



WAKEFIELD SACRE Annual Report

July 2023

The report follows the format requested by the DfE.

Section 1: Introduction

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Chair's comments

We continue to send our very best wishes to Mark, our substantive Chair, for a speedy recovery.

The past year has been a full and active year for Wakefield SACRE, with much work linked to our key theme for the year: More in Common. In line with our three-year development plan, this year's work has focussed on support for schools in the teaching of other faiths, beliefs and world views. Our work has been shared and celebrated through a termly newsletter for schools.

Many schools submitted bids to SACRE this year for financial support aligned with their work on promoting other faiths. We have been delighted with the feedback from schools on the impact of the work they have undertaken, supported by SACRE.

Several training events for both primary and secondary schools have been offered to schools to align with our theme and we have been pleased to commission a new termly network for all primary subject leaders during 2022-2023. Working with Wakefield Learning Community, we will extend this offer to include a secondary network during 2023-2024.

We have been delighted to work with Muslim Learner Services in offering training to school leaders, subject leaders and class teachers and Imran's work with Wakefield schools has been very well-received.

The past year has seen some changes in membership and we look forward to welcoming new members. We are currently reviewing our constitution; this process will be completed by September 2023.

One of the key successes of our work in the past year was the art project: More in Common. A competition was launched involving 19 primary and secondary schools and academies, with artwork exhibited in Wakefield Cathedral. We are extremely grateful to Gillian Bunn for her support for our project and for her hard work in launching the exhibition. Further information is included within Section 5 of this report. This has once again helped to promote the work of SACRE across schools and the wider community.

As we look to the future, we are excited to launch our revised locally agreed syllabus this summer, working in partnership with RE Today. SACRE is confident that the new syllabus, along with the supporting materials for teachers, will ensure that Religious Education in Wakefield schools is relevant, engaging and challenging.

In line with our development plan, our focus for 2023-2024 will be to support the implementation of the revised syllabus and to work with schools in reviewing and improving Collective Worship. Our activities and use of funding through 2023 – 2024 will link to these two priorities.

I offer my thanks to all the hardworking and supportive members of Wakefield SACRE and look forward to the year ahead.

Overview of the work of SACRE 2022 – 2023

- The group has met termly, with an additional meeting during April 2023 to undertake preparations for the revised locally agreed syllabus and for the annual art competition.
- Meetings have focused on the following areas:
 - Recruitment of new members to the group – we have advertised the work of SACRE through links with community groups. We are attracting new members to the group but continue to seek wider representation from all principal religious traditions of the district.
 - Supporting schools financially through a bidding process in line with our annual theme and sharing the work undertaken by schools.
 - Reflecting on and providing the best support for schools in some of the challenges they face; considering our role in making further information available to schools around visits to different places of worship.
 - Planning for the revised locally agreed syllabus and launch
 - Ensuring high quality training for both primary and secondary colleagues in the teaching of other faiths, beliefs and worldviews.
 - Promoting the work of SACRE through termly newsletters.

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

Section 2 – Statutory responsibilities

The locally agreed syllabus

- SACRE consulted with schools around revisions to the current Locally Agreed Syllabus.
- The revised syllabus (2023 – 2028) is due to be launched on 7th July 2023. SACRE sought and was granted additional funding from Wakefield Council to support the costs incurred through the revised syllabus.
- SACRE newsletters have reminded all schools of the launch of the new syllabus and the accompanying support materials and training.
- Wakefield SACRE will extend current opportunities to share best practice in relation to delivery of the syllabus through three termly networks for primary schools and three for secondary schools.

