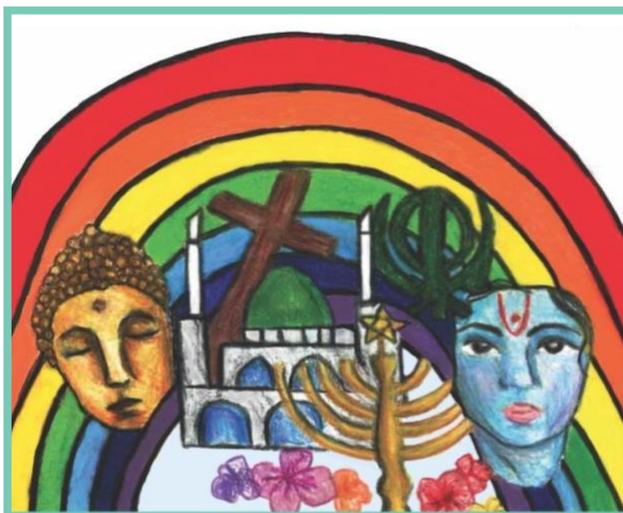




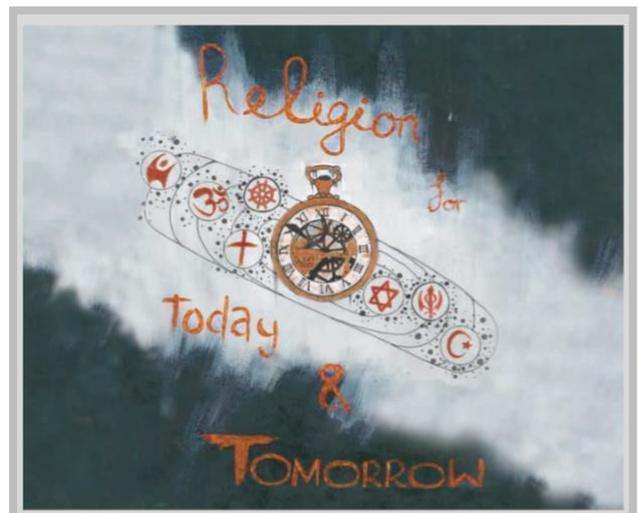
Hertfordshire  
**SACRE**  
Enhancing collective worship and RE



## The Annual Report of the Hertfordshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) 2020-21



**Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus  
of Religious Education  
2017–2022**



**Religion for Today and Tomorrow**

Non-statutory guidance supporting the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education 2017–2022



Hertfordshire SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs



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# 1. Introduction

## Welcome from the Chair

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Hertfordshire SACRE for 2020/21 for which I was honoured to be reappointed as its chair following the May elections.

This year has been an exciting and productive one for Hertfordshire SACRE despite the limitations and restrictions imposed on us by COVID. The highlight of the year was our Conference, "Strengthening RE in Hertfordshire Schools", which was attended virtually by 53 teachers from across the county, preceded by a series of online seminars. We were delighted that Katie Freeman, Chair of the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), delivered a stimulating keynote speech on how she had introduced world views into her Primary School. The feedback we received was entirely positive and we will definitely hold another one next year.

In spite of COVID, the Council has worked well. The Vision and Strategy Group provided the drive and energy for review and change, ably guided by Bill Moore, our Religious Education Advisor, and the general Council was a forum for stimulating discussion and challenge. I would like to thank every SACRE member for the time and commitment they gave to the Council. But none of this would have been possible without Juliet Whitehead our superb officer from the County Council and Tracey Middleton who has faultlessly provided administrative support. A significant development this year has been updating the RE/SACRE pages on the revitalised Herts Grid for Learning which are increasingly being used by Herts teachers.

We started the review of our existing Agreed Syllabus by sending a questionnaire to every school. Thank you to those many teachers who responded with valuable insight and comment on what they would like to see in the next Syllabus. Carol Ann Chandler will be leading on this and Bill is recruiting a team of RE teachers to help in the redraft which will be issued in 2023.

Our Equalities, Diversity and Community Cohesion group has work to do in addressing the HMD and the wider equalities issues. This will be addressed next year.

Conscious of the pressure schools experienced, we held off our normal monitoring of secondary schools teaching of RE. We will need to return to this as soon as circumstances allow.

This year we were shocked to hear, in August, that Shirley Whales, former headteacher of Broxbourne and Northam Church of England Primary Schools and a hugely valued member of SACRE, had been diagnosed with cancer and were deeply saddened by her untimely death in November 2021. For many years Shirley had been one of our most stimulating, respected and visionary members. We will miss her good humour and wisdom.

I would like to thank Sadiq Haq, Julian Wall, Janet Monahan who resigned during the year, for their contribution to our work along with County Councillors Mark Mills-Bishop, Jeff Jones, Alan Pliancy. However, I am delighted to have welcomed Idrees Qureshi and County Councillors, Fiona Guest, Fiona Hill, Christopher Alley and I look forward to their fresh ideas, and that Margaret Eames-Peterson has agreed to become a co-opted member.

With the help of our dedicated staff and Council Members I am confident that Hertfordshire SACRE will continue to provide excellent support and advice to all Hertfordshire Schools.

**Cllr. Mark Watkin**

## SACRE Statutory Duties

The Education Reform Act 1988 required Local Education Authorities to convene a SACRE consisting of members appointed by the Authority to represent:

**Group A** Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations

**Group B** The Church of England

**Group C** Teachers' Associations

**Group D** The Authority

After considerable consultation and discussion with interested bodies throughout Hertfordshire to ensure the SACRE would be representative, the Authority appointed the members as required by legislation.

