

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

**KENT STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019**



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

The Statutory Duties of a SACRE

All LAs are required to establish and support a SACRE.

A SACRE's main function, as set out in the 1996 Education Act is:

“To advise the Local Education Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in County schools and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus as the Authority may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit”. (s.391 (1) (a))

Such matters include: -

“Methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers”.

A SACRE also:

- Requires the LA to support a five-yearly review of its current Agreed Syllabus (s.391(3))
- Must consider applications made by a head teacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in County schools 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 a particular school - “determinations”. (s.394(1))

It is a legal requirement that the SACRE publish an Annual Report to inform relevant parties, including schools, of the advice that SACRE has given to the Local Authority and of the actions taken to support RE and Collective Worship in schools using the Agreed Syllabus, that have resulted from this advice.

The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools through:

- Giving advice on methods of teaching using the Agreed Syllabus Religious Education;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to by the LA;
- Asking the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.

Kent SACRE is a member of NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) and representatives attend national meetings.

Kent SACRE does not have an opportunity to contribute to other agendas within the Council.

This report covers the work of the Kent SACRE during the academic year from September 2018 to August 2019

Opening remarks from the Chair of SACRE

Welcome to the 2018 - 19 Annual Report of the Kent SACRE.

The SACRE has met three times during the academic year. We have continued our commitment to hold at least one meeting each year in a venue away from County Hall. This year's June meeting was hosted by The Greek Orthodox Church in Margate. We heard a very interesting presentation on the work of the Church in the modern world. This reflected SACRE's ongoing desire to engage with the broad range of faith and denominational groups that are component parts of Kent SACRE.

SACRE has continued to make efforts to engage with all schools across Kent, to ensure their compliance with requirements to provide high quality Religious Education and opportunities for Collective Worship. Through the communications with national appointing bodies, SACRE has tried to quickly fill vacancies that arise in the Groups. We believe it is important that we have a membership drawn from the Faith Groups and the range of schools found locally as they help to ensure that SACRE is reflective of the diversity found in Kent. SACRE continues to benefit from its partnership with the different faith groups, the Anglican Diocesan Education boards of Canterbury and Rochester and with Canterbury Christ Church University. We are also thankful for the support that is provided by our former AST colleagues. Not only are they each a member or co-opted to SACRE, but they do provide a valuable link between Secondary Schools / Academies and ourselves.

We continue to monitor the usefulness of the updated Kent agreed syllabus, this has resulted in extra work and I am grateful for the support of the KCC cabinet member for Education Mr. Roger Gough. This year Kent SACRE has also been involved in monitoring of school websites in relation to Religious Education and we intend to cover all schools in the County, this is a large undertaking and I would thank the volunteers who have been doing this work.

Kent SACRE has also been active in contributing to national initiatives such as the Commission on Religious Education. As Chairman, I would like to give a very special mention and express thanks to the officers from Democratic Services who have supported our meetings. I would like to thank all those who serve on Kent SACRE, teachers, Diocesan and faith group representatives, and fellow County Councillors. The professional support of our consultant /adviser and the democratic support are also gratefully acknowledged. This team has worked very hard this year to provide support so that we are able achieve our aims despite challenges in a time of ongoing austerity. We are grateful for the ongoing support and interest of the Local Authority and for the active involvement of senior officers and Members in our activities. I would like to pay a special thanks to the Vice Chairman Mrs. Nicky Younosi who has provided invaluable support through the year and Penny Smith-Orr for her work as the consultant advisor to Kent SACRE.

Cllr Steve Manion Chair of Kent SACRE

Three SACRE meetings were held in this academic year on:

27th November 2018 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

5th March 2019 at The Greek orthodox Church and Hall Westgate on Sea

11th June 2019 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

Three SACRE briefing meetings to set the agenda were held with the chairs of each of the constituent groups.

Advice to the Local Authority (LA)

The SACRE advises the LA to bring this report to the attention of schools and governing bodies.

In all maintained schools other than Voluntary Aided schools or schools of a religious character, but including Voluntary Controlled Schools, Religious Education has to be taught according to the Kent Agreed Syllabus 2017. The Diocese of Canterbury continues to recommend that all Church of England schools also follow the Kent Agreed Syllabus and the Diocese of Rochester recommends that its Voluntary Controlled schools use the Kent Agreed Syllabus;

Academies are reminded of their statutory requirement to teach Religious Education in accordance with their Funding Agreement. Academies in Kent are recommended to use the Kent Agreed Syllabus 2017 to ensure that they fulfil their statutory requirements.

Secondary schools are reminded that Religious Education is a statutory subject and that all KS4 students should follow an accredited course as required in the Agreed Syllabus.

In accordance with the expectations of the Kent Agreed Syllabus, schools are reminded of the requirement to assess pupils' progress in Religious Education and to report separately in the Summer reports.

