



**Standing Advisory Council on Religious
Education
(SACRE)**

Annual Report 2023-24

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Section One: Introduction and the Work of SACRE

Words from the Chair of Kirklees SACRE

I am glad to present Kirklees SACRE's annual report with confidence in the difference that we make through our partnership with Pennine Learning and the support of Kirklees in the delivery of high quality R.E. in our schools.

We seem to live at a time when the world seems to be becoming more polarised and events in our own nation have demonstrated that our communities are vulnerable to fear and suspicion which can be manipulated by others. The value of creatively engaging children with difference and diversity in a positive way that demonstrates respect, strengthens their understanding, and engages their imagination is immense.

We are always encouraged by the many examples of excellent learning going on. These are recognised through our R.E. awards to schools to celebrate their achievement. R.E network days and other resources we offer support schools in teaching R.E. and in their provision of collective worship.

SACRE continues to monitor the provision of RE in schools within the borough. While the picture is uneven we continue to be proactive in encouraging best practice and championing the value of teaching R.E. at a time when the need for understanding and appreciation of faith and belief in a world in which people easily polarise has never been more urgent.

We moved to complete the careful work that has been going on to complete our revision of the locally agreed syllabus in partnership with other SACRE's in West Yorkshire. This required a special meeting of the SACRE at Dewsbury Town Hall. This was followed by a very well attended Launch event at the Hudawi Centre in Huddersfield where the new syllabus was presented to the representatives of the local authority.

We believe our new syllabus builds on the many strengths of the previous one and that together with the schemes of work its focus on big ideas that can be explored through different faith traditions offers a great resource for schools. Listening to the feedback of teachers and other RE professionals was an essential part of the review and we are indebted to everyone who has contributed to it.

SACRE has met four times this year. We seek to move about the borough which has such a great variety of different neighbourhoods with in from the very urban to small villages and because we also recognise that travelling can be challenge, especially in winter we have also met online.

I want to thank Ian Ross, our professional R.E, advisor without whom we could not do our work, Anna Twist our clerk, Hannah McKerchar our vice chair and all the members of Scare for their contributions and attendance. We continue to be mindful of the need for a good representation from people within education, the council and different boroughs at our meetings and to actively seek new members. Not every local authority steps up to embrace the opportunity RE presents by funding the work of their Scare and I would like to express our thanks to Kirklees and the council officers for funding and engaging with the work of Sacre.

We commend our annual report to you.

Mark Janes
Chair Of Kirklees SACRE 2023-2024.

Overview

This annual report is prepared by Kirklees SACRE. SACRE as a body is required to advise the Local Authority on matters relating to Religious Education and Collective Worship. This report provides a picture of the support given for Religious Education and Collective Worship during 2023-24. The report is a public document which is also sent to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Department for Education.

For further information on the report or on RE and Collective Worship in Kirklees, contact Ian Ross at ian@penninelearning.com

For information on SACRE please contact the clerk, Anna Twist on annatwist@yahoo.com

Dates and content of meetings

There were four meetings of Kirklees SACRE during the year 2023-24, mostly held face to face. Meetings are open to the public and minutes are also available on-line. These meetings were held on Thurs 5th October 2023 (syllabus and Provision monitoring), Wed 6th December 2023 (agreeing the annual report), Tues 12th March 2024 (LASC), Wed 19th June 2024 (AGM and links with the LA).

Mark Janes was re-appointed chair of SACRE in June 2023 and was ably supported by Hannah McKerchar as Vice Chair. SACRE membership has increased this last year, but SACRE is conscious that diversity in representation is needed including the range of faiths and beliefs in the area as well as working with CEOs of Multi Academy Trusts.

As well as considering the general position of RE and collective worship in the borough, SACRE discussed the following issues at its meetings during the year:

- The Local Agreed syllabus – which was revised and launched in April 2024.
- Revision of guidance on sensitivity to faith in schools.
- Clarification of funding for Kirklees SACRE responsibilities and activities.
- Review of secondary provision for RE, including time allocation.
- Progress on the two sets of films funded by Westhill endowment trust.
- Faith and education project to encourage engagement between faith communities and schools.
- Improving representation on SACRE from those groups currently under-represented.
- Completion of SACRE self-evaluation.
- National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) – items of interest or action, including information from NASACRE conference on the future of SACREs.
- Future joint meetings of chairs and vice chairs across West Yorkshire (WYSACRE).

Priorities and actions for 2023 – 24

Continue to revise Local Agreed Syllabus including providing foundation and focus units of work.

