



**Coventry Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education
Annual report 2023-2024**

This is the annual report of the Coventry Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for 2023/24 and is published in accordance with the requirements of section 391 (6) of the Education Act 1996. It provides an account of SACRE activities during this period.

Circulation of this report

This report will be circulated electronically to:

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Coventry schools
Coventry City Councillors
Department for Education
Diocesan Board of Education (Coventry Church of England Diocese)
Diocesan Education Service (Roman Catholic Archdiocese Birmingham)
The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)
SACREs in neighbouring authorities
Faith groups

It will also be available to download at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre

Information on administrative and organisational matters is available from Lucy Lambert: Education Improvement and Standards, Coventry City Council, PO Box 7097, Coventry, CV6 9SL – telephone 024 7697 6979 or email lucy.lambert@coventry.gov.uk.

Message from the Co-Chairs of SACRE

This has been another eventful year, marked by the launch of our Agreed Syllabus and the appointment of a new RE Facilitator.

We have been privileged to continue our unique partnership with Warwickshire SACRE, sharing experiences, ideas and support structures such as the SACRE website, joint meetings and especially the new Agreed Syllabus. This has only been possible because the two Local Authorities share the vision and commitment to work together on behalf of the schools and children in their area. The result is that we have been able to continue our combined efforts, resources and encouragement, leading to levels of service and support for schools that could only be dreamed of by the Local Authority acting alone.

We would like to record our thanks to our amazing RE Facilitator, Jennifer Jenkins, who stepped down in July. She inspired and guided both SACREs and local schools on a remarkably small allocation of time. We were delighted to be able to appoint Gemma Hathaway as her replacement. They have both been excellently supported in this by Lucy Lambert & Martin Ledgard from Coventry LA and Jane Bennett, Debbie Hibberd & Emma Burnell from Warwickshire LA. To all these people, Coventry SACRE extends its heartfelt thanks.

We met three times over the year and attendance at all meetings was very good, including a joint meeting of Coventry and Warwickshire SACREs on 5th February.

The result of this ongoing co-operation is that SACRE has not only been able to meet its statutory commitments but managed to work on producing resources for schools and support the events and initiatives of religious communities. Examples included the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus in April, regular CPD sessions to support the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus and the regular RE Bulletin to schools. Further details of these events and initiatives are to be found within the Report, although the words on paper can only faintly bear witness to the events themselves.

Finally, we thank all the members of SACRE for their attendance, ideas, support, flexibility and forbearance as they represent their respective faiths and bodies, as we learn and journey together. These words cannot fully reflect the buzz and community interaction that has happened over the year – even if some of the interaction has been virtual.

Manjit Kaur and Roderick Clark
Co-Chairs of Coventry SACRE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main priorities for Coventry SACRE in 2023/2024 were:

| Item | Actions | Person Responsible /Overview |
|--|--|---|
| 1a – RE provision across the LA | New RE Agreed Syllabus for Coventry and Warwickshire is successfully implemented | RE Facilitator LA officers SACRE members Teacher writing group |
| 1b – Standards of achievement and public examination entries | Monitoring of GCSE and A-Level results Ofsted outcomes & follow-up | RE Facilitator LA officers SACRE clerks |
| 1c – Quality of learning and teaching | Refining and reviewing the new RE Agreed syllabus and accompanying resources using feedback, monitoring and evaluation | RE Facilitator LA officers SACRE members Teacher writing group |
| 1d – Quality of leadership and management, including the provision and management of resources | INSET for RE subject leaders. Development of hub/consortiums within MATs and locality groups | RE Facilitator |
| 1e – Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff | Training of RE subject leaders and RE teachers Developing relationships with ITT Providers | RE Facilitator |

CPD in 2023-2024 included:

RE Curriculum Symposium – October 23

- What is a Worldviews Approach to Teaching RE
- Theology: Thinking About Beliefs in Worldviews
- Philosophy: Thinking About Knowledge and Thought in Worldviews
- Human and Social Sciences: Thinking About Worldviews as Lived Experience
- Metacognition and Assessment: Tracking Understanding and Knowledge of Concepts
- Personal Knowledge: Pupils as Worldview Explorers
- Reconciliation: A Local Matter of Global Significance

Twilight CPD – January to April 24

- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: EYFS
- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: KS1
- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: Lower KS2
- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: Upper KS2
- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: KS3
- Pagan Worldviews
- Non-religious Worldviews

Agreed Syllabus launch – April to July 24

- Agreed Syllabus launch event
- Agreed Syllabus Q&A
- Assessment in the new Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus
- RE Syllabus clinic

In person sessions were also held in 2023-2024 in response to the demands of the new locally agreed syllabus and the shift to a religion and worldviews approach:

SACRE members offered in-person and remote visits to schools via Teams and Zoom during 2023-2024, visiting primary and secondary schools.

