
WALSALL

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

2022- 2023

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Foreword

2022-23 has been another very successful year for Walsall SACRE. It has been a pleasure to chair very well attended meetings in a variety of venues with members keen to contribute and engage in discussion. We have made great progress with our action plan including becoming members of NASACRE and members have taken advantage of the training provided. As chair I attended the NASACRE conference in London and meeting people from other SACRE's was very rewarding. We have held meetings at a Primary School and Gurdwara and it is our intention that in future we will hold one meeting at the Town Hall, one at a place of worship and one at a school.

As in previous years we are indebted to ReToday, and in particular Fiona Moss, who gives excellent value for money and ensures that are schools are supported in their teaching of RE. We are also very grateful for the support of Walsall Council and in particular Nick Perks who ensures that the provision of RE remains a priority in schools and, during the vacancy of the clerk, Neil Picken who has supported our meetings.

Meetings this year have considered a variety of topics and decisions have been made which are in the best interests of schools and their communities. I am delighted to report that all the evidence is that schools are providing quality RE provision. Those schools where Ofsted reports have highlighted good RE practise have received a letter of congratulations from me. In many ways the highlight of the year has been the opportunity to hold meetings away from the Town Hall. At Blue Coat Church of England Infant School students and staff showed us their RE work and gave us a tour of the school. At the Guru Nanak Gurdwara we were able to share the hospitality of the langar and talk to members about their faith and aspects of their place of worship.

Walsall SACRE also took the decision in 2023 to include a Humanist representative as a voting member in category A. Bill Green, our Humanist representative comments:-

"I am pleased that Walsall Council took the decision in 2023 to include a Humanist representative in category 'A'. Humanists UK holds regular meetings and training for Humanist members of SACREs to ensure Humanists can be constructive and supportive SACRE participants. From attending these and from my experience as both a co-opted member and more recently as a full member in category 'A' it has become increasingly clear to me that Walsall SACRE is well organised and should be commended both for its inclusivity and for providing the resources required to enhance both the education of its members and that of the students within the Borough".

Dave Lomax Chair Walsall SACRE

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.

It has been pleasing to meet face to face for all three of our meetings this year and to leave behind the COVID-19 Pandemic practice of meetings held online using Microsoft Teams. SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2022/23. We are pleased that our face to face meetings have been well attended and have allowed for informal links to be made between members of SACRE. This was the first year since 2018-2019 that we have been able to have all our meetings face to face and 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. One meeting was held in a primary school, on what turned out to be the evening before their OFSTED visit, our second meeting was held in the town hall and our final meeting was held at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara where it was lovely to share the hospitality of the langar and have members of the gurdwara observing the meeting.

All of the meeting in 2022-23 were quorate with one member from at least three of the constituent groups with 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.

(<https://cmispublic.walsall.gov.uk/cmisis/Home.aspx>)

A brief overview of each meeting can be found below

Monday 10th October 2022: Bluecoat CE Infant School

Presentation from Pupils at Blue Coat C E Infant School:

A discussion took place between the RE Today Advisor and pupils.

Infant and junior pupils responded to questions in relation to:

- What pupils enjoy most about RE
- Trips to places of worship
- What pupils enjoyed about school
- What pupils learnt about different religious and non- religious worldviews during RE

SACRE integration briefing

Whilst this item was deferred to the next meeting. There was discussion about requests from schools in relation to visiting places of worship. A discussion took place regarding the formation of a guide for local places of

worship for schools to visit. Members commented that visits created opportunities to help pupils experience a variety of religions and beliefs, reinforcing learning undertaken in schools. The Arts Society Birmingham had collaborated with six different places of worship to produce a list for schools to visit. It was decided that a guide for visiting places of worship be created.

Self-Assessment of SACRE / Action Plan

Members noted the short-term, mid-term and long-term actions contained within the plan.

