

Agenda

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Thursday, 10 February 2022, 2.00 pm
Lakeview Room, County Hall, Worcester

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DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Thursday, 10 February 2022, 2.00 pm, County Hall, Worcester

Membership:

Group A (Representatives of Christian and other faiths)

Mr G Bounds (Free Church Representative), Ade Couper (Quaker Representative), Mrs T Khawaja (Muslim Representative), Mr J Loyal (Sikh Representative), Mrs C Parker (Methodist Representative), Dr Y Stollard (Jewish Representative) and Mrs L Thorne (Ba'hai Representative)

Group B (Church of England Representatives)

Danielle Evans (Church of England) and Rev Duncan Hutchison (Diocese of Worcester)

Group C (Representatives of Recognised Teachers Associations)

Charlotte Betteridge (NASUWT) and Mr C Giles (Teacher Representative)

Group D (Elected representatives of the Local Authority)

Cllr Mel Allcott (Worcestershire County Council), Cllr Matt Jenkins (Worcestershire County Council) and Cllr Emma Marshall (Worcestershire County Council)

Co-opted Representatives

Ms E Hill (University of Worcester)

Agenda

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To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Kate Griffiths, Committee Officer on 01905 846630, KGriffiths@Worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website.

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 2 February 2022

Item No	Subject	Page No
7	Feedback from Members	
8	Any Other Business	
9	Future Meeting Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 8 June, 2022, 2pm• Tuesday 11 October, 2022, 2pm	

Minutes of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious

Education

County Hall, Worcester

Thursday, 14 October 2021, 2.00 pm

Present:

Cllr. Mel Allcott (Chair), Cllr. Matthew Jenkins (Vice -Chairman), Mr Graham Bounds, Ms Danielle Evans, Mr Chris Giles, Mr Jatinder Loyal and Cllr. Emma Marshall.

Also attended:

Nicola Jones, Assistant Director for Education Quality and Improvement,
Worcestershire Children First
Stephen Pett, RE Today, Advisor to SACRE
Deborah Dale, Community Engagement Officer

711 **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

In the absence of a Chairman Nicola Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was the first formal SACRE meeting since the County Council elections in May so the new County Councillors were welcomed to their first SACRE meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Charlotte Betteridge, Ellie Hill, Duncan Hutchinson, Christine Parker, Yvonne Stollard and Tasnim Khawaja.

Both Jatinderpal Loyal and Matt Jenkins gave apologies that they would need to leave the meeting around 3.15pm.

712 **Chairman**

County Councillor Mel Allcott was nominated for Chairman. This was agreed by attending members of SACRE.

713 **Vice-Chairman**

County Councillor Mel Allcott then nominated County Councillor Matt Jenkins as Vice Chairman.

This was seconded by Jatinderpal Loyal and agreed by the attending members of SACRE.

714 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be an accurate record and would be signed by the Chairman

715 Support for Teachers

Stephen Pett updated SACRE on the Primary conference which took place in the summer. 109 people had attended and had made very positive comments on the event.

On-line attendance had also been good with a record number of attendees for the joint event with Herefordshire. It was felt that on-line events were easy to arrange due to no travelling or difficulties finding suitable venues.

There were 22 attendees for the secondary conference and 90% of those who attended had rated the event as good.

SACRE were informed of a selection of topics for the proposed primary conference on 22 June 2022, to support classroom teachers to keep up to date with current thinking in RE. Comments were invited from SACRE on this point.

A response was put forward that Primary and Secondary Teachers were struggling with the subject of religion with some teachers discussing culture and tradition rather than faith. It was felt that the faith content of the course taught needed to be checked through before being delivered and if questions were raised by teachers, they should know who was available to help them.

Mel Allcott requested Stephen Pett put a programme together for the spring meeting. Stephen agreed to proceed with the programme and circulate information through the bulletin and contacts and would confirm the final programme.

It was agreed that people had mixed feelings about face to face or on-line events as there was still some anxiety about attending events in person. It was suggested that hybrid meetings could be an option especially for teachers who were unable to get time out of class to attend in person.

There was consensus from SACRE members that hybrid meetings should be considered, and Stephen agreed he would ask for feedback on this when the programme was circulated, with any responses shared with SACRE.

Jatinderpal Loyal commented that Dr Katherine Lack was doing work on scriptural reading and would pick up discussions on the A level syllabus outside of the meeting.

Stephen confirmed that Catherine Atkinson at Rivers C of E Academy trust had set up 3 dates for the Rivers Teaching Alliance which were 14 October 2020, 17 March 2022 and 9 June 2022.

RESOLVED that SACRE receive an update on hybrid meetings at the next meeting.

716 Agreed Syllabus Survey

Stephen Pett confirmed this was a follow up survey and SACRE members were asked to go through it and feedback any comments.

Jatinder Loyal suggested that to increase response rates the survey could be circulated to attendees from the conference. Stephen Pett agreed to check on GDPR status to see if this was possible and consider the best way to circulate the survey.