The local agreed syllabus – Believing and Belonging in West Yorkshire 24 – 29 was reviewed. This review included working with SACREs from Bradford, Kirklees, Calderdale and Leeds. A working party made up from representatives in the four local authority areas met at various times in the year to discuss models and teaching content.

The syllabus is based on the Big Ideas in RE from Exeter University. The Big Ideas have been adapted into six pathways of progression. This is compliant with the new non-statutory guidance from The RE Council called the National Content Standard.

The syllabus is accompanied by core units of work for each phase linked to the six pathways of progression. There are also focus units in each phase to support the digging deeper into a particular faith or belief. The Local Agreed Syllabus Conference was held on 12th March and launch and training event for up to 100 teachers and headteachers took place on 18th April.

Introduce a new Inclusive Collective Worship Award to schools and visit 10 schools across the borough.

Work has started on the advice and support for collective worship including a suggested calendar of faith festivals and themed weeks. A thought for the week list has been prepared to support secondary schools. The Inclusive Collective Worship Award will be produced in the academic year 24-25 and will be piloted on self-selecting schools.

Continue working with the School Improvement Partners to identify schools for support and professional conversations

During the year regular half termly meetings have been set up between the Ian Ross (The professional advisor to SACRE) and the Senior Learning Partners of Kirklees. This is to identify schools that might need support and to evaluate impact. We are very pleased to announce that Honley JIN School, Crossley Fields Primary and Netherton Infant School were successful in completing the Kirklees SACRE RE Award and have been presented with certificates in the RE Network.

Self-evaluation

During the year, Kirklees SACRE completed a process of self-evaluation based on the NASACRE template. Arising from this the following areas future development were identified and will be built into the development plan for the next two years.

SACRE

- Continue striving to ensure full representation of religions and world views on SACRE. Enhance the attendance of the established church reps through close communication with the diocese.
- Seek ways of capturing pupil voice in order to plan for activities to enhance RE in the borough.
- Actively seek people from the Academy sector to join SACRE.

Religious Education

- Continue to look at the network packages to see how we may attract more delegates, maybe through offering networks at a reduced cost.
- Continue conversations with the local authority to identify schools needing additional support.
- Consider how we can engage with senior leadership in schools through our newsletter and maybe associate learning partners.

Collective Worship

- Provide CPD for SACRE members and begin a review and support process.
- Create a collective worship award similar to the RE award to enable schools to audit an action plan their provision.
- Continue to monitor and support the school in Kirklees with a determination.

Community Cohesion

- Review and reflect on census information on faith. Work with the local authority to identify information about diversity and ethnicity in different local areas.
- Develop new links with the Communities team and Kirklees Interfaith groups to ensure SACRE is fully engaged with wider borough issues.

Further details of the self-evaluation or the development plan can be obtained via the clerk to SACRE.

Meetings for 2023-24

SACRE meetings and themes for 2024-2025 have been provisionally arranged for these dates 14th October 2024 (Work Plan and data analysis), 3rd December 2024 (agreeing the annual report), 12th March 2025 (Collective Worship Monitoring), 16th June 2025 (AGM and links with the LA). For more information contact the clerk, annatwist@yahoo.com

Priorities for 2024 - 25

- Continue to embed the new Local Agreed Syllabus.
- Introduce a new Inclusive Collective Worship Award to schools and visit 10 schools across the borough.
- Continue working with the Kirklees Learning Service to identify schools for support and professional conversations
- Continue developing links with Kirklees Interfaith Councils to plan for joint projects e.g. school visits.
- Identify ways of supporting subject leader networks through SACRE funding

Section Two: Statutory Responsibilities: Religious Education

The Local Agreed Syllabus

The Local Agreed Syllabus, 'Believing and Belonging', is the statutory curriculum for all maintained schools in the borough. This syllabus is now shared with Bradford, Kirklees, Calderdale and Leeds. Other academies and free schools must teach RE according to the requirements of their trust deed or funding agreement. Although SACREs and local authorities do not have any responsibility or authority for their curriculum, it welcomes use of these resources by all local schools. Results from the recent SACRE survey of all schools in Kirklees demonstrated that the great majority of academies have adopted the local agreed syllabus.

The Syllabus was agreed by a Local Agreed Syllabus Conference in March 2024 and a series of launch and training events took place over the summer term in each local authority area. This syllabus is based on the work of the Big Ideas team from Exeter University and follows six pathways or key concepts which are progressively taught in all years from EYFS to KS5. In addition to the syllabus a series of core and focus units of work have been developed. These are detailed schemes of work to enable teachers to teach the subject well in schools. Each phase of school will teach six core units of work over two or three years and will also be able to choose focus units to dig deeper into a particular faith/ belief.

