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**WALSALL  
STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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**Annual Report 2024-2025**

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## **Foreword**

This has been a very successful year for Walsall SACRE and I believe that we can be very proud of the work we have done on behalf of Religious Education in Walsall. Not only have all 3 meetings been quorate but attendance has been excellent from all groups. The agendas for meetings have been varied and interesting, with all members keen to participate in discussions around a wide range of topics.

We have made progress with our Action Plan. A pattern of meeting venues has been established with two meetings at the Town Hall and one at a school. We look forward to holding an upcoming meeting at a place of worship. This year we have visited a primary school where we were given a tour of the school and saw examples of student's work. We have continued to invite people to address the meeting and were particularly delighted to welcome representatives from Walsall's Inclusion Team.

Debbie Yeoman's from RE Today has recently taken over as RE Advisor to Walsall SACRE and we have continued the strong relationship we have developed with RE Today. The budget provided from Walsall Council has been used to provide this invaluable support. Debbie has updated each meeting regarding Ofsted and other RE issues, as well as meeting on a regular basis with primary RE teachers. Debbie also attended the NASACRE conference in London and reported back to one of our meetings.

This year we asked schools for a response to 2 questionnaires, one regarding the Agreed Syllabus and one regarding collective worship. The responses will help us to develop the new syllabus and, in future, give advice for schools regarding collective worship.

The support SACRE has received from Nick Perks and Edward Cook from Walsall Council has helped to ensure a successful year and I am particularly grateful for their support.

***Dave Lomax***

***Chair Walsall SACRE***

## **Section 1: Overview of the work of SACRE**

Since 1988, it has been a requirement that every local authority establish a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Though legislation sets out both the structure and the remit of a local SACRE - principally, overseeing religious education (RE) and collective worship - in practice every SACRE has developed its own particular style and character.

It is a legislative requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work and that this is published, sent to the local authority, to NASACRE and to other interested parties such as the Department for Education.

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2024/25. Meetings were well attended and allowed for informal links to be made between members of SACRE. We were pleased to be able hold meetings in a variety of locations to make the most of face to face and to enable members of SACRE to see work in schools. Two meetings were held at the Council House and one at a Catholic primary school.

All of the meeting in 2024-25 were quorate with one member from at least three of the constituent groups and a total presence of no less than eight of the appointed members.

The Agendas and minutes for these meetings are available on the Walsall Council website.

A brief overview of each meeting can be found below.

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024: Conference Room 2, The Council House**

#### **SACRE Action Tracker**

The action tracker was submitted and updates were received. There was a discussion regarding the potential establishment of a Collective Worship sub-committee.

#### **Walsall SACRE Annual Report**

The Clerk introduced the Annual Report and highlighted the salient issues. Members discussed the report and considered whether evidence could be provided to show the value for money SACRE provided in its work. Several Members expressed a hope that funding for SACRE would not be reduced considering ongoing challenges affecting local government across the country. The Annual Report was approved.

#### **Walsall SACRE Action Plan 2024-25**

The Chair introduced the report and members discussed potential venues for future meeting. There was an extensive discussion regarding creating a guide for visiting schools and how SACRE could support school visits. There was a discussion regarding the Agreed Syllabus and challenges schools faced when making necessary trade-offs between breadth and depth

with regards to RE and covering different religions. It was explained that initial work to review the Agreed Syllabus would need to commence later in the year.

SACRE resolved:

- To receive further information regarding the review and renewal of the Agreed Syllabus, to the next available meeting;
- That the Clerk contact faith organisations and bodies to seek information regarding places of worship which could welcome school visits;
- That information regarding the Primary Schools Network be circulated to Primary heads in the Local Authority's bulletins.

### **Membership Review**

SACRE considered the best approach for seeking replacement members in cases of non-attendance, to accord with the Constitution.

SACRE resolved:

- That the Clerk be requested to contact any Members failing to attend consecutive meetings without apology to confirm if they wish to remain a Member of SACRE. Where applicable or if no reply was received, the Clerk should seek a replacement nomination from the relevant nominating body prior to the next meeting of SACRE.

### **National SACRE Autumn Update 2024**

The RE Today Advisor presented the National updates from RE Today which included news regarding calls for a National Plan for RE and an update regarding teaching of RE in schools. SACRE discussed the matters raised, including challenges regarding teacher training.

### **Developing a Religion and Worldviews Approach to RE**

The RE Today Advisor introduced the *Developing a Religion and Worldviews Approach to RE* handbook and suggested how this could be used by SACRE to help inform the future Agreed Syllabus.