The following key points were discussed;

- New members to have NASACRE induction training: Members were encouraged to participate in training and report back on training undertaken.
- Standards and Quality of RE: RE Advisor commented that SACRE had limited access to data making it difficult to evaluate the standards and quality of RE. The Quality Assurance Team Manager responded that data available to the authority contained generic pass rates, the standards and quality of RE was not discussed as a specific topic by the authority. The Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills discussed how he would link to the council. The Quality Assurance Team Manager explained that data was not validated until January 2023.
- Academy representation on the committee. It was agreed that communication with academies required developing and would be an area of focus for the committee.
- Effectiveness of the agreed syllabus: The RE Advisor informed members that the agreed syllabus for religion and worldviews launched in September 2022 and suggested for feedback from teachers be gathered in 12 months' taking into account a complete cycle of teaching.
- Collective worship: The RE Advisor explained the determinations process, members agreed that clarity was required regarding the process for SACRE in Walsall.

National Updates

The usual informative report was submitted. The RE Advisor highlighted the following key points:

- Students in England and Wales taking a GCSE in religious studies increased nationally by 0.6% from the previous year. The take up of RE in Walsall had decreased.
- The RE community had introduced a new team of regional leads; who will be representing and supporting their regions with a new RE Hub project .
- The RE Council of England and Wales (REC) had published draft resources for RE and worldviews, the resources were available via the REC website.

RE in Walsall including OFSTED updates

The RE Advisor reported on local OFSTED inspections held since 21 September 2022. Members noted that there was no requirement for the inspection report to include RE. A member questioned whether Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) reports were available. The RE Advisor responded that reports were available on an annual basis. The Church of England representative suggested contacting the diocese directly for the reports.

Walsall SACRE Annual Report

The RE Advisor explained that it was SACRE's statutory duty to publish an annual report by the 31st December each calendar year. Copies of the report are sent to the Secretary of State for Education and NASACRE. Members were asked to note that data was not validated until January 2023 and therefore this year's data would be included in next year's report. The report was discussed and approved.

Monday 20th March 2023: Walsall Town Hall

Changes to the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Constitution

The Principal Democratic Services Officer outlined the report and explained that it was for SACRE to discuss and determine whether it wanted to amend its constitution, considering the 2021 Census and request from Humanists UK to include non-religious representatives, as voting members.

He clarified that, should SACRE agree to the request, membership of category A would be increased to include 2 members of non – religious philosophical beliefs. 1 of which would be for a humanist rep and 1 to be left vacant, pending an application. In presenting the report the Principal Democratic Services Officer asked members to be mindful of the national context which presented an inconsistent landscape together with the legislative position in Wales. In closing, he referred to the approach taken by neighbouring authorities.

Members were then referred to the recommendations within the report together with paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8 of the report which set out a process for appointing individuals with non-religious affiliation / belief, should this be the decision of SACRE. Members were also asked to review alternate options considered when drafting the report.

Debate ensued on the legal position, process for appointments and the impact on voting rights. The Principal Democratic Services officer referred members to the report which set out the legal position and process for appointment. It was clarified that each group would have 1 vote, as set out within the constitution.

In response to a question relating to whether both seats could be allocated to Humanists, it was explained that allocation of seats was linked to the 2021 Census. The census confirmed that there 12 Humanists listed in the 2021 census and so 1 seat was proportionate. Sacre confirmed that it would like for the recommendation and constitution to be specific that 1 seat would be for a Humanist representative and 1 seat left vacant for such other representative with secular beliefs, to ensure that it is inclusive.

Resolved

1. SACRE approves an amendment to the constitution, to include two voting representatives, having non-religious affiliation / secular belief, not represented by any other membership group so long as the non-religious beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to a religious belief within category A (Religion);

2. 1 seat be allocated to a Humanist Representative, Mr Bill Green and 1 seat left vacant, pending an application; and
3. SACRE note that the outcome will be reported to Council, for decision.

SACRE Integration

The Integration Lead, Community, Equality & Cohesion Resilient Communities outlined the report.

