A G E N D A

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Kent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education will be held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 25th November, 2026 at 10.30 am

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Membership
2. Apologies for Absence/Substitutes
3. Declarations of Interests
4. Minutes of the Meeting 30.6.26 (Pages 1 - 6)

   To agree that the Chair sign the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 30 June 2026.
5. Review of the Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference (Pages 7 - 26)
6. Development Plan 2025-26 and 2026-27 (Pages 27 - 34)
7. Curriculum and Assessment Review Update
8. RE Advisor Verbal Update
9. Update on Local Network Groups
10. Budget Update (Pages 35 - 36)
11. The WIRE Awards

    To note that Chiddingston School and Hawkinge School had both achieved the WIRE Award since the last meeting and to consider the applications submitted by Mayfield Grammar School and Sholden School that have been circulated alongside the agenda.
12. The SACRE Draft Annual Report 2025/26 (Pages 37 - 46)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise, the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

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Tuesday, 17 November 2026

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held on Tuesday, 30 June 2026.

PRESENT: Mr S Dixon (Chair), Mr S Bowen, Ms N Brownfield, Ms K Burke, Mr D Burns, Mrs C Elapatha, Ms F Hawkes, Mrs M Lawson, Mrs B Naden, Mrs A Parker, Mr J Paul, Miss E Pope, Ms N Ralph, Mrs J Wigg and Mrs P Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms P Smith-Orr (Consultant Advisor) and Mr J Clapson (Democratic Services Officer.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

14. Membership
(Item 1)

The Chair welcomed Mrs Ann Parker onto the Council who represented the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education. The Chair also offered his thanks to Mrs Holly Williams who had stepped back from representing the National Education Union on the Council.

15. Apologies for Absence/Substitutes
(Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Cheema, Mrs Polden, Mr Philpot, Mrs Paddison Chapman, Imam Khan and Mr Sinha.

16. Declarations of Interests
(Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

17. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 2026
(Item 4)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2026 were correctly recorded, and that they be signed by the Chair.

18. RE Advisor Verbal Update
(Item 5)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr provided her update, during which the following points were covered:
    a. WIRE Award Update
        i. Members had agreed in advance of the meeting that the Cornwallis Academy Wire Award submission had met the required standard and noted that the award would soon be presented.

ii. After consideration of the High Halden School's submission, it was agreed that it was a strong example that met the required standard. Mr Bowen offered to present the Award to the school.

b. Interfaith Week
   i. Interfaith week would take place from 8 to 15 November 2026, Members were asked to remind schools of the dates when during their school visits.
   ii. Mrs Parker advised that she had a useful list of contacts for experiences that schools could use to plan activities.

c. Teachers Conference Event 30.6.2026
   i. There were around 40 teachers from primary and secondary schools expected to be in attendance. Thanks went out to those who had helped organise the event, and to those who were doing the presentations.

2. Mr Clapson provided a brief update on the steps required to extend the license for the Kent RE syllabus:
   a. The current Kent Agreed Syllabus license was due to expire at the end of the 2027 academic year.
   b. It was proposed to hold a Kent Agreed Syllabus Conference on the day of the November Kent SACRE meeting. The membership would broadly mirror that of the SACRE.
   c. The Conference was needed to formalise a recommendation to extend the current syllabus licence for the year 2027-28. This formal recommendation would enable an officer decision to be made following the correct governance process.
   d. Mrs Smith-Orr added that she had received some calls from schools who were concerned that the Syllabus was due to expire next year. She suggested that a note could be added to the website review letters to schools, giving reassurance that the intention was to extend the licence for an additional year.

3. Kent SACRE agreed to:
   a. NOTE the RE advisor's update, including the dates for Interfaith Week and the intention to hold a Kent Agreed Syllabus Conference just before the next SACRE meeting.
   b. NOTE that Cornwallis Academy had achieved the WIRE Award since the last meeting,
   c. RESOLVE that High Halden School had achieved the WIRE Award and NOTE that Mr Bowen would present the certificate.

19. Verbal Update on Local Network Groups
(Item 6)

1. Ms Brownfield advised that unfortunately her last Local Network Group meeting did not go ahead due to recent excessively hot weather, however she was looking forward to the next meeting that was scheduled in September and was expected to be held in person.

2. It was hoped that the Teachers Conference may encourage some new groups to start meeting.

3. RESOLVED to note the update on Local Network Groups.

20. Curriculum and Assessment Review Update

(Item 7)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr introduced the update.

2. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:
   a. Attendees of the NASACRE Conference saw a video featuring Professor Becky Francis CBE who gave an update on her work to review the curriculum and assessment system.
   b. There appeared to be a general desire to incorporate RE into the National Curriculum. Some people saw this as a way to encourage social cohesion.
   c. The inclusion of RE into the National Curriculum would require an update to the Education Reform Act 1988.
   d. It was expected that a national syllabus would require additional local input from SACREs to make them relevant for use in local schools.
   e. Headteachers were experiencing an increasing number of requests from parents who wished to exercise their right withdraw their children from studying RE at school.
   f. Requests to withdraw children from RE lessons were received from people with a range of different backgrounds and religions. The requests sometimes appeared to be triggered by events reported in the media.

3. RESOLVED to note the update.

21. Development Plan 2025-26

(Item 8)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr introduced the Plan. She advised that it was a working document, and that a new document would be prepared from September for the new school year.

2. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:
   a. The Teachers Conference and the letters that would be sent to schools following the website review both helped to raise the profile of the SACRE.
   b. The increase in the number of WIRE Award submissions received during the year indicted that schools were becoming more aware of the SACRE.
   c. A high level of religious literacy was very important for SACRE members. Ms Ralph advised that she had organised a number of online learning sessions that SACRE members would be welcome to attend.
   d. The NASACRE website had a number of good learning resources, and the Humanism website also had lots of information and resources.
   e. Mrs Brownfield offered to bring some student workbooks to the next meeting so that the SACRE could see the kinds of things being taught in the classroom.

3. RESOLVED to note the Development Plan 2025-26.

22. 2026 NASACRE Conference Feedback

(Item 9)

1. Miss Pope and Mrs Smith-Orr shared feedback from their attendance of the conference.

2. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:
   a. The element covering the review of the curriculum and assessment system was very interesting.
   b. It was good to meet and discuss hot topics with enthusiastic people from other SACREs.
   c. A number of online workshops were held after the event. Miss Pope attended a session on RE Hubs that covered what had happened since their creation two and a half years ago. She also attended a session on Humanism that looked at Humanism outside of the UK.
   d. One takeaway message from the event was the use of the RADIO acronym to encourage RE literacy. It was also relevant to interactions outside of RE and stood for:
      Respect,
      Active listening,
      Dialogue not debate,
      I statements that avoid generalisations and take ownership of what is said,
      Oops and ouch moments, acknowledging when mistakes are made and apologise if needed.

   e. The event had been well organised with consideration for the needs of those attending. The Chair offered to write a letter to the organisers thanking them for their effort.
   f. The 2027 NASACRE Conference would be held in London.

3. RESOLVED to note the feedback from the Conference attendees.

23. School Website Review Update
(Item 10)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr thanked everyone who had assisted in reviewing school websites.

2. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:
   a. It was pleasing to see that 267 schools detailed the use of the Kent Syllabus on their websites.
   b. 67 websites did not detail what syllabus was being used. Some of these schools may also be using the Kent Syllabus.
   c. 56 websites detailed the use of an alternative syllabus.
   d. 26 schools, mainly secondary schools, made no mention of RE at all on their websites.
   e. Most schools did not mention collective worship on their websites.
   f. There were 24 catholic schools who used their own syllabus.
   g. A letter detailing the findings of the review had been drafted and would be sent from the Chair to the schools. The Chair would also send a personalised letter to the 26 schools who did not mention of RE on their websites with a reminder of their legal obligation to teach RE.

3. RESOLVED to note the update.

24. Budget Update
(Item 11)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr introduced the budget.

2. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:
   a. A list of projected costs for the 2027/28 year would be provided to officers to assist with budget planning.
   b. If the Teacher Conference was a success, the SACRE could look to hold a similar event next summer.

3. RESOLVED to note the budget update.

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From: Penny Smith-Orr – Religious Education Consultant
Joel Cook – Head of Democratic Services

To: **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education –** 25 November 2026

Subject: **Review of the Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference.**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Electoral Division: All

Summary:
This report presents the current Kent SACRE Constitution as the first step in the review process to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

Recommendation:
The SACRE is asked to consider and comment on the current Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference, and to suggest any amendments for consideration as part of the review.

1. Introduction

1.1 The National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education suggests that the constitution should be reviewed every four years or sooner if there is a change in legislation or the religious demographics of the area.

1.2 The constitution was last amended in 2023 with a update to include a Humanist representative in the SACRE membership.

2. Decision making and next steps

2.1 Kent County Council is required to establish, maintain and support the SACRE to discharge the SACRE's statutory functions.

2.2 All four Groups that constitute the SACRE must agree to any updates to the Constitution and Terms of Reference.

2.3 Amendments to the Constitution and Terms of Reference are to be determined through the Council's executive decision-making process by the appropriate Cabinet Member. However, any fundamental or substantial changes to be reflected within the Constitution or involving any decision-making arrangements may require determination by Full Council.

2.4 Members of SACRE are asked to consider the existing document and put forward any suggested amendments for consideration by the Council's legal department and the Executive.

2.5 In the event that specific changes are suggested and may be adopted, an updated draft Constitution and Terms of Reference would be brought to a future meeting of the SACRE for consideration and endorsement. Any required changes would then be subject to consideration and approvals by the Executive and/or Full Council as appropriate.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 No significant costs are expected to arise from the review of the constitution.

4. Legal implications

4.1 Periodic review of the constitution reflects good governance and best practice.

5. Equalities implications

5.1 No adverse implications are expected at the time of writing.

6. Recommendation:

The SACRE is asked to consider and comment on the current Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference, and to suggest any amendments for consideration as part of the review.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference.

Appendix 2: NASACRE Advice on Writing a Constitution

Appendix 3: Another Example SACRE Constitution - Newham

8. Contact details

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KENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)

CONSTITUTION and TERMS OF REFERENCE

Notes: References to Kent throughout this document relate to the area served by Kent County Council.

Kent SACRE seeks to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally, as well as socially, culturally and physically, so that they are able to understand themselves and others and cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing world.

Kent SACRE aspires to:

- Enhance the quality of religious education and collective worship in Kent schools; and
- Celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in Kent

Our vision is:

For schools to be able to:

- provide challenging learning through the RE Curriculum;
- promote an inspirational and aspirational ethos through meaningful and engaging Collective Worship; and
- contribute to community cohesion by engaging the whole school community in an exploration of identity and community in the local, national and global context.

For the Local Authority to:

- place a high priority on the role of RE and Collective Worship in schools;
- aim to provide sufficient resource to support schools in the above;
- work in partnership with SACRE to build links between schools and local faith communities.

For SACRE members to:

- represent their constituents in the spirit of promoting educational RE and Collective Worship within statutory regulations;
- represent fairly the views of their constituents as far as this is possible;
- work with other members of SACRE to model and promote respect for and understanding of different beliefs and lifestyles and a universal search for what it means to be human.

Our Aims:

To work with the Local Authority to:

- place a high priority on the role of RE and Collective Worship in schools;
- aim to provide sufficient resources
- work in partnership with SACRE to build links between schools and local faith communities.

To support schools in:

- raising standards of pupil attainment in RE to equate to national expectations of performance levels in other core subjects
- developing the spiritual dimension of the school
- improving the quality of collective worship
- making appropriate provision to meet the needs of all pupils represented within their school community.

Statutory Main Duties:

Kent SACRE is expected to:

- require the local authority to review its current agreed syllabus
- advise the local authority on matters connected with RE given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus and collective worship in authority schools
- offer advice particularly on methods of teaching, the choice of resources and the provision of training for teachers
- consider any application from a school for a 'determination' to lift the requirement for the majority of acts of worship in that school to be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"
- publish an annual report giving details of its work, advice given by SACRE to the local authority, and deal with matters about which the authority has sought advice from SACRE.

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. The SACRE will consist of the members appointed by the Local Authority ("the Authority") to represent respectively:

a. Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and other denominations and religions as in the opinion of the Authority reflect the principal religious traditions in Kent. The number of representatives approved under the category shall, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of this group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area.
b. The Church of England
c. Teacher Associations having regard to local circumstances.
d. The Local Authority

NB. With reference to 'local circumstances', SACRE believes that it is of paramount importance that, across the Teacher Associations, representation is professionally focused on RE.

2. The list attached as Appendix 1 outlines the composition of the SACRE in Kent.

3. The length of membership as determined by the Authority is 4 years. Any member of the SACRE appointed by the Authority may be removed if in the opinion of the Authority:
(i) he/she ceases to be representative of the denomination or association he/she was appointed to represent or;
(ii) he/she ceases to be a member of the Authority.

NB. Failure to attend 2 consecutive meetings without good reason may be deemed as ceasing to represent the appointing body.

4. Any member may resign his/her office at any time.

5. A SACRE may also include co-opted members. Co-opted members will be appointed to the most appropriate group and will have a voice but not a vote within that group (as appropriate).

6.
(i) Co-opted members must fulfil a particular role or offer particular expertise that is not otherwise available through SACRE
(ii) A co-option is for a period not exceeding 2 years. If the group wishes to extend the period of co-option this must come to SACRE for approval and where appropriate to recommend to the LA to confirm the appointment.

7. The Authority will appoint the Chair of SACRE whose term of office will be for a period of 4 years. The Vice-Chair of SACRE will be appointed by the SACRE.

8. Meetings of the full SACRE will be open to members of the public except when items of a confidential nature are to be discussed.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

B.1 DUTIES

9. SACRE can advise the Authority upon matters concerned with religious worship in maintained schools and religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus. These matters (which the Education Act 2006 provides can include teaching methods, teaching materials and teacher training) can be referred by the Authority or may be determined by the SACRE. The advice offered by SACRE carries no statutory force, but the LA should give careful consideration to advice offered.

10. The broad role of the SACRE is to support effective provision of RE and Collective Worship in schools. The Authority will work with its SACRE to review existing provision for RE and Collective Worship and consider any action which might be taken.

