

SACRE Committee Meeting  
20 June 2024 – 6pm to 7.30pm  
Telford College  
Minutes

*The attendance list can be found [here](#)*

<b>1. Welcome and Introduction</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair, Jacquie Osmund Smith (JOS), welcomed SACRE members to the meeting, including two colleagues who joined the meeting online via Microsoft Teams.</li> <li>• JOS particularly welcomed new members – Kully Chahal, and Geet Dhillon (online), from Siri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Gurdwara and Suky Kaur from the NATRE Executive (and Haberdashers' Adams).</li> </ul>
<b>2. Minutes of the last meeting (1 Feb 2024)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of our last meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Matters arising</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development of a QA Proposal:</b> RC reported that some work had commenced but there were still some significant gaps, including a section on Collection Worship; the item was returned to under agenda item 5.</li> <li>• <b>RE examination results 2022-23:</b> RC explained there is still no data available to present to SACRE; however the intention now is to contact schools after the current exam cycle to request the last three years of RE examination results and to then examine the trends. RC should hopefully be able to present this data at the next meeting. It was noted that only Haberdashers' Adams offer a level 5 RE qualification now.</li> <li>• <b>RE Hubs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ JOS expressed a need to explore SACRE's relationship with NATRE going forward, but SK's membership of T&amp;W SACRE will support this.</li> <li>○ <a href="#">RE Hubs</a> is a recently developed 'one stop shop' website for RE teachers, which includes places of interest, a calendar of events, national speakers who schools can invite in and a range of resources. JR shared a brief overview. It was noted that the website is in its infancy and that T&amp;W SACRE needs to promote its use to local users and encourage places of interest to register.</li> <li>○ JR has registered the local primary RE Teachers' Network with NATRE and uses their resources at meetings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Visits to places of worship</b> – a general discussion took place, which also included the <b>teaching or RE</b> and the agreed <b>RE Syllabus</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The cost of transport is currently prohibitive</li> <li>○ Virtual tours are not felt to be as effective as face to face visits</li> <li>○ JOS commented that the Inter-faith forum organise visits in Wolverhampton, which might be a consideration in Telford</li> <li>○ KC commented that 1500 primary age children have visited the new Gurdwara so far and thoughts are currently being given to engaging with secondary schools. The schools organise the transport and the Gurdwara offers a tour, including a short</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

session in the prayer hall, with lunch / snacks provided. Visits tend to be made by either a year group or a class, with some repeat visits noted. The Gurdwara also offers an outreach service, giving class and assembly talks. The Gurdwara has two education leads, whose role is to facilitate visits.

- Curriculum time for RE is an issue. The group agreed a need to look at the depth of learning in the syllabus review.
- In many settings RE is delivered by non-RE specialists. It is hoped that the agreed syllabus will provide units of work, which support non-specialists in teaching RE.
- Faith schools generally don't teach comparative religion and don't necessarily follow the agreed syllabus.
- It was noted that the RE syllabus in Telford is very different to that of Shropshire; however, it was also acknowledged that the context is very different. In addition Shropshire Council buys into a generic syllabus / programme of work.
- **References to RE and equality / diversity in Ofsted reports to be shared with SACRE:** RC is currently analysing Ofsted inspection reports to look for any comments relating to RE in the broadest sense, which can then inform SACRE's sampling going forward. MH agreed to perform a similar process with SIAMS reports. Similarly, CM picks up themes from Catholic inspection reports. JR stated that there is a general correlation between positive comments in Ofsted reports and membership of the Primary RE Coordinators Network.
- **Production of a list of schools and denominations:** RC stated that this has now been completed.

#### **Action**

- *JOS will prepare a communication which can be circulated to all faith organisations or places of worship to alert them to the existence of the RE Hubs and encourage them to register (registration is free of charge).*
- *Clerk, SD will prepare an article for the Education Noticeboard in the Autumn Term, when hopefully some faith organisations and places of worship have registered on the RE Hubs site.*
- *RC will send MH a list of faith schools.*
- *MH will analyse SIAMS reports for any comments relating to RE (in its broadest sense).*

#### **4. NASACRE Conference 20 May 2024 – Feedback**

- T&W SACRE was represented at the Annual NASACRE Conference by SDh and SY, who both found the event very valuable.
- SY gave some brief feedback and also provided a summary produced by NASACRE (circulated with these minutes).
  - In order to support RE and 'collective worship', SACREs need to be up to date with national developments, well-versed in legislation, but willing to seek advice from their local authority, engaged in education for their own members and for wider local authority groups, and able to manage the administration of a committee-style Council staffed principally by volunteers.
  - Individual members of SACREs need to be confident in communicating responses to debates and decisions from their own religious or other worldview.
  - OFSTED's recent report highlighted the lack of depth of the content taught in schools. It also highlighted the lack of subject specific subject training for school and RE teachers.
  - SACREs need to actively liaise with schools, and promote initiatives and activities, rather than waiting for schools to engage with them.

