

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday 28 June 2023

14:00

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

The meeting will be webcast live and archived for 12 months. It can be viewed at the following link: <https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Tradewell
Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services
20 June 2023

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Welcome to New Members**
3. **Declaration of Any other Business**
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 1 - 8)
5. **Reflection on Difference, Diversity and Inclusion**
A presentation by Hifsa Iqbal
6. **An Update on Key Issues** (Pages 9 - 14)
Report of the Director for Children and Families
7. **NASACRE Update** (Pages 15 - 18)
Report of the Director for Children and Families
8. **RE Hubs** (Pages 19 - 20)
9. **The SACRE Budget 2023-2024** (Pages 21 - 24)
Report of the Director for Children and Families

10. Development Plan 2023-24

(Pages 25 - 28)

Report of the Director for Children and Families

11. Applications for variation of practice

(Pages 29 - 30)

Report of the Director for Children and Families

12. Dates of next meetings

- 15th November 2023
- 7th February 2024
- 26th June 2024

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
Sam Phillips	Mike Wilcox
Lauren Nicholson Ward	Ian Horsewell
Judy Wyman	Kath Perry, MBE
Gabi Oldfield	Paul Snape

Notes for Members of the Press and Public

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MINUTES

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting - 1 February 2023

Present: **Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf**

Judy Wyman, Gabi Oldfield, Shaun Miles, Philip Atkins, OBE, Paul Northcott, Mike Wilcox, Paul Snape and Amy Bayliss-Fox

Also in attendance - Mary Gale and Simon Humble

146. Apologies

Apologies were received Linda Goodwin, Julie Thompson, Sam Kirwan, Sam Phillips, Lauren Nicholson Ward, Vickie Longson, Maddy Belle, Zoe Cahalan, Vicky Priestley, Ian Horsewell, Kath Perry, MBE and Claire Tomlinson

147. Welcome to New Members (if any)

There were no new members to welcome.

148. Declaration of Any Other Business

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

149. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 16 November 2022

It was noted that the acronym SACRE had been misspelt as SCARE on two occasions. The amendment was made on the formal minutes prior to them being signed by the Chair.

Resolved: That the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 16 November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.

150. Matters arising of minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022

A copy of the "Vision and Aims" page from the Agreed Syllabus was shared with SACRE members for comment. This had been updated following discussions at the SACRE meeting held in November 2022. No comments were made.

Agenda item 137 – Update on RE Quality Mark application. In response to a request for additional information relating to the Religious Education (RE) Quality Mark, it was explained that the RE Quality Mark acknowledged and celebrated outstanding RE being taught in Schools. Schools can apply to put themselves forward to be officially assessed to determine how well they delivered Religious Education over all age groups. Following the assessment Schools can be awarded a bronze, silver or gold award.

Agenda item 137 – Standards. In response to a question whether an updated figure for children sitting Religious Studies (RS) exams in Staffordshire had been provided, it was confirmed that the figure was still being chased.

In response to a question asking if the statistics shown included Catholic Schools, it was confirmed that the data provided included all schools.

Agenda item 137 – National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) Update. In response to a query relating to the location of the Regional Hubs, it was confirmed that they were still being set-up as per the NASACRE briefing. The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) hub meetings continued to take place online.

In response to a question asking if teachers of AS and A level RE were all specialist, it was confirmed that it was difficult to appoint specialist RE teachers. In many cases, Humanities teachers were employed with transferable knowledge which allowed them to deliver RE lessons.

151. An Update on Key Issues

Advisor

It was highlighted that the current tenure of the RE advisor to SACRE was ending on the 31 March 23. At this stage it was unclear if the contract was to continue. Given the additional work that was required to support the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus for RE Councillor Snape offered to contact the relevant Cabinet Member and Senior Officer on behalf of the SACRE to ask for some clarity on the commission.

Continuous Professional Development

SACRE heard that Entrust commissioned the SACRE advisor to run a face-to-face autumn course which took place on 22 November 2022 and was attended by 20 schools. The course concentrated on a summary of the forthcoming revisions to the Agreed Syllabus and resources and ideas for effective RE. More courses were to be planned once the Agreed Syllabus was launched.

Governors received an update on RE in Staffordshire via the Spring 2023 Governor Information Pack. This included the status of the Agreed Syllabus and the process for the review. This information reached 300 plus schools and over 200 leaders, including governance professionals from a variety of schools - both maintained and academy.

