



Children and Young People's Service

Agenda

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

Date: Tuesday, 12th December, 2023

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: County Hall, Northallerton

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer, whose details are below, if you would like to find out more.

This meeting is being held as an in-person meeting. The meeting is also 'hybrid', which enables people to attend the meeting remotely using MS Teams. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer if you would like to find out more.

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, please give due regard to the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at public meetings, a copy of which is available. Anyone wishing to record is asked to contact, prior to the start of the meeting, the Democratic Services Officer. We ask that any recording is clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and that it is non-disruptive.

Business

1. **Election of Chair**
2. **Election of Vice-Chair**
3. **Welcome and Announcements**
4. **Apologies for Absence**
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2023** **(Pages 5 - 10)**
NOTE: It was not possible to confirm these as a correct record at the last meeting on 19th September 2023 as that meeting was inquorate. Therefore, the Committee is asked to approve these Minutes (together with the Minutes of 19th September – see Agenda Item 6 below)

6. **Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2023** (Pages 11 - 14)
7. **Minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 19th September 2023** (Pages 15 - 18)
 The meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 19th September 2023 was the final meeting of that body. Therefore, it is not possible for the Minutes to be approved, as such. Accordingly, SACRE is asked to note the Minutes.
8. **Declarations of Interest**
9. **Public Participation**
 Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Patrick Duffy of Democratic and Scrutiny Services and supplied the text (contact details below) by midday on Thursday 7th December 2023, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-
- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);
 - when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.
- If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chair who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.
10. **Member presentation - Hayden Cohen**
11. **North Yorkshire SACRE Annual Report 2022/2023 - Heather Russell, Senior Education Adviser** (Pages 19 - 42)
12. **Update by Olivia Seymour, Professional Religious Education Adviser** (Pages 43 - 46)
13. **Agreed Syllabus Update (verbal update) - Olivia Seymour, Professional Religious Education Adviser**
14. **Update by the Local Authority - Julie Pattison, Principal Adviser, Monitoring** (Pages 47 - 52)
15. **NASACRE Virtual Training**
 Members are reminded about the Virtual Training Programme run by NASACRE.
 There are some really useful courses available.
 At the meeting, officers will provide brief feedback on courses they have attended and Members are welcome to do the same.
16. **Work Programme - Patrick Duffy, Clerk to SACRE** (Pages 53 - 54)
17. **Any Other Items**
 Any other items which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances
18. **Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 4.00 p.m.**

Members are reminded that in order to expedite business at the meeting and enable Officers to adapt their presentations to address areas

causing difficulty, they are encouraged to contact Officers prior to the meeting with questions on technical issues in reports.

Contact Details:

For enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer. Tel: 01609 534546 Or email Patrick.Duffy@northyorks.gov.uk
Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

Monday, 4 December 2023

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

Group A: Faith Groups	
Professor John Adams	Humanist
Sarah Beveridge	Society of Friends
Hayden Cohen	Judaism
Tom Clayton	Methodist
Chris Devanny	Catholic
David Haddock	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Abhijeet Kulkarni	Hindu
Nasr Moussa Emam	Muslim
Mohinder Singh Chana	Sikhism
Vacancy	Baptist
Vacancy	Salvationists
Vacancy	Buddhist
Group B: Church of England	
Philippa Smith	
Reverend Claire Soderman	
Lee Talbot	
Vacancy	
Group C: Teaching Associations	
Tara Askew	
Jo Colledge	
Sarah Hodgson	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Group D: Local Authority:	
Councillor Alyson Baker	
Councillor Robert Heseltine	
Councillor George Jabbour	
Councillor Janet Jefferson	
Councillor Annabel Wilkinson	
Co-opted Member: Academic Expertise in Religious Education	
Vacancy	

North Yorkshire Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20th June, 2023 commencing at 5.00 pm.

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), and Abhijeet Kulkarni (Hindu), and Mohinder Singh Chana (Sikhism).

Group B: Church of England: Philippa Smith and Lee Talbot.

Group C: Teachers Associations: Tara Askew, Jo Colledge, and Sarah Hodgson.

Group D: North Yorkshire Council: Councillors Alyson Baker (Chair) and George Jabbour.
Officers Present: Adrian Clarke (Principal Education Adviser - Support); Patrick Duffy, (Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer); Owen Griffiths, (Corporate Governance Officer); Heather Russell, (Senior Education Advisor); and Olivia Seymour, (Professional Religious Education Advisor).

Apologies: Chris Devanny (Catholic), Nasr Moussa Emam (Muslim), David Haddock (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), Councillor Robert Heseltine, Councillor Janet Jefferson, and Councillor Annabel Wilkinson.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

1 Welcome and Announcements

The meeting started forty-five minutes later than planned due to following the Agreed Syllabus Conference. The Chair thanked everyone for their patience, particularly those who had not been involved in the previous meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Chris Devanny, Nasr Moussa Emam, David Haddock, Councillor Robert Heseltine, and Councillor Annabel Wilkinson.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 March 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 28 March were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Public questions

There were no public questions.

6 National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education, Annual Conference - Update by the Chair

An update on the annual conference was provided by the Chair, alongside the Senior Education Adviser, Heather Russell.

The Chair thanked the room for being able to represent the group at the conference and found it informative for work going forward. It provided a level of awareness of what other SACREs are doing, awareness of religions that the Chair previously had less knowledge of, whilst providing new insights into the greater diversity of the world. This led to a greater understanding of the importance of recognising world views, religions, and community cohesion.

Throughout the conference there were different seminars and group sessions, providing different strategies to support teachers in doing RE.

7 Update by the Professional Religious Education Adviser - Olivia Seymour

Considered a report by the Professional Religious Education Adviser, Olivia Seymour, informing Members of work undertaken since the last meeting, together with local and national updates regarding Religious Education.

The report provided details on the following issues:

- The continuation of the teacher networks.

The teacher networks for the summer term have taken place, in April and May respectively, and the feedback from those is provided in the report. The attendance for these was a reduction on previous terms but was consistent for the summer term. The primary networks were singled out as being good for providing subject knowledge and resources.

The Professional Religious Advisor told the group that they are aiming to produce the feedback in a more formalised manner in the future, so that the data can be provided to the group in a more thematic manner.

- The SACRE Newsletter
- That the national RE online hub has now gone live.

Yorkshire and Humber, as a region, has a page on the hub that will need populating. There will be opportunities for speakers to be received, alongside places of interest to be communicated through the report. A press release will be forthcoming.

- A governor network that will be held in July.

The Chair thanked the Professional Religious Education Adviser for the comprehensiveness of their report. The Chair asked whether less people are attending the networks. In response, the Professional Religious Education Adviser said that, although the summer term was less well attended, the overall attendance from primary school teachers this year has been higher. The attendance from secondary school teachers has been more constrained but workshops will be held, and it is currently being considered as to when this should be. The Principal Education Adviser told the group that much of this increased attendance is due to the work that the Professional Religious Education Adviser has put into attending headteacher summits, providing support around the subject, and giving information to the headteachers.

A question was asked to the status of academy schools in attending network meetings. The answer given was that there is less emphasis on academy attendance because they do not have to follow the local authority agreed syllabus. Although they must meet an agreed syllabus standard it does not necessarily have to be the North Yorkshire Council one. The outcome of this is that, though they would be welcome to attend the networks, and are encouraged to do so, there is less of obligation to do so.

NOTED.

8 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:

- The annual SACRE questionnaire has been sent out.

The deadline for the questionnaire is the 30 June and to support the analysis of the data, the questions have been replicated from the previous year. It is expected that the first draft of this data will be available for the September SACRE meeting.

- Olivia Seymour, the Professional Religious Education Adviser, will move into a new position as an independent consultant, for the next two years.

It was during this point that Adrian Clarke, Principal Education Adviser, told the group that this would be his last SACRE as he is moving onto a new job within the North Yorkshire Council. It is unlikely that a replacement will be found for the role until early 2024 at the earliest.

- There have been several Ofsted reports in the area, but they have not mentioned religious education in their reports.

After the report was delivered a question was asked about why RE was not being considered on the Ofsted reports. The Senior Education Advisor informed the committee that the subject of RE is not being chosen for "deep dives". There was one school which did have a "deep dive" in this subject, but it was not written about in the subsequent report. The Professional Religious Education Advisor posited that this was simply a reflection of how succinct Ofsted reports are now, rather than a statement about the subject. Following the response, Councillor Jabbour asked if SACRE could have examples of when RE is used in the reports. The Professional Religious Education Advisor said that they would try to find these ahead of the next meeting for the members of the committee.

Mohinder Singh Chana asked if this was representative of other authorities. The Professional Religious Education Advisor said that the succinctness of the reports meant that it was hard to draw many conclusions. Rather it would be better to do a comparative study between the North Yorkshire school reports over time and see whether any conclusions of changes could be reached.

NOTED.

9 Development Plan 2022/2024: Progress Update - Adrian Clarke, Principal Education Adviser (Support)

Considered a report by the Principal Education Adviser (Support) which updated Members on the development plan 2022-2024. He highlighted:

- How the new members on the committee were reflected under the member

development requested in objective 1.

- That there were questions over whether some schools could host SACRE, starting with those that the teaching members were part of.
- SACRE visits to schools

Objective 2, the visits to schools, was further explained by the Professional Religious Education Adviser. A training session could be held on how to do visits well, especially around what questions to ask and the importance of safety. The Senior Education Advisor will lead on safeguarding.

- Further items will be evaluated over the summer and the update in September will provide more information for that.

Following the report, Sarah Rowe echoed the importance of understanding what it is that the SACRE members would be looking for in school visits, asking the question of what remit they were establishing. Councillor Jabbour said there was a need to not impose but to build a level of buy-in to the process.

The Chair asked a question around a SACRE logo that would be created through a school's competition and getting this on the Agreed Syllabus Conference materials. The Professional Religious Education Advisor said that the plan was to run a competition at the start of the academic year or later. The design team would then finalise the design after the winner is chosen. There are considerations over whether this should link into the interfaith week held in November, whether that is when the competition is launched or whether this is when the winner is chosen is still to be decided. A small representative body of SACRE would be needed to decide the winner.

