



Wiltshire SACRE Annual Report
Sept 2022- July 2023



Wiltshire SACRE's Annual Report 2022-23

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	Words from the Chair Overview – SACRE meetings Overview – Agreed Syllabus Conference
2	Religious Education	REC National Content Standard Ofsted Annual Report Monitoring and School support 2022 exam outcomes Website monitoring WIRE award RE teacher hub groups Annual Conference (Bristol) Online RE Conference (Salisbury) LTLRE 'Area 2' Conference Communication/newsletters Governor Training
3	Collective Worship	Policy and guidance Determinations
4	Links with other organisations	NASACRE Dioceses of Salisbury and Bristol Other local involvement – SWARE SW
5	SACRE arrangements	Organisation Membership

1. Introduction

Words from the Chair

Welcome to our annual report at the end of a busy and exciting year!

Over the last few months we have seen a new level of active participation among SACRE members and a wonderful level of engagement with schools . Thank you to everyone involved; from school leaders and their staff, to committee members, to Nicola Coupe who gives so generously of her time and Laura Harris, our RE Adviser contracted to us from the Diocese of Bristol education team, as well as members of the Local Authority who have supported us so well.

Successes this year include:

- The ongoing development of resources and understanding of Worldviews
- Very successful and well attended CPD (often in excess of 40 delegates) both at the hubs and at the online network meetings for subject leaders
- Useful website monitoring to identify schools that might benefit from additional support and those who may not be fulfilling their legal responsibilities
- Contributing to the new, comprehensive guidance on Collective Worship developed by Nicola Coupe and the collective worship working party. This will be launched in 2024 and made available on the Right Choice website
- The development of a survey to receive the thoughts and opinions of teachers ahead of our next syllabus review in 2026.
- Engaging with Wiltshire Council and other services to identify common goals and consider how we can work together.

None of this would have happened without the hard work and commitment of those involved – thank you to you all.

Finally, I need to thank Cathy Milton for her work as Co-chair last year and to welcome Antonio Piazza as my Co- Chair this year.

I look forward to a productive and exciting year ahead.

Celia Hicks – Co-chair of SACRE

Overview – SACRE meetings

A summary of our meetings in 2022-23:

30 November 2022 3.30pm - 5.30pm (online) quorate 14 members attended

- Intro from Andrew Best (head of school effectiveness, Wiltshire Council)
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Membership
- Journey of SACRE to date
- The SLA from Diocese of Bristol
- Ways that SACRE are supporting primary schools and teachers
- Annual Report 2021-22

March 2023 3.30pm - 5.30pm (online) quorate 7 members attended

- All members are to consider, on 01 March 2023, a proposal to introduce a tariff of charges for bespoke academy support and a starting date
- Discuss and approve Development Plan 2022-23 and the Adviser's report
- National and local updates
- Monitoring school websites and use this to inform their development plans? Share the monitoring across SACRE members?
- Diversity in RE – Nicola Coupe
- Implications of academisation for schools with a religious foundation – Liz Townend, Diocese of Bristol
- Social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) development – Nick Bolton, LA Personal Development Adviser

05 July 2023 4pm - 5.30pm (online) quorate 11 members attended

- Conference feedback x2 – implications for SACRE Laura Harris/Jo Backus
- Quality and profile of RE – Primary Laura Harris
 - Feedback on RE comments from Ofsted reports
 - Outcome of the 'monitoring of school websites' review
- Quality and profile of RE – Secondary Laura Harris
 - Feedback from exam results 2021-22
 - Feedback and priorities from secondary visits
 - KS3 questions - updated on the Right Choice website
 - Feedback on RE comments from Ofsted reports
- Feedback from Hub Group Leaders and brief update on LTLRE bid (Nicola Coupe)
- Update from 'Long term research for new agreed syllabus' working group
- Update from 'Collective Worship' working group
- Development Plan 2022-23, Adviser's report and implications re priorities
- Farewell to Cathy Milton
- Vote for Co-chair – Antonio Piazza and any other nominee.

Overview – Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

The last revision of the Wiltshire Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) for RE was made in 2021. (Appendix A) All materials and resources supporting this syllabus are available on the Right Choice website [HERE](#). These include newly updated ‘topsheets’ written in 2020-21 which summarise content for each unit and provide up to date resource links. (Appendix B)

The Wiltshire LAS will now be reviewed and the latest revision will be in 2026. An Agreed Syllabus subcommittee was formed in Autumn 2022 to begin evaluating the current syllabus and identifying the current priorities and requirements for syllabus development in RE. This has included careful analysis of the Draft Handbook for Religion and Worldviews (Appendix C) and the National Plan for RE (Appendix D). In the next academic year 2023-24, schools and educators will be surveyed to evaluate provision and build a picture of needs and requirements for the next syllabus.