### **RE Hubs update and detail**

The RE Today Advisor introduced the RE Hubs website and demonstrated its features to Members. SACRE discussed the programme and Mr Green provided feedback of his personal experiences.

### **Review of OFSTED reports of Walsall Schools**

The RE Today Advisor introduced a report which informed them of recent Ofsted inspections in Walsall and comments made which were relevant to RE.

### **Education in Walsall Update**

SACRE noted a report which provided a summary of overall education performance in Walsall based on Ofsted outcomes.

## **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025: Conference Room 2, The Council House**

### **Appointments to SACRE**

The Clerk introduced a report which sought to fill several new and long-standing vacancies on SACRE.

SACRE resolved:

- To send letters of thanks to outgoing SACRE representatives for their service.
- To recommend to Council for appointment to SACRE, nominees received on behalf of The Salvation Army, the Hindu faith, the Islamic faith and Trade Unions.

### **Action Tracker**

The action tracker was submitted and updates were received.

### **Walsall SACRE Action Plan 2024-25**

The Chair introduced the Action Plan and SACRE noted its content. It was noted it had not been possible to hold the meeting at a place of worship as hoped but that the next meeting would be held at a Catholic Primary School.

### **Agreed Syllabus**

The RE Today Advisor presented report which provided an overview of the next steps required to review the Agreed Syllabus. It was noted that the current Agreed Syllabus was scheduled for renewal in 2026.

SACRE resolved to request the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to undertake a review of the Walsall Agreed Syllabus.

### **Questionnaire Feedback**

The Clerk introduced a report which provided feedback received from the recent surveys sent to school regarding the Agreed Syllabus and Collective Worship. SACRE discussed how they could support the provision of collective worship and the option of establishing a sub-group. SACRE considered how to address the low response rate in future consultations.

### **Network Meetings for 2024-25**

The RE Today Advisor provided positive feedback from recent sessions but raised concerns regarding low turnout. Teachers had spoken of difficulties arranging faith visits and stated that RE Hubs could help this but more engagement from faith organisations was required. SACRE discussed how to improve RE Hubs registration.

SACRE resolved

- To circulate details of Network sessions to all schools by the Quality Assurance Team.

- To re-share details for RE Hubs registration with SACRE Members.
- To request that the Places of Worship/Faith Organisations contact list held by the Inclusions team, be updated.

### **Inclusion Update – Community Cohesion Strategy 2025-35**

The Community Building and Cohesion Officer and the Voluntary, Community and Cohesion Manager presented a report which provided an overview of the Community Cohesion Strategy including the consultation process used in its development and highlighted the focuses regarding faith, race and hate crime.

SACRE discussed the importance continuing to work with different communities and encouraging inter-community and inter-faith conversations and activities.

### **National SACRE Update Spring 2025**

The RE Today Advisor presented the National updates from RE Today which included news regarding the findings of NATRE's biannual survey into religious education in primary schools and updates regarding the DfE's Call for Evidence for the Curriculum Review.

### **Review of OFSTED reports of Walsall Schools**

The RE Today Advisor introduced a report which informed them of recent Ofsted inspections in Walsall and comments made which were relevant to RE. Members discussed if it would be possible or appropriate to receive reports from SIAMS inspections, reviewing RE provision at Church of England schools. Other updates included advice regarding explaining atheism and understanding humanism.

## **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025: St Mary's the Mount Catholic Primary School**

### **Election of Spokespersons for Groups**

The Group spokespersons were elected as follows:

- Group A (Christian and other religious denominations) – Mr B. Green
- Group B (Church of England) – Mrs P. Lane
- Group C (Teacher Representatives) – Ms H. Leadley
- Group D (Local Authority) – Councillor Singh Sohal

### **Membership and Constitution Review**

The Clerk introduced a report which sought to fill several new and long-standing vacancies on SACRE and invited SACRE to review its constitution.

SACRE resolved:

- To send letters of thanks to outgoing SACRE representatives for their service.
- To recommend to Council for appointment to SACRE, nominees received on behalf of Jewish and Sikh faiths.

- To request that the local authority consider delegating authority to the Director – Access & Inclusion, to make appointments to SACRE for Groups A, B and C.

### **SACRE Action Tracker**

The action tracker was submitted and updates were received.

### **SACRE Action Plan 2025-26**

The Action Plan was submitted and noted. Offers of a host venue at a place of worship were sought for the next meeting and there was a discussion regarding the use of religious symbolism and representation within the Agreed Syllabus and other documents.

