CORNWALL STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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1. Introduction

Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education - known as SACREs - are permanent bodies which must be established by each local authority. A SACRE is responsible for advising Local Authorities on religious education and collective worship.

For Religious Education (RE), SACRE advises community, voluntary controlled and Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

For Collective Worship SACRE advises the LA on community, Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

Each SACRE is constituted by the Local Authority (LA) and is composed of four representative groups (or three in Wales): Christian and other religious denominations; the Church of England (except in Wales), teachers' associations and elected Councillors. Each group must consist of at least four members nominated by their respective body.

SACREs have a duty to publish an annual report, ideally by the 31st December each calendar year but if necessary in the following calendar year. This report has to be sent to the Secretary of State for Education as well as to key partners, including schools, teacher training institutions, libraries and councillors. The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how that was responded to; this includes advice on RE and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

This Annual Report is written for the academic year 2022-2023.

Chair's introduction

Cornwall SACRE continues to fulfil its statutory duties. The flexibility of hybrid meetings has ensured a good attendance at meetings.

There has been a review of SACRE constitution. Some new members have been recruited, however there are still some vacancies. The next step will be reviewing the Agreed Syllabus with the strong support of the local authority.

SACRE would like to offer its thanks to teachers, officers, and many others for their work for the care and wellbeing of our young people.

Schools have benefitted from SACRE support in the teaching of RE through its RE consultants. RE networks have continued to grow. An increase in attendance figures indicates that teachers are finding these sessions informative and useful.

SACRE would like to thank the work and support of the Local Authority. Thanks are due to Diane Bransgrove (Clerk), and Mark Corbett (Local Authority Officer to the SACRE). SACRE is extremely grateful to Greg Parekh and Clifflynn Banfield (Cornwall SACRE's RE consultants) for their continued work on the Agreed Syllabus, working alongside RE Today and the Diocese in organising training and support.

SACRE would also like to offer thanks to the excellent work of the local Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE) hubs.

The SACRE is aware that most Cornwall schools have adopted the Cornwall RE syllabus. SACRE's action plan shows the support it has given RE teachers and schools. SACRE is grateful to be involved in NASACRE and other national professional bodies who are supporting the provision and effectiveness of RE nationally. SACRE was pleased to send representatives to NASACRE's AGM, the SW SACRE regional conferences and to other events.

For the second year running since national assessments were put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, GCSE and A level outcomes in RE for 2023 are available for analysis and have been presented with this report. Whilst it is possible to make comparisons with 2022 data, detailed comparisons any further back are unhelpful given the different methods of assessment and data collection used during COVID - and trends are therefore hard to extrapolate. Obviously, there is a downward trend and a concern in the GCSE decline.

Thank you to SACRE members who voluntarily give their time and experience. The collective wisdom of the group is hugely important.

Felicity Henchley - Chair

Overview

During the 2022-2023 academic year, Cornwall SACRE held three scheduled meetings at New County Hall, Truro, on the following dates:

01 November 2022 (14 present, 7 apologies)

21st March 2023 (17 attendees, 6 apologies)

10th July 2023 (11 attendees, 4 apologies)

In each case the meetings were quorate.

Scheduled meetings included the following standing agenda items:

- 1. Declarations of Interest
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
- 3. Public Questions and Statements to SACRE
- 4. Membership Report

Information Classification: PUBLIC

- 5. Budget Update (verbal or written)
- 6. SACRE Action Plan Report 2022-2023
- 7. Curriculum Kernewek Update (Nov)

In addition, the following exceptional agenda items were tabled over the course of the three scheduled meetings:

- 1. Annual Report to SACRE 2021-2022 (November 2022 and March 2023 (revised))
- 2. Constitution Review (March 2023)
- 3. Cornwall Faith Forum Showcase (March 2023)
- 4. Feedback from Training (March 2023)
- 5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (July 2023)
- 6. Census Data (July 2023)
- 7. Feedback from NASACRE Conference

2. Religious Education (statutory responsibilities)

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Cornwall Agreed Syllabus runs from 2020 to 2025. The syllabus is utilised by many schools across the authority, including academies.