Membership is for a period of four years and full members of the SACRE may co-opt non-voting members to the Council. **Membership for the period 2020-21 can be found in Appendix 1.** SACRE meetings are open to the public and Hertfordshire SACRE usually meets three times a year in County Hall, a school and a place of worship/community centre. In the academic year 2020-21 all meetings were held on-line.

The SACRE can advise the Authority upon matters connected with RE and collective worship in county schools; matters such as teaching methods, materials and teacher training are mentioned in the Act. The advice offered by the SACRE carries no statutory force. In Hertfordshire, SACRE also works closely with many Academies and Free Schools to try to ensure that all children and young people in the County receive high quality RE and schools provide appropriate acts of collective worship.

SACRE has two functions; it can require the LA to review its current Agreed Syllabus and it may determine, on application 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 the pupils in a school. Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work.

### Purpose of the Report

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) of each local education authority will 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.'

In particular, the report shall:

- specify any matters in respect of which the Council has given advice to the Authority;
- broadly describe the nature of the advice given; and
- where any matter was not referred to the Council by the Authority, give the Council's reason for offering advice on the matter.

This report deals with these matters in summary, for the academic year September 2020 to August 2021. The full Hertfordshire SACRE met three times during the year and considered a diverse range of topics.

### Types of schools in Hertfordshire 2019-20

	Maintained	Academy	Free
Primary	363	51	7
Secondary	19	62	2
Special	20	5	
ESC	7	1	

*Note: a glossary of educational terms can be found in Appendix 3*

## **Membership**

SACRE members include those from academies and higher education. Members of all groups regularly attend and participate in meetings, sharing their experience, expertise and insights. Outreach to academies, MATs and faith schools is ongoing through provision of guidance, training and active involvement of all schools as representatives in national and local RE events. SACRE membership benefits from teachers who are passionate about RE and are skilled writers and trainers. These teachers and school leaders play a key role in representing school needs and priorities, writing the Agreed Syllabus and supporting curriculum documents, ensuring high quality provision for Hertfordshire pupils.

## **SACRE meetings**

### **We held three SACRE meetings, all on-line:**

21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020

- Agreed the up-dated Constitution
- Work-plan 2020-21 was agreed
- Budget, including carry-forward, and expenditure – items for expenditure included the SACRE conference and purchasing artefacts for schools to borrow.
- Developing a strategic approach to supporting schools and teachers – this will be carried forward to 2021-22 and 2022-23
- It was agreed, in view of Covid-19 and Lockdown, that we would postpone the publication of the new Agreed Syllabus until Sept 2023
- Monitoring and evaluating RE
- The RE Newsletter

25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021

- SACRE aims and vision agreed and accepted
- Planning conference
- Developing an agenda for Diversity, Inclusive Communities and Equalities (DICE)
- Updated SACRE pages of the Herts Grid for Learning

29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

- Planning SACRE Development Day Autumn 2021
- Workplan and budget
- NASACRE Conference feedback
- Ofsted Research Review

Local and national up-dates are provided at each meeting

### **We held two Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASC)**

25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021

- Review and amend time-line
- Background information on current issues in RE and the process of reviewing an agreed syllabus

29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

- Guided discussion on the current Agreed Syllabus
- Agreed the survey questionnaire to go out to schools

SACRE's work in the period September 2019 to August 2020 was driven by both national and local issues.

## 2. RE in Hertfordshire Schools

### 2a) Public examinations (see Appendix 2)

Due to the impact of Covid-19, no examinations for GCSE and A-Level were taken nationally in 2021. As a consequence, there are no public data available for SACRE to report or monitor. SACRE wishes to congratulate and thank pupils in and teachers of Year 11 and Year 13 for the hard work they put into their examination courses and the way they have dealt with such uniquely challenging circumstances. This year in particular was stressful for pupils and particularly challenging for teachers in producing Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGS). Such professionalism under very tight timescales should be recognised and lauded by all involved in education.

### 2b) Attainment in RE not covered by public examination

It is difficult to establish how strong attainment and achievement (progression) are in non-examination RE from KS1 – 4. We postponed the questionnaire that we were going to send out to schools this year till next year at the earliest, which will provide secondary schools to share their provision of RE, celebrate strengths and identify challenges and barriers to quality RE. We plan to alternate between Secondary and Primary schools on a two-year rolling programme to ascertain both the provision and the quality of RE in schools.

### 2c) The Locally Agreed Syllabus

Next year sees the process of reviewing and developing the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus and this was begun in July by sending out our initial survey, which we hope will give us some indication of how well the current syllabus is embedded and what will help to improve it. The Agreed Syllabus provides a framework for assessing attainment and progress. However, schools use different systems for measuring and recording whole school assessment and it makes sense for RE to be included within that rather than being different from other subjects. SACRE will consider how, if at all, collaboration with and through the growing local networks of Hertfordshire schools might help us gain some picture of attainment in RE.

### 2d) The quality of RE provision in schools

We continued to celebrate areas of best practice in Hertfordshire schools. Hertfordshire teachers use a range of recommended web-based guidance and CPD resources. More primary schools are now using the 20017-22 non-statutory guidance, 'Religion for Today and Tomorrow', to implement the Agreed Syllabus and SACRE continues to support and promote the use of this resource rather than the previous support materials from the 2012-17 Agreed Syllabus.

