



**Notice of a public meeting of
SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)**

- To:** SACRE members
- Group A
 Karen Vincent
 Penny Coppin-Siddall
 Ian Hodgson
 Daryoush Mazloum
 Imam Mirazam
 Ben Rich
- Group B
 Kirsty Hollinger
- Group C
 Taco Michiels
 Andy Tod
- Group D
 Cllr Andrew Waller (Chair)
 Cllr Ian Cuthbertson
 Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick
 Cllr Martin Rowley
- LA Officers
 Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills)
- Professional RE Advisor
 Olivia Seymour (Assistant Director of Education
 (Distinctiveness) Diocese of York)
- Date:** Tuesday, 29 November 2022
- Time:** 6.00 pm
- Venue:** The George Hudson Board Room - 1st Floor West
 Offices (F045)

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising** (Pages 1 - 6)
To approve the minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on 22 June 2022.
- 4. Draft SACRE Annual Report 2021-22** (Pages 7 - 12)
To consider the Draft SACRE Annual Report 2021-22.
- 5. National Data** (Pages 13 - 16)
Members will receive an update on the national data for GCSEs and A Levels. This will include a break down from schools compared with the national link to NATRE and REC reports.
- 6. Development Plan 2022-2024** (Pages 17 - 20)
To receive a report on progress towards the Development Plan.
- 7. National RE and Collective Worship updates** (Pages 21 - 26)
To receive a report detailing NASACRE updates.
- 8. Interfaith Week**
To consider SACRE's role in Interfaith Week.
- 9. Correspondence on complaints / determinations**
A verbal update will be given on complaints received and the determinations in respect of those complaints.
- 10. Work Plan**
To consider items for future meetings.
- 11. Urgent Business**

12. Future meeting dates

1 February 2023 at 6.00pm in the Hudson room at West Offices

Democracy Officer:

Angela Bielby

Tel: 01904 552599

Email: a.bielby@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services 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

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

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 własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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City of York Council	Committee Minutes
Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	22 June 2022
Present	<p><u>Group A</u> Penny Coppin-Siddall Daryoush Mazloum Ben Rich (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>Group B</u> Kirsty Hollinger</p> <p><u>Group C</u> Taco Michiels Andy Tod</p> <p><u>Group D</u> Cllr Andrew Waller (Chair) Cllr Ian Cuthberson Cllr Martin Rowley</p>
In Attendance	<p><u>LA Officers</u> Janie Berry (Director of Governance) Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills)</p> <p><u>Professional RE Advisor</u> Olivia Seymour (Assistant Director of Education (Distinctiveness) Diocese of York)</p>
Apologies	Kate Bailey (Group A), Ian Hodgson (Group A), Cllr Fitzpatrick (Group D) and Janie Berry (City of York Council Director of Governance)

25. Election of Chair [18:00]

It was proposed that Cllr Waller, as the City of York Council's new Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education, be nominated as Chair.

No further nominations were received, and it was

Resolved: That Cllr Waller be appointed as Chair of SACRE for one year.

Reason: In accordance with paragraph 5.1 of SACRE's Constitution.

26. Chair's Announcements [18:00]

There were no announcements from the Chair.

27. Apologies for Absence [18:00]

Apologies were received from: Kate Bailey, Ian Hodgson (Group A), Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick (Group D) and Janie Berry (Director of Governance).

28. Declarations of Interest [18:01]

There were no declarations of interest.

29. A short talk and Q&A on Buddhism [18:02]

Mark Jones, of the York Buddhist Centre, gave a talk on Buddhism. He described his own background as a Buddhist of 32 years' standing and provided a brief outline of the beliefs and principles of the faith, the differences between Western and Eastern practices, and common misunderstandings and stereotypes.

Andy explained that Mark visited Ralph Butterfield School as part of visiting speakers on different faiths

A question and answer session followed, during which Mark further explained:

- That the York Buddhist Centre would be adding information on what they can offer to schools on their website (for which there would be a charge). They would also be inviting people to the Centre.
- It was not a prophletising religion
- The York Buddhist community in York was small. As part of York Interfaith Week they would out on an evening for visitors.
- Buddhist festivals ran around the full moons.
- In some Buddhist religions Buddha was seen as a deity, although this was largely cultural. Western Buddhism saw Buddha as a human being.