Kent SACRE continues to work with KCC to ensure that essential and appropriate supporting materials and resources are made available on the Kent Education Learning and Skills Information (KELSI) web pages <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/>

All schools are reminded of their responsibilities to provide opportunities for daily Collective Worship. The place of collective worship in schools is upheld by statute and has been so since 1944. The basic requirement is that all registered pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day. There are only two exceptions to this: parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and pupils in school sixth forms are permitted to decide for themselves whether to attend or not. The Education Reform Act (ERA) 1988 stipulates collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'; it is deemed to be fulfilling this description if it 'reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief, without being distinctive of any Christian denomination.

Government

The committee discussed the report of the RE Commission and were pleased with many of the suggestions apart from changing the name of SACRE.

Schools

Religious Education

Kent Agreed Syllabus; Schools had been instructed to start implementing the New Agreed Kent RE Syllabus fully by September 2018. A hard copy of the syllabus was given to all teachers who attended the original launch and during the year many schools requested a digital version of the syllabus, this is sent out on request from the RE Consultant as due to copyright reasons the it cannot be put onto the Kelsi website.

After the successful launch of the new syllabus SACRE were able to engage two trainers from RE Today to run 3 courses for teachers in February 2019 with the RE Consultant for Kent SACRE in attendance. The morning was a rerun of the launch and explanation of how to use the syllabus, the afternoon was a course on teaching ideas using the new framework. Some teachers stayed for the whole day. Some teachers had missed the original launch and were grateful to have this opportunity while some schools sent a second person to benefit from the launch details.

A twilight session was held for the Secondary Heads of Department, the vice chair of SACRE attended this and spoke to the group about Islam. Fifty-five teachers attended during the day and the evaluation forms gave very good feedback particularly for the Primary RE sessions. Including saying how they would be able to better implement the syllabus and how they appreciated the creative ideas given.

There is no provision for RE Coordinator network meetings although a Hub for RE teachers has held meetings in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University and Teacher Associations. There is also a face book group for Kent RE teachers.

Starting last year, the committee have been monitoring the websites of the schools in Kent. With over 500 schools in Kent it is hard to fulfill the monitoring role of SACRE, so Kent SACRE members have monitored schools' websites for mention of RE and CW, the syllabus used, and the time taken. A letter was sent out to schools in the early summer explaining what we had found so far and encouraging Head Teachers to look at their own websites, Ofsted does use a school website as part of their monitoring process. The members continue to monitor these websites.

Schools in Kent have, in the past, been encouraged to apply for the RE Quality Mark (REQM). There are three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold can be achieved, and schools will be able to demonstrate their good practice in RE and have hard work recognised and rewarded (www.reqm.org); This is also a useful tool to use as a bench mark for excellent RE. However, this costs £480 which is out of the reach of many Primary RE departments. Kent SACRE discussed introducing a new free award to schools which was agreed on and will be launched in September 2019.

There were no formal complaints about Religious Education referred to Kent SACRE during this year.

Standards and Attainment

Monitoring the quality of religious education and collective worship is difficult for Kent SACRE, as for other SACREs as there is no power to visit schools and in Kent there are so many schools. The Diocesan Advisers for Rochester and Canterbury are able to report on the church schools and at the training events of the last two years discussions have given some idea. The Committee has been monitoring school websites for information about religious education and collective worship.

Exam results for Kent schools

These are not available as yet

Collective Worship

All schools are reminded of their responsibilities to provide opportunities for daily Collective Worship. The place of collective worship in schools is upheld by statute and has been so since 1944. The basic requirement is that all registered pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day. There are only two exceptions to this: parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship on grounds of religious conscience and pupils in school sixth forms are permitted to decide for themselves whether to attend or not. The Education Reform Act (ERA) 1988 stipulates collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'; it is deemed to be fulfilling this description if it 'reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief, without being distinctive of any Christian denomination.

A guidance on Collective worship for Kent Schools, 'Gathering Together', can be found on the Kelsi website.

During the year a training on how determinations are arranged was given to the committee. There have been no applications for a determination this year. There have also been no complaints concerning Collective Worship referred to SACRE during this academic year.

Management of Kent SACRE

A Religious Education (RE) Consultant attends meetings and gives advice to schools through email contacts and information on the Kelsi website. A clerk to SACRE is also provided and administrative support between meetings.

The Council provides an annual budget to support the running costs of Committee meetings and for the SACRE to perform its statutory functions and there are documents on the KELSI web pages for RE and Collective Worship (CW) resources. The budget allowed SACRE to put on further training on the new syllabus for teachers in the Spring Term. A new development plan is produced each year.

Three SACRE meetings, one of which was inquorate but ratified at the following meeting, were held in this academic year and three SACRE briefing meetings to set the agenda were held with the chairs of each of the constituent groups.

Details of SACRE Membership and attendance at meetings can be found in Appendix 1 and agendas and minutes of meetings can be found on the KCC website - www.Kent.gov.uk/SACRE.