11. SACRE has 2 particular functions: it can require the Authority to review its current agreed syllabus; and secondly it may determine, on application by a Headteacher of a maintained school after consultation with the Governing Body, that the requirement for collective worship in his/her school to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils in the school.

12. Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work. This should:
(i) Specify any matters on which it has advised the Authority
(ii) Broadly describe the nature of that advice
(iii) Set out its reasons for offering advice in any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the Authority

N.B. Kent SACRE publishes its Annual Report on the SACRE section of Kent.gov.uk. web page, and the RE pages on Kenttrustweb, in addition to sending a copy to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

B.2 PROCEEDINGS

13. SACRE will meet as a full body for half a day 3 times a year. It will be for the SACRE to decide whether further meetings of the full SACRE, representative groups or sub-committees are needed.

14. The Authority will provide specific resources as follows:
(i) A Clerk to organise and minute meetings and to co-ordinate working parties and initiatives.
(ii) The Education, Learning and Skills Group to provide the services of a specialist RE advisor / consultant to support the SACRE in fulfilling its role.
(ii) Funding to service the formal meetings of SACRE and associated running costs for the delivery of its functions.

15.
(i) Each constituent group will elect a Convenor. The Convenor will normally represent the group on the SACRE steering group.
(ii) The group will agree who will represent them on SACRE working parties, as required.

16. On any questions to be decided by the SACRE, only the representative groups listed in Appendix 1 have a vote and each such group has a single vote. Decisions within a group about how that vote is to be cast do not require unanimity. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings. In the event of a tied vote the issue will be decided by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Representatives of the Authority appointed under group 1 (d) above cannot vote on the question of whether to require the Authority to review the Agreed Syllabus. In the event of a tied vote the issue would fall and similarly any new initiative will not proceed.

17. 'In order for the SACRE to be quorate a minimum of one member from group A, B, C and D must be present, providing that one of those members is from a religious denomination that is not Christian.'

18. The validity of proceedings of the SACRE or of the members of the SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected:
(i) By a vacancy in the office of any member of the SACRE
(ii) By a member of the SACRE no longer representing the appointing body.

APPENDIX 1: KENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP

GROUP A: CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS REFLECTING THE PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE AREA (14 seats)

Baha'i (1 seat)

Buddhism (1 seat)

Free Church (4 seats)

Greek Orthodox Church (1 seat)

Hinduism (1 seat)

Humanism (1 seat)

Islam (1 seat)

Judaism (1 seat)

Roman Catholic (2 seats)

Sikhism (1 seat)

GROUP B: CHURCH OF ENGLAND (6 seats)

Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education (3 seats)

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education (3 seats)

GROUP C: TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (5 seats)

Kent Primary Head Teachers Executive KPHE (1 seat)

Kent Secondary Head Teachers Executive KSHE (1 seat)

National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (1 seat)

National Education Union (2 seats)

Co-opted Teachers

GROUP D: LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY (4 seats)

Local Authority (Kent County Council Members) (4 seats)

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Deciding what needs to go in the constitution

Preamble

Most constitutions start with legal basis for SACREs, stating that the SACRE has been established under the provisions of Section 390 – 397 of the 1996 Education Act. As a part of this, or often at the end, there will be a paragraph on terms used in the constitution, e.g. 'Members' refers to those appointed by the local authority to represent interest groups in accordance with the 1996 Education Act.

Membership

There are two kinds of membership on SACRE:

1. Those nominated by the appropriate sponsoring Groups and formally appointed by the local authority, and who work within one of the 4 Groups
2. Those co-opted by SACRE

The constitution should specify the numbers of representatives in each Group and, in the cases of Groups A, C and D, specify which particular faith group (Group A) or teachers' organisation (Group C) they represent. In the case of Group D which political group they represent, ensuring political balance, or which other group deemed necessary by the authority, such as a governors association. With reference to Group A the Education Act 1996, paragraph 390 (6) states:

The number of representative members appointed to any representative group under subsection (4)(a) to represent each denomination or religion required to be represented shall, so far as consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area.

It is the responsibility of the local authority to determine who should be in this Group but they would normally consult local faith communities and existing SACRE members before making a decision. SACRE, though, has no legal right to veto the decision of the local authority in this matter. This section should also indicate under what circumstances and how a member might be removed from SACRE and how an existing member can resign. It should also indicate the normal term of membership (usually four years) before members are reappointed or replaced. With regard to co-opted members, the constitution should state how SACRE would go about co-opting a member, the length of term they would be expected to serve before needing to be co-opted again and their rights in terms of voting. The constitution should be clear about substitutions for absent members.

Officers (Including the Chair and the Clerk, and the LA Officer)

The constitution should clearly set out how meetings are to be conducted, including the role of the Chair of SACRE and how he or she is appointed or elected. This section will also cover the roles of the Clerk to SACRE, the RE professional officer and other officers of the local authority who will attend. The constitution should explain the process of nominating / electing / appointing a Chair. It would be expected that the person taking up this role understood the work of the SACRE and therefore the constitution may describe requirements for someone standing for the post. For example that they have been a SACRE member for at least one year. The constitution should specify the length of their office. In some constitutions there is also the position of Vice Chair (in some constitutions called a Deputy Chair). Where there is a Vice Chair their role should be outlined clearly. In some constitutions there is a requirement that where there is a Chair they are from a different

Group to the Chair. Some constitutions require that the Chair of SACRE will rotate between the Groups, sometimes on an annual basis at other times on a biannual basis. The running of meetings Given the peculiar nature of voting on SACREs the constitution will set out what is needed for SACRE to be quorate, this would always mean that at least one member of each Group is present – in line with statute. For example, some SACREs include within their quoracy rules the need for at least one member from a faith / belief that is not Christian to be present. Similarly, it should state how votes are made and the arrangements for deciding on a tied vote.

Administrative arrangements

Within the constitution there should be something about removing members or members of the public from the meeting if necessary and under what conditions members of the press and public can be excluded. The constitution should clearly set out the number of meetings per year, including defining which of those meetings shall be deemed the annual general meeting for the appointing or electing of a Chair; and Vice Chair where required. This may be the first meeting following the appointment of new elected members or the beginning if a new municipal year. The constitution should also set out how the following are to be done:
• agenda setting meetings and who shall be present
• sending out of reports and to whom they shall be sent
• when minutes will become available prior to formal adoption
• how the SACRE's annual report will be presented to the council
The administrative arrangements should also make clear that certain expenses, but not all, may be covered by the local authority so that SACRE can function, hence it should cover expenses and supply cover for teachers but not loss of earnings. Ideally it should state that there will be a budget identified for SACRE on an annual basis. The issue of sub-groups and their composition should be included here and the procedure for an extraordinary meeting of SACRE if the need for one arises. Advice, guidance and determinations The constitution should state how its advice and guidance would be disseminated by the local authority to schools. Similarly, it should state the procedure if a school was to request a determination; see:
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/part/V/chapter/III/crossheading/determinations-by-standing-advisory-councils

Code of conduct

Some SACREs have a code of conduct agreed by members and as it is expected that members work within that code it should be referenced in the constitution and attached as an appendix. NASACRE has a generic **code of conduct** for SACREs to use or adapt.

