

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
2019-2020**



**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 2019 to August 2020

Opening remarks from the Chair of SACRE

Welcome to the 2019 -2020 Annual Report of the Kent SACRE.

The year has been significantly affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic. This resulted in a cancelled meeting as well as cancellation of public exams. Kent SACRE continues to work with partner organisations such as the RE Hub as well as links with schools and teachers across the county. We are keen to ensure that schools keep in mind their statutory responsibilities during these difficult times.

I am grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication of the members of Kent SACRE. I would also like to thank the Mr Richard Long, cabinet member for schools at KCC for his support.

The work of Kent SACRE also relies upon the dedication of our professional adviser Mrs Penny Smith-Orr.

We look for the opportunities in the next year

Steve Manion

Cllr Steve Manion Chair of Kent SACRE

Two SACRE meetings were held in this academic year on:

18th November 2019 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

3rd March 2020 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

Two 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.

General Advice Religious Education

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/>

DFE Advice on full opening of schools since Covid 19

The key principles that underpin our advice on curriculum planning are as follows.

Education is not optional

All pupils receive a high-quality education that promotes their development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The curriculum remains broad and ambitious

All pupils continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment.

Where needed, remote education is high-quality and safe, and aligns as closely as possible with in-school provision. Schools and other settings continue to build their capability to educate pupils remotely, where this is needed.

Informed by these principles, DfE asks that schools and other settings meet the following key expectations if considering revisions to their school curriculum for academic year 2020 to 2021. Teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, but make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content. Up to and including key stage 3, prioritisation within subjects of the most important components for progression is likely to be more effective than removing subjects, which pupils may struggle to pick up again later. Schools may consider how all subjects can contribute to the filling of gaps in core knowledge, for example through an emphasis on reading.

Ofsted will not carry out school inspections until January, but through the Autumn term 2020 'collaborative discussions, taking into account the curriculum and remote education expectations' in a sample of schools will take place. This will not result in a judgement of the school although a brief letter will be published after the visit.

Schools

Religious Education

Kent Agreed Syllabus.

Unfortunately, there is no provision for an RE Coordinator network meeting in Kent although a Hub for RE teachers has held meetings in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University and Teacher Associations. There is also a specific face book group for Kent RE teachers. In the Spring term two of a series of three courses were held for mixed primary and Secondary teachers on the subject of Ofsted Inspections of Religious education. The third event had to be postponed. It was good to meet a number of coordinators and discuss RE with them. Also, during the year, particularly during the Summer term teachers have emailed the Adviser with questions and anxieties and received responses.

Members of Kent SACRE continued to monitor the websites of Kent schools, looking for mention of religious education, the syllabus used, and time given to the subject. They also searched for information on collective worship. It was hoped that this would be finished during the year but has had to be curtailed and it has been agreed to continue in January 2021. In the meantime, the Diocesan Adviser for Canterbury has produced a checklist for school's websites that will go onto the SACRE pages of the Kelsi website.

In the Autumn Term Kent SACRE launched a free award for schools to apply for called 'The WIRE', with thanks to Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and Suffolk SACREs. This encourages Widening Inclusivity in RE and once schools have gone on two visits to places of worship or hosted a faith visitor, run an RE event in school and allowed the RE Coordinator to go on an RE course they can send the proof to SACRE. Several schools had signed up for this award before the lockdown and so have been given an extension of the year to complete the tasks, until such time as pupils can go on visits to places of worship again.

There were two enquiries about withdrawal of pupils during the year but 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. A number of teachers made enquiries during the year requesting help and advice on a range of topics. The Diocesan Advisers for Rochester and Canterbury also to report on the church schools.

Exam results for Kent schools

There are no results published from public examinations this year.

Collective Worship

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

The laws on Collective worship in schools have not changed and 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.

For some years it has been suggested that rather than a whole school gathering, where this is impossible, different groupings of pupils can meet for a daily collective worship. This now includes a 'bubble' within the learning community. It has been noted that in our monitoring of school websites that it is very rare to find any information about Collective Worship.

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 gives 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 for a free course for Kent RE teachers to attend in the Spring. A new development plan is produced each year.

There were only two meetings of SACRE during this year in the Autumn and Spring Terms. It was impossible to arrange even a virtual meeting during the Summer Term.

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.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SACRE'S WORK DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR:

This academic year started well and SACRE met in November and discussed the launch of The WIRE which will help Heads of RE and RE Coordinators to increase the profile of religious Education in their schools. During Interfaith Week several members of the Maidstone Interfaith group had taken part in an event at Aylesford School. There had also been an event at the Sikh Temple in Gravesend. Three free twilight training courses for schools in three different locations were planned for the Spring term.

The website monitoring that has been ongoing was reported on and 350 schools had so far been checked. A guidance for schools on what is statutory and what would be good to see on a website was written and will be put onto the Kelsi website. At the end of the meeting there was training for the SACRE members on what happens during an Ofsted inspection from the RE Adviser and what happens during a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools) by the Adviser for the Diocese of Canterbury.

At the Spring meeting there was further discussion on interfaith events which could be held throughout the year rather than in one week in November. The budget underspend was discussed and a plan to buy some books from RE Today services and give these to teachers during two events in the Summer was agreed- this subsequently could not happen as the National Lockdown started two weeks after the meeting. Two of the three free training events took place and the third had to be postponed. SACRE discussed that if there was a Deep Dive for RE during an Inspection and the RE was being taught by a TLR (teacher without teaching and learning responsibility) then a senior member of staff would be expected to accompany the Inspector.

The document, A critical policy analysis of local religious education in England was discussed by members. Members were updated on the website monitoring and Kelsi website.

At the end of the meeting Mrs. Warner a Buddhist representative gave a short training on The Noble Eightfold path its meaning and practice.

During the summer term there was no meeting due to the Corona virus.

Appendix 1 KENT SACRE Membership and Attendance at meetings 2019 – 2020

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

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

GROUP 2: CHURCH OF ENGLAND (6)

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education (3)		
Mrs. J Roddan		1
Miss N Brownfield		1
Miss C Bostock		1
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>)	2
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	Mr. Paul	1
Kent Association of Head Teachers Primary	MrsM Duncombe	1
Kent Association of Secondary Head Teachers	Vacancy	
NUT	Mr. W chambers	2
National Association of Head Teachers Kent Branch	Vacancy	
Co-opted Members	Miss E Pope	

GROUP 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY (4)

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

	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