

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
2022-2023**

**Kent SACRE is a member of the National
Association of SACREs**



SACRE Chairman's remarks

Global events highlight the need for good quality religious education so our students can understand some of the issues which underpin these events.

In Kent we strive to improve the quality of religious education. Awards like the Wire Award encourage teachers to be proactive in delivering religious education.

2023 has also seen the retirement of some long-standing members and I personally thank them for the passion and service to religious education in Kent.

I also want to thank the wider SACRE membership along with our professional adviser as well as Kent County Council in supporting Kent SACRE

Cllr Steve Manion

Kent SACRE met three times during the year at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on 24th November 2022, 2 March and 15th June 2023. These are hybrid meetings with about half the members on line and half in person.

Attendance at Meetings

GROUP A: Faiths and other beliefs other than C of E	Attendance	GROUP B: Church of England	Attendance
N Younosi Muslim Retired Spring 2023	1	Canterbury Diocesan board of Education	
A Goldstein Jewish	0	R Swansbury Left Spring 2023	2
J Grant Bah'ai	2	R Walters	2
G Spragg Methodist	0	Ms Ralph from Spring	2
J Wigg Salvation Army	3	Rochester Diocesan Board of Education	
N Kaur Cheema Sikh	1	J Roddan	1
F Hawkes Catholic	2	C Bostock	3
M Paddison Baptist	3	N Brownfield	3
C Elapatha Buddhist	1	GROUP D: LA	
		S Manion Chair	3
		A Brady	2
		S Hamilton	3
		Mr Jeffrey	1 Of 1
GROUP C: Teachers	Attendance	Others	
K Burke	3	Clerk from Democratic Services	3
J Paul	3	P Smith-Orr RE Consultant	3
M Duncombe	1		
Coopted - E Pope	1		
Mr A Shepherd	2		

Overview

The big discussion this year was the launch of the updated Kent Agreed Syllabus in October 2022 and trying to ensure that it was sent to all schools. 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 this year were on some films for schools to use that we have been making, NASACRE and a report from the RE Consultant each term. We have discussed the Interfaith groups in Kent and a Holocaust Memorial Day event that was held. The self-evaluation tool was used in Spring 2022 so will be looked at again in 2024. A

development plan with progress achieved and the self-evaluation results are at the end of this report.

Religious Education Statutory responsibilities.

The updated locally agreed syllabus was launched in October 2022 at an all-day event with advisers from RE Today leading. During the day there was training for all schools and separate training sessions for primary and secondary. The papers for this day were kindly printed by Kent County Council officers. There was a bit of trouble getting the link to the new syllabus sent to the 500 plus schools in Kent and a message was put on the Kelsi website for schools to contact the Re Consultant if they had not received it. The RE consultant is available to answer email requests for information and questions of a specific nature and many schools use this facility through the year.

Monitoring is difficult but is done through looking at websites and receiving emails from schools. We run the WIRE award in Kent and schools send in evidence to be judged by the committee at each meeting. This does give an indication of the work being done in schools that apply. During this year the seven schools that achieved the award were Allington, Garlinge, Leeds and Broomfield, Parkway and Sheldwich, Cecil Road and Victoria Road Primaries. Members of the SACRE go to the schools and award the certificates. Some pictures can be found below. In the Autumn meeting we slightly revised the criteria for the award to focus more about the impact that RE is having on the pupils. As far as we know no school has applied for the REQM.

We had a discussion on links with teaching hubs. Mr Shepherd volunteered to run a network meeting for schools local to his at Garlinge. This was agreed and Mrs Paddison, our Baptist representative, agreed to support him. The first meeting was on zoom and there have subsequently been a couple of further meetings in person. Mrs Hawkes the Catholic representative and head of RE at a boys grammar school also arranged a network meeting for secondary teachers which went very well and further meetings will be arranged. Ms Brownfield of the Rochester Board of Education will also be running a local network meeting during the next year. These meetings will enable us to get an idea of RE in several schools and will hopefully benefit the RE Coordinators. Advice to the LA has been to ask for exam results and to use our budget for a Kent wide meeting to see that the new syllabus is embedded in schools.

During covid it was decided that we would try to help schools by making some films of pupils talking about their faith. This was undertaken mainly by Mrs Burke and edited by Mrs Swansberry's husband. Unfortunately, there has been a problem with who can hold the films securely and pass them to the schools. This has now been resolved and schools can ask for a link to the Canterbury Diocese website where the films are held in a secure area.

The WIRE Award certificate is given by a SACRE member during a collective worship, here are Garlinge Primary and Sheldwich Primary being presented with their awards.



Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

There has been no monitoring of collective worship this year. The secondary teachers network briefly discussed it. It would seem that a look through the schools' websites again might be a good idea. There is a Guidance on Collective Worship available on the Kelsi website for schools.

There have been no Determinations referred to SACRE, members have been trained in how to deal with this if it arises.