### **Feedback from NASACRE Annual Conference**

The RE Today Advisor introduced a report which provided feedback from the NASACRE Annual Conference, which she had attended on behalf of Walsall SACRE. She provided feedback on topics discussed at the Conference, including what Religion and Worldviews could offer schools and society and how RE learning could be further enhanced.

### **National RE Updates from RE Today**

The RE Today Advisor presented the National updates from RE Today which included an update regarding the Government's Curriculum and Assessment Review, Spirited Arts competition 2025 and various upcoming events which may be of interest to SACRE.

### **Review of OFSTED reports of Walsall Schools**

The RE Today Advisor presented a report which provided feedback on recent Ofsted reports. There was a discussion regarding the role of SACRE in considering Section 48 reports and similar reviews regarding RE provision in religiously-affiliated schools. Some members stated that it was the responsibility of SACRE to have oversight of such reporting, however others expressed reservations regarding schools potentially being held to different standards.

It was agreed to look into the matter of receiving SIAMS reports and what approaches could be adopted for reviewing RE provision in other religiously-affiliated schools.

### **Education in Walsall Update**

SACRE noted a report which provided a summary of overall education performance in Walsall based on Ofsted outcomes.

## **Agreed Syllabus Conference: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025: St Mary's the Mount Catholic Primary School**

Following SACRE's request that the Local Authority establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), the first meeting of the ASC was convened on 14 July 2025. The ASC is a separate body to SACRE. A brief overview of the meeting follows:

### **Appointment of Chair**

SACRE resolved that Dave Lomax be appointed Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

### **Appointment of Vice-Chair**

SACRE resolved that Patti Lane be appointed Vice-Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

### **Election of Spokespersons for Committees**

The Committee spokespersons were elected as follows:

- Committee A (Christian and other religious denominations) – Mr B. Green
- Committee B (Church of England) – Mrs P. Lane
- Committee C (Teacher Representatives) – Ms H. Leadley
- Committee D (Local Authority) – Councillor Singh Sohal

### **Review of the Walsall Agreed Syllabus**

The Agreed Syllabus Conference noted that the current Agreed Syllabus was re-written in 2020/2021 and agreed that the review of the Agreed Syllabus should be a 'light touch' revision, to reflect RE delivery in Walsall schools.

The ASC agreed to approve the provision of an RE Today syllabus model based on a 5-year licence at the total cost of £5,212 (including VAT).

The ASC also agreed to establish a Sub-Group consisting of the following Members to consider this matter in greater detail and report back to the full ASC:

- Mr Green
- Mrs Lane
- Mrs Leadley
- Councillor Singh-Sohal
- Mr Hart
- Mr Singh Padda
- Councillor Mehmi
- Dave Lomax
- Imran Sacha

## Section 2: Religious Education

### RE in schools

Virtual termly RE briefing meetings continued in the year 2024-25. Schools have indicated that virtual training is their preference, and it is also cost effective for both schools and SACRE. Evidence from teachers attending the network meetings and the RE Consultant's conversations with schools suggested that:

- Primary teachers receive on average 0-3 hours of training about RE in their initial teacher training and the majority still receive no training each year in teaching the subject. This means it is a subject that Early Career Teachers (ECTs) and teachers further on in their career need support to deliver. We note that the National Association of Teachers of RE offer free monthly training for ECTs to their members and we hope schools will use this. We note that some ECTs have attended the local primary networks.
- Schools continued to teach RE using the Locally Agreed Syllabus which was fully implemented by September 2022.

### The Locally Agreed Syllabus

A Agreed Syllabus was launched in 2021 and forms the bases of RE in maintained schools. The Local Authority has convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the Agreed Syllabus, following SACRE's request. It held its first meeting on 14 July 2025 and seeks to approve a new Agreed Syllabus to be effective from September 2026.

### Standards and monitoring of RE

Ensuring that sufficient time is given to RE is an ongoing difficulty for some schools, although there are reports that the OFSTED inspection framework and RE research review is bringing a renewed focus on RE in schools where RE was struggling to get sufficient curriculum time. Details of the OFSTED Subject report for RE with SACRE members and we will be trying to see if its findings are mirrored in Walsall schools.

OFSTED reports also provide a way of monitoring RE. We have been pleased to consider evidence from OFSTED reports regularly in our meetings. See a sample below;

Primary School A

***Pupils enjoy finding out about different faiths, including Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam and Christianity. They understand the importance of symbolism and celebrations to these faiths. This helps pupils to respect differences.***

Primary School B

***Visits to places such as local Gurdwaras support pupils to develop a sense of cultural identity and belief.***

Primary School C

***Pupils learn about different faiths.***

Primary School D

***Pupils learn about different faiths and cultures that make up Great Britain.***

## **Teacher training materials and advice for schools**

Termly briefings provided a regular input of professional support and development for those who attended, including subject leaders; class teachers and HLTAs delivering RE; and those in their own school to whom they disseminate learning.

