



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

Annual Report 2024 - 25

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Section One: Introduction and the Work of SACRE

Words from the Chair

Religious Education is a statutory and essential part of every pupil's learning. Its purpose is not to nurture religious faith, but to encourage pupils to engage with challenging and meaningful questions about their existence, identity, purpose, morality and what it means to be human. Alongside this, high-quality Collective Worship provides schools with a valuable opportunity to enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and to contribute positively to the ethos of the school and their local community.

To monitor and help the Council meet their statutory obligations, Leeds SACRE circulated a questionnaire to schools, inviting them to share the areas in which they require support for RE and Collective Worship. After reviewing the responses, we considered how best to support the needs identified. As a result, we coordinated a Teacher's Faith Trail, arranging visits with a local coach operator, JB Travel, to five places of worship across the city: Bridge Community (Pentecostal) Church, Leeds Hindu Mandir, The Sikh Gurdwara, Chapeltown, where a meal was generously provided, Makkah Mosque and Etz Chaim Synagogue. This initiative enabled teachers to deepen their understanding of local faith communities and strengthen their confidence in delivering more informed RE.

This next year, Leeds SACRE are hoping —subject to available funding— to strengthen our links with both primary and secondary schools by developing a pupil-focused faith trail. Pupil ambassadors will visit three different places of worship and then share their experiences within timetabled RE lessons, thus promoting higher-quality Religious Education for the schools participating.

Through the work of the SACRE, both local communities and teachers can help shape and enrich what pupils learn in RE. Our commitment remains to offer clear advice and support for the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus, reaching as many schools as possible.

Local Authorities have a legal duty to ensure SACREs are supported and meaningfully connected with schools and their curriculum. Our aim is to be an effective and responsive SACRE—one that shares good practice, enhances professional development for RE leads and pupils, and serves as a vital link between schools and local faith communities. In doing so, we hope to continue to support those areas of the city where not all faiths are represented, ensuring that RE provision is inclusive, informed and enriching for all.

Russell Trudgen

Chair of Leeds SACRE 2024 - 2025 and Pentecostal representative

Overview and advice to the Local Authority

This annual report is prepared by Leeds SACRE to advise the Local Authority on matters relating to Religious Education and Collective Worship. It provides a picture of the support given for Religious Education and Collective Worship during 2024-25. The report is a public document which is also sent to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Department for Education.

The SACRE annual report 23/24 was presented to scrutiny panel in July 2025 by Russell Trudgen (SACRE chair) and Katie North (LA Adviser). This table sets out the advice given by SACRE to the local authority in the previous annual report (23/24) and summarises progress made:

Advice from 23/24 Annual Report	Progress	Advice following 24/25 report
<p>To review the funding of SACRE to discuss bringing it in line with national recommendations and good practice. We recognise current funding constraints but would urge the council to work with Leeds SACRE to explore how they fulfil their statutory obligations. The DfE recommends that local authorities allocate 2% of Central School Services Block (CSSB) grant to SACRE. At present less than 0.5% is allocated in Leeds to fulfil essential SACRE services, including the clerk, RE advisor (Pennine Learning), CPD for schools, and the writing and review of the Agreed Syllabus. This underfunding limits the work of SACRE.</p>	<p>Funding has been reviewed and continues to be maintained at this low level. Royalty payments from sales of syllabus units amounting to £4532.00 were transferred to Leeds and allocated as additional SACRE funding, as per the terms of the syllabus purchase agreement. These funds enabled SACRE to offer some extra support and enrichment for RE in Leeds, as detailed in the report. The remainder of these funds has now been restricted, with an upper limit of £500 spend per year.</p>	<p>To explain and communicate to SACRE the reasons for Local Authority decision to maintain funding for SACRE below the recommended 2% of CSSB. To explore realistic and appropriate ways for the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory responsibilities within the constraints of limited funding.</p>
<p>To recognise that the council has responsibility for RE as a statutory subject and should prioritise support and encouragement for all schools, especially those that are not fulfilling their duty to offer high quality RE to all pupils.</p>	<p>Regular communications about RE and SACRE are circulated to schools via Leeds for Learning. Local councillors are more involved, making the link between LCC and SACRE clearer. The RE subject report: Deep and meaningful (2024) suggested that many schools are not offering high quality RE; the</p>	<p>To support SACRE in finding effective ways to engage with schools who are not fulfilling their duty to offer high quality RE e.g. with targeted support via Learning improvement teams and local councillors.</p>