Hertfordshire SACRE is proud of its local networks of RE teachers (5 primary and 1 secondary), which provide regular opportunities to support and develop RE teachers. These groups are affiliated to NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE) and are self-funded. We have been exploring how SACRE can best support all of them in the joint venture of supporting teachers in schools.

### 2e) Withdrawal from RE

SACRE provides guidance on the statutory 'right of withdrawal' of pupils from Religious Education.

### 2f) Complaints concerning RE

SACRE is pleased to note that the complaint received in 2018 has been resolved and RE is now provided in the school involved. No complaints were received in this academic year.

As part of the on-going work and the changes in arrangements, SACRE established its Vision and Strategy (V&S) Group to ensure the continuation of its work, which met six times (either side of the full SACRE meetings) this year. An Equalities, Diversity and Community Cohesion group was convened to take our work on the HMD agenda forward and broaden it to include wider equalities issues. This is being developed as part of the DICE (Diversity, Inclusive Communities and Equalities) agenda.

### **3. Collective Worship**

#### **3a) Compliance with the statutory requirement**

The SACRE model collective worship policy is published online on the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning and was due for review. It was agreed in development planning to delay this review and that the Agreed Syllabus writing and implementation would take precedence. The RE Adviser responded to a number of individual school enquiries.

#### **3b) Collective worship**

The local 'Faith Communities Directory' continues to support schools by signposting volunteers who are willing to visit school RE lessons or to help lead collective worship. SACRE members are involved with this aspect, either by providing names of representatives of their faith or belief, or through offering their services. It is recognised that this directory is in need of up-dating and the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusive Communities group could look into this once fully established. To be completed in 2021-22.

#### **3c) Determinations**

The adviser to SACRE made contact with two schools to support in their consideration of renewing their determination. Again, this work was interrupted by Covid. To be further developed in 2021-22

#### **3d) Complaints about collective worship**

There have been no official complaints concerning collective worship in 2020-21.

### **4. Links with other bodies**

Close links with the Local Authority are ensured by the tireless work and support of the LA officer, Juliet Whitehead, who also links SACRE with Herts for Learning. This partnership has enabled SACRE to be closely involved in the development of the SACRE pages of the Grid for Learning and also to provide updates and awareness-raising for Governors, and Primary and Secondary headteachers.

Local teacher networks continued to meet and, through our co-opted member, Juliet Lyal, closer links were forged with SACRE. In the summer term, the adviser to SACRE up-dated the networks on the review of the agreed syllabus.

SACRE has subscribed again to NASACRE and four members attended their national conference in May 2021, feeding back to SACRE in June.

We have made initial moves to link more closely with Initial Teacher Education, both with the University of Hertfordshire and with School-based ITT. This will be further developed over the next two years as teaching School Hubs replace SCITTS.

### **5 Other work of SACRE**

SACRE organised its first conference this year, 'Strengthening RE in Hertfordshire Schools' with both local and national figures presenting. Pre-recorded webinars were available for the two weeks running up to the final on-line conference on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Topics such as Anti-racist RE, Worldviews, Hermeneutics and curriculum development. We were delighted that Katie Freeman, Chair of NATRE, agreed to provide the Keynote, relating her experience of transforming her school curriculum through the inclusion of and focus on worldviews, not as an extra add-on, but rather as a rationale for RE. She inspired teachers to want to engage with similar questions and approaches in their own schools. The whole webinar series and conference were extremely well-received by teachers. We intend to run a second conference next year.

SACRE purchased three sets of artefacts, for each main religion and for sacred texts, for schools to borrow. Now all we need is to find schools that can host them!

Appendix 1: SACRE membership and attendance 2020-21

<b>GROUP A</b> Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations	<b>GROUP B</b> The Church of England	<b>GROUP C</b> Teachers' Associations	<b>GROUP D</b> The Authority	<b>Co-opted Members</b>
<b>Buddhist</b> Julian Wall Amaravati Buddhist Monastery Nov 2015	<b>Diocese of St Albans</b> Ryan Parker September 2018	<b>Junior Teacher (ALT)</b> Ali Mackintosh June 2004	<b>County Councillor (Con)</b> Alan Plancey May 2013	<b>Bahá'í</b> National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Roya Taidi April 2017
<b>Catholic - Diocese of Westminster</b> Carol-Anne Chandler Bishop of Westminster May 1991	<b>Diocese of St Albans</b> Andrew Wellbeloved June 2004	<b>Primary Headteacher (NAHT)</b> Emma Fenn Feb 2014	<b>County Councillor (Lib Dem)</b> Mark Watkin May 2013	<b>Humanist</b> Pete Bennett British Humanists Association June 2014
<b>Catholic- Diocese of Westminster</b> Maggie Wright Bishop of Westminster Feb 2014	<b>Diocese of St Albans</b> Shirley Whales Oct 2013	<b>Secondary Headteacher (ASCL)</b> LizEllis Oct 2014	<b>County Councillor (Con)</b> Tim Hutchings May 2017 –Nov 2018	<b>Jewish- Reformed</b> Michael Shaw Reform synagogue November 2001
<b>Free Church- Baptist</b> Angharad Griffiths The Free Church Federal Council Dec 2010		<b>University of Hertfordshire</b> Janet Monahan June 2005	<b>County Councillor (Con)</b> Terry Douris May 2017	<b>CoRE and NATRE</b> Juliet Lyal November 2008
<b>Free Church – Methodist</b> The Free Church Federal Council Reverend John Fellows June 2005		<b>Infant teacher (NUT)</b> Helen Venn June 2017	<b>County Councillor (Con)</b> Jeff Jones Sept 2017	<b>Shia Muslim</b> Alim Saqalain Abbas Alavi Al Zahra Centre June 2018
<b>Free Church– Salvation Army</b> The Free Church Federal Council Jackie Roberts Oct 2014		<b>Secondary Teacher and NATRE (NASUWT)</b> Laura Passmore June 2017	<b>County Councillor (Lab)</b> Margaret Eames-Petersen May 2017	
<b>Sikh</b> Kavaljit Kaur Dev Sikh Council UK Feb 2014				
<b>Muslim</b> Sadiq Haq Watford Jamia Mosque July 2001				
<b>Jewish– Orthodox</b> Ellie Olmer The Board of Deputies of British Jews February 2014				
<b>Hindu</b> Tulsi Seva Dasi The International Society for Krishna Consciousness 2019				