Standards and Monitoring

Analysis of school website research

Our analysis of secondary school website research overall shows a positive experience at KS3 with schools using and adapting from the local agreed syllabus. It appears however that some schools do not offer a comprehensive programme of Religious Education at KS4 for those students who do not take an examined route. Some schools combine core RE with other subjects such as citizenship and PSHE. This means that students are not receiving their full entitlement to the RE curriculum. As a SACRE we will be writing to all schools to remind them of the statutory nature of RE from age 5 to 18 and also of the benefits of a deep and meaningful RE to other aspects of personal development.

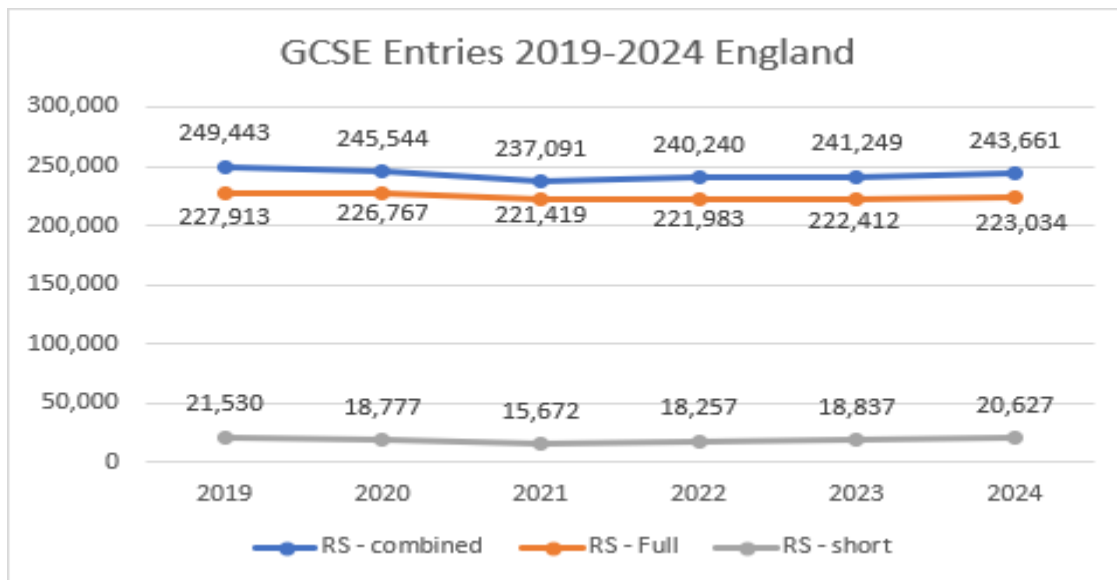
Ofsted Reports Analysis

We have begun a review of the recent Ofsted reports to identify schools that may need some additional support or encouragement to apply for an RE Award. One school has already been highlighted as needing support in engagement with a variety of faiths to enhance the curriculum.

Examination results

GCSE and A Level results for 2024 were not available again at a local level when this report was published. This has meant that SACRE could not fulfil one of its core duties to monitor the effectiveness of RE in the borough.

National figures for GCSE entry remain steady, with a slight increase in both full course and short course uptake. When data has been released by the DfE we will be analysing this to inform our work in schools.



RE Quality Mark

Kirklees schools are offered the opportunity for a review of their religious education with criteria based on the bronze REQM. It is hoped this can be a gateway to entry to the national quality mark. We are immensely proud of Honley JIN, Crossley Fields Primary and Netherton Infants School who achieved the SACRE RE Award in 2023 -2024.

Professional development and support for schools

General support

During the year this professional support continued through Pennine Learning, a small local company specialising in RE and community cohesion. The team at Pennine Learning provide eighty days support per year in total, though this is arranged as flexibly as possible to facilitate effective working with schools and others. They also support SACREs and RE in Leeds and Calderdale, enabling appropriate collaboration and partnership.

Through the Kirklees Learning Service and the RE consultants, support has been available to schools, and used by teachers, in several ways, including:

- Development of the syllabus and its schemes of work, including prompt response to queries or difficulties.
- Consultancy over specific or general RE issues, including advice about withdrawal from RE.
- Availability by phone, email or virtual meetings.
- Support for schools wishing to develop and improve RE following Ofsted inspections.