The SACRE Advisor attended virtual meetings of the West Midlands Association of Religious Education Inspectors and Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) and a local National association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) online meeting. The next meetings were due to take place on the 6 and 14 March 2023.

The SACRE Advisor attended a Church of England (CofE) conference on 27 January 2023, this was the 5th CofE National conference. The title of the conference was Flourishing Together. The keynote speakers included Rt Hon Gillian Keegan - the Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon The Lord Boateng, Dame Rachel de Souza - the Children's Commissioner for England and the Most Rev Stephen Cottrell. There were also a variety of workshops from serving teachers as well as recognised leading educational speakers. The overall message for delegates was that in order for young

people to flourish in modern Britain they needed an education that championed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, alongside high quality Religious Education/Studies. The conference confirmed that the outcomes that SACRE had strived to achieve through the delivery of the revised Agreed Syllabus championed all of the above.

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

Members were reminded that SACRE had funded the Westhill Legacy projects from the 2022-2023 budget through commissioning the Entrust Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS) to deliver workshops in conjunction with YouthNet. There was an initial delay in the release of money from the SACRE budget, but this had been rectified and two dates, one in February at Springhead Primary at Talke Pits and another in March 23 at Ravensmead Primary at Bignall End had been arranged. Confirmation is expected of a date to support Baldwins Gate CE VC Primary school. Seven additional schools in the Newcastle area had been contacted and responses were still expected.

Workforce data

SACRE was reminded that, as part of the census for November 2021, Schools were expected to report the number of hours spent teaching each subject to the DfE.

It was noted that many schools in Staffordshire recorded that they did not allocate any time to teaching RE or RS.

The Schools were contacted, and in some cases visited, by the SACRE Advisor. It transpired that the issue was not always with the teaching of RE/RS, but with the completion of the census forms. It was noted that, in some cases, the census return was not a true account of the number of hours being allocated to the teaching of RE/RS. The SACRE Advisor would continue to work on this project as time and resources allowed. It was anticipated that the next census return would show an improved figure.

Freedom of Information Request

SACRE were informed that a Freedom of Information (FOI) request was received from NASACRE on 10 January 2023. This focussed on SACRE funding and requested specific details relating to the level of funding received, where the funding had been allocated from and where the funding had been spent. There were also some questions relating to membership, the number of meetings that had been held and how many of the meetings were quorate. The response was collated and returned to NASACRE on the 12 January 2023.

RE Quality Mark application - St Luke's Primary School Cannock

SACRE were informed that St Luke's Primary School in Cannock were in the final stages of submitting an application for the RE quality mark. The RE lead was working through the requirements of collecting evidence for the assessment.

Resolved: a. That the report and updates be noted.

b. That it be noted that Councillor Snape would contact the relevant Cabinet Member and Senior Officer on behalf of the SACRE to ask for some clarity on the commission of the RE Advisor.

152. NASACRE Update

The Chair referred to a SACRE briefing that had been received from NASACRE. It was agreed that the briefing would be shared with SACRE members following the meeting.

NASACRE Conference

The SACRE heard that NASACRE would be celebrating its 30th Anniversary at the Annual Conference, to be held on the 22 May 23 at the Fishmongers' Hall in London. The conference would focus on "SACREs for the Future".

The conference would be followed by several workshops that would be held between Monday 5 and Thursday 15 June 23.

Currently there were two spaces available for each SACRE. The Chair would be attending to represent Staffordshire SACRE, but one space was still available. It was agreed that if any SACRE member wished to attend the conference, they would contact the SACRE Clerk.

NASACRE Elections

Elections would take place at the conference to appoint a Vice Chair, and 5 Executive members. This provided an opportunity for SACRE members to offer to contribute their skills and experience to the work of NASACRE if they wished to do so. Each SACRE were able to nominate up to 2 candidates for election.

30-Year Celebration

To mark the 30-year celebration, every SACRE throughout the country was being asked to send in any relevant photographs they hold, which would be used to create a presentation that would be shown at the conference.

NASACRE Awards

As part of the celebrations NASACRE would like to recognise SACRE members who had played a special part in the life of a SACRE over the last 30 years. Nominations (and their reason for being selected) were invited from SACRE's of members, past and present, under the two following categories:

- Most active SACRE member
- A SACRE member who has made a significant impact in your area

White Paper

Members were reminded of the Education Development White Paper that had been issued in 2022, which led to a Schools Bill that was brought before Parliament. It was noted that the government had decided to not proceed with the Schools Bill.

