



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for  
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-25**

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## An Overview from the Chairperson

This academic year of 2024 to 25 has once again been fruitful for Peterborough SACRE as it continues to work jointly with Rutland and Cambridgeshire SACRE members. Our Locally Agreed syllabus is useful to teachers who have benefited from such a partnership. Our members have continued to give their time and efforts so that our SACRE can support and enable teachers to teach RE with confidence. One such instance is the SACRE Conference in December where the expertise of faith members through their presentations was unique, and teachers had the opportunity to build further subject knowledge. Thank you to all those who played such a vital role on the day! The time and effort that our SACRE members dedicate support the teaching of RE in our city. Peterborough SACRE continues to succeed through various members' voluntary time and effort. 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.

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. It is encouraging to know some secondary schools in Peterborough 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 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.

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 Corcoran, 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 would also like to wish her the best as her role expands further to other duties as well from September 2025.

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

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.

Having been a member of SACRE since 2010 and serving as a Chair for around ten years the time has now come for me to hand the baton to my peers. I take this opportunity to thank all and one and I look forward to schools in Peterborough to continue delivering active RE.

Sukaina Manji

## 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:

Amit Mehta – Group A  
Joanne Goodwin - Teacher representative  
Nathanael Robinson - Teacher representative

We also said goodbye to  
Dorothy Ball – Group A  
Rajni Reddy - Group A  
Rebecca Smith – Group B

## **Statutory Responsibilities**

**Agreed Syllabus** – It is unclear how many academies are using the agreed syllabus but monitoring continued as part of SACRE's work in 2024 – 2025.

### **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 fifteen secondary schools in Peterborough, with ten taking GCSE RE. One of the fifteen is a new school with no GCSE aged pupils as yet, so there is no expectation of GCSE results from this school. Four schools have no GCSE entries and this will be challenged by SACRE. In 2025 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 now form the SACRE Development plan for 2025-26.

## **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 2024-25 were scheduled and took place at either Buckden Village Hall and via Zoom:

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Agreed Syllabus – via Teams – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 24

What should an RE curriculum look like? – via Teams – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 3.30- 5.00pm

RE and Ofsted – via teams – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 -3.30- 5.00pm

Assessment and progression in RE – via Teams Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 – 3.30- 5.00pm

Using story in your curriculum – via teams – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 -3.30- 5.00pm

Leading RE – via teams – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - 3.30- 5.00pm

### Network meetings 2024-25

RE network meeting – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 –via teams

RE network meeting – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 3.45 4.45pm – via teams

RE network meeting – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – 3.30- 5.00pm via teams

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> year as an Executive for NASACRE. She is responsible for conferences and workshops that follow.

NASACRE Conference - The NASACRE conference was held in London in May 2025. 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.

## **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](mailto:laura.schneikert@peterborough.gov.uk)**