

**Cambridgeshire
Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education
(SACRE)**



**Annual Report
2023 - 2024**

**Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education:
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Chair's Introduction

In SACRE terms it has been a relatively quiet year after last year's work on the revisions to the Agreed Syllabus and launch conference for RE teachers.

A working group looked at updating advice for Collective Worship which should be on the website soon.

Another group has worked through the NASACRE self-evaluation tool. In the main, we judged our SACRE as 'established' but this does not mean that we should not work towards improvement. This exercise will no doubt add to the discussion of what exactly is the role of SACRE in this ever-changing world.

We have resumed monitoring of school websites in order to see where the new syllabus is being put to work. The results are limited. I found that the quality of websites varied enormously and that some appeared to bury the information I was seeking. I would like to see the curriculum and class timetables easily found and understood, not just for RE but for all subjects.

A working group of teachers has taken on the task of writing advice on how we can find out more about and measure the quality of the teaching of RE in our area. They will report next year. We hope their report will assist SACRE in advising Cambridgeshire County Council on more targeted support for teachers.

There has been inevitable turnover of SACRE members We said goodbye to several people who have been on SACRE for many years and we thank them for their service and insight. I expect to be welcoming new faces in the autumn. Sadly, meetings are not always quorate despite dates of meetings being agreed months in advance. This appears to be a particular problem for Committee D.

I attended the NASACRE conference in York. Amand Fitton, our RE Adviser, was also there wearing several of her SACRE hats. The conference has had mixed reviews but it was good to have time to talk with members of other SACREs and to hear of the challenges facing them.

Julia Ewans
Chair Cambridgeshire SACRE

Management of SACRE

Cambridgeshire County Council has continued to support the work of SACRE through funding that provides a clerk for the meetings, services of an RE Adviser to support SACRE, its work and teacher training for the teaching of Religious Education, and advice about Collective Worship. The Religious Education Adviser, Amanda Fitton, has continued to work with all the Cambridgeshire schools and SACRE.

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Cambridgeshire SACRE, which has met three times this year, comprises four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable however all committees are well represented.

The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A - representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions, and world-view communities;
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;
- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations;
- Committee D – representatives of the Local Authority.

And Co-opted members

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council SACRE website at [Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Overview and attendance at meetings

Committee	Name	SACRE Meeting date		
		5.10.23	1.2.24	13.6.24
<u>A</u>	<u>Aga Cahn</u>	√	√	√
<u>A</u>	<u>Jagrit Srai</u>	√	<u>Abs</u>	√
<u>A</u>	<u>Julia Ewans</u>	√	√	√
<u>A</u>	<u>Raj Shah</u>	√	√	<u>Ap</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>Imam Sejad Mekic</u>	√	√	√
<u>A</u>	<u>Virginia Barnes</u>	√	<u>Abs</u>	√
<u>A</u>	<u>Becky Palmer</u>	√	√	√
<u>A</u>	Silouani Craveiro	√	<u>Abs</u>	
<u>A</u> Joined 1.2.24	Naomi Whitworth		√	√
<u>B</u>	<u>Jemma Coulson</u>	√	√	√
<u>B</u>	Catherine Watts	√	√	<u>Ap</u>
<u>B</u>	Philippa Stevens	√	√	√
<u>B</u>	Michael Wilcockson	<u>Aps</u>	√	<u>Aps</u>
<u>C</u>	Raymond Mitchell	<u>Aps</u>	<u>Abs</u>	<u>Ap</u>
<u>C</u>	Tony Reynolds	√	√	√
<u>C</u>	Dennis Johnson	<u>Aps</u>	<u>Aps</u>	<u>Ap</u>
<u>C</u>	Laura Penrose	√	<u>Aps</u>	√
<u>D</u>	Cllr Simon King	<u>Aps</u>	√	<u>Ap</u>
<u>D</u>	Cllr Alex Bulat	<u>Aps</u>	√	<u>Ap</u>
<u>D</u>	Cllr Philippa Slatter	√	√	<u>Ap</u>
Co-opted	Isobel Rawlinson	<u>Abs</u>	<u>Abs</u>	<u>Ap</u>
Co-opted	<u>Susan Scholan</u>	√	<u>Aps</u>	√
Co-opted	<u>Becky Layfield</u>	√	√	√
Co-opted (Joined 13.6.24)	Charlotte Newman			√