Members enquired as to the level of resource available to facilitate inclusion within schools and how often schools visited places of worship. The Integration Lead, Community, Equality & Cohesion Resilient Communities advised that the service targeted its support according to need as resource was limited. In terms of visits, this varied across school provision and often relied on volunteers to facilitate them.

Members noted that some schools, such as Blue Coat and Blackwood undertook numerous visits but suggested that this could be helped with some guidance on places that are open and welcoming to being visited. The RE Advisor referred to national updates and associated flyer regarding RE Hubs, a new project seeking to build relationships between Advisers, Dioceses, Universities, SACREs, Local Authorities, Governors, Multi Academy Trusts, Teaching school Hubs, places of worship, school speakers and more. She explained that there was free online training for anyone involved in school visits to places of worship. This was welcomed by SACRE. A member suggested that work was required to encourage those schools that did not engage in visits to do so. SACRE noted that a guide had been created in the past and schools had asked for this to be updated. This is on the SACRE action plan.

RE GCSE data T

This item was deferred to the next meeting of SACRE.

SACRE Action Plan

The Chair presented the report highlighting that the next meeting would be held at the Gurdwara in Willenhall and that students from Blue Coat met with SACRE, at its last meeting which was held at the Blue Coat School. This was well received by all.

It was also confirmed that log in details to NASACRE had been distributed by the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

SACRE:-

- noted the content of the action plan having regard to future actions. The Chair stated that he would update SACRE at its July meeting on his experience of the NASACRE conference and:
- accepted the offer by Mr Singh to host the next meeting at the Gurdwara, Willenhall.

SACRE National Updates

The usual informative and broad report was submitted. The RE Advisor advised that there was a recruitment crisis for RE teachers, highlighting that they were not entitled to a bursary. In response to a question regarding RE Provision, SACRE were advised that schools needed to ensure that pupils have depth of knowledge including Abrahamic and Dharmic world views and non-religious and to be taught RE until they leave school at 18.

RE in Walsall

a) OFSTED updates: The RE Advisor reported on local OFSTED inspections.

b) Census data: SACRE reviewed the 2021 Census data and noted that matters relating to membership had been considered as part of the '*Changes to the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Constitution*' item.

Education in Walsall updates

The Quality Assurance Team Manager, Walsall Council, highlighted that since 2021, the gap had been closed and Walsall was now 1% below national in respect of schools being rated as 'good' or 'better' and congratulated schools on this achievement.

Freedom of Information Request

The RE Advisor advised that she had received and responded to a freedom of information request from NASACRE in relation to the agreed syllabus and amount of funding to SACRE. NASACRE would then produce a report which would be submitted to SACRE.

Monday 18th July 2023: Guru Nanak Gurdwara

Appointment of Chair

SACRE appointed Mr Dave Lomax as Chair for 2023/24.

Appointment of Vice Chair

SACRE appointed Patti Lane as Vice Chair for 2023/24.

Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

The Chair advised SACRE that Jujhar Singh Bachra had replaced Mr Mavi as the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple representative.

Constitution/review of membership

The Principal Democratic Services Officer advised that further to the decision at SACRE at its meeting held on 20th March, 2023 and subsequent approval at Council on 17th April, 2023, the Constitution had been amended to include a Humanist Representative under category A. A further representative for a member with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to a religious had also been added. The Clerk sought any further proposed amendments to the constitution. Sacre confirmed that no further amendments were required.

Resolved - That the updated Constitution be noted.

Election of Spokespersons for Groups

The following members be appointed as Spokesperson for their individual Group:-

Group A	Christian and other religious denominations.	Mr. B. Green
Group B	Church of England	Mrs P. Lane
Group C	Teacher Representatives	Vacant
Group D	Local Authority	Councillor I. Hussain

KS4 data

SACRE noted that Walsall had two catholic schools where religious studies (RS) is compulsory at KS4 (GCSE's) as well as a further Church of England secondary that promotes RS at KS4. Other schools within Walsall had Religious Studies within an option block(S) whereby students are required to choose it from a list of other subjects, should they wish to study it. These choices are made during year 9 and usually accompanied by an options evening at the school for students to meet and greet subject leaders.

