

Coventry Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Annual Report 2020-21



Contents

Introduction	2
Message from Co-Chairs of SACRE	3
Executive Summary	5
SACRE Meetings	6
Support for RE	7
Withdrawals	11
Complaints	11
Collective Worship	12
SACRE Work with the Community	13
SACRE Arrangements & Working	16
Appendix A - Glossary of Acronyms Appendix B - Membership Appendix C - Distribution details	18

Introduction

This is the annual report of the Coventry Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for 2020/21 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, PO Box 15, Council House, Coventry, CV1 5RR – telephone 024 76976979 or email Iucy.lambert@coventry.gov.uk.

Message from the Chair of SACRE

This has been another eventful year, especially with the continuing challenges of the global pandemic. Despite these challenges, work has continued apace for Coventry SACRE, and we tried to capture this in our Annual Report.

Our faith communities have risen to the challenge and have worked with:

- Public Health England to actively encourage their communities to take up the vaccine and follow government guidelines during pandemic
- · Each other to support 'grass roots' needs within their communities
- Coventry City of Culture to host the Faith event to be held on the weekend of 10th September 2021

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 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.

As we reflect back on this year of working together, we would like to pay tribute to one of our co-chairs, with whom we worked so closely. Sadly, Chris Mellers passed away in April – he will be sadly missed. We would like to acknowledge his tremendous contribution to both SACREs, RE and schools.

Our amazing RE Facilitator, Jennifer Jenkins, continues to inspire and guide both SACREs and local schools on a remarkably small allocation of time. She is supported in this by Lucy Lambert & Rachael Sugars from Coventry LA, Jane Bennett and Debbie Hibberd from Warwickshire LA. To all these people, Coventry SACRE extends its heartfelt thanks.

We would also like to express our thanks to Kim Garcia from Warwickshire LA who moved on in the 2020/2021 year.

We continued to meet virtually throughout the year and attendance at all meetings was very good. We did not, however have any joint meetings this year as we felt that would be too many people for a virtual gathering. We hope it will be possible to have a joint meeting of Coventry and Warwickshire SACREs in the summer term 2022.

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 include the CPD sessions to support the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus, videos linked to festivals in April; the regular RE Bulletin to schools, the films being made as a result of a successful grant application to the Westhill Trust, school assemblies, monitoring and support visits to schools. Further details of these events and initiatives are to be found within the Report, although the words on paper 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.



Miss Manjit Kaur



Mr Chris Mellers

This report is written in loving memory of Mr Chris Mellers, who very sadly passed away earlier in 2021 and whose legacy of promoting excellent RE locally SACRE continue to honour and preserve.

1. Executive Summary

The main priorities for Coventry SACRE in 2020/21 were:

- Development of digital resources for RE
- Continued teacher CPD
- Support for RQTS/NQTS/student teachers
- Support for Coventry City of Culture activities
- Development of understanding of RE as a multidisciplinary subject

Despite the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, SACRE continued to provide support to schools through an extensive ongoing online CPD offer, the creation and sharing of resources (for example, the guidance on visits and visitors for RE and accompanying content grids for each tradition in the Coventry & Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus), SACRE supportive RE monitoring visits via Microsoft Teams and the termly RE bulletins.

CPD in 2020-2021 included: RE for Well Being, Teaching RE Vocabulary, Teaching Non-Religious Worldviews, Balanced RE, Teaching Abrahamic Traditions (with professors from St John's York University) and many other sessions.

SACRE members offered remote visits to schools via Teams and Zoom and created resources around how their faith communities were adapting and responding to the pandemic, available on the Warwickshire SACRE website: https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-resources/standing-advisory-council-religious-education-sacre/3

Coventry SACRE launched a YouTube Channel and this has been populated with videos from SACRE members sharing how they have been celebrating their festivals during the pandemic, as well as the first of our SACRE Worldviews resources, exploring Christian worldviews and church attendance: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCffPoYcgj0e3cpIRa0jmG6Q

The Westhill RE Subject Knowledge Project had to be postponed in 2020-2021 but is underway again in 2021-2022.

