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To: The Chair and Members
of the Standing Advisory
Council on Religious
Education

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 29 January 2025

Contact: Yvette Welsh,
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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thursday, 6th February, 2025

A meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is to be held on the above date at 10.00 am in the Committee Suite - County Hall to consider the following matters.

Donna Manson
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2024

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

4 Devon SACRE Membership Updates

To note any changes to the membership of Devon SACRE and to pay tribute to Saxon Spence.

5 Devon SACRE Annual report 2023/2024 (Pages 7 - 18)

6 Data from Schools

An update about data collection from schools regarding RE provision will be reported at the meeting.

7 Standards in Schools - Monitoring and Ofsted (Pages 19 - 22)

The purpose of this report is to update SACRE members on the findings published in recent Ofsted reports, particularly where comments relate to Religious Education (RE), collective worship or Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) of pupils. Where appropriate, the report may recommend that SACRE officers should contact specified schools to either congratulate them on their outstanding practice, or to offer curriculum support in specified areas.

Ofsted reports from a number of primary schools make reference to issues relating to RE/CW/SMSC. Most of these comments are very encouraging.

A number of schools are being followed up specifically with regard to comments in their reports.

8 Devon and Torbay SACRE: Agreed Syllabus

The purpose of this report is to update SACRE members on plans to monitor and follow-up the implementation of the Devon and Torbay Agreed Syllabus 2024-29.

9 Learn Teach Lead RE

The purpose of this report is to update SACRE members on the progress of the Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) hub network.

Hub leaders training (2024/5) takes place on 7 March 2025 and 4 July 2025.

The LTLRE hub groups across Devon continue to be successful, with termly meetings attracting both primary and secondary teachers of RE. These meetings take place both in person and online, depending on the context and topic being covered.

We have a number of new hub leaders: Shana Bartram-Owen and Amber Griffiths in Mid-Devon (new group), Lisa Lowe in East Devon, Shelley Moss in South Devon/Torbay, Zoe Bullamore in North Devon.

The next annual conference is planned for 10th October 2025.

Devon SACRE is requested to make a £1,000 payment to LTLRE for the academic year 2024/5, as has been practice in recent years. This helps to support the training for one of our LTLRE hubs in the County. This figure has been set out in the SACRE development plan.

10 Regional and National Developments: RE Hubs, Curriculum, and Assessment Review

An update on the latest Regional and National developments will be given at the meeting

11 Young Ambassadors Project

The South West wing of the Young Ambassadors project involves Ed Pawson, (Devon SACRE Adviser) working with Y10/11 students from Okehampton College and Y6 pupils from Okehampton Primary School. These schools are both members of the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust, and one of the reasons for choosing these schools as partners is the Trust's commitment to inclusion and equality.

Our Young Ambassadors are becoming increasingly confident as they grow into their ambassadorial roles. Activities include:

- Participating in an online discussion with Daniel Greenberg (Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards), Josh Cass (Lead Consultant for Advocacy for Culham St Gabriel's Trust) and Jan McGuire (AREIAC executive joint chair)
- Creating a display for Interfaith Week
- Setting up a Christian Union, which is proving to be a popular school club
- Speaking at the Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration events in Exeter on 27/1/25, introducing the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz
- Visiting Exeter Mosque
- Planning a community Iftar event for Ramadan, to take place in the school
- Planning a visit to Westminster in July 2025 to have talks with members of Parliament

12 Faith and Belief Schools Visitor Training Days

An update on the training day for faith and belief visitors to schools.

13 Holocaust Memorial Day - 27 January 2025

An update will be given to the Committee about the recent Holocaust Memorial Day events.

14 New Multi-faith Centre at Exeter University

An update about the new multi faith centre at Exeter University will be given at the meeting.

The new Multi-Faith Centre includes a Muslim prayer space, a multi-faith space for quiet reflection, services and events, a house communal meeting space, a kitchen, a dedicated office for the Multifaith Chaplaincy Team, a Changing Places Facility and an external terrace area.

15 South West SACRE Conference 2025 (Pages 23 - 24)

The South West Conference will be held online on Monday 3 March 2025, 1pm - 4pm.

16 NASACRE Training Sessions (Pages 25 - 26)

NASACRE virtual training 2024-2025 programme acts as a conduit through which SACRE's can be brought together. The programme of sessions can be booked through the Devon SACRE clerk.

17 Future SACRE Meetings

The next meetings of Devon SACRE will be held on:

Tuesday 17 June 2025

Thursday 13 November 2025

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED

NIL

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Induction Loop available



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

4 November 2024

Present:-

Group A: Christian and Other Religion and Belief Communities, with the Exception of the Church of England

Warren Houghton, Jude Taylorson, Patricia Hannam, Gurmit Kang

Group B: The Church of England

Sandra Gill, Claire Hulbert, Kelly Keatley (Vice Chair), Jeremy Roberts

Group C: Teachers' Associations

Susannah Cornwall, Ruth Flanagan, Penny Hammett, Wendy Harrison, Belinda Twiggs (Chair)

Group D: Devon County Council

Cllr Tracy Adams, Cllr Christine Channon, Cllr Ron Peart, Cllr Colin Slade

Co-opted: John Goody

Apologies:-

Councillors M Hext, Leonore Newson, Jo Hunter, Joe Matthews, Bex Northcott, Cllr Debo Sellis and Cllr Dan Thomas

* 78

Election of Chair

It was **PROPOSED** by Jeremy Roberts and **SECONDED** by Penny Hammett that Belinda Twiggs be appointed as Chair of Devon SACRE for the forthcoming year.

