

Agenda

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 11 July 2025**

Time: **2.00 pm**

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

Notes: For any further information please contact:
ben.baugh2@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you would like help with this document, or would like it in another format, please email ben.baugh2@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

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

Voting membership

Chairperson	Geoff Sallis	Humanism representative
	Carolyn Ault	Bahá'í faith representative
	Louise Barker (Vice-Chairperson)	Secondary school teacher representative
	Mark Harrington	Church of England representative
	Samira Kairo	Muslim faith representative
	Jatinderpal Loyal	Sikh faith representative
	Jonathan Nicholas	Church of England representative
	Councillor Rob Owens	Herefordshire Council
	Councillor Justine Peberdy	Herefordshire Council
	Raoul Smith	Jewish faith representative
	Ruth Stanier	Quaker faith representative
	Barry Stevens	Church of England representative
	Councillor John Stone	Herefordshire Council
	Tracy Westlake	Primary school teacher representative

Agenda

	Pages
1. WELCOME AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY To welcome members to SACRE and to receive a thought for the day.	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for absence.	
3. NAMED SUBSTITUTES To receive details of any substitutes nominated to attend the meeting in place of a member of SACRE.	
4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2025.	5 - 8
5. WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS To respond to any written questions from members of the public received in advance of the meeting.	
6. AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH: PRIMARY SCHOOLS To receive details and feedback on the primary launch (to be held on 10 July 2025). The primary launch evaluations will be tabled at the meeting.	
7. AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH: SECONDARY SCHOOLS To receive details and feedback on the secondary launch (held on 25 June 2025). The secondary launch evaluations document is attached.	9 - 10
8. CIRCULATING THE AGREED SYLLABUS To consider plans for circulating the agreed syllabus to schools not represented at the launch events.	
9. NATIONAL RE UPDATES (SUMMER 2025) To receive national RE updates for SACRE from RE Today.	11 - 14
10. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES To receive any verbal updates on religious education in Herefordshire from members of SACRE; this item is for information only, with no business to be transacted.	
11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS To consider SACRE dates for meetings in November 2025, March 2026 and June/July 2026. An online poll will be circulated to SACRE members to identify optimal dates.	

Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in Conference Room 2 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Friday 28 March 2025 at 2.00 pm

Chairperson:

Geoff Sallis Humanism representative

Voting members present in person:

Carolyn Ault	Bahá'í faith representative
Louise Barker	Secondary school teacher representative
Jonathan Nicholas	Church of England representative
Councillor Rob Owens	Herefordshire Council
Councillor Justine Peberdy	Herefordshire Council
Ruth Stanier	Quaker faith representative
Councillor John Stone	Herefordshire Council

In attendance:

Kevin Devaney	Cheltenham Inter Faith
Raoul Smith	Jewish faith representative

Support officers:

Ben Baugh	Herefordshire Council
Stephen Pett	Consultant to SACRE

14. WELCOME AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Chairperson welcomed attendees to the meeting. With reference made to a visit to South Africa to speak to political groups during its transition from apartheid, the Chairperson recited a verse by Archbishop Desmond Tutu which reflected on the importance of forgiveness.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mark Harrington (a Church of England representative) and Tracey Westlake (Primary school teacher representative). Apologies were also noted from Pam Howell (School Improvement Advisor, Herefordshire Council).

16. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no substitutes present.

17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were received.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairperson.

18. WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No written questions had been received.

19. UPDATE ON THE AGREED SYLLABUS

Stephen Pett noted that a draft model had been considered at the previous meeting (minute 6 of 15 November 2024 refers) and outlined the amendments being made; including additional places to visit in the locality and the incorporation of examples of 'ways of knowing' / multi-disciplinary approaches. The working draft was displayed at the meeting and the key changes were explained.

Participants discussed the relevancy of encouraging critical awareness, particularly given the spread of misinformation.

