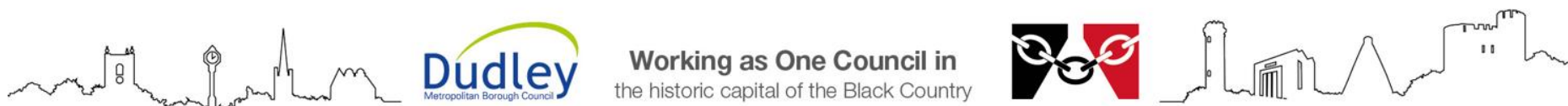


Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Standing Advisory Committee on Religions Education (SACRE)

Annual Report 2024-25 “A year of reflection, change and renewal”



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1. The work of SACRE in Dudley

1.1 Co-Chairs' Introduction to the 2024-25 Report

We took over as joint chairs of Dudley SACRE last year, at the same time as the Local Authority's financial restrictions meant the contract of our long serving RE advisor was not renewed.

During this year we have reviewed and rewritten our constitution, revised working arrangements with our Local Authority representatives, and made a concerted effort to recruit new members.

We have supported and monitored the introduction of our new Agreed Syllabus into Dudley maintained schools through the establishment of RE teacher groups from whom we receive reports at SACRE meetings.

We have also established closer links with NASACRE, the National Association of SACREs, to inform and support us in our ongoing work to promote and monitor high quality RE teaching and collective worship in Dudley schools.

In reviewing our year's work, we would like to offer a warm welcome to new members and thank existing and former members for their commitment to the work of SACRE. Particularly, we would like to publicly acknowledge the many years of dedicated support given to SACRE by Dilwyn Hunt, our former RE advisor, and Jo Moules, our retiring LA advisor, and thank them for the time, effort and expertise devoted to Dudley SACRE over many years.

Denis Cody & Harvey Woolf

1.2 Membership

Name	Representing	Constitutional Group
Mr. D. Cody	Catholic Community	A
Mr. H. Woolf	Jewish Community	A
Pastor H. James	Christian non-conformist/Free Church Communities	A
Rev. E. Mills [^]	Christian non-conformist/Free Church	A
Vacancy	Christian non-conformist/Free Church Communities	A
Vacancy	Christian non-conformist/Free Church Communities	A
Mr. R. Patel	Hindu Community	A
Mr. S. Saleem [*]	Muslim Community	A
Ms. E. Van Geyte [*]	Humanist Community	A
Vacancy	Buddhist Community	A
Vacancy	Sikh Community	A
Ms. M. Harris	Church of England	B
Rev D. Hutchinson	Church of England	B
Vacancy	Church of England	B
Vacancy	Church of England	B
Mr D. Clewes [*]	Teachers	C
Ms. K. Rani	Teachers	C
Vacancy	Teachers	C
Vacancy	Teachers	C
Vacancy	Teachers	C
Cllr W Little	Local Authority	D
Mr. M. Mynott [*]	Local Authority	D
Matthew Osborne	Local Authority	D
Cllr. S. Ridney [*]	Local Authority	D

[^] Resigned May 2025

^{*} From August 2025

1.3 Meetings Held

Date	Venue	Members in attendance	Membership
17 th October 2024	MS Teams	7	9
3 rd April 2025	MS Teams	5	9
5 th June 2025	Summerhill School	5	8

1.4 Summary of main items of discussion and development

As described in the Co-Chairs' Introduction above, 2024-25 has been a year of reflection, change and renewal. The main areas for discussion in the 2024-25 meetings were:

- Changing support for SACRE from the Local Authority
- Appointment of Co-Chairs in 2024
- Need to review the constitution
- Recruitment of members
- National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) membership

1.5 Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

There was no ASC meeting as the new Agreed Syllabus was ratified on 18th July 2023 and it has just completed its first full academic year of implementation.

1.6 Renewal of the Constitution

Time has been taken to renew the SACRE Constitution for Dudley. This was done to better reflect the most recent census data (2021) on the main religious groups among the population of Dudley. The new constitution was ratified by the Local Authority in April 2025.

The membership of SACRE now has the following structure:

Group A	Christian and other religious denominations Eleven (11) members representative of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buddhist Community - One• Christian non-conformist/Free Church Communities – Four• Hindu Community – One• Humanist Community - One• Jewish Community – One• Muslim Community – One• Roman Catholic Community – One• Sikh Community – One
Group B	The Church of England Four (4) representatives
Group C	Teachers Five (5) representatives
Group D	The Local Authority Four (4) representatives

1.7 Recruitment of new members

Since the renewal of the constitution there have been renewed efforts to secure representatives for groups where membership or attendance at meetings has lapsed. New members have been secured for the Church of England, the Humanist Community, the Muslim community and for Teacher and Local Authority representatives.

We continue to seek representatives from the Buddhist and Sikh Communities and to fill the remaining vacancies.

