

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday 16 November 2022

14:00

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

John Tradewell
Director of Corporate Services
8 November 2022

A G E N D A

1. **Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Welcome to New Members**

Committee A – Claire Tomlinson to represent the Roman Catholic church.
4. **Declaration of Any other Business**
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2022** (Pages 1 - 8)
6. **An Update on Key Issues including workforce information** (Pages 9 - 20)

Report of the Director for Children and Families
7. **NASACRE Update** (Pages 21 - 22)

Report of the Director for Children and Families
8. **Agreed Syllabus conference and interactive session** (Pages 23 - 104)
9. **Adoption of the Agreed Syllabus**



10. **SACRE Annual Report for 2021-2022** (Pages 105 - 126)
 Report of the Director for Children and Families
11. **The SACRE Budget 2022-2023** (Pages 127 - 130)
 Report of the Director for Children and Families
12. **Development Plan** (Pages 131 - 134)
 Report of the Director for Children and Families
13. **Applications for variation of practice** (Pages 135 - 136)
 Report of the Director for Children and Families
14. **Dates of next meetings**
 Dates of next meetings
- 01 February 2023
 - 28 June 2023
 - 15 November 2023

All meetings commence at 2:00pm unless otherwise stated.

Membership	
Mohamed Sedky	Vickie Longson
Linda Goodwin	Shaun Miles
Julie Thompson	Maddy Belle
Tajinder Singh	Harold Gurden
G Devadason	Zoe Cahalan
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chair)	Vicky Priestley
Sam Kirwan	Philip Atkins, OBE
Dr Laow Panyasiri	Paul Northcott
Mohamed Parekh	Mike Wilcox
Sam Phillips	Ian Horsewell
Lauren Nicholson Ward	Kath Perry, MBE
Judy Wyman	Paul Snape
Gabi Oldfield	Amy Bayliss-Fox

MINUTES

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting - 29 June 2022

Present: Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf

Linda Goodwin, Sam Phillips, Lauren Nicholson Ward, Gabi Oldfield, Zoe Cahalan, Vicky Priestley, Philip Atkins, OBE, Kath Perry, MBE and Amy Bayliss-Fox

Also in attendance: Mary Gale (SACRE Advisor), Mandy Pattinson and Simon Humble (Clerks)

120. Apologies

Julie Thompson, Sam Kirwan, Mohamed Parekh, Judy Wyman, Vickie Longson, Maddy Belle, Paul Northcott, Mike Wilcox and Paul Snape

121. Update on Membership

The SACRE formally welcomed Amy Bayliss-Fox who has replaced Lydia Bartlett as a representative of the Salvation Army. Zoe Cahalan was also welcomed.

122. Declaration of Any Other Business

There were no declarations of any other business on this occasion.

123. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 February 2022

A minor amendment was requested of Minute 112 to remove the duplicated sentence starting "Further to the SACRE considered the report..."

The Chairman referred to minute 115, and informed the SACRE that Mary Gale had contacted the various schools that had reported a 0% return of allocation of teaching hours to RE on the workforce development census, and it was confirmed that those schools were teaching RE.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 7 February 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

124. An Update on Key Issues

SACRE considered the report which covered the main issues affecting Religious Education (RE) in Staffordshire since the last meeting. Further to the written report, the following information was provided:

- Media release regarding RE being taught in schools. It had been recorded in some areas that there had been a falling record of people taking part in RE with regards GCSE and A levels. However, in other areas there had shown a significant rise of practice. This media release had come about as a result of the 0% return of allocation of teaching hours to RE on the workforce development census.
- Reported that there is no central government funding for RE, though pleased to report that there are charity project funds and grants available.
- Information was provided that showed where Staffordshire SACRE received support and guidance including, NASACRE, REC, NATRE and AREIAC.
- Ofsted had undertaken some research into what good practice in RE should look like in schools. There was concern over RE nationwide, particularly in High Schools and Secondary Schools where children were not following the subject through to GCSE or A level. There was much better provision in primary, first and middle schools. This is considered carefully when Ofsted inspect schools. Ofsted intend to produce another report in 2023.
- Westhill legacy project – Funding had been received which had allowed Staffordshire to run Explore, Engage, Reflect projects in conjunction with the Youth Net, and with support of the Minority Ethnic Achievement Services (MEAS), as part of our Agreed Syllabus (AS). Feedback was provided by Youth Net, particularly around the behaviour of some of the children – mainly as a result of this being one of the first completely interactive face to face sessions since COVID-19. It was also raised that the SCARE could consider if any additional funding could be allocated to support continued delivery of these sessions in the future.
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD). Mary Gale continued to support RE leaders in several schools through email, virtual meetings and face to face meetings. Mary had received requests from some schools for CPD sessions to take place. Entrust had approached Mary Gale to run face to face courses in the autumn 2022 and spring 2023 terms to provide network support for teachers either at the central training centre or in individual schools.
- Some schools had requested copies of the new AS. Mary had reassured these schools that the current AS remains the syllabus until the new one is published, and that the new versions was still in development, but as soon as it was finalised it would be shared.
- Governors, through the Governor Information Pack, continue to receive updates on RE in Staffordshire, the status of the AS and the process for the review. They have been encouraged to work in their link governor roles to discuss the impact of the current AS.

- An update from the Association of Religious Education Inspectors and Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) and the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) Meetings was presented. This information was specifically centred around the story of Harry Potter and whether it included a religious message.
- Update on RE Quality Mark application - St Chad's in Pattingham, which SACRE had agreed to fund. Information had been collated and will be submitted in autumn term ready for assessment. Mary Gale will be visiting St Chad's to look through the information prior to submission. Lauren Nicholson-Ward and Zoe Cahalan both offered informal assistance as they had both recently been involved in the process.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

125. NASACRE Update including conference report

The Chair and Mary Gale attended the virtual NASACRE conference. Mary informed the SACRE that during the conference an opportunity arose to share the role of the Staffordshire SACRE with other participants. It became apparent that the Staffordshire SACRE was delivering significantly more than other SACREs which was testament to the work of members.

It was highlighted that with the pressure towards academisation and the reduced roles of local authorities, there was a question mark around the medium to long term futures of SACREs. They are still statutory, and the government still requires LAs to have them, but the future role is unclear.

Following a question relating to the possible demise of SACREs and the future of RE, it was confirmed that RE would remain in the syllabus, but that it might be managed in a different way.

RESOLVED: That the update report be noted.

126. Agreed Syllabus Conference

The Education Act 1996 required Local Authorities to review its locally agreed syllabus every five years. Staffordshire's syllabus was due to be reviewed in 2021. An AS Conference had to be established in order to agree the revised. This would then be formally approved by the County Council.

The SACRE meeting was adjourned in order for the Agreed Syllabus Conference to be convened.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) was convened. Attendance and apologies as for the meeting of SACRE.

- a.** The minutes of the last meeting held on 7 February 2022 were agreed.

It was noted that there had been some slippage in terms of the timescale for the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus (AS). Implementation had now been earmarked for January 2023.

- b.** Further to the report, Mary Gale updated the ASC on the work undertaken since the last meeting and presented a revised draft of the AS.

The ASC was informed that a thorough engagement process had been undertaken with key stakeholders to ensure the new AS meets the needs of the end user. The Chair highlighted the amount of work, number of changes and responses to specific comments that had been made since the last iteration. The updated AS takes account of how stakeholders have responded to the syllabus in the schools, what is going on in the wider world and what statutory factors need to be considered.

The ASC was also informed that certain elements of the AS had been shared with specific stakeholders, such as Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) providers, to ensure all needs were being met appropriately.

It was explained that the formatting of the AS was not yet finalised and that some additional editing was required before the final draft would be ready. This would be brought back to the next meeting of the ASC in November ready for adoption by formal vote.

It was noted that stakeholders had asked for more information to be included in the AS relating to how RE should be planned. It was acknowledged that the AS couldn't provide lesson plans for every year group in every school. Instead a section entitled "Planning your RE" had been included to support schools, by providing the fundamental requirements that should be included to ensure the three themes of Explore, Engage and Reflect were covered.

The ASC was informed that Ofsted were looking for connectivity within the curriculum so that children can remember more and explain more about the different religions and worldviews in greater depth.

The ASC received additional information relating to constructing the curriculum in the EYFS. This had been developed using legislation and the Early Learning Goals.

In response to a question proposing the use of a "curriculum roadmap" that would support teachers in the development of RE, it was explained that, due

to timeframe conflicts between the development of an Agreed Syllabus (5 years) and the frequently changing teaching processes, it would not be possible to include a roadmap within the AS, but it may be possible to include it as an appendix to the document which could be updated and amended more frequently.

The ASC heard that the RE and British Values and the Inspection of RE (including the Ofsted Framework), had been added to the AS. It was suggested that some aspects of these may be included in an appendix rather than remain as a specific element of the AS.

The ASC recorded its thanks and gratitude to Mary Gale for the level and quality of work that had been undertaken to date.

RESOLVED: That the work undertaken to date in the development of the Agreed Syllabus be noted.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting was adjourned in order for the SACRE to be reconvened.

127. Media reports on Religious Education

a. The RE report card

The SACRE was presented with a number of “report cards” that showed how RE was valued within the UK over the last decade. The Report Cards focussed on, and provided a summary of, the Performance of Religious Education, RE in Society, School Performance, Government Performance, and the Future of RE – concentrating on a High-Quality Education in Religion and Worldviews. These report cards were put together by rethinker and more information can be found by following this link.
<https://www.rethinkre.org/re-report-card>.

b. Draft Handbook published by the RE Council (REC) on Religion and World views in the classroom: developing a world views approach

The SACRE was presented with the draft Handbook published by the REC on Religion and World views in the classroom. The purposes of this Handbook were to present a ‘national statement of entitlement’, equip and support syllabus and curriculum developers and set out the nature of a religion and worldviews approach. It was explained that there was a momentum towards providing this kind of approach to delivering RE. It was suggested that in the future this might become built into RE in a more statutory or directive way and may need to be further considered and revisited by SACRE.

It was also explained that in the past RE focussed on religious literacy, but the REC Handbook suggests RE should now focus on both religious and world views in the classroom.

The main elements of the draft handbook include:

- An Outline and rationale for the development
- Explaining what people mean by 'religion'
- Explaining what people mean by 'worldview'
- The value of worldviews in terms of content and approach
- Subject knowledge in school and community contexts
- Revised National Statement of Entitlement (NSE)
- Developing pupils' personal worldviews
- Fulfilling the National Statement of Entitlement
- Connecting the NSE with current practice
- Applying disciplinary methods
- How to use the NSE to develop a syllabus
- Using the NSE to develop questions and construct units of work
- How this approach relates to GCSE.
- Models to assist with making good progress

Lauren Nicholson-Ward recommended a short video called "Nobody Stands Nowhere", produced by the Theos Think Tank, which introduces the idea of what is a world view and how it might affect you.

In response to a question relating to the feasibility of the REC Handbook replacing the Agreed Syllabus, it was confirmed that it was purely a consultative and optional document for consideration – it was not yet statutory and does not meet the requirements of the law. Furthermore, it was explained that the taught syllabus related to the status of a school. If the school was a maintained school, it was required to follow the Agreed Syllabus. Church of England aided schools followed diocesan Agreed Syllabus and guidance. Academy Schools could choose to follow any syllabus available within the country.

RESOLVED: That the RE Report Cards and Draft Handbook be noted.

128. The SACRE Budget 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

Approval was sought of SACRE to commit funds for the Engage Project and for the Christianity project – approximately £4,000.00, which will be used to provide workshop sessions to almost 800 children.

In addition, a further £1,500.00 was requested to be committed for the time to rewrite the Planning and Assessment suggestions to go in the Appendix to the Agreed Syllabus.

Following this £800.00 will remain available in the SACRE Budget which would be revisited in November.

In response to a question relating to the use of the remaining budget to create an award for Staffordshire Schools that exhibit "Commendable work within RE", it was confirmed that this was a practice that took place in the past but had since ceased to happen, primarily due to capacity of officers and budget restrictions. It was acknowledged as something that could be considered in the future.

RESOLVED: That the SACRE Budget 2022-2023 be received.

129. Development Plan 2021-2023

The Development plan was presented to the SACRE. This document contained the SACRE action plan and also gave a RAG rating which estimated risk of each objective. It was noted that one objective relating to the Launch of the Agreed Syllabus which had slipped to early 2023 remained in Red status.

It was explained that when the Agreed Syllabus had been launched the development plan would be updated to include objectives which would become the main focus of the SACRE in the future.

RESOLVED: That the Development Plan be noted.

130. Applications for variation of practice

There were none on this occasion.

131. Dates of next meetings

RESOLVED: That the dates of future meetings of the SCARE, as set out below, be noted:

- 16 November 2022
- 1 February 2023
- 28 June 2023

All meetings commence at 2:00pm unless otherwise stated.

**Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf
Chairman**

Agenda Item 6

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
16th November 2022
Report of the Director for Children and Families**

An Update on Key Issues

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on key issues that have developed or arisen since the last meeting of SACRE.

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on a number of key issues. These are matters which have either been raised at previous SACRE meetings and which have moved forward or matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and note the contents

4 Background

4.1 Since the summer term meeting of the SACRE there have been developments in a number of areas which had previously been agenda items for SACRE or which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on these key developments.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 Financial implications may be raised; These have been dealt with elsewhere or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

Contact Officer

Mary Gale 07816374873

Key Issues Report

i) Continuous Professional Development

Mary Gale continues to support RE leaders in several schools through email, virtual meetings and face to face meetings. This has involved supporting schools in understanding *greater depth* in RE assessment, whole class reading through RE texts, planning and preparation for Ofsted '*deep dives*'.

In addition, Mary continues to support a school to work through the Agreed Syllabus and how Understanding Christianity can dovetail into the AS.

Planning support is needed most. Mary has re written some of the planning to support schools. One topic that needed a refresh was learning about *Sacred Texts* in year 5.

Entrust have approached Mary Gale to run face to face courses in the autumn and spring terms to provide network support for teachers either at the central training centre or in individual schools. The autumn course is book for 22nd November 2022 at Entrust. To date 16 schools have booked onto this course

Governors through the Governor Information Pack continue to receive updates on RE in Staffordshire, the status of the AS and the process for the review. They have been encouraged to work in their link governor roles to discuss the impact of the current AS. This information has reached 300 plus schools and over 200 leaders from these school have joined an update webinar where RE was discussed as part and parcel of the information provided. This is unique to Staffordshire as having discussed this at a recent national NASACRE conference it is apparent that many SACRES do not have this avenue to engage so readily with their stakeholders.

Mary attended a local meeting of the NATRE group held as a combination of virtual and face to face meeting in Chadsmead Primary Lichfield in early November 2022 at 4.30.

Mary also attended a virtual meeting of the West Midlands Association of Religious Education Inspectors and Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) on 21st June 2022. The next meeting is at the end of November 2022.

Discussions centred around the AS – see AS section, and updates on resources.

Mary will be attending a Church of England conference in January 2023 looking at various education issues. A report will be available in the February 2023 meeting.

ii) Update on RE Quality Mark application- St Chad's Pattingham.

The school received the SACRE grant to enable them to apply for this quality mark. They are very grateful. The RE lead is working her way through the requirements collecting evidence for the assessment. This will be a virtual assessment and not a face-to-face assessment. They are awaiting more information.

Mary Gale has supported the school to ensure they have a strong evidence base before the assessment. The application from has been checked and Mary made suggestions to improve the application. They have had an Ofsted inspection with a good outcome. The report states that the school has been working on a broad and balanced curriculum and especially made a reference to their work on diversity by using appropriate texts and reading

books. The school was praised for highlighting Black History month in its curriculum. This bodes well for a future positive assessment of the REQM. The school is awaiting its assessment date. This is the 10th anniversary of the REQM, so we will be very pleased if a Staffordshire school is successful this year.

iii) Westhill Legacy project- Explore, Engage, Reflect (EER) in conjunction with Youth Net. Autumn Term 2022 report.

SACRE have funded this project from the 2022-2023 budget through commissioning the Entrust Minority Ethnic Achievement Service- MEAS- to deliver workshops in conjunction with Youth Net.

There was a delay in the release of money from the SACRE budget. Mary Gale followed this up with Entrust and SCC. The budget has now been released and dates for the Spring term 2023 support have been arranged in conjunction with Youth Net.

The following dates are being considered for 2023

Monday 30th Jan Monday 6th Feb

Monday 27th Feb Monday 6th March

iv) Work force data for 2021- See attachment

Notes to accompany the release of school level data from the 2021 DfE School Workforce Census.

This data was reported by schools to the DfE as part of the school census in November 2021

Hours taught for years 7 to 13, in subjects RE, philosophy and all subjects, reported by state-funded secondary schools with electronic timetabling software.

School Workforce Census 2021

61 Staffordshire schools are included.

Aspects to note:

1. Where schools reported that they allocate teaching hours to a specific year group, but have not included RE in that report, **this is indicated by a dot** in that year group column. **18 schools out of 61 schools**

Mary has started to investigate this issue by checking the school websites.

Mary has started contacting these schools and the issue is not always with the teaching of RE/RS but with the admin of filling in the census.

There has been an increase in provision in some schools and a decrease in others. The good news is that out of 61 schools recorded, 21 have increased their provision. Which is good news. Last year only 16 schools increased the time allocated to the teaching of RE/RS.

10 have decreased their provision. Some of those schools are middle schools.

Last year 22 decreased the time allocated to the teaching of RE/RS.

The picture is an improving picture of provision.

Where schools report zero hours in any year group, these are highlighted in red, alongside those recording no hours at all.

Issues to investigate by Mary Gale

- The 0 hours allocations- anywhere in the list. This includes 3 schools, last year this was 7 schools.
- The schools where there are dots- showing no hours recorded for RE/RS.
It is the general feeling that this is not essentially a true account as the census form may have been populated incorrectly.
Some of these are Catholic schools and we are certain that RE/RS is taught.

Eg Blessed William Howard Catholic school..... on the school website it is clear that it allocates 5 hours per every two weeks for the teaching of RE/RS for all year groups.

Paget High school allocates 50 minutes per week to RE/RS for some year groups and for other year groups 1 hour 40 minutes per week.

Norton Canes High school allocates time to RE/RS even though the data shows a dot. Mary Gale has visited and provided support and resources- she has also spoken to their governors about this.

Mary will continue to work on this project as time and resources allow.

Standards

Staffordshire SACRE reviews and discusses standards and achievement in RE during meetings as appropriate. There were no external examination results from the summer of 2021 due to the pandemic. These resumed in summer 2022.

Throughout 2021-22 Religious Education network meetings which schools can choose to attend would have included moderation of standards across year groups and schools to support schools with the judgements they make against the revised 2016 Agreed Syllabus Age Related Expectations. There were no face-to-face courses due to the residual fall out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The advisor offered to provide support information through an online virtual webinar, but no schools took up this offer.

a) Public examination entries in Religious Education (RE) and Religious Studies (RS)

In the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, legal requirements state that RE should be provided as part of the basic curriculum for all registered pupils attending a maintained school, this includes High schools.

Background

At Key Stage (KS) 4 many pupils fulfil their entitlement by following as a basis an accredited specification (from a recognised examination board) in RS. Schools should provide reasonable time for pupils to complete this and if appropriate, to attain an external qualification.

At KS5, pupils may follow the programme of study provided within the Agreed Syllabus or an accredited specification (from a recognised examination board) in RS.

Schools that do not offer this opportunity to their students are requested to apply to the SACRE for a variation of practice.

This academic year no schools have applied for, or been granted, a variation.

Staffordshire SACRE recognises the independence of Academies and Free Schools. However, it commends the Agreed Syllabus to them as a constructive and collaborative way to meet their legal requirements in Religious Education.

Update Autumn 2021-July 2022

There were improvements to the delivery of RE and RS. Schools from the autumn term 2021 resumed offering their normal RE and RS delivery. As many spent the time during COVID-19 evaluating their planning some schools are reporting that their delivery is now improving as a result.

Also Ofsted has been monitoring RE more robustly as part of the inspection process- this has spurred schools to review and enhance their delivery of RE/RS

b) Overall GCSE results 2020-21 not just for RE

The GCSE system continues to use the new grading of 9-1, with 9 being the exceptional grade.

Historically grades were awarded following different processes in Central Assessed Grades (CAGs) and Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) during 2020 and 2021 after public exams were cancelled for all schools in the UK. This led to a large increase in the share of top grades. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer exam series for the 2020/21 academic year was cancelled. These resumed in summer 2022

In 2020/21, pupils were assessed on the content they had been taught for each course. Schools were given flexibility to decide how to assess their pupils' performance, for example, through mock exams, class tests, and non-exam assessment already completed. GCSE grades were then determined by teachers based on the range of evidence available (referred to as teacher-assessed grades, or TAGs).

This is a different process to that of 2019/20 when pupils were awarded either a centre assessment grade (known as CAGs, based on what the school or college believed the pupil would most likely have achieved had exams gone ahead) or their calculated grade using a model developed by Ofqual - whichever was the higher of the two.

The changes to the way GCSE grades have been awarded over the last two years (with CAGs and TAGs replacing exams) means that 2020/21 pupil attainment data should not be directly compared to pupil attainment data from previous years for the purposes of measuring year on year changes in pupil performance.

The government has announced that it would not publish school or college level results data on compare school and college performance (also commonly referred to as school and college performance tables) in autumn 2020 or autumn 2021

See below for the 2021 results

c) Religious Studies GCSE 2021

Here are the trends in the latest religious studies GCSE results for summer 2021. The proportion of grade 9 results achieved by students nationally in 2021, equivalent to a high A* under the old GCSE system, rose to 11.4 per cent, compared to 9.6 per cent in 2020 and 7.5 per cent in 2019.

Staffordshire information

We cannot report to SACRE precisely the data for our schools regarding RE and RS however the following information provided by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education gives the national picture for A-level and GCSE entries this year.

Staffordshire LA have been unable to provide a break down school by school of the RE/RS grades.

However, there are some overall figures to report for 2021

County	Number of candidates	Grade 9 and above - %	Grade 8 and above - %	Grade 7 and above - %	Grade 6 and above - %	Grade 5 and above - %	Grade 4 and above - %	Grade 3 and above - %	Grade 2 and above - %	Grade 1 and above - %
England	201975	11.4	23.8	37.7	53.2	67.5	80.2	89.9	95.7	98.9
Staffordshire	4,320	7.1	17.2	31	46.9	62.6	77.5	89.7	96.4	99.1

The number of pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies in England remained stable in 2021.