	council should support SACRE in its efforts to find and make contact with such schools in Leeds.	
To provide training and support in order to implement the local agreed RE syllabus in all schools in Leeds.	Syllabus training was offered free to all schools in Leeds in summer 2024, with additional follow-up training in Autumn 2024 for schools that missed the main training event. Support in implementing the syllabus has been offered in all primary and secondary networks and training sessions in 2024/25.	
To enable SACRE to reach out to schools that have not accessed the support offered for RE in Leeds by offering training, networks and events for teachers at low cost.	SACRE is working to reach schools who have not engaged with the support available due to financial constraints or lack of knowledge about what is offered. The faith trail was attended by 8 schools that had not previously engaged with SACRE. The films series is accessible to all schools in Leeds and is being promoted locally and nationally as a resource for RE. Leeds Trinity university offers an annual secondary RE conference at no cost to schools.	To explore realistic ways to offer a reduction in costs for RE networks, e.g. through partnership with organisations such as Leeds Trinity, or through making use of RE consultant time already included in Leeds contract.
To fulfil the legal responsibilities of Leeds City Council by providing councillors for SACRE group D (Local Authority) and ensure the designated local councillors attend all SACRE meetings; To review the membership of SACRE annually to ensure it reflects the breadth and diversity of the city in terms of faiths and beliefs.	The balance in SACRE membership is improving: Some councillors attend meetings regularly, although not all. Councillors attending SACRE have a genuine interest in RE, which has made their involvement worthwhile on all sides. The Sikh vacancy has been filled. Primary teachers are well represented, with 3 active members. There are no secondary reps, but some of the faith reps are also serving secondary teachers.	To ensure that councillors nominated to SACRE are motivated and wish to be involved in the development of RE and community cohesion in Leeds; To review the membership of SACRE annually to ensure it reflects the breadth and diversity of the city in terms of faiths and beliefs.
To ensure SACRE's annual report is considered carefully by the Scrutiny Panel of the Council and its content acted upon.	Increased attendance of local councillors has made the link between LCC and SACRE clearer. The SACRE chair and local authority representative have attended	To develop effective preparation for scrutiny of the Annual report in order to focus on measurable outcomes; To bring

	the Scrutiny panel to answer questions and highlight issues.	the scrutiny date forward to make links with other educational priorities in Leeds.
To review arrangements for the teaching of RE at Key Stage 4 to non-exam classes by evaluating and applying the example of schools with good practice in RE provision at Key Stage 4.	This has been limited by reduced staffing in secondary support due to maternity leave. The post of secondary Learning Partner for Leeds is now advertised and therefore this advice will remain to be addressed in 25/26.	To review arrangements for the teaching of RE at Key Stage 4 to non-exam classes by evaluating and applying the example of schools with good practice in RE provision at Key Stage 4.

For further information on the report or on RE and Collective Worship in Leeds, contact Helen Rivers at helen.rivers@leeds.gov.uk

For information on SACRE please contact the clerk, Michael Oates michael.oates@leeds.gov.uk

Dates and content of meetings 2024 - 25

There were four meetings of Leeds SACRE during the year 2024-25, all held in person at the following times and places:

Thursday 26th September - Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR

Tuesday 10 December - Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, LS2 9DX

Wednesday 19th March - Allerton Grange School, Talbot Ave, LS17 6SF

Monday 23rd June 2025 - Moortown Baptist Church, 204 King Lane, Leeds, LS17 6AA

Meetings are open to the public and minutes are available from the SACRE clerk, Michael Oates michael.oates@leeds.gov.uk

At the September 2024 AGM, Russell Trudgen (Pentecostal representative) was re-elected as the chair. Afsha Hussain (Muslim representative) was re-elected as vice-chair.