These briefings remained virtual in 2024-25. This method of delivery is currently still preferred by those attending. There continues to be a higher attendance than there was previously at face-to-face meetings.

Termly network meetings and training sessions also continue to support non-specialist TAs, HLTAs and teachers in primary schools to increase their confidence leading, managing and teaching RE.

This year termly primary networks have taken place on Spotlight on Christmas, Diversity in the Re Classroom and Engaging with Authentic Voices in RE. The number of teachers signing up has remained steady at around 5 teachers per session.

These sessions were relatively well attended but due to loss of admin support in the local authority, Debbie Yeomans provided the admin support for these. It is pleasing that the Local authority shares details of these meetings through bulletins and other communication channels with schools.

These Termly networks provide a regular input of professional support and development for those who attend (a mixture of subject leaders, senior leaders, teachers and teaching assistants) and those in their own school to whom they disseminate learning. These meetings are 4-6pm. The RE adviser is also available before and after these meetings for 1:1 meeting with subject leaders and teachers and can provide support by phone and email.

Information on resources for RE is provided in SACRE meetings and the Local authority sends this out to schools via the Head teachers' bulletin.

## **Other information**

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about RE during the year.

## **Advice given to the Local Authority**

## **Section 3: Collective worship**

### **Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship**

The SACRE has found it hard to monitor collective worship over the past few years but was pleased to continue to have input from local schools on SACRE. SACRE developed a questionnaire which was circulated to schools following the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year. Unfortunately response rates were low, however SACRE has considered establishing a sub-Group to look into the matter in greater detail following the conclusion of the Agreed Syllabus review.

### **Determinations**

No determinations have been requested in the year 2024-25.

### **Teacher training provided**

No training on Collective worship has been provided in 2024-25.

### **Other information**

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about collective worship during the year.

### **Advice to the Local Authority**

No advice was given to the local authority around the provision of collective worship.

## **Section 4: Links with other bodies**

### **National Bodies**

Walsall SACRE are pleased to be linked with national bodies and receive useful national updates from Debbie Yeomans, our RE adviser.

Walsall SACRE are members of NASACRE. Walsall SACRE were represented at the NASACRE conference by our RE Today Advisor, who provided valuable feedback to SACRE.

Reports from NATRE have proved useful to SACRE when monitoring schools. Further resources from NATRE have been shared with schools.

Information from the REC has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.

### **Local bodies**

Lichfield Diocese provide support to SACRE and we are pleased to have a member of the diocese as vice-chair.

SACRE tried hard to further links with Walsall for All and now this organisation has changed we have made links with others in the council responsible for this work and have invited them to speak at SACRE.

## **Section 5: SACRE involvement in the Local Area**

### **Governor and head teacher links**

Information has been shared to head teachers via briefings and newsletters.

### **Advice on community issues**

The RE adviser regularly gives advice on speakers coming into schools and visits to places of worship locally.

## **Section 6: Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority (LA)**

### **Professional and administrative support**

The Local Authority provided funding to support SACRE activity 2024-25 by contracting with RE Today services of an RE adviser for a number of days during the year. These days include servicing SACRE, writing reports and providing papers and advice, working with schools, providing primary networks training and first response consultancy.

Debbie Yeomans from RE Today took on the role of RE consultant.

Debbie Yeomans  
RE Today Services  
Suite 5-6, 1 Devon Way  
Birmingham  
B31 2TS

Clerking of SACRE is undertaken by Edward Cook. The clerking services are provided by:

Legal and Democratic Services.  
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council  
Council House  
Lichfield Street  
Walsall, WS1 1TW

Nick Perks from the Local Authority's Children's Services Directorate holds responsibility for supporting SACRE and attends its meetings.

Nick Perks  
Children's Services Quality Assurance Team  
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council  
The Civic Centre  
Walsall  
WS1 1TP

### **Membership**

In 2024-25 three meetings of SACRE took place. All meetings were quorate.

The table provided in Appendix A demonstrates the diverse composition of Walsall's SACRE, but it does also show that several membership vacancies remain and the clerk will continue to work on filling these vacancies over the next year.

### **Training**

Some members of SACRE have attended training provided by the RE Adviser to primary teachers.