Group	Member	21/10/20	25/2/21	29/6/21
Group A	Angharad Griffiths	Y	Y	Y
Group A	Kavaljit Kaur Dev	Y	Y	Y
Group A	John Fellows (vice-Chair)	Y	Y	Y
Group A	Sadiq Haq (until Feb)	Y	Y	-
Group A	Idrees Qureshi (from June)	-	-	Y
Group A	Julian Wall (Until Feb)	Ap	Y	-
Group A	Maggie Wright	Y	Y	Y
Group A	Jackie Roberts	Y	Y	Y
Group A	Carol-Anne Chandler	Y	Y	Y
Group A	Ellie Olmer	Y	Y	Ap
Group A	Tulsi Seva Dasi	Y	Y	Y
Group B	Ryan Parker	Y	Y	Y
Group B	Andrew Wellbeloved	Abs	Abs	Y
Group B	Shirley Whales	Ap	Y	Y
Group C	Ali Mackintosh	Y	Y	Ap
Group C	Janet Monahan	Y	Ap	Ap
Group C	Helen Venn	Ap	Y	Y
Group C	Emma Fenn	Y	Y	Y
Group C	Liz Ellis	Ap	Y	Y
Group C	Laura Passmore	Ap	Y	Y
Group D	Alan Plancey (until June 2021)	Abs	Abs	-
Group D	Mark Watkin (Chair)	Y	Y	Y
Group D	Mark Mills-Bishop (until June 2021)	Y	Y	-
Group D	Terry Douris	Y	Y	Ap
Group D	Jeff Jones (until June 2021)	Y	Y	-
Group D	Margaret Eames-Petersen (Co-opted from June 2021)	Y	Y	Y
Group D (from June 2021)	Christopher Alley			Y
Group D (from June 2021)	Fiona Guest			Y
Group D (from June 2021)	Fiona Hill			Y
Co-opted	Pete Bennett	Y	Ap	Ap
Co-opted	Juliet Lyal	Y	Y	Y
Co-opted	Roya Taidi	Ap	Abs	Y
Co-opted	Alim Saqalain Abbas Alavi	Abs	Abs	NS
Servicing Officer	Juliet Whitehead	Y	Y	Y
RE Adviser	Bill Moore	Y	Y	Y

## Appendix 2: Public Examinations in Religious Education 2020-21.

Due to Covid and school lockdowns, external examinations were awarded in 2021 via Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) rather than by external examinations and thus there are no school performance data for this academic year. The last year for which data are available is 2019 and these are made available below so that SACRE can resume its review of the quality of RE when examinations resume.

### Hertfordshire RS Examination Results 2019 Full GCSE Results 2018 - 2019

(NB: GCSEs changed from first examination in 2018 and comparisons with results prior to this date are not valid. However, we note a significant drop in entries between 2017 and 2018 of just over 900, or approximately 16.8%)

	2018	2019	2021
% 9-7	33	32.7	<b>No data available</b>
% 9-5	63.6	64.3	
% 9-4	74	75.9	
% 9-1	98.5	98.9	
Total Entries	4477	4516	

#### National Results 2019:

**9-7: 31%**

**9-5: 61%**

**9-1: 98%**

#### A Level Results 2013 – 2019 (New A Level from 2018)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
% A* - A	25	24.6	23.1	26.3%	21.5	23	<b>No data available</b>
% A* - C	78	78.3	80.9	83.3	79.4	77.9	
% A* - E					98.2	98.3	
Total Entries	667	631	752	678	544	525	

#### National Results 2019:

**A\* - A: 22%**

**A\* - C: 76%**

**A\* - E: 98%**

#### AS Level Results 2013 – 2019 (new A Level from 2018 2-year course so drop in entries)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
% A* - A	12	20.9	24.6	30.2	17.4	9.7	<b>No data available</b>
% A* - C	57	94.3	70.8	78.7	54	53.2	
% A* - E					86.2	85.5	
Total Entries	227	1107	1184	1107	224	62	