* 79

Election of Vice Chair

It was **PROPOSED** by Wendy Harrison and **SECONDED** by Sandra Gill that Kelly Keatley be appointed as Vice Chair of Devon SACRE for the forthcoming year.

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Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2024 were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

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* **81** **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised needing urgent attention.

* **82** **Devon SACRE Membership updates**

The Committee **NOTED** the membership of Groups A -D and the co-optees to the Committee.

* **83** **Standards in Schools - Monitoring and Ofsted**

The Committee received an update on the findings published in recent Ofsted reports, particularly where comments related to religious education (RE) collective worship or spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

Reference to a number of schools were mentioned including, primary schools at Stockland, Membury, Dolton, Uplowman, Thorverton, St Catherines, St Nicholas and Withycombe which highlighted positive comments from Ofsted inspections. These included:

- that pupils can confidently make comparison about place of worship
- 'Stop the Clock' days help to deepen pupils' understanding of cultural celebrations
- Pupils recognise the importance of celebrating others achievements
- Effective in helping pupils to learn about different beliefs and appreciate differences
- Development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- That the school has a clear and ambitious vision and set of values

During general discussion, the Committee referred to the following:

- That assistance be offered to those schools that did not have specific favourable RE focused comments and be able to assist in a positive manner.
- That RE related topics equip pupils for life beyond school

It was **NOTED** that Ofsted reports from a number of schools made reference to issues relating to RE provision and that two schools are being followed up with regard to comments in their reports and whether assistance could be offered.

* 84 **Devon and Torbay SACRE: Agreed syllabus**

Following the positive feedback from the launch events, it was **NOTED** that 296 delegates in total attended the three in person sessions and one online session.

On going training for teachers will continue to be offered during 2024/2025 via 'Inset' training, the LTLRE conference and local hub meetings.

* 85 **Learn Teach Lead RE**

The Committee **NOTED** the following :

- That a number of new Hub Leaders have joined the team and training to take place in March and July 2025
- That Devon Hubs continue to offer a mix of hybrid and face to face meetings over the year
- that the 2024 annual conference that took place on 4 October 2024 had been well received. 91 delegates attended from schools in Devon, Torbay, Plymouth and Cornwall. Feedback had included:
 - Great networking opportunity
 - Practical ideas for staff development
 - Understand how to implement a worldviews approach
 - Inspiring, uplifting, imaginative, motivating
 - Great choice of workshops for beginners and experienced teachers
 - Fantastic wide range of workshops

During general discussion members referred to:

- The value of teacher training students being able to attend the conference
- that the Higher Education establishments can offer talks and workshops on request;
- the importance of RS A level in FE colleges

* 86 **Regional and National Development Developments: RE Hubs, Curriculum, and Assessment Review**

The Committee were asked views about the following statements as part of the Governments new curriculum consultation. The Committee had been invited to meet following the formal meeting to discuss the response from Devon SACRE.

RE in the curriculum - for pupils of compulsory school age

a. The status quo should be maintained.

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4/11/24

- b. RE should be included as part of the National Curriculum with the content being determined by central government.
- c. RE should be included as part of the National Curriculum. Content should be determined by the RE Council's National Content Standard not by central government.

The right of withdrawal from RE* – for compulsory school age.

- a. No changes should be made to the legislation concerning right of withdrawal from RE
- b. A justification should be provided (by parents) to exercise the right of withdrawal from RE
- c. The right to withdraw from RE should be removed if RE is required to be critical, objective and pluralistic
- d. The right to withdraw from RE should be removed

Accountability measures - curriculum

- a. No changes should be made to accountability measures in relation to the curriculum
- b. Changes should be made to accountability measures so that schools are held accountable for the standard of their provision for RE
- c. Changes should be made to accountability measures so that schools are held accountable for the standard of their provision for RE using the National Content Standard as a benchmark

It was generally welcomed that a response be submitted by the Committee, emphasising the importance of the REC's National Content Standard, which gives a clear description of high quality RE.

The Committee were reminded about the RE Hubs and the wealth of information available.

* 87 **NASACRE Webinars and 'In Conversation' event**

The Committee **NOTED** the NASACRE online training programme for 2024/2025.

* 88 **Young Ambassadors Project**

The Committee **NOTED** that representatives of the Young Ambassador project would be attending the next meeting of the Committee.

* 89 **Faith and Belief Schools' Visitors Training Day**

The Committee **NOTED** that the Faith and Belief Speaker training is to be held at The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter on 18 January 2025

* **90** **Interfaith Week 2024**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following events would be taking place during Interfaith Week at The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter:

Universal Peace Prayers– 9 November 2024

Meet a Muslim, Pagan, Buddhist, Jew, Humanist, Christian – 16 November 2024

* **91** **Holocaust Memorial day - 27 January 2025 - For a Better Future**

The Committee **NOTED** that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) would be held on 27 January 2025 and the theme is to be 'For a better future'.

* **92** **Future SACRE Meetings**

The Committee NOTED the dates of future meetings:

Thursday 6 February 2025

Tuesday 17 June 2025

Thursday 13 November 2025

NOTES:

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.15 pm

Devon SACRE Annual Report 2023/4



Foreward

I would like to begin this report by recording grateful thanks to members of SACRE for their enthusiasm for, and encouragement of, the delivery of high-quality learning in RE for our schools. We have continued with hybrid meetings and thanks must also go to our clerk who handles all the arrangements to make this possible. The breadth of representation on SACRE is a strong feature and the willingness of people to work together is an inspiration.

