



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

To: SACRE members

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)

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)

Andy Tod (Ralph Butterfield Primary 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: Monday, 3 February 2025

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: West Offices

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. Membership Update

To welcome new Members to Group A – Mark Jones (Buddhist), Fleur Kennedy (Bahai'i), Colin Lewisohn (Humanist) and Dee Boyle (Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan).

3. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (Pages 7 - 12)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2024.

4. Annual Report 2023-24 (Pages 13 - 20)

To approve the 2023-24 Annual Report.

5. School Survey

Members will receive a presentation on the main findings from the School Survey.

6. Monitoring of Standards

To receive an update on the monitoring of Standards in RE including the Ofsted Annual Report and the Schools Survey, Autumn 2024.

7. Review of SACRE development plan

To review the SACRE development plan.

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

11 March 2025 at 6pm at West Offices

15 July 2025 at 6pm 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:

- 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.

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We can also translate into the following languages:

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 (ہولی) 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.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Meeting | SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) |
| Date | 15 October 2024 |
| Present | <u>SACRE members</u> <u>Group A</u> Karen Vincent (Faith/Catholic) Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish) <u>Group B</u> Sue Bland (CoE) <u>Group C</u> Andy Tod (Ralph Butterfield Primary School) Diane Norton (York St John University) <u>Group D</u> Cllr Webb (Chair) (City of York Council) Cllr Knight (City of York Council) Cllr Wilson (City of York Council) |
| In Attendance | <u>LA Officer</u> Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills, City of York) |
| Apologies | Daryoush Mazloum and Joseph Hepplestone |

The Chair updated Members on the health of Daryoush Mazloum. The Chair reported that Ian Hodgson, Humanist representative (Group A) had resigned and had asked for SACRE to be put in touch with a Humanist. It was also reported that Mark Jones (Buddhist) would be attending the next meeting.

77. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6.08pm)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Joseph Everdell and Daryoush Mazloum. There were no declarations of interest.

78. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6.08pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2024 be approved subject to West Offices being amended as the location for future meetings.

Matters Arising:

- Minute 66: Maxine Squire had requested a link to for a link to the RE Hub on the SACRE webpage.
- Minute 67: Maxine Squire had circulated the Ofsted 'Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report and national standards' to Members.
- Minute 67: There had been no feedback to the Chair what could be provided to schools between the syllabus conferences.
- Minute 68: The Development Plan was on the agenda.
- Minute 68: Members were reminded to write a sentence or two about themselves for the SACRE website regarding who they were and why they were on SACRE.
- Minute 70: Maxine Squire had spoken to Taco Michiels who had indicated that it should be fine for SACRE to visit Joseph Rowntree School. She had also spoken with the Headteacher at Huntington School and was going to speak with the Headteacher at Fulford School. Maxine undertook to circulate dates for the school visits.
- Minute 71: The 'Activist SACREs in 2024 - 35+ things a good SACRE can do!' had been circulated to Members.
- Minute 71: Members discussed the possibility of a yearly SACRE conference and agreed that it would be good to hold one. It was suggested that it would be good to use previously released material at the conference. Diane Norton was asked and agreed to contact a university colleague about doing a lecture at a possible SACRE conference. A Member noted that James Holt, a member of My Faith had spoken at York Interfaith and that he may be useful as a guest speaker.
- Minute 75: Cllr Wilson noted that she would host a zoom meeting during Interfaith Week regarding the work of SACRE. Penny Coppin-Siddall noted that work was almost finished on finalising the programme, which celebrated 35 years of Interfaith York.
- It was agreed that Diane Norton would arrange a visit to the maintained schools RE group with Maxine Squire.
- Update on Interfaith week: Penny Coppin-Siddall reported that work on Interfaith week was in progress. In York, Interfaith Week was to begin on 9 November 2024 with the opening activity to be an informal breakfast on from 9.00 – 10.00am on 9 November. This would be followed by an activity at Clifton Ings at 10.30am. Penny Coppin-Siddall undertook to

share the Interfaith Week Plan with SACRE Members. It was noted that it was the 35th anniversary of Interfaith Week in York.