Key outcomes entries of GCSE in 2021

Staffordshire % achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2020 was 76.4% and 77.5% in 2021 with a fall to 73.4% in 2022

England % achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2020 was 80.5% and 80.2% in 2021 with a fall to 76.7% in 2022

Therefore Staffordshire % of students achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2021 was 3% lower than the England average, this is an improvement compared to 2020 and this gap remains similar in 2022

Historically

2019 National Average 9 to 4 72.3%

2019 Staffordshire Average 9 to 65.9%

2020 National Average 9 to 4 80.5%

2020 Staffordshire Average 9 to 4 76.4%

2021 National Average 9 to 4 80.2%
 2021 Staffordshire Average 9 to 4 77.5%

2022 National Average 9 to 4 76.7%
 2022 Staffordshire Average 9 to 4 73.4%

d) Religious Studies A-level 2021- the only available data provided by SCC is as follows, there are no comparisons available for 2020.

A level 2021	No of pupils	% A* - E	% A*-C	% %A*-A	Average Grade
Staffordshire	53	100%	91%	26%	B
England	16.645	100%	96%	32%	B

In England the number of Religious Studies A-level exam entries in 2021 has increased 6.1 percent year on year. The subject outperformed other A-level subjects as a whole, which increased by 5.1 percent, with a greater increase than most other humanities subjects.

The 2021 Religious Studies results reverse the decline of 11.5% in 2020, where many other subjects saw significant falls in the number of entries, including Geography (down 16.2%) and History (down 15.1%). Last year's reduction reflected a smaller cohort of 18-year-olds and changes to the assessment of A level and AS examinations that had an effect in 2018, when the majority of schools changed their policies to recommending three A-levels, versus four in previous years.

The key outcomes of the 2021 A-level results in England and Wales for Religious Education are as follows:

- 16,645 RS A-level entries were recorded, an increase of 6.1 percent on 2020.
- There were 49.5 percent more entries than in 2003 (11,132 entries were recorded in 2003).
- The 6.1 percent increase in entries for RS is greater than some other subjects such as History (up 1.5 percent) and Political Studies (up 5.1 percent).
- The increase of 49.5 percent in the number of entries for RS A-level since 2003 is greater than equivalent changes over the same period for subjects such as Geography (down 0.9 percent), Law (up 9.4 percent), and History (up 8.7 percent).

The relative stability of entries suggests that candidates continue to recognise the value of RS A-level for Higher Education entry, graduate employment, and as a valuable life skill.

Religious Education and the Schools Bill (2022) Commentary from ARIEAC (for information only)

Introduction:

The requirements for the curriculum in academy schools are set out in (1) primary legislation, (2) academy funding agreements (most commonly the DfE model funding agreement) and in regulations.

1. **Primary legislation:** In the case of religious education, the primary legislation has remained largely unchanged from the 1988 Education Reform Act but this has been restated in section 375 the Education Act 1996, section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and elsewhere. These pieces of legislation set out the requirements for RE in different types of school, including schools with and without a religious designation.

2. **Academy Funding agreements:** Also include statements about the curriculum requirements for RE in different types of school, based on the legislation above.

Problem One

In trying to remove barriers to academisation, the government decided to reassure providers of schools with a religious character that their right to determine their own religious education are protected, not just in the Academy Funding Agreement, but also in primary legislation. The Schools Bill was therefore drafted to include the clauses from the funding agreement that set out the requirements for RE. The problem is that only the clauses that relate to schools WITH a religious character are included in the Bill and not schools WITHOUT a religious character. This places RE in those schools on a less secure footing.

Solution One

The DfE should amend the Schools Bill to ensure RE in all types of school is protected by primary legislation, not just RE in schools with a religious character.

Problem Two

Academies are not required to follow their local Agreed Syllabus for RE. This means there is no benchmark for the expected standard of RE to which pupils are entitled. The consequences of this is that RE is often very weak in Academy Schools and there is no means to challenge this. Several test complaints have been supported by NATRE that evidence the problem.

Solution Two

If the government intends to pursue the principle of Academy Trust standards, then the following text should be included. This language mirrors the language of the Ofsted Framework for Inspection and is adapted from the example included in the DfE Academy Trust Standards Factsheet.

The nature and quality of education provided, and the curriculum followed.

These standards will ensure:

a) The curriculum up to 16 is broad and balanced, and includes English, mathematics, science and up to 18, includes religious education

b) The curriculum should be similar in breadth and ambition to the basic curriculum, which includes the national curriculum, religious education* and age-appropriate relationships and sex education

LA name	School name	Religious character	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 7 hours - philosophy	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - philosophy	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - philosophy	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - philosophy	% year 11 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - philosophy	% year 12 hours - RE	Year 13 hours - philosophy	% year 13 hours - RE	% year 13 hours - philosophy	% mixed hours - RE	% mixed hours - philosophy
St	Paget High School	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Norton Canes High School	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Blythe Bridge High School	Does not a m.	2.37	.	4.7	.	5	.	3	.	2	.	4	.	0	.	.	.
St	Codsall Community High Scho	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	King Edward VI School	Does not a m.	0	.	0	.	0	.	7	.	7	.	2	.	2	.	.	.
St	Perton Middle School	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	King Edward VI High School	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
st	Bilbrook CofE (VC) Middle Sch	Church of Im	8.69	.	6.9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Stafford Manor High School	None	m	0	.	0	.	0	.	2	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Cardinal Griffin Catholic Colleg	Roman Cat m	8.71	.	8.5	.	9	.	10	.	6	.	9	.	7	.	.	.
St	Landau Forte Academy, Amin	Does not a m	6.46	0	6.2	0	6	0	0	1.9	0	3	.	0	.	.	.	.
St	John Taylor High School	Does not a m	3.53	.	6.8	.	6	.	3	.	7	.	4	.	5	.	.	.
st	The de Ferrers Academy	Does not a m	4.02	.	4	.	4	.	1	.	0	.	0	.	2	.	.	.
St	Erasmus Darwin Academy	None	m.	0	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	.
St	The Cheadle Academy	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Christ Church Academy	Church of Im	3.94	.	3.8	N//.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	The Hart School	None	m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Landau Forte Academy, QEMS	None	m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Staffordshire University Acade	Does not a m	3.6	.	3.3	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	.	.
St	Biddulph High School	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	.	.
St	Cannock Chase High School	None	m	4.2	.	3.2	.	2	.	1	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	.
St	The Weston Road Academy	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	The Rural Enterprise Academy	None	m	3.23	.	.	.	4	.	4	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Tamworth Enterprise College	None	m	5.73	0	5.6	0	6	0	2	0	0	2	.	0	.	.	.
St	The Rawlett School (An Aet Ac	Does not a m.	.	4	.	4	.	8	.	5.2	.	5	.	0	.	.	.	4
St	Painsley Catholic College	Roman Cat m	9.61	.	9.7	.	9	.	10	.	9	.	3	.	3	.	.	.
St	The Wilnecote School	Does not a m	2.49	.	3.3	.	5	.	3	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	St Edward's Church of Englanc	Church of Im	6.11	.	6.6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	The JCB Academy	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Alleyne's Academy	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	7	.	11	.	0	.	3	.	3	.	.	.
St	St John Fisher Catholic College	Catholic	m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	The Orme Academy	Does not a m	3.8	.	3.7	.	4	.	4	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Blessed William Howard Cath	Roman Cat m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Newcastle Academy	Does not a m	2.21	.	2.2	.	2	.	0	.	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Clayton Hall Academy	Does not a m	6.25	.	6.4	.	2	.	3	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Kingsmead School	None	m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Churnet View Middle School	Does not a m	3.82	.	4.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Leek High School	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	2	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	0	.	.	.
St	Westwood College	None	m.	.	.	.	4	.	2	.	3	.	0	.	0	.	.	.
St	Codsall Middle School	Does not a m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St	Sir Graham Balfour High Scho	Does not a m	5.73	0	2	0	5	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	.	.
St	Walton High School	Does not a m	3.05	0	2.9	0	6	0	2	0	3	0	0	5	0	3	.	.

Workforce data Staffordshire schools

St Chase Terrace Academy	Does not a m	5.59	5.4	5	4	3	5	4	.	.
St Thomas Alleyne's High School	Does not a m	.	.	5	6	6	0	4	.	.
St Windsor Park CE Middle School	Church of Im	3.89	4.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St Penkridge Middle School	Does not a m	4.26	4.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St Great Wyrley Academy	Does not a m	3.49	3.3	3	3	2	0	0	.	.
St Sir Thomas Boughey Academy	None m	7	4.1	4	3	3	.	.	.	.
St Brewood Middle CofE Acaden	Church of Im	0	2.7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St Ryecroft CofE Middle School	Church of Im	4.55	4.7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St Oldfields Hall Middle School	Does not a m	3.3	3.4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St Wolgarston High School	Does not a m	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St John Taylor Free School	None m	7.61	7.5	7	1	.	.	.	.	.
St Blessed Robert Sutton Catholi	Roman Cat m	10.2	10	10	10	10	.	.	.	.
St Cheslyn Hay Academy	Does not a m	3.6	3.5	4	2	1	3	0	.	.
St The Friary School	Does not a m	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St James Bateman Middle Schoo	Does not a m	4.71	4.7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
St Paulet High School	Does not a m	4.38	4.4	4	2	0	0	0	.	.
St Endon High School	Does not a m	3.49	3.5	3	6	5	.	.	.	.
St The King's CofE Academy	Church of Im	6.06	6	8	8	8	0	.	.	.
St Moorside High School	Does not a m	4.68	4.6	6	5	6	.	.	.	.

Agenda Item 7

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
16th November 2022
Report of the Director for Children and Families
An Update on NASACRE**

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on key issues that have developed or arisen since the last meeting of SACRE.

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on a number of NASACRE issues. These are matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report.

4 Background

4.1 NASACRE is the national body of SACRE's. National meetings and conferences are held to which members of SACRE are invited and encouraged to attend. These have been held virtually due to Covid-19. Issues are discussed which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on any key developments.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

Contact Officer: Mary Gale 07816374873

Agenda Item 8

Religious Education Agreed Syllabus conference November 16th 2022

Agenda

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the June 29th 2022 meeting- see minutes included in SACRE main minutes
4. Matters Arising
5. Update on milestones
6. Feedback from stakeholder meetings and survey
7. The changes to date- see draft copy.
8. Next steps
9. Date of next meeting

5. Update on Milestones

Convening of SACRE conferences to review and consider the recommendations for the new AS on the following dates

July 1st 2021- **completed.**

November 17th 2021- **completed**

February 2nd 2022- **completed**

June 29th 2022- completed

November 16th 2022- today

Continuation of SACRE mini working group to support wording- **volunteers have put forward their names and some have attended virtual meetings in October 2021 (10th and 19th) and January 18th 2022.**

May 11th 2022 and June 9th 2022 face to face meeting

Discussions with stakeholders Summer 2021, Spring 2022 and Summer 2022.

Survey sent out to over 300 schools including academies and maintained and faith schools across the county.

See below for access to the survey

Future actions

AS conferences November 16th 2022.

First presentation of the reviewed AS will take place in summer 2022- delayed

Entrust support for illustrations late summer 2022- delayed till autumn 2022

Draft presentation autumn 2022 ready for confirmation

Launch event if deemed appropriate- morning event early Spring 2023.

Roll out to schools in the Spring 2023, and then schools introduce changes from summer 2023 onwards.

Opportunity to take part as SACRE members

Stakeholders have been encouraged to click the following link and provide comments on the current syllabus. Comments to date have supported the review.

. Link to the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KR5XDTH>

6. Stakeholder review of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education carried out by SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)

Feedback from October 2021 (10th and 19th) and January 2022 (18th) meetings. Plus feedback from the surveys.

30 schools to date have provided feedback, this includes those who have taken part in the survey.

Feedback summary comments from stakeholders- not all of them understand the legal requirements of the AS.

Vision for RE in the AS needs to be clearer

The purpose of the AS needs to be clearer and in line with SCC vision and Ofsted Intent Implication and Impact- References to the Education Inspection Framework are needed-

Keep the three aims of Exploring Engaging and Reflecting but emphasise world views and religious and non-religious world views.

Please do not make radical changes

Section on British Values section and ensure 'respect' is highlighted

Inclusion of updated Early Years information required in line with new legislation- see sheets

More information on Special Educational Needs required- this could be included as an appendix.

Provide planning examples- this will go in the appendix as these will need updating

Provide more assessment examples- these will go in the appendix as these will need updating.

7. Changes to date

- Introduction and forward rewritten
- The background information is now more succinct

- The icons associated with Explore, Engage, Reflect, have been changed around, as the working party felt that the current icons in the draft version were more in keeping with the main three themes
- The order of the content has been rearranged
- The wording Explore Engage, Reflect, has been emphasised
- The vision and aims have been re-written
- There is now an emphasis on religion and world views
- There is information on Abrahamic and Dharmic religions
- The teaching and learning sections now include references to world views
- What has to be taught at each key stage has been revamped.
- The assessment section has been re-written to include non-religious aspects
- The Early Foundation Stage (EYFS) section has been rewritten to reflect the new statutory requirements of all teaching in the EYFS.
- The Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) section has been rewritten to reflect the new statutory requirements of assessment for SEND and to offer more support to special schools.
- British Values section is now clearer
- Ofsted section is included
- Legal duties are clearer
- Updated membership

Next steps

Need approval from this meeting of the copy attached.

This will become Agenda item 7 of the main meeting.

Send to relevant SCC committees when this is available.

Date of next meeting

February 1st, 2023, at 2pm.



The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS 2023

Contents

Contents.....	2
Introduction and Foreward	3
Vision and Aims.....	5
Background Information.....	7
The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus	9
Teaching and Learning.....	11
Planning your Religious Education/SEND.....	13
Programmes of Study.....	16
Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)	17
Key Stage 1	
Key Stage 2	
Key Stage 3	
Key Stage 4	
Post 16 Key Stage Five (KS5)	27
A Framework for Assessment.....	28
The Religious Education Framework Age Related Expectations.....	30
Legal Framework/Statutory Requirements	39
Ensuring your setting is compliant	41
Acknowledgements	43
Additional Information to Support the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus	44
Appendix 1 Information on religious traditions /focus faiths	
Appendix 2 RE and British Values	
Appendix 3 The Inspection of RE	
Appendix 4: Example Planning to support the Agreed Syllabus	54
Appendix 5: Assessment examples	78

Introduction

From Jonathan Price Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education and County Councillor for Stafford North

I am pleased to commend this revised Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to all Staffordshire schools.

Building on the widely acclaimed yet quite radical revision of the county's Agreed Syllabus in 2016, this latest Agreed Syllabus continues to offer sound professional support to schools and teachers as they seek to deliver high quality Religious Education to Staffordshire pupils.

The County Council applauds the work of the Agreed Syllabus Conference and County RE Consultant Mary Gale in carrying through the revision of the 2016 Agreed Syllabus.

The world is constantly changing and evolving, and Religious Education must take note and evolve correspondingly.

The ultimate aim remains the same however, that through their education pupils should be fully equipped to become responsible citizens in the future.

Staffordshire's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education will continue to make a major contribution to this aspiration.





Foreword

Rev. Prebendary Michael Metcalf,
Chair of Staffordshire SACRE and
Agreed Syllabus Conference

I am pleased warmly to commend to schools in Staffordshire this revised Agreed Syllabus in Religious Education, (RE) which has evolved from the Syllabus launched in 2016. At the time, the 2016 Syllabus was very much at the forefront of developments in RE syllabus design; it has worn well in the years since then.

Extensive consultations have shown that it has also been popular with teachers and schools, so it has not been felt necessary to carry out a radical overhaul of the whole Agreed Syllabus. Nevertheless, there have been changes and developments in the wider context, of which this revised Syllabus has taken proper account. New statutory elements now cover education for the Early Years and Foundation stages, and these sections in the Syllabus have been expanded. Similarly, with more government attention being given to SEND pupils (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), the revised Syllabus offers significantly more support, integrated into the main text. Within the RE world itself, perhaps the main event in the intervening years has been the 2019 report of the Religious Education Council's Commission on RE: 'Religion and World Views – the way forward'. The report proposes a national entitlement in RE, and a pupil-centred world-views approach to the subject. This report has no statutory force; however, it is a sign of the way ideas are moving, and the report will continue to influence and impact on the development of RE.

Looking forwards, the government's White Paper of 2022 and the subsequent Schools Bill sets out a plan to academise all schools by 2030. It remains to be seen if this will be realised and how the details of this process will affect Staffordshire SACRE and other SACREs, the local provision of Agreed Syllabuses in RE, and indeed the current regulations governing RE and Collective Worship themselves. A national network of regional RE hubs is being established alongside local SACREs, and is likely to have an increasing role in supporting and enhancing RE.

Social studies reveal an ongoing decline in religious affiliation across the country. This clearly has implications for RE. First of all, pupils without a religious background need to gain a valid insight into what it means to be a person of faith from a range of faith communities, and how this is lived out in daily life. Pupils from a faith community background likewise need to become aware and take account of those who live independently of the guidance of a faith, and of the secular character of the public arena. Secondly, pupils must be supported as they shape their own values and views, and as they explore and navigate their own path in the diverse and plural world with which they are engaging. Engaging with this plurality can be both immensely stimulating and yet also deeply challenging, for both pupils and teachers. Nevertheless, it is an essential element in preparing pupils to flourish as responsible citizens in the future that awaits them.

The need for high quality RE, available to all pupils and accessible to all, has therefore never been higher. The aim of this Agreed Syllabus in RE is to enable teachers in Staffordshire schools to aspire to such excellence and to fulfil this need with distinction and acclaim.

Vision and Aims

The vision for Religious Education (RE) in Staffordshire's Agreed Syllabus 2023 is as follows:-

The role of RE in schools is to help prepare and equip all pupils for life and citizenship in today's diverse and plural Britain, through fostering in each pupil an increasing awareness of, and sensitivity within, the diversity of religious and non-religious beliefs, practices, spiritual insights and world views** they will encounter.

By **EXPLORING**, **ENGAGING** and **REFLECTING**, pupils will develop the knowledge, insights and skills necessary for them to be able to live authentically and responsibly as adults in today's world, acknowledging how religious and secular communities seek to uphold and develop the well-being of the human family.

Rationale

We live in an increasingly diverse society, religiously and culturally. Religious Education plays a special role in preparing pupils to flourish in this complex world. Educating pupils to live well in a culturally and religiously plural society means that they must learn how to navigate difference and diversity. This will often mean reflecting on views and behaviours that they have previously not encountered, and which may not correspond neatly with their own views and understandings of the world. Religious Education therefore not only enables pupils to build up a core basis of relevant knowledge and insights and supports them as they explore the "big questions" about life and formulate and express their own views and values. It also challenges pupils to recognise and confront negative attitudes towards diversity, both in society at large and within themselves.

** Note on world views

A "world view" is the framework of beliefs and values which shape the way a person experiences and responds to the world. Everyone has a world view, though this may not be acknowledged and articulated in a fully conscious form. When a group of people consciously share the same world view, they often express this in organised and tangible ways, and commit to it as part of their individual identities. Such a shared world view may be religious in character, or non-religious. Religious Education brings pupils into contact with a range of world views, encouraging each pupil to develop and forge their own personal sense of values, identity and world view, both in the context of the pupil's cultural heritage and also more widely in relation to the diversity of world views found within society as a whole.

The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus seeks to achieve this vision through following specific themes.

The intended outcomes of RE within the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus are that pupils should acquire, through the three themes:

EXPLORE



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E

1) Acquire an increasing core of insightful knowledge concerning religion(s), beliefs and world views, both in Britain and in more global terms.

By exploring religious beliefs, teachings, and practices – so acquiring knowledge and understanding of religious stories, sacred texts, lifestyles, rituals, and symbolism that offer an insight into religious and secular experiences.

ENGAGE



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E

2) Acquire a developing capacity to engage with ultimate questions alongside the consideration of the responses from religious and non-religious groups and worldviews and to formulate their own sense of identity and values;

By engaging with fundamental questions – so appreciating the human and religious questions that are raised by life and its experiences, and through which meaning, significance and value are forged, and by expressing and evaluating their personal responses to such questions- so gaining skills to be able to relate the things studied and discussed, to their own experience.

REFLECT



R
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F
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E
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T

3) A growing range of the social, spiritual, and emotional skills and disposition appropriate to living well in a religiously plural and open society.

By reflecting on the reality of religious diversity and on the issues raised by living in a diverse world-so developing skill of analysis and discernment in relation to prejudice, discrimination, and bias, together with the skills of self-awareness, moral judgement and responsible choice.

These outcomes underpin the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus.

Background Information

The Staffordshire revised Agreed Syllabus (AS) for Religious Education (RE) for has been determined locally through the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) of the Staffordshire SACRE, supported by Religious Education professionals.

This AS is a statutory syllabus of RE prepared under

- Schedule 31, section 375 of the Education Act 1996
- The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998
- National Curriculum in England: Framework Document, DfE, September 2013, p.4)

The RE curriculum drawn up by a SACRE or used by an academy or free school,

'shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'

[Section 375 Education Act 1996]

'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- *promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils; and*
- *prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.*

All state schools ... must teach religious education ... All schools must publish their curriculum by subject and academic year online'.

[National Curriculum in England: Framework Document, DfE, September 2013, p.4]

In addition, the schools white paper entitled *'Opportunity for All'* (2022) sets out the DfE's long term vision for the school system. RE remains a core part and will continue to form an essential part of a school's curriculum.

The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus (AS) sets out the statutory requirements for RE in Staffordshire.

This revised syllabus supersedes all previous versions and is issued for implementation in all applicable Staffordshire schools from late spring 2023. RE remains a compulsory subject that must be taught in all state funded schools including academies to all pupils up to the age of 18. unless withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over).

This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age (although there

are many examples of good practice of RE in nursery classes).

Special schools should ensure that every pupil receives RE 'as far as is practicable' (see 'Ensuring Your School is Compliant' page 42)

This revised syllabus seeks to build on the previous syllabus from 2016.