SACRE Action Plan

The Chair gave an overview of the action plan and highlighted that meetings had been held at different venues, including Blue Coat School and the Gurdwara. Details to access NASACRE had been circulated by the clerk and SACRE had heard from students at Blue Coat School at its previous meeting. A discussion ensued during which it was noted that further actions were required as set out within the report as submitted.

NASACRE Conference

The Chair provided an update on his visit to the NASACRE Conference and encouraged other members to attend future conferences as it had proved to be very informative.

SACRE National Updates from RE Today

It was clarified that SACRE now included a Humanist member under category A. This action had been undertaken prior to the High Court Ruling that local authorities could not exclude humanist representatives on SACRE.

Discussion focussed on the challenges to recruit RE teachers. Members noted that whilst recruitment for all subjects was down 22% from the previous year, RE was down a third of applicants from the last recruitment cycle. However, whilst applicants had declined, the subject had grown in popularity with entries to the full GCSE course rising by 30% over the last decade. SACRE were advised of several initiatives such as the campaign 'Beyond the Ordinary' to attract applicants. In addition, the issue had been raised in Westminster in which concern was expressed at the lack of government support for RE.

RE in Walsall – Ofsted Updates

The RE Today Advisor provided an update on Ofsted inspection reports published between 28th February, 2023 and 10th July, 2023.

Sacre noted with concern that many inspections had not commented specifically on Religious Education. The RE Today Advisor provided clarity on the way in which Ofsted Inspections were undertaken highlighting that inspections made judgements about Overall effectiveness; Quality of education; Behaviour and attitudes; Personal development; and Leadership and management.

Education in Walsall Updates

The Quality Assurance Team Manager, Walsall Council explained that the number of schools in Walsall being judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted has risen significantly over recent year. Provisionally, the overall percentage of schools in Walsall judged to be 'good or better' by Ofsted, is now above the national average. SACRE were pleased to hear that Walsall had improved. SACRE asked the Quality Assurance Team Manager to pass on SACRE's gratitude to staff for all their hard work and dedication in improving the life chances of the young people in Walsall.

RE Hub

The RE Today Advisor updated SACRE on the RE Hubs which were dedicated to supporting Religious Education (RE), Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE), and Religion & Worldviews (R&W) teachers and practitioners in the UK. The aim of the Hubs include to:-

- Improve communication between teachers, professional development and resource providers, and research communities
- Improve connections and interactions between different parts of the RE/R&W Eco-System
- Be an information exchange to increase accessibility for all teachers to local and regional professional development and research
- Enable teachers to teach with greater confidence through their access to the support, knowledge, training and resources available in their region.
- Create a sustainable long-term model for future provision.

Section 2: Religious Education

RE in schools

Virtual termly briefing meetings and the RE Consultant's virtual visits to schools continued in the year 2022-23. 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 virtual visits and 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. The subject does not always focus in ECT programmes- although we are early in this new system and the ECT is a two year programme so we hope year 2 will change this. This means it is a subject that 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.

We are pleased that for the majority of schools there was much less COVID disruption this year and that formal examinations were able to go ahead. Schools were regularly reminded that, legally, RE must be taught to all pupils in all year groups (unless withdrawn by their parents). Most schools fulfilled their legal duty.

Schools continued to teach RE using the Locally Agreed Syllabus and were pleased to be consulted extensively about the review of the syllabus. The revised agreed syllabus was launched in November 2021 and the year 21-22 was an implementation year. The revised syllabus had to be fully implemented by September 2022.

It was pleasing to hear reports directly from schools and pupils in SACRE meetings. SACRE gained a lot from our visit to an Infant school, talking to pupils, teachers and touring the school to see pupil work.

The Locally Agreed Syllabus

Subject leaders, heads of RE, teachers and senior leaders were consulted over options for the new agreed syllabus for September 2021-September 2026. Consultations were done through survey monkey, online meetings and in regular network meetings. The results of these were fed back to the working group.

