

Sheffield SACRE Annual Report 2022-23

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Words from the Chair

As I reflect upon my first few months as a member of SACRE, having embarked on this journey in September 2023, I am thrilled to commence our annual report by highlighting the launch of our new Religious Education (RE) syllabus. The revised syllabus was launched in October 2023, at Sheffield Cathedral in readiness for the commencement of the academic year 2024-25. This event not only symbolises our commitment to advancing educational excellence but also underscores the pivotal role that RE plays in shaping the perspectives of individuals in the contemporary world.

In an era marked by diverse global challenges and intercultural interactions, the importance of Religious Education cannot be overstated. It serves as a beacon, fostering understanding, tolerance, and empathy, thereby contributing to a more harmonious and interconnected society. As we delve into the details of our endeavours over the past year, let us celebrate the power of RE to enlighten minds and bridge cultural divides, propelling us toward a future where knowledge and respect are the cornerstones of a united world.

Pat Butterell
(Chair of SACRE, from September 2023)

GCSE RE Results 2022-2023

GCSE

	U	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Entries	4+	Cohort
Pupils	37	96	182	271	177	218	240	168	116	86	1591	1005	5940
	2%	6%	11%	17%	11%	14%	15%	11%	7%	5%	27%	63%	

A-level

	E	D	C	B	A	A*	Entries	Cohort
Count of Candidate number	9	11	21	32	28	7	108	2395
	8%	10%	19%	30%	26%	6%	5%	

AS-level

	E	D	C	B	A	Entries	Cohort
			1			1	2395
			100%				

Meetings 2022-23

All meetings during this academic year were held remotely.

The three meetings were held in; November 2022, February 2023 and June 2023. There was a fluctuation in attendance throughout the year.

We had two different chairs to SACRE this year: Sandra Roberts, School Adviser, for the November meeting, and Stephen Middleton, School Adviser, for the February and June meetings.

Clerking support was provided by Debbie Royles from Sheffield LA, with the exception of the February meeting which was clerked by Lisa Spalding.

Attendance at these meetings was recorded as follows:

November 2022

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Sandra Roberts	Schools Adviser, Education & Skills	Alistair Stevenson	Church of England
Leila Fananapazir	Baha'is of Sheffield	Lisa McCalla	Teaching - (Primary/Secondary)
Dr V Patel	Hindu	Michael Heap	Co-opted - Sheffield Humanist Society
Greg Nettleship	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Debbie Royles	Clerk to SACRE
Fiona Walton	Church of England	Srivati Skelton	Buddhist
Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam	Jim Crossley	Church of England
Stephen Betts	Learn Sheffield		

February 2023

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Stephen Betts	Learn Sheffield	Steve Middleton	Schools Advisor, Education & Skills
Michael Heap	Co-opted - Sheffield Humanist Society	Greg Nettleship	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Jim Crossley	Church of England	Lisa Spalding	Acting Clerk to SACRE
Heather Bower	Secondary Teaching	Fiona Walton	Church of England
Lisa McCalla	Teaching - (Primary/Secondary)	Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam

June 2023

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Stephen Betts	Learn Sheffield	Steve Middleton	Schools Adviser, Education & Skills
Michael Heap	Co-opted - Sheffield Humanist Society	Alistair Stevenson	Church of England
Srivati Skelton	Buddhist	Debbie Royles	Clerk to SACRE
Heather Bower	Secondary Teaching	Fiona Walton	Church of England
Christopher Holder	Primary Teaching	Helen Sheehan	Sheffield Hallam (Vice Chair)
Katherine Weddell	To be co-opted		

The agendas for the meetings focussed on the following areas:

- Minutes of previous meeting
- Revision of the Agreed Syllabus
- Confirmation of the revised SACRE Constitution
- New approach to RE at Key Stage 3
- 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
- Validated RE results
- Collective Worship
- Monitoring of RE provision in schools
- Interfaith week planning
- RE Report Card
- Feedback from NASACRE Conference

Religious Education (Statutory responsibilities)

Sheffield Agreed Syllabus 2024-2029 (available [here](#))

A key focus of our work in 2022-23 has been the revision of the Agreed Syllabus ready for launch in 2024. We were extremely grateful to receive funding from the Church Burgess Educational Foundation, which allowed Sheffield SACRE to purchase the new Agreed Syllabus, from RE Today.

The new Agreed Syllabus was formally launched on 31 October 2023 at Sheffield Cathedral, where 81 schools attended the event, hosted by RE Today.