It was during this item that Sarah Beveridge left the meeting.

NOTED.

10 SACRE Self-Assessment Toolkit - Patrick Duffy, Clerk to SACRE

The Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer, Patrick Duffy, provided information on the SACRE self-assessment toolkit. The toolkit is based on 5 aims and the synergy between the toolkit and development plan was highlighted.

To evaluate the aims provided in the toolkit, representatives from each group would systematically evaluate one objective at a time. Volunteers would be needed for this to take place. There would be an additional time commitment of an hour, but they would be on teams and, it is hoped, that the membership of the working group would alter for each objective. The first objective is aimed to be completed before the next SACRE.

Members could either volunteer during the meeting or let Patrick Duffy know as soon as possible. The following members put themselves forward:

- Professor John Adams
- Councillor Alyson Baker
- Abhijeet Kulkarni

11 Work Programme - Patrick Duffy, Clerk to SACRE

The Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer gave an update on the work programme for SACRE. The programme provided in the agenda provided the relevant

items and members can suggest future items that could be considered.

There have not been any member presentations recently due to the time constraints that the Agreed Syllabus Conference gave. Any members that would like to give a presentation at the next meeting should let the clerk know in advance of the meeting.

12 Any Other Items

There were no further items of business.

The meeting finished at 6:45pm.

13 Date of Next and Future Meetings

The dates of the next meetings were provided to the group.

Members will be told in advance whether the meeting on 19 September will take place at 4pm or 5pm, depending on when an Agreed Syllabus Conference working party needs to happen. The meeting on 12 December will be held at 4pm.

The meeting to be held in April needs to be amended as it would be in half-term, and the date of the June meeting needs to be determined.

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North Yorkshire Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19th September, 2023 commencing at 5.00 pm.

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), Hayden Cohen (Judaism), Chris Devanny (Catholic), Nasr Moussa Emam (Muslim), and Abhijeet Kulkarni (Hindu).

Group B: Church of England: N/a

Group C: Teachers Associations: Tara Askew, Jo Colledge, and Sarah Hodgson.

Group D: North Yorkshire Council: Councillors Robert Heseltine and George Jabbour (Chair).

Officers Present: Patrick Duffy, (Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer); Owen Griffiths, (Corporate Governance Officer); Julie Pattison (Principal Education Adviser - Monitoring); Heather Russell, (Senior Education Adviser); and Olivia Seymour, (Professional Religious Education Advisor).

Apologies: Councillor Alyson Baker, Tom Clayton, David Haddock, Councillor Janet Jefferson, Gill Simpson, Philippa Smith, Lee Talbot and Councillor Annabel Wilkinson

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

14 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The meeting was introduced by Owen Griffiths, in his role of Clerk, to introduce the election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair. The meeting was not quorate however, owing to no attendance from the Church of England representatives, and the item had to be deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor Jabbour stepped in as Chair for the meeting as both Councillor Baker and Sarah Beveridge, the present Chair and Vice-Chair, had both sent apologies.

15 Welcome and Announcements

The Chair welcomed people to the meeting. The Chair particularly welcomed Hayden Cohen, as the new representative for Judaism, and Julie Pattison, as the new Principal Education Adviser.

16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received by Councillor Alyson Baker, Tom Clayton, David Haddock, Councillor Janet Jefferson, Gill Simpson, Philippa Smith, Lee Talbot, and Councillor Annabel Wilkinson.

17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June

The minutes of the last meeting could not be agreed as a true account of the previous

meeting as the meeting was not quorate.

18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19 Public Participation

There were no public questions.

20 Member Presentation by Professor John Adams

Considered a presentation by Professor John Adams, a Humanist Faith Group Representative. By way of background, the Committee's 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. This presentation was the third of these.

Professor Adams set out to share more about Humanism and his background within it. He did this in three sections:

1. How he got involved within it.
2. What Humanism is.
3. Questions and Discussion.

- 1) Professor Adams shared that many Humanists first become involved within the organisation through attending ceremonies, and that was also how he became involved, through a non-religious funeral for his father. That involvement within the organisation then became greater after retiring, and it was shared that he was now the Treasurer of the organisation.

Professor Adams then said that the organisation had more than 100,000 members and read a list of famous names who were part of it. Alongside ceremonies it was shown that the Humanists also offer pastoral care, apostate support for those fleeing religious, and working on human rights campaigns.

- 2) Professor Adams then provided insight to what Humanism actually is. Although the roots of Humanism can be seen in ancient times, with both Socrates and Erasmus being historical advocates, the modern foundation of the term is simply the conviction that it is possible to lead a good life of liberal values without superstition. This was explained in three points:

- A) The denial of the Supernatural. The world can be explained through reason and evidence. Humans, as a species, can explain the world that they live in, and these explanations continue to expand.
- B) Religion is culturally determined. Professor Adams shared that humanists would say that religion is a social construct, that mirrors the culture that it exists within in. As a result, the number of gods across anthropological time has been estimated to be around 10,000.
- C) Therefore, because of the first two points, moral precepts come from society. Reality is human and is socially constructed within the framework of what has been taught and understood.

- 3) Professor Adams provided room for questions to be asked. Nasr Moussa Emam said that it was very interesting and asked for the presentation to be shared in full. Hayden Cohen also said that it was very interesting

and said that he looked forward to many future discussions over the meetings to come.

The Chair thanked Professor Adams for his presentation and said it would be good for these to continue. Hayden Cohen said that he could do one at the next meeting.

21 North Yorkshire Council SACRE Draft Annual Report 2022-23

Considered a report by the Senior Education Adviser, Heather Russell, on the draft annual report 2022-23.

Questions were asked about:

- How the data has been presented.
- Collective worship and whether it would be worth noting that it has been discussed at previous SACRE meetings.
- Whether Jewish people might be uncomfortable with how the questions have been framed in the religion and faith section, particularly with its ethno-religious element. In response to this, the Principal Education Adviser (Monitoring) said that the framing of the data for those questions was dependent on who answered the data and was reflective of that.

NOTED.

22 Update from Professional Religious Education Adviser

Considered a report by the Professional Religious Education Adviser, Olivia Seymour, informing Members of work undertaken since the last meeting, together with local and national updates regarding Religious Education. The report provided details on the following issues:

- SACRE Newsletter – the timeline of this had to be expanded so that the Agreed Syllabus Conference could help to inform the content.
- Data – The national picture from exam results was provided to the group, with the local datasets forthcoming.
- The Department for Education have been asked to address the shortage of people training to become RE teachers.

NOTED.

23 Update from the Local Authority

For the benefit of those who had not been at the Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting, ahead of this meeting, the Chair provided a quick summary. More volunteers will be needed for the launch report that will be provided to educational leaders. The Professional Religious Education Adviser shared that the launch of the Agreed Syllabus Conference will be the 14 June 2024 and it would be good for as many Members to attend as possible.

After this, a report was considered by the Principal Education Adviser (Monitoring) which updated Members on the work undertaken by the Local Authority since the last meeting.

The main point highlighted was that the methodology of how Ofsted inspections are analysed has been reconfigured towards a greater emphasis on personal development. These figures went back to March to provide a larger pool of data.

During this item Councillor Heseltine had to leave the meeting and said “God Bless” before leaving. Professor John Adams asked “Which one?” The Chair, Councillor Jabbour, told Professor Adams that his remark was not in line with the level of respect that was expected between the different Members. Professor Adams disagreed with the Chair’s rebuttal.

NOTED.

24 Work Programme

The Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer gave an update on the work programme for SACRE. The programme provided in the agenda provided the relevant official items and members can suggest future items that could be considered.

25 SACRE Self-Assessment Tool- Report of the Working Party

The Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer, Patrick Duffy, provided information on the SACRE self-assessment toolkit. The tool kit is based on 5 criteria and allows for the SACRE to evaluate its performance and seek to improve its performance.

The first of these assessments took place on 5 September and was undertaken by the Officers and Professor John Adams, Cllr Alyson Baker, and Abhijeet Kulkarni. The focus of the first working party was around the second aim:

“How effectively does the SACRE, in partnership with the LA, evaluate standards and the quality of provision for RE in schools? How effective are the strategies to improve standards and the quality of provision?”

The feedback from the working party was that the SACRE was doing well in many of the areas highlighted by the second aim but there were areas of improvement, particularly between SACRE itself and schools.

Patrick Duffy then provided room for members who were not present at the working party to provide comment. He also shared two ways in which the committee could proceed with the other 4 criteria:

- Continue in the format of the last working party, drawing upon volunteers for each individual criterion, or;
- Can use part of the SACRE Committee meeting to discuss one criterion and split into different groups to do this.

NOTED.

26 Any Other Items

Hayden Cohen told the committee that on 27 January, the Harrogate Synagogue would be holding an event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. All of the committee members are invited but he asked that people let him know in advance so that the number of people going could be accounted for.

There being no further items of business, the meeting ended at 6:08 pm.

27 Dates of Next Meetings

The dates of the next meetings were provided to the group.
These would be:

- 12 December 2023 at 4pm.
- 9 April 2024 at 4pm.

North Yorkshire Council

North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus Conference

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 3.30 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), Hayden Cohen (Judaism), Chris Devanny* (Catholic), and Abhijeet Kulkarni* (Hindu)

Group B: Church of England: Not represented on this occasion

Group C: Teachers Associations: Tara Askew*, Jo College* and Sarah Hodgson*

Group D: Local Authority: Councillor George Jabbour (in the Chair)

Officers present: Patrick Duffy (Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer), Owen Griffiths (Corporate Governance Officer), Julie Pattison (Principal Education Adviser), Heather Russell (Senior Education Adviser) and Olivia Seymour (Professional Religious Education Adviser)

*Denotes joined remotely

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

NOTE:

References to Agreed Syllabus, throughout these Minutes, refer to the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

12. Chair for today's meeting

The Clerk, Patrick Duffy, advised that, due to a bereavement, the Chair, Councillor Alyson Baker, was unable to attend today's meeting. The Agreed Syllabus Conference does not have a Vice-Chair.

He added that Councillor George Jabbour had kindly agreed to chair today's meeting, subject to Members agreement.