SACRE discussed the following issues at its meetings during the academic year 2024 - 25:

- The Local Agreed syllabus - in place from September 2024. A conceptual approach, following 6 'pathways' forms the basis of the syllabus; SACRE members reviewed syllabus content and contributed to accompanying resources.
- Considering the impact of the [Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report - GOV.UK](#): on the quality of RE in Leeds schools.
- Collective worship – SACRE members were encouraged to visit schools to gain insight into collective worship (CW) and feed back to SACRE.
- Improving effectiveness of SACRE as a Leeds City Council responsibility – focus on communicating with local councillors and encouraging their attendance; continued clarification of funding for Leeds SACRE responsibilities and activities.
- Roles of SACRE members; hearing from individual SACRE members about their role/motivation; working party for completion of SACRE self-evaluation.
- National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) membership – SACRE members have discussed local and national issues following increased attendance at NASACRE training events; two members attended the NASACRE annual conference.
- Ofsted reports, including feedback from Deep Dives in RE and issues around SMSC.
- Considering how community cohesion in Leeds can be advanced.
- Developing faith trails and films with the support of faith and belief groups to enhance RE teaching and subject knowledge.

SACRE development plan

Leeds SACRE development plan is based on the NASACRE self-evaluation framework.

Outcomes are summarised in the advice given to Leeds City Council in this Annual Report (Section 7).

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

Meetings for 2025-26

SACRE meetings for 2025-2026 have been provisionally arranged for these dates: September 25th, 2025 (AGM), December 9th 2025, March 24th, 2026, and June 18th, 2026. For more information contact the clerk, Michael Oates michael.oates@leeds.gov.uk

Section Two: Statutory Responsibilities: Religious Education

SACRE priorities for Religious Education 2024/25

- To support schools and teachers to implement the new local agreed RE syllabus, Believing and Belonging, through RE networks, training and CPD.
- To continue to develop the use of school surveys and Ofsted reports to target intervention more consistently and to prioritise support and encouragement for all schools, especially those that are not fulfilling their duty to offer high quality RE to all pupils.
- To develop SACRE links with the LA's 11-19 team to have an impact on secondary RE learning city-wide.

The Local Agreed Syllabus

The Local Agreed syllabus, 'Believing and Belonging', is the statutory curriculum for all maintained schools in the city. The agreed syllabus has been in use from September 2024. This new syllabus is shared with Bradford, Kirklees and Calderdale and can be viewed on [Leeds for Learning](#) RE resource page.

The new Local Agreed syllabus develops understanding of religion and worldviews through six concepts or pathways inspired by [Big Ideas for RE](#). These act as the framework for sequencing learning at all key stages from age 5 to 18. Information about the syllabus has been offered through regular communications with school leaders and governors and via Leeds for Learning resource pages. Schools have been supported with training via networks and additional training. Feedback from schools is positive.

Schemes of work to support the syllabus can be purchased through a subscription with Kirklees Business Solutions. A small royalty payment is made to Leeds SACRE for each subscription to enable SACRE to support effective RE in the city. As of May 2025, 103 Leeds

primary and secondary schools have subscribed to the schemes of work, resulting in £4532.00 refunded to Leeds Council.

Academies and free schools must teach RE according to the requirements of their trust deed or funding agreement. Although Leeds SACRE and local authorities do not have any responsibility or authority for their curriculum, it welcomes use of their syllabus by all local schools. Results from SACRE surveys of RE provision in Leeds demonstrate that most secondary academies and primary academies have adopted the local agreed syllabus.

Standards and Monitoring of RE

Leeds SACRE continues to focus on finding ways to evaluate the quality of RE in schools, especially schools that have not engaged with networks or training opportunities.

In March 2025, Leeds SACRE discussed and updated their survey about the provision of RE in primary and secondary schools. The questionnaire was circulated via Leeds for Learning, RE networks and newsletters during the summer term. Only 22 schools responded this year (7 secondary and 15 primary).

Although this data is extremely limited, it provides a snapshot of issues that may affect schools more widely. Useful findings from the survey were:

- Most of the schools that replied carry out visits to places of worship to enrich RE; many commented that lack of funding made visits difficult to arrange.
- Most schools had some form of regular collective worship.
- Very few of the schools had a designated governor for RE
- Most schools received RE updates via Leeds for learning and/or local RE newsletter.

It was agreed that it may be more productive to conduct surveys every other year rather than annually so that SACRE can focus on specific themes and priorities, allowing time to follow up effectively. SACRE would also like to find ways of listening to pupils' perspectives via the school questionnaire or in some other way.

Examination results 2024

In 2024, 2172 pupils studied Religious Studies GCSE in Leeds, which is a 22.7% increase from 1770 pupils in 2023.