- Request for information for schools: The Chair and Maxine Squire had received two requests from external organisations to send information to schools. They suggested that SACRE put together a catalogue of events from different organisations to send to schools. It was suggested that the RE Hub could be accessed to support the information in the catalogue. It was acknowledged that it was not SACRE's role to promote different faiths. Following discussion it was;

Resolved: That Maxine Squire would arrange for a link to the RE Hub on the SACRE webpage and that Members would feedback comments on this to her.

Reason: In order to direct schools to the RE Hub for further information.

79. Analysis of SACRE Annual Reports (6.21pm)

Members considered the NASACRE Analysis of SACRE Annual Reports 2022-2023 for the National Association of Standing Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the new SACRE Annual Report framework. Maxine Squire noted that some points in the analysis of Annual Reports were common to York SACRE such as quoracy and membership and the context of SACREs changing to having no RE Advisors and ways that SACREs monitor Collective Worship as SACRE approached the review of the Agreed Syllabus. She added that SACREs also needed to advise Local Authorities.

During discussion, a number of points were made:

- Membership was an issue.
- There was a strong parliamentary group that advised SACREs.
- Thought needed to be given to how the report fed into the national narrative.
- It would be interesting to look at how SACRE could advise the LA. Maxine Squire noted that some SACREs had subject advisors and that some SACREs advised the LA around issues raised in school surveys, for example professional development. She noted that in the past, York SACRE had looked at the delivery of Collective Worship.

Resolved: That Members noted the NASACRE Analysis of SACRE Annual Reports 2022-2023 for the National Association of Standing Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the new SACRE Annual Report framework.

Reason: In order to be updated on the new SACRE Annual Report framework.

80. Update on SACRE development plan (6.30pm)

Maxine Squire reported that it would be good to look at future priorities for the development plan and identify mechanisms for the priorities, for example three areas where SACRE could input into, for example working with York Interfaith on a joint competition or event twice a year. She also noted that SACRE also needed to think about continuous professional development (CPD) in schools. It was reported that the Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Rowley had RAG (red, amber, green) rated the development plan and Maxine Squire suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair RAG rate the current development plan to identify priorities that emerge. It was then:

Resolved: That the Chair, Vice Chair and Maxine Squire meet to examine the development plan.

Reason: To review and identify priorities for the development plan.

81. School Survey 2024 (6.36pm)

Maxine Squire reported that a school survey was undertaken the previous year that used the survey by Olivia Hargreaves at North Yorkshire Council. She asked Members if a brief pupil voice survey should be undertaken. Members were asked to think about five questions they would like to ask young people to take to the RE teachers group to use with their pupils. Maxine Squire noted that RE subject leaders could be contacted to find out what top CPD topics they would like and then SACRE could commission training on those topics.

Maxine Squire was asked and explained the 2023 school survey and undertook to send it to the Vice Chair. A Member gave feedback on the 2023 survey and may ne some themes that SACRE way like to track. A Member asked if it would be useful to ask teachers about their knowledge of SACRE, along with CPD. Maxine Squire agreed to add this into the survey. A Member noted that the previous year's survey was onerous for teachers and it would suggested that some of those questions be kept in the 2024 survey to track responses along with asking what SACRE could do for teachers. Maxine was asked and explained that feedback on the survey results was provided to schools via the published papers. A Member noted that during SACRE school visits, pupils raised a number of points for example, what they would like to lean about different religions and that they

liked discussions in RE. Regarding pupil voice, it was suggested that pupils could be asked what their favourite thing in RE was.

Resolved: That Maxine Squire would send out the previous year's questions via the Democracy Officer to forward onto Members for feedback.

Reason: To update the school survey.

82. Collective Worship Guidance (6.47pm)

Members considered the Appendix 4: Collective Worship- Self-evaluation toolkit from the York SACRE Collective Worship Guidance 2017. Maxine Squire noted that the current guidance was put together in 2017 and that it was a good opportunity to revisit the guidance. Members were asked if there was an areas of the guidance they would like to revisit. A Member noted that the toolkit had not been looked at the RE network meetings and suggested that a relaunch was due. Maxine Squire noted that Collective Worship Guidance was a statutory document and that it was important that SACRE remind schools about it.

