



Summer 2021

**The Annual Report of Wakefield Local Authority
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of Wakefield Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from September 2020 to July 2021.

1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every Local Authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Corporate Director of Children and Young People 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 have to be four “committees” each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Representing the Wakefield WMDC are Councillors:

Cllr Ahmed Nadeem

Cllr Ros Lund

Cllr Olivia Rowley

Cllr Tracey Austin

Representing the Anglican Diocese:

Archdeacon Peter Townley / Jen Sloan

Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:

Donna Clark	Methodist
Kieron Flood	Catholic
Rudi Leavor	Jewish

Representing Teachers:

Mark Taylor	NAHT (Head of St Mary's) – SACRE Chair
Donna Adams	Head of St. Botolph's Academy
Nicola Madarasz	NUT (Minsthorpe Community College)
Lyndsay Ranby	Head of Darrington School
Katie Fallon	Head of RE, St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Academy

Observers:

Saf Munshi	Castleford Academy
Suzanne Tomlinson	Outwood Grange Academy

In attendance:-

Rachel Redfearn (Adviser)
Andy Hoole (Clerk)

Wakefield SACRE continues to work hard to secure representation from the other faith groups which are representative of the local area. In working with local contacts, the group has welcomed the following new members over the past twelve months representing the following faiths / denominations: Jewish, Catholic, and Methodist. A representative from the Muslim faith is expected to join the group from autumn 2021.

3. Supporting high quality provision in Religious Education

The SACRE has been resolute in ensuring that CPD opportunities have continued throughout the year, despite the obvious challenges posed by the pandemic. All sessions have been delivered virtually with high attendance and very positive evaluations.

The Wakefield Agreed Syllabus was implemented in September 2018 and training was commissioned during 2020 - 2021 to support the delivery of the syllabus for both primary and secondary colleagues. The first training event, subsidised by SACRE, took place during November 2020, led by staff from RE Today. This event focused on resourcing and delivering high quality lessons for pupils across key stages 1 and 2 when covering aspects of the syllabus relating to Islam, Christianity and Judaism. A further training event is scheduled to take place mid-July 2021 which will cover planning, teaching and learning with the Wakefield syllabus.

A primary network began during 2020 – 2021 for teachers to share best practice in RE. It is envisaged that a termly network will continue during 2021-2022.

The SACRE has worked hard to source support for a secondary network, in partnership with Wakefield Learning Community. As of May 2021, Katie Fallon (recently joined SACRE) will lead the RE network, representing secondary teachers on SACRE and advising on matters relating to specific CPD needs.

4. Outcomes of SIAMs inspections

There have been no SIAMs inspections during 2020 – 2021 as these are currently suspended. Inspections during the previous year all resulted in good/excellent grading.

5. RE outcomes and examination results

There were no published examination results in 2020.

6. Supporting wider opportunities and curriculum enrichment

To celebrate the full re-opening of the city during the autumn term and to promote work undertaken in RE, the SACRE has successfully launched an art competition, open to pupils in key stages 2 and 3, entitled 'Where is God?' To support pupils' work in depicting images, the SACRE has funded and provided resources to participating schools: Picturing Islam / Picturing Christianity, purchased from RE Today. Schools are invited to send their entries to the SACRE along with a commentary, and all participating schools will be provided with a photo book of winning entries for display at school. It is envisaged that the art work will form a digital display across city centre venues during the autumn term. The following schools are participating in the project:

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

7. Promoting the work of SACRE

Over the past year, Wakefield SACRE has:

- Agreed a logo for Wakefield SACRE
- Established a termly newsletter for schools
- Joined a regional SACRE network, working with other SACREs across West Yorkshire

8. Reflections and moving forward

Recommendations were made in reports in previous years to share good practice widely:

- **Share and develop the excellent practice that exists, internally and externally with a wider audience. Develop support offered to other schools in enhancing spiritual wellbeing and Christian distinctiveness. (St. Mary's CoE)**

This has been a year like no other and Wakefield SACRE has taken the opportunity to reflect on its work and its role, linking with other SACREs to learn from best practice. In doing so, the SACRE has identified areas that require strengthening, such as how SACRE monitors the effectiveness of RE and provides advice to the LA on all aspects of RE provision in its schools, and advice on how Collective Worship is undertaken in schools. In reflecting on the current work of Wakefield SACRE, an action plan will be implemented in 2021-2022 to address some of the areas which require strengthening. Amongst these areas will be the priority to ensure that the excellent practice that exists in some schools is shared more widely across the district.

9. Summary of Key Priorities 2021 – 2022

The following priorities for the development of SACRE have been discussed and agreed with SACRE members:

- To continue to promote effective collaborative working for secondary school teachers, supporting the development of a new network for RE in partnership with Wakefield Learning Community
- To continue to promote and enhance learning of RE post 14 in secondary schools through subsidising enrichment activities where schools make successful applications; to ensure that high performing secondary schools have the opportunity

to share strong practice with other schools where take-up is low and where results are below national

- To ensure that teachers continue to access appropriate CPD to deliver the revised syllabus skilfully, so that RE is an integral component of a carefully planned primary curriculum and to include a secondary RE CPD offer
- To extend the role of SACRE in monitoring the quality of RE provision in schools and in sharing best practice
- To extend SACRE's role in providing advice to the Local Authority on all aspects of its provision for Religious Education (RE) in its schools
- To develop and extend regular communication with schools through termly newsletters, initiated during 20-21
- To continue to widen the membership of Wakefield SACRE with increased representation from religions beyond Christianity within the district
- To strengthen the knowledge and expertise of SACRE members through appropriate training and development opportunities, ensuring participation in the SACRE annual conference

10. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

11. 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.

12. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

None were made to the SACRE during this reporting year.

Report produced by Mark Taylor (Chair) and Rachel Redfearn (Senior School Improvement Adviser)

Ratified by SACRE July 2021