

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

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 in 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 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	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
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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

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