Barnsley Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (Barnsley SACRE)

ACADEMIC YEAR

2025-2026



Islam



Christianity



Sikhism



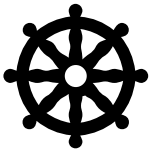
Humanism



Hinduism



Judaism



Buddhism

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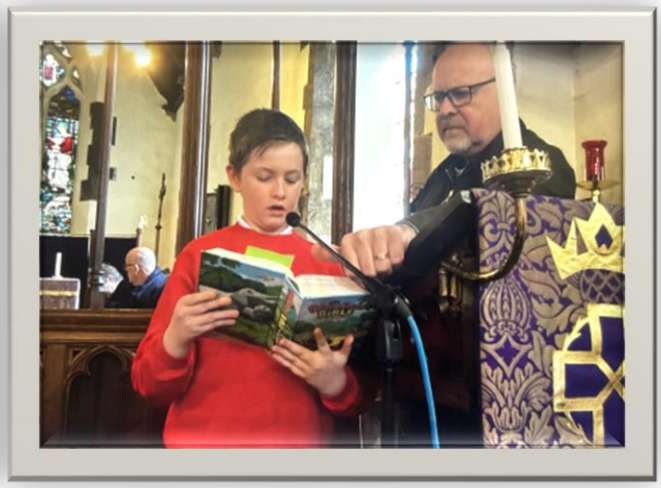
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FOREWORD



On behalf of Barnsley SACRE, we would like to thank all schools, teachers, RE subject leaders, support staff and volunteers from the faith communities who have worked so hard to raise the standard of Religious Education in Barnsley during the past year.

In these challenging times, the Barnsley SACRE continues to have a strong team of committed and talented members who give us so freely of their time and expertise. Our current membership can be found on page 2 (1.2) of the Barnsley SACRE website.

This year we welcomed five new Reform Council members, a new member representing the Quakers and a new teacher representative, Yvette Cooper – the first Barnsley teacher to achieve a Farmington Scholarship.

We are always looking for new members to strengthen our team. Anybody interested please contact sacre@barnsley.gov.uk for further information.

During each academic year we have three termly meetings held this year on 14th October 2025, the 3rd March 2026 (AGM) and 30th June 2026.

All meetings were held at Barnsley Town Hall and were quorate with an average attendance of eight members.

Members receive an agenda and minutes via e-mail prior to all meetings. A typical agenda is structured in accordance with the local authority guidelines and includes; welcome and apologies for absence; minutes from the previous meeting; correspondence; adviser's response to any requests for support from Barnsley Schools; information from the DfE, QCA, NASACRE; visiting speakers; requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act; website development; GCSE results; annual review of the SACRE constitution; development plan etc.

In our June meeting we discussed the RE section of the recently published 'Curriculum and Assessment Review' and were heartened to read that 'there was a strong consensus about the subject's importance and its essential place in a school's curriculum, stressing its important role in children and young people's intellectual, personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'

Its recommendation that the Government establish an independent task force to develop a draft **NATIONAL** R.E curriculum is a step forward that I hope we all agree with. However, this will take a few years to achieve.

Self-evaluation is high on our agenda - we are constantly changing / improving our meeting content and working procedures which feed into our development plan. Our development plan priorities for the forthcoming year include regularly updating, enhancing and monitoring the SACRE website which this year has included a new section on non-religious world views, supporting Barnsley R E Subject Leaders and further supporting our membership.

Finally, thank you to all those teachers who have contributed photographs and students' work for inclusion in this report.

Mrs. Jo Wiles (Chair of SACRE) Mr. Roger Holmes (Adviser to SACRE)

1.1 The Annual Report of the Barnsley Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) (Academic year 2025 – 2026)

Summary Report

This report provides members and NASACRE/DfE with details of the work of the Barnsley Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) for the academic year 2025 – 2026.

Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

Memberships

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Executive Director, Children's Services, on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of schoolchildren. The law prescribes that there must be four 'committees' each comprising representatives of specified groups. These four committees can together co-opt with further non-voting members, provided a majority agree. The actual members change over time, and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:

- Group A (10 places) Christian and other religious denominations which reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- Group B (5 places) Church of England
- Group C (5 places) Teacher Associations
- Group D (5 places) Local Authority Representatives
- See appendix D for current membership.

Religious Education

The Barnsley SACRE was established during the autumn term 1988 and held its first meeting in January 1989.

At this meeting members of SACRE agreed unanimously to adopt the Barnsley Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
Since that date there have been a number of syllabus revisions. An Agreed Syllabus Conference was held on 25 February 2025 to adopt the current Syllabus, which will be operational for the statutory five-year period to 2030.
A particular focus of our 2025 revision was the Early Years Foundation Stage. Thank you to Sarah Lees for her expertise in this field and to all those schools who provided wonderful photographs to enhance our Agreed Syllabus.

