

Sheffield SACRE Annual Report 2024-25

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Words from the Chair

As I look back on the past year as Chair of SACRE, having taken up the role in September 2023, I am proud of what we have achieved together and aware of the important work that still lies ahead.

This year has continued to bring complexity and rapid change for our communities. In a world where misinformation can spread quickly, especially through social media, the need to support young people in developing critical, informed and open-minded perspectives has never been more important.

Religious Education plays a vital role in this. It encourages understanding and respect for others, nurtures empathy and helps young people appreciate the richness and diversity of the world around them. By doing so, RE contributes to a more thoughtful, compassionate and connected society.

As we reflect on our work over the past year, let us recognise and celebrate the difference that high quality Religious Education makes. It shapes young minds, strengthens relationships between communities and helps inspire a future grounded in respect, knowledge and unity.

Pat Butterell
Chair of SACRE

RE Results 2024-2025

2025 GCSE - Religious Studies						
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Pupils	%	Pupils	%	Pupils	%
9 to 1	816	97.0	1026	97.6	1842	97.4
9 to 4	475	56.5	713	67.8	1188	62.8
9 to 5	371	44.1	587	55.9	958	50.6
Entries	841		1051		1892	

2025 A Level - Religious Studies						
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Pupils	%	Pupils	%	Pupils	%
A* to A	7	28.0	13	18.1	20	20.6
A* to C	21	84.0	53	73.6	74	76.3
A* to E	25	100.0	70	97.2	95	97.9
Entries	25		72		97	

Meetings 2024-2025

Two meetings, during this academic year, were held face to face, one meeting was held remotely.

The three meetings were held in; November 2024, February 2025 and June 2025. There was a fluctuation in attendance throughout the year.

The Chair to SACRE was Pat Butterell, from Sheffield LA.

Clerking support was provided by Debbie Royles & Claire Mawson. There was no clerking support provided for the June meeting.

Attendance at these meetings was recorded as follows:

November 2024

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Greg Nettleship	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Kevin O’Grady	To be co-opted
Fiona Walton	Church of England	Srivati Skelton	Buddhist
Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam	Debbie Royles	Clerk
Katherine Wedell	To be co-opted	Pat Butterell	Sheffield LA

February 2025

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Girish Vaidya	Hindu	Michael Heap	Sheffield Humanist Society
Greg Nettleship	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Kevin O’Grady	To be co-opted
Fiona Walton	Church of England	Srivati Skelton	Buddhist
Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam	Ellen Coefield	Primary Teaching
Heather Bower	Secondary Teaching	Claire Mawson	Clerk
Stephen Betts	Learn Sheffield	Pat Butterell	Sheffield LA

June 2025

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Greg Nettleship	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Kevin O’Grady	To be co-opted
Fiona Walton	Church of England	Srivati Skelton	Buddhist
Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam	Pat Butterell	Sheffield LA

The agendas for the meetings focused on the following areas:

- Constitution
- Collective Worship
- Annual Report/Development Plan
- Monitoring of RE provision in schools
- Curriculum & Assessment Review
- CPD
- Local & national updates
- Validated RE results
- Interfaith Week

Religious Education (Statutory responsibilities)

Sheffield Agreed Syllabus 2024-2029 (available [here](#))

We have continued to support schools with the implementation of the Sheffield Agreed Syllabus. Many local schools purchased additional support materials from RE Today. We have continued to manage and monitor queries and requests for support from schools as necessary.

Standards and monitoring of RE

Learn Sheffield have continued to provide a report to SACRE in order to support two aspects of SACRE monitoring of RE provision in schools:

- Review of comments relating to RE in Ofsted reports
- Curriculum content through review of RE curriculum information published on a sample of school websites

Learn Sheffield have continued to review the reports of all Sheffield settings that have been inspected to record any Ofsted reports comments relating to RE. They have also carried out periodic deep dive sampling of the online curriculum information about RE in settings who have been inspected.

Comments specific to RE have continued to be found in a minority of published reports (around a third). This continues to be most prevalent in the inspection of faith schools, where the proportion is more than 50%. This reflects the continuing low priority given to RE in inspections.

In relation to curriculum content relating to RE, published on sampled school websites, the level of detail in published information about RE curriculums continues to vary. In the weakest cases RE is listed in a list of taught curriculum subjects. More often RE curriculum overviews or 'roadmaps' are found. In the strongest examples detailed half-termly plans spanning entire key stages are shared. Faith based settings also routinely made explicit reference to the RE curriculum being that of the relevant denomination and diocese.

Reference to the SACRE Sheffield Agreed Syllabus was less routinely made online and in a small number of cases websites made explicit reference to the RE curriculum as being based, at least in part, on a commercially available curriculum (Jigsaw RE).

All curriculums continue to include coverage of the principal religions present in the UK and there is frequently reference to teaching children about respect and tolerance for people of other religions. Usually, 'religion', 'faith' and 'culture' are expressed as inter-related concepts, and framed as necessary foundations for children to go on to lead lives as respectful citizens.

Teacher Training Materials and Advice for Schools

Whilst SACRE does not take sole responsibility for the provision of training, we have continued to work with partners in 2024-2025 to provide and publicise CPD opportunities for teachers in Sheffield. We have advertised CPD opportunities provided by the Sheffield Anglican Diocese and NATRE as well as making teachers aware of ongoing opportunities provided by organisations such as Culham St Gabriel's.

Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, complaints)

SACRE did not deal with any complaints or withdrawal issues during this academic year.

Advice to the LA

SACRE continues to have a strong working relationship with the local authority.

Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities)

Standards and monitoring of collective worship

During this academic year we have not done anything to actively monitor collective worship and we have not had any approaches from schools, in relation to this. However, we have started to explore the possibility of providing support for schools as they plan and deliver collective worship.

Determinations

Details of the determinations process for Sheffield can be found at the link below.

[Microsoft Word - Appendix 6 - The Determination Process \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](#)

We are not aware of any school in Sheffield who currently has a determination. We continue to highlight this lack of intelligence in our SACRE self-assessment and we will continue to review our approach in 2025-2026.

Teacher training

We have not organised or promoted any training in relation to collective worship.

Links with other bodies

National

We continue to be members of NASACRE and offered free places, to SACRE members, to the 2025 conference. Unfortunately, no members were able to attend, this year, on behalf of Sheffield SACRE. Members of SACRE also have links with the National Association of the Teachers of RE, the Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education (our vice-chair sits on the executive committee for both organisations) and Culham St Gabriel's; through them we keep-to-date with the work of these organisations and with new resources and CPD opportunities (for both teachers and SACRE members). During the year we welcomed an observer to one of our meetings who is completing the Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Scholarship programme.

Local

SACRE continues to have strong links with Sheffield Hallam University, and we have developed further our working relationship with the Sheffield Diocese. With the latter we continue to support their CPD offer.

Local Involvement

SACRE continues to have a strong working relationship with Learn Sheffield, a not-for-profit organisation owned by Sheffield schools and colleges and Sheffield City Council. The relationship facilitates both a connection between SACRE and the education community, and a route into effective communication with all schools and academies. They also continue to host our webpage: <https://www.learnsheffield.co.uk/Partners/sacre/Purpose>.

SACRE Statutory Responsibilities

SACRE continues to receive administrative support from the LA in the form of a clerk to manage the administrative aspects of our meetings. The LA also pays the annual NASACRE membership fee.

However, there is no subject advisor provision for RE in Sheffield.

In 2023-2024 we contacted all members of committee A to check that they were keen to continue their involvement with SACRE. This has resulted in some new members being recruited to the committee and, in other cases, highlighted where we have vacancies that will need to be addressed going forward. Membership and attendance has continued to be a key priority in 2024-2025 across all committees.

Appendices - Appendix 1: Sheffield SACRE Development Plan 2025-2026

Section 1: Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders				
<i>How far does the SACREs partnership with the LA enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
Improve the attendance of all committees through targeted recruitment, to ensure that the diverse nature of the city is represented.	Chair and clerk	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees are reviewed to ensure that every meeting is quorate through fully functioning committees. Attendance improves in all committees. Partnership with key stakeholders is productive 	
Members of SACRE receive appropriate training to enable them to fulfil their duties.	HS and clerk	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE members continue to be offered the chance to attend regular training organised by NASACRE. SACRE members continue to be offered the opportunity to attend events and conferences (e.g. CStG online events, NASACRE conference, etc.) to develop their knowledge. SACRE members continue to share relevant documents, updates and resources. 	

Section 2: Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education				
<i>How effectively does the SACRE in partnership with the LA evaluate standards and the quality of provision for RE in schools? How effective are the strategies to improve standards and the quality of provision?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
The analysis of SACRE monitoring of RE provision is shared with the sector to support the development of provision.	SB and chair	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of provision remains a standing item within the SACRE agenda and SACRE respond to any issues arising. Analysis of provision monitoring is shared with the sector in July 2026. 	
The SACRE development offer to settings supports improved standards and quality of provision	SB/HT	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A training and development offer to settings is developed with a view to preparing schools for the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus. 	

Section 3: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus				
<i>How effectively does the SACRE, in partnership with the LA, monitor the impact and evaluate the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus in raising standards?</i>				
<i>How effectively does the Agreed Syllabus Conference in partnership with SACRE make decisions about the use of national guidance and exemplar material in a review of the agreed syllabus?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
To make Sheffield teachers aware of opportunities to support curriculum development.	HS/SB	March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plan to support teachers by making them aware of CPD opportunities. 	

Section 4: Collective Worship				
<i>How effectively does the SACRE fulfil its responsibilities for the provision and practice of collective worship?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
SACRE fulfils its responsibilities in relation to collective worship	Chair	May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE establishes effective approaches to information gathering to develop an understanding of collective worship provision across the city SACRE agendas consider collective worship and the use of determinations as a standing item. SACRE takes a more active role in ensuring that school understand the determinations process. 	

Section 5: Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community				
<i>How effectively does SACRE, in partnership with the Local Authority and the faith communities, contribute to the promoting of cohesion across the community?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
SACRE makes a clear contribution to civic community cohesion in Sheffield	All	July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership and attendance enable diverse perspectives to contribute to decision making. SACRE agendas include strategic discussion of educational issues and initiatives which have a faith dimension. 	
Consider the potential benefits of closer cooperation between South Yorkshire SACREs	Chair	April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links are further established with Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster SACREs. Identify medium- and long-term shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration (e.g. development of training opportunities). 	