2.2 Monitoring

Prior to 2022, SACRE were unable to report on outcomes from examinations due to the impact of the Covid pandemic and the removal of most forms of statutory assessment and performance tables. National examinations returned in 2022 and pupils again sat examinations in Religious Studies, at GCSE Level and above, in summer 2023.

Tables showing performance outcomes are appended, however the following provides a useful summary:

Standards and achievement in RE at Key Stages 1 - 3

With the removal of level statements from the Agreed Syllabus in April 2014, there has been no collection of teacher assessment data for RE at Key Stages 1-3 since 2015.

Standards and achievement in RE at Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and Key Stage 5 (16-19)

The number of entries in Full Course Religious Studies GCSE in Cornwall has continued to decline after the hiatus in examination results caused by COVID. In 2017 there were a total of 1786 entries, falling to 1236 in 2018. The number of entries then stabilised briefly in 2019 when 1238 pupils were entered, before falling further again to 943 in 2022. This pattern appears to have continued into the 2022-2023 academic year with only 850 pupils being entered for the full course; representing a drop of over 50% since the high point in 2017.

Of those pupils who sat a GCSE in Religious Studies, 98% went on to achieve a grade between 9 and 1. The percentage of those pupils entered who achieved a standard pass (grades 9 to 4) was 65%; however, this dropped to 53% for those pupils who achieved a strong pass (grades 9 to 5). Girls outperformed boys in every category.

Overall outcomes for all pupils at GCSE were roughly in line with the outcomes for pupils in the South West, but lower than those achieved by all pupils who were entered for the GCSE nationally.

A total of 116 pupils across Cornish schools were entered for an AS Level in Religious Studies. Of these, 97% achieved a grade A-E, but only just over half (53%) achieving a higher grade within the A-B bracket.

It is likely that the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic is still having an impact on entries for GCSEs with a continuing priority placed on pupils sitting examinations in the EBacc subjects and therefore potentially disincentivising schools to teach the subject. However, if schools are not entering students for a GCSE in Religious Studies, they still need to be offering some form of RE provision to meet the legal requirement to teach RE throughout Key Stage 4. There also remains a key focus on ensuring pupils are supported to fill gaps in prior knowledge within the core subjects through a greater focus on these in the school timetable and the provision of targeted catch-up intervention. There continues to be a shortage of specialist RE teachers being trained in the UK.

Positively, the number of A level entries in 2023, across a total of 7 settings including both school sixth forms and post-16 colleges, increased to 59, making positive steps back to towards the peak of entries in 2017 when Cornwall saw a recent high of 76 entries.

Cornish results, again, held up well in comparison to maintained schools and colleges in the South West, however overall saw a drop from last year in the percentage of pupils achieving at grades A* and A where the percentage fell to 19%. The A*-C percentage also dropped from 84% in 2022 (in line with national average) to 75% in 2023.

The following schools achieved the RE Quality Mark Award in recognition of providing high quality RE, providing invigorating RE teaching practice and creativity leading to whole school outcomes, raising the profile of RE in their school and sharing quality resources via networking.

King Charles C of E School: Gold

Richard Lander School: Gold

The Bishop's C of E Learning Academy: Gold

The wider role of RE in the curriculum

The role of RE in promoting the understanding of religion, faith and of cultural or ethnic minorities is crucial. The Curriculum Kernewek units within the agreed syllabus continue to support an understanding of the National Minority status of the Cornish people and furthering an appreciation of their distinctive cultural heritage is central to the Local Authority's wider work in supporting this status.

3. Collective Worship

It should be noted that SACRE's remit in relation to collective worship relates only to community schools and foundation and trust schools without a religious foundation.

SACRE has not reviewed its CW or SMSC policy or guidance during this reporting period.

During this reporting period it has only been appropriate for SACRE to provide guidance and support and not monitoring and scrutiny of Collective Worship.

There were no applications for determinations in the year under report.