RESOLVED: that SACRE agreed to feed back with suggestions and comments on the survey.

717 National Exam Data

SACRE members were shown some information about GCSE and A level exam results. The information was discussed; it was recognised that with exams cancelled due to COVID it was not possible to have more detailed information broken down by school, as would normally be available.

The numbers taking RE courses appeared to be going down in Worcestershire but the group agreed this was not surprising. Since changes to the syllabus were introduced in 2016, most secondary schools had religious studies as an option at GCSE level.

It was believed that in regard to options, in Worcestershire there was a big push on mainstream subjects but little emphasis on religious education.

The Teacher representative felt that RE teachers needed to articulate how RE linked to careers as well as linking with other A levels and GCSEs. There was some good information available on-line which could be used at parent's evenings to promote RE.

When asked for confirmation on who decided on the amount of RE taught in a school and if there were rules and regulations for the amount of RE taught in schools it was confirmed that the Department of Education was responsible and that all schools should have RE as a core subject. Head Teachers were responsible for ensuring the legal obligation for RE was fulfilled.

Members believed that this was something that SACRE should be chasing.

RESOLVED: that SACRE would discuss this further at the next meeting.

718 School Workforce Data

Stephen Pett confirmed that every year schools were required to complete the census and report the findings to the Department of Education who then extracted the data about what schools were doing around religious education.

SACRE had concerns that schools were not giving enough time to completing the census and not all were doing it every year. There were also difficulties with the responses as some schools put religious education under a different name such as philosophy. It was suggested that SACRE should investigate this.

There were discussions from the group as to how much SACRE could do as it was important to maintain a good working relationship with schools. In previous years some schools had been notified of their legal obligation by letter and that training was available if required.

It was suggested that schools could be reminded that not providing sufficient RE would affect Ofsted grades.

Stephen Pett confirmed there was a data study being carried out at King's College London for NASACRE on the perception of religion and world views which would include information on parental opinions of RE. A national update was available and the link would be circulated to SACRE members.

It was agreed that further work should be done on the available data and discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that SACRE:

- a) **Agreed that further work was needed to identify which schools are not prioritising religious education; and**
- b) **Should discuss at the next meeting what further action could be taken to encourage these schools to provide more religious education.**

719 Applying for Westhill/NASACRE Award

It was confirmed that some SACREs had put together proposals to apply for a grant, through Westhill Trust, to support projects.

SP confirmed £4,000 was available until the end of March 2022 and SACRE members were asked to consider projects they would want to support to enable a bid to be put forward.

RESOLVED that SACRE:

- a) Provide suggestions for projects to support through this grant;
and
- b) To bring this back to the next meeting for further discussion.

720 National news update

The update included information on Interfaith Week and SACRE members were encouraged to access the link on the circulated agenda papers to find out more.

It was requested that a version of the news update should be provided for schools.

RESOLVED: that SACRE provide a version of the national news update for schools.

721 Feedback from Members

Yvonne Stallard's update was read to the group and would be circulated with the minutes.

722 Future Meeting Dates

Chairman

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Yvonne Stollard

SACRE Report - Worcestershire interfaith Forum (WIFF) 14.10.21

Upcoming events:

Sunday 21st November

Mitzvah Day* – still awaiting permission to collect items for refugees in Worcester City Centre. We are planning a collection stall outside St Andrew's Methodist Church in Pump Street from 11.00-3.00. It will be manned by a multifaith team, and we are hoping to partner with Worcester Welcomes Refugees.

*Mitzvah Day is a Jewish-led day of social action (<https://mitzvahday.org.uk/>)

Each year, in November, over 40,000 people around the world, come together to give our time, not money, to make a difference to the community around us.

It brings together people of all ages, faiths and backgrounds, to volunteer side-by-side, building longstanding, genuine relationships.

In the past, WIFF has organised a multi-faith team providing free refreshments to visitors, patients and staff at the Alex hospital in Redditch. For obvious reasons, we won't be doing that again this year.

Thursday 27th January

Holocaust Memorial Day 10.30-12.00. We are in the early stages of planning. It will probably be a hybrid event – online and in-person. We are partnering with the University of Worcester and Worcester City Council. We are hoping to have a Holocaust survivor, Mindu Hornick as our speaker.

Autumn 2022

We are planning a very exciting major event:

“Pilgrims of faiths: discovering shared humanity through the experience of pilgrimage”

There will be a series of activities centred around an exhibition at Worcester Cathedral demonstrating how different faith traditions approach the experience of pilgrimage. The project will focus on drawing links between shared aspects of pilgrimage as a journey of self-discovery, spiritual

awakening and greater appreciation of sites carrying significant importance for people of faith. The project will explore both the historic richness of pilgrimage traditions across different faiths and cultures and the significance of pilgrimage for society today.

The activities will include educational visits and workshops for students and local residents.

We have never undertaken such an ambitious project before, so any advice would welcome. We will be looking to appoint a curator, so please contact me know if you know anyone who may be interested.

