

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, 5th November, 2025 at 10.00 am

1. Apologies for Absence/Substitutes
2. Declarations of Interests
3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10.6.25 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Development Plan 2024-25 and 2025-26 (Pages 7 - 14)
5. School Website Review Update
6. RE Advisor Verbal Update
Including;
Secondary Schools virtual meeting
Interfaith Week
Planning for the afternoon of the away day in July 2026
The curriculum review
7. Budget Update (Pages 15 - 16)
8. Update on Local Network Groups
9. The WIRE Awards (Pages 17 - 18)
10. Draft Annual Report 2024/25 (Pages 19 - 32)
11. The Kent Agreed Syllabus - Sept 2027 (Pages 33 - 36)
12. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

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Tuesday, 28 October 2025

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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 in the The Common Room, Cathedral Lodge Canterbury on Tuesday, 10 June 2025.

PRESENT: Mr S Dixon (Chair), Miss M Paddison-Chapman (Vice-Chair), Mr S Bowen, Ms N Brownfield, Ms K Burke, Mr P Chamberlain, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mrs M Lawson, Mrs B Naden, Mr J Paul, Mrs S Polden, Mrs J Wigg and Ms H Williams

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

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Membership

(Item 1)

New Members

The SACRE extended a warm welcome to Mrs Simmone Polden who joined the Council as the Baha'i representative, and Mr Spencer Dixon, Mr Paul Chamberlain and Mrs Trudy Dean who joined as Kent County Council representatives.

Election of Vice-Chair

Members RESOLVED that Mrs Paddison-Chapman be re-affirmed Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the period up to May 2029.

2. Apologies for Absence/Substitutes

(Item 2)

Apologies were received from the following:

Miss Pope, Mr Shepherd, Ms Ralph, Miss Bostock, Mrs Elapatha, Mrs Goldstein, Mrs Cheema, Mrs Porteous and Ms Hawkes.

3. Declarations of Interests

(Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 12.3.25

(Item 4)

Subject to the correction of Mrs M Lawson's name in the list of those present, the minutes were approved as a correct record.

5. RE Advisor Verbal Update and Wire Awards (Item 5)

Interfaith Week Update

1. Mrs Smith-Orr advised that a report on the findings of the Government's consultation regarding its support of Interfaith Week had been published. The report suggested that consideration should be given to moving the week from its traditional timing in November. Mrs Smith-Orr added that the Government had disbanded Interfaith UK, who previously organised the week, however individuals and organisations continued to hold the week last year and were planning on doing so again in November 2026. The event was being supported by the Faith and Belief Forum, who had stepped in to replace Interfaith UK. They worked hard to promote the event with lots of useful resources for schools and other event organisers.

Update on the curriculum review and RE's inclusion in a new National Curriculum

2. Mrs Smith-Orr confirmed that she had responded to the Government's consultation with the points that SACRE members had shared with her. The interim report had been published and only briefly referred to religious education.
3. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:
 - There seemed to be widespread support for the introduction of a national framework for RE from those attending the recent NASACRE Conference.
 - A national framework could help to make some schools take the provision of RE more seriously and could help to reduce disparities in the quality of RE provision between schools. However, it was important to ensure that the framework was flexible enough to meet the needs of different types of schools.
 - The final report was expected to be released in November 2025.
 - Some Members suggested that the introduction of a national framework maybe beneficial, but the syllabus should continue to be agreed at a more local level as those living in the area were best placed to decide what should be taught.
 - SACRE's were formed in 1988, this changed the teaching of RE to include all religions. More recently RE teaching has evolved to consider world views and many syllabuses look to identify the similarities and differences between faiths.
 - A good syllabus helps to develop understanding and tolerance of others with different faiths and beliefs. The Kent syllabus is one of the most broad ranging and inclusive syllabuses available to schools.
 - Mrs Smith-Orr offered to circulate the Kent syllabus to the new members of the SACRE.

The WIRE Awards

4. Mrs Smith-Orr provided a bit of background information about the WIRE Award, advising that schools could pay £500 to apply for an RE Quality Mark from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. However, in light of school budget limitations, some SACRE's, including Kent, ran the WIRE Award as a free alternative. The WIRE award had four categories that were

intended to raise the profile of RE in schools. Schools collect evidence over a year then submit what they have done for assessment.

