



Rutland County Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the RUTLAND SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)** held via Zoom on Tuesday, 12th March, 2024 at 4.30 pm

PRESENT:

GROUP A – Representatives of faiths (other than Church of England) and worldviews		
1.	Bjoern Finke	Roman Catholic Church
2.	Gurdev Singh (CHAIR)	Sikh Community
3.	Julia Ewans	Humanist UK

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

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

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

Local Education Authority Officers		
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.	Madeleine Gilbert	Baptist Church
16.	Shelia Gewolb	Jewish Community

ABSENT:

17.	Cara Topping	Primary Teacher Representative
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1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Madeliene Gilbert and Sheila Gewolb.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th December 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

3 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Action 1

The RE Adviser to finalise and send the drafted letter regarding RE teacher recruitment to all Councillors and the local MP with a copy also sent to the Clerk for distribution to the Rutland SACRE members.

The RE Adviser confirmed that the letter had been drafted and would be sent a.s.a.p.

Action 2

Following her meeting with the two Secondary Teacher Representatives regarding how their schools were meeting the statutory requirement that all pupils were entitled to religious education at the end of Year 11, the RE Adviser would send a copy of her report to the Clerk for distribution to the Rutland SACRE members.

The RE Adviser informed attendees that the report had not as yet been circulated but would be once it had been updated to include Cambridgeshire schools.

ACTION: Amanda Fitton

Action 3

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.

The Learning and Skills Service manager confirmed that the examination data had been verified and the Chair confirmed that he would finalise the letter and send it out to all Rutland schools.

Action 4

The RE Adviser and the Learning and Skills Service Manager to draft a press statement and send it to the Council's Communications Team via the Clerk for publication.

Quotes from the Ofsted inspection reports regarding the teaching of RE in Rutland schools to be included in the press statement.

Action to be carried forward.

ACTION: Amanda Fitton & Lizzie Papworth

Action 5

The Learning and Skills Service Manager would produce a matrix of what RE curriculum/syllabus schools were using plus details of the RE lead in each school.

The Learning and Skills Service Manager reported that the matrix had been completed and that details of the RE lead in each school would be added once the information had been received after the questionnaire had been completed by schools and returned to Rutland County Council.

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Councillor Christine Wise joined the meeting at 4.37 p.m.

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Action 6

The SACRE sub-group to meet to discuss the following and report back at the next meeting:

- *Summarise the content of the Rutland SACRE webpage.*
- *Identify how the Rutland SACRE webpage would be maintained.*
- *Identify how Rutland SACRE could better communicate/engage with schools.*
- *Identify how the Rutland SACRE might better support RE teaching in schools.*

Action on the agenda for discussion.

Action 7

Members to contact the Clerk before the 31st December 2023, with any comments/amendments to the Annual Report.

The Clerk to publish the finalised Annual Report 2022-2023 in January 2024 and submit a copy to NASACRE.

The Clerk confirmed that no comments/amendments had been received and the Annual Report for 2022-2023 had been published and a copy submitted to NASACRE. The RE Adviser noted that a copy should also be sent to the Department for Education (DfE).

ACTION: Jane Narey

Action 8

The RE Adviser confirmed that she would contact the leads for the East Anglia and East Midlands RE Hubs and request that Rutland SACRE be included in the East Anglia RE Hub.

The RE Adviser confirmed that Rutland SACRE was now included in the East Anglia RE Hub.

4 SACRE AGREED SYLLABUS SCHOOLS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Members received a presentation (copy attached) regarding the schools' questionnaire from Amanda Fitton, RE Adviser for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Councils. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The question regarding the name of the RE Lead should be the first question and a secondary question should be 'Do you feel supported in your role as the RE Lead?'
- 'Question 2 – Do you find the syllabus useful?' was identified as a closed question i.e. it only required a Yes or No answer. It was agreed that the question should be amended to be more production e.g. 'What do you like about the new Agreed Syllabus?' 'How has the new Agreed Syllabus supported you?' 'Are there any aspects of the new Agreed Syllabus you feel could be improved?'
- A question should also be included for schools to identify the most and least popular modules within the Agreed Syllabus.