You are all welcome to attend any of these events.

**Enriching RE classrooms:
knowledge, creativity, thinking
Wednesday 22nd June 2022 ONLINE
9.15am-3.45pm**

A day of inspiring support and ideas for your RE classroom. A suite of practical ideas and guidance for implementing the new agreed syllabus, from long-term planning to classroom practice. Clear advice on what makes for rich, engaging RE for you and your pupils – as well as meeting Ofsted requirements.

9.15-10.15 Keynote 1: 'Ways of knowing' in RE Fiona Moss

National guidance (such as the new Ofsted Research Review) increasingly supports the idea that pupils should use different ways of knowing in RE. What does that mean? Why does it matter? And what does it look like in the primary classroom? Practical strategies on Christians, Muslims and Jewish people in KS1 and KS2.

10.30-11.30 Workshop A: Ways in through art: encountering religions Stephen Pett

Simple, practical and creative ways to use art to open up subject knowledge in RE and enable children to express their learning and their own worldviews.

11.45-12.45 Workshop B: Words, words, words: improving pupils' writing in RE Fiona Moss

How can we support pupils to express their ideas, opinions and knowledge coherently in RE? Strategies to improve pupil writing across the breadth of religion and worldviews for 6-11s.

1.45-2.45 Workshop C: What in the world is a worldview? Stephen Pett

How can we transform our teaching by using a worldviews approach? Balancing organised teaching and practice with the lived beliefs and practice of individuals, a worldviews approach can give pupils the skills to engage with religious and non-religious perspectives, including their own. Creative classroom illustrations from 5-11s.

3.00-3.45 Meeting faith reps: what questions have you always wanted to ask?

Individuals from religious and non-religious traditions will offer personal perspectives on living within their tradition and worldview. Subject knowledge enhancement opportunity - send your questions in advance!

Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A range of resources will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about and explore best practice in RE.

Aims:

- To explore excellent practice for implementing the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE, in the context of the new Ofsted Framework
- To provide practical support and guidance to schools in thinking about the intent of the syllabus and planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE to implement it, increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding, as well as their personal development
- To give teachers confidence in planning and delivering great RE, deepening subject knowledge and skills
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Cost: £95 per school. Attend as a staff for all or part of the day!

Booking details attached. Please email to mark@retoday.org.uk
or post to **RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH**

Booking form:
Worcestershire Primary RE Conference:
RE with intent and impact
Wednesday 22nd June 2022
 Fee: £95 per school

(Use this as whole-school CPD throughout the day,
 or different teachers join different sessions)

Full Name:			
School Name:			
School Address:			
	Postcode:		
Telephone:			
Admin email address:			
Attending teachers' email addresses			
Payment details:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice the school		
Invoice/ Credit Card billing address:			
			Postcode:
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque, payable to RE Today Services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay by Visa, Mastercard or Switch		
Card number:			
Expiry Date:		Start Date:	
Security code (last 3 numbers on signature strip)		Issue no. (Switch)	
Signature:			
Date:			

Send to: RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH
 Tel: 0121 458 3313 Fax: 0121 285 1816
Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk

Religion, worldviews, ways of knowing: moving forward in RE

Date: Thursday 23rd June 2022

Venue: Puckrup Hall Hotel, Tewkesbury, GL20 6EL

Online via Zoom, if needed (surely not!)

9.00am-3.30pm Registration from 8.45am

This will be a practical conference to explore a mix of practical strategies and classroom resources. There is a focus on current issues in RE – from the worldviews to ‘ways of knowing’. Our popular ‘TeachMeet’ slot gives you the chance to share great classroom ideas that work.

9.00 Introduction and welcome

To include an update on Gloucestershire SACRE’s plans for revising the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus.

9.15-10.30 Religion and worldviews: a new approach in RE? Stephen Pett

A practical exploration of what a “religion and worldviews” approach looks like in the classroom. Drawing on research and current national projects, this session will look at some of the benefits as well as the challenges. How can we use this kind of approach to deepen pupils’ knowledge and understanding? Practical examples from at least three worldviews.

Break

11.00-12.30 Approaches to Sikh worldviews: history, spirituality, ethics and community Lat Blaylock

This session will provide seven learning ideas for 11-16s from Sikh tradition and community that explode some stereotypes and intend to open young people’s minds, using a variety of RE learning methods.

Lunch

1.15-2.30 Ways of knowing: multidisciplinary approaches Stephen Pett

Ofsted is talking about substantive’ knowledge and ‘disciplinary’ knowledge. What do they look like in RE? This session will look at how we can enable students to apply different methods to examine and evaluate the content of RE. For example:

- How can we use different methods to study religion?
- What connections can anthropology make with the personal worldviews of pupils? Astrology, amulets and restless spirits.
- Digging into data on prayer: what can surveys tell us about religious and non-religious worldviews?

Short break

2.45-3.15 TeachMeet

Five-minute slots to share practical and relevant ideas for your classroom. Sign up to offer an idea that works!