Outcomes for GCSE Religious Studies in Leeds were very positive in 2024. In the progress 8 measure (which looks at the progress pupils make from the end of their primary education to the end of their compulsory school education aged 16), Leeds had a score of +0.42 (with 0 being the national average), placing the city's progress 8 figure significantly above the national average.

The average point score for the pupils who took the qualification in Leeds was 5.4, compared to the national figure of 5.1. 76% of pupils gained a grade 4 or above, 5% higher than the national figure and 66% gained a grade 5 or above (60% national). 35% of pupils gained a grade 7 or above, which is the equivalent of an old A grade.

In the past girls have outperformed boys by some measure and this is still the case with 58% of boys in Leeds gaining a grade 5 or above compared to 72% of girls. 55% of pupils who received free school meals (ever), gained a grade 5 or above.

Examination results 2025

In 2025, GCSE Religious Studies national entries (in England) were stable with around 240,000 pupils sitting the qualification.

In 2025, 2222 pupils studied Religious Studies GCSE in Leeds, which is a slight increase (2.3%) from 2024. The 2025 outcomes for GCSE Religious Studies in Leeds were very positive. In the progress 8 measure (which looks at the progress pupils make from the end of their primary education to the end of their compulsory school education aged 16), Leeds had a score of +0.43 (with 0 being the national average), placing the city's progress 8 figure significantly above the national average.

The average point score for the pupils who took the qualification in Leeds was 5.2, compared to the national figure of 5.1. 75% of pupils gained a grade 4 or above, 4% higher than the national figure and 64% gained a grade 5 or above (60% national). 32% of pupils gained a grade 7 or above, which is the equivalent of an old A grade.

In the past girls have outperformed boys by some measure and this is still the case with 56% of boys in Leeds gaining a grade 5 or above compared to 70% of girls. 51% of pupils who received free school meals (ever), gained a grade 5 or above, this is a slight decline from 2024.

Professional development and support for schools

General support

Professional support for RE continues to be offered through Pennine Learning, a small local company specialising in RE and community cohesion, contracted by Leeds City Council. Pennine Learning also supports SACREs and RE in Kirklees, enabling appropriate collaboration and partnership. Professional support is offered by Helen Rivers (Leeds SACRE, primary schools, training and general RE enquiries) and Jake Womack (secondary schools). Pennine Learning provides forty days support per year in total, though this is arranged as flexibly as possible to facilitate effective working with schools and others.

General support includes:

- Updates of schemes of work, including prompt response to queries or difficulties in accessing and using these resources;
- Consultancy over specific or general RE issues, including advice about withdrawal from RE and tackling difficult issues; SMSC review and support;
- Availability by phone, email or virtual meetings;
- Ofsted reports are scrutinised in order to keep up to date with current issues and concerns.

Training and CPD

Networks for Primary RE subject leaders take place termly. Afternoon and twilight sessions are offered. Numbers are steady (approx. 20 – 25) and feedback is positive. The twilight sessions have proved less popular, so from September 2025 all schools will be offered afternoon sessions only.

A secondary Subject Leaders Development Meeting (SLDM) takes place three times a year jointly with Kirklees. Numbers are growing with over 50 teachers attending. Secondary RE leaders now have two full days of RE network (previously 1 full and 2 x ½ days), with an additional full day ‘conference style’ network hosted by Leeds Trinity for 50 secondary teachers at no cost to schools. Leeds SACRE would like to express thanks to Leeds Trinity for their support.

Communication by direct e-mail and social media, as well as via Leeds for Learning, is proving to be effective in building up numbers at networks and training.

Other CPD and Training 24/25:

- Effective RE leadership: Training for primary RE Co-ordinators, November 2024. There were 9 attendees from Leeds primary schools.
- A series of twilight webinars on World faiths continued into the 2024/25 academic year. Sessions were offered on Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hindu Dharma, Sikhi and Humanism. There were 6 Leeds attendees.
- A faith trail for Leeds teachers was offered to Leeds primary and secondary schools in June 2025.

The faith trail was funded by SACRE and supported by SACRE members who arranged the involvement of their faith communities. It aimed to develop RE subject knowledge for teachers of RE through contact with local faith communities at Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, Muslim places of worship. It was attended by 33 teachers, including many who were visiting places of worship for the first time.