4. Links with other bodies and key stakeholders

To enable Cornwall SACRE to perform its statutory functions related to Religious Education and Collective worship; it works in partnership with other local education providers such as the Diocese of Truro, initial teacher education providers, and regional continuing professional development partners such as 'Learn, Teach, Lead RE' (LTLRE).

SACRE also has working links with national organisations such as the RE Council of England and Wales, the National Association of Teachers of RE, and the National Association of SACREs. The purpose of these partnerships is to assist schools in the RE provision, and to advise the local authority effectively on matters related to RE and school worship.

4.1 Schools

SACRE's consultants have continued to work with a broad range of groups to ensure that the Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025 continues to be implemented effectively in Cornish schools. These include Cornwall Council, Truro diocese, RE Today Services, Understanding Christianity trainers, LTLRE hub leaders, Cornwall Faith Forum representatives, and the Curriculum Kernewek consultants for other subjects.

A survey on the Agreed Syllabus Review was sent to schools this year, however uptake was limited to 30 primary schools. In reality, this may have been more since there was evidence that an Academy Trust may have completed one survey on behalf of all their schools.

One of the consultants had been asked to deliver a key note speech and workshop for the RE department within a local MAT.

Monitoring and evaluation of the agreed syllabus is a key aspect of the SACRE consultants' action plan. They have continued to use termly Hub meetings and regular newsletters to drive the improvement of provision and standards in RE. The Hub leaders have participated in and contributed to LTLRE training in the implementation of the agreed syllabus. Effective partnership working with LTLRE and a range of other bodies (Cornwall Faith Forum, Cornwall Association of Secondary Headteachers and Cornwall Association of Primary Heads) is key to successful work with schools.

4.2 The Local Authority

Throughout the academic year 2022-2023, the Local Authority (LA) has provided support to SACRE at meetings with Democratic Services staff for clerking and a Senior Education Effectiveness Officer for advice and guidance. The LA has facilitated SACRE meetings on-line through Teams meetings and, more recently, through blended meetings held in New County Hall and on-line.

The Local Authority hosts a page available for schools on its school's platform that provides information on SACRE and its purpose. This links to the Democracy pages and also hosts the Agreed Syllabus, etc. The pages are publicly available so that members of the public can view them should they search for Cornwall SACRE. The link is: www.schools.cornwall.gov.uk/sacre

On 10th July 2023, Joe Pas, Delivery and Analysis Specialist at Cornwall Council attended the meeting to give a presentation on the Census data 2021 with a focus on religion and religious groups.

4.3 Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE) and the Cornwall faith Forum

Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)

Learn, Teach, Lead RE is a regional programme to support RE that stretches from Cornwall to Wiltshire. Each local authority area has a Primary lead and a Secondary lead. Hub leaders are classroom teachers who get access to high quality training and facilitate three hubs per year aimed at both primary and secondary teachers, and teaching assistants. Cornwall hubs provide termly twilight meetings providing support for teachers of RE and a chance to network. These sessions are very well supported and feedback has been very positive.

The LTLRE conference in October 2022 took place in person. Feedback was very positive, valuing the input from speakers and workshops.

Cornwall Faith Forum

In March 2023, a joint presentation was given to SACRE by one of the RE Consultants and Rita Stephens of Cornwall Faith Forum on the work of Cornwall Faith Forum. This had included the writing of curriculum resources to support the delivery of education around the Holocaust, which had been part funded by Cornwall Council.

5. Other areas of SACRE involvement

Members of SACRE have attended CPD to support them in their role to ensure they have an up to date knowledge of the curriculum and developments in RE nationally. They are fully aware of the comprehensive offer from NASACRE in this respect, much of which is available online.

The RE Consultants both attended the NASACRE Conference in May 2023. Members of SACRE are also members of the LTLRE steering group for Cornwall, Devon, Torbay and Plymouth.

6. SACRE's Internal arrangements

A review of the Constitution of Cornwall SACRE took place during this academic year.