3.15-3.30 Evaluations and syllabus consultation

In the light of the topics explored during the day, this is an opportunity to comment on the ideas for the new Gloucestershire agreed syllabus. Herefordshire and Worcestershire syllabus is very similar to the Gloucestershire syllabus – so while the changes in Glos won’t directly affect the other counties yet, they may in the future!

You will receive an electronic copy of all resources used on the day to take away, with additional material available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources from RE Today Services will be available to purchase or order on the day at discounted prices.

Fee: £95 per delegate; £150 for two delegates from the same school.

Booking details attached. Please email to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to
RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH

Why should I attend this conference?

- An opportunity to meet colleagues and share ideas
- Receive a rich variety of resources for classroom use
- Receive up-to-date, creative and inspiring training on things that matter in RE

But don't just take our word for it!

90% of 2021 online attendees rated the day as excellent!

- Although very different - zoom! - still a fantastic day. As always I feel refreshed and positive about the future of RE. The ideas and topics were excellent and I will definitely be using many of the activities.
- I was surprised how close it came to the joy of attending a face to face conference. Lots of fantastic and inspiring ideas. Thank you both.
- As always, fantastic resources, ideas and new perspectives to explore. This conference reinvigorates me and at the end of this year, that has been especially needed! I particularly enjoyed the Anti-racist RS session. Thanks to all involved, brilliant.
- Interesting range of topics, very well hosted.
- Good useful and practical resources.
- Wonderful day- great resources and really user friendly ideas. Marvellous.
- Even though I've seen Lat's picturing Islam before at strictly in London, seeing it with fresh ideas and eyes (plus new content) was great.
- Love the approach where schools buy the day and can all get involved!
- Very well run, professional, friendly and incredibly useful. I will be using so much from this day as inspiration!
- I can actually use all the ideas and resources in the classroom!
- I really enjoyed the Anti-Racism session and will be implementing a lot I have learnt from today into my Programmes of Study.
- Even though we couldn't meet in person, it was still so lovely to catch up with everyone again.
- Great resources and ideas - many of these I plan to use in my own teaching. Thank you.
- Inspiring- it made me re think my plans and critically examine my thinking on Islam

100% of 2019 attendees rated the day excellent!

- Excellent resources – informative and practical
- As always, excellent value for money and relevant materials with easily implemented ideas
- Always good to get together with like-minded people – new ideas every year.
- Always good to meet up again, like a huge TeachMeet. Will use Islam resources to centre Y7 learning to be mosque focused.
- I absolutely love coming to these conferences and look forward to it each year. Stephen is so inspiring and always go back to my school with fresh and exciting ideas. Everybody should come to this!
- An excellent first experience. I enjoyed the diverse input.
- All very good, as per usual. Good length and variety of sessions linked clearly to research, resources, strategies and practice.
- Very practical ideas and accompanying resources. Very user-friendly.
- Great practical resources to use in the classroom. Very informative – clear structures and important information.
- This was my first RE Today conference and it was incredibly useful! I really enjoyed meeting new people and the quality of the content was amazing!
- Great resources and classroom techniques. GCSE support is always needed.
- This was a superb course. Angela and Stephen were so knowledgeable and great presenters. I've learnt so much! Thank you, this was a great event!
- Excellent selection of topics and concepts. Lots of great practical ideas to use.
- An excellent day to network and reflect on my own practice. Lots of practical ideas to revamp our curriculum and enhance learning in a deeper and more meaningful way.

Booking form:
Three Counties Secondary RE Conference
Thursday 23 June 2022
Puckrup Hall Hotel, GL20 2EL
Fee: £95 per delegate; £150 for two delegates from the same school

Full Name(s):			
School Name:			
School Address:			
	Postcode:		
Telephone:			
Admin email address:			
Attending teacher email:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes! I will bring something brief that really works for the TeachMeet!		
Payment details:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice the school		
Invoice/ Credit Card billing address:			
	Postcode:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque, payable to RE Today Services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay by Visa, Mastercard or Switch		
Card number:			
Expiry Date:		Start Date:	
Security code <small>(last 3 numbers on signature strip)</small>		Issue no. (Switch)	
Signature:			
Date:			

Send to: RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH
Tel: 0121 458 3313 **Fax:** 0121 285 1816
Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk

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Worcestershire

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual Report
for the Academic Year
2020-2021

DRAFT

Worcestershire SACRE Annual Report 2020-2021

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body set up to advise the Local Authority on matters related to religious education and collective worship. Its members are drawn from teachers, Local Authority representatives including Councillors, faith representatives from the Church of England and a range of Christian denominations, and representatives from other religious groups represented in the region.

SACRE's key functions include monitoring the provision and quality of RE and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training. This is primarily done through the review and implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, a process which is required every five years. This is followed by on-going monitoring of its effectiveness in the light of changing national education policy.

