



WAKEFIELD SACRE Annual Report

July 2022

Section 1: Introduction

The Wakefield annual report format has been amended this year to align with NASACRE's recommendation.

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Chair's comments

The past year has seen a return to some face-to-face meetings which has been welcomed by members of the group. Following a drive to recruit new members, Wakefield SACRE was delighted to introduce a new member, representing the Islamic faith. A representative from the Leeds Humanists group contacted Wakefield SACRE and will be attending meetings from summer 2022.

We were sad to lose a longstanding member of the group, Cllr Olivia Rowley, who has supported the work of SACRE with energy and commitment, attending all meetings, and taking a proactive role in stressing the importance of high-quality teaching in RE to schools and academies. We offer our sincere thanks and very best wishes to Olivia.

Wider networking with local SACRE groups in West Yorkshire, 2021-2022 has resulted in a period of reflection for Wakefield SACRE which remains a relatively small group. An additional meeting during the summer term included a full analysis of the activities and impact of the group. As a result of this full and detailed self-evaluation, the focus for the next three years has been agreed to ensure that the work of the group is carefully planned and intended outcomes are achievable.

One of the key successes of our work in the past year was the art project: Where is God? A competition was launched involving over 25 primary and secondary schools and academies, with

artwork exhibited in venues in the city centre. Further information is included within Section 5 of this report. This helped to promote the work of SACRE across schools and the wider community.

As we look to the future, we are excited with our focus for 2022-2023 – promoting high quality teaching and learning around different faiths and beliefs. This focus will link to our activities and use of funding through 2022 – 2023.

Overview of the work of SACRE 2021 – 2022

- The group has met termly, with an additional meeting during June 2022 to undertake self-evaluation and to inform development planning.
- Meetings have focused on the following areas:
 - Recruitment of new members to the group – a member of the Jewish faith joined us briefly but was taken ill; a representative of Islam joined the group; a representative from the Humanists will now attend meetings; this continues as a focus throughout 2022-2023.
 - Inspiring children and young people to reflect on God’s presence in the world as schools fully re-opened following the pandemic; this was achieved through an ambitious, well-resourced art competition and exhibition.
 - Ensuring high quality training for primary teachers, with additional teaching resources, linked to the Locally Agreed Syllabus, funded through SACRE.
 - Supporting the work of a secondary RE network through identifying a lead teacher for the group and supporting costs for the group to meet.
 - Reflecting on the role and ambition of Wakefield SACRE, reviewing the work undertaken and setting new goals.

Meetings have been attended by the following representatives: members of the Local Authority (School Improvement Adviser, Councillor); representatives of the Church of England (member of the clergy, diocesan adviser; representative of the Islamic faith; representative of the Jewish faith; representative of the Catholic denomination; representative of the Methodist denomination; representatives of the teaching unions; representative of headteacher association. One meeting was held virtually; three meetings were held face to face at a local authority training venue.

Section 2 – Statutory responsibilities

The locally agreed syllabus

- There has been limited formal monitoring of the delivery of the Locally Agreed Syllabus since schools fully re-opened following the pandemic.
- SACRE is now actively seeking feedback from schools in relation to the LAS to inform planning for the revision of the syllabus during 2024-2025. SACRE is aware that delivery of the syllabus has been affected by school closures and that many schools are unlikely to have continued to teach RE remotely during the pandemic. Informal feedback from schools has indicated that the priority to close gaps in English and maths has affected the delivery and prioritisation of some subjects.

- The LAS was shared widely with all schools within the district, both primary and secondary, local authority maintained and academies at its launch. A SACRE newsletter has reminded all schools of the LAS and training has been provided to schools to support the effective delivery of the syllabus content.
- Wakefield SACRE will extend current opportunities to share best practice in relation to delivery of the syllabus. This is included within development planning over the next three years, supported through funding for schools.

Standards and monitoring of RE

- To date, there has been no formal in-school monitoring of provision during 2021-2022.
- Wakefield SACRE usually reviews and analyses GCSE outcomes and the numbers of pupils taking RE at GCSE during the autumn term meeting. There was no published data for RE in 2020 or in 2021. The last set of published data in 2019 indicated that:
 - 64% of pupils entered for the exam achieved level 4+. Comparison with previous years was difficult due to the new GCSE exam and changes to grading. This was below the national average of 71%.
 - 12 out of 18 secondary schools entered pupils for GCSE in RE. Numbers of entries varied between schools (8 pupils at Freeston Academy and 236 pupils at St. Wilfrid's Catholic Academy, for example). Entry numbers were above 40 at Castleford Academy, Horbury Academy, St. Thomas a Becket Catholic High School and St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School. GCSE attainment in 2019 indicated highest outcomes at Castleford Academy and Kettlethorpe High School, with strongest progress data noted at Castleford Academy, Kettlethorpe High School and Minsthorpe Community College. All three schools entered a cohort of between 30 and 40 pupils. The lowest performing schools according to data are those with high cohort entry numbers. The schools with high entry numbers and the schools performing well are very proactive within the secondary RE network, supported by Wakefield SACRE. The secondary meetings have the core purpose of sharing best practice to raise standards in RE across all high schools. Engagement varies with usually around half of the schools represented at the secondary network meetings, run by the Wakefield Learning Community.
- There have been no SIAMs inspections during 2022 – 2023.

