



WAKEFIELD SACRE Annual Report

**July 2024**

**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 former SACRE Chair, for a speedy recovery.

The past year has been full and active again for Wakefield SACRE. In line with our development plan, we were able to meet our target of providing guidance for schools in working with their communities. We are grateful to Ian Ross at Pennine Learning for generously sharing a very useful document for us to use and adapt for our schools and we thank the following schools/academies for their contribution to the document: Kettlethorpe High School; Outwood City Fields Academy; Pinders Primary School.

We were delighted to work with Lat Blaylock and Ian Nicholson from RE Today who have supported us with highly successful termly networks for teachers. Training has been commissioned to guide schools in their implementation of the locally agreed syllabus and evaluations have been extremely positive.

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

Our current focus is on providing guidance for schools on Collective Worship. To prepare for this, we undertook a survey of current practice in schools to inform our planning. We hope to provide documentation for schools early during the autumn term.

Schools have participated in our annual art competition with the theme of SACRED SPACES. Wakefield SACRE has been delighted to receive entries from schools which will be displayed at Wakefield Cathedral during July. Children have given some serious thought to their Sacred Space and produced very thoughtful work.

Wakefield SACRE was also able to support schools in their work to deepen pupils' understanding of other faiths and beliefs through providing funding for visits. The outcomes of these have been shared in the termly newsletter for schools.

We renewed our constitution this year in line with agreed timescales. The past year has seen some changes in membership and we were delighted to welcome a representative of Islam and a new member from Leeds Humanists, replacing our former representative of the Humanist Society. A new member representing the Church of England will join us next term. The contribution to our work from our new members has been greatly appreciated.

In line with our development plan, our focus for 2024-2025 will be to continue to support the implementation of the revised syllabus and to work with schools in reviewing and improving Collective Worship.

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 2023-2024**

- The group has met termly, with an additional meeting during April 2023 to judge artwork submitted by schools entering this year's Wakefield SACRE art competition.
- Full Meetings and sub-meetings have focused on the following areas:
  - Ensuring high quality training for both primary and secondary school, linked to the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus – reviewing numbers at training and delegate feedback
  - Ensuring that schools have guidance in working with their communities, sharing and publishing Wakefield guidance: Sharing the Journey – distributed to schools in December 2023
  - Discussing the implications for SACRE of the Ofsted curriculum review report: Deep and Meaningful
  - Reviewing possible guidance for schools on Collective Worship – to be shared with schools during the autumn term 2024
  - Reflecting on messages shared at the annual NASACRE conference in determining our key priority for 2024-2025: finding opportunities to share best practice in the delivery of RE and Collective Worship across both primary and secondary schools
  - Promoting the work of SACRE through termly newsletters.

- Supporting schools financially through a bidding process in line with our annual theme and sharing the work undertaken by schools.

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 (diocesan adviser; representative of the Islamic faith; 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; three focus groups meetings were 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 the launch of the new syllabus and the 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 and three for secondary schools during 2023-2024.

### **Standards and monitoring of RE**

- In 2023-2024 Wakefield SACRE promoted sufficient time for Religious Education within secondary schools in the district, providing training and opportunities to share good practice.
- 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.
- Training was provided once again for governors during 2024 to support their understanding of 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 2023 experienced a 'deep dive' in RE – North Featherstone J&I School. Provision in RE 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. Data in 2023 indicated the following:
- 649 pupils were entered for GCSE in Religious Studies. (545 in 2022)

- 10 of 18 schools/academies entered pupils for GCSE in Religious Studies. (9 schools/academies in 2022)
- Results at 4-9 range from 52.0% to 85.0%.
- The number of entries across schools ranged from 17 to 264. The two Catholic academies enter high numbers of candidates: 140 and 264. The numbers for other schools/academies range from 17-53.
- The percentage at Grade 4+ nationally was 74.3%.

- There have been two SIAMs inspections of primary schools during 2023-2024:

Ackworth Howard CE School – the report was extremely positive, highlighting best practice that can be shared with other schools, particularly in relation to Collective Worship.

Horbury St. Peter’s & Clifton CE (VC) Primary School – the positive report highlighted many strengths and provided clear guidance for further development.