Our partnership with Torbay and Plymouth SACREs and support from RE Today provided a hugely successful roll-out of the new Agreed Syllabus to teachers and schools leaders from across the area and work is on-going to ensure that support and resources are made as widely available as possible. This has been an important achievement against a background of extreme budgetary challenge.

SACRE has been pleased to continue its support of the work of Learn Teach Lead RE through local hubs. We continue to foster healthy and positive relationships with an array of educational and faith and belief organisations in the county, to ensure that teachers are well supported and enabled to deliver an inspirational educational in Religion and Worldviews to all pupils in the county, regardless of the funding regime or governance of schools.

Through this report you will detect the huge influence of Ed Pawson. Without his breadth and depth of understanding, his network of local and national contacts and his passion for the delivery of high-quality learning experiences Devon SACRE would not be the beacon of hope for the subject that it remains.

Jeremy Roberts (SACRE Chair)

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1 Introduction

Membership

During the year 2023/4 SACRE was pleased to welcome new members: Dr Pat Hannam, Jo Hunter, Leonore Newson, Dr Dave Regis, Professor Susannah Cornwall, Councillor Colin Slade.

Many thanks to Maia Miller, Keith Denby, Professor David Tollerton, Gerry Winnall, Councillor Margaret Squires who have stepped down.

Details of Devon SACRE meetings

November 2023: 27 attendees, plus clerk and adviser, hybrid meeting

February 2024: 23 attendees, plus clerk and adviser, hybrid meeting

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June 2024: 19 attendees, plus clerk and adviser, hybrid meeting
All meetings were quorate.

2 SACRE's statutory responsibilities

2.1 Launch of the Local Agreed Syllabus

Following an extensive review, a new Agreed Syllabus for RE (AS) has been launched for Devon schools. This will run from 2024-2029. The recommendations from the Agreed Syllabus Council (ASC) were accepted by SACRE, and the new syllabus was launched at 4 events during summer 2024, for first teaching in September 2024. Nearly 300 teachers attended the launch conferences. These events were led by the RE Today curriculum writers, and feedback has been very positive.

On-going training for teachers will continue to be offered during 2024/2025 via Inset training, the LTLRE conference and local hub meetings. The new syllabus has also been adopted by Torbay and Plymouth SACREs, with Cornwall SACRE likely to adopt a similar pattern for 2025.

The new syllabus does not look radically different from the current model in terms of its substantive knowledge component. Where important changes have been made they are in the adoption of a religion and worldviews approach to RE, in response to developing understandings about the subject at a national level. This recognises a significant shift in the way the subject is being planned and taught, following on from the Commission for RE report ([2018](#)). The new syllabus also responds to many of the challenges laid down by the Ofsted Deep and Meaningful report ([2024](#)).

Here is a summary of the key changes to the AS:

- Availability of 'lesson-ready' resources
- Teaching units embody more diversity
- Teaching units reflect the local lived experience of people's religious and non-religious worldviews
- Greater emphasis on 'ways of knowing' and pupils' personal knowledge
- More input on Humanism and non-religious worldviews in primary phase
- More detail on assessment
- More input for special schools
- More input on progression in language and vocabulary across the syllabus
- Updated use of terminology and information on demographics
- More materials on how to link learning into local places of interest and places of worship

2.2 Standards and monitoring in RE

2.2.1 Secondary schools

Data from the DfE annual workforce survey points to the fact that a number of secondary schools do not teach enough RE. Schools have been contacted and conversations with headteachers and senior leaders have taken place to explore further and offer input to encourage them to develop the place of RE in the curriculum.

2.2.2 GCSE Religious Studies exam results 2024

Devon schools are to be congratulated in their continued improvements in progress data in GCSE Religious Studies. In 2018 Devon schools recorded 19.5% (9-7) and 50.7% (9-5). This compared unfavourably with national figures of 30.0% (9-7) and 60.0% (9-5). In 2024 Devon schools showed much better progress achieving 28.3% (9-7) and 58.5% (9-5) in comparison

to national figures of 31.0% (9-7) and 61.5% (9-5). This is a remarkable and creditable improvement.

Appendix 1 shows entry data for Devon schools for 2024 GCSE RS exams. This chart shows the spread of entries, from schools entering their whole Y11 cohort to those entering few or no students. The percentage of Y11 cohort in Devon schools who were entered for GCSE RS has dropped by more than half in the last 6 years from 58% in 2018 to 25.7% in 2024. This fall demonstrates a significant reduction and is partly explained by a (national) trend that is seeing schools move away from entering their full Y11 cohort for the GCSE RS exam, towards entry via more limited option groups. It also reflects the increased competition in many schools for GCSE option choices. This is, in part, due to pressures from EBAC subjects. In some ways this can be understood as a positive shift, where schools are more accurately targeting students who want to study RS as an exam subject. However, an increasing number of schools are not running a GCSE course at all, either because they don't see it as a priority subject, or because the RS option fails to recruit sufficient numbers to be viable as a course.

SACRE is keen to give schools advice about how to run effective and vibrant GCSE exam options classes. It is vital for the subject to continue to be studied at higher levels and therefore help to create the next generation of RE teachers in our schools.

2.2.3 RS at A Level

SACRE continues to note the importance for schools and colleges to make provision for post-16 students to study RS as an examination subject at A level. In this context SACRE is concerned about the significant reduction in both the number of schools teaching RS A level and the number of students being entered for the exam (see Appendix 2 for details). In 2018 12 schools offered RS A level, with 107 students entered for the exam. In 2024 only 9 schools were teaching RS at A level and the number of entrants had dropped by nearly 50% to 56.