Support for Schools/Teacher Network Meetings

Members of SACRE are keen to support staff and governors in schools to raise standards in RE. They are regularly kept up to date with strategies to achieve this through reports from our adviser whose work involves supporting RE Subject Leaders with emails, newsletters, network meetings, SACRE/teacher development days and entries on our SACRE website.

SACRE Website

During this academic year we have updated many sections of our website - part of the main Barnsley MBC website: www.barnsley.gov.uk/SACRE

This will ensure easy access to a variety of useful resources to support the teaching of R E.

Statutory Inspections of Church Schools (Section 48)

In the Barnsley LA we have 15 Church Schools (Church of England and Roman Catholic). Each school is subject to an additional OFSTED Inspection (Section 48) covering RE and Collective Worship. SACRE members would like to thank the three Diocesan Education Teams (Leeds, Sheffield and Hallam) for their continued support of schools in the Barnsley Local Authority.

Constitution

The SACRE constitution was reviewed in 2026 and is available in this publication and on the SACRE website. It will be reviewed annually at our AGM.

Useful Contacts - Email SACRE@barnsley.gov.uk

Chair of SACRE

Mrs. Jo Wiles
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Westgate
Barnsley
South Yorkshire S70 2DR

Clerk to SACRE

Mrs. Ella Cooper
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Westgate
Barnsley
South Yorkshire S70 2DR

SACRE Adviser

Mr. Roger Holmes
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Westgate
Barnsley
South Yorkshire S70 2DR

2. Our Local Agreed Syllabus

Our local agreed syllabus was revised in 2026 and contains information on useful websites/materials for all the World Religions covered. It is published on our website at this link: https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and- learning/religious-education/agreed-syllabus/

Our SACRE website and Agreed Syllabus are constantly under review. The next full review of the Agreed Syllabus will be in 2030. Our updated website also includes a wealth of additional support for schools including visits to support RE and visits to local places of worship.

Members of the Barnsley SACRE regularly monitor RE GCSE results in all our ALC/Secondary Schools. When the examination data is available for the academic year 2025/26, we will publish it on the SACRE Website.

2.1 Standards and Monitoring of RE Teacher Training - Advice for Schools

Each year we send congratulatory letters to all the schools who have displayed improvement/high achievement. Website trawls keep our members up to date with Ofsted inspection findings in relation to RE and Collective Worship in Barnsley schools.

Throughout the year, via emails, we have received information concerning a variety of CPD courses and useful materials which, after an initial check by Roger Holmes, are emailed to schools. Recent examples have included:

- R.E. Hubs
- Farmington Scholarships
- Muslim Learner Services
- Holocaust Education Trust
- Picture News
- Anti Semitism information
- National Conversation
- Bradford Interfaith News

In conjunction with the James Hudson Taylor group, we devised a safe walking plan for school parties to visit the designated sites with plaques outlining the life of the Barnsley missionary. Please click the link for further information James Hudson Taylor Walking Tour

We often receive requests for help/support from school RE Leaders concerning areas such as planning, resourcing etc. We always respond in an appropriate way to these requests. We would like to give a particular thank you to three SACRE members: -

- Mrs Gillian Bunn (Community Outreach Officer – Wakefield Cathedral) who has supported schools with Acts of Collective Worship and various workshops.
- Imam Aziz (Barnsley Mosque) who has done some sterling work in Barnsley Schools.
- Ms Debbie Roberts who has supported a number of Barnsley Schools, sharing her knowledge of Humanism.

Subject Leaders inform SACRE of positive visits they have had to places of worship which they highly recommend to teaching colleagues. These recommendations are shared with all schools at Teacher Network meetings and by email.

From time-to-time SACRE receives requests for advice from schools concerning the withdrawal of pupils from RE lessons. As we are all aware these situations need a sensitive but realistic approach. SACRE will always offer appropriate advice.

In the Barnsley SACRE we were very fortunate to have five Barnsley Labour Councillors who were deeply committed to the work we do in supporting schools. The majority of them attended most of our meetings and in conjunction with our LA Clerk kept the LA abreast of the valuable work we do to support schools. We look forward to working with our recently elected Reform Councillors.

3. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship.

We monitor Collective Worship by scrutinising Ofsted reports, through conversations with teachers/local clergy/ministers and three SACRE members who participate in school Collective Acts of Worship. We publish clear advice on "Hosting speakers on School Premises" with a focus on safeguarding and indoctrination issues (please see Appendix C).

