



Children and Young People's Service

Agenda

Notice of a public meeting of **North Yorkshire Standing**
Advisory Council on Religious
Education (SACRE)

Date: **Tuesday, 20th September, 2022**

Time: **4.00 pm**

Venue: **Remote meeting held via Microsoft Teams**

This is an informal meeting of the Committee that is being held remotely using MS Teams. Members of the public wishing to attend will be sent a link to the meeting, upon request. Please contact Patrick Duffy for further information (contact details below).

Business

1. **Chair of SACRE**
No nominations were received. Therefore, the Local Authority has exercised its option to appoint the Chair. County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson has been appointed Chair for the School Year 2022/2023.
2. **Election of Vice-Chair**
3. **Welcome and Announcements**
4. **Apologies for Absence**
5. **Declarations of Interest**
6. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st June 2022 and any matters arising** (Pages 5 - 12)
7. **Draft Annual Report 2021/2022 - Adrian Clarke, Principal Education Adviser (Support)** (Pages 13 - 28)
8. **Member presentation - Sarah Beveridge**
SACREs Development Plan for 2022/2024 contains the action: Implement a programme of Member presentations at each SACRE meeting with a focus on Member work / community involvement and how it links into SACRE.

At today's meeting, Sarah Beveridge, will make a presentation.

9. **Update by the Professional Religious Adviser - Olivia Seymour** (Pages 29 - 30)
10. **Agreed Syllabus Review: Timeline - Olivia Seymour, Professional Religious Education Adviser** (Pages 31 - 34)
11. **National response to A Level and GCSE Religious Education Results - Olivia Seymour, Professional Religious Education Adviser** (Pages 35 - 38)
12. **Update by the Local Authority - Adrian Clarke, Principal Education Adviser (Support)** (Pages 39 - 40)
13. **Work Programme - Patrick Duffy, Clerk to SACRE** (Pages 41 - 44)
14. **Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 4.00 p.m.**
15. **Any other business which the Chair consider to be urgent**

Contact Details:

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Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

Monday, 12 September 2022

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

| Group A: Faith Groups | |
|---|---|
| Professor John Adams | Humanist |
| Brian Berry | Jewish |
| Sarah Beveridge | Society of Friends |
| Tom Clayton | Methodist |
| Chris Devanny | Catholic |
| David Haddock | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints |
| Nasr Moussa Emam | Muslim |
| Mohinder Singh Chana | Sikhism |
| Vacancy | Baptist |
| Vacancy | Hindu |
| Vacancy | Salvationists |
| Vacancy | Buddhist |
| | |
| Group B: Church of England | |
| Reverend Simone Bennett | |
| Philippa Smith | |
| Gill Simpson | |
| Vacancy | |
| | |
| Group C: Teaching Associations | |
| Stuart Anslow | |
| Tara Askew | |
| Sarah Rowe | |
| Vacancy | |
| Vacancy | |
| | |
| Group D: Local Authority: | |
| County Councillor Alyson Baker | |
| County Councillor Robert Heseltine | |
| County Councillor George Jabbour | |
| County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson | |
| | |
| Co-opted Member: Academic Expertise in Religious Education | |
| Vacancy | |

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North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Tuesday 21st June 2022 at 4.00 p.m.

Group A: Christian Denominations and such other religious denominations as, in the Authority's opinion, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area: Professor John Adams (Humanist), Sarah Beveridge (Society of Friends), Tom Clayton (Methodist) Mohinder Singh Chana (Sikh), Chris Devanny (Catholic), and Nasr Moussa Emam (Muslim).

Group B: Church of England: Reverend Simone Bennett

Group C: Teachers Associations: Tara Askew

Group D: Local Authority: County Councillors Alyson Baker, George Jabbour and Annabel Wilkinson

Officers present: Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager), Patrick Duffy (Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer), Adrian Clarke, Principal Education Adviser (Support) and Olivia Seymour (Professional Religious Education Adviser)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

1. Appointment of a Chair for the meeting.

Patrick Duffy, Clerk to SACRE, opened the meeting by advising that the Committee currently did not have a Chair or a Vice-Chair.

The main Item to be considered today was the draft Development Plan. Chris Devanny has been involved in producing the draft Plan, as a Member of the Task and Finish Group that was set up. Therefore, he had asked Chris Devanny if he would consider acting as Chair, just for this meeting. Chris Devanny had indicated that he would be prepared to do that.

The Committee indicated that they were agreeable to this suggestion and, therefore, Chris Devanny was appointed as Chair for the meeting.

Chris Devanny in the Chair.

2. Welcome and Announcements

The Chair thanked the Committee for appointing him as Chair, which he stressed would just be for this meeting.

He thanked Helen Sellers for all she has done whilst Chair of SACRE. Her experience and knowledge has been a great asset to SACRE and we are sorry to lose her from the Committee. The Clerk has written to Helen, on behalf of the Committee, to thank her and to wish her well.

For the benefit of newly appointed Members, he advised that the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education is a Statutory Committee established by the Local Authority. Its main function is to advise and support the Local Authority on matters related to Religious Education, which follows the locally Agreed Syllabus, and on Collective Worship in Schools.

SACRE comprises representatives from four groups:-

- Group A – Christian Denominations and such other religious denominations that reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- Group B – The Church of England
- Group C – Teacher Associations
- Group D – The Local Authority

The Membership of the Committee is on the back of the Agenda for today's meeting and the papers for this meeting have been published in advance on the County Council's website.

He welcomed new Members to the Committee.

In terms of Group A:

- Brian Berry had been appointed as the representative of the Jewish Faith just prior to the last meeting, but today will be his first meeting, if he is able to be here.
- Sarah Beveridge has been appointed as representative of the Society of Friends. Sarah has previously been on the Committee, as a Teacher Representative.
- Tom Clayton has replaced Sian Henderson as the Methodist representative. The Chair thanked Sian for her contribution, on behalf of the Committee.

In Group D, County Councillors Alyson Baker and George Jabbour have been appointed to join Councillors Annabel Wilkinson and Robert Heseltine.

The Chair concluded by thanking the departing Council Representatives – Janet Jefferson, Andrew Lee and Patrick Mulligan – for their work on the Committee.

The Clerk further advised that Bill Kimberling had contacted him to say that a change in his role would prevent him from attending meetings and that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints would be represented at future meetings by Dave Haddock who has a good background in education and training. Bill had been a Member of SACRE for several years and would be missed.

The Committee then introduced themselves.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:-

Stuart Anslow (Teacher Representative)
County Councillor Robert Heseltine
Bill Kimberling (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)
Gill Simpson (Diocese of Leeds)
Philippa Smith (Diocese of York)

6. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7. Development Plan 2022-2024 – Patrick Duffy, Clerk to SACRE

Considered –

A report by the Clerk, which sought approval to the afore-mentioned Plan.

The Clerk advised that the Group that looked at this, comprised the Chair (Chris Devanny); Olivia Seymour; Heather Russell and himself.

He added that:-

- The Group had met once to consider this and felt that it would be a sensible approach to base the Plan on the five key functions in the NASACRE/Department for Education Self Evaluation Toolkit. For the benefit of recently appointed Members, he advised that NASACRE is the National Association of SACREs.
- The draft was appended to the report. It contained four objectives and a number of actions within each.
- Appendix B to the report, was an extract from the Self Evaluation Toolkit relating to the function “Promoting improvement in the standards; the quality of teaching; and the provision of RE”. This is a function which will be a particularly important part of the Development Plan. The extract states what would be expected of an “Established” or “Advanced” SACRE against the key areas for that function. Following on from the wording in the Toolkit, Olivia Seymour, as the Professional Religious Education Adviser, had inserted a number of examples of work that is already undertaken and asked what could we do in North Yorkshire SACRE to develop this further?
- There are still some gaps - particularly in terms of cost and lead officer - but these will be completed.

