



Wakefield SACRE Annual Report

June 2026

Agreed and approved at Wakefield SACRE on 09/07/2026

This report provides members and NASACRE/DfE with details of the work of the Wakefield Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) for the academic year 2025-26.

Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

Memberships

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Director of Children's Services 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 must be four 'committees' each comprising representatives of specified groups. These four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority agree. The actual members change over time and the current Wakefield SACRE is constituted as follows:

- ❖ Group A (5 places) Christian and other religious denominations which reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- ❖ Group B (5 places) Church of England
- ❖ Group C (5 places) Teacher Associations
- ❖ Group D (5 places) Local Authority Representatives

The report follows the format requested by the DfE.

1. An introduction including:

- *Table of contents*
- *Words from the Chair of SACRE*
- *Overview, number of times SACRE has met and attendance at meetings, venues, agendas, content of these meetings – link to SACRE Development plan*

2. A section on RE (statutory responsibilities) including:

- *The local agreed syllabus and RE in schools*
- *Monitoring the AS, relationship with an AS review*
- *Work of the ASC and associated working parties if this is currently sitting showing progress, links to other work nationally or locally*
- *Standards and monitoring of RE*
- *Teacher training and materials and advice for schools*

- *Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, complaints)*
- *Advice to the LA*

3. A section on Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities) including:

- *Standards and monitoring of CW*
- *Determinations*
- *Teacher training provided (locally or national training circulated to schools) materials and advice for schools*
- *Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, Complaints)*
- *Advice to the LA*

4. A section on links with other bodies

5. A section on other areas of SACRE involvement locally

- *Governor training*
- *Advice on issues within the community*

6. A section on SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities) including:

- *Professional and administrative support and how the LA supports the SACRE (clerking, adviser, links to council initiatives)*
- *Membership, representation & recruitment - quoracy, issues and successes with recruitment*
- *Training for SACRE members*
- *Finance given to SACRE for its work*

7. Appendices

- *SACRE membership*
- *Spirited arts competition*
- *Community event*

Section 1: Introduction

Table of contents

1	Comments from the Chair; overview of the work of SACRE 2025-26 linked to SACRE development plan
2	Statutory responsibilities
3	Collective worship
4	Links with other bodies
5	SACRE involvement locally
6	Arrangements for SACRE
7	Appendices: • Wakefield SACRE membership • CPD evaluations • Guidance for schools on Collective Worship • Images from SACRE art competition displays • Circulation details

Chair's comments

It has been a real pleasure to lead the Wakefield SACRE this year and to learn about how Religious Education is continuing to be taught in our schools and local area to such a high standard. The commitment of schools across the authority to the teaching of RE and to regular Collective Worship within schools shows the willingness of staff to ensure that all the children in our authority have a good balanced curriculum.

Our annual Art competition yet again showed the talent and real passion within our young people to learn from one another and their desire to live in a world of equality and positive regard for one another. The title 'No to Division, Yes to Respect', allowed the participants to reflect on their learning as well as show their desire to live in a world peacefully with their friends and neighbours. It was a real honour to see the work and to realise the heart of the children of Wakefield. The entries are on display in Wakefield Cathedral for the whole community to enjoy.

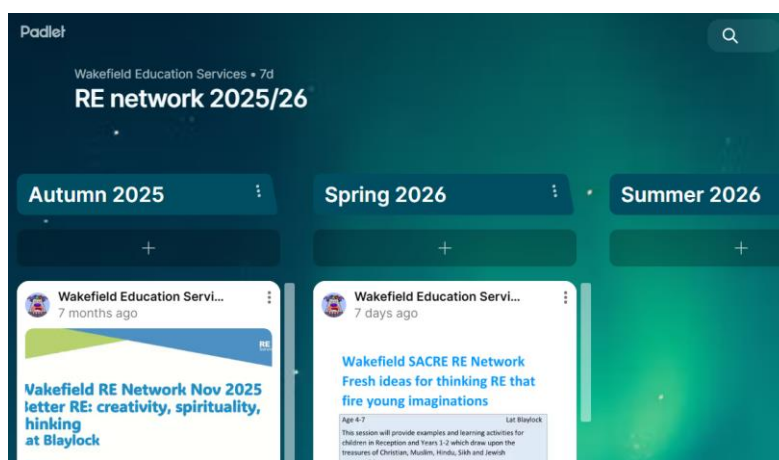
It has been a year of significant change for Wakefield SACRE as we said farewell to Rachel Redfearn and Kieron Flood at the beginning of the year. Rachel worked tirelessly for SACRE in the Wakefield district putting together so many reports and support for schools throughout her time. Her work has been invaluable for so many teachers, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all she has given to Wakefield and SACRE over the years. Also, Kieron, as Chair of SACRE was involved in groups and support for schools and the development of Religious Education right across the district. Again, we thank Kieron for his work and the time he gave to SACRE.

