

Herefordshire  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious  
Education

Annual Report Sept 2021-August 2022



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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Foreword

Lama Tenzin Choesang

Chair of Herefordshire SACRE

### 1.2 Overview of the work of SACRE

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body set up to advise the Local Authority on matters related to religious education and collective worship. Its members are drawn from teachers, Local Authority representatives including Councillors, faith representatives from the Church of England and a range of Christian denominations, and representatives from other religious and non-religious groups represented in the region.

SACRE's key functions include monitoring the provision and quality of RE, and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training. This is primarily done through the review and implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, a process which is required every five years. This is followed by on-going monitoring of its effectiveness in the light of changing national education policy.

SACRE endeavours to offer maximum support to schools through its use of conferences and local groups. This year, SACRE held three meetings: Friday 19 November 2021, Friday 11 March 2022 and Friday 8 July.

The Local Authority officer is Alison Naylor, Head of Learning and Achievement.

A brief overview of each meeting can be found below:

#### *19 November 2021 (hybrid: in-person and via Zoom)*

- *SACRE working group proposal*
- *Draft annual report*
- *Plans for professional development: report on primary and secondary summer conferences 2021; proposals for 2022; SACRE member training; Diocesan training*
- *SACRE membership*
- *Updates on any new RE initiatives, including REC worldviews project and Ofsted RE Research Review*

#### *11 March 2022 (hybrid: in-person and via Zoom)*

- *SACRE budget*
- *Briefing from NASACRE representative*
- *RE conferences 2022*
- *Updates on any new RE initiatives*

### 8 July 2022 (Hybrid: in-person and via Zoom)

- Feedback from summer RE conferences
- Ofsted: inspecting RE
- Primary and secondary school surveys
- Worldviews update
- NASACRE membership
- Updates on any new RE initiatives

## 2. Religious Education

### 2.1 The locally agreed syllabus and RE in schools

The Herefordshire agreed syllabus was launched in 2020, during the pandemic. The syllabus and an accompanying training video were distributed to all schools in June, and a follow-on training conference was set up via Zoom for schools to attend. Termly network meetings and annual summer conferences have focused on the implementation of the syllabus and developing teaching and learning. SACRE believes that most, if not all, primary academies are using the Herefordshire agreed syllabus. Not all secondary academies are using it in full, although many use it to inform their practice.

### 2.2 Standards and monitoring of RE

This is the first year since 2019 that GCSE and A level Religious Studies examinations results can be reviewed. Data on these results can be seen in Appendix 7c below. SACRE thanks teachers who have supported students and taught them in extremely difficult circumstances.

SACRE regularly reviews school workforce survey data when it is available, reviewing school websites and surveying schools to explore provision further.

OFSTED reports can also provide a way of monitoring RE. SACRE heard a briefing on OFSTED inspections at its summer meeting. The new OFSTED inspection framework and RE research review appear to be bringing a renewed focus on RE in schools where RE was struggling to get sufficient curriculum time.

### 2.3 Teacher training and materials and advice for schools

#### Network meetings

SACRE teacher representative, Tracy Westlake, has been running a NATRE-affiliated local group each term. She hosted online/in-person events on [date]... X teachers joined to talk about...

The Diocese of Hereford runs regular online and in-person training sessions throughout the year, which has included:

[list]

#### SACRE primary RE conference, 4 July 2022

The annual primary RE conference took place online via Zoom. 22 schools attended. It was led by Stephen Pett and Adam Robertson from RE Today.

The programme included workshops on the following themes:

- Ways of knowing
- Worldviews
- Teaching about Hindus in KS2

- Opening up texts and stories 5-11s

All delegates who responded rated the overall value of the conference as good or excellent.

