



Doncaster Council

Agenda

To all Members of the

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Notice is given that a Meeting of the above Committee is to be held as follows:

Venue: Room 007a and b, Ground Floor, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster

Date: Wednesday, 26th June, 2019

Time: 4.30 pm

Items for Discussion:

	PageNo.
1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Declarations of Interest	
3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 20th March, 2019	1 - 2
A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded.	
4. Presentation - Future aspirations for SACRE.	3 - 16
5. South Yorkshire Hub RE Conference - 7th June	17 - 18

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Issued on: Thursday, 20th June, 2019

Governance Services Officer for this meeting

Andrew Sercombe
(01302) 734354

6. Date and time of next meeting - 6th November, 2019.

Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Chair – Rev T McCready - Unitarian (Doncaster Interfaith)
Vice-Chair – Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Councillors John Gilliver, Derek Smith and Jonathan Wood

Mr R Iball, Methodist
Mrs P Kaur, Sikh
Ms S Norburn, Humanist
Mr S Syed, Muslim
Mr B Teimoori, Baha’i
Lucy Saxton, Roman Catholic
Mary Sivaanbu, Hindu
Ms J Crowther, Church of England
Ms A Nicolson, National Union of Teachers
Mr T Griffiths, National Association of Headteachers
Mr A Depledge, Church of England

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2019

A MEETING of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) was held at the on WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2019, at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Rev T McCready

Councillors John Gilliver, Derek Smith and Mr S Syed.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kevin Rodgers, Mr A Depledge, Mr R Iball, Mrs P Kaur, Ms S Norburn, Mrs M Sivaanbu and Mr B Teimoori.

1 Minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 7th November, 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November, 2018 be agreed as a true record.

2 Update report for SACRE March 2019

Lat Blaylock updated on the launch event on 7th November, 2018 informing members that approximately 50 delegates had attended. This was encouraging however, concern was raised that there were no secondary school representatives.

Since the event 10 schools had been in touch with RE Today with queries in connection with the syllabus. This suggested schools were starting to use and implement the syllabus.

Lat Blaylock informed SACRE he had attended a session earlier in the day with Doncaster schools focussing on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. The event had been attended by representatives from 17 primary schools.

Some representatives had not attended the syllabus launch in November 2018 and enquired whether a further session could be scheduled. It was also recommended that an up to date email list for schools with appropriate RE contacts be developed to assist future event planning.

SACRE was informed there was currently no information on the number of schools who had started to implement the syllabus.

The Committee discussed the actions arising from the previous meeting and the following issues were raised:

- It was reported that the syllabus was digitally available to Doncaster Schools free of charge but must be password protected on the Schools website and not publicly available to download. School's wishing to purchase a hard copy of the syllabus would be required to pay £29 per copy.
- It was reported that further mini guides could be added to the syllabus once the password protection was in place.
- Lat Blaylock agreed to forward a copy of the syllabus to SACRE Members for information.
- It was suggested that the next session for school's be held by RE Today on 26th June 2019, inviting Secondary schools to the morning session, Primary to the afternoon session and SACRE at 4pm. It was suggested that if the event was hosted at a secondary school this may encourage participation.
- Members discussed how secondary schools had a role in educating and informing children and young people on issues such as racism, Islamophobia, anti-semitism.
- Mr Syed offered his services to any schools to explain and support teaching on the Islamic faith.
- Members referred to the need to ensure SACRE membership was up to date and outstanding vacancies filled to ensure SACRE could operate effectively.
- Lat Blaylock identified 3 delegates from the earlier development session who had indicated an interest in being appointed to SACRE.

The chair thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting closed.

3 Date and time of next meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting of SACRE be held on Wednesday, 26th June, 2019 at 4.30 pm at the Civic Office.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____



Doncaster
Council

Future Aspirations for SACRE in Doncaster

Page 3

What is SACRE?

It is required by law that religious education must be taught to all registered pupils in maintained schools up to the age of 18, except for those withdrawn by their parents.