Stephen Pett also highlighted: the additional units on religious and non-religious worldviews (such as the celebration of key festivals), anti-racism, and care for the Earth; and the practical guidance for teachers on building long-term plans for progression.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, Stephen Pett confirmed that work was being undertaken with a neighbouring authority to develop a new syllabus to embed fully the religion and worldviews, and ways of knowing approaches.

There was a brief discussion about opportunities to draw attention to diversity within belief systems.

20. AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH: PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Stephen Pett reported that the Primary Conference would take place at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and outlined the programme for the event.

Link to the flyer '[Launching the revised Herefordshire RE Syllabus - Primary, Thursday 10 July 2025](#)'.

21. AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH: SECONDARY SCHOOLS (To Follow)

Stephen Pett reported that the Secondary Conference would take place at the University of Worcester, with the joint launch of the Herefordshire and the Worcestershire syllabuses, and outlined the programme for the event.

Link to the flyer '[Launching the revised Worcestershire and Herefordshire RE Agreed Syllabuses - Secondary, Wednesday 25 June 2025](#)'.

22. NATIONAL RE UPDATES (SPRING 2025)

It was reported that, following the Department for Education's call for evidence for the Curriculum Review, an interim report had been published.

Link to the '[Curriculum and Assessment Review: Interim Report, March 2025](#)'.

Stephen Pett advised the meeting that, in terms of RE, under the heading 'Subjects not on the national curriculum' (page 29), the interim report recognised that '...evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision' and that the Review was to consider related points before publishing its final report.

23. 2025 HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOL WORKFORCE DATA AND RESULTS

A spreadsheet document, '2025 Herefordshire School Workforce Data and GCSE results', was circulated to SACRE members in advance of the meeting.

It was reported that data was collected by the Department for Education (DfE) through the school workforce census but inconsistencies in subject titles and submissions by schools could distort the statistics.

There was a discussion about the robustness of the information presented for Herefordshire and the potential role of SACRE to seek clarifications from the schools.

The Chairperson commented on the need to explore how and why the data was being produced, and how it should be utilised, before undertaking any follow-up activity.

24. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as [Friday 11 July 2025, 2.00 pm](#).

It was requested that the suggested dates of subsequent meetings be reviewed to facilitate attendance by more participants, perhaps by scheduling meetings on different weekdays and times.

The meeting ended at 3.05 pm

Chairperson

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus Secondary Launch
University of Worcester - 25 June 2025
31 delegates, 22 schools, 7 Herefordshire teachers from 6 schools; 11 Evaluations

	excellent	good	satisfactory
Overall value of the conference	73%	27%	
Venue: how do you rate it?	64%	28%	8%
Comments on the new syllabus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few changes thank you Reflects the changing demographic of students well. Worldviews approach is a positive step forward for RE. Ways of knowing seems to open up opportunities to actively engage students in their learning more. Not changed too much...which is good. I feel the Worldviews aspect reflects the cohort of children I teach. I do not feel the icons/symbols to embed into lessons will be suitable for my school due to the school having existing lesson icons and core values already on the slides. It could end up looking "cluttered." Pleased there isn't a huge change, like the focus on disciplinary knowledge & the organisation of the syllabus. I like the ways of knowing icons and links to syllabus. I think this will be really helpful to promote skills and critical thinking about topics studied Like the symbols Looks promising So many take- away ideas 			
Any further comments about the conference? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well presented. Examples of the curriculum in practice would be helpful. E.g. example lessons. Information would have been useful earlier on in the year to allow planning and implementation before September Room was too warm with poor acoustics. Struggled to hear different contributors Stephen was fantastic - as always 			
Actions you will take to follow up from this conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with other teachers and non specialists understanding what a worldview is with a myriad of cereble resources. Updating units to incorporate ways of knowing icons and greater examples of diversity within beliefs and traditions See what relevance the new syllabus has for my special school. (The Primary syllabus is probably going to be more relevant going forwards). I will use the varying resources in my lessons. Revise schemes of work, feedback to colleagues & embed some of the activities shared today. Review S4L and add icons for ways of knowing. Consider introductory unit unpicking what worldviews means and diversity within religion and school community. CPD internally for other teachers I will use the resources that were used today, it's really helpful to talk them through Revisit and revise schemes of work Icons; Evil Game; Ways of knowing 			
Suggestions/requests for future support in implementing the new syllabus in Herefordshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacre to send out information to SLT to make them aware that syllabus changes are happening in the county. It would be useful to have this get together annually for networking 			

National RE Updates for SACRE from RE Today Summer 2025 for Herefordshire SACRE.