Standards and monitoring of RE

Attempts to survey schools in Sheffield, to find out more about their provision, were not as successful as we had hoped as many schools failed to respond to our survey. Therefore, we have been working on developing different approaches. In particular, Learn Sheffield have started to produce a review of all Ofsted reports on a termly basis to see if there are references to Religious Education or pupils' knowledge and understanding in relation to world religions. This is discussed in each meeting as a standing agenda item.

This information was designed to support two aspects of SACRE monitoring in schools:

1. Review of comments relating to RE in Ofsted reports

Between Sept 2022 and June 2023 only 8 of 32 published Ofsted reports (25%) included comments specific to RE. Three of these were faith schools, all of which did receive a comment. This reflects relatively low priority given to RE in current inspections. Comments tended to focus on either the curriculum aspect or relate to personal development.

2. Curriculum content through review of RE curriculum information published on a sample of school websites.

In 2022-2023 sampling of school websites, for settings which had been inspected, was completed. Curriculum information was found in 27 of 32 of the sampled settings (84%). We have plans for a more detailed review of curriculum information on school websites in 2023-2024.

The development of committee C (teachers and education professionals) has significantly improved the proportion of Sheffield SACRE members who are involved in teaching, school leadership or governance in Sheffield settings.

We continue to receive information about what is happening in schools, in relation to RE, via; approaches to SACRE via Learn Sheffield, via links with Sheffield Hallam University and from committee D co-opted members.

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 CPD opportunities during 2022-2023.

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 or withdrawal issues during this academic year.

Advice to the LA

SACRE continues to have a strong working relationship with the local authority.

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.

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 continue to highlight this lack of intelligence in our SACRE self-assessment and we will review our approach in 2023-2024.

Teacher training

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

Advice to the LA

We are reviewing the issues above with the new SACRE chair who has been in post since September 2023.

Links with other bodies

National

We continue to be members of NASACRE and offered free places, to SACRE members, to the 2023 conference. Unfortunately, on this occasion, no members were able to attend the conference.

Some members attended training, via NASACRE and RE Today, during the last 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 and with 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.

Local Involvement

SACRE continues to have a strong working relationship with Learn Sheffield, a not-for-profit organisation owned by Sheffield schools and colleges and Sheffield City Council. The 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 webpage.

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. This has supported both quoracy and recruitment in 2022-2023.

This will continue into 2023-24, 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.

Appendices

Appendix 1: 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/Vice Chair	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 	To be reviewed once attendance at the June meeting can be accounted for.
Members of SACRE receive appropriate training to enable them to fulfil their duties.	Chair/Vice Chair	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE members continue to be offered the chance to attend regular training SACRE members are offered the opportunity to attend events and conferences (e.g. CStG online events, NASACRE conference, etc.) to develop their knowledge. 	Regional Hubs training has been offered. 3 funded places offered for attendance at the NASACRE Conference May 2023.
Autumn 2023 review: Membership is stable but we are still finding it difficult to improve committee A attendance. More members have engaged with training opportunities in 2022-2023 and this has been reflected in discussion at meetings.				

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	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. 	Update paper provided by SB for June meeting
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. 	The website is largely up to date with provision of key information but needs details of preparing schools for the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus.
<p>Autumn 2023 review: The paper was provided in June 2023 and the website updated to reflect the launch of the new agreed syllabus in October 2023. SACRE will continue to embed monitoring systems, review approaches to getting information from schools and continue to develop CPD opportunities.</p>				

Section 3: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

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?

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. 	SCC have made a contribution to supplement the funding provided by the Diocese for the new Agreed Syllabus. Learn Sheffield are in the process of completing the purchase. School support offer will be developed once this is in place.

Autumn 2023 review:

This was completed. The new syllabus was launched with an event at Sheffield Cathedral on 31st Oct 2023 with over 80 schools in attendance.

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. 	<p>The survey provides very limited information as there were only 13 respondents, 12 of which were Primary schools.</p> <p>No schools have made a request for determination in the city.</p> <p>Additional action required to ensure all schools understand the process.</p>
<p>Autumn 2023 review: The survey approach was not as successful as we had hoped. Both collective worship and determination will remain a focus in 2023-2024 in collaboration with Sheffield City Council.</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	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. 	<p>To be reviewed once attendance at the June meeting can be accounted for.</p>
<p>Autumn 2023 review: SACRE continues to play an active part in the civic discussion of education matters which contain a faith dimension. We consider the issue of committee A attendance to be a barrier to our effectiveness in this area and will prioritise this in 2023-2024.</p>				