Teacher Training and Support

We are extremely fortunate to have the Community Outreach Officer for Wakefield Cathedral as a member of our SACRE. For the last few years, Mrs Gillian Bunn (an ex-Barnsley teacher) has supported many schools by leading/supporting Collective Acts of Worship. She also organises visits to Wakefield Cathedral and the ancient Chantry Chapel and runs a variety of workshops. Two other SACRE members who have recently increased their support for schools, particularly around Collective Worship, Imam Abdul Aziz (Barnsley Mosque) and Ms Debbie Roberts (Humanist U.K.) Contact details for all three are readily available to Barnsley Teachers.
Teacher training opportunities, including recommended materials/advice, are regularly circulated to schools.

Withdrawals - SACRE Advice

Advice concerning parental requests for pupil withdrawal from Collective Acts of Worship are treated sensitively but realistically as with Religious Education.

Advice to the LA

Our Councillors and Clerk advise the LA as necessary.

4. Links with other Bodies

The Barnsley SACRE is a member of NASACRE. In past years members have attended AGMs/conferences in London, Birmingham, York etc.

We have developed strong links with local bodies - for example: Leeds/Sheffield Diocese and local clergy, the Bradford Interfaith Centre (covering a number of World Religions), Wakefield Cathedral, Sheffield Buddhist Centre, Leeds Sinai Reform Synagogue, local Mosques, the James Hudson Taylor Group and recently the Gateway Church, Barnsley, where Pastors Mark Reasbeck and Alex Botos welcome people from all backgrounds and particularly those who have recently moved to Barnsley from many different countries.

Pastor Botos speaks Romanian and particularly welcomes Romanian families to Mottram Hall.

5. Governor training

Governor training on any area of the Barnsley Agreed Syllabus is always available on request either individually or to a group of members of a Governing Body.

Schools sensitively handle a multitude of issues, particularly those relating to the religious beliefs of pupils under their care. SACRE are always willing to give advice/support in this area.

6. Professional and Administrative Support

The Barnsley LA are extremely supportive of SACRE. We have a very helpful LA Clerk whose duties include preparing agenda, minutes, typing various documents, emails to schools etc. SACRE is also supported by a part-time adviser.

7. Membership

Membership and recruitment are always a high priority. We are currently seeking new members for Group A (Christian and other religious denominations,) Group B (Church of England) and Group C (Teachers) Please see Appendix D.

8. Finance

Requests for finance to support the work of SACRE are always treated fairly within LA budget restraints.

The Farmington Institute

During the last few years SACRE has sent out numerous items of information about the Farmington institute and its award scheme for teachers of Religious Education.
The scheme was first conceived by Grenadier Guard Honourable Robert Wills during the Second World War. After the war the Farmington Institute established regional R.E. centres throughout the country and ran many conferences for R.E. teachers.

Farmington Scholarship

- Every year Farmington supports around 30 primary and secondary teachers working in R.E. or related subjects such as philosophy, moral and ethical education. Each teacher receives up to 30 days out of the classroom to pursue their own project.
- New scholars attend an induction day and take part in the Annual Conference before beginning their scholarship. At the end of their year, they present their research at the Conference as well as at their own school to colleagues, governors and the wider community.
- Applicants must secure the written support of their headteacher and have worked at their current school for at least two years before starting the scholarship. It is also possible to do a joint application from two or more teachers on the same project even from different schools.

I am delighted to be able to report to you that during the last academic year Yvette Cooper from Tankersley St Peter's school has successfully completed her Farmington Scholarship and was awarded a certificate at Harris Manchester College-University of Oxford at the end of June 2025. Yvette's research during the year featured a very interesting topic on Global Christianity. The award financed Supply Teacher cover for 25 days, which allowed Yvette time for research and reflection.
Yvette is the first Barnsley Teacher to become a Farmington Scholar, and I am sure we are all very proud of her achievement.
If you would like more information on a Farmington Institute Scholarship, please email: Sacre@barnsley.gov.uk



Developing substantive knowledge

Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

Research and analysis
Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report
Published 17 April 2024

Developing Understanding of Local Christian History through Volunteering at Sheffield Cathedral



The Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul
built between 1200 - 1966
originally a parish church, elevated to Cathedral status in 1914



stained glass windows



Brian Fell
Sheffield Steel Nativity



Lorna May Wadworth - Last Supper
12 foot charcoal preparatory drawing

Introducing disciplinary knowledge characters



Developing spirituality

THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD

Spirituality

- Beliefs for life
- Understanding others
- Joy, wonder and fascination
- Using our imagination and being creative
- Reflecting on life and experiences



Sheffield Pilgrimage with the Archbishop of York











Tankersley St Peter's C of E Primary School - Performing with the school worship band for visitors





Worsbrough Common Primary School – Learning about different religious celebrations.









