



**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)

Susan Guiver (Faith/Humanist)

Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan)

Tony Lawton (Faith/Catholic)

Professor Avtar Matharu (Faith/Sikh)

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)

Group D

A group of persons representing the City of York Council. In this case of Elected Members appointment to this group should ensure political balance and state which political group they represent. As an alternative, the

Council may appoint representatives such as a governors association.

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

Cllr Emilie Knight (City of York Council)

Cllr Martin Rowley BEM (City of York Council)

Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)

LA Officer

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

Date: Tuesday, 16 June 2026

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: West Offices

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest** (Pages 7 - 8)

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 9 - 22)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 14 October 2025, 10 March 2026 and 30 April 2026. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2026.
- 3. Review of the Agreed Syllabus**
To discuss the Review of the Agreed Syllabus.

- 4. Future school visits**
To discuss arrangements for future SACRE visits to schools.
- 5. Funding teaching engagement**
To consider how SACRE could fund teachers to get out of the classroom to share good practise.
- 6. SACRE meeting with young people**
To consider arrangements for a meeting with young people.
- 7. Update from Interfaith**
To receive an update from Interfaith.
- 8. NASACRE News Issue 3**
This can be viewed at <https://nasacre.org.uk/news/#gsc.tab=0>
- 9. Correspondence on complaints/determinations**
A verbal update will be given on complaints received and the determinations in respect of those complaints.
- 10. Any Other Business**
- 11. Future meeting dates**
14 July at 6.00pm at West Offices

Democracy Officer

Angela Bielby

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

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我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

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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	14 October 2025
Present	<p><u>Group A</u> Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) Imam Amar (Faith/Muslim) Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish) Colin Lewisohn (Faith/Humanist) Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan) Tony Lawton (Faith/Catholic)</p> <p><u>Group B</u> Joseph Everdell (CoE)</p> <p><u>Group C</u> Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree School)</p> <p><u>Group D</u> Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) (City of York Council) Cllr Emilie Knight (City of York Council) Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)</p>
In Attendance	<p><u>LA Officer</u> Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills, City of York Council) Stephen Pett (RE Today)</p>
Apologies	Councillor Rowley, Karen Vincent, Fleur Kennedy, Sue Bland and Mark Jones

11. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6:02pm)

Apologies for absence were received and noted for Karen Vincent, Mark Jones, Fleur Kennedy, Sue Bland and Cllr Rowley. Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. There were none.

[Penny Coppin-Siddall arrived at 6.03pm]

12. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6:06pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held on 15 May 2025 and 15 July 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Matters arising: Maxine Squire reported that the next school visit would be on 26 November 2025 to Joseph Rowntree School. Cllr Knight and Ben Rich undertook to attend the visit. Following a question from a Member regarding the informal meeting, Maxine Squire noted that she would send out an update. It was noted that the Chair had visited York Mosque and he noted that the informal meeting had been arranged to address flag flying and how SACRE could support RE teachers.

13. School Survey 2025 (6:13pm)

Maxine Squire reported that the School Survey focussed on a review of the Agreed Syllabus and areas where RE teachers needed additional support. She noted that there had been increased and more detailed responses due to the survey being online. She added that responses had been received from 7 out of 9 secondary schools and 18 primary schools and there had been a lot of support for the Agreed Syllabus with some suggested changes. Teachers also responded that they felt confident in teaching RE. The results showed that the demography of RE teachers was white British and a third were Christian, a third were of no faith and there was a younger demographic. The results also showed Christianity and Islam being the faiths taught in schools and teachers noted that they would benefit from more curriculum resources. The two teacher SACRE members were asked and explained their experience of teaching the Agreed Syllabus and Diocesan curriculum in their respective schools.

Resolved: That the contact lists, core offer and links to trusted sources of information would be updated.

Reason: To ensure the information was up to date.

14. Renewal of SACRE development plan (6:35pm)

Stephen Pett, RE Advisor at RE Today, whose syllabus was used by York SACRE, was introduced to members. Maxine Squire confirmed that the current Agreed Syllabus could be extended. Stephen Pett explained that RE Today was a charity and that York had used the RE Today syllabus since 2016. He outlined the Agreed Syllabus options from RE Today as being Option 1 the systematic approach and Option 2 the religion and world views approach. He detailed what was contained in each of their curriculum and the feedback from Gloucestershire schools using the Option 2 syllabus.

Stephen Pett was asked and confirmed that there could be a modernised version of the thematic approach. He was also asked and explained that the world view approach allowed for some thematic approach. A Member noted concern in moving away from what teachers said that they like as shown in the feedback from the school survey. A member asked if SACRE could have a third options for a modernised syllabus as well as Options 1 and 2.