Complaints

The constitution should set out a basic complaints procedure if someone were to make a complaint about SACRE as whole or individual members behaving in their capacity as SACRE members.

Standing Orders

A number of SACREs have standing orders appended to the constitution that set out the standing items for the agenda, or the detailed procedures for a determination request. Some SACREs have used this mechanism to keep the constitution short with detail coming later in the form of standing orders. This is not necessary but some might find it useful.

Agreed Syllabus Conferences

Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASC) can have their own constitutions or they can be incorporated into the SACRE constitution. It is important to be clear that the ASC is a body appointed by the local authority according to the same structure as a SACRE but the membership of one does not automatically mean membership of the other. Hence, the ASC may have a wholly different membership to the SACRE, a shared membership or be coterminous with SACRE. Co-opted members of SACRE, though, cannot be members of the ASC as there is no option to co-opt to an ASC. Voting, too, on an ASC is different to that of SACRE in that all committees (not Groups as in SACRE) have to vote for a syllabus before it can be adopted. It has to be unanimous, not simply a majority. See: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/schedule/31

Reviewing a constitution

The constitution will need reviewing if there is a change in legislation or of the religious demographics of the area. It is good practice, though, to review the constitution on a four yearly basis given the term of appointment for members. The review should be undertaken by or in partnership with the LA's legal services but all four Groups that constitute SACRE must agree to those changes, unless they are mundane – such as the removal of references to bodies that no longer exist.

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NEWHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)



TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CONSTITUTION

Mission Statement

Under the 1988 Education Reform act every Local Authority (LA) is required to set up and run a SACRE. The remit is to advise the LA upon matters connected with the religious education (RE) and collective worship (CW) to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus and in particular, as to methods of teaching, the choice of books and the continuing professional development (CPD) for teachers. SACRE is a broadly based community consultative organisation and should be representative of the diverse community of Newham.

Composition

SACRE is made up of four panels/groups:

- LA Panel – up to 6 representatives appointed to represent the LA made up from councillors and governors and education department.
- Church of England Panel – up to 6 representatives of the Church of England (the established church of England).
- Other Faiths' Panel – up to 15 representatives of local faith representatives apart from the Church of England, and representatives of other religions in the area.
- Teachers' Panel – up to 10 representatives from Newham schools representing primary and secondary as well as maintained and academy schools.

Function and purpose

The SACRE provides an opportunity for people from the educational and religion/worldview communities to work together in an imaginative and creative way to help develop RE and CW of pupils in Newham schools. It can provide an interfaith forum focused on the educational needs of the area. To this end SACRE will:

- Produce and publish an Agreed Syllabus for RE every five years
- Produce an annual report on the work of SACRE for the DfE and the borough
- Encourage the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and in this regard to monitor the production of teaching resources and support material
- Produce advice for schools on CW

- Review the provision for RE and CW in schools within the Borough
- Give advice on methods of teaching Agreed Syllabus RE including the choice of teaching materials
- Advise the LA on the provision for training for teachers in RE and CW
- Monitor inspection reports on RE, CW and SMSC
- Consider complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and CW referred to it by the LA
- Sponsor or support any activity or project which it deems to be consistent with the other terms of reference mentioned in this document
- Produce a development plan to guide the work and set objectives for future development

Legal Duties
Its main function is to advise the LA on matters related to Collective Worship in community schools and some other schools and on the Religious Education given with the Agreed Syllabus. The SACRE can:

- Keep under review the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Agreed Syllabus until such time (and no later than five years after the publication of the last Agreed Syllabus) it decides to require the LA to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to institute a formal review
- Advise on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and the provision of training for teachers
- To advise on the effective and creative implementation of the collective worship requirements of the Education Act 1996 and consider requests by schools for determinations
- The SACRE must publish an annual report of its work and this to be sent to DfE and NASACRE
- Demonstrate to OFSTED or any other Government body how SACRE supports RE and CW as well as general policies of religion and worldview inclusion
- Meet at least 3 times each year

Bodies and Organisations Responsible for Nomination of Members
The overall purpose of this is to ensure that all key religious groups are represented on the SACRE:

- Church of England
- Diocesan Director of Education based at Chelmsford
- Free Church association
- Roman Catholic Education Service.
- Buddhist, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and Jewish Communities plus any other which becomes known
- Humanists UK
- The local secretaries of all teachers unions
- Teacher representatives from primary and secondary schools
- The local council
- The local governors association
- Student RE Matters representation – through their excutive
- Other local authority organisations which have links with religious communities in Newham. If it is difficult to gain formal nomination then the SACRE, at its discretion can appoint individuals to represent religious communities.

SACRE Meetings
There will be at least three meetings each year. The minutes and agenda will be decided by SACRE and sent out by the council to all SACRE members. For a meeting to be quorate it will need to have present at least one representative from the four committees that would form an ASC. Meetings will be quorate whether virtual, hybrid or face to face.

The Agenda will be agreed by the SACRE and the Chair ensuring that all relevant items are being addressed throughout the year. Notice of meetings, minutes and agenda will be sent out by the LA to representatives. Items on the agenda may include examination of OFSTED reports on the teaching of RE and on matters of Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual Development that are raised in reports. It may also consider determinations if a local school requests that its worship provision should not be 'broadly Christian' but represent a dominant religious group within that school. In addition to the above the SACRE may set up a small subcommittee to advise the whole SACRE on matters of policy and development.

Termination of membership
Where a member has not attended two consecutive meetings without giving apologies the SACRE clerk will formally write to them to state that their membership will be terminated, and the clerk will be contacting the members nominating body to ask for a new representative.

Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)
An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) is convened in order to produce an Agreed Syllabus for RE. It should take into account any guidelines provided by the DfE or any other statutory or non-statutory guidance. It is a separate legal entity from a SACRE. It contains the same four committees as a SACRE. Also it can be made up from SACRE members but need not do so. There is no provision for co-opted members. The LA can appoint the Chair of the ASC or the LA may allow the ASC to choose its own Chair. The LA's responsibility to convene an ASC implies a duty to provide funds for its work. This is laid down in Education Act 1 '996 Chapter 111 Schedule 31'.

Role of SACRE Members Representing Religion and Worldview Communities

- Should present a positive image of the religion and worldview they represent
- Ensure that other members of their communities including parents with children at school are aware of the work and role of SACRE
- Represent any issues of concern to parents and other community members
- Create opportunities within SACRE meetings to raise awareness of issues of sensitivity in the teaching of RE to the children of their religion and worldview community
- Advise on issues relating to the teaching and content of RE supporting schools in their best endeavours to develop their teaching
- Support schools by helping to provide names of people suitable to resource teachers in the classroom or school assembly
- Form Committee A and B during an Agreed Syllabus conference

Role of SACRE Members Representing Teachers

- Ensure that the needs of the schools and teachers are considered by SACRE in their discussions
- Provide information about the context in which RE is taught
- Ensure that the associations they represent are informed about the work of SACRE
- Create opportunities for other teachers to learn about the work of SACRE and give them the opportunity to have their views expressed at SACRE meetings
- Consult other teachers on matters of particular importance to the work of SACRE
- Form Committee C during an ASC

Role of SACRE Members Representing the LA

- Bring to the meeting the breadth of education issues and concerns that elected members have and place the role of RE within it
- Support RE in the various committee and structures of the LA
- Bring the voice of governors to all SACRES considerations around RE and CW
- Give political support to the teaching and resourcing of RE and CW