The Chair took Members through the Draft Plan and the following points were made:-

Objective One: To increase Member engagement

With regard to the Action at 1.1 *SACRE to enhance Faith Group representation by working with Faith Groups*, it should not be limited to Faith Groups. This should apply to all Groups.

The Professional Religious Education Adviser responded that the need to enhance Teacher Representation was also referred to under Action 1.2. However, vacancies could be made a more general point if this would help.

She added that bringing people onto the Committee, from whatever Group, is not engaging with communities. Action 1.3 *Implement a programme of Member presentations at each SACRE meeting with a focus on community involvement and how it links into SACRE*, is about making SACRE more visible and this needs to be broken down into a series of parts. The development of a Visitor Policy could help provide clarification here.

Still on Action 1.3, Reverend Simone Bennett cautioned of the need to be aware of Diocesan Boards in this respect so that we do not cross lines. The Professional Religious Education Adviser confirmed that it will be specified that the Guidance relates only to Community Schools as we only have a remit for those Schools.

Objective 3: To review the locally Agreed Syllabus

The Chair suggested that, in terms of the Skill Set, this could be raised when the new Agreed Syllabus comes out.

Professor John Adams supported the local input being proposed into the Agreed Syllabus, which has previously been purchased with no local relevance. The Professional Religious Education Adviser responded that this is why the intention is to submit to SACRE a suggested timeline, at its autumn meeting, so as to allow plenty of time for revisions to be made. There is also a need to consider a budget from the Local Authority, which will be required for consulting with Schools, etc.

Objective 4: To review and update SACRE Guidance to Schools on Collective Worship

Professor Adams questioned what increasing Collective Worship really meant. It is difficult to approve this when, in his view, it has no place in Schools. Furthermore, the requirement is flouted by many.

The Chair advised that this would be part of Year Two of the Plan. He stressed that Collective Worship is an obligation - even if it is flouted by some – and it remains a key priority.

The Professional Religious Education Adviser confirmed that the wording is taken from the templates. Therefore, our work is directly related to these.

Reverend Simone Bennett understood the challenge for some Schools but felt that if SACRE can review and update the Guidance in a meaningful way this could help Schools – so it can be a positive.

Sarah Beveridge said that, as a Head Teacher in a Community School, she would welcome any support/ideas, as it is valuable for the community of children to get together once a day – or it is a missed opportunity. Her emphasis is the collective – it being an opportunity for children to reflect on their place in the World. When Collective Worship is done well, it is very powerful.

The Professional Religious Education Adviser stated that efforts had been made to exemplify things that we do to raise standards/promote Religious Education - so this is partly about signposting to resources. For example, the Newsletter signposts Schools to help them engage with national conversations and access high quality Continuing Professional Development.

Termly Practice Groups are framed around national curriculum conversations. Ofsted Inspections provide another source of feedback about Religious Education in Schools. Officers are now receiving workforce data about Religious Education in Schools. She would value suggestions as to how we can develop this further.

Resolved –

- a) That the draft Development Plan for 2022-2024, as circulated, be approved, subject to:-
 - Actions 1.1 and 1.2 being amended to reflect all Groups on SACRE;
 - the drawing up of a Visitor Policy in connection with any actions relating to visits to Schools and Community Venues; and
 - Cost and Lead Officer information being inserted in any places where this is missing
- b) That progress on the Development Plan be reported to SACRE every other meeting, commencing from December 2022.

8. Update by the Professional Religious Education Adviser – Olivia Seymour

Considered –

A report by the Professional Religious Education Adviser, informing Members of work undertaken since the last meeting.

The report provided details on the following issues:-

- Training
- SACRE Newsletter
- Religion and Worldviews Project
- White Paper on Education and Religious Education
- REThinkRE Media Release and Report Card on Religious Education
- NATRE (National Association of Teachers for Religious Education) Report on Religious Education in Secondary Religious
- NASACRE Annual Conference

The Professional Religious Education Adviser highlighted that the White Paper has unintended consequences for SACREs. These will be considered further at a future meeting.

Professor John Adams enquired if there were any reasons for the low attendance at the training. The Professional Religious Education Adviser advised that this is due to various challenges faced by Schools on capacity. There is a need to reach out to Secondary Schools directly to make them more aware.

The Principal Education Adviser (Support) added that the Local Authority would like to send information to Subject Leaders direct, rather than via the Red Bag (The Local Authority's internal email communication system.) He added that low engagement is not unique to North Yorkshire. A piece of work will be undertaken to seek to rectify this.

The Chair referred to the following elements of the report which had struck him:-

- There had been some very positive informal feedback from the Primary Religious Education Subject Leadership Course.
- The Newsletter is full of useful information, as always. Hopefully, one or more Members will volunteer to be “spotlighted” in future editions.
- Some of the findings from the Report Card on Religious Education are perturbing. For example:-
 - Almost 500 Secondary Schools are still reporting zero hours of Religious Education provision in Year 11
 - Around 34% of academies are reporting no timetabled Religious Education
- More encouragingly, there has been an increase in provision for Religious Education in Secondary Schools, with 23% reporting an increase.
- Appendix B contains a useful summary of the NASACRE Conference and AGM, held in May 2022.

NOTED.

9. Update by the Local Authority – Adrian Clarke, Principal Education Adviser (Support)

Considered –

A report by the Principal Education Adviser (Support) which updated Members on developments on the following:-

- Communication and resourcing
- Support for Senior Leaders and Governors
- Ofsted Inspections

So far, 70% of Schools had responded to the Annual Survey on Religious Education and Collective Worship - an increase of 100% from last year. Detailed responses will be presented as part of the Annual Report. Senior Education Advisers have been asked to remind Schools about the Survey, which has been promoted widely.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Principal Education Adviser confirmed that a draft of the Annual Report would be submitted to the next meeting for consideration. The Professional Religious Education Adviser added that some aspects will be incomplete, as national data on examination results will not be available at that stage. This is quite common and is a timing issue.

In response to a question from Councillor Annabel Wilkinson, the Principal Education Adviser stated that there is no feedback on examinations as yet. The Professional Religious Education Adviser added that there has not been the same level of conversations on national forums about Religious Education as there had been for other subjects.

Tara Askew commented that, in her School, the areas that the Examination Board had said would be tested had been. Students had feedback to her that the questions had been fair.

Mohinder Singh Chana felt it would be interesting to know the trend in results and in the uptake of Religious Education. The Professional Religious Education Adviser responded that there has been an increase in number of pupils taking Religious Education - in part due to Ofsted Reviews. It should be possible to bring to Members workforce data, which will provide useful information about School entries for Religious Education.

The Chair thanked the Professional Religious Education Adviser for her professionalism and organisation and commented that her role and that of the Local Authority is becoming a good collaboration.

NOTED.

10. Rolling Work Programme – Patrick Duffy, Clerk to SACRE

Considered –

The latest rolling Work Programme.

The Clerk stressed that the Work Programme is owned by the Committee; it is their Work Programme. Therefore, either now, or at any stage between meetings, Members are welcome to let him know if they have any suggestions for Items to be added to it.

NOTED.

11. Dates of meetings for the 2022/2023 School Year

The Clerk advised that the proposed dates are based on previous practice – that is meeting on a Tuesday; four times a year. The difference is that, rather than alternating between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m., it is suggested that all meetings be held at 4.00 p.m.

He added that it is rarely the case with a group of 20 or so people – as is the case with SACRE – that dates will be convenient to everyone. Therefore, he suggested that if they are convenient to most Members they be accepted on the basis that they are the *best fit*.