The new syllabus was launched with a full day of online training in November 2021.

91 delegates attended the full day virtual launch from 75 schools, a mixture of Infant, Junior, Primary, Secondary and special schools. This training was delivered by Fiona Moss and Lat Blaylock, Senior National RE advisers for RE Today and writers of the revised syllabus.

The syllabus is now fully embedded in schools and SACRE are going to send out monitoring questionnaires to find out more in 2023-24.

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. We await the upcoming OFSTED Subject report for RE and will be trying to see if its findings are mirrored in Walsall schools.

The new timing of this report means that the verified results from GCSE and A level for 2023 are not available at the time of writing the report. In this year's annual report we are able to comment on 2022 results (See Appendix D).

We noted the disparity between those entered full course GCSE in different school types and noted that some schools without a religious character were entering almost their whole cohort for RS GCSE. We looked at school websites to find curriculum maps and timetables for those who had no or very few students sitting GCSE RS to see if they had a strong Core RE Programme. The LA adviser was informed of those who did not and was tasked with informing the appropriate bodies eg Regional director, MAT CEO or headteacher.

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

Leaders promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well. Pupils learn to look through 'windows and mirrors' when learning about other faiths and cultures. This helps them to look at other people's beliefs, experiences and perspectives and then reflect on their own. As a result, pupils understand the need to treat everyone equally and value each other's differences.

Primary School B

Trips and residential help pupils to develop curiosity about the world around them. For example, trips to places of worship, such as the Gurdwara, supports pupils' understanding of different religions. Pupils respect and celebrate difference. They say that people should treat everyone equally, no matter what.

Primary School C

They learn about different faiths and learn that it is ok to be different. This work is preparing pupils for life in modern Britain.

Primary School D

In subjects such as religious education and history, pupils are excited to learn about the world around them. In some cases, staff have carefully linked the pupils' prior experiences to new learning, for example using pupils' own experiences of the Islamic festival of Eid al-Fitr to develop an understanding of Diwali or harvest festival.

Consequently, some pupils are confident to talk about the personal importance of Eid al-Adha and how this helps them to understand the importance of other festivals for other faiths. However, the way in which the curriculum is taught means that some pupils cannot remember what they have learned in previous lessons. This makes learning new things harder.

A recent project encouraged pupils to reflect on their faith and spirituality through art.

Secondary School A

There are numerous trips and cultural events, including a workshop for Ramadan and an Easter concert where over 150 pupils participated. The school is successful in its aim to promote diversity and equality. Pupils appreciate this. They said there is 'equity for everyone'.

Secondary School B

Where learning is more ambitious, teachers build on key subject knowledge very well over time. For example, in Year 7 religious education, pupils begin with a basic understanding of different faiths. In later year groups, teachers then lead in-depth discussions and evaluations about these faiths. Pupils welcome these discussions when they are exposed to them. However, in key stages 3 and 4, some teachers do not take opportunities to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding as fully as they might. For example, some teachers do not always ask pupils in-depth questions to promote appropriate discussion between them. This means that pupils are not able to fully extend their understanding of different topics.

SACRE is also internally using the information from the School workforce survey that NATRE sourced from the DfE but will not be publishing commentary on this. Individual conversations are held between the local authority and school leaders where it seems schools might not be following legal or contractual expectations regarding RE.

Teacher training materials and advice for schools

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

These briefings remained virtual in 2022-23. 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 the worship in different religious worldviews, Teaching about Islam and Teaching about Judaism. Next year there is going to be a focus on non-religious worldviews and dharmic traditions. The number of teachers signing up has remained steady at around 20 teachers per session.

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

These Termly networks provided 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 have moved to 4-6pm. The RE adviser is also available before and after these meetings for 1:1 meetings with subject leaders and teachers. She also provides 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

Advice was given to the local authority around the new RE agreed syllabus and to ensure that schools were aware of what would be in place for September 2021-2026.

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.

Determinations

No determinations have been requested in the year 2022-23.