Membership, representation & recruitment - quoracy, issues and successes with recruitment –

SACRE was delighted to appoint the following members:

Naomi Whitworth (Committee A)
 Silouani Craveiro (Committee A)
 Jemma Coulson (Committee B)
 Michael Wilcockson (Committee B)
 Charlotte Newman (Co-opted member)

SACRE also said goodbye to the following members:

Nicola Beeston (Committee B)
 Robert Mackley (Committee B)
 Michael Wilcockson (Committee B)
 Tony Reynolds (Committee C)

Although it continued to be difficult to find representatives for some faiths in Committee A, generally SACRE membership is good. It has been particularly pleasing to have several RE teachers wishing to join SACRE. As the number of full members on Committee C is limited by the Constitution, several have been co-opted to SACRE. Committee D (The County Council) has been much better represented than in earlier years.

All meetings were quorate and went ahead. All meetings were held remotely or face to face.

Statutory Responsibilities

Agreed Syllabus – It is unclear how many academies are using the agreed syllabus. Monitoring has begun in 2023-2024 and there are plans for a working group to convene to consider the data.

The new Agreed Syllabus was launched in September 2023 for all schools in Cambridgeshire.

Standards and Monitoring of RE

School website monitoring was held this year and a basic analysis has been collated. This will be analysed further by the SACRE working party.

The exam results for GCSE Religious Studies have not yet been formally published and as such we are unable to report on the 2023-24 data pertaining to the thirty-three secondary schools in Cambridgeshire. This information will therefore be included within next year's annual report.

Teacher training and materials and advice for schools

Teacher training has been carried out by the RE adviser for Cambridgeshire and advertised through School News. The following training courses in 2023-24 were scheduled and were held at either Buckden Village Hall or remotely via Teams.

-Wed 20th September 2023, Thursday 7th December 2023, Tues 7th Jan 2024 and Wednesday 22nd May 2024 – The New Agreed Syllabus – Via Zoom (3.30-5.00pm)

-Thurs 12th October 2023 (9:00am-12.00noon) – Leading RE and the New Agreed Syllabus – Buckden Village Hall,

-Tuesday 7th November 2023 and Thursday 29th February 2024 – RE and Ofsted – via Zoom (3:30-5.00pm)

-Tuesday 30th January 2024 9:00am – 12:00noon: Subject Knowledge – Buckden Village Hall

-Tuesday 16th April 2024 9:00am – 12:00noon: Creative RE – Buckden Village Hall

-Wednesday 5th June 2024: 3:30-5:00pm Writing a Curriculum with Story – Via Zoom

-RE network meetings – termly

Advice to the LA

No advice was given to the LA regarding the agreed syllabus as no new Syllabus is due until 2028.

Complaints

There have been no complaints.

Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

No monitoring of Collective Worship has been done between 2023– 24. A working party met during 2023-24 and new guidance has been produced.

No advice was given to the LA on Collective Worship.

Determinations

SACRE had no new requests for determinations but the process of determinations has been discussed at SACRE meetings this academic year.

Link to other bodies

NASACRE Conference - The NASACRE conference was held in York in May 2024. The chair of SACRE Julia Ewans and Amanda Fitton attended on behalf of Cambridgeshire

Local Bodies – Beth Shalom Synagogue in Cambridge has invited SACRE members to attend a number of events at the synagogue this academic year.

Governor Training

SACRE has carried out no governor training.

Advice on issues within the community

Advice was given to the wider community regarding Ramadan.

Training for SACRE (and ASC) members

SACRE members were sent details of the virtual training provided by NASACRE. All new SACRE members are required to attend induction training.

Finance given to SACRE for its work

Funding is provided to SACRE.

Appendices

Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW – No statements have been issued.

Relevant Links

- Learn Together Cambridgeshire: Religious Education Advisory Service
(Services & Charges and Courses & Training)
[Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)
- Cambridgeshire County Council:
Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
[Religious Education \(cambstlearntogether.co.uk\)](#)

**If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Cambridgeshire
SACRE Clerk via e-mail at laura.schneikert@peterborough.gov.uk**