



# **Wiltshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**Annual Report  
September 2018 – August 2019**

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## Letter from Chair of SACRE – Mr Simon White



A person is sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop. On the desk, there is a green bag, a white cup on a saucer, and several papers. The person is wearing a grey shirt and a colorful patterned bag. The background is slightly blurred, showing a chair and some other items.

We are very aware of the results of the consultation by the Commission on RE (CoRE). This is a useful document which proposes: clear aims are set for a national entitlement for RE; schools are held more to account for the provision and quality of RE; a national plan is put in place to improve teaching and learning in RE and SACREs are to have a renewed and expanded role. However, the results of this exercise are yet to be seen in any statutory changes to the teaching of RE or the role of the SACRE.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our members of SACRE who give of their time and expertise freely and generously. It is a real privilege to work with colleagues who share the same passion; a passion to ensure that EVERY child in Wiltshire has access to high quality, relevant and engaging RE. The SACRE would be nothing without their input. I would also like to highlight the work of Simone Kermode, the Clerk to SACRE, who shares this same passion and keeps us all so well informed. Her efficiency, enthusiasm and support are second to none!

The next year promises to bring further changes in the world of RE. The SACRE looks forward to continuing to serve the people of Wiltshire in our work.

Simon White  
Chair of SACRE

## OVERVIEW – SACRE meetings

The key functions of SACRE can be found in Appendix A.

The Constitution and Terms of Reference of February 2010 are still in force.

SACRE meets 3 times per year to regularly review, as well as other items, the:

- National developments in RE from specialists or members attending conferences.
- The quality of teaching in RE from members and teachers attending network meetings and training.



*SACRE members at a SACRE meeting*

## Key areas of focus at the following network meetings were to:

### 09 October 2018

- Fund the **LTLRE project** (Area 2 - Diocese of Bristol) at £125.00
- Review the consultation from the **Commission on Religious Education (CoRE)**
- Review the new **proposed SIAMs inspection framework**
- Understand the Diocese of Salisbury's commitment to deliver a '**hub model of excellence**' where, thanks to a grant from Sarum St Michael's Education Charity (SSMEC), 10 x RE and/or worship leaders from Church schools will lead the project across Wiltshire and Dorset.

### 19 March 2019

- Review the discussions at the SW SACRE Conference (04 March 2019) which focused on the implications of the **CoRE report** and how this will enhance or diminish the role of SACREs?
- Understand the impact of **Ofsted's draft framework for 2019** on RE with the focus of Ofsted inspections being on 'Intent, implementation and impact' of the school curriculum
- Celebrate Helen Cooke's **unit of work, funded by SACRE, for primary schools** linked to the enquiry-based questions in the Agreed Syllabus and the content of the recent network meetings - 'The Journey of Life and Death' which includes links to resources, activities and suggestions for assessment
- Agree SACRE will plan as though there is a **budget** as one had not been confirmed by the LA
- Agree that **SACRE is committed to continuing to organise network meetings** and this year they will be on the subject of 'Ofsted compliance' until the 'hub model of excellence' is in place.

### 12 June 2019

- Review the impact of the **SIAMS inspection framework** for September 2019 in detail with schools having to show more evidence of their Christian values in, i.e. charity work and engagement in the community.
- Agree to promoting, via Right Choice, the **RE Quality Mark** offering 10 schools the opportunity to apply for the award free of charge.
- Agree to sharing with schools the guidance and resource pack from **Diversity of Religion and Belief (Cardiff University)**.
- Agree to **SACRE organising 2 network meetings** (at a reduced rate) for both primary and secondary schools with the Sikh SACRE member presenting on teaching Sikhism.

## Development of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

The Agreed Syllabus for RE was originally adopted in 2011 and was due for renewal by Autumn 2016. The Agreed Syllabus with all teaching support materials can be accessed on 'Right Choice' <http://rightchoice.wiltshire.gov.uk/>

The revision of the Agreed Syllabus has followed a pattern of setting up an Agreed Syllabus Conference every four years for delivery of the syllabus in the fifth year.