DfE officials suggested that the intention of Government remained that all schools would be part of a Multi-Academy Trust by 2030. Paul Smalley had written an academic journal article that suggested the way in which SACREs would function in the future if the Government's ambitions were fulfilled.

Resolved: a. That the update be noted.

b. That the NASACRE briefing email be shared with SACRE members.

153. Agreed Syllabus update and launch information

SACRE Members were reminded that the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus was last reviewed and issued to schools in 2016. A review process had taken place throughout 2021 and 2022 with the final draft of the AS being accepted by SACRE at the November 2022 SACRE meeting. The agreed version was submitted to Staffordshire County Council (SCC) for approval via the delegated decision process in January 2023. It was confirmed that the Agreed Syllabus was going through the delegated decision process in advance of final approval by the Cabinet Member for Education (SEND). It was explained that, should any queries or questions be raised, there could be a need for the Agreed Syllabus Conference to reconvene to consider them.

The launch of the syllabus had been arranged for Monday 27 February 2023 commencing at 2pm. Entrust had informed schools of the launch event and 78 schools had confirmed that they would attend the launch event.

SACRE were asked what they would like to see included at the launch event. The following comments were made:

- Keynote speech from the Chair and Cabinet Member for Education (SEND).
- Diversity of representative faiths.
- Pupil participation – in person or pre-recorded to be shared as part of a presentation.
- Some evidence of the Westhill Legacy Project – through the MEAS team.

A further discussion took place as to the best way to provide attendees with a copy of the Agreed Syllabus. It was agreed that attendees would receive an electronic copy on a memory stick that would be distributed at the event. It was also agreed that some "paper" copies would be made available for attendees to browse. After the launch event the Agreed Syllabus would be made available to schools via the "ebag" and also via the SACRE webpage on the SCC website.

SACRE Members were asked to inform the SACRE advisor or clerk as to whether they planned to attend the launch event.

Resolved: a. That the update be noted.

b. That Councillor Price be invited to attend the launch event and give a speech.

c. That it be noted that attendees were to be provided with an electronic copy of the Agreed Syllabus.

d. That SACRE Members inform the SACRE advisor or clerk of their intentions to attend the launch event.

154. Reflection on Religion and the 2021 census

SACRE were provided with an update of the statistics relating to religion from the 2021 census. The following figures were discussed:

- The most common response to the religion question in England and Wales was "Christian" (46.2% of the overall population, 27.5 million people). This was the most common religious group in both England (46.3%) and in Wales (43.6%).
- The number of people who described themselves as "Christian" had decreased to less than half the population for the first time. This was a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% in 2011 (33.3 million people) and continued the decrease since 2001, when 71.7% (37.3 million) described themselves as "Christian".
- This coincided with an increase in the number of people reporting "No religion" to 37.2% (22.2 million) in 2021 from 25.2% (14.1 million) in 2011.

It was suggested that there were a number of factors that may contribute to the changing religious composition. These included differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to answer the religion question between censuses.

Resolved: a. That the update be noted.

155. Resources to support RE

A number of resources that would support the teaching of RE lessons, particularly after the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, were shared with SACRE. This information would also be shared with at the Agreed Syllabus launch event.

- **Big ideas** – web-based curriculum for religious education
- **Culham St. Gabriel's E-learning Platform** – charity which provides grants to schools to support them in building up resource banks.
- **RE Today and National Association Teachers of Religious Education** – providers of free online resources to schools

- **Early Years resources** – Free curriculum support documents and published resources written by Gill Vaisey, an independent adviser on religion and worldviews specialising in RE for 3 – 7 year olds.
- **Bible stories to support the teaching of Christianity** – Free PowerPoint presentations for ten of the main Bible stories prepared for schools to use.
- **BBC Bitesize** – Religion Road 20 short films from BBC for RE, embedded into Bitesize
- **Oak Academy** – created the first online lesson for any subject related to RE. Free access to initial starter lessons for any subject related to RE

Resolved: a. That the update be noted.

156. The SACRE Budget 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

Members were informed that, of the budget of £6,004.00 that was currently available to the SACRE, the following commitments had been made from the SACRE annual allowance:

- 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

Resolved: That the SACRE Budget 2022-2023 be noted.

157. Development Plan 2023-24

The Development Plan was presented to the SACRE. The SACRE advisor explained the objectives, activities, and the RAG rating which estimated the success of each objective. It was noted that the majority of actions were now green, with a couple of outstanding actions marked amber. One of these actions related to the launch of the Agreed Syllabus, which would change following the launch event.