5. It was RESOLVED that the submissions from both Ditton Infant School and Lady Boswell's Primary School had met the threshold to receive the WIRE award.
6. Mr Dixon and Mr Paul offered to present the Award to Ditton Infant School and Mrs Smith-Orr offered to present the award to Lady Boswell's Primary School.

6. Verbal Update on Local Network Groups

(Item 6)

1. Ms Brownfield advised that she had held two meetings since the SACRE last met. She felt there was a strong core of interest developing and said that the group recently met for the first time in person. They had heard from Picture News at a recent meeting and some of the schools had chosen to look more deeply into the services they offered.
2. Mrs Paddison-Chapman shared that the Thanet group had continued to grow and sometimes had up to 12 attendees. She felt that It was an effective way for teachers to develop relationships between schools.
3. Mrs Smith-Orr said that there had been a couple of online secondary school meetings since the last SACRE meeting. She intended to hold an in-person event at least once a year.

7. Development Plan 2024-25

(Item 7)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr introduced the development plan.
2. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:
 - The WIRE Award section was to be updated with one entry in Spring and two in Summer.
 - Consideration was to be given to using The Salvation Army in Maidstone for the next SACRE away day in summer 2026.
 - The SACRE away day could take place in the morning and be followed by some training and engagement with teachers in the afternoon.

8. 2025 NASACRE Conference Feedback

(Item 8)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr, Ms Burke, Mrs Cheema and Mr Clapson attended the conference. Those present who had attended the conference gave a brief overview of what had been discussed and highlighted that conference had been very interesting experience.

2. Mr Clapson advised that further information could be viewed using the following link: [2025: SACREs taking a stand: positive responses to controversial issues - NASACRE](#)
3. Members would be advised of the 2026 conference details when they became available.

9. School Website Review Update

(Item 9)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr advised that one remit of the SACRE was to monitor RE and collective worship in schools. The law directed that 5% of teaching time should be allocated to the subject. SACRE Members had been conducting a desk top review to assess if school websites showed any information about RE, collective worship or the amount of time they dedicated to it.
2. During consideration of the update the following points were raised:
 - Thanks were offered to all those who had sent Mrs Smith-Orr their review results.
 - There were 536 schools in Kent and 181 had been assessed so far. A lot of these schools did not specify which syllabus they were using.
 - Some schools were using the Discovery RE syllabus, which was based upon the Kent agreed syllabus but had to be purchased. The Kent syllabus was free and had been sent to all the schools.
 - The Chair offered to write a letter to all schools to advise them that review was taking place and to advise of its criteria. This letter could also be circulated via the Kent Association of Leaders.

10. Budget Update

(Item 10)

1. The latest budget position had been included in the agenda.
2. New SACRE members were to advise Mr Clapson if they wished to have an annual subscription to RE Today.

11. The Kent Agreed Syllabus - Sept 2027

(Item 11)

1. Mrs Smith-Orr shared the following points:
 - The last syllabus ran from 2022-27. SACRE had a duty to review the syllabus every five years.
 - The last syllabus was purchased from RE Today and there would be a requirement to renew the license if a new syllabus was not adopted. It would cost around £22,512 to purchase a new syllabus.
 - If the Government introduced a national syllabus, it was probable that it would closely resemble the RE Today syllabus as around half the SACREs in the country used it.

12. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent
(Item 12)

There were no other items considered.

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Development Plan September 2024- July 2025

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

Advice and Guidance for Teachers

What?	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 arrived December Annual report written and sent out in February
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	2 meetings held in Maidstone. Summer meeting at Canterbury Cathedral
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 2024	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support SACRE Chairman	Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate	continues
CPD for Kent schools	Continue with local network groups Face to Face meeting in September Secondary meeting in June 2025	To SACRE after the events Report on progress	Adviser. Natasha, Andrew, Fiona, Liz- running local groups	Ensure good quality CPD for schools	Meeting in September Local groups run by teachers going well Secondary meeting was held in July

Support for collective Worship in Schools	Discuss cw in meetings Put on training for teachers?	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	Website checking Summer 2025 Letter sent to schools saying the website check would be done
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 summer 2025 Letter sent to schools saying the website check would be done
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. Tell teachers when the SACRE meeting will be.	Each termly meeting to look at any entries and judge them Members of SACRE to give out certificates to local schools	Certificates Judging panel of SACRE members	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	8 Schools achieved the award during this year And were presented with certificates Other schools collecting evidence

