

East Riding Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report

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Welcome to SACRE's Annual Report 2020-2021

The format for the annual report that East Riding SACRE is required to submit to the Department for Education each year has changed. You are warmly invited to share this report with your governing board, staff, parents, local places of worship and any other audience who may be interested in what SACREs – and in particular the East Riding SACRE – does. This is a publicly funded committee, receiving £5270 during the period of this report, to undertake all its activities.

The 2020-2021 academic year was extremely challenging for us all and in continuing to meet and support schools throughout this period, the East Riding SACRE played an important role. As we began to adjust to a 'new normal', technology was embraced and virtual meetings and training sessions became familiar to everyone. East Riding SACRE continued to meet, as did the Agreed Syllabus Conference (a committee set up to review the locally agreed syllabus). So, in spite of various lockdowns, work continued on developing what was to become the 2022 Agreed Syllabus for Religion and Worldviews.

Inevitably the pandemic curtailed some planned activities but East Riding SACRE did not stand still: members continued to meet and undertake their duties, working to meet the targets on the Development Plan as best they could.

A message from the current chair of SACRE, Martin Cox:

I served as Vice Chair through this period and would like to extend my thanks to Cllr Phil Davison as Chair. I am pleased that he has agreed to continue as a SACRE member going forward. He has overseen a period that has been unsettling for many in education but, as you will see from the notes above, SACRE has continued to meet online and more recently in a hybrid way, to rise to the challenges. Our thanks must go to the members and officers for their tenacity in making this happen especially with extra scheduled meetings leading up to the timely publication of the new agreed syllabus. I look forward to my term as Chair during which we will engage in self-evaluation in order to become increasingly effective as a SACRE.

SACRE Development Plan 2019 - 2021

This year was the second year of the development plan which has the following targets:

1. To review, update/rewrite the locally agreed syllabus and launch this and provide training for schools
2. To ensure all schools and governing boards understand the requirements for collective worship and know where to seek support should they need it
3. To establish a sustainable mechanism for monitoring provision and standards in RE and providing relevant support for RE subject leaders
4. to develop opportunities for pupils to gain a greater understanding of diversity, religions and worldviews
5. To maintain the higher profile of SACRE with schools, the council and the community

A copy of the plan can be found in Appendix A

SACRE Self-evaluation

There was no self-evaluation of SACRE during the period covered by this report.

SACRE meetings during 20/21

In spite of the pandemic, SACRE has met throughout with meetings being held either online or as a hybrid with a quorum of members meeting in person and others attending virtually. Online meetings have been broadcast live on Youtube to enable members of the public to attend.

	attendance	venue	Significant content
Autumn 2020 19 November 2020	15	Virtual via Youtube	<p>The Regional Ambassador to NATRE spoke to members about NATRE and its work in championing RE</p> <p>Support for schools during the pandemic outlined by LA officer – development plan target 3</p> <p>RE in secondary schools. Secondary RE network meetings established and funded by SACRE – development plan target 3</p> <p>Update on work of ASC given – LAS nearing completion – development plan target 3 & 4</p> <p>Update on SACRE development plan</p>
Spring 2021 9 March 2021	13	Remotely via Youtube	<p>RE update: pupils back in schools</p> <p>Training, funded by SACRE to be given to all schools around RE deep dives in spring term – development plan target 3 & 4</p> <p>Report on Hinduism in RE in UK Schools discussed</p> <p>Low uptake of students studying RE at A level discussed</p> <p>SACRE budget discussed</p> <p>Update on SACRE development plan</p>
Summer 2021 9 June 2021	12	County Hall, Beverley and live via Youtube	<p>NASACRE report on SACRE funding shared and discussed</p> <p>Ofsted Research Review on RE shared and discussed in terms of implications for schools – development plan target 3 & 4</p>

			Collective worship discussed – development plan target 2 Update on SACRE development plan
Summer 2021 8 July 2021	14 plus 6 members from Hull SACRE	County Hall, Beverley and live via Youtube	Joint meeting with Hull SACRE to ratify new LAS and agree to recommend to Hull and East Riding LAs for use in schools

Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings during 20/21 – development plan target 1, 4 & 5

The Agreed Syllabus Conference group continued to meet throughout the year as the commissioned authors progressed with drafting the reworked locally agreed syllabus