It was agreed that a workshop discussion would take place at the next meeting to determine new actions for the 2023 / 2024 timeframe.

Resolved: a. That the Development Plan be noted.

b. That it be noted that a workshop meeting be arranged to take place at the next meeting to determine new actions for the 2023/24 timeframe.

158. Applications for variation of practice

There were no applications made on this occasion.

159. Dates of next meetings

Dates of next meetings - All meetings commence at 2:00pm unless otherwise stated.

- 28 June 2023
- 15 November 2023

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

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
28th June 2023
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 spring 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 07816 374873

Key Issues Report

i) Advisor

Mary Gale for several years has been commissioned by SCC through its trading arm called ENTRUST to support the Staffordshire SACRE which has included the revision of the Agreed Syllabus.

This commission was reviewed for the financial year 2023-2024 for the commission to start on April 1st, 2023. Entrust and SCC indicated their wish for this commission to continue. Mary Gale has agreed to this and is offering ongoing support to schools and SACRE

ii) RE Agreed Syllabus (AS) Launch

On the afternoon of February 27th, 2023, the revised Staffordshire RE Agreed Syllabus was launched at the Entrust headquarters in Stafford. The launch was a free event. It was well attended with over 120 schools represented. SACRE members, Headteachers, RE leads, Trustees, CEOs and SCC representatives were present at the event.

We were very grateful to those who managed to give up their valuable time to attend the event and support. Sean Miles, a member of our SACRE and Headteacher from St Luks's CE VC Primary school in Cannock, brought along his choir to sing to open the event- this was well received and set the scene for the launch. There were keynote speeches from Tim Moss, the SCC Assistant Director for Education Strategy & Improvement, and our chair Preb. Michael Metcalf. A letter of support was read out from Councillor Price, who was unable to attend. In addition, the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS) gave a summary presentation of their contribution regarding the workshops connected with the AS.

A practising teacher (Fay Cox) from a middle school gave a presentation on how her school will be addressing the requirements of the revised AS.

In addition, Mary Gale demonstrated the main changes of the AS and the statutory requirements from September 2023.

Delegates received a 'goody bag' which included a copy of the revised syllabus to take away with them- either a paper copy or a digital copy on a memory stick along with publication information from various RE associations.

The feedback after the event was extremely positive. Many schools requested additional information, including additional examples of planning for the spring and summer terms. This was provided in draft format on request.

Special schools were complimentary about the information provided for them. Such was their interest that this resulted in face-to-face visits to provide extra support from Mary Gale. Additional visits of this nature will continue throughout the summer term. A webinar presentation was also provided on Ofsted requirements for Special schools which included RE aspects.

Mary has also provided similar information, which was presented at the lunch, at the local National Association Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) virtual meetings, thus supporting those who were unable to attend the launch. Again, this was a free virtual meeting.

Schools will be reminded once again of the need- if a statutory requirement- to follow the AS from this September onwards. This information will be provided via the headteacher's e- bag and via the autumn term Governor Information Pack.

This information will be provided by Mary ready for September.

iii) 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 how to implement the revised Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus from September 2023

Planning support is needed most. Mary has revised much of the planning to support schools including planning for special schools and middle schools for learners in KS 3.

Entrust commissioned Mary Gale to run a face-to-face early summer course in June 2023 at Entrust. Four schools only booked onto this course. The course therefore was cancelled. Mary also provided support for schools who wish to carry out RE focus day, providing hints and tips and a schedule for the day. Some of this advice included (if funds allow) a visit to the Open Centre-Faith Trail in Derby. Two schools followed this advice and reported that this had been an inspirational focus visit day and suited learners of all ages. For those schools who could not afford a visit to Derby, they arranged for speakers from The Open Centre to visit them to support learning. This was more cost effective.

Governors and Trustees received information on RE in the summer 2023 Governor Information Pack (GIP) this included the status of the Agreed Syllabus. They have been encouraged to continue to work in their link governor roles to discuss the forthcoming revised Agreed Syllabus implementation. This information reached 300 plus schools and over 200 leaders, including governance professionals from a variety of schools- both maintained and academies. This information was presented through webinars led by Mary and a face-to-face meeting at the training centre at the Entrust offices. This information was well received once again.

This support will continue into the autumn term as Mary has been asked once again to produce the GIP general compliance document.