Research of the following documents has supported the writing of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus

- National Curriculum Programmes of Study 2013
- 2018 final report of the Commission on Religious Education Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward- A National Plan for RE
- Ofsted May 2021 research paper on Religious Education
- Policy Paper on Inclusive Britain May 2022
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Handbook including Development Matters 2021
- The REC Draft Handbook Religion and Worldviews in the classroom 2022

Staffordshire SACRE is confident that this revised Agreed Syllabus (AS) provides firm foundations for the teaching of high quality RE including worldviews, enabling all pupils to explore religion(s) and worldviews (religious and non-religious) by :-

- exploring
- engaging and
- reflecting

on the sources of their own developing knowledge of RE and worldviews within the rich and complex heritage of humanity.

This AS acknowledges that all learners need to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religion(s) and worldviews which not only shape their history and culture, but which guide their own development.

The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus

What should be taught and when?

Each key stage should involve an in-depth study of the narrative, beliefs and practices at the heart of **Christianity** and other focus faiths. These will include **Abrahamic** and **Dharmik** religions. (See Appendix 1 for guidance).

It is recommended that alongside Christianity, **Islam** should feature throughout a school's RE curriculum. In selecting their additional in-depth study of a focus faith, schools should take account of other principal/major faiths found in the United Kingdom. These include Abrahamic and Dharmik religions. Schools may draw on examples from other faiths where examples of belief and practice better illustrate the dimension being explored.

See page 11 for further information on the six broad dimensions of:-

1. Beliefs, teachings and sources
2. Practices and ways of life
3. Expressing meaning
4. Identity, diversity and belonging
5. Meaning, purpose and truth
6. Values and commitments

Examples of additional in-depth study/ focus faiths could include: -

Judaism (Abrahamic religion)

Sikhism (Sikhi), Hindu Dharma and Buddhism (Dharmic religion)

In choosing their in-depth study/ focus faiths, schools should take account of the religious profile of the school and the local community as well as national and international factors.

Pupils should also be introduced to the presence of non-religious (secular) world views and the lifestyles these support as children from families where non-religious worldviews are held are represented in almost all classrooms.

These worldviews, including for example Humanism can form part of the field of study.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Early Years Foundation Stage pupils should have the opportunity to develop a growing sense of awareness of self and their own community. They should encounter the diversity of

faiths and world views represented in their own community and in Great Britain. Giving young children familiarity with the presence of major faiths, world views and a wide religious vocabulary raises awareness of the diverse nature of the world around them and provides a structure in which to develop their learning.

Schools should build upon this foundation in subsequent key stages.

Key Stage 1

At key stage one, schools should focus their study on **Christianity** and one other faith. **Islam** is the recommended other faith. The choice will be determined by the local context. They should encounter the diversity of faiths and world views represented in their own community.

Key Stage 2

At key stage two, schools should focus their study on **Christianity** and two other faiths taking note also of non-religious world views. It is recommended that **Islam** is studied as one of the other faiths. This choice again will be determined by the local context.

Key Stage 3 and beyond

At key stage three and beyond, schools should focus their study on **Christianity** and three other faiths and take note of non-religious worldviews. The choice again will be determined by the local context, but schools should seek to ensure that pupils have achieved a breadth of knowledge. Those pupils who undertake an examination course, their breadth of study will be in line with examination board.

All key stages will utilise the three specific themes to support teaching and learning.

The Three Specific Themes are:-



EXPLORE



ENGAGE



REFLECT

Teaching and Learning

Key Dimensions

The development of learners who are equipped for life and citizenship in today's diverse and plural Britain has to take place in a context, using key dimensions to explore the three curriculum themes of :-



An exploration of the following key dimensions will give pupils the building blocks with which to construct their understanding of belief systems and world views and the context in which to develop such aspects.

The three curriculum themes are supported by six key broad dimensions:

1. Beliefs, teachings and sources
2. Practices and ways of life
3. Expressing meaning
4. Identity, diversity and belonging
5. Meaning, purpose and truth
6. Values and commitments

The programmes of study that follow identify several curriculum opportunities in relation to each of these broad dimensions. These give structure to the planning process.

Each statement should be approached in the context of the syllabus themes of:-



Pupils are entitled to experience these curriculum opportunities.

They should be recognised as the **starting point** for planning across a key stage.

They do not significantly prescribe content, this is a matter for schools to decide for themselves, however they provide the basis for formulating challenging and stimulating questions which support enquiry and engage pupils in the studies through the three themes.

The curriculum opportunities in the themes and the programmes of study (see page 16) focus on religious experience and world views. To support good learning and skill development through the curriculum opportunities pupils should also, as appropriate:

- encounter people from different religious, non-religious and philosophical groups who can express a range of convictions on religion, world views and moral issues
- visit places of religious significance
- use technology (ICT) to enhance understanding
- discuss, question, and evaluate important issues in religion, world views and philosophy including ultimate questions and ethical issues
- feel confident when taking part in debates about moral issues
- prepare pupils for the fact that there will always be disagreement on matters of morality and their right of expression is balanced by a responsibility to listen to the views of others
- encourage pupils to disagree with dignity and respect the right of individuals and groups to hold different perspectives to their own
- reflect upon and carefully evaluate their own and others' beliefs and values using reasoned and balanced arguments
- use a range of forms of expression to communicate their arguments
- explore the connection between RE and other curriculum areas

Planning your Religious Education

Religious Education (RE) encompasses depth of understanding rather than breadth of areas covered. It is a complex and dynamic subject. For this reason, it must engage with important concepts rather than amass a vast list of facts.

Good planning in Religious Education will adopt approaches that aspire towards high standards, through inspirational, motivational and challenging activities. When the subject is highly valued, adequately resourced, led in a passionate way and taught with commitment and thoughtfulness, pupils will be encouraged to think deeply about the questions that confront them in studying RE, extend their learning and understanding about a variety of religion and belief perspectives, and have the opportunity to reflect on their own sense of identity with respect to religion and belief in a meaningful way. (See Appendix 4 for planning support)

In order to achieve these outcomes units of work should be planned to develop the three curriculum themes and to allow for regular review of pupils' progress. This would normally, but not exclusively, mean that pupils should be guided through the curriculum themes as follows:

- Exploring the issue or dimension, encountering the context, following up questions and establishing new knowledge concerning religion, belief and world views. (Explore)
- Investigating the impact of beliefs and practices on lifestyles, attitudes and action and considering the ways in which beliefs, spiritual insights and ideas are expressed, engaging with fundamental questions to understand why people respond to life as they do. (Engage)
- Reflecting on equality and diversity, and on personal responses to these aspects to develop their own standpoints and self-understanding, (Reflect)

Teachers should exemplify the above in every unit of work.

The three themes will therefore be revisited in every RE experience, giving pupils the opportunity to practise and make progress on a regular basis.



Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) provision and the Agreed Syllabus

A wide range of pupils have special educational needs, some of whom also have disabilities. A proportion of these pupils will be taught in special schools. Units of work should be planned to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving. In many cases, such planning will mean that these pupils will be able to study fully the requirements of the locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

What opportunities are provided for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in RE?

The Staffordshire SACRE vision is that every pupil can achieve and benefit from good quality RE, including all pupils with SEND. RE is a statutory part of the core curriculum for all pupils, including those with learning difficulties. Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are found in all contexts and all teachers are teachers of SEND pupils. Good quality teaching in RE will tailor the planning of the syllabus carefully to the special needs of all pupils. The law says that the Agreed Syllabus is to be taught to SEND pupils 'as far as it is practicable.' RE provision for different groups of pupils will vary but all pupils are included.

The achievements and learning of pupils with special educational needs can be measured and credited using the (older) Performance Descriptions for RE ('P' Scales), or the (newer) materials based upon the DfE's Engagement Model.

These can both provide teachers with indicators of progress for pupils with SEND within RE. Teachers who work with children working within the parameters of the 'Engagement Model' will find some published guidance (e.g. Routes for Learning or Quest for Learning or EQUALS units) to support them to implement the syllabus practically and record the progress a pupil has made through the earliest stages of development.

For pupils who may need modified provision, material may be selected from earlier or later key stages, where this is necessary, to enable individual pupils to progress and achieve. Such material should be presented in contexts suitable to the pupil's age. In making decisions about adjusting the content of the key stage, teachers should take into account the previous experience of the pupil as well as the necessity to communicate a specific differentiated approach to entitlement to subsequent teachers.

Specific advice

Pupils with complex learning difficulties and disabilities (CLDD)

Quality RE begins with the unique experience of each pupil. A calm and peaceful space can enable pupils to experience and enjoy a sense of spirituality as an individual. RE for CLDD pupils involves developing a sense of themselves, their emotions, senses and feelings.

Pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD)

Quality RE begins with the unique experience of each pupil. RE for SLD pupils involves developing a sense of themselves, their emotions, senses and feelings. Multi-sensory approaches can aid the enjoyment of spiritual experiences. The use of story, music and shared outdoor experiences will enhance such experiences. RE can also support the development of relationships and the understanding of the needs of other people.

Pupils with moderate learning difficulties (MLD)

RE for MLD pupils can provide an insight into the world of religions and human experience. Pupils can develop a sense of themselves, their emotions, senses and feelings. Multi-sensory approaches can aid the enjoyment of spiritual experiences. This can support pupils in making links with their own lives, in their own family and local community, which should include local religious communities. Effective teaching of RE supports

- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning.
- social, emotional and mental health difficulties.
- sensory and/or physical needs.

Pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH)

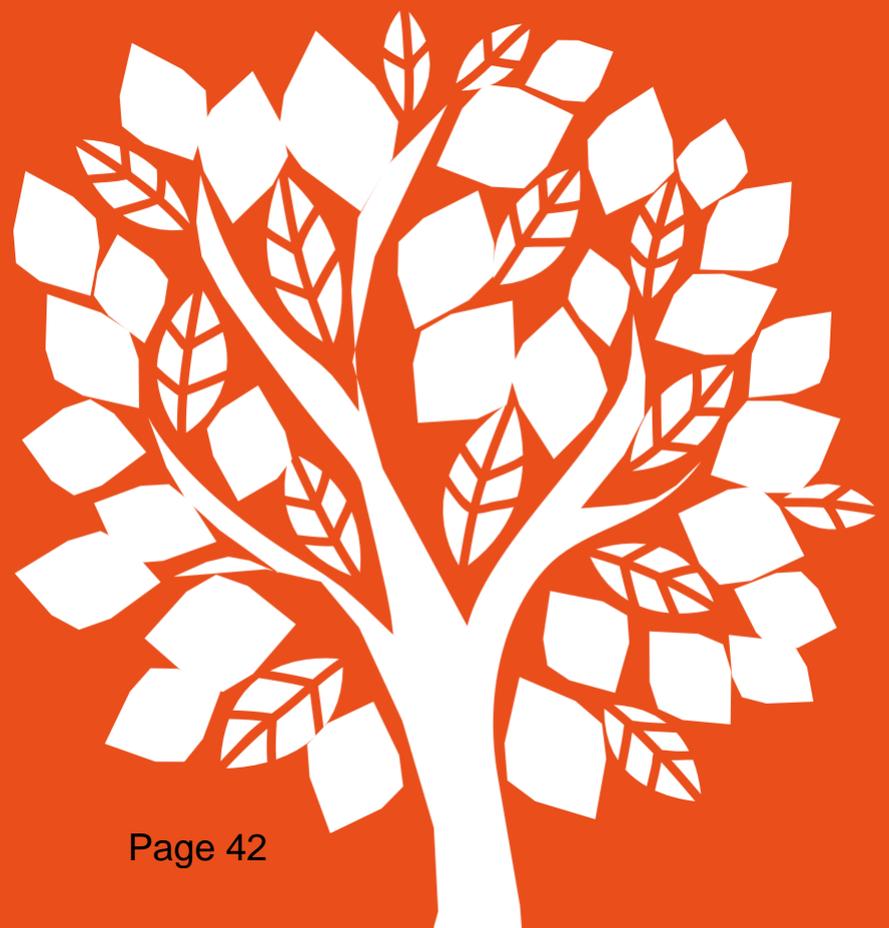
RE for EBD pupils can enable them to address deep issues of concern in the world of religions and human experience. Pupils can develop a sense of themselves, their emotions, senses and feelings, many which can be complex in nature. The school can provide a safe space to aid this development. Multi-sensory approaches can be utilised to deepen these feelings. RE can also assist the development of pupils' maturity. This can support pupils in making links with their own lives in their own family and local community, which should include local religious communities.

The 2021 Government standards for assessing pupils working towards the standards of key stage 1 can be found at: the DfE website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-key-stage-1-standards>.

The 2021 engagement model for pupils with SEND is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-engagement-model>

Programmes of Study

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Key Stage 1
- Key Stage 2
- Key Stage 3
- Key Stage 4
- Post 16



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Children in Nursery classes /other early years' settings are not subject to the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus, but they are required to cover the religious and spiritual aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Pupils should be taught an increasingly rich knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews. They should learn to express and communicate ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews. They should gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews

Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’
- active learning – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things

These are developed from the relevant areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (DfE, 2021), supported by Development Matters and the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which define the level of development children should be expected to have attained by the end of the EYFS.

The EYFS framework strengthens the place of RE through its explicit reference to ‘*religious communities*’, thus supporting the extensive opportunities for providing RE. These are exemplified in the **Prime** areas of learning.

Prime area: Communication and Language

RE enables pupils to:

- Listen attentively and respond with questions comments and actions to a wide range of stories from different religions and worldviews.
- Hold conversation and make comments about the religious materials, artefacts, songs, stories and celebrations they encounter.
- Participate in discussions offering their own ideas about religion and belief using recently introduced religious vocabulary.
- Offer explanations and answers to ‘why’ questions about religious stories, non-fiction, rhymes, songs and poems.

Prime area: Personal, Social & Emotional Development.

RE enables pupils to:

- Understand their own feelings and those of others, stimulated by religious materials and ideas.
- Give focused attention to religious materials such as worship, story, festival, song, community living.
- Confidently talk about simple values, right and wrong and good or bad behaviour.
- Co-operate and take turns with others, showing sensitivity to their own and others' needs and feelings.

Specific areas - through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied.

Specific area: Literacy

RE enables pupils to:

- Demonstrate understanding of religious stories and narratives using recently introduced vocabulary to retell stories.
- Enjoy and learn from discussion and role play about religious stories, non-fiction, rhymes, poems and songs.
- Use RE examples to write simple phrases or sentences that can be read by others.

Specific area: Mathematics

RE enables pupils to:

- Recognise, create and describe some patterns, sorting and ordering objects simply.

Specific area: Understanding the World

RE enables pupils to:

- Talk about the lives of people around them, understanding characters and events from stories.
- Describe their immediate environment – e.g. on a visit to a place of worship.
- Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- Explore the natural world around them making observations of animals and plants, environments and seasons, making space for responses of wonder, awe and questioning.

Specific area: Expressive Arts and Design.

RE enables pupils to:

- Create work drawing from religions and beliefs with a variety of materials and tools, sharing their creations and explaining the meaning of their work.
- Adapt and recount religious stories inventively, imaginatively and expressively.
- Sing, perform and learn from well-known songs in RE imaginatively and expressively.
- Develop their imagination and expression using RE content in relation to art, music, dance, imaginative play, and role play and stories to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings.
- Respond in a variety of ways to what they see, hear, smell, touch and taste.



Key Stage One (KSI)

Dimension	Curriculum Opportunities Pupils should have the opportunity to:		
Beliefs, teachings and sources	Engage with stories and extracts from religious literature and talk about their meanings - 1.1a	Explore stories about the lives and teachings of key religious figures - 1.1b	Find out about ways in which sacred texts are regarded, read and understood by believers - 1.1c
Practices and ways of life	Find out about how and when people worship and ask questions about why this is important to believers - 1.2a	Explore the preparations for and find out about the celebration of festivals 1.2b	Identify the importance for some people of belonging to a religion and recognise the difference this makes to their lives - 1.2c
Expressing meaning	Explore as appropriate the special nature of artefacts used in worship - 1.3a	Identify symbolic actions, gestures and rituals and talk about how they are used as part of worship and ceremonies - 1.3b	Engage with religious beliefs and ideas expressed through story, symbols and other visual forms of expression - 1.3c
Identity, diversity and belonging	Reflect and respond to stories about belonging and relating to religious communities and non-religious ways of life- 1.4a	Identify and ask questions about customs associated with particular religious and non-religious ways of life - 1.4b	Find out about ceremonies in which special moments in life are marked - 1.4c
Meaning, purpose and truth	Ask and respond to questions about things that are interesting or puzzling in the world - 1.5a	Listen to and ask questions about stories of individuals and their relationship with God - 1.5b	Explore a range of stories and extracts from sacred writings and talk about meaning they have for believers - 1.5c
Values and commitments	Reflect and respond to stories highlighting the morals and values in practice - 1.6a	Reflect on examples of care and concern shown by believers in religious communities and non-religious ways of life and explore reasons for these actions- 1.6b	Explore stories from religious traditions and find out about attitudes to the natural world - 1.6c

Key Stage Two (KS2)

Dimension	Curriculum Opportunities Pupils should have the opportunity to:			
Beliefs, teachings and sources	Explore the origins of sacred writings and consider their importance for believers today - 2.1a	Explore a variety of forms of literature found in sacred books and investigate a range of religious teachings - 2.1b	Explore the life of key religious and inspirational figures making links, where appropriate, with teachings and practices of special significance to followers - 2.1c	Explore the meaning of a wide range of stories about the beginnings of the world and reflect upon their importance for believers and non-believers - 2.1d
Practices and ways of life	Compare and contrast the practice of religion in the home in different religious communities - 2.2a	Identify the main features and patterns of an act of worship and talk about the importance of worship for believers – 2.2b	Investigate some features of key religious festivals and celebrations and identify similarities and differences – 2.2c	Investigate the life of a person who has been inspired by their faith and make links between belief and action – 2.2d
Expressing meaning	Explore the symbolic use of a wide range of objects, sounds, visual images, actions and gestures. Make suggestions as to the intended meaning they might have for believers 2.3a	Explore the meaning of stories drawn from religious sources and reflect on the significance of key words, phrases or expressions - 2.3b	Compare and contrast the use of symbols, actions and gestures used in worship by different communities – 2.3c.	Identify some of the ways in which some religions name and describe attributes of God and make links with belief and practice. 2.3d
Identity, diversity and belonging	Explore the diversity of a range of religious traditions and world views and identify and	Find out about the activities of a local religious or community group and make links with key religious	Research some key events in the development of a religious or non-religious tradition and explain the	Investigate the importance for believers of ceremonies in which special moments in life

	reflect on similarities and differences - 2.4a	teachings or moral codes (British Values). 2.4b	impact on communities today 2.4c	are marked 2.4d
Meaning, purpose and truth	Raise questions about issues which cause people to wonder. Investigate some answers to be found in religious writings and teachings and world views- 2.5a	Investigate and reflect on a range of religious and world view responses to suffering, hardship and death- 2.5b	Investigate stories about God's relationship with people and suggest how, for some people this helps them to make sense of life - 2.5c	Make links between beliefs and actions and reflect on how this might have local, national and international impact- 2.5d
Values and commitments	Explore rules for living found in sacred writings and teachings and ask questions about their impact- 2.6a	Investigate ceremonies associated with joining or belonging to a community. Talk about the meaning of commitment- 2.6b	Engage with a variety of people about their beliefs and values and ask questions about the way commitment affects their lives- 2.6c	Explore religious stories and world views about the environment and identify and reflect on their impact on all- 2.6d



Key Stage Three (KS3)

Dimension	Curriculum Opportunities Pupils should have the opportunity to:		
Beliefs, teachings and sources	Explore different possible interpretations for a range of sacred writings and religious teachings. Reflect on their impact on individuals and communities - 3.1a	Evaluate the contribution made to communities and societies by different religious leaders - 3.1b	Apply the teachings of key religious figures to contemporary moral and ethical issues - 3.1c
Practices and ways of life	Analyse and reflect on the significance of shared activities for individuals both believers and non-believers. 3.2a	Explore celebrations and commemorations which can both unite and divide communities and reflect on the reasons for this - 3.2b	Evaluate the impact of beliefs on behaviour. Explore the consequences for individuals and communities- 3.2c
Expressing meaning	Compare and contrast the use of symbolism in worship and analyse its effectiveness for believers - 3.3a	Investigate the symbolism of celebration and commemoration. Evaluate its effectiveness in expressing what is important to religious communities - 3.3b	Identify a range of key sources for religious communities and make connections between interpretation and action - 3.3c
Identity, diversity and belonging	Explore why people belong or do not belong to a religion community and analyse the impact this has on individuals and communities - 3.4a	Compare and contrast key religious practices and reflect on why there is diversity within and between faiths - 3.4b	Explore the impact of diversity on communities and how some apply religious teaching to issues of tolerance and harmony - 3.4c

<p>Meaning, purpose and truth</p>	<p>Demonstrate how believers use religious sources to provide answers when engaging with questions of meaning, purpose and truth -3.5a</p>	<p>Analyse and compare the evidence and arguments used when engaging with questions about the nature and existence of God -3.5b</p>	<p>Evaluate the relationship between science and religion - 3.5c</p>
<p>Values and commitments</p>	<p>Investigate the responsibility and explain the challenge of carrying on a religious tradition -3.6a</p>	<p>Make clear connections between religious beliefs, teachings, and actions -3.6b</p>	<p>Apply a range of beliefs and values to current issues and questions and analyse the impact on choices and behaviour. Show a depth of knowledge about responses to a range of social issues and responses to a range of ethical issues. -3.6c</p>



Key Stage Four (KS4)

At key stage 4, students are expected to research beliefs, practices, issues and ideas associated with religions and worldviews and be able to demonstrate an understanding of how these impact on the lives of individuals, groups, communities and within wider society. They should also be attentive to the place of religions and belief within public life in our country and across the world.

In keeping with the three themes and the underlying principles of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus all key stage 4 pupils **must** have the opportunity to study Christianity and to draw examples from at least three other faiths or secular world views.

The decision to enter pupils for an examination at the end of the course is at the schools' discretion.

At key stage 4 pupils may fulfil their entitlement by following as a basis an accredited specification (from a recognised examination board) in Religious Studies. Schools should provide reasonable time for pupils to complete this and if appropriate, to attain an external qualification. This may be Full Course, or Entry Level Religious Studies. Schools wishing to base this provision on any other specification, for example Humanities or Citizenship, must take advice from SACRE.

