



SUFFOLK SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

1. INTRODUCTION

a. Words from the Chair.

It is with pleasure that I present this report on the work of the Suffolk SACRE for the year 2024-2025. We have again met as a main group virtually. Our work has largely been focussed on supporting our Agreed Syllabus by creating training and assessment resources for KS3. We have also carried out detailed website checks on Suffolk primary schools to ensure they display details and information about the teaching of Religious Education. I would like to thank all those who have been involved in this work, the resources creation group was successfully led by Sarah Cobbold. Several members carried out website checks for which we are most grateful. There has been a lot of valuable training work carried out through the excellent efforts of our diocesan adviser. In thanking all our members, for their time, insights and contributions I would also like to thank our clerk, Linden Pitcher and the LA for its continuing support.

This report marks my 'standing down' as chair of SACRE, the office I have held for two years, and now I pass the torch to Alison Pentreath. We commend this report to you.

Alison Pentreath (Chair of Suffolk SACRE 2025 -)

Karen Harman (Chair of Suffolk SACRE, 2022- 2025)

b. Overview

SACRE met, virtually, on three occasions.

The meeting in June was specifically to approve the draft of the new Agreed Syllabus. At the other meetings reports were received from the LA Officer, the Professional Advisory Team (PAT), NATRE Ambassador and the Diocesan Schools' Adviser. Minutes were published on the SACRE website – SACRE- Suffolk Learning.

3.10.24 Items included:

- Two new members to Committee C were welcomed

- Reports on finance received from LA
- Concerns about two schools were raised following the first website check – Action was determined, chair to contact headteachers
- Ofsted report and LA report received from LA Officer
- Councillor representation was discussed
- The Diocesan School’s Adviser reported on her planned training programme
- WIRE awarded to two schools

16.1.2025. Items included:

- Reports from LA Officer, NATRE Ambassador, Diocesan Schools Adviser
- Concerns over previous schools resolved, further concerns noted. Chair to contact
- KS3 resources completed and available

20.6.25. Items included:

- Welcome three new members to Committee A
- Discuss next tranche of schools for checking and recent outcomes.
- Agree funding for diocesan advisor (10 days p.a.) to offer further support to non-church schools.
- Appointment of a new chair – voting had to be by email as we were not quorate.

Between these meetings of the full SACRE there were meetings of those involved in the production of support resources for the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus and the outgoing and incoming chairs met.

Agreed Syllabus

The agreed Syllabus is working well in most primary schools.

Awards

Our WIRE (Widening Inclusivity in RE) award using zoom and other means were made to two schools: Fressingfield and Benhall during the year

Training and advice

Training and advice for primary teachers is provided through the diocese. Courses are well attended and include:

- New to RE training for teachers
- Effective subject leadership
- Deep dive into RE preparation
- Getting assessment in RE right

- Staff meetings for individual schools on implementing and embedding RE. Network meetings are held and attended by RE subject leaders at both community and Church of England schools.

Determinations

None have been requested and none made.

3. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our website reviewing has made it clear that few schools, except church schools, display information about Collective Worship. This makes it difficult to know what practices are. This is an area SACRE had not discussed for some time but guidance on Collective Worship was written for both primaries and secondaries for the Sacre website in 2022. Schools continue to be signposted to available resources.

4. LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES a. NASCRE

- Suffolk SACRE is a subscribed member of NASACRE

b. Other Bodies

- Suffolk SACRE is part of the Eastern region RE Hub.
- Links with various other bodies are through individual members eg NATRE
- Link with the Diocesan Education Team through RC who is the Schools' Adviser

5. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT a. Governor training

- Some involvement through the work of the Schools' Adviser

6. SACRE's INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS

a. Professional and administrative support

- Administrative support is fully funded by the local authority and is provided by Linden Pitcher the clerk.

b. Membership

Committee A	
Beverley Levy	Jewish
Alison Pentreath	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Donna-Marie Solker	Muslim
Atif Waheed	Muslim
Anita Gopinath	Hindu
Rudi Lockhart	Humanist

Karen Harman	United Reformed Church
David Yaroslaw	Independent Free Church
Martin Cobbold	Independent Free Church
Amy Austen	Buddhist
Clare Clark	Catholic
Committee B- Church of England	
Ruth Dennigan	
Katey Mills	
Committee c - teachers	
Sarah Cobbold	St Benedicts Catholic Upper School
Alison Weir	Headteacher Howard Primary School
Committee D – Local Authority	
Simon Harley	County Councillor – Green Party
James Finch	County Councillor- Conservative
Simon Nortcliffe	Regional Lead
G- Diocese	Diocesan Schools’ Adviser
Serving Officer	
Linden Pitcher	Clerk to SACRE

d. Funding

- Suffolk SACRE is fully funded by Suffolk County Council to fulfil its statutory duties from the Central Services School Block allocated by central government. This covers the cost of clerking, annual membership to NATRE and NASACRE, as well as a subscription to NASACRE’s online training for all SACRE members and to reimburse the chair and other SACRE members for their time, for example supply cover for schools. This year it was agreed to pay the Diocesan School’s Advisor for 10 days, to support schools to use the Suffolk Syllabus and it’s resources more confidently.

GCSE/A Level Results

A level results..

DATE	EXAM Religious Studies	STUDENTS ENTERED	% A* - B	
2022		164	63%	
2023		166	47%	
2024		172	47%	

Year	Religious Education	Cohort entered	%4- 9
2024		899	67.3%