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 2024 Governor knowledge of RE curriculum in schools	Ongoing
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Hold one meeting in the summer term in a place of worship	clerk	Vice chair to approach canterbury cathedral for 2025	Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Meeting in Canterbury Cathedral
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 continues to monitor this
Membership of SACRE training and understanding of educational objectives	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	NASACRE Training package purchased and members encouraged to take up training To decide reps in Spring meeting/ 3 Reps sent to AGM will report in Summer

Send rep to NASACRE AGM in May	Encourage members to attend NASACRE training event. 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	
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	Local groups continue

Development Plan September 2025- July 2026

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Advice and Guidance for Teachers

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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 2025	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 Schools event in June 2026 at Salvation Army	To SACRE after the events Report on progress	Adviser. Natasha, Andrew, Fiona, Liz- running local groups	Ensure good quality CPD for schools	

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 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	
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 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 December 2025 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 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	
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 of educational objectives	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	
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	
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	

E 1RN 19069 - SACRE 2025-26

		Budget	Total Estimated Amount	Actual YTD Spend	Remainder available to spend
	Subj				
External Room Hire	120000		£ -	£ 141.67	
Public Transport Expenses	230000		£ 80.00	£ 86.50	
Mileage Expenses	242000		£ 170.00	£ 84.44	
Internal Refreshments	342000		£ -	£ 65.83	
Printing & Photocopying Charges	350000		£ -	£ -	
Attendance Fees for Conferences	440000		£ -	£ 360.00	
Subscription to NASACRE	451000		£ -	£ 175.00	
Reimbursement to Academies for supply cover	521000		£ -	£ -	
External Refreshments	646000		£ -	£ -	
Reimbursement to Schools for supply cover	680000		£ -	£ -	
Subsistence Expenses	441000		£ -	£ -	
		£ 5,000.00	£ 250.00	£ 958.44	£ 3,791.56

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Kent WIRE awards

school	Year Awarded
St Georges Wrotham	2021
St Peter in Thanet	2022
Reculver	2022
Allington	2022
Garling	2023
Cecil Road	2023
Sheldwich	2023
Parkway	2023
Leeds and Broomfield	2023
Victoria Road	2024
Holy Trinity and St Johns	2024
Westlands	2024
Ditton	2025
Ospringe	2025
St Georges Wrotham	2025
Lady Boswell	2025
Iwade	2025
Grove park	2025
Lunsford	2025 (Not decided yet)
Christchurch Academy Folkestone	2025

In the pipeline for 2026 are Mayfield Grammar and The Whitstable school

We may hear from Herne Junior school in the next term.

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To: All SACRE Members, Council Members,
Kent County Council Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education,
Head Teacher / Chair of Governors all schools in Kent, NASACRE and the DFS

KENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Kent SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs



A message from the Chair of Kent SACRE, Cllr Spencer Dixon

Attendance at the meetings held in the school year 2024-2025

GROUP A: Faiths and other beliefs other than C of E	Attendance	GROUP B: Church of England	Attendance
A Goldstein Jewish	1	Canterbury Diocesan board of Education	
R Smith Baha'i <i>Retired March 2025</i>	1	B Naden	3
S Polden Baha'i <i>Joined May 2025</i>	1	Ms Ralph	2
J Wigg Salvation Army	3	K Porteous	2
N Kaur Cheema Sikh	0	Rochester Diocesan Board of Education	
F Hawkes Catholic	1	C Bostock	2
J Philpott Catholic <i>Joined Oct 2024</i>	1	N Brownfield	3
M Paddison Chapman Baptist	3	G Hitch	2
C Elapatha Buddhist	0	GROUP D: LA	Attendance
A Sinha Hindu	1	S Manion <i>Retired May 2025</i>	2
S Bowen Humanist	3	J Hawkins <i>Retired May 2025</i>	1
GROUP C: Teachers	Attendance	S Hamilton <i>Retired May 2025</i>	1
K Burke	3	Mr Jeffrey <i>Retired May 2025</i>	2
J Paul	2	S Dixon <i>Joined May 2025</i>	1
M Lawson	2	P Chamberlain <i>Joined May 2025</i>	1
H Williams	2	T Dean <i>Joined May 2025</i>	1
Co-opted - E Pope	0	Others	Attendance
Co-opted - Mr A Shepherd	1	Clerk from Democratic Services	3
Co-opted - H Curtis	0	Consultant Mrs Smith-Orr	3
Co-opted – E Watson	0		

Overview of meetings

Three meetings of Kent SACRE were held.