Training

This year courses have included a termly primary RE network meeting, a day course for new RE coordinators. The primary RE Network consistently attracts up to 40 delegates each session.

The secondary RE network is organised in partnership with Calderdale and Leeds and is open to teachers from all three local authorities.

A successful series of twilight webinars on subject knowledge of world faiths took place over the academic year and included guests from faith communities. These were held in cooperation with partner local authorities. In the coming year a full range of CPD and consultancy will be available through the Kirklees Strategic Improvement Plan.

RE Reviews and SACRE RE Award



The review and award continue to be available on line and face to face. A small number of schools have worked with a consultant to review their RE provision using the award framework. A 'Deep Dive' in Religious Education is also offered to schools. This half-day session focuses on a review of curriculum provision, looking at its scope, rigour and sequencing. These opportunities are promoted via RE networks and our half termly newsletter.

Other information

A range of guidance continues to be available to Kirklees schools on a wide range of related areas, including:

- RE Policy
- Withdrawal from RE
- Collective Worship
- Celebrating Diversity
- Engaging with faith communities
- Sensitivity to Faith in Schools (Sharing the Journey)

In addition, a half termly newsletter and index of resources is available to all schools, together with a directory of possible visits and visitors.

Section Three: Statutory Responsibilities: Collective Worship

Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

Guidance is offered to schools and Ofsted reports are scrutinised in order to keep up to date with current issues and concerns. It has been difficult for schools to maintain an effective programme of collective worship during the pandemic and one of SACRE's key priorities in the coming year will be to remind, facilitate and support schools. This will include offering an award for schools offering inclusive collective worship.

Complaints and determinations

There were no complaints made during the year to SACRE about Collective Worship. There is one determination to vary statutory requirements in a maintained school in Kirklees and this has been reviewed this year. Responsibility for determinations in English academies and free schools rest with the Schools Funding Agency.

Professional development and support for schools

Through the consultant, SACRE is always ready to advise or support schools on request. It has been noted that some SACRE members are well-placed to support collective worship in schools and opportunities for discussion about this will be included to support collective worship reviews in 24-25. A half-day course on planning for collective worship/ inclusive assemblies will be offered in the academic year to aid schools in developing an effective and inspiring programme. It is hoped that SACRE members will become more involved in practical support and monitoring. These questions may be helpful to SACRE members in reflecting on the value and effectiveness of collective worship in school:

1. Collective: How does the assembly celebrate and promote a sense of community within the whole school (or group)?
2. Educational: Is there a clear aim and focus, with appropriate learning? Does it engage and interest pupils and staff?
3. Spiritual: How does the assembly nurture pupils' awareness of their beliefs and values - and those of others (including non-religious beliefs)? How does it develop a sense of the meaning, purpose and value in their lives?
4. Reflective: Is there space and opportunity for thoughtful reflection, in the assembly or as a follow up? If prayers are used do these allow for different approaches and responses?
5. Inclusive: How does the assembly programme develop understanding of different perspectives and cultures? How does it promote values of tolerance, diversity and equality?

6. Responsive: How did pupils respond and participate?

Other information

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Guidance on good practice and protocols for withdrawal is available to schools; consultants are available if further support is needed. SACRE recognises parents' legal rights but hopes all children will be enabled to receive stimulating and balanced RE as part of their entitlement to a broad curriculum. Guidance is also provided to schools in fulfilling statutory obligations over collective worship and promoting good SMSC development.

Section Four: Links with other organisations

SACRE has active links with the following organisations:

- National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)
- West Yorkshire SACREs (WYSACRE)
- The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC)
- Local faith organisations and interfaith groups
- Kirklees Learning Services
- RE Today Services
- National RE Hubs
- And other local organisations and charities such as Equilibria

Section Five: Other areas of involvement

Welcoming Schools

Visits to local places of worship and links with faith communities continue to be promoted to fulfil our obligation to promote fundamental values of respect and tolerance. As in-person visits have resumed following the pandemic, we want to broaden pupils' experience and perspectives of the faith communities in Kirklees. A directory of faith visits and visitors is regularly updated. It includes individuals from faith communities who are willing to come into school and bring some direct engagement and an opportunity for dialogue. It also includes some general information about places and organisations. We have worked with the communities' team and the Kirklees Interfaith Councils to support school visits and visitors in Kirklees.

It is anticipated that 'virtual' sessions will continue to be offered and promoted alongside in-person visits and events.



