

Author Anne Andrews
Job title Professional Adviser to SACRE
Date November 2024

MILTON KEYNES SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
From the chair of sacre	2
Overview	2
Asc (agreed syllabus conference)	3
RE (statutory responsibilities)	3
The locally agreed syllabus (LAS)	3
Standards and monitoring of RE	3
Collective Worship (CW) (statutory responsibilities)	4
Standards and monitoring of CW	4
Determinations	4
Links with other bodies	4
Local SACRE involvement	5
SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities)	5
Appendices	6
SACRE and ASC Attendance Charts	6
Meeting agendas	8
Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A Level RS results	12
Details of CPD provided to schools	12
Circulation details for this Annual Report	12

INTRODUCTION

FROM THE ADVISER TO SACRE

This last year saw a change of SACRE, and the outgoing chair has been unable to write a report. There was also a change of vice-chair, but these changes are leading to a more stable SACRE, especially as the new members are both members of the local council. As previously there were issues with engagement from the council this is going to strengthen the operation of Milton Keynes SACRE.

Meetings have generally been better attended, and the key focus has been on the creation of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE extends its thanks to Lou Tribus for her chairing and inspiration over the last years and to Janet Gleghorn, our clerk for her continual tireless service.

OVERVIEW

Milton Keynes SACRE has met online three times this year. Meetings were held on 28th September 2023, 6th March 2024 and 4th June 2024. All meetings have been quorate, though attendance overall has been poor, and apologies are not always received in advance. Some members have attended only the Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings, which have mostly followed the main SACRE meeting. The first ASC meeting took place in September. Meetings are not broadcast, but anyone wishing to attend is invited to contact the clerk in advance of the meeting to receive the link. A couple of teachers have attended as observers, with a view to becoming members of SACRE.

- 28th September 2023. Lou Tribus was elected chair and Waqas Ahmed was elected as vice chair. New Baha'i and Buddhist representatives were welcomed, as were two new teachers, one representing secondary and the other primary academies. The rest of the meeting focused on updates and essential matters, such as the annual report, the latest newsletter and progress on the two faiths project. A short ASC followed this meeting to elect the chair and vice chair and establish the timeframe for further work. Lou Tribus was elected chair and Sabiha Bibi as vice chair. A further ASC meeting was called for 23rd November.
- 6th March 2024. The meeting received verbal updates from local schools and interactions with faith communities, and it was decided that the constitution and membership of SACRE needed to be reviewed. The chair advised that she would be resigning from her role of chair in the summer, so members were asked to consider whether they would put themselves forward. Other standing items were shared as usual. The ASC meeting that followed elected a new chair as Lou Tribus decided she was no longer able to chair both meetings, and did not wish to be part of the ASC. The vice chair was also not in attendance, so Toby Long was elected to chair the ASC. The ASC received a presentation on the progress and development of the syllabus so far, as well as the context of Milton Keynes schools.
- 4th June 2024. The standard items were shared, and there was an update on the revision of the constitution. It was decided that a larger pool of teachers needed to be recruited, and as the constitution stated a minimum of 3, there was no issue in recruiting more. There was feedback from members that had attended the NASACRE AGM in York. There was also an update on the Two Faiths Project, which is making slow progress. Information about the REC Worldviews toolkit was also shared. The ASC was presented with the latest version of the syllabus, including

the units that had been written in the workshops with teachers. Feedback was received on the latest version from members of Groups A and C in particular. All feedback was being considered and appropriate material included. More workshops were scheduled with teachers to work on the units and to check the age-appropriateness of the questions and content.

ASC (AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE)

The Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened and throughout the year the meetings have followed the main SACRE meetings, with an additional meeting in November 2023. The details of the meetings are included in the section above.

The revised syllabus has been largely produced by the adviser, developing more precise content from the general themes of the previous syllabus. It was decided to include some specific disciplinary units, that also began to explore the concept of worldviews. These units were written by teachers working collaboratively with the adviser.

At every stage the versions of the syllabus have been shared with members of the ASC and feedback has been received and incorporated where appropriate. There has been much discussion around the wording of questions and the content, and all of the information has also been shown to the RE networks, so that teachers have been kept informed about progress.