Links with other bodies

Kent SACRE members are linked with, and part of many different other organisations as follows:

The Education Boards of Canterbury and Rochester	Support teachers and advisers nationally on RE for children with special needs.
Trustee of the Kent Liberal Jewish community.	Peripatetic teacher of learners with vision impairment
Maidstone Interfaith Network. Tunbridge Wells Interfaith	Church of England General Synod and Canterbury Deanery Synod
Kent SACRE is a Member of NASACRE	Council of Reference of the Church of England Readers Council.
HMD commemoration event committee	Chair of Gobs at Victoria Rd Ashford
The Salvation Army	Chair at Little Ark preschool Ashford
Links with the NATRE exec and Culham St Gabriel's	Vice Chair at ACE Academies Ashford.
Head Teacher of a school in the Alethia Anglican Academies Trust	Methodist Church Elder and ECC - Ecumenical Church Council
Members of local faith forums go into schools to talk about faith.	President of Northwest Kent branch Trade Union NASUWT

Local Involvement

Members of Maidstone and Tunbridge who are members of SACRE visit schools and talk about their faith.

SACRE'S Statutory Responsibility

The SACRE has the support of an RE Consultant at each meeting and advising teachers by email. We also have the support of the Democratic Services to do clerking for the meetings, The Education People service helps with arrangements for course for teachers.

The members of Kent SACRE are reasonably representative of the county of Kent, new members are sought if there is a vacancy and members are asked for a letter of recommendation from their governing body. This year we had some resignations but have either replaced the representative or are in the process of doing so.

We are fortunate to have members from both the Rochester and Canterbury Boards of Education, this is useful for links with schools in Kent and for their insight into the state of RE and Collective Worship in the County.

The budget holder of the SACRE budget is available and provides a termly budget update and the SACRE has up to £5000.00 per year to spend. Hybrid meetings are held at the Kent County Council offices in Maidstone.

Appendix A Self-Evaluation of Kent SACRE – March 2022

Number	Key Area	Requires improvement	Developing	Established	Advanced
Section 1 management of SACRE					
1a	Funding: Professional and financial support			x	
1b	SACRE meetings				x
1c	Membership and training		x		
1d	Improvement/development planning			x	
1e	Information and advice		x		
1f	Partnerships with key stakeholders			x	
1G	Relations with the Academies sector			x	
Section 2 Standards and Quality of Provision of RE					
2a	RE provision across the LA.			x	
2b	Standards of achievement and public examination entries	x			
2c	Quality of learning and teaching.	x			
2d	Quality of interaction and communication with leadership and management of RE			x	

2e	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools.	x			
Section 3 The effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus					
3a	The review process			x	
3b	The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus			x	
3c	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus			x	
3d	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)				x
3e	Developing the revised agreed syllabus			x	
3f	Making best use of National Guidance				x
Section 4 How effectively does the SACRE fulfil its responsibilities for the provision and practice of Collective Worship					
4a	Supporting pupil entitlement		x		
4b	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		x		
4c	Responding to requests for determinations				x
Section 5 Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community					
5a	SACRE's membership			x	
5b	SACRE's understanding of the local area				x
5c	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda			x	
5d	SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion		x		

Development Plan September 2022- July 2023

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

Advise 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	The annual report was written and sent out in the Autumn Term. The DfE was unable to send Councils the breakdown of exam results. NASACRE is looking into this.
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	Autumn, Spring and summer term meeting 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 2022	Consultant – 4 days Admin support SACRE Chairman	Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate	As No1 above

CPD for Kent schools	Train teachers in use of revised syllabus Hold Secondary Hub meetings	To SACRE after the event Report on progress	Adviser, RE today. Liz Pope, Adviser, National Hub leader. Canterbury University	Ensure good quality CPD for schools	Meetings held with providers and SE Hub leader. Primary network meeting led by A Shepherd in Spring term and summer term. Secondary network meeting booked for 20 th June.
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	Still need to discuss
Monitor provision of RE and schools Encourage teachers to look at the Kelsi website	Re visiting Monitoring websites Send out survey to RE coordinators	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	Kelsi have updated some items Teachers contacting Adviser through Kelsi
The WIRE Award Encourage schools	Advertise through news bulletin, the Kent and Medway Hub on Facebook and	Each termly meeting to look at any entries and judge them Members of SACRE to	Certificates Judging panel of SACR	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	WIRE awards presented to 4 schools during

to take the award. Give advice	the Kelsi website. Tell teachers when the SACRE meeting will be.	give out certificates to local schools	Members		Autumn/spring Summer term judging to take place
Ensure the revised Agreed Syllabus 2022 is in schools	RE Today to publish revised Syllabus	Report on training to SACRE meeting in November	SACRE budget plus to be used- Contact Emma Stone	Provide an up to date RE Syllabus for schools in Kent	Syllabus Launched in October, schools sent digital copy. still sending the link to some schools

OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE

What?	and 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 2022 Governor knowledge of RE curriculum in schools	Undertaken in march 2022 Needs to be planned for spring 2024 Not achieved
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	ongoing

				CW and wider strategic educational objectives	
Membership of SACRE training and understanding of educational objectives	<p>Training for members during SACRE meetings</p> <p>Encourage members to attend NASACRE training event</p>	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	Members to be given space to report on training sessions from NASACRE Summer term meeting report from NASACRE Agm
Support high quality CPD	<p>LA to be advised to commission CPD</p> <p>Collaboration with Dioceses</p> <p>Collaboration with CCCU and Regional (NATRE) Hub</p>	Financial support from budget as appropriate Evaluation and feedback to SACRE	SACRE members SACRE Budget	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	<p>Autumn 2023 virtual meeting to be planned</p> <p>Local meetings undertaken. Larger meeting postponed until spring 2024</p>