Teacher training provided

No training on Collective worship has been provided in 2022-23.

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 Fiona Moss our RE adviser.

Walsall SACRE are members of NASACRE and are really pleased to be using the self evaluation toolkit. This is shaping the formation of our new development plan. The chair attended the national NASACRE conference.

Reports from NATRE, including the School Workforce Data 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 excellent 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 organization has changed we hope to make links with others in the council responsible for this work and have them speak at SACRE.

Section 5: SACRE involvement in the Local Area

Governor and head teacher links

Information has been shared to head teacher briefings.

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 2022 -23 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.

Fiona Moss from RE Today continued in the role of RE consultant.

Fiona Moss
RE Today Services
Imperial Court
Sovereign Road
Birmingham
B30 3FH

Clerking of SACRE is undertaken by Neil Picken. 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 2022- 2023 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 during this challenging time a number of membership vacancies have arisen 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 Authority reported that the budget was £5,000 per annum and that this would be spent primarily on meeting costs, Primary network meetings and professional advice to SACRE and Walsall schools provided by the Adviser. It was noted again that this sum had not risen for a number of years and yet the same services are provided.

Appendix A: Membership

The membership of Walsall SACRE at the end of the academic year 2022-23 was as follows:

<p>Committee A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions and Religious Denominations</p> <p>Dr G. Gomez - Roman Catholic Mrs V. Heydon-Matterface - Methodist, Brownhills and Willenhall Deacon Helen Webster - Methodist, Walsall Mr D. Lomax - United Reformed Church Mrs D. Letford - New Testament Church of God Mrs B. Groombridge - Walsall Quakers Mr M. Sacha - Muslim Welfare Society Imam Saeed-Ur-Rahman Mosque and Islamic Centre Mr K. Bhatt - Shree Ram Mandir (Walsall) Mr M. Ashik Ali - Bangladesh Islamic Association Mr G. Singh - Guru Nanak Gurdwara Mr Jujhar Singh Bachra - Guru Nanak Sikh Temple Mrs B. Kaur Nijjar - Walsall Sikh Forum Mr G. Tsiappourdhi - Black Country Orthodox Trust Mr Bill Green - Humanist Representative</p> <p>Vacancies</p> <p>X 1 Muslim X 1 Jewish X 1 Salvation Army X 1 Buddhist X 1 Hindu</p>	<p>Committee B: Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education The Church of England</p> <p>Mrs P. Lane Mr A. Orlik Mrs K. Donnellan Mrs R. Graham X 1 Vacancy</p>
<p>Committee C Teachers' Associations</p> <p>Mr G. Headley National Union of Teachers (NUT) Ms H. Leadley, Blackwood Primary School (Academy).</p> <p>Vacancies</p> <p>X 2 Maintained School Head teachers X 1 Secondary Academy Head teacher X 1 Subject Leader Primary X 1 Subject Leader Secondary</p> <p>Representatives of Unions (NASUWT, ATL, ASCL, NAHT)</p>	<p>Committee D Local Authority</p> <p>Councillor I. Hussain Councillor F. Hassan Councillor R. K Mehmi Councillor E. Morgan Councillor Singh Sohal Councillor C. Statham Councillor M. Statham</p>
<p>Also invited Mrs F Moss (RE Today)</p>	<p>Democratic Services Team, Walsall MBC, to provide clerking service to the meetings of SACRE Mr N. Perks, Children's Services, Walsall MBC</p>

Appendix B:

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(S.A.C.R.E.) CONSTITUTION: updated March 2023