- Appreciate the issues raised by a multi faith, multicultural society and reflect these concerns within the LA
- Bringing the public dimension to debates about RE provision and support
- Form Committee D during and ASC

Publicising the work of SACRE

- Publish an annual report of its work specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting out the reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LA
- Ensure proceedings are reported to all appropriate committees of the LA and the office of the Chief Executive
- Meetings are open to the public and notice of SACRE meetings should be published on the LA website, along with its minutes

SACRE may wish to:

- Make an annual presentation to the Assembly of the council on the work of SACRE before presentation of annual Report to Chief Executive.
- Disseminate an understanding of the educational role of RE and Collective Worship and to encourage the active involvement of local religious groups and organisations
- Create a summary of annual report on the work of SACRE to be sent to schools for informing teachers and parents and to be published in the News and other appropriate organs of communication

Last reviewed January 2022

Appendix 1

The Law concerning LA, SACRE, RE and CW

Taken from '**Religious Education in English schools: Guidance from the DfE 2010'**

The role and responsibility of the LA

Each LA must:

- establish a permanent body called a standing advisory council on religious education (SACRE).[1] LAs must appoint representatives to each of four committees, representing respectively:
  1. Group A: Christian denominations and such other religions, worldviews and religious denominations as, in the authority's opinion, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
  2. Group B: the Church of England
  3. Group C: teacher associations
  4. Group D: the LA
- establish an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference (ASC) to review the agreed syllabus for RE adopted by the LA.[2] This may have common membership with the SACRE but is a separate entity and must therefore be separately convened
- institute a review of its locally agreed syllabus within five years of the last review, and subsequently every five years after the completion of each further review
- appoint members of the committees represented on the ASC[3]
- ensure that the composition of Group A on a SACRE and Committee A on an ASC is broadly representative of the proportionate strengths of the denominations and religions in the area. The statutory provisions recognise that there will be occasions when the interest of efficiency overrides the requirement for directly proportionate representation [4]
- take all reasonable steps when appointing a person to be a member of a group on a SACRE or a committee of an ASC to represent any religion, denomination or association, to ensure the person appointed is representative of the religion, denomination or associations in question.[5]
- To ensure that people being considered for appointment to SACREs and ASCs are representative, it is normal for LAs to seek nominations from the organisations that have a right of representation on each of the groups or committees. While LAs should seek nominations separately for membership of SACREs and ASCs, as these are separate organisations with different functions, hey may request that consideration be given by nominating bodies to nominating the same individuals for membership of both the SACRE and the ASC. There is nothing restricting membership of the LA group (SACRE) or committee (ASC) to elected members. LAs are free to include senior LA officers or others whom they consider can appropriately represent the authority.
- An LA should fund and support a SACRE and an ASC satisfactorily in line with the duty to constitute or convene each of these bodies and to enable them effectively to carry out their functions.

An LA may:

- decide on matters to refer to its SACRE, including in particular methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training[6]
- give its SACRE a role in the local statutory complaints procedure under Section 409 of the Education Act 1996.

The role and responsibility of a SACRE

A SACRE must:

- advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the agreed syllabus, and on matters related to its functions, whether in response to a referral from the LA or as it sees fit. [7]
- publish an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describe the nature of that advice, and set out reasons for offering advice on matters not referred to it by the LA. [8]
- send a copy of the report to the DfE and NASACRE. [9]
- meet in public unless confidential information is to be disclosed. [10]
- make minutes of its meetings available for inspection at the LA's offices (so far as the minutes relate to the parts of meetings that were open to the public). There are also provisions about public access to the agenda and reports for meetings.[11]

A SACRE should:

- monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus
- provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus; provide advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training
- in partnership with its LA, consider whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the agreed syllabus, to improve the quality teaching and learning of RE
- offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

A SACRE may:

- require its LA to review the agreed syllabus and, if after discussion a vote is taken on this matter, the LA group on SACRE is not entitled to cast a vote.[12] A majority decision by the three other committees is sufficient
- decide to advise the LA on matters related to its functions to the LA – equally, an LA may decide to refer matters to its SACRE [13]
- co-opt members who are not members of any of the four groups [14] – such co-opted members may provide educational expertise, young peoples' views or religious and non-religious views that reflect a diverse multi-cultural society.

However, on any question to be decided by a SACRE, its constituent groups each have a single vote but co-opted members do not have a vote.[15]

Decisions within a group do not require unanimity. Each group must regulate its own proceedings, including provision for resolving deadlock. Many SACREs have chosen to adopt a constitution to regulate their proceedings and ways of working.

The role and responsibility of an ASC

Every LA is required to establish and support an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference (ASC).

An ASC must:

- produce and recommend to the LA an agreed syllabus for RE which is educationally sound and meets legal requirements – as indicated earlier, this process should take account of the illustrative primary programme of learning and secondary programme of study but is in no way bound by them
- with any sub-committee it may appoint,[16] meet in public, subject to exceptions in relation to confidentiality [17]
- unanimously recommend a syllabus for adoption by the LA (each committee having a single vote) - there are provisions for the Secretary of State to become involved where an ASC is not unanimous [18]
- include on any sub-committee at least one member of each of its constituent committees.

An ASC may specify what must be taught through the locally agreed syllabus.

In recommending a syllabus the ASC may not specify the amount of curriculum time that must be allocated to RE by schools, but they may provide an estimate of how much time their syllabus would require, to help schools to plan their timetable.

Membership of an ASC

- An ASC is required to be made up of four committees [19]
- Committee A – Christian denominations and such other religions and religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area;
- Committee B - the Church of England
- Committee C - teacher associations
- Committee D - the LA.

There is no legal provision for an ASC to include co-opted members, but it can seek the advice it considers appropriate from those it considers appropriate, to inform the development of effective RE provision in its area.

The agreed syllabus

The locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus of RE prepared under Schedule 31 to the Education Act 1996 and adopted by the LA under that schedule. It must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination.

Once adopted by the LA, the agreed syllabus sets out what pupils should be taught and can include the expected standards of pupils' performance at different stages.

Every locally agreed syllabus must reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.[20]

The law does not define what the principal religions represented in Great Britain are. ASCs can decide which are the principal religions represented in Great Britain, other than Christianity, to be included in their agreed syllabus.

Agreed syllabuses in any community school and any foundation, voluntary-aided or voluntary-controlled school without a religious character cannot require RE to be provided by means of any catechism or formulary which is distinctive of a particular religious denomination.[21]

This prohibition does not extend to the study of catechisms and formularies.

SACRE membership

SACREs have many opportunities to engage all their members as stakeholders and ambassadors of RE. Increasingly, LAs and SACREs are adopting innovative good practice by co-opting representatives of pupils on their SACREs, or by having parallel young people's SACREs. However, on any question to be decided by a SACRE, its constituent groups each have a single vote but co-opted members do not have a vote.[34] Decisions within a group do not require unanimity. Each group must regulate its own proceedings, including provision for resolving deadlock. Many SACREs have chosen to adopt a constitution to regulate their proceedings and ways of working.