14 October 2020	Approx. 8	Remotely via Zoom	Second draft LAS considered Agreed to include Humanism as part of new LAS Agreed to provide more support for KS3
10 December 2020	8	Remotely via Teams	Draft KS3 units shared. Agreed support for KS4&5 Importance of glossary/vocabulary agreed Agreed needs to be a clear knowledge pathway for teachers to follow
20 January 2021	Approx. 8	Remotely via Zoom	Progress updates given
5 May 2021	Approx. 8		Progress updates given Launch event discussed
Summer 2021 8 July 2021	14 plus 6 members from Hull SACRE	County Hall, Beverley and live via Youtube	Joint meeting with Hull SACRE to ratify new LAS and agree to recommend to Hull and East Riding LAs for use in schools

Religious Education in Schools and Academies

In addition to the Agreed Syllabus Conference committee which developed the 2022 Agreed Syllabus for Religion and Worldviews, SACRE funded a number of training events for teachers to support them with teaching RE.

The pandemic made monitoring schools almost impossible. This is something which SACRE plan to focus on post-pandemic. During the period covered by this review, East Riding SACRE's main aim was to support schools. There was no exam data for the second year running and SACRE relied on feedback from well-attended termly network meetings and from the LA Officer who visited schools throughout the period along with other improvement advisers. Network meetings were free to schools through SACRE funding and this certainly helped to boost attendance.

Through the LA Officer, schools were signposted to training and resources from various different providers including the NATRE Curriculum Conversations which were very well received by school staff. A termly RE newsletter was established in summer 2021 and sent to all schools and academies.

No schools applied for the RE Quality Mark during this period.

The LA was advised about the requirements for teaching RE during a session led by the RE Officer and during the Children and Young Persons Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Collective Worship

There were no determinations during the period of this report.

The pandemic led to creativity galore in our schools and academies and great use was made of technology to ensure the requirements for collective worship were met. SACRE, through the LA Officer, ensured that all schools were clear about the requirements for collective worship. As pupils returned to school it was clear that some schools were using collective worship time to support pupils to catch up on missed work. Discussions with school leaders by the improvement adviser provided a reminder of the statutory requirements around collective worship. In reality, schools did a tremendous job, simply doing the best they could during an incredibly difficult period.

No complaints were received to SACRE in relation to collective worship.

Links with other bodies

SACRE is a member of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the chair, RE Consultant and LA Officer attended the 2021 Annual conference which was held virtually. SACRE members have attended training sessions held virtually in 2021. Links have also been made with the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and their Regional Ambassador, Oliva Seymour spoke to members this year about how NATRE can support teachers. Through termly newsletters to all schools and academies, teachers have been signposted to training sessions arranged in connection with NATRE and REToday. SACRE receives regular updates from the Hull and East Riding Interfaith group. Meetings have been suspended during the period of this report due to COVID-19 however the group has connections with a rich source of people from different faith communities and the links SACRE has with HERI have enabled some East Riding schools to host visitors from different religious and non-religious traditions.

The Holocaust memorial Day was remembered in individual school communities due to the pandemic. All schools were signposted to resources and encouraged to participate at an age appropriate level.

SACRE involvement locally

The local authority officer provides support to schools on behalf of SACRE throughout the year, visiting schools to support teachers and school leaders. Governor induction training has an element focused on the requirements of governors around RE and collective worship. This training is led by SACRE's LA officer.

SACRE's Statutory Responsibilities

A school improvement adviser is SACRE's LA officer and she works with school and academies across the East Riding providing advice and support. SACRE's RE Consultant also provides advice and support to some schools as well as to SACRE members. The East Riding SACRE has a professional clerk who is part of Democratic Services and throughout the period of this report, this team has

ensured that no SACRE meeting was missed or not available for members of the public to attend. This was an extraordinary achievement and something East Riding SACRE are proud of.

The LA Officer presents a report to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Children and Young Person Overview and Scrutiny Committee each year. This year SACRE requested additional funding to carry out its duties.

Membership of SACRE has increased and the LA officer has been active in seeking members which best represent the community. Training for new members is an area for development.

CPD provided to schools

The period of this report was a very challenging one for everyone, not least schools, who worked tirelessly to keep children, staff and their wider communities safe in addition to maintaining their focus on children's education. Training for schools was provided free of charge through termly network and training sessions led by LA officers and held virtually. These were very well received and it was agreed to continue these in the 2021-11 academic year.

Circulation Details for the Annual Report

Copies of this report are sent to all schools and academies in the East Riding of Yorkshire as well as the following organisations:

The Department for Education

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council

NASACRE

Hull and East Riding Interfaith group

Organisations representing faith communities across the East Riding

Appendices

Appendix A – SACRE Development Plan