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 C: GCSE Results 2022



KS4 Grade Summary by Subject

2022 | 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	Q	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	650480	112020	10.4	12.1	13.3	17.3	13.9	10.2	11.0	6.4	3.5	0.0	1.4	0.6	66.9	77.1	98.0	4.8
-	National (State Funded)	587630	103950	8.9	11.4	13.0	17.4	14.4	10.7	11.7	6.8	3.7	0.0	1.4	0.7	65.0	75.7	97.9	4.7
-	LA (State Funded)	3656	591	10.2	11.3	15.6	14.7	12.0	9.8	12.7	6.9	3.4	-	2.4	1.0	63.8	73.6	96.6	5.3
5405	Aldridge School - A Science College	255	65	6.2	6.2	6.2	18.5	20.0	12.3	16.9	7.7	6.2	-	-	-	56.9	69.2	100.0	4.8
5406	Barr Beacon School	267	18	-	27.8	38.9	22.2	-	5.6	-	5.6	-	-	-	-	88.9	94.4	100.0	6.6
4004	Blue Coat Church of England Academy	141	141	4.3	2.8	7.1	12.1	10.6	14.2	21.3	12.8	5.7	-	6.4	2.8	36.9	51.1	90.8	3.9
6907	Grace Academy Darlaston	199	42	11.9	7.1	19.0	9.5	19.0	7.1	19.0	-	2.4	-	-	4.8	66.7	73.8	95.2	5.4
4007	Joseph Leckie Academy	229	27	-	11.1	7.4	14.8	7.4	11.1	22.2	22.2	-	-	3.7	-	40.7	51.9	96.3	4.2
4106	Pool Hayes Academy	193	10	-	-	-	-	10.0	20.0	40.0	10.0	10.0	-	10.0	-	10.0	30.0	90.0	2.8
5404	Queen Mary's Grammar School	149	148	15.5	21.6	31.8	18.2	8.8	2.7	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	95.9	98.6	100.0	7.0
5403	Queen Mary's High School	119	39	51.3	28.2	12.8	5.1	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	8.2
5400	The Streetly Academy	249	79	1.3	6.3	11.4	17.7	22.8	17.7	6.3	10.1	5.1	-	1.3	-	59.5	77.2	98.7	4.8
4002	Willenhall E-ACT Academy	165	21	-	-	-	14.3	-	14.3	42.9	9.5	9.5	-	9.5	-	14.3	28.6	90.5	3.0

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	Q	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	650480	47150	9.3	11.1	12.8	16.2	14.4	11.8	10.5	7.2	4.2	0.0	1.7	0.7	63.9	75.7	97.6	4.9
-	National (State Funded)	587630	45610	8.6	10.9	12.7	16.2	14.6	12.0	10.8	7.4	4.4	0.0	1.7	0.7	63.0	75.0	97.6	4.8
-	LA (State Funded)	3656	421	3.6	6.9	14.0	16.4	17.3	13.1	10.9	10.9	5.0	-	1.0	1.0	58.2	71.3	98.1	4.8
5402	Shire Oak Academy	276	17	5.9	5.9	11.8	23.5	23.5	11.8	11.8	5.9	-	-	-	-	70.6	82.4	100.0	5.4
4606	St Francis of Assisi Catholic College	178	175	5.1	12.6	17.7	20.0	11.4	6.3	1.1	-	0.6	-	-	-	72.6	84.0	99.4	5.6

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KS4 Grade Summary by Subject

2022 | NPD | Religious Studies

QAN: 60188790

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Q	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
5401	St Thomas More Catholic School, Willenhall	242	229	2.2	2.6	11.4	13.1	17.0	14.4	13.1	14.8	8.3	-	1.3	1.7	46.3	60.7	96.9	4.2

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

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 (All Schools)	650480	25000	9.8	11.3	13.0	17.3	14.1	10.5	10.8	6.9	4.2	1.6	0.5	65.5	76.0	98.0	4.9
-	National (State Funded)	587630	23690	9.1	10.9	12.8	17.4	14.3	10.7	11.1	7.2	4.4	1.6	0.5	64.5	75.2	97.9	4.9
-	LA (State Funded)	3656	15	6.7	6.7	6.7	26.7	13.3	13.3	20.0	-	6.7	-	-	60.0	73.3	100.0	5.1
4003	West Walsall E-ACT Academy	172	15	6.7	6.7	6.7	26.7	13.3	13.3	20.0	-	6.7	-	-	60.0	73.3	100.0	5.1