He also sought Members views as to whether they would wish to return to in person meetings or to continue to meet remotely. Remote meetings had worked fine and they have tended to facilitate increased attendance, as several people have a long drive to and from a meeting. However, with all Covid restrictions now having been lifted, he asked Members to give some consideration to returning to in person meetings.

He added that it might be that Members would favour a mixed approach, whereby some – not all – meetings would continue to be held remotely.

Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Leader, informed the Committee that, at its Annual General Meeting in May, the Council had decided that Committee meetings should return to being held in person. There is a caveat that where a meeting is non decision making, if it is felt helpful to continue to meet remotely, the Chair can approach the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to request that it be held remotely. In this case, it is still possible to follow the rules around public access to information but the meeting would not have any legal standing.

A number of Members expressed their view...

- Professor John Adams recognised the benefits of meeting remotely but felt that something is lost from not having the face-to-face informal aspects. He was in favour of a return to in person meetings.
- Reverend Simone Bennett, via the chat facility, asked if the Council had a Carbon Reduction Strategy as that might inform the decision. The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Leader advised that there is such a Strategy but it is a legal requirement for meetings to be held in person for them to be legally binding. This is not the case in Wales or Scotland, but remains so in England and there is no intention by the UK Government at present to rectify this.
- Nasr Moussa Emam felt that there should be a return to in person meetings. It is a concern to him to hear that some legality is lost by meeting remotely. There should certainly be some meetings in person. He added that he had not been able to join the meeting at the start due to technical issues and asked that he send in his response to Items on today's Agenda.
- Tara Askew said that her attendance at any in person meeting would be at the discretion of her Head Teacher. Moreover, the School finishes at 3.30 p.m. Therefore, it would be difficult for her to get to a meeting in another part of the county by 4.00 p.m.

No formal agreement was reached in terms of whether meetings be held remotely or in person – the sense of the meeting was that consideration be given to some meetings being held in person.

NOTE: It may be possible for a hybrid solution whereby some of the Committee meet in person and others join remotely.

Resolved –

a) That meetings for the 2022/2023 School Year be held as follows:-

- Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 4.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 4.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 4.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 4.00 p.m.

b) That consideration be given to some of the meetings being held in person.

12. Any other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered as a matter of urgency

There was none. The Chair thanked people for attending.

The meeting concluded at 5.30 p.m.

PD

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SACRE
ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022**

****Page numbering/headings to be amended to reflect final version****

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Introduction from the Local Authority

Welcome to the Annual Report for North Yorkshire SACRE, covering the School Year 2021/2022.

I am writing this foreword because Helen Sellers stood down as Chair, part way through the year, for personal reasons.

Helen was an active Chair during her time in the role and helped drive forward the work of SACRE. We are grateful to her for her contribution to its work, both as Chair and, prior to that, as a Member.

After Helen stepped down, Chris Devanny kindly agreed to take the Chair for the remaining meeting, in June 2022. The position of Vice-Chair has been unfilled all of the year. It is hoped that there will be a new Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022/2023.

Once again, the School Year saw some disruption, due to the various restrictions necessary to deal with the Covid-19 Pandemic and, once again, all those involved in education across North Yorkshire showed tremendous dedication to enable an excellent educational experience for all our children and young people. This year, saw a return to Religious Education Examinations in person. SACRE will look forward to an analysis of these results during 2022/2023.

SACRE met four times during the year, with each meeting being held remotely. It is likely that in 2022/2023 hybrid meetings will be held ie some Members attending in person and others joining remotely. This would reflect the wishes of those Members who wish to continue to meet remotely and those who wish to physically be in attendance to meet and catch up with other Members and officers in person.

The professional support to SACRE has remained unchanged throughout the year. In addition to myself, this has comprised Olivia Seymour, Professional RE Adviser; Heather Russell, Senior Education Adviser and Daniel Harry and Patrick Duffy from Democratic Services.

There have been a number of changes to Membership, which I am setting out below.

In Group A, addition to the departure of Helen Sellers:-

- Brian Berry joined as the Jewish Representative
- Tom Clayton joined as the Methodist Representative, replacing Sian Henderson
- Sarah Beveridge joined as the Society of Friends Representative. It was good to welcome back Sarah, who had previously been a Teacher Representative
- Dave Haddock joined as Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Representative, replacing Bill Kimberling
- Sarah Leach, the Buddhist Representative, is no longer a Member.

The Membership of Group B remained the same.

In Group C, Stuart Anslow joined. However, there are still a number of vacancies in this Group, which it is hoped will be able to be filled in 2022/2023.

In Group D, following the Council elections in May 2022, the Council appointed Councillors Alyson Baker and George Jabbour to join Councillors Annabel Wilkinson and Robert Heseltine. The Council has decided to just have four representatives - rather than the previous five. We said goodbye to Councillors Janet Jefferson, Andrew Lee and Patrick Mulligan.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all of the outgoing Members and wish them well. Overall, the departures do leave SACRE with a less experienced Membership than previously. Therefore, the development of Members is something that SACRE may need to consider going forward

A key element has been the development of a new Development Plan for 2022/2024, which was approved at the June 2022 meeting. The previous Development Plan, which ended this School Year, is appended to this report. Good progress has been made against the priorities identified and officers will, with the support of Members, aim to ensure that the new Plan sees similar progress.

SACRE Members received training on the NASACRE Self-Assessment Tool. This was particularly useful and opportune in relation to the afore-mentioned Development Plan.

With meetings having been held remotely, it is important that SACRE hears about some of the good work going on in the community and in its Schools. To this end, SACRE considered interesting presentations on Craven Education Development Centre; Jamyang Buddhist Centre in Leeds; and the Welcome School Accreditation Scheme. Tara Askew, a Teacher Representative, kindly updated Members on the Religious Education undertaken at her School, Tadcaster Grammar.

I am very grateful to Members for their commitment to SACRE and the support that they give to me and my colleagues.

Adrian Clark

Principal Education Adviser (Support)

1.Introduction

SACRE met four times in the academic year 2021/2022.

The attendance, by Committee, is set out below:-

| Committee | 20 Oct 2021 | 7 Dec 2021 | 1 Feb 2022 | 21 June 2022 | Possible maximum attendances at each meeting |
|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|---|
| Committee A | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 12 (includes 4 vacancies) |
| Committee B | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 (includes one vacancy) |
| Committee C | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 (includes 3 vacancies) |
| Committee D | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 (except for June meeting as representation decreased to 4 from May 2022) |
| Total members | 12 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 26 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Professional RE Adviser | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Local Authority Officers | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

NOTE: The attendance should be taken in the context of the number of vacancies. For example, whilst there are 12 Members of Committee A, to compare the attendance to that figure of 12 makes the attendance appear worse than it is. This is because there have been a number of vacancies throughout the year.

Each meeting contains updates from Local Authority Officers and the Professional Religious Education Adviser. Through the latter's reports, the Committee has been appraised of various national updates. The Committee has also received updates on (not an exhaustive list):-

- British public values an understanding of worldviews and role of RE
- Inter Faith Week 2021
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- Training
- Religion and Worldviews Project
- White Paper on Education and Religious Education
- RETHinkRE Media Release and Report Card on Religious Education
- NATRE (National Association of Teachers for Religious Education) Report on Religious Education in Secondary Religious
- NASACRE Annual Conference

Meetings have continued to be held remotely. In 2022/2023 it is likely that meetings will be hybrid in nature.

