



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2023-24**

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An Overview from the Chairperson

Peterborough SACRE is flourishing with the joint expertise from Rutland and Cambridgeshire SACRE members. Having collaborated and worked jointly in producing the Agreed syllabus we continue to build capacity and share best practices. Our members have continued to give their time and efforts so that our SACRE can support and enable teachers to teach RE with confidence. **Thank you!** The time and effort you dedicate now will be fruitful for our young members in society as well as for their future. With such an ambition, I look forward to schools in Peterborough delivering active RE for students, where the substantive knowledge will lead to long-term progression and benefits.

Teaching Religious Education (RE) as a subject in schools can support the development of religious literacy and help our younger generation reflect on their worldviews. Schools may be teaching RE under the name of Religion and Worldviews or Philosophy and Ethics; however, it is essential to recognise that the subject helps our younger generation with their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural elements. Furthermore, it helps to foster and enhance social relationships in the broader community and equally developing active learning for future careers. Societal inequalities within society includes religious worldviews hence the necessity to understand and be taught RE actively. Every child is entitled to receive high-quality RE, and the Government is keen to ensure this is delivered effectively. Ofsted (2021) has provided further guidance on what the RE curriculum should be like within schools. Out of the 16 secondary schools in Peterborough it is encouraging to know that five of them offer A Level RE. I would like to congratulate these schools for their efforts.

Peterborough is a diverse, cohesive community and continues to shape its identity with people of faith and non-religious views. RE can help young people understand world views, including religious beliefs that shape faith communities. People from faith or no-faith backgrounds face various challenges that can be recognised and understood when studying Religious Education. People of all backgrounds, faiths and world views can actively participate in the broader society by coming together on common issues.

Peterborough SACRE continues to succeed through various members' voluntary time and effort. In addition, meetings have continued virtually to support schools. It is important to recognise the dedication of the members. The support by local councillors is appreciated as it helps promote and support RE teaching within the city. I would also like to thank the councillors for actively participating in the LAS committee.

Amanda Fitton, our SACRE Adviser, supports schools to ensure RE provision continues within Peterborough. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for all the hard work and the training sessions to support high quality of teaching RE.

Our clerk, Laura Schneikert, continues to ensure timely communications with members and supporting SACRE work. I take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work for Peterborough SACRE.

I also want to thank Dave Roberts, the vice chair, for supporting SACRE. To members from Committees A, B, C and D I thank you for all your support and expertise in making the work of Peterborough SACRE a success.

As a SACRE committee, we will continue to support schools in delivering effective RE in Peterborough by:

1. Supporting teachers and leaders to provide meaningful and effective RE within their school settings so that students can develop an active understanding of religious literacy.
2. Ensuring that we provide appropriate support to teachers within different key stages.
3. Promoting online support from SACRE faith members for enhanced students' experiences.

As a Chair of SACRE, I commend this report and encourage the work our SACRE has been involved with in ensuring Peterborough students have a superb experience of learning RE. To the Teachers of RE

I wish them well in their efforts to make the subject active in the lives of our young members of society so that they benefit now and in the future.

I am very passionate about RE and so have dedicated my time in ensuring our young people have the opportunity to study RE locally. On a national level I have given my time to NASACRE so that RE is championed nationally. The **future of this subject is in our hands** so to my fellow SACRE members be there and advocate for **RE to be taught well in our city**.

Thank you for all your efforts,

Sukaina Manji
Chair of SACRE
Feb 2025

Management of SACRE

Peterborough City Council has continued to support the work of SACRE through funding that provides a clerk for the meetings, services of an RE Adviser to support SACRE, and its work and teacher training for the teaching of Religious Education and advice about Collective Worship. The Religious Education Adviser, Amanda Fitton, has continued to work with all the Cambridgeshire schools and SACRE.

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Peterborough SACRE, which has met three times this year, comprises four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable; however, all committees are well represented.

The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A - representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions, and worldview communities;
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;
- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations;
- Committee D – representatives of the Local Authority.