Videos were added to Coventry SACRE YouTube Channel, including: those made by SACRE members and all CPD sessions created by the RE Facilitator:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCffPoYcqi0e3cplRa0jmG6Q>

Resources for schools were developed in line with local needs and national developments in RE and national events (e.g. the release of the 2021 Census data on religion).

Westhill grant funding has allowed for the development of a digital photo pack of local communal worldviews, places of worship and faith communities developed with the support of a local photographer. *Images That Speak* will be a resource developed during 2023-2024 and complement the new locally agreed syllabus.

SACRE continued to support local community projects, such as Coventry Sacred Space, the Lord Major's Peace Committee Coventry Peace Award, the annual peace poetry competition and events taking place to celebrate Interfaith Week.

SACRE Meetings 2023-2024

Coventry SACRE met on three occasions during the 2023/24 academic year. Details of venues and attendance are provided in the table below:

| Date | Venue | Group A | Group B | Group C | Group D | Other attendees |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| 25.09.23 | Council House | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 05.02.24 | Council House | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 24.06.24 | Gurdwara Guru Nanak Parkash | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 |

SACRE met in person during 2023-2024. SACRE met in places of worship and Local Authority premises and schools.

Exam Data:

In 2023, 1722 Coventry year 11 students were entered for Religious Studies qualifications, this is approximately 42% of the year 11 cohort. There were 1711 entries for the full GCSE, and 11 for the short course GCSE.

18 of the 22 Coventry schools offered the full GCSE course. Some schools (Bishop Ullathorne, Blue Coat, Cardinal Newman, Cardinal Wiseman, Eden Girls School, Finham Park, Lyng Hall, Meadow Park and Seva) enter the vast majority of their students for Religious Studies.

The numbers taking short course Religious Studies GCSE are low, which reflects the national situation. There has been an increase in entries from 2 in 2022, to 11 in 2023.

Students at Eden Girls School performed particularly well in 2023 compared to other schools with a high number of entries. Attainment was also high at Finham Park 2 compared to other schools where relatively fewer students were entered.

| | Full GCSE Coventry |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Number of entries | 1711 |
| 9-1 passes | 95% |
| 9-5 passes | 54% |

Support for RE

SACRE continues to support the Local Authority in seconding a RE specialist in the form of a RE Facilitator to provide support to Coventry schools and Coventry SACRE.

Coventry SACRE also continued joint-working with Warwickshire through the merging of the two Chairs Groups and one joint full SACRE meeting annually.

The RE Facilitator updated SACRE on national developments in RE, including the Religion and Worldviews Approach and Multi-Disciplinary RE and the underpinning

principles from the Religion & Education Council's Worldviews Project that has fed into our syllabus development.

The new agreed syllabus has been launched and begun implementation. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has been assembled and active since September 2022. In the interim period, the RE Today syllabus had been extended for a further two years and came to an end in July 2024.

Uptake of Agreed Syllabus (including academies)

Currently 93 schools use the Coventry & Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus, of which 41 are Academies.

The following Coventry schools have provided feedback on the development of the agreed syllabus:

Blue Coat School

Ash Green School

Earlsdon Primary School

Queens Junior School

New Syllabus Comments

Firstly, thank you so much for all the hard work you and your team have put in to creating the new syllabus - I cannot believe how much has been provided - for people like me who is new to it and a complete novice, it will be so useful!
RE lead at Richard Lee Primary

Thank you so much Jennifer. I'm looking forward to the additional training online today - really am so impressed with the quality of resources / curriculum guidance we have been given.
RE teacher at Rugby Free Secondary School

Brill - we have started teaching different modules and the kids are really enjoying it - just one of the lessons at the start a whole class changed their view from seeing RS as irrelevant to them personally to being really important!
RE Department Lead at Rugby Free Secondary School

We decided to change the name of the subject to world views. This has been greatly received by pupils, parents and staff, especially on open evening. Yr7 have enjoyed their introduction so far and last lesson they did the lenses and statement match up and found it interesting that even the statements don't fit to just one lens sometimes. Yr8 enjoyed making their own glasses and magnifying glasses which we laminated and now use.
RE lead Myton School

SACRE monitoring visits

Earlsdon Primary School - supportive monitoring visit in the context of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus.

