

East Riding Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report

Welcome to SACRE's Annual Report 2022-2023

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 from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council during the period of this report, to undertake all its activities.

The 2022-2023 academic year was a busy year for the SACRE with 4 new elected members joining the committee. East Riding SACRE met four times during the academic year including one joint meeting with Hull SACRE at Hull Jame Masjid (Pearson Park Mosque, Hull).

This report outlines some of the many activities SACRE are involved in. Above all, our work is to benefit all the children of the East Riding.

Report from Martin Cox, Chair of East Riding SACRE

Our Religions and Worldviews conference was well attended and offered the chance for teachers to meet together, to ask questions and undertake training, in particular on the Hindu Dharma. I am so pleased that preparations are well underway to hold another conference this year as it clearly “scratched where people were itching”. Co-ordinating RE can be a lonely business and any way of meeting with other professionals is always welcome, but this also offered SACRE members the chance to meet those who deliver the subject to young people in our classrooms.

As LA Officer to SACRE, Lucy Jordan and I have met with councillors to explain in more detail the work of SACRE and to ask for further funding. This was discussed positively and the Scrutiny Committee asked in-depth questions of us both. This was, as I reported back to SACRE, refreshing to have elected members showing a keen interest in our work. We await further decisions regarding funding for the next financial year, hopefully in line with national guidelines.

My thanks as always go to the Lucy, for guiding the Committee through this year, helping us to review the development plan and to plan ahead. In particular, I would like to thank her for offering training opportunities before each SACRE meeting and for meeting with new members to help them understand their role. She has also arranged visits to schools to ensure SACRE members gain a better understanding of the current teaching of RE in schools.

Our Development Plan will allow us to take account of advice from the National Association of SACREs regarding Collective Worship, to consider its rationale going forward and to gain a picture of how this is tackled across the East Riding at both Primary and Secondary levels. A sub-group of members has begun to meet to consider the way forward and to report back to full SACRE.

I look forward to another busy year ahead and thank all those who serve on this important body for their time and commitment.

SACRE Development Plan 2019 - 2021

The development plan was extended due to the impact of COVID until September 2023 and reviewed during the period covered by this report. Everything that could be completed was, thanks to the work of SACRE and its members:

1. To review, update/rewrite the locally agreed syllabus and launch this and provide training for schools - completed

2. To ensure all schools and governing boards understand the requirements for collective worship and know where to seek support should they need it – not completed as awaiting information from the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education
3. To establish a sustainable mechanism for monitoring provision and standards in RE and providing relevant support for RE subject leaders – completed; school visits established
4. to develop opportunities for pupils to gain a greater understanding of diversity, religions and worldviews – completed and ongoing
5. To maintain the higher profile of SACRE with schools, the council and the community - completed

A new development plan was written and approved by East Riding SACRE in autumn 2023 and will run until autumn 2025 with the following targets:

1. To ensure that SACRE members have the knowledge and skills needed to enable them to carry out their role effectively
2. Ensure both primary and secondary schools are supported to deliver high quality collective worship in line with national requirements
3. Ensure SACRE meetings are always purposeful and effective
4. To continue to develop links with schools and academies to enable SACRE to act as an informed critical friend to the LA
5. Ensure schools are supported to deliver high quality collective worship in line with national requirements
6. To promote and support community cohesion where possible

A fuller copy of this plan can be seen at Appendix B.

SACRE Self-evaluation

During the period of this report, SACRE members undertook a process of self-evaluation, using a template from the National Association of SACREs. This was very helpful in highlighting things that were working well and identifying where improvements needed to be made.

Self-evaluation highlighted the need for member training. The induction process for new SACRE members was reviewed and all new members joining during the period of the report underwent induction training. Training sessions run for one hour prior to SACRE meetings and focus on aspects members feel would be helpful, along with topical subjects from the world of RE and collective worship. Members attended the following training during the period of the report:

- So you've joined your local SACRE...
- 'What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations?'
- SACRE analysis annual report conversation
- Visiting schools as a SACRE member
- Looking at children's work in RE
- Applying for and gaining a Westhill/NASACRE award

Four SACRE members attended the NASACRE Conference, held in London, in 2023

Also highlighted in the self-evaluation was the need for SACRE to encourage teachers of RE to share what they do with members so those members not regularly in schools have a good understanding

of the needs of teachers. Representatives from Skirlaugh Primary School kindly attended the autumn 2023 SACRE meeting to talk about RE at their school. SACRE members also spoke with staff and pupils and looked at pupils' work at 2 schools during the period of this report.