- Three biggest misconceptions in Buddhism were monastics

A Member asked if a role for SACRE was to give guidance on paying for visits to schools. Olivia Seymour explained the difficulty with this and suggested that Committee A could look at this in more detail. It was suggested information on school visits could be added as an agenda item for a future meeting. Mark Jones was asked and agreed to discuss Buddhist representation on SACRE with his community.

Resolved: That the information on the work of the York Buddhist Centre be noted.

Reason: In order to be updated in the work of York Buddhist Centre

[Cllr Rowley and Mark Jones left the meeting at 18:35]

30. Minutes of the meeting on 5 January 2022 and 30 March 2022 and Matters Arising [18:35]

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held 5 January 2022 and 30 March 2022 be approved and signed as an accurate record.

The Chair noted the change in SACRE membership, as approved at the Council meeting in May 2022.

31. Monitoring of Standards - Development Plan [18:39]

Members considered the City Of York SACRE: Development Plan 2020 – 2022. Maxine Squire noted that the 2020-22 development plan had now come to an end and as such it was time to review it. She highlighted the following points:

- The impact of the COVID pandemic on the work of schools and SACRE was noted.
- There was a need to continue work on website and develop a communications plan across the school community, council and other agencies such as Interfaith York. This was supported by Olivia Seymour, who encouraged the development of this, building on the momentum of the launch of the agreed syllabus.
- SACRE was firmly established in its constitutional development.
- There was a need to look at the impact of the agreed syllabus and where schools would need support on the implementation of it. Questions on this may be added to the school monitoring survey and it would aid in the development of a CPD programme for schools.

During debate on the development plan, Members noted:

- The advantage of virtual meetings for schools.
- There was a small budget for SACRE to support work in schools
- SACRE did not have a clear view in the monitoring of teaching RE in schools
- The annual conference in schools had not been achieved and the barriers to engagement for attending those events was noted
- Training could be completed online.
- Olivia noted that the last primary conference was well attended and the secondary conference was more challenging with attendance opened up to all York secondary schools. It was suggested that a carousel type event may be welcomed by schools.
- The new development plan had been set around the NASACRE framework

Andy Tod informed Members One of the groups that a Speak Up Diversity York had approached the Local Authority and suggested that an action plan be created to address racism in York and it was suggested that they could be invited to speak at a future SACRE meeting.

Olivia undertook to check on the NASACRE website on its definition of stakeholders

Members welcomed a focus on communication as a priority for the work of SACRE

Maxine suggested that she and Olivia could draft the actions for the development and circulate to Members for comments. This was welcomed by Members and Ben offered to input into the actions. Maxine Squire reported that for the Annual Report Business Intelligence at the Council would be able to help distribute the questionnaires to schools. Members were asked for their views on questions to be included. Cllr Cuthbertson noted the limitations on including free text in the Business Intelligence software and he offered to liaise on this with Maxine. Taco Michiels, Andy Tod and Kirsty Hollinger also agreed to input on this.

Resolved: That a working group of Maxine Squire, Olivia Seymour, Taco Michiels, Andy Tod and Kirsty Hollinger be formed to examine the development plan.

Reason: In order to keep the development plan up to date.

32. National RE and Collective worship updates [19:17]

Members were updated on Regional and National updates. This included updates on the Religion and Worldviews Project, White paper on Education and RE, RETHink RE media release and report card on RE, and the NATRE report on RE in Secondary Schools and a summary of the NASACRE conference. Members were asked whether the Religion and Worldviews Project should be considered in further detail at a future meeting, particularly in relation to its impact on the curriculum. Olivia explained potential changes to the statutory role of SACREs nationally as a result of the White paper on Education and RE. She noted that at the moment, the majority of York schools used the SACRE agreed syllabus. Concerning the NATRE report on RE in Secondary Schools and a summary it was noted that there had been an increase in the uptake of RE at KS4.

Resolved: That the National RE and Collective worship updates be noted.

