

Sheffield SACRE Annual Report 2021-22

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Words from the Chair and Vice Chair

Following the autumn term meeting, of academic year 2021-2022, I was designated as Chair to SACRE. Unfortunately, due to illness, I was unable to attend the spring & summer SACRE meetings. I am extremely grateful to Helen for undertaking the role of acting Chair, during this time.

Clerking was provided by Debbie Royles, from the Local Authority.

This was another challenging year, for Sheffield SACRE. As there is no RE advisor or paid support for RE in Sheffield, all development work is usually led by members of SACRE and/or local teachers with the support of Learn Sheffield. However, post pandemic, these colleagues, on whom we rely, found themselves in a position where they needed to prioritise their paid roles, their families and their wellbeing.

Moving forward into 2022-2023 we have continued to set ourselves clear goals, based on the self-evaluation process, for the development of Sheffield SACRE going forward. In 2021-2022 we put plans in place to try and develop our systems for monitoring and supporting the provision of RE and collective worship across the city. We also became aware of the challenges, particularly for primary colleagues, presented by the Ofsted focus on subject knowledge and curriculum. We therefore started conversations about how we develop our Agreed Syllabus and support for teachers going forward with a view to putting some of these ideas and plan into action in 2022-2023.

Kim Wilson
(Chair of SACRE, 2021-22)

Dr Helen Sheehan
(Vice Chair of SACRE, 2021-22)

GCSE RE Results 2022

Result	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U	
Number of pupils		127	186	229	199	272	256	203	136	91	81
%		7.1%	10.4%	12.9%	11.2%	15.3%	14.4%	11.4%	7.6%	5.1%	4.6%
				4+	5+						
				1157	958						31.9% of cohort entered for GCSE
				65.0%	53.8%						

Meetings 2021-22

All meetings during this academic year, except for the summer term meeting, were held remotely (via zoom).

We had a change of Chair, following the November 2021 meeting, when Kim Wilson, Assistant Director for School Effectiveness, took up post. The autumn term meeting was chaired by; Andrew Jones and the spring and summer meetings were chaired by Helen Sheehan (vice chair) due to Kim being unable to attend due to illness.

Clerking support was provided by Debbie Royles from Sheffield LA.

The three meetings were held – in November 2021, February 2022 and June 2022 and attendance fluctuated throughout the year.

Attendance at these meetings was recorded as follows:

18 November 2021

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Stephen Betts	Co-opted - Learn Sheffield	Mr Greg Nettleship	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Richard Foster	Governor Rep	Helen Nichols	LA
Michael Heap	Co-opted - Sheffield Humanist Society	Debbie Royles	Clerk to SACRE
Mary Hearnshaw	Methodist	Karole Sargent	Primary Headteacher
Christopher Holder	Primary Headteacher	Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam
Margaret Langrish	Church of England	Andrew Jones	SCC – Chair

10 February 2022

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Mary Hearnshaw	Methodist	Alison Dallman	NEU
Vithal Patel	Hindu	Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam
Srivati Skelton	Buddhist	Stephen Betts	Learn Sheffield
Mohammad Ismail	Muslim	Karole Sargent	Primary Headteacher
Greg Nettleship	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Cllr Cliff Woodcraft (Fulwood)	Liberal Democrat Councillor
Margaret Langrish	Church of England	Michael Heap	Co-opted - Sheffield Humanist Society
Huw Thomas	Church of England	Debbie Royles	Clerk to SACRE
Fiona Walton	Church of England	Kevin O'Grady	To be co-opted

9 June 2022

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Stephen Betts	Learn Sheffield	Debbie Royles	Clerk to SACRE
Michael Heap	Co-opted - Sheffield Humanist Society	Greg Nettleship	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Jim Crossley	Church of England	Cllr Cliff Woodcraft (Fulwood)	Liberal Democrat Councillor
Christopher Holder	Primary Headteacher	Jim Crossley	Church of England
Heather Bower	Secondary Teaching	Srivati Skelton	Buddhist
Lisa McCalla	Teaching - (Primary/Secondary)	Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam

The agendas for the meetings focussed on the following areas:

- Minutes of previous meeting
- Nomination of Vice Chair
- Sheffield RSE Implementation Project
- Ratification of the revised SACRE Constitution
- CPD/RE Training Programme
- SACRE Self Evaluation Tool
- SACRE Development Plan
- Curriculum Planning -Short/Medium/Long term
- Local and national updates
- SACRE Annual Report
- SACRE SEF & Development Plan
- New approach to RE at Key Stage 3
- Collective Worship
- Monitoring of RE provision in schools
- Interfaith week planning
- RE Report Card
- Feedback from NASACRE Conference
- Agreed Syllabus review
- Training for new SACRE members

Religious Education (Statutory responsibilities)

Sheffield Agreed Syllabus 2019-2024

The Agreed Syllabus (available [here](#)) was revised in 2019. During 2021-2022 we dealt with some enquiries, particularly from primary RE co-ordinators, looking for additional guidance in using the syllabus (particularly following the publication of the Ofsted Review of Research). Those making enquiries were put in touch with local teachers who were in a position to offer help and support. We also checked they had access to all available materials (i.e. schemes of work).

During this academic year we started to open conversations with NATRE and others (particularly our colleagues in the Anglican Diocese) about how we might develop our support and resources going forward. We have been exploring options for revising the syllabus and how this might be funded, with a long-term goal for ensuring that we do not just have a revised syllabus for 2024, but also adequate training and resources to support those teaching RE across the city. Progress has been made in terms of both developing plans and securing funding and this will be a key focus of our work in 2022-2023.

Standards and monitoring of RE

Completing the self-evaluation process (see appendix 1) in 2020-2021 made us very aware that we needed more robust systems to ensure that we could carry out our monitoring responsibilities. This challenge was explored and discussed in our meetings across the year, and it was agreed that we would try and engage with our schools (both primary and secondary) through surveying them about their current provision. This survey was developed through the summer, and we hope to see some results in the autumn of 2022. In the meantime, much of our information about what is happening in schools in relation to RE continues to come via approaches to SACRE via Learn Sheffield or via links with Sheffield Hallam University.

Teacher Training Materials and Advice for Schools

Whilst SACRE did not take sole responsibility for the provision of any training, we partnered with Sheffield Anglican Diocese to provide two CPD opportunities during 2021-2022. Firstly, RE Today's "Intent, Implement, Impact" training was offered to school colleagues. Secondly, non-church schools in Sheffield LA were also offered the opportunity to attend "Understanding Christianity" training with costs (including supply costs) funded by the diocesan project.

SACRE also signposted colleagues to other established opportunities, including those provided by NATRE regionally and from Culham St Gabriel's.

Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, complaints)

SACRE did not deal with any complaints during this academic year. We continued to support schools in the midst of the pandemic by sharing pertinent information (e.g., the launch of the [RE:ONLINE free self-study courses](#) and the publication of the draft handbook [Religious and Worldviews in the Classroom: developing a worldviews approach](#)) via email communications organised by Learn Sheffield.

Advice to the LA

We have worked through the year with the LA authority on two ongoing projects:

- Religious Observance – see below (local involvement)
- RSE Curriculum development – see below (local involvement)

Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities)

Standards and monitoring of collective worship

During this academic year we have not done anything to actively monitor collective worship and we have not had any approaches from schools, in relation to this. However, following on from targets we set in our development plan we have started to try and gather information about collective worship provision within the city. In the first instance we are seeking to gather information via a survey sent out to schools in Nov 2022. It is intended that the data collected will inform our decisions about how we set up more effective monitoring and support systems going forward.

Determinations

Details of the determinations process for Sheffield can be found at the link below.

[Microsoft Word - Appendix 6 - The Determination Process \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](#)

We are not aware of any school in Sheffield who currently has a determination. We have highlighted this lack of intelligence in our SACRE self-assessment, and this is something we are seeking to address during the survey we have planned/designed through 2021-2022 which was sent to schools in Nov 2022.

Teacher training

We have not organised or promoted any training in relation to collective worship.

Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, complaints)

We have not received any requests for withdrawals or any complaints during this academic year.

Advice to the LA

We have not communicated with the local authority on this issue.

Links with other bodies

National

We continue to be members of NASACRE and were able to send representatives to the 2022 conference; they fed back in the June meeting. Some members also attended NASACRE training through the year. Members of SACRE also have links with the National Association of the Teachers of RE, the Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education and Culham St Gabriel's; through them we keep-to-date with the work of these organisations, new resources and CPD opportunities (for both teachers and SACRE members).