2. Religious Education Outcomes for Children and Young People in Public Examinations

Abbreviation used in the tables below	Meaning
Avg Pts	Average Points (the average grade achieved)
Est. No.	Establishment Number
LA	Local Authority
NOE	Number of entries
NOR	Number on roll
QAN	Qualification Accreditation Number
U grade	Ungraded/Unclassified (did not meet the minimum standard)
X grade	No result Issued (normally an absence)

2.1 GCSE Outcomes

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60184000

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	105850	6.9	10.2	12.0	17.0	14.2	10.4	13.4	8.3	4.8	2.2	0.6	60.3	70.7	97.2	5.0
-	LA (State Funded)	3582	568	3.3	9.3	13.6	14.6	14.1	10.9	12.9	13.4	5.5	1.2	1.2	54.9	65.8	97.5	4.7
5403	Beacon Hill Academy	205	1	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.0
5401	Ellowes Hall Sports College	208	13	-	-	-	15.4	30.8	15.4	30.8	7.7	-	-	-	46.2	61.5	100.0	4.2
5402	Kingswinford Academy	178	28	3.6	7.1	14.3	21.4	10.7	7.1	7.1	17.9	7.1	-	3.6	57.1	64.3	96.4	4.6
4110	Leasowes High School	210	21	9.5	14.3	28.6	14.3	19.0	4.8	-	4.8	-	-	4.8	85.7	90.5	95.2	6.1
5400	Old Swinford Hospital	88	20	-	30.0	25.0	10.0	20.0	5.0	10.0	-	-	-	-	85.0	90.0	100.0	6.3
5405	Pegasus Academy	118	1	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	100.0	100.0	4.0
4119	Redhill School	237	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	100.0	3.0
4121	Ridgewood High School	116	16	25.0	12.5	12.5	6.3	12.5	6.3	-	18.8	-	6.3	-	68.8	75.0	93.8	5.8
4000	The Crestwood School	202	43	2.3	14.0	14.0	23.3	14.0	9.3	4.7	16.3	2.3	-	-	67.4	76.7	100.0	5.3
4023	The Dormston School	227	216	2.8	5.6	11.6	7.9	11.1	11.1	16.7	20.8	8.3	1.9	2.3	38.9	50.0	95.8	4.0
4106	The Earls High School	235	95	2.1	6.3	10.5	16.8	17.9	15.8	12.6	8.4	9.5	-	-	53.7	69.5	100.0	4.6
4003	The Link Academy	177	21	9.5	23.8	19.0	14.3	9.5	14.3	9.5	-	-	-	-	76.2	90.5	100.0	6.3
4105	The Pedmore High School	126	17	-	17.6	11.8	11.8	29.4	-	17.6	5.9	5.9	-	-	70.6	70.6	100.0	5.1
4030	The Wordsley School	165	1	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	100.0	100.0	4.0
4001	Thorns Collegiate Academy	205	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	100.0	3.0
5404	Windsor High School and Sixth Form	266	73	1.4	11.0	17.8	28.8	11.0	9.6	11.0	6.8	-	2.7	-	69.9	79.5	97.3	5.4

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
4119	Redhill School	237	21	9.5	4.8	14.3	14.3	23.8	19.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	-	-	66.7	85.7	100.0	5.3
4020	Summerhill School	208	22	-	9.1	13.6	18.2	18.2	4.5	18.2	13.6	4.5	-	-	59.1	63.6	100.0	4.7
4030	The Wordsley School	165	19	-	10.5	-	5.3	21.1	10.5	21.1	21.1	10.5	-	-	36.8	47.4	100.0	3.8

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60300796

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	16650	6.7	9.8	11.7	15.5	14.4	11.6	13.2	8.9	5.8	2.1	0.4	58.0	69.6	97.5	4.9
-	LA (State Funded)	3582	143	2.8	6.3	9.8	18.9	21.7	13.3	15.4	7.7	3.5	0.7	-	59.4	72.7	99.3	4.8
4800	Bishop Milner Catholic College	149	143	2.8	6.3	9.8	18.9	21.7	13.3	15.4	7.7	3.5	0.7	-	59.4	72.7	99.3	4.8

Notes

The Wordsley School appears twice in the table, as two different examination boards/courses have been used by the centre; as it is a single entry it is most likely to be either a resit or a private entry.

Bishop Milner's results appear separately as the specification used by them has been accredited under a different QAN code.

2.2 GCSE Commentary

Nationally 19.5% of GCSE students take a qualification in Religious Education compared with Dudley, where 19.8% of students are entered.

The proportion of students entered in each school ranges from a single candidate in four schools to schools where almost all students are entered for the subject (Bishop Milner Catholic College and The Dormston School).

The proportion of Dudley students achieving the higher grades (9 to 5) is below the national average at 54.9% compared to a national figure of 60.3%. This difference is similar to the difference seen in other subject areas as Dudley generally has slightly lower percentages for GCSE outcomes when compared with national figures. For example, in Dudley in 2024, 40.8% of students achieved Grade 9 to 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to national figure of 46.2%.