Membership of SACRE September 2022 to July 2023

Cornwall SACRE is composed of the four representative groups as follows:

Group A – Church Representatives (Other Churches)

Group B - Church of England

Group C – Teachers' Bodies Representatives

Group D – Elected Councillors (Local Authority Representatives)

Plus co-opted members

Group A – Church Representatives (Other Churches)

Vacancy - Baptist Churches

Ede, Ron Buddhist Community

Vacancy Christian Orthodox Churches

Buckley, Patrick Independent Churches

Vacancy Independent Churches

Rockley, Bonnie Jewish Community

Elizabeth Fowkes-Matson Methodist Church

Keast, John Methodist Church

Rifai, Dr Dureid Muslim Community

Vacancy Religious Society of Friends

Thompson, Maggie Roman Catholic Church

Easterbrook, Sandy Roman Catholic Church

Vacancy United Reformed Church

Salthouse, Eve Pagan

Brosnan, Noreen Humanist

Group B – Church of England Representatives

Katie Fitzsimmons Church of England

Corbett, Anna Church of England Information

Rudge, Linda Church of England

Henchley, Felicity Diocesan Board of Education

Group C – Teachers Bodies Representatives

Barton, David Association of School and College Leaders

Mills, Theresa Cornwall Association of Primary Head Teachers

Barton, David Cornwall Association of Secondary Head Teachers

Pomfret, Jess National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

Mills, Theresa National Association of Head Teachers

Vacancy National Association of Schoolmaster Union of Women Teachers

Heron, Michael National Education Union

Vacancy Special Education

Rutter, Angie VOICE Union

Group D – Local Authority Representatives

Bunny, Michael

Thomas, Mike

Tilby, Shorne

Vacancy – Local Authority Representative

Co-opted Members

Smith, Geoff, Philomena Baha'i

Stephens, Dr Rita Cornwall Faith Forum

Support for Cornwall SACRE is provided by: Clerk to SACRE Diane Bransgrove, Democratic Officer; Mark Corbett, Senior Education Effectiveness Officer and Local Authority Officer to the SACRE; and two consultants, Clifflynn Banfield and Greg Parekh.

Cornwall Council continues to support the work of Cornwall SACRE with a funding commitment of £15,000 each year. This funds the SACRE consultants' posts (as above), one primary and one secondary specialist, appointed on a two-year basis. Both are practicing teachers released by their schools. The cost for this is £7,200 per annum.

Clerking is provided by Finance and Assurance Services. It is not costed separately.

7 Appendices

Data Appendix 2023

SACRE Action Plan 2022-2023

Appendix 1

Data Appendix

Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education in Cornwall 2023

GCSE Full Course

Cornwall	Cornwall	National grades 9	Cornwall	National
entries	Percentage	to 4	Percentage	grades 9 to 5
	grades 9 to 4	(standard pass)	grades 9 to 5	(good pass)
	(standard pass)		(good pass)	
850	65%	71%	53%	60%

Groups

Group	Entries	Cornwall Percentage grades 9 to 4 (standard pass)	Cornwall Percentage grades 9 to 5 (good pass)
Boys	357	53%	41%
Girls	493	74%	61%

Note: Groups data presented in previous annual reports was derived from a database to which the Local Authority no longer has access. The Department for Education will release revised pupil level data to Local Authorities in mid-March which will enable this sort of analysis, however this data is not available at the time of writing this report.

GCSE Short course

There were 52 entries in two schools. There is no comparative data available.

A level

There were 59 entries in 2023 in seven centres, five schools and two colleges.

	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	D	E
Cornwall	59	1%	17%	25%	31%	20%	3%
S.W.*	1153	4%	15%	30%	26%	15%	7%
National	11930	4%	17%	29%	26%	15%	7%

^{*} Maintained schools and colleges in South West England.

There is no comparative groups data available.

Mark Corbett

Senior Education Effectiveness Officer

February 2024

Appendix 2

SACRE Action Plan 2022-2023

SACRE Proposed Action Plan July 2022 - March 2023 (Working document)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) continues to deliver statutory duties as defined within the Law and within its constitution.