2. RE Statutory responsibilities

The Local Agreed Syllabus

The number of schools within North Yorkshire is as follows

| | Nursery | Primary | Secondary | Special | Pupil Referral Service | Total |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| Academy | | 105 | 27 | 3 | 1 | 136 |
| UTC | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Community | 3 | 91 | 15 | 7 | 4 | 120 |
| Foundation | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Free | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Voluntary Controlled | | 81 | | | | 81 |
| Voluntary Aided | | 22 | | | | 22 |
| Total | 3 | 302 | 43 | 10 | 5 | 363 |

There are 23 primary academies, 6 secondary academies, 2 special academies and 1 foundation school who have adopted the North Yorkshire Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Separate regulations covering maintained special schools require them to ensure that, as far as practicable, a pupil receives opportunities to explore RE. Most Special Schools use the North Yorkshire Locally Agreed Syllabus, at least partially, and adapt it to meet the needs of the pupils. Some Special Schools use the 'Equals' curriculum package, which is designed specifically for RE in special schools.

Standards and monitoring of RE

SACRE has been limited in its ability to actively monitor the agreed syllabus across the schools in North Yorkshire for the academic year 2021-2022. This has been due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However, SACRE has monitored the agreed syllabus and RE in schools through monitoring of: teacher voice at termly professional practice groups, teacher representation of SACRE Group C and the new annual school questionnaire.

The questionnaire was developed by the Professional RE adviser in consultation with SACRE Group C and approved by SACRE in January 2021. This is the second year the questionnaire has been used as a mechanism to monitor RE in NYCC schools. 59 primary schools and 15 secondary schools completed the questionnaire and it is a useful mechanism to support SACRE's responsibilities in monitoring RE in our schools.

An overview of questionnaire data

- 58% of Primary RE subject leads who responded have been in role for less than 3 years
- 50% of Secondary RE subject leads who responded have been in role for less than 3 years
- 89% of Primary RE subject leads who responded reported that their school curriculum meets the expectations of the NYCC Agreed Syllabus
- 47% of Secondary RE subject leads who responded reported that their school curriculum meets the expectations of the NYCC Agreed Syllabus
- 75% Primary RE subject leads who responded reported that the resources available are sufficient to support their RE delivery
- 87% Secondary RE subject leads who responded reported that the resources available are sufficient to support their RE delivery
- 9% of Primary RE subject leads who responded graded the quality of RE provision (including quality and standards achieved by pupils) in their school as outstanding
- 0% of Secondary RE subject leads who responded graded the quality of RE provision (including quality and standards achieved by pupils) in their school as outstanding
- 76% of Primary RE subject leads who responded graded the quality of RE provision (including quality and standards achieved by pupils) in their school as good
- 80% of Secondary RE subject leads who responded graded the quality of RE provision (including quality and standards achieved by pupils) in their school as good
- 15% of Primary RE subject leads who responded graded the quality of RE provision (including quality and standards achieved by pupils) in their school as requires improvement
- 20% of Secondary RE subject leads who responded graded the quality of RE provision (including quality and standards achieved by pupils) in their school as requires improvement
- 0% of Primary RE subject leads who responded graded the quality of RE provision (including quality and standards achieved by pupils) in their school as inadequate
- 0% of Secondary RE subject leads who responded graded the quality of RE provision (including quality and standards achieved by pupils) in their school as inadequate

A fuller analysis of the questionnaire is presented to SACRE Members. Responses received enable SACRE to direct advice and support as appropriate and identify possible areas for improvement.

Following bespoke training for Senior Education Advisers (SEAs) in Spring 2022 and discussion in the June 2022 SACRE meeting, a wider programme of monitoring has been agreed by SACRE and will be built in to the 2022-24 Development Plan.

KS4 and KS5 results

Data to be compared with previous data – data will be released in October

In 2020 and 2021 national exams were cancelled and the DFE have not released the pupil or school level dataset. In 2020 exams were cancelled in the light of school and college closures for most students and uncertainty over whether exams could take place safely. In 2021 the government concluded that it would not be fair for exams to go ahead as planned once schools and colleges closed to the majority of students again in January 2021.

Therefore, SACRE has not used external data to support its monitoring for 2020-21. In 2020-2021 the new Professional RE Adviser, in partnership with the Local Authority, set up termly professional practice groups (PPG) for primary and secondary school subject leaders.

This training has included a focus on developing an effective curriculum using the North Yorkshire County Council Agreed Syllabus, subject knowledge and engaging with the recent Ofsted research review in religious education. A leadership course for new subject leaders was held in spring 2021. All these events were delivered through on-line systems.

Resources to support the Religious Education are accessible at <https://secure2.sla-online.co.uk/v3/Resources/Page/14145> once logged into <https://www.nyeducationsservices.co.uk>

North Yorkshire schools also have had access to a range of regional training events coordinated by the NATRE Regional Ambassador for RE. A programme of visits and visitors, particularly in more rural parts of the county, continues to be a challenge. SACRE has therefore continued to signpost schools to local resources and opportunities through the professional practice groups and the newsletter.

In 2020-2021 SACRE introduced a termly newsletter, accessible to all schools, providing resources, local and national updates, and information about the work of SACRE.

SACRE has received no formal complaints regarding RE provision or quality this year.

The Professional RE Adviser has supported North Yorkshire schools through communications of advice and support where requested.

3. Collective Worship

SACRE encourages all schools to comply with their legal duty to provide a daily act of Collective Worship for their pupils. This may take place at any time of day and in class, year group, or whole school settings. North Yorkshire SACRE believes that acts of collective worship or spiritual reflection should be meaningful and relevant to all those present. In order for this to be the case, SACRE has identified six principles which schools should apply with regard to daily collective worship. Collective worship should:

1. Promote a sense of community;
2. Be educational;
3. Promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development;
4. Be a special time;
5. Enable participants to be actively involved;
6. Be of high quality.

Further information on this is available in the document, "Guidance to schools on Collective Worship", which may be accessed by schools via <https://nyes.info/religiouseducation>

Schools may apply to SACRE for a determination in order to provide Collective Worship of a non-Christian or other form. No schools have done so during this academic year.

There were no complaints registered with the local authority or SACRE in 2021/2022 in respect of collective worship. As in previous years, no determinations were requested by schools.

Updating guidance on Collective Worship and providing training for schools has been identified as a development point for SACRE.

4. Links with other bodies

North Yorkshire SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Through the year, SACRE members were informed of developments in RE from NASACRE, The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and The Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), through the Professional RE Adviser, report to SACRE.

The Professional RE Adviser attended the Summer 2022 NASACRE Conference and reported back to members.

5. SACRE involvement locally

North Yorkshire SACRE provided advice to the Local Authority on Ramadan in schools.

A Newsletter is published and circulated termly to schools.

The Professional RE Adviser met School Improvement Advisers in the Local Authority on two occasions to provide briefings on the role of SACRE, the Agreed Syllabus and the role of RE and Collective Worship in schools.

6. SACREs own arrangements

Finance

During the school year 2021-2022 the Local Authority has financially supported SACRE through the allocation of officers and other resources.

Staffing costs have been covered to provide officers from Democratic Services to fulfil the administrative preparation and clerking of SACRE meetings. Additional officer and technology resource has also been allocated to ensure that SACRE meetings could be held via video conference and live streamed, as required under Council's meeting arrangements.

Staffing costs have also been covered to ensure that two officers from the School Improvement Service have been able to attend SACRE, SACRE Core Groups, other meetings and developmental work.

The costs of the Professional RE Adviser, an external consultant, are met through Local Authority funds.

Officers and support

An officer in the Local Authority's Democratic Services Section acts as Clerk to SACRE; advising on governance matters and acting as a link between the Local Authority and SACRE. The officer facilitates the SACRE Core Group, which comprises the Chair, Vice-Chair, the Professional Religious Education Adviser and officers from the Local Authority. The Core Group discusses the content of the agenda for SACRE and related issues.