### **Finance**

The Local Authorities budget for the academic year 2025/6 is approximately £10,300. This funding will be spent primarily on meeting costs, the new amended Agreed Syllabus from 2026

onwards, primary network meetings and professional advice to SACRE and Walsall schools provided by the RE Advisory Team.

## Appendix A: Membership

Membership of Walsall SACRE at the end of the academic year 2024-25 was as follows:

<p><b>Committee A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions and Religious Denominations</b></p> <p>Dr G. Gomez Roman Catholic          Deacon H. Webster Methodist, Walsall          Mr D. Lomax United Reformed Church          Mrs M. Mather Walsall Quakers          Mr K. Bhatt Shree Ram Mandir (Walsall)          Mr M. Ashik Ali Bangladesh Islamic Association          Mr G. Singh Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Willenhall          Mr J. Singh-Bachra Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Caldmore          Mr S. Singh Padda Walsall Sikh Forum          Mr Bill Green Humanist Representative          Imam M. Saeed Aisha Mosque &amp; Islamic Centre          Ms L.D. Sharma Mandir Baba Balak Nath          Mr I. Sacha Muslim Welfare Society          Mrs C. Highton-Nicholls The Salvation Army          Mrs D. Letford New Testament Church of God</p> <p><b>Vacancies</b>  <i>x 1 Jewish (Nominee received, pending Council confirmation of appointment)</i>  <i>x 1 Buddhist</i>  <i>x 1 Baptist</i>  <i>x 1 Methodist</i>  <i>x 1 Orthodox</i></p>	<p><b>Committee B: Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education The Church of England</b></p> <p>Mrs P. Lane          Mr A. Orlik          Mrs K. Donnellan</p> <p><i>x 2 Vacancies</i></p>
<p><b>Committee C Teachers' Associations</b></p> <p>Ms H. Leadley, Blackwood Primary School (Academy).          Ms W. Duffus (NASUWT)          Mrs L. Dosanjh (NEU)</p> <p><b>Vacancies</b>  <i>x 2 Maintained School Head teachers</i>  <i>x 1 Secondary Academy Head teacher</i>  <i>x 1 Subject Leader Primary</i>  <i>x 1 Subject Leader Secondary</i>  <i>Representatives of Unions (NASUWT, ATL, ASCL, NAHT)</i></p>	<p><b>Committee D Local Authority</b></p> <p>Councillor R. K Mehmi          Councillor L. Nahal          Councillor S. Nasreen          Councillor Singh Sohal          Councillor C. Statham          Councillor M. Statham</p> <p><i>x 1 Vacancy</i></p>

## **Appendix B: Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (S.A.C.R.E.) Constitution**

### **1. Legislative Background**

The Education Act 1996, Sections 375-397 (in conjunction with 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010').

### **2. Terms of Reference**

a) The broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship in schools. Walsall Local Authority will work with the SACRE to monitor and review the existing provision for RE and Collective Worship.

b) The functions of SACRE are detailed in section 391 Education Act 1996 (as amended). Other responsibilities are outlined in: Religious Education in English Schools: non-statutory guidance 2010; SACRE and Self Evaluation: A guide Ofsted 2005; Circular 1/94 (Collective Worship). These responsibilities are:

a) **to advise** the Authority on such matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship in Walsall Community schools, Foundation schools without a religious character and Voluntary Controlled schools.

b) **to monitor** the provision and quality of RE taught according to its Agreed Syllabus together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus in all schools.

c) **to provide** advice and support on the effective teaching of the Agreed Syllabus.

d) **to provide** advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training.

e) **to require** the LA to set up a statutory conference to review the Agreed Syllabus if, in the opinion of the SACRE, this becomes necessary. This must be reviewed and updated every five years but a majority of representative groups on the SACRE, other than that consisting of persons chosen to represent the Authority (Group D), may at any time require a review of the Agreed Syllabus which is currently being used by the Authority.

f) **to consider**, in partnership with the LA, whether any changes need to be made to the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of RE and the learning of pupils.

g) **to offer** schools and the LA advice concerning how an existing syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with wider changes in education.

h) **to receive, determine and review** applications from headteachers that the requirement for **Collective Worship** in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils at that particular school.

i) **to publish** an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting reasons for offering advice on matters which were not referred to it by the LA. This report will be presented to the LA and schools and is to be delivered to the Department for Education and NASACRE (the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education) by the date specified. This report should also be made available to the public. The report will provide at least the information specified by the receiving body.

j) **to develop** SACRE's own role, supported by the LA and working with inter-religious bodies, to enhance the important contribution that the study of religion and belief can make to

community cohesion, British values\* and the combating of religious prejudice and discrimination.

k) **to offer** advice to the Walsall LA on any matters related to SACREs.

