

Gloucestershire  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report Sept 2021-August 2022



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## 1. Introduction

### a. Foreword

The year 2021-2022 has been a challenging one for schools, as they sought to catch up from lost learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and to make progress with their RE. SACRE has responded to some of these challenges through its review of the current agreed syllabus, which ran until summer 2022. There has never been a more important time for SACREs to be well informed and proactive in establishing an agreed syllabus that is both rigorous and relevant. The desire to produce a curriculum that is truly co-created, draws on the best educators' thoughts about high quality RE at the same time as responding to the county's context through engaging with faith communities in meaningful ways remains at the heart of what we have done over the year. In addition, SACRE is mindful of the time lost in working with the 2017-2022 syllabus, as well as the progress of the RE Council's 'worldviews project'. As a result, SACRE has extended the life of the current syllabus to 2025.

Listening to the voices of teachers (and indeed students) as well as providing high quality training and support has sharpened our focus and redoubled our efforts. To that end, we are hugely grateful to Stephen Pett for his leadership, sheer hard work on our behalf but above all for his wisdom. We are also delighted that Trevor Cooling has been able to join us. Indeed, my sincere thanks to all the members of SACRE for their support through this time.

On behalf of members of SACRE, I would also like to extend our good wishes to representatives who left SACRE either to move on to pastures new or to retire and to thank them for their work.

There is no doubt that SACRE will continue to provide a strong message about the importance of Religious Education as our Agreed Syllabus Conference continues working to determine the very best opportunities for the children of Gloucestershire - we are looking forward to the challenges.

M Morgan

Chair of Gloucestershire SACRE

### b. Overview of the work of SACRE

A Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body set up to advise the Local Authority on matters related to religious education and collective worship. Its members are drawn from teachers, Local Authority representatives including Councillors, faith representatives from the Church of England and a range of Christian denominations, and representatives from other religious groups represented in the region.

SACRE's key functions include monitoring the provision and quality of RE, and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training. This is primarily done through the review and implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, a process which is required every five years. This is followed by on-going monitoring of its effectiveness in the light of changing national education policy.

It is a legislative requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work and that this is published, sent to the local authority, to NASACRE and to other interested parties such as the Department for Education.

During the academic year 2021-2022 the Chair of SACRE has met regularly with senior officers of the local authority to monitor and discuss future relationships and the work of SACRE. These have been productive meetings and have maintained the local authority's awareness and continuing commitment to fulfil its statutory role in supporting SACRE. With the retirement of the long-standing LA officer, Jane Lloyd Davies, Head of Education Performance and Intervention in August 2021, Ms Clare Dudman, Head of School Improvement, has taken over the role.

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2021/22. The management and access to these meetings has been in line with all regulations.

Two of the three meetings in 2021-22 were quorate with members of each of the four constituent groups in attendance. The LA officer was unable to connect to the Zoom meeting on 19 Nov 2021 for technical reasons, which meant that that meeting was not quorate. Detailed information on attendance at meetings can be found in Appendix A.

A brief overview of each meeting can be found below

#### 19 November 2021 (via Zoom)

- *Support for teachers: primary and secondary conference planning; RE hubs; webinars; REaction awards*
- *School workforce data*
- *National RE Updates, including Ofsted RE Research Review*

#### 22 March 2022 (via MS Teams)

- *Membership*
- *Support for teachers: primary and secondary conferences; RE hubs; REaction awards*
- *Report from South West SACREs conference*
- *Agreed Syllabus review update*
- *Draft Annual Report*
- *National RE Updates*

#### 14 June 2022 (Hybrid: in-person at Sir Thomas Rich's School and via MS Teams)

- *Support for teachers: primary conference feedback, secondary conference plans; RE Hubs; REaction awards*
- *Education White Paper and Bill: updates*
- *National RE updates*

The **Agreed Syllabus Conference** was established in 2021 and meetings were held prior to SACRE meetings:

#### 19 November 2021 (via Zoom)

- *Proposed timeline; REC's Worldviews Project timeline and its implications for Gloucestershire review*
- *Feedback from primary RE conference May 2021*
- *An update on the REC worldviews project from Prof Trevor Cooling*
- *Decision to extend the current 2017-2022 syllabus to 2024*
- *Discussion on development of strategy group and possibility of teacher working groups*