In addition, the Democratic Services Team Manager provides professional support and advice to SACRE, principally on matters of governance and matters relating to the work of the Council and its Committees. The Democratic Services Team Manager also attends Core Group meetings.

Membership

Membership of each of the four Groups which constitute the North Yorkshire SACRE in the academic year 2021-2022 was:

Group A – Faith Group Representatives (12)

Professor John Adams, Humanist
Sarah Beveridge, Society of Friends (joined June 2022)
Sarah Leach, Buddhist (left February 2022)
Chris Devanny, Catholic
Sian Henderson, Methodist (left February 2022)
Tom Clayton, Methodist (joined February 2022)
Bill Kimberling, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (left June 2022)
Dave Haddock, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (joined June 2022)
Nasr Moussa Emam, Muslim
Helen Sellers, Baptist (left April 2022)
Mohinder Singh Chana, Sikh
Vacancy Baptist
Vacancy Buddhist
Vacancy Hindu
Vacancy Salvationist

Group B – Church of England Representatives (4 - two each nominated by the Anglican Diocese of Leeds and the Diocese of York)

Reverend Simone Bennett, Diocese of Leeds
Gill Simpson, Diocese of Leeds
Philippa Smith, Diocese of York
Vacancy Diocese of York

Group C - Teachers of Religious Education (5)

Tara Askew
Stuart Anslow
Vacancies (3)

Group D – Local Authority (5) - elected Members of the County Council

County Councillor Robert Heseltine

County Councillor Janet Jefferson (no longer a Member from May 2022)

County Councillor Andrew Lee (no longer a Member from May 2022)

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan (no longer a Member from May 2022)

County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson

County Councillor Alyson Baker (joined May 2022)

County Councillor George Jabbour (joined May 2022)

NOTE: For most of the period in question there were five Local Authority Representatives. This was reduced to four, following the Council Elections in May 2022,

Co-opted Member: Academic Expertise in Religious Education

Vacancy

A number of vacancies in Group A were filled but others have arisen during the course of the year. Groups B and D have operated at, close to, full complement. The main area of challenge this year has been recruiting to vacancies for Group C.

All meetings have been quorate and generally well attended.

Training for Members was provided online, by the Professional Adviser for Religious Education in February 2022 around the NASACRE/DfE Self-Assessment Tool.

Circulation

This report is circulated to:

- NASACRE
- Department for Education
- North Yorkshire County Council, Children and Young People Overview Scrutiny Committee
- North Yorkshire County Council, Children and Young People's Leadership Team
- North Yorkshire schools
- SACRE members representative bodies

NORTH YORKSHIRE SACRE: DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2022

| Priority 1: Implementation of the Locally Agreed Syllabus | | | | | |
|---|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Target: RE teachers throughout the LA are confident in their delivery of the syllabus; good RE is taught and learned throughout the LA | | | | | |
| Intended Impact: Schools understand the value of good RE in the personal development of their pupils and their understanding of society | | | | | |
| Action | Timescale | People involved | Costs | Monitoring and Evaluation | Progress made September 2022 |
| Support is put in place to ensure full implementation of the Agreed Syllabus throughout the LA | 2020 -2021 | Local Authority Officer Teachers' networks Members of SACRE | Cost of providing training | Schools will have implemented the new syllabus by September 2020; and in 2021 it will be developing within classrooms and good practice will be shared | Training through networks is ongoing each term, plus additional leadership course – on line |
| Monitor the effective teaching of RE throughout the LA and explore ways to model best practice in RE | 2020-2022 | Local Authority Officers Members of SACRE have opportunities to visit examples of best practice | Costs of visits to schools and of providing training | Monitoring of RE is built into LA systems and processes SACRE will have clear and up-to-date information on how RE is taught in schools and academies | Professional RE Adviser supported SEAs in how to monitor and evaluate RE curriculum in schools - with supportive resources |

| Priority 1 Continued | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|--|---|---|
| Action | Timescale | People involved | Costs | Monitoring and Evaluation | Progress made September 2022 |
| Scrutinise relevant OFSTED reports and data | 2020-2022 | Local Authority Officer Members of SACRE | | SACRE members will be more aware of how schools in the LA are improving | Ofsted regularly discussed- North Yorkshire School Ofsted – Primary and Secondary lessons learned |
| Receive teacher feedback on areas to improve for the next syllabus update | 2021-2022 | Local Authority Officer Members of SACRE Teachers of RE | Teacher travel expenses for attending SACRE meetings | Teachers to be invited to bring reports to SACRE meetings in person or through electronic means, enabling greater awareness of their views in preparation for the next syllabus | Teacher representative has given overview of learning in schools - this is an ongoing agenda item |
| Pupil feedback on RE | 2020-2022 | SACRE members Teachers and pupils | Travel expenses | SACRE members receive first-hand evidence of pupil response through visits to SACRE meetings, SACRE meetings held in schools, or through electronic means | Pupil voice is part of Senior Education Adviser safeguarding focus days, which can include discussion of RE curriculum and collective worship focus |

Priority 2 starts on the next page

| Priority 2: To operate effectively as a SACRE | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Target: Clear and positive collaboration between the LA and SACRE, within SACRE, and between SACRE and schools | | | | | |
| Intended Impact: The work of North Yorkshire SACRE is meaningful and valued as it works effectively to fulfil its brief | | | | | |
| Action | Timescale | People involved | Costs | Monitoring and Evaluation | Progress made September 2022 |
| Undertake a skills audit of all SACRE members | 2020 | Members of SACRE Clerk to SACRE | | The relevant skills of SACRE members will be used to good effect | Training has taken place |
| Provide training for SACRE members | 2020-2022 | LA officer Members of SACRE NASACRE | Costs of training programmes if bought in, costs of bringing speakers to SACRE meetings | Members of SACRE will gain new skills so that all contribute to the effective working of the body | Ongoing training is part of membership |
| Build capacity within SACRE | 2020-2022 | LA officer Chair of SACRE NASACRE | | Attendance at meetings is regular and vacancies are filled; all committees are well represented | Membership still an area to focus |
| Develop our systems and procedures through the LA to ensure we meet statutory duties | 2020-2022 | Local Authority Adviser Chair of SACRE | | Effective communication and regular liaison between SACRE, democratic services and Children's services | SACRE has the full complement of Local Authority Officers working with us. |

| Priority 2 Continued | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|-------------------|---|--|
| Action | Timescale | People involved | Costs | Monitoring and Evaluation | Progress made September 2022 |
| SACRE Members regularly have opportunities to experience RE and Collective Worship in schools | 2022- on-going | Chair of SACRE Local Authority Officers Members of SACRE | Travel expenses ? | Schools are aware of, and make use of, the resources of SACRE; monitoring is more effective throughout the LA | Intention to start focus on website reviews Evaluation responses shared and results to be shared with SACRE Members |
| SACRE to respond to recommendations of key partners and identify key priorities for NYCC | 2020-2022 | Clerk to SACRE Chair of SACRE | | SACRE is in step with current recommendations | We now have a clear line of communication with the Local Authority and have more links with the wider Council. |
| Revise and improve the format and content of the Annual Report | 2020-2021 | Chair of SACRE RE Adviser Members of SACRE | | Partners will receive a fuller picture of the work and scope of SACRE each year and will be able to engage more easily with the work of SACRE | The new format has been implemented |