On 5th November 2024 and 12th March 2025 meetings were held at Sessions House Maidstone. These were hybrid meetings, with roughly half the members online.

On 10th June 2025 an in person only meeting was held at Cathedral Lodge Canterbury.

The agenda is set by leaders of each group, the Chair, Adviser and clerk at an online meeting each term.

At the meetings we have a few standing items such as the budget, the development plan progress, membership, and the Kent SACRE WIRE award.

Other discussions were on the response from Kent SACRE to the DfE call for evidence for the Curriculum and Assessment review, a response was made on behalf of the SACRE ad members were encouraged to send in their own responses. There was a brief discussion on the interim report when it was published. A response to the Ofsted assessment and inspection framework was also discussed.

The local network groups and Kent teachers' events. The WIRE awards and ways to monitor religious education and collective worship in schools. Interfaith week.

Feedback from the NASACRE conference. At the summer meeting we welcomed a new chair and new councillors from the new Reform Council.

Religious Education Statutory responsibilities.

The Kent Agreed Syllabus is from RE Today and is coming up to its tenth year in 2027. Discussions are ongoing within the SACRE committee as to whether to continue for the next five years with updated RE Today material or not. A revised syllabus from RE Today has been quoted at £23000 as there are 536 schools in Kent. A one-year extension for the syllabus licence is available at a cost of £4502.00 which would give time for us to see if the Curriculum and Assessment review by the DfE gives any advice on a national curriculum.

Monitoring Religious education is a constant source of discussion. The local group networks which are run by teachers on the SACRE committee discuss RE at their meetings and pass on the information. RE coordinators email the adviser with requests for help and advice and this give some information for SACRE. A great source of knowledge on how schools are doing RE is the WIRE award that is free for schools to enter. They have a year to gather evidence on the four criteria, the RE Coordinator to attend a network or course on RE, pupils to be taken on visits to a church and another faith place of worship and interact with the community and to either enter a competition or have an RE week or display for parents and governors to visit. The number of schools taking part has grown each year and during the year 2024-2025 eleven schools achieved the award and were presented with a certificate, during their collective worship, by a member of the SACRE.



Lady Boswells school presentation



Westlands presentation

It was decided in the summer term to write to all schools, introducing the new Chair and telling them that SACRE would be looking at schools' websites for mention of religious education and collective worship. This will take place during the 25-26 academic year by members of SACRE. As far as we know, no school has applied for the REQM award as they can do the WIRE award for free and many schools don't have a big budget for RE.

In September 2024 the adviser ran a face-to-face meeting for RE coordinators which was attended by teachers from the Maidstone area. Two teachers run a termly network, one in Thanet and one centred round Wrotham. These are sometimes online and sometimes in a school and are going very well. Teachers in community schools are also invited to join in the Diocesan networks which also happen termly. The adviser has met with a couple of Secondary teachers online in the hope that other Heads of Departments would join in.

There have been no applications for a determination and no complaints during the year.

In the summer term discussions on the need for a syllabus review were reported to the LA.

Collective Worship

Monitoring of schools doing collective worship is ongoing. Some websites have been scrutinised, and all schools have now been written to with advice to them that SACRE will be looking for mention of collective worship on their website. The reason that collective worship is more difficult to find information about is that the RE coordinator is not always responsible for collective worship.

There have been no determinations applied for, Kent SACRE has done training on determinations and will probably update this during the coming year as we have several new members and a new chair.

SACRE involvement with local and wider national bodies.

The SACRE is a member of NASACRE and has purchased the training package, so some members have taken advantage of the different training events. Three members attended the NASACRE conference in May and reported back to the committee. The adviser is involved with the Faith and Belief Forum and the new plans for Interfaith week were discussed at a meeting. 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 go into schools to talk about their faiths.