Reason: In order to be kept up to date on National RE and Collective worship.

33. Correspondence on complaints / determinations [19:23]

It was reported that there had been no complaints to SACRE.

Resolved: That Members be updated on complaints.

Reason: In order to be kept updated on complaints to SACRE and determinations of complaints.

34. 2022-23 Work plan [19:25]

It was agreed that the development of the development plan would be added as an item on the next meeting agenda

Resolved: That the work plan be updated to reflect the above change.

Reason: In order to keep the work plan updated.

35. Future meeting dates [19:26]

11 October 2022 at 6.00pm in the Hudson room, West Offices

It was agreed that there an additional meeting be added in December, the February meeting move to March and the following meeting to be held after Annual Council in May 2023.

36. Urgent Business - Interfaith Week [19:28]

Members discussed Interfaith week (week of 12 November 2022).
Members were invited to the tree planting event as part of this.

Resolved: That Interfaith Week would be added to the Development Plan.

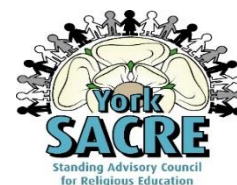
Reason: In order to support the work of York Interfaith.

Cllr Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.04 pm and finished at 7.41 pm].



City of York SACRE Annual Report 2021-22



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1. Introduction

Foreword by the Chair of SACRE

Meeting and Attendance 2020-21

City of York SACRE met four times in the academic year 2021-22

5th October 2021

5th January 2022

30th March 2022

22nd June 2022

During the academic year 2021-22 City of York SACRE met in a combination of remote and face to face meetings

The attendance, by Committee, is set out below:-

Committee	5 th Oct 2021	5 th January 2022	30 th March 2022	22 nd June 2022
Committee A Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities	5	4	2	3
Committee B Representing the Church of England	2	1	0	1
Committee C Representing teachers	1	2	2	2
Committee D Representing City of York Council	3	4	4	3
LA Officer	1	1	1	1
Total	12	12	9	10

All meetings, apart from the March meeting, were quorate however there are a number of vacancies and efforts are being made to fill the vacancies.

A focus on the SACRE development plan, a report from the Local Authority officer (including a focus on standards) and a report on national NASACRE and RE professional organisations updates are standing items at each meeting

2. RE (statutory responsibilities)

Locally agreed syllabus

There are 19 primary, 2 secondary and 1 special maintained schools who follow the City of York Locally Agreed Syllabus

There are 25 primary, 4 secondary and 1 special academies who have adopted the City of York Locally Agreed Syllabus

Separate regulations covering maintained special schools require them to ensure that as far as practicable every pupil receives opportunities to explore RE. The City of York Agreed Syllabus 2021-2026 includes specific guidance and support for Special Schools. Special Schools use the City of York Locally Agreed Syllabus, at least partially, and adapt it to meet the needs of the pupils.

Standards and monitoring of RE

Due to the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, City of York SACRE has been limited in its ability to actively monitor standards in RE across the York schools. There were 6 inspections of York Schools between September 2021 and July 2022. Five primary schools were inspected and one secondary school. The Ofsted reports for 5 out of the 6 schools make no direct reference to Religious Education. York SACRE has considered how it can develop its monitoring of standards in R.E. in the future as the monitoring of R.E. through Ofsted reports is not providing detailed information about the quality of R.E.

In 2022 national exams returned for the first time since 2019. Validated data is currently unavailable but will be presented to SACRE in January 2023.

City of York SACRE developed and approved a monitoring questionnaire in the academic year 2020-21 and this was circulated to schools in September 2021. In 2021 responses were received from a limited number of schools and SACRE has considered how the questionnaire can be further developed in 2022-23 to increase the number of responses to inform both the monitoring of R.E. in schools and also to inform the SACRE development plan.

Teaching training and materials and advice for schools

City of York SACRE supports the NATRE local group for primary RE teachers and a NATRE local group for secondary teachers set up following the launch of the locally agreed syllabus in May 2021.

City of York SACRE received no formal complaints regarding RE provision in the academic - year 2021-22.