Local

SACRE continues to have strong links with Sheffield Hallam University, and we have developed further our working relationship with the Sheffield Diocese. With the latter we have engaged in more collaborative work on CPD outlined in 2021-2022 and there are plans for this to develop further in 2022-2023

Local Involvement

SACRE continues to have a strong working relationship with the local authority. Through this we have worked together to agree a list of religious festivals to support schools in dealing with requests for absence (appendix 2). This is becoming an annual piece of work.

We also continue to maintain a close working relationship with Learn Sheffield, a not-for-profit organisation owned by Sheffield schools and colleges and Sheffield City Council. This relationship facilitates both a connection between SACRE and the education community, and a route into effective communication with all schools and academies. They also host our webspace.

2021-2022 also saw the continuation of our work with the LA and Learn Sheffield to develop their schemes of work and resources for the provision of RSHE across the city. SACRE has been a key stakeholder in the development of this work, and this represents a broadening in the local role of SACRE to provide educational advice in any aspect that has a faith dimension.

SACRE Statutory Responsibilities

SACRE continues to receive administrative support from the LA in the form of a clerk to manage the administrative aspects of our meetings. The LA also pays the annual NASACRE membership fee.

However, there is no subject advisor provision for RE in Sheffield.

SACRE have continued to develop the Sheffield SACRE Constitution to ensure that the committees reflect both the faith and educational structures within the city (see appendix 1). This has supported both quoracy and recruitment in 2021-2022.

This will continue into 2022-2023, in particular using the data provided by the new census to ensure that Committee A (Other Christian denominations and other faiths represented in the Local Authority Area) is reflective of the faith composition of the city (see appendix 2).

SACRE has also, in 2021-2022, sought to make more training opportunities available to colleagues, with a particular focus on the induction of new members (see appendix 1).

Appendices

Appendix 1: Sheffield SACRE Development Plan 2021-2022

Section 1: Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders <i>How far does the SACREs partnership with the LA enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
The membership of SACRE accurately reflects and represents all key stakeholders			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee A reflects the demographics of the city Attendance across all 4 committees is improved Partnership with key stakeholders is productive 	<p>Constitution reviewed, will review further as now in receipt of Census data from 2021.</p> <p>Attendance has not improved across all four committees, however, there has been improved attendance in parts.</p> <p>Partnerships with key stakeholders are now productive</p>
Members of SACRE receive appropriate training to enable them to fulfil their duties.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New SACRE members receive an induction. SACRE members are offered the chance to attend regular training 	<p>The improved training offer, from NASACRE, has negated the need for a wider SACRE training offer.</p> <p>The training offer is shared with all SACRE members.</p>

Section 2: Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education

How effectively does the SACRE in partnership with the LA evaluate standards and the quality of provision for RE in schools? How effective are the strategies to improve standards and the quality of provision?

Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
Ensure that SACRE has sufficient systems and processes to monitor and evaluate provision, teaching and attainment in Sheffield schools			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A systematic process is established to understand provision, teaching and attainment • Monitoring of provision is a standing item within the SACRE agenda. 	<p>Partially complete. The relevant systems are now in place to monitor.</p> <p>The monitoring of provision is now being undertaken.</p>
The SACRE development offer to schools supports improved standards and quality of provision			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SACRE website is fully utilised to communicate opportunities to schools • A training and development offer to schools includes both universal and targeted provision. 	<p>The website is under constant review with new content promoted through direct emails from Learn Sheffield to the school and college sectors.</p> <p>The universal training offer has improved. The targeted provision training offer is still in need of improvement.</p>

Section 3: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus				
<i>How effectively does the SACRE, in partnership with the LA, monitor the impact and evaluate the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus in raising standards? How effectively does the Agreed Syllabus Conference, in partnership with SACRE, make decisions about the use of national guidance and exemplar material in a review of the agreed syllabus?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
Complete an early review of the Agreed Syllabus			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A costed action plan to review the Agreed Syllabus is in place. A new agreed syllabus which reflects latest thinking and includes supporting materials has been considered and planned for. 	Funding has been secured to review the Agreed Syllabus. The Agreed Syllabus will be purchased from RE Today utilising specification B.