Mary attended virtual meetings of the West Midlands Association of Religious Education Inspectors and Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) and a local National association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) online meeting on 6th and 14th March 2023 and recently on 12th June 2023.

Discussions centred around resources, the national plan for RE and the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus.

Mary attended the NASACRE conference with the Chair in May 2023- see agenda item 7 for a report on this.

iv) Westhill Legacy project- Explore, Engage, Reflect (EER) in conjunction with Youth Net.

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

The dates for the Spring term 2023 included:

- Monday 6th Feb at Springhead Primary at Talks Pitts
- Monday 6th March at Ravensmead at Bignall End
- Wednesday April 27th 2023 St Mary's Mucklestone
- Tuesday April 16th Walton Priory Middle school Stone

We are waiting for the date to support Baldwins Gate CE VC Primary school.

Seven additional schools in the Newcastle area have been contacted and we are awaiting their replies.

Mary attended the workshops on April 27th at St Mary's Mucklestone and spoke to learners and staff and governors. They all agreed that workshops such as these had a positive impact on all. The learners were already very aware of RE associated with Christianity and were able therefore to ask insightful questions regarding Islam and what it means to be a Muslim in Britain this century.

Here is a flavour of the feedback received.

- *Very interesting content, well delivered.*
- *Children highly engaged and provoked good questioning.*
- *Just the right amount of content for session length.*
- *Older children could relate to the session by recalling previous learning.*
- *Excellent behaviour management and good quality resources.*

Children's feedback - Explore, Engage, Reflect 2023

Springhead Primary 6.2.2023 Y3/4	Christianity	Islam
We learnt:	God is alive Christian prayer Variants of the bible God is three in one Christians pray in the church	Pray 5 times Go round the Ka'ba 7 times Allah is God's name They pray on a mat Prayer movements Wear the ihram (two whit sheets) Pillar names
We enjoyed:	Learning new things about both Learnt lots of different information about both religions	Azan in baby's ear Liked moving around to learn Different activities Dressing up in Eid clothes
Hugo Meynall Primary School		
Feedback from year 5: Lady in Black	Really enjoyed it. Interesting to learn about the religion and culture. Really good as it linked to our RE topic and it helped to develop our understanding. Interesting to look at Muslim clothing and to experience wearing it too.	

	Really fun, learning more about Mohammed and Muslims. Got to learn extra things that we haven't learned about in RE. Good to experience other cultures that are not in Loggerheads. Really good to be able to ask questions and have answers without worrying if we would offend anyone.	
Knypersley First 13.4.2023 Year 3 Islam Exhibition only	<p>Firstly, a big thank you for visiting on Monday morning this week, the children really enjoyed it.</p> <p>The children were able to remember lots of facts about The Five Pillars, the most important parts for them was being able to use the prayer mats and copy the actions leading into prayer. The girls liked being able to cover their hair with a scarf.</p> <p>The children were given time to ask lots of questions and were answered honestly. The comparison between Islam and Christianity was continuously referred to and the children benefitted from this, thank you.</p> <p>Many thanks Mrs Beckett and class 6</p>	
Hassell Primary 28.2.2023 Islam Exhibition only Year 5 Enjoyed	Christianity	Islam
Learnt Year 6 Enjoyed		<p>Going round the Ka'ba the children enjoyed the session Deciding on who to support with charity Choosing which food to eat after a fasting day</p> <p>Lots! Fasting Zakah to help the poor Prayer God exists Enjoyed the session Learning about Islam <i>A Muslim boy said 'It was nice to meet someone who understood me!'</i></p>
Learnt		<p>How to pray Preparation for prayer Learnt lots about the religion</p>
Ravensmead Primary 6.3.2023 Y3 Learnt and enjoyed		<p>Lots of new things Belief in one God Going round the Ka'ba 7 times Ka'ba has nothing inside They wear two white sheets Special movements Pray 5 times Women can wear any colour No food until it's dark Give 25p to charity</p>
Y4 Learnt lots and enjoyed	<p>Water on the head Bible in Welsh Soldiers have a small bible Give money to charity Bread and wine Jesus God and holy spirit</p>	<p>Ka'ba 7 times Prayer preparation Men wear white Read Qur'an in Ramadan Ka'ba and closeness to Allah Ka'ba is big Fast for 30 days</p>

v) Continuation of the project

Mary has a meeting with the CEO- Kathryn Wright on 21st June 2023 of Culham St Gabriel- which is an endowed charitable foundation. They provide grants for projects such as the above. The meeting will explore further grant support and the application process. Watch this space.

vi) Update on St Chad's Pattingham application for the RE quality Mark

In 2020 the school received a grant from this SACRE to pay for the award.