The intention is that the syllabus will be ready to be approved in September 2024 for implementation in September 2025.

RE (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES)

THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS (LAS)

The new agreed syllabus is well underway, and the new version will be available to schools during the course of next academic year for implementation in September 2025.

STANDARDS AND MONITORING OF RE

- SACRE continues to gather its information about RE through feedback from Group C members in SACRE and through the RE network meetings. No other monitoring of RE in schools has been possible this year, with the adviser time being spent largely on the Agreed Syllabus revision.
- SACRE does not have data on how many pupils are withdrawn from RE across the LA.
- SACRE has not received any feedback on Ofsted reports from the Local Authority and no voluntary controlled schools have had SIAMS inspections.
- The LA has not been able to share any RE data with SACRE during the academic year in question.
- SACRE has therefore not given the LA any advice on RE standards, though SACRE has requested that if school improvement partners visit schools either for Ofsted feedback or to offer support, that they should report back to SACRE about any RE observed. Although this request has been made during the last few years, no information has been passed on to SACRE.

- No schools have applied for or achieved RE Quality Mark (REQM) awards possibly due to the cost of the process.
- Teacher training is provided through the system of RE network meetings. SACRE also advertises local and national training to schools through the termly newsletter. This newsletter contains information about resources that are available, and information about faith traditions. SACRE has continued to include a report on the RE network meeting from the previous term, so that teachers unable to attend are able to see what has been discussed.
- Two additional training sessions were organised: New to Teaching RE in Milton Keynes and New to Leading RE in Milton Keynes. These two sessions drew a small number of teachers but gave an opportunity to ensure that new teachers and leaders are better equipped for their jobs.
- No complaints or requests about withdrawals have been forwarded to SACRE by the LA or received by SACRE.
- No advice has been given to the LA about RE for the reasons outlined above, other than to ask the schools support team to liaise with SACRE about Ofsted feedback and any RE observed.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (CW) (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES)

STANDARDS AND MONITORING OF CW

SACRE has not sought any information about collective worship this year.

The new Muslim representative reported that 20% of schools in Milton Keynes have a prayer room available at lunch times and there was much discussion about the feasibility of schools offering this facility. Primary schools reported that this would be difficult because of the need to have pupils supervised when they are in the building. It was recognised that this was not a statutory requirement, nor was it part of collective worship.

DETERMINATIONS

- There are no determinations in force, and none applied for. SACRE does not have data on how many pupils are withdrawn across the LA.
- Collective worship information has been included regularly in the termly SACRE newsletter.
- No complaints or requests for advice about withdrawals have been received.
- The only advice given to the LA is the need for partners to feedback on what they are seeing in schools.

LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

- Milton Keynes SACRE continues to be a subscribed member of NASACRE and has also purchased the training package. One Member attended the AGM, and the adviser is a member of the NASACRE executive committee. The NASACRE briefings are distributed to SACRE and many of the items are discussed in SACRE meetings and used to inform the agenda.
- The RE Adviser is a member of Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC), and information is shared where it is relevant.
- The RE networks are NATRE linked and NATRE resources are shared. The RE networks are also advertised on the new RE Hubs website. Faith communities have also been invited to participate

in the hub training for speakers and places of worship. The humanist member of SACRE is an accredited speaker for Humanist UK.

- The RE adviser is also adviser to the local Diocese and so training opportunities are shared.

LOCAL SACRE INVOLVEMENT

- Milton Keynes SACRE has not offered any governor training this last year, nor has been asked to do so.
- Local places of worship continue to welcome SACRE meetings and training events in their venues. The Two Faiths project is seeking to create links between two places of worship, so that schools can visit more easily. This project is being undertaken by a local member of Christian clergy with a history of inter-faith work.