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Rev. James McWhirter joined the meeting at 4.49 p.m.

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- It was agreed that the finished questionnaire would be checked by Rutland County Council's Information Governance team to ensure that it was compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018.

ACTION: Amanda Fitton and Lizzie Papworth

- The RE Adviser confirmed that the aim of the questionnaire was to monitor the use and effectiveness of the new Agreed Syllabus.

- The Chair stated that this should be clearly stated on the questionnaire along with details explaining that this would be the first in a series of surveys so that Rutland SACRE could monitor the progress of the new Agreed Syllabus and identify any required improvements.

5 SACRE SUB-GROUP: REPORT AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

A verbal report was received from the Rev McWhirter. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Clerk had confirmed that Rutland SACRE would not be allowed a second webpage but that the existing webpage could have a section entitled 'Further Information' as per [Peterborough SACRE's](#) webpage. This would highlight links to key RE websites for further information regarding worldviews and classroom resources.

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Mary-Anne Marples joined the meeting at 4.58 p.m.

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- It was agreed that members would contact the RE Adviser by the 27th March with suggestions and ideas on:
 1. How the Rutland SACRE webpage could be improved.
 2. How Rutland SACRE could better communicate/engage with schools.
 3. How Rutland SACRE might better support RE teaching in schools.

**ACTION: All
Agenda**

6 SACRE MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS

A discussion was held regarding SACRE members engagement with and attendance at Rutland schools. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Clerk had circulated a copy of NASACRE's generic code of conduct for the committee to discuss.
- Rutland SACRE members agreed to accept the NASACRE code of conduct as their own code of conduct.
- The generic NASACRE code of conduct would be updated to be Rutland specific, published to the website and circulated to members.

ACTION: Jane Narey

7 HOUSE OF LORDS: QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

- The RE Adviser highlighted a report that had been issued by the House of Lords on the quality of RE: [Quality of religious education in schools in England - House of Lords Library \(parliament.uk\)](#)
- The article was purely for information but did highlight how RE was regarded as an afterthought by some schools even though it was a compulsory subject.

8 RUTLAND RE EXAM RESULTS: VERIFIED DATA

Elizabeth Papworth, Service Manager for Learning and Skills presented the verified RE exam results. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Learning and Skills Service Manager confirmed that comparison data with neighbouring local authorities would be circulated with the minutes.

ACTION: Lizzie Papworth

- Rutland's rate for GCSE 5 or above (53.1%) was queried as it was below the national average (61.3%); was this a trend or a one-off result?
- The Learning and Skills Service Manager stated that Key Stage 4 and 5 results in RE for Rutland schools had not been published for 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID pandemic but that a comparison with last year's results would be circulated with the minutes.

ACTION: Lizzie Papworth

- Members were asked to note that due to the small numbers dealt with in Rutland, any changes had a big impact on the percentage figures.

9 UPDATE ON NETWORK MEETINGS

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

- A Network Meeting was held at the beginning of March 2024.
- Megan Davies was the only teacher who attended from Rutland despite extensive publicity of the event.
- The next meeting would be held in June regarding 'Exercise Books vs Floor Books: pros and cons of usage.' Further details would be sent to all Rutland schools.

10 TRAINING ATTENDED BY SACRE MEMBERS

- RE Adviser had attended NASACRE webinars on monitoring and data.
- Most of the [NASACRE training events](#) were free for Rutland members to attend.
- Information and training resources were also available on the [Humanists UK](#) website.

11 WORK PLAN

The work plan was discussed and updated as follows for the next meeting:

11th June 2024	SACRE Membership	
	a) Election of a New Chair	
	b) Election of a New Vice Chair	
	c) Appointment of New Members	
	Rutland SACRE Constitution	
	Draft Development Plan 2023-28	
	SACRE Sub-Group: report and proposed actions	Lizzie Papworth
	NASACRE Annual Conference 2024: feedback from the annual conference held in York on the 20 th May 2024.	