Please note: Where schools do not provide an accredited course, they must make alternative provision to teach RE. The following information should support this.

Dimension	Curriculum Opportunities Pupils should have the opportunity to:	
Beliefs, teachings and sources	Explore the influence and authority of sacred literature for believers today- 4.1a	Recognise the impact of belief on the achievements of three religious figures and evaluate their influence on historical and contemporary issues - 4.1b
Practices and ways of life	Explore and reflect on the way in which belief and practice support and sustain individuals and communities using contemporary examples - 4.2a	Research evidence for differing interpretations of religious sources and analyse and reflect the impact on individual conscience and social change - 4.2b
Expressing meaning	Explore the significance and function of a variety of forms of religious, spiritual, secular and moral	Research key religious and non-religious sources and evaluate a range of interpretations - 4.3b

	expression - 4.3a	
Identity, diversity and belonging	Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of inheriting a religious tradition. Reflect on the changing impact of religion and beliefs on community and society over time - 4.4a	Reflect on the variety of practices within and between faith groups and the issues which unite and divide traditions - 4.4b
Meaning purpose and truth	Engage with responses to philosophical and paradoxical questions from a range of perspectives Appraise the value of religious influence on individuals and communities. - 4.5a	Investigate a variety of religious, non-religious and spiritual experience and reflect on differing responses and impact - 4.5b
Values and commitments	Explore ways in which communities help their members respond positively to life's dilemmas - 4.6a	Raise questions about contemporary personal, moral and social issues and analyse the variety of religious and non-religious responses Evaluate the impact of a social issue on those closely affected. Evaluate the impact of an ethical issue of those closely affected. - 4.6b



Post 16 Key Stage Five (KS5)

A programme of study is included here for students who are not pursuing an examination course in religious education/studies.

Schools are encouraged to use a variety of approaches to ensuring the statutory requirements are met at key stage 5. RE **must be taught** at key stage 5.

Dimension	Curriculum Opportunities Pupils should have the opportunity to:	
Beliefs, teachings and sources	Critically evaluate the influence and authority of sacred literature for believers today - 5.1a	Explain the impact of belief on the achievements of significant religious figures and evaluate their influence on historical and contemporary issues - 5.1b
Practices and ways of life	Further explore and reflect on the way in which belief and practice support and sustain individuals and communities using contemporary examples - 5.2a	Present evidence for differing interpretations of religious sources and analyse and reflect the impact on individual conscience and social change - 5.2b
Expressing meaning	Explore and interpret the significance and function of a variety of forms of religious, spiritual, secular and moral expression - 5.3a	Present a detailed analysis of key religious and non-religious sources and evaluate a range of interpretations - 5.3b
Identity, diversity and belonging	Reflect critically on the advantages and disadvantages of inheriting a religious tradition, and reflect on the changing impact of religion and beliefs on community and society over time - 5.4a	Reflect critically on the variety of practice within and between faith groups and reflect on issues which unite and divide religious traditions - 5.4b
Meaning, purpose and truth	Engage with and analyse responses to philosophical and paradoxical questions from a range of perspectives - 5.5a	Investigate and interpret a variety of religious, non-religious and spiritual experiences and reflect on differing responses and impact - 5.5b
Values and commitments	Further explore ways in which communities support their members respond positively to life's dilemmas - 5.6a	Raise questions about contemporary personal, moral and social issues and analyse the variety of religious and non-religious responses - 5.6b

A Framework for Assessment

Assessing achievement in Religious Education (RE)

Pupils have an entitlement to RE throughout their school life. This entitlement should include the opportunities, experiences and challenges which engage young people in the learning process.

As part of that learning process, pupils should have clear goals to aim for.

They should also be supported on their learning journey by a **framework** which indicates progress.

In this Agreed Syllabus the framework takes the form of age-related expectations.

The framework supports and promotes the development of the three syllabus themes

The framework provides a statement of age-related expectations for each year group. It should be used by teachers as a tool to determine the extent to which pupils have met the expectations.

Pupils are assessed as:

- **Working at greater depth/higher standard within the expected standard (GDS):** pupils who are exceeding the expectations for their age group
- **Working at the expected standard (EXS):** pupils who are meeting the expectations for their age group in full
- **Working towards the expected standard (WTS):** pupils who have yet to meet the expectations for their age group

Teachers will be expected to comply with current legislation regarding the reporting of progress and attainment in religious education.

SEND assessment

The achievements and learning of pupils with special educational needs can be measured and credited using the (older) Performance Descriptions for RE ('P' Scales), or the (newer) materials based upon the DfE's Engagement Model.

These can both provide teachers with indicators of progress for pupils with SEND within RE.

Teachers who work with pupils working within the parameters of the 'Engagement Model' will find some published guidance (e.g. Routes for Learning or Quest for Learning or EQUALS units) to support them to implement the syllabus practically and record the progress a pupil has made through the earliest stages of development.



The Religious Education Framework

Age related expectations for RE

The age-related expectations can be used as a whole to provide an overview of reasonable expectations of achievement across the three themes of religious education for each year group.

For each statement a pupil can be assessed as

- working at greater depth/higher standards within the expected standard (GDS),
- working at the expected standard (EXS) or
- working towards the expected standard (WTS):

Assessment

GDS
EXS
WTS

 Explore

 Engage

 Reflect

By the end of Reception/EYFS- Age Related Expectations (ARE)

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members. They talk about similarities and differences in relation to themselves, places, objects, materials and living things including faith buildings e.g. the church.</p>	<p>Pupils can talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another and what makes them special and unique.</p>	<p>Pupils can talk about how other children do not always enjoy the same things and are sensitive to this. They can talk about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities, and traditions. They can show how important it is to be part of a community</p>

Page 57

Key stage 1 Age Related Expectations (ARE)

By the end of year 1

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use words and phrases to recognise and name features of religious life and practice valued by believers. They can recall religious stories and recognise symbols and other verbal and visual forms of religious expression which have meaning for believers.</p>	<p>Pupils can talk about the experiences of the world around them, stating what is of value and concern to themselves and others. They use stories to identify ways in which people are special and unique.</p>	<p>Pupils can demonstrate awareness that there are many religious traditions/faith communities and that some people do not follow a recognised faith or believe system or identify as being religious.</p>

By the end of year 2

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use words and phrases to identify some features of religious life and practices valued by believers. Pupils retell religious stories and suggest meanings for religious actions and symbols. They identify how religion is expressed in different ways.</p>	<p>Pupils can recognise that some questions cause people to wonder and are difficult to answer. They are able to share ideas about right and wrong.</p>	<p>Pupils are able to name more than one religious tradition or faith community and can talk about some of the distinctive features of each religious tradition/faith community. They know that some people do not identify as being religious.</p>



Explore



Engage



Reflect



Key Stage 2 Age Related Expectations (ARE)

By the end of year 3

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use a developing vocabulary to describe some key features of religions, recognising similarities and differences. They make links between beliefs, practices and sources, including religious stories and sacred texts. They begin to identify the impact religion has on believers' lives. They describe some forms of religious expression</p>	<p>Pupils ask important questions about values, commitments, and beliefs, making links between their own and others' responses, attitudes and behaviour.</p>	<p>Pupils can identify and distinguish between the faiths and world views being explored and can express some awareness of their identity within or outside these faiths. They understand the importance and reality of existing in a plural context. They know that some people do not identify as being religious.</p>



Explore



Engage



Reflect



By the end of year 4

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use a developing vocabulary to describe and show understanding of sources, practices, beliefs, ideas, and experiences. They make links between them and describe some similarities and differences both within and between religions. They describe the impact of religion on people’s lives. They explore and explain meanings for a range of forms of religious expression.</p>	<p>Pupils raise, and suggest answers to, fundamental questions of identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values, and commitments, recognising the implications and consequences of making moral choices.</p>	<p>They apply their ideas about identity and commitment in a diverse world to their own and other people’s lives. They describe what inspires and influences themselves and others, especially their commitments, values, and choices. They can recognise in themselves and others some reactions to living alongside others who have a different faith or stance. They can explain why some people do not identify as being religious.</p>

By the end of year 5

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use an increasingly wide vocabulary to explain the impact of religious beliefs and a non-religious life stance on individuals and communities. They show a developing insight into why people belong to religions. They demonstrate that similarities and differences illustrate distinctive beliefs within and between religions. They suggest possible reasons for this and explain how religious sources are used to provide answers to ethical issues.</p>	<p>Pupils ask, and suggest answers to, fundamental questions of identity, belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, values and commitments, relating them to their own and others’ lives and making clear connections between personal viewpoints and action.</p>	<p>Pupils explain what inspires and influences them, expressing their own and others’ views on the opportunities and challenges of commitment in a diverse world. They identify the consequences for themselves and for others of holding particular beliefs and values.</p>

By the end of year 6

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use an increasingly rich vocabulary to give informed accounts of religions and beliefs. They interpret sources and arguments, explaining the reasons that are used in different ways by different traditions to provide answers for ethical issues. They interpret the significance of different forms of religious, spiritual and moral expression. They interpret sources and arguments regarding world views/issues.</p>	<p>Pupils use reasoning and examples to explore the relationship between beliefs, teachings and world issues. They express insights into their own and others' views on fundamental questions of identify and belonging, meaning purpose and perceived truth.</p>	<p>Focussing on values and commitments pupils consider their own response to the opportunities and challenges of living in a diverse world whilst taking into account the views and experiences of others. They are able to talk about examples of religious cooperation and why this is sometimes difficult.</p>

Page 61



Explore



Engage



Reflect



By the end of key stage 3 Age Related Expectations (ARE)

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use a comprehensive vocabulary to show a coherent understanding of a range of religions and beliefs by analysing issues in a faith context. They account for the influence of history and culture on aspects of religious life and practice. They use some of the principal methods by which religion, spirituality and ethics are studied, including the use of a variety of sources, evidence, and forms of expression.</p>	<p>Pupils identify, and articulate critical responses to, fundamental questions of meaning, purpose and truth and ethical issues. They can express a clear sense of their own identity.</p>	<p>Pupils evaluate the significance of religious and world views for understanding questions of human relationships, belonging, identity, society, values, and commitments appropriate to living well in a diverse world. They identify interfaith opportunities and successes as well as instances of religious prejudice and of discrimination on religious grounds using evidence and examples and in the context of their own experience. They are able to articulate awareness of negative attitudes within themselves and others.</p>

Page 62



Explore



Engage



Reflect



By the end of key stage 4 Age Related Expectations (ARE)

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use sophisticated vocabulary to analyse a range of religions and beliefs. They contextualise expressions of religion with reference to historical, cultural, social, and philosophical ideas. They critically evaluate the impact of religions and beliefs on differing communities and societies. They analyse differing interpretations of religious, spiritual, and moral sources, using some of the principal methods by which religion, spirituality and ethics are studied.</p>	<p>Pupils coherently analyse a wide range of viewpoints on fundamental questions of identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values, and commitments. They can give an account of and justification for their personal standpoints</p>	<p>Pupils synthesise a range of evidence, arguments, reflections, and examples on the challenges raised by living in a diverse world. They can discuss coherently strategies for living well in a religiously plural and open society, developing skills for countering prejudice, discrimination, and bias, fully justifying their own views and ideas and providing a detailed insight of the perspectives of others.</p>



By the end of key stage 5/Post 16 Age Related Expectations (ARE)

Explore	Engage	Reflect
<p>Pupils use a complex and sophisticated vocabulary to provide a consistent and detailed analysis of religions and beliefs. They clearly recognise the extent to which the impact of religion and beliefs on different communities and societies has changed over time. They provide a detailed analysis of how religious, spiritual and moral sources are interpreted in different ways, evaluating the principal methods by which religion and spirituality and ethics are studied. They synthesise effectively their accounts of the varied forms of religious, spiritual and moral expression.</p>	<p>Pupils analyse in depth a wide range of perspectives on questions of identity and belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, and values and commitments relating this both to themselves and others.</p>	<p>Pupils evaluate in depth the significance of religious diversity in a pluralistic society. They give independent, well informed, and highly reasoned insights into their own and others’ perspectives on religious and spiritual issues raised by living in a diverse world, providing well-substantiated and balanced conclusions.</p>

Legal Framework/Statutory Requirements

The position of religious education in the school curriculum has been consolidated through a succession of primary legislation, from the Education Act of 1944 through to the Education Act of 1996 and the School Standards and Framework Act of 1998

Religious Education (RE) is for all pupils

- There is a statutory requirement and a legal pupil entitlement for schools to provide a basic and broad and balanced curriculum.
- This consists of the national curriculum and the LA Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE)
- RE is part of the basic and broad and balanced curriculum. It **must** be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, including those in the sixth form.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the RE curriculum. [Section 386 Education Act 1996] (or students can withdraw themselves if they are aged 18 or over)
- It is the duty of school leaders (this includes trustees and governors) to ensure that this statutory requirement is met. [The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Schedule 19]
- Special schools should ensure that every pupil receives RE 'as far as is practicable'.

RE is locally determined, not nationally, but requirements vary for different types of schools

- A LA Agreed Syllabus is a statutory syllabus for RE recommended by an Agreed Syllabus Conference for adoption by a LA.
- The Agreed Syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. [Section 375 Education Act 1996]. The exploration of non-religious worldviews should also be included.
- All LAs are required to establish a Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE). This Council has the duty of advising the LA on all aspects of RE.
- Local Authority Maintained/ Community / Voluntary Controlled schools without a religious character must follow the LA Agreed Syllabus.
- Foundation Schools and Voluntary Controlled schools with a religious character must follow the LA Agreed Syllabus.

- In Academies and Free schools, RE must be provided as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and in line with requirements for Agreed Syllabuses. The requirements for the type of RE that an academy provides, will be set out in their funding agreement. For schools without a faith designation, this will usually mirror the requirements for local authority-maintained schools without a religious character.
- Academies may use the LA Agreed Syllabus, or a different Agreed Syllabus (with the permission of the SACRE concerned) or devise their own curriculum. OFSTED expects Academies to provide an RE curriculum 'of similar ambition' to the subject orders of the National Curriculum. This Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus has been written to support academies in our local area to meet the requirements of their funding agreement and is warmly commended to them. Academies which were formerly Voluntary Aided schools should follow the guidance for Voluntary Aided schools.
- Voluntary Aided schools with a religious character must provide RE in accordance with the trust deed or religious designation of the school unless parents request the locally agreed syllabus. Church of England schools (including church academies and church free schools) must provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and worldviews studied. This can be achieved by using the LA Agreed Syllabus.

Please note:

The above information also applies to the teaching of RE in schools with Sixth Forms.

The effectiveness of denominational education in schools with a religious character such as Roman Catholic, Church of England and Methodist schools, is evaluated during the Statutory Section 48 Inspection.

Despite education policy changes, the legal requirement for RE for **all** registered pupils remains unchanged.

RE is an entitlement for all pupils on the roll of every school, unless they have been withdrawn by their parents from RE.

In Staffordshire, schools that are required to follow the LA Agreed Syllabus are deemed to be meeting their statutory duties when:

- Religious Education (RE) is planned and taught in such a way as to ensure pupils' entitlement to the learning experiences set out in the programme of learning for each key stage
- The age-related expectations are used to plan for learning, assessment and progression.
- Sufficient evidence of pupils' achievement is recorded to allow for an overall 'best fit' standard of achievement to be assigned to each pupil at the end of each year.

- On transfer from key stage to key stage or school to school, teachers should provide the following information:

A long-term plan identifying how the programme of study has been delivered during the most recent key stage and a best fit standard of achievement for each pupil.

- Reasonable time is made available for the study of RE. The guidelines can be found below:

(Although not part of the legal requirement, the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) strongly recommends that the guidelines outlined here are followed)

Year Group	Recommended Time Allocation
Reception/Key stage 1	36 hours per year
Key stage 2	45 hours per year
Key stage 3	45 hours per year
Key stage 4	45 hours per year
Key stage 5/Post 16	Allocation of time for RE for all should be clearly identifiable. Sufficient time to ensure the legal entitlement is met ensuring at least four of the dimensions in the programme of study are studied.



Ensuring your setting is compliant

Religious Education (RE) must be provided as part of the basic curriculum for all registered pupils attending a maintained school. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE and are not obliged to state their reasons for withdrawal.

The 1998 School Standards and Framework Act (the 1998 Act) defined new categories of maintained schools. The rules about the provision of RE differ in some categories, as follows:

- Community/Maintained Schools are controlled by the local authority (LA). RE must be taught according to the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus of the LA.
- Foundation Schools. RE is taught according to the requirements of the LA Agreed Syllabus, unless the schools are of a religious character, in which case their RE is characterised by their Trust Deed.
- Voluntary Aided (VA) schools are those schools originally founded by voluntary bodies but aided from public funds. RE should be taught according to their Trust Deed.
- Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools were originally founded by voluntary bodies but are now controlled and entirely funded and maintained/controlled by the LA. RE must be taught according to the requirements of the LA Agreed Syllabus, but parents may request that RE should be provided in accordance with the Trust Deed.
- Special Schools should provide RE for all their pupils as far as practicable, according to the status of the school.
- Schools with Sixth Forms must provide RE for all pupils in the sixth form in accordance with the LA Agreed Syllabus.
- Academies are independent schools. Pupils' entitlement to RE must be provided as part of a broad and balanced curriculum in accordance with the requirements for an Agreed Syllabus
- Free Schools are independent schools; however, as a condition of their grant, they must make provision for pupils' entitlement to RE in accordance with the requirements for Agreed Syllabuses.
- Sixth Form Colleges and Further Education Colleges must provide RE for all students who wish to receive it.

Staffordshire SACRE recognises the independence of Academies and Free Schools.

However, it commends this Agreed Syllabus (AS) to them as a constructive and collaborative way to meet their legal requirements in RE.

Acknowledgements

The Working Group: Rev Preb Michael Metcalf, SACRE Chair,
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 Sam Kirwan, St Dominics Brewood
 Staffordshire NATRE group
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Agreed Syllabus Conference & SACRE Members

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Additional Information to Support the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus

Appendix 1: Information on religious traditions.

Appendix 2: RE and British Values

Appendix 3: RE and Ofsted

Appendix 4: Planning examples

Appendix 5: Assessment examples

Appendix 6: Resources to support

Appendix 7: Useful websites



Appendix I:

Information on religious traditions/focus faiths

Within the whole spectrum of religious traditions across the world, two broad families or groups are widely recognised: the Abrahamic family and the Dharmik family.

The “Abrahamic” group comprises religious traditions whose origins can be traced back to the figure of Abraham, that is, Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

The “Dharmik” group denotes religious traditions whose origins can be traced back to the Indian sub-continent (*).

This group includes not only followers of Hindu, Sikh and Jain traditions, which are still actively present in the sub-continent, but also followers of the Buddha, who are now mainly found elsewhere (**).

While the guidelines in this Agreed Syllabus recommend that Islam should be chosen as a focus faith alongside Christianity at every key stage, it is also important that pupils gain an awareness of the Dharmik family during their formal education, both as a broad family and also through the study of faith-specific examples.

However, the Agreed Syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main **Christian**, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
[Section 375 Education Act 1996]

Other principal faiths found in the United Kingdom are Judaism (**Abrahamic**), Sikhism (Sikhi), Hindu Dharma, and Buddhism (**Dharmik**). In choosing their focus faiths, schools should take account of the religious profile of the school and the local community as well as national and international factors, seeking to create a balance and an awareness of religious traditions and beliefs.

Schools may also draw on examples from other major faiths where examples of belief and practice better illustrate the dimension being explored.

Pupils should also develop awareness of secular world views as appropriate, for example Humanism and atheism. Schools may, if they choose, draw examples from other faith perspectives to raise awareness of the diversity of religion, for example Baha’i faith, Jainism, Rastafari, Spiritualism and Zoroastrianism (Parsis).
(Dharmik)

A Religious Education syllabus which confined itself to material derived only from the

Abrahamic faiths would be seriously defective.

(*) The convenient umbrella word “Dharmik” derives from the Sanskrit word “Dharma”, meaning the moral law or principle underlying the universe, as perceived within the various dharmik traditions, together with the teachings and duties or obligations deriving from that law.

(**) The use of westernised words such as Hinduism and Sikhism has been deliberately avoided in this paragraph. There is a growing debate and sensitivity around the labels imposed on dharmik traditions by western academics, of which “Hinduism” and “Sikhism” are particular examples.

RE teachers and senior staff will need to take note of this evolving debate and be ready to respond to fresh guidance about acceptable vocabularies and ways of presentation.



Appendix 2:

Religious Education (RE) and British Values

The Government first set out its definition of British values in 2011 as part of its Prevent Strategy, which was introduced as part of a series of initiatives designed to combat violent extremism.

Since 2014, Ofsted has been charged with the responsibility of scrutinising the place of British values and making a judgement about the effectiveness of schools in promoting them as part of the inspection process.

British values include the following strands:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Effective teaching and learning in RE will provide a range of opportunities for pupils to engage with and think about British values. This is because the subject addresses universal human values and considers the place of moral and ethical concerns within religions and worldviews, which underline the importance of human dignity, fairness, trust, respect, justice and freedom.

RE will promote the different strands of the British values agenda. It is important to add that RE is only one of many subjects within the school curriculum that will contribute to the promotion of British values. Every school has an overarching responsibility to ensure that each of the statutory values are understood and upheld by the pupils in their care and this requirement will be addressed through a variety of strategies and subject policies.

Democracy

In the study of RE, it is important that a range of views, perspectives and attitudes can be heard and that all pupils have the opportunity to contribute to debates and discussions.

Teachers who ensure that this objective is fulfilled will be modelling democratic behaviour and, in so doing, reinforcing this particular British value.

The rule of law

RE will involve pupils in learning about and understanding the principles behind a range of codes for human living, which are associated with different faith and belief positions. They will be able to differentiate between state and religious laws and grasp the importance of fairness, justice, equality and order.

Individual liberty

Through their study of a range of religions and non-religious worldviews, pupils will examine important questions relating to human identity as this is shaped by both socio-cultural settings and personal decisions. The value of individual liberty will be highlighted by considering issues such as human freedom, autonomy and desire, along with the place of both faith and reason.

Mutual respect

A vital outcome of pupils' study of RE should be a sense of respect for those who hold a wide range of faith and belief positions. This stance will not preclude the possibility of disagreement. However, pupils will be encouraged to disagree with dignity and respect the right of individuals and groups to hold different perspectives to their own.

