

Wiltshire SACRE Annual Report 2019-2020



Forest & Sandridge Church of England Primary School in Melksham in November 2019 became one of just 34 schools in the UK to receive an award that recognises outstanding religious education



Pupils from Stratford sub-Castle CE Primary School in Salisbury learning about Judaism

Chairs' Introduction

Welcome to our Annual Report 2019 -20.

This has been an extraordinary year for us all. We met as usual in October setting out to have a creative and busy year, addressing our need to review our agreed syllabus and continue offering effective CPD for teachers through Hub lead Practitioners Network meetings and a Conference (to be offered through the Diocese of Salisbury) . After March 19th, however we entered unprecedented times as our schools started teaching keyworkers and vulnerable children and those in early years and reception in school whilst providing home learning for the majority of pupils. The SACRE meeting planned for the 17th March 2020 was cancelled.

I am all too aware that there has been far less teaching of RE during this time. Some schools have been undertaking collective worship/assemblies on-line; other schools have not undertaken any. Due to social distancing, the Head teacher will not be able to use the school hall for collective worship to large groups of pupils. SACRE has been able to signpost teachers to excellent online resources to support RE and Collective Worship/ Assemblies that have been provided by Salisbury and Bristol Diocese.

SACRE is fortunate to have committed and experienced volunteer members and the support of an LA Officer, this year saw Nicola Shewring take over this role, which has enabled Wiltshire SACRE to continue to provide support and guidance for the teaching of Religious Education across Wiltshire.

The one meeting we were able to hold in a physical space was held at Shaw CofE Primary School in Melksham where I am Headteacher. It was a pleasure to explain our Ethos and to talk about how RE is organised in our school using Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity Resources.

MISSION SHOW

Earth & SPACE

In Term 3, we will become **SPACE SCIENTISTS** as we develop our understanding of our Solar System.

By the end of the learning unit, most children will be able to:

- Describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as spherical;
- Name the planets in the solar system Independently;
- Explain that day and night is due to rotation of the Earth;
- Support the idea that different places on Earth experience night and day at different times with evidence;
- Report and present findings;
- Explain how the Moon moves relative to the Earth;
- Distinguish between heliocentric and geocentric ideas of planetary movement.

We'll also learn a huge amount during our trip to 'We the Curious!' in Bristol. We will see the planets in the Planetarium and experience a Space workshop. In **ART**, we will create some chalk moon images and creative rocket pics based on the work of artist Peter Thorpe.

Swimming
For those doing the

English Here's a bit about our main text for the term, **COSMIC**:
How is tea hot for his boots. And his football style. And his school blazer. But he's

this does have a positive impact on class work!
Homework: remember to contact me if there are any problems or concerns about homework activities.

Other learning this term
Computing/ICT Digital Literacy: we will...use a search engine efficiently by filtering; begin to understand how results are selected and ranked; evaluate digital content; explain key concepts
RE How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything? Children will learn to understand the Hindu belief that there is one God with many different aspects.

This was our Year 5 Curriculum Plan for January 2020 - RE has been connected with the rest of the Curriculum topic of "Earth and Space" and pupils explore a question to help them explore an idea from the Hindu tradition:

"How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything "

We continue to be aware of the repercussions in the RE community of the Commission on RE (CoRE). This useful document which offers clear intentions for a sea change in the focus of religious education to include religion and worldviews has yet to be fleshed out as practical curriculum guidance. We await further guidance that has been commissioned for SACRES and Agreed Syllabus Conferences, before offering wholesale recommendations for schools particularly at a time of exhaustion from all the demands of this year.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our members of SACRE who give of their time and expertise freely and generously. I am grateful in this, most difficult year, in many of our lives that SACRE members have continued to serve Wiltshire children and young people by working to try and ensure that they can receive effective and nurturing Religious Education and reflection opportunities that Collective worship / Assemblies even in virtual forms can provide. I would also like to highlight the work of Simone Kermode, the Clerk to SACRE, who works tirelessly to keep us all so well informed. Her efficiency, enthusiasm and support are second to none! The next year promises to bring a greater stability to Wiltshire SACRE as we were able to secure greater funding from the Local Authority we have now appointed an RE adviser to offer us greater professional guidance. Katy Staples from Bristol Diocese who also serves Bristol and Swindon SACREs and chairs the South West Association of RE advisers will begin to advise us in 2020-21.

Mr Simon White

Chair of Wiltshire SACRE



What is SACRE?

SACRE is the abbreviation for the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**. Its composition is specifically multi-belief and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers and councillors.

It is a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and to support its work. The purpose of SACRE is to advise on the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship.

Wiltshire SACRE understands the unique status of Religious Education as it is currently the only subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but is agreed locally. This means that we can ensure that the syllabus we offer children and young people gives examples of beliefs lived and practiced by people who have lived and currently live in their region and local area..

SACRE takes an active part in the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus every five years. During this Academic year 2019 -20 we continued to use our Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus; details of this syllabus and the updates and supplementary resources that SACRE has provided can be found [here](#)

During the next Academic year 2020-21 we will seek to actively review the current Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus.

How SACRE is funded and administered

SACRE received support from Wiltshire Council through the time and attendance of Nicola Shewring at meetings and from the diligent clerking supplied by Simone Kermode. The SACRE has also been provided support from Wiltshire teachers through network meetings. During this reporting period SACRE was not supported by an advisor, but actions were taken to rectify this deficiency.