- NASACRE is seeking to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
- The Children’s Commissioner, Dame Rachel’s short virtual input to the NASACRE Conference was played to the group, and well received. [Childrens-Commissioner-NASACRE-Speech.mp4 - Google Drive](#)
- JOS circulated a hand-out provided by SDh who was unable to attend today’s meeting, and asked colleagues to read and consider the content; this will be returned to in the Autumn Term.
- A general discussion then took place, including some suggestions, as follows:
  - A separate meeting may be helpful in the Autumn Term to look at the syllabus and the cycle of monitoring.
  - SACRE could develop a leaflet (possibly an online leaflet) to inform schools about the work we do.
  - A working group could look at a SACRE Conference.
  - Prevent funding could be a source of funding for schools i.e. visits to places of worship.
  - A clear priority for the group in the Autumn Term is examining the quality of the delivery of the RE Curriculum and reviewing the agreed syllabus.

#### **Action**

- ***RC will form a working group, maybe remotely, before the next SACRE Committee meeting. Volunteers included JOS, CL, SK, SY and MH***

#### **5. Self-Evaluation Tool / Action Plan**

- JR stated that the teaching group would be looking at the evaluation of the syllabus.
- The possibility of a school survey was discussed.
- RC highlighted the need to look at non-faith schools, including collective worship and how it is being delivered.
- It was noted that Ofsted don’t visit collective worship any more.

#### **Action**

- ***SD to send an email to SACRE members in groups A & B to ask if they would be prepared to take part in a meeting to discuss collective worship and if they would give permission for their email addresses to be shared with TC.***
- ***TC will set up a Teams meeting to look at a way forward for collective worship.***
- ***RC will take a plan to the Autumn Term meeting of the Telford Education Strategic Partnership Board.***

#### **6. RE Coordinators – update**

- JR stated that the RE Coordinators Network (primary phase) meets termly.
- The network is voluntary and free of charge.
- There are currently around 15 members who attend consistently.
- The network is hosted by a different school each time it meets.
- The RE Coordinator from the host school shares practice / books, and members swap ideas and resources.

#### **Actions:**

- ***JR will feedback any emerging trends or issues to future meetings and possibly invite an RE Teacher to accompany him to SACRE meetings.***

## 7. Annual Report

- RC will be working on the Annual Report over the summer; the report will be focused on future plans, rather than solely on activities which have been undertaken.

### **Actions:**

- ***SD will contact NASACRE to ask if there is a template for the Annual Report.***

## 8. Any other business

- NASACRE Briefing 39 document 39 has been received, which SD will circulate.
- JOS highlighted a free webinar for new members, taking place 26 June from 6.30pm to 8pm and advised colleague to apply via email to [admin@NASACRE.org.uk](mailto:admin@NASACRE.org.uk)
- A letter to newly elected locally MPs was suggested, stating that SACRE is looking forward to working with them to support RE.

### **Actions:**

- ***SD will circulate NASACRE Briefing document 39.***

## 9. Dates of future meetings

- The group considered the meeting dates for 2024-25, which were proposed at the last meeting.
- Cllr SR identified that there were a couple of clashes with Cabinet meetings and asked that these dates be revised.
- **Autumn Term:** Thursday 14 November 2024 – ***proposed change to 21 November 2024.***
- **Spring Term:** Thursday 27 February 2025 - ***proposed change to 6 March 2025.***
- **Summer Term:** Thursday 26 June 2025 – remains unchanged.

### **Actions:**

- ***SD will check the date changes with the Members' secretariat prior to circulating through calendars.***

## Attendance List

Name	Representing	Status
Jacque Osmund Smith	Group A: Baptist Church (Chair)	Attended
Kully Chahal	Group A: Sikh faith	Attended
Geet Dhillon	Group A: Sikh faith	Attended online
Cathy Landau	Group A: Jewish faith	Attended
Carol Morgan	Group A: Roman Catholic (Diocese of Shrewsbury)	Attended
Sajid Younis	Group A: Muslim faith	Apologies
Rev Tim Carter	Group B: All Saints Church, Wellington	Attended
Mark Harrington	Group B: Hereford Board of Education	Attended
Jon Rawson	Group C: Donnington Wood Junior School	Attended
Suky Kaur	Group C: NATRE & Haberdashers' Adams	Attended
Cllr Shirley Reynolds	Group D: T&W Council	Attended online
Rebecca Carey	Group D: T&W Council	Attended
<b>In attendance</b>		
Sue Dyson	SACRE Clerk T&W Council	In attendance

## Apologies and non-attendance

Name	Representing	Status
<i>Angela Evans</i>	<i>Group A: Methodist / United Reform Church</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Pardha Saradhy</i>	<i>Group A: Hindu faith</i>	-
<i>Cathy Pocock</i>	<i>Group A: Salvation Army</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Group A: Free Church</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Group A: Humanist</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>
<i>Dave Rolfe</i>	<i>Group A: Quaker faith</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Matthew Welton</i>	<i>Group B: Lichfield Diocese</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Mary Jennings</i>	<i>Group C: Ercall Wood Academy</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Group C: NEU</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>
<i>Karl Downes</i>	<i>Group C: NAS/UWT</i>	-
<i>Ali Bushnell</i>	<i>Group C: Millbrook Primary School</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Group C: NAHT (Coalbrookdale &amp; Ironbridge)</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>
<i>Shaad Dhillon</i>	<i>Group C: Redhill Primary Academy</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Diane Whiteley</i>	<i>Group C: Woodlands Primary School</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Cllr Raj Mehta</i>	<i>Group D: T&amp;W Council</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Ian Nicholson</i>	<i>Co-opted member: RE Today (National Adviser)</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Michelle Parker</i>	<i>Co-opted member</i>	<i>Apologies</i>