

Bury

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

2024 - 2025



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Foreword

Bury SACRE is a group of professionals and members of faith communities which is actively involved in ensuring that all children in our borough receive a high standard of Religious Education, including non-religious world views.

We continue to promote the AWARE award (Award for Widening Achievement in RE) to build on our work in promoting the 2021 Agreed Syllabus with both maintained schools in Bury and the increasing number of schools joining Multi Academy Trusts.

We provide locally delivered and nationwide training to ensure that teachers and other staff providing RE in our schools have the knowledge and expertise to ensure that we are helping children to develop enquiring minds and an investigative, questioning approach.

The SACRE is supported strongly by the local authority, and active in regional and national networks. I commend this annual report to all interested readers.

Alan Beedie, SACRE Chair

Overview of the work of SACRE

Since 1988, each Local Authority (LA) has been required by law to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

The remit of a SACRE is principally to oversee the Religious Education (RE) and collective worship within the authority principally to:

- advise Bury Council upon matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship in community schools and in foundation schools which do not have a religious character. Religious Education in these schools is to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus.
- advise Bury Council on teaching methods, choice of materials and teacher training in Religious Education and Collective Worship.
- require Bury Council to review the locally agreed syllabus for religious education at least every five years.

The reporting period of the 2024 - 2025 report starts from September 1st, 2024, and runs to August 31st, 2025.

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2024–25.

All meetings were virtual using Teams to support the attendance of members at the meeting.

- Standing items in meetings:
- Apologies for absence
- New or substitute members
- Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Additional items in specific meetings:

14th October 2024

- Church of England Adviser
- AWARE Award
- Training for Schools
- NATRE National RE Update
- Member Update

12th February 2025

- SACRE Annual Report
- AWARE Award
- Training for Schools
- SACRE Development Plan
- NATRE National RE Update
- Member Update

9th June 2025

- AWARE Award
- Development Plan

- Training for Schools
- NATRE National News
- Member Updates

Section 2: Religious Education

The Locally Agreed Syllabus and RE in schools

RE is not part of the national curriculum. Each LA is required to produce an Agreed Syllabus for RE. Each LA is required to begin reviewing the current Agreed Syllabus within five years of its production.

The Bury Agreed Syllabus for RE is due for review in the academic year 2025 – 2026 as the current agreed syllabus reaches the end of its five-year cycle in September 2026.

Standards and monitoring of RE

Bury SACRE has continued its statutory responsibility to monitor RE in the borough and in doing so has made use of a variety of data.

The SACRE received the annual workforce data from the Department for Education outlining the percentage of curriculum given to RE in secondary schools.

School	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% hours - RE
The Derby High School						
Tottington High School	5.45	5.89	5.3	2.04	0	3.5
Unsworth Academy						
Hazel Wood High School	1.15	1.15	2.06	0	0	0.9
The Heys School						
St Gabriel's RC High School, a Voluntary Academy	12.31	10.26	11.11	12.08	5.66	10.12
St Monica's RC High School, a Voluntary Academy	13.13	13.5	12.85	13.95	10.29	12.64

The data provided to the DfE is not a statutory requirement which accounts for the blanks within the data received by Bury SACRE. This data is provided where schools wish as part of the annual school census.

Bury SACRE has continued to present schools with the AWARE Award where schools have shown progress against criteria determined by the SACRE for widening achievement in religious education. In the academic year covered by this report the following schools have attained the AWARE Award.

- The Derby High School
- Philips High School

- Holcombe Brook Primary School

The following schools have received an Ofsted inspection in the year covered by the report and where a comment has been made about RE in the report this has been included.

‘Their teachers draw upon resources from the secular and the Kodesh (religious) curriculums effectively. Pupils learn about different faiths and cultures. They are respectful and tolerant of others, regardless of difference. Students in the sixth form take on wider responsibilities such as leading prayers.’ [Manchester Mesivta School](#)

‘Pupils have many opportunities to learn about, and to learn from, people of different cultures, backgrounds and faiths.’ [The Heys School](#)

‘They also know about a range of religions and cultures. As such, pupils are exceptionally well prepared for life in modern Britain’ [Chantlers Primary School](#)

‘They know about the different cultures and religions found in modern Britain and demonstrate strong understanding of the importance of mutual tolerance and respect.’ [Lowercroft Primary School](#)

Pupils expressed thoughtful understanding of the dangers of stereotyping and emphasised the importance of respecting and appreciating other faiths. [Holcombe Brook Primary School](#)

