



**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)

Date: Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: West Offices

AGENDA

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

To receive and note apologies for absence.

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 - 18)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 15 May an 2025.

3. School Survey 2025

To receive an update on the 2025 school survey.

4. Update from Interfaith

To receive an update from Interfaith.

5. **Renewal of SACRE development plan** (Pages 19 - 22)
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. **Views of RE Teachers**
To find out if RE teachers have space to talk about unity in RE lessons.
7. **NASACRE News Issue 1**
This can be found at
<https://mailchi.mp/f24f511a2f0e/6g3v9uvmy6-10592552?e=da7db1e3e7>
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**
January date tbc
10 March 2026 at 6.00pm at West Offices
21 April 2026 at 6.00pm at West Offices

Democracy Officer

Angela Bielby

Contact Details:

Telephone – (01904) 552599

Email – a.bielby@york.gov.co.uk

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

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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 (ہولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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 (01904) 551550

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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 Council

Committee Minutes

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

Cllr Wilson was elected as Vice-Chair for the meeting in the absence of Ben Rich (Vice-Chair), who had given apologies. The meeting was inquorate.

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6.02 pm)

Apologies were received from Ben Rich (Vice-Chair), Karen Vincent, Penny Coppin-Siddall, Joseph Everdell, Diane Norton, and Taco Michiels. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6.03 pm)

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2025 would be approved at a future meeting.

Matters arising: It was noted that members would receive updates on the School Survey and from Interfaith at the present meeting. Regarding the

outstanding action in relation to emailing secondary RE teachers about an online meeting, it was noted that Maxine Squire and Taco Michiels would be discussing this further. It was confirmed that a meeting had been held in relation to the SACRE development plan, which was also on the agenda at the present meeting.

3. School Survey 2025 (6.05 pm)

Maxine Squire gave an update on the forthcoming annual School Survey, due to be sent out during the autumn term. A focused survey was proposed to gather views on the current locally Agreed Syllabus leading into the Agreed Syllabus review process; the use of an e-survey was being explored with a view to increasing the number of responses. Results would be brought to an Agreed Syllabus conference, where representatives from the four SACRE groups would be invited to put forward their views.

It was confirmed that the survey would go out to all schools in York, including those not following the Agreed Syllabus. Feedback from teachers was valued and the survey would be shared through the maintained schools RE subject network; while resources were limited, an online consultation would also be offered to teachers to gather verbal feedback. Previous feedback suggested that the syllabus commissioned from RE Today was popular with teachers, including non-subject specialists due to the large range of resources provided.

It was noted that members had previously agreed that question 5 should refer to 'core religions and belief systems'. Subject to this amendment members indicated their approval of the survey questions.

4. Update from Interfaith (6.20 pm)

Dee Boyle provided a verbal update on behalf of Interfaith, confirming that planning for 2026 was underway with an emphasis on being as inclusive as possible, noting challenges around securing teacher participation in Interfaith Week and in raising the profile of Interfaith with schools. It was confirmed that Humanist membership of Interfaith would be welcomed, individually or as a group. Interfaith responded to contact from schools and a team could be provided to cover all faiths, and information on Interfaith was circulated to schools, including in the weekly email from CYC Education.

It was noted that reference to Interfaith would be added to the CYC SACRE webpage.

5. Review and renewal of SACRE development plan (6.26 pm)

Maxine Squire updated members on the SACRE Development Plan, noting that the Chair and Vice-Chair had evaluated actions against the current 2022-24 plan. A template plan for 2025-27 had been drafted, and it was suggested that SACRE focus in that period on the effectiveness of the locally Agreed Syllabus; on improvement in standards and quality of teaching and provision in RE, including continuing professional development; and on promotion of community cohesion through the work of SACRE being more visible, and continuing to build close links with faith groups and Interfaith. There was a need to ensure the plan was kept achievable and within the sources available to SACRE.

Members indicated support for the three objectives. It was noted that SACRE briefing materials could be proactively sent out to faith groups, and information about SACRE being provided through school bulletins could be explored. The Executive Member noted he was happy to discuss the role of SACRE with interested faith groups.