1. Introduction and overview

The Learning and Achievement functions of Worcestershire County Council were commissioned out to Babcock International for 2016-2020. These functions were taken over in 2020 by Worcestershire Children First. This is the company responsible for delivering children's services across the county of Worcestershire. These services include children's social care, education, early help and fostering.

The company is 100% owned by Worcestershire County Council and delivers its children's services on behalf of the local authority working with partners across the county to ensure children, young people and families receive the best possible service.

SACRE is grateful to Worcestershire County Council for its continuing support, via Worcestershire Children First. Its three-year funding arrangement has enabled SACRE to create a Development Plan for these three years. SACRE endeavours to offer maximum support to schools through its use of conferences, training opportunities and network meetings.

Worcestershire SACRE met three times in 2020-2021, all online

- 15 October 2020
- 24 February 2021
- 14 July 2021

The minutes of these meetings are available on the County Council Website.

The meetings included discussion of the following:

- RE provision in schools, including using school workforce data
- Agreed syllabus launch conference and follow-up training; support for schools
- Communicating with schools
- Local network groups (NATRE)
- SACRE Constitution and Development plan
- National RE news updates
- How schools are managing to engage pupils through online learning, and how schools were able to celebrate Christmas, Diwali and Eid under lockdown restrictions
- SACRE Twitter account
- Briefings on the RE Council's worldviews projects and the Ofsted Research Review
- Feedback from members on local initiatives, including the Worcestershire Inter Faith Forum, whose training is now online, the Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcomes Refugees Project, links with Birmingham Progressive Synagogue and the Gurdwara in Handsworth.

2. Membership

Membership is kept under review each year. In 2020-2021, membership was as follows:

Committee A: Christian denominations and other religions	Mrs L Thorne (Ba'hai – Chair until October 2020) Mr G Bounds (Free Church Representative) Mrs T Khawaja (Muslim) Mrs C Parker (Methodist) Dr Y Stollard (Jewish) Mr A Couper (Quaker) Mr J Loyal (Sikh)
Committee B: Church of England	Mrs Kate Cope (until Oct 2020) Ms Danielle Evans Mr Duncan Hutchison (from Feb 2021)
Committee C: Teachers	Ms C Betteridge Mr C Giles
Committee D: Local Authority elected representatives	Cllr R Lunn (Chairman – October 2020-May 2021) Cllr M Jenkins Cllr K Pollock (until May 2021) Cllr M Allcott (from May 2021) Cllr E Marshall (from May 2021)
Co-opted	Ms E Hill (University of Worcester)
Clerk to SACRE LA Officer Adviser	Ms K Griffiths Ms N Jones (Worcestershire Children First) Mr S Pett (RE Today)

3. Supporting RE in Worcestershire: the agreed syllabus

The new Worcestershire agreed syllabus was due to be launched live in June 2020. With COVID restrictions, this was not possible. Instead, RE Today recorded an introduction to the syllabus and made that available to all schools, along with the syllabus and support materials to primary and secondary schools in June 2020.

SACRE decided that it would be good to run a follow-up conference to support schools with the new syllabus. This took place online 1.00-5.00pm 27 Jan 2021.

Sessions included:

- The intent of the new agreed syllabus: belief, impact, connections
- Implementing the agreed syllabus
- Impact: teaching and learning, achievement and assessment

SACRE members representing Worcestershire Inter Faith Forum (WIFF) took part, setting out what WIFF can offer to schools and taking some questions.

57 teachers attended the conference, from 51 schools. 32 schools requested the video recordings instead of attending live. Feedback was very positive, although evaluation forms were not gathered for this online event.

Worcestershire and Herefordshire SACREs continue to share the same agreed syllabus, so training that is available for either county has been made available to neighbouring schools.

4. Supporting RE in Worcestershire: local groups

There are a number of active local groups, most affiliated to NATRE. The Rivers MAT holds a regular NATRE primary local group meeting each term, with up to 35 teachers attending. Diocesan primary Hubs are based

in Malvern and South Bromsgrove, and a local group in Redditch has also started. The secondary NATRE group met in October 2020 and February 2021. Their plans for another GCSE conference with the University of Worcestershire are on-going.

5. Supporting RE in Worcestershire: summer conferences

Primary Conference 2021:

Plans to hold in-person summer conferences were abandoned in February 2020. The advantage of moving to online conferences via Zoom was that the same event could be made available to both Worcestershire and Herefordshire schools, as they share the same agreed syllabus. Another advantage was that a whole school could register for the day and different members of staff could attend different sessions.