Finally, the self-evaluation highlighted the fact that SACRE finds it difficult to obtain examination data from academies in particular. Attempts were made to gather data from academies so that SACRE could identify how best to support them but this was unavailable. SACRE serves to support maintained schools and academies equally.

School visits

Visits to schools were established in the summer term 2023 with 2 visits taking place before the summer holidays and 6 booked for the autumn term 2023. These have been well received by Headteachers and have enabled SACRE to hear at first hand what is working well in schools and what support is needed. It is as a result of school visits that the 2024 Religion and Worldviews Conference will focus on High Quality Teaching in RE. The conference will be held on 7th March in Beverley and is bookable [here](#)

Staff training for teachers in schools

Staff subject knowledge was identified as a key training need. The following training was provided either free of charge or subsidised by SACRE in the 22-23 academic year to address this need:

Essential Subject Knowledge: The Sikhi Dharma – Fiona Moss

Essential Subject Knowledge: The Buddhist Dharma – Fiona Moss

Essential Subject Knowledge: What it means to be a Muslim in Britain today – Imran Kotwal

Assessing pupil progress in RE – Gillian Georgiou

The first RE and Worldviews Conference took place in March 2023 with sessions on The Hindu Dharma, How to develop an interfaith library, How to apply for the RE Quality Mark and an opportunity to celebrate RE work with other teachers. Fiona Moss, National RE Adviser for RE Today was the keynote speaker and over 60 teachers attended.

Three primary RE subject leader meetings and three secondary Heads of RE meetings were held, providing updates for teachers of RE and Heads of RE.

Primary and secondary RE newsletters were published termly throughout the year and within these, updates were provided to school leaders and RE teachers.

Evaluation of the Syllabus

SACRE members wanted to know how teachers found the 2022 Agreed Syllabus for Religion and Worldviews and it was agreed this would be asked during school visits and a more formal evaluation undertaken in the 22-24 academic year.

SACRE constitution update

Section 1 of the East Riding SACRE constitution was updated and approved by cabinet to ensure committee A better reflects worldviews locally:

1. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the SACRE (other than co-opted members) shall be appointed by the Authority so that they shall represent the following groups:

1.1 Group A Christian denominations and other faiths, belief systems and non-religious worldviews active in the area - 12

Up to twelve members which may include: Christian denominations representative of the local area, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Baha'ism and Humanism. This committee should aim for a balance of different faiths and belief systems. SACRE may seek a proposal from the faith of belief system group and references as part of determining a potential member's suitability. Following consideration of these SACRE will ask the LA to consider approval of membership.

SACRE meetings during 22/23

	attendance	venue	Significant content
30 November 2022	11	County Hall, Beverley and live via Zoom and Youtube	Constitution update Progress towards targets on the development plan SACRE self-evaluation - start Evaluation of RE Young Ambassadors project 2021 Census outcomes
8 March 2023	13	County Hall, Beverley and live via Zoom and Youtube	School visits Jewish Living Exhibition update RE Hub information shared Evaluation of QN responses about monitoring RE in your school Update on REaction Update on Living Faiths events SACRE self-evaluation – ongoing Feedback from RE Young Ambassadors meet with Graham Stuart MP
19 June 2023		Person park Mosque, Hull	Joint meeting with Hull SACRE Collective worship working party agreed to be established next academic year
29 June 2023	16	County Hall, Beverley and live via Zoom and Youtube	Welcome new members School visits Ofsted reports Draft SACRE development plan 23-25 Feedback from NASACRE Conference Update on REaction Update on Living Faiths events

Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings during 22/23

The Agreed Syllabus Conference group did not meet during this period.

Religious Education Quality Mark

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

Collective Worship

There were no determinations during the period of this report.

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

The anticipated updated national guidance on collective worship was not published so East Riding SACRE agreed to move ahead with reviewing and redeveloping guidance for schools and academies on collective worship, working collectively with Hull SACRE through establishing a Collective Worship Working Party.

Links with other bodies

SACRE is a member of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the chair, vice-chair and three other members attended the 2023 Annual conference. SACRE members have attended training sessions held virtually in 2023. Links have also been made with the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). Through termly newsletters to all schools and academies, teachers have been signposted to training sessions arranged in connection with NATRE and RE Today. SACRE receives regular updates from the Hull and East Riding Interfaith group and members attend these when they can. East Riding SACRE is represented at Hull and East Riding Interfaith meetings and works with members to establish links between schools and people from different belief communities.