Governor training has not been possible to arrange. Advice to schools on festivals and guidance documents from SACRE is given through the Kelsie website for Kent teachers.

SACRE statutory Responsibilities

Kent SACRE is supported by an adviser who is employed for a maximum 15 days a year. There is an excellent clerk provided by Kent County council, he is responsible for recruitment of new members and checks their credentials from their nominating body. He has been reasonably successful in recruiting new members during this year, we still need a replacement Muslim member. The councillors on the committee have been helpful with some issues that have been raised. New councillors including a new chair started in May 2025.

A budget update is produced by the Council for each meeting and has always been very generous. Members who present the WIRE award can claim for the cost of a frame for the award.

Appendix A Exam results

Appendix B

CPD provided to schools

September 2024 Meeting for teachers in the Maidstone area

Termly network meetings held in Thanet and Wrotham -some online and some face to face.

Termly networks by the two Diocese representatives open to community schools

Appendix C

As found on page 8 of the syllabus

- Religious education contributes dynamically to children's and young people's education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- In RE pupils learn about and from religious and non-religious worldviews in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.
- Pupils learn to evaluate wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully.
- Teaching therefore should equip pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.
- It should develop in pupils an aptitude for dialogue, so that they can participate positively in society, with its diverse religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence.
- Pupils should be given opportunities to reflect upon their own personal responses to the fundamental human questions to which religious and non-religious worldviews respond.
- Pupils should learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

This broad purpose of RE is captured in the principal aim, which is intended to be a shorthand version for day-to-day use. Teachers should use it for short-term and long-term planning, to remind them of the purposes articulated above.

Principal aim

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

Kent guidance on Collective worship is available to schools and is called Gathering Together.

The policy is-

In order to offer relevant advice and to fulfil our statutory duty with regard to collective worship we:

- monitor the provision and quality of collective worship in schools.
- consider determinations and complaints.

Kent SACRE encourages all our schools to provide collective worship which offers opportunities for pupils to worship and reflect on key issues to do with life and living.

- ensure that legal requirements for collective worship are met.
- produce a policy statement and implement a collective worship programme in line with the guidance offered in this document.

All pupils/students have an entitlement to take part in an act of collective worship every school day which must be provided by the school. Collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils who attend and take part in it.

Appendix D Development Plan September 2024- July 2025

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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 2024	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support SACRE Chairman	Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate	continues
CPD for Kent schools	Continue with local network groups Face to Face meeting in September Secondary meeting in June 2025	To SACRE after the events Report on progress	Adviser. Natasha, Andrew, Fiona, Liz- running local groups	Ensure good quality CPD for schools	Meeting in September Local groups run by teachers going well Secondary meeting was held in July
Support for collective Worship in Schools	Discuss cw in meetings Put on training for teachers?	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	Website checking Summer 2025 Letter sent to schools saying the website check would be done
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 on Kelsi to RE Coordinators each term	Consultant – 2 days Admin. support	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	Website checking summer 2025 Letter sent to schools saying the website check would be done

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. Tell teachers when the SACRE meeting will be.	Each termly meeting to look at any entries and judge them Members of SACRE to give certificates to local schools	Certificate s Judging panel of SACRE members	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	8 Schools achieved the award during this year And were presented with certificates Other schools collecting evidence
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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 2024 Governor knowledge of RE curriculum in schools	Ongoing
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Hold one meeting in the summer term in a place of worship	clerk	Vice chair to approach canterbury cathedral for 2025	Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Meeting in Canterbury Cathedral
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 continues to monitor this
Membership of SACRE training and understanding of educational objectives Send rep to NASACRE	Training for members during SACRE meetings Encourage members to attend NASACRE training event.	To SACRE and in Annual report	RE Consultant using NASACRE materials Chair or other	Members to advise the LA on RE and CW and wider educational objectives of the LA	NASACRE Training package purchased and members encouraged to take up training To decide reps for AGM in Spring meeting/ 3 Reps sent to AGM will report in Summer

AGM in May	Make sure that someone attends the NASACRE AGM	Report back to SACRE in the summer meeting and take any actions necessary	member	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	Local groups continue

Appendix E Circulation of Annual Report

All SACRE Members, Council Members,

Kent County Council Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education,

Head Teacher / Chair of Governors all schools in Kent, NASACRE and the DFS

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Advice for SACREs about Local Government Reorganisation

The government has announced that it will facilitate a programme of local government reorganisation for two-tier areas and for those unitary councils where there is evidence of failure or where their size or boundaries may be hindering their ability to deliver sustainable and high-quality services for their residents. This has potential to significantly affect 42 SACREs

On 5 February 2025, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution Jim McMahon, wrote to all councils in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities to formally invite proposals for local government reorganisation (LGR).