SACRE continued to support community projects, such as Coventry Sacred Space, the Lord Major's Peace Committee Coventry Peace Award (ten schools were awarded this new award in 2020-2021) and the annual peace poetry competition. There was also a strong SACRE presence at forums exploring responses to Covid with local faith communities.

Coventry SACRE were sad to lose Co-Chair, Chris Mellers, who sadly passed away during 2020-2021. Chris leaves a position that will be hard to replace and a lasting legacy for championing RE in the city.

2. SACRE Meetings 2020-2021

a) Attendance at SACRE Meetings

Coventry SACRE met on three occasions during the 2019/20 academic year. Details of venues and attendance are provided in the table below.

Date	Venue	Numbers in attendance from each group					
		Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Co-opted Members	Other attendees
19/10/20	Microsoft Teams	5	3	1	3		1
01/02/21	Microsoft Teams	8	4	3	3		1
28/06/21	Microsoft Teams	3	4	3	3		1

Membership Groups:

Group A - Christian and other religious denominations other than the Church of England (11 members)

Group B – Church of England (5 members)

Group C – Teacher Associations (5 members)

Group D – Coventry City Council (5 members)

SACRE has continued to select meeting venues which reflect its three key partnerships; schools, faith groups and the Local Authority. Where a meeting is held in a school, there is usually an opportunity for SACRE members to have a look at the RE work on display and to learn about the delivery of the RE curriculum across the school. This is also the case with meetings held at places of worship, where members of the faith community will provide an insight into their particular faith or belief through a short presentation to members and/or tour of the building.

During the lockdown, SACRE continued to meet via Microsoft Teams, in keeping with the requirements of the local authority. The usual agenda was followed and contributions from all groups was encouraged.

In 2020/21 Coventry SACRE had co-opted members representing:

• The ITE department at the University of Warwick

3. Support for RE

The main priorities for Coventry SACRE in 2020/21 were:

- Development of digital resources for RE
- Continued teacher CPD
- Support for RQTS/NQTS/student teachers
- Support for Coventry City of Culture activities
- Development of understanding of RE as a multidisciplinary subject

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.

The RE Facilitator updated SACRE on national developments in RE, including multidisciplinary RE and a switch towards a worldviews approach to teaching RE.

SACRE also advised the local authority on contacting schools who did not appear to be fulfilling legal requirements for RE provision or who were entering no or low pupil numbers for exams in RE. Working in consultation with the local authority, SACRE advised on how schools could manage the teaching of RE during the pandemic and issued guidance for schools.

a) Uptake of Agreed Syllabus (including academies)

Currently 93 schools use the Coventry & Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus, of which 36 are academies.

b) Standards and monitoring of RE

SACRE Monitoring Visits

SACRE supportive monitoring visits continued during 2020-2021, conducted via Microsoft Teams. The following schools requested and received a visit:

Date	Venue	Theme
4 th November 2020	Walsgrave CE Academy	Microsoft Teams RE
		Monitoring Visit
3 rd December 2020	Richard Lee Primary	Microsoft Teams RE
		Monitoring Visit
11 th February 2020	Charter Primary	Microsoft Teams RE
_		Monitoring Visit
4 th March 2021	Keresley Grange	Microsoft Teams RE
		Monitoring Visit

7

Ofsted Follow Up

Ofsted visits to Coventry schools in 2020-21 were as follows:

Nursery/Early Years - 0 inspections Primary Schools - 6 inspections Secondary schools - 4 inspections Special schools - 1 inspection There were no inspections under section 5 of the Education Act 2005, all inspections were under section 8 and did not result in a change of judgement.

A report that stated the primary school should *ensure that key subject knowledge is mapped out from the early years to Year 6 to enable pupils to build on prior learning* were offered a SACRE supportive RE monitoring visit, which is being taken up in 2021-2022.

Exam Data

Due to the pandemic, GCSEs in 2020 were teacher assessed grades. We have received data from 80% of the Secondary schools in Coventry.

1079 Coventry year 11 students were assessed for Religious Studies qualifications, this is approximately 36% of the year 11 cohort. There were no entries for the short course GCSE in 2020.