Due to COVID-19 this application for the RE Quality Mark was delayed and became an online application. This is the recent information from the school, it bodes well for a positive outcome and I would hope to invite a member of staff to the November 2023 meeting to share their experiences with us. Email extract.

I hope you are well. I know that this seems to have taken forever but just to let you know we are having our REQM assessment on June 21st. It has been a challenging task getting everything together with everything else that has been going on. Jen wanted everything ready before she requested the date.

You may already know, but we had our SIAMS inspection last term, by some turn of fate on the day of the 1st anniversary of my Dad passing away (someone was trying to keep me busy). Delighted to say we are an excellent school. The inspector was blown away - very, very proud. Thank you for your support with all these aspects.

vii) Request for support for RE resources from Flash Ley Primary School Stafford. Possible £200 support from the 2023-24 budget

Good afternoon Mary,

I hope this email finds you well.

I would firstly just like to show my appreciation to you and the other members of SACRE for the informative and extremely helpful presentation which I attended recently for the launch of the revised religious education syllabus. I was able to leave feeling much more confident in my delivery of the subject and the information you have provided in the syllabus is going to support me greatly to ensure my planning is not just progressive for the children but also for other members of staff. After having a look at the new planning, I have come up with lots of ideas that will ensure the children are engaged and they are able to learn through fun and discovery however as a school without a budget for RE I was wondering if I may be able to ask for some support with this matter, please? I am not sure if this is something you may be able to help with, however, I am looking for some resources which can be used in lessons that will support learning. I would be incredibly grateful if you have anything you could spare, from old books you may not use to artefacts and anything in-between!

If you are able to help in any way, I would be more than happy to keep you informed of how and when the resources are used.

Thank you again for your support. Taryn Sargeant RE Lead at Flash Ley.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
28th June 2023
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. The chair and the adviser attended a National conference on May 22nd 2023, at Fishmongers Hall London. This was the first face to face conference since COVID-19. This was the 30th anniversary conference. There were award ceremonies for those who have made contributions to SACRES over the years. Our chair was nominated for an award. See Nomination.

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

The programme included the following:-

- 10:30 Arrival and registration, refreshments and display space
- 11:00 Welcome and introductions - Linda Rudge (Chair of NASACRE)
- 11:15 **Keynote Address 1: An education in religion and worldviews - the next 30 years? Dr Kathryn Wright**
Kathryn is the Chief Executive of [Culham St Gabriel's Trust](#), an endowed charitable foundation whose vision is for a broad-based, critical reflective education in religion and worldviews contributing to a well-informed, respectful and open society. Kathryn leads the strategic direction of the Trust.
- 11:35 Table discussions on keynote 1
- 11:50 Break
- 12:10 **Keynote Address 2: The role of SACREs in the emerging educational landscape. Our Patron, Rt Hon Charles Clarke**
Charles holds Visiting Professorships at Lancaster University and Kings College London. In 2015 he co-wrote, with Professor Linda Woodhead, "A New Settlement, Religion and Belief in Schools".
- 12:30 Table discussions on keynote 2
- 12:45 Introduce nominees for elections (notified by 5 pm, Friday 12 May 2023)
- 13:00 LUNCH - *there is a space available for prayer during lunchtime.*
Voting for elections
- 13:45 Westhill Awards Winners announcement
- 13:55 National analysis of SACRE annual reports: **Dr David Hampshire**
A former Assistant Director at the Inter Faith Network for the UK and ex-Chair of NASACRE, David is currently the Senior Policy Adviser for Historic Places of Worship at Historic England. This is the second year running that David has analysed the data from the SACRE annual reports and he will be presenting his findings.
- 14:15 Table discussions and questions to speakers
- 14:30 30 years Celebration
- SACRE 30 years Quiz
- SACRE Awards- see below for nomination information
- 14:55 Business Meeting
- 15:20 Closing remarks - Chair
- 15:30 Close

Nomination for Preb Michael Metcalf- Staffordshire SACRE- nomination by Mary Gale RE adviser to Staffordshire SACRE



Dear Nomination Committee,

I am honoured to nominate Preb Michael Metcalf for the following award

- *A SACRE member who has made a significant impact in your area.*

The reasons for this are many.

