



Notice of a public meeting of

SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)

To:

Group A

Such Christian denominations and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, will approximately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.

Karen Vincent (Faith/Catholic)

Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

Imam Amar (Faith/Muslim)

Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish)

Mark Jones (Faith/Buddhist)

Fleur Kennedy (Faith/Bahai'i)

Colin Lewisohn (Faith/Humanist)

Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan)

Tony Lawton (Faith/Catholic)

Group B

A groups of persons representing The Church of England.

Sue Bland (CoE)

Joseph Everdell (CoE)

Group C

A group of persons to represent such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area.

Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree School)

Diane Norton (York St John University)

Group D

A group of persons representing the City of York Council. In this case of Elected Members appointment to this

group should ensure political balance and state which political group they represent. As an alternative, the Council may appoint representatives such as a governors association.

Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) (City of York Council)

Cllr Emilie Knight (City of York Council)

Cllr Martin Rowley BEM (City of York Council)

Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)

LA Officer

Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills,
City of York Council)

Date: Tuesday, 15 July 2025

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (Pages 5 - 6)

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members]

2. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (Pages 7 - 12)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2025.

3. **School Survey 2025** (Pages 13 - 14)
To receive an update on the 2025 school survey.
4. **Update from Interfaith**
To receive an update from Interfaith.
5. **Review and renewal of SACRE development plan** (Pages 15 - 24)
To review the SACRE development plan. The plan is shaped around the five key functions of SACREs contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit.
6. **Review of the Agreed Syllabus** (Pages 25 - 28)
To review the Agreed Syllabus, the current one of which one ends in 2026.
7. **NASACRE Update**
NASACRE Briefing 43 can be found at <https://nasacre.org.uk/sacre-briefing/>
8. **Correspondence on complaints/determinations**
A verbal update will be given on complaints received and the determinations in respect of those complaints.
9. **Any other business**
10. **Future meeting dates (6:59pm)**
15 October 2024 at 6pm at West Offices
27 January 2025 at 6pm at West Offices
11 March 2025 at 6pm at West Offices
15 July 2025 at 6pm at West Offices

Democracy Officer:

Name: Angela Bielby

Contact Details:

- Telephone – (01904) 552599
- E-mail – a.bielby@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

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我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)
এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)
Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)
własnym języku.
Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)
یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	15 May 2025
Present	<u>Group A</u> Karen Vincent Penny Coppin-Siddall Ben Rich Mark Jones Colin Lewisohn <u>Group B</u> Joseph Everdell <u>Group C</u> Taco Michiels Diane Norton <u>Group D</u> Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) Cllr Emilie Knight Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)
In Attendance	Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills, City of York Council)
Apologies	Councillor Rowley, Sue Bland, Fleur Kennedy and Dee Boyle

100. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (5.04pm)

Apologies for absence were received and noted for Fleur Kennedy, Dee Boyle, Sue Bland and Cllr Rowley. There were no declarations of interest.

101. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (5.08pm)

Resolved:

- i. That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2024 be approved subject to the following changes:
 - Under minute 78 regarding the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July, the last sentence of under minute 71 to

change to 'A Member noted that James Holt, a person of their faith had spoken at York Interfaith and that he may be useful as a guest speaker.'

- Under minute 84 it was agreed that the newsletter would be quarterly and this would be amended in the minutes.
- ii. That the minutes of the meetings held on 3 February 2025 and 24 February 2025 be approved as correct records.

Matters arising:

It was confirmed that the SACRE Annual Report had been submitted to the DfE and SACRE.

102. School Survey 2025 (5.11pm)

Maxine Squire explained that the school survey had been slimmed down the previous and she proposed remaining with that version. She asked Members would like specific themes including in the survey. She reported that the Agreed Syllabus would need to be agreed in 2026. She noted that she would ask business intelligence to put the surveys online for schools to complete.

During discussion about content of the survey it was suggested that a question related to the GCSE syllabus and faith the person studying the GCSE could be included. Maxine Squire was asked and confirmed that the survey went to all schools. The Chair suggested that a question regarding how schools found the Agreed Syllabus and Maxine Squire added that Humanism would be included in the new Agreed Syllabus. The Humanist Member noted that Humanists could help shape the Agreed Syllabus. It was suggested that the survey could include a question on what type of CPD would be useful for RE teachers. Following discussion it was:

Resolved: That Maxine Squire would work with the Chair on the school survey questions and with business intelligence on sending the survey out to schools:

Reason: In order to get the school survey completed.