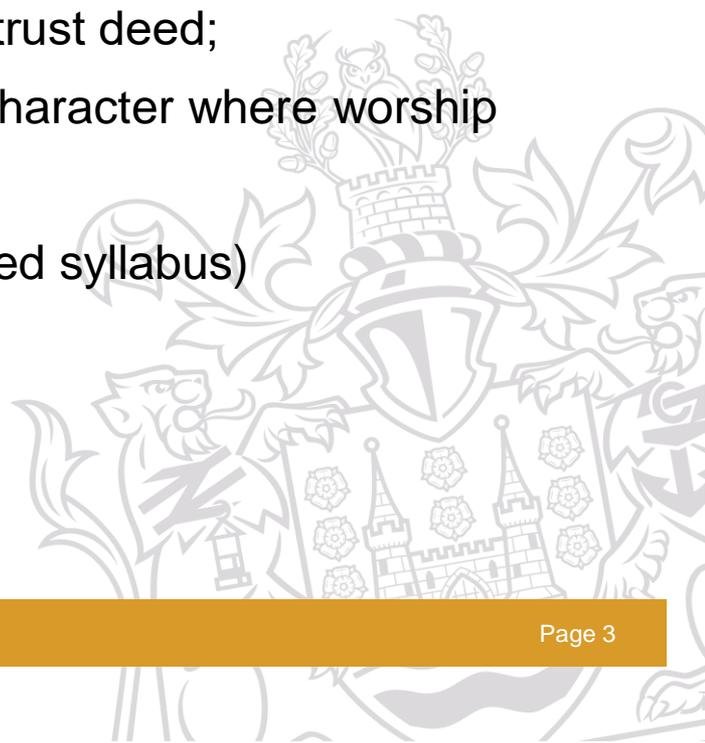
Religious Education is a distinctive but core part of the basic curriculum or maintained schools in England. It is not part of the National Curriculum, because it is a local responsibility, but it is taught alongside the National Curriculum



What is SACRE?

Since 1988, the Local Authority has had a statutory duty to establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). A SACRE is part of the Local Government machinery; its main function is to advise the Local Authority on matters related to agreed syllabus RE and collective worship in the majority of maintained schools. The exceptions are:

- (a) religious education in voluntary aided schools where RE is determined by the Governors and taught according to the school's trust deed;
- (b) collective worship in all schools with a religious character where worship can be reflective of that religious faith; and
- (c) Academies (even those which follow the LA agreed syllabus)



What is SACRE?

The locally agreed syllabus is the statutory document for religious education in the Local Authority. It is produced by an agreed syllabus conference (ASC). The agreed syllabus has to be reviewed every five years.



Page 6



What is SACRE? Statutory Responsibilities

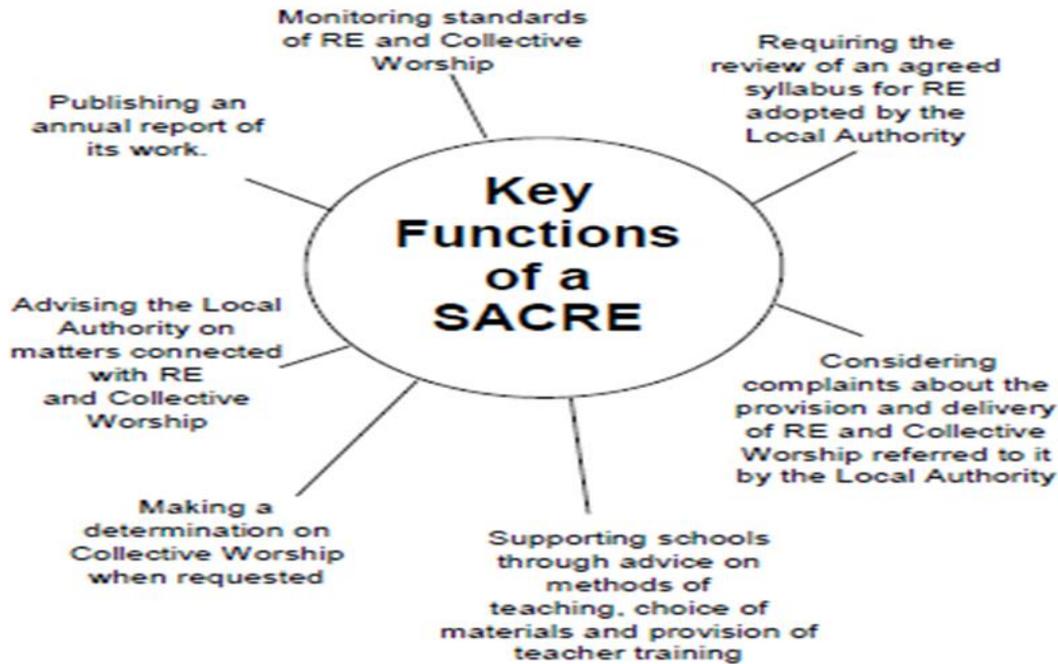
Doncaster SACRE must:

- (a) Advise the LA on such matters connected with agreed syllabus religious education and collective worship either in response to a referral from the LA or as it see fit;
- (b) Publish an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describing the nature of that advise, and set out reasons for offering advice on matters not referred to it by the LA;
- (c) Send a copy of the report to the relevant government agency;
- (d) Consider applications from a head teacher that the school be released from the requirement for collective worship to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” for some or all of their pupils (this is known as a determination);
- (e) Meet in public unless confidential information is to be disclosed; and
- (f) Produce minutes of its meetings available for inspection at the LA’s offices and on the Council’s Website (so far as the minutes relate to the parts of meetings that were open to the public).

SACRE Functions

Why have a SACRE ?

It is required by law that each local authority has its own Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)



Doncaster SACRE should...

- Monitor the provision and quality of agreed syllabus RE and of collective worship;
- In partnership with the LA, consider whether any changes need to be made to the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the agreed syllabus, to improve the quality, teaching and learning in RE;
- Offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum;
- Require the LA to set up an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference (ASC) to review the agreed syllabus every five years. If, at some other time, and after discussion and a vote (the LA group on SACRE is not entitled to cast a vote in this context) the majority of the committees of the SACRE asks the LA in writing to reconsider its agreed syllabus, it must convene a conference for that purpose.

Doncaster SACRE may...

- Decide to advise Doncaster LA on matters to do with RE and collective worship;
- Co-opt individuals who are not members of any of the four groups to provide educational expertise, young peoples' views or religious or nonreligious views that reflect a diverse multi-cultural society.



Current situation in Doncaster



Page 11



Current challenges



What role does SACRE want to take on in terms of supporting effective implementation of syllabus?



Page 13



Role of RE Today in supporting SACRE

RE Today

Services

Page 14



Next Steps



Page 15

This page is intentionally left blank

News update from RE Today to SACRE Summer 2019

Ofsted Framework and Handbooks published

Following consultation, the new Framework and Handbooks are available.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/education-inspection-framework#handbooks-and-framework

172. All pupils in maintained schools are expected to study the basic curriculum, which includes national curriculum⁶⁶, religious education and age-appropriate relationship and sex education. Academies are expected to offer all pupils a broad curriculum⁶⁸ that should be similar in breadth and ambition.

P.42 Footnote 68: Academies must include English, mathematics, science and religious education in their curriculum.

NATRE Meetings with the DFE

NATEE representatives continue to meet frequently with the DFE. Recent agenda items have included discussing complaints about RE, non-compliance with the law on RE and the necessity of support for RE from government. NATRE were pleased to work with the DFE to jointly provide a subject knowledge enhancement courses for secondary trainee teachers, and are currently meeting with the DFE approximately once a month on behalf of RE teachers.

NASACRE hears from DfE about school compliance on RE

Neil Lawson from the Curriculum Unit of the Department for Education has written to NASACRE Chair, Paul Smalley, setting out the expectations of the government with regards to school compliance in RE, covering:

- The requirement to teach RE (including what is expected from academies and free schools)
- Advice about the application of the agreed syllabus, and whether qualifications can be stipulated as part of that
- How to handle reports of a school not meeting its duty to teach RE

It is extremely useful to have these aspects set out in writing, and we hope that this will

help SACREs to be proactive in challenging schools of all types to provide the very best RE. The letter can be found here:

<http://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-97-item-2.pdf>

National and Regional Ambassadors

A reminder that the National and Regional RE Ambassadors are continuing to work to support and connect teachers of RE. More details here: www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/regional-ambassadors-announced/

GCSE RS BBC Bitesize

The BBC's support for RE at KS4 continues with the launch of its Bitesize revision guides for Eduqas GCSE specifications. Others will follow soon.