12 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

NASACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

- The NASACRE annual conference ([2024: How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?](#)) would be held on Monday, 20th May 2024 at the Hilton in York and online via Zoom.
- A maximum of 2 delegates per SACRE would be allowed to attend.
- Members to contact the Clerk if they would like to attend.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next meeting was proposed for Tuesday, 11th June 2024 at 4.30 p.m. in person in the Council Chamber – date/time to be confirmed.

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.25 pm.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref:	Action	Allocated to:
1	3	Following her meeting with the two Secondary Teacher Representatives regarding how their schools were meeting the statutory requirement that all pupils were entitled to religious education at the end of Year 11, the RE Adviser would send a copy of her report to the Clerk for distribution to the Rutland SACRE members once it had been updated to include Cambridgeshire schools.	Amanda Fitton
2	3	The RE Adviser and the Learning and Skills Service Manager to draft a press statement and send it to the Council's Communications Team via the Clerk for publication. Quotes from the Ofsted inspection reports regarding the teaching of RE in Rutland schools to be included in the press statement.	Amanda Fitton & Lizzie Papworth
3	3	The Clerk to send a copy of the SACRE Annual Report to the Department for Education (DfE).	Jane Narey
4	4	It was agreed that the finished school questionnaire would be checked by Rutland County Council's Information Governance team to ensure that it was compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018.	Amanda Fitton and Lizzie Papworth
5	5	It was agreed that members would contact the RE Adviser by the 27 th March with suggestions and ideas on: 1. How the Rutland SACRE webpage could be improved.	ALL

		<p>2. How Rutland SACRE could better communicate/engage with schools.</p> <p>3. How Rutland SACRE might better support RE teaching in schools.</p>	
6	6	The generic NASACRE code of conduct would be updated to be Rutland specific, published to the website and circulated to members.	Jane Narey
7	8	The Learning and Skills Service Manager confirmed that comparison data with neighbouring local authorities would be circulated with the minutes.	Lizzie Papworth
8	8	The Learning and Skills Service Manager stated that Key Stage 4 and 5 results in RE for Rutland schools had not been published for 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID pandemic but that a comparison with last year's results would be circulated with the minutes.	Lizzie Papworth

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Rutland schools' questionnaire on the new agreed syllabus.

1. Do you use the Rutland agreed syllabus?
2. Do you find the syllabus useful?
3. **Secondary schools only.** Since the 2018 syllabus was launched have you seen an improvement in the subject knowledge pupils arrive with, in year 7?
4. **Primary Schools only.** Have they found the units provided in the 2023 syllabus useful and how could they be improved further?
5. Who is the lead for RE in your school?

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Rutland SACRE

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Supporting Rutland Schools in delivering Religious Education

MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

General Principles

Rutland SACRE encourages all its members to:

- Attend all SACRE meetings and take a full and active part in its work.
- Participate in and review the work of SACRE for the benefit of the whole community.
- Listen with respect to the views of other members and where a situation of disagreement occurs, disagree respectfully.
- Express views and opinions openly, honestly and sensitively whilst always recognising that others may have views different to their own.
- Assume at all times that other members of SACRE are honourable and concerned with the best interests of SACRE.
- Seek reasoned consensus where views diverge and never disrespect the views of other SACRE members or seek to convert them to a different belief stance.
- Actively consult with, and report back to, the membership body which they represent so that debate is fully informed.
- Actively challenge and resist stereotyping.

Remember that the central aim for the SACRE is to improve the quality of provision in RE and collective worship for all pupils in Rutland.

Visiting Schools

From time to time, SACRE members may have the opportunity to visit schools.

SACRE Members should remember that it is a privilege to visit a school. They are there as invited guests, not to make judgements about the school or to 'inspect' RE and collective worship.