### **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 third year in 2023-2024. Despite scheduling network meetings after school and repeated advertising, numbers at the secondary network remain low. Wakefield SACRE will focus on further engagement with secondary schools through sharing effective practice during 2024-2025.

#### Primary:

Three network meetings focused on the following areas:

Autumn 2023:

Greater depth in primary RE: exploring strategies to enable each pupil to work at their best in RE

Spring 2024:

Making a splash with primary RE and Collective Worship: ways to raise the status and visibility of the subject across the school

Summer 2024:

Learning about Hindus: progress and standards within the agreed syllabus. This session developed teachers’ subject knowledge and focused on engaging ways of teaching about the Hindus across the primary age range.

100% of delegates rated each aspect of the training as Good or Excellent. Comments included the following:

Excellent content and support given was brilliant

Useful ways of enhancing GD through a broader understanding, rather than 'more work'

Clearer understanding of what GD looks like

### Secondary:

Three network meetings focused on the following areas:

Autumn 2023:

Research and high-quality RE today: this session explored ways of knowing, different disciplines in RE, worldviews and rich knowledge, looking at RE's contributions to values, anti-racism and cultural capital.

Spring 2024:

Teaching about Sikhs / Buddhists / Muslims: what content and pedagogy enables learners to make good progress in studying this religion?

Summer 2024

This session focused on creative RE and considered the report published by Ofsted during the spring term: Deep and Meaningful

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

Wakefield SACRE also supported bespoke full staff training at a primary school through a full day inset during September, focusing on high quality teaching of other faiths and beliefs.

2024 - 2025 - Training will be offered to schools in line with SACRE's focus next year.

The content for each network meeting will be determined as the year progresses. Teachers have requested that the first primary session focuses on the following:

- Deep and Meaningful – how can primary schools ensure they are delivering the very best provision in line with key messages from the report?
- How can schools ensure they properly sequenced learning around worldviews – what might this look like in EY/KS1/ LKS2 / UKS2

### **Withdrawals and complaints**

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

### Section 3 – Collective Worship

Wakefield SACRE issued a questionnaire to primary and secondary schools during the spring term 2024. From the responses received, it is evident that schools would benefit from further training and guidance, particularly for staff leading Collective Worship within school. A focus group within SACRE met during the summer term to review Collective Worship guidance issued by other SACREs. As the Newham guidance was shared at the NASACRE conference, Wakefield SACRE will consider this document and

will finalise guidance for schools during the autumn term 2024. Wakefield SACRE is also keen to share best practice in Collective Worship through visits to schools and newsletters during 2024-2025.

### **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 by NASACRE.

During 2023-2024, links were established with the regional group with the Chair and LA representative attending a Regional SACRE webinar: In Conversation with SACRE. This helped Wakefield SACRE to reflect on its effectiveness and to establish partnerships with other SACREs within the district, resulting in some collaboration with East Yorkshire SACRE.

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.

### **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 2023-2024 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 this year’s art competition entitled ‘Sacred Spaces’, launched during autumn 2023, with judging of artwork and exhibitions during the spring term 2024. Winning entries for each school will be displayed in Wakefield Cathedral

during an Art Walk event in July. Certificates and prizes were presented to winning entries in each school.

Participating schools:

Dane Royd J&I School

Fairburn View Primary School

Normanton Junior Academy

Pinders Primary School

Ryhill JIN School

Shay Lane Primary School

Snapethorpe Primary School

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Castleford – A Voluntary Academy

Methodist (VC) JI & Nursery School

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School – A Voluntary Academy

Holy Family & St. Michael's Catholic Primary School – A Voluntary Academy

Southdale Junior School

South Ossett Infant Academy

### **Advice to schools on issues within the community**

Through 2023-2024, Wakefield SACRE published updates within a weekly newsletter to schools from the Service Director. In addition, SACRE published termly newsletters. In December 2023, Wakefield SACRE shared guidance to schools:

### **Advice for schools on sensitivity and awareness around faiths & beliefs – Sharing the Journey**

This guidance included shared practice from three schools within the district: Outwood City Fields Academy, Kettlethorpe High School and Pinders Primary School.

### **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



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