The report is sent to the Head teachers/Chair of Governors of all schools in the county, The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), The Department of Education and the Local Authority. The report is also available on the SACRE pages of the Kent website.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SACRE'S WORK:

Three meetings of Kent SACRE were held during the year, it was decided at the first meeting that there would be a training section at the end of each of the meetings. These addressed how the Kent syllabus could/should be applied to both Primary and Secondary school teaching led by members Mrs. Burke and Ms. Brownfield with examples from pupils being shown to members and a talk on RE in Special schools from Mrs. Finn who provided examples of class work produced by her students from a Special Needs school to demonstrate how the Kent Syllabus had been applied and modified.

The members of Kent SACRE agreed to do the NASACRE self-evaluation of SACRE exercise in the Spring term and the results are printed below. A new development plan was produced for the following year and the budget was discussed at each meeting. It was decided that there should be another training session for teachers, this time on the new OFSTED orders and the role of the RE Coordinator in the Spring Term 2020.

The Kent Interfaith forum events and activities were reported to members who were invited to join in. The meeting in March to the Greek orthodox church included a tour of the church and a talk about the Greek Orthodox faith.

The Chair and the RE Consultant attended the NASACRE AGM in Manchester at the beginning of the Summer term and reported on ways to make SACRE a beacon of help and hope to schools.

Discussions were held to decide how we could improve the interface of the SACRE webpage on the Kelsi website and it was also suggested that a SACRE focused e-bulletin could be produced to ensure regular updates on the work that Kent SACRE had undertaken. This could include a section on website monitoring that highlighted to schools the key areas that Ofsted would investigate when looking at access to RE information on school websites. The committee also discussed and looked at the Bristol and South Gloucestershire SACRE document called The WIRE which leads to a free award to schools who can show good RE through a series of criteria. It was decided that with a few alterations Kent SACRE would start to use this as a means to encourage good practice in schools and to advertise the work of SACRE.

The members of Kent SACRE agreed to do the NASACRE self-evaluation of SACRE exercise in the Spring term and the results are printed below. A new development plan was produced for the following year and the budget was discussed at each meeting. It was decided that there should be another training session for teachers, this time on the new OFSTED orders and the role of the RE Coordinator in the Spring Term 2020.

Appendix 1 KENT SACRE Membership and Attendance at meetings 2018 – 2019

GROUP 1: CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS REFLECTING THE PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE AREA (13)

MEMBERS		Attended
Free Church (4)		
Mrs. Paddison	(Baptist)	2
Mrs. G Spragg	(Methodist)	1
Rev Belgrove	(United Reformed Church)	1
Mrs. J Wigg	-(Salvation Army)	2
Roman Catholic (3)	Mrs F Hawkes	1
Buddhism (1)	Mrs C Elapatha	0
The Greek Orthodox Church (1)	Mr M Papadopoulos (left March 2019)	2
Hinduism (1)		
Islam (1)	Mrs N Younosi (<i>Group Convener/SACRE Vice- Chair</i>)	2
Judaism (1)		
Sikhism (1)		
Ba’Hai	Mrs J Grant	2

GROUP 2: CHURCH OF ENGLAND (6)

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education (3)		
Mrs. V Corbyn	(<i>Group Convener</i>) until march 2019	2
Miss N Brownfield		3
Miss C Bostock		2
Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education (3)		
Mrs. B Naden		1
Miss R Walters		2
Mrs. R Swansbury		2

GROUP 3: TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (6)

NASUWT	Ms. K Burke (<i>Group Convener</i>)	3
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	Mr. Paul	2
Kent Association of Head Teachers Primary	Mrs. G Knox	1
Kent Association of Secondary Head Teachers	Vacancy	
NUT	Mr. W chambers	1
National Association of Head Teachers Kent Branch	Vacancy	
Co-opted Members	Miss E Pope	0

GROUP 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY (4)

Mr. S Manion	(<i>SACRE Chairman and Group Convener</i>)	2
Mr. M J Northey		1
Mr. I Chittenden		1
Mrs. Bell		2

	Key Area	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
Standards	1a	RE provision across the LA	x		
	1b	Standards of achievement and public exam entries	x		
	1c	Quality of teaching and learning	x		
	1d	Quality of leadership and management and resourcing	x		
	1e	Recruitment and retention	x		
	1f	Relations with academies and free schools	x	x	
Syllabus	2a	Review process of syllabus		x	
	2b	Quality of the syllabus			x
	2c	Launching and implementing		x	
	2d	membership of ASC			x
	2e	Developing revised syllabus			x
	2f	Use of national Guidance			x
Collective worship	3a	Support entitlement to CW		x	
	3b	Enhance quality of provision of CW		x	
	3c	Respond to determinations	x		
Membership	4a	SACRE meetings		x	
	4b	Membership and training	x		
	4c	Improvement/development planning		x	
	4d	Professional and financial support		x	
	4e	Information and advice	x		
	4f	Partnership with key stakeholders	x		
	4g	Relations with academies		x	
Promoting community cohesion	5a	SACRE membership	x		
	5b	SACRE understanding of the local area	x		
	5c	SACRE engagement with community cohesion		x	
	5d	SACRE role within LA initiatives on CC	x		

Kent SACRE results from SACRE Toolkit exercise Spring 2018