Key Priorities:

- 1. Evaluating the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus (AS)
 - 1.1. Developing effective monitoring for use by system leaders:-
 - 1.1.1.Monitoring and Evaluating the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus
 - 1.1.2. Reviewing and refreshing the locally agreed syllabus
- 2. Promoting improvement in the standards, the quality of teaching, and provision in Religious Education (RE)
 - 2.1. Improving quality in:-
 - 2.1.1.Provision and standards in RE
 - 2.1.2.Assessment in RE
- 3. Managing the SACRE and building the partnership between the SACRE, the Local Authority (LA) and other key stakeholders
 - 3.1 Developing effective partnership working:-
 - 3.1.1 School to school support, including governance
 - 3.1.2 Faith groups
 - 3.1.3 Practitioner groups
- 4. Promoting improvement in the quality of Collective worship in LA schools
 - 4.1. Monitoring of the quality of Collective Worship in LA schools
 - 4.2. Provision of guidance to schools on statutory and best-practice guidance on the use of Collective Worship in LA schools
- 5. Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony:
 - 5.1. Review the composition and representation at SACRE
 - 5.2. Review role in ensuring that social and racial harmony is promoted

SACRE PRIORITY	ACTION	LEAD	TIME FRAME	PROJECTED OUTCOMES	PROGRESS	PROJECTED COSTS
1. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus (AS)	1.1. Developing effective monitoring for use by system leaders by monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus (AS) and by reviewing and refreshing the locally agreed syllabus through the introduction and implementation of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus (CAS) – year 1 of five-year cycle	CB/GP	June 2022 to March 2023	End of year 1 event is proposed by RE Today to consolidate implementation	June 2022: Due to unforeseen issues and costing this will not take place and we are working with Plymouth, Devon and Torbay to evaluate the syllabus and offer support to schools Sept 2022: Working group met (online) to begin process of evaluation with a face to face meeting taking place in November to plan out evaluation strategies	Link to strand D and part of the £10,000 for evaluation
	1.2 Establishment of focus item in hub meetings will support implementing the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus (CAS)	CB and GP	July 2022 to March 2023	CPD on new syllabus provided by all hubs in twilight sessions to be continued from previous year	June 2022: This will continue to be offered across the next years LTLRE Hub meetings October 2022: Shared AS unit of work from CK for secondary schools at CASH HODs meeting. Resources and SOW shared with teachers to implement. Further support and guidance given.	

1.3 Consultants to SACRE to work with schools to support the continued implementation of the agreed syllabus	CB/GP	July 2022 to March 2023	Schools are confident in using the agreed syllabus and are delivering the units of work	June 2022: Positive feedback from many schools. Some schools still need support and we will offer further support to build confidence	Projected costs £10,000
1.4. Continue to support and advise teachers on how to implement the new AS through hub meetings – and focus on the CK section.	CB/Hub members/ Teachers working group	July 2022 to March 2023	Units of work, lesson plans and resources to be made and provided to all schools to successfully deliver CK units	June 2022: These have been written and schools who attended the meetings where they were shared have been asked to give feedback.	
1.5 In school or face to face (online) support to assist with the monitoring and evaluation of the agreed syllabus from SACRE consultants and hub leaders.	CB, GP	July 2022 to March 2023	Monitoring for delivery of the Agreed Syllabus in all schools. Evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the AS in all schools.	June 22: We are working with Plymouth, Devon and Torbay to create evaluation for the syllabus so it can be reviewed and consider next steps.	