This raises serious questions about equality issues and about the academic pipeline to generate future teachers of RE. Many schools and colleges seem to be denying students the opportunity to study a subject for which they may be specifically academically and emotionally suited to follow.

2.2.4 Primary schools

Monitoring of RE in primary schools continues through sampling of websites and scrutiny of recent Ofsted reports. Over 70% of Ofsted reports include a mention of issues relating to SACRE's purpose (eg RE, collective worship or SMSC) and the majority of these comments are positive. Only about 3% of inspections involve a deep dive in RE.

Where SACRE has concerns, schools have been contacted to raise issues about standards or profile of the subject. Visits have been made to schools where their Ofsted report has highlighted weaknesses in RE or related areas. Where RE is mentioned positively schools have been contacted to thank them for their strong provision.

Resources have been shared and advice has been given to a number of schools with regard to parental requests for withdrawal from RE (and/or collective worship). In particular, LTLRE hub leaders have been a massive resource in being available in localities to offer support and guidance where schools make contact for help.

2.2.5 Monitoring RE in Multi-Academy Trusts

Devon SACRE has been working in partnership with a number of Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) to ensure that RE is given its statutory place in the curriculum. There are an increasing number of MATs who have appointed RE leads across their schools. SACRE, along

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with NATRE and RE Hubs, is active in drawing these hub leaders together and working with them to develop an understanding of how MATs need to make provision for the subject.

2.2.6 Headteachers' briefing

Following the syllabus launch events in summer 2024 the Adviser and Chair attended a Devon headteachers' updates day to brief school leaders on the changes to the syllabus, and to give a report on the latest Ofsted evaluations of the subject.

3 Collective Worship

The current guidance on [collective worship](#) and school assemblies from Devon SACRE is still in date. This guidance supports schools in developing a suitable CW policy and encouraging active pupil participation in assemblies. We want to help schools put in place effective practice, offering opportunities for reflective experiences for their pupils. The guidance document offers an explanation of the legal obligations, including the right to withdrawal, and outlines some of the rich opportunities that assemblies/ collective worship can offer pupils for spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.

There have been no formal complaints about collective worship in schools and no applications for determinations.

4 Links with other bodies

4.1 Strong partnerships

Strong partnerships are a hallmark of the way Devon SACRE operates. We have good links with a number of organisations, working closely with Devon County Council, the Diocese of Exeter, the Universities of Exeter and St Mark and St John and Devon Faith and Belief Forum.

The SACRE Adviser attends the annual conferences for AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and NASACRE (National Association of SACREs), and sits on the AREIAC executive. He coordinates the SW [AREIAC](#) network of advisers (SWARE), organises the annual SW SACRE conference and acts in the role of [RE Hubs](#) lead for the SW. The 2024 SW SACRE conference hosted inputs from a number of regional and national RE figures, offering workshops on a range of important inputs for SACRE member training. During the year, RE Hubs hosted a conversation forum for regional SACRE officers to receive updates and give feedback with [NASACRE](#).

4.2 Devon Faith and Beliefs Forum

SACRE works closely with the [Devon Faith and Belief Forum](#) to establish strong links to local faith and belief organisations. This enables schools to draw on visitors to school classrooms and to inform who will be the most suitable faith and belief representatives when member vacancies occur.

4.3 NASACRE: CIO Constitution

SACRE has discussed and noted that the NASACRE Executive is making an application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

4.4 Learn, Teach, Lead RE

Devon SACRE is pleased to continue to partner and provide funding support for the Learn, Teach, Lead RE programme ([LTLRE](#)). Devon LTLRE hubs are working well to support teachers of RE, offering termly twilight meetings and networking opportunities. A professional community has now been set up via SWIFT (teaching school) which offers termly CPD for both primary and secondary teachers of RE.

The 2023 conference was well attended, with over 90 teachers attending from across the region. Both conference and hub meeting evaluations show how valuable teachers are finding these networking and CPD offers.

Hub leaders continue to be a valuable resource to teachers of RE in their locality, and termly training days enable hub leaders to keep up to date with current RE issues and initiatives.

5 SACRE: local involvement

5.1 RE Newsletter

The half termly RE newsletter gives schools in depth support, information and networking links. It signposts current CPD, hub groups and conferences. Though this newsletter SACRE signposts guidance to schools about significant events, eg religious festivals such as Easter, Ramadan and Diwali, Interfaith Week etc

5.2 Holocaust Memorial Day

SACRE officers organise Holocaust Memorial Day events for schools every year. On Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2024 a service was held at Exeter Cathedral where schools participated in remembrance and reflection. The theme, The Fragility of Freedom, provided a poignant opportunity for pupils to reflect on issues of conflict in today's society. Over 200 school pupils were involved in the Exeter events from eight schools across the County. Presentations were given on Kindertransport, the Gypsy Holocaust and Holocaust history. The closing ceremony was hosted by the Jewish community.

HMD resources and [links](#) were shared with schools.

5.3 Advice to Schools in Times of Conflict

In the aftermath of the unrest between Israel and Gaza, in October 2023, SACRE circulated a document to schools to enable them to navigate contentious cultural, religious and political community issues.