3. Collective Worship

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework and in the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE published guidance in 2017 to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance is available on the City of York SACRE website (www.york.gov.uk/sacre).

Schools may apply to SACRE for a determination in order to provide Collective Worship of a non-Christian or other form. As in previous years, no determinations were requested by schools.

There were no complaints registered with City of York SACRE in 2021/2022 in respect of collective worship. Updating City of York guidance on Collective Worship has been identified as a development point for City of York SACRE.

4. Links with other bodies

City of York SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Through the year SACRE members were informed of developments in RE from NASACRE, The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and The Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC). The Professional RE Adviser attended the Summer 2022 NASACRE conference and reported back to members.

City of York SACRE has a long- standing relationship with York Interfaith Group. York Interfaith Group have set up a mechanism to support visits and visitors to York schools.

City of York SACRE supports the York Holocaust Memorial Day event. This event took place in January 2022.

During the Academic year 2021-22 City of York SACRE commissioned some specialist RE adviser support from Olivia Seymour, Diocese of York. This support focused on supporting the work of SACRE meetings, training for SACRE members and reporting on regional and national updates .

5. City of York SACRE's own arrangements

During the academic year 2021-22 City of York SACRE continued its close relationship with City of York Council's Democratic Services. In autumn 2021 Democratic Services, in consultation with City of York SACRE, finalised the process of reviewing the constitution and it was approved by members. This has led to the role of SACRE being clarified within the Council's constitution and has enhanced the visibility of SACRE.

Structures and processes to enable members to monitor RE have been identified as priorities for 2022-23.

An officer in the Local Authority's Democratic Services Section acts as Clerk to SACRE. In addition, the Director of Governance provides professional support and advice to SACRE, principally on matters of governance and matters relating to the work of the Council and its Committees.

The people who serve on York SACRE are invited to do so by the Corporate Director of Children's Services and Education on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. The current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Committee A - Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-

Kate Bailey joined March 2021 (Catholic)

Ben Rich (Jewish)

Keith Albans (Methodist)

Iman Abid Salik (Muslim)

Tracey Copestake resigned autumn term 2020 Deborah Evans joined March 2021

(Religious Society of Friends)

Vacant (Salvation Army)

Vacant (Sikh)

Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community)

Penny Coppin-Siddall (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

Ian Hodgson (Humanist)

Committee B - Representing the Church of England:-

Olivia Seymour (Diocese of York)

Katherine Harper (Archbishop Holgate's CE Academy)

Committee C - Representing Teachers:-

Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)

Jenny Mooney (Westfield)

Brenda Christison (Naburn)

Committee D - Representing the City of York Council are Councillors:-

Ian Cuthbertson (Lib Dem)

Martin Rowley (Con)

Chris Cullwick (Lib Dem)

Fiona Fitzpatrick (Lab)

In attendance:-

Maxine Squire (Education Adviser)

Janie Berry (Democratic Services)

Angela Bielby (Clerk)

Finance – annual budget

York's SACRE is assigned an annual budget of £3,500. A summary of spend in 2021-22 is shown in the table below:

Item		Total Spend
NASACRE annual membership fee for 2021-22		£105.00
Specialist RE adviser commissioned from Diocese of York		£1,400
Conference fees		£30.00
Total spend 2021-22		£1,535

Appendix

Development Plan, 2022-23

Circulation

This report is circulated to

- NASACRE
- DfE
- City of York Council Children, Education and Communities Scrutiny
- City of York schools
- SACRE members representative bodies

National Response to A Level and GCSE religious Education results

A level Religious Studies results prompt call for government support

Two decades of growth in A level RS at risk over a five year funding crisis says the Religious Education Council as Father of the House Sir Peter Bottomley warns the Government must not 'let down' young people.

The number of students taking an A level in Religious Studies in England and Wales has fallen by 447, despite an increase of 6.1 percent last year.

This year's 2.7 percent decrease comes after a two decade period in which RS has had one of the fastest growth rates for A levels in the humanities, beating Law, Geography and History in a similar time period. This year there were 45.5 percent more RS A level entries than in 2003.

The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) have warned this period of growth is now under threat after a five year funding gap that has impacted current and future young people taking the subject.