Potted History

Michael is a retired Anglican priest previously serving as a vicar and rural dean; Diocesan Director of Education; Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies and RE and OU Tutor. Michael has an MA in Maths and Theology from Cambridge and an MA from Birmingham in research in modern church music. He is a founder member and treasurer since 1993 of the National Association of SACREs.

Reasons for nomination

As a longstanding member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, Prebendary Michael Metcalf has played an instrumental role in the promotion of RE education in the region since SACREs were set up after the 1988 Education Act, when Religious Education (RE) was confirmed as a compulsory part of the curriculum and it became a statutory requirement for every Local Authority (LA) to appoint a SACRE. He has represented the Diocese of Lichfield on Staffordshire SACRE to the current day, with a short break in the middle years. In 2002 he was nominated as Chair of SACRE by Committee A. He was duly elected and has remained in that position to this day.

Throughout his tenure, Michael has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to improving the quality of RE education for students across Staffordshire. He has worked tirelessly to promote inclusivity and diversity ensuring that all have access to a well-rounded education that respects and celebrates the beliefs and cultures of all faiths. In addition, he has worked on the National SACRE body since 1993 supporting developments nationwide- his influence is far reaching. He has only recently retired from this elected post.

Under Michael's leadership, the Staffordshire SACRE has developed innovative programs and initiatives that have helped to raise standards and improve outcomes for students. He has worked closely with teachers, educators, advisers and inspectors (including Paul Bellingham, Heather Farr, Emma Jardine Phillips and for the past 8 years with Mary Gale) across the region to provide guidance, support, and commissioned training, guiding all to develop the skills and knowledge needed to deliver effective RE education. We are particularly proud of his support for the Staffordshire SACRE **Explore, Engage**

and Reflect project- a legacy project from the 2017 Westhill grant, which continues in Staffordshire schools to this day.

Michael's contributions have not gone unnoticed. He is widely respected and admired in Staffordshire and throughout the Lichfield Diocese by his fellow colleagues and members of SACRE, who have praised his dedication, passion, and expertise. His ability to engage in intellectual debate has been a source of inspiration and motivation for countless stakeholders. His life experiences are a major factor in his ability to guide and support those working in the RE field. His impact on education especially on RE in Staffordshire and the Lichfield Diocese is immeasurable. His contribution towards the writing of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus over the years has been considerable, especially the writing of the very recent 2023 revised syllabus. This was launched in February 2023.

In recognition of his exceptional contribution, I wholeheartedly recommend Preb. Michael Metcalf for this award.

He is a deserving candidate who has had a positive impact on generations of students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Gale Adviser to Staffordshire SACRE and Governance Professional Nationwide

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
28th June 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
RE HUBS**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present SACRE members with information about National RE Hubs

2 Summary

- 2.1 RE Hubs have recently been set up to support RE nationwide- there is a Hub for the West Midlands

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE receive the information and if they wish to add information or offer suggestions to inform Mary Gale and she will send them onto the West Midlands representative.

4 Background

- 4.1 RE Hubs have been discussed for a number of years. These now have been established after much research and discussion.

7 Equal Opportunities

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

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 None

RE Hubs SACRE members were emailed the following information.

Please forward via email the link below of a 2-minute clip to introduce the RE Hubs website site to SACRE members or you may wish to play this to members at a forthcoming SACRE meeting if you have one this Summer term.

From Monday 5th June the website www.re-hubs.uk is live.

[Explore RE in your Region](http://www.re-hubs.uk)

RE Hubs is a one-stop shop for teachers and professionals of RE/RVE/R&W to find high-quality resources and support in your local area.

www.re-hubs.uk

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LB-wpGygitNuXOtzoZ3oripUOU-6c0xu/view?usp=sharing>

We would welcome any suggestions from SACRE members, they should come back to me at this email.

From: West Midlands <westmidlands@re-hubs.uk>

Kind regards,

Chris Giles (West Midlands Hub Leader)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
28th June 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Previous budget 2022-23 and Current budget 2023-24

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise members of SACRE on the current budget position for 2023-2024 and provide information on previous 2022-2023 budget.

2 Summary

- 2.1 A breakdown of the current SACRE budget for the financial year 2023-2024 and the previous budget of 2022-2023 are included at

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 2023-2024 as approved by the Local Authority.

- 4.2 Please note information on the budgets.

