



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the RUTLAND SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP on Tuesday, 12th September, 2023 at 4.30 pm

PRESENT:

GROUP A – Representatives of faiths (other than Church of England) and worldviews		
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1.	Gurdev Singh (CHAIR)	Sikh Community
2.	Madeleine Gilbert	Baptist Church
3.	Shelia Gewolb	Jewish Community

GROUP B – Church of England Representatives		
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4.	James McWhirter (Revd) (VICE CHAIR)	Rutland Deanery
5.	Mary-Anne Marples	Peterborough Diocese

GROUP C – Teacher Representatives		
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6.	Cara Topping	Primary Teacher Representative
7.	Kieran Hughes	Secondary Teacher Representative
8.	Megan Davis	Primary Teacher Representative
9.	Sam Brooks	Secondary Teacher Representative

GROUP D – Local Education Authority Representatives		
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10.	Councillor Christine Wise	Rutland County Councillor
11.	Councillor Steve McRobb	Rutland County Councillor

Local Education Authority Officers		
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12.	Amanda Fitton	RE Adviser, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Councils
13.	Lizzie Papworth	Service Manager – Learning and Skills, RCC
14.	Jane Narey	Clerk, RCC

APOLOGIES:

15.	Bjoern Finke	Roman Catholic Church
16.	Daniel Alfieri	Peterborough Diocese

ABSENT:

17.	Julia Ewans	Humanist UK
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1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Daniel Alfieri and Bjorn Finke.

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Kieran Hughes, Secondary Teacher Representative joined the meeting at 4.39 p.m.

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2 RECORD OF MEETING

Members requested that the wording 'world views' in the minutes be amended to 'worldviews'. The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2023 were approved as an accurate record subject to the requested amendment.

3 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Action 1

It was agreed that the Chair and the SACRE/RE Adviser would write a draft a letter on behalf of the Rutland SACRE to all Councillors and the local MP regarding RE teacher recruitment.

Action to be carried forward.

ACTION: Gurdev Singh & Amanda Fitton

Action 2

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to all Rutland schools asking for representatives from the teachers and the education support staff to become members of the Rutland SACRE.

It was confirmed that the action had been completed and two new teacher representatives had been recruited: Kieran Hughes, Teacher of Religious Studies at Catmose College and Sam Brooks, Head of RE and Citizenship at Uppingham Community College.

Action 3

Induction information including the NASACRE membership and training details would be sent to the new members.

The Clerk confirmed that the action had been completed.

Action 4

Amanda Fitton to send the Clerk the confirmed attendance for Rutland SACRE at the official launch.

It was confirmed that nobody from Rutland SACRE had attended the official launch of the Agreed Syllabus.

Action 5

Amanda would develop a questionnaire for schools regarding the impact of the Agreed Syllabus to identify if any amendments were required to the non-statutory areas of the syllabus. The approval of the schools' questionnaire would be approved by SACRE on the 12th March 2024 prior to distribution to schools.

The RE Adviser confirmed that the questionnaire would be actioned and the item had been added to the SACRE work plan for 2023-2024.

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Mary-Ann Marples, Peterborough Diocese Representative left the meeting at 4.55
p.m. and re-joined the meeting at 4.56 p.m.
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The Chair, with the approval of the committee, agreed to take Agenda Item 7 (Rutland Exam Results) next due to IT issues with the Zoom meeting.

4 RUTLAND EXAM RESULTS

A verbal update was received from Lizzie Papworth, Service Manager – Learning and Skills on the Rutland schools' exam results for 2023. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Unverified results were received and the figures stated covered all Rutland schools including the independent schools.

GCSE Grade	Rutland %	National %
4 and above	82.1	72.2
5 and above	69.8	61.3
6 and above	61.3	47.2
7 and above	37.7	30.5
8 and above	20.8	18.4
9 and above	14.2	7.7

'A' Level Grade	Rutland %	National %
A*	0.0	5.9
A and above	20.4	25.4
B and above	53.1	55.3
C and above	77.6	79.0
D and above	93.9	92.2
E and above	98.0	98.0

- Fewer pupils had undertaken GCSE religious education: 140 pupils in the academic year 2021-2022 compared to 105 for the academic year 2022-2023.
- More pupils had undertaken 'A' level religious studies: 45 pupils in the academic year 2021-2022 compared to 50 for the academic year 2022-2023.
- A further breakdown of the examination results, including destination, cohort size and statistical neighbours' data, would be provided once the examination results were verified.

ACTION: Lizzie Papworth

- The Service Manager also confirmed that a congratulatory letter to the appropriate schools would be drafted on SACRE's behalf and sent to the appropriate Rutland schools once the examination results data were verified.