Since 2011, teacher learning resources have been produced, in particular the 'key concepts for each religion' and advice regarding the assessment of RE.

SACRE instructed Helen Cooke, SACRE member and primary school teacher, to produce support materials for primary schools.

**LESSON 1 – WHY IS LIFE DESCRIBED AS A JOURNEY?**

- introduce the topic and discuss why life can be seen as a journey, use some famous quotations/sayings (there are hundreds on the internet)
- What do these sayings mean? Class or group discussions (you could have them printed on large sheets on tables that children could write around)

*Helen Cooke's unit of work – 'The Journey of Life and Death' which includes links to resources, activities and suggestions for assessment available on Right Choice website*

## Training provided for schools

Two network meetings took place on 'Sharing resources to inspire RE Teaching' which included a presentation from SACRE's Sikh representative, who is also a teacher, on understanding the concepts of the Sikh faith.

Date	Venue
20 November 2018	Shaw Primary School, Shaw Melksham
26 February 2019	Manor Fields Primary School, Salisbury

This is a copy of the promotional leaflet sent to schools via the Right Choice website:

### Religious Education

#### 'Sharing resources to inspire RE Teaching'

#### Outline

Are you looking for teaching and learning resources to make religious education teaching more lively, inspiring and accessible to pupils? This RE network meeting will provide you with an opportunity to consider and address how we can:

- make our RE lessons more engaging for children?
- use more interesting and interactive resources in our lessons?
- involve the children more in their own learning in RE?
- improve our own subject knowledge as RE teachers?

#### Description

- Understand the key concepts of the Sikh faith from a local teacher of the Sikh faith to support the effective teaching of Sikhism.
- Learn from the presenter about their favourite resources and the context in which these have been used.
- Share your favourite RE teaching resource; physical, text or online, whatever you have used to inspire your pupils
- Primary and Secondary RE teachers and specialists to network and share experiences and ideas around resources, methodology and transition.

This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and promote the value and importance of RE for the education of every child and young person and shine a spotlight on a wealth of available resources.

Please bring your own resources and be prepared to share how these have been used in the classroom with examples of work where possible.



An example of teachers' feedback on the successful aspects were:

- Fab ideas – very practical
- Really find Helen Cooke's information brilliant
- Always so helpful to talk through different practice and share ideas. Thank you
- Always find it interesting to find out about other religions and Sikhism is one I knew very little about
- Information on Sikhism – ideas, areas of focus and subject knowledge
- Inspirational RE – ideas that are accessible
- Sharing resources/ good practice

*Wiltshire Learning Resources Hub's display of a wide-range and high quality religious resources and artefacts at the network meeting .*



## Compliance for RE

- There were no formal complaints about RE
- No determinations have been made to SACRE. (A determination is an application by a headteacher to make a determination for pupils of faiths, other than Christianity, that they will not be required to attend daily worship of a Christian character. As a result of such a determination the headteacher must make arrangements for daily worship that is appropriate for those pupils)
- The monitoring of church schools via the SIAMS inspections of Anglican indicates that there is full compliance within VC and VA areas.

## Diocese of Salisbury confirmed the following:

- In 2018-19, SIAMS inspections only took place from January 2019.

There were 6 VA school inspections and the outcomes were:

- Overall SIAMS: 3 Excellent and 3 Good
- Collective Worship: 3 Excellent and 3 Good (not exactly same schools as overall)
- RE: 2 Excellent, 3 Good, 1 Requires Improvement.

There were 11 VC school inspections and the outcomes were:

- Overall SIAMS: 11 Good
- Collective Worship: 9 Good and 2 Requires Improvement

In Summary 17 school inspections.

