

North Yorkshire Council

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

December 2025

Update from Professional RE Adviser – Curriculum and Assessment Review

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To inform Members on the Curriculum and Assessment Review report published November 2025

An overview of the context of Religious Education and recommendations made on Religious Education in the Curriculum and Assessment Review [Curriculum and Assessment Review Final Report - GOV.UK](#)

The importance of RE

- Stakeholders' responses to our Call for Evidence showed there was a strong consensus about the subject's importance and its essential place in a school's curriculum, stressing its important role in children and young people's intellectual, personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. (107)
- Given the role that religion, belief and values play in local, national, and international events, it continues to be vital for children and young people to have access to high-quality RE. (108)

National Content Standard

- Some work to improve and standardise a curriculum offer for RE has been done, most notably by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), which published its National Content Standard for RE in England in 2023.
- This has received consensus from across the sector and laid strong foundations for change. We believe it has potential as a catalyst for more substantial reform. (109)

RE should be moved to the National Curriculum

- The Review believes that RE should be moved to the national curriculum to improve access to high-quality provision and to prevent further diminishment. (109)
- The Review ultimately wishes to see RE in the national curriculum, but it recognises that it is unrealistic for this to be achieved immediately. We therefore believe that a staged approach to reform is the most appropriate way forward.
- To this end, we recommend that the Government invites the sector to establish an independent task and finish group made up of representatives from faith bodies, secular groups and experts from the teaching and wider education sector, to develop a draft RE curriculum. (109)
- The group should also consider whether there would be benefit in changing the name of Religious Education. (109)

Future action

- We recognise that making RE a national curriculum subject is not a panacea that will automatically improve the quality and quantity of compulsory RE.
- Other mechanisms would also be needed, including reviewing the DfE's non-statutory guidance for RE (which has not been updated since it was published in 2010) and the wider framework (which includes SACREs, for example).
- Following any changes, attention may also need to be given to the subject content of the optional GCSE in Religious Studies. (110)

DFE should consider the legislative framework for RE

- Alongside this, the DfE should consider the legislative framework for RE, including, for example, what any changes to its status in the curriculum would mean for functions such as SACREs. A long-term plan for implementing potential changes to legislation should be drafted. (111)

RE sector responses

- **NASACRE statement:** <https://nasacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/NASACRE-chairs-Statement-on-CaAR-11.25.pdf>

- **REC / Religious Education Policy Unit Statement:** “New era” for Religious Education as panel recommends subject added to National Curriculum for the first time – REC

- **CSTG:** Our statement on proposed landmark RE curriculum reform

- **NATRE:** The Curriculum and Assessment Review 2025– Implications for Religious Education – NATRE

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