Feedback comments following the faith trail:

'There is nothing better than experiencing it yourself and to then see how amazing it would be for our children.'

'A wonderful way to see the links between the faith groups as we explored each one consecutively.'

'I gained so much knowledge...the link to the faith leaders [will lead to] future visits and possible policies linked to understanding [of faith practices].'

'All places of worship were excellently explained and positive...I would recommend this experience.'

RE Reviews and SACRE RE merit awards

Two schools in Leeds have achieved Leeds SACRE RE Merit in 2025 - these are the first awards given in Leeds. They are St. Marys in Boston Spa and Yeadon Westfield Junior School. Awards were presented at the primary network by Leeds SACRE chair. Both schools have been encouraged to consider applying for the national RE Quality Mark (REQM). No Leeds schools have achieved the REQM this year.

Support is offered to schools wishing to audit, develop and improve RE and SMSC in preparation for and following Ofsted inspections. This includes:

- A detailed evaluation of RE ('Deep Dive') offered to senior leaders. This half-day session focuses on a thorough review of curriculum provision, looking at its scope, rigour and sequencing.
- An audit tool, 'Appreciating different faiths and beliefs' is available, along with consultancy support, for promoting tolerance and understanding of different faiths in schools.
- The SACRE RE Merit offers a framework to enable schools to review their provision of RE, including curriculum planning, teaching, learning and leadership. This framework forms the basis of the RE Merit award.



These opportunities for review and development are promoted via Primary and Secondary RE networks. The frameworks, toolkits and review documents are available on [Leeds for Learning](#).

Other information and guidance

A range of guidance continues to be available to Leeds schools via [Leeds for Learning RE resource page](#) including:

- RE Policy
- Withdrawal from RE
- Collective Worship
- Celebrating Diversity

- Engaging with faith communities – a directory of visits and visitors updated July 2025
- Sensitivity to issues relating to faith in schools
- Questions and audit tools for RE subject leaders

In addition, a half termly newsletter and index of resources is available to all schools.

Section Three: Statutory Responsibilities: Collective Worship

SACRE priorities for Collective Worship 2024/25:

- To continue to visit local schools to discover how Collective worship is planned and delivered.
- To set up a working group within SACRE to develop our understanding of Collective Worship. This will raise its profile and enable SACRE to offer review or professional development to schools.

Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

A SACRE working party for collective worship has been set up, including Ben Cordy, a SACRE member who visits secondary schools regularly to support CW. Ben has offered support and practical suggestions to secondary leaders via the Senior Leaders' Briefing in Feb 2025. Helen Rivers attended a Governor information session in May 2025 to brief them about school responsibilities for Collective worship.

Five SACRE members attended NASACRE training about collective worship funded by our subscription to NASACRE. Five SACRE members have visited schools to gain insights into how Collective Worship is planned and delivered.

Guidance about statutory obligations over collective worship is offered to schools via [documents shared on Leeds for Learning](#) and by direct contact with SACRE.

Professional development and support for collective worship

SACRE is always ready to advise or support schools on request, usually via the RE adviser. Some SACRE members are well-placed to support collective worship in schools and some of these members form part of the working party.

Questions about Collective Worship were included in the questionnaire to schools. Outcomes were discussed by SACRE members, leading to plans for SACRE members and councillors to offer input for school assemblies. SACRE members are keen to develop their offer of support for CW in the coming year.

Complaints and determinations

There were no complaints made during the year to SACRE about Collective Worship. There are no determinations to vary statutory requirements in any maintained school in Leeds. Responsibility for determinations in English academies and free schools rests with the Schools Funding Agency.

The determination process has been reviewed by Leeds SACRE; new SACRE members are informed about this as part of their induction.

Other information

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship. SACRE recognises parents' legal rights but hopes and recommends that all children should be enabled to receive stimulating and balanced collective worship as part of their entitlement to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

[Guidance](#) on good practice and protocols for withdrawal is available to schools via Leeds for Learning; consultants are available if further support is needed.