Areas submitted interim plans by 21 March, and full proposals will follow later in the year at the end of November. The Government will follow the established assessment and decision-making process, with a view to undertake elections in May 2027 ahead of the establishment of new local authorities in April 2028.

Surrey, and those areas on the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP), will move at greater speed. These are the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, East Sussex, West Sussex, Essex, Hampshire, and the authorities within them.

Final proposals are currently subject to public consultation in Surrey, with a view to undertaking elections for the new authorities in May 2026 ahead of go live in April 2027.

Areas on the DPP will submit final proposals by the end of September, with a view to undertaking elections for the new authorities in May 2027 ahead of go live in April 2028.

	Final proposals	Consultation	Decision	Legislation laid	Shadow council elections	Go live
Surrey	May 2025	Closes 5 August 2025	October 2025	Early 2026	7 May 2026	1 April 2027
DPP	26 Sept 2025	November 2025	March 2026	Autumn 2026	6 May 2027	1 April 2028
Non-DPP	28 Nov 2025	Early 2026	Before summer recess 2026	Autumn 2026	6 May 2027	1 April 2028

On the date when the new Authority 'goes live' the old LA will cease to exist and the new LA(s) will come into being. From that date the new Authority will have a statutory duty to:

- Establish and support a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), including appropriate membership, governance, and resourcing.
- Convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to determine the local Agreed Syllabus for RE and review it at least every five years.
- Provide maintained schools with clear guidance and access to the current Agreed Syllabus for RE and arrangements for collective worship, including determinations.
- take note of, and respond to, advice from the SACRE.

NASACRE advises those affected SACREs to work with your LA and plan ahead. It may be wise for those SACREs who have a syllabus due for revision to set up an ASC to renew the existing syllabus, rather than undertake a full scale revision, until the new Authority is in existence.

There may be scope for Authorities to collaborate and set up a single SACRE over a number of Authorities, as has happened in Cumberland and Westmorland with the Cumbrian SACRE.

Alternatively, with more evenly sized LAs there may be potential for the Agreed Syllabus to be a more accurate reflection of the locality.

(Thanks to LGA for much of the information <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution/devolution-hub/local-government-reorganisation-lgr>)

The affected LAs and therefore SACREs are:

Local Authority	Type	LGR phase
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Blackpool Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Brighton & Hove City Council	Unitary Authority	DPP - Sep 2025
Cambridgeshire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Derby City Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Derbyshire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Devon County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
East Sussex County Council	County Council	DPP – Sep 2025
Essex County Council	County Council	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
Gloucestershire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Hampshire County Council	County Council	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
Herefordshire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Isle of Wight Council	Unitary Authority	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
Kent County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Lancashire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Leicester City Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Leicestershire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Lincolnshire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Medway Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Norfolk County Council	County Council	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
North East Lincolnshire Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
North Lincolnshire Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Nottingham City Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Nottinghamshire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025

Oxfordshire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Peterborough City Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Plymouth City Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Portsmouth City Council	Unitary Authority	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
Reading Borough Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025 Reading isn't formally part of the programme so aren't subject to a deadline
Rutland County Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Southampton City Council	Unitary Authority	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
Southend-on-Sea City Council	Unitary Authority	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
Staffordshire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Suffolk County Council	County Council	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
Surrey County Council	County Council	First wave
Thurrock Council	Unitary Authority	Devolution Priority Programme – Sept 2025
Torham Council	Unitary Authority	Third wave – Nov 2025
Warwickshire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025
West Berkshire Council	Unitary Authority	West Berks aren't formally part of the programme so there's no deadline as such, though if they go in with South Oxfordshire then they will submit in November
West Sussex County Council	County Council	DPP - Sep 2025
Worcestershire County Council	County Council	Third wave – Nov 2025

October 2025