#### National Results 2019:

**A\* - A: 19%**

**A\* - C: 64%**

**A\* - E: 91%**

### Appendix 3: Glossary of Educational Terms

<b>Academy</b>	Academies are state maintained but independently run schools in England which have more freedom to control their own budgets and curriculum. They are, however, still required to deliver RE and follow the locally Agreed Syllabus unless they have a religious character
<b>Agreed Syllabus</b>	A non-denominational syllabus of religious education required to be used in Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and drawn up by a SACRE (see below)
<b>Agreed Syllabus Conference</b>	An occasional body convened to review the LA's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
<b>AS Level ATL</b>	Advanced Supplementary Level (Year 12 exams) Association of Teachers and Lecturers
<b>Community Schools/Community Special Schools CoRE</b>	Terms used to describe former LA-maintained schools and Special Schools or Grant Maintained schools and Special schools which opted to become Community schools and Special Schools Commission on Religious Education
<b>CPD</b>	Continuing professional development - staff training
<b>DfE</b>	Department for Education
<b>Differentiation</b>	The organisation of teaching programmes and methods specifically to suit the age, ability and aptitudes of individual children
<b>E Bacc</b>	English Baccalaureate: a new performance measure for good GCSE or accredited Certificate passes in English, mathematics, history or geography, two sciences (including computing science) and an ancient or modern foreign language
<b>ESC</b>	Education Support Centre
<b>EYFS</b>	Early years foundation stage
<b>Foundation Special Schools</b>	Name now given to former Grant Maintained Special schools
<b>Foundation schools</b>	New Category of schools, usually former Grant Maintained schools
<b>GCSE</b>	General Certificate of Secondary Education
<b>HCC</b>	Hertfordshire County Council
<b>HfL</b>	Herts for Learning
<b>HLTA</b>	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
<b>HMD</b>	Holocaust Memorial Day
<b>HMI</b>	Her Majesty's Inspector
<b>I(C)T</b>	Information (and Communication) Technology
<b>KS1-4</b>	Key Stages the four stages of the National Curriculum: KS1 for pupils aged 5-7; KS2 for 7-11; KS3 for 11-14; KS4 for 14-16
<b>INSET</b>	In-Service Education and Training courses for practicing teachers
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>LSA</b>	Learning Support Assistant
<b>NAHT</b>	National Association of Headteachers
<b>NASACRE</b>	National Association of SACREs
<b>NATRE</b>	National Association of teachers of RE
<b>National Curriculum</b>	This was established by the 1988 Education Reform Act to ensure that all pupils receive a broad and balanced education which is relevant to their needs
<b>NAS/UWT</b>	National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers
<b>NLE</b>	National Leader of Education
<b>NQT</b>	Newly Qualified Teacher
<b>NUT/NEU</b>	National Union of Teachers now National Education Union

<b>OFSTED</b>	Office of Standards in Education. The body which arranges and sets standards for school inspections
<b>PPA</b>	Planning preparation and assessment
<b>Programme of Study (PoS)</b>	The subject matter, skills and processes which must be taught to pupils during each Key Stage in order that they may meet the objectives set out in attainment targets
<b>QCDA</b>	Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority
<b>QTS</b>	Qualified teacher status: usually attained by completing a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) or a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree or a Bachelor of Arts/Science degree with Qualified teacher status (BA / BSc(QTS)) or the Graduate teacher programme (GTP)
<b>RE</b>	Religious Education
<b>REC</b>	Religious Education Council for England and Wales
<b>REQM</b>	Religious Education Quality Mark
<b>SACRE</b>	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. Local statutory body which advises on religious education and collective worship
<b>SARETT</b>	St Albans RE Teachers Together
<b>SEF</b>	Self-Evaluation Form
<b>SEND</b>	Special Educational Needs and Disability. Learning difficulties for which special educational provision has to be made. May include children with physical disabilities or emotional and behaviour disorders
<b>SHA</b>	Secondary Heads Association
<b>Short Course</b>	A course in a National Curriculum Foundation subject such as RE, which is worth half a full GCSE
<b>SIP</b>	School Improvement Partner
<b>SLE</b>	Specialist Leader in Education
<b>SMSC</b>	Social moral spiritual and cultural
<b>Special School</b>	A school for children whose special educational needs cannot be met within a mainstream school
<b>Subject Leaders</b>	A teacher responsible for leading and co-ordinating the teaching and learning within a subject, curricular or Key Stage. Chiefly primary though some secondary schools have co-ordinators for cross-curricular elements
<b>TA</b>	Teaching assistant
<b>TDA</b>	Teacher Development agency
<b>VA</b>	Voluntary Aided. School maintained by the LA except for some particular aspects, such as paying 15% towards some building costs. Usually a denominational school in which the governors have particular religious rights and also responsibilities
<b>VC</b>	Voluntary Controlled. A denominational school wholly maintained by the LA but with certain residual rights regarding religious worship
<b>WHISPER</b>	Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Schools Peace Education Resource. The project which provides students and faith speakers to visit Hertfordshire primary schools. The classroom-based work is provided by a local Interfaith group and has received funding and support from SACRE

## Appendix 4: Constitution 2020

### **HERTFORDSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

#### **CONSTITUTION**

##### **1. PREAMBLE**

1.1 Hertfordshire County Council is as a result of Chapter III of Part V and Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended) under a duty to constitute a standing advisory council on religious education. In addition to the legislation noted above other responsibilities of this standing advisory council are outlined in, but are not limited to, the Religious Education in English Schools; Non-statutory guidance 2010, SACRE and Self Evaluation: A guide to OFSTED 2005 and Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship.

##### **2. NAME**

2.1 The name of the name of the Hertfordshire standing advisory council is the 'Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education' (SACRE) and is established by Hertfordshire County Council (the "Local Authority") under the provisions of section 390 of the Education Act 1996.

