

DRAFT SACRE ANNUAL REPORT for 2022

Welcome to the Annual Report for West Sussex County Council SACRE, covering the year 2022. The report sets out the matters that have been covered by SACRE during the academic year plus the advice and support given to schools. It has been my privilege to continue being the Chairman during this time.

The school year saw continued disruption, due to the various restrictions necessary to deal with the on-going Covid situation; and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in education across West Sussex, be they head-teachers, teachers, governors, administrators, classroom assistants or parents, for the dedication and determination they have shown to continue to provide an excellent educational experience for all our children and young people.

Thanks to excellent administrative and technical support from West Sussex County Council's Democratic Services, SACRE was able to meet in hybrid form for each of the three agreed meetings throughout the year. Our attendance improved during the year and members became adept at participating in the online meetings, which were broadcast live.

We have had a few changes of personnel in SACRE during the year. A special mention to Charles Gauntlett and Ann Little from Democratic Services whose advice and support have been invaluable. We welcome Katherine Delamore (Senior Adviser) and Jack Bacon (Clerk) as their replacements. Many thanks to Paul Wagstaff (LEA) for his continued support and to Karen Hammond, external Consultant for SACRE

During our extended November meeting time was spent familiarising ourselves with and reviewing the NASACRE Self Evaluation Form. A working group was established to write the SACRE Development Plan and lead on actions from the SEF review. Also, during the year, a number of members have accessed the online training available through the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). We have been working through our Development Plan and have been successful in the areas of creating active links between the Local Education Authority and SACRE and in beginning to increase member participation. However, we still have considerable work to do to operate effectively in our relationship with schools and in increasing and utilising our members' skills.

My sincere thanks go to all our members and officers for the work that has been accomplished during the year.

I commend this Report to all its readers.

Richard Burrett

Chairman of West Sussex County Council SACRE

Introduction

SACRE Statutory Duties

The Education Reform Act 1988 required Local Education Authorities to convene a SACRE consisting of members appointed by the Authority to represent:

- **Group A:** Christian denominations and other religions and religious denomination
- **Group B:** The Church of England
- **Group C:** Teachers' Associations
- **Group D:** The Local Education Authority

The main functions of SACRE include

- addressing issues relating to RE and Collective Worship in local schools and other educational establishments
- developing ways of supporting schools with the delivery of the Local Agreed Syllabus and RE curriculum as well as monitoring this delivery
- developing and maintaining links with local and national faith communities
- considering applications for determinations from Head teachers. This is an application that the school be released from the requirements for Collective Worship to be of a mainly Christian character
- producing an annual report of its work

Purpose of the Report

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) of each Local Education Authority will 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.'

West Sussex County Council SACRE

SACRE met three times during 2022

The attendance by Committee, is set out below

Committee	21 st March 2022	20 th June 2022	21 st November 2022	Possible maximum attendances at each meeting
Committee A	8	7	9	13
Committee B	3	4	2	4
Committee C	3	5	4	7
Committee D	7	6	7	8
Co-optees	1	1	0	1
Total Members	21	23	22	33

External Consultant for SACRE	1	1	1	1
Local Authority Officers	2	2	3	3

We have a broad membership that represents the religious diversity within the local community. This is regularly reviewed, and communities are contacted in order to increase their representation when necessary. SACRE members of faith communities visit schools and are involved in individual projects.

Each meeting contains updates from the Local Authority Officers and the External Consultant for SACRE. Through the latter's reports the committee has been apprised of various national updates.

The Committee has also reviewed or discussed:

- The Development Plan (attached)
- Local draft GCSE results
- Support and training for schools
- Updates on the Agreed Syllabus
- School Workforce Data (2020)
- Ofsted Research Review Series paper on RE
- Department for Education research into the resourcing of RE
- Still Standing Report
- 2022 RE Report Card
- White Paper on Education
- School web-site review in relation to RE and Collective Worship

SACRE has undertaken a self-evaluation on 21st November 2022

SACRE members found this a valuable exercise and led to action points being included in the SACRE Development Plan

Due to COVID all meetings have been hybrid although members are encouraged to attend in person.