#### 23 May 2022 Agreed Syllabus Strategy Group (in-person at Sir Thomas Rich's School)

- *Response to REC Worldviews Draft Handbook*
- *Implications for Gloucestershire RE Review*

14 June 2022 (Hybrid; in-person at Sir Thomas Rich's School and via MS Teams)

- *Update on progress*
- *Introduction and detailed discussion on new REC Worldviews Project Draft Handbook*
- *Feedback from primary RE conference May 2021/22 asking about worldviews approach as focus of the syllabus review*

## 2. Religious Education

### a. The locally agreed syllabus and RE in schools

The Gloucestershire agreed syllabus was launched in 2017, with over 180 primary schools attending launch training. Around 100 primary schools regularly attend annual SACRE conferences, with a focus on implementing the syllabus and developing teaching and learning. SACRE believes that most, if not all, primary academies are using the Gloucestershire agreed syllabus. Not all secondary academies are using it in full, although many use it to inform their practice.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) was established in February 2021. One decision taken has been to extend the current 2017-2022 syllabus to 2024. One reason for this option was to take into account the challenge of the pandemic, with its impact on how much RE time has realistically been given during lockdowns and during catchup. A second reason is to allow for more progress in the REC's Worldviews Project (final report due May 2024), so that it can inform the review.

Schools will be consulted through surveys and during attendance at forthcoming conferences and hub meetings.

### b. Standards and monitoring of RE

This is the first year since 2019 that GCSE and A level Religious Studies examinations results can be reviewed. Data on these results can be seen in Appendix 7c below. SACRE thanks teachers who have supported students and taught them in extremely difficult circumstances.

SACRE regularly reviews school workforce survey data when it is available, reviewing school websites and surveying schools to explore provision further.

OFSTED reports can also provide a way of monitoring RE. SACRE will be looking at examples of local OFSTED reports that comment on RE. The new OFSTED inspection framework and RE research review is bringing a renewed focus on RE in schools where RE was struggling to get sufficient curriculum time.

### c. Teacher training and materials and advice for schools

#### **Network meetings**

The Diocese of Gloucester runs eight regional hub groups for primary schools, run by hub leaders who are supported with training by the Diocesan adviser, Debbie Helme. The groups meet termly and are attended by teachers from Church of England schools and community schools and academies. The Diocese runs its own annual art competition and has held public exhibitions of the winning art in the past.

#### **SACRE primary RE conference, 27 May 2022**

The annual primary RE conference took place in person at Puckrup Hall Hotel – a welcome return after cancellation in May 2020 and online in May 2021. 90 schools attended. .

The programme was as follows:

## Keynote 1: Religion and Worldviews Stephen Pett

### Workshop A

<b>A1. Ways of knowing</b> Fiona Moss	<b>A2. RE 4-7s</b> Lat Blaylock	<b>A3 RE in small schools</b> Ruth Gittins
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### Workshop B

<b>B1. Where, how and why do people worship?</b> Fiona Moss	<b>B2. Writing well in RE 7-11s</b> Lat Blaylock	<b>B3. Non-religion and RE</b> Stephen Pett
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### Workshop C

<b>C1. Deep Diving into RE</b> Fiona Moss	<b>C2. Teaching about Muslims</b> Lat Blaylock	<b>C3. Data on religion</b> Stephen Pett
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## Keynote 2 Spirited RE! Lat Blaylock

76 teacher evaluations were collected. 90% of respondents rated the conference as Excellent, and 10% as Good. Representative comments include the following:

- *Always fab. Always come away inspired, with lots of ideas to try in class.*
- *Great venue, easy to get to. Well organised! So much information to take away and share with the team. As a HLTA – first conference – fantastic experience. Thank you!*
- *Great day, really inspiring, just what I needed. Thank you.*
- *Enjoyed the day very much. Always informative and full of discussion. Particularly liked the workshop on Muslims/Islam. Lots of ideas. Also liked the ‘snowflake’ idea for discussion.*
- *Lat Blaylock was fantastic – very enthusiastic and gave lots of ideas I feel I can take away.*
- *It has been joyous to return to an RE conference. After an unintentional hiatus in attending the conference, it has reignited my enthusiasm for RE and has shown me that there is still much to be done.*
- *Thank you! Thank you! A really inspiring conference with many practical ideas. Fiona’s deep dive information was especially helpful. Always great RE at Puckrup and inspirational talkers. LOADS of great resources.*
- *As always, highly inspirational. Thank you’re a breath of RE ‘fresh air’! The ideas were all completely practical and possible.*
- *Very inspiring, lots of ideas to take back to school – lots of reassurance about the things already happening in school but also ways to try and progress the subject in my school.*
- *I always find this really useful. The resources are really valuable and practical. Every workshop I attended was engaging and gives tools to be used in the classroom, particularly the one about data.*
- *Fabulous as always – really inspired! Thank you*