Members discussed the Agreed Syllabus Conference, with Stephen Pett advising that RE Today could extend the licence by a year and that they could look at amendments to the current Agreed Syllabus. Following discussion, it was;

Resolved:

1. That the Agreed Syllabus be delayed by a year.
2. At the January meeting look at options for the Agreed Syllabus with Stephen Pett in attendance.
3. The Chair to email members for their views on the Agreed Syllabus

Reason: To renew the Agreed Syllabus.

15. Update from Interfaith (7.13pm)

Penny Coppin-Siddall noted that SACRE working with York Interfaith would be an opportunity to look at unity. Maxine Squire agreed to circulate their newsletter to York schools.

16. Views of RE Teachers (7.15pm)

The Chair explained that he wanted unity to be part of the syllabus and the new syllabus would be an opportunity to address unity between communities. A member asked if schools could be asked about how they were dealing with the issues with flags and Maxine

Squire explained that schools had been finding the situation very difficult with maintained Headteachers needing be careful and supportive around discussions regarding flag. The Chair noted that he was working with York Mosque regarding engagement with school. Following discussion the Chair noted that clarity was needed on what schools were doing and how SACRE could support them.

Resolved: Maxine Squire to ask schools about their approach to the flag flying at the Schools Forum meeting and following day and feedback to members at the next SACRE meeting.

Reason: For SACRE to see how it could support schools.

17. NASACRE News Issue 1 (7.31pm)

The latest NASACRE briefing was noted.

18. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (7.32pm)

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.

19. Any Other Business (7.32pm)

It was agreed that the Chair and Maxine Squire would meet to discuss the Development Plan.

Maxine Squire reported that a Headteacher had reported an increase in parents withdrawing their children RE and she undertook to remind schools about the process for withdrawing children from RE.

20. Future meeting dates (7.35pm)

January date tbc

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 6.00 pm and finished at 7.35 pm].

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Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	10 March 2026
Present	<u>Group A</u> Karen Vincent (Faith/Catholic) Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish) Mark Jones (Faith/Buddhist) Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan)
	<u>Group B</u> Sue Bland (CoE) Joseph Everdell (CoE)
	<u>Group D</u> Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) (City of York Council) Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)
In Attendance	<u>LA Officer</u> Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills, City of York Council)
Apologies	Councillors Knight and Rowley, Penny Coppin-Siddall, Taco Michiels, Fleur Kennedy, Colin Lewisohn and Tony Lawton

The meeting was not quorate.

21. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6:03pm)

Apologies for absence were received and noted for Karen Vincent, Mark Jones, Fleur Kennedy and Cllr Rowley. Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. There were none.

22. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6:04pm)

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2025 was carried forward to next meeting.

Matters arising: Maxine Squire reported that web services had been in contact regarding updating the SACRE webpage. The Chair asked Members to send the Clerk a sentence about themselves if they had not already done so. Maxine Squire informed Members that the extension of the Agreed Syllabus had been agreed by RE today. She had asked schools about flag flying and schools had found it a challenge and had dealt with it sensitively. They also said that they would find it useful to have some information from the council and SACRE. The Chair noted that on his visits to schools children had said that they were concerned about flag flying. Maxine Squire noted that the Department of Education (DfE) advice had been sent to schools and there was a national review on anti semitism in schools.

[The meeting adjourned from 6.13pm until 6.14pm to allow Sue Bland to join the meeting remotely].

Dee Boyle reported that Interfaith had changed their programme in relation to flag flying.

23. SACRE Annual Report (6:16pm)

Maxine outlined the 2024-25 SACRE Annual Report noting that it would be updated to include the Chair's comments. She detailed the information in the report, including a summary of performance in Key Stages 4 and 5. She noted that the annual survey to schools looked at the Agreed Syllabus. She added that the RE Hub had started to review what it does if RE was to become a National Curriculum syllabus under which SACREs would not be devolved. She noted links with Interfaith. She noted the need for SACRE to focus on the delivery of the Development Plan. The Chair noted the importance of quoracy for meetings as the meeting was not quorate. It was noted that there would be Sikh representation on SACRE and potential Hindu representation and there was no age limit on SACRE. Maxine Squire noted that it would help SACRE to have more youth voice on it.

It was confirmed that the Annual Report would be approved at the next meeting.

24. Review of the Agreed Syllabus (6:26pm)

Maxine Squire noted that SACRE had more time to look at the Agreed Syllabus as it had been extended. She noted that Stephen Pett from RE today would be invited to the next meeting. It was agreed that schools not using the Agreed Syllabus would be invited to the teacher focus group for the Agreed Syllabus and noted that SACRE budget could be used to support it.