| Priority 3: Active links between SACRE and the LA | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Target: The LA recognises and supports the work of SACRE | | | | | |
| Intended Impact: SACRE is more able to fulfil its brief; the LA provides the means of support for SACRE to do so | | | | | |
| Action | Timescale | People involved | Costs | Monitoring and Evaluation | Progress made September 2022 |
| Active and regular Local Authority representation in SACRE meetings | 2020-2022 | Local Authority Officer Other Local Authority representatives as appropriate | | Members of SACRE are aware of relevant LA policies, greater evidence of a supportive relationship between the LA and SACRE | Local Authority Officers meet half termly with Professional RE Adviser and with wider core group Members, prior to SACRE full membership |
| Ensure Local Authority support in staffing and funding | 2020-2022 | Local Authority Officer Other Local Authority representatives as appropriate Clerk to SACRE | Staffing costs Funding for wider SACRE work and officers as necessary | SACRE is represented at NASACRE and other relevant conferences; SACRE meetings are clerked; school-based actions are funded; SACRE is appropriately funded as per DFE expectations | SACRE is fully staffed by the Local Authority Funding has been provided for officers (part-time for the Professional RE Adviser) and a report has been received from the Principal Education Adviser (Support), which has informed the latest Annual Report. NASACRE 2020 Conference was cancelled. However, the Chair attended the online EGM in November 2020. In May 2021 the Chair, Professional Adviser and Local Authority Officer attended the online NASACRE conference. |

SCHOOL EVALUATION QUESTIONS – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

NOTE: For the purposes of this draft, these documents are circulated separately.

For the final version they will appear below

DRAFT

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) –

20th September 2022 Update from Professional RE Adviser

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Members on work undertaken by the Professional RE Adviser since the last SACRE meeting.
- 1.2 To provide members with local and national updates on RE

2.0 Training

- 2.1 The Professional Practice Groups for Primary for 2022-23 will focus on subject knowledge for a range Religion and Worldviews across the year. The sessions will include a look at substantive knowledge progression, use of vocabulary, knowledge organisers and key resources to support teacher subject knowledge and curriculum development.
- 2.2 The subject leader course will run again in the spring term 2023.

3.0 SACRE Newsletter

- 3.1 The autumn term newsletter will go out to schools at the beginning of October. A copy will be circulated to SACRE members. I would be grateful for volunteers to write a short introduction to themselves and the group they represent for the next newsletter.

4.0 Regional RE Hub Lead for Religious Education Yorkshire and Humber

- 4.1 Olivia Seymour has been appointed as Regional RE Hub Lead for Yorkshire and Humber and will be working with the regional leads for the other 8 regions under the direction of the National Lead Claire Clinton. The role includes:
 - Building relationships through one-to-one meetings with stakeholders such as Advisers, Dioceses, Universities, SACREs, LAs, Governors, MATs, Teaching School Hubs in the region
 - Acting as a conduit between the regional providers of CPD, research, resources, and places of worship providing opportunities for those groups to network.
 - Intentionally seeking out new providers of and networking opportunities for CPD, research, resource and support providers in the region
 - Updating and sharing information of national and regional developments, funded project opportunities and best practice across the region through the Regional Hubs website
 - Promoting the Regional Hubs website to regional providers of CPD, research, resources, support networks and places of worship and encourage them to promote their events, training and resources on the website
- 4.2 The press release will be circulated to Members in due course.

5.0 Still Standing: The Future of SACREs Report

5.1 This report is an analysis of a joint REC/NASACRE project which ran from May 2020 to June 2021. The 'LAN Project' aimed to test out the recommendations of the Commission on RE regarding SACREs. For the project, funded by Culham St Gabriel's Trust, four SACREs engaged in action-research into the Commission on Religious Education's report recommendations on the future viability of SACREs.

5.2 In September 2018 the Commission on RE gave a call to government and RE bodies for wide ranging reforms to the present law around RE in English schools. In section 7, their report details what is positive and important in the work of SACREs which the Commissioners would want retained in a modified form, as local area networks. The Commission report goes on in its recommendations in section 8, to suggest a number of possible changes to improve the make-up of SACREs and their work within local communities and schools. Over a one-year period, May 2020-July 2021, this local area network project has sought to investigate the proposals in recommendation 8, specifically 8b and 8e of the CoRE report, through analysis of case studies produced by four SACREs.

- The case study in Barking and Dagenham showed how a small amount of funding to a SACRE/LAN can be highly effective and impactful for teachers of RE, providing opportunities for support to all schools and connect schools with faith/belief/other support groups.
- The Bath and NE Somerset action research project demonstrated that the National Entitlement is useful for structuring a renewed Agreed Syllabus. A SACRE Agreed Syllabus review tool was created as part of this research project.
- The work in Hampshire suggested that the democratic involvement of the LA was essential in an effective and fully representative SACRE
- Richmond SACRE found that SACREs could and should review their membership within the current legal framework to ensure that it is representative. A diverse range of voices with specific roles making up a SACRE/LAN is essential if an LA is to be able to discharge its legal responsibilities. A SACRE membership tool was created as part of this research project.

5.3 The fact is that schools have changed enormously over the last 70 years, and so has religious and non-religious practice and its place in our society. Having analysed the action-research, this project has discovered that, with proper funding, section 8 recommendations from the CoRE report could be useful in ensuring that there is effective support for RE/Religion and Worldviews in schools.

5.4 However, this report concludes that without a significant change in funding to SACREs the ambitious and positive recommendations from CoRE will fail and systemic change will not be possible. A SACRE cannot be expected to carry a wider remit without new funding streams being secured for their work. The RE community must come together to ensure current SACREs find their place in this new educational system.

5.5 This report makes a number of recommendations and can be read in full here: <https://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-58-final-still-standing.pdf>

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Professional Adviser to North Yorkshire SACRE
County Hall, Northallerton

06/09/2022

Report Author: Olivia Seymour

Background documents:

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) –

20th September 2022

North Yorkshire SACRE: Timeline for Agreed Syllabus review (for Autumn 2024 implementation)

Please note: Consultation and discussion on options will include a detailed paper outlining four options available to the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). These will be presented fully for consultation in the SACRE meeting later in the Autumn Term and through the setup of an ASC. These are presented here in brief, for information only, to inform the timeline set out below.

OPTION A: SACRE renews the licence with RE Today, which includes an updating of the 2019-2024 folder

This update includes information on, for example, progression in the light of the new OFSTED EIF and research review, the Commission Report, new early Years framework, tighter requirements at KS4 and 5, assessment, and some additional guidance. This relicensing would include a 'relaunch' conference, to support teachers with ideas and resources.

OPTION B: SACRE could adopt RE Today's more recent Syllabus Model B

This syllabus shares some DNA with the current North Yorkshire syllabus, but offers a more systematic approach, incorporating questions from the Understanding Christianity resource being used in many schools, and a revised assessment model.

OPTION C: SACRE could adopt a syllabus from another local authority

This could offer a syllabus written more recently that reflects the Commission on RE national report recommendations, exemplifying its new direction for Religion and Worldviews.

OPTION D: SACRE could commission a bespoke new syllabus

This could reflect the Commission on RE national report recommendations closely, exemplifying its new direction for Religion and Worldviews.