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zb48q6f>

The RE All Party Parliamentary Group

At the January meeting of the APPG for RE, NATRE Primary Vice-Chair Katie Freeman was one of four serving teachers of RE who spoke about excellent RE. Katie received her invite from her MP Luke Pollard. Katie spoke about the RE that goes on in her school and the importance of this to all her pupils to an audience including numerous parliamentarians and guest from different branches of the RE community.

How can SACRE encourage teachers to get involved? 'Is your MP a member of the RE APPG?' Write and ask them if they would like to visit your school and see excellent RE in action.

NATRE and Culham St Gabriel's

NATRE and Culham St Gabriel's are partnering together to offer a new 200-hour DfE funded subject knowledge enhancement course. There is detailed information about the course at www.teachre.co.uk as well as information about our well established courses for those who are already teaching (Teach:RE Tailor Made). You can also email Kate Christopher directly at kate@cstg.org.uk

Better RE in 1000 primary schools: can SACRE nominate schools for this RE-improvement project?

Are there Primary schools in who rarely engage with SACRE or with RE events? The 'Primary RE 1000' project from NATRE is designed to reach these schools with support for better RE.

NATRE has received funding for an amazing RE development project called Primary RE 1000. The aim of the project is to benefit 'hard to reach' schools so that they are more engaged with RE. We have a list of project activities that will help Primary schools to improve their RE, wherever they are currently.

The project has been designed to challenge, support and inspire Primary schools where they need to change and improve the RE opportunities they give to pupils.

The schools accepted to join the project will receive:

- A digital starter pack to kick start better RE in their schools
- Over 1000 free-to-use classroom resources
- Links with a local group of RE teachers to share best practice
- NATRE membership at a discounted price (£55 for two years, instead of £150!)
- Opportunities to attend high quality training at a discounted rate
- And much more

Can SACRE send school names, email contacts and subject leader contacts for schools who may benefit from this support? NATRE will then invite eligible schools to join the project.

The invitation may come from NATRE via SACRE, or directly from SACRE. If SACRE gives NATRE its recommendations, NATRE will check which schools qualify for Primary RE 1000 and get back to SACRE with a personal invite we can send to them. NATRE is very eager to work in partnership with SACRE.

Contact Mandeep Singh Shekhon

Mandeep@natre.org.uk

Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships; RE near and far (local, national, global)

The 2019 annual NASACRE conference and AGM was held in Manchester on Wednesday 22nd May at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 1 Piccadilly Place, 1 Auburn Street, Manchester M1 3DG, 10.30 – 4.30.

Peter Bull and Dr Julian Stern spoke about their experience and thoughts around the title of the conference. There was a full programme of workshops too. Further details can be found at:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2019>

Jewish Museum: Teachers' Seminar Days

"At the Jewish Museum, we care about teachers feeling ready, supported and inspired when teaching their students about Judaism and Jewish History. We have run successful teachers' events around topics such as 'Teaching Judaism for the First Time', 'Holocaust Memorial Day' and 'Making the Most From our Online Resources' and we continue to support teachers with curriculum changes. All workshops are hands-on, encourage questions and provide teachers with an opportunity to share good practice and make the most from a visit to the museum. We are holding two Teachers' Seminars this Year:

- Teaching Judaism for the First Time: Special Times, Special Stories (For Primary Teachers) Friday 5th July 2019 9.30-3.30pm
- Teaching Judaism for GCSE and A Level Thursday 4th July 2019 9.30-4.30pm

Early Bird tickets are £15 if booked by 31st May 2019."

<https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/event/teachers-seminar-primary/>

<https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/event/teachers-seminar-secondary/>