Bury Local Authority provisional results: GCSE Religious Studies data 2025

GCSE Religious Studies Count by Grade				Grading									
School	NOE	No. 9-4 Pass	No. 9-5 Strong Pass	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U
Unsworth Academy	13	6	5	2	2	3	1	1	1		3		
Hazel Wood High School	52	40	33	3	2	4	7	6	8	12	4	3	3
The Heys School	0	0	0										
St Gabriel's RC High School	201	118	99	13	24	39	19	26	21	25	14	13	7
The Elton High School	20	16	15	1	2	1	1		3	6	4	2	
Manchester Mesivta	0	0	0										
St Monica's RC High School	209	171	146	6	6	24	25	32	38	32	23	21	2
The Derby High School	58	45	36	3	3	6	9	12	8	12	4		1
Tottington High School	25	9	5	3	4	6	4	2		3			3
Parrenthorn High School	192	98	68	23	32	28	30	30	22	10	5	1	11
Philips High School	22	19	17		1	1	2	2	2	3	7	3	1
Woodhey High School	15	12	11	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	3	1	
Bury Church of England High School	140	101	86	3	10	22	15	18	31	17	13	7	4
Elms Bank Specialist Arts College	0	0	0										
Grand Total	947	635	521	58	87	135	114	131	138	121	80	51	32

Teacher training materials and advice for schools

CPD sessions have been organized for primary and secondary school teachers in Bury throughout the year.

A primary twilight was delivered remotely on disciplinary knowledge in religious education and deepening learning for all pupils.

The secondary school conference which is provided free to Bury teachers had one application from Bury and was postponed in both February and June 2025 and will be held in October 2025.

Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about RE during the year.

Advice given to the Local Authority

No advice was given to the local authority in the period covered by this report.

Section 3: Collective worship

Determinations

There were no applications for determinations in the period covered by this report.

Teacher training provided

No training was provided in this period covered by this report.

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 in the period covered by this report.

Section 4: Links with other bodies

National Bodies

SACRE are pleased to be linked with national bodies and receive national updates from Ian Nicholson, our RE adviser.

Bury SACRE has links with NASACRE and has received feedback from the NASACRE annual conference. It regularly utilises NASACRE's self-evaluation toolkit.

Information from NATRE and the REC has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.

SACRE members regularly attend NASACRE webinars.

Local bodies

We have good support from the local authority and a good relationship with Manchester Diocese and Salford Diocese.

Local places of worship are well represented on SACRE.

Section 5: SACRE involvement in the Local Area

Governor and headteacher links

All materials pertaining to the SACRE are shared with governors and headteachers through Governor Services.

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

During the reporting period, clerking of SACRE was undertaken by Jacqui Mellor of Governor Services.

The Local Authority provided funding to support SACRE activity 2024 - 2025 by contracting with RE Today Services of an RE Consultant for SACRE support, provision of data, provision of the annual report, management of the AWARE award and CPD.

Ian Nichoson from RE Today continued in the role of RE consultant.

Sonja Butterworth from Bury Local Authority holds responsibility for SACRE support and liaises with the RE consultant.

Membership

The table provided below demonstrates the composition of Bury SACRE. Members in bold signify attendance. (A) signifies apologies were received and recorded in the minutes.

	14 th October 2024	12 th February 2025	10 th June 2025
Committee A	Alan Beedie (Chair) Bec Hyndman Anne Walsh Alison Knott Russell Conn Fatima Zubair Martin Knowles	Alan Beedie (Chair) Bec Hyndman Anne Walsh Alison Knott Russell Conn (A) Fatima Zubair Martin Knowles	Alan Beedie (Chair) Bec Hyndman Anne Walsh Alison Knott Russell Conn Fatima Zubair Martin Knowles (A)
Committee B	Sheryl Farnworth Claire Clark Gail Branch	Sheryl Farnworth (A) Claire Clark Gail Branch	Sheryl Farnworth Claire Clark (A) Gail Branch (A)
Committee C	Jane Walsh	Jane Walsh (A)	Jane Walsh (A)
Committee D	Cllr M Hayes Cllr K Hussain Cllr S Thorpe	Cllr M Hayes Cllr K Hussain Cllr S Thorpe (A)	Cllr M Hayes (A) Cllr K Hussain Cllr S Thorpe
In attendance	Jacqui Mellor (Clerk) Ian Nicholson (RE Adviser) Sonja Butterworth Paul Cooke	Jacqui Mellor (Clerk) Ian Nicholson (RE Adviser) Sonja Butterworth	Jacqui Mellor (Clerk) Ian Nicholson (RE Adviser) Sonja Butterworth (A)
Co-Opted	Jenny Dobson	Jenny Dobson	Jenny Dobson
Observer	Ravinder Kaur	Ravinder Kaur (A)	Ravinder Kaur

Training

Training is available to SACRE members through NASACRE and is advertised to all members of the SACRE.

Finance

The LA allocated funding for support to SACRE from the RE Consultant. Funding was allocated for clerking.

Appendix A:

Unvalidated Key Stage 5 Exam Data, Summer 2025

Grade	No.
A	9
B	7
C	13
D	2
E	2
U	1

Appendix B:

Circulation of the Annual Report

The Bury 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