A timeline is set out overleaf/...

| Dates | Time implications and commentary |
|--|--|
| <p>September to December 2022:</p> <p>Work with schools, SACRE members and interested groups to ascertain their views on the syllabus</p> | <p>3 days</p> <p>Writing and delivery of questionnaire / consultation sessions</p> <p>Consultation could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaire for schools - Schools, SACRE members and interested groups invited to online consultation sessions <p>Analysis of feedback</p> <p>Feedback to be considered at December SACRE meeting</p> |
| <p>Spring 2023: Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) set up and meeting</p> <p>Options, finance and timeline for a new syllabus to be discussed SACRE meeting following feedback from ASC to discuss syllabus options and approve which syllabus will be adopted.</p> | <p>2 days</p> <p>Writing of paper with options for ASC to consider and present to SACRE</p> <p>Training for SACRE Members on ASC</p> <p>An initial ASC meeting with SACRE meeting to follow. This will be a decision making meeting and the ASC is a legal body that will nominate a Chair - following consideration of feedback and finances the ASC will decide which option to take and present this to the SACRE.</p> <p>The timeline and commitment of SACRE Members / employment of external consultants will be determined by which option is taken.</p> <p>Wider support from NYCC for venues and administration</p> |
| <p>April 2023 – March 2024</p> <p>Developing / writing of Agreed Syllabus</p> | <p>If option A B or C is chosen this is likely to be 1-3 days depending on requirements from RE Today / intended SACRE</p> <p>Liaison with RE Today / intended SACRE and liaison/writing of York specific content</p> <p>Writing introduction pages to the syllabus – (will require input from the Chair and Members input)</p> <p>Writing appendices specific to North Yorkshire</p> <p>Half a day for ASC to meet with follow on SACRE meeting. This will include SACRE Members writing and approval of introductory pages and updating SACRE on progress / communication with schools</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>April 2023 – March 2024 Developing / writing of Agreed Syllabus (continued)</p> | <p>If option C or D is selected then the number of days would need to be scoped, based on SACRE decisions</p> <p>Usually, writing a syllabus would require commissioning a consultant to write oversee / write the syllabus and is typically 10-15 days of consultant time</p> <p>Likely 3-5 days for ASC to meet, with follow on SACRE meeting. This will include SACRE members writing / approving of sections of the syllabus and updating SACRE on progress</p> <p>Wider support from NYCC for venues and administration</p> |
| <p>Between March 2024 and June 2024: a launch conference / follow up sessions all schools</p> | <p>2 days for officers / SACRE Members</p> <p>Communication to schools, distribution of syllabus and writing training materials for launch</p> <p>Wider support from NYCC for venue and administration</p> <p>1-3 days for officers / ASC & SACRE Members attendance / delivery at Conference Day and follow up sessions</p> |

Olivia Seymour
Professional Adviser to North Yorkshire SACRE

County Hall, Northallerton

06/09/2022

Report Author: Olivia Seymour

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North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) –

20th September 2022

National Response to A Level and GCSE Religious Education results

This paper outlines the national response to A Level and GCSE Religious Education results.

A Level Religious Studies results prompt call for government support

Two decades of growth in A level RS at risk over a five year funding crisis says the Religious Education Council as Father of the House Sir Peter Bottomley warns the Government must not 'let down' young people.

The number of students taking an A level in Religious Studies in England and Wales has fallen by 447, despite an increase of 6.1 percent last year.

This year's 2.7 percent decrease comes after a two decade period in which RS has had one of the fastest growth rates for A levels in the humanities, beating Law, Geography and History in a similar time period. This year there were 45.5 percent more RS A level entries than in 2003.

The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) have warned this period of growth is now under threat after a five year funding gap that has impacted current and future young people taking the subject. This includes disadvantaged students, who are twice as likely to take RS A level than their peers, favouring it over Geography and History.^[1]

Responding to the results, Father of the House, Sir Peter Bottomley, reiterated his call for a National Plan, a proposal he first announced after chairing a parliamentary roundtable on the subject's future in March:

"We must not let down young people by continuing to starve the subject of funding and leadership. Schools and colleges need a National Plan that sets out a modern and relevant curriculum for education in religion and in the world's faiths and cultures. Generations of students should understand spiritual development and interfaith understanding that is necessary to contribute fully within modern British society."

Iona, an RS student who has accepted an offer to study Philosophy and Politics at Bristol, also spoke about her experience of the subject's funding crisis at the roundtable in March:

"I changed colleges so I could take an A level in RS since it wasn't offered at my previous school. For me, the interdisciplinary and philosophical aspect of A level RS was a chance to think deeply about a variety of religious and non-religious worldviews."

“During our two years we had three different teachers, one of whom wasn’t qualified to teach RS at A level. Due to this inconsistency, I spent a lot of my own time studying and was lucky enough to have a parent who could help me. I’d like to see more support given to the subject and its teachers so other students can fully experience the benefits of A level RS.”

Sarah Lane Cawte, Chair of the REC, said:

“Over two decades RS has become more and more popular for A level students. However, this year’s results raise serious concerns over the ongoing funding crisis in the subject. The subject has cemented its reputation as academically rigorous and personally enriching with graduates going onto successful careers in media, law and politics at some of the best universities in the country. It also appears to be a tool for social mobility, with many disadvantaged students taking the subject and doing well, opening up a wealth of transferable skills to these pupils that may previously not have been accessible.

“Sadly, we now foresee a situation in which the brightest and best students attracted to the A level risk being let down by a lack of specialism as a result of government inaction over funding and teacher recruitment.”

Katie Freeman, Chair of NATRE, said:

“Congratulations to all students who have faced immense challenges in the last few years. These results are testament to the hardworking and passionate community of RE teachers we have across the country. At A level we see some of the brightest students attracted to a subject which sees them debate, analyse and think deeply about a variety of religious and non-religious worldviews on humanity’s most profound questions. Subsequently, teaching the subject at A level requires a high level of expertise and knowledge. A National Plan will ensure we can support current and future teachers by scaling out the best evidenced-based curriculum to ensure every A level student is taught by the specialist they deserve.”

https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2022/04/do-disadvantaged-students-choose-different-subjects-from-their-peers-at-key-stage-5/?fbclid=IwAR2jiuQoSf_vw5wouTBHFhFit9tQ9bXXxR--0M-DqjUxsnT-Yelf9sT0vWQ

Take action on RE say leading politicians as more students take the subject at GCSE

Five year funding gap is letting down a ‘record number of students’ as new data suggests many disadvantaged GCSE students go on to take it at A level.

The number of students in England and Wales taking a GCSE course in Religious Studies GCSE has risen to 253,225, an increase of 0.6% from last year.

The increase was largely driven by a surprise rise in the short course in England, up 16.5% from 15,672 to 18,257.

In Wales, amid an overall 5% drop in pupils taking GCSEs, the number of entries to RS courses fell by 11%.

The strong entry results in England saw the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) and the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) reiterate their call for a National Plan for the subject. They warn that an ongoing funding crisis and lack of a specialist teacher recruitment strategy now seriously threatens the provision of high-quality learning for the quarter of a million students who take the subject annually.

Joining the call for a National Plan was Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBE, DL, Vice President of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and Chancellor of the University of Birmingham who pointed to the number of disadvantaged students going on to take the subject at A level. A study in April found they were twice as likely to take the subject than their peers, favouring it over history and geography:

"When it comes to levelling up education, the latest data shows that giving more support to religious education students at GCSE is an easy win. If RS is the humanity that disadvantaged young people are most likely to take, then backing this up with a properly funded National Plan is a must. The subject will provide those young people with the crucial skills of analysis, curiosity and intellectual confidence as part of a broad, balanced education and give them a headstart in the global workplace."

Father of the House, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, who first called for a National Plan for the subject after chairing a parliamentary roundtable on its future in March, also responded to the results:

"These numbers show that RE is widely popular at GCSE. We must not let down young people by continuing to starve the subject of funding and leadership. Schools and colleges need a National Plan that sets out a modern and relevant curriculum for education in religion and in the world's faiths and cultures. Generations of students should understand spiritual development and interfaith understanding that is necessary to contribute fully within modern British society."

Sarah Lane Cawte, Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), said:

"I'm delighted to see an overall rise in students taking GCSE RS. At its best, RS is one of the most personally enriching and academic subjects on the curriculum. Yet sadly, I cannot think of another subject that has ever attracted such a large cohort of students yet received such little corresponding government support."