Section 4: Collective Worship				
<i>How effectively does the SACRE fulfil its responsibilities for the provision and practice of collective worship?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
SACRE fulfils its responsibilities in relation to collective worship			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE has sufficient intelligence to describe the provision of collective worship in Sheffield schools, including determinations. SACRE agendas consider collective worship and the use of determinations as a standing item. 	<p>Trying to ascertain a citywide picture, via a survey to schools.</p> <p>SACRE have checked the details around determinations.</p>

Section 5: Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community <i>How effectively does SACRE, in partnership with the Local Authority and the faith communities, contribute to the promoting of cohesion across the community?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
SACRE makes a clear contribution to civic community cohesion in Sheffield			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership and attendance enable diverse perspectives to contribute to decision making. • SACRE agendas include strategic discussion of educational issues and initiatives which have a faith dimension. 	Membership enables a diverse perspective. Improved attendance will ensure that all voices are heard.

Appendix 2: Sheffield SACRE Development Plan 2022-2023

Section 1: Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders <i>How far does the SACREs partnership with the LA enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
Improved attendance of committee A members to ensure that the diverse nature of the city is represented.	Chair and Clerk	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee A membership is reviewed in the light of the 2021 census data • Committee A attendance improved • Partnership with key stakeholders is productive 	
Members of SACRE receive appropriate training to enable them to fulfil their duties.	HS and Clerk	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACRE members continue to be offered the chance to attend regular training, organised by NASACRE • SACRE members are offered the opportunity to attend events and conferences (e.g., CStG online events, NASACRE conference, etc.) to develop their knowledge. 	

Section 2: Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education				
<i>How effectively does the SACRE in partnership with the LA evaluate standards and the quality of provision for RE in schools? How effective are the strategies to improve standards and the quality of provision?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
Ensure that SACRE has sufficient systems and processes to monitor and evaluate provision, teaching and attainment in Sheffield schools	SB and Chair	Feb 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The systems established to monitor the provision of RE are working effectively and are used to target support. Monitoring of provision remains a standing item within the SACRE agenda and SACRE respond to any issues arising. 	
The SACRE development offer to schools supports improved standards and quality of provision	SB/HT	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SACRE website is fully utilised to communicate opportunities to schools A training and development offer to schools is developed with a view to preparing schools for the implementation of a new Agreed Syllabus SACRE continues to work in partnership with the Anglican Diocese to ensure a universal CPD offer for schools in the city. 	

Section 3: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus				
<i>How effectively does the SACRE, in partnership with the LA, monitor the impact and evaluate the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus in raising standards? How effectively does the Agreed Syllabus Conference in partnership with SACRE make decisions about the use of national guidance and exemplar material in a review of the agreed syllabus?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
Complete an early review of the Agreed Syllabus	Chair/HS/SB	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus is well underway. A plan to support teachers through CPD to implement the new syllabus is in place. Schools are supported with appropriate support materials to develop curriculum in line with the new syllabus. 	

Section 4: Collective Worship				
<i>How effectively does the SACRE fulfil its responsibilities for the provision and practice of collective worship?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
SACRE fulfils its responsibilities in relation to collective worship	Chair	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACRE uses the information gathered through a survey (conducted in autumn 2022) to develop an understanding of collective worship provision across the city • SACRE agendas consider collective worship and the use of determinations as a standing item. • SACRE takes a more active role in ensuring that school understand the determinations process. 	

Section 5: Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community				
<i>How effectively does SACRE, in partnership with the Local Authority and the faith communities, contribute to the promoting of cohesion across the community?</i>				
Objectives	Lead	Timescale	Success criteria	Review
SACRE makes a clear contribution to civic community cohesion in Sheffield	All	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership and attendance enable diverse perspectives to contribute to decision making. • SACRE agendas include strategic discussion of educational issues and initiatives which have a faith dimension. 	

Appendix 3: Religious Observance Calendar

The [2022 Religious Observance Calendar](#) is shared with colleagues and available on the Sheffield SACRE website, along with other key Sheffield SACRE documents:

<https://www.learnsheffield.co.uk/Partners/Sacre/Purpose>