The number of schools within West Sussex are as follows

	Primary	Secondary	All Through Schools	Special	Alternative Provision College
Community	86	12		9	2
Foundation	1	1		1	0
Voluntary Aided (CofE)	23	2			
Voluntary Aided (RC)	11	2			
Voluntary Controlled	46	1			0
Academy	60	19		2	0
Free Schools	1	1	2		0
Total	228	38	2	12	2

The Local Agreed Syllabus

The Local Agreed Syllabus was reviewed and updated in 2020 but publication was delayed until 22nd April 2021 because of the COVID pandemic. The syllabus is available online for all schools in West Sussex.

Standards and monitoring of RE

SACRE has been unable in the past academic year to actively monitor the use of the Local Agreed Syllabus across the schools in West Sussex due to the COVID pandemic and the additional pressures on schools. This will be a focus for 2022-2023. However, updates have been received from the teacher representation of Group C

SACRE has received no formal complaints regarding RE provision or quality this year

Collective Worship

SACRE encourages all schools to comply with their legal duty to provide a daily act of Collective Worship for their pupils. This may take place at any time of day and in class, year group, or whole school settings. West Sussex SACRE believes that acts of collective worship or spiritual reflection should be meaningful and relevant to all those present.

Schools may apply to SACRE for a determination in order to provide Collective Worship of a non-Christian or other form. No schools have done so during this academic year. There were no complaints registered with the local authority or SACRE in 2021/2022 in respect of collective worship. As in previous years, no determinations were requested by schools.

No work was undertaken to monitor Collective Worship in 2020-2021. Schools were reminded of the legal requirement in the Agreed Syllabus

Links with other bodies

West Sussex SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Through the year SACRE members were informed of developments in RE from NASACRE, several members of SACRE have attended training sessions. One member of SACRE attended the NASACRE conference and reported back to members

WSSC arrangements for SACRE

During the academic year 2021-2022 the Local Education Authority has financially supported SACRE through the allocation of officers and other resources.

Staffing costs have been covered to provide officers from Democratic Services to fulfil the administrative preparation and clerking of SACRE meetings. Additional officer and technology resource has also been allocated to ensure that SACRE meetings could be held via video conference and live streamed.

The costs of the Professional RE Adviser, an external consultant, are met through Local Authority funds

An officer in the Local Education Authority's Democratic Services Section acts as Clerk to SACRE; advising on governance matters and acting as a link between the Local Education Authority and SACRE.

In addition, the Democratic Services Team Manager provides professional support and advice to SACRE, principally on matters of governance and matters relating to the work of the Council and its Committees.

Membership

Committee A – Faith Group Representatives

Baha'i – Mrs Meenou Jones

Baptist – Vacancy

Free Churches – Rev David Pitkeathly

Hindu – Mr Ashwin Soni
Humanists UK – Mr Andrew Edmondson
Jewish – Mrs Barbara Bell
Methodist – Rev Dawn Carn
Muslim – Mr Arif Syed
Quaker – Ms Maria Hock
Roman Catholic – Mrs Anna Flood
Salvation Army – Major Mike Warner
Sikh – Mrs Divinder Kaur Ghundale
United Reformed Church – Rev Helen Higgin-Botham

Committee B- Church of England Representatives

Mrs Rosie Black
Rev Sheila Higgins
Mr Andrew Simpson
Mrs Angela Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Committee C Teachers of Religious Education

Rev Chrissie Millwood, The Holy Trinity CofE Secondary School, Crawley
Ms Helen Elphick – Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School
Teachers – Vacancy
National Education Union – Ms Anne Barker
NASUWT, The Teachers' Union, Mr Ben Cornford
Two union vacancies

Committee D elected Members of the County Council

Cllr Zack Ali
Cllr Brenda Burgess
Cllr Richard Burrett (Chairman)
Cllr Nigel Jupp
Cllr Kirsty Lord
Cllr Katie Nagel
Cllr Jacky Pendleton
Vacancy x 1

Co-opted members

Ms Joanna Tulloch

SACRE visits for schools

The Jewish representative on SACRE (Barbara Bell) organised a visit to Brighton and Hove Shul on 12th October 2022 led by Rabbi Gabriel, a Shul guide and Barbara Bell. 12 teachers attended an “Introduction to Judaism” session

Evaluation comments

- *Left with positive image of Judaism*
- *It was interactive, extremely welcoming and allowed participants reflect on Judaism*
- *Speakers were knowledgeable*
- *Good use of resources to inspire and share with staff*
- *Good response to questions we asked*
- *The use of different speakers was very effective*
- *Good links to other religions such as Christianity*
- *Some practical ideas were shared*
- *The session was quite inspirational and even made some staff consider their own religious journeys.*