- 4.3 The 2023-2024 budget will continue to be monitored

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

Previous SACRE BUDGET	2022-2023			Agenda 9	
Date	09/06/2023				
<u>GL Account Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Bud v (Act +Com)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
EM110010002	SACRE Teachers Gross	0	0	0	
EM110025502	SACRE Rent / Lease Of Premises	0	521	521	Supp. launch of Agreed SACRE Syllabus 27.2 (£250). Hire of conference hall (£190) Agreed Syllabus Working Party (£81).
EM110041008	SACRE Catering Provisions	0	124	124	Refreshments for SACRE hire
EM110044316	SACRE CONSULTANT FEES	0	420	420	Facilitating the launch of the agreed syllabus
EM110046204	SACRE Conference Fees	0	280	280	Attendance at the NASACRE Conference
EM110047202	SACRE Subscriptions General	0	215	215	NASACRE Annual Subscription 22-23 (£105) Professional NATRE Membership (£110)
EM110048342	SACRE Contingency	6,340	0	(6,340)	
EM110064550	SACRE Tfrs to Oth Accounts	(10,080)	(10,080)	0	ESG Retained Duties recharge
		(3,740)	(8,520)	(4,780)	

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Current SACRE BUDGET 2023-24 STB		Increase	of	£250		
Date	09/06/2023					
GL Account Codes for : Enquiry Group: Current Budget(V2) v Act + Com/GL Account Code Range: EM1100/***** to EM1100/***** / Enquiry Year: 2023/ Period: 00 to 12						
<u>GL Account Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Budget (v2)</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actuals + GRNI + Commitments</u>	<u>Variance Bud v (Act +Com)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
EM110044316	SACRE Fee MG	0	420	420	420	Attendance at the NASACRE Conference
EM110048342	SACRE Contingency	6,590	0	0	(6,590)	
		6,590	420	420	(6,170)	

Funds need to be made available to the MEAS team to run the workshops, approximately £500 per day x 8=£4,000= 16 workshops. Possible £200 for Flash Ley

Support for schools for planning 4 X £450= £1800.

SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN and Agreed Syllabus PLAN

Staffordshire SACRE							
Chair	Michael Metcalf			Date Range for completion:	June 2021 – June 2023		
Commissioned support adviser	Mary Gale						
Self-evaluation:				Self-evaluation:			
Objective	Activities	Time scale	Led by	Success criteria	Evidence	Evaluation 2022-2023	RAG updated Nov 2022
1. New members become familiar with roles and responsibilities	Attendance at 3 annual meeting	July 2021-Summer 2023	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.	Green improved
SACRE are made aware of current philosophy regarding RE and CW and resources	Update information received at meetings	July 2021-Summer 2023	Chair and consultant	SACRE members are aware of current philosophy regarding RE and CW and resources to assist.	Through meetings, knowledge is increased.	This is always an update at each meeting and is ongoing	Green improved
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-Summer 2023	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	Green improved
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-Autumn 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 under Agenda item of November 2021 and Feb and June 2022 SACRE meeting	These are underway and 3 to date have been held	Green improved

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 November 2022 December 2022 Spring 2023	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 and subsequent meetings in November 2022 and Dec 2022	Feedback is presented at Feb/June and November 2022 meeting	Green improved
Page 26 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 and autumn 2022-Spring 2023	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 June 2022 and November 2022 SACRE meeting	On-going	Green improved
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 through to Spring 2023	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 - though to Spring 2023 and summer 2023 SACRE meeting	On going	Green improved

8. Draft versions of 2022/2023 syllabus produced for scrutiny and agreed on.	ASC	June 2022- Spring 2023	Chair and consultant.		Revised 2022/2023 AS is available and completed by graphics department	Future intention	Green improved
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. Launch date February 27 th 2023	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	Green Improved
<p>Page 22</p> <p>Impact Summary</p> <p>Schools report that they have received sufficient information to enable them to deliver the AS from September 2023.</p> <p>Schools, including Trustees and Governors report they are more conversant with the compliance aspects regarding the delivery of RE.</p>				<p>Area/s for further development From September 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information from school leaders in person regarding RE in their schools- guest speakers to attend from November 2023 onwards. • Provide further example planning and resources for schools. • Provide a vehicle to celebrate RE in schools- eg Spirited Arts competition. • Provide new members of SACRE with basic information on their roles. • Update SACRE members on current developments in RE • Monitor delivery of the Agreed Syllabus • Resume monitoring of Collective Worship and report to SACRE • Monitor GCSE and A level results • Succession planning 			

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
28th June 202
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