6 SACRE: regional and national involvement

6.1 Standing up for the importance of RE

SACRE is grateful to Councillor Tracy Adams for her correspondence with Ben Bradshaw MP, and for his commitment in following up with the Schools' Minister, Nick Gibb. The concerns raised were regarding the shortage of secondary RE teachers and the need to improve recruitment. SACRE has noted that many more lessons in secondary school RE are taught by teachers with no post-A level qualifications than in comparable subjects.

SACRE members considered the reply from the Minister to be largely unhelpful. In particular, the claim that it was right for the DfE to focus spending on EBAC subjects, to the detriment of subjects in the wider curriculum, was questioned.

SACRE also thanked Belinda Twiggs for taking the crucial issues of recruitment and retention to Anthony Mangnall MP, highlighting the shortage of trained RE teachers in secondary schools.

6.2 RE Hubs

SACRE continues to be supportive of the [RE Hubs](#) initiative, which is providing teachers with a 'one-stop-shop' website, offering links to [school speakers](#), places of interest, CPD events, local network groups, blogs and resources etc.

6.3 National Content Standard

SACRE has been kept fully informed of the publication of the REC's [National Content Standard](#). The NCS provides a benchmark for excellence in religion and worldviews in schools or across a MATs in England.

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6.4 Religion and Worldviews Handbook

SACRE members have been introduced to the REC's Religion and Worldviews [Handbook](#). This is a tool kit for RE syllabus writers, to enable them to translate the core vision of religion and worldviews approach into a curriculum. RWs syllabus frameworks from three school based teams have also been published as part of the document.

6.5 Young Ambassadors for Freedom of Religion or Belief

The Devon SACRE Advisor has been partnering with the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust to train up a group of Young Ambassadors for RE and for Freedom of Religion or Belief. The project runs from 2023-25, working with pupils from Okehampton Primary School and students from Okehampton College.

A current update on the activities undertaken by the secondary students include:

- creating short films for a national REady work campaign, inspired by Lord Bilimoria, which advocates for the importance of RE in the workplace
- Campaigning about the need for a suitable prayer room in the school
- Discussing and submitting questions to be answered by Children's Commissioner Rachel De Souza
- Visiting places of Religion and Worldviews significance in Exeter, including the Exeter Synagogue and The Quaker Meeting House
- Working with and inspiring their primary school peers
- Speaking to a large group of teachers at the launch of the new RE agreed syllabus
- Planning Interfaith Week activities

Young Ambassador pupils from the primary school have enjoyed engaging with the NATRE Spirited Arts competition and taking part in an online event with Muslim Ambassadors of Faith and Belief from schools in Redbridge, London.

This project will culminate in a visit to Westminster in June 2025 to address MPs and Lords about the importance of RE.

SACRE has invited the Young Ambassadors to come to address a SACRE meeting.

The project is led by the Association of RE Inspectors and Advisers (AREIAC) and funded by Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

7 SACRE organisation

7.1 SACRE leadership and organisation

Devon SACRE is well served through its clerk (Yvette Welsh), LA lead (Simon Bissett), LA admin support (Sally Watts) and adviser (Ed Pawson). Devon County Council is responsive to SACRE's needs and supportive in its administration and organisation. It is well supported financially.

SACRE membership is vibrant and well-engaged, although there are still a few significant vacancies. The new SACRE constitution, approved by DCC in Feb 2023, stipulates that SACRE members will serve a 4 year period, followed by a further 4 year period, if invited to continue. After this (8 years) most SACRE members will come off SACRE, to allow others to join and gain the valuable experience of being on this body.

As a result of this change there has been some transfer of representative roles on SACRE, opening up opportunities for new members.

7.2 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice training

SACRE continues to be aware of the need to increase the diversity of its representation. In response to requests from members, SACRE received input from a schools DEIJ lead.

Issues that were raised and noted included:

- importance of language used
- importance of treating everyone with equal respect, always aiming to see the individual before the group
- need to avoid phrases which are reductive and perpetuate stereotyping
- need to aim not to cause offence, but being alert to apologise and learn rather than blaming the victim
- importance of making the effort to find out more information
- awareness of barriers and prejudices around religion, race, culture, class, poverty
- discussion about what prevents children learning about other religions and worldviews

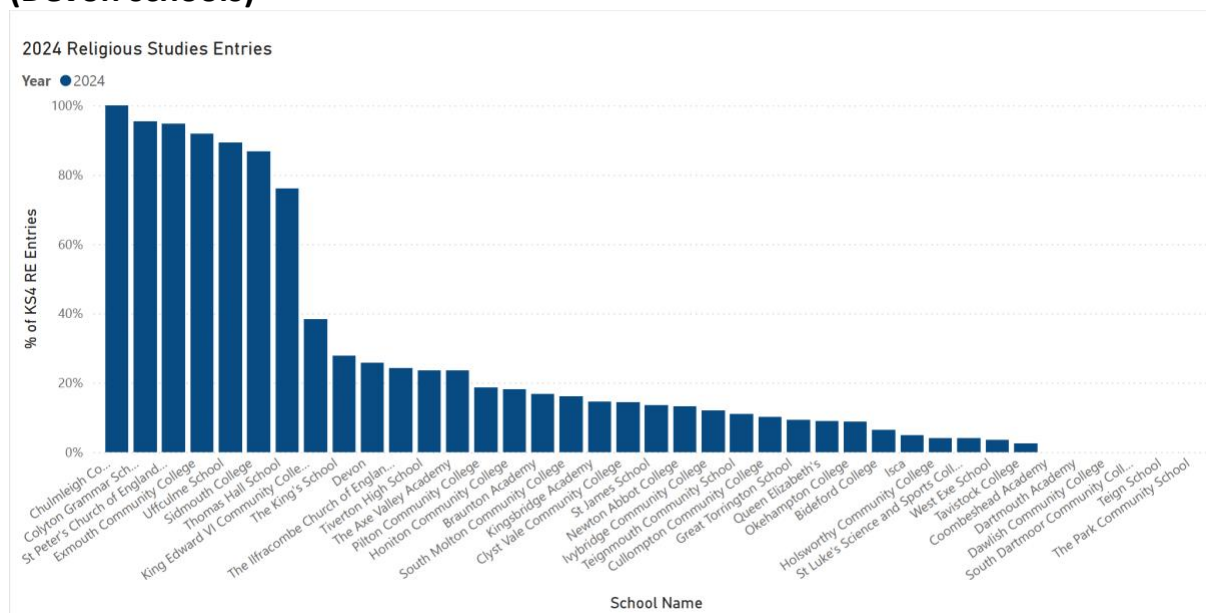
All meetings in the year 2022/3 have been quorate.