### 3. Membership of SACRE

a) The number of representative members shall be determined from time to time by the LA and the individual appointments should be made by the LA after taking all reasonable steps to assure itself that the individual is representative of the denomination or the teacher association concerned. It is desirable that all members have an interest in education in general and in religious education in particular.

b) SACRE is to be comprised of the members of the four Representative Groups and members co-opted to SACRE

c) The four Representative Groups shall be:

**Group A:** Such Christian denominations other religions and religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in Walsall and religions and faiths covered by the Agreed Syllabus. The number of representatives of each religion and religious denomination appointed shall, so far as consistent with the efficient discharge of the Council's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area as indicated by the 2021 census data:

- 1 Baptist
- 2 Black Country Orthodox Trust
- 2 Methodist
- 1 New Testament Church of God
- 2 Quaker
- 1 Roman Catholic
- 2 Salvation Army
- 1 United Reform Church
- 3 Muslim
- 2 Hindu
- 3 Sikh
- 1 Jewish
- 1 Buddhist

### Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions

2 appointed representative for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group so long as the non-religious beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to a religious beliefs as per the following guidance:-

- To be “analogous” we consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.
- Any appointment is dependent on the relevant local authority's opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the local authority, and they are best placed to assess whether a SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

### **Nomination and election process**

Nominations for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group in Category A should be submitted in writing to Democratic Services. Nominations to be reviewed by the Director of Children's Service together with the Portfolio Holder for Education and SACRE, to consider eligibility. A recommendation to Council shall then be made.

**Group B: Church of England.** This group is made up of 5 members of the Church of England, representing the Diocese of Lichfield. It can include both clergy and lay people. Each nominee will be proposed by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education and appointed by the LA. The nominating body will be the point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment.

**Group C: Teacher representatives** to represent a spread of teacher specialisations as listed below, and these should reflect as broad a spread of teacher associations as possible. Any teacher association that is not represented by the teacher category criteria will have the right to nominate an additional representative. The nominating body will be the point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment:

- 2 Maintained School Headteachers (Primary or Secondary)
  - 1 Secondary Academy School Headteachers
  - 2 Primary Academy School Headteacher
  - 1 Local RE subject leader Primary
  - 1 Local RE subject leader secondary
- Representatives of Unions (NUT, NASUWT, ATL, ASCL, NAHT)

**Group D: Local Authority.** This group shall comprise a group of up to seven elected members as nominated by the political parties represented on the council.

**Co-opted members:** SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional members for the remainder of the municipal year. Co-opted members may take part in any of the discussions but do not belong to any of the groups and do not have voting rights. The co-opted members shall be appointed only by those members of SACRE who have not themselves been co-opted.

### **4. Officer Support**

- a) Local Authority senior officer or representative (non-voting)
- b) Clerk to SACRE (non-voting)
- c) RE Consultant (non-voting)

The nominating body will be the point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment. The Head of Service will be the point of reference should SACRE have any questions pertaining to the Local Authority Senior Officer.

### **5. Membership**

- a) The LA shall appoint the members of the SACRE after consulting with the Nominating Bodies as appropriate.

- b) Nominating bodies will review their representation at the beginning of each municipal year or up to every five years as they see fit.
- c) An individual representative member may resign at any time by giving notice in writing to their Nominating Body and to the Clerk of SACRE
- d) An individual representative member may be removed from membership by the LA, if in the opinion of the LA he or she ceases to be representative of the nominating denomination or teacher association.
- e) Following non-attendance of a member at two consecutive meetings without apology, the SACRE will recommend to the LA that a replacement nomination be sought from the relevant Nominating Body.

## **6. Term of Office**

- a) Appointments to SACRE shall generally be for a term of 5 years from the date that the new member should have attended their first meeting. Groups can re-nominate members after the end of the 5 years for consideration by the LA. Members may not serve for more than two consecutive periods of 10 years (i.e. ten consecutive years in total). SACRE may waive this rule with the agreement of all voting members of SACRE if the continued service of a Member was considered to be beneficial to the Council.
- b) The SACRE shall review the membership annually at the AGM in the summer term.

## **7. Voting**

- a) Each of the four Groups on SACRE shall have one vote. Groups are to determine their own internal voting arrangements. Decisions within a group about how that vote is cast do not require unanimity. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings including provision for resolving deadlock.
- b) A proposal shall not be deemed to be carried unless it has been approved by at least three of the four Groups, unless otherwise required by law or guidance. If there is a tied vote then the issue would fail, and no action would be taken.
- c) The validity of the proceedings of SACRE or of the members of SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected by a vacancy in the office of any member of SACRE, or on the ground that a member appointed to represent any religion, religious denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the religion, religious denomination or association in question.