##### **3. SUPPORT**

3.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to establish and support the SACRE and will do this through the appointment of an appropriate Servicing Officer or representative responsible for liaison, clerking SACRE meetings, business support and the support of a subject specialist advisor.

##### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 The SACRE, will consist of the members appointed by the Local Authority to represent respectively:

- a. Christian dominations (other than the Church of England) and other religions and denominations as in the opinion of the Local Authority reflect the principal religious traditions in Hertfordshire and in Great Britain. The number of representatives approved under the category shall, so far as consistent with the efficient discharge of this group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in Hertfordshire.
- b. The Church of England.
- c. Associations representing teachers.
- d. The Local Authority.

4.2 The list attached as Appendix 1 outlines the composition of the SACRE in Hertfordshire. The Servicing Officer will review Appendix 1 in accordance with census data and will update SACRE at the annual constitution review if any changes need to be made.

- 4.3 The length of membership as determined by the Local Authority is 4 years following the County Council cycle.
- 4.4 Each constituent group should be given the opportunity to be represented on any working parties that SACRE establishes.
- 4.5 In accordance with its statutory duties, meetings of the full SACRE will be open to members of the public except when items of a confidential nature are to be discussed.

## **5. DUTIES**

5.1 The broad role of SACRE is to develop a supportive partnership with schools within Hertfordshire in order to raise standards and achievement in Religious Education (RE) and collective worship. The Local Authority will work with its SACRE to review existing provision for RE and Collective Worship and consider any action which might be taken.

5.2 The statutory duties of SACRE are:

- a. To require the Local Authority to set up a statutory conference to review the Agreed Syllabus if, in the opinion of the SACRE, this becomes necessary. The Agreed Syllabus must be reviewed and updated every five years but a majority of representative groups on the SACRE, other than that consisting of persons chosen to represent the Local Authority (Group D), may at any time require a review of the Agreed Syllabus which is currently being used by the Local Authority;
- b. To receive and determine whether applications from head teachers, that the requirement for collective worship in community or foundation 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 at that particular school. SACRE will give the head teacher written notification of their decision on the application, the determination order;
- c. To publish an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the Local Authority, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting reasons for offering advice on matters which were not referred to it by the Local Authority. This report will be presented to the Local Authority's County Councilor's, schools, MPs in Hertfordshire and neighboring Local Authorities and is to be delivered to the National Association for SACREs and the DfE. This report will also be made available to the public. Responsibility for the production of the annual report will be the Servicing Officers', who may delegate the task to an Independent Advisor.

5.3 The additional functions of SACRE in support of its statutory duties are:

- a. To advise the Local Authority on such matters connected with RE and collective worship in Hertfordshire community schools and foundation schools without a religious character;
- b. To monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according to its Agreed Syllabus together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- c. To provide advice and support on the effective teaching of the Agreed Syllabus;

- d. To provide advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- e. In partnership with the Local Authority, consider whether any changes need to be made to the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of RE and the learning of pupils;
- f. Offer schools and the Local Authority advice concerning how an existing syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with wider changes in education;
- g. To seek to develop its own role working with inter-religious bodies such as local Inter-Faith groups, to demonstrate that the study of religion and belief can be an important contribution to community cohesion and to the combating of religious prejudice and discrimination;
- h. To offer advice to the Local Authority on any matters related to SACRE's function as it sees fit\*.

5.4. SACRE can also advise the Local Authority upon matters concerned with collective worship in community and foundation schools and RE to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus. These matters (which the Education Act 1996 provides can include teaching methods, teaching materials and teacher training) can be referred by the Local Authority or may be determined by SACRE\*.

5.5. SACRE can also exercise its powers to discuss any matter related to its functions as it sees fit including and not limited to the provision of RE in Academies and Free Schools where these use the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE.

## **6. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

6.1 SACRE will meet as a full body each term. The date of each meeting shall as a rule be fixed during the previous meeting. The agenda shall inform members of proposed dates in advance of every two meetings.

6.2 Meetings may be called by the Local Authority, the Chair or by the agreement of members of SACRE by way of vote. Special meetings may be further meetings of the full SACRE, representative groups or sub – committees.

6.3 Details of the business to be considered by the meeting, which will be included in the agenda, must be received by the Clerk to the SACRE no later than 10 working days before the meeting.

6.4 The Clerk will, no later than 5 working days before the meeting, circulate the agenda and supporting papers to the members.

6.5 The Clerk will share the first draft of minutes with the Chair and servicing officers within 5 days of the meeting. Once these have been checked and amended, the clerk will distribute a final draft to members no later than 15 working days following the meeting.

6.6 The draft minutes shall be agreed at the following meeting and then published for public access.

## **7. QUORUM**

7.1 In order for the SACRE to be a quorate a minimum of one-third of the membership must be in attendance, with at least one representative from each constituent group.

## **8. VOTING**

8.1 Only the representative groups listed in Appendix 1 have a vote and each such group has a single vote.

8.2 Representatives of the Local Authority appointed under group 3.1 (d) above cannot vote on the question of whether to require the County Council to review the Agreed Syllabus

8.3 Decisions within a group about how that vote is to be cast do not require unanimity. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings.

8.4 In the event of an equality of votes on any issue the Chair will have a casting vote. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will have a casting vote.