Section Four: Links with other organisations

SACRE has active links with the following local and national 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
- Leeds for Learning
- Leeds School Improvement Service
- RE Today Services
- Other local organisations and charities such as Equilibria, Concord Interfaith Fellowship and Leeds Interfaith.
- RE Hubs <https://www.re-hubs.uk/>

Section Five: Other areas of involvement

SACRE priorities for partnership and community cohesion 2024/25:

- To develop links with communities, local councillors and others to ensure SACRE is fully engaged with wider city issues.
- To develop links with Multi Academy Trusts in order to fulfil SACRE responsibilities to support and develop RE in all schools.
- To promote and enrich RE and subject knowledge through partnership working with faith communities.

Community cohesion

Census information on faith, (published in November 2022) will continue to inform SACRE's work in the wider community. SACRE membership aims to reflect the range of faiths and worldviews in our city. SACRE continues to ensure that attendance continues to be consistent by members of all groups. Some new members have joined SACRE over the past year, including a Sikh rep to fill the vacancy. Local councillors are making an increasing contribution to SACRE, and their regular attendance is very much appreciated.

Meetings have focused on providing opportunities for discussion in small groups. Working parties for Collective worship, self-evaluation and communication with MATs enable greater participation of individual SACRE members in fulfilling the aims of SACRE.

The MATs Working Party will look to connect with MAT leads in a more structured way. There is already some contact with individual schools from Leeds MATS - teachers from 13 primary academies and 11 secondary academies have made contact via networks, training or regular communications over the past year.

Partnership working with faith communities

Leeds SACRE is proud to have initiated and developed the creation of a set of videos to support teachers and students in teaching RE. Two sets of films to support Judaism and Sikhi were produced previously. These have now been extended to include two further sets on Islam and Hindu Dharma this year. Completed films will be published in September 2025 and made freely available to schools locally and nationally via the [Pennine Learning website](#) and the [RE Hubs website](#). Leeds SACRE contributed approximately 10% of the funding; most of the funding was raised by Hindu and Muslim communities in Leeds to enable completion of this valuable resource. Leeds SACRE is grateful to local faith communities for their support of this initiative.

The series of twilight webinars on subject knowledge of world faiths included guests from local faith and belief communities, including Leeds, to enrich discussion and answer

questions about: Judaism, Islam, Christianity and Humanism. These webinars are promoted and organised in cooperation with partner local authorities and are open to all.

An 'Autumn festivals' online event was offered for Interfaith week 2024. Primary schools were offered the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of Autumn festivals celebrated by Sikh, Jewish, Christian and pagan communities. The panel included the Leeds SACRE Jewish member. All primary schools from Kirklees, Leeds and Calderdale were invited – 6 Leeds schools attended (approximately 450 children).

Enriching RE through visits and visitors

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. A directory of faith visits and visitors, [Enriching RE through Visits and Visitors](#), is regularly updated. It includes individuals from faith communities who are willing to come into school and bring direct engagement and an opportunity for dialogue. It also includes general information about places and organisations.

The faith trail in June 2025 was a very successful CPD offer to schools, supported by five faith communities linked to SACRE and included on the list of visits and visitors - Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, Muslim centres.

Free training is offered to faith communities through the Schools Welcome initiative to inform them of the requirements of the Leeds RE Syllabus, and to support them in hosting visits from schools. There were no training sessions in Leeds during 2024/25.

Section Six: Leeds SACRE arrangements

SACRE priorities 2024/25:

- To review and prioritise funding for SACRE. It needs to be consistently allocated in line with national recommendations to enable SACRE to make decisions about its priorities and ensure these can be properly resourced to assist the learning of RE in schools.
- To review the membership of SACRE annually to ensure it reflects the breadth and diversity of the city in terms of faiths and beliefs.
- To encourage Local Authority reps to continue to attend SACRE consistently to demonstrate support for the work of SACRE and recognition of council responsibility for RE as a statutory subject.

SACRE funding

Leeds City Council funds the operation of SACRE by contracting its consultants, providing a clerk and supporting its work through links with senior education officers. SACRE benefits from access to communications with schools via Leeds for learning pages and regular newsletter updates. Leeds SACRE benefits from working jointly with other West Yorkshire SACREs, most notably Kirklees which facilitates production of the local syllabus.