SACRE'S OWN ARRANGEMENTS (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES)

- Milton Keynes SACRE pays for professional advice from the Diocese of Oxford. This covers the three SACRE meetings, preparation and delivery of the three RE networks, writing the three SACRE newsletters and producing the annual report. Occasional extra funding is made available for additional sessions if planned. Meetings are clerked, and open to the public if people request the link from the clerk. Meetings are all held online, and the meetings are not broadcast.
- SACRE submitted the approved annual report from 2022-23 to the DfE and NASACRE, but not until the March deadline as the results were not available.
- Interest and participation by members of the different groups has been discouraging in the last few years. To address this trend, SACRE is becoming more proactive in approaching potential members and recruiting from a wide range of communities. We are fortunate to have a proactive local councillor join SACRE recently.
- Members have been advised to attend NASACRE training and a few have taken that opportunity. The NASACRE produced PowerPoint on the ASC was used to introduce members to the requirements of an Agreed syllabus review.
- Financial arrangements for SACRE are below:

SACRE budget 2023 - 2024		Cost code 50000437						
Professional services	4535							
Journalled from 21 - 2022	1025	Confirmed						
Journalled from 22 - 2023	4625.58	Confirmed						
Statutory Costs	3000							
Total budget	13185.58							
	Planned expenditure	Breakdown	Comments	Delivered by	Purchase Order	Paid	Invoice received	Balance to be paid
Oxford Diocese RE Consultant	600.00	3 meetings per year	£200 per day	Anne Andrews	31500056545	Yes	Yes	0
3 x SACRE Newsletter	600.00	3 newsletters per year	£200 per newsletter	Anne Andrews	31500056545	Yes	Yes	0
Re Network meeting	150.00	3 twilight sessions	£50 per session	Anne Andrews	31500056545	Yes	Yes	0
New to RE Leadership	200.00	£300 if in person if not £200 session		Anne Andrews	31500056545	Yes	Yes	0
New to RE teaching in MK	200.00	£300 if in person if not £200 session		Anne Andrews	31500056545	Yes	Yes	0
ASC payment for Diocese work	1000.00				31500056545	Yes	Yes	0
Annual report writing	200.00			Anne Andrews	31500056545	Yes	Yes	0
NASACRE subscription and virtual training	155.00		Annual subscription		31500052103	Yes	Yes	0
Statutory Costs of £3000 from LA	2787	GB costs as LA			Journalled by Accountant			
NASACRE AGM attendance 2023	240				31500050222	Yes	Yes	0
NASACRE AGM attendance 2024	120	Chris Kingsman			31500057947	Yes	Yes	0
Expenses to Diocese for the NASACRE AGM	32.10			Anne Andrews	31500052038	Yes	Yes	
Total	6284.10							
Remaining budget	6901.48							

APPENDICES

SACRE AND ASC ATTENDANCE CHARTS

Representing	Member	28-09-23	06/03/24	04/06/24	Totals
Group A					
Free Church	Carol Wheatle	A	P	A	1/3
Roman Catholic	Vacancy				
Baha'i	Sohail Azordegan/ Muzio Laconte	P	A	P	2/3
Buddhist	Dr Ajit de Silva Gwen Morgan	P	P	A	2/3
Hindu	Ramnik Gohil (from 06/03)		P	A	1/2
Muslim (Shia)	Zainab Manji	A	P	A	1/3
Muslim (Sunni)	Dewar Abbas (from 06/03)		P	?	1/2
Jewish	Lou Tribus	A	P	P	2/3
Sikh	Talvinder Kaur Virdee- Basra	?	A	A	0/3
Humanist	Elaine Lever	A	A	P	1/3
Group B					
C of E	Rev Paul Smith	A	P	P	2/3
	Toby Long	P	P	A	2/3
	Gill Wood	P	P	P	3/3
	Vacancy				
Group C					
Primary HT	Amanda Dicks	A	P	A	1/3

Primary	Emma Wallace		A	?	0/3
Academy Primary	Chris Kingsman	P	P	P	3/3
Academies	Sabiha Bibi	P	For first 30 minutes	P	2/3
	Pam Ridley	?	P	?	1/3
Group D					
Cllr					
Cllr	Waqas Ahmad	P	P	P	3/3
Observers					
	<i>Helen Maltby</i>		P		
	<i>Patrick Comerford</i>	P	P	P	3/3
Teacher	<i>Rupinder Obhi</i>			P	
Officers					
Adviser	Anne Andrews	p	P	P	3/3
LA Officer	Graham Beech	p	P	P	3/3
Clerk	Janet Gleghorn/Theresa O'Brien	p	P	P	3/3
Totals		10/19	16/21	11/21	