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

It was agreed to contact the University of Hull, Vantage Teaching School Hub and Yorkshire Wolds Teacher Training to ask if a representative would like to join SACRE. This would enable SACRE members to provide support as appropriate to agencies training teachers even before they start in schools.

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

Membership of SACRE increased following local elections with four new elected members joining the committee. All have undertaken new member induction. Additional new members joined from the orthodox Jewish community. and the LA officer has been active in seeking members which best represent the community.

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
- Hull SACRE

- NASACRE
- Hull and East Riding Interfaith group
- Hull University
- Vantage Teaching School
- Yorkshire Wolds Teacher Training
- Organisations representing faith communities across the East Riding

Appendices

Appendix A – Role of SACRE from East Riding SACRE webpage

<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/council/committees/standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education/>

Appendix B summary SACRE Development Plan 2023 -25

Appendix A

The role of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is as follows:

- Advise the local authority on matters connected with religious education and collective worship, as the local authority may refer, or as the SACRE sees fit
 - Monitor provision and standards in religious education
 - Advise on methods of teaching, choice of materials, and provision of teacher training
 - Support schools in reviewing and self-evaluating their provision for religious education
 - Support schools in reviewing and self-evaluating their provision for collective worship
- If you have any queries about collective worship please email lucy.jordan@eastriding.gov.uk
- Consider complaints about the provision and delivery of religious education and collective worship referred to it by the Local Authority
 - Publish an annual report of its work
 - Make a determination on collective worship when requested
 - Require the review of an agreed syllabus for religious education adopted by the council.

Appendix B – SACRE Development Plan 2023-25

Focus	Link to Role of SACRE	Actions	Timescale	Cost
Monitor provision and standards in RE strengthen partnerships with national and local stakeholders	2	Embed systematic approach to school visits to nursery, primary and secondary schools gather views of staff, children and students	By end plan	Cost of training SACRE members
Advise schools on teaching RE and reviewing RE provision	3, 4	Continue to provide free termly network meetings for all primary and secondary schools which provide advice and support for schools around RE Signpost schools to other training providers, locally and nationally, through termly newsletter, emails and sharing information at meetings SACRE provision of bespoke training to schools and clusters, including governing boards to support development of RE curriculum <u>Develop audit tool to help schools review RE curriculum</u>	ongoing ongoing ongoing	Cost of LA officer to lead sessions Cost met by ILS Cost met by ILS SLA Cost met by ILS

To ensure that SACRE members have the knowledge and skills needed to enable them to carry out their role effectively	Relates to all SACRE roles	Formalise the induction process for new SACRE members Embed a training session ahead of every SACRE meeting	By spring 2024 By end plan	Cost met by ILS Cost met by ILS for LA Adviser and poss other costs from external trainers
Ensure both primary and secondary schools are supported to deliver high quality collective worship in line with national requirements	1,5	Ascertain how schools approach collective worship through surveying Establish working party <u>Determine next steps from CW survey in terms of support needed for schools</u> Provide and/or signpost schools to training on collective worship	By spring 24 Spring 2024 By Aut 2024 ongoing	No cost – LA funded
Ensure SACRE meetings are always purposeful and effective	Relates to all SACRE roles	Develop agendas following consultation with members	ongoing	ILS to pay for cost of LA Adviser to attend SACRE meetings and undertake prep and follow up work related to this
To continue to develop links with schools and academies to enable SACRE to act as an informed critical friend to the LA	2	Embed systematic approach to school visits At least one school visits each SACRE meeting to share work	By end plan	Cost of training SACRE members

Ensure schools are supported to deliver high quality collective worship in line with national requirements	1,5	<p>Develop a working party to review SACRE support for collective worship</p> <p>Provide and/or signpost schools to training on collective worship</p>	By end plan	Cost of consultants/any publications produced
To promote and support community cohesion where possible	1,3	<p>RE newsletters to include information on events supporting community cohesion</p> <p>Visits to school to include discussion about how the school encourages community cohesion through RE</p> <p>LA Adviser to attend Hull and East Riding Interfaith meetings and feedback to SACRE and schools with relevant information</p> <p>LA Adviser to attend open events held by religious and non-religious worldview communities and feedback to SACRE and schools with relevant information</p> <p>LA Adviser to develop links with LA Equalities Officer (Martin Batstone) and Samantha Matthews (Head of Service – Targeted Intensive Services) and thereby share information which can support community cohesion</p>	By end plan	ILS to pay for cost of LA Adviser