BARNSLEY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONSTITUTION

1 Status

1.1 Under Section 390 of the Education Act 1996, the LA has a duty to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). The Constitution may be amended at the discretion of the Local Authority.

2 The function of SACRE

2.1 A SACRE's main function is 'to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus'**. (Education Act 1996, section 391)**

2.2 **A SACRE must:**

- ❖ consider 'applications for a determination of cases in which the requirement for Christian worship is not to apply'.
  (refer Appendix 1)

- ❖ consider the agreed syllabus and if deemed necessary require the authority to carry out a review.
  (refer Appendix 2)

- ❖ publish an annual report on its work
  (refer Appendix 3)

2.3 The broad role of a SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and collective worship in schools. Each LA should work with its SACRE to review the existing provision of RE and consider with the SACRE whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools. Similarly, it should work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship and to consider any action which might be taken to improve such provision.

2.4 'An LA may decide on matters to refer to its SACRE, including in the methods of training, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training.'
Section 391 (1)(a), Education Act 1996, DCSF - Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010

3 Membership

3.1 The Council shall consist of members, appointed by the Authority to represent the following groups:

3.2 Such Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, reflect the principal religious traditions of the area (Committee A - up to 10 representatives).

3.3 The Church of England (Committee B - up to five representatives).

3.4 Such teachers' associations as in the opinion of the Authority ought to be represented (Committee C - up to five representatives).

3.5 The Local Authority (Committee D - up to five representatives).

3.6 The Standing Advisory Council may co-opt members on terms to be decided by the Council. Co-opted members will have no voting rights.

3.7 A member of the SACRE may be removed from membership by the Authority if that person is considered to no longer be representative of the group they are nominated to represent.

3.8 A member of the SACRE may resign from office at any time.

3.9 Members may be changed by the Authority nominating an alternative representative or by the represented body nominating an alternative representative for the approval of the Authority.

3.10 The composition of SACRE will be reviewed regularly to ensure that membership remains appropriate, representative and effective.

4 Attendance

4.1 If a member is unable to attend a meeting, apologies should be sent in advance to the Clerk to SACRE. The reason for absence should be stated. A decision regarding the acceptance or otherwise of the apology will be agreed at the meeting of SACRE and the outcome will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

4.2 If a member does not attend, or have any apologies accepted by the SACRE, for the period of one year they may be informed that their membership has ceased.

5 Chair

5.1 The Chair of SACRE and a Vice Chair shall be appointed by the Standing Advisory Council. Nominations will be requested prior to the annual election for these posts.

6 Voting

6.1 Barnsley SACRE has a distinctive ethos of co-operation and support, which underpins all aspects of its work and decision making. Where voting is required, the legal requirements as set out below will be followed.

6.2 In Business meetings voting follows the usual procedure of one vote per full member. However, on any question to be decided by the SACRE in an Agreed Syllabus Conference (usually held every five years), only the representative groups ie the LA, the teacher associations, the Church of England and the other faiths and denominations specified in Section 3 above, shall vote and each group shall have a single vote.

6.3 On the question of whether to require the Authority to review the local agreed syllabus only the three non-LA groups shall have a vote, and a majority vote shall carry the decision.

7 Meetings

7.1 The Standing Advisory Council is required to meet a least once per term. In Barnsley a business meeting will be held each term, and a regular programme of SACRE Development Meetings will take place. Any additional meetings may be held at the request of the LA.

7.2 Meetings shall be called by the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Families and/or Chief Executive of the Authority giving at least seven days' notice.

7.3 The Executive Director for Children, Young People and Families or representative shall be entitled to attend any meeting.

7.4 The quorum for any meeting shall be one quarter of the total membership.

7.5 The proceedings of the Standing Advisory Council are not invalidated on the grounds of a vacancy in the membership or on the ground that a representative member has ceased to be representative or to represent the denomination or association in question.

7.6 In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair from a meeting the Council shall elect a Chair from its number to Chair that single meeting.

Appendix 1

In accordance with section 394 of the Education Act 1996, SACRE shall receive applications from Headteachers of any community school maintained by the Authority, to consider whether the requirements imposed by paragraph 3 (2) of schedule 20 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 apply in the case of the school or in the case of any class or description of pupils at the school. The application shall be made in writing to the Chair of SACRE.

In its consideration the SACRE shall have regard to any circumstances relating to the family background of the pupils at the school, of the particular class or description in question, which are relevant for determining the character of collective worship appropriate in their case.

SACRE's decision shall be given in writing to the Headteacher.

