

**Annual Report  
2024 - 2025**



**Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council  
on Religious Education:  
Annual Report 2024 - 2025**

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## Chair's Introduction

It continues to be an immense privilege and a pleasure to Chair Cambridgeshire SACRE meetings. I am incredibly well-supported by the members SACRE, by our adviser Amanda Fitton and by our clerks.

There has been inevitable turnover of SACRE members. We said goodbye and hello several times. We thank who have left for their service and insight and welcome new members who bring fresh enthusiasm and new ideas for the teaching of good RE.

In 2024-2025 we knew change was coming to religious education with government initiatives for information gathering and debate about the RE syllabus being set at the national level as all other compulsory subjects are already. As I write this note in 2025-2026, we have learned more of the debate but as yet do not know what is to happen to both the RE syllabus and the role of SACREs. One thing we do know is that if the government is to expect more from RE in schools to solve some of the ills of society, it must put a great deal more money into teacher training.

This uncertainty has inevitably crept into our discussions and especially about any revisions to the Agreed Syllabus which may be needed in the five-year timetable.

I attended the NASACRE conference in Stratford East London in May 2025, with Amanda Fitton, our RE Adviser. It was a good opportunity to talk with members of other SACREs and to hear of the challenges facing them. Sadly, for me the formal content was disappointing. The address from Lord Kahn on behalf of the Department for Education was prerecorded, predictable and noncommittal. Dr Joyce Miller's talk on 'Identity, commonality and cohesion' gave the delegates much to think about. I worry that her expectations may be too high for grass roots RE. Much of the remainder of the day was taken up with NASACRE AGM and reporting on its reorganisation. However, the on-line workshops which followed the conference were useful.

Cambridgeshire SACRE has no formal budget from the County Council. That is, no fund to spend as it thinks appropriate. It must seek funding elsewhere. SACRE submitted a strong application to NASACRE/Westhill to fund a two-year project which would provide 'lived experience' content from faiths and worldviews. This was to be on film and in sound with support materials. The project was in collaboration with Peterborough and Rutland. Many people put in much time and effort into it. We were told that the application was strong and the idea innovative but sadly we were not successful due to an unfortunate administrative error. SACRE had funding from Westhill back in 2019. The project ended abruptly during Covid. We must try again.

The work of SACRE is never done. Even in times of uncertainty and with the continued support of members, teachers, religion and worldview experts and the local authority, I continue to have high expectations for what we will achieve in the year ahead.

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.

Cllr Simon King
Cllr Alex Bulat
Cllr Philippa Slatter

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

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

All meetings were quorate. Two out of three meetings were held in person. Published minutes of meetings show attendance of members and where apologies were sent. These can be found on the Cambridgeshire SACRE website.

[Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

*SACRE was delighted to appoint the following members:*

David Newton (Committee B)

Adrian Miller (Committee C)

Elizabeth Phillips (Committee C)

Cllr James Stuart (Committee D – Local Authority)

Cllr Laurance Damary-Homan (Committee D – Local Authority)

Cllr Julie Kerry – Independent (Committee D – Local Authority)

*SACRE also said goodbye to the following members:*

Becky Palmer (Quaker – Committee A)

Becky Layfield (Committee C)

Charlotte Newman (Committee C)

Susan Scholan (co-opted Committee C)

Cllr Alex Bullet (Committee D – Local Authority)

Cllr Philippa Slater (Committee D – Local Authority)  
Cllr Simon King (Committee D – Local Authority)

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.

### **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.

### **GCSE results**

There are thirty-three secondary schools in Cambridgeshire, with twenty-nine taking GCSE RE. Four schools have no GCSE entries, and this will be challenged by SACRE. We had no data for 2024 but compared to 2023 with 1501 entries in 2025 entries were slightly down to 1493.

### **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 2024-25 were scheduled and took place at either Buckden Village Hall or via Zoom:

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Agreed Syllabus – via Teams – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 24

What should an RE curriculum look like? – via Teams – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 3.30-5.00pm

RE and Ofsted – via teams – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 -3.30- 5.00pm

Assessment and progression in RE – via Teams Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 – 3.30-5.00pm

Using story in your curriculum – via teams – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 -3.30- 5.00pm

Leading RE – via teams – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - 3.30- 5.00pm

### **Network meetings 2024-25**

RE network meeting – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 –via teams

RE network meeting – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 3.45 4.45pm – via teams

RE network meeting – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – 3.30- 5.00pm via teams

### **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 London in May 2025. 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](mailto:laura.schneikert@peterborough.gov.uk)**