
DERBYSHIRE

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

2023 - 2024

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Foreword from our Chair

It is a pleasure to introduce you to the work of Derbyshire SACRE during 2023/24. I hope you find it a useful source of information of the many and varied tasks we carried out during the year and the state of Religious Education within Derbyshire.

SACRE met formally three times throughout the year at County Hall in Matlock. I am incredibly grateful to all of its members nominated by the wide range of different faiths and beliefs, the education community, our co-opted members and finally my fellow County Councillors for the commitment and engagement they have shown this year.

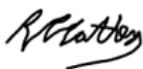
Our principal achievement has been the preparation of the Agreed Syllabus due for renewal in 2025. This is produced by RE today with updates to the previous syllabus to include progression in skills and substantive knowledge in the teaching of RE in schools across Derbyshire. SACRE will continue to have regard to [Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report - GOV.UK](#) published in April 2024 on the findings in the report over the teaching of RE across schools.

I also wish to continue to acknowledge the contribution made by the Open Centre, Derby, established in 1981 to promote understanding between different communities by celebrating and raising awareness of their faith and cultural heritage through personal experience. DDCSs continue to support the work of the Open Centre and look forward to the expanding role based upon its new online services.

The funding from Derbyshire County Council has enabled us to carry out our tasks for which we are most grateful. We could not have achieved what we have without the tireless work and support of the LA officer, Steve Ford, who retired in April 2024.

Cllr Robert Flatley

Chairman of Derbyshire Standing
Advisory Council on Religious
Education



Overview of the work of SACRE

Since 1988, each Local Authority (LA) has been required by law to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

The remit of a SACRE is principally to oversee the Religious Education (RE) and collective worship within the authority principally to:

- Advise Derbyshire County Council upon matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship in community schools and in foundation schools which do not have a religious character. Religious Education in these schools is to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus
- Advise Derbyshire County Council on teaching methods, choice of materials and teacher training in Religious Education and Collective Worship.
- Require Derbyshire County Council to review the locally agreed syllabus for religious education at least every five years.

The reporting period of the 2022-2023 report starts from September 1 2023 and runs to August 31 2024.

SACRE met on two occasions during the academic year 2023 – 2024.

13 November 2023, face to face at County Hall, Matlock.

1 July 2024, face to face at County Hall, Matlock.

All meetings were quorate and minutes for these meetings are available on the Derbyshire County Council website (these can be found at [Browse meetings - Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education - Derbyshire County Council](#)).

Standing items in meetings:

Apologies for absence

New or substitute members

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Declarations of interest

Additional items in meetings:

13 November 2023

Broken Instruments – Feedback – performance in Wirksworth

Presentation on Windrush

Agreed Syllabus 2025

1 July 2024

Agreed Syllabus 2025

SACRE Development

Section 2: Religious Education

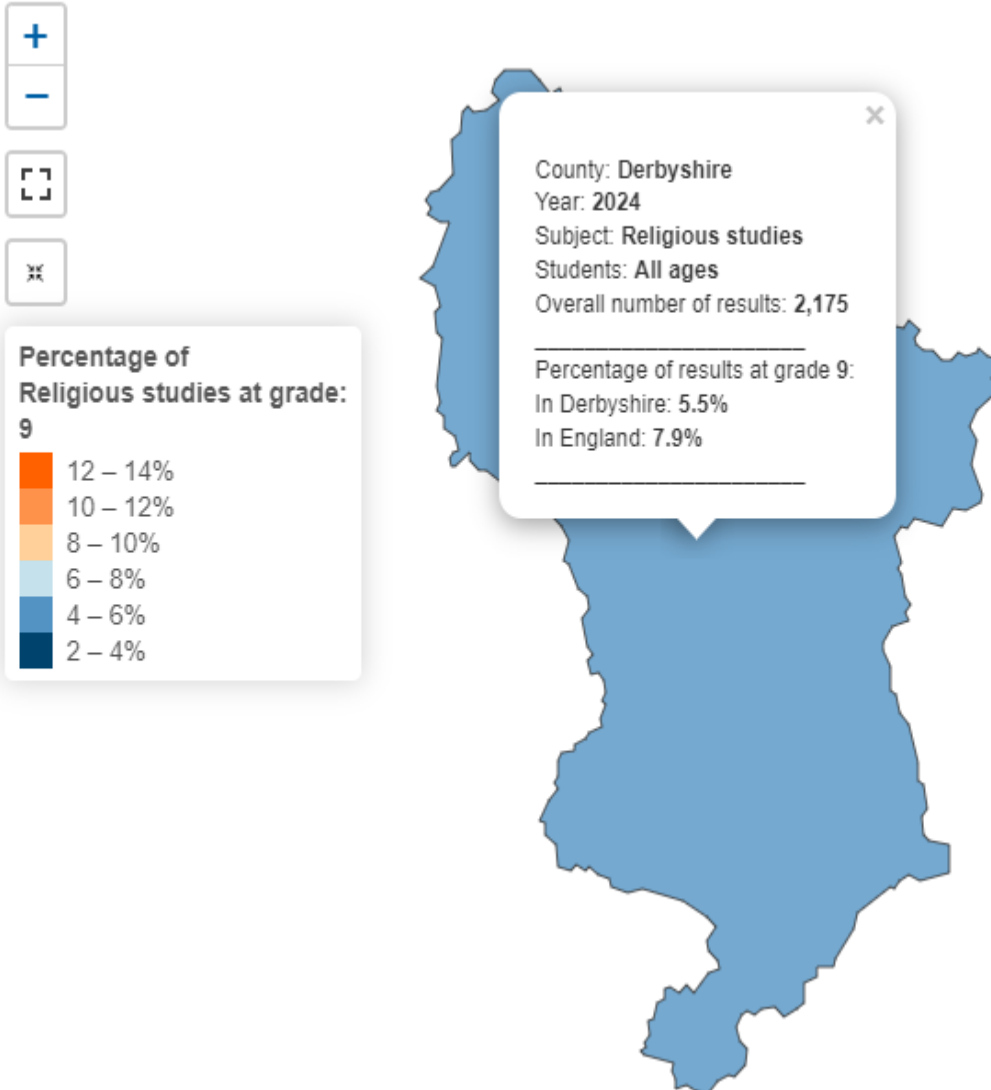
The Locally Agreed Syllabus and RE in schools

RE is not part of the national curriculum. Each LA is required to produce an agreed syllabus for RE. Each LA is required to begin reviewing the current agreed syllabus within five years of its production. The agreed syllabus for Derbyshire County Council runs from 2020 – 2025. This academic year saw the beginnings of the review of the agreed syllabus through the formation of an agreed syllabus conference so that a new syllabus was available to schools for first teaching from 1st September 2025.

Standards and monitoring of RE

A key element of the work of Derbyshire County Council SACRE is to monitor the standards of religious education in schools. Within this the GCSE and A Level data for pupils undertaking a recognised qualification in Religious Studies is presented to the SACRE as unvalidated data in the year of the examinations and validated data for the preceding year. The results for these are included in the annual report of the Derbyshire SACRE.

Derbyshire County Council unvalidated GCSE RS data (2024)



Derbyshire County Council validated GCSE RS data 2023

School	GCSE Grade											Total RS Entries	% 4-9	% 5-9	Not Entered	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U	X					
Derbyshire Average	70	128	226	172	230	250	150	125	62	22	0	1435	68.9%	56.9%	6361	7796
England All students	9704	17639	29940	24181	31214	37072	27142	24210	18183	3509	1469	224464	72.2%	61.4%		

Derbyshire County Council validated A level RS data 2023

School	A Level Grade							% A*-A Grade	% A*-C Grades	No Entered for RS	No Entry	Grand Total
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U					
Grand Total	1	15	34	39	17	10	7	13.0%	72.4%	123	2251	2345
England All students	900	2899	4334	3440	1913	839	285	25.9%	78.8%	14683		
England All state-funded students	515	2008	3505	3086	1795	810	272	20.9%	75.6%	12060		

Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about RE during the year.