A Member noted that Collective Worship was not RE and Maxine Squire added that it would be a good idea to promote good practice in RE. The Vice Chair noted that it would be useful to promote good practice in RE. The Chair asked how examples of good practice could be found and suggested that it might be useful to contact Headteachers regarding Collective Worship good practice and suggested that there could be an online event for the relaunch of the Collective Worship Guidance. A Member suggested that the guidance could be put online for parents to view.

The Chair asked Diane Norton if it would be useful to look at Collective Worship with trainee RE teachers. Diane Norton noted that it would be good to look at the pastoral part of Collective Worship and that it may be good to look at the RE Hubs. Following discussion it was;

Resolved: That when feedback on good practice had been received, there would be an online relaunch of the Collective Worship Guidance.

Reason: To update Collective Worship Guidance.

[Ben Rich and Maxine Squire left the meeting at 7.00pm]

83. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (7.00pm)

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.

84. Any Other Business (7.01pm)

Cllr Knight reported that she had put together a SACRE newsletter and would send it to SACRE Members and York Interfaith for feedback. Following feedback, she would produce the newsletter on a monthly basis.

85. Future meeting dates (7.03pm)

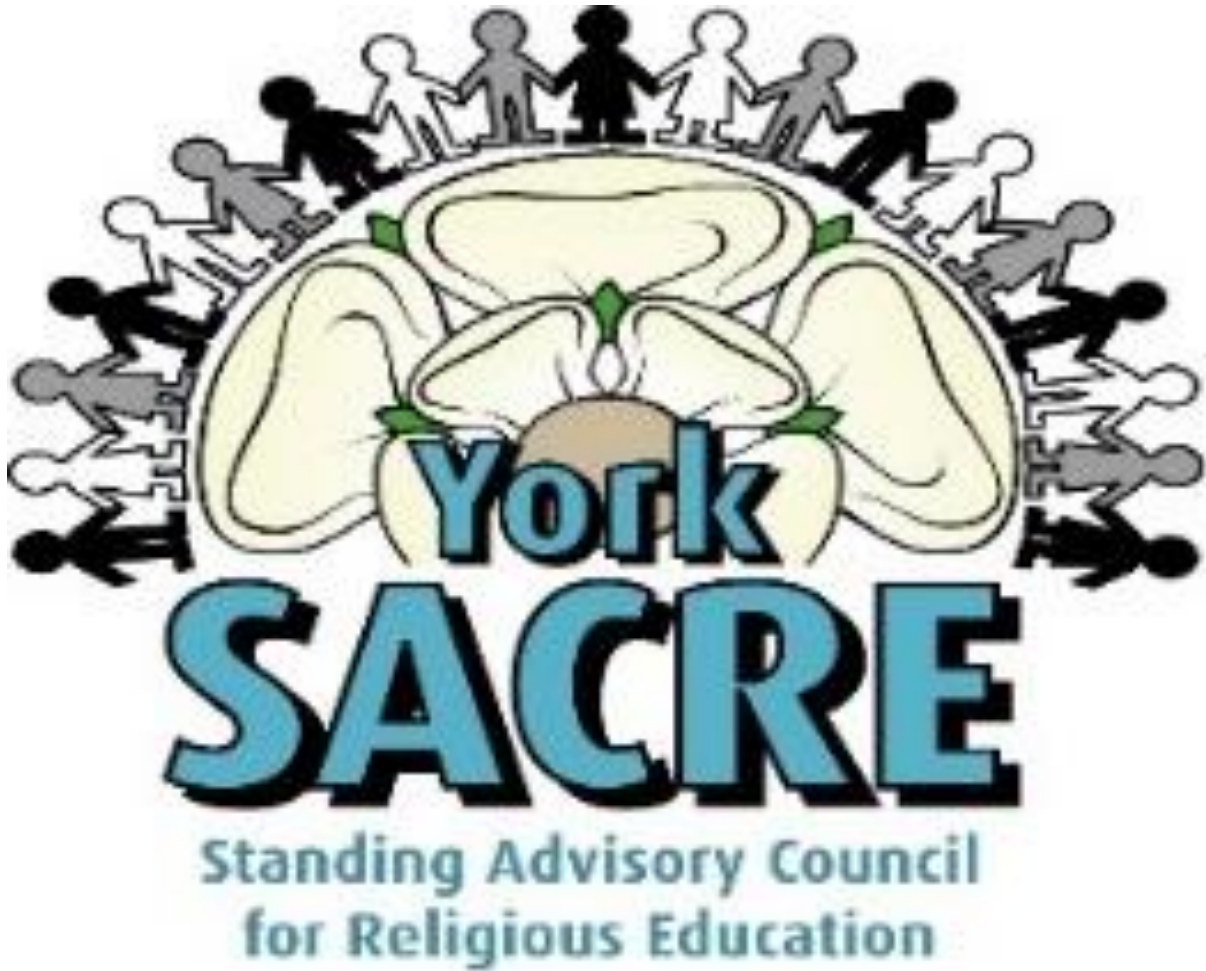
27 January 2025 at 6pm at Wet Offices
11 March 2025 at 6pm at West Offices
15 July 2025 at 6pm at West Offices