Members confirmed they were happy with this.

Councillor George Jabbour in the Chair

13 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair advised Members that he had attended both of the previous ASC meetings and was therefore familiar with the subject matter.

He welcomed people to the meeting and, in particular, Hayden Cohen, who had been appointed as a representative of Judaism, and Julie Pattison, Principal Education Adviser, who would lead on matters related to the ASC and SACRE.

14. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Alyson Baker, Tom Clayton, Philippa Smith and Lee Talbot.

15. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2023

Professor John Adams stated that, whilst he was not requesting that the Minutes be amended, as such, he disagreed with the wording in Minute No. 9, North Yorkshire SACRE: Options for Agreed Syllabus Review (for Autumn 2024 implementation), that “A lengthy discussion followed...” This was the third ASC he had been involved with and the previous two had had much lengthier discussions. Professor Adams added that, on this occasion, the ASC had, effectively, agreed to purchase the simplest option – Option A. Members had not had the opportunity to see this and it lacked specificity.

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, but that the view expressed by Professor Adams, above, be noted.

16. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

17. Public Participation

The Clerk confirmed that no public questions or statements had been received.

18. Syllabus Model A+ An overview of updates and resources provided for Schools - Discussion Paper

Considered –

A paper by the Professional Religious Education Adviser, which provided an overview of updates and resources provided for Schools in respect of Syllabus Model A+.

Before introducing the paper, the Professional Religious Education Adviser referred to the comments made earlier in the meeting by Professor Adams. It was not the case that the Agreed Syllabus had not been seen by Members before, in that it is already being used in Schools – and it is this that is being updated.

She stressed that the decision to adopt Syllabus Model A+ does not prevent enhancement of the Syllabus. For example:-

- Early Years Foundation Stage will reflect the new profile
- Curriculum design will be reflective of OFSTED Inspections and Religious World Views
- Anti-racist Religious Education will be included
- Special Education Needs and Disability will be expanded
- The national conversation in Religious Education will be reflected

It is anticipated that the Syllabus will be a digital resource.

The paper – which you can view [here](#) – outlined updates from Model A that will be built into the new Syllabus, together with:-

- additional questions for the ASC to consider;
- the proposed Appendices;
- online support information; and
- an outline of the Launch Event

The Professional Religious Education Adviser informed Members that supplements to the Agreed Syllabus can be written at any stage.

She felt that it would be helpful if the document contained some quotes from SACRE Members and asked Members to consider the development of a logo.

In response to a comment by the Chair, the Professional Religious Education Adviser confirmed that the Launch Event is scheduled for *14th June 2024*. **All Members are asked to diary this date.**

In response to questions raised by Members, the Professional Religious Education Adviser:-

- clarified the situation with regard to copyright; whilst we cannot amend the Agreed Syllabus itself, which will be purchased from RE Today, it is entirely acceptable to include appendices, additions and support materials;
- confirmed that the Agreed Syllabus provides a high-level *framework* for Schools, which then becomes part of a contextualised curriculum. Schools are under no compulsion to use the enquiry questions suggested; it can be adapted so that it is right for their pupils; and
- stated that there is a minimum – not maximum – entitlement and, as stated above, the ASC can choose to add things.

The Professional Religious Education Adviser mentioned that the *One-minute Guide* could be updated; together with resources for Religious World Views. Are these the sort of things that Members want to see undertaken? Work can be started on these elements, but officers would look for some support with these tasks from Members. Hayden Cohen and Abhijeet Kulkarni indicated that they would be happy to volunteer to assist with these endeavours.

NOTED.

19. Any other Items

The Chair confirmed that he had not been notified of any other business of urgency.

20. Next Meeting

The Chair advised that future discussions would take place through SACRE, as the ASC had now, effectively, done its job (its primary task being the recommendation to the Local Authority as to which Agreed Syllabus Option should be adopted.)

Therefore, this would be the last meeting of the ASC in respect of the 2024/2029 Agreed Syllabus.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking Members for their time and contribution to the debate at this and the previous ASC meetings. Implementation will take place over the next few months and robust discussions can continue.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 p.m.

PD

DRAFT



North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report for the School Year 2022/23

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Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to the Annual Report for North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, covering the school year 2022/2023.

It has been another busy and productive year for North Yorkshire SACRE and so it is a pleasure to present our Annual Report for 2022-23. Earlier this year, I took over the role of Chair from Cllr Annabel Wilkinson. Stuart Anslow (Teachers Representative), Brian Berry (Faith Group Representative), Reverend Simone Bennett and Gill Simpson (Church of England) have also all left over this school year. I am incredibly grateful to all of them for their contributions over the last year.

We have been joined this year by Dr. Abhijeet Kulkarni (Faith Group Representative), Lee Talbot (Church of England Representative) and Jo Colledge and Sarah Hodgson (Teachers Representatives). We have also been pleased to welcome back Councilor Janet Jefferson (Local Authority Representative).

Our members are the beating heart of North Yorkshire SACRE, always ensuring that the right issues are discussed, the right views are sought, and the right actions are taken. Like much of working life, our meetings are now hybrid affairs, with some members joining virtually and others physically.

I would like to thank all members of North Yorkshire SACRE who have given their time and attention to SACRE over the past year – faith representatives, teachers, and councilors, Olivia Seymour, our Professional Religious Education Adviser, has informed and supported our work through the year, together with Adrian Clarke and Heather Russell on behalf of the Local Authority. I would also like to thank Patrick Duffy and Owen Griffiths for clerking for SACRE in the past year.

A highlight of the year was the Agreed Syllabus Conference. Work will be undertaken over the next academic year leading up to the launch of the new syllabus for September 2024.

Supporting and upskilling the teachers of Religious Education has remained a clear focus this year, with professional practice groups being offered termly for teachers to take part in sessions covering religion and world views, Ofsted and national updates, led by our professional Religious Education Adviser.

SACRE members have benefitted from the contribution of other members sharing information and celebration of religious world views and faiths.

As Chair I was fortunate to attend the NASACRE Annual Conference with Heather Russell. This event raised our understanding and awareness of the importance of SACRE to community cohesion, which has already had an impact on our work.

We have welcomed several new members over the last year across all our committees, which has strengthened SACRE.

On the 1st of April 2023 North Yorkshire became one Council - the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion intrinsic to everyone's responsibility, ensuring differences are valued.

The work of SACRE is never done. With the continuing support of members, teachers, religion and worldview experts and the local authority, I have high expectations for what we will achieve in the year ahead.

Cllr Alyson Baker
SACRE Chair

1.Introduction

Overview of SACRE meetings and attendance.

North Yorkshire SACRE met four times in the academic year 2022/2023.

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

Table 1: Attendance-

Committee	20 Sep 2022	13 Dec 2022	28 Mar 2023	20 June 2023	Possible maximum attendances at each meeting
Committee A	6	6	6	5	12 (includes 4 vacancies)
Committee B	3	3	1	2	4 (includes 1 vacancy up to March 2023 and two vacancies from then)
Committee C	2	3	2	3	5 (includes 2 vacancies)
Committee D	3	3	3	2	4 (up to June 2023, when representation was increased to 5)
Total members	14	15	12	12	26
Professional Religious Education Adviser	1	1	1	1	1
Local Authority Officers	2	2	2	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 four vacancies throughout the year.

Each meeting receives updates from Local Authority Officers and the Professional Religious Education Adviser. Through the latter's reports, the Committee has been appraised of various local and national updates. These have included: -

- Training
- Regional RE Hub Lead work in Yorkshire and Humber
- Still Standing - The Future of SACREs

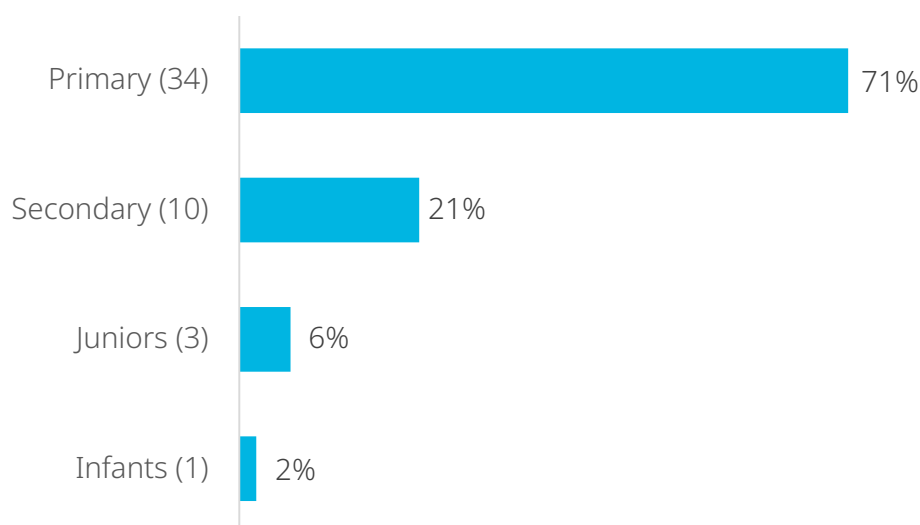
- The NATRE (National Association of Teachers for Religious Education) Primary Survey
- Briefing: Impact of Census on Religion and Belief
- New RE Teacher Recruitment Campaign
- NATRE flash survey for secondary teachers in their first two years in the profession since qualification

Meetings in 2021/2022 had been held remotely. In 2022/2023, the first meeting, in September 2022, was held remotely but then, from the December 2022 meeting, meetings have been “hybrid”, whereby Members can either join the meeting in person, or join remotely. Whether or not it is attributable to this flexibility, the fact is that attendance has increased in 2022/2023.