2.3 A Level Outcomes

	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	Q	U	X
National (all entries)	14530	900	2880	4130	3380	2020	840	10	280	100
Examination Centre										
Bishop Milner Catholic College	2				1		1			
Dudley College of Technology	6		2		3	1				
Halesowen College	17	1	5	3	4	1	3			
King Edward VI College Stourbridge	43	4	8	8	12	7	3		1	
Old Swinford Hospital	16		1	6	2	5	2			
Windsor High School and Sixth Form	8			2	3	3				
Dudley	92	5	16	19	25	17	9	0	1	0
Percentage at each grade		5.4	17.2	20.4	26.9	18.3	9.7	0.0	1.1	0.0
National		6.2	19.8	28.4	23.3	13.9	5.8	0.1	1.9	0.7

2.4 A level Commentary

The majority of students study A levels at colleges in Dudley, rather than at a 6th Form within their school.

Most notable in the table above is the high numbers taking the subject at King Edward VI College Stourbridge. 43 students are in at least two classes, and their entry is not far short of half the total entries across Dudley. 12 out of the 21 very highest grades (A*-A) in Dudley were achieved by their students.

Old Swinford Hospital, an LA maintained school, also has a healthy number of entries in the subject.

3. RE Networking Activities

3.1 Primary and Secondary RE Networks ran for a number of years, supported by Dilwyn Hunt, the former consultant to SACRE. Attendances at these were modest but regular. With the change in arrangements for the LA support for SACRE these Networks are being reconstituted. They are being revitalised with support from LA officers and leading RE specialists from Primary and Secondary Schools. Two colleagues have been identified to support with this development, Katie Norwood from Bromley Hills Primary School and Krishna Rani from Summerhill School. Matthew Osborne, School Improvement Officer, is helping to support the Networks from the Local Authority. It is intended that the Network meetings will be held regularly in the future.

4. Determinations

4.1 In January 1994, the Department for Education (DfE) released Circular 1/94, which states that all maintained schools must provide 'daily collective worship for all registered pupils' and that this 'must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

It is acknowledged that this may not be appropriate for all pupils in all schools. Maintained schools under the control of their LA may, therefore, apply to the local SACRE for a 'determination' and Academies apply directly to the DfE. The determination lifts or modifies this requirement for some or all pupils, while safeguarding the interests of children from Christian families.

No requests for determination have been made to Dudley's SACRE in the period 2024-25.

5. Link to other bodies (NASACRE)

5.1 The Local Authority agreed to pay for full membership of NASACRE, which includes online training for SACRE members.

6. LA support for SACRE

6.1 Dudley is under significant financial pressures in relation to all budgets, but particularly those in Children's Services. For many years the LA appointed an external consultant as the support for SACRE. However, from April 2024 it was no longer possible to fund this role. The support for SACRE has therefore been taken on by LA staff. The LA continues to provide secretarial and clerking support.

7. Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS)

7.1 Ratification and introduction by maintained schools

Dudley's LAS was ratified in the Spring of 2023 at the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). It was approved by Dudley Council on 18th July 2023 and implemented by schools from September 2024.

7.2 Academies

Academies can choose to adopt the LAS if they wish.

8. Monitoring Activities

8.1 Delivery of the Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS)

Informal teacher feedback to SACRE has indicated a positive response to the new syllabus.

SACRE has started to look at the delivery of the LAS in some schools by hosting meetings at local schools to hear from the subject leads for RE and to consider some of the work done by Children and Young People (CYP). The first of these was hosted by Summerhill School on 5th June 2025. The meeting started with a visit to the department hosted by the Subject Lead, Krishna Rani. Members heard about the organisation of the subject, the delivery to CYP in KS3 and the examination work at KS4. It is intended to make further visits in 2025-26.

8.2 Standards of RE in schools

Alongside the examination outcomes included in this report SACRE has considered what evidence there is for standards in RE. Each meeting reviews information from Ofsted inspections and reports for the previous term. Information from this source, however, is very limited. There were no subject specific comments about RE in any of the Dudley reports for 2024-25. Even in a secondary school where a Deep Dive was undertaken in RE, no specific comment about RE made it through to the report itself. SACRE expressed its disappointment that Ofsted reports are not helpful in establishing standards in the subject.

8.3 Daily Collective Worship

As SACRE did not undertake monitoring of the delivery of Daily Collective Worship in 2024-25, this will be a focus of the 2025-26 Development Plan.

9. RE Quality Mark

The Religious Education Council's RE Quality Mark website suggests that schools in Dudley have not yet engaged with this award. Promotion of the award will be a focus for future SACRE/Network activities.

10. School Governor Training

There is currently no RE training in the School Governor Support Training Programme. However, discussions will be held with the relevant bodies for inclusion in future training programmes.

11. SACRE Development Plan

The following activities will be included in the new development plan:

- Securing representatives for unfilled vacancies as defined by the constitution
- Undertaking monitoring activities regarding: -
 - The implementation of the LAS in Maintained Schools
 - The delivery of the LAS
 - Standards in RE in schools
 - The adoption of the LAS in Academies
 - The frequency of daily collective worship across schools
- Promotion of the use of the RE Quality Mark
- Options for training Governors