

Agenda

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 5 July 2024**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Conference Room 2 - Herefordshire Council, Plough
Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE**

Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Henry Merricks-Murgatroyd, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260239 or e-mail Henry.Merricks-Murgatroyd@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Membership

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Chairperson | Geoff Sallis | Humanism |
| Vice-Chairperson | Lou Barker | Secondary school teacher representative |
| | Mrs Carolyn Ault | Bahai faith |
| | Peter Fawcett | Roman Catholic, Archdiocese of Cardiff |
| | Mark Harrington | Church of England representative |
| | Jonathan Nicholas | Church of England representative |
| | Councillor Rob Owens | Herefordshire Council |
| | Councillor Justine Peberdy | Herefordshire Council |
| | Ruth Stanier | The Quaker Faith |
| | Barry Stevens | Church of England representative |
| | Councillor John Stone | Herefordshire Council |
| | Tracy Westlake | Primary school teacher representative |

Agenda

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| THENOLANPRINCIPLES | | 5 - 6 |
| 1. | WELCOME AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY To welcome members to SACRE and receive a thought for the day. | |
| 2. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence. | |
| 3. | NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee. | |
| 4. | MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2024. | 7 - 12 |
| 5. | RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public. | |
| 6. | AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE To consider updates and amendments to the agreed syllabus ahead of its launch in 2025. | 13 - 14 |

**The Seven Principles of Public Life
(Nolan Principles)**

1. Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in Conference Room 2, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Friday 15 March 2024 at 2.00 pm

Board members present in person, voting:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Mrs Carolyn Ault | Bahai faith |
| Mrs L Barker (Vice-Chairperson) | Secondary school teacher representative |
| Mark Harrington | Church of England representative |
| Councillor Rob Owens | Herefordshire Council |
| Councillor Justine Peberdy | Herefordshire Council |
| Ruth Stanier | The Quaker Faith |
| Geoff Sallis (Chairperson) | Humanism |
| Barry Stevens | Church of England representative |
| Councillor John Stone | Herefordshire Council |
| Tracy Westlake | Primary school teacher representative |

Others present in person:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Samira Kairo | |
| Stephen Pett | RE Today, Consultant to SACRE |
| Louise Tanner | Admissions and 14 to 19 curriculum manager |

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter Fawcett and Jonathan Nicholas.

83. HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW 2024

Stephen Pett presented a brief overview of the syllabus options available.

Councillor John Stone noted that there are advantages and disadvantages to all syllabus models, however, it was felt that it would be sensible to readopt the RE Today model.

Tracy Westlake added that changing the syllabus would present further challenges to teachers and that to readopt the syllabus would help with continuity.

Councillor Justine Peberdy asked the teacher representatives if there were any shortcomings that had not been addressed in the amendments proposed to the current syllabus.

Tracy Westlake responded that schools struggle with a rigorous assessment of the syllabus. It was noted that RE Today and NATRE are publishing other resources that back up that syllabus which is more helpful for teacher confidence.

Lou Barker added that it is easy to make adaptations to the syllabus on a school level to help make it easier for teachers.

Stephen Pett confirmed that the intention is to build on the strengths of the syllabus which is beginning to be embedded in addition to bringing in some of the best new thinking.

The Chair added that by adopting the syllabus it would hopefully allow a longer-term view to be considered when considering the next change to the syllabus.

The Chair confirmed that SACRE, by unanimous agreement, is in favour of option 1) re-licensing with RE Today, to their updated syllabus, for the next five years.

Resolved: That the Board is in favour of re-licensing with RE Today, to their updated syllabus, for the next five years.

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm

Chairperson

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in Conference Room 2, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Friday 15 March 2024 at 2.30 pm

Board members present in person, voting:

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| Mrs Carolyn Ault | Bahai faith |
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| Councillor John Stone | Herefordshire Council |
| Tracy Westlake | Primary school teacher representative |

Others present in person:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Samira Kairo | |
| Stephen Pett | RE Today, Consultant to SACRE |
| Louise Tanner | Admissions and 14 to 19 curriculum manager |

84. WELCOME AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Chair welcomed members and gave the thought for the day.

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter Fawcett and Jonathan Nicholas.

86. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

There were no named substitutes.

87. MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the minutes for the meeting held on 17 November 2023.

88. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

No public questions were received.

89. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor John Stone proposed that Geoff Sallis be elected as Chairperson of SACRE. Councillor Justine Peberdy seconded the proposal. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Resolved: That the Board elect Geoff Sallis as the chairperson of SACRE for the remainder of the term until May 2027.

90. FOLLOW UP ON FINANCES

Councillor Justine Peberdy noted that she had contacted Malcolm Green in relation to SACRE finances. The main points included:

1. The schools forum had agreed for 23/24, £8,100 for SACRE which included £500 for training.
2. For 24/25, the amount agreed is £10,000 which again includes £500 for training.
3. The annual increases in the budget should be rolled forward for future years to be spent on the syllabus review which comes every five years.
4. The training budget of £500 will be a permanent inclusion in the budget going forward.

The Chair confirmed that the training budget is for NASACRE online training.

Louise Tanner confirmed that the budget for the following year of 24/25 is £10,000.

91. SCHOOL WORKFORCE DATA

The Board considered the questionnaire included in the agenda pack.

Lou Barker asked if the questionnaire could be sent out on behalf of SACRE by the council.

Louise Tanner responded that it could be sent out by the schools team, however, it would go out more generally to the school headteachers.