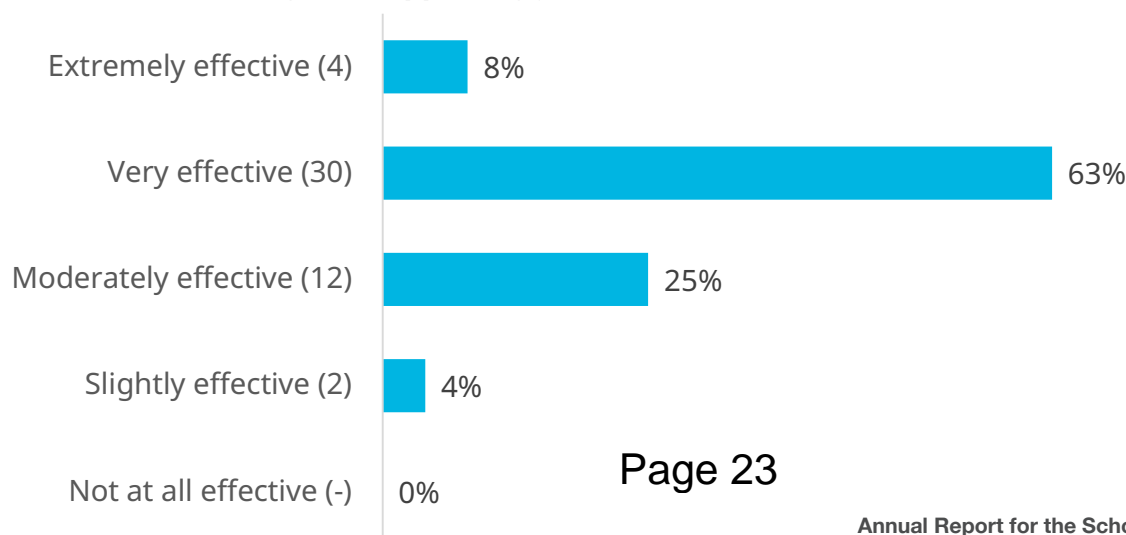
Overview of the Agreed Syllabus Conference

In January 2023, a survey was sent to all schools prior to the Agreed Syllabus Conference to find their views on the current arrangements. The Professional RE Adviser also consulted with teachers during the spring term’s RE Professional Practice Groups. The following data reflects the findings from the schools who responded to the online survey.

Which type of education setting do you work in?



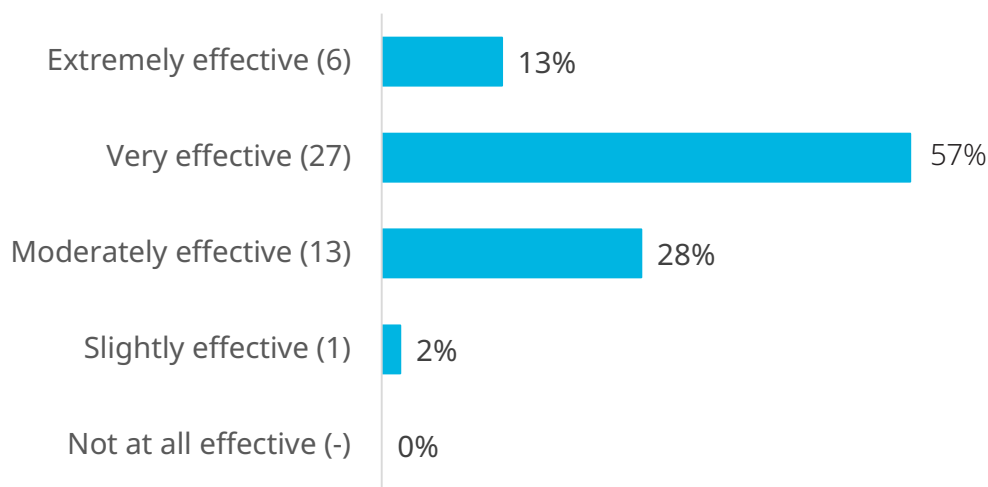
How effective is the current Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in meeting and supporting your curriculum needs?



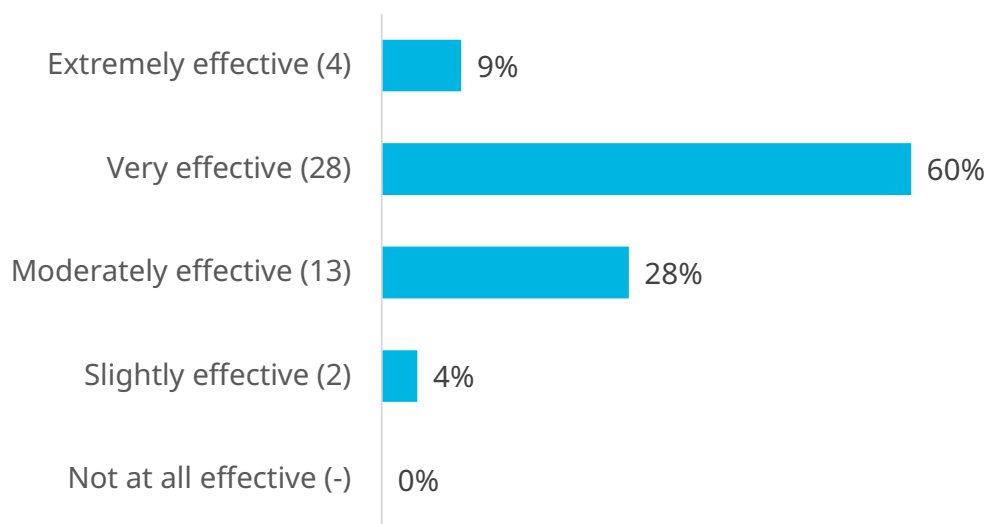
Is the guidance contained within the Locally Agreed Syllabus clear?



Regarding the guidance contained within the Locally Agreed Syllabus, how effectively does it enable you to... (Plan a coherent programme of learning)



Regarding the guidance contained within the Locally Agreed Syllabus, how effectively does it enable you to... (Deliver a coherent programme of learning)



As outlined in the Development Plan Priority Three, the Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings were held in both the Spring and Summer terms to decide the direction of travel of a new syllabus for 2024-2029.

It was resolved during 20th June 2023 SACRE meeting, the Agreed Syllabus Conference recommendation to the Local Authority that, in respect of the Agreed Syllabus for 2024-2029, Option A was chosen – namely, renew the licence with RE Today, which includes updating the 2019-2024 folder.

2. Statutory responsibilities

The Local Agreed Syllabus

The number of schools at the end of the academic year 2022/2023 within North Yorkshire is as follows:-

Table 2: North Yorkshire school types and phases

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Pupil Referral Service	Total
Academy		111	27	4	1	143
University Technical Colleges			1			1
Community	3	88	15	6	4	116
Foundation		1				1
Voluntary Controlled		77				77
Voluntary Aided		21				21
Total	3	298	43	10	5	359

A total of 33 academies have adopted the North Yorkshire Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Separate regulations covering maintained special schools require them to ensure that, as far as practical, 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

The agreed syllabus and RE in schools have been monitored through teacher voice at termly professional practice groups, teacher representation of Group C and the 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 third year the questionnaire has been used as a mechanism to monitor RE in North Yorkshire schools. 90 primary schools and 20 secondary schools completed the questionnaire in the summer term of 2023, and it is a useful mechanism to support SACRE's responsibilities in monitoring RE in our schools.

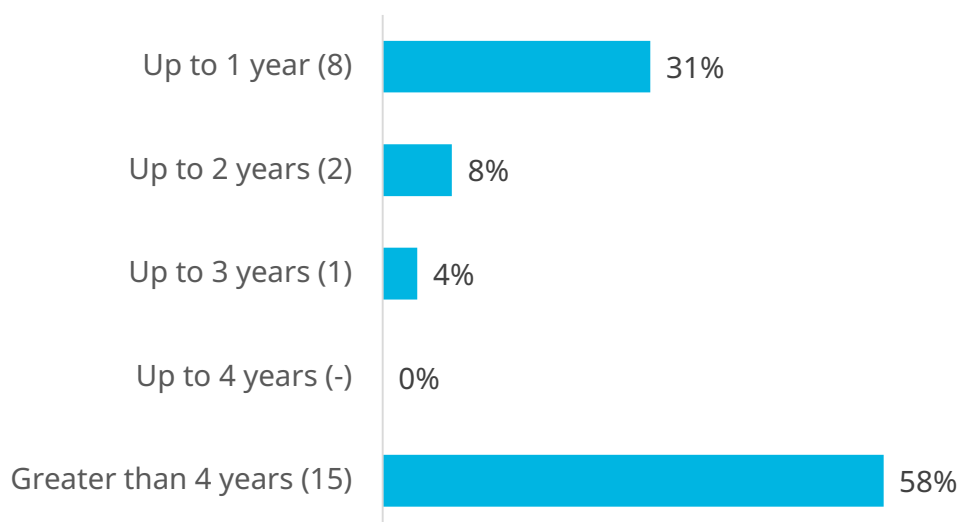
Analysis of school types responding has taken place this year, following feedback from attendance at the NASACRE Annual Conference 2023.

Table 3: SACRE School survey respondents in each category (as a % of the total schools of each type within North Yorkshire)

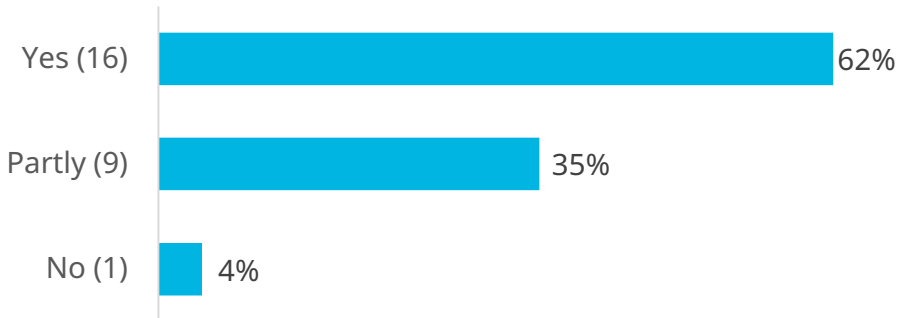
Primary Maintained	32%
Primary Academy	28%
Secondary Maintained	53%
Secondary Academy	44%
Special Maintained	17%
Special Academy	25%
PRU Maintained	25%
PRU Academy	0%

- Engagement of primary schools has increased from 20% to 30% responding to the survey compared with last year.
- Engagement of secondary schools has increased from 30% to 47% responding to the survey compared with last year.
- 85% of secondary schools who responded enter pupils for GCSE examinations
- Seven schools out of a total of 23 schools with sixth forms entered pupils for A' level examinations.

