursed by the Association.
- ii) No member shall incur any expenditure on behalf of the Association without the prior agreement of the Executive Committee.

5. Group Structure

The Association will meet in regional groups as well as holding an Annual General Meeting.

6. Annual Conference

An Annual Conference is open to all members of the Association. Non-members may attend part or all of the Conference at the discretion of the Executive.

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7. Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General meeting, the following business will be transacted. Other items for the agenda should be received by the Secretary ten days before the AGM. There shall be one vote per member present at the AGM. Only members are invited to attend the AGM.

- a) Election of Officers. Nomination of Association members can be received by the Secretary up to 24 hours before the AGM. A nomination should be proposed and seconded by members of the Association and should have the agreement of the nominee. The elections will be by a simple majority vote of the members of the Association present at the AGM and may be by secret ballot or electronic voting at the discretion of the Chair. In the event of a tie, the Chair's vote will be the casting vote.
- b) Reports from Regional Groups
- c) Report from the Executive
- d) Reports from representatives on various national religious education bodies and other appropriate professional groups (as appropriate)
- e) Presentation of accounts and review of annual subscription.

8. Alteration to the Constitution

This constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds majority of those members present at the AGM provided that any proposal to amend is submitted to the Secretary in writing two months before the AGM and circulated to all members at least two weeks before the AGM.