OFSTED visits to Coventry schools in 2023-2024

Ofsted inspections 23/24

Nursery – 0

Primary – 32

Secondary – 9

Special – 5

Alternative Provision – 1

Some comments made in Coventry schools' Ofsted reports regarding RE were:

- Through the choice of texts for study and subjects like religious education, the school has taken important steps to widen pupils social and cultural knowledge
- Children learn about different faiths and cultures through celebrating religious festivals
- They know about difference and welcome visitors
- However, pupils' knowledge of other faiths and cultures is not as well developed.
- There is careful integration of wider experiences into the curriculum. Pupils are helped to recover from their fractured experiences through personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) lessons and inspiring trips. These allow pupils to grow in their own aspirations and realise what is possible for them.
- The 'undivided club' hosts events such as 'Asian festival' and 'pan-African festival' to celebrate the different cultures that exist. All of this prepares pupils to make an active contribution to society and prepares them well for life in modern Britain.
- Cultural diversity is celebrated, and a recent culture day was successfully undertaken at the request of pupils.
- Pupils speak confidently about different faiths and cultures.
- The school places a strong emphasis on pupils' personal development. Pupils are taught about world religions, beliefs and cultures.

Where RE was specifically mentioned or implied, email contact was made with the school of the following nature:

- To congratulate them on the RE provision
- To offer support with regards to a particular finding or comment in the report.

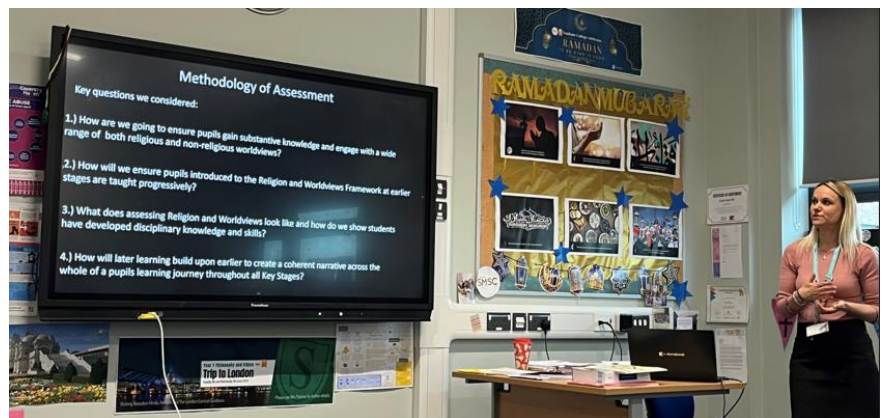
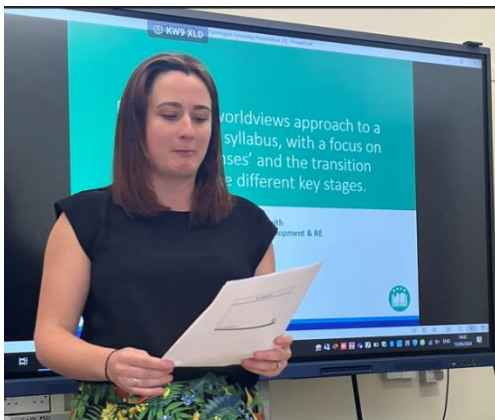
One response from a headteacher: Thank you so much for your email, it is lovely that you've taken the time to read through our Ofsted report. It was great that our

efforts to arrange visits from people of different faiths into our school was acknowledged by Ofsted. During the Spring term we welcomed Abeda and her friend Ayesha from the Muslim community and Hema from the Hindu community. Both were just brilliant and hugely enriched the children's learning in RE - we look forward to inviting them into our school again next year to support the teaching of the new syllabus. Thank you for your continued support.

One response from a headteacher: Thank you so much for taking the time to read our Ofsted report. As you can imagine, we are delighted with the outcome. I am so proud of the pastoral and SMSC curriculum that Asif has worked tirelessly to develop. The children we support have such a rich experience with us as a result. Please feel free to come and visit us at UHCW or at Whitmore Park Annexe. Thanks again.

Highlights of the year

Sophie Smith and Alice Thomas presenting their research as part of the Farmington Scholarship programme:



A wonderful celebration at the Summer SACRE meeting where we said farewell to Jen Jenkins as the RE Facilitator – heartfelt thanks for your service over the last 8 years.



