



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21**

**Peterborough Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education
Annual Report 2020-21**

Contents

Chairperson's Introduction	Page 3
The purpose of the report	Page 5
Management of SACRE	Page 6
Determinations	Page 7
SACRE and Academies	Page 7
NASACRE Conference	Page 7

Chairperson's Report 2020-2021

Once again, this year has been an unusual year for all of us! Individuals will remember another year when reflecting in different ways, from adapting to online learning to go back to school, keeping social distance, and wearing masks to protect each other.

Many have found their values and beliefs have been a solid driver to get through these unusual circumstances. For example, places of worship in Peterborough had to adapt using social media to provide various services to faith members until recently opened the doors of some with limited numbers adhering to the Covid-19 requirements.

The provision of Religious Education (RE) in schools enables the development of religious literacy and helps young people reflect on their worldviews. Religious Education (RE) in schools 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. Such relationships are essential, especially when the pandemic has highlighted various inequalities within the society. Every child is entitled to receive high-quality RE, and the Government is keen to ensure this is delivered effectively. Ofsted (2021) has recently provided further guidance in what the RE curriculum should be like within schools.

People from faith or no-faith backgrounds face various challenges that can be recognised and understood when studying Religious Education. Having an appreciation of how RE can help young people helps shape how they form communities within Peterborough. By coming together on common issues, people can actively participate in the broader society; for example, humanity has prevailed during the adversities of the current pandemic. Such was cemented by having a cohesive community with various diversity within.

As volunteers serving on a SACRE committee, we have always been very keen to support the development of our young citizens in Peterborough. We are actively engaged in supporting schools with their RE teaching and have provided a locally agreed syllabus (2018-2023) to deliver effective RE for students within the city. Discussions have already started about further updating and reviewing the current syllabus.

Additionally, a document supporting information on places of worship is an ongoing resource prepared by faith representatives on the committee to help teachers when planning visits or seek further guidance.

Our SACRE Adviser, Amanda Fitton, provides online support to schools to ensure RE provision continues within Peterborough. I thank her for all the hard work she has put in to support teachers despite the unusual circumstances.

As part of our development plan, our subgroup has suggested monitoring school websites to ensure all children have RE in schools. SACRE committee members have given extra time to conduct these reviews, and once completed, the subgroup will provide a report based on the findings. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers in Peterborough who are involved in promoting RE in schools.

Peterborough SACRE continues to succeed through the voluntary time and effort given despite the unusual circumstances we are facing. In addition, meetings have continued virtually to support schools; actively dedicated members must be recognised. The support by local councillors is also appreciated as it helps promote and support RE teaching within the city.

Laura Corcoran, our clerk, continues to ensure timely communications, and I take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work in supporting Peterborough SACRE.

Despite the various challenges and changes, we as a SACRE committee will continue to support schools in delivering effective RE in Peterborough by:

1. Supporting teachers and leaders to provide meaningful RE within their school settings so that students can benefit even further;
2. Providing appropriate support to assess students in RE within different key stages.
3. Promoting online support from SACRE faith members for enhanced students' experiences.

I commend this report and continue to support the work of our SACRE in ensuring Peterborough students have an excellent experience of learning RE for now and their future lives.

Sukaina Manji
Chair of SACRE

Purpose of the report:

Religious Education (RE) is an important curriculum subject and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality RE.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority (LA) publishes a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

This entails:

- advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the agreed syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus;
- provide advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its LA, consider whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the agreed syllabus to improve the quality teaching and learning of RE;
- offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

Management of SACRE

SACRE is very pleased to report that the LA has continued to support the work of SACRE by providing a named officer from the LA responsible for SACRE and a clerk for the administration, and has secured the services of a RE Adviser to support SACRE's work to schools. Despite significant cutbacks in many local authorities, Peterborough City Council has continued to support SACRE and its work.

Peterborough SACRE, which has met once a term, comprises of four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable. The four groups are as follows:-

- Group A -representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions and religious denominations;
- Group B -representatives of the Church of England;
- Group C - representatives of the teachers' association;
- Group D – representatives of the LA.

SACRE welcomed several new members:

Committee A – Zander Berry and Mashhood Saeed

Committee D – Councillor Richard Brown

We said farewell to Adrian Peters, Janet Berkman and Councillor Lynne Ayres. We thank them all for their contributions to SACRE.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Peterborough County Council SACRE website at <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/religious-education/>

Agreed Syllabus

The 2018 – 2023 syllabus still applies to all schools in Peterborough. In the next academic year the committee will review the current syllabus.

Network Meetings

The primary network meetings for the academic year have been led Amanda Fitton (RE Adviser). Due to the Covid 19 pandemic all network meetings were offered to schools virtually via Zoom. Those who attended the meetings were sent copies of all resources and presentations. The meetings covered a variety of different topics to support RE in primary schools, these were: 'RE in a Visual Form', RE and SEND Children, 'Big Questions in RE' and 'What does Knowlesydge look like'. Network meetings will continue into the next academic year. SACRE would like to thank all those who attended the meetings.

Training

Due to Covid 19 restrictions all training was offered virtually via Zoom. A variety of training took place to support schools and teachers in delivering the best possible RE. The training covered: 'Assessment in RE', 'New to RE', 'Basics of all the six major faiths and world views', 'Leading RE' and 'RE in the Wider Curriculum'.

NASACRE Conference

Due to the pandemic, the annual NASACRE Conference was held virtually on 24th May 2021. The conference topic was Authority in RE; two keynote speakers: Professor Denise Cush and Ofsted's subject lead Richard Kueh explored the concept of authority within the RE curriculum. Our Chair, Sukaina Manji, represented SACRE and provided personal reflections on the main parts of the day through a write-up as a NASACRE executive member.

The conference also had various workshops and a Question panel. One of the workshops addressed the FOI report, and Peterborough SACRE will draw from the document to picture their ongoing budget allocated by the Local Authority.

Determinations

SACRE received no new requests for determinations.

Complaints

There have been no complaints made to SACRE.

SACRE and Academies

Peterborough SACRE continues to enjoy a positive relationship with some of the academies in the city. There are members from academies on SACRE. Teachers from academies attend network meetings to share and exchange ideas and materials.

Do you want to mention the new Ofsted review here? – what it means to us as a SACRE and also to schools

RE Newsletter

The newsletter has been sent out every term over the academic year. The newsletter has been a mixture of news from the RE world, advice, notifications and links to resources.

Development Plan

A sub group was set up to determine SACREs development plan for 2020-21. It concluded that monitoring of schools websites was required to ensure all children had access to RE and to monitor the agreed syllabus. The group also suggested that there was a requirement for banks of artefacts for schools (to borrow) should be set up in conjunction with the different religions and world views.

Exam results

Due to Covid-19 GCSE and A level results for August 2021 were based on assessment grades provided by individual schools and the government has not published any data for individual schools for 2021.

Meeting dates 2020-21

All meetings in this period were held via Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions:

14.10.20

7.2.21

24.6.21

Peterborough SACRE Membership

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