Any determination shall be reviewed by SACRE:

- at any time on the application of the Headteacher.
- in any event not later than five years beginning with the date on which the determination first took effect or (when it has been reviewed under this paragraph) beginning with the effective date of the review.

Appendix 2

SACRE may by a majority vote of the representative groups other than the group representing the Authority, require the Authority to review the agreed syllabus for the time adopted by the Authority in accordance with Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996.

Appendix 3

SACRE shall prepare an annual report in accordance with section 391 (6) of the Education Act 1996 which shall in particular:

(a) specify the matters in respect of which SACRE has given advice to the Authority

(b) broadly describe the nature of the advice given

(c) where any such matter was not referred to SACRE by the Authority give the Council's reasons for giving advice on that matter

Wombwell Park Street Primary School

RE IN EARLY YEARS AT WOMBWELL PARK STREET PRIMARY

This term we will learn about the Christian festival of Christmas. We will learn the Christmas story and how it is celebrated. We will also learn about the Hindu festival of Diwali. We will learn the story of Rama and Sita and how Diwali is celebrated by communities in the UK and around the world.



Painting Rangoli Patterns



RE Learning in Y3 at Park Street

In Team CB, we have made a really positive start to our RE learning. During Autumn, our focus is on Christianity. So far as a class we have recapped what existing knowledge we have of the faith and started to explore the idea of the Church being a special place for Christians. We spent time looking at some features you would find within a Church, before heading to St Mary's where we located these items and learnt more about this history of the church and its significance to Christians. We produced some detailed sketches of features within the church.



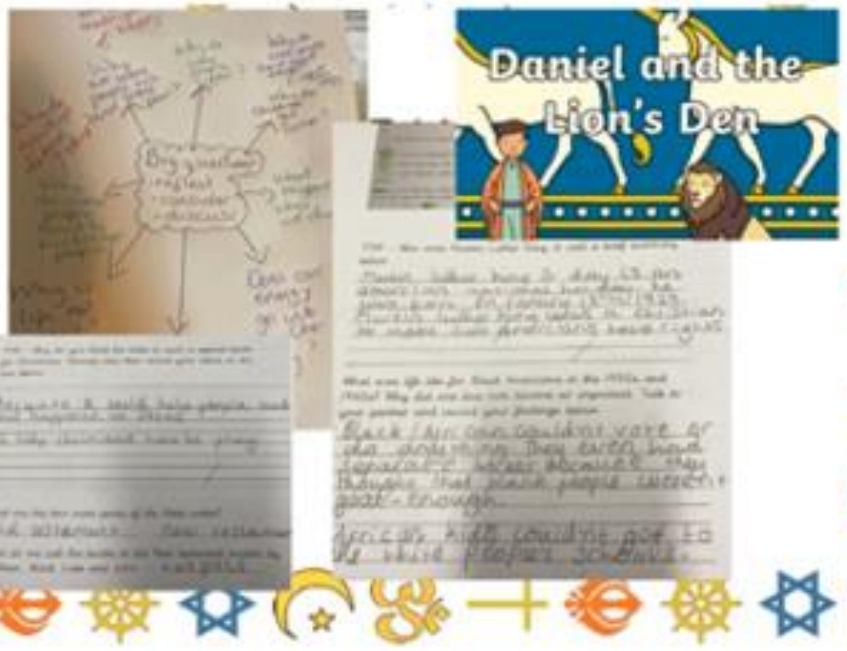






RE in Y6 at Park Street Primary

In Year 6 we have been focusing on learning about Christianity. We have been finding out why the bible is so important to Christians. We have learnt that there is an old testament and a new testament. We also learnt about the Lindisfarne gospels. We enjoyed reading the story of Daniel in the lion's den and contemplated on what could be learnt from this story. We have also explored Martin Luther King Jr's importance to Christians and why his 'I have a dream' speech was so powerful. We have enjoyed asking and considering some 'big questions'



Tankersley St Peter's C of E Primary School – celebrating different religious events







Appendix B

Visits to Support Religious Education

Visits to places of worship are an integral part of a pupil's spiritual development. They bring a sense of wonder into their lives.

These visits form a crucial part of the citizenship/PSHE curriculum. They give pupils an insight into how religion affects them, their family, community and culture.

During the last few years SACRE has arranged visits to various places of worship. We have involved teachers from all key stages, as well as SACRE members. After each visit, we ask people to give feedback. We also ask people to let us know about visits they feel are of high quality and would benefit other pupils.