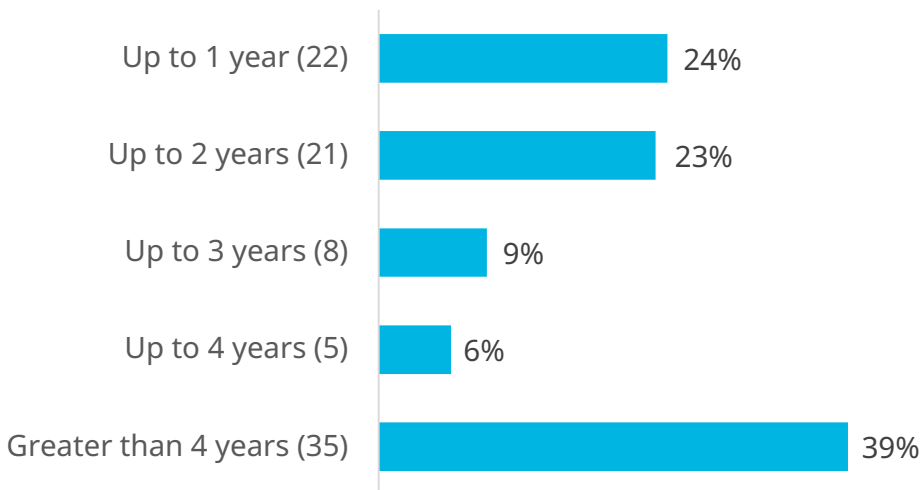
Length of service of secondary subject leaders:



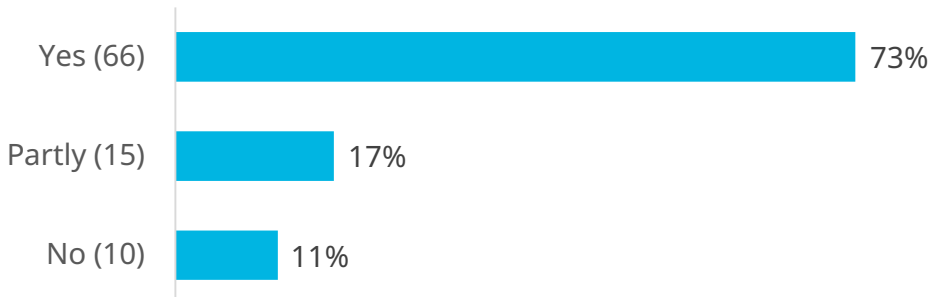
Do you follow the NYC Agreed Syllabus?



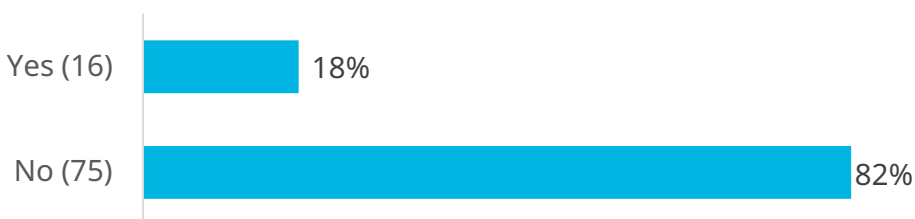
Length of service of primary subject leaders:



Do you follow the NYC Agreed Syllabus?



Are you responding on behalf of a federation or collaboration?



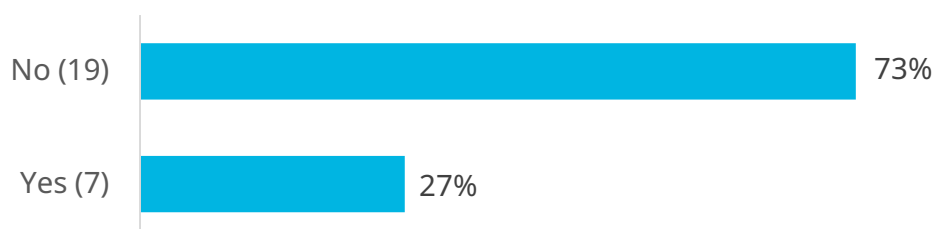
Primary:

Is provision for RE combined with another subject e.g. PSHEe, Citizenship?



Secondary:

Is provision for RE combined with another subject e.g. PSHEe, Citizenship?



Growing Up in North Yorkshire bi-annual school survey 2022

The North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Service (CYPS), public health and North Yorkshire Police commission a survey of children and young people covering aspects of learning, safeguarding and well-being. The summer 2022 survey provides key information about learning, safety and wellbeing of children and young people across Years 2, 6, 8, 10 and 12, in mainstream schools and in special schools and PRUs. The information shared in autumn 2022 shows the children's responses in relation to their religion/faith from Key Stage 2 and beyond.

Pupils responses have been taken from the following questions:

Do you have a religion, faith or belief that is important to you?

Yes Not sure No Don't want to say

What is your religion, faith or belief? Please give the nearest answer, even if you are not currently practising.

Non-religious e.g. atheist, humanist <input type="radio"/>	Muslim <input type="radio"/>
Buddhist <input type="radio"/>	Sikh <input type="radio"/>
Christian e.g. Catholic, Church of England <input type="radio"/>	Other (please write below) <input type="radio"/>
Hindu <input type="radio"/>	Don't know <input type="radio"/>
Jewish <input type="radio"/>	I don't want to say <input type="radio"/>

Year 6 pupils' responses

Religion/faith - 20% of pupils responded that they have a religion, faith or belief which is important to them, while 17% said they are 'not sure' if they do and 3% didn't want to say.

Q14. Percentage responding that they have a religion, faith or belief which is important to them.

North Yorkshire	
	Year 6
Boys	20%
Girls	20%

Q15. Percentage of pupils responding that they have the following religion, faith or belief (top 5):

Boys			Girls		
1.	Christian	15%	1.	Christian	17%
2.	Muslim	1%	2.	Muslim	1%
3.	Non-religious	1%	3.	Don't want to say	1%
4.	Don't know	1%	4.	Non-religious	1%
5.	Don't want to say	1%	5.	Hindu	0%

Year 8 / 10 pupils' responses

Religion - 14% of pupils responded that they have a religion, faith or belief which is important to them, while 14% said they are 'not sure' if they do and 1% didn't want to say.

Q9. Percentage answering that they have a religion, faith or belief which is important to them.

North Yorkshire		
	Year 8	Year 10
Boys	15%	13%
Girls	13%	14%

14% of pupils responded that they are Christian, while 2% said they are Muslim and 8% said they either 'don't know' what religion, faith or belief they have, or 'don't want to say'.

Q10. Percentage of pupils responding that they have the following religion, faith or belief (top 5):

Boys			Girls		
1.	Christian	15%	1.	Christian	14%
2.	Don't know	5%	2.	Don't know	5%
3.	Non-religious	3%	3.	Don't want to say	4%
4.	Don't want to say	2%	4.	Muslim	2%
5.	Muslim	2%	5.	Don't want to say	2%

Year 12 responses

Religion - 17% of pupils responded that they have a religion, faith or belief which is important to them, while 9% said they are 'not sure' if they do and 1% didn't want to say.

Q9. Percentage answering that they have a religion, faith or belief which is important to them.

North Yorkshire	
	Year 12
Boys	14%
Girls	19%

14% of pupils responded that they are Christian, while 4% said they are Muslim and 3% said they either 'don't know' what religion, faith or belief they have, or 'don't want to say'.

Q10. Percentage of pupils responding that they have the following religion, faith or belief (top 5):

Boys			Girls		
1.	Christian	13%	1.	Christian	15%
2.	Don't know	3%	2.	Muslim	5%
3.	Muslim	3%	3.	Non-religious	2%
4.	Non-religious	2%	4.	Don't know	2%
5.	Hindu	1%	5.	Other	1%

Teacher training, materials and advice for schools

The Professional RE Adviser delivered several professional practice sessions via video conference during the academic year. A total of 49 schools engaged with these groups, consisting of 41 maintained schools with 71 delegates and 8 academy schools with 10 delegates.

This training has included a focus on developing an effective curriculum using the North Yorkshire Council Agreed Syllabus, subject knowledge and engaging with the recent Ofsted research review in religious education.

The Professional RE Adviser has met Senior Education 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.

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

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, newsletter and the new RE Hubs website (launched May 2023) <https://www.re-hubs.uk/hubs/yorkshire-humber/speakers-presenters/>

The termly newsletter continues to be published, accessible to all schools, supplying 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 asked.

GCSE and A' level results

According to the DFE Statistical First Returns the next release of KS4 will be in February 2024. This is the finalised data and will include subject analysis for North Yorkshire.

Finalised 2022 data can be found in Appendix 1.

The first release of KS5 North Yorkshire data was released in November. This did not include any subject level information.

The number of students in England and Wales taking a GCSE course in Religious Studies has remained stable at 253,906, up by a margin of 0.3% from last year.

The number of GCSE entries this year means that RS is taken by more students than Business Studies, Design and Technology, and Art and Design at GCSE.

Overview of data from the Joint Council of Qualifications

Provisional GCSE (Full Course) Results (9-1 Only) - June 2023 (England Only)

Cumulative Percentages of Subject Results by Grade

Category	Subject	Year	Number Sat	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
GCSE FC England 9-1	Religious Studies	2023	222412	7.7	18.5	30.6	47.3	61.3	72.2	86.0	94.0	98.4	100
GCSE FC England 9-1	Religious Studies	2022	221983	9.7	21.6	34.7	51.8	66.1	76.7	87.7	94.5	98.5	100
GCSE FC England 9-1	Religious Studies	2019	227913	7.4	17.9	30.5	46.6	60.9	72.3	86.3	94.3	98.5	100
GCSE FC England 9-1	All Subjects	2023	5422613	4.9	12.0	21.6	35.6	52.2	67.8	83.8	93.1	98.0	100
GCSE FC England 9-1	All Subjects	2022	5219550	6.6	15.1	26.0	40.7	58.1	73.0	86.7	94.5	98.4	100
GCSE FC England 9-1	All Subjects	2019	5070481	4.5	11.2	20.6	34.0	50.6	67.0	84.3	93.8	98.3	100

Religious Studies A level exam entries have decreased by 3.5 percent in England and 24 percent in Wales.