It remains for me to thank the whole SACRE team for their involvement and participation in the committee as well as the schools, teachers, staff and pupils across Wakefield for their hard work and dedication to quality Religious Education.

Margaret Brownlee Chair of SACRE

Overview of the work of SACRE 2025-26

- The group has met termly online, with one additional face-to-face meeting: March 2026 to judge artwork submitted by schools entering this year's Wakefield SACRE art competition.
- During the autumn term 2025, the information available to schools was improved and updated through revisions to the SACRE page on the Wakefield Education Services website / platform. Schools can now access a wealth of information linked to the agreed syllabus, SACRE membership and the work of SACRE, resources and updates, local sources of support including Yorkshire and Humber RE Hub.
- In addition to this a Padlet was created to share more widely learning and resources from the RE subject leader networks [RE network 2025/26](#)



- Full Meetings and sub-meetings have focused on the following areas:
 - Reviewing and improving the information about SACRE which is readily available to schools.
 - Ensuring high quality training for primary schools, linked to the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus – reviewing numbers at training and delegate feedback
 - Continuing discussion around the implications for SACRE of the Ofsted curriculum review report: Deep and Meaningful
 - Reviewing guidance for schools on Collective Worship – shared with schools during 2025-26
 - Reflecting on messages shared at the annual NASACRE conference in determining our key priorities for 2026-27
 - Promoting the work of SACRE through termly newsletters.
 - Promoting and supporting the annual art competition: *'No to division, yes to respect'*.
 - Supporting schools financially through a bidding process in line with our annual theme and sharing the work undertaken by schools.
 - NASACRE training opportunities and feedback to members following attendance at regional meetings

- Meetings have been attended by the following representatives: members of the Local Authority (Senior School Improvement Adviser and LA councillor); representatives of the Church of England; representative of Leeds Humanist Society; representative of the Catholic denomination; representatives of the teaching unions; representative of headteacher association. Three full SACRE meetings were held virtually; one focus group meeting was held face to face at a local authority training venue.

Section 2 – Statutory responsibilities

The locally agreed syllabus

- Wakefield SACRE shared the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus with schools during the summer term of 2023, supported by a full day conference for headteachers and RE leaders.
- SACRE newsletters have reminded all schools of new updates, accompanying support materials and training.
- Wakefield SACRE provided opportunities to share best practice in relation to delivery of the syllabus through three termly networks for primary schools 2025-26.
- Senior School Improvement Advisers seek support from SACRE when providing bespoke advice to schools around the implementation of the syllabus.
- SACRE will undertake a survey of academies (both primary and secondary) to ascertain uptake and adherence to the locally agreed syllabus during 2026-2027.
- Our SACRE website and Agreed Syllabus are continuously under review. The next full review of the Agreed Syllabus will be in 2028. Our updated website and Padlet also includes a wealth of additional support for schools including visits to support RE and visits to local places of worship. The LA representative attend regional network meetings and discussed the strengths of the syllabus with other colleagues from the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Standards and monitoring of RE

- Seventeen of the eighteen secondary schools in Wakefield are academies.
- There are wide variations between schools in the hours of RE offered to pupils in different year groups.
- Members of Wakefield SACRE continue to offer support to schools during inspection when requested, liaising with our contacts in RE Today.
- Wakefield SACRE supports schools with additional resources in addition to providing the locally agreed syllabus. Schools that participate in the art competition receive texts to support their work in school. This year schools received:
 - Big Questions; Big Answers: How we live
 - Big Questions; Big Answers: Investigating good and evil
 - At RE events, additional resources are shared with schools which include teaching packs and guidance on assessment.
- Subject Leaders inform SACRE of positive visits to places of worship which they highly recommend to teaching colleagues. These recommendations are shared with all schools at Teacher Network Meetings and by email.