Although funding for SACRE is still lower than recommended, good use has been made of the royalties from sales of the syllabus units of work to fund additional activities that fulfil the aims of SACRE:

- The faith trail (June 2025) was offered as CPD for teachers at no cost to schools because SACRE funds covered the cost of the coach and a small donation to the participating faith centres. JB Travel kindly offered a substantially reduced rate on the cost of the coach. Leeds SACRE would like to thank them for their support for this event.
- Funding of conference fees and travel enabled two SACRE members to attend NASACRE annual conference in London. They made links with other SACREs, received helpful advice and engaged with national issues in RE.
- SACRE provided 10% of the funding for the Hindu/Islam film series, with the remainder being provided by Leeds Hindu and Muslim communities.

SACRE Membership

SACRE membership includes representatives from all four constituent committees.

Committee A	Faith communities, except for the Church of England
Committee B	Anglican representatives
Committee C	Teachers and schools
Committee D	Leeds City Council

Membership for 2024-5 was as follows:

Buddhist	A	<i>Vacancy</i>
Hindu	A	Saroj Chauhan
Jewish	A	Gail Taylor
Muslim	A	Afsha Hussain
Sikh	A	<i>Vacancy</i>
Humanist	A	Ian Harris
<i>Baha'i</i>	A	<i>Vacancy</i>
Christian denominations (Methodist)	A	Ruth Barlow
Christian denominations (Orthodox)	A	<i>Vacancy</i>
Christian denominations (RC)	A	Diana Brodowska
Christian denominations (Pentecostal)	A	Russell Trudgen
Christian denominations (Quaker)	A	Pauline Leonard
Christian denominations	A	<i>Vacancy</i>
Christian denominations	A	<i>Vacancy</i>
Christian denominations	A	<i>Vacancy</i>
Church of England	B	Denise Brogden
Church of England	B	Ann Nicholl
Church of England	B	Ben Cordy
Church of England	B	Susie Smith
Church of England	B	Jane Pollard
Teachers' associations	C	Melanie Robinson
Teachers' associations	C	Aiden Gillespie
Teachers' associations	C	Salma Begum
Teachers' associations	C	Shaima Leena
Teachers' associations	C	<i>Vacancy</i>
Teachers' associations	C	<i>Vacancy</i>
Teachers' associations	C	<i>Vacancy</i>
Local authority	D	ClIr Ryk Downes
Local authority	D	ClIr Zara Hussain
Local authority	D	ClIr Helen Hayden
Local authority	D	ClIr Sam Firth
Local authority	D	ClIr Wayne Dixon
Local authority	D	ClIr Oliver Edwards
Co-opted	Z	Available
Co-opted	Z	Available

Training for SACRE members

Training is provided by NASACRE and offered to SACRE members. Leeds SACRE subscribed to the NASACRE training package for 2024/25 in order to take advantage of free and reduced-price training.

Training includes an introduction to SACRE, which provides the basis for the induction of new SACRE members. Other training undertaken by members included:

NASACRE conference in London attended by 2 SACRE members

NASACRE in conversation regional events for training and updates

This subscription has been renewed for 2025/26.

Section Seven: Advice to the Local authority

The following is a summary of the given to the Local Authority in this report:

- To explain and communicate to SACRE the reasons for the Local Authority decision to maintain funding for SACRE below the DfE recommended 2% of CSSB. To explore realistic and appropriate ways for the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory responsibilities within the constraints of limited funding.
- To support SACRE in finding effective ways to engage with schools who are not fulfilling their duty to offer high quality RE e.g. with targeted support via Learning improvement teams and local councillors.
- To explore realistic ways to offer a reduction in costs for RE networks, e.g. through partnership with organisations such as Leeds Trinity, or through making use of RE consultant time already included in Leeds contract.
- To ensure that councillors nominated to SACRE are motivated and wish to be involved in the development of RE and community cohesion in Leeds; To review the membership of SACRE annually to ensure it reflects the breadth and diversity of the city in terms of faiths and beliefs.
- To develop effective preparation for scrutiny of the Annual report in order to focus on measurable outcomes; To bring the scrutiny date forward to make links with other educational priorities in Leeds.
- To review arrangements for the teaching of RE at Key Stage 4 to non-exam classes by evaluating and applying the example of schools with good practice in RE provision at Key Stage 4.

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, Michael Oates michael.oates@leeds.gov.uk



This annual report is prepared for Leeds Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) as part of its statutory responsibility. For further information on the report or on RE and Collective Worship in Leeds, please contact Helen Rivers at helen.rivers@leeds.gov.uk