



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020**

Peterborough Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education Annual Report 2019-20

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Chairperson's Introduction

What an unusual year it has been for all of us! A year that will be remembered in different ways. For some religion has been a strong driver to get through these unusual circumstances. Places of worship have had to adapt in providing various services to faith members. All in Peterborough were in the same situation as the national picture and schools had to adapt quickly to online learning. This included the provision of Religious Education (RE) too in schools.

Key developmental tools that Religious Education (RE) in schools helps to promote for our younger generation is the spiritual, moral, social and cultural elements. This helps to foster and enhance social relationships within the wider community. Every child is entitled to receive high-quality RE and the Government is keen to ensure this is delivered effectively.

People from various faith backgrounds face challenges which can be recognised and understood when studying Religious Education. By coming together on common issues people of all backgrounds, faiths and world views can actively participate within the wider society. In ensuring a cohesive society with the various diversity within, the role of young people is essential together with an appreciation of how RE can help them understand various religious views which shape the life of faith communities within Peterborough. Various groups including faith people have shown how they can come together in the name of humanity to support people. This was evident during this pandemic.

As a SACRE committee we have always been very keen to support the development of our young citizens in Peterborough. We are actively engaged in supporting schools with their RE teaching as well as providing a locally agreed syllabus (2018-2023) to deliver effective RE for students within the city. Our SACRE Adviser, Amanda Fitton, quickly adapted to providing online support to schools in ensuring RE provision continued within Peterborough. I thank her for all the hard work she has put in to support teachers.

SACRE committee adapted to meeting virtually so that support to schools could continue and their dedication needs to be recognised. The success of SACRE is through their voluntary time and effort given despite the unusual circumstances we were facing. The support by local councillors is appreciated too as it helps in promoting and supporting the RE work that is being delivered within the city. Our clerk Laura Corcoran continues to ensure communications are sent out timely and I take this opportunity to thank her too.

Despite the various challenges and changes we as a SACRE will continue to support schools to deliver effective RE in Peterborough by:

1. Ensuring teachers and leaders have all the support needed to provide meaningful RE within their school settings
2. Provide appropriate support to how students can be assessed for RE from key stage 1 to 5
3. Promoting virtual tours of places of worship by faith groups for students' experience including online support from SACRE faith members

I commend this report and continue to support the work of our SACRE

Sukaina Manji
Chair of SACRE

Purpose of the report:

Religious Education (RE) is an important curriculum subject and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality RE.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority (LA) publishes a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

This entails:

- advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the agreed syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus;
- provide advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its LA, consider whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the agreed syllabus to improve the quality teaching and learning of RE;
- offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

Management of SACRE

SACRE is very pleased to report that the LA has continued to support the work of SACRE by providing a named officer from the LA responsible for SACRE and a clerk for the administration, and has secured the services of a RE Adviser to support SACRE's work to schools. Despite significant cutbacks in many local authorities, Peterborough City Council has continued to support SACRE and its work.

Peterborough SACRE, which has met once a term, comprises of four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable. The four groups are as follows:-

- Group A -representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions and religious denominations;
- Group B -representatives of the Church of England;
- Group C - representatives of the teachers' association;
- Group D – representatives of the LA.

SACRE welcomed the following new member:

Committee A – Rajni Reddy

We said farewell to Ryan Blackburn (Committee A) and Mark Tomlins (Committee C) We thank them all for their contributions to SACRE.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Peterborough County Council SACRE website at <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/religious-education/>

Determinations

SACRE had no new requests for determinations.

SACRE and Academies

Peterborough SACRE continues to enjoy a positive relationship with some of the academies in the city. There are members from academies on SACRE. Teachers from academies attend network meetings to share and exchange ideas and materials.

NASACRE Conference

The 2020 NASACRE AGM 'Authority in RE' was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The papers have been produced and published online www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2020/2020-papers

Agreed Syllabus

The 2018 – 2023 syllabus still applies to all schools in Peterborough.

Network Meetings

The primary network meetings for the academic year have been led Amanda Fitton (RE Adviser). Only two sets of meetings were held in the Autumn and Spring terms of 2019 and 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Those who attended the meetings were able to take away copies of PowerPoints and other resources. The meetings covered a variety of different topics to support RE in primary schools. These were; 'RE across the Curriculum and OFSTED' and 'Considering Similarities and Difference in religions and world views'. SACRE would like to thank the following schools for hosting the meetings, St Michaels C of E primary, William De Yaxley Academy and Cheveley C of E primary.

Training

Training continued to be popular with a range of training being held until March 2020 and have continued to support schools with the new syllabus. Themes for the year have ranged from; Planning an RE Curriculum, new to RE and SMSC and Collective worship. The courses were well attended from a variety of schools across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough schools.

Complaints

There have been no complaints made to SACRE.

RE Newsletter

The newsletter has been sent out every term over the academic year with an extra newsletter for the summer term 2020 to support schools through the Covid 19 pandemic. The newsletter has been a mixture of news from the RE world, advice, notifications and links to resources.

Working Parties

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the work of the working parties was suspended.

Exam results

Due to Covid 19 GCSE and A level results for August 2020 were based on assessment grades provided by individual schools and the government has not published any data for individual schools for the exams taken in 2020