Teacher evaluations included details of what they planned to do as a result of the conference, some requests for future training. After the first keynote, which explored the nature of worldviews and the outline of a worldviews approach, teachers gave detailed feedback on their response to the approach underpinning the review of the agreed syllabus.

### SACRE secondary RE conference, 25 June 2021

Gloucestershire SACRE collaborates with Herefordshire and Worcestershire SACREs in putting on a secondary conference each year. This year it was in-person after the online event in 2022. 13 delegates attended from the three counties.

The programme, and evaluations, were as follows:

	excellent	good
<b>Religion and worldviews</b> Stephen Pett	100%	
<b>Approaches to Sikh worldviews</b> Lat Blaylock	100%	
<b>Ways of knowing</b> Stephen Pett	85%	15%
<b>TeachMeet</b> Local teachers	54%	46%
<b>Overall value of the conference</b>	100%	

Representative comments include:

- Thank you so much for giving up your time. Really enjoy/interested in research behind worldviews and *how to explore worldviews. Practical examples modelled by Lat - thank you! Loved how we explored ideas and turned methods upside down.*
- *This is my annual 'plugin'! I love meeting other RE teachers and gaining such amazing knowledge and understanding.*
- *Excellent day with amazing resource is that can be adapted and taken into the classroom. Great to see some different approaches to how to deliver resources to students.*
- *Superb as usual. Inspirational and directly relevant to RE now. Lovely update on current dialogue and looking ahead.*
- *Excellent day full of useful ideas and links to learning. Good to be able to plan in some more up to date ideas. Good to share with others, making links.*
- *Fantastic day to really 'hone in' on key skills. Great content on both pedagogy and faith / worldview. World views was great to get to grips with. I liked the practical suggestions for use in the classroom.*
- *So good to be able to work collectively and in the real world again. I met some stimulating and supportive colleagues which is vital.*
- *Really enjoyed the segment on world views and excited to see how this develops. The venue was excellent! Really enjoyed the depth of the content on Sikhi.*

d. Other information

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

e. Advice given to the local authority

The Local Authority was advised that the ASC and SACRE recommended the extension of the current agreed syllabus from 2017-2022 to 2024.

### 3. Collective worship

a. Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

SACRE has found it hard to monitor collective worship over the past few years. It is noted that schools found different ways of delivering Collective worship virtually during the last difficult year.

b. Determinations

No determinations have been requested in the year 2021-22.

c. Teacher training provided

No SACRE training on collective worship has been provided in 2021-22, although the Diocese of Gloucester continues to support its schools in this area.

d. Other information

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

e. Advice to the Local Authority

No advice was given to the local authority around the provision of collective worship.

#### 4. Links with other bodies

a. National Bodies

- Gloucestershire SACRE is a member of NASACRE. Its newsletters are circulated to all members. Stephen Pett, adviser to SACRE, and Professor Trevor Cooling, Committee B, presented a workshop on the Worldviews Project to NASACRE members in February 2022.
- Stephen Pett, RE Today, connects SACRE with NATRE, and provides national updates at each meeting. Reports from NATRE, including the School Workforce Data and regular primary and secondary surveys have proved useful to SACRE when monitoring schools. Further resources, such as those for home learning, from NATRE have been shared with schools.
- Information from the RE Council has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.
- The REC Worldviews Project draft resource offering guidance on a Religion and Worldviews approach (May 2022) has been a helpful resource for discussion for SACRE.

b. Local bodies

Gloucestershire Diocese provides excellent support to SACRE.

#### 5. SACRE involvement in the Local Area

SACRE updates governors and headteachers on resources and training via briefings and bulletins

SACRE maintains a Visits and Visitors Guide that helps schools to make links with local places of worship and speakers from religious and non-religious worldviews.