Curriculum and Assessment Review

As reported in the previous National Update, the Government is conducting a Curriculum and Assessment Review, led by Professor Becky Francis. The review aims to examine how the curriculum and assessment system can better serve young people in England.

In November 2024, NATRE submitted over 100 pieces of evidence to the review, highlighting the current challenges facing Religious Education. Other key organisations such as the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), NASACRE, and AREIAC also contributed, ensuring the review panel received a broad and well-informed set of perspectives from across the RE community.

Thanks to NATRE's strong working relationships with government officials and parliamentarians, representatives were invited to attend meetings with the review panel, including a roundtable discussion with a specific focus on RE. Some of NATRE's evidence was directly included in materials presented by the panel.

In its [interim report](#) (March 2025), the review panel wrote:

“Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision.”

This statement reflects one of the most persistent concerns in the RE community: that provision and quality vary significantly between schools and regions, depending on school or trust policy, local authority capacity, and interpretation of legal requirements.

The panel is expected to explore in more depth the causes of these disparities and consider a range of potential solutions.

Importantly, the Department for Education has confirmed:

“The terms of reference do not prevent the Review from making recommendations for national or basic curriculum subjects that might require legislation. Ministers will take decisions on what changes to make, and how best to implement them, in light of these recommendations.”

This means that policy options such as:

- including RE in the National Curriculum (currently it is part of the basic curriculum, which is compulsory but less regulated), and/or
 - introducing a National Content Standard for RE, possibly building on the widely welcomed National Content Standard developed by the REC,
- are still viable possibilities.

However, these changes alone would not address all the systemic issues in RE. As such, a comprehensive National Plan for RE remains a central policy goal—something that includes improved teacher training, accountability mechanisms, curriculum support, and long-term investment.

This set of discussion cards is offered to support groups of teachers wishing to think about the implications of the interim report for RE in their school(s). [#REchatUK to Explore the Interim Curriculum and Assessment Review for Religious Education](#)

BBC Pilgrimage

The BBC series 'Pilgrimage' follows a group of celebrities as they take a journey of a lifetime. This series has many moments in it suitable for use in the RE classroom.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/mediapacks/pilgrimage-the-road-through-the-alps>

Truetube have a series of clips from previous series, along with downloadable lesson ideas. Search 'Pilgrimage moments' for the relevant clips and resources. www.truetube.co.uk/

Teachers need to register for a free Truetube account to be able to download resources and clips.

NASACRE

NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) continues to work to celebrate, support, strengthen and promote the work of local SACREs and represents their interests at a national level, including training for SACRE members.

Free Training

We have just missed the training on 24 June 2025, 6:30-8pm: [So, you've joined your local SACRE...](#)

There is a recording of an earlier version of this session: see <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/presentations-recordings/>

This session will help new SACRE members understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.

The new programme for 2025-2026 will be available here: <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/>

RE Hubs

The RE hubs are offering training for speakers who would like to support schools bring to life their curriculum through first hand experience of meeting and talking with people from different religions and non-religious worldviews, as well as experts in social sciences, philosophy and theology.

Once the training has been completed then speakers are kite marked and then included on the RE hubs web site for the local region. Schools can then access a full list of speakers in their area to help bring RE to life in the classroom. Potential speakers, which may include members of SACREs can register at [Register as a school speaker](#)

Spirited Arts 2025

This annual competition asks pupils to use their creative talents to explore questions of religious and non-religious worldviews. There is still time to send entries from local schools to join in with the hundreds of schools from the UK and beyond who have already submitted artworks in diverse media.