2. Religious Education

The National Content Standard for RE - In July 2023 the REC published a National Content Standard for RE (Appendix D) and is petitioning for Government support for it. The National Content Standard provides clarification and a benchmark for excellence in religion and worldviews/religious education (RE). The consensus is a move towards naming the subject ‘Religion and World Views’

The National Content Standard provides a non-statutory benchmark for SACREs, syllabus providers and other professional bodies to evaluate their provision. It is specifically for use in England. It is not a curriculum, and it does not determine precisely what content schools should teach. Rather it is a standard by which different RE curricula, content, pedagogy, and provision can be benchmarked. The proposal reflects national changes in pedagogy as well as societal and sociological changes in attitudes and lifestyles.

The statement of entitlement is, ‘a refreshed vision for the subject, based on a religion and worldviews approach. So through careful selection of knowledge for the curriculum, the subject will explore the nature of religion and worldviews, and the important role that religious and non-religious worldviews play in all human life. This means enabling all pupils to become knowledgeable, open-minded, critical participants in public discourse, who make academically informed judgements about important matters of religion or belief which shape the global landscape. It is a subject for all pupils, whatever their own family background or personal beliefs and practice.’

The REC is also calling on more robust pipelines for training and support of RE teachers and this has already been reflected in the £10K bursary available for ITT from September 2024.

The provision of high-quality ongoing support for teachers of religion and worldviews must continue to be a priority here in South Gloucestershire now more than ever. REC have also produced a FAQs document [here](#).

OFSTED Annual Report - The annual report on the year 22-23 published by Ofsted heavily criticised the Government for a lack of direction and poor provision and quality of RE. Although a bruising summary, the dire need for high-quality training and provision is all the more obvious and there is hope that this will lead to greater profile and increased support across all sectors.

NATRE have helpfully summarised the issues Ofsted found:

- schools failing to meet the statutory requirement to teach RE to all pupils in all year groups;
- pupils not being taught enough substance to prepare them to engage in a complex, multi-religious and multi-secular society,
- non-examination provision typically not being of high quality;
- schools not teaching topics in the RE curriculum deeply enough for pupils to develop a substantial understanding of the subject matter.

Recommendations from Ofsted include:

- increased high-quality provision for all teachers of RS/RWV;
- clear expectations and outcomes from the Government;
- improved curriculum planning and non-statutory guidance.

SACRE will be looking more closely at this document during 23-24 and considering any necessary support and action that is required in South Glos.

Monitoring and school support – the adviser was able to use some of the contracted SACRE time to visit and support three Wiltshire secondary schools this year. Abbeyfield School, Stonehenge School and Hardenhuish School received an RE support visit requested by themselves for curriculum guidance. In these meetings, the adviser was able to closely analyse existing provision and schemes of work. Guidance on next steps for development were offered and resources shared to improve the curriculum further.

2023 Religious Studies exam outcomes in Wiltshire – (Appendix H)

Adviser and SACRE have analysed KS4 RS outcomes for Summer 2023 and noted a few trends and concerns – see appendix document H attached. Some noted information included:

1. General entry rate trends

2022 we identified 10 schools with 'green' positive entry rates. This year – 8 schools. It is concerning this number has dropped when it was already a very low proportion of schools.

2022 we identified 6 schools as 'orange' mid level entry rates. This year also 6 schools.

2022 we identified 17 schools as 'red' concerning entry rates. This year also 17 schools. It is relieving that the number of red schools has not increased, but concerning to see it isn't an improving picture.

2. Entries 2022 compared with 2023

12/32 schools entered less pupils this year. Of these, 4 are of notable numbers.

12/32 entered approximately the same percentage of pupils as last year. 8 of these were 0 last year and 0 this.

8/32 entered more pupils this year. Most of these were up 5-8%.

3. Outcomes grade 9-4 2022 compared with 2023

Of the 22 schools who had entries both in 2022 and 2023, these were the comparative outcomes:

7/22 schools had higher outcomes. Most only a small percentage. We identified one school with 32% improvement.

12/22 schools had lower outcomes. Half of these were only less than 10% different. Two schools were notable with 32% lower outcomes. 5 schools had a lower rate by between 10-20%.

As a response to these results, letters are being sent out by SACRE in Spring 2024 to schools congratulating those with positive stories, and offering support or further conversation with those SACRE has concerns about.