#### 6. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority

a. Professional and administrative support

*Clerk to SACRE:*

Rosalind Ellinor  
Executive Support Assistant  
Executive Support Team  
Gloucestershire County Council  
Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TP

*Local authority officer:*

Clare Dudman  
Head of School Improvement  
Gloucestershire County Council  
Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TP

*Adviser to SACRE:*

The LA has a contract with RE Today Services. Stephen Pett is the RE Today national adviser who delivers the contract to Gloucestershire LA and SACRE.

RE Today Services  
Imperial Court, Sovereign Road, Birmingham B30 3FH



b. Membership, representation and attendance

SACRE has been active in recruiting members to represent all groups. It also considers co-opting those with skills, knowledge and experience who can help to develop SACRE's work. Current vacancies, and repeated absences are discussed by the Chair and LA Officer.

All groups have been represented according to SACRE's terms of reference at each meeting, apart from 9 Nov 2021, when the LA officer was unable to connect via Zoom because of technical difficulties.

c. Training for SACRE (and ASC) members

The SACRE Clerk, Chair, LA Officer and RE adviser are on hand to advise SACRE members.

All members are invited to attend the training provided for schools. Several SACRE members attend the primary conference each year, providing support to the RE adviser and spending time meeting and supporting teachers. Members often attend NASACRE CPD and the Southwest SACRE conference, reporting back to members.

## 7. Appendices

### a. SACRE membership

<b>Group A - Organisation</b>		9 Nov 2021 Zoom	22 March 2022 Teams	14 June 2022 Hybrid: in- person/Teams
Baha' i community	Jenny Lockwood	✓	✓	✓
Baptist community	David Crunkhurn**		✓	
Buddhist community	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Community Churches	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Gloucestershire Humanists	Sarah Pinegar	✓	✓	
Hindu community	Daxa Mehta	✓		✓
Jewish community	Jennifer Silverston	✓	✓	✓
Methodist community	Neil Grecian			✓
Muslim community	Atique Miah			
Muslim community	Salma Kaka			
Pentecostal community	Howard Padley		✓	
Quaker community	Chris Lee		✓	
Roman Catholic Church	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Salvation Army	Cliff Matthews		✓	
Sikh community	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Unitarians	Helen Parsons			
United Reformed Church	Julie Jefferies		(Resigned)	
<b>Group B: Church of England</b>				
	Debbie Helme	✓	✓	✓
	Debbie Glover	✓	✓	✓
	Trevor Cooling	✓		✓
<b>Group C: Teacher representatives</b>				
ATL (NEU)	Lynda Britton	✓		
NUT (NEU)	Mohammed Hussain			
NASUWT	Angie Lamburn	✓	✓	✓
NAHT	Julia Matson		✓	✓
ASCL	Matthew Morgan*	✓	✓	✓
<b>Group D: Local Authority</b>				
	Clare Dudman			✓
	Substitute representing LA: Teresa Cross		✓	
	Cllr Philip Robinson		Joined ✓	✓
<b>In attendance</b>				
Clerk to SACRE	Ros Ellinor	✓	✓	✓
Adviser to SACRE	Stephen Pett, RE Today	✓	✓	✓

\*Chair \*\* Vice Chair

Thanks to Julie Jefferies for her membership of SACRE. She has had to step down for personal reasons.

### b. Circulation details for this Annual Report

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies.

- Kirsten Harrison, Director of Children's Services, Gloucestershire LA
- Cllr Philip Robinson, Cabinet Member for Education, Gloucestershire LA

- The Department for Education (Central Government)
- NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies of Gloucestershire schools
- All members of Gloucestershire SACRE, for distribution to the bodies/communities they represent

c. Gloucestershire GCSE results

This is the first time since 2019 that externally marked GCSE examinations have been sat by students. In 2020 and 2021, grades were determined by teachers as externally marked examinations could not take place due to the disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Gloucestershire GCSE results**

No of pupils	Number of GCSE entries	% Full Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades	% Short Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades
6621	1616	24.4%	73.8%	10.9%	79.3%

**National GCSE results**

No of pupils	Number of GCSE entries	% Full Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades	% Short Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades
650366	221124	34%	76.8%	2.6%	65.5%

A level results were not available at the time of writing.