Members should:

- Only visit a school when invited.
- Inform the Clerk of SACRE (Jane Narey) and the SACRE's RE Adviser (Amanda Fitton) of any invitation received and visits made.
- Ensure that they do not say or do anything which could be viewed as denigrating any religion or ethical belief system.
- Avoid being critical of others or imposing their own views.
- Not pass on any disclosed confidential information but should discuss with the LA Officer (Lizzie Papworth) and RE Adviser (Amanda Fitton) any possible concerns or confusions about what may have been seen before reporting back to SACRE.

Visiting Schools as a Representative of a Faith Community

Some faith community representatives may be more regular visitors to schools and invited to support RE and/or collective worship.

Visitors should be well-supported by the class teacher who should always be present, taking an active role in question and answer sessions, and ensuring visitors are well-briefed before a visit.

SACRE members visiting a school to share their beliefs, values and experiences should:

- Have a clear, mutually agreed understanding of the purpose of the visit before it takes place.
- Appreciate that they are not there to convert or proselytise and should avoid being critical of others or imposing their own views.
- Be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies in RE and collective worship.
- Have an understanding of where the lesson will fit into the unit of work from the Agreed Syllabus and what the learning objectives are.
- Use a variety of teaching and learning methods and approaches, but at no time touch pupils or behave favourably towards pupils of particular faiths, ethnic groups or genders.
- Ensure that pupils understand that the visitor is representing a particular faith view and their own personal interpretation of it and that others from the same faith may not always interpret ideas in exactly the same ways.
- Ensure that they do not say or do anything which could be viewed as denigrating.
- Communicate at an appropriate level for the age group concerned.

Approved by Rutland SACRE: 12 March 2024

Minute Item 8

Religious Studies exam results – GCSE's and A-levels 2023

Local Authority Comparison

2023	Year group total	Cohort entry size	% of children sitting RE	GCSE 9 %	GCSE 5 or above %	GCSE 4 or above %
Local Authority	552	62	11%	10.1%	53.1%	67.4%
Derbyshire	7796	1444	18.5%	5.8%	56.8%	68.3%
Northamptonshire	8686	1586	18.3%	5.9%	57.3%	69.8%
Nottinghamshire	8943	1875	21%	5.9%	56.4%	67.4%
Lincolnshire	8198	2656	32%	5.6%	55.8%	68.7%
Leicestershire	7799	1264	16%	7.5%	61.8%	73.1%
National results (ALL SCHOOLS)	5,090,115	224,464	4%	7.7%	61.3%	71.0%

2023	Cohort entry size	A-levels A*- A	A-levels A*-B	A-levels A*-E
Harrington 168 students	20	15%	40%	100%
Derbyshire 2305	123	18.9%	48%	95.4%
Northamptonshire 1422, 1977	181	30.6%	58.8%	96.9%
Nottinghamshire 3185	180	16.4%	46.1%	99.2%
Lincolnshire 3099	197	20.6%	51.1%	96.9%
Leicestershire 2696	48	26.2%	53.6%	97.3%
National results (ALL)	14,055	25.4%	55.9%	98.1%

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Religious Studies results – GCSE’s and A-levels: 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

The Key Stage 4 and 5 results in RE for Rutland schools were not published for 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. The Department for Education stated in its guidance ‘[School and college accountability approach: 2020 to 2022](#)’ that it would not hold schools and colleges to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2020 and that data would not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account.

School and college performance data for the 2022/2023 academic year should be used with caution:

- In 2022/23, qualifications returned to pre-pandemic standards. Performance measures that are based on qualification results will reflect this and cannot be directly compared to measures from 2021/2022.
- There are ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected individual schools, colleges and students differently.

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	Year group total		Cohort entry size		% of children sitting RE		GCSE 9 %		GCSE 5 or above %	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Casterton College	117	177	15	16	13%	9%	0%	12.