103. Update from Interfaith (5.19pm)

Maxine Squire explained that she had reviewed other SACRE agendas and many had Interfaith as a standing agenda item. A Member noted that the update needed to be relevant and suggested that the SACRE Member who was a Member of Interfaith would be the most suitable person to contact.

Resolved: That Maxine Squire contact the SACRE Member who was a Member of Interfaith.

Reason: For an Interfaith update to given at future meetings.

104. RE Hubs Update (5.21pm)

Maxine Squire explained that the RE Hubs were a rich resource for school and that their events could be opened for SACRE Members to attend. She noted that the primary school group met termly and the secondary group met intermittently. Two Members who were secondary RE teachers noted that they had no experience of the secondary meetings and it was noted that there had been attempts in the past for the meetings to be arranged and it was suggested another secondary teacher noted that due to staffing changes in schools and not having the time to meet meant that he had not been a part of that group.

A Member noted that there were online opportunities to meet. It was noted that there had been an online meeting for the launch of the Agreed Syllabus during Covid and it was suggested there could be an online meeting for the relaunch of the new Agreed Syllabus. A Member noted that schools usually taught did Christianity plus another religion. Maxine Squire noted that non specialists were teaching RE and SACRE could look at how they were supported. It was then;

Resolved: That Maxine Squire email secondary RE teachers to see if they would like an online meeting.

Reason: In order to support secondary RE teachers.

105. Review of SACRE development plan (5.31pm)

Maxine Squire suggested that the new development plan ran from 2025 to 2027. She explained that the five key functions of SACRE were included in the development plan. She noted that there was a small budget attached to SACRE and Members could consider putting together an RE conference to start the process of reviewing the Agreed Syllabus to get the views of RE teachers. It was suggested that SACRE could partner with York St John University on this and Member who was a lecturer there noted that partnering up was a possibility.

[Penny Coppin-Siddall joined the meeting at 5.36pm]

Maxine Squire suggested pulling together a small working group to look at a possible conference and she noted it would come priority 2. The Chair noted that the point regarding school visits could be changed to green on the development plan. Members were asked to email the Democracy Officer their profile for the SACRE page of the council website. It was noted that the action to support the logo for the Interfaith competition had been achieved and the Chair suggested that there could be points added to the development plan to redevelop links with Interfaith, an RE conference and school visits. It was suggested that a youth element could be added to a conference. Maxine Squire noted that when the new development plan was completed it would be added to the SACRE page on the council website.

Resolved: That the Chair, Vice Chair and Maxine Squire put together a 2025-27 SACRE development plan.

Reason: To update the development plan.

106. NASACRE Update (5.43pm)

The website link to NASACRE updated was included on the meeting agenda. It was reported that NASACRE was now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

107. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (5.44pm)

It was noted that there had been no complaints to SACRE. Maxine Squire noted that schools needed to be reminded about determinations as when there had been a request for a child not to be included in RE, schools needed to inform SACRE of determinations. The Chair suggested that schools could be asked about applications for determinations in the schools' survey. A Member suggested that this could be a qualitative question about the reasons for reasons for withdrawals and a Member noted that it would interesting to see if schools' websites included information on the need to notify SACRE of determinations.

108. Any other business (5.49pm)

Further discussion took part on the school survey. A Member suggested that a small prize could be offered for schools completing the survey. Maxine Squire was asked and confirmed that there had been 19 responses

out of 63 schools of which from maintained schools and primary academies. She noted that Faith schools followed their Diocesan syllabus.

The Chair offered to meet with new Members and asked them to contact him if they would like to meet. Maxine Squire noted that the induction information could be sent to new Members.

109. Future meeting dates (5.53pm)

15 July 2025 at 6.00pm at West Offices (Apologies from Ben Rich)

14 October 2025 at 6.00pm at West Offices

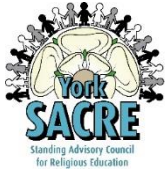
10 March 2026 at 6.00pm at West Offices

21 April 2026 at 6.00pm at West Offices

Cllr Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 5.54 pm].

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City of York SACRE School Survey 2025: Review of Locally Agreed Syllabus

The school survey 2025 will support the review of the locally Agreed Syllabus. The results will be used to build a picture around the impact of the current syllabus.

1. Is your school: Primary
Secondary
Special
2. On a scale of 1-10 how confident are teachers in your school in delivering Religious Education?
3. What do you feel is working well with the current locally Agreed Syllabus?
4. What could be included to improve the syllabus?
5. Which core religions would you want to see included at each Key Stage?
6. Which support materials accompanying the syllabus have you used?
7. Any other comments about the locally Agreed Syllabus?

