



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2022-23**

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An Overview from the Chairperson

What a successful year for our SACRE! In June 2023, we launched our Agreed Syllabus. Our Agreed syllabus was a joint effort with Peterborough, Rutland and Cambridgeshire SACRE members coming together to write the new syllabus for 2023-2028—such a collaboration supported building capacity and sharing best and common practices.

With meetings taking place and active work behind the scenes, members have ensured that quality work is delivered to our schools to enable teachers to teach RE with confidence. I must thank all those who shaped and readily put their expertise in time for schools to be able to use the syllabus in the new academic year. Thank you! With such, we look forward to schools in Peterborough delivering effective RE for students, which can 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 with different names to the subject; 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. Such relationships are essential, especially as the pandemic highlighted societal inequalities. 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.

Peterborough is a diverse, cohesive community. 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. Various groups, including people of faith, have shown how they have supported people in the name of humanity, especially during the pandemic and continue to do so in various forms.

A resource to help teachers plan visits to places of worship or contact details when they need further guidance on any faith is available. I would also like to thank representatives of faith and others who held workshop sessions during the 2023-2028 Agreed Syllabus launch.

Amanda Fitton, our SACRE Adviser, supports schools in ensuring that RE provisions continue within Peterborough. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for all the hard work and the training sessions she has tailored towards the teachers' needs.

Peterborough SACRE continues to succeed through various members' voluntary time and effort. In addition, meetings have continued virtually and with some face-to-face to support schools. It is essential 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.

Our clerk, Laura Corcoran, continues to ensure timely communications with members and supporting SACRE work. I want to 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 and members from Committees A, B, C and D for all their 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 benefit even further with embedded knowledge and skills;
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 a superb experience of learning RE for now and in their future lives as they continue towards success.

Sukaina Manji
Chair Peterborough SACRE

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). Cambridgeshire 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.
- 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 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Published minutes of meetings show attendance of members and where apologies were sent.

SACRE was delighted to appoint the following members:

Julia Ewans Co-opted member

Jennifer Paddison to Committee B

Councillor Sandra Bond to Committee D

We also said goodbye to

Jack Buley (Committee C)

Cllr Nick Sandford (Committee D)

Statutory Responsibilities

Agreed Syllabus – It is unclear how many academies are using the agreed syllabus as no monitoring has been done on this since 2021 – 2022.

Agreed Syllabus Conference – Virtual meetings of the Agreed Syllabus conference were held in 2022-23, and the Agreed Syllabus Conference was held in June 2023. The new syllabus was jointly written with Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Rutland SACRE's, and a budget was agreed with the director of education. The syllabus is being influenced by the work by the Religious Education Council (REC), Ofsted report of May 2021 and other academic work.

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

There are fifteen secondary schools in Peterborough and five did not enter any pupils for the GCSE Religious Study exam in 2023. One of those five schools is a new school and has no pupils of GCSE age at present, the other four schools are established schools and SACRE will be writing to those asking about provision of Religious Education at Key Stage 4. Of those schools participating in the GCSE, two entered the whole cohort but these are both schools of religious character. SACRE will be writing to the rest of the schools who offer GCSE enquiring about their Core Religious Education for those pupils not taking a GCSE.

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

Due to the workload of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, the Self Evaluation tool and SACRE Development plan will be addressed through SACRE's work plan in 2023-24.

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 2022-23 were held either at Buckden Village Hall and via Zoom:

Training courses	Dates in 2022-23
Leading RE	20 th September and 6 th July
RE and Ofsted	20 October and 8 th March
Different approaches to teaching RE in the primary classroom with particular thought to SEND children	9 th February
Agreed Syllabus conference	Thursday 15 th June
The basics of Faith	17 th November, 19 th January and 25 th April
What is worldviews?	22 nd March 2023
RE network meetings	Termly

Advice to the LA

Advice was given to the LA regarding the agreed syllabus conference and what would be required to fund the new syllabus.

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.

Determinations

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

Advice to LA

No advice was given to the LA on Collective Worship.

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 London on May 2023. 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.

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.corcoran@peterborough.gov.uk