Teacher training and advice for schools

Wakefield SACRE continues to provide training opportunities for primary schools within the district and extended its offer to include training for secondary schools during 2021-2022.

- Primary RE: Leading the Subject for Spiritual Engagement, Deep Thinking and High Standards – evaluated as good or excellent in every category by attendees
- Secondary RE: Teaching Christianity at GCSE: Engagement and Progress – evaluated as good or excellent in every category by attendees

Wakefield SACRE will work alongside the Local Authority to extend the training offer next year to include termly RE network meetings for primary schools, led by staff from RE Today.

Training will be offered to schools in line with SACRE's focus next year – ensuring high quality teaching and learning in relation to different faiths and beliefs

Withdrawals and complaints

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

Section 3 – Collective Worship

Wakefield SACRE recognises the need to strengthen this aspect of work. Self-evaluation during 2021-2022 identified this as a gap within current activity and this is therefore included within the three-year development planning as a key focus in 2023 – 2024. Work will begin next year in collecting extended evidence on the quality and frequency of Collective Worship in schools. The focus in 2023 – 2024 will be to ensure there are training events provided for schools alongside frequent opportunities to share good practice.

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. *Wakefield SACRE will update the links for schools in relation to the determination process during the next academic year.*

Complaints regarding Collective Worship

None were made to the SACRE during this reporting year.

Section 4 – links with other bodies

Wakefield SACRE is a member of NASACRE and makes use of the resources provided for self-evaluation and improvement planning.

Wakefield works closely with RE Today, commissioning training, promoting competitions for schools, accessing high quality resources for schools.

The Chair of Wakefield SACRE now attends meetings of the West Yorkshire SACRE group. This is supporting the development work of Wakefield SACRE, helping the group to recognise and fulfil statutory responsibilities.

Wakefield SACRE has established links with Wakefield Cathedral and Wakefield Churches Together – this is supporting recruitment of new members to the SACRE.

Section 5 – SACRE involvement locally

Governor training

Throughout 2021 – 2022 governors have been invited to attend all training events for schools, as part of the governor training offer. During 2022- 2023 there will be a separate training event for governors, linked to their responsibilities in ensuring statutory and effective provision in RE.

Wakefield SACRE art competition

The schools listed below entered an art competition entitled ‘Where is God?’, launched during summer 2021, with judging of artwork and exhibitions during the autumn term 2022. Winning entries for each school were displayed in Wakefield Cathedral during an Art Walk event in October, with all entries exhibited in a city centre venue in early December. The exhibitions were attended by representatives from the Local Authority, teachers, parents and children from participating schools and members of the local community. The exhibitions were constructed with the help of a local artist. Photobooks of winning entries were provided for schools with prizes for children whose work was judged to be of the highest quality.

Participating schools:

Ackworth Howard CoE Junior and Infants School
Dane Royd Junior and Infants School
Darrington CE Primary School
Holy Family Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
King’s Meadow Academy
Methodist Junior and Infant School
St. Botolph’s CoE Academy
St. Ignatius Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
St. John’s CE Junior and Infant School
St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Castleford, A Voluntary Academy
St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Pontefract, A Voluntary Academy
St. Mary’s CoE Primary School
St. Peter’s & Clifton CE Primary School, Horbury
St. Thomas CE Junior School
Ryhill Junior, Infant & Nursery School
Sandal Castle Primary School
Shay Lane Primary School
West Bretton Junior & Infants School

Castleford Academy
Minsthorpe Community College
St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Secondary School, A Voluntary Academy
St. Wilfrid’s Catholic High School & Sixth Form College a Voluntary Academy
Outwood Academy, City Fields

Advice to schools on issues within the community

Through 2022-2023, Wakefield SACRE will use the vehicle of a weekly newsletter (from the Service Director) to provide updates to schools. This will be in addition to information contained within the termly Wakefield SACRE newsletter.

Section 6 – Wakefield SACRE’s arrangements

- A Senior School Improvement Adviser supports the Chair in establishing routine communication, identifying agenda items, sourcing high quality training.
- Meetings are clerked by the LA.
- The SACRE has representation from all four groups and continues the focus of widening membership with greater representation from faiths within the district – see development plan focus for 2022-2023.
- Wakefield SACRE receives £7,000 annual budget.

Section 7 – Appendices

- Development plan 2022 – 2023
- Art competition – autumn 2022 and exhibition photographs



Cathedral display
photo 1.JPG



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Where is God
flyer.pdf



Wakefield SACRE
development plan 2