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

The expression of intolerant attitudes has no place in the RE classroom, although attitudes and behaviours that cause harm to others will be considered. Teachers should aspire to go beyond promoting tolerance of different religions and worldviews by underlining the need to celebrate diversity and encouraging attitudes of respect and trust to develop.

Appendix 3:

The Inspection of Religious Education (RE)

All state-funded primary and secondary schools will be subject to Section 5 inspections, which will be carried out by Ofsted inspectors.

Ofsted will also inspect schools of religious character.

They may inspect Religious Education but will not inspect collective worship in these schools.

Schools with a religious character will be subject to an additional inspection process. In schools within this category, denominational education and collective worship are inspected by a body appointed by the maintained school's governing board under section 48 of the Education Act 2005 or as provided in the academy's funding agreement. The inspection framework or body responsible for different kinds of schools with religious character are as follows:

- Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools (SIAMS) for Church of England and Methodist schools.
- Diocesan or Archdiocesan inspections for Catholic schools.
- The Association of Muslim Schools (AMS) for Islamic schools.
- Pikuach – the education arm of the Board of Deputies of British Jews – for Jewish schools.
- The Hindu Education Authority for Hindu schools.
- The Network of Sikh Organisations for Sikh schools.

Further information about the inspection arrangements for schools with a religious character is provided within the briefing paper, Faith Schools in England: FAQs, published by the House of Commons Library in June 2018.

The Ofsted Framework

Ofsted published a new Education Inspection Framework (EIF) and associated School Inspection Handbooks, which were implemented in school inspections from September 2019 onwards.

These documents and their 2022 updates signalled a significant shift in the approach in the inspection of schools. This now involves a greater focus on the wider curriculum subjects, including Religious Education.

Based on data collected by a number of national RE bodies the impact of the new inspection framework is already being experienced by schools, with the inspectors taking an increasing interest in what Ofsted are calling 'the quality of education' in Religious Education.

This involves assessment of the leadership, curriculum, planning, teaching, learning, assessment and resourcing of Religious Education.

In addition to inspecting the individual curriculum subjects, Ofsted will also consider, and make a judgement about, the extent to which each school promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of its pupils.

Under this new Education Inspection Framework, key judgements will be made about four aspects of the work of each school:

- Quality of education
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Personal development
- Leadership and management

Implementation of the new Ofsted EIF will involve three interlinked elements:

Top-level view: Inspectors and leaders start with a top-level view of the school's curriculum, exploring what is on offer, to whom and when, leaders' understanding of curriculum intent and sequencing, and why these choices were made.

Deep dive: A 'deep dive', which involves gathering evidence on the curriculum intent, implementation and impact over a sample of subjects, topics or aspects. This is done in collaboration with leaders, teachers and pupils. The intent of the deep dive is to seek to interrogate and establish a coherent evidence base on quality of education. A 'deep dive' will involve conversations with senior leaders and subject coordinators, lesson visits, scrutiny of pupils' work, discussion with teachers and listening to pupils.

Bringing it together: Inspectors will bring the evidence together to widen coverage and to test whether any issues identified during the deep dives are systemic. This will usually lead to school leaders bringing forward further evidence and inspectors gathering additional evidence. The 'Quality of education' judgement is at the heart of the inspection process and will be based upon the examination of and judgement about the curriculum, teaching, assessment and standards.

This will involve close attention being given to the so-called 'three **Is:**' **Intent, Implementation and Impact.**

In turn, these three aspects of the education concern

- what is conceived (the vision),
- what is taught (the provision) and
- what is experienced (the outcome)

In preparation for a school inspection, RE coordinators/subject leads, along with class teachers who are delivering the subject, will need to think carefully about each of these elements.

Intent: This will focus on the vision for RE; the clarity of understanding of the subject's role, purpose and value; how these objectives are expressed within the school's RE policy; the planning of the subject to demonstrate coherence, progression, balance and structure, based on the syllabus for Religious Education that has been adopted in each school; and the extent to which the RE curriculum reflects the school's local cultural, religious and wider belief context.

Implementation: This will involve the inspectors making judgements about the subject knowledge of teachers responsible for teaching the subject; the availability and quality of training and other professional development opportunities in Religious Education; the ability of teachers to develop the understanding amongst pupils of key concepts and their engagement in discussion and reflection; the extent to which pupils' work is checked and any misunderstandings are addressed; and the capacity of pupils to embed religious concepts in their long term memories so that they can be both spoken about and applied in a fluent and constructive way.

Impact: This part of the inspection process will involve inspectors in following through the vision, plans and teaching of the subject by making judgements about: the depth of knowledge and understanding of pupils in RE; the progress that pupils are making in the subject; and the ability of pupils to show that they know more, remember more and can do more as a result of the teaching they have received.

The 'deep dive' method may be used to focus on this element of the inspection process. The table overleaf includes a number of questions that RE coordinators may find helpful as they prepare for the inspection of the subject in the context of each of these 'three Is'

INTENT

- What is the school's vision for Religious Education?
- What value is attached to the subject?
- Which religious traditions are to be investigated?
- Is the subject adequately resourced?
- Are visits and visitors included with the curriculum plan for Religious Education?
- Has the curriculum been planned in order to promote progression?
- Has the learning been appropriately differentiated so that all pupils, including those with
- SEND, can fulfil their potential and demonstrate progress?
- Is there an expectation that children will develop their knowledge, understanding, skills,
- awareness, values and vocabulary in Religious Education as they study it?
- Has attention been given to the embedding of ideas, concepts and principles relating to
- Religious Education within children's long-term memories?
- Has assessment for and of learning been carefully planned?

IMPLEMENTATION

Are coherent plans available for those responsible for teaching the subject?

- Have clear learning objectives, in the form of key questions, been set out for the units and lessons in the plans for Religious Education?
- Do the teachers have an expert knowledge of Religious Education?
- Do the lessons incorporate a variety of teaching and learning strategies?
- Is the teaching of Religious Education creative, enthusiastic and inspiring?
- Are resources, such as religious artefacts and art, used in the lessons?
- Is assessment for and of learning embedded within lesson delivery?
- Do pupils learn from as well as about religion, belief and world views?
- Are pupils motivated, positive and committed to the subject?
- Are the units, lessons and lesson activities coherent and logically ordered?
- Is the teaching of Religious Education open, objective and balanced?
- Does Religious Education promote respect for all religions and beliefs including world views?

IMPACT

- Are most pupils achieving, or exceeding, their age-appropriate expectation for RE as referenced in the assessment section in this AS?
- Are pupils who are facing barriers to learning, including pupils with SEND, able to access learning and succeed in RE?
- Is there clear evidence that pupils are progressing as they move through the year groups in their knowledge and understanding of, and their reflection on, religious, ethical, philosophical and spiritual matters?
- Have children developed mastery of certain central concepts and ideas in Religious Education as an outcome of their study of the subject?
- Are pupils able to articulate a clear sense of the value and purpose of Religious Education?
- As an outcome of their learning in RE, are pupils able to make sense of their own and others' religious and non-religious beliefs?
- Are pupils being effectively prepared to play a constructive role within a religiously and culturally diverse society?

How the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus supports Ofsted inspections - the Expectations, Progression and Achievement in Religious Education

The Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) places greater emphasis than ever on the role of subjects in setting high standards of learning. The Staffordshire syllabus is carefully designed to support teachers in the following inspection priorities for

- **Intent**

- Implementation and
- Impact.

Inspectors look for an RE curriculum which has similar ambitions to the National Curriculum subject orders. This syllabus offers such a curriculum, and requires schools to provide time, staff leadership and investment in training to ensure that pupil entitlements to quality RE are met.

Intent -setting the intentions (the vision) for RE

We support schools to clearly establish their own intentions for learning with reference to our vision, aims and themes. We also advise on which religions are to be studied in each key stage.

Implementation

This syllabus supports the implementation of a high quality and ambitious RE curriculum. It is intended to be intellectually challenging and personally enriching for all learners. The specific themes of **Explore Engage and Reflect** support the implementation of this syllabus.

These three curriculum themes are supported by six broad dimensions woven into Programmes of Study:

1. Beliefs, teachings and sources
2. Practices and ways of life
3. Expressing meaning
4. Identity, diversity and belonging
5. Meaning, purpose and truth
6. Values and commitments

The Programmes of Study are woven into every unit of work to enable lesson by lesson and unit by unit progress towards the age-related outcomes for pupils in each year group including the end of key stage 3 and 4 and post 16 outcomes which includes GCSE expectations.

The impact of the curriculum on pupils

We have specified the main progression points in the assessment section of this syllabus. These assessment outcomes are woven into every unit of work. The age-related expectations can be used as a whole to provide an overview of the reasonable expectation of achievement across the three themes for each year group.

For each statement a pupil can be assessed as:-

- working at greater depth/higher standard within the expected standard (GDS)
- working at the expected standard (EXS)
- or working towards the expected standard (WTS):



Appendix 4: Example Planning to support the Agreed Syllabus



Autumn Term RE Plans KS1-2

Guidance for schools

The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus does not significantly prescribe specific content to be taught, acknowledging that this is a matter for schools to decide for themselves, however Staffordshire SACRE also understands that planning for good learning and progression in RE takes time. In many primary schools the lead teacher of RE is not an RE specialist and this creates many challenges. Keen to support schools in delivering challenging and stimulating RE which supports enquiry and engages pupils in the study of religion and world views, the medium-term plans that follow offer ideas and examples for schools. The example plans include ideas on knowledge building to support learning how to teach **Substantive Knowledge**- the content of the subject **and Disciplinary knowledge**- types of questions the subject asks and how you respond to it.

The planning examples included also support ideas based on

Theology..... **incorporating beliefs, teachings, sources of authority, and questions of meaning, purpose and truth.**
Philosophy..... **incorporating religious and spiritual forms of expression; questions about identity and diversity.** Human and
Social sciences..... **incorporating religious practices and ways of living; questions about values and commitments**

These plans are non-statutory, and schools could choose to follow one or all of these plans or to simply follow their own plans. Schools are free to use or adapt any or all of the suggested plans. They provide a starting point for more detailed lesson planning. The plans show progression through the age-related expectations and leave schools free to decide which aspect of the teaching and learning activities is most appropriate to assess. The curriculum opportunities in the programmes of study focus on religious experience and the exploration of ways of living and world views. To support good learning and skill development the following suggestions will help you to get the maximum impact from both the plans provided or from your own individual ideas. Pupils should, as appropriate:

- encounter people from different religious, philosophical and community groups who can express a range of convictions on religious and moral issues
- visit places of religious significance
- use technology to enhance understanding
- discuss, question and evaluate important issues in religion and philosophy including ultimate questions and ethical issues
- reflect upon and carefully evaluate their own and others' beliefs and values using reasoned and balanced arguments
- use a range of forms of expression to communicate their arguments
- explore the connection between RE and other curriculum areas

Long Term Plan KS1-2

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
R	<p>Identify and ask questions about customs associated with particular religious communities 1.4b</p> <p>Special Places and Festivals</p>	<p>Explore stories about the lives and teachings of key religious figures and inspirational figures 1.1b</p> <p>The birth of Jesus</p>	<p>Identify symbolic actions, gestures and rituals and talk about how they are used as part of worship and ceremonies 1.3b</p> <p>Relationships, promises and church wedding celebrations.</p>	<p>Find out about ways in which sacred texts are regarded, read and handled by believers 1.1c</p> <p>Easter celebrations</p>	<p>Ask and respond imaginatively to questions about things that are interesting or puzzling in the world 1.5a</p> <p>Caring for creation</p>	<p>Hear and respond to stories about belonging to a family or group including religious communities 1.4a</p> <p>Helping others</p>
Year 1	<p>Listen to examples of care and concern shown by communities including religious communities and explore the reasons for these actions 1.6b</p> <p>Caring</p>	<p>Find out about ceremonies in which special moments in the life cycle are marked 1.4c</p> <p>Belonging</p>	<p>Explore the preparations for and find out about the celebration of festivals 1.2b</p> <p>Celebrations</p>	<p>Listen to and ask questions about stories of individuals, special people and those of have a relationship with God 1.5b</p> <p>Families</p>	<p>Engage with stories and extracts from religious literature and talk about their meanings 1.1a</p> <p>Answers</p>	<p>Find out about how and when people worship and ask questions about why this is important to believers 1.2a</p> <p>Worship</p>

Autumn Term RE Plans KS1-2

Year 2	<p>Explore stories from religious traditions and find out about attitudes to the natural world 1.6c</p> <p>Caring for the natural world</p>	<p>Engage with religious beliefs and ideas expressed through story, symbol and other visual forms of expression 1.3c</p> <p>Valuing new life</p>	<p>Identify symbolic actions, gestures and rituals and talk about how they are used as part of worship and ceremonies 1.3b</p> <p>Worship and ceremonies</p>	<p>Identify the importance for some people of belonging to a religion and recognise the difference this makes to their lives 1.2c</p> <p>Belonging to a group</p>	<p>Explore a range of stories and extracts from sacred writings and talk about meaning they have for believers 1.5c</p> <p>Storytelling through sacred writings</p>	<p>Listen and respond to stories highlighting the morals and values of believers in practice 1.6a</p> <p>Showing kindness and goodness</p>
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	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 3	<p>Explore rules for living found in sacred writings and teachings and ask questions about their impact on the lives of believers 2.6a</p> <p>Exploring living by rules</p>	<p>Compare and contrast the practice of religion in the home in different religious communities 2.2a</p> <p>Religion in the home</p>	<p>Compare and contrast the use of symbols, actions and gestures used in worship by different communities 2.3c</p> <p>Symbols of worship</p>	<p>Investigate some features of key religious festivals and celebrations and identify similarities and differences 2.2c</p> <p>Sharing special food</p>	<p>Explore the meaning of a wide range of stories about the beginnings of the world and reflect upon their importance for believers 2.1d</p> <p>The beginning of the World</p>	<p>Explore into the life of key religious figures and make links with teachings and practices of special significance to followers 2.1c</p> <p>Religious Leaders</p>
Year 4	<p>Explore religious stories and teachings about the environment and identify and reflect their impact on behaviour 2.6d</p> <p>Environment: Harvest</p>	<p>Investigate the importance for believers of ceremonies in which special moments in the life cycle are marked 2.4d</p> <p>Landmarks in life</p>	<p>Engage with a variety of people about their beliefs and values and ask questions about the way commitment affects their lives 2.6c</p> <p>Commitment: Lent</p>	<p>Research some key events in the development of a religious tradition and explain the impact on believers today 2.4c</p> <p>Study of a chosen religion</p>	<p>Identify some of the ways in which religions name and describe attributes of God and make links with belief and practice 2.3d</p> <p>Thinking about God</p>	<p>Identify the main features and patterns of an act of worship and talk about the importance of worship for believers 2.2b</p> <p>Features and patterns of worship</p>

Autumn Term RE Plans KS1-2

<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Explore a variety of forms of literature found in sacred books and investigate a range of religious teachings 2.1b</p> <p>Sacred writings: Hindu Dharma</p>	<p>Explore the symbolic use of a wide range of objects, sounds, visual images, actions and gestures and make suggestions as to the intended meaning they might have for believers 2.3a</p> <p>Peace</p>	<p>Explore the diversity of a range of religious traditions and identify and reflect on similarities and differences 2.4a</p> <p>Religious diversity: happiness</p>	<p>Investigate and reflect upon a range of religious responses to suffering, hardship and death 2.5b</p> <p>Easter: suffering and hardship</p>	<p>Explore the origins of sacred writings and consider their importance for believers today 2.1a</p> <p>Wise words</p>	<p>Investigate the life of a person who has been inspired by their faith and make links between belief and action 2.2d</p> <p>Values and beliefs</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Investigate ceremonies associated with joining or belonging to a faith community and talk about the meaning of commitment 2.6b</p> <p>Commitment</p>	<p>Explore on the meaning of stories drawn from religious sources and reflect upon the significance of key words, phrases or expressions 2.3b</p> <p>Words of wisdom</p>	<p>Find out about the activities of a local religious community and make links with key religious teachings 2.4b</p> <p>Taking part</p>	<p>Make links between beliefs and action and reflect how this might have local, national and international impact 2.5d</p> <p>Belief in action</p>	<p>Raise questions about issues which cause people to wonder and investigate some answers to be found in religious writings and teachings 2.5a</p> <p>The importance of hope</p>	<p>Investigate stories about God's relationship with people and suggest how, for some people, this helps them to make sense of life 2.5c</p> <p>Justice: rich and poor</p>

Blank plan

Religious Education	Title:	Year: Term: Hours:
Programme of Learning Focus		
To support the learners to become religiously literate, this unit will provide opportunities to:		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
EXPLORE (religious content-what beliefs, teachings, practices will you focus on)	What will pupils do and be able to do to confirm their learning? How will all pupils be stretched?	What activities are planned to develop a religiously literate pupil?
ENGAGE (What does the religious content mean to a believer, what important questions will be asked)	Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)	
REFLECT (What has been learnt from this topic and what might the wider impact for society be)		

Year 1- example plans

Religious Education	Title: 1.6b Caring	Year:1 Term: Aut1 Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Reflect on</i> examples of care and concern shown by believers, non-believers and religious communities and explore reasons for these actions		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to identify ways in which faith communities respond to need and link this with their beliefs</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to say how faith communities care for others</i> <i>EXS: Most learners should be able to suggest how and why members of faith communities care for others recalling the outline of faith stories which focus on caring for others</i> <i>GDS: Some learners should be able to explain how a believer might try to put the teachings into practice in their own lives</i></p>	<p>How do people show they care? For example: Explore the idea of belonging and caring (family, school, church, pets, dolls, and people in news). Draw people who care for us e.g. doctors, teachers etc. Are there special things and people that we care for? Who cares for us? Encourage pupils to share experiences of their own families. Collect and make pictures for a display about people who care for others</p> <p>How do faith communities show they care? Introduce a different faith e.g. Sikhism. (Sikhi) Time could be spent on an introduction and an exploration of the 5Ks of Sikhism (Sikhi). There are many video clips online about Guru Nanak and Sikhism (Sikhi).. This work would make excellent display work. Talk about the Langar (free kitchen in the Gurdwara). Why does a Gurdwara need a kitchen? How do Sikhs show they care through a Gurdwara? What would the world/town be like if everywhere had a langar? Invite a visitor from a faith community to talk about how the faith community cares for others.</p> <p>Why do believers care for others? Roleplay the distribution of prashad in the gurdwara (using sweets or toffees). Explain that people of faith receive rather than take food. Which is better?</p>
<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to identify the teachings of faith communities about caring for others and suggest how this might impact on behaviour</p>			Assessment opportunities (what will be

Autumn Term RE Plans KS1-2

<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to identify who cares for them and who they care for and explain how and why people show they care in different ways</p>	<p>assessed and when)</p>	<p>Who do you care for? Act out a situation which the children are familiar with (new child at school, being lost, losing something precious, sharing, saying sorry, being fair, etc) How did pupils show acts of care? Introduce pictures of people who are sad. Children discuss why they are sad, and record how they would change things. Discuss feelings of those who have been helped. Engage in practical task, e.g. writing a card to someone who is sick, act out situations where practical help can be given to people in need.</p>
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Autumn Term RE Plans KS1-2

Religious Education	Title: 1.4c Belonging	Year: 1 Term: Au2 Hours:5
<p>Programme of Learning Focus</p> <p>To support the learners this unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Find out about</i> ceremonies in which special moments in the life cycle are marked</p>		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to identify and describe ceremonies which are special to faith communities and suggest why they are important to believers</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to identify special moments in life that are celebrated by faith communities</i> <i>EXS: Most learners should be able to describe what happens at such a celebration</i> <i>GDS: Some learners should be able to suggest reasons why it might be important to believers to celebrate in this way and how members of the faith community show what they believe through their celebrations</i></p>	<p>Why do people celebrate special moments in life? Explore the sort of groups that people belong to. For example: Show pupils different uniforms, such as Beavers Rainbows, a school uniform, a swimsuit and badges, a football scarf and programme, a family photograph from a photo album. Talk about how you join, or come to belong to one of these groups, what it means to belong, what promises people make and what these people share. Create a display with the uniforms and pictures. Alongside each add a caption, for example, 'Being a Beaver means...', and 'Belonging to a family means...' Read stories about what it means to belong.</p>
<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to link faith stories with beliefs, ceremonies and actions</p>	<p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>How do faith communities celebrate special moments in life? Find out about religious welcoming ceremonies. For example: Show items associated with welcoming a baby in Christianity concentrating on infant baptism, such as a baptismal candle, a certificate of baptism, water, appropriate pictures. Invite a practising Christian with a recently baptised baby to visit and talk about the experience, or celebrate a mock baptism in the classroom/local church using local clergy. Create a display alongside other 'Belonging' images. Look at a welcoming ceremony from a different tradition using important items in the same way. Find out what promises are made.</p> <p>What do these ceremonies mean to believers? Select aspects of the ceremonies from two different religions and find out what they mean to members of the faith community. For example: Water in baptism - list all the things we use water for, and talk about the reasons why it is a good symbol in baptism. The candle in baptism - talk about the reasons why we need light, and why it is a good symbol in baptism. Islam - the shaving of the hair and the giving of money to charity. Why are these things important to believers? Add a caption to the display - 'Being a Christian means.....' What does belonging mean to the families?</p>
<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to identify special ceremonies from their own experience and explore their own related feelings as well as those of others.</p>		<p>What does it mean to you to celebrate special moments? For example: Talk about a ceremony or celebration they have attended. Talk about how it felt to be there. Brainstorm words to describe those feelings. Create a collage with images from magazines which illustrate these feelings. Plan a class celebration – how about a 'Fri-Yay' celebration? Talk about the celebrations that the pupils would like to join in with and why. Make a list of the reasons to add to the display.</p>