8.5 Any motion or amendment which would have the same effect as any motion that has been rejected at a meeting of SACRE within the previous calendar year may not be brought before SACRE.

## **9. CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

9.1 The Local Authority, in consultation with SACRE, will appoint the Chair of SACRE whose term of office will be for a period of 4 years.

9.2 The Chair is eligible for re-election at the discretion of the Local Authority, in consultation with SACRE.

9.3 The Vice-Chair of SACRE, whose term will be for a period of 4 years, will be appointed by SACRE by way of a vote at the mid-point of the term of Office of the Chair. The vote will be determined by a simple majority with each representative group being assigned one vote. In the event that the Vice-Chair wishes to resign within the period of their tenure, they should give at least a term's written notice so that a new Vice-Chair may be elected.

9.4 The Vice-Chair is eligible for re-election by a vote of a simple majority with each representative group being assigned one vote.

9.5 In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair at any meeting SACRE shall elect one of its members to act as the Chair for that meeting.

9.6 The Chair will be responsible for:

- a. the management of meetings;
- b. representing the SACRE to other bodies;
- c. such other duties as the County Council or SACRE considers appropriate.

9.7 The Vice-Chair will be responsible for:

- a. deputising for the Chair as required;
- b. representing SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the Chair or in agreement with the Chair;
- c. such other duties as SACRE considers appropriate.

## **10. CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

10.1 Members of the SACRE or representative groups may, if they wish, suggest persons to be co-opted onto the SACRE in order to help it fulfil its duties and function.

10.2 SACRE will decide co-options following nominations from members of SACRE or representative groups. In making their decision, the SACRE should give consideration to the contribution that the co-opted person would bring to professional expertise, and/or breadth of representation of the community and religious and beliefs perspectives.

10.3 In accordance with 7.1 above, co-opted members will have no voting rights.

10.4 Co-opted members shall hold office on such terms as may be determined at the time of co-option by the representative members and shall hold office at the pleasure of, and may be removed at any time by, the representative members, through a vote.

## **11. END OF MEMBERSHIP**

11.1 A member shall be removed from SACRE if:

- a. they write to SACRE or the Clerk and tender their resignation;
- b. they reach the end of their term of office and have not been re-nominated by their representative group;
- c. they were appointed by virtue of holding a particular office and they no longer hold that office;
- d. they are absent for 3 or more consecutive meetings for any reason not acceptable to the Local Authority or SACRE and if they failed to send an appropriate representative. In this situation it shall be deemed that there is a vacancy to be filled by the Group responsible.
- e. their representative group states, in writing that the member should no longer act as one of its representatives on SACRE, where the member was nominated by the representative group;
- f. in the opinion of the Local Authority they cease to be representative of the denomination or association they were appointed to represent;
- g. in the opinion of the Local Authority, on reasonable grounds, the member is unable, unwilling or an unsuitable person to continue these duties.

11.2 A sub-group within one of the four committees shall be removed from SACRE if in the opinion of the Local Authority they cease to be representative of the religious or cultural structure of Hertfordshire.

11.3 If SACRE have concerns regarding the Servicing Officer or the Independent Advisor then SACRE may raise these concerns with the Commissioner of Schools Services.

## **12. GENERAL**

12.1 In addition to the Clerk other Local Authority Officers may attend SACRE meetings at the discretion of the Operations Director, Education (or equivalent Director), the Servicing Officer and/or SACRE. These persons may speak but cannot vote.

12.2 The validity of proceedings of SACRE or of the members of SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected:

- a. by a vacancy in the office of any member of SACRE; or
- b. on the grounds that a member of SACRE appointed to represent any denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the denomination or association in question.

## **13. THE CONSTITUTION**

13.1 This Constitution will be reviewed every four years by SACRE at a normal or special meeting.

13.2 Any member of SACRE may contribute to the review under 12.1 above and submit a proposal for change to the Constitution for consideration by the Local Authority. Any such proposal must be in accordance with the statutory provisions that apply to SACRE.

## **14. STANDARDS**

Members of SACRE shall comply with any code of conduct which is applicable to their professional body and/or the organisation that they represent.

**June 2020**

**To be reviewed Spring 2024**

## Appendix 5 Budget and plan

SACRE's budget for 2020-21 was £20,000 annual budget plus £12,000 carry-forward.

Item	Estimated cost
Consultancy support for RE Specialist	£10,000
Additional consultancy support/Locally Agreed Syllabus work	£6,500
HfL contract to provide clerking, administrative support	£2,085
GovHub	£225
NASACRE membership	£105
Venues/refreshments/printing	£885
Travel	£200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£20,000</b>
Carry forward funding	£12,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£32,000</b>

The £12,000 carry-forward was used to:

1. Run a SACRE Conference
2. Purchase artefacts
3. Faith communities training (carried over)
4. SACRE Development Day (carried over Sept 2021)

## Hertfordshire SACRE development plan 2020 – 21

To gather and respond to information about the impact of and effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus and standards in schools, plan and implement appropriate action.

To inform the wider community including schools, the LA, faith communities and other organisations about the role of SACRE and its contribution to wider community issues.

To ensure best value including exploring other funding streams and committees to advise SACRE.