Cllr Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.03 pm].



City of York SACRE Annual Report 2023-24



1. Introduction

Foreword by the Chair of SACRE

In the municipal year of 2023/24 York SACRE has been very active. I am pleased that we have built on the work of previous SACRE and carried out Primary School visits in different settings to assess and learn about the state of Religious Education in the City of York.

I would like to thank the schools we engaged with for their openness and positive attitude towards the work of SACRE; we certainly learnt a lot.

As well as this SACRE also invited young people to speak directly about their views and experiences of RE in schools, both good and bad. I believe hearing from young people has made a real difference to SACRE member's outlook this year.

This work wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and expertise of the members of SACRE alongside council officers and I would like to thank them for the time and commitment they have offered. I hope that in the next year we can continue these projects and others and start to share best practise across schools in York for the betterment of young peoples' learning.

Finally, it is with sadness that I must mention the loss of an important member of our group Daryoush Mazloun. His kindness and wisdom will be a huge loss to SACRE in York.

Cllr Bob Webb, Executive Member for Children and Education

Meeting and Attendance 2023-24

City of York SACRE met four times in the academic year 2023-24.

19th October 2023

22nd January 2024

19th March 2024

8th July 2024

During the academic year 2023-24 City of York SACRE met in hybrid meetings. Ensuring and maintaining quoracy for SACRE meetings was a priority for the academic year 2023-24 and this remains an area of focus for 2024-25. The introduction of hybrid meetings has proved helpful, particularly for teachers in committee C, however, securing consistent attendance from Committee A remains a priority.

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

| Committee | 19th October 2023 | 22nd Jan 2024 | 19th March 2024 | 8th July 2024 |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Committee A Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities | 3 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| Committee B Representing the Church of England | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Committee C Representing teachers | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Committee D Representing City of York Council | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| LA Officer | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 8 (Inquorate) | 13 (Quorate) | 6 (Inquorate) | 9 (Quorate) |

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. In 2023-24 there has also been a focus on looking at the outcomes from school visits and on developing the communication from SACRE to schools.

2. RE (statutory responsibilities)

Locally agreed syllabus

There are 17 primary, 2 secondary and 1 special maintained schools who follow the City of York Locally Agreed Syllabus

There are 27 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

In 2023-24 York SACRE continued with monitoring visits to schools. The visit involved three members of SACRE drawn from committee A and D supported by the LA Adviser to SACRE. The visit provided SACRE members with the opportunity to speak to staff and pupils about the quality of R.E. in the school. The visits that have taken place have been to primary schools, both schools are in the same area of the city and are local authority- maintained schools. The visits provided SACRE members with an opportunity to compare and contrast the approach to R.E. by visiting a Church of England primary and a community primary school. The plan for 2024-25 is to visit the two local authority maintained secondary schools.