The key outcomes of the 2023 A level results in England and Wales for Religious Studies are as follows:

- 15,438 RS A level entries were recorded in England and Wales, a decline of 4.5 percent from 2022
- There were 39 percent more A level entries for RS in England and Wales than in 2003 (11,132 entries were recorded in 2003).

Overview of data from the Joint Council of Qualifications

Provisional GCE A Level Results - June 2023 (England Only)

Comparisons to previous years should be approached with caution.

Cumulative Percentages of Subject Results by Grade

Category	Subject	Year	Number Sat	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
A Level England	Religious Studies	2023	14690	5.9	25.4	55.3	79.0	92.2	98.0	100
A Level England	Religious Studies	2022	15216	12.5	35.6	67.6	87.6	96.1	99.0	100
A Level England	Religious Studies	2019	16214	4.2	21.5	49.8	75.9	91.8	98.1	100
A Level England	All Subjects	2023	797352	8.6	26.5	52.7	75.4	89.9	97.2	100
A Level England	All Subjects	2022	776625	14.5	35.9	62.2	82.1	93.4	98.4	100
A Level England	All Subjects	2019	736746	7.7	25.2	51.1	75.5	90.8	97.5	100

3. Collective Worship

Standards and monitoring of 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. For this to be the case, SACRE has identified six principles which schools should apply about 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 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 2022/2023 in respect of collective worship. Updating guidance on Collective Worship and providing training for schools has been identified as a development point for SACRE.

Determinations

As in previous years, no determinations were requested by schools.

4. Links with other bodies

North Yorkshire SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Throughout 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. This was reported to SACRE through the Professional RE Adviser's reports.

The Chair and a LA (Local Authority) Officer attended the Summer 2023 NASACRE Conference and reported back to members.

5. Local involvement

North Yorkshire SACRE recommended advice to the Local Authority about Ramadan in schools.

A termly newsletter was published and digitally circulated to schools.

The Professional RE Adviser attended and gave information at Spring 2023 Headteacher video conference briefings and Summer 2023 Governor video conference networks.

6. Local arrangements

Finance

During the school year 2022-2023 the Local Authority has financially supported SACRE through the allocation of officers and other resources.

Staffing costs have been covered for officers from Democratic Services to fulfil the administrative preparation and clerking of SACRE meetings. Additional officer and technology resources have also been given to ensure that SACRE meetings could be held via video conference for hybrid meetings to take place.

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 includes 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 as needed.

Membership

Membership of each of the four Groups which form the North Yorkshire SACRE in the academic year 2022-2023 was:

Group A – Faith Group Representatives (12)

Professor John Adams, Humanist

Brian Berry, Judaism (left January 2023)

Sarah Beveridge, Society of Friends

Chris Devanny, Catholic

Tom Clayton, Methodist

Dave Haddock, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Dr. Abhijeet Kulkarni (joined February 2023)

Nasr Moussa Emam, Muslim

Mohinder Singh Chana, Sikh

Vacancy Baptist

Vacancy Buddhist

Vacancy Judaism

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 (left March 2023)

Lee Talbot, Diocese of Leeds (joined April 2023)

Gill Simpson, Diocese of Leeds (left June 2023)

Philippa Smith, Diocese of York

Vacancy Diocese of Leeds

Vacancy Diocese of York

Group C - Teachers of Religious Education (5)

Tara Askew

Jo Colledge (joined November 2023)

Sarah Hodgson (joined August 2023)

Vacancies (2)

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

County Councillor Alyson Baker

Councillor George Jabbour

County Councillor Janet Jefferson (joined May 2023)

Councillor Robert Heseltine

Councillor Annabel Wilkinson

NOTE: For most of the period in question there were four Local Authority Representatives. This increased to five in May 2023.

Co-opted Member: Academic Expertise in Religious Education

Vacancy

SACRE is carrying several vacancies. There are 18 places filled out of 26. Officers continue to liaise with partners to fill these vacancies.

All meetings have been quorate and generally well attended with each Group represented at every meeting. As mentioned under Section 1, attendance has improved during the period in question.

SACRE has signed up to the virtual training package offered by NASACRE and several Members and officers have accessed courses including:-

- So, you've joined your local SACRE
- Being an effective Chair
- Being an effective SACRE Clerk
- What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations

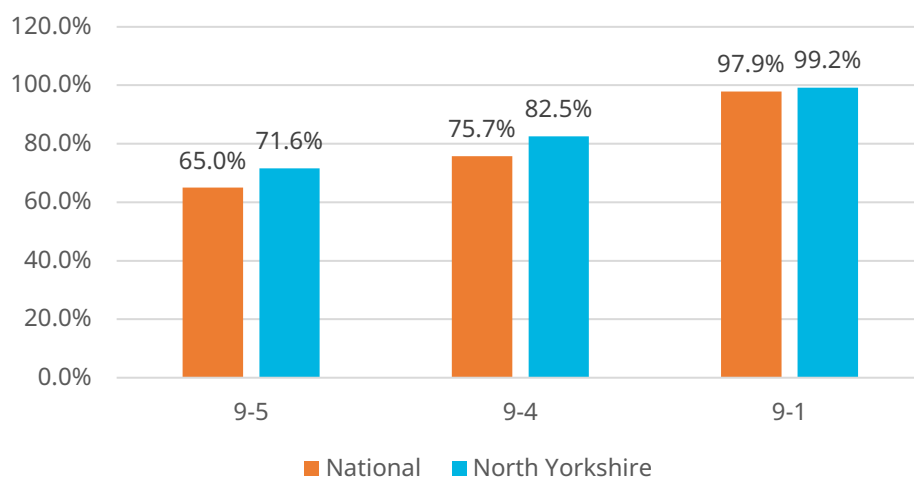
Appendix 1: Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A' level Religious Studies results

2022 results:

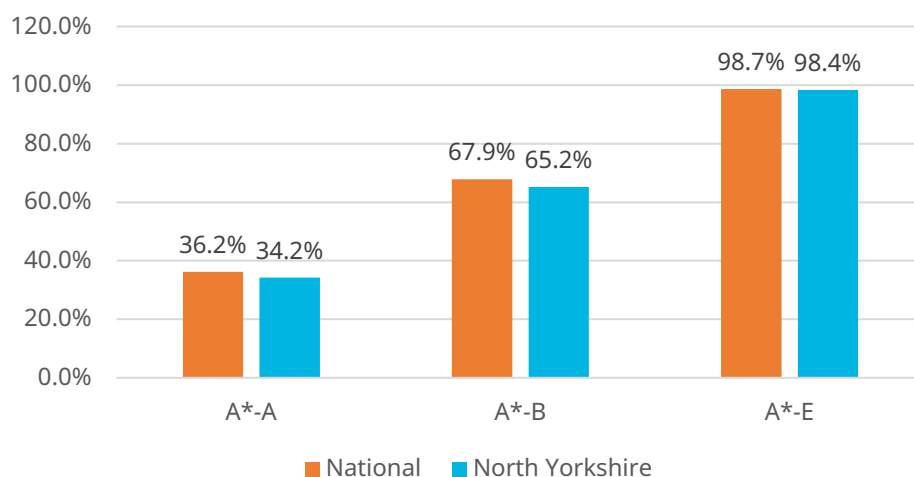
KS4 results

LA	Students	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C	A*-D	A*-E
North Yorkshire	150	35.3	64.7	80.7	93.3	98.0

2022 GCSE - Religious Education



2022 A Level - Religious Studies



Appendix 2: Development Plan 2022-2024

The North Yorkshire SACRE Development Plan is shaped around the five key functions of SACRES contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit, namely:-

1. To improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders
2. Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE
3. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus
4. Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship
5. Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony

The 2022-24 Plan includes some of the actions in the 2020-22 Development Plan which were not possible to complete due to Covid.

North Yorkshire SACRE has begun a programme of self-evaluation activity, using the NASACRE self-evaluation toolkit, which underpins identified priorities.

Objective One: To increase Member engagement

Intended Impact: SACRE has active Members engaged with and contributing to the work of SACRE

Links to NASACRE Self-evaluation toolkit:

Priority One - To improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders

Priority Five - Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
1.1	SACRE to enhance Faith Group representation by working with Faith Groups to enhance Group A Membership	-		On-going	Sarah Beveridge – Society of Friends –appointed June 2022 Abhijeet Kulkarni – Hindu – appointed February 2023
1.2	SACRE to enhance Teacher Representation	-		On-going	Sarah Hodgson appointed – September 2022 Jo College appointed November 2022
1.3	Implement a programme of Member presentations at each SACRE meeting with a focus on Member work / community involvement and how it links into SACRE	-	Clerk (i.e., Set up a rota)	On-going from September 2022	Commenced – presentation by Sarah Beveridge at September 2022 meeting followed by presentation by Mohinder Singh Chana in Dec 2022
1.4	Implement a programme of schools hosting occasional SACRE meetings	Travel expenses School Time	Clerk	By March 2023	Discussion between Chair and Senior Education Adviser (Heather Russell) May 2023, to suggest SACRE Members being invited into Schools to further understand the teaching of RE - propose Summer 2024
1.5	Identify and agree a separate budget for SACRE to enable its work	-	Principal Adviser (Support)	By December 2022	
1.6	To engage Schools in designing a logo for SACRE	-	Principal Adviser (Support)	September to November 2022	Delayed due to capacity.