This draft development plan aims to address the issues raised in the recent meetings. In order to meet the needs of applying for funding it includes ongoing costs

## Hertfordshire SACRE – Strategic Plan for academic year 2020-21

WORKSTREAM	RESPONSIBILITY	EXPECTED ACTIONS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
Annual Report 2019-20	BM in consultation with SACRE members	<p>Draft and produce the SACRE Annual Report (workforce and exam data and information will be provided by Herts for Learning).            Draft shared with SACRE Working Party for comment.</p> <p>Final copy produced and shared with full SACRE Spring meeting before presented to the County Councilors, District Councils, Hertfordshire MPs, Libraries and published on-line.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear analysis and report on SACRE's work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA has been produced within the agreed timescale.</li> <li>This report to be made available to schools and County Councillors, District Councils, Libraries and Herts MPs including via the Grid and delivered to the National Association for SACREs in Spring 2020.</li> </ul>
SACRE Constitution is upheld.	Please note that HCC through Herts for Learning will provide all the	<p>Hold 3 full SACRE meetings per year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure agendas are appropriate and address the core functions of SACRE and agendas and papers are sent out at least one working week in advance of the meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 full SACRE meetings held per year. (Dates booked for all 3 and Autumn meeting to take place at St Albans Cathedral).</li> <li>Any agreed follow-up actions are undertaken</li> </ul>

WORKSTREAM	RESPONSIBILITY	EXPECTED ACTIONS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
	<p>administrative and clerking requirements for the 3 SACRE meetings that take place each year).</p> <p>JW/MW to ensure that HfL fulfil the admin requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SACRE is up to date with local, regional and national initiatives and issues related to RE and collective worship e.g. DfE funded initiatives.</li> <li>• Vision and Strategy Group meets in advance of each full SACRE meeting and as needed to provide more detailed input and support to SACRE’s work including for example with monitoring of schools’ delivery of RE curriculum.</li> </ul> <p>Membership meets the SACRE constitution’s requirements. Any vacancies are filled and when memberships are coming to the end of their term the process is set up to reappoint or to fill.</p>	<p>following the meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are confident in their knowledge &amp; understanding of the national &amp; local situation regarding RE.</li> <li>• Clear vision has been agreed for Hertfordshire SACRE and this informs SACRE’s work and role.</li> <li>• Vision and Strategy has met in-between full SACRE meetings to discuss and provide guidance and support to the Chair, RE Specialist Adviser and LA Servicing Officer regarding SACRE work e.g. updating the Grid, monitoring.</li> </ul>
Monitoring the standard and quality of Religious Education	BM	To work with Herts for Learning on developing on-line questionnaires (secondary one in Year 1 to be incorporated into Agreed Syllabus questionnaire and primary in Year 2) and evaluating the analysis that Herts for Learning produce.	Report and results to be presented to SACRE at its Spring 2021 meeting for secondary and Spring 2022 for primary.
	BM	<p>To provide advice and guidance on non-compliance complaints.</p> <p>Clear guidance and process established regarding concerns that a school(s) may not be complying with RE requirements for collective worship and the curriculum as set out in the LAS.</p> <p>Advice and support are provided to the Chair following initial analysis of information provided by the school e.g. through its website or information</p>	Chair is confident about what to do where instances or complaints of non-compliance are identified/have been received.

WORKSTREAM	RESPONSIBILITY	EXPECTED ACTIONS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
		<p>received externally on the RE/RS curriculum and/or collective worship on next steps. These next steps may include for example: corresponding in writing with the school; the RE Specialist Advisor visiting the school or raising the concern with the LA.</p>	
Determination orders	BM	<p>To receive and determine whether applications from head teachers, that the requirement for collective worship in community or foundation schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all the pupils at that particular school. SACRE will give the head teacher written notification of their decision on the application, the determination order;</p>	<p>Schools are provided with a response on the determination order within a suitable framework (i.e. no longer than 2/3 weeks).</p>
Disseminating information about the role of SACRE and requirements placed on schools	BM together with wider members of SACRE	<p>To develop partnerships with faith and belief communities and the wider community</p> <p>Relate SACRE's work to wider community issues and link with and support local RE Groups</p>	<p>SACRE is informed about RE work in Hertfordshire and supports the sharing of good quality RE across the county.</p>
		<p>Conference /network activity?</p>	
		<p>Working part to consider SACRE's role regarding HMD and wider issues and events such as hate crime to be established.</p>	
	BM/JW/Vison	<p>To work with HfL on the New Grid for Learning to</p>	<p>Review all the existing RE and SACRE pages of the Grid.</p>

WORKSTREAM	RESPONSIBILITY	EXPECTED ACTIONS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
	and Strategy Group	ensure that the RE and SACRE sections are up-to-date, relevant and user friendly.	<p>Decide which information to keep and migrate to the new Grid.</p> <p>Archive all deleted sections so that there have been saved.</p> <p>Work with HfL and complete the HfL Grid template for each page of the RE section (SACRE will be included as its own page/section within RE).</p>
To set up a statutory conference to review the Agreed Syllabus.	MW/CAC/BM	To review the existing Agreed Syllabus and produce an Agreed Syllabus which meets statutory requirements and is fit for purpose in Hertfordshire schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SACRE meeting formally constitutes the Agreed Syllabus Conference.</li> <li>• A questionnaire is sent out to all schools asking for their views and comments and suggestions for changes for the existing LAS during Autumn 2020. Analysis is undertaken and findings shared with Conference in Spring 2021 term.</li> <li>• Further consultation with SACRE members and faith community representatives and questionnaires inviting comments and suggestions from inter-faith organisations represented in Hertfordshire.</li> </ul>