Representing	Member	23-11-23	06/03/24	04/06/24	Totals
Group A					
Free Church	Carol Wheatle	P	P	A	2/3
Roman Catholic	Vacancy				
Baha'i	Muzio Laconte	P	A	P	2/3
Buddhist	Gwen Morgan	P	P	A	2/3
Hindu	Ramnik Gohil		P	A	1/2
Muslim	Zainab Manji	P	P	P	3/3
Muslim (Sunni)	Dewar Abbas (from 06/03)				1/2
Jewish	Lou Tribus	P	A	A	1/3
Sikh	Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra	A	A	A	0/3
Humanist	Elaine Lever	P	A	P	2/3
Group B					
C of E	Rev Paul Smith	A	P	P	2/3
	Toby Long	A	P	P	2/3
	Gill Wood	P	P	P	3/3
	Vacancy				
Group C					
Primary HT	Amanda Dicks	A	P	A	1/3
Primary	Emma Wallace		A		0/3
Academy Primary	Chris Kingsman	P	P	P	3/3
Academies	Sabiha	P	A	P	2/3
	Pam Ridley	P	P		2/3
Group D					

Cllr					
Cllr	Waqas Ahmad	P	P	P	3/3
Officers					
Adviser	Anne Andrews	p	P	P	3/3
LA Officer	Graham Beech	p	P	P	3/3
Clerk	Janet Gleghorn	p	P	P	3/3
Totals		14/19	14/21	11/21	

MEETING AGENDAS

Meeting name: SACRE

Date 28th September 2023 Online Teams 3.45 – 5.45

Welcome by Chair Lou Tribus and previous Minutes.

Introductory Items (15 Minutes)

1. Welcome
2. Elect chair and vice chair AA
3. Apologies LT
4. Reflections – contributions from 2 members LT
5. Membership Update LT
6. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising LT

Items in Brief (5 minutes)

7. MK SACRE Training programme for RE teachers for the year AA
8. NASACRE training for SACRE members AA
9. Draft Annual Report – to include 2022 Exam data. AA
10. SACRE newsletter for information. AA

Items for discussion: (1 hr)

1. Budget GB/JG
2. NATRE supplied Workforce census data GB
 - a. Schools that have not supplied data or whose data show they aren't teaching very much or any RE need to be contacted to find out what is their situation.
3. RE Hubs website – actions for SACRE LT
4. Items from NASACRE briefing – including writing to MPs/councillors to encourage them to talk to REC/NATRE at party conferences AA
5. Discussion of priorities for the year –
 - a. Two faiths project, LT
 - b. Youth SACRE GB/LT
 - c. Informing faith groups and places of worship about RE-Hubs website and how to register. LT
6. AOB LT

Date of next meeting 6/03/24 & 04/06/24

Agreed Syllabus Conference (40 min)

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Elect chair and vice chair | LT |
| 2. Apologies | LT |
| 3. Membership Update | GB/JG |
| 4. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising | LT |
| 5. Draft Syllabus – discussion | LT,AA, GB |
| a. Review of documents that Anne sent out that will have a bearing on the ASC | |
| i. National Statement of Entitlement... | |
| ii. Buckinghamshire AS | |
| iii. MK Draft Syllabus | |
| b. Draft syllabus to start the discussion | AA |
| c. Look at other Agreed Syllabi, particularly Buckinghamshire which is available to purchase and adapt for MK (£5000) | |
| 6. Next steps | Chair |
| 7. Date of next meeting 6th March 2024 & 4th June 2024 | |

SACRE

Teams meeting

6 March 2024

	Lead	Time
1. Welcome	Chair	15:45
1.1 Apologies for absences	JG	
1.2 Reflections		
1.3 Minutes from 28 September meeting		
2. Discussion items		
2.1 School activity and feedback	All	15:50
2.2 How is it going in schools?	Teacher members	
2.3 Constitution revision	LT/GB/WA	
2.4 Change of Chair	LT	
3. Standing items		
3.1 Feedback on SACRE members training attended	All	16:00
3.2 Feedback from RE Network	AA	
3.3 Feedback on Two Faiths project		
4. NASACRE		
4.1 NASACRE briefing items	All	16:10
4.2 NASACRE AGM/conference – who will attend?	All	
5. National Updates	All	16:20