The primary conference was held online on 15 June 2021. 109 teachers attended in all, 73 of whom were from Worcestershire. The conference supported schools in implementing the new agreed syllabus. It was led by Fiona Moss and Stephen Pett, national advisers from RE Today, and included sessions on:

- Ofsted and RE
- Teaching about Muslims and Hindus
- RE and climate justice
- Multidisciplinary RE

72% of delegates rated the conference as excellent value, the rest saying it was good value. Some people found the online experience was not ideal, but most delegates welcomed the access it gave. Representative feedback comments include:

- *Very informative with an excellent balance of useful resources and up to date information about the subject.*
- *Really liked it virtually as it cut down on travel and I was able to focus on what was being said. I also feel the sessions were timed excellently.*
- *Ofsted updates really useful as we are a small school and don't always know what is changing*
- *An excellent day. I became subject lead 5 years ago and joined NATRE. I have to say all the courses that I've attended with you and the resources have been top-notch*
- *It was very informative and provided lots of excellent work to support our I, I & I for Ofsted but also some different activities to support classroom teaching and learning - fabulous day all round. Thank you*
- *A very well-presented day with surprisingly slick use of technology which was a breath of fresh air! Very good content and useful resources. I did feel that much was aimed at KS2 (upper) so would have been good to have explored more about how this fits best with younger children.*
- *The day flew by, which was amazing, considering being on zoom all day. So many brilliant resources and ideas for teaching.*
- *All sessions were really beneficial especially the practical ideas in the second session and the III Ofsted guidance. It was really useful to see which units the resources/ideas could be linked with. Thank you.*
- *Great to have so many ideas for exciting RE practice. Appreciate the breakout rooms, enables interaction and comparison of what's happening in other schools.*
- *Really useful feedback on the new syllabus and very up to date with the latest Ofsted framework*

Secondary Conference 2021:

The annual secondary conference saw the three counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire join together once again. Held online on 25 June 2021, the conference was attended by 22 teachers. 90% rated the conference as excellent, and 10% as good. Led by Lat Blaylock and Stephen Pett, national advisers from RE Today, the programme included:

- Anti-racist RE
- Multidisciplinary RE
- Picturing Islam, Picturing Muslims

- TeachMeet (local teachers)

Teachers were positive about the day and clear about actions they would take as a result. Representative comments include the following:

- *Although very different - zoom! - still a fantastic day. As always I feel refreshed and positive about the future of RE. The ideas and topics were excellent and I will definitely be using many of the activities.*
- *I was surprised how close it came to the joy of attending a face to face conference. Lots of fantastic and inspiring ideas. Thank you both.*
- *As always, fantastic resources, ideas and new perspectives to explore. This conference reinvigorates me and at the end of this year, that has been especially needed! I particularly enjoyed the Anti-racist RS session. Thanks to all involved, brilliant.*
- *Wonderful day- great resources and really user friendly ideas. Marvellous.*
- *Very well run, professional, friendly and incredibly useful. I will be using so much from this day as inspiration!*
- *I can actually use all the ideas and resources in the classroom!*
- *Great resources and ideas - many of these I plan to use in my own teaching. Thank you. Inspiring- it made me rethink my plans and critically examine my thinking on Islam*
- *I plan to try and incorporate virtually every element into my teaching practice as/when the need arises. I know that's vague, but I'm not sure what my teaching load is next year yet.*
- *I will be reviewing my curriculum with a critical eye to ensure it continues to evolve.*
- *[Actions to follow] So much! Tweaking existing SOL but also inspired to move forward on our multi-disciplinary approach!*

6. Exam results summer 2021

Due to the pandemic, GCSE and A level exams were cancelled this summer. Instead, centre assessed grades (CAG) were awarded to pupils who sat GCSE and A level RS this year. However, in line with DFE guidance, these should not be used for analysis so there is no examination data to report on.

7. Future support for RE

On-going support for teachers, developing their ability to plan, using the new agreed syllabus planning steps, and for improving teaching and learning in RE, is planned for 2021-2022, including:

- Annual SACRE conference for primary teachers, focusing on ideas for teaching and learning, based on the new syllabus, including planning, Ofsted's types of knowledge, and the worldviews approach.
- Annual SACRE secondary conference, in partnership with Herefordshire and Gloucestershire SACREs. This will focus on supporting teachers in exploring what a worldviews approach looks like, some ways of applying different ways of knowing in the classroom, and ideas for exploring Sikhi in lessons.
- School Survey to assess impact and value of revised agreed syllabus.
- Offer of free training on multidisciplinary approaches to RE, as part of the Templeton World Charity Foundation Big Questions in Classrooms programme. A group of Worcestershire primary schools will be able to attend three and a half days of CPD over the year, as part of a research project led by RE Today, to examine how the impact of multidisciplinary approaches.

Cllr Mel Allcott
Chair of SACRE
December 2021

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Inspecting RE: An examination of OFSTED inspections

The publication of the [Religious Education Research Review](#) was greeted positively by many teachers.

NATRE has examined the inspections reports published between 1st May - 14th Oct 2021. NATRE investigates whether inspectors are taking account of the factors identified in the research and if this is improving the potential of inspections to drive up standards in RE. A detailed article outlining sample reports and themes is available for NATRE members.