Some schools (Blue Coat, Eden Girls' School, Lyng Hall, Seva, Bishop Ullathorne, Finham Park) enter the vast majority of their students for Religious Studies.

Students at Blue Coat achieved particularly well in 2020 compared to other schools with a high number of entries. Attainment was also high at Coundon Court, compared to other schools where relatively fewer students were entered.

There is no published A Level data available.

c) REQM

Blue Coat School (secondary) have been REQM Gold Award holders since 2018.

d) Teacher CPD and resourcing

Online CPD

The following CPD was offered to teachers in 2020-2021:

Date	Venue	Theme
10 th September 2020	Microsoft Teams	RE and Well Being
8 th October 2020	Microsoft Teams	Teaching Non-Religious Worldviews
26 th November 2020	Microsoft Teams	Balanced RE

21 st January 2021	Microsoft Teams	Teaching RE Vocabulary
25 th January 2021	Microsoft Teams	NQTs- Warwickshire: CWAS
28 th January 2021	Microsoft Teams	Teaching RE Vocabulary
18 th March 2021	Microsoft Teams	NQTs- Coventry: CWAS
24 th March 2021	Microsoft Teams	Orthodox Holy Week & Pascha
6 th May 2021	Microsoft Teams	Help! I'm the New RE Leader
20 th May 2021	Microsoft Teams	Promoting Good RE in Your School
8 th June 2021	Microsoft Teams	NQTs- Warwickshire: Worldviews & Multi- Disciplinary RE
17 th June 2021	Zoom	South Warwickshire NATRE Group: Transition form Primary to Secondary RE
24 th June 2021	Microsoft Teams	Teaching Abrahamic Faiths at Secondary (with professors from St John's York University

Through a survey we were able to hear from teachers on their training preferences and the large majority opted to retain remote training in 2021-2022 as our model for 2020-2021 had been so successful.

The following feedback was received from NQTs following the RE CPD sessions:

It was interesting to talk about the planning and resources that is available for RE as I haven't really had an opportunity to teach RE yet due to the curriculum recovery etc.

I watched the recording of training. I found this really useful as I could pause it, make notes and go back if I had missed anything.

Following the Promoting Good RE CPD, these were some of the comments in the Teams chat:

Thank you, this was very useful.

Very informative and useful session

Thank you. A really useful lesson, with so much to take away.

Thank you! Very useful and informative!

Thank you so much it has been most useful.

Thanks very much. very informative

Thank you! Really useful!

Thank you so much, has been really useful

Westhill RE Subject Knowledge Programme

Unfortunately, our Westhill-funded RE Subject Knowledge Development Programme was halted by the pandemic, but will re-start in 2021-2022. The Warwickshire leg of the project concludes with a session on Judaism at Birmingham Progressive Synagogue and Coventry SACRE will then continue the project. Details of the project can be found here: Home - Westhill (westhillendowment.org) and the two completed videos are available bottom the Warwickshire SACRE at the of website: https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-resources/standing-advisory-councilreligious-education-sacre/3

SACRE would like to thank filmographer, Wayne Matthews, for his ongoing excellent work on this project.

SACRE Resources for Schools

Videos were created by SACRE members for schools on the celebrating of festivals during lockdown and these can be viewed on the Coventry SACRE YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCffPoYcgj0e3cpIRa0jmG6Q

Termly RE Bulletins support schools in being kept up to date with local and national training opportunities and resources for RE.

Resources for Remembrance Day and the 80th Anniversary of Coventry Blitz were shared with schools via a series of RE Bulletins.

Resources for Holocaust Memorial Day were shared with schools via the RE bulletin.

Resources were created by SACRE members to support schools in teaching the breadth and diversity of religion during the pandemic. These were made available via the Warwickshire SACRE website: <u>https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-resources/standing-advisory-council-religious-education-sacre/3</u>

A Virtual Youth SACRE event was held via Zoom in November 2020 and five schools took part: Eden Girls School (Coventry), Bluecoat (Coventry), Seva (Coventry), Southam College (Warwickshire), Lawrence Sherriff (Warwickshire).