There were 24 inspections of York Schools between September 2023 and July 2024. 19 primary schools were inspected, 1 secondary special school and 4 secondary schools. No concerns about R.E. were raised through these reports.

Key Stage 5 results

KS5 outcomes remain strong in comparison to schools nationally. However, in common with exam entries nationally, the number of entries both at A level and GCSE went down in 2024. The results for GCSE and A level religious studies are summarised in the table below:

| Key Stage | No. of entries | % A*-C (York) | % A*-C (York) | Average points Score |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Key Stage 5 | 40 | 95% | 90% | 41 (significantly above national) |

The Key Stage 5 results show that more girls than boys took A level R.E. in 2024 – 27 girls and 13 boys, however the boys out - performed the girls both in attainment and progress. 4 students were from disadvantaged backgrounds and 4 had special

educational needs and all achieved A-C grades. The majority of pupils (35 students) were White British and were identified as Higher Attainers (38 students).

KS4 results

At the time of writing this report the KS4 subject results were unavailable but the report will be updated when they are released.

Teaching, training and materials and advice for schools

The results from the annual survey to schools are being used to inform the SACRE Development Plan and to identify priorities for further training and advice for schools during the academic year 2024-25.

During 2023-24 York SACRE has promoted the support that can be accessed via the Regional R.E. Hub.

The maintained schools have created a curriculum group for teachers of R.E. this now meets termly and Diane Norton has agreed to make contact with the group during the academic year 2024-25. This will allow SACRE members to gain information about what training needs schools may have and this will be used to commission support.

The following themes for guidance and support have come through from the annual schools survey:

- Support to develop children's understanding of subject specific vocabulary and topic words
- Assessment and monitoring of standards in R.E.
- A resource bank to support the Agreed Syllabus
- Access to visitors from different faith groups
- Supporting inclusion for children with SEND

Two members of SACRE (from committees B and C) attended the NASCRE conference in May 2024 and shared information from the conference with SACRE members.

City of York SACRE received no formal complaints regarding RE provision in the academic -year 2023-24.

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 2023/2024 in respect of collective worship.

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).

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 continues to support the York Holocaust Memorial Day event. This event took place in January 2024.

5. City of York SACRE's own arrangements

During the academic year 2023-24 City of York SACRE continued its close relationship with City of York Council's Democratic Services. An officer in the Local Authority's Democratic Services Section acts as Clerk to SACRE.

During 2023-24 processes to enable members to further develop their monitoring of RE were implemented through school visits, an opportunity to meet young people at the SACRE meeting on 19th October and further revision of the Schools questionnaire. The Schools questionnaire was revised in 2023-24 and this has resulted in an increase in the number of responses received from 14 in 2022-23 to 19 in 2023-24.

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:-

Karen Vincent joined August 2022 (Catholic)

Ben Rich (Jewish)

Keith Albans (Methodist)

Iman Abid Salik (Muslim)

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:-

Sue Bland (Diocese of York)
 Joseph Everdell

Committee C - Representing Teachers:-

Andy Todd (Ralph Butterfield)
 Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree)
 Diane Norton (University of York St John) joined SACRE in October 2023

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

Emilie Knight (Lib Dem)
 Martin Rowley (Con)
 Sarah Wilson (Labour)
 Bob Webb (Labour) appointed Chair June 2023

In attendance:-

Maxine Squire (Education Adviser)
 Angela Bielby (Clerk)

Finance – annual budget

York's SACRE is assigned an annual budget of £3,500. A summary of spend in 2023-24 is shown in the table below:

| Item | | Total Spend |
|---|--|------------------|
| NASACRE annual membership fee for 2023-24 | | £105.00 |
| NASACRE conference fees | | £240.00 |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total spend 2023-24 | | £345.00 |
| Balance | | £3,145.00 |

Circulation

This report is circulated to:

- NASACRE
- Department for Education
- City of York Council Children, Communities and Culture Scrutiny

- City of York schools
- SACRE members representative bodies