Year 2

Religious Education	Title: 1.6c Caring for the natural world	Year:2 Term:AU1 Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Explore</i> stories from religious traditions and <i>find out about</i> attitudes to the natural world		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to link faith stories about the natural world with beliefs, attitudes and action</p> <p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to identify important teachings from faith stories and demonstrate how these might impact on the lives of believers</p> <p>REFLECT Learners should be able to identify personal responses to the natural world showing how ideas about right and wrong can influence behaviour</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to identify some important ideas from faith stories about the natural world</i> <i>EXS: Most learners should be able to make suggestions as to what the stories mean about the way believers should treat the natural world</i> <i>GDS: Some learners should be able to suggest how believers might put these ideas into practice in their own lives</i></p> <p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>How do people show they care about the world? Talk about what is found in a garden and who cares for it. Give pupils opportunity to focus and reflect through natural objects – flowers, leaves, stones, shells etc. Ask pupils to choose one and think about where it came from, how it’s made and who looks after it. Look at pictures of different gardens and talk about the similarities and differences, e.g. formal gardens, wildlife gardens, vegetable gardens. Discuss whether a garden needs tending, or whether it grows flowers and foods on its own. Visit and explore a park. Talk to the park keeper or a gardener about the work involved in creating and maintaining a garden. Draw pictures or create a collage of a garden with the plant and animal life which might be found there. Resources: Pictures from magazines of gardens, plants and animals to create a collage, Selection of natural objects. A visit to a local park or garden, a gardener/ park keeper willing to talk about looking after the earth.</p> <p>What do faith communities believe about the world? Find out about stories and teachings from religious traditions regarding the care of the land. For example: Read the Christian creation story and what is said about caring for the land. e.g. Genesis 1, 2¹⁵⁻²⁵, 3¹⁷⁻²⁴. Christianity teaches that Adam and Eve were given the earth by God for them to look after it and care for it. Discuss the story/s and confirm understanding – what happened? what pupils liked most/least?, what didn’t they understand? Pupils could describe and write about what it was like before creation, they could also represent the creation story in a variety of ways – through drama, art or using ICT</p> <p>Why do believers show they care about the world? Explore reasons why religious people feel they must care for the land. For example: Using the story from Genesis as the teaching to follow, devise situations in which these teachings might apply and role play, e.g. What might a Christian do if they were given a piece of land which was overgrown and full of rubbish? What would a Christian do if someone wasn’t caring for an animal? Resources: Stimulus situations to encourage role play.</p> <p>How can you show you care about the world? Share ideas about who has responsibility for the land. For example: Find out what groups of people actively care for the land, such as environmental groups. Think about</p>

Autumn Term RE Plans KS1-2

		ways in which the land at school could be cared for. Talk about whether pupils could take a role in caring for the land at home and at school. Plan and carry out a small project, such as a litter pick, or planting a tree in the school grounds. Resources: Illustrations of the work of organisations such as Greenpeace. Suggestions for appropriate projects which the pupils might be able to carry out.
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Religious Education	Title: 1.3c valuing new life – Birth of Jesus	Year: 2 Term: Aut 2 Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Engage with</i> religious beliefs and ideas expressed through story, symbol and other visual forms of expression		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to identify stories symbols, and other visual forms of expression of significance to faith communities and describe how they are used.</p> <p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to link stories, symbols and other visual forms of expression to faith communities making clear links with important beliefs</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to link stories, symbols and visual forms of expression to particular faith communities</i> <i>EXS: Most learners should be able to identify important beliefs reflected in the stories, symbols and visual forms of expressions belonging to a faith community or communities</i> <i>GDS: Some learners should be able to make clear links between stories, symbols and other forms of visual expression and beliefs</i></p> <p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>How do people show what is important to them? Talk about babies and how special they are to their parents / carers .Look carefully at some ‘new baby’ cards and talk about the messages they give. Invite a parent with a young baby to talk about how they care for him / her. Make a class card for a baby, each child writing a message with their hopes for the baby. Read the story of the birth of Jesus. Explain that this story is important to Christians because they believe that Jesus was a special baby because he was God’s Son. Questions and discussion: In the story, who thought that Jesus was a special baby? (You may like to talk about how Mary and Joseph knew he was special - the angel’s visits.) Talk about how Mary and Joseph showed that Jesus was special to them. Start a class frieze to show who thought Jesus was a special baby. Resources: Bible, New baby cards. Christmas cards with pictures of baby Jesus. Materials for class frieze, individual pictures and for making card or present.</p> <p>What stories, symbols and visual forms of expression are important to members of faith communities? Read the story of the shepherds. Questions and discussion: In this part of the story, who thought that Jesus was a special baby? How did the shepherds know he was special? What did the angels say was special about this new baby? What did the shepherds do to show that they thought he was special? Continue with the frieze.</p>

<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to identify what they value and show how they might express this symbolically</p>		<p>Read the story of the Wise Men Talk about how the Wise Men knew that a special baby had been born. What did they do to show that they thought he was special? Add to the frieze.</p> <p>How can you show what is important to you? Look at some Christmas cards with pictures of baby Jesus. Talk about how the artists have shown that he is a special baby. Discuss the things that Christians do at Christmas to show they believe he is special e.g. celebrate, worship, send cards with a Christian message, give money and help to people who need it (such as the homeless). Listen to a CD of a carol about Jesus being special e.g. 'Come and join the celebration' or 'Hark! The herald angels sing'. Add some pictures of people today to the frieze. Invite the children to respond to the idea of Jesus as a special baby in a way of their own choice e.g. a picture, a poem, their own carol. Make pictures to show some of the people they are special to and who are special to them. Talk about how we can show people that we care about them. Make a card or present for someone we care about. Resources: Materials for class frieze, individual pictures and for making card or present. Christmas carols.</p>
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Year 3

Religious Education	Title: 2.6a Exploring Living by Rules	Year: 3 Term: Aut1 Hours:8
Programme of Learning Focus		
<p>This unit will provide opportunities to:</p> <p><i>Explore</i> rules for living found in sacred writings and teachings and <i>ask questions</i> about their impact on the lives of believers</p>		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE</p> <p>Learners should be able to identify rules found in sacred writings and show how these influence the behaviour of believers</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to make the link between the rules of a faith community and the actions of believers</i></p> <p><i>EXS: Most learners should be able to explain how believers would put the rules of their community</i></p>	<p>What do we need rules for?</p> <p>This makes a good start to the new school year and provides an opportunity for pupils to think about a set of class rules. Take any starting point which is within the children's experience to begin a discussion about rules e.g. class and/or school rules. How do we know what the rules are? Where do our rules come from? Are they always written? Who makes the rules? Do they help us to live together? Could we manage without them? Do people always obey the rules? What happens when they don't? What would life be like without any rules? This can then be widened out to include other areas of life e.g. home, clubs and groups, the local community, the country. Talk</p>

<p>ENGAGE</p> <p>Learners will show how these rules influence the behaviour of believers – individuals and communities</p>	<p><i>into practice in a modern day setting. These learners will be able to explain the impact of keeping the rules on the life of a believer</i></p> <p><i>GDS: A few should be able to explain how rules help to strengthen believers and the faith community</i></p>	<p>about what people mean by a ‘moral code’. Ask children to create their own set of a rules based on a theme e.g. for the class, school, in the countryside, firework code etc.</p> <p>What rules can be found in sacred writings?</p> <p>Explore the main rules for living of the different faiths being studied e.g. Buddhism: The Eightfold Path; Christianity: The Ten Commandments, Islam: The Five Pillars; Sikhism: (Sikhi). The Five Ks. Divide the class into four and ask each group to look more closely at one set of rules. Groups should decide if the rules are good ones, how following them would make a difference to life in school/home, they should then take one rule, think about how it could be put into practice in the class/school/world and write a poem/design a poster/use ICT to illustrate their ideas. Pupils could take turns reporting back.</p>
<p>REFLECT</p> <p>Learners should be able to identify rules that are important to them and make the link between personal values, rules and behaviour</p>	<p>Assessment opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify the rules for living in the faith being studied</i> • <i>Create a set of rules based on a theme</i> • <i>Discussion or prose: Why do people of faith follow religious rules</i> 	<p>What impact do these rules have on the lives of believers?</p> <p>Pupils should consider why god is mentioned in the rules they have looked at. Why is he considered so important and what questions would they like to ask a person of faith about it? If God was to look at the world today what rules would he want to remind people of? Imagine God could send a text message what would he want to say? – create one text message for you, one for the school, one for the town and one for the world.</p> <p>What impact do rules have on your life? Random acts of Kindness (RAK)</p> <p>The golden rule sums up the rules expressed in all religions and is simply ‘always treat others as you would like them to treat you’. One way that pupils could reflect this rule is to do small acts of kindness for each other, the school, community and beyond. This could be anything from making a drink for someone, helping someone to tidy up, being kind to a younger pupil in school, volunteering for jobs. Acts can be big or small, anonymous or not as it is the sentiment behind the act that matters. Individually or in small groups create some RAK cards (to be left in the place where a RAK has been carried out) and plan some RAKs. Allow an opportunity for pupils to carry these out.</p>

Religious Education	Title:2.2a Religion in the home	Year:3 Term:AU2 Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Compare and contrast</i> the practice of religion in the home in different religious communities		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to identify characteristics of believers' homes and link this with belief and practice</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to identify symbols, actions and gestures characteristic of the faith which could be found in a believers' home</i></p> <p><i>EXS: Most learners should be able to identify the beliefs demonstrated by the practice of religion in the home</i></p>	<p>What makes people's homes different? Talk about the customs and practices which may go on in any household regularly. For example: Grandparents visit every weekend, having a particular meal on a certain day of the week, a fixed pattern for bedtimes, eating meals at the table, friends coming to play, reading time, watching a programme on television together. Discuss some ideas in detail - who is involved, what usually happens, does the activity follow a pattern, are there particular rules about how you behave? Talk about the meaning of 'custom' and 'practice'. Ask pupils to identify a custom or practice and illustrate or describe starting 'In my house....' or 'Some people...' Resources: Images of everyday activities as stimulus for discussion, images from magazines or stories. Record of responses from pupils to be used in later activity.</p> <p>What makes a home distinctive of a particular faith community? Find out about religious practices in the home. For example: Focus on two or three aspects of religious practices based in the home, such as saying grace, reading the Bible, saying prayers, the Jewish Sabbath, Hindu puja. Present pupils with pictures of the identified activity and explore... 'I wonder what is happening here?' Pupils to draw up list of questions to ask the person involved, then see if they can find the answers from a books, ICT, video, story, visitor, etc. Create a story board to explain what is happening. Resources: Images of members of faith communities involved in religious activities in the home.</p> <p>How important is it for believers to practice their faith at home? Select aspects of these practices and find out what they mean to members of the community. For example: Talk about why someone might close their eyes and put hands together during a prayer. Share ideas about why the Sabbath meal might be very special to Jewish people. Talk about how a Hindu might feel having a very special shrine at home, and making use of it regularly. What might it be like to pray five times a day and how might that be helpful for a Muslim? If possible invite a member of the faith community to talk about their feelings and how they pray at home. Activity – children to draw the outline of a house with columns inside of different faiths. In the columns write down the different activities that take place in different faiths at their homes. 'Through the keyhole' activity – children use artefacts or pictures to introduce what might be seen if pupils looked through the keyhole into a Hindu family home. Resources: Visitor from a faith community. BBC Learning Zone video clips portraying praying at home.</p> <p>What makes a home distinctive for you? Share personal ideas about customs and practices which you think are good to carry on at home. For example: Which do you think you would miss most if they all stopped? What do you think you would like to carry on doing when you have a home of your own? What might be a good custom for the classroom, home to your class? Put it into practice. Create a display called 'Home is where the heart is'. Using a heart shape children</p>
<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to identify important beliefs evident in a believers' home and explain why it might be important to carry on these traditions</p>	<p><i>These learners should be able to suggest meaning for the values and practices found in a believers' home</i></p> <p><i>GDS: A few learners should be able to link sources and writing with these practices and to explain why it might be important to believers to carry on these traditions.</i></p>	
<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to identify attitudes and values that might influence their homes and suggest how they might demonstrate their own values at home.</p>	<p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	

		to draw and write about what makes their house a home. <i>Resources: Heart shapes.</i>
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Year 4

Religious Education	Title: 2.6d ENVIRONMENT: Harvest	Year: 4 Term:AU1 Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Explore</i> religious stories and teachings about the environment and <i>identify</i> their impact on behaviour		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
EXPLORE Learners should be able to link stories, beliefs and practices and explain their impact on believers and communities	<i>WTS: All learners should be able to identify stories and teachings from faith communities relating to the environment/natural world</i> <i>EXS: Most learners should be able to link stories and teachings to beliefs and practices</i> <i>These learners should be able to identify</i>	Being thankful for the fruits of the Earth How is the word Harvest used? What does 'harvesting' mean to a farmer and to ourselves? Create a class definition. What do human beings need to survive? Show pupils a bowl of fruit and vegetables, packets of cereal, bags of flour, cartons of juice and milk, bottle of water, eggs, bread, pictures of supermarkets. Invite pupils to use their knowledge of nutrition and choose three items that a human being needs to survive, and explain why they need them. Divide pupils into two groups: group one could make an inquiry about where food is sourced for a

<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to explain how stories and beliefs influence behaviour and help believers to make moral choices in relation to the environment/ natural world</p>	<p><i>similarities and differences between the teachings of different faith communities</i> <i>GDS: A few learners should be able to explain the impact of beliefs about the environment/natural world on believers and faith communities</i></p>	<p>family in the UK e.g. shop, supermarket, allotment. Invite them to think about how many different food products they might use in a day, or a week. Group two could do a comparison with a community overseas e.g. Mozambique. Why do different religions and different countries celebrate harvest? What might inspire them to celebrate in the UK and overseas?</p> <p>Discuss the idea of celebrating harvest in times of plenty and in times when there is less than enough. In what situations might people have more than they need, or not enough? How might this affect their belief in God as provider?</p>
<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to link their own values and actions and consider the consequences of their actions for the environment/natural world</p>	<p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>God as creator and provider: Christian beliefs in one God as creator of the world and provider for human needs originate in the Book of Genesis. Here God is described as creating man in his own image, and putting him in charge of animals and seed bearing plants for human beings to care for and use for food. See Bible Text: Genesis 1 v 27-31. What attitude to Creation and food does this text suggest to Christians and to Jews? What attitudes do we have towards animals and plants (looking after them, and relying on them for food and drink).</p> <p>Explore the Jewish festival of Sukkoth and task pupils with creating a model of a sukkah from recycled materials, imagine that they have stayed out overnight in the Sukkah, and write a diary entry from the viewpoint of a Jewish believer about how it helped them feel close to God as Creator and provider.</p> <p>Explore the Christian Harvest and a Lamas (loaf mass). Task pupils with making bread in small groups to reflect on what it might mean to a Christian believer to celebrate Loaf Mass at the beginning of Harvest in a rural area. In what ways might it be different for someone living in a city celebrating harvest? What might Harvest mean to someone living in a country where there are environmental problems, such as drought or flooding, e.g Mozambique? What might influence their attitude? In what ways could faith in God help in this?</p> <p>Harvest Festival To reflect their understanding of Christian Harvest pupils could engage in practical activities. Ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a difference – e.g designing and implementing a charity campaign across the school, linked to the local church eg Foodbank – poster design to raise awareness, leading an assembly, organising collecting for a charity • Pupils could plan a harvest festival/collection for the class/school. This could involve publicising it, presenting their plan in a school assembly, choosing a suitable recipient for the goods collected, packing and distribution. • organising a fundraiser for a charity • Writing an explanation: ‘Six reasons why our act of gratitude can make a difference to our local or overseas neighbour (less than 100 words).

Religious Education	Title: 2.4d Landmarks in life	Year: 4 Term: AU2 Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Investigate</i> the importance for believers of ceremonies in which special moment in the lifecycle are marked		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to identify important features of religious ceremonies and explain why these might be seen as important aspects of a believer's life</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to identify a range of ceremonies linked to special moments in life that are important to members of faith communities</i> <i>EXS: Most learners should be able to describe the important features of ceremonies</i> <i>These learners should be able to compare and contrast ceremonies from different traditions</i> <i>GDS: A few learners should be able to explain why believers would see these celebrations as an important part of their faith</i></p> <p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>Rites of passage are special rituals that mark the different stages in life. These include birth ceremonies, ceremonies marking joining a faith, marriage and death.</p> <p>Why is it important to people to celebrate special times in life? For example: Think about coming of age, birthdays, marriage, funerals. Collect examples of the way in which people celebrate or mark these events, such as greetings cards, photographs, invitations etc... Create a display. Look at pictures of special events and identify what landmarks are being acknowledged. Construct a list of pupils' priorities - which are the most important landmarks. Pupils draw a road representing their life so far. Label the road (write/draw/describe) with three high points they have experienced in life so far e.g. starting school, baptism. Label the road with two low points. Can pupils continue the road with what they hope to come? Resources: examples from appropriate celebrations e.g. invitations etc...</p> <p>Why is it important to believers to celebrate special times in life? In small groups or pairs pupils research & produce a presentation about the way joining a faith is celebrated by Christians (confirmation) and Hindus (Sacred Thread <i>upanayana</i> ceremony) Pupils will need to be organised and able to discuss: what they need to find out, how they gather information, share out tasks and what format to present in. This should take more than one lesson and time could then be spent sharing their work with others.</p> <p>Pupils should find out: about what happens what symbolism is important Why is the symbolism important? What actions are important? Are there any special vows or promises made? Are special prayers or words spoken? What people wear? What they eat? How the person might feel before and during this key point in their lives?</p> <p>What does what you celebrate say about you? For example: Discuss their own experiences. Refer to their list of priorities identified in the first lesson. Take the first on the list and ask pupils individually or in small groups to create a ceremony to mark the occasion in an appropriate way. If possible, act out the best ideas as a class, keeping a photographic record of the occasion, and</p>
<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to link symbolic aspects of ceremonies to beliefs and teachings and explain why the ceremony might be important to those taking part</p>		
<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to share ideas and experiences of ceremonies important to them and suggest what these might say about their personal beliefs and values</p>		

		encouraging pupils to express how it felt to take part. What would help them to keep the promises they have just made? What symbol would they choose to remind them of their new promises?
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Year 5

Religious Education	Title: 2.1b Sacred Writings – Hindu Dharma	Year: 5 Term:AU1 Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Explore</i> a variety of forms of literature found in sacred books and <i>investigate</i> a range of religious teachings		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to distinguish different types of religious literature and say why different sacred writings are important to faith communities</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to distinguish different types of literature contained within sacred writings</i> <i>EXS: Most learners should be able to identify some important teachings and sources from sacred writings making links with belief and practice</i> <i>These learners should be able to show how believers use a range of sources to support their beliefs and practices</i> <i>GDS: A few learners should be able to explain why it is important to believers to refer to scriptures for guidance</i></p>	<p>Notes: ‘all Gods lead to God as all rivers lead to the sea’ is the best way to sum up what Hindu’s believe about god. There are many different Gods worshipped in Hindu Dharma but they are all different aspects of the one supreme God. Hindus can choose the way they want to think of and worship God, the important thing is to love God. In this unit of work the focus is on Krishna – God as a child.</p> <p>Recap prior learning about Hindu Dharma with pupils. Place the faith in the world by tasking pupils to collect facts about the religion e.g. where in the world it originated, number of followers, where they worship, key beliefs, sacred writings etc.</p> <p>Begin to explore Hindu sacred writings. Explain Hindu beliefs about God (see note) and focus on Krishna. Show images of Krishna, why might it be helpful to look at Krishna? Share the story of Krishna eating soil. Support pupils understanding of the story by sharing a selection of images of the story (available online). In groups pupils can annotate their image with what they can see, who the characters are, what is happening. Pupils can come up with questions about the story and take turns to share these. What does the story tell them about Krishna? Why are stories about Krishna the favourite of many Hindu children?</p> <p>It is traditional to tell the story of Krishna through mime and dance. In groups pupils can complete this task and</p>
<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to identify teachings and source material from a range of sacred writings and explain how these might be used within faith communities</p>		

Autumn Term RE Plans KS1-2

<p>Learners should be able to identify literature relevant to them and to explain the impact this might have on their lives</p>	<p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>then present.</p> <p>Move on to share the story of Rama and Sita (many versions available online in video form if preferred). Share images of scenes from the story. In groups pupils can annotate their images with what they can see, who the characters are, what is happening. Pupils can come up with questions about the story and take turns to share these. What does the story teach about overcoming temptation? How could the main characters inspire Hindu's to overcome temptation?</p> <p>Explore the festival of and celebrations for Divali which link to the story of Rama and Sita. Pupils could compare and contrast the different ways of celebrating in the UK and in India. In groups pupils could explore different ways of celebrating Divali and present back. What matters most to Hindu's at Divali? What would happen if Hindu's weren't allowed to celebrate Divali?</p> <p>'All gods lead to God as all rivers lead to the sea.' What aspects of God have pupils uncovered through their studies of Hindu stories. What does this tell them about what Hindu's believe God is like and how he is helpful to them?</p>
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<p>Religious Education</p>	<p>Title: 2.3a Peace</p>	<p>Year:5 Term: AU2 Hours:5</p>
<p>Programme of Learning Focus</p>		
<p>This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Explore</i> the symbolic use of a wide range of objects, sounds, visual images, actions and gestures and <i>make suggestions</i> as to the intended meaning they might have for believers</p>		
<p>Broad Learning Objective</p>	<p>Assessment criteria and differentiation</p>	<p>Learning Activities</p>
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to identify, compare and contrast a range of symbolism used in faith communities</p>	<p><i>WTS: All pupils should be able to suggest ways in which people show that peace is important to them and identify examples of symbolism used by faith communities</i></p> <p><i>EXS: Most pupils should be able to give examples of ways in which</i></p>	<p>What is peace? Show pupils some works of art and symbols that show peace. Can pupils rank them in order of which expresses peace the most to them. What links can be made between the pictures? What do they all have to say about peace? Discuss a peaceful place, a peaceful time, people who bring peace. Where do you go to be at peace, or your parent/s? Write a poem called My Peaceful Place.</p> <p>Blessed are the peacemakers - Mt 5⁹. Begin with this phrase as a caption, showing it above a picture of soldiers. Who is a peacemaker? Discuss that peace is a key character</p>