ACTION: Lizzie Papworth

- It was proposed that the RE Adviser should meet with the two Secondary Teacher Representatives to discuss how the statutory requirement that all pupils were entitled to religious education to the end of Year 11, was being fulfilled by Rutland schools.

ACTION: Amanda Fitton, Kieran Hughes & Sam Brooks

- It was proposed that a letter from SACRE should be sent to all Rutland schools once the examination data had been verified, to promote the values of religious education and positively influence the decision maker.

ACTION: Gurdev Singh

5 AGREED SYLLABUS 2023-2028

A verbal update was received from Amanda Fitton, RE Adviser for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Councils. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- A reminder about the new Agreed Syllabus had been sent to all schools in Rutland.
- The promotion of and training on the Agreed Syllabus would be the main focus for this academic year.
- Schools in Rutland were comprised of 16 Primary Academies, 3 Secondary Academies and 1 Church of England Voluntary Aided Maintained Primary School. Academies have to follow an RE syllabus but were not required to comply with the locally agreed syllabus and voluntary aided schools could use the diocesan religious education guidance instead of the locally agreed syllabus.
- The RE Adviser confirmed that the training timetable would be distributed to all schools.

ACTION: Amanda Fitton / Lizzie Papworth

6 SACRE'S ROLE AND ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS

A group discussion was held regarding Rutland SACRE's role in the teaching of religious education and how it could improve its engagement with Rutland schools. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- SACRE contact with schools was currently via the RE Adviser.
- The group discussed sending out a brochure or leaflet to schools about SACRE but agreed that SACRE's role and duties needed to be clearly defined before this was done.
- It was agreed that a SACRE sub-group, consisting of Rev McWhirter, Lizzie Papworth, Councillor McRobb, Amanda Fitton and Sam Brooks would identify and clarify SACRE's role and duties for approval at the next meeting.

ACTION: Rev McWhirter

7 RUTLAND SACRE CONSTITUTION

Members reviewed an updated draft version of the Rutland SACRE Constitution which had been circulated with the agenda pack. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Changes to the constitution had been highlighted in yellow for the attention of members.
- It was agreed that the review of the Constitution would be deferred to the March meeting so that any changes recommended by the SACRE sub-group at the next SACRE meeting could be incorporated into the constitution.

8 RUTLAND SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-28

Members reviewed the draft Rutland SACRE Development Plan for 2023-2028, which had been circulated with the agenda pack. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- A sub-group would be required to work on the SACRE development plan.
- The plan should include the areas of improvement identified in SACRE's self-assessment so that there was a continuous improvement cycle.
- It was agreed to postpone work on the development plan until SACRE's role and duties had been clearly defined and approved at the next SACRE meeting.

9 UPDATE ON NETWORK MEETINGS

A verbal update was received from Amanda Fitton, RE Adviser for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Councils. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The RE Adviser would be meeting with Mary-Anne Marples to discuss what schools actually wanted from the network meetings and the possibility of inter-county meetings with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.
- The RE Adviser confirmed that, following the meeting, she would distribute feedback to the Rutland SACRE members for discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION: Amanda Fitton

10 TRAINING ATTENDED BY SACRE MEMBERS

- Madeleine Gilbert and Councillor Wise informed attendees that they had attended the NASACRE 'So, you've joined your local SACRE...' virtual training session held on the 26th June 2023 and both had found it very helpful and informative – details attached.
- Sheila Gewolb notified members of the [RE Hubs](#) website and the training and free resources that were available: [Upskill \(re-hubs.uk\)](#)

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Councillor McRobb left the meeting at 5.53 p.m.

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- Rev McWhirter informed members of a video about worldviews produced by [THEOS Think Tank](#). The video entitled 'Nobody Stands Nowhere' was available to view on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFRxKF-Jdos&t=17s>

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Mary-Ann Marples left the meeting at 5.58 p.m.

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11 MONITORING OF RE IN SCHOOLS AND OFSTED INSPECTIONS REPORT

A verbal report was received from Lizzie Papworth, Service Manager – Learning and Skills, RCC and members reviewed the Ofsted inspection report for Langham CofE Primary School. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Ofsted inspection report for Langham CofE Primary School was reviewed and the very positive comments regarding the school's teaching of different beliefs were noted.

12 WORK PLAN

The work plan was discussed and updated as follows:

- The review of the SACRE Constitution would be deferred to the March 2024 meeting so that any changes recommended by the SACRE sub-group could be incorporated once approved at the SACRE December meeting.