- 17 Overall Good or better (of which 3 were excellent)
- 15 Overall Worship Good or Better

## Overview of GCSE and A level results for Religious Studies

### GCSE results

GCSE	2017 No. of entries	2018 No. of entries	2019 No. of entries	2017 A*-C	2018 9-4	2019 9-4	2017 A*-G	2018 9-1	2019 9-1
National (All entries)	263,974	196,680	206,570	71%	72%	72%	98%	98%	98%
Wiltshire LA & Academies	2,471	1,803	1,990	71%	73%	75%	98%	98%	98%

The results from 2018 cannot be directly compared to 2017's results due to a swap of the old U-A\* system with 1-9 grades. The new GCSEs have been designed to be harder and under the new system, grades 7-9 are equivalent to the old A and A\* marks. Numbers 4-6 cover the old B and C grades, while 1-3 cover the old D, E, F and G grades.

Religious Education Council reported: [REC GCSE results Aug 19](#)

- When the entries for the full course and short course GCSE are combined, the picture is of significant decline in the number of pupils taking a qualification in Religious Studies (*figures in the table are for the full GCSE course*).
- The long term picture is more positive for the full course GCSE where there has been strong growth in the number of entries for most of the last decade. In 2009 there were 170,303 entries for Religious Studies in England and Wales. The number of entries increased every year until reaching a peak in 2016. While there has been a decline since this peak, the number of pupils receiving a full course GCSE in Religious Studies is still 39.7% greater than in 2009.
- All schools, including Academies, have a legal requirement to provide Religious Education to all pupils at all key stages, but today's figures, together with the Government's own school workforce data, suggest that this is not sufficient to ensure that all pupils in England get to study the subject at Key Stage 4. A key driver of this behaviour is almost certainly the fact that there are no consequences for those schools that decide to flout their legal obligation, with Religious Education not featuring in measures such as the EBacc that are used to hold them to account.
- At a time when greater religious literacy is even more necessary than ever before, the decline across England and Wales in pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies is troubling.
- The fall in entries comes despite pupils emphasising how much they value and enjoy studying Religious Education (underlined by the overall rise in entries at A-Level and GCSE over the past decade) and despite the fact that the Government is rightly emphasising the importance for young people to have knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs.



## A level results

A level	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
	No. of entries	No. of entries	No. of entries	A*-A	A*-A	A*-A	A*-B	A*-B	A*-B	A*-E	A*-E	A*-E
National (All entries)	21,289	16,560	16,155	24%	23%	22%	55%	52%	50%	98%	98%	98%
Wiltshire LA & Academies	225	115	154	23%	17%	19%	45%	43%		97%	98%	97%

Religious Education Council reported: [REC A level results Aug 19](#)

- RS A-level entries recorded a small decrease of 5.1% on 2018. Much of this decrease is explained by a decrease in the number of 18-year-olds in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland of 2.9%.
- Despite the decrease in entries for RS, there are still 57% more entries than in 2003 (11,132 entries were recorded in 2003).
- The 5.1% decrease in entries for RS is considerably smaller than equivalent figures for many other subjects such as English Language (down 21.8%), English Literature (down 7.8%), Further Maths (down 10.0%), and Drama (down 9.4%).
- 5% of entries for RS A-level were awarded an A or an A\*.

## Quality of teaching and leadership and management of RE

The feedback forms completed by teachers who attended the network meetings gives SACRE an insight into the teachers' understanding of areas of teaching that require development and support and this can vary from school to school.

SACRE does not have access to sufficient in-depth information to enable a well-substantiated judgement on leadership and management. However, network meetings support the professional development of those leading RE in Wiltshire schools.

## Membership of SACRE

The LA has worked hard to recruit members to SACRE that represent a cross section of the religions and beliefs held by the people of Wiltshire and of those taught in Wiltshire schools.