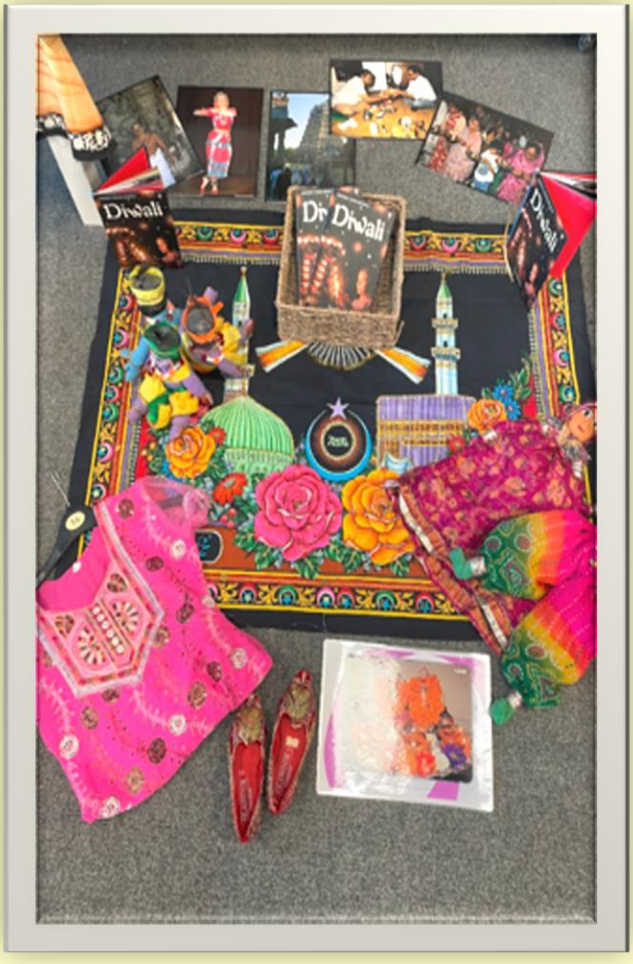
SACRE recommended visits

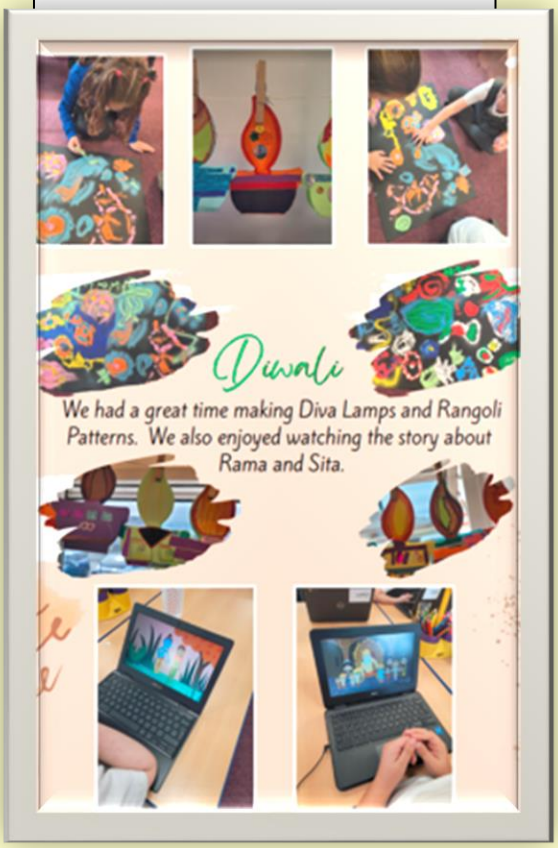
Place	Faith	Description	Contact
Wakefield Cathedral	Christian/Anglican	Workshops for Early Years to Key Stage 4 Highly recommended. Age range: all.	gillian.bunn@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk (01924) 373923
Wakefield Chantry Chapel	Christian/Anglican	14th century chapel with stained glass windows and crypt. Topic sessions for school parties.	gillian.bunn@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk (01924) 373923
Sheffield Cathedral Church Street, Sheffield S1 1HA	Christian/Anglican	Interesting building with classic architecture. North Chapel has a military theme. Free information leaflets including children's trail. Very knowledgeable and experienced guides.	Sheffield Cathedral school visits
Barnsley Mosque Dodworth Road, Barnsley S70 6PB	Muslim	Barnsley Mosque is a converted bungalow. Imam Abdul Aziz is keen to develop links with local schools and will visit schools on request. Age range: all.	aaziz80@hotmail.co.uk (0114) 3220802
Wakefield Central Mosque South Street, East Moor, Wakefield, WF1 4PG	Muslim	Modern, purpose-built mosque and mosque school behind Kirkgate train station. Great venue for studying Islam.	wcjmasjid@hotmail.com (01924) 364753
Jamia Masjid Swafia Swafia Mosque	Muslim	Modern mosque and mosque school. Great venue for studying Islam	info@swafia.org.uk (01924) 291731