Our Co-Chair Manjit Kaur visiting a Primary School this academic year:



Manjit Kaur co-chair presented in September at the Religion and Media conference. Details of the focus from Manjit can be found below.

- RE is part of the basic curriculum not the national curriculum.
- RE is locally determined and put together through input from teachers' association, LA representatives, other Christian denominations and faiths and C of E. It is reviewed every five years. Which could mean a child in KS1 may experience three agreed syllabuses.
- We are reviewing our agreed syllabus and considering locally the following items:
 - Young people comments
 - Peace and Reconciliation
 - Linking to local, national and global issues and their effect on the city/county.
- Academisation and Arrangements with funding organisation
- Our secondary schools are all academies. We continue with 'assertive communication'.

Sixth form students attended a conference in collaboration with the Religion and Media Centre:



Religion Media Centre @R... · 05/10/2023 ***
 Some great questions and interesting discussions about faith, communities & the media - as well as a number of really strong stories from our fantastic guests today. Thank you to everyone who came along to #CreatingConnections at @CovCathedral. #medialiteracy #religiousliteracy



Religion Media Centre @R... · 05/10/2023 ***
 The Dean of @CovCathedral, the Very Reverend John Witcombe, is welcoming everyone to the cathedral and explaining its importance in bringing #communities together and its role in promoting #peaceandreconciliation.



[Reimagining the accidentally local in English RE](#) – It was wonderful for our new locally agreed syllabus to be mentioned in the linked article by Paul Smalley.

[Curriculum and Assessment Review - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#) - we are proud to have shared our thoughts and suggestions as a SACRE to the DfE review.



Images of the first Commonwealth Remembrance service held in Foleshill Peace Park. Acknowledging Sikhs by placing romalla sahib at Ravidass Gurdwara and gurdwara presenting a khanda poppy.

SACRE Resources for Schools

The following resources were provided for schools during 2023-2024:

- Autumn/Spring/Summer RE Bulletins
- New syllabus updates
- SACRE worldview youtube page dedicated to supporting the new Locally Agreed syllabus

- Full range of RE Subject Enhancement materials available to schools via the Coventry SACRE syllabus website

SACRE Visits to Schools

SACRE representatives continued to offer visits to local schools as requested. Schools can access SACRE members and request visits using our SACRE suggested lists of visits and visitors available on the Warwickshire SACRE website.

School visits to places of worship

Local schools continue to visit a variety of local places of worship. We have a set of guidance for this on the Warwickshire SACRE website. This document is proving to be incredibly useful as schools implement the new locally agreed syllabus.

Withdrawals from RE

Coventry SACRE has not been made aware of withdrawals from RE although these are encountered at times during SACRE or RE Facilitator monitoring visits. Appropriate advice and documentation is signposted.

Complaints

SACRE received no complaints during 2023-2024

Advice to the LA

The RE facilitator provided advice to the LA regarding national updates around the Religion and Worldviews approach, as well as ongoing feedback from the REC and NATRE. This has been used to support the development and implementation of the new locally agreed syllabus. SACRE provided advice to Coventry LA regarding Collective Worship and withdrawal protocols.

Advice to other bodies/organisations

During 2023-2024 SACRE offered the following support to other bodies/organisations:

REC Conference in July 2023 – Gemma Hathaway & Jen Jenkins presented the rationale in the new locally agreed syllabus and the alignment of the religion and worldviews approach.

Collective Worship - standards and monitoring

New guidance for schools regarding collective worship was developed and issued to schools, with support from SACRE members. Legal compliance for a daily act of collective worship mainly of a broadly Christian character was included in the guidance, alongside a proposed structure, resources and making use of visitors.

Determinations

One Primary school has an existing determination (Holbrook), we didn't receive any further applications for determinations in 23/24.

Teacher training

No CPD on collective worship took place in 2023-2024.

Advice to LA

The guidance document on collective worship was positively received by Coventry LA and distributed to schools. It is housed on the Warwickshire SACRE website alongside other SACRE resources.

SACRE work with the community

- SACRE continues to support the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative
- SACRE chair supported a number of community celebrations including interfaith week, peace walks, Hiroshima Day at Coventry Cathedral, Community Iftar events and school based projects
- SACRE continues to support the Annual Peace Poetry event in Coventry Methodist Central Hall
- SACRE chairs supported the Religion & Media Council events

SACRE Arrangements and Working

SACRE has a statutory duty:

- To advise the Local Authority on collective worship and Religious Education in community schools and foundation schools which do not have a religious character. Religious Education in these schools must be delivered in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus.
- To advise the Local Authority on collective worship and methods of teaching, choice of materials and teacher training in Religious Education and collective worship.
- To provide an annual report.