Footnotes references:
1 Section 390, Education Act 1996
2 Schedule 31(2), Education Act 1996
3 Schedule 31(4), Education Act 1996
4 Section 390, Schedule 31(4), Education Act 1996
5 Schedule 31(7), Education Act 1996; Section 392(2), Education Act 1996
6 Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996
7 Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996
8 Section 391(6) and (7), Education Act 1996
9 Section 391(10), Education Act 1996
10 Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994, SI 1994/1304
11 Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994, SI 1994/1304
12 Section 391(3), Education Act 1996
13 Section 391(3), Education Act 1996
14 Section 390(3), Education Act 1996
15 Section 390(7) and Section 391(4), Education Act 1996
16 Schedule 31(6), Education Act 1996
17 Regulation 3, S1 1994/1304
18 Schedule 31(10), Education Act 1996
19 Section 390(2) Education Act 1996; Schedule 31, para 4, Education Act 1996
20 Section 375, Education Act 1996
21 Para 3 of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Reviewed January 2022

Development Plan September 2026- July 2027

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: Advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus

Advice and Guidance for Teachers

What?	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements	Progress
Analysis of exam results	Compilation of local and national data	Written Draft report to SACRE Annual Report sent to NASACRE, the LA, the DfE and the Education Cabinet Committee	Consultant – 2 days SACRE Chairman	Publish an Annual Report which is sent to NASACRE and the DofE	
Hold 3 meetings of SACRE p.a. plus 3 meetings of Chair's pre-briefing meeting	On a virtual platform or face to face as desired	Agendas and Minutes Financial Budget Annual Report	Consultant – 9 days Admin. support Chair Membership	Hold meetings in public. Make Agendas and Minutes available to the public	
Advise LA on RE and CW matters relating its functions	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings Publish annual report by December 2026	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support SACRE Chairman	Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate	
CPD for Kent schools	Continue with local network groups Local groups to meet 3x year	To SACRE after the events Report on progress	Adviser. Natasha, Andrew, Fiona, Liz- running local groups	Ensure good quality CPD for schools	

Review the Kent Agreed Syllabus 22-27 in light of the curriculum and assessment consultations	Hold an Agreed syllabus Conference to decide to extend use of the Kent syllabus for a year.	Clerk and RE Adviser (RE Today cost projections)	All members	Continue to have an Agreed Syllabus for Kent that is suitable and promotes excellent RE	
Inform schools of Syllabus review	After discussion put notice in Kelsi website	RE Consultant	See below	Suitable syllabus for Kent schools	
Support for collective Worship in Schools	Discuss cw in meetings	SACRE members to attend training event Cllr members to report on CW from school visits	Adviser Cllrs	To monitor quality and practice of CW In Kent schools	
Monitor provision of RE and schools Encourage teachers to look at the Kelsi website	Re visiting Monitoring websites	Written summary to SACRE annually Guidance sent to schools Send a news sheet to RE Coordinators each term on Kelsi	Consultant – 2 days Admin. support	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	
The WIRE Award Encourage schools to take the award. Give advice	Advertise through news bulletin, the Kent and Medway Hub on Facebook and the Kelsi website.	Members sent evidence to look at and judge them Members of SACRE to give out framed certificates to local schools	Certificates Judging panel of SACRE members	Monitor the provision, impact and quality of RE	

OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE

What?	How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements	Progress
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Use the self-evaluation toolkit to focus on developing areas Communications with LA and schools Relationship with LA Hold Kent Governors course	At SACRE meetings Evaluation and feedback to SACRE SACRE Annual report RE Consultant	SACRE members SACRE Chairman Consultant Admin. Support RE Consultant Enquire with Governor services -speak about new syllabus	Stakeholders to contribute to wider educational objectives of the LA Governor knowledge of RE curriculum in schools	
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Hold one meeting in the summer term in a place of worship	clerk	Faith members	Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	
Review the Kent SACRE constitution	Discuss at SACRE meeting in Autumn	All	Compare Kent constitution with NASACRE model	A suitable terms of reference document updated.	
Membership of SACRE to better reflect diversity of religions and teacher community	Check membership and ask unrepresented groups to send a rep. Ask Kent teachers to attend	Verbally to SACRE	Membership Chair and Vice Chair Clerk to keep track of membership	Bring together local stakeholders to act positively for the LA on statutory duties for RE and CW and wider strategic educational objectives	
Membership of SACRE training and understanding	Training for members during SACRE meetings	To SACRE and in Annual report	RE Consultant using NASACRE materials	Members to advise the LA on RE and CW and wider educational objectives of the LA	

of educational objectives Send rep to NASACRE AGM in May	Encourage members to attend NASACRE training events. Make sure that someone attends the NASACRE AGM	Members to report on training Report back to SACRE in the summer meeting and take any actions necessary	Chair or other member	SACRE members to understand their role fully Understanding of wider issues in religious education	
Support high quality CPD	LA to be advised to commission CPD Collaboration with Dioceses Collaboration with CCCU and Regional (NATRE) Hub	Financial support from budget as appropriate Evaluation and feedback to SACRE	SACRE members SACRE Budget	Monitor the provision and quality of RE Meeting with RE Teachers and networking	

Development Plan September 2025- July 2026

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: Advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus

Advice and Guidance for Teachers

What?	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements	Progress
Analysis of exam results	Compilation of local and national data	Written Draft report to SACRE Annual Report sent to NASACRE, the LA, the DfE and the Education Cabinet Committee	Consultant – 2 days SACRE Chairman	Publish an Annual Report which is sent to NASACRE and the DofE	Exam results received from Kent ed team and added to the annual report
Hold 3 meetings of SACRE p.a. plus 3 meetings of Chair's pre-briefing meeting	On a virtual platform or face to face as desired	Agendas and Minutes Financial Budget Annual Report	Consultant – 9 days Admin. support Chair Membership	Hold meetings in public. Make Agendas and Minutes available to the public	3 held
Advise LA on RE and CW matters relating its functions	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings Publish annual report by December 2025	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support SACRE Chairman	Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate	Written and sent to relevant people December 2025
CPD for Kent schools	Continue with local network groups Local groups to meet 3x year	To SACRE after the events Report on progress	Adviser. Natasha, Andrew, Fiona, Liz- running local groups	Ensure good quality CPD for schools	Planning being done spring term Lunch ordered from sacre budget. Successful event held

	Schools event in June 2026 at Salvation Army				
Inform schools of Syllabus review	After discussion put notice in Kelsi website	RE Consultant	See below	Suitable syllabus for Kent schools	Review held until national situation is discovered
Support for collective Worship in Schools	Discuss cw in meetings Put on training for teachers online in 2026	SACRE members to attend training event Cllr members to report on CW from school visits	Adviser Guest Cllrs	To monitor quality and practice of CW In Kent schools	Monitoring by members
Monitor provision of RE and schools Encourage teachers to look at the Kelsi website	Re visiting Monitoring websites	Written summary to SACRE annually Guidance sent to schools Send a news sheet to RE Coordinators each term on Kelsi	Consultant – 2 days Admin. support	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	Website checking spring term
The WIRE Award Encourage schools to take the award. Give advice	Advertise through news bulletin, the Kent and Medway Hub on Facebook and the Kelsi website.	Members sent evidence to look at and judge them Members of SACRE to give out framed certificates to local schools	Certificates Judging panel of SACRE members	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	3 presentations in autumn term Further presentations in the spring term. **9 schools**

OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE

What?	How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements	Progress
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Use the self-evaluation toolkit to focus on developing areas Communications with LA and schools Relationship with LA Hold Kent Governors course	At SACRE meetings Evaluation and feedback to SACRE SACRE Annual report RE Consultant	SACRE members SACRE Chairman Consultant Admin. Support RE Consultant Enquire with Governor services -speak about new syllabus	Stakeholders to contribute to wider educational objectives of the LA December 2025 Governor knowledge of RE curriculum in schools	Schools written to
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Hold one meeting in the summer term in a place of worship	clerk	Faith members	Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Met in the Salvation Army June 30th
Review the Kent Syllabus	Discuss at SACRE meeting Syllabus license ends in 2027	All	RE Today cost projections Other syllabuses to purchase	A suitable syllabus must be provided by the LA for schools	Information on price of 1 year license obtained Decision to hold off the review
Membership of SACRE to better reflect diversity of religions and teacher community	Check membership and ask unrepresented groups to send a rep. Ask Kent teachers to attend	Verbally to SACRE	Membership Chair and Vice Chair Clerk to keep track of membership	Bring together local stakeholders to act positively for the LA on statutory duties for RE and CW and wider strategic educational objectives	Clerk continuing to support this

Membership of SACRE training and understanding of educational objectives Send rep to NASACRE AGM in May	Training for members during SACRE meetings Encourage members to attend NASACRE training events. Make sure that someone attends the NASACRE AGM	To SACRE and in Annual report Report back to SACRE in the summer meeting and take any actions necessary	RE Consultant using NASACRE materials Chair or other member	Members to advise the LA on RE and CW and wider educational objectives of the LA Understanding of wider issues in religious education	Clerk reminded people of the webinars and courses Liz Pope and Penny Smith-Orr attended the NASACRE AGM. Report to made at summer meeting
Support high quality CPD	LA to be advised to commission CPD Collaboration with Dioceses Collaboration with CCCU and Regional (NATRE) Hub	Financial support from budget as appropriate Evaluation and feedback to SACRE	SACRE members SACRE Budget	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	

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	Subj	Budget	Total Estimated Amount	Actual YTD Spend	Remainder available to spend
External Room Hire	**120000**		£ 58.00	£ 58.00	
Public Transport Expenses	**230000**		£ 95.59	£ 95.59	
Mileage Expenses	**242000**		£ 26.64	£ 26.64	
Refreshments	**342000**		£ 608.91	£ 608.91	
Printing and Photocopying Charges	**350000**		£ -	£ -	
Attendance Fees for Conferences	**440000**		£ 315.00	£ 315.00	
Subsistence	**441000**		£ -	£ -	
Subscription to NASACRE	**451000**		£ 185.00	£ 185.00	
		£ 5,000.00	**£ 1,289.14**	**£ 1,289.14**	**£ 3,710.86**

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Chair of SACRE Cllr Spencer Dixon

Intro from the Chair will be inserted here.

Three meetings of Kent SACRE were held during the academic year 2025-2026.

Kent County is 1,442 square miles and is the 10th largest county in England. The population was approximately 1.85 million in the 2021 census and there are 13 administrative districts including Medway unitary authority.

The Sikh community is mainly found near Gravesend where the largest Gurdwara in Europe, and largest outside India, is situated. Otherwise, the people of faith are spread across the region.

The table below shows the percentage of religious beliefs in 2021.

2021 Religion - percentages	All usual residents	No religion	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	Not answered
England & Wales	100.0	37.2	46.2	0.5	1.7	0.5	6.5	0.9	0.6	6.0%
South East	100.0	40.2	46.5	0.6	1.7	0.2	3.3	0.8	0.6	6.1%
Kent	**100.0%**	**40.9%**	**48.5%**	**0.6%**	**1.2%**	**0.1%**	**1.6%**	**0.8 %**	**0.6%**	**5.8%**

Kent Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed syllabus for Kent SACRE is produced by RE Today services. The current syllabus runs from 2022-2027. There are over 600 schools in Kent, and we understand that most use this online syllabus. Due to the current curriculum and assessment review by the Government, which we are told will require changes in 2028, we are extending the use of the syllabus by one year.

Monitoring of school's websites gave SACRE information on RE provision and schools where it is not mentioned on the website were written to. Teachers regularly contact the RE adviser for help and advice on various aspects of teaching and learning.

We don't know about schools applying for the REQM as SACRE runs its own, free, activity 'The WIRE', or Widening Inclusivity in RE. Schools have to fulfil 4 main criteria and send their evidence to the SACRE committee who judge whether RE is having an impact on pupils at the school. A certificate is then awarded for the achievement and this lasts 3 years. During the academic year 2025-26 nine schools achieved the award.

Teachers occasionally request advice about withdrawal of pupils from religious education which the adviser gives them, but SACRE does not hold data on how many children are withdrawn.

There are some Primary teacher networks running in different areas of Kent and a secondary online network. The primary networks are reasonably well attended, and teachers can get support and ideas for resources. There are a couple of films for schools which have been made by pupils in Kent describing their faith which are available to teachers. The RE Adviser puts messages onto the Kelsie website for Kent teachers and there are a number of guidance documents also available on that website learning.

Prior to Ramadan a document was sent out on guidelines for including pupils who might be fasting, in continuing education.

Once a year we hold a training event for schools in Kent. This year it was held in June at the Salvation Army HQ in Maidstone after our regular SACRE meeting. This event had teachers from both Primary and Secondary schools attending- it was entitled 'Enhancing and Enriching RE Provision in your school' and speakers from the different faith communities spoke about the key aspects to be taught about each faith. There was also a session on visits to places of worship and visitors to schools and information on the latest known developments for RE nationally.

Collective worship

When monitoring the schools' websites it was found that not very many mentioned Collective worship at all. There is a guidance called Gathering Together on the Kelsie website for schools who want help with inclusive collective worship. Schools which achieve the WIRE award are visited and presented with a certificate during their collective worship.

Kent SACRE members have done training on Determinations but to date there have been none applied for.

Although there are occasional requests from teachers on what to do about withdrawal of pupils from collective worship, we do not hold any data on actual numbers of withdrawn pupils.

Links with other areas

The SACRE is a member of NASACRE and has purchased the training package, and some members have taken advantage of the different training events. Members attended the NASACRE conference in Liverpool and reported back to the committee.

The adviser to Kent SACRE is also an adviser to two other SACREs and is also involved with the Faith and Belief Forum.

Kent comes under two Diocesan authorities, Canterbury and Rochester. The advisers from both attend SACRE meetings and give useful information on their schools in Kent. There is an active interfaith group in Maidstone and members of this go into schools to talk about their faiths. Other members of Kent SACRE have also been invited into schools to talk.

Advice to schools on festivals and guidance documents from SACRE are given through the Kelsi website for Kent teachers.

Ramadan advice was sent to the school's website and other guidance is also available.

Statutory Arrangements of Kent SACRE

Three meetings of Kent SACRE were held during the academic year 2025-2026.

