
**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
ANNUAL SACRE REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22**

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Introduction

1. On behalf of Darlington SACRE we would again 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 Darlington during the past year.

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Overview

2. SACRE Members have met during the Academic Year 2021/22 on 22 November 2021, 21 March 2022 and 11 July 2022.
3. On 22 November 2021 Members received analysis of the 2020 Department for Education (DfE) School Workforce Census (previously circulated) reported by schools to the DfE as part of the school census in November 2020. It was noted that generally in schools RE Teachers were confident when teaching the subject; 50 per cent of schools were averagely resources and 42 per cent well resources; and only one school did not have more than one teacher teaching RE in their school. It was also noted that there had been positive results in exam uptake.
4. Members also received updated Survey Monkey results of the questionnaire circulated to all schools regarding use of the Darlington Locally Agreed Syllabus and the results of the questionnaire showed that 73.91 per cent of schools who answered currently use the Syllabus however 69.57 per cent expressed an opinion that the syllabus needed to be changed, confirming the decision to review the current Locally Agreed Syllabus in Darlington.
5. It was noted that 43.48 per cent of those schools that answered felt that the current Syllabus did not reflect the history of faith in our local community, in particular Darlington communities such as the Quakers and it was agreed that this be taken into consideration as a specific work unit in any future Syllabus.
6. On 21 March 2022 SACRE Members welcomed new appointments to vacant positions within the SACRE.
7. Members approved the Annual Report for 2020/21 academic year for submission to NASACRE and the Department for Education.

8. The Agreed Syllabus Conference met during this Academic Year on 6 September, 22 November 2021 and 21 March 2022 to review the current Locally Agreed Syllabus for religious education in Darlington.
9. At the meeting of the ASC held on 21 March 2022 representative Groups A, B, C and D unanimously approved Syllabus Option B from RE Today Services and was formally adopted by Cabinet at its meeting held on 14 June 2022.
10. At the meeting of SACRE on 11 July 2022 Members discussed the RE Council of England and Wales Draft Handbook entitled 'Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom: developing a Worldviews Approach' primarily written to assist those developing syllabuses and curriculum for religious education with a religion and worldviews approach.
11. The Chair advised SACRE that other documents were expected to come from the handbook and that this will be an ongoing focus for SACRE.
12. We discussed in particular demographical data and the rise of non-religiousness and the definition of having no religion and the study of 'non religion' as an increasing scholarly field of part of the school study of religion.
13. Members also discussed the Still Standing Report on future directions for SACRE's, a report on the joint Religious Education Council (REC)/ National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) LAN Pilot Project 2020-21 November 2021.
14. It was agreed that a formal response be submitted following the meeting of SACRE in November 2022.

RE Statutory Responsibilities

15. This authority is a Member of NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) and the Clerk continues to circulate information from NASACRE and any other relevant organisations to the RE Leads in all primary and secondary schools within the Borough of Darlington.
16. It is a duty of SACRE to monitor the provision of RE within our schools and the data for teaching hours of RE provision taught in Darlington schools from the workforce census which took place in November 2021 is shown in **Appendix 1**.
17. At the meeting of SACRE in July 2022 we received for information the media release in respect of the 2022 RE Report Card which summarised the data review of performance of religious education by the RE Think RE organisation over a period of five years.
18. The Chair advised SACRE Members that there was a lot of ongoing work to raise the profile of religious education and that the data provided in the report card was very

positive, in particular that in the last decade the number of pupils in England entering a full GCSE RS Course had increased by 29.7 per cent, although there were still a number of schools in England breaking the law by not teaching RE.

SACRE's own arrangements (Statutory responsibilities)

19. The SACRE was advised by Anne Davison, SEND Inclusion Advisor from Children and Adult Services and supported by Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.
20. At the meeting held on 9 November 2020 Jenny Uzzell , National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers was appointed as Chair and Martin Stand, Church of England was appointed Vice-Chair for a period of three years from the date of appointment.
21. There is a legal requirement on all Local Authorities to establish a 'Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education' (SACRE). A SACRE's main duty is to advise the Local Authority on matters connected with the teaching of Religious Education and Collective Worship.
22. SACRE can advise the Authority to review its Agreed Syllabus and can recommend that particular teaching methods, materials and resources are considered for use in Religious Education.
23. A SACRE may also consider any application from Head Teachers that the requirement for Christian collective worship should not apply to a particular school or class of pupils within that school.
24. Darlington has only three Maintained primary schools, the remaining primary and secondary schools are either standalone Academies or Academies within a Multi Academy Trust; however there is a good proportion of the Borough's schools and academies using the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Membership of SACRE for Academic Year 2021/22

25. The membership of SACRE consists of four representative groups (or committees) and co-opted members. The membership below is the current Membership of SACRE.

Representing Darlington Borough Council

- Councillor Crudass (Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee)
- Councillor C Hughes (Labour Group Member)
- Councillor Curry (Liberal Democrat Group Member)
- Councillor Renton (Conservative Group) (Councillor Clarke until 25Nov21)

Representing Church of England

- Reverend P. Baker

- Martin Stand
- Beth Miller

Representing Other Faith Groups

- Rev Vicky Thompson, Darlington Baptist Church
- Morvyn Sanderson/Emma Walden, Methodist Church
- Helen Ellis, Roman Catholic
- Bhopinder Singh, Sikhism
- Dr. Chitra Kumari, Hindu Community
- Dr Quader, Islamic Society of Darlington
- Gen Chogma, The Atisha Kadampa Meditation Centre
- Mrs. M. Calderon, Religious Society of Friends
- Margaret Thomson, United Reformed Church
- Bess Robertson, Darlington Hebrew Congregation
- Jenny Uzzell, Paganism

Representing Teaching Associations

- Stuart Rawle, National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
- Fiona Rankin, National Association of School Teachers/Union of Women Teachers

Co-opted Members

- Mike Fryer
- Janet Mole, Humanist Society

26. Following any resignations from our SACRE Members we continue to appoint to any vacancies as soon as possible to ensure that our attendance at meetings is maximised.

Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

APPENDIX 1

School name	Religious character	Religious character															
		% year 7 hours - RE	% year 7 hours - philosophy	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - philosophy	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - philosophy	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - philosophy	% year 11 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - philosophy	% year 12 hours - RE	Year 13 hours - philosophy	% year 13 hours - RE	% year 13 hours - philosophy	% mixed hours - RE	% mixed hours - philosophy
St Aidan's Church of England Academy	Church of England	11.74	.	9.56	.	9.41	.	6.78	.	9.87	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hurworth School	None	1.75	.	3.32	.	3.11	.	2.74	.	2.75	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hummersknott Academy	Does not apply	0	.	0	.	0	.	2.11	.	2.11	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carmel College	Roman Catholic	9.49	.	8.63	.	11.9	.	8.48	.	8.8	.	3.16	.	2.61	.	.	.
Haughton Academy	Does not apply	0	.	0	.	0	.	1.17	.	1.08	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Polam Hall School	None	1.88	.	1.87	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wyvern Academy	None	4.81	.	4.22	.	3.83	.	0	.	3.45	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Longfield Academy	None	3.99	.	4.15	.	3.96	.	2.27	.	3.37	.	.	.	.	.	.	.