Objective Two: To monitor the effective teaching of RE throughout the Local Authority and explore ways to model best practice in RE

Intended Impact: SACRE Members have an informed understanding of the quality of RE provision and standards in RE across North Yorkshire schools

Links to NASACRE Self-evaluation toolkit:

Priority Two

Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
1.1	<p>Arrange a programme of visits to a range of Schools in North Yorkshire to see RE in action</p> <p>Develop a SACRE Visits Policy and Visits Form</p>	Travel	LA Officer Principal Adviser (Support)	On-going from April 2023	<p>The Professional RE Adviser has written some materials for another SACRE which could be used to train Members in September 2023 and then Teacher Members could be asked to volunteer to trial before this is rolled out</p> <p>As referenced under 1.4 of Objective 1, above. Outcome to discuss and share, using Guidance (need to produce Guidance Summer 2023 to ensure non educational background Members have an overview. Senior Education Adviser to liaise with LA Principal Adviser (Support) and Professional RE Adviser</p>
1.2	Implement a system for receiving pupil feedback on RE	-	LA Officer Principal Adviser (Support)	On-going from April 2023	<p>This could initially be built into visits</p> <p>Visit from SACRE Members to School could include pupil voice – DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check?</p>

Objective Three: To review the locally Agreed Syllabus

Intended Impact: SACRE Members implement a locally agreed syllabus for 2024-29 taking account of national developments and consultation with schools

Links to NASACRE Self-evaluation toolkit:

Priority Three

To evaluate the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

NOTE: This is primarily a priority for the second year of this Development Plan

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
1.1	SACRE to consult with the Local Authority; SACRE Members; and Schools on the effectiveness of the current Agreed Syllabus	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	From Autumn 2022	Teacher consultation through networks November 2022, further consultation to be implemented
1.2	SACRE to set up Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) in line with legal requirements	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	Spring 2023	Timetable and options being presented to SACRE – Dec 2022
1.3	SACRE to review options in light of consultation	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	Spring / Summer 2023	
1.4	SACRE to produce and recommend to the Local Authority an Agreed Syllabus for RE which is educationally sound and meets legal requirements	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	By Spring 2024	Process begun. ASC has had initial meetings with further meeting scheduled
1.5	Local Authority to adopt and launch Agreed Syllabus	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	Spring / Summer 2024	
1.6	SACRE to work in partnership with the Local Authority to put in place ongoing training and support to ensure full implementation of the Agreed Syllabus in NYCC (North Yorkshire County Council) schools	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	On-going from launch	

Objective Four: To review and update SACRE guidance to schools on collective worship

Intended Impact: schools have updated and clear collective worship guidance that take account of national developments

Links to NASACRE Self-evaluation toolkit:

Priority Four

To promote improvement in the provision and quality of Collective Worship

NOTE: This is primarily a priority for the second year of this Development Plan

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
1.1	SACRE engage with and respond to the NASACRE national report on Collective Worship	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	2023/2024	This report has not yet been published by NASACRE
1.2	A SACRE working party review and update guidance for Schools	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser SACRE working party	2023/2024	
1.3	SACRE develop a programme of training and support for schools on collective worship	-	LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	2024	<p>A Training Session for Schools could be built in next year?</p> <p>SACRE Member School visit to include Collective Worship, Summer Term 2024</p> <p>What should Collective Worship look like in Schools?</p> <p>What do all members expect from this from their perspective?</p> <p>Could this be a question to raise at future SACRE meeting?</p>

Appendix 3: Circulation of report

- NASACRE admin@nasacre.org.uk
- Department for Education ministers@education.gov.uk
- North Yorkshire Council, Children and Young People's Leadership Team
- North Yorkshire schools
- SACRE members representative bodies

Contact us

Online: northyorks.gov.uk/contact-us

By telephone: **0300 131 2 131**

North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

You can request this information in another language or format at
northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility

North Yorkshire Council

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

12 December 2023

Update from Professional RE Adviser

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To inform Members on work undertaken by the Professional RE Adviser since the last SACRE meeting.

To provide members with local and national updates on RE

2.0 Primary RE Networks Autumn 2023

2.1 Two Primary RE Networks in the autumn term were attended by 15 RE subject leaders and Headteachers. The networks continued our focus on substantive knowledge and curriculum progression, this time, with a focus on Jewish worldviews.

2.2 Feedback from teachers in the networks:

- This has been excellent - thank you
- As someone new to the role it has been really helpful and given me lots of ideas to take forward.
- This has helped improve my own subject knowledge considerably and has signposted me to some very useful resources which I will pass on to staff.
- The virtual tour look fab - very useful as an alternative to trips
- Progress knowledge statements have been really helpful
- It has been really useful for my knowledge organiser for Judaism, thank you.
- I did the last course on Judaism which was great but you've made this much more concise and focussed and feels so easy now to plan more from
- I think putting on the long term plan the progressive vocab would be very useful
- Really helpful resources to share with ECT (Early Career Teacher) who will be teaching Pesach next term.
- I have used BBC videos but good to know more diverse examples on Jewish museum site
- As always lots of useful subject knowledge but also input on our curriculums and long-term plans. Golden threads info and vocabulary very useful.
- Brilliant bank of resources to share with staff
- I am so glad I attended this – excellent
- Having taken over as the lead for RE in this last year, I have been able to attend some of the network meetings which have been fabulous. The materials shared are really helpful and have enabled me to develop our curriculum and teacher knowledge well.

2.3 I am also pleased to report that following sharing the information at the summer term network, 2 schools have reported that they were successful in their bid for a Jerusalem Trust grant for RE resources.

3.0 NYC Literacy Networks

3.1 A short input on reading and RE was delivered to Literacy leads at 2 NYC networks this term. This provided an opportunity to highlight the work of SACRE and the Primary RE Networks. The focus of the Primary RE Networks in spring term is engaging with text and story in the RE classroom including a focus on disciplinary knowledge. Literacy leads were encouraged to signpost these networks to RE leads in their schools.

4.0 SACRE Newsletter

4.1 The spring term newsletter will go out to schools in January. Any contributions from members would be gratefully received.

5.0 National Content Standard

5.1 The vision of the RE Council of England and Wales is for every young person to experience an academically rigorous and personally inspiring education in religion and worldviews. The publishing of a National Content Standard provides clarification and a benchmark for excellence in religion and worldviews/religious education (RE) in England thus contributing to this vision.

5.2 The RE Council's National Content Standard provides a non-statutory benchmark for syllabus providers and other bodies to evaluate their work. It is specifically for use in England. It is not a curriculum, and it does not determine precisely what content schools should teach. Rather it is a standard by which different RE curricula, content, pedagogy, and provision can be benchmarked. Without a national standard for RE, it can be challenging for syllabus providers including Standing Advisory Councils on RE, Academy Trusts and others to know if their RE provision is of high quality when compared to other subjects, schools, and regions. It can be difficult to set targets for improvement in provision such as when Ofsted describe an RE curriculum as lacking breadth, depth and/or ambition.

5.3 The National Content Standard

- is developed around extracts from a draft resource released in May 2022 which has been the focus of extensive consultation and scrutiny. The final version of this resource will form a handbook for curriculum developers in the subject and is due for completion in Spring 2024.
- uses the format of a National Curriculum Programme of Study because, although Religious education is part of the 'basic curriculum', which is the collective term for RE, SRE and the National Curriculum, it is a format familiar to school leaders and curriculum developers.
- differs from a national curriculum programme of study because it provides a benchmark for the subject within the current legal framework, including the selection of content, but does not seek to recommend or specify a set of content.
- recognises that models for the description of progress can only be produced once specific content has been selected and therefore a structure for progression has been developed and not a comprehensive set of descriptors.

5.4 The RE Council has partnered with a range of contributors in the national RE sector in this project. This group encompasses organisations that, among other tasks, operate thousands of schools, provide DfE-endorsed school curriculum content, and directly support teachers nationally in raising standards in RE. This work gives us high confidence that the National Content Standard can both meet the needs of all state funded schools and be adopted by many providers in a range of contexts.

5.5 The RE Council is currently collecting endorsements from school providers, academy trusts, RE Council member organisations and others who recognise the National Content Standard as a benchmark for high quality RE and want to use it to raise standards.

5.6 A copy of the document can be downloaded here: [National Content Standard – 1st Edition – 2023 – REC \(religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk\)](https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/national-content-standard-1st-edition-2023-REC)

6.0 Ofsted Annual Report

6.1 Ofsted published their annual report on 23rd November 2023. RE is mentioned on page 41 (excerpt below) We still await the subject report which may now be published in to next year.

Religious education

RE in schools is generally of poor quality. Although it is a statutory subject, schools often consider RE as an afterthought. As a subject on the curriculum, it is under-valued. RE is a complex subject, and the lack of clarity and support from government makes schools' job harder.

Some schools steer through these challenges well, but most do not. We found that: many schools do not meet the statutory requirement to teach RE at all stages

- pupils are rarely taught enough substance to prepare them to engage in a complex, multi-religious and multi-secular society (where religion and non-religion play different parts in different people's lives)
- too often, schools do not teach topics in the RE curriculum deeply enough for pupils to develop a substantial understanding of the subject matter
- non-examined RE is typically not high quality.
- All pupils should develop a broad and secure knowledge of the complexity of religious and non-religious traditions. It will take coordinated effort by stakeholders to improve the quality of RE in schools:
- schools need high-quality professional development to teach RE well
- the government should provide clear expectations about RE provision in schools. Schools should follow these. Current non-statutory guidance for RE should be updated and include clear information for schools about the breadth and depth of the syllabus they are expected to teach.

6.2 NASACRE wrote to SACREs regarding the report last week:

Dear Chairs of SACREs and SACRE Clerks

Last week Ofsted published its annual report. In it, Ofsted makes some comments about RE provision nationally. The full report can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-202223-education-childrens-services-and-skills>

While some of the findings might not fully represent the good RE you encounter in schools in your own area, some readers will find that this description is only too familiar. SACREs might want to think about their own answers to the points raised by Ofsted, and how they might prepare answers about RE in their local authority.

NASACRE will be continuing the conversation with partner associations and stakeholders, with the DfE (the government is mentioned) and with our membership. We also hope to find out more about Ofsted's research findings on RE in the anticipated subject research report, due out in 2024.

We are here to support you in your consideration of the report at meetings in your area, and to continue to help SACREs join the 'co-ordinated effort by stakeholders' mentioned below.