This includes disadvantaged students, who are twice as likely to take RS A level than their peers, favouring it over Geography and History.^{[11](#)}

Responding to the results, Father of the House Sir Peter Bottomley, reiterated his call for a National Plan, a proposal he first announced after chairing a parliamentary roundtable on the subject's future in March:

"We must not let down young people by continuing to starve the subject of funding and leadership. Schools and colleges need a National Plan that sets out a modern and relevant curriculum for education in religion and in the world's faiths and cultures. Generations of students should understand spiritual development and interfaith understanding that is necessary to contribute fully within modern British society."

Iona, an RS student who has accepted an offer to study Philosophy and Politics at Bristol, also spoke about her experience of the subject's funding crisis at the roundtable in March:

"I changed colleges so I could take an A level in RS since it wasn't offered at my previous school. For me, the interdisciplinary and philosophical aspect of A level RS was a chance to think deeply about a variety of religious and non-religious worldviews.

"During our two years we had three different teachers, one of whom wasn't qualified to teach RS at A level. Due to this inconsistency, I spent a lot of my own time studying and was lucky enough to have a parent who could help me. I'd like to see more support given to the subject and its teachers so other students can fully experience the benefits of A level RS."

Sarah Lane Cawte, Chair of the REC, said:

"Over two decades RS has become more and more popular for A level students. However, this year's results raise serious concerns over the ongoing funding crisis in the subject. The subject has cemented its reputation as academically rigorous and personally enriching with graduates going

onto successful careers in media, law and politics at some of the best universities in the country. It also appears to be a tool for social mobility, with many disadvantaged students taking the subject and doing well, opening up a wealth of transferable skills to these pupils that may previously not have been accessible.

“Sadly, we now foresee a situation in which the brightest and best students attracted to the A level risk being let down by a lack of specialism as a result of government inaction over funding and teacher recruitment.”

Katie Freeman, Chair of NATRE, said:

“Congratulations to all students who have faced immense challenges in the last few years. These results are testament to the hardworking and passionate community of RE teachers we have across the country. At A level we see some of the brightest students attracted to a subject which sees them debate, analyse and think deeply about a variety of religious and non-religious worldviews on humanity's most profound questions. Subsequently, teaching the subject at A level requires a high level of expertise and knowledge. A National Plan will ensure we can support current and future teachers by scaling out the best evidenced-based curriculum to ensure every A level student is taught by the specialist they deserve.”

https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2022/04/do-disadvantaged-students-choose-different-subjects-from-their-peers-at-key-stage-5/?fbclid=IwAR2jiuQoSf_vw5wouTBHFhFit9tQ9bXXxR--0M-DqjUxsnT-Yelf9sT0vWQ

Take action on RE say leading politicians as more students take the subject at GCSE

Five year funding gap is letting down a ‘record number of students’ as new data suggests many disadvantaged GCSE students go on to take it at A level.

The number of students in England and Wales taking a GCSE course in Religious Studies GCSE has risen to 253,225, an increase of 0.6% from last year.

The increase was largely driven by a surprise rise in the short course in England, up 16.5% from 15,672 to 18,257.

In Wales, amid an overall 5% drop in pupils taking GCSEs, the number of entries to RS courses fell by 11%.

The strong entry results in England saw the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) and the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) reiterate their call for a National Plan for the subject. They warn that an ongoing funding crisis and lack of a specialist teacher recruitment strategy now seriously threatens the provision of high-quality learning for the quarter of a million students who take the subject annually.

Joining the call for a National Plan was Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBE, DL, Vice President of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and Chancellor of the University of Birmingham who pointed to the number of disadvantaged students going on to take the subject at A level. A study in April found they were twice as likely to take the subject than their peers, favouring it over history and geography:

"When it comes to levelling up education, the latest data shows that giving more support to religious education students at GCSE is an easy win. If RS is the humanity that disadvantaged young people are most likely to take, then backing this up with a properly funded National Plan is a must. The subject will provide those young people with the crucial skills of analysis, curiosity and intellectual confidence as part of a broad, balanced education and give them a headstart in the global workplace."