A number of SACRE members have taken advantage of useful training opportunities over the last year, both through attendance at the SW SACRE conference and national online NASACRE training events.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1

Percentage of KS4 Cohort Full Course Religious Studies GCSE Entries 2024 (Devon schools)



Appendix 2

Religious Studies Full Course GCSE Outcomes 2024

School	9 - 7	9 - 5	9 - 4	9 - 1
The Ilfracombe Church of England Academy	64.3%	92.9%	97.6%	100.0%
Queen Elizabeth's	58.8%	94.1%	100.0%	100.0%
Honiton Community College	40.9%	68.2%	77.3%	95.5%
The King's School	45.8%	87.5%	93.8%	100.0%
Isca	80.0%	90.0%	90.0%	100.0%

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Clyst Vale Community College	48.0%	72.0%	76.0%	96.0%
Sidmouth College	14.6%	36.9%	53.1%	96.9%
Exmouth Community College	14.0%	40.5%	53.0%	94.6%
West Exe School	75.0%	87.5%	87.5%	100.0%
St James School	38.5%	84.6%	84.6%	96.2%
Bideford College	20.0%	60.0%	73.3%	86.7%
The Axe Valley Academy	11.1%	37.0%	44.4%	96.3%
St Luke's Science and Sports College	57.1%	71.4%	85.7%	100.0%
Thomas Hall School	2.4%	24.4%	41.5%	92.7%
Braunton Academy	16.7%	45.8%	58.3%	83.3%
Chulmleigh Community College	19.4%	50.3%	67.7%	97.4%
Great Torrington School	7.7%	61.5%	61.5%	100.0%
Holsworthy Community College	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	100.0%
The Park Community School*				
Pilton Community College	15.9%	43.2%	54.5%	95.5%
Dawlish Community College				
South Dartmoor Community College				
King Edward VI Community College	33.3%	75.9%	81.5%	98.1%
Kingsbridge Academy	53.6%	75.0%	82.1%	100.0%
Coombeshead Academy				
Teignmouth Community School	26.3%	57.9%	68.4%	94.7%
Tavistock College	16.7%	16.7%	33.3%	100.0%
Okehampton College	25.0%	75.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Ivybridge Community College	56.3%	81.3%	91.7%	100.0%
Colyton Grammar School	83.9%	99.3%	99.3%	100.0%
Teign School				
Newton Abbot College	25.0%	78.1%	90.6%	100.0%
Uffculme School	23.6%	59.3%	72.0%	99.5%
Dartmouth Academy				
Cullompton Community College	0.0%	33.3%	46.7%	100.0%
South Molton Community College	5.3%	42.1%	57.9%	94.7%
Tiverton High School	9.4%	28.3%	49.1%	100.0%
St Peter's Church of England Aided School	22.8%	63.0%	73.2%	99.2%
Devon	28.3%	58.5%	69.5%	97.5%
National	31.0%	61.5%	72.0%	97.5%

Appendix 3

Entry data for A level Religious Studies 2018-2024

Year	Schools/Centres entering students for A level RS	Total entries
2018	Ilfracombe, QE, Clyst Vale, Sidmouth, Exmouth, South Dartmoor, Tavistock, Okehampton, Ivybridge, Colyton, Teign, Newton Abbot College Total: 12	109

2019	Ilfracombe, QE, King's, Sidmouth, Exmouth, Axe Valley, South Dartmoor, Tavistock, Okehampton, Colyton, Teign, Newton Abbot College, Mount Kelly, Blundell's, Stover, West Buckland, Exeter School, Maynard, Exeter Tutorial College, Exeter College, Petroc College Total 21	170
2024	Ilfracombe, QE, King's, Clyst Vale, Sidmouth, South Dartmoor, Colyton, Newton Abbot College, Ivybridge Total 9	56

Appendix 4

Membership of Devon SACRE August 2024

Group A: Christian and Other Religion and Belief Communities, with the Exception of the Church of England

Name	Faith / belief community
Dr Dave Regis	Humanist
Jane Carpenter	Jewish
Warren Houghton	Baha'i
Mary Hext	Methodist
Ravi Nathwani	Hindu
Leonore Newson	Pagan
Jude Taylorson	Buddhist
Dr Pat Hannam	Quaker
Gurmit Kang	Sikh
Helen Brown	Catholic

Group B: The Church of England (Diocesan Board of Education)