Website monitoring - in this academic year SACRE members have completed some monitoring of primary school websites to establish evidence on provision for RE, collective worship and SMSC. 55 school websites have so far been analysed. A monitoring spreadsheet was used to identify key elements such as RE curriculum, information on the right to withdrawal, syllabus usage and collective worship policies and guidance. See Appendix I for a summary of findings.

WIRE Award - the Widening Diversity in Religious Education (WIRE) award has been introduced and offers an important opportunity for Wiltshire SACRE (Appendix E).

To achieve the WIRE award a school must:

- Send a teacher to at least one continuing professional development (CPD) opportunity for RE. This could be the conference, or a local RE hub.

- Put on an additional event of some kind for RE over and above the normal lesson provision for the school. This could be an exhibition, a 'faith' or 'worldviews' drop-down day or pupils entering the national 'Spirited Arts' competition from NATRE.
- Take pupils on a visit to a place of worship that is not the majority religion of their school. For many schools in Wiltshire, this will be mostly be a visit to a faith other than Christianity.

The reward has been created to further SACRE's priority to encourage mutual understanding of different faiths, and to break down stereotypes and barriers, as well as improve the profile and engagement of schools and pupils with RE.

This year, another four Wiltshire schools have received their WIRE award: Box Primary, Chapmanslade Primary, Hardenhuish Secondary School and Stratford-sub-Castle Primary.

In addition, schools who have already received the WIRE award can work towards a WIRE Gold Award (Appendix F). To achieve the gold award schools will extend their already good practice in RE to complete tasks to do with extending their impact - working with parents, communities and other schools and teachers.

SACRE will be seeking to promote this award significantly now that the post-pandemic landscape may allow for greater engagement. It will be signposted in the SACRE newsletter, through all hubs and at training events throughout the year.

Local RE Network Hub Meetings - These are run by Hub Lead Practitioners (HLPs). The HLP project has been running since 2018 and is funded through a grant from Sarum St Michael's Education Charity secured and overseen by the RE Strategic lead from the Diocese of Salisbury Board of Education (also a Wiltshire SACRE member). The project aims to develop leaders of RE in all schools to provide networking and CPD for all staff teaching RE within a 35 minute drive of their school or home.

Hub lead practitioners (HLPs) facilitate at least two hub meetings per year aimed at both primary and secondary teachers. Details of the meetings are advertised through the Wiltshire SACRE pages (Appendix J) and communications (including termly newsletters) to all types of schools. Details of the meetings and HLP contact details are held on the Diocesan website.

As HLPs, the RE Network Leaders get access to high quality training twice per year. In 2022/23, Wiltshire and Dorset SACRE RE Advisers supported this training, delivering sessions on the use of disciplinary approaches to RE and sharing the updated Discovery RE resources. Leaders have also been able to engage with a CPD session from the 'Emmanuel Project' team outlining how these materials can work with the Wiltshire RE syllabus.

Annual conferences – teachers of RE in Wiltshire have had access to three conferences this year.

- i) Annual online RE conference (March, Online)
CREative Reinspiring RE
- ii) Learn Teach Lead RE Area 2 Conference (June, Somerset)
‘Religion and Worldviews – challenge, insight and inspiration for RE’
- iii) Annual regional SACRE conference (January, Bristol)
‘Religion and Worldviews for a fast moving world’

Communication - termly SACRE newsletters have been shared with all schools throughout the year, with three across the school year in total. The newsletter contains contact details for various communities and resources, as well as ideas for the classroom and information on upcoming events and CPD (Appendix G).

All relevant materials and resources for RE and collective worship can be found on the RE section of the Wiltshire [Right Choice website](#), an invaluable central hub for communication with schools, teachers and SACRE members

Governor training – the adviser to SACRE ran a session for Wiltshire governors on 16th March 2023. This online information session was attended by 8 governors from local schools. Governors received information on the legal requirements for RE and the arrangements for the locally agreed syllabus. They explored why RE and SMSC might be important in their schools and how they can contribute to this as governors. Delegates reported that they found the session very informative and were keen to take information about the WIRE award back to their schools.

3. Collective worship

Policies and guidance – the SACRE Collective Worship working party has continued work in earnest this year. Feedback has been gathered and analysed from pupils about what they learn, value and would like to see more of in collective worship and assemblies. The group has been researching the guidance/policy content of various other SACRE areas and attended NASACRE training about collective worship. A draft version of new guidance has been written and will be shared with SACRE in Autumn 2023. There will then be a planned free ‘launch’ for schools and staff, as an online training event in Summer 2024.

Determinations - During this reporting period there were no determinations applied for.

4. Links with other organisations

NASACRE – Wiltshire SACRE continues to maintain its membership to the National Association of SACREs. This provides access to important updates on national issues and the use of recommended templates for policies and guidance documents.