<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to identify beliefs expressed through the use of symbolism and explain why it might be important to believers</p>	<p><i>people actively seek peace making links between beliefs, sources and the use of symbolism in faith communities</i></p> <p><i>GDS: Some pupils should be able to demonstrate how seeking peace may involve moral choices and compare and contrast the use of symbolism within and between faiths</i></p>	<p>trait for Christians and explain Jesus demonstrated this in his life and Christians try to follow his example. Explore the Christian idea of the gift of peace, and extend the idea to the Jewish <i>shalom</i>. Ask a member of a local church to describe the passing / sharing of the peace or to explain the meaning to them of the phrase <i>The peace of the Lord be with you</i>. Explore the work of ‘Christian peacemakers today’. Is the way to peace always peaceful? Pupils can sum up the learning by explaining why peace is important to a Christian, how peace is demonstrated in church and how peace is demonstrated by Christians in everyday life.</p>
<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to identify ways in which they might express their own values symbolically and consider the consequences of showing commitment in this way</p>	<p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>Explore the National Memorial Arboretum, the work that they do and some of their memorials. How is it a place of peace and remembrance. Explore what three religions say about Peace: Hindu Dharma Ahimsa – non-violence, comes from strength, and strength is from God, not man. Ahimsa always comes from within. Islam: do not take life – which Allah has made sacred – except for a just cause. Christians: Blessed are the peacemakers. Complete a venn diagram to show similarities and differences between the three faiths. Design a new memorial for the national memorial arboretum to commemorate and celebrate the work of soldiers from one of the three faiths. Present to the class explaining the symbolism they have used, its link to the religion and where this memorial should be placed.</p> <p>Tell the story of Sadako Sasaki and her cranes for peace. https://theelders.org/news/story-sadako-sasaki-and-hiroshima-peace-cranes</p> <p>There is now a memorial to Sadako at Hiroshima. Written on Sadako’s statue are the words: This is our cry, This is our prayer: To create peace in the world. Many, many people visit the statue to think about this message. Pupils can make their own cranes using origami techniques and either hang them up in school or send them to Hiroshima to be put at the Children’s Peace Monument: Peace Promotion Division The City of Hiroshima 1-5 Nakajima-cho Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan (Please make sure your teacher fills out a registration form on the Hiroshima Peace Museum Website.)</p> <p>Pupils could use persuasive writing to encourage other classes to also make a crane for peace. They could write out instructions about how to make a crane and then teach someone from another class.</p>

Year 6

Religious Education	Title: 2.6b COMMITMENT	Year:6 Term:AU1Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
<p>This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Investigate</i> ceremonies associated with joining or belonging to a faith community and <i>talk about</i> the meaning of commitment</p>		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to describe what happens at a ceremony associated with joining or belonging to a faith community and explain why people might choose to join</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to identify ideas, values or groups to which they and people of faith are committed</i> <i>EXS: Most learners should be able to explain what this means about the choices they and people of faith make in their everyday lives</i> <i>These learners should be able to explain the impact this has on their life and on the lives of the people who are committed to a faith</i> <i>GDS: A few learners should be able to identify the consequences for themselves and people of faith, of making a commitment to particular values, groups or causes</i></p>	<p>What does it mean to make a commitment?</p> <p>Explore the word commitment. What does it mean and what does it mean and how are commitments demonstrated? Take 5 characters from fiction or media (e.g. Harry Potter, Bart Simpson) and decide what their top five commitments would be. Ask pupils to come up with 5 things they are committed to and 5 things they aren't committed too. Discuss their ideas. Discuss why for some people religious commitments might be important. Select the commitments that they think they will have to make and the responsibilities they will bring and make an individual chart. How do they hope to be responsible adults? Why is it important for adults to be serious about their responsibilities? What are the benefits of commitments and responsibilities? What are they looking forward to?</p> <p>Talk about the responsibilities which people have when they become adults. For example: Brainstorm some of the things which you cannot do as a 10/11 year</p>
<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to explain the meaning of a joining ceremony for believers and explain the impact of commitment on their future lives</p>		

<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to talk about personal values and commitments and the impact that these have on their own lives and the lives of people around them.</p>	<p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>but which you will be able to do when you are an adult. Talk about the things they are looking forward to doing when they are grown up. List the responsibilities that go with the good things and the privileges. What makes the difference between someone who is growing up and someone who is an adult? What are the good things about being an adult and what are the disadvantages?</p> <p>Group research tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out what happens at a Jewish Bar or Bat Mitzvah • Find out what happens at a Christian Confirmation ceremony <p>pupils could use books and ICT to research each ceremony and prepare to present back. What happens, important beliefs, promises made, special items etc.</p> <p>Discuss the fact that the young person now has responsibility for their own faith and must do all the things that are required of them. How much of a challenge would this be?</p> <p>What about your commitments?</p> <p>Discuss what their own lives might be like, recap what commitments they might make and what responsibilities they might have</p> <p>Design your own coming-of-age ritual</p> <p>Apart from graduation after university the educational system rarely provides a significant passage ritual. Some schools/families are now creating their own. These could incorporate a number of elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with the natural environment: One or more days spent in nature, experiencing isolation, beauty and grandeur. • A test of strength, self-discipline, and endurance: a fast, a difficult task etc. • A complete physical withdrawal from the pressures of life.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public recognition: An "...announcement, ceremony or gathering with family and friends..." to acknowledge the person's new status.• Symbolic representations: Some object that symbolizes the person's new status: a totem, ring, etc. <p>In groups pupils could plan a coming of age ceremony for the end of year 6...it could even be carried out!</p>
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Religious Education	Title: 2.3b Words of Wisdom	Year: 6 Term: AU2 Hours:5
Programme of Learning Focus		
This unit will provide opportunities to: <i>Explore</i> the meaning of stories drawn from religious sources and <i>reflect on</i> the significance of key words, phrase or expressions		
Broad Learning Objective	Assessment criteria and differentiation	Learning Activities
<p>EXPLORE Learners should be able to make links between words, phrases and stories of importance to faith communities and say how these reflect the ideas of believers</p>	<p><i>WTS: All learners should be able to identify significant words and stories and suggest what they tell a believer about their faith</i> <i>EXS: Some learners should be able to suggest how these words, phrases and stories might have a major impact on a believer's life</i> <i>GDS: A few learners should be able to explain how these stories might help believers to make moral choices</i></p> <p>Assessment opportunities (what will be assessed and when)</p>	<p>Stories with messages What do we mean by stories with a message? Read a story with a message e.g. an Aesop fable. Circle time - what was the message, are stories useful as guidance, why stories and not just a list of rules, are stories always understood, when a poster be more effective than a story? Pupils could make a dust jacket for one of the stories they have heard; design front cover and write a short blurb which describes the message.</p> <p>In this unit of work pupils will explore several stories. For each story the following process of exploration is useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>share the story and explore meaning</i> • <i>What place does the story have in the religion(s) we are studying/what is the key message?</i> • <i>How important is the story to believers/how might it encourage them to act?</i> • <i>A practical task to sum up understanding e.g. a text to self (a connection between the story and your experience), text to a believer (a connection between the story and how a believer should put the message into practice) text to world (a connection between the story and events in the real world) and text to media (a connection between the story and something you've seen on TV, in a computer or heard in a song)</i> <p>Possible stories: The Lost Sheep; Jesus calms a storm, Bilal – the first muezzin, Prophet Muhammad and the thirsty camel Angulimala and the Buddha Abraham and Isaac The formation of the Khalsa</p> <p>What do wise words mean to you? Ask pupils to imagine they were world leaders for a day. What message would they like to give the world? Is there one group of people they would like to give a message to? What about a message for the class? School? Country? Pupils could write their messages in a variety of ways e.g. scroll, a letter (which is really posted) banner, video, decorated stone, class wall of wisdom</p>
<p>ENGAGE Learners should be able to link words, phrases and stories with important beliefs and say what impact these might have on the lives of believers</p>		
<p>REFLECT Learners should be able to use words, phrases and stories to explore their personal values and explain what influences them</p>		

Appendix 5: Assessment examples

This is an example of a simple assessment class record sheet for RE. It preserves the achievement profile across the three syllabus themes in each unit and can show progress over time. The mark sheet provides a space for a summary grade in each unit. It would be possible to allocate numbers and calculate averages to complete these summaries. However, this seems unnecessary and mechanistic. Summary grades should be assessed as a best fit judgement as the teacher takes everything into account. This is a better solution because the three assessment objectives may not be equally important/demanding. The teacher is best placed to assess and balance summary grades using their professional judgement of the pupil's achievement.

Year group	Topic 1				Topic 2				Topic 3				Topic 4			
	Explore	Engage	Reflect	SUMMARY												
Pupil's Name																
Jenny Blogs	GDS	GDS	EXS	GDS	GDS	EXS	EXS	EXS								
Joe Blogs	GDS	EXS	WTS	EXS	GDS	EXS	WTS	EXS								
Jamie Blogs	WTS	EXS	WTS	WTS	EXS	WTS	WTS	WTS								

KEY

working at greater depth within the expected standard (GDS): pupils who are exceeding expectations will typically be providing evidence of achievement which consistently extends their learning beyond the confines of the task. They are working in ways which show deeper understanding and mastery, and which are above the norm for their peer group. (e.g., showing greater vocabulary, understanding, explanation, complexity, originality, judgement)

working at the expected standard (EXS): Pupils who are meeting the expectations in full will typically be providing consistent evidence of achievement which shows that they have understood and confidently achieved the assessment criteria. They are working at a level which is appropriate for their peer group.

working towards the expected standard (WTS): pupils who have yet to meet the expectations in full will typically be providing evidence which is consistently less determined and less confident than their peer group.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
16th November 2022
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Draft SACRE Annual Report 2021-22

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present to members of SACRE the Draft SACRE Annual Report 2021-22

2 Summary

- 2.1 This draft report covers the work of SACRE from September 2021- September 2022

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE consider the report and offer advice on any omissions or errors so that a final report can be published and electronically distributed to schools.

4 Background

- 4.1 SACREs are required to produce an annual report on its work to provide information for schools.

5 Equal Opportunities

- 5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications

Contact Officer :

Mary Gale 07816374873



**Staffordshire
Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education-
DRAFT**

**31st Annual Report
September 2021 - September 2022**

From the Chair of SACRE

Chair's Introduction to SACRE's Annual Report for 2021-22



During the academic year 2021-22, schools continued to be affected by the ongoing COVID situation; this in turn affected the work of Staffordshire SACRE in seeking to gain a robust overview of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools across the county, in mounting courses and other initiatives, and in promoting good RE in general. Staffordshire SACRE nevertheless warmly thanks Mary Gale, the commissioned RE Consultant for the county, for her untiring efforts to support schools and teachers in whatever ways possible, and for amply contributing her

expertise and energy to the work of SACRE.

The main focus for SACRE during the year has been the revising of the county's Agreed Syllabus in RE, a process which had been initiated during the previous year. As part of this process, SACRE convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). Because the Constitution of an ASC is almost the same as that for a SACRE, Staffordshire SACRE was able to turn itself into the ASC as and when required. SACRE had originally envisaged that the revised syllabus might be launched in September 2022, but this target could not in the end be met, and the launch will now go ahead in January 2023.

The revised syllabus will be a more substantial and comprehensive document than the 2016 Agreed Syllabus on which it is based. However, the vision and aims and pedagogy underlying the 2016 syllabus continue to underlie the revised syllabus, so that schools and teachers should be able to transfer to the revised syllabus quite readily.

Staffordshire SACRE thanks all those who have contributed to the revision and looks forward to receiving feedback on the revised syllabus as schools engage in implementing it.

At the time of writing, the Schools Bill passing through Parliament is in a state of limbo. It had received some significant criticism; it is likely to be re-drafted and re-presented.

The drive to academise all schools by 2030 raises questions about the future role of SACREs, and indeed about the existing statutory arrangements which govern Religious Education, which are increasingly out of kilter with the academies world.

It is hoped that a revised Schools Bill will take note of the strong representations that have been made to government officials about these issues.

Staffordshire SACRE is sustained by the belief that each pupil is entitled to receive high quality Religious Education as an essential part of their whole development, and that good RE delivers unique and vital benefits to schools as a whole, as well as to individuals.

SACRE is glad to be in partnership with teachers across the county in aiming for the highest standards as possible in RE, and thanks them heartily for all that they are doing to achieve this.

I commend this Annual Report to the schools of the county and to the members of the County Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Metcalf". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rev. Prebendary Michael Metcalf Chair Staffs SACRE

Contents

	<i>page</i>
From the Chair of SACRE	2
1. Introduction	4
2. A summary of the work of SACRE 2021-2022	4
3. Standards and quality of RE provision including Collective worship	5
4. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other stakeholders	10
5. The effectiveness of the local agreed syllabus and the review process	13
6. Contribution of the SACRE to the wider community	14

Appendices

1. The Statutory Duties of a SACRE	17
2. Membership of Staffordshire SACRE: Attendance at Meetings	18
3. Procedures for schools causing concern	19
4. The SACRE Budget 2021-2022	20

1. Introduction

This report covers the work of the Staffordshire SACRE during the academic year from September 2021 to July 2022. Three meetings were held during the period covered by the report. Due to COVID-19 restrictions two meetings were held virtually and one meeting was face to face as COVID-19 restrictions started to lift.

This report is sent to the headteachers of all schools in the County, to the teachers' associations, to the local faith communities and NASACRE. Further copies are available from:

The Clerk to SACRE,
Democratic Services,
Martin Street,
Stafford ST16 2LH.

The report is also available on the Entrust Religious Education website at <https://www.entrust-ed.co.uk>

The statutory duties of the SACRE are given in Appendix 1 Page 17
The membership of the SACRE is given in Appendix 2 Page 18

2. A summary of the work of the SACRE September 2021-2022

- Three face-to-face meetings were held which were moderately well attended.
- Monitoring of Staffordshire primary school RE provision was carried out through a questionnaire which evaluated how the Agreed Syllabus supports effective RE. Also, through a review of school websites.
- Monitoring of Staffordshire Secondary school RE was carried out through a questionnaire which evaluated how the Agreed Syllabus supports effective RE an through scrutiny of the work force census date. Also, through a review of school websites.
- The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus recommends that students at KS4 study an approved examination syllabus. It was not easy for the SACRE to monitor provision and attainment in externally accredited courses in Religious Studies in 2020 and 2021 due to changes to the examination process as a result of COVID-19. The summary below states the key outcomes.
 - **Staffordshire** % achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2020 was 76.4% and 77.5% in 2021. It is expected that that will fall to 73.4% in 2022
 - **England** % achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2020 was 80.5% and 80.2% in 2021. It is expected that that will fall to 76.7% in 2022
 - Therefore Staffordshire % of students achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2021 was 3% lower than the England average, this is an improvement compared to 2020 and this gap remains similar in 2022
- Historically the Westhill Engage project in conjunction with YouthNet and the Entrust MEAS team supported over 400 pupils across Staffordshire to gain a greater understanding of Christianity and Islam and of living with diversity. This work was curtailed due to the impact of COVID-19.

- Originally Entrust offered a face to face programme of CPD to support RE teachers across the year, but due to the continued impact of the pandemic this did not go ahead. This resumes in autumn 2022.

Bespoke support therefore was provided in response to individual school requests, this was mostly addressed through email correspondence and virtual meetings.

- Staffordshire SACRE continues to be represented at the NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) AGM, NATRE Conference and AREIAC meetings. Some of these meetings have been held in the virtual environment.
- The partnership with NASACRE remains strong. Members of SACRE are also representatives on other SACREs and on bodies such as Stafford and District Friends.
- No determinations have been requested during this academic year.

3. Standards and quality of RE and CW provision

3.1 Monitoring

Monitoring for this academic year continue to take place via email conversations, online conversations and some face-to-face conversations where deemed safe as schools recovered after COVID-19

Where SACRE is concerned about the provision offered by schools then a formal procedure is followed. See Appendix 3.

General comments

- The syllabus is used in most schools that provided information, those who do not use the syllabus are Catholic or Church Aided schools, or in an Multi Academy Trusts.
- Schools are currently exploring best practices, to ensure consistency across the school.
- Schools are exploring ways to assess learning of RE but feel the syllabus provides support in this area.
- Local faith leaders contribute to CW in some areas of the county through the virtual environment, particularly where there were youth leaders to support this.
- Staff confidence in delivering collective worship is developing well after COVID-19
- Leader confidence in Church of England schools regarding the delivery of CW improved with the help of resources from SACRE. Some leaders stated that the delivery of CW improved because it was more consistent in its approach and well planned as they were observed by pupils and parents and staff through online platforms.
- Worship teams (pupils) organise worship more so now as schools recover from the limitations of COVID-19
- Varied weekly timetables of collective worship resumed in autumn 2021
- RE has become more effective in the sample of schools evaluated as schools resume full time education from autumn 2021
- Allocation of resources to RE has decreased in some schools since last year.
- RE makes a positive contribution to SMSC in most schools especially during online support for learners.

Primary and Secondary Monitoring headlines:

- Collective worship is led by a variety of staff. Online worship and assemblies were led mostly members of the Senior Leadership Team.
- The variety regarding the provision for collective worship varies from school to school with schools operating CW in their bubbles or online for the class or whole school.
- Collective worship continues to take many forms including thought for the day, Relationship and Health Education, and well-being aspects.
- Withdrawal from CW is only an issue in a handful of schools and mostly involves Jehovah Witness followers.
- Schools have reviewed their collective worship provision in the past 2 years, especially during COVID-19.
- Schools agreed that the Agreed Syllabus clearly presents what is required by their school in RE.
- Provision of RE for pupils has increased after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.
- The majority of schools contacted stated that they had reviewed their RE provision during lock down as they had time to do this.

3.2 Standards

Staffordshire SACRE reviews and discusses standards and achievement in RE during meetings as appropriate.

Throughout 2021-22 Religious Education network meetings which schools can choose to attend would have included moderation of standards across year groups and schools to support schools with the judgements they make against the revised 2016 Agreed Syllabus Age Related Expectations. There were no face-to-face courses due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The advisor offered to provide support information through an online virtual webinar, but no schools took up this offer.

a) Public examination entries in Religious Education (RE) and Religious Studies (RS)

In the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, legal requirements state that RE should be provided as part of the basic curriculum for all registered pupils attending a maintained school, this includes High schools.

Background

At Key Stage 4 all pupils should fulfil their entitlement by following as a basis an accredited specification (from a recognised examination board) in Religious Studies. Schools should provide reasonable time for pupils to complete this and if appropriate, to attain an external qualification.

At KS5 pupils may follow the programme of study provided within the Agreed Syllabus or an accredited specification (from a recognised examination board) in Religious Studies.

Schools that do not offer this opportunity to their students are requested to apply to the SACRE for a variation of practice. This academic year no schools have applied for, or been granted, a variation.

Staffordshire SACRE recognises the independence of Academies and Free Schools.

However, it commends the Agreed Syllabus to them as a constructive and collaborative way to meet their legal requirements in Religious Education.

Staffordshire SACRE recognises the independence of Academies and Free Schools.

However, it commends the Agreed Syllabus to them as a constructive and collaborative way to meet their legal requirements in Religious Education.

During lock down due to the COVID-19 pandemic RE was a not a priority for many schools, although schools made reasonable adjustments to adhere to the requirement.

In summer 2021 there were improvements to the delivery of RE and RS. Schools in the autumn term of 2021 offered their normal RE and RS delivery. They spent the time during COVID-19 evaluating their planning and as a result some schools are reporting that their delivery is now improving.

b) Overall GCSE results 2020-21 not just for RE

The GCSE system continues to use the new grading of 9-1, with 9 being the exceptional grade.

c) Religious Studies GCSE 2021

Here are the trends in the latest religious studies GCSE results for summer 2021.

The proportion of grade 9 results achieved by students nationally in 2021, equivalent to a high A* under the old GCSE system, rose to 11.4 per cent, compared to 9.6 per cent in 2020 and 7.5 per cent in 2019.

Staffordshire information

We cannot report to SACRE precisely the data for our schools regarding RE and RS however the following information provided by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education gives the national picture for A-level and GCSE entries this year.

Staffordshire LA have been unable to provide a break down school by school of the RE/RS grades.

However, there are some overall figures to report for 2021

County	Number of candidates	Grade 9 and above - %	Grade 8 and above - %	Grade 7 and above - %	Grade 6 and above - %	Grade 5 and above - %	Grade 4 and above - %	Grade 3 and above - %	Grade 2 and above - %	Grade 1 and above - %
England	201975	11.4	23.8	37.7	53.2	67.5	80.2	89.9	95.7	98.9
Staffordshire	4,320	7.1	17.2	31	46.9	62.6	77.5	89.7	96.4	99.1

The number of pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies in England remained stable in 2021.

Key outcomes entries of GCSE in 2021

Staffordshire % achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2020 was 76.4% and 77.5% in 2021. It is expected that that will fall to 73.4% in 2022

England % achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2020 was 80.5% and 80.2% in 2021. It is expected that that will fall to 76.7% in 2022

Therefore Staffordshire % of students achieving grades 9-4 for the full RS course in 2021 was 3% lower than the England average, this is an improvement compared to 2020 and this gap remains similar in 2022

Historically

2019 National Average 9 to 4 72.3%

2019 Staffordshire Average 9 to 4 65.9%

2020 National Average 9 to 4 80.5%

2020 Staffordshire Average 9 to 4	76.4%
2021 National Average 9 to 4	80.2%
2021 Staffordshire Average 9 to 4	77.5%
2022 National Average 9 to 4	76.7%
2022 Staffordshire Average 9 to 4	73.4%

d) Religious Studies A-level 2021- the only available data provided by SCC is as follows, there are no comparisons available for 2020.

A level 2021	No of pupils	% A*- E	% A*-C	% %A*-A	Average Grade
Staffordshire	53/Awaiting confirmation	100%	91%	26%	B
England	16.645	100%	96%	32%	B

In England the number of Religious Studies A-level exam entries in 2021 has increased 6.1 percent year on year. The subject outperformed other A-level subjects as a whole, which increased by 5.1 percent, with a greater increase than most other humanities subjects.

The 2021 Religious Studies results reverse the decline of 11.5% in 2020, where many other subjects saw significant falls in the number of entries, including Geography (down 16.2%) and History (down 15.1%). Last year's reduction reflected a smaller cohort of 18-year-olds and changes to the assessment of A level and AS examinations that had an effect in 2018, when the majority of schools changed their policies to recommending three A-levels, versus four in previous years.

The key outcomes of the 2021 A-level results in England and Wales for Religious Education are as follows:

- 16,645 RS A-level entries were recorded, an increase of 6.1 percent on 2020.
- There were 49.5 percent more entries than in 2003 (11,132 entries were recorded in 2003).
- The 6.1 percent increase in entries for RS is greater than some other subjects such as History (up 1.5 percent) and Political Studies (up 5.1 percent).
- The increase of 49.5 percent in the number of entries for RS A-level since 2003 is greater than equivalent changes over the same period for subjects such as Geography (down 0.9 percent), Law (up 9.4 percent), and History (up 8.7 percent).