- To require Coventry City Council to periodically review the locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (at least every 5 years).

In addition, the SACRE can:

Consider applications made by a Headteacher to release some or all of the pupils in a particular school from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (a Determination).

Membership of SACRE:

Coventry SACRE comprises four statutory groups:

- Group A – such Christian Denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area. Currently Coventry SACRE has provision for representatives from the following faiths – Baha’i, Buddhism, Christianity (Free churches, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholicism, Society of Friends), Islam, Judaism.
- Group B – Church of England (Christianity)
- Group C – Teacher Associations
- Group D – Local Authority

Additional members including people with expertise in areas of religious education or who represent perspectives not included in the statutory groups are co-opted by SACRE. Membership details are shown in Appendix B.

Training

- Members of Coventry SACRE attended the online NASACRE Conference in 2023- 2024.
- NASACRE webinars were also attended.
- SACRE members received training on the Religion & Worldviews approach and multidisciplinary RE courtesy of the RE Facilitator.

Professional and Financial Support

A budget is provided to SACRE by the City Council to cover the priorities identified. The SACRE Chairs’ Group has advised the local authority on priorities and how this funding should be spent. In 2023-24, this was used to fund the following:

- Supporting the writing and development of the Agreed Syllabus
- Monitoring RE provision via Ofsted report scrutiny and exam entry/results data Training for local RE teachers

- Salary for RE Facilitator one day a week during term time, plus expenses (mileage and resources)
- Servicing of SACRE meetings – venues, refreshments
- NASACRE annual subscription / attendance at AGM
- NATRE annual subscription
- Chartered College annual subscription
- CPD for RE Facilitator

The local authority has continued to provide annual support to SACRE with LA Officer time, a clerk and other administrative staff to enable SACRE to fulfil its duties.

Appendix A

SACRE MEMBERSHIP

| Name | Group | Representing |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Helen Maoudis | A | Greek Orthodox |
| Pauline Lockett | A | Free Churches |
| Ghulam Vohra | A | Islam |
| Anne-Marie Taylor | A | Black Churches |
| Brian Goredema-Braid | A | Humanists |
| Ros Johnson | A | Judaism |
| Bill Rattigan | A | Baha'i |
| Pavanjeet Sandhu | A | Sikhi |
| Aloka Sudiwala | A | Dharmic Traditions |
| | | |
| Roderick Clark | B | Church of England |
| Jennifer Jenkins | B | Church of England |
| Emma Griffiths | B | Church of England |
| Joanne Evans | B | Church of England |
| | | |
| Gemma Hathaway | C | Teacher (Secondary) |
| Slax Heer | C | Teacher (NASUWT) |
| Adam Mosley | C | Teacher (NEU) |
| Alice Thomas | C | Teacher (Secondary) |
| Janey Manton | C | Teacher (Secondary) |
| | | |
| Manjit Kaur | D | Coventry City Council |
| Gyll Brown | D | Coventry City Council |
| Rev. Terry Colling | D | Coventry City Council |
| Cllr Kindy Sandhu | D | Coventry City Council |
| | | |
| Rachel Cooper | Co-opted | University of Warwick ITE |
| Martin Ledgard | Education Improvement and Standards | Coventry City Council |
| Lucy Lambert | Clerk | Coventry City Council |

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

| | |
|---------|--|
| AGM | Annual General Meeting |
| AREIAC | Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants |
| ASC | Agreed Syllabus Conference |
| C of E | Church of England |
| CPD | Continuing Professional Development |
| DfE | Department for Education |
| EBacc | English Baccalaureate |
| GCSE | General Certificate of Secondary Education |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| INSET | In-Service Training Day |
| KS | Key Stage |
| LA | Local Authority |
| LOtC | Learning Outside the Classroom |
| NASACRE | National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education |
| NATRE | National Association of Teachers of Religious Education |
| NQT | Newly Qualified Teacher |
| Ofsted | Office for Standards in Education |
| PEBBLE | Public Body Liaison Committee for British Paganism |
| RE | Religious Education |
| REC | Religious Education Council |
| RS | Religious Studies |
| SACRE | Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education |
| SIAMS | Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools |
| SMSCD | Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development |