

Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	16 June 2026
Present	<u>Group A</u> Karen Vincent (Faith/Catholic) Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) Imam Amar (Faith/Muslim) Mark Jones (Faith/Buddhist) Fleur Kennedy (Faith/Bahai'i) Susan Guiver (Faith/Humanist) Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan) Professor Avtar Matharu (Faith/Sikh) <u>Group B</u> Sue Bland (CoE) <u>Group C</u> Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree School) <u>Group D</u> Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)
In Attendance	Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills, City of York Council) Stephen Pett (RE today)
Apologies	Councillors Webb, Knight and Rowley, Ben Rich Rich, Knight and Josphe Everdell

Appointment of Chair for the meeting

Resolved: That the meeting be chaired by Cllr Wilson.

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

Apologies for absence were received and noted for Cllr Webb (Chair), Ben Rich (Vice-Chair), Cllr Knight, Cllr Rowley and Joseph Everdell. 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.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6:21pm)

Resolved:

- i. That the minutes of the SACRE meetings held on 14 October 2025 and 10 March 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii. That the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 30 April 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the addition of apologies from Dee Boyle.

Matters arising: It was noted that the Imam had resigned and this would need amending in the Annual Report.

[Maxine Squire joined the meeting at 6.22pm]

3. Review of the Agreed Syllabus (6:23pm)

Maxine reported that she had started to look at the Agreed Syllabus particularly in light of the RE curriculum and assessment review. She reminded Members that the licence for the Agreed Syllabus had been extended by a year.

Stephen Pett (RE Today) was then invited to join the meeting. Stephen Pett noted that there was a different approach to discussions previously as there hadn't been the RE curriculum review which changed the situation. He explained that there was a Task and Finish Group looking at the curriculum for which there had been various consultations. He noted RE would have a curriculum based on four areas of study and he detailed the programmes of study for them. He added that it was not known what the DfE would do and there was a meeting about it that week. He explained that the areas of study would be put out for consultation and that the draft National Curriculum was due in February 2027 and would be delivered from September 2028.

Stephen Pett noted that in terms of York SACRE developing its Agreed Syllabus, it was hard to know what to do and that regarding a draft new syllabus, SACRE could take the headlines from the programmes of study. He added that it would be useful to find out what teachers found useful in the curriculum syllabus.

Maxine Squire noted she was being contacted by schools and even if RE was to go into the National Curriculum, SACREs would have a role in local

content. She added that it would be useful to start a dialogue with teachers and she undertook to speak with a group of primary and secondary teachers to see what they would like to retain and what they found useful.

4. Future school visits (6:44pm)

Maxine Squire reported that there would be a future SACRE visit to Huntington School and she undertook to email the date to Members.

5. Funding teaching engagement (6:48pm)

Maxine Squire asked Members if some SACRE budget could be used to fund teacher visits. She noted that there were expressions of interest from teachers every half term. It was suggested that SACRE funding could be released to get a group of teachers together to see what they would find useful. It was noted that there was £3000 in the SACRE annual budget. Maxine Squire undertook to scope out a SACRE proposal for the July meeting.

6. SACRE meeting with young people (6:50pm)

It was agreed that the Democracy Officer would check with Penny Coppin-Siddall to see if the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints would be available as a venue for the meeting with young people.

7. Update from Interfaith (6:53pm)

Dee Boyle gave an update on the York Interfaith Group noting that their leaflet had been emailed out. She explained that they had been asked to host a regional consultation day on the future of Interfaith which had been hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She added that there would be feedback following the consultation. She noted that Imam Ammar had resigned and there was a review of the York Interfaith Group.

8. NASACRE News Issue 3 (6:56pm)

Members noted the content of NASACRE News Issue 3.

9. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (6:57pm)

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.

10. Any Other Business (6:57pm)

Maxine Squire noted that there was a problem with SACRE meeting quoracy nationally. She suggested that SACRE could look at a mix of virtual meetings with two face to face meetings per year and as Task and Finish meetings and virtual meetings being business meetings. She reported that she was representing SACRE on the Holocaust Memorial Day group. Susan Guiver noted she was unable to attend the next meeting and would email her ideas to the Chair and Maxine Squire. Maxine Squire was asked and confirmed that the Agreed Syllabus licence had been extended two years to 2028. A Member expressed concern about RE being left out of the National Curriculum and Maxine Squire noted that there was strong RE parliamentary support of SACRES.

11. Future meeting dates (6:59pm)

14 July 2026 at 6pm at West Offices.

, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].