## **8. Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of one member from at least three of the constituent groups with a total presence of no less than eight of the appointed members.

## **9. Chairs and Vice Chair**

- a) The chair and vice chair will be appointed by the membership of SACRE at the AGM in the summer term or any meeting during the year when the position is vacant. Normally the chair and vice chair will remain in their positions for two years.
- b) The chair and vice chair, where possible, will represent different Groups of the SACRE and if possible have different religious backgrounds.
- c) SACRE will put in place procedures to consider succession planning for the posts of chair and vice chair.
- d) Where a vote is required, voting will be by a simple majority with each Group being assigned one vote.
- e) The Chair will be responsible for:

- the management of meetings
  - representing the SACRE to other bodies
  - such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.
- f) The Vice Chair will be responsible for:
- deputising for the chair as required;
  - representing the SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the chair or in agreement with the Chair
  - such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

## **10. The Clerk**

The LA shall appoint, fund and supervise a Clerk to:

- a) attend the full meetings of SACRE, any agenda setting meeting and Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings
- b) take appropriate minutes and notes at meetings
- c) maintain and update the records of SACRE and its meetings
- d) perform any other necessary administrative duties
- e) provide a copy of the minutes and papers of meeting to the members of SACRE and LA

## **11. The Local Authority Senior officer**

SACRE shall be served by a Local Authority Senior Officer. The LA officer will:

- a) attend each SACRE and ASC meeting
- b) represent the views of the LA at these meetings
- c) provide necessary information and support to the RE Adviser regarding RE and Collective Worship in the Walsall schools
- d) ensure that the LA provide sufficient funds for SACRE to perform its functions.

## **12. The RE Adviser**

The RE adviser will:

- a) attend each meeting of the SACRE and support the SACRE to fulfil its function with regard to RE and Collective Worship
- b) work with the Chair, Clerk and LA Officer to prepare the SACRE agenda and any reports, papers or advice required
- c) report regularly to SACRE on work completed on behalf of SACRE
- d) provide expertise and advice in the areas of RE and Collective Worship.

## **13. Meetings of SACRE**

- a) There will normally be three SACRE meetings per academic year, one per term. Meetings will be convened by the LA. The summer term meeting will be the AGM.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the Chair, Vice Chair and LA acting jointly.
- c) Details of the business to be considered by the meeting, which will be included in the agenda, must be received by the Clerk not later than 15 school days before the meeting.
- d) The Clerk will, no later than 5 working days before the meeting, circulate the agenda and supporting papers to the members.
- e) Meetings of SACRE shall be held in public except where an item of business is being considered which involves the consideration of confidential information in accordance with the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils).

## **14. Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference**

a) Walsall LA is required to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years. An ASC may be requested to be convened by SACRE more frequently.

b) This conference will ideally have the same composition as SACRE. There is no provision for co-opted members, however some individuals may be invited to all meetings of the conference and its Groups in order to give their advice.

## **15. General**

a) The SACRE may if it wishes establish working parties to take forward specific projects comprising representatives of each of the groups and the RE Consultant. These working parties will report back to SACRE regularly, according to a schedule agreed at the outset of the project.

b) In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education Act 1996 and associated regulations, the press and public will be entitled to attend meetings of the SACRE, but may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of items containing information capable of being treated as exempt information if meetings of SACRE were meetings of a Local Authority. The press and public are not entitled to attend meetings of an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

c) The Constitution will be reviewed on a biennial basis at the Summer term meeting of SACRE (the AGM) and suggestions for amendment voted on as described in Sections 7 & 8. Minor amendments may be brought to any meeting, with the agreement of members, and such minor amendments voted on as described in Section 7 & 8.