At the County Hall in Maidstone on 5 November 2025 and 3 March 2026 these were hybrid meetings. The summer meeting was held in person at the Salvation Army HQ in Maidstone on 30 June 2026.

At each meeting there are several standing items including looking at the progress of the development plan for the year, membership updates and WIRE award submissions.

The Development plan is written by the adviser and discussed and added to as a working document throughout the year with a final plan showing the years progress presented at the summer meeting. Self-evaluation of SACRE was carried out in June 2024 and will be updated during the coming year.

Clerking is provided by Kent Council and a professional Adviser is engaged for a maximum of sixteen days per year. This is to fulfil the statutory duties of a SACRE adviser as outlined by NASACRE. SACRE is given a generous budget of £5000 per year, a budget update is produced by the Council for each meeting, and this is sufficient to pay for meetings and an event each year for teachers.

The clerk is responsible for membership of SACRE in Kent. He keeps track of the length of membership and brings in new members as necessary. We finally managed to secure a Muslim representative during this year having been without one for the past couple of years. We also have new Hindu and Buddhist Representatives. Meetings were always quorate probably due to the hybrid nature of them.

SACRE members are encouraged to join the NASACRE online training sessions as appropriate and to report back to the committee and several members attended the teacher training event in the summer term. Two members of Kent SACRE attended the NASACRE conference, and the Adviser attended the AREIAC conference in the summer.

Attendance at Meetings 2025-26

GROUP A: Faiths and other beliefs other than C of E	**Attendance**	**GROUP B: Church of England**	**Attendance**
A Goldstein Jewish	0	**Canterbury Diocesan board of Education**	
S Polden Baha'i	2	B Naden	3
J Wigg Salvation Army	2	Ms Ralph	3
N Kaur Cheema Sikh	2	K Porteous *Retired March 2026*	0
F Hawkes Catholic	1	A Parker *Joined June 2026*	1
J Philpott Catholic	2	**Rochester Diocesan Board of Education**	
M Paddison Chapman Baptist	2	C Bostock	1
C Elapatha Buddhist	2	N Brownfield	2
A Sinha Hindu	0	G Hitch	1
S Bowen Humanist	3	**GROUP D: LA**	**Attendance**
M Khan Islam *Joined May 2026*	0	S Dixon	3
GROUP C: Teachers	**Attendance**	T Dean	0
K Burke	3	P Williams *Joined Sept 2025*	3
M Lawson	2	P Chamberlain *Retired Jan 2026*	1
J Paul *Retired July 2026*	3	C Russell *Joined Jan 2026* *Retired April 2026*	1
H Williams *Retired July 2026*	2	D Burns *Joined April 2026*	1
H Ballard *Joined July 2026*	n/a	Others	**Attendance**
Co-opted - E Pope	2	Clerk from Democratic Services	3
Co-opted - Mr A Shepherd	1	Consultant Mrs Smith-Orr	3
Co-opted - H Curtis	0		
Co-opted – E Watson	0		

Development Plan September 2025- July 2026

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: Advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus

Advice and Guidance for Teachers

What?	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements	Progress
Analysis of exam results	Compilation of local and national data	Written Draft report to SACRE Annual Report sent to NASACRE, the LA, the DfE and the Education Cabinet Committee	Consultant – 2 days SACRE Chairman	Publish an Annual Report which is sent to NASACRE and the DofE	Exam results received from Kent ed team and added to the annual report
Hold 3 meetings of SACRE p.a. plus 3 meetings of Chair's pre-briefing meeting	On a virtual platform or face to face as desired	Agendas and Minutes Financial Budget Annual Report	Consultant – 9 days Admin. support Chair Membership	Hold meetings in public. Make Agendas and Minutes available to the public	3 held
Advise LA on RE and CW matters relating its functions	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings Publish annual report by December 2025	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support SACRE Chairman	Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate	Written and sent to relevant people December 2025
CPD for Kent schools	Continue with local network groups Local groups to meet 3x year	To SACRE after the events Report on progress	Adviser. Natasha, Andrew, Fiona, Liz- running local groups	Ensure good quality CPD for schools	Planning being done spring term Lunch ordered from sacre budget.

	Schools event in June 2026 at Salvation Army				Successful event held
Inform schools of Syllabus review	After discussion put notice in Kelsi website	RE Consultant	See below	Suitable syllabus for Kent schools	Review held until national situation is discovered
Support for collective Worship in Schools	Discuss cw in meetings Put on training for teachers online in 2026	SACRE members to attend training event Cllr members to report on CW from school visits	Adviser Guest Cllrs	To monitor quality and practice of CW In Kent schools	Monitoring by members
Monitor provision of RE and schools Encourage teachers to look at the Kelsi website	Re visiting Monitoring websites	Written summary to SACRE annually Guidance sent to schools Send a news sheet to RE Coordinators each term on Kelsi	Consultant – 2 days Admin. support	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	Website checking spring term
The WIRE Award Encourage schools to take the award. Give advice	Advertise through news bulletin, the Kent and Medway Hub on Facebook and the Kelsi website.	Members sent evidence to look at and judge them Members of SACRE to give out framed certificates to local schools	Certificates Judging panel of SACRE members	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	3 presentations in autumn term Further presentations in the spring term. **9 schools**

OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE

What?	How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements	Progress
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Use the self-evaluation toolkit to focus on developing areas Communications with LA and schools Relationship with LA Hold Kent Governors course	At SACRE meetings Evaluation and feedback to SACRE SACRE Annual report RE Consultant	SACRE members SACRE Chairman Consultant Admin. Support RE Consultant Enquire with Governor services -speak about new syllabus	Stakeholders to contribute to wider educational objectives of the LA December 2025 Governor knowledge of RE curriculum in schools	Schools written to
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Hold one meeting in the summer term in a place of worship	clerk	Faith members	Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Met in the Salvation Army June 30th
Review the Kent Syllabus	Discuss at SACRE meeting Syllabus license ends in 2027	All	RE Today cost projections Other syllabuses to purchase	A suitable syllabus must be provided by the LA for schools	Information on price of 1 year license obtained Decision to hold off the review
Membership of SACRE to better reflect diversity of religions and teacher community	Check membership and ask unrepresented groups to send a rep. Ask Kent teachers to attend	Verbally to SACRE	Membership Chair and Vice Chair Clerk to keep track of membership	Bring together local stakeholders to act positively for the LA on statutory duties for RE and CW and wider strategic educational objectives	Clerk continuing to support this
Membership of SACRE training and	Training for members during SACRE meetings	To SACRE and in Annual report	RE Consultant using NASACRE materials	Members to advise the LA on RE and CW and wider educational objectives of the LA	Clerk reminded people of the webinars and courses

understanding of educational objectives Send rep to NASACRE AGM in May	Encourage members to attend NASACRE training events. Make sure that someone attends the NASACRE AGM	Report back to SACRE in the summer meeting and take any actions necessary	Chair or other member	Understanding of wider issues in religious education	Liz Pope and Penny Smith-Orr attended the NASACRE AGM. Report to made at summer meeting
Support high quality CPD	LA to be advised to commission CPD Collaboration with Dioceses Collaboration with CCCU and Regional (NATRE) Hub	Financial support from budget as appropriate Evaluation and feedback to SACRE	SACRE members SACRE Budget	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	

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