Maxine Squire explained that teachers had been asked what they would benefit from SACRE and they feedback that it would be useful to see what other school did. It was noted that in relation to the potential RE National Curriculum it may be useful for RE departments to discuss as a team. The Chair noted that the SACRE budget could be used to pay for an amount of time (possibly an afternoon) for schools RE teachers to meet to discuss how their schools deliver RE. Karen Vincent agreed to help with that and Maxine Squire undertook to contact Taco Michiels about it.

25. Update from Interfaith (6:36pm)

Dee Boyle reported that York Interfaith had changed their January meeting to discuss flag flying. The new meeting was attended by young people in reviewing what York Interfaith could offer schools. She noted that York Interfaith would like to go on a school visit with SACRE.

The Vice Chair noted that he had been in contact with the FaithAction, who manage the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Faith and Society regarding the Faith Covenant. Maxine Squire noted that the authority had not heard from them and Dee Boyle noted that it had been discussed at the York Interfaith meeting the previous evening. The Vice Chair was asked and explained that FaithAction would like Local Authorities to sign up to a Faith Covenant.

26. Delivery of the SACRE Development Plan (6:42pm)

Maxine Squire reported that the Development Plan had been slimmed down and focussed on the Agreed Syllabus and engagement event with teachers. She suggested that there a small sub group to pull together a calendar of events and added that thought needed to be put into setting aside some SACRE budget for the RE teacher conference.

Members discussed visits to secondary schools and it was noted that the next visit was on 25 March 2026. Dee Boyle noted that York Interfaith would be working on faith information sheets. It was suggested that to contribute to community cohesion and social harmony there was the possibility of an annual event with young people on community cohesion and social harmony. It was further suggested that the Youth Council Festival could tie in with community cohesion. It was noted that Fishergate School was a school of sanctuary.

The Vice Chair noted that the government had published their community cohesion strategy the previous day. The Vice Chair and Maxine Squire noted that they would be looking at the strategy.

The Chair noted that Maxine Squire and Karen Vincent would be looking into paying for times to get RE teachers together. He added that SACRE would pause looking at how it could encourage young people to join SACRE as it needed to consider its future visits to schools. Regarding school visits, Maxine Squire suggested contacting Huntington School in the summer term and then following up with feeder primary schools.

27. SACRE Visit to Joseph Rowntree School, Wednesday, 25 March 2026 (6:54pm)

Dee Boyle agreed to attend the visit with Maxine Squire and there was a possibility that Karen Vincent and Cllr Knight would attend.

28. NASACRE News Issue 2 (6:57pm)

Maxine Squire noted that NASACRE put out information regarding events including their annual conference. The Chair asked Members to contact him if they would like to attend the conference. Maxine Squire added that the theme of the conference was cohesion and she undertook to add information on it in the email to schools.

29. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (6:59pm)

It was noted that no complaints had been received, and no determinations submitted. It was noted that all schools had been emailed to remind them of their duties in relation to RE and the need to submit determinations to SACRE.

30. Any Other Business (6:59pm)

There were no items for Any Other Business.

31. Future Meeting Dates (6:59pm)

he 21 April meeting was to be rearranged as the Chair and Maxine Squire were judging at a secondary school speaking competition.

Cllr Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.02 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].

Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	30 April 2026
Present	<p>Karen Vincent (Faith/Catholic) Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish) Susan Guiver (Faith/Humanist) Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan) Avtar Matharu (Faith/Sikh)</p> <p><u>Group C</u> Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree School)</p> <p><u>Group D</u> Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) (City of York Council) Cllr Emilie Knight (City of York Council)</p>
Apologies	Sue Bland, Dee Boyle, Mark Jones, Tony Lawton, Fleur Kennedy and Cllrs Rowley and Wilson.

The meeting was not quorate.

32. Welcome and Introductions (6:09pm)

Susan Guiver and Avtar Matharu were welcomed to SACRE. Introductions were made. The Chair explained the Groups on SACRE.

33. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6:11pm)

Apologies for absence were received and noted for Sue Bland, Dee Boyle, Mark Jones, Tony Lawton, Fleur Kennedy and Cllrs Rowley and Wilson. Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. There were none.

34. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6:14pm)

Matters arising: Maxine Squire reported that as the meeting was not quorate, she would share the Annual Report with the Diocesan Director of Education for the Diocese of York to sign off the report.

It was reported that York Interfaith had done an information sheet for schools and requested support from SACRE with printing. It was suggested that there could be one sheet per school. It was confirmed that York Interfaith would be happy for their information sheet to be included on the SACRE webpage.