SACRE welcomes observers to their meetings and is made up of the following members:

### Group A: Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations – 10 votes

Faith Group	Representative
Free Churches:- Salisbury Assemblies of God Church	Tony Wilson (Pastor) <i>Membership vacant</i> <i>Membership vacant</i>
Buddhist Community	Jo Backus
Muslim Community	Wali Rahman
Roman Catholic Church	<i>Membership vacant</i> <i>Membership vacant</i>
Hinduism Community	<i>Membership vacant</i>
Sikhism Community	Bal Kaur
Judaism Community	<i>Membership vacant</i>

### Group B: Church of England – 5 votes

Faith Group	Representative
Diocese of Salisbury	Simon White (Chair) HT, Shaw Primary School Nicola Coupe <i>Membership vacant</i> <i>Membership vacant</i>
Diocese of Bristol	Julia Harle

### Group C: Headteacher /Teacher Representatives – 5 votes

School position	Representative
Primary Headteacher	Rebecca Carson, Woodford Valley Primary School
Secondary Headteacher	Vicky Bunting (Head of RS) representing Mrs Edwards, HT Kingdown, Warminster
Primary Teacher	Amanda Garton, Woodlands Primary School
Secondary Teacher	Mark Perraton, The John of Gaunt School shared with Lorraine Marlow, St Laurence School
Special Teacher	<i>Membership vacant</i>

### Co-opted member:

School position	Representative
Primary School Teacher and Salisbury DBE Hub Leader Practitioner	Helen Cooke

### Group D: The LA

	Representative
<b>Conservative</b>	Mary Douglas
<b>Labour</b>	<i>Membership vacant</i>
<b>Liberal</b>	<i>Membership vacant</i>
<b>Rep' for the Corporate Director for Children and Education</b>	Helen Southwell
<b>Equality and Diversity Manager</b>	<i>Membership vacant</i>
<b>Clerk to SACRE</b>	Simone Kermode

## Training opportunities for SACRE members

- One/two SACRE members are encouraged to attend the annual South West SACRE conference.
- All members are invited to RE network meetings.

## SACRE development

### Right Choice website

As well as providing schools with access to the RE Agreed Syllabus and support materials, the Right Choice website provides SACRE with an opportunity to update teachers on local and national updates. RE teachers are encouraged to set up an email alert so that they are informed of when RE information is added to the website.

The following updates were sent to schools via the Right Choice website:

12/07/2019	How do humanists mark important times in their lives such as births, deaths, and marriages? FREE teacher resources for Religious Education
27/06/2019	'Better RE' in your school: NATRE's national initiative - Giving primary schools access to high-quality RE resources (RE-0619-A002)
12/06/2019	The Journey of Life and Death (RE-0619-A001)
24/05/2019	For 6th Form/College students: Lessons from Auschwitz Project - CPD and visit to Poland at £59 for teachers & students (Holocaust Education)
24/05/2019	Is your school eligible for a grant towards undertaking the Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) award? Looking for training on REQM
08/02/2019	Sharing YOUR experiences and details of Visits and Visitors for Religious Education (RE-0219-A001)
07/02/2019	School Visits and Visitors for Religious Education (RE-0219-A002)
18/01/2019	26 February 2019 - RE Network Meeting - teaching and learning resources to make RE teaching more lively, inspiring and accessible to pupils
29/11/2018	2019/20 Scholarships for RE Teachers (RE-1118-A001)
09/10/2018	26 January 2019 NATRE - Strictly RE Conference - London, Heathrow - £175 (RE-1018-A002)
03/10/2018	25 January 2019 Bristol & South Gloucestershire Annual Conference (RE-1018-A001)
27/09/2018	UPDATE to RE network meeting - 'Sharing resources to inspire RE teaching' (RE-0918-A005)
07/09/2018	"Time to breathe" (RE-0918-A001)
07/09/2018	2019/20 Holocaust Educational Trust - free half or full-day CPD workshops to primary and secondary teachers (RE-0918-A002)
07/09/2018	2019 - Grant available for RE Quality Mark Assessment (RE-0918-A003)

The Right Choice website also offers SACRE the opportunity to analyse viewing data to understand which articles were read the most by teachers and the public:

Publish Date	Articles	Views	Public Views
12/06/2019	The Journey of Life and Death	69	148
25/09/2019	Free training for RE Teachers on 'Are you Ofsted ready?'	56	43
20/09/2019	RE list for Religious Education Visits and Visitors	54	88
24/05/2019	Is your school eligible for a grant towards undertaking the Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) award? Looking for training on REQM	54	
18/01/2019	26 February 2019 - RE Network Meeting - teaching and learning resources to make RE teaching more lively, inspiring and accessible to pupils	53	
07/02/2019	School Visits and Visitors for Religious Education	51	

Also, SACRE can analyse viewing data to understand which areas of the agreed syllabus are the most popular with teachers as detailed below.