Father of the House Sir Peter Bottomley MP, who first called for a National Plan for the subject after chairing a parliamentary roundtable on its future in March, also responded to the results:

"These numbers show that RE is widely popular at GCSE. We must not let down young people by continuing to starve the subject of funding and leadership. Schools and colleges need a National Plan that sets out a modern and relevant curriculum for education in religion and in the world's faiths and cultures. Generations of students should understand spiritual development and interfaith understanding that is necessary to contribute fully within modern British society."

Sarah Lane Cawte, Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), said:

"I'm delighted to see an overall rise in students taking GCSE RS. At its best, RS is one of the most personally enriching and academic subjects on the curriculum. Yet sadly, I cannot think of another subject that has ever attracted such a large cohort of students yet received such little corresponding government support.

"In neglecting RE, the Government risks letting down a record number of students. There is now an average of around a quarter of a million students taking the subject at GCSE each year who receive £0 of additional government money to help with their study of RE. In comparison, in the last five years a GCSE music student has received up to £10,000 a head after a National Plan for music. We want an even distribution of funding across the curriculum to ensure it is broad and balanced."

Katie Freeman, Chair of the National Association of Teachers of RE, said:

"These results are testament to the hardworking and passionate community of RE teachers we have across the country. We would now like to see the Government back up their hard work with a properly funded National Plan. This will ensure that every young person has access to an excellent RE teacher, armed with the best evidenced-based curriculum that will allow them to take their place in modern society."

Earlier this year in March, students spoke at the parliamentary roundtable on why they enjoy the subject. Shreya, a Year 10 student offered her view:

"RE is fundamental to life. It's all about people and people will never be out of date. RE is the one time in school where you can talk, listen and try to make sense of people, events and beliefs in the world."

Last summer, research carried out by the charity Culham St Gabriel's Trust found that nearly two-thirds (64%) of adults in Britain believe RE is an important part of the school curriculum. Seven out of ten (73%) also agreed that the subject should provide students with the opportunity to learn about other people, beliefs, worldviews and cultures.

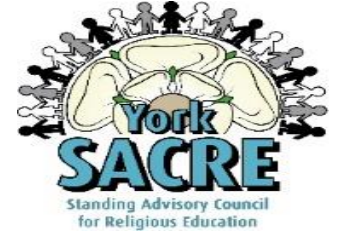
The full entry results were:

Wales

- Wales RS overall, down 11%, by 1,598 from 14,853 to 12,985
- Wales RS full course, down 4.3%, by 445, from 10,358 to 9,913
- Wales RS short course, down 27.3%, from 4,225 to 3,072

England

- England RS overall, up 1.3%, by 3,149, from 237,091 to 240,240
- England RS full course up 0.3%, by 564, from 221,419 to 221,983
- England RS short course, up 16.5%, by 2,585, from 15,672 to 18,257



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						
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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			
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			
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			
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			

Priority 2: Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE						
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.			
Re-establish secondary network meetings	Autumn 2022	RE Adviser to SACRE LA adviser to SACRE	At least 60% of schools attend network meetings			

Priority 3 and 4: Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus and Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship						
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			
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			
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	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			

virtual visits and schools focus group opportunities.			SACRE			
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Regional and National updates

Regional RE Hub Leads for Religious Education

Céline Benoit, Chair of the Regional Hub Steering Group, is delighted to announce the full team of Regional Leads that will be representing and supporting their region in the new RE Hubs project. Under the leadership of Claire Clinton, Lead Director, a fantastic team of Regional Leads will be supporting their region. Recently appointed Regional Leads are:

Regional Leads

1. Christopher Allen	East
2. Deborah Yeomans	East Midlands
3. Stacey Burman	London
4. Karenza Passmore	North East
5. Naomi Anstice	North West
6. Justine Ball	South East
7. Ed Pawson	South West
8. Jennifer Harding-Richards	Wales
9. Chris Giles	West Midlands
10. Olivia Seymour	Yorkshire & Humber

The new team provides a rich and diverse set of skills and experience within education and RE provision with extensive years of working as practitioners. They have been recruited to build relationships with advisers, dioceses, universities, SACREs, LAs, governors, MATs, teaching school hubs and more. The Regional Leads will also act as conduits between the regional providers of research, CPD, resources, places of worship and so on for the benefit of all Religion and Worldview stakeholders.