With reference to evaluating the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus, the Executive Member suggested that this could include receiving feedback from the current Schools Survey, committing to a future survey, developing the new syllabus, and adding in an annual agenda item for RE teachers to feed back on the quality and effectiveness of the new syllabus. It was noted that RE was a statutory subject, and the feedback mechanism to the Department for Education was via SACRE's annual report. It was suggested that views around particular parts of the syllabus could be sought to identify if any extra support might be needed.

Regarding standards, the importance of the new syllabus conference, online teacher meetings on the new syllabus, and continuing school visits, with an emphasis on secondary schools, were highlighted. It was noted RE Hubs signposted resources and links to faith groups locally and regionally, and that the SACRE website could be used more actively to add links and update member details.

With reference to community cohesion, close working with Interfaith and a continued commitment to maintaining a wide range of membership on SACRE was emphasised, as well as recommitting to seeking young people's views on RE teaching on an annual basis. It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus conference would provide an opportunity for further communications with schools and the wider city, and suggested that young

people's representation could be further considered, including the possibility of working with York Youth Council.

Maxine Squire confirmed she would update the development plan to take members' comments and suggestions into account.

6. Review of the Agreed Syllabus (6.49 pm)

Maxine Squire updated members on the five-year review of the locally Agreed Syllabus. It was confirmed that in common with many other local authorities York's Agreed Syllabus was currently commissioned from RE Today to reflect the local context. Following consultation and evidence gathering, SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference would need to decide whether to retain, amend or replace the syllabus. Of the options available, a bespoke syllabus would be difficult to achieve in the timescale given available resources; re-commissioning from RE Today would allow updates to be made and retain use of RE Today's resources; alternatively a syllabus could be commissioned from another provider. Re-commissioning was the recommended option subject to RE Today being able support the process.

It was noted that the process had been started comparatively late and where possible the timeline would be expedited, but resources were very limited. Feedback on the syllabus from the annual School Survey was generally very positive, although additional resources had been requested in some areas. It was confirmed that faith schools used their own agreed diocesan syllabus.

Maxine Squire confirmed that she would progress with work on recommissioning given members' expression of a strong preference for that option.

7. NASACRE Update (7.01 pm)

The latest NASACRE briefing was noted, and a member provided feedback on recent NASACRE virtual training. It was noted that York SACRE's NASACRE membership was in the process of being reconfirmed.

8. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (7.02 pm)

It was noted that no complaints had been received, and no determinations submitted. It was noted that headteachers would be reminded of their duties in relation to RE and the need to submit determinations to SACRE.

9. Any other business (7.03 pm)

Joseph Rowntree Visit – Wednesday 8 October

Following previous school visits at Fishergate and St Oswald's Primary Schools, it was noted that an invitation had been received for a visit to Joseph Rowntree School on 8 October to observe the delivery of RE teaching at Key Stages 3 and 4, and arrangements would be made for SACRE members to attend.

10. Future meeting dates (7.07 pm)

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 14 October 2025.

Cllr B Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.01 pm and finished at 7.07 pm].

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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				
Action	Cost	People Involved	Timescale	Monitoring and Evaluation
SACRE to review the findings from the school survey 2025 to inform the review of the Agreed Syllabus		SACRE Members	October 2025	
SACRE members to conduct a review of the Agreed Syllabus and have a plan in place for the development of the Agreed Syllabus	TBC	SACRE Members		
The SACRE agenda to include an opportunity for RE teachers RE teachers to feedback to SACRE on quality and effectiveness of new agreed syllabus	N/a	SACRE Clerk		

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				
Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Monitoring and Evaluation
Arrange a conference to launch the Agreed Syllabus with schools	TBC	LA adviser to SACRE		

Develop online meetings for RE teachers to provide peer support with the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus	N/a	LA adviser to SACRE		
Continue school visits with a focus on secondary schools	N/a	LA adviser to SACRE		
Link the SACRE webpage to the RE Hub resources				

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	All SACRE members			
Continued commitments to maintain a wide range of members on SACRE	SACRE Clerk			
Arrange an annual opportunity for SACRE members to meet children and young people	LA adviser to SACRE			

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