Place	Faith	Description	Contact
Park Hill Lane Wakefield, WF1 4NJ			
Sheffield Grand Mosque. Grimesthorpe Road Sheffield, S4 8DE	Muslim	Recently constructed – magnificent Islamic architecture and design. Prayer halls for both men and women. Mosque School	aaziz80@hotmail.co.uk (0114) 3220802
Shree Laxmi Narayan Mandir 321 Leeds Road, Bradford BD3 9LS	Hindu	Very interesting speaker. Awe-inspiring prayer room. Age range: all.	interfaith@bradford.gov.uk (01274) 439382 or 07582 100619
Singh Sabha Gurdwara 10 Grant Street, Bradford BD3 9HD	Sikh	Very interesting speaker. Suitable for all ages. Interesting religious artefacts. Age range: all.	interfaith@bradford.gov.uk (01274) 439382 or 07582 100619
Sheffield Buddhist Centre Howard Road, Walkley, Sheffield S6 3RT	Buddhist	A good centre to study Buddhism. Age range: all.	Still.learning.sbc@gmail.com (0114) 234 9994
Kilnwick Percy Hall Buddhist Centre Pocklington, York YO42 1UF	Buddhist	Grade 2 listed Georgian House. 50 acres of garden, woodland, lake and parkland. Stunning ballroom (meditation room). A good centre to study Buddhism. Age range; Secondary students.	info@madhyamaka.org (01759) 304832
Sheffield Jewish Centre United Synagogue, 3 Brincliffe Crescent, Sheffield S11 9AW	Jewish	Modern mainstream Orthodox Synagogue. Has an ark and scrolls to view. Age range; Secondary students.	office@unitedsynagogueshe ffield.co.uk (0114) 258 8855
Sinai Synagogue 37 Roman Avenue, Leeds, LS8 2AN	Jewish	Modern Reform Synagogue. A visit lasts about one and a half hours. It includes viewing a torah and learning about how it is made. Donation of £15 per visit. Age range: all, primary upwards.	caroladams499@gmail.com (0113) 266 5256



Shafton Primary School - learning about the Christingle celebration and Diwali





Shafton Primary School – learning about Diwali







Hosting Speakers on School Premises

Through hosting external speakers, schools provide a safe space for students to engage with a variety of issues and hear and debate different perspectives. Schools have a responsibility to ensure that the people they invite to speak are suitable and that all safeguarding procedures are followed. When inviting speakers, schools are reminded of the following:

- **Keeping children safe in education** is statutory guidance that all schools must have regard to when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. When inviting speakers, schools should be conscious of the safeguarding requirements in the guidance.

- The statutory guidance on the **Prevent duty** makes clear that as part of their safeguarding policies, schools should set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers- whether invited by staff or pupils themselves are suitably and appropriately supervised.

- The Department for Education has issued **advice to independent schools** (including academies and free schools) on improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils which states that: schools should consider 'vetting' visiting speakers if they may hold views which are inconsistent with the requirements of any part of the SMSC standard, and if still used ensure that the content of their presentation is agreed beforehand.

- The Ofsted guidance for inspectors on **safeguarding** states that 'inspectors should also check the setting's policy and procedures for ensuring that visitors to the school are suitable, checked and monitored as appropriate, for example, external speakers at school assemblies.'

- All schools are subject to requirements to **forbid political indoctrination** and secure a balanced treatment of political issues. This extends to extra- curricular activities which are provided or organised for registered pupils at the school by or on behalf of the school.[1]

- Schools which are charities should have regard to guidance from the **Charity Commission** which includes some examples of steps that trustees can take to help them manage the risk around hosting speakers. Other schools may find it helpful to refer to these general principles.

- **Teaching misconduct guidance** states that staff are likely to face prohibition if they deliberately allow exposure of pupils to such actions that undermine fundamental British values including promoting political or religious extremism by inviting individuals to speak in schools.

1 Section 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 and standard 5c of the Independent School Standards.

Schools play an important role within the community and will often let their premises to external organisations. This can also be a means of generating additional income

for the benefit of the school. The following principles apply in relation both to speakers visiting during normal school hours and to organisations and individuals using the premises outside school hours.

- Schools are encouraged to consider having a policy on hosting speakers which includes hosting during school hours and outside of school hours. Having a policy allows schools to set their own standard on hosting speakers beyond the minimum requirements set out in the advice and guidance referred to above and might make clear, for example, that the school will only let its premises to organisations and individuals whose conduct is in accordance with the ethos of the school. It might ask speakers to sign up to a particular code of conduct before permission is given to use the venue. Having a formal policy in place can also make it easier for a school to justify refusing to host a particular organisation or individual about which there are concerns. Similar considerations may apply to hosting speakers outside of school hours as during school hours if students are likely to attend these events.