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York SACRE – DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2024

The York SACRE development plan is shaped around the five key functions of SACRES contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit. These are:

1. To improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders
2. Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE
3. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus
4. Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship
5. Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony

York SACRE has begun a programme of self-evaluation activity using the NASACRE self-evaluation tool that underpins identified priorities.

City Of York SACRE: Development Plan 2022 – 2024

Priority 1 and 5: Improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders; Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony							Notes
Target: Raise awareness of and support for the work of City of York SACRE and RE as a subject							
Intended Impact: The work of SACRE is more visible in the City of York							
Actions	Timescale	People involved	Success Criteria	R	A	G	
Increase the profile of SACRE in the community: • Attend governor forums • Profiles of SACRE members on website • Regular newsletters	Autumn 2022	Members of SACRE Clerk to SACRE	All York schools and local and wider community aware of the role of SACRE	X			The membership has been updated but profiles are not present, not attending governor forums or regular newsletters
Continue to review the membership of SACRE to ensure that it continues to represent all significant Faith groups in York and to increase the number of teachers	On-going	Members of SACRE	SACRE membership includes all significant Faith groups in York and increased number of teachers			X	We have increased membership in terms of humanists and number of teachers but we need to look to increase other groups, such as Hindus.
Support the Interfaith logo competition	Autumn 2022	Chair of SACRE LA Adviser support SACRE Members of SACRE	Schools have a better understanding of the work of Interfaith York			X	This action was achieved, but has it led to better understanding of interfaith?

Establish links with existing youth voice groups e.g. York Youth Council Access for All Show me that I matter	On-going	Chair of SACRE LA Adviser support SACRE	The voice of children and young people informs the work of SACRE		X		SACRE members have met with some young people on their experiences of RE in schools. However further work is needed to engage with the specific groups listed.
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Priority 2: Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE							Notes
Target: R.E. teachers are provided with high quality professional development which meets their needs and supports the delivery of the agreed syllabus							
Intended Impact: The quality of R.E. teaching in the City of York is consistently good or better							
Actions	Timescale	People Involved	Success Criteria	R	A	G	
Commission a programme of CPD to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus	2022-24	Members of SACRE RE Adviser to SACRE LA adviser to SACRE	95% of evaluations from CPD events are good and better. Take up for CPD increases.	X			

Re-establish secondary network meetings	Autumn 2022	RE Adviser to SACRE LA adviser to SACRE	At least 60% of schools attend network meetings	X			
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Priority 3 and 4: Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus and Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship							Notes
Target: SACRE has an improved understanding of the provision of RE in York schools							
Intended Impact: York schools are complaint in meeting the statutory requirements for Religious Education							
Action	Timescale	People involved	Success Criteria	R	A	G	
SACRE will have an annual programme of reports from RE subject leads	2022-23 2023-24	SACRE members Primary and secondary RE subject leads	SACRE has an improved understanding of RE provision in schools	X			A report was written for Ralph Butterfield School
Collate all contact details for RE leads in primary and secondary schools	September 2022 September 2023 September 2024	LA Adviser to SACRE	SACRE has an updated directory of school contacts to improve communication with schools				This will need to be updated regularly.
School visits planned to share good practice and take feedback from schools to inform the work of SACRE. Widen the number of SACRE members who undertake school visits. This can include virtual visits and schools focus group opportunities.	2022-23 2023-24	SACRE members RE adviser to SACRE LA adviser to SACRE	Programme of visits/online meeting opportunities planned and agreed at SACRE board. Visit reports evaluated to identify support needs and actions for schools and SACRE		X		There was a visit to Ralph Butterfield school. 2 more visits to primary schools are planned in; one secular, one church.

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York SACRE – DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025-2027

The York SACRE development plan is shaped around the five key functions of SACRES contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit. These are:

1. To improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders
2. Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE
3. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus
4. Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship
5. Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony

York SACRE has begun a programme of self-evaluation activity using the NASACRE self-evaluation tool that underpins identified priorities.