## **Appendix C: Circulation of the Annual report**

The Walsall Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report will be:

- Provided, via e-mail, to all SACRE Members
- Provided, via e-mail, to the Department for Education
- Provided, via e-mail, to NASACRE
- Published on the Local Authority website

# Appendix D: GCSE Results 2024

(latest available data)



## KS4 Grade Summary by Subject

2024 | NPD | Religious Studies

### Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60184000

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	105850	6.9	10.2	12.0	17.0	14.2	10.4	13.4	8.3	4.8	2.2	0.6	60.3	70.7	97.2	5.0
-	LA (State Funded)	3769	500	9.6	9.8	11.0	19.8	16.6	9.0	12.8	4.6	4.8	0.6	1.4	66.8	75.8	98.0	5.3
5405	Aldridge School - A Science College	261	27	-	11.1	3.7	-	7.4	7.4	37.0	11.1	14.8	3.7	3.7	22.2	29.6	92.6	3.3
5406	Barr Beacon School	258	16	12.5	12.5	18.8	18.8	18.8	-	-	-	18.8	-	-	81.3	81.3	100.0	5.7
4004	Blue Coat Church of England Academy	144	141	1.4	3.5	5.0	19.9	22.7	12.1	16.3	10.6	4.3	1.4	2.8	52.5	64.5	95.7	4.3
6907	Grace Academy Darlaston	173	30	-	6.7	6.7	23.3	16.7	20.0	13.3	3.3	3.3	-	6.7	53.3	73.3	93.3	4.5
4007	Joseph Leckie Academy	237	29	6.9	3.4	17.2	20.7	3.4	17.2	24.1	3.4	3.4	-	-	51.7	69.0	100.0	5.0
4106	Pool Hayes Academy	185	21	-	4.8	14.3	14.3	33.3	-	19.0	-	14.3	-	-	66.7	66.7	100.0	4.6
5404	Queen Mary's Grammar School	150	140	12.9	12.1	15.7	26.4	19.3	6.4	6.4	-	0.7	-	-	86.4	92.9	100.0	6.2
5403	Queen Mary's High School	148	46	50.0	28.3	13.0	8.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	8.2
5400	The Streetly Academy	254	41	2.4	9.8	14.6	19.5	12.2	14.6	12.2	7.3	7.3	-	-	58.5	73.2	100.0	5.0
4005	Walsall Studio School	45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	0.0	0.0	100.0	1.0
4002	Willenhall E-ACT Academy	178	8	-	12.5	-	37.5	12.5	-	25.0	-	12.5	-	-	62.5	62.5	100.0	4.8

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)**

**QAN: 60188790**

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	47940	6.6	9.6	11.4	15.9	14.6	11.5	13.3	8.9	5.7	1.8	0.7	58.1	69.6	97.6	4.9
-	LA (State Funded)	3769	447	4.5	8.5	11.4	17.4	14.3	10.1	14.1	10.3	7.6	0.4	1.3	56.2	66.2	98.2	4.8
5402	Shire Oak Academy	234	5	-	-	-	20.0	40.0	-	40.0	-	-	-	-	60.0	60.0	100.0	4.4
4606	St Francis of Assisi Catholic College	205	205	5.4	8.8	14.6	20.0	15.6	11.7	13.7	6.8	3.4	-	-	64.4	76.1	100.0	5.2
5401	St Thomas More Catholic School, Willenhall	238	234	3.8	8.5	9.0	15.4	12.8	9.0	14.1	13.7	10.7	0.9	2.1	49.6	58.5	97.0	4.4
4003	West Walsall E-ACT Academy	201	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4002	Willenhall E-ACT Academy	178	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	0.0	0.0	100.0	1.0

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)**



## KS4 Grade Summary by Subject

### QAN: 60300632

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	23480	8.3	10.6	11.7	16.4	13.3	10.7	13.2	8.3	5.1	1.7	0.6	60.3	71.1	97.7	5.1
-	LA (State Funded)	3769	27	-	7.4	7.4	18.5	11.1	14.8	7.4	7.4	11.1	7.4	7.4	44.4	59.3	85.2	3.9
4003	West Walsall E-ACT Academy	201	26	-	7.7	7.7	19.2	11.5	15.4	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	46.2	61.5	84.6	4.0
4002	Willenhall E-ACT Academy	178	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	0.0	0.0	100.0	1.0

### Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

### QAN: 60300796

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	16650	6.7	9.8	11.7	15.5	14.4	11.6	13.2	8.9	5.8	2.1	0.4	58.0	69.6	97.5	4.9
-	LA (State Funded)	3769	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	0.0	0.0	100.0	1.0
5402	Shire Oak Academy	234	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	0.0	0.0	100.0	1.0



## KS4 Grade Summary by Subject

### Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Short Course (394)

QAN: 60183998

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	14390	3.5	7.0	8.8	11.9	12.5	11.7	14.5	11.9	9.2	6.3	2.7	0.0
-	LA (State Funded)	3769	10	-	-	10.0	10.0	10.0	20.0	40.0	10.0	-	-	-	0.0
5404	Queen Mary's Grammar School	150	10	-	-	10.0	10.0	10.0	20.0	40.0	10.0	-	-	-	0.0