Advice given to the Local Authority

Advice was given to the local authority around the development of the agreed syllabus.

Section 3: Collective worship

Determinations

No determinations were sought by schools in Derbyshire during the academic year 2023 – 2024.

Teacher training provided

No training was provided on Collective Worship in the period of this report.

Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about collective worship during the year covered by this report.

Advice to the Local Authority

No advice was given to Derbyshire County Council during the year covered by this report.

Section 4: Links with other bodies

National Bodies

SACRE are pleased to be linked with national bodies and receive national updates from Steve Ford, the LA Officer for SACRE who retired during the year covered by this report.

Derbyshire County Council SACRE has links with NASACRE and has received feedback from the NASACRE annual conference. It regularly utilises NASACRE's self-evaluation toolkit.

Information from NATRE and the REC has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.

SACRE members regularly attend NASACRE webinars.

Local bodies

Derby Diocese provide excellent support to SACRE through committee B.

Local places of worship are well represented on SACRE.

Section 5: SACRE involvement in the Local Area

Governor and head teacher links

Information is provided to schools in Derbyshire concerning religious education through the Education improvement Service team [Education Improvement Service | Derbyshire Services for Schools](#) and the Governor Support Team [Governor Support | Derbyshire Services for Schools](#)

Section 6: Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority (LA)

Professional and administrative support

During the reporting period, clerking of SACRE was undertaken by Ivan Walters, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Corporate Services & Transformation.

The Local Authority provided funding to support SACRE activity 2023 - 2024 by providing employee support and time to attend meetings, to provide the meeting facilities and chairing services of such meetings.

Steve Ford from Derbyshire County Council held responsibility for SACRE support and this role has now passed to Catherine Harris, Senior Adviser for School Improvement.

Membership

The table provided below demonstrates the composition of Derbyshire County Council SACRE.

Committee A	13 th November	1 st July
N Hoskin Stone	X	X
I Newberry	X	X
Committee B		
N O'Callaghan	X	X
Committee C		
P Crowe		X
D Hammond		X
D Well		X
D Allen	X	
Committee D		
Councillor C Dale	X	X
Councillor R Flatley	X	X
Councillor S Swann	X	X
In Attendance		
S Ford	X	
K Wild	X	
S Gee	X	
M Higton	X	
I Walters	X	X
M Sharma		X
I Nicholson		X

Finance

The LA allocated Ivan Walters for support to SACRE for the work of the SACRE, which included the clerking of the meeting.

Appendix A:

Unvalidated Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Exam Data, Summer 2024

GCSE

Schools	GCSE Grade											Total RS Entries	% 4-9	% 5-9	Not Entered	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U	X					
Derbyshire Average	94	144	211	134	170	196	133	106	61	38	0	1287	62.2%	51.7%	6869	8156
England All students	10897	17991	28441	23588	31392	37204	27232	24365	18149	4303	1383	224945	72.0%	61.5%		

A level 2024

School	A Level Grade							% A*-A Grade	% A*-C Grades	No Entered for RS	No Entry	Grand Total
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U					
Grand Total	3	9	24	28	14	14	2	12.8%	68.1%	94	2251	2345
England All students	890	2844	4154	3389	2015	839	268	25.8%	77.9%	14477		
England All state-funded students	520	2010	3359	3010	1890	796	263	21.2%	74.7%	11915		

Appendix B:

Circulation of the Annual Report

The Derbyshire County Council Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report will be:

- Provided, via e-mail, to all SACRE Members
- Provided, via e-mail, to the Department for Education
- Provided, via e-mail, to NASACRE
- Published on the Local Authority website