And Co-opted Members

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Peterborough City Council SACRE website at:

[Religious education - Peterborough City Council](#)

Overview and attendance at meetings

Membership, representation & recruitment - quoracy, issues and successes with recruitment –

All meetings were quorate and went ahead. All members were given the option to attend remotely. Published minutes of meetings show attendance of members and where apologies were sent.

SACRE was delighted to appoint the following members:

Dorothy Ball – Group A

Councillor Katy Cole – Group D

Councillor Ray Bisby - Group D

We also said goodbye to

Nissa Khan- Group A

Reverend Jennifer Paddison – Group B

Councillor Nicolle Moyo – Group D

Councillor Charles Fenner - Group D

Statutory Responsibilities

Agreed Syllabus – It is unclear how many academies are using the agreed syllabus but monitoring has started as part of SACRE's work in 2023 – 2024.

Agreed Syllabus Conference

The new Agreed Syllabus was launched in September 2023. The next Conference will be held in the Summer of 2028.

Standards and Monitoring of RE – GCSE and A-Level results

There are sixteen secondary schools in Peterborough, with ten taking GCSE RE. One of the sixteen is a new school with only year seven and eight so there is no expectation of GCSE results from this school but five schools have no GCSE entries and this will be challenged by SACRE. In 2024 there was a slight increase in numbers taking the GCSE in Peterborough. Five schools in Peterborough also offer A level RE, numbers are small but consistent.

Brief content of meetings including Self Evaluation tool and SACRE Development plan

The Self Evaluation tool was addressed via a series of working parties in 2023-24. This will form the SACRE Development plan for 2024-25.

Teacher training and materials and advice for schools

Teacher training has been carried out by the RE adviser for Cambridgeshire and advertised through school news. The following training courses in 2023-24 were scheduled and took place at either Buckden Village Hall and via Zoom:

-Wed 20th September 2023, Thursday 7th December 2023, Tues 7th Jan 2024 and Wednesday 22nd May 2024 – The New Agreed Syllabus – Via Zoom (3.30-5.00pm)

-Thurs 12th October 2023 (9:00am-12.00noon) – Leading RE and the New Agreed Syllabus – Buckden Village Hall,

-Tuesday 7th November 2023 and Thursday 29th February 2024 – RE and Ofsted – via Zoom (3:30-5.00pm)

-Tuesday 30th January 2024 9:00am – 12:00noon: Subject Knowledge – Buckden Village Hall

-Tuesday 16th April 2024 9:00am – 12:00noon: Creative RE – Buckden Village Hall

-Wednesday 5th June 2024: 3:30-5:00pm Writing a Curriculum with Story – Via Zoom

-RE network meetings – termly

Advice to the LA

No advice was requested by the LA.

Complaints

There have been no complaints relating to SACRE.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship has been the topic of debate in SACRE meetings this academic year and will be ongoing. No advice was given to the LA on Collective Worship.

Determinations

SACRE had no new requests for determinations but the process of determinations has been discussed at SACRE meetings this academic year.

Link to other bodies

NASACRE- Our Chair, Sukaina Manji, was nominated for a 2nd year as an Executive for NASACRE. She is responsible for conferences and workshops that follow.

NASACRE Conference - The NASACRE conference was held in York in May 2024. The chair of SACRE Sukaina Manji and Amanda Fitton, RE Advisor attended on behalf of Peterborough.

Governor Training

SACRE has carried out no governor training with schools.

Training for SACRE (and ASC) members

SACRE members were sent details of the virtual training provided by NASACRE. All new SACRE members are required to attend induction training. All members were also asked to complete PREVENT training.

Finance given to SACRE for its work

Funding is provided to SACRE on an annual basis. A training event on Worldviews was organised for teachers in Peterborough but was under-subscribed.

Relevant Links

Peterborough SACRE website - [Religious education - Peterborough City Council](#)

If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Peterborough SACRE Clerk via e-mail at laura.schneikert@peterborough.gov.uk