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of pupils from religious education which the adviser gives them, but SACRE does not hold data on how many children are withdrawn.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