Objective: Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

Intended Impact: The 5 year review of the locally agreed syllabus has taken place in line with statutory requirements

[illegible]

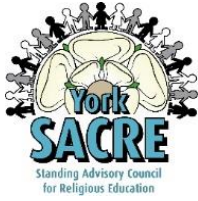
Objective: Promoting improvement in standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE

Intended Impact: RE teachers have access to CPD which supports them to deliver the locally agreed syllabus and provides them with insights in to best practice in RE

[illegible]

Objective: Contributing to cohesion across the community and promotion of social and racial harmony Intended Impact: The work of SACRE is more visible in the City of York				
Action	People Involved	Timescale	How will we measure success	Progress tracker
Continue to build better links with faith groups in the city including with Interfaith York				

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City of York SACRE

Options for the review of the Agreed Syllabus

Meeting Date: Tuesday 15th July 2025

1. The Legal Context

Religious Education (R.E.) is a statutory subject and each local authority area is required to have an agreed syllabus for R.E. York's current locally agreed syllabus was last reviewed in 2021 and so is due for review in 2026. The current locally agreed syllabus was bought from R.E. Today and York has bought its syllabus from RE Today since 2016; this is an option used by a number of local authorities nationally, including North Yorkshire Council.

SACRE is required to conduct a review of the agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE) every five years. The review involves an evaluation of the curriculum's content and delivery within a local authority's area. An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) is set up to conduct the review. The review ensures the syllabus remains relevant, effective, and aligned with legal requirements, while also considering societal and community changes.

An agreed syllabus **must** *'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'*. Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3)/ School Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para 5).

The development of a clear, well-structured agreed syllabus remains one of the most important functions of SACRE. SACREs are responsible for reviewing and revising the agreed syllabus, ensuring it is up-to-date and reflects the local context.

2. Key Aspects of the Review

The review examines the syllabus's content, ensuring it is comprehensive, balanced, and age-appropriate. It assesses the effectiveness of the syllabus in supporting teaching and learning, including progression, coherence, and breadth of learning. The review evaluates the assessment methods outlined in the syllabus and their effectiveness in informing teaching and learning. It considers the syllabus's impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. The review may consider national guidance and best practices for RE. The review takes into account the specific needs and characteristics of the local community.

3. The Review Process

The review process involves the following steps:

- **Consultation:**

SACREs consult with various stakeholders, including teachers, schools, and religious and philosophical groups.

- **Evidence Gathering:**

Data is gathered through surveys, questionnaires, and other methods to inform the review.

- **Decision Making:**

Based on the evidence, SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference decide whether to retain, amend, or replace the syllabus.

- **Budgeting:**

Resources need to be allocated for the review process, including potential costs for external expertise or resources.

4. The options for SACRE

In conducting the review SACRE needs to consider two options which are:

- a) **Option 1** – Developing a bespoke York locally agreed syllabus. This would involve considerable additional work and given the lack of subject adviser support would be difficult to achieve within the timeframes for the review.
- b) **Option 2**- Re-commission RE Today to deliver the revised locally agreed syllabus. York has now used RE Today twice and the advantages of remaining with them would be that it would minimise the changes for schools whilst delivering an up to date syllabus informed by the latest best practice. It would also provide SACRE and schools with support materials and on-going support from RE Today.
- c) **Option 3**- Commission a syllabus from another provider e.g. another local authority

5. Timeline for completion of the review of the Agreed Syllabus

The table below outlines the timetable for the completion of the review of the Agreed Syllabus. Given the importance of this work it will be the main focus for the work of SACRE during the academic year 2025-26.

<p>September to November 2025</p> <p>Survey the views of teachers and other stakeholders.</p> <p>December 2025</p>	<p>Consultation will include Questionnaire for schools</p> <p>Schools, SACRE members and interested groups invited to online consultation sessions</p> <p>Analysis of feedback</p> <p>Feedback to be considered at December SACRE meeting</p>
<p>January/February 2026:</p> <p>Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) set up and meeting Options, finance and timeline for a new syllabus to be discussed.</p> <p>SACRE meeting following feedback from ASC to discuss syllabus options and approve which syllabus will be adopted.</p>	<p>An initial ASC meeting with SACRE meeting to follow. This will be a decision making meeting and the ASC is a legal body that will nominate a chair.</p> <p>Following consideration of feedback and finances the ASC will decide which option to take and present this to the SACRE.</p>
<p>March 2026-June 2026</p>	<p>½ day for ASC to meet with follow on SACRE meeting this will include SACRE members writing and approval of introductory pages and updating SACRE on progress / communication with school</p>
<p>July – September 2026</p>	<p>Communication to schools, distribution of syllabus and writing training materials for launch.</p> <p>Officers / ASC & SACRE members attendance / delivery at launch conference day</p>

The advantage of remaining with RE Today is that they are able to support all aspects of the review including the launch conference. Given the capacity of SACRE a re-commissioning of the current arrangements should be strongly considered.