Working alongside the Regional leads is NATRE's Saima Saleh, the Local Groups & Networks Lead, ensuring that those running over 360 RE support groups from all around the country benefit from this new programme.

The steering committee, with representatives from RE organisations AREIAC, AULRE, TRS-UK, NASACRE, NATRE and REC, are dedicated to this collaborative working approach. This project is supported by a number of funders, to whom we are grateful for their investment at the start of this key infrastructure programme for all those working in and supporting Religious Education. One of the aims of the programme is to develop a well-resourced and up to date Regional Hub website facilitating information and knowledge exchange which will go live in November.

The Regional leads officially start their work in October 2022.

The Specific Aims:

- To improve communication between teachers, professional development and resource providers, and research communities
- To improve connections and interactions between different parts of the RE/R&W Eco-System
- To be an information exchange to increase accessibility for all teachers to local and regional professional development and research
- To enable teachers to teach with greater confidence through their access to the support, knowledge, training and resources available in their region.

- To create a sustainable long-term model for future provision

This will be achieved through

- An excellent communication system that works efficiently and effectively between teachers, CPD and resource providers, local/regional adviser networks and research communities which will link those who need training, resources and encouraging with those whose purpose is to provide it.
- Improved cohesion and strategic operations between different RE/R&W organisations and groups
- Improved engagement by teachers with RE/R&W local groups/networks
- Increased access to wide range of professional development locally and regionally
- Secured long term funding for this project
- Improved accountability lines for the project

Still Standing: The Future of SACREs Report

This report is an analysis of a joint REC/NASACRE project which ran from May 2020 to June 2021. The 'LAN Project' aimed to test out the recommendations of the Commission on RE regarding SACREs. For the project, funded by Culham St Gabriel's Trust, four SACREs engaged in action-research into the Commission on Religious Education's report recommendations on the future viability of SACREs. In September 2018 the Commission on RE gave a call to government and RE bodies for wide ranging reforms to the present law around RE in English schools. In section 7, their report details what is positive and important in the work of SACREs which the Commissioners would want retained in a modified form, as local area networks. The Commission report goes on in its recommendations in section 8, to suggest a number of possible changes to improve the make-up of SACREs and their work within local communities and schools. Over a one-year period, May 2020-July 2021, this local area network project has sought to investigate the proposals in recommendation 8, specifically 8b and 8e of the CoRE report, through analysis of case studies produced by four SACREs.

- The case study in Barking and Dagenham showed how a small amount of funding to a SACRE/LAN can be highly effective and impactful for teachers of RE, providing opportunities for support to all schools and connect schools with faith/belief/other support groups.
- The Bath and NE Somerset action research project demonstrated that the National Entitlement is useful for structuring a renewed Agreed Syllabus. A SACRE Agreed Syllabus review tool was created as part of this research project.
- The work in Hampshire suggested that the democratic involvement of the LA was essential in an effective and fully representative SACRE
- Richmond SACRE found that SACREs could and should review their membership within the current legal framework to ensure that it is representative. A diverse range of voices with specific roles making up a SACRE/LAN is essential if an LA is to be able to discharge its legal responsibilities. A SACRE membership tool was created as part of this research project.

The fact is that schools have changed enormously over the last 70 years, and so has religious and non-religious practice and its place in our society. Having analysed the action-research, this project has discovered that, with proper funding, section 8 recommendations from the CoRE report could be useful in ensuring that there is effective support for RE/Religion and Worldviews in schools. However, this report concludes that without a significant change in funding to SACREs the ambitious and positive recommendations from CoRE will fail and systemic change will not be possible. A SACRE cannot be expected to carry a wider remit without new funding streams being secured for their work. The RE community must come together to ensure current SACREs find their place in this new

educational system.

This report makes a number of recommendations and can be read in full here:

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Olivia Seymour

Professional RE Adviser to York SACRE