Representative feedback included:

- *More accessible online. It was really useful being shown materials/ activities that can be used in class.*
- *Good day, lots to take away. Interesting to start thinking about where RE is going in the future.*
- *Really informative with great ideas for resources and activities that can be taken back into the classroom.*
- *Very interesting - particularly about 'worldviews' and 'different ways of knowing'. Much appreciated. Thank you Adam and Stephen.*
- *I really enjoyed the sessions which were informative and very useful practical activities for the classroom*
- *Very informative and lots of great ideas.*

### **SACRE secondary RE conference, 23 June 2022**

Herefordshire SACRE collaborates with Gloucestershire and Worcestershire SACREs in putting on a secondary conference each year. This year it was in-person after the online event in 2022. 13 delegates attended from the three counties.

The programme, and evaluations, were as follows:

	<b>excellent</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Religion and worldviews</b> Stephen Pett	100%	
<b>Approaches to Sikh worldviews</b> Lat Blaylock	100%	
<b>Ways of knowing</b> Stephen Pett	85%	15%
<b>TeachMeet</b> Local teachers	54%	46%
<b>Overall value of the conference</b>	100%	

Representative feedback included:

- *Thank you so much for giving up your time. Really enjoy/interested in research behind worldviews and how to explore worldviews. Practical examples modelled by Lat - thank you! Loved how we explored ideas and turned methods upside down.*
- *This is my annual 'plugin'! I love meeting other RE teachers and gaining such amazing knowledge and understanding.*
- *Excellent day with amazing resource is that can be adapted and taken into the classroom. Great to see some different approaches to how to deliver resources to students.*
- *Superb as usual. Inspirational and directly relevant to RE now. Lovely update on current dialogue and looking ahead.*
- *Excellent day full of useful ideas and links to learning. Good to be able to plan in some more up to date ideas. Good to share with others, making links.*
- *Fantastic day to really 'hone in' on key skills. Great content on both pedagogy and faith / worldview. World views was great to get to grips with. I liked the practical suggestions for use in the classroom.*
- *So good to be able to work collectively and in the real world again. I met some stimulating and supportive colleagues which is vital.*
- *Really enjoyed the segment on world views and excited to see how this develops. The venue was excellent! Really enjoyed the depth of the content on Sikhi.*

## 2.4 Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about RE during the year.

## 2.5 Advice given to the local authority

No advice was given to the Local Authority.

## 3. Collective worship

### 3.1 Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

SACRE has found it hard to monitor collective worship over the past few years. It is noted that schools found different ways of delivering Collective worship virtually during the last difficult year.

### 3.2 Determinations

No determinations have been requested in the year 2021-22.

### 3.3 Teacher training provided

No SACRE training on collective worship has been provided in 2021-22, although the Diocese of Hereford continues to support its schools in this area.

### 3.4 Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about collective worship during the year.

### 3.5 Advice to the Local Authority

No advice was given to the local authority around the provision of collective worship.

## 4. Links with other bodies

### 4.1 National Bodies

- Herefordshire SACRE is a member of NASACRE. Its newsletters are circulated to all members. Stephen Pett, adviser to SACRE presented a workshop on the Worldviews Project to NASACRE members in February 2022, with Professor Trevor Cooling.
- Stephen Pett, RE Today, connects SACRE with NATRE, and provides national updates at each meeting. Reports from NATRE, including the School Workforce Data and regular primary and secondary surveys have proved useful to SACRE when monitoring schools.
- Information from the RE Council has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.
- The REC Worldviews Project draft resource offering guidance on a Religion and Worldviews approach (May 2022) has been a helpful resource for discussion for SACRE.

### 4.2 Local bodies

Hereford Diocese provides excellent support to SACRE and local schools.

Several members of SACRE are members of Herefordshire Interfaith Group, which runs a number of events each term, as well as organising a biennial Interfaith Peace Service for International Day of Peace at Hereford Cathedral.

## 5. SACRE involvement in the Local Area

SACRE updates governors and headteachers on resources and training via a bulletin.