This is the 21st year for Spirited Arts and there are six themes for pupils to choose from

- Living in a Diverse World
- Stories that Change Lives
- Thinking about God
- Sacred Places
- All God's Creatures? (Sponsored by [AIA](#) & [VinE](#))
- Making Sense of Life

Schools can submit up to 10 entries which should be received by the closing date of 31st July 2025. Full details are available at [Spirited Arts 2025 - Inspiring students to explore big questions through art](#)

The Jerusalem Trust: grants for schools

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase Christianity resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state funded schools in England and Wales.

Secondary school and primary school grants are currently available this term. The online form takes about 15-20 minutes to complete.

www.regrants.org.uk/

RE:ONLINE Useful websites, resources and films for primary RE

The Culham St Gabriel's Trust runs the RE:ONLINE website. They have curated a collection of resources for teachers of RE who are looking to apply a religion and worldviews approach.

Whether teachers are new to the subject or looking to deepen their knowledge, [this page](#) offers a selection of trusted organisations, subject knowledge sources, classroom-ready resources, and engaging films. Each section is designed to support high-quality, inclusive teaching and enrich pupils' understanding of diverse beliefs and worldviews. Teachers can explore the resources individually by section or download the full collection for ease of access.

[Useful Websites, Resources and Films For Primary RE - RE:ONLINE](#)

Upcoming RE Today Courses for the Summer Term and beyond!

For more details on any of these courses, click here: www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/?page=1

[Primary Phase CPD](#)

Festivals Spotlight – Christmas

16th September (Afternoon 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm)

Why and how do people celebrate Christmas? Subject knowledge and effective and creative lesson ideas. A practical dip into Christmas using a sociological and a theological lens. Suitable for ECTs, Teachers, HLTAs and subject leaders.

Help! I'm the RE Subject Leader

25th September (Full Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm)

This one-day course will provide you with the knowledge and confidence to be an effective and inspirational RE subject leader in the primary school. Explore the role of the subject leader, using practical activities to develop your understanding of RE and your leadership and management skills. Focus on creative task setting, planning a scheme of work using your locally agreed syllabus or faith community guidelines, and effective and manageable monitoring and self-evaluation. Leave feeling motivated, inspired and equipped with ready-to-use ideas to engage staff and pupils.

Creative Primary RE

7th October 2025 (Half Day 9.30-12.30)

How can I ensure children are engaged in RE lessons? What strategies can I use to make sure pupils are inspired during RE? This session is packed with ready-to-use ideas for anyone wanting to engage pupils more fully in RE sessions. There will be a focus on the Spirited Arts competition

2025. Perfect for all primary practitioners who teach RE, including Early Career Teachers, Subject Leaders and Teaching Assistants; with a wide range of practical classroom ideas for primary RE, there will surely be something for everyone.

Secondary CPD

Understanding Christianity

15th July (Full Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm)

A day course introducing a new and substantial resource for teaching Christianity for 11-14s, laying the foundations for excellent learning at 14+/GCSE and A Level.

This day course will provide you with an overview of the Understanding Christianity approach, units of work strategies and activities, as well as extensive classroom resources to support learning.

New Curriculum Leader Secondary

15th September (Full Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm)

This one-day course will introduce you to the role of the Secondary Subject Leader for RE and is suitable for newly appointed colleagues and those wishing to refresh their thinking about and delivery of this fundamental middle manager role. Covering areas such as development planning, analysis of outcomes and supporting staff you will come away with a wide-ranging set of resources to support you.

Mentoring your RE ECT

17th September (Half Day 9.30-12.30)

This half day session will investigate the role of the ECT mentor for a new RE Teacher joining your school from target setting to support and guidance against the ECT framework with RE specific examples and input. You will be equipped to plan your mentor programme using the ECT framework; implement a programme of support for new teachers in your school, and define your role in relation to the role of the Professional Mentor as a subject specialist

RE Today
July 2025