2023-2025 GCSE Religious Studies				NOR			Entries			Percentage of NOR entered		
School Name	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Airedale Academy	178	158	195	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carleton High School	202	199	196	35	26	19	17.3%	13.1%	9.7%			
Castleford Academy	277	301	295	23	26	34	8.3%	8.6%	11.5%			
Crofton Academy	199	206	198	19	0	0	9.5%	-	-			
De Lacy Academy	139	170	147	0	0	0	-	-	-			
Horbury Academy	198	228	196	0	0	0	-	-	-			
Kettlethorpe High School	320	315	315	20	26	12	6.3%	8.3%	3.8%			
Minsthorpe Community College	250	286	250	50	23	25	20.0%	8.0%	10.0%			
Ossett Academy and Sixth Form College	298	291	295	0	0	29	-	-	9.8%			
Outwood Academy City Fields	141	144	143	0	124	128	-	86.1%	89.5%			
Outwood Academy Freeston	131	190	188	0	0	15	-	-	8.0%			
Outwood Academy Hemsworth	179	173	170	0	0	0	-	-	-			
Outwood Grange Academy	359	348	342	28	0	23	7.8%	-	6.7%			
St Thomas à Becket Catholic Secondary School, A Voluntary Academy	149	145	148	140	138	139	94.0%	95.2%	93.9%			
St Wilfrid's Catholic High School & Sixth Form College: A Voluntary Academy	271	278	268	264	268	255	97.4%	96.4%	95.1%			
The Featherstone Academy	88	88	87	0	0	0	-	-	-			
The King's School	206	207	206	53	46	18	25.7%	22.2%	8.7%			
Trinity Academy Cathedral	190	197	200	163	121	188	85.8%	61.4%	94.0%			
Wakefield LA	3844	3996	3905	795	798	885	20.7%	20.0%	22.7%			

2023-2025 GCSE Religious Studies				Percentage of 9-5 Grades			Percentage of 9-4 Grades			Percentage of 9-1 Grades		
School Name	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Airedale Academy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carleton High School	57%	65%	84%	69%	73%	84%	100%	100%	100%			
Castleford Academy	65%	92%	85%	74%	100%	91%	96%	100%	100%			
Crofton Academy	63%	-	-	68%	-	-	100%	-	-			
De Lacy Academy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Horbury Academy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Kettlethorpe High School	80%	58%	67%	85%	73%	67%	100%	96%	100%			
Minsthorpe Community College	36%	61%	52%	52%	70%	60%	94%	91%	92%			
Ossett Academy and Sixth Form College	-	-	72%	-	-	86%	-	-	100%			
Outwood Academy City Fields	-	28%	38%	-	37%	44%	-	98%	96%			
Outwood Academy Freeston	-	-	33%	-	-	47%	-	-	100%			
Outwood Academy Hemsworth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Outwood Grange Academy	64%	-	65%	68%	-	70%	100%	-	100%			
St Thomas à Becket Catholic Secondary School, A Voluntary Academy	46%	49%	65%	57%	57%	73%	93%	95%	94%			
St Wilfrid's Catholic High School & Sixth Form College: A Voluntary Academy	50%	55%	64%	63%	68%	73%	98%	99%	98%			
The Featherstone Academy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
The King's School	60%	43%	61%	74%	59%	61%	100%	96%	100%			
Trinity Academy Cathedral	61%	73%	49%	75%	84%	57%	99%	98%	97%			
Wakefield LA	54%	54%	58%	66%	65%	66%	97%	97%	97%			

- Wakefield SACRE reviews and analyses GCSE outcomes and the numbers of pupils taking RE at GCSE during the spring term meeting. Data in 2025 indicated the following:
- The highest percentage of GCSE entries were from the two Catholic academies (see table below) with entry percentages of 95.1% and 93.29%. The next highest entry percentage is 89.5% from Outwood Academy City Fields. Some academies did not enter any pupils for the GCSE in Religious Studies in 2025.

School Name	Percentage of NOR entered
St Wilfrid's Catholic High School & Sixth Form College: A Voluntary Academy	95.1%
St Thomas à Becket Catholic Secondary School, A Voluntary Academy	93.9%
Outwood Academy City Fields	89.5%

- In 2025, 885 pupils were entered for GCSE in Religious Studies, an increase of 87 on the previous year.
- 12 of 18 schools/academies entered pupils for GCSE in Religious Studies (9 of 18 schools/academies in 2024)
- Results at 4-9 Grades in 2025 range from 47% to 91%.

- The number of entries across schools ranged from 12 to 255.

There have been five SIAMs inspections of primary schools during 2025-26:

St. John's Church of England (VA) Junior and Infant School – 24 November 2025

- Strong and effective leadership ensures that the distinctively Christian vision is clearly communicated and understood. Consequently, pupils and adults are nurtured and known as unique individuals. The vision is evident in the care, dignity, and respect consistently demonstrated in relationships across the school.
- The school has a well-balanced and sequenced religious education (RE) curriculum. This enables pupils to have a secure understanding of a range of world religions and worldviews. They consider how this knowledge influences their own lives and are extremely respectful of others.