## 6. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority

### 6.1 Professional and administrative support

*Clerk to SACRE:*

Simon Cann  
Democratic Services Officer  
Herefordshire Council  
Plough Lane | Hereford | HR4 0LE

*Local authority officer:*

Alison Naylor  
Head of Learning and Achievement  
Children and Families  
Herefordshire Council  
Plough Lane | Hereford | HR4 0LE

*Adviser to SACRE:*

The LA has a contract with RE Today Services. Stephen Pett is the RE Today national adviser who delivers the contract to Herefordshire LA and SACRE.  
RE Today Services  
Imperial Court, Sovereign Road, Birmingham B30 3FH

## 6.2 Membership, representation and attendance

SACRE regularly reviews membership and seeks representation from local communities. Current vacancies, and repeated absences are discussed by the Chair and LA Officer.

All groups have been represented according to SACRE's terms of reference at each meeting.

## 6.3 Training for SACRE members

The SACRE Clerk, Chair, LA Officer and RE adviser are on hand to advise SACRE members.

All members are invited to attend the training provided for schools. Several SACRE members attend the primary conference each year, providing support to the RE adviser and spending time meeting and supporting teachers. Members often attend NASACRE CPD and the Southwest SACRE conference, reporting back to members.

A presentation was given by Mr Paul Smalley from NASACRE at the 11 March meeting.

## 6.4 Finance

Herefordshire County Council supports SACRE with an annual budget of £5000. This covers the cost of the support from RE Today Services, who have supported Herefordshire SACRE for over a decade, and 20% of it accumulates to cover the cost of agreed syllabus renewals every five years.

## 7. Appendices

### 7.1 SACRE membership

<b>Group A - Organisation</b>		19 Nov 2021 Hybrid mtg	11 March 2022 Hybrid	8 July 2022 Hybrid
Baha' i community	Mrs C Ault	✓	✓	Mr P Hulme (substitute)
Buddhist community	Lama Tenzin Choesang (Chair)	✓	✓	
Free Churches	Canon A Nugent		✓	
Humanist	Mr G Sallis		Joined	
Hindu community	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
Jewish community	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
Muslim community	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
Quaker community	Ms R Stainer	✓	✓	✓
Roman Catholic Church	Mr P Fawcett	✓	✓	✓
Sikh community	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
<b>Group B: Church of England</b>				
	Mr S Debenham	✓*	✓*	✓
	Mr M Harrington	✓	✓	✓
	Mr J Nicholas		✓	
<b>Group C: Teacher representatives</b>				
Primary teacher	Mr B Caldicott (until March 2022)			
Co-opted primary teacher	Ms T Westlake	✓	✓	
Secondary teacher	Mrs L Barker (Vice Chair)	✓	✓	✓
Special school	<i>Currently no representative</i>			
<b>Group D: Local Authority</b>				
	Cllr E Harvey		✓*	✓
	Cllr J Hewitt	✓		
	Cllr J Stone	✓	✓	✓
<b>In attendance</b>				
Clerk to SACRE	Mr M Evans (Nov 2021) Mr S Cann (March 2022- )	✓	✓	✓
LA Officer	Ms A Naylor	✓	Ms E Farr (substitute)	✓
Adviser to SACRE	Stephen Pett, RE Today	✓	✓	✓

\*Denotes virtual attendance

Also in attendance on 19 Nov 2021: Strategic Finance Manager, Democratic Services Officer\*,  
Democratic Services Technical Officer

Also in attendance on 11 March 2022: Governance Support Team

### 7.2 Circulation details for this Annual Report

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies.

- ..., Director of Children's Services, Herefordshire LA
- Cllr ..., Cabinet Member for Education, Herefordshire LA
- The Department for Education (Central Government)



- NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies of Herefordshire schools
- All members of Herefordshire SACRE, for distribution to the bodies/communities they represent

### 7.3 Herefordshire GCSE results

This is the first time since 2019 that externally marked GCSE examinations have been sat by students. In 2020 and 2021, grades were determined by teachers as externally marked examinations could not take place due to the disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

#### Herefordshire GCSE results

No of pupils	Number of GCSE entries	% Full Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades	% Short Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades
1768	605	34.2%	71.4%	14.1%	63.5%

#### National GCSE results

No of pupils	Number of GCSE entries	% Full Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades	% Short Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades
650366	221124	34%	76.8%	2.6%	65.5%

A level results were not available at the time of writing.