"In neglecting RE, the Government risks letting down a record number of students. There is now an average of around a quarter of a million students taking the subject at GCSE each year who receive £0 of additional government money to help with their study of RE. In comparison, in the last five years a GCSE music student has received up to £10,000 a head after a National Plan for music. We want an even distribution of funding across the curriculum to ensure it is broad and balanced."

Katie Freeman, Chair of the National Association of Teachers of RE, said:

"These results are testament to the hardworking and passionate community of RE teachers we have across the country. We would now like to see the Government back up their hard work with a properly funded National Plan. This will ensure that every young person has access to an excellent RE teacher, armed with the best evidenced-based curriculum that will allow them to take their place in modern society."

Earlier this year in March, students spoke at the parliamentary roundtable on why they enjoy the subject. Shreya, a Year 10 student offered her view:

"RE is fundamental to life. It's all about people and people will never be out of date. RE is the one time in school where you can talk, listen and try to make sense of people, events and beliefs in the world."

Last summer, research carried out by the charity Culham St Gabriel's Trust found that nearly two-thirds (64%) of adults in Britain believe RE is an important part of the school curriculum. Seven out of ten (73%) also agreed that the subject should provide students with the opportunity to learn about other people, beliefs, worldviews and cultures.

The full entry results were:

Wales

- Wales RS overall, down 11%, by 1,598 from 14,853 to 12,985
- Wales RS full course, down 4.3%, by 445, from 10,358 to 9,913
- Wales RS short course, down 27.3%, from 4,225 to 3,072

England

- England RS overall, up 1.3%, by 3,149, from 237,091 to 240,240
- England RS full course up 0.3%, by 564, from 221,419 to 221,983
- England RS short course, up 16.5%, by 2,585, from 15,672 to 18,257

Olivia Seymour
Professional Adviser to North Yorkshire SACRE

County Hall, Northallerton

06/09/2022

Report Author: Olivia Seymour

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) –

20th September 2022
Update from the Local Authority

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of the Report |
| 1.1 | To inform Members on work undertaken by the Local Authority since the last SACRE meeting. |

2.0 Communication and resourcing

- 2.1 Local Authority Officers have met with the Professional RE Adviser in order to co-ordinate the publication of the Annual Report.
- 2.2 The termly newsletter is continuing to be distributed to schools via the Red Bag system, and occasional and ad hoc information is also posted via Red Bag.
- 2.3 School leaders have been communicated to both via Red Bag and SEAs to encourage participation in the annual survey on RE and Collective Worship in schools. This data forms a baseline for inclusion in the Annual Report. A total of 75 schools (60 primary, 15 secondary) responded, which is an increase of slightly more than 50% responses to last year.

3.0 Support for Senior Leaders and Governors

- 3.1 The Professional RE Adviser briefed school improvement SEAs in the late part of the summer term in order to maximise feedback from schools in collating data for the Annual Report.
- 3.2 The commissioned Professional RE Adviser reports separately on training, and advice given to schools. This report is a separate agenda item at this meeting
- 3.3 The Local Authority facilitated the administrative and bookings of subject leader networks and are continuing to update the resources pages on <http://nyes.info> Networks and training courses are now available to be booked for the current school year.

4.0 Ofsted inspections

- 4.1 Since the last SACRE meeting Ofsted have published 22 Section 5, 8 and monitoring reports:

| Type | Primary | Secondary | Special | PRS |
|-------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----|
| Maintained | 6 | 1 | 2 | |
| Academy | 9 | 3 | | 1 |
| Independent | | | | |

4.2 Narrative in other inspection reports refers to religious education and collective worship as follows;

- The school day is carefully structured to provide dedicated time for personal development. Timetabled enrichment activities are open to all year groups. The community ethos created by these activities is tangible. 'Life and society' lessons help pupils prepare for life beyond school and include opportunities for debating, first aid and learning about other faiths.
- Although pupils consistently demonstrate high levels of respect towards others, some older pupils do not have sufficiently strong knowledge of different religions and non-faith world views. This is because there are not consistently planned opportunities for pupils to regularly revisit this aspect of the curriculum.
- The personal development curriculum promotes diversity and respect for others. Leaders ensure that it responds to relevant concerns, such as the importance of using social media responsibly. However, a number of pupils have a limited knowledge of different religions and faiths.
- Pupils benefit from personal, social and health education lessons, circle time, religious education and assemblies. Pupils know what fundamental British values are. They know and can talk about different religions, faiths and cultures.
- Pupils develop the knowledge and skills to help them become well-rounded individuals and future citizens. They learn about different faiths and cultures, attending a 'peace walk' in a nearby town.
- Overall, the curriculum is well planned. For example, in religious education (RE), geography and history, revised curriculums have been introduced. They are organised to help pupils build up their understanding and awareness in order to inspire a curiosity and fascination about the world. As a result, pupils have started to make links between the differences and similarities of the world religions in RE.

Adrian Clarke
Principal Education Adviser (Support)
County Hall, Northallerton

06/09/2022

Report Author: Adrian Clarke

Background documents: None

NORTH YORKSHIRE SACRE – ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME: PLEASE NOTE: Items are subject to change.

| SACRE 20TH SEPTEMBER 2022 | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| ITEM | LEAD | REPORT DEADLINE | COMMENTS |
| Election of Chair and Election of Vice-Chair | Clerk | N/A | Clerk to seek nominations one month before the meeting |
| Member update | Clerk | N/A | Verbal update by a Committee Member, as per Action in the Development Plan |
| Draft Annual Report 2021/2022 | Principal Education Officer (Support) | Friday 9 th September | Consideration of draft |
| Professional RE Adviser's update | Principal Education Officer (Support) | | |
| Agreed Syllabus Review - Timeline | Professional Religious Education Adviser | | To consider and agree a timeline |
| National response to A Level and GCSE Results | Professional Religious Education Adviser | | |
| Local Authority Update | Principal Education Officer (Support) | | Standing Item - to include any update on OFSTED Inspections |
| Work Programme | Clerk | | |

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NORTH YORKSHIRE SACRE – ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME

| SACRE 13 TH DECEMBER 2022 | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| ITEM | LEAD | REPORT DEADLINE | COMMENTS |
| Annual Report 2021/2022 | Principal Education Officer (Support) | Friday 2 nd December 2022 | To approve the Annual Report |
| Professional RE Adviser's update | Professional Religious Education Adviser | | Standing Item |
| Local Authority Update | Principal Education Officer (Support) | | Standing Item - to include any update on OFSTED Inspections |
| Work Programme | Clerk | | |

NORTH YORKSHIRE SACRE – ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME

| SACRE 28TH MARCH 2023 | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| ITEM | LEAD | REPORT DEADLINE | COMMENTS |
| Professional RE Adviser's update | Professional Religious Education Adviser | Friday 17 th March 2023 | Standing Item |
| Local Authority Update | Principal Education Officer (Support) | | Standing Item - to include any update on OFSTED Inspections |
| Work Programme | Clerk | | |
| Member Training | Professional Religious Education Adviser | N/A | |

NORTH YORKSHIRE SACRE – ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME

| SACRE 20TH JUNE 2023 | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| ITEM | LEAD | REPORT DEADLINE | COMMENTS |
| Professional RE Adviser's update | Professional Religious Education Adviser | Friday 9 th June 2023 | Standing Item |
| Local Authority Update | Principal Education Officer (Support) | | Standing Item - to include any update on OFSTED Inspections |
| Work Programme | Clerk | | |

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Patrick Duffy
Clerk to SACRE

September 2022

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