SACRE was also able to signpost schools to RE and CW Hubs and a conference provided by Salisbury Diocese.

Priorities for 2020-21

In the coming year, we have two main priorities:

1. To secure sufficient funding for an adviser and help them to understand our RE SMSC and CW needs within Wiltshire.
2. To Review our Locally Agreed Syllabus

In addition, we will continue to focus on the following:

- Improving Religious Education in Wiltshire Schools
- To develop and enhance the possibilities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development offered through Collective Worship (Assemblies)
- Encourage Schools, Academies and Colleges to celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in the UK and work with other local agencies to ensure this

Ensuring that the funding we receive is used well and targeted to support staff and pupils in schools

Support for schools

In line with its key priority to raise attainment in RE through advising and training teachers, SACRE undertook the following work in 2019-20:

2 Network Meetings were held free of charge on the 8th and 22nd October 2019. The topic was:

“Are You Ofsted Ready?” the first meeting was held at Kingdown Secondary School in Warminster and 11 Primary Teachers Attended and 5 Secondary

The second was held at Shaw Primary School in Melksham and 29 teachers attended.

Delegates were offered a chance to understand that RE may be inspected under the first of the four key judgements “The quality of Education” and may be subject to a “Deep Dive “ , however RE will also play a significant part in contributing to the Personal Development aspect of the Ofsted inspection framework. Delegates were able to ask questions, express fears and were offered strategies of support.

Any further training was put on hold for the rest of this academic year due to the Covid pandemic, although SACRE was able to signpost schools to some Understanding Christianity training available through Salisbury Diocese which was able to continue.

Monitoring of RE provision in Wiltshire

A key task for SACRE is to monitor the overall provision of RE in Wiltshire schools.

The main evidence base that SACRE has to work from to monitor provision is the data from public examinations. In the academic year 2019 - 20 no public examinations took place and so we are unable to look at this evidence to monitor the outcomes of Religious Education in the county.

SACRE supports schools through pages available to all schools on the Wiltshire Local Authority “Right Choice” Website <https://rightchoice.wiltshire.gov.uk/Page/9129>

We can see from this access data that many schools during this reporting period have been supported through the resources that SACRE has continued to provide:

The RE pages were visited 2,773 times during this period.

The most popular items accessed were individual units of work for KS1 and 2 ,
Curriculum Planning Guidance and Assessment Guidance.

Statutory matters

SACRE has a statutory role to decide on any determinations. These are requests by schools to move away from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly, broadly or mainly of a Christian character. During the period of this report, there have been no requests for determinations.

Where a complaint has been made about the RE curriculum in a Wiltshire school, it should be referred to Wiltshire Council for it to deal with. Wiltshire Council has undertaken to seek SACRE’s advice on any such complaint. There have been no formal complaints within this reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

Membership of SACRE

The four groups or committees that have served for the year 2019-20

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

Faith Group	Representative
Free Churches	Tony Wilson (Pastor) Tod Gobledale
Salisbury Assemblies of God	Vacancy
Buddhist Community	Jo Backus
Muslim Community	Wali Rahman
Roman Catholic Community	Vacant
Hindu Community	Vacant
Sikhism Community	Bal Kaur
Judaism Community	Lynda Ford-Horne

Group B: Church of England - 5 votes

Diocese	Representative
Salisbury	Simon White (Chair) HT Shaw Primary School
Salisbury	Nicola Coupe
Salisbury	Vacancy
Salisbury	Vacancy
Bristol	Julia Harle / Katherine Bloomer

Group C: Headteachers/ Teachers - 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 Claire Brooks
Secondary Teacher	Mark Perraton, The John of Gaunt School shared with Lorraine Marlow, St Laurence School
Special School	Vacancy

Co-opted Member

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

Group D: The Local Authority

Group	Representative
Conservative	Mary Douglas, Ben Anderson
Labour	Vacancy
Liberal	Vacancy
Rep' for the Corporate Director for Children and Education	Nicky Shewring
Equality and Diversity Manager	Vacancy
Clerk to SACRE	Simone Kermode

Members may be nominated by appropriate organisations but are appointed by the council. Other members may be co-opted. (Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996)

SACRE only met on two occasions during the academic year 2019 -20

The March meeting was cancelled: it was scheduled for March 17th - 2 days before the first lockdown.

22nd October 2019 Shaw CE Primary School, Melksham

The main agenda items were:

1. Welcome to new members
2. A talk about RE at Shaw CE Primary School
3. An Update on the LA School effectiveness executive including a discussion of the current agreed syllabus
5. Reports from Network meetings

2nd July 2020 This meeting was held on Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing System

The main agenda items were:

- 1) Key Updates with an overview of the impact of Covid 19 on the Teaching and Learning in schools and in particular the teaching of RE
- 2) The timeline for a New Agreed Syllabus for RE - an agreement of a postponement
- 3) Appointment of a new Advisor for SACRE - it was agreed that Katy Staples from the Diocese of Bristol (who is currently adviser to Bristol and Swindon SACREs) be asked to be the next adviser.
- 4) Most training had been suspended but some had still continued locally provided by Salisbury of Diocese: Using the resource "Understanding Christianity" in community schools.