Students at Blue Coat School during Inter Faith Week 2020

SACRE Visits to Schools

Coventry SACRE's Jewish representative conducted virtual visits to local schools via Zoom.

e) Withdrawals from RE

SACRE have been officially informed of six pupils withdrawn from RE from two schools.

f) Complaints

SACRE received no complaints during 2020-2021.

g) Advice to the LA

The RE Facilitator provided advice to the LA on guidance for schools when restarting the curriculum following lockdown. This was sent to Head Teachers and RE subject leaders.

SACRE also recommended a delay to the replacing of the Coventry & Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus when it expires in July 2022. Surveying teachers demonstrated this would be an unwelcome change and teachers would prefer to stick with the existing AS for a further two years in order to make up for the impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning in RE.

h) Advice to other bodies/organisations

During 2020-2021, SACRE offered the following support to other bodies/organisations:

- Gideons- inclusion of new materials and assembly offer in RE Bulletin
- Blog for Teach RE Course- written by Jennifer Jenkins, RE Facilitator for RE Online
- NATRE- Jennifer Jenkins led an online workshop at Strictly RE Online January 2021
- SIAMS Inspector Training- Jennifer Jenkins on behalf of Coventry DBE
- Saltley Trust Trustee- Jennifer Jenkins considered as a Trustee
- Sandra Teacher- Board of Deputies for British Jews- passing on of information to schools
- Coventry Sacred Space- Coventry Chair is a member of the group and SACRE members actively support its work

4. Collective Worship

a) Standards and monitoring

No work was undertaken to monitor collective worship in 2020-2021. Schools were reminded of the legal requirement for an act of daily worship and were encouraged to continue collective worship online in bubbles during the pandemic.

b) Determinations

Two schools (Holbrook Primary School and Frederick Bird Primary School) that were granted a determination in 2016-17, continued with their current determination in 2020-21. SACRE have conducted a review of determination processes and these two schools are being supported in reviewing their determinations accordingly.

There were no further applications for determinations to alter the character of collective worship for all pupils in any other schools during 2020/21.

c) Teacher training

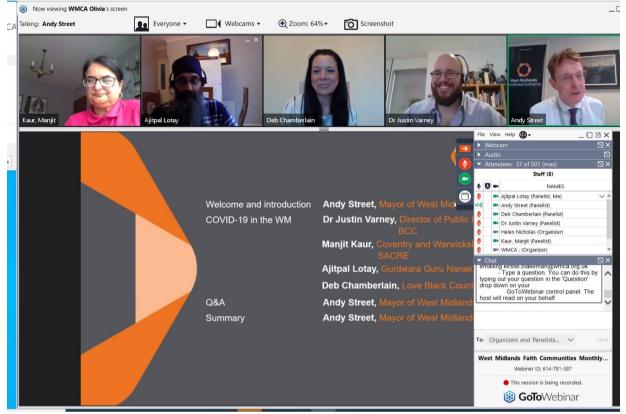
No CPD on collective worship in 2020-2021.

d) Advice to LA

A message to schools, as outlined in a) above, was included in the termly RE bulletin after discussion with the LA.

5. SACRE work with the community

Coventry SACRE Chair was asked to take part in the WMCA Covid-19 Faith Briefing webinar series.



The Chair attend the Coventry Conservatives Diwali conference. The discussion was around good over evil the theme of Diwali and the freedom to practise your religion as a citizen of the country you live.

Coventry SACRE continued to support the local Peace Poetry Competition and twelve Coventry schools submitted entries. Coventry winners for all three top prizes were from Ravensdale Primary School.