St. Michael's CE Academy - 22 April 2026

- The vision at St Michael's permeates the school and is central to daily life. As a result, this caring school is serving its community well. This carefully thought-out vision strongly resonates with that of the multi academy trust (MAT) and embodies the context of this school.

Ossett Southdale CE (VA) Junior School - 26 March 2026

- The school's inclusive Christian vision is clearly articulated and deeply embedded in the life of the community. It nurtures a strong culture of belonging and aspiration for all, inspiring pupils of every age to 'sparkle'.
- Religious education (RE) is a curriculum strength, offering relevant, diverse, inclusive content and is given high priority in school life. It challenges pupils and develops an accurate knowledge of beliefs, values, and diverse faith traditions. Pupils show great enthusiasm for the subject and demonstrate impressive understanding of denominational Christianity and world religions.

Badsworth CE (VC) Junior and Infant School - 23 April 2026

- The school's Christian vision is deeply embedded and seamlessly woven throughout school life. It is lived out daily through the school's associated Christian values. Pupils and adults fully embrace the vision, creating a strong sense of community and belonging.
- Religious education (RE) is carefully planned to build on pupils' knowledge of religious and non-religious worldviews. This allows pupils to learn about and appreciate a diverse range of perspectives.

Ossett Holy Trinity CE (VA) Primary School - June 2026

- Report not yet published

Teacher training and advice for schools

Wakefield SACRE continues to provide training opportunities for primary schools within the district. Network meetings are very well-attended. This year meetings have focused on the following themes:

- Meeting 1 - Better RE: creativity, spirituality and thinking
- Meeting 2 - Fresh ideas for re-thinking RE that fire young imaginations
- Meeting 3 - Progression in RE language and literacy

100% of delegates rated each aspect of the training as Good or Excellent.

Withdrawals and complaints

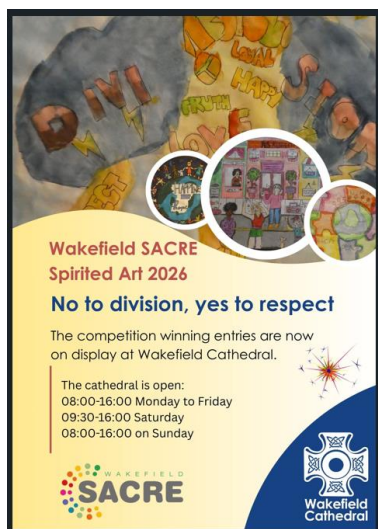
None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

Section 3 – Collective Worship

SACRE has previously monitored collective worship by reviewing Ofsted reports, through conversations with senior leaders / teachers/ local clergy/ ministers and through occasional visits to acts of collective worship in school. SACRE publishes clear advice on 'Hosting speakers for acts of collective worship'.

In line with previous development plans, schools have continued to be supported during 2025-26 in developing provision in collective worship. SACRE previously published guidance for schools which is included as an appendix to this report, having sought advice and collaboration from RE Today and Newham SACRE. SACRE also invited bids from schools this year and was able to support many schools financially in improving their current offer. Their work will be shared with schools during the summer and autumn term 2026 via the termly newsletter.

Wakefield SACRE continues to benefit from close collaboration with Gillian Bunn, Community Outreach Officer at Wakefield Cathedral, where school groups are routinely welcomed. This year the winning entries from Wakefield SACRE art competition will be exhibited at the Cathedral.



Visits to places of worship are shared with schools via the SACRE webpage and many schools have formed strong links with local faith communities.

Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination"; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship to be "wholly or mainly Christian". The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

Complaints regarding Collective Worship

None were made to the SACRE during this reporting year.

Advice to the LA

Councillors and the clerk provide advice, as needed.

Section 4 – links with other bodies

Wakefield SACRE is a member of NASACRE and makes use of the resources and training materials provided by NASACRE. In past years members have attended AGMs/conferences in London and York. The Chair and LA representative attend termly regional meetings and maintain close links with Yorkshire and the Humber RE Hub.

Wakefield SACRE continues to work closely with RE Today, commissioning training, promoting competitions for schools, accessing high quality resources for schools. Wakefield SACRE has links with Wakefield Cathedral and Wakefield Churches Together and links with other faith groups including the Catholic and Church of England dioceses.

Section 5 – SACRE involvement locally

Governor training

For several years governors have been invited to attend all training events for schools, as part of the governor training offer.

Bespoke governor training is also available on request either to a governing body or members of a governing body. Schools continue to handle sensitive issues, and SACRE is always willing to support schools with any questions, issues or concerns that may arise.