- Schools that are under a duty to promote community cohesion must be satisfied that any speakers they invite will not undermine that duty.

- Schools should be mindful of the way in which their land is held, and who holds it, as this may in some cases limit or prohibit land being used for certain products.

- Schools must ensure, in making any decisions about whether to host an external speaker, that they comply with the public sector equality duty and that they are not discriminating by reference to protected characteristics.

Schools which outsource their letting arrangements to a third party are advised to ensure that the third party carries out vetting in line with the schools' policy and any guidance from government.

Practical Guidance:

When hosting a speaker (either during or outside of school hours), schools may wish to consider carrying out the following research before agreeing to host:

- The topic of the event (including the purpose of the speakers visit and the appropriateness for the audience).

- The speaker's reputation and who may be prompted to attend, particularly whether the speaker or members from the organisation they represent have a reputation for causing disruption at venues.

- Any risks to the school's reputation and ethos.

- The status of the speaker, including their previous comments, by carrying out checks on internet search engines and across social media sites. When carrying out internet searches, it is good practice to look beyond the first page of results.

- Whether you consider there to be potential for speakers to use language intended to stir up hatred or incite violence.

- The views of the community safety team/ local police /LA Prevent coordinator if you have any concerns.

- Schools should consider these steps for every event that they host.

For more information:

The equalities guidance for schools contains advice on ensuring that the public sector equalities duty is fulfilled (See chapter 5).

Appendix D

SACRE Membership

These are the current members of SACRE (as at October 2026):

Group A

Christian and other religious denominations to reflect the principle religious traditions in the area (10 Places)

- Imam Abdul Aziz (Barnsley Mosque)
- Mrs Linda Stammers (Methodist)
- Ms Debbie Roberts (Humanist UK)
- Pastor Mark Reasbeck (Barnsley Gateway Church)
- Ms. Hannah Bunn (Quakers)

Group B

Church of England (5 Places)

- Mrs Jo Wiles (Chair) (Leeds Diocese)
- Mrs Gillian Bunn (Leeds Diocese)
- Mrs Nina Platts (Leeds Diocese)
- Mrs Carol Turner (Leeds Diocese)

Group C

Teaching Association (5 Places)

- Miss Jill Woollands (NEU)
- Mrs Sarah Lees (Vice Chair) (NEU)
- Mrs Rosie Needham (NEU)
- Mrs Yvette Cooper (NEU)

Group D

LA Representatives (5 Places)

- Councillor Theresa Arnold
- Councillor Betty Barnes
- Councillor Luca Turner
- Councillor Liam Hardcastle
- Councillor Neil Young

Adviser Mr. Roger Holmes

Clerk Mrs. Ella Cooper

Appendix E

USEFUL INFORMATION

During the last few years, we have produced a number of useful documents / information, some of which can now be found on the Barnsley SACRE Website. These include:

a) The James Hudson Taylor Trail – a walking trail around the centre of Barnsley for school children, taking approximately 1.5 hours. On the website this is incorporated as part of the : Barnsley RE Trail and includes details of the central Barnsley Chrisitan Churches.
Contact details: Pastor Mark Reasbeck – Gateway Church
mreasbeck@btinternet.com

b) "Visits to support religious education." has been recently updated. A copy is included in this Annual Report and on the SACRE website. SACRE Report

c) On the Website, under the heading of SACRE Documents we include:

   i. Annual reports,
   ii. the Barnsley SACRE Constitution,
   iii. KS4 results from the previous academic year.

d) Visits to Wakefield Cathedral.

   A wide variety of workshops available led by Gillian Bunn, a qualified teacher and the Community Outreach Officer at Wakefield Cathedral. She offers to lead free, Acts of Collective Workshop in schools.
   Contact details: - gillian.bunn@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk
   Telephone: - (01924) 373923

e) Bradford Interfaith Centre

   A very good centre for organising various faith visits. Information and contact details: interfaith@bradford.gov.uk

f) Yorkshire Humber RE Hubs

   CPD opportunities for RE Subject Leaders. Information and contact details: -
   Website:- www.re-hubs.uk email: Yorkshire-humber@re-hubs.uk

g) Non – religious world views – Humanist education@humanist.uk (including a teachers' page with CPD opportunities, free online courses, assemblies for all and recommended books) BBC Bitesize – "What is Humanism?"
   Contact details: - Ms Debbie Roberts (Barnsley SACRE member)
   email: deborah.roberts@humanistceremonies.org.uk