Name	Organisation
Sandra Gill	Church of England
Claire Hulbert	Church of England
Jeremy Roberts	Church of England
Jo Hunter	Church of England
Elizabeth Underwood	Church of England
Kelly Keatley	Church of England

Group C: Teachers' Associations

Name	Organisation
Dr Edgar Mihas	UCU (FE)
Belinda Twiggs	NATRE
Phil Randall	Secondary School Leaders (DLSL)
Caitlin Cornwell	NEU
Wendy Harrison	NEU

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Ruth Flanagan	UCU
Penny Hammett	Primary School Leaders (DSLs)
Prof Susannah Cornwall	HE
Joe Matthews	NATRE Secondary

Group D: The County Council

Name of Councillor	Organisation
Christine Channon	DCC
Colin Slade	DCC
Ron Peart	DCC
Debo Sellis	DCC
Daniel Thomas	DCC
Tracy Adams	DCC
Janet Bradford	DCC

Co-opted Members

Name
Saxon Spence
Rosemary Khreish
Bex Northcott
John Gooddy

SACRE Officers

Clerk: Yvette Welsh

Adviser: Ed Pawson

LA lead: Simon Bissett

Ofsted reports Nov 2024 – Jan 2025

Devon schools

This report shows the comments which have been made in Ofsted reports in areas that relate to the work of SACRE.

Primary School	Grade Q of Ed	Grade PD	Published Date	Ofsted report comments relevant to SACRE monitoring	Deep Dive in RE	Comments for SACRE
Clyst St Mary	RI	Good	11/11/24	Staff select books that help pupils to learn about diversity and different groups in society. This helps pupils broaden their views of the wider world. Pupils have a strong understanding of fundamental British values. They learn about different faiths and cultures. This helps pupils to understand the importance of tolerance and equality of opportunity.		Yes
Hazeldown	Good	Good	11/11	Inspirational speakers and assemblies help to raise pupils' aspirations. Pupils enjoy learning about faiths and cultures different to their own. For example, older pupils relate their learning about the 'Windrush' to their study of equality.		Yes
Broadhempstead	Good	O/S	15/11	Pupils look out for each other. They understand and accept each other's differences.		
Shalldon	O/S	O/S	15/11	School council members lead weekly thought-provoking debates about topical issues. Pupils have a well-developed understanding of healthy lifestyles, fundamental British values and a range of religions. This helps pupils to be respectful of difference and learn about the world beyond their own community.		Yes
Upottery	Good	Good	15/11	Pupils have many opportunities for personal development. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is well supported through the stories they listen to and events such as the faith weeks. The school makes good use of events such as Black History Month to ensure that pupils learn more about the		Yes

				background and beliefs of a wide range of people. Staff weave topics such as equality into regular events to help pupils to understanding British values. For example, a recent science event focused on the contribution of women to science.		
Sparkwell	Good	Good	18/11	The provision for pupils’ personal development is a strength. Pupils have a well-formed view of the fundamental British values. During assemblies, they learn about different aspects of life in modern Britain.		
Colyton	Good	Good	18/11			
Clawton	RI	Good	27/11	To be well prepared for life in modern Britain, the school teaches pupils about the importance of the fundamental British values.		
Marldon			02/12	They gain a secure understanding of how people can be different and why some of these differences are protected by law. This is underpinned by pupils’ embodiment of the school and fundamental British values which teach them the importance of tolerance and respect.		
Kingsteignton			09/12	The weekly celebration assembly is a highlight of the week for pupils where they celebrate earning house points together.		
Gt Torrington	RI	Good	10/12	Pupils build knowledge of other cultures, for example, through an exchange trip to Berlin. Pupils are tolerant and understand the importance of equality.		
Diptford	Good	Good	13/12	Pupils develop a mature understanding of diversity and equality. The subjects that pupils’ study, such as the British Empire and the Windrush generation provide opportunities for moral and ethical discussions.		
Meavy			13/12	pupils visit local stone circles and view examples of tin mining. This helps pupils learn about the human impact on the environment. Pupils also learn about the differences between people, including different religions and faiths. As a result, pupils have a strong sense of respect for people with different views from themselves.		Yes
Filleigh	Good	Good	16/12	Pupils learn the importance of valuing others’ opinions and beliefs. They are taught to be respectful of others and to treat everyone fairly. Pupils learn about		Yes

				different religions and cultures. Activities such as the residential trip to Bristol help broaden pupils' experiences. This helps pupils to be well prepared for life in modern Britain.		
Coombe Martin	RI	Good	15/01/25			
Southbrook	RI	Good	21/01	Pupils learn that people are different and have different life experiences. They know that all people deserve to be treated with respect.		
St Gabriel's			21/01	The school carefully selects books it wants pupils to know. These include texts to promote pupils' understanding of different cultures and diversity to ensure that all pupils see their lived experiences represented in the stories they read. The school's work on supporting pupils' personal development is a strength. The curriculum weaves 'character education' throughout to develop pupils well beyond the academic. The school underpins this work with its character values. For example, pupils deepen their knowledge of 'determination' through inspirational visitors who encourage them to aim high for what they can achieve for themselves.		Yes
St David's	Good	Good	23/01	The school celebrates the cultural diversity in the community. Staff and pupils are rightly proud to be part of this close-knit community in the heart of the city. when talking about the importance of democracy and relating this to their school council. In this way, pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is particularly well supported.		Yes
Westclyst			23/01	They relish choosing from the wide selection of texts, which reflect the diversity of different communities and cultures. Older pupils explain confidently how the class novel is helping them to develop a deep understanding of what racism means. Visits to London and the Netherlands help to develop pupils' understanding of British values and different cultures.		Yes
Bearnes	RI	Good	27/1	Specialist assemblies linked to fire and water safety equip pupils with the knowledge to stay safe.		