13 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 5th December 2023 at 4.30 p.m. via Zoom

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.04 pm.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref:	Action	Allocated to:
1	3	It was agreed that the Chair and the SACRE/RE Adviser would write a draft a letter on behalf of the Rutland SACRE to all Councillors and the local MP regarding RE teacher recruitment.	Gurdev Singh & Amanda Fitton
2	4	A further breakdown of the examination results, including destination, cohort size and statistical neighbours' data, would be provided once the examination results were verified.	Lizzie Papworth
3	4	The Service Manager also confirmed that a congratulatory letter to the appropriate schools would be drafted on SACRE's behalf and sent to the appropriate Rutland schools once the examination results data were verified.	Lizzie Papworth
4	4	It was proposed that the RE Adviser should meet with the two Secondary Teacher Representatives to discuss how the statutory requirement that all pupils were entitled to religious education to the end of Year 11, was being fulfilled by Rutland schools.	Amanda Fitton, Kieran Hughes & Sam Brooks
5	4	It was proposed that a letter from SACRE should be sent to all Rutland schools once the examination data had been verified, to promote the values of religious education and positively	Gurdev Singh

		influence the decision maker.	
6	5	The RE Adviser confirmed that the training timetable would be distributed to all schools.	Amanda Fitton / Lizzie Papworth
7	6	It was agreed that a SACRE sub-group, consisting of Rev McWhirter, Lizzie Papworth, Councillor McRobb, Amanda Fitton and Sam Brooks would identify and clarify SACRE's role and duties for approval at the next meeting.	Rev McWhirter
8	9	The RE Adviser would be meeting with Mary-Anne Marples to discuss what schools actually wanted from the network meetings and the possibility of inter-county meetings with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The RE Adviser confirmed that, following the meeting, she would distribute feedback to the Rutland SACRE members for discussion at the next meeting.	Amanda Fitton

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A good SACRE member...

... listens to all views and ideas.	
... seeks to understand the views of other members, rather than simply promoting his/her own agenda.	
... is willing to contribute to discussions.	
... understands his or her role as a SACRE member.	
... thinks his or her point of view is important.	
... is committed to SACRE meetings.	
... is well informed about the work of their SACRE.	
... works harmoniously with other members.	
... has time to spend in school.	
... listens more than he or she speaks.	
... wants to build good partnerships with other SACRE members.	
... is keen and able to communicate with teachers and pupils.	
... takes an active participative approach, following lines of enquiry of personal interest.	
... supports and encourages local schools to aspire to high standards in RE and collective worship.	
... is prepared to bring issues to SACRE from their faith, belief or other sponsoring group.	
... cares about pupils' learning and their personal development.	
... is confident about everything to do with RE and CW in schools.	
... takes an active part in meetings.	
... is able to offer relevant experiences.	
... understands and believes in the positive value of RE and CW in schools.	
... keeps in touch with national issues in RE and CW.	
... knows about local faith communities.	
... has the ability and confidence to question perceived wisdom.	
... takes an interest in key RE and CW issues facing schools.	
... works to create a bridge between SACRE ⁹ local communities and local schools.	

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An effective SACRE ...

<p>... plans and evaluates its work rigorously.</p> <p>... is representative of the variety of beliefs within the local community.</p> <p>... has members who understand the difference between RE and religious indoctrination and focuses its work appropriately.</p> <p>... promotes inclusivity and social cohesion.</p>	
<p>... is well attended by committee members and consistently quorate.</p> <p>... is well chaired.</p>	
<p>... is one that works strategically.</p>	
<p>... is able to secure adequate funding from its LA.</p>	
<p>... has a good partnership with the LA.</p>	
<p>... is one that uses its resources wisely and efficiently.</p>	
<p>... has professional RE advice and support from the LA.</p> <p>... demonstrates a hands-on approach with schools and their staff.</p>	
<p>... is committed to making RE relevant, interesting, appropriate, exciting and thoroughly enjoyable.</p> <p>... is one where there is good listening and communicating.</p> <p>... gives information in plain English.</p> <p>... has a committed membership.</p>	
<p>... is able to offer schools advice and support through well informed members.</p>	
<p>... is generally aware of issues related to pupils' progress in RE.</p>	
<p>... is representative of the interests of the local community.</p>	
<p>... constantly seeks to self-evaluate and improve.</p>	
<p>... is proactive not passive.</p> <p>... provides or secures relevant training for RE teachers.</p>	
<p>... monitors its schools' RE provision and offers them support in self-review.</p> <p>... works to develop strong partnerships between SACRE members in order to model the cohesion they believe that should develop in their community.</p> <p>... advises its LA on RE, CW and the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and social cohesion.</p> <p>... encourages and values the contribution of all its members and ensures they all know that they are appreciated.</p> <p>... responds readily to national or international issues relating to its sphere of interest.</p>	

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