*With best wishes, Linda
on behalf of the NASACRE executive committee*

Olivia Seymour
Professional Adviser to North Yorkshire SACRE
County Hall, Northallerton

01/12//2023
Report Author: Olivia Seymour

Background documents: None

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North Yorkshire Council

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

December 2023 Update from the Local Authority

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To inform Members on work undertaken by the Local Authority since the last SACRE meeting.

2.0 Communication and resourcing

- 2.1 Local Authority (LA) Officers have responded to the feedback from SACRE members raised at the last meeting and made a number of refinements to the SACRE Annual Report. The Chair, Clerk and Professional RE Adviser have supported the LA Officers with the content. The final draft report is included within the enclosures for this meeting for final sign-off before publishing.
- 2.2 The SACRE autumn term 2023 newsletter was distributed to schools via the Red Bag system on the 8th October 2023.
- 2.3 LA Officers have met with RE Today to confirm the content of the model A+ syllabus that the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) approved at the meeting on 20th June 2023. RE today have confirmed that there are four additional new units within the model A+ syllabus.
- 2.4 LA Officers have met with RE Today to gain an understanding into the content that will be the focus of the new agreed syllabus launch event. This will enable the launch event to be promoted with school leaders prior to the launch date next year. LA Officers are awaiting further information from RE Today on the intended content of the launch event. Once this is received the event will go 'live' on the NYES booking system for schools to register for on the 14th June 2023 at the Pavilions of Harrogate.
- 2.5 LA officers have signposted SACRE members to optional training events offered by NASACRE. LA officers have also attended some of these events in order support SACRE effectively.

3.0 Support for Senior Leaders and Governors

- 3.1 A named Senior Education Adviser, Heather Russell, continues to have dedicated management time assigned to her to liaise and co-ordinate work with the Professional RE Adviser.
- 3.2 The Local Authority is continuing to facilitate the coordination of RE subject leader networks alongside RE subject leadership courses. Data concerning uptake and feedback from any networks that have taken place since the last SACRE meeting is reported in the professional adviser report.
- 3.3 Guidance from organisations that can support schools to manage questions and concerns raised by pupils regarding the ongoing situation in Israel and Palestine has been shared with schools via the Red Bag. This article clarified that the LA is not endorsing the advice which has been produced collaboratively by AREIAC (Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and

Consultants) and with support from the DfE, Board of Deputies and the Muslim Council of Britain.

4.0 Ofsted inspections

- 4.1 Since the start of this academic year up to the 24th November 2023, Ofsted have published 35 reports from graded, ungraded or monitoring inspections, in the proportions outlined in the table below.

	Junior	Primary	Secondary	PRS
Community School	1	8	1	2
Voluntary Controlled		9		
Voluntary Aided		3		
Foundation				
Academy Convertor		9		
Academy Sponsor Led		1	1	

- 4.2 Few inspections commented explicitly on teaching or learning within RE lessons, the quality of the taught RE curriculum/syllabus or Collective Worship, however the extracts below taken from inspection reports between the start of term and 24th November 2023 and reflect where inspectors have identified behaviours and/or understanding that pupils have demonstrated that are in line with the principal aims of the RE curriculum as identified within the agreed syllabus (page 7). Comments from all schools inspected within North Yorkshire have been included. SACRE members are reminded that SACRE's remit for RE curriculum is only for maintained Community, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation schools alongside any Academies that choose to adopt the syllabus and that SACRE's remit for collective worship extend only to maintained community school and Academies without a religious characteristic.

Name	Comments relating to RE	Comments relating to Collective Worship
St George's Catholic Primary School - a Catholic voluntary academy		
Hutton Rudby Primary School	However, some aspects of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) curriculum are not as comprehensive as others. Pupils cannot discuss faith and religion as confidently as other aspects of their SMSC curriculum, such as equality.	
Applegarth Primary School		
Carlton Miniott Primary Academy		
Hunton and Arrathorne Community Primary School		The school inspires pupils to contribute to their local community through fundraising and by sending every home in the village a Christmas card. Pupils learn more about the world around them through 'Tuesday Newsday' and inclusive assemblies, which deepens their understanding of protected characteristics. Personal development in this school is exceptional. Leaders have woven opportunities for character development into every part of the school. The school inspires pupils to be proud of where they are from. Staff cultivate pupils' appreciation of, and curiosity about, the wider world.
Hertford Vale Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Staxton		The school values of 'respect, kindness, love, peace and resilience' underpin everything that happens at Hertford Vale. Pupils and staff embody these Christian values. Pupils at this school are very happy, positive and welcoming members of the school's 'family'. A strong Christian ethos is evident throughout the school. Pupils have a very strong sense of equality. One pupil told an inspector, 'Our school is very inclusive. Daily worship reinforces the school's Christian ethos and immerses pupils in its core values. This includes strong spiritual, moral, social and cultural guidance.
St Mary's Catholic Primary School - a Catholic voluntary academy		When pupils join the school, they quickly become part of a caring community. Links with the local church are well established and pupils are active within their parish community.
Ruswarp Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School		Leaders are keen that pupils understand the world beyond their local area. An issue from the news is incorporated into collective worship each week. Pupils then have time to discuss this with their peers.

Gladstone Road Primary School		
Bishop Monkton Church of England Primary School		Leaders celebrate pupils' talents through musical soirees, talent competitions and collective worship.
Burneston Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Leaders make sure that pupils learn about major world faiths, atheism and humanism.	
Tockwith Church of England Primary Academy		Pupils at Tockwith Church of England Primary Academy embrace the school's Christian values of perseverance, friendship and creativity. These values underpin leaders' ethos of 'living life in all its fulness'. There is a culture of respect and acceptance, where differences are celebrated.
Graham School		
Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School	Pupils understand the school's Christian values and enjoy close links with both the parish church and Ripon Cathedral. They talk maturely about equality, respect for others and tolerance.	The school's Christian ethos and values are woven through everything they do.
Boroughbridge High School		
Boroughbridge Church of England Primary and Nursery School	Pupils are knowledgeable about the major world religions and what it means to be a person of faith.	
Askrigg Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Pupils are knowledgeable about the major world religions and what it means to be a person of faith.	
Kirkby Malzeard Church of England Primary School		
Oatlands Community Junior School		
Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit		
St Peter's Brafferton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School		Pupils take on responsibilities linked to the environment and the Christian ethos of the school.
Scotton Lingerfield Primary School	Pupils benefit from carefully considered cultural experiences woven throughout the curriculum. These broaden pupils' experience of the world. Visits to places of worship, such as a mosque, increase pupils' awareness of tolerance and respect for other faiths and beliefs.	

Sutton on the Forest Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School		Leaders consider how to ensure that the school values of respect, compassion, friendship and perseverance run through the curriculum. There are several opportunities for pupils to develop and demonstrate these values, for example through participating in the Archbishop's Young Leader Award, or by attending one of the extra-curricular clubs.
Hambleton/Richmondshire Pupil Referral Service	Pupils learn about protected characteristics. They are encouraged to debate challenging topics. Staff promote fundamental British values throughout the curriculum. Pupils learn about faiths and people who are different to them. Outside of school, pupils do not have opportunities to regularly engage with different people in the community. Leaders want to develop these opportunities to support pupils' wider development.	
Fylingdales Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School		Pupils consistently talk about feeling safe, cared for and that they matter. This is a result of the culture of care and kindness that runs throughout the school. Pupils treat each other with high levels of respect, bringing to life the school's Christian values. As one pupil said, 'It is important to be nice.'
Edon Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School		Leaders and governors have a strong and clear vision for the school, its pupils, their families and the community. Much of this vision is founded on strong Christian values. This is enhanced by the strong link with the diocese.
Harrogate, Bilton Grange Primary School		
Barlby Community Primary School		
Brompton-on-Swale Church of England Primary School		
Filey Junior School		
Trinity Academy Richmond		
St Benedict's Catholic Primary School - a Catholic voluntary academy	The school promotes pupils' wider development. Pupils learn about relationships and equality and diversity in an age-appropriate way. They also learn about the importance of physical and mental health. Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe, both online and in the local community. The school organises trips and visits that enrich pupils' learning. Pupils visit places of cultural interest, such as York Mosque and Eden Camp Modern	

	History Museum. They also enjoy the school's forest school and learn about their locality's heritage and history	
Moorside Primary School & Nursery		
Seamer and Irton Community Primary School		
Greatwood Community Primary School	There are some aspects of pupils' personal development though, which are not as well developed as others. For example, pupils find it difficult to talk about fundamental British values and demonstrate a lack of understanding of different faiths.	

Julie Pattison
Principal Adviser (Monitoring)
County Hall, Northallerton

27/11/2023

Report Author: Julie Pattison

Background documents: None

Additional sources: LA Red Bag, Ofsted inspection reports

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

SACRE 12TH DECEMBER 2023			
ITEM	LEAD	REPORT DEADLINE	COMMENTS
Election of Chair and Vice-Chair	Clerk	N/A	-
Member presentation	-	-	Regular Item – one of the actions in the Development Plan
Annual Report 2022/2023	Senior Education Officer	Friday 1 st December 2023	To sign off the Annual Report
Professional Religious Education Adviser's update	Professional Religious Education Adviser		Standing Item
Agreed Syllabus Update	Professional Religious Education Adviser		Standing Item
Local Authority Update	Principal Adviser, Monitoring		Standing Item - to include any update on OFSTED Inspections
NASACRE Virtual Training	Senior Education Officer		For Members and officers to share any feedback on training undertaken
Work Programme	Clerk		Standing Item

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

SACRE 9TH APRIL 2024			
ITEM	LEAD	REPORT DEADLINE	COMMENTS
Member presentation	-	-	Regular Item – one of the actions in the Development Plan
Professional RE Adviser's update	Professional Religious Education Adviser	Thursday 28 th March 2024	Standing Item
Agreed Syllabus Update	Professional Religious Education Adviser		Standing Item
Local Authority Update	Senior Education Officer		Standing Item - to include any update on OFSTED Inspections
SACRE Self-Assessment Tool	Professional Religious Education Adviser		SACRE to work through one of the aspects of the toolkit
Work Programme	Clerk		Standing Item
Dates and times of meetings in the 2024/2025 School Year	Clerk	-	To agree these

Patrick Duffy
Clerk to SACRE

November 2023