2. Promoting improvement of RE	2.1. Improve quality in the provision and standards in RE and assessment in RE across Cornwall <i>through</i> termly hub meetings to be continued online for autumn 2021 to include updates on relevant inspection Frameworks	CB and GP	Summer 2022 and on going	Sustained and improved participation in hub meetings. has been noted in two areas – mid and west Cornwall. Online opportunities have boosted attendance.	June 22: Hub meetings continuing to happen and will moving forward
	2.2 Continue Southwest (SW) regional hub leader (PLRE) training	CB and GP with area 1 steering group and hub leaders	3 times during the year	Cornwall hub leaders participated in and contributed to LTLRE training programme and to key points in the Cornwall SACRE plan focusing mainly on how best to support teachers in continuing the implementation of the agreed syllabus.	June 22: Hub meetings will continue online and continue to focus on planning and delivery of agreed syllabus
	2.3. Promote teacher, school and SACRE involvement in national initiatives and competitions – e.g. Spirited Arts, NASACRE/Westhill awards, RE Quality Mark, REC Young Ambassadors scheme.	SACRE Clerk	Autumn term 2022	Regular Newsletters circulated to schools offering support, ideas and resources and to include these items, and celebrating school and SACRE achievements,	Updates (Newsletter) have been sent out to schools June 2022 October 2022: New newsletter sent out to Hub leaders to share with Hub members in Cornwall.
3. Managing the SACRE and its partnerships	3.1 Develop effective partnership working through school-to-school support, including governance, through partnerships with faith groups and	CB and GP and SACRE members	Ongoing	CB and GP to attend and advise meetings	Ongoing – LTLRE steering group meetings are now online until further notice.

through practitioner groups for example LTLRE hubs and wider networks 3.2 Revise links with Cornwall Faith Forum (CFF) and other relevant organisations such as Cornwall Association of Secondary Heads (CASH) and Cornwall Association of Primary Heads (CAPH) to plan events with both organisations	CB and GP SACRE members (FH/GP/ MH/DB)	Ongoing	SACRE members are invited again to attend as guests where feasible A closer working relationship in schools and in CFF projects relevant to RE.	June 22: This is being completed in July 2022 with launch event at Falmouth University July 2022: Launch of Holocaust materials taken place in July at Falmouth University. Schools given unit of work and resources to deliver in the academic year 2022-23. Evaluation to take place at the end of the year.	Projected costs £2000
3.5 Updating national links for Cornwall.	CB and GP and SACRE members and officers	Ongoing	Reports will be shared at SACRE meeting of any national updates from RE associations including the National Association of SACREs and the Interfaith Network, and from the DfE.	Verbal reports given at SACRE meetings	Internal to SACRE budget - £500 contingency for data collection and analysis
3.6 the publication of the annual SACRE report to schools, local education providers and national organisations	(Chair) with consultants and officers		Annual report published for 2021 to 2022	Annual report for 2021- 22 to be completed in time for publication in December 2022	

					September 2022: Graeme Plunkett to write the annual report for December 2022	
4. Promoting improvement in the quality of collective worship	4.1. Monitoring of the quality of Collective Worship in LA schools through the identification of the needs of schools at hub meetings and with education providers for example the Diocesan Board of Education in order to assess what assistance is needed to ensure the quality of collective worship is upheld.	CB/ GP SACRE hub leaders.	Autumn 2022 and ongoing	School needs for assistance and clarification will be discussed at SACRE and help offered through hub meetings and SACRE networks.	June 22: SACRE will need to discuss at future meetings how they wish Collective worship monitoring to happen. October 2022: SACRE to have a discussion during a meeting this year around collective worship monitoring	
5.Promoting Social Cohesion	5.1 Review the composition and representation at SACRE	Officers and Clerk to SACRE	July 2022 onwards	Membership representative of local area	June 22: SACRE clerk to ensure that representatives across the spectrum of faith groups and communities are part of SACRE	
	5.2 SACRE revisits the constitution and the wording of objectives	SACRE members	July 2022	A sub committee be established to revisit the constitution and the wording of the current objectives	June 22: Constitution to be sent out to member so it can be reviewed in future meetings and SACRE can revisit this	

5.3 Review role in ensuring that social and racial harmony is promoted e.g. through work with young people and schools e.g. to establish Youth SACRE for Cornwall or Student Voice contributions to SACRE agendas.	Ongoing for 2022 to 2023	The idea of a Youth SACRE or Student Voices has been discussed and developed among consultants and officers.	June 22: Has been on hold during COVID times. This is something that needs moving forward	
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