92. SACRE CONSTITUTION

It was confirmed that the SACRE constitution is in place in line with the council's constitution.

Mark Harrington asked whether voting rights are in place for anyone who could attend meetings virtually.

It was confirmed that voting rights are only reserved for SACRE members who attend in-person as per statutory requirements.

93. NATIONAL SACRE NEWS UPDATE

Stephen Pett presented a brief overview of National SACRE news.

Councillor Justine Peberdy asked how SACRE members should attend the NASACRE training.

Stephen Pett responded that the training is on the 26th June and is available for SACRE members to book to attend the session.

94. **OUTLINE ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CONFERENCES 2024**

Stephen Pett presented a brief overview on the 2024 Primary and Secondary RE conferences. This included an outline of plans for the Herefordshire Primary RE Conference on 1st July at the Hereford Academy. An update was also presented on the Three Counties Secondary RE Conference on 25th June at Puckrup Hall Hotel.

95. **HOW TO SUPPORT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

The Chair asked members if they could consider how they could get involved with schools and noted that he gives humanist talks at schools.

Tracy Westlake noted that schools are in need of additional support.

Lou Barker asked if it would be helpful to come up with a document that outlines what SACRE members can offer and whether this could be communicated to schools.

Tracy Westlake responded that this would be very helpful for her and other schools.

Louise Tanner added that the LA can get that information out to schools once it is collated. Spotlight is a round-up of information that goes out to all schools and it could be included in there.

Councillor Justine Peberdy noted that the Spirited Arts competition was a useful way for her to get her name out in relation to additional support that can be provided by SACRE members.

Louise Tanner added that chairs of governors have termly online meetings for maintained schools and asked whether someone from SACRE could provide an update at one of these meetings.

96. **TEACHER SUPPORT (NETWORK MEETINGS)**

Tracy Westlake noted that at the last network meeting in the Autumn term, there were 37 primary schools booked on. All meetings are held online to allow schools from Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Worcester can attend and is held between 3.45-4.30pm. The main points included:

1. ECT training was discussed and it is apparent that, depending on the provider they have done, they don't always have an in-depth training on RE, whether it is in practice or in research.
2. Ideas were shared on visual learning and how to use that within RE lessons, linked to the curriculum.
3. The RE hubs website was looked at and there is a section on 'real people, real faith' which looks at a diverse range of lived experiences.
4. Multi-disciplinary lenses were considered including looking at the main three disciplines of theology, philosophy, and science.

The Chair thanked Tracy Westlake and requested that it be kept as a standing item on SACRE meeting agendas.

The Chair noted that he had a short guide to SACRE and this would be circulated to all members following the meeting.

ACTION(s): To keep 'Teacher Support (Network Meetings)' as a standing item on all future SACRE meeting agendas and; to circulate a short guide to SACREs to members.

97. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is 5th July 2024, 14:00-17:00.

The meeting ended at 3.29 pm

Chairperson

RE Today Syllabus Model B Updates 2024 Herefordshire

Here are the updates to the 2020 Herefordshire agreed syllabus, for the 2025 model.

- Updating the language from ‘religion and belief’ to ‘religion and worldviews’, in line with CoRE and REC Handbook 2024
- Updating language from ‘religious and non-religious beliefs’ to ‘religious and non-religious worldviews’ (e.g. p.8)
- Adjusting language (e.g. Hinduism to Hindu traditions; Sikhism to Sikhi etc p. 12)
- Making non-religious worldviews, specifically Humanism, more visible:
 - E.g. in worldviews to be taught (p.12)
 - Revise some non-religious units to have more visible Humanism, e.g. U2.10,
 - Amend U2.11 to become ‘What does it mean to be Humanist in Britain today?’ including some of the reasons for and against belief in God as part of this
 - Amend 3.13 What difference does it make to be non-religious in Britain today? to include some more specific study of Humanism but also more recent data on non-religiousness/Nones.
- Update EYFS using DfE 2020 EYFS Profile page 24
- Taking opportunities to add additional examples showing more diversity in the impact sections of units (e.g. Unit 1.2 some more global and local examples of Christian harvest celebrations, prayer, grace etc)
- Scope for SACRE to provide a few more examples of more local West Midlands places in some of the units, which will then be added to the text
- Updated demographics to 2021 Census
- Adjust p.147 long-term plan and include additional model

Additional pages:

- Insert pages on developments in RE since last syllabus, ie CORE report, Ofsted EIF, Ofsted Research Review, REC Religion and Worldviews project Handbook
- Pages on curriculum design in RE and creating a coherent curriculum
- Additional page giving introduction to ‘ways of knowing’ – how disciplines are found within the syllabus
- An example of making progress in terms of methods/disciplines – from REC Draft Resource p44
- Update on National Statement of Entitlement/National Content Standard, and connections with syllabus.
- Adding three optional units as appendix 1:
 - L2.13 How do people from religious and non-religious communities celebrate key festivals? a unit that is explicitly multidisciplinary
 - U2.13 What can be done to reduce racism? Can religion help?
 - U2.14 What do religious and non-religious worldviews teach about caring for the Earth?
- Appendix 2 – cultural capital and RE
- Appendix 3 – more detail on assessment, achievement and progress
- Appendix 4 RE in special schools – more detailed guidance

All amendments to pages, including unit outlines, will be visible through use of blue text

We will also update the forewords, intro and cover.

RE Today

June 2024