The relative stability of entries suggests that candidates continue to recognise the value of RS A-level for Higher Education entry, graduate employment, and as a valuable life skill.

3.3 Quality of teaching, quality of leadership and management

Informal monitoring revealed a picture in the primary schools that responded with a high number of schools engaging in regular reviews of their RE provision. This was due to COVID-19, as schools used time to review their RE provision so that on return to full time education, the curriculum would be fit for purpose. The picture was equally positive for provision in the secondary sector with most schools demonstrating that they reviewed their provision.

Schools have the option to purchase further bespoke support and evaluation of their leadership of RE from Entrust. This is a voluntary option. One school in 2021-2022

requested face to face support, and email support was provided for twelve schools following requests.

There has also been a programme of CPD available for schools. Schools did not book on this programme of CPD. Schools preferred to access support through email.

3.4 Teacher recruitment and retention, level of specialist provision

Information regarding monitoring, recruitment and retention continues to be reliant on the collation of evidence from advertisements in the educational press.

There is no established method of gathering data within the LA.

Information gleaned from the national press indicated that there was a relatively low turnover of subject leaders at the end of the academic year with few changes taking place.

This could be attributed to COVID-19.

Newly qualified teachers are now referred to as Early Career Teachers- ECTs

3.5 Resources

Much of the work of the Entrust consultant for RE was carried out virtually this past year. This involved support for Religious Education planning and Collective worship. Resources were sent to schools to support online RE and CW. These were well received by schools.

3.6 Collective worship

3.7 Practice and provision for collective worship

An advice booklet was made available to Staffordshire schools to support their statutory duties regarding collective worship.

Schools can also email the commissioned consultant advisor for Religious Education at Entrust for additional support. This academic year there have been no specific training courses for collective worship although email advice has been provided. Several schools have requested face to face meeting with the commissioned consultant to discuss these aspects.

3.8 Monitoring determinations for collective worship

There are no existing determinations in Staffordshire.

No determinations have been applied for or granted in this academic year.

4 Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other stakeholders

4.1 SACRE meetings

Three meetings were held during the year November 17th, 2021, February 2nd, 2022, and June 29th 2022, at the Council Chambers in the County Buildings Stafford, ST16 3AD. All meetings were held at 2.00 p.m.

At the autumn term 2021 meeting the Rev. Prebendary Michael Metcalf was elected as chair for the following year.

4.2 Membership

There was a review of membership in the previous year. It was noted at that time that there were several vacancies which the SACRE tried to fill over the year. COVID-19 halted aspects of this. As the recovery period commenced additional members were appointed.

Several changes to the membership of the SACRE were noted during the year. See Appendix 2 for full details.

All new members are required to sign the SACRE Code of Conduct on appointment.

4.3 Training

During 2021-2022 professional development activities were offered virtually to teachers, due to the pandemic these activities centred around email support for planning and advice regarding the Agreed Syllabus planning and collective worship. Governors were updated three times by way of a general update webinar over the year to support their link governor roles- this was well received.

Reverend Preb. M.R. Metcalf and M Gale (Advisor to SACRE) attended the 2022 virtual NASACRE conference on 23rd May 2022

M Gale Advisor to SACRE attended two of AREIACs regional meetings in 2022-2022. She also attended the virtual two-day NATRE conference in January 2022.

4.4 SACRE developments

Development Projects

The Explore- Engage -Reflect pupil workshops provided for pupils across Stafford, Stone and Newcastle were all cancelled due to COVID-19.

The proposed High school conferences in conjunction with YouthNet were postponed until Autumn 2021, one conference took place as a result..

Additional Support

The advisor to SACRE provided support on remote learning for schools during the pandemic.

In addition, advice was provided on Collective Worship and planning for RE including short term and long-term planning.

4.5 LA support for the SACRE

The LA continues to commission its support for Religious Education from Entrust. Support for SACRE 2021/22 was provided by Mary Gale, director of Mary Gale Consultancy. She was commissioned to provide this support and advice to SACRE and schools. This commission continues.

4.6 Financial support

£6,220 was made available to support the work of SACRE during the financial year 2021-2022 as approved by the Service Delivery Agreement (SDA) between Staffordshire County Council and Entrust. Continuing priorities for the year were identified as supporting schools to be aware of their statutory responsibilities and to provide support in relation to fulfilling the statutory functions for SACRE after COVID-19, including but not limited to:

- (i) provision of advice and guidance on teaching and learning on the Religious Education syllabus.
- (ii) providing updates to maintained school RE teachers with a refresh on the requirements to the RE Syllabus.
- (iii) Support for specific projects in a small selection of schools ranging from support for resources for CW and RE to enhancing global links.
- (iv) Support for the revision of the AS.

The budget was a standing item on the agenda at each meeting see Appendix 4.

SACRE provided information to NASACRE regarding their funding from the LA. This resulted in a report of all LA support for SACREs. It is pleasing to note that our funding is average for SACREs around the country receiving approximately 2%.

The results from various SACREs were varied but showed that most SACREs did not receive the share of the Combined Schools Support Block Grant (CSSBG) that they should in order to support SACRE. The report had provided useful evidence in NASACRE's discussions with Government.

4.7 Information and advice

During the period covered by this report, the SACRE received information on the impact of recovery after COVID-19 on schools within the county and the steps being taken to ensure RE and CW resumed their significance in the curriculum of schools. Members were advised of the national picture with regard to RE. SACRE has used this information effectively to advise the LA on the range of issues covered elsewhere in this report.

4.8 Partnerships with other Key Stakeholders

NASACRE

The Chair of Staffordshire SACRE, Michael Metcalf, was until May 2022 the treasurer of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

A report from NASACRE is a standing agenda item at each meeting. At each meeting, the Chair gave a brief update on key issues raised by the National Association of SACREs.

Matters for 2021-22 are included in the minutes from each meeting. SACRE subscribes to NASACRE receiving updates as appropriate. The SACRE received a number of topical reports to support their work including

- Ofsted May 2021 research paper on Religious Education
- Policy Paper on Inclusive Britain May 2022
- The REC Draft Handbook Religion and Worldviews in the classroom 2022

AREIAC (Association for Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and NATRE (National Association for the Teaching of RE)

SACRE subscribes to these organisations, receiving updates as appropriate. The consultant adviser also attends meetings and conferences with members of these organisations ensuring SACRE receives regular information which supports them in carrying out their core duties. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 all communication has been through online platforms. It is hoped that face to face meetings will resume as and when it is deemed safe to do so.

NATRE

Mary Gale continues to communicate with NATRE on a number of topical RE aspects. She receives publications and news as appropriate and disseminates this information to schools and Governors. She has attended two virtual NATRE meetings.

Local Authority

In September 2016, the new Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was introduced into schools. Schools receive a reminder regarding the statutory status of this syllabus. As the key curriculum document for pupils in Staffordshire's maintained schools the local authority is responsible for ensuring that guidance is in place. The Advisor to Staffordshire SACRE and the County Commissioner for School Quality Assurance and Intervention have continued to remain in regular contact and work together to ensure that schools are clear about their statutory responsibilities for Religious Education. The review of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus commenced in July 2021 in line with legislation which advises that the AS is reviewed every 5 years. It was hoped that the revised syllabus will be ready for 2022 but due to the impact of COVID-19 this has been delayed till Spring 2023

5 The effectiveness of the local agreed syllabus

5.1 Guidance/monitoring and evaluation of the agreed syllabus

In September 2016, the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was formally adopted by Staffordshire County Council and introduced into Staffordshire's schools. As writers of the syllabus, Staffordshire SACRE worked to ensure a sharply focused syllabus to support high standards of Religious Education in Staffordshire schools. The review of the 2016 syllabus commenced in 2021. Due to the impact of COVID-19 this review was delayed.

Ongoing guidance was provided in the following formats:

- RE news was provided through the headteacher Electronic Bag and through the Governor Information Pack together with targeted emailed to schools to support them with aspects of teaching and learning.
- Home school learning information for RE was provided for schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and after during the recovery period.
- Schools have been invited to phone/email the commissioned consultant for Religious Education at Entrust for advice and support on all aspects of their RE provision- there have been a number of queries.
- Long and medium-term plans have been made available to schools to support high quality Religious Education.

5.2 The Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASC).

These commenced in July 2021 where each of the four SACRE Committees with the support of the Staffordshire Local Authority, agreed to the Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review and the work to be undertaken

Rev Metcalf was appointed as the Chair of the Conference.

The review stages were outlined in a development plan including feedback from schools and stakeholders on how the current syllabus was being used. The second stage of the review took into account any developments or changes in RE since the previous syllabus was written. The reviews continued throughout the year resulting in a draft AS being written ready for scrutiny to the ASC in autumn 2022

6 Contribution of the SACRE to the wider community

6.1 Representative nature of the SACRE

The membership of the SACRE indicates that it is representative in nature. There are currently vacancies which the SACRE are seeking to fill.

6.2 Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural and ethnic minority

A number of the SACRE members are also representatives on the Stafford Friends of Faith Forum, a local interfaith network. Where opportunities arise SACRE members and members of Stafford Friends of Faith Forum support each other's events to promote positive community relations. This has been difficult during COVID-19. This relationship supports SACRE members knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural and ethnic minority.

The commissioned consultant/advisor for RE works alongside the MEAS (Minority Ethnic Support Team) employed by Entrust and the local Youth Net team.

There are several Inter faith/cultural experiences available for schools to book as COVID allows, which aim to enhance RE in Staffordshire schools.

These offer the opportunity for an interactive experience for pupils where they meet with members of a faith and learn about what that faith means to them. The MEAS team support the Westhill Legacy project. The SACRE are pleased to be associated with the work of the MEAS team.

Support for schools, particularly around diversity and race relations had been provided through information on Black History month, on the Holocaust Educational Trust learning support tool and Interfaith support. Emphasis had been put on the schools embedding all such aspects in all that they do, not just during the national awareness periods.

6.3 Understanding the intrinsic contribution which RE can make to social, racial and religious harmony and to the wider community

The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education affirms that the role of RE is to foster in each pupil a growing level of religious literacy, through three complementary aims, encapsulated as Exploring, Engaging, Reflecting.

These three aims call for pupils to “acquire a growing range of the social, spiritual and emotional skills and dispositions appropriate to living well in a religiously plural and open society, by reflecting on the reality of religious diversity and on the issues raised by living in a diverse world”.

Pupils studying RE are now specifically required to reflect on the issues raised by living in a diverse world. These three aims namely highlight the key role played by Religious Education in developing, supporting and promoting a knowledgeable society with respect for and sensitivity towards the beliefs and life choices of others. The current syllabus emphasises that, in a civilised society, difference can be celebrated when we also seek out and build on shared values and experiences.

The SACRE is committed to the syllabus and to the role it plays in building a cohesive community. Further virtual guidance was provided to schools experiencing difficulties fulfilling the third syllabus aim in 2020-21

The SACRE considered the research paper produced by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues from the University of Birmingham which was published in Autumn 2020.

The report focused on pupil character development as defined by Ofsted and the influence a teacher of RE could have on character development of pupils’ dependent on their own views.

The report found that:

- Personal worldviews informed RE teachers approaches in the classroom.
- RE teachers were found to have fair and tolerant views of other religions and worldviews.
- There was strong agreement among RE teachers that RE contributes to pupils’ character development.
- RE teachers that have a religious faith were more likely to think religions promote good character.

Appendices



31st Annual Report September 2021-September 2022

The Statutory Duties of a SACRE

All LAs are required to establish a SACRE.

A SACRE's main function, as set out in the 1996 Education Act is:

"to advise the local education authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit". [s.391(1)(a)]

Such matters include:-

"methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers".

A SACRE also:

- can require the local authority to review its current agreed syllabus [s.391(3)]
- must consider applications made by a headteacher, that the requirement for collective worship in county schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils in a particular school ('determinations'). [s.394(1)]

Every SACRE must, by law, produce an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the local authority, broadly describe the nature of that advice and set out reasons for offering advice on matters not referred to it by the local authority. [s.391 (6) and (7)]

A copy of the report should be sent to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Appendix 2

Membership

SACRE Membership

Attendance at Meetings and Vacancies 2021 / 2022

✓ = Attended

A = Apologies Submitted

Blank = No Response

NA = Not a member at the time of the meeting

	16 November 2021	2 February 2022	29 June 2022
Committee A			
Christian and other religious denominations			
Free Churches (4)			
Vacancy			
Sam Phillips	A	A	✓
Maddy Bell	✓	A	A
Vacancy			
Hindu (2)			
Vacancy			
Mr. G. Devadason			
Jewish (1)			
Vacancy			
Muslim (2)			
Mohamed Sedky	✓		
Mohamed Parekh	✓	A	A
Quakers - (1)			
Gabi Oldfield	A	✓	✓
Roman Catholic (2)			
Vacancy			
Vacancy			
Sikh (2)			
Mr Tajinder Singh		A	
Vacancy			
Salvation Army (1)			
Lydia Bartlett	A	A	N/A
Amy Bayliss Fox	N/A	N/A	✓
Buddhist (1)			
Ven. Dr Phramaha Laow Panyasiri		A	
Humanist			
Ian Horsewell		✓	
Baha'i			
Julie Thompson	✓	✓	A
Committee B			
Church of England (5)			
Vickie Longson	A	✓	A
Vicky Priestley	✓	✓	✓
Lauren Nicholson Ward			✓

Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf	✓	✓	✓
Zoe Cahalan	A	A	✓
Committee C Teacher Associations (5)			
Samantha Kirwan (NEU)	✓	A	✓
Judy Wyman (ASCL)	A	✓	A
Shaun Miles (NAHT) (Appointed end Nov 2018)	A		A
Linda Goodwin (NEU)	✓	✓	✓
Harold Gurden (NAHT)			A

Committee D Local Education Authority (5)			
Philip Atkins	✓	✓	✓
Paul Northcott	A	✓	A
Kath Perry	✓	✓	✓
Paul Snape	✓	✓	✓
Mike Wilcox	✓	✓	A
Co-opted			
Spiritualist National Union			
Vacancy			
Clerk to SACRE:			
Mandy Pattinson	✓	✓	✓
Simon Humble	N/A	N/A	✓
Officers:			
Mary Gale	✓	✓	✓

Procedures for schools causing concern

Where, in carrying out its statutory duty to monitor the provision of Religious Education as appropriate within the Local Authority, the SACRE has identified a cause for concern:

1. The SACRE or a sub-committee will request that a letter be sent from the Consultant Adviser for RE or an appropriate LA officer to outline concerns to the school and offer support.
2. Any responses will be referred to the SACRE or a sub-committee for consideration.
3. Where no reply is received, a further letter will be sent by the chair of SACRE reiterating concerns and offering the support of the Senior Adviser or appropriate LA officer.
4. Any responses will be referred to the SACRE or a sub-committee for consideration.
5. Where no reply is received, the SACRE, through the chair, will send a further letter to the school reiterating concerns and alerting the school to further action:
 - a) Concerns to be raised with relevant LA officers with a request that the SACRE be informed of the outcome of any ensuing discussion.
 - b) A note of concern be sent to the Senior LA officer with responsibility for SACRE.
 - c) The SACRE to hold a note of concern on its records

2021-2022 Budget

Screen Data Export - SACRE (2021-22)

Total allocation
£6220 an
increase of £40

GL Account Codes for : Enquiry Group: Curr Budget (v2) v Act + GRNI/GL Account Code Range: EM1100/***** to EM1100/***** / Enquiry Year: 2020/21

GL Account Code	Description		Current Budget (v2)	Actual + Grni	Actuals	Variance Bud v(Act +GRNI)
EM110010002	Grants/contingency		00000	0.00	0.00	0.00
EM110041008	SACRE Catering Provisions	£63	00000			
EM110044038	SACRE QLS Curriculum Advice	£5,000				
EM110046204	SACRE Conference Fees	£40				
EM110047202	SACRE Subscriptions General	£215				
	SACRE support for REQM	£475				
EM110048342	£6220					

Left £427

Agenda Item 11

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
November 16th 2022
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Current budget 2022-23**

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To advise members of SACRE on the current budget position for 2022-2023.

2 Summary

2.1 A breakdown of the current SACRE budget for the financial year 2022-2023.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report.

4 Background

4.1 A budget had been made available to support the work of SACRE during the financial year 2022-2023 as approved by the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning).

4.2 Please note information on the current budget for 2022-2023

4.3 The 2022-2023 budget will continue to be monitored and clarified.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 Financial implications are indicated in the budget account.

**Contact Officer:
Mary Gale 07816374873**

Screen Data Export - SACRE (2022-23) as at 14-10-2022 Agenda Item 9 £6340 total allocated						
Option	NML400					
Username						
Date						
Time						
GL Account Codes for : Enquiry Group: Curr Budget (v2) v Act + GRNI/GL Account Code Range: EM1100/***** to EM1100/***** / Enquiry Year: 2022/ Period: 00 to 12						
GL Account Code	Description	Current Budget (v2)	Actual + Grni	Actuals	Variance Bud v(Act +GRNI)	
EM110010002	SACRE Teachers Gross	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
EM110025502	SACRE Rent/Lease of Premises	0.00	81.00	81.00	(81.00)	
EM110044038	SACRE QLS Curriculum Advice	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
EM110046204	SACRE Conference Fees	0.00	40.00	40.00	(40.00)	Attendance at the NASACRE Conference
EM110047017	SACRE Grants to third parties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
EM110047202	SACRE Subscriptions General	0.00	105.00	105.00	(105.00)	
EM110048342	SACRE Contingency	6,340.00	0.00	0.00	6,340.00	
EM110064550	SACRE Tfrs to Oth Accounts	(10,080.00)	(10,080.00)	(10,080.00)	0.00	
		(3,740.00)	(9,854.00)	(9,854.00)	6,114.00	
	Total Available before commitments				6,114.00	
	Less committed amounts:					
	7 days for Agreed Syllabus work with MEAS team			3,150.00		
	4 days for AS support and planning			1,800.00		
	Agreed Syllabus Launch ??			1,000.00		

Agenda item 12 November 16th 2022

SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN and Agreed Syllabus PLAN

Staffordshire SACRE								
Chair	Michael Metcalf			Date Range for completion:	June 2021 – November 22			
Commissioned support adviser	Mary Gale							
Self-evaluation:				Self-evaluation:				
Objective	Activities	Time scale	Led by	Success criteria	Evidence	Evaluation Nove 2022	RAG updated Nove 2022	
Page 131	1. New members become familiar with roles and responsibilities	Attendance at 3 annual meeting	July 2021-Summer 2022	Chair and consultant	SACRE members are familiar with roles and responsibilities	Through meetings, knowledge is evidenced of the process	As meeting are convened then new members become familiar with their roles.	Amber ++
	2. SACRE are made aware of current philosophy regarding RE and CW	Update information received at meetings	July 2021-Summer 2022	Chair and consultant	SACRE members are aware of current philosophy regarding RE and CW	Through meetings, knowledge is increased.	This is always an update at each meeting and is ongoing	Amber ++
	3. Review of the Agreed Syllabus -system and processes review	Familiarisation of procedures and processes regarding review. Seek clarification on funding and agreement from SCC to carry out the review.	July 2021	Chair	SACRE members are familiar with procedures and processes regarding review. Funding is identified.	Through meetings, knowledge is evidenced of the process. Budget is monitored	This is underway	G
	4. ASC conference is convened	ASC members confirmed. ASC conference delegates meet and the outcomes minuted x3 Agreement on next steps eg working party identified	July 2021-September 2022	Chair and consultant	ASC members are identified and attend ASC first conference meeting and next steps identified. Working party members identified	Minutes of ASC. Feedback from the working party	These are underway and 2 to date have been held	G

					under Agenda item of November 2021 and Feb and June 2022 SACRE meeting		
5. ASC working party meet	Working party meet in virtual environment and become familiar with current AS and its content	October 2021 Feb 2022 May 2022 June 2022	Chair and consultant	Working party re familiarise itself with content of current 2016 AS	Feedback from the working party under Agenda item of November 2021 February 2022 SACRE meeting. Also May 2022 x2 meetings	Feedback is presented at Feb/June and November 2022 meeting	Green
6. Engagement with stakeholders	Review of opportunities for greater and more effective engagement. Virtual meeting with stakeholders. Survey sent to 300 plus schools.	Autumn Term 2021- Spring 2022	Chair and consultant Chair and consultant. Consultant	Engagement activities - opinion and debate on current AS. Survey results provide information	Feedback minuted under Agenda item of November 2021 and February 2022 and June 2022 meeting Feedback minuted under Agenda item of November 2021 and February 2022 and June 2022 SACRE meeting	On-going	Green
7. Content of current AS reflected upon and modified if appropriate.	Current AS reflected upon and modified if appropriate in light of feedback from stakeholders	Autumn Term 2021- Spring 2022	Chair and consultant.	ASC delegates feel confident in their decisions about modified. Stakeholder's views on modified content sought.	Feedback minuted under Agenda item of November 2021 and February 2022 and June 2022 SACRE meeting	On going	Amber ++++

8. Draft versions of 2022/2023 syllabus produced for scrutiny and agreed on.	ASC	June 2022	Chair and consultant.		Revised 2022/2023 AS is available and completed by graphics department	Future intention	Amber +++
9. Launch of AS -	Launch of AS -schools receive copies of the AS and reassurance on dates of roll out. November 2022- preview of AS to schools in twilight meeting	July 2022 Slippage now for the autumn 2022/Spring 2023	LA with Entrust and members of SACRE		Revised AS is utilised in schools.	Future intention	Amber ***
Impact Summary				Area/s for further development			

Agenda Item 13

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
16th November 2022
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Applications for variation of practice**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider any applications for variation of practice to religious education and or collective worship.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Upon receipt of a written application from a headteacher of a county school SACRE should determine whether it is appropriate to dis-apply the requirement for broadly Christian collective worship and/or make amendments to the way the Agreed Syllabus is followed in the case of that school.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE are updated on any new developments in this area.

4 Background

- 4.1 No applications have been received at this time.

5 Equal Opportunities

- 5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications

Contact Officer:

Mary Gale 07816374873