The adviser and one Wiltshire SACRE member attended the NASACRE annual conference at Fishmongers' Hall, London, on 22nd May 2023, titled 'Celebrating 30 years; SACREs for the future'. Dr Kathryn Wright talked about the pivotal role of SACREs in 'strengthening, supporting, representing and celebrating' religion and worldviews, in the current context and in the future. The Rt Hon Charles Clarke presented on the strengths and powers of the SACRE system in the political landscape we currently find ourselves in and the problems and challenges that are encountered. David Hampshire gave an analysis of SACRE reports across the UK this year, reflecting on the common problems being encountered by SACREs and sharing good practice from around the country.

The adviser, Chairs and several other members also attended NASACRE training events throughout the year on the Westhill application process, Collective Worship, Sacred Texts and effective chairing.

Dioceses of Salisbury and Bristol – Wiltshire SACRE has an excellent professional relationship with both Diocesan partners. RE expertise is shared and the time of Nicola Coupe, Diocesan adviser for Salisbury is gifted to support the facilitation of our teacher hub groups. Bristol Diocese continue to provide the contracted professional RE adviser to SACRE via a robust Service Level Agreement. This relationship benefits all schools, allowing for consistent advice for CofE schools in terms of RE and collective worship, and for community schools and Academies in accessing expert support.

Other local involvement

Regional SACREs Conference - this year's event, 'working towards high quality curricula in religion and worldviews', was once again held online. A keynote was presented by Trevor Cooling on the current picture for Religion and Worldviews and progress on the recommendations of the CORE report. Workshops included Adam Robertson presenting what a good progressive RE curriculum should look like, Deborah Weston sharing the work of the RE Policy Unit, Dave Francis sharing the 'Big Ideas' resource and Claire Clinton presenting the new regional RE Hubs project

SWARE (South West Advisers of RE) – the adviser continues to be an active member of this cross-authority group. Meeting three times a year, advisers across the South West are able to share resources, policies and processes for effective and impactful advisory work. In the year 2021-22 advisers were able to discuss: responses to DfE workforce data, the Templeton national Worldviews project, the impact of the OFSTED research review and research papers on syllabus development.

5. SACRE arrangements 2022-23

Organisation -

Chair – Joint Chairs: Catherine Milton and Celia Hicks Celia.Hicks@wiltshire.gov.uk

(replacing Cathy Milton for 23-24 – Antonio Piazza antonio.piazza@trowbridge.gov.uk)

Clerk – Simone Kermode simone.kermode@wiltshire.gov.uk

Local Authority link officer - Andrew Best andrew.best@wiltshire.gov.uk

(replaced by Amanda Butler Spring 2024 Amanda.Butler@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Adviser – Laura Harris laura.harris@bristoldiocese.org

Membership – as reported in the introduction, one meeting in this period was inquorate due to in attendance of Group B – Church of England. Previous meetings were quorate with nine members in attendance at each meeting.

Members of SACRE Sept 2022 - August 2023:

Committee A: Christian and other religious denominations

X11

Tod Gobledale (Free Churches)

Tony Wilson (Free Churches)

Lynda Ford-Horne (Jewish)

Bal Kaur (Sikh)

Jo Backus (Buddhist)

Annette Earl (Humanist) (vacancy 2023)

Vacancy x2 (Roman Catholic)

Vacancy x1 (Muslim)

Vacancy x1 (Hindu)

Committee B – Church of England	Nicola Coupe (Diocese of Salisbury)
X5	Helen Cooke (Diocese of Salisbury)
	Katherine Bloomer (Diocese of Bristol)
	Vacancy x2
Committee C – teachers and teaching unions	Mark Perraton (Secondary)
X7	Adam Watkin (Secondary)
	Rebecca Carson (Primary HT)
	Vicky Bunting (Secondary HT)
	Hannah Crook (Primary)
	Claire Brooks (Primary)
	Amanda Garton (Primary)
	Vacancy – 2x governor (community)
	Vacancy – Special provision
Committee D – Local Authority representatives	Cllr Antonio Piazza
X4	Cllr Stuart Palmen
Local authority education officer	Andrew Best
Adviser to SACRE	Laura Harris

Appendix A [Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus](#)

Appendix B [Topsheets](#)

Appendix C [Draft Handbook for religion and Worldviews](#)

Appendix D [National Content Standard for RE](#)

Appendix E WIRE award

Appendix F WIRE Gold award

Appendix G SACRE Newsletter Summer Term 23

Appendix H GCSE RS outcomes 2022

Appendix I – Summary of website monitoring

Appendix J – RE Hub meetings

<https://rightchoice.wiltshire.gov.uk/Page/31133>