During 2020-2021 eighteen schools took part in the Coventry Peace award launched by the Coventry Lord Mayor's Peace Committee. Schools included primary, secondary, community, CE and Catholic schools. Ten schools have now been awarded the Coventry Peace Award: <u>Ten Coventry Schools Granted Peace Award –</u> <u>Coventry City of Peace</u>

Two news reports capture the awarding of the Coventry Peace Award to Seva School and Blue Coat School:

https://coventryobserver.co.uk/news/celebration-time-as-seva-school-receivescoventry-peace-and-reconciliation-award/



<u>Coventry's Blue Coat School receives Lord Mayor's Peace and Reconciliation Award -</u> <u>The Coventry Observer</u>



The Chair of Coventry SACRE and the RE Facilitator were in attendance.

Students help start work on ity peace me

By TOM DAVIS

<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text> Howes Primary School, one of the five

The Chair led the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Service at the Cathedral on 6th August 2020, which was live streamed. The audience included the ambassador of Japan Ambassador Yasumasa Nagamine. Rebecca **Bollands Deputy Head from Howes** Primary, who is creating a Japanese Peace Garden with youngsters, attended also. Several children represented the young people of Coventry and Warwickshire. The event also featured an exchange of messages of greeting between the Lord Mayor of Coventry and the Mayor of Hiroshima. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Ann Lucas, showed a Certificate of Friendship which will be presented to the people of Hiroshima when circumstances allow. https://coventrycityofpeace.uk/coventryhiroshima-commemoration-2020/

The Chair attended the West Midlands Faith Forum and BLM online meetings.

SACRE continues to support the Coventry Sacred Space project: Coventry Sacred Space Initiative | TiaCommunity (tiatrust.org) Coventry Sacred Space Initiative - Coventry **City of Peace**

SACRE supported a call from the local police to support neighbourhood watch initiatives in Coventry: PCC in call to faith groups to help in fight against crime - The **Coventry Observer**

Neighbourhood Watch and Bairstow Eves (estate agents in Jubilee Crescent, Radford, Coventry) reported the peace poem competition and displayed a selection of poems.

6. 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).

a) Membership

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 particular expertise in areas of religious education or who represent perspectives not included in the statutory groups are coopted by SACRE.

In 2020/21 Coventry SACRE had co-opted members representing:

• The ITE department at the University of Warwick

Membership details are shown in Appendix B.

b) Training

Members of Coventry SACRE attended the online NASACRE Conference in 2020-2021.

RE Facilitator also did two sessions for Coventry SACRE members on multidisciplinary RE and a worldviews approach to teaching RE in order to bring members up to date with national developments.

c) 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 2020-21, this was used to fund the following:

- Supporting the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus
- Monitoring delivery of the Agreed Syllabus in schools
- Training for local RE teachers, including venue, hospitality and printing costs
- 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
- 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 in order to enable SACRE to fulfil its duties.

7. Appendices

- a) Glossary of Terms
- **b) SACRE Membership**
- c) Distribution details for annual report

Appendix A

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 Nationa	I 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

Appendix B

SACRE Membership

Group A

Pauline Luckett - Free Churches Ros Johnson - Judaism Ghulam Vohra – Islam Helen Maoudis - Greek Orthodox Jatinder Singh - Sikhism Dr. Tribhovan Jotangia - Hinduism Anne-Marie Taylor - Black Churches Parag Kapoor - Roman Catholicism Bill Rattigan - Baha'i Eleanor Nesbitt - The Society of Friends Jonathan Passman - Judaism

Group B

Emma Griffiths - Church of England Jennifer Jenkins - Church of England Roderick Clark - Church of England Joanne Evans - Church of England Sacha Slavic – Church of England

Group C

Alice Thomas - Secondary Teacher Gemma Hathaway - Secondary Teacher Janey Manton – Teacher Taz Allen - NASUWT Pam McKiernan - NEU

Group D

Manjit Kaur - Coventry City Council Rev. Terry Colling - Coventry City Council Cllr Kindy Sandhu - Coventry City Council Gyll Brown - Coventry City Council Cllr Joe Clifford - Coventry City Council

Co-opted members

Rachel Cooper – University of Warwick ITE

Other members

Liz Thompson - Education Entitlement, Coventry City Council Rachael Sugars - Education Improvement and Standards, Coventry City Council Lucy Lambert – Clerk, Coventry City Council

Appendix C

Distribution Details

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