Free training is offered to faith communities to inform them of the requirements of the Kirklees RE Syllabus, and to support them in hosting visits from schools. Training was offered in-person at venues in Leeds and Kirklees. Some SACRE members have participated in training and this project continues to build up worthwhile links between schools and faith communities. Kirklees SACRE have prioritised working more closely with Kirklees Interfaith Council to support publicity and participation in training events.

An audit tool and consultancy support are available for promoting tolerance and understanding of different faiths in schools. This has been promoted via the Pennine Learning website and in RE networks.

As part of the Education and Faith project several faith trails have been set up in Huddersfield and Dewsbury. Three schools have trialled these before it is rolled out to other schools. A series of online interfaith conferences and resources have been developed over the last few years. A recent interfaith conference on Autumn Festivals helped approximately 2400 pupils engage with people from a Jewish, Sikh, Christian and Druid background. Pupils took part in craft activities and generated questions for the faith representatives.

Westhill Project

Leeds SACRE had been awarded a Westhill grant to support Religious Education in the local area. Alongside some additional funding from Calderdale and Kirklees SACREs, this grant funded the production of two professionally-produced films to introduce young people to a

synagogue and a gurdwara in Leeds. Interviews with representatives from the two faith communities have been filmed and edited along with footage of worship and activity in the places of worship themselves. The films are offered to schools, alongside supporting materials and the option of a live session online or in person with representatives of the faith community.

As a SACRE we are hoping to expand the range of videos and interviews of lived experience through applying for different grants e.g. Culham St Gabriels. Our next set of videos may include Hindu Dharma and different traditions in Christianity.

Faith sensitivities

During the previous year Kirklees SACRE has worked with partners in Leeds, Calderdale, Oldham and Tameside to produce advice on sensitivity to issues relating to faith in schools. This is available to schools as practical information and support to school leaders and is called 'Sharing the Journey.' This has been re issued to all schools in the borough to ensure continuity in approach to areas such as religious dress, fasting and prayer.

Section Six: Kirklees SACRE arrangements

Kirklees MBC funds the operation of SACRE by contracting its consultants, providing a clerk and supporting its work through links with senior education officers.

SACRE membership includes representatives from all four constituent committees.

Group A	Faith and belief communities except for the Church of England
Group B	Anglican representatives
Group C	Teachers and schools
Group D	Kirklees MBC

SACRE needs to ensure there continues to be consistent attendance and needs more teacher representatives. Contacts with partners, such as HE providers, should be developed. It is worth exploring whether a more structured link with MATs is feasible and beneficial. Training is provided by NASACRE and offered to SACRE members including an induction pack.

Membership and attendance for 2023-4 was as follows:

Name	Representing	March 23	June 23	Oct 23	Dec 23	March 24	June 24	Oct 24
Mark Janes	Chair / Baptist	P	P	A	P	P	A	A
Hannah McKerchar	Vice Chair / LA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Anna Twist	Clerk	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
Suzanne Bridges	Methodist	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Mashuda Shaikh	Islam	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Abdul Majeed	Islam	A	A	P	A	A	A	A
Yousaf Baig	Islam						P	P
Prashant Kumar	Hindu	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
Kuljindar Shokar	Sikhi	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
Ed Marks	Jewish							
Rupert Madely	C of E	A	P	A	A	A	A	
Alex Burbidge	C of E							
Karen Atkinson	Church of England	P	P	A	A	P	A	A
Amanda Ogilvie-Berry	C of E	P	A	A	A	A	A	A
Rafaqat Mohammed	Secondary Teachers						P	P
Janice Leam	Teaching Unions	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Emma Salter	Huddersfield University	P	A	P	P	A	A	
Geoff Billing	Primary Head							
Councillor Andrew Marchington	LA	A	p	A	A	A	A	A
Councillor Darren O' Donovan	LA	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Councillor Joshua Sheard	LA		P	A	P	A	P	A
Emma Brayford				P	A	P	P	P
Fiona Denham				P	A	A	A	A

Section Seven: Advice to the Local authority

The following advice is given by SACRE to the local authority:

1. To review the funding of SACRE to ensure it is in line with national recommendations and good practice.
2. To review the membership of SACRE to ensure it reflects the breadth and diversity of the borough in terms of faiths and beliefs.
3. To ensure SACRE's annual report is considered carefully by the Scrutiny Panel of the Council and any of its content noted including how the work of SACRE can support community cohesion.
4. To investigate the provision of RE for non-examined students at KS4 in all schools.

No appendices are attached to this report; all the relevant information is contained within the main body. However, any further information can be requested via the clerk.