6. Budget and forward plan

6.1 Budget update 2023 – 2024

GB/JG

16:30

6.2 Forward plan 2024 – 2025

All

7. AOB

Dates to be agreed for SACRE meetings for Summer, Autumn and Spring 2025

Agreed Syllabus Conference

Teams meeting

6 March 2024

	Lead	Time
1 Welcome	GB	16:45
1.1 Attendance and apologies		
1.2 Minutes from previous meeting (attached)		
1.3 Elect a new Chair and Vice Chair for the ASC		
2 Discussion items		
2.2 Feedback on the syllabus proposals	All	17:00
2.3 Next steps on the syllabus	All	

3 AOB

Dates to be agreed for ASC meetings

SACRE

Teams meeting

4 June 2024

	Lead	Time
1. Welcome	Chair	15:45
1.1 Apologies for absences	TO (Theresa O'Brien)	
1.2 Minutes from March (attached for reference)		
1.3 Reflection from Zainab Manji		

2. Discussion items

2.1 Verbal feedback on school visits	All	16:00
2.2 Constitution revision	GB	
2.3 Change of Chair		
2.4 Appointment of New SACRE members	GB	
3. Standing items		
3.1 Training attended inc NASACRE AGM and RE Hubs All	All	16:15
3.2 Feedback from RE Network	AA	
3.3 Feedback on Two Faiths project	PC	
4. NASACRE		
4.1 NASACRE briefing items	All	16:30
5. National Updates	All	16:35
6. Budget and forward plan		
6.1 Budget update 2023 – 2024	GB	16:40
7. AOB		
Dates to be agreed for Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025		
Suggested dates :		
Thursday 19 th September		
Tuesday 24 th September		
Thursday 3 rd October		
Monday 7 th October		
Thursday 6 th March 2025		

Agreed Syllabus Conference

Teams meeting

4 June 2024

	Lead	Time
1. Welcome		16:50
1.1 Attendance and apologies		
1.1 Minutes from previous meeting (attached)		
2. Discussion items		17:00
2.1 Revised syllabus – where are we now?	AA	
2.2 Feedback on the syllabus proposals	All	
2.3 Next steps on the syllabus	AA	
3. AOB		

TABLE OF GCSE – SHORT AND FULL, A/S & A LEVEL RS RESULTS

Currently only headline data is available and although the data should be in the public domain, the Local Authority would like to approach individual schools to discuss the data and the workforce data before these are shared publicly. The workforce data appears to reveal that several schools do not record offering RS to all year groups. This could be because in some schools it is not called RS, or because it is incorporated into another subject. This will need to be a focus of SACREs work moving forward.

The headline examination data at KS4 reflects the workforce data, with several schools not recording any entries at either full or short course GCSE, with only a few entering more than 25% of their cohort for RS at this stage.

A level data still appears not to be available to SACRE.

DETAILS OF CPD PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS

All CPD is overseen by the LA

Autumn Term: This session focused on the progress made so far with the syllabus and gave teachers an opportunity to compare the current syllabus with the proposals. This was the most comprehensive feedback from teachers.

Spring Term: This session explored how best to audit a school's RE curriculum, using both the proposed new syllabus material and the Ofsted Subject Report. The proposed National Statement of Entitlement was also shared with teachers so that they have a fuller picture of what the new syllabus is trying to achieve. The links between curriculum and pupil progress was also discussed.

Summer term: This meeting took place in person in one of the schools represented on SACRE. A small number of teachers met to share resources and successes and to look at the next version of the syllabus.

CIRCULATION DETAILS FOR THIS ANNUAL REPORT

- This Annual Report should be circulated by email to the following groups:
 - SACRE members
 - Council members
 - Education Department and schools
 - Libraries
 - NASACRE
 - Department for Education