Promoting high quality teaching of different faiths and beliefs



We were delighted to announce that all schools submitting bids for funding from SACRE in the autumn term 2025 were successful. We have been able to support the projects and activities of twelve schools within the district (a 140% increase on schools bidding when compared to 2024), with funding up to £400 each. Bids included requests to support visits to places of worship, workshops and assemblies from Muslim Learning Service, staff CPD and the purchase of additional resources.

A list of schools that successfully secured funding from Wakefield SACRE in 2025-26:

School
Badsworth CofE Junior & Infant School
Smawthorne Henry Mooore Academy
Lee Brigg Academy
Middlestown Primary Academy
Wakefield Pinders Primary School
Ryhill Junior, Infant & Nursery School
Wheldon Infants and Nursery School
North Featherstone J, I and N School
South Ossett Infants Academy
Stanley St. Peter's CE (VC) Primary School
Alverthorpe St Paul's CE (VA) School
Streethouse Primary School



Wakefield SACRE art competition 2026

The schools listed below entered this year's art competition entitled '*No to division, yes to respect*', launched in the new year, with judging of artwork and exhibitions in March 2026. Winning entries for each school are currently displayed in Wakefield Cathedral up until early August 2026. Certificates and prizes will be presented to three winning entries from each school. Twenty schools participated, an increase from twelve schools in 2025.

Participating schools:



School
Wakefield St Marys CE (VA) Primary School
St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School
Ryhill Junior, Infant & Nursery School
Wakefield Pinders Primary School
De Lacy Pontefract Primary School
Southdale CofE Junior School
Holy Family & St. Michael's Catholic Primary School
Wakefield Snapethorpe Primary School
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Castleford
Crigglestone Dane Royd Junior and Infant School
Shay Lane Primary School
St. Ignatius Catholic Primary School
Hall Cliffe School
Wakefield Methodist Junior & Infant School
Badsworth CofE Junior & Infant School
Flanshaw Junior, Infant & Nursery School
West Bretton Junior and Infant School
English Martyrs Catholic Primary School
Alverthorpe St Paul's CE (VA) School
Newton Hill Community School

Advice to schools on issues within the community

Through 2025-26, Wakefield SACRE published updates within a weekly newsletter to schools from the Service Director.

Section 6 – Wakefield SACRE's arrangements

The LA is very supportive of Wakefield SACRE. A Senior School Improvement Adviser supports the Chair in establishing routine communication, identifying agenda items, sourcing high quality training and promoting the work of SACRE across the district.

Meetings are clerked by the LA and supported by a very efficient and accommodating clerk.

The SACRE has representation from all four groups and continues the focus of widening membership with greater representation from faiths within the district. This year Wakefield SACRE is pleased to welcome a representative from the Hindu faith. We continue to seek new members to SACRE including representatives from different faiths within the district, new members representing the Church of England and additional members to Group D.

Wakefield SACRE receives £7,010 annual budget. Requests for finance to support the work of SACRE are always treated fairly within LA budget restraints. Wakefield receives a minimum budget of £7010 per annum.

Section 7 – Appendices

SACRE membership - June 2026

Name	Role	Group / Denomination	
Margaret Brownlee	Chair	A - Free Church and non-conformist	
	Vice Chair		
Group A Christian and other religious denominations which reflect the principal religious traditions in the area			
Margaret Brownlee	Chair	A - Free Church and non-conformist	
Claire Cade		A - Catholic	
Radha Devi Susarla		A – Hindu	
Group B Church of England			
Trudi Garratt-Ward		B - Church of England	
Emma Brown		B - Church of England	
Gemma Crawford		B - Church of England	
Group C Teacher Associations			
Safiyah Munshi		C - Teacher Associations	
Lyndsay Ranby		C - Teacher Associations	
Group D Local Authority Representatives			
Matthew Jones		D - Local Authority	

Spirited Art Competition 2026



Wakefield SACRE is delighted to announce that an amazing **nineteen schools** took part in this year's art competition. Using a media of their choice, children and young people, produced some fantastic work that explored and expressed the theme of "**No to division, yes to respect**".

With almost **two hundred** individual pieces of artwork to evaluate, judging the winners from each school was not easy for the three SACRE board members that volunteered for this task. Schools will be notified of their winning entries at the end of March. We are hoping to display these winning entries at a venue in the district in the future (more details to follow).

Some of the wonderful entries to this year's Spirited Art Competition



Community event

Early in March 2026, **Pinders Primary School** welcomed visitors to their very own *Spirited Arts* exhibition. Children from Nursery to Year 6 had explored what unites them, how they celebrate differences and how they show respect in school and beyond. Pupils chose media to express ideas about kindness, equality and belonging. Some of the work displayed at the exhibition can be seen below.



This report will be circulated to all Wakefield schools, the DFE and NASACRE.