

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  
2023-2024**

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



# **SACRE Chairman's remarks**

Cllr Steve Manion

Kent SACRE met three times during the year at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on 9 November 2023, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024. These are hybrid meetings with about half the members online and half in person. The arrangements and Agenda setting is done on Zoom with leaders of each group, the clerk and the RE Consultant.

### Attendance at Meetings

<b>GROUP A: Faiths and other beliefs other than C of E</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>GROUP B: Church of England</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
A Goldstein          Jewish	2	<b>Canterbury Diocesan board of Education</b>	
J Grant                  Baha'i Retired Aug 2023	1	R Walters	2
R Smith                  Baha'i Joined Sept 2023	1	B Naden	2
		Ms Ralph	2
J Wigg                  Salvation Army	1	K Porteous Joined Sept 2023	3
N Kaur Cheema          Sikh	3	<b>Rochester Diocesan Board of Education</b>	
F Hawkes                  Catholic	2	C Bostock	2
M Paddison                  Baptist	3	N Brownfield	2
C Elapatha                  Buddhist	2	G Hitch Joined Sept 2023	1
A Sinha                  Hindu Joined Dec 2023	0	<b>GROUP D: LA</b>	Attendance
S Bowen                  Humanist Joined Dec 2023	2	S Manion	2
<b>GROUP C: Teachers</b>	Attendance	M Baldock Retired June 2024	1
K Burke	2	S Hamilton	3
J Paul	3	Mr Jeffrey	3
M Lawson	3	Others	Attendance
H Williams Joined Sept 2023	2	Clerk from Democratic Services	3
Co-opted - E Pope	0	P Smith-Orr RE Consultant	3
Co-opted - Mr A Shepherd	2		
Co-opted - H Curtis Joined Nov 2023	0		
Co-opted – E Watson Joined Nov 2023	0		

## **Overview**

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 NASACRE and a report from the RE Consultant each term. The self-evaluation tool was used in Spring 2024 by the committee members attending the Spring meeting. A development plan with progress achieved and the self-evaluation results are at the end of this report. At the beginning of the year, we appointed a new vice chair from Group A. The films for schools are done and available for teachers. The committee also looked at some publicly available films.

The self-evaluation tool was revisited in the summer term, this helps with the Development plans. The results can be seen at the end of this report.

The 2021 census was discussed at the November meeting, it was noted that more people in Kent identified as religious than not religious and that the Kent Agreed Syllabus was a good reflection of the faiths identified in Kent through the census.

The OFSTED review into Religious Education and the idea of National standards were discussed in the Spring. Mrs Williams from the teachers Group C went to the NASACRE AGM on behalf of Kent SACRE and brought back a report for members to see.

### **Religious Education Statutory responsibilities.**

During the early part of the academic year there were a number of requests from schools who needed the link to the new RE Syllabus which were dealt with by the RE Consultant.

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. Members of the SACRE go to the schools and award the certificates. During this year we looked at the criteria and changed some of it so that the impact of RE in the school is more evident. We have four schools collecting evidence, one in the process of being judged and one school that received their award in early 2024.

As far as we know no school has applied for the REQM.

We now have two RE networks running in Kent, one in Thanet and one near Wrotham. We also have a Secondary HOD group running from a school in Tunbridge. There is also a Kent Grammar school network that meets 3 times a year. The Primary groups are held each term mainly on zoom, but some are face to face. The Secondary one is on zoom. They are run by teacher members of SACRE with the RE consultant's support. A larger face to face meeting was planned and eventually took place in September 2024 near Maidstone. The two Diocese advisers also run networks for the church schools, but community schools can join in, so monitoring of RE in schools is mainly done through these groups and from emails requesting advice and guidance from the RE Consultant through the year.

Advice to the LA is to ask again for exam results and to use our budget for a Kent wide meeting.

## **Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities**

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. The committee has members of the Diocese of both Rochester and Canterbury board of education. The church schools in Canterbury Diocese follow the Kent Agreed syllabus. We also have members of Interfaith forums and Governors of Kent schools. We are members of NASACRE and the RE Consultant is a member of AREIAC (Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisors and Consultants). For representation of different faiths see the table of attendance above.

## **Local Involvement**

Members of Maidstone and Tunbridge Interfaith group, who are members of SACRE, visit schools and talk about their faiths. We now have a Humanist representative, and he also goes into schools to give talks.

Ramadan advice was sent to schools. The Kelsi website for Kent teachers advertises the RE networks and other information and the SACRE documents can all be found on this website. There is a link to the RE consultant for schools seeking the Agreed syllabus or any advice.

## **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 members of Kent SACRE are reasonably representative of the county of Kent, new members are sought by the clerk if there is a vacancy, and members are asked for a letter of recommendation from their governing body.

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 have been held at the Kent County Council offices in Maidstone since Covid but discussions are ongoing to visit a different venue at least once a year.

## Appendix A Self-Evaluation of Kent SACRE – March 2024

Number	Key Area	Requires improvement	Developing	Established	Advanced
<b>Section 1 management of SACRE</b>					
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	
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Standards and Quality of Provision of RE</b>				
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			
<b>Section 3 The effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus</b>		N/A			
3a	The review process				
3b	The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus				
3c	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus				
3d	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)				
3e	Developing the revised agreed syllabus				
3f	Making best use of National Guidance				
<b>Section 4 How effectively does the SACRE fulfil its responsibilities for the</b>					

<b>provision and practice of Collective Worship</b>					
4a	Supporting pupil entitlement		X		
4b	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship	xx			
4c	Responding to requests for determinations				X
<b>Section 5 Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community</b>					
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**

### 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	Published but no exam results available
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	Hold meetings in public. Make Agendas and Minutes available to the public	Autumn, Spring and summer term meeting held

			Members hip		
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	Published on time
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 meetings held in 2 parts of Kent Secondary network meeting started. Also a Kent Grammer school network 3 times a year.
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	Decisions need to be made on this
Monitor provision of RE and schools  Encourage teachers to look at the Kelsi website	Re visiting Monitoring websites  Send out survey to RE	Written summary to SACRE annually  Guidance sent to schools  Send a news sheet to RE Coordinators	Consultant – 2 days Admin. support	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	Information sent to Kelsi website.  Kelsi website advertising events  Teachers contacting through link on Kelsi



	coordinators	each term on Kelsi			
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 out certificates to local schools	Certificates Judging panel of SACRE members	Monitor the provision and quality of RE	4 schools collecting evidence for WIRE awards

**OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE**

What?	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements	Progress
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE  Annual Report sent out	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 RE Consultant	SACRE members SACRE Chairman Consultant Admin. Support  RE Consultant Enquire with Governor services -speak about new syllabus December 2023	Stakeholders to contribute to wider educational objectives of the LA  Governor knowledge of RE curriculum in schools	Undertaken in June 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 CW and wider strategic	Ongoing with help of clerk

				educational objectives	
Membership of SACRE training and understanding of educational objectives	Training for members during SACRE meetings Encourage members to attend NASACRE training event	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	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	Network meetings and face to face meeting. Members encouraged to do training with NASACRE package

Circulation details.

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Council Members,

Kent County Council Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education,

Head Teachers / Chairs of Governors all schools in Kent,

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