Right Choice website views January 2018 – February 2019

Pages	Users	Views	Public Views
Religious Education Resource Home Page	60	191	693
Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus for RE (whole syllabus for downloading)	25	82	148
Key Stage 1	22	67	60
Key Stage 2	18	63	61
Assessment - new for 2016!	40	59	41
Religious Education Visits and Visitors	44	57	26
Q10 Why do some people believe in life after death and what difference	33	43	9
Curriculum and Planning	26	39	40
Yearly RE Teaching Plan for Each Year Group (term by term)	21	36	69
Core Concepts for each religion - new for 2016!	18	32	51
Learning Resources - books, religious artefacts, models, role play and costume....	16	32	88

SACRE can even identify the number of views of the minutes from SACRE meetings:

Pages	Views	Public Views
Minutes from SACRE meetings	4	48


## Financial support

Currently SACRE is supported by the LA, which enables the continuous review of the membership and recruitment to SACRE as well as allowing for SACRE to be engaged with national events and pay NASACRE membership fees.

SACRE has been vigilant in keeping its running costs to a minimum and actively seeks support from SACRE members to host SACRE meetings and network meetings at their schools. SACRE appreciate their on-going support and commitment to improving the teaching of RE across the county.

Teachers were charged £30 each to attend the RE network meeting which covered the cost of the presenters.

## Partnerships with other key stakeholders

- The LA has commissioned a teacher to undertake a training day on  Getting to grips with Assessment for RE for primary schools on 22 May 2018.
- SACRE monitors and informs the range of training provided by the LA
- SACRE works closely with the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education.
- Wiltshire SACRE is a member of NASACRE.

## Appendix A: SACRE functions

The report meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Act, which states that:

- 'The LA shall in each year publish a report of their functions and any action taken by representative groups on the LA during the preceding year.'
- The report is required to specify any matters in respect of which the LA has given advice to the authority, and the nature of that advice.

The key function of SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes:

1. Monitoring the provision and quality of RE and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on
  - methods of teaching
  - choice of teaching material
  - provision of teacher training
2. Monitoring the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus, including whether any changes need to be made to improve the quality of teaching and learning in RE, whether in the syllabus itself or the support offered in implementing the syllabus. Central to this is the review of the locally agreed syllabus within five years of the last review.
3. Maintaining a partnership between SACRE, LA and other bodies. This includes preparing an annual report for the LA.
4. Supporting and monitoring collective worship in schools. This includes dealing with applications from headteachers for a total or partial exemption from providing Christian worship.

In addition, SACRE has two powers which are binding on the local authority:

- at any time, it may require a review of the Agreed Syllabus for RE;
- following an application by the headteacher, it may make a determination for pupils of faiths other than Christianity that they will not be required to attend daily worship of a Christian character. As a result of such a determination the headteacher must make arrangements for daily worship that is appropriate for those pupils.

The composition of SACRE is set out in legislation. The four groups or committees represent the following interests within the local community.

- Committee A Christian Denominations and other faiths;
- Committee B The Church of England;
- Committee C Associations representing teachers;
- Committee D The local authority.

Members may be nominated by appropriate organisations but are appointed by the LA. Other members may be co-opted.

## Appendix B: Contact addresses of SACRE officers

### **Chair of SACRE - Simon White**

Headteacher – Shaw Primary School  
Shaw CofE Primary School  
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Shaw  
Melksham  
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### **Clerk to SACRE - Simone Kermode**

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Tel No 01225 713842  
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### **LA Officer - Helen Southwell**

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