Key themes that are commented on are

1. Studying the curriculum in depth, knowing more and remembering more
2. A well sequenced curriculum to ensure that pupils learn the knowledge they need for later topics.
3. Planning an ambitious curriculum
4. 'Collectively enough' – is subject content 'collectively enough' for pupils to gain a good understanding?
5. Adequate curriculum time is given to RE, so that leaders can deliver an ambitious curriculum.
6. Developing pupils' personal knowledge helps them to relate the content to themselves (for example, their own prior assumptions).
7. There is sufficient training and professional development so that teachers have appropriate subject professional knowledge.
8. The importance of visits and visitors
9. Links to SMSC and Personal Development
10. Generally poor or non-existent provision
11. The importance of subject leadership

NATRE members can download the full document [on this link](#).

Could SACRE encourage schools to become members of NATRE to gain up to date information such as this? Is SACRE monitoring OFSTED reports? How far does SACRE training help support teachers to meet these descriptions of good quality RE?

Analysis of teacher survey on Secondary RE and RS

A ninth secondary NATRE Survey – July 2021 was conducted during the spring term of 2021 via a number of teacher networks supported by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), and RE Today Services. Conclusions can be drawn around provision, GCSE entries, timetabling and the supply of specialist RE teachers.

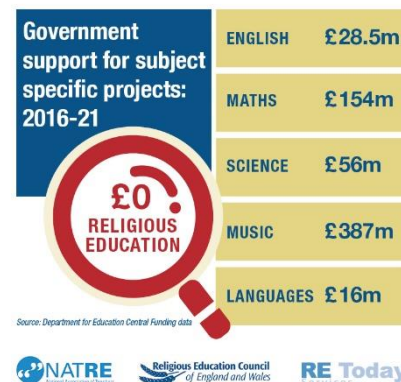
See the report www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/an-analysis-of-a-survey-of-teachers-on-the-impact-of-government-policy-on-student-opportunity-to-study-gcse-rs/

Is this something that should be discussed on our SACRE agenda? Are we aware of the picture in our schools? Are senior leaders aware of their duties around RE?

Religious Education and the lack of support by government funding

A written parliamentary question tabled has led to the government sharing that it has been supporting curricular projects in many areas of the curriculum, but has allocated no funds on religious education specific projects in the last 5 years.

The RE community are asking people to write to their MP to ask if this can be changed. According to a Savanta survey commissioned by Culham St Gabriel's Trust, 64% of UK adults agree that RE is an important part of the school curriculum today. Religious Education requires support by the government.



Can SACRE talk to local MPs about this and ask them to press the government on this?

NASACRE Conference 2022 - Ambitious SACREs

Taking place in Birmingham on Monday 23 May, this conference will provide an opportunity for SACRE members to engage in discussion around issues of RE and Collective Worship. Keynote speakers will be Sarah Lane-Cawte (new Chair of the REC - Religious Education Council), HMI Richard Kueh (Ofsted) and David Hampshire, a previous chair of NASACRE, who will present the analysis of the most recent (2021) SACRE annual reports.

Additional sessions will look at the new SACRE audit tool, Westhill award winners, the Local area Network report and other topical issues of interest to SACREs.

Who can attend this on behalf of our SACRE?

LAN (Local Area Network) report

'Still Standing' – the REC Local Area Network Report is now live [here](#).

The report asks SACREs to consider the following points:

1. Reviewing SACRE membership in partnership with the LA to ensure that it is representative of the local community, and supports the religions and worldviews included in the Agreed Syllabus. Having a diverse range of voices with specific roles on SACRE is essential if an LA is to be able to discharge its legal responsibilities. SACREs can start the process of working with their LA to update membership now. This may require a change to the constitution or terms of reference; the LA legally approves your members and there is nothing in the present legislation that would hinder this.
2. Continue to build local partnerships with the LA to ensure necessary funding.
3. Within the present legislation regarding their ability to widen their membership, the CoRE report helpfully suggests SACREs think about adding to their membership - if they haven't done so already - education departments at museums and universities, local ITT providers, local RE CPD providers, training school hubs, parents, governors, pupil voice, academies and free schools, to name but a few possibilities. Widening representation and local buy-in strengthens the work of high quality RE in schools.

Claire Clinton, the report's author, believes that there are some useful documents developed by SACREs who participated in the project, for other SACREs to use in their work, including

- An audit tool for Agreed Syllabus reviews
- A simple participatory action research template
- A membership tool

Worcestershire SACRE Spring Term 2022 National SACRE updates from RE Today

NASACRE hopes that there will be an opportunity for SACREs to find out more about these tools and discuss the impact of the report at the (hopefully!) face-to-face May 2022 conference in Birmingham.

What can our SACRE learn about this? Could someone go back and find out more about this and lead a discussion at our next meeting?

NASACRE's SACRE Self-evaluation tool

The NASACRE development group has worked hard on reviewing, updating, and improving the SACRE self-evaluation tool. This tool will enable SACREs to consider their effectiveness in all areas of its work in order to produce a targeted and costed Development Plan in partnership with your LA.

The SEF is available [here](#) for use at SACRE meetings.

There will be a workshop at the conference in May 2022 around how to use the tool to best effect.