Harbertonford			29/01	The provision for pupils' personal development is a strength of the school. Pupils have a strong understanding of fundamental British values. They can explain how these values are reflected in their school. For example, pupils describe their school as 'democratic, where everyone has a voice'.		
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Secondary School	Grade Q of Ed	Grade PD	Published Date	Ofsted report comments relevant to SACRE monitoring		Comments for SACRE
Teignmouth	RI	Good	15/11/24	The books read together have been chosen to develop pupils' cultural understanding and celebrate difference.		
Pathfield			19/11			
Newton Abbot	Good	Good	13/12	The school has selected a list of books for pupils and sixth-form students to share to encourage them to read more widely. These explore a range of themes and introduce different cultures. The school's 'values' curriculum supports pupils of all ages to learn about life in modern Britain and their own place within it. It includes opportunities to consider different religious and moral viewpoints.		Yes
Tiverton	Inadequate	RI	19/12			
Dawlish			20/12			
South Molton	Good	Good	28/01/25			

NATRE response to the Curriculum and Assessment Review

Key take aways...

- NATRE highlighted the importance and 'critical role' that RE plays within the curriculum
 - Acknowledged negative impact of recent government policies including exclusion from Ebacc and lack of support for Local Authorities impacts ability of SACREs to effectively support RE
 - Also highlighted, was the absence of accountability measures for academies and outdated GCSE and A'Level content resulting in inconsistency in how RE is delivered
 - Positives: GCSE and A'Level entries remain stable, REC Religion and Worldviews Project producing the Handbook for Syllabus Writers, Spirited Arts
 - Support for removing the right of withdrawal as it is often misused. Welsh model cited as a model for consideration
 - Key Recommendations: updating GCSE and A'Level to reflect religious and non-religious perspectives; implementation of national standard (NCS) for consistency and accountability; improving professional development, increased access to SKE and bursaries
- NATRE's response articulates the complexities of RE in its place in the curriculum and highlights the need for further, meaningful engagement with teachers of RE in the next steps in the Curriculum and Assessment Review.
 - Pupil feedback was included in NATRE's recommendations to CAR – not many, if any, other subject associations did this. The views of the students highlighted the recommendations made by NATRE and why they were needed NATRE called for 'further, meaningful engagement with teachers of RE' in the next steps in the CAR
 - Feedback on NATRE response – mixed! Reflective of the diversity with the RE world. A number of teachers and others related to the RE teaching community wanted NATRE to advocate for RE to become part of the National Curriculum. Some are hesitant and want to approach that with caution.
 - <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/natre-advocates-for-a-national-plan-to-secure-the-future-of-high-quality-religious-education/>

Agenda Item 15

South West SACRE conference 2025

SACREs of the future

1:00 - 4:00pm Mon 3rd March 2025 (via Zoom)

Keynote speakers:

Bill Moore: the Future of SACREs?

Trevor Cooling: What is Knowledge in RE?

Workshops

Adam Robertson: Constructing the Oak curriculum and how it could help SACREs and schools

Stephen Pett: Applying a Religion and Worldviews approach in the new Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam project

Jeremy Roberts: Who sits on SACRE?

Bill Moore is the RE Adviser to 3 SACREs and Co-Chair of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Trevor Cooling is the Emeritus Professor of Christian Education at Christ Church Canterbury and former Chair of the Religious Education Council

Cost: £15 per delegate

To register for the conference, contact your SACRE clerk who will arrange bookings. Alternatively, contact Ed Pawson directly: efpawson@gmail.com

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87539749822>


Meeting ID: 875 3974 9822





NASACRE 2024-2025


On-line webinar programme


SACREs who have bought their 24-25 membership with NASACRE can get unlimited access for an annual one off £60 fee for all members to attend our on-line webinar programme


- 


24th September 2024, 6:30-8pm & repeated on 24th June 2025: So, you've joined your local SACRE...
Free session for any SACREs to attend specifically for new members of SACRE
- 


10th October 2024, 7-8pm: Funding for SACREs to work with pupils on learning around diversity - applying for and gaining a Westhill/NASACRE award *Free session for any SACRE to attend*
- 

15th October 2024, 7-8pm: How can SACREs make strategic use of the Deep & Meaningful Ofsted RE Report (May 2024) in their work?
Free to SACREs who have bought the annual webinar package; £25 for a subscribed SACRE and £35 for a non-subscribed SACRE
- 

Various dates in November 2024, 6:30-8pm: NASACRE in Conversation led in regions
Free session for any SACREs to attend
- 

21st January 2025, 7-8pm: Calling all members of SACRE Group D - How to be an effective member of your SACRE? *Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package; £25 for a subscribed SACRE and £35 for a non-subscribed SACRE*
- 

25th February 2025, 7-8pm: Being an effective SACRE Clerk
Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package; £25 for a subscribed SACRE and £35 for a non-subscribed SACRE
- 

11th March 2025, 7-8pm: Working on an Agreed Syllabus Conference - supports and processes
Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package; £25 for a subscribed SACRE and £35 for a non-subscribed SACRE
- 

Various dates in April 2025, 6:30-8pm: NASACRE in Conversation
Free session for any SACREs to attend

To book a place on any session, or to purchase our training package, please email admin@nasacre.org.uk

Visit our training and support page on the NASACRE website for more information www.nasacre.org.uk