The Vice Chair review of the community cohesion strategy was deferred and agreed as an agenda item for the next meeting. It was noted that the Vice Chair had raised the Faith Covenant at the last meeting and that the Chair had been approached about creating a Faith Covenant in York. The Chair had asked for evidence of the requirement for a Covenant in York. It was noted that York was a City of Sanctuary. It was suggested that FaithAction (requesting the Faith Covenant) be sent the faith indicator report.

35. SACRE Annual Report (6:22pm)

It was confirmed that the report would be sent to the Diocese of York for sign off.

36. Update from Interfaith (6:23pm)

It was reported that as well as the information sheet for schools, York Interfaith were reviewing their Constitution. It was explained that there was a consultation on 15 May looking at the work of Interfaith and whether a new national body for Interfaith should be developed. It was noted that there was a need to strengthen Interfaith. Regarding the information sheet for schools, Maxine Squire undertook to send it to schools electronically to get their feedback on it.

37. SACRE development plan: Update on teacher engagement plan (6:23pm)

Maxine Squire gave a verbal update on the development plan. It was noted that Karen Vincent and Taco Michiels had begun to discuss what meaningfully teachers would like from SACRE. It was noted that there was no RE network in York Schools. Maxine Squire noted that it would be useful for RE teachers to visit other schools and she added that the Headteacher of All Saints Catholic School had explained that a barrier to visiting school was the cost of teacher release and she had asked SACRE to support the cost of teacher release. It was suggested that the RE

network could be brought back. Maxine Squire noted that she would look at putting together a network group. It was suggested that teacher visits could last half a day.

During discussion it was clarified that inset days could not be used for school visits as were used for entire staff training. Following a question from a member Maxine Squire explained what RE Hubs did. Maxine Squire, Karen Vincent and Taco Michiels agreed to meet to discuss teacher engagement and it was agreed that re Leads from two maintained schools would be invited to take part in the discussion, including looking at how SACRE could fund teachers to get out of the classroom to share good practise. The RE Hubs summer time newsletter was included in the agenda pack for Members' information and they were asked to provide feedback on the newsletter.

38. NASACRE News Issue 3 (6:48pm)

Members noted the content of NASACRE News Issue 3.

39. Feedback from SACRE visit to Joseph Rowntree School, Weds 25 March (6:48pm)

Maxine Squire reported that a formal letter of thanks for the visit (attended by herself, Taco Michiels, Karen Vincent and Dee Boyle and John, delegate from North Yorkshire Humanists) had been sent to Mr Hewitt, Headteacher at Joseph Rowntree School. SACRE recorded its thanks to Mr Hewitt and Taco Michiels. Maxine gave an overview of the visit. She noted that she had spoken to young people on the visit and they shared that they enjoyed RE. She noted that other GCSEs were prioritised over GCSE RE and she added that there were increasing numbers of doing RE at A Level at that school. She explained that the school focussed on moral values as part of the social development of young people. Taco Michiels noted that he enjoyed the visit and he explained that Year 9 and 10 did core RE. He noted that it was good to talk to students and Maxine Squire thanked young people for the visits to Year 7 and Year 9 lessons. Taco Michiels explained that A Level RE took on a more sociological approach than GCSE RE. Maxine Squire undertook to share the thankyou letter with SACRE.

Members considered a SACRE meeting involving young people and they were asked to approach their congregations and organisations regarding another SACRE meeting with young people. It was agreed as an agenda item at the next meeting and that SACRE would pay for pizzas at the meeting. Penny Coppin-Siddall confirmed that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would be happy to host the meeting. The Mansion

House was suggested as a venue for the meeting and Maxine Squire undertook to contact the Civic Office regarding the possibility of a meeting there. The Chair noted that the venue for the meeting would need to be accessible and he explained the previous SACRE event with young people, which was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Maxine Squire was asked and confirmed that she would arrange a SACRE visit to Huntington School (secondary school).

40. Correspondence on Complaints/Determinations (7:07pm)

It was noted that no complaints had been received, and no determinations submitted. It was noted that all schools had been emailed to remind them of their duties in relation to RE and the need to submit determinations to SACRE.

41. Any other business (7:07pm)

It was reported that Picture News had sent out a resource to schools regarding the Middle East. SACRE were asked for their views on it. Taco Michiels noted that his school used Picture News. Maxine Squire was asked and explained that it was for primary through to Key Stage 3 and was about social cohesion. The Chair noted that he was happy for it to be shared with schools for them to decide if they wanted to use it. This was supported by Members.

Regarding the consultation on RE in schools, it was the understanding of Maxine Squire and Taco Michiels that it would become part of the Humanities. It was noted that the Imam needed changing to Imam Ammar.

42. Future meeting dates (7:21pm)

16 June 2026 at 6.00pm

Cllr Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.06 pm and finished at 7.21 pm].