Should this be on our summer agenda, led by whoever attends the NASACRE conference?

NASACRE's new online training programme

NASACRE members can access these recorded sessions [here](#) along with the slide shows and resources.

The programme for 2021-22 can be accessed [here](#).

Can anyone from SACRE attend any of these? Which might be useful?

Religion and Worldviews in Religious Education

This new page on the REC website hosts a series of resources relating to worldviews. It includes a new animation from Jason Ramasami, well known animator and former RE teacher, that captures the key characteristics of how this new approach represents religions in the classroom, a Bibliography from Dawn Cox of articles, blogs and other material that have been published in response to the CoRE Report and a series of FAQs.

www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/worldviews/

Do we need an item on our next agenda to discuss new developments in worldviews?

The Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Programme

The programme is a one-to-two-year mentoring and coaching programme developing leadership skills in middle leaders. It is **free** to schools. Applications are open now for a September 2022 start. The programme works at 2 levels.

Stage 1

This stage is for those local or regional leaders who are beginning to work across more than one school. For example, leading Religion and Worldviews across a MAT or supporting other schools in a Federation and/or leading a local group or hub. Some NATRE Regional Ambassadors, SLEs, REQM Gold award RE leads or LTLRE Hub leads might find this Stage of CPD helpful.

Stage 2

This Stage is for teachers who have completed Stage 1 and/or for those who already have a regional/national role and would like to develop their expertise further. This stage is particularly for teachers/advisers who are likely to continue their specialism into senior leadership roles within or outside of their school situation. Those who are seeking to become advisers, ambassadors or an Executive member of one of the RE Organisations are particularly encouraged to apply.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN: Closing date for applications: 31st March 2022

For more details and a film outlining the programme go to www.reonline.org.uk/leadership/leadership-programme/

Who should we be encouraging to join this programme? Can we share this with schools?

NATRE Spirited Arts 2022

Will schools from our area join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition? Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form pupils can think of. Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE?

The 5 themes

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us."
2. God's good earth? ("Beautiful World, wonderful God?")
3. Searching for God
4. A view of the world.
5. Celebrations: Big days and big ideas

Find out more details here www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2022/

Lessons that make a difference

CSTG through RE:ONLINE have launched their blog writing competition. CSTG are inviting children and young people to write a 500-word blog or record a 2-minute audio or visual file about a Religion and about a Religion and Worldviews (or RE) lesson that has made a difference to them. Entries are due in by 14th March.

Winning entries will be notified and their blogs/vlogs posted on RE:ONLINE in Summer 2022. www.reonline.org.uk/news/pupil-blog-competition-2022/

How can SACRE encourage schools take part in these two competitions? Can this link in with anything going on locally? Some SACREs have held local Spirited arts competitions and worked to display entries in a local museum. Is this something this SACRE might consider?

New offer from 'Good News for Everyone': free Bible magazine to pupils and primary classrooms

The charity 'Good News for Everyone' – which used to be known as 'The Gideons' – have produced a 48-page magazine which provides children aged 7-11 with extracts from Bible stories, texts and teachings. The extracts include all the major Bible texts used in the 'Understanding Christianity' resources. There are questions for discussion and thinking, and quizzes, all illustrated in an age-appropriate style.

Good News for Everyone exists to give Christian scriptures away, and this new educational collection of Bible texts is available through schools to pupils – for example Good News for Everyone will be happy to send a visitor to schools to give a class set of copies for teachers to use and a personal copy to all school pupils for them to keep. The charity still visits secondary schools to distribute copies of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs free to pupils.

Contact: <https://goodnewsuk.com/bibles-for/education>

Websites refreshed and relaunched

RE:Quest

The **RE:Quest** website has refreshed and relaunched with a series of new resources on key Christian concepts such as Salvation, resources for pupils with additional needs and a series of new films. You can also create boards of resources for particular units or topics for pupils and teachers to access. Resources on the key concepts provide sample lesson plans too.

<https://request.org.uk>

Understanding Humanism

The **Understanding Humanism** website has relaunched with over 100 new FREE resources to support teaching about humanism and non-religious worldviews.

Resources for ages 5-18 organised into several core areas of knowledge to support young people's understanding of a humanist approach to life, humanist history, and the influence of humanism on the modern world. '

<https://understandinghumanism.org.uk>

True Tube

The **Truetube** website has also had a refresh with a series of new films added for teachers in Primary and secondary schools.

www.truetube.co.uk

Online training

Webinar series from University of Edinburgh

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/teachingbuddhism/2021/11/29/who-is-the-buddha-new-webinar-series-for-teachers-jan-march-2022/>

A series of webinars on the life of the Buddha – excellent for KS3 and KS4. The series has already started, but sessions are uploaded afterwards, so you can catch up later.

Register [here on Eventbrite](#)

Online seminar series from University of Chester

The Chester Uni A level webinar series will be starting again soon. Look out [here](#) to find out about the programme. Details coming soon.

*National News Update prepared by RE Today/NATRE
February 2022*

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