Standards and monitoring of RE

- In 2023-2024 Wakefield SACRE will continue to encourage sufficient time for Religious Education within secondary schools in the district, providing further training and opportunities to share good practice.
- Seventeen of the eighteen secondary schools in Wakefield are academies.
- Thirteen of the eighteen secondary schools completed a FOI request by The Religious Council of England and Wales, the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education, and RE Today Services. All respondents offer RE within the curriculum but there are wide variations between schools in the hours of RE offered to pupils in different year groups. Five schools responding to the request indicated that RE is taught in every year group. Wakefield SACRE will take the opportunity of the launch of the new syllabus to engage secondary colleagues further in understanding their statutory duties and in considering the quality of the RE offer.
- Training was provided for governors during 2023 to support governors in understanding their role in monitoring provision for Religious Education.
- Members of Wakefield SACRE continue to offer support to schools during inspection when requested, liaising with our contacts in RE Today. As far as the group is aware, one primary school judged to be Good overall in 2022-2023 experienced a 'deep dive' in RE. Provision was judged to be Good.
- Wakefield SACRE 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 – 2022. Unpublished data in 2022 indicated the following:
 - 545 pupils were entered for GCSE in Religious Studies.
 - 9 of 18 schools/academies entered pupils for GCSE in Religious Studies.
 - One academy has consistently outperformed all other schools/academies in both attainment and progress for several years.
 - The number of entries across schools ranged from 1 to 256.
 - The percentage at Grade 4+ in Wakefield was in line with the national average.
 - Progress measures were in line with the national average.
- There have been two SIAMs inspections of primary schools during 2022-2023:
 - Darrington CE Primary School – Excellent (March 2023)
 - Sandal Castle VA Community Primary School – report not yet published

Teacher training and advice for schools

Wakefield SACRE continues to provide training opportunities for primary schools within the district and provided training opportunities for secondary schools for the second year in 2022-2023.

Primary:

Ensuring high quality teaching of different faiths and beliefs, with a particular focus on: Islam, Judaism, Hindu – full day course; face to face

Three webinars:

Early Years linking into key stage 1: this webinar provided teachers of RE with up to date guidance on RE for pupils aged 4-7

Great writing in RE: this webinar introduced new ways of promoting excellent writing for pupils in RE, and tackled some assessment questions in line with the Agreed Syllabus and the latest RE OFSTED research report.

Ready for inspection / thinking about 'cultural capital': this webinar supported teachers in being confident about having their RE work 'OFSTED ready' , linking RE to the cultural capital offer.

Secondary:

Ensuring high quality teaching of different faiths and beliefs at key stage 3, with a particular focus on: Being a Buddhist, Sikh, Muslim – full day course; face to face

Wakefield SACRE worked alongside the Local Authority to extend the training offer to include termly RE network meetings for primary schools, led by staff from RE Today. As this has been a highly successful model, the offer will be extended to secondary schools next year.

Wakefield SACRE also supported bespoke full staff training at a primary school through a twilight session. Further support for the school is scheduled for September 2023.

2023 – 2024 - Training will be offered to schools in line with SACRE's focus next year – implementation of the agreed syllabus; ensuring high quality Collective Worship

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. During 2023 – 2024 SACRE will work with schools to review current provision, encouraging frequent opportunities to share good practice through networks and training events.

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 has not attended meetings of the West Yorkshire SACRE group during 2022-2023 due to ill health. Participation in these meetings will recommence from September 2023.

Wakefield SACRE has established links with Wakefield Cathedral and Wakefield Churches Together.

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. During 2022- 2023 Wakefield SACRE supported a separate training event for governors, linked to their responsibilities in ensuring statutory and effective provision in RE. This meeting was attended by governors from both primary and secondary schools – LA maintained and academies.

Wakefield SACRE art competition

The schools listed below entered an art competition entitled 'More in Common', launched during autumn 2022, with judging of artwork and exhibitions during the spring term 2023. Winning entries for each school were displayed in Wakefield Cathedral during an Art Walk event in March. Certificates and prizes were presented to winning entries in each school.

Participating schools:

Dane Royd Junior and Infants School
Darrington CE Primary School
Delacy Primary Academy
English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
Holy Family Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
Newton Hill Community Primary School
Normanton Junior School
Pinders Primary School
Purston Infant School
St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Castleford, A Voluntary Academy
Sandal Magna Primary School
Shay Lane Primary School
Smawthorne Henry Moore Primary School
Snapethorpe Primary School
Southdale Junior School
South Ossett Infant Academy

Castleford Academy
Minsthorpe Community College

Advice to schools on issues within the community

Through 2022-2023, Wakefield SACRE published updates within a weekly newsletter to schools from the Service Director. In addition, SACRE published termly newsletters.

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 – a focus within current improvement planning.

- Wakefield SACRE receives £7,010 annual budget. This was supplemented in summer 2023 with an additional contribution of approximately £8,000 to support the introduction of the revised syllabus.

Section 7 – Appendices

- Copies of termly newsletters
- Art competition – flyer
- Reports from schools - examples



SACRE Art
Competition 2023 flyer



SACRE Newsletter -
Autumn 2022.docx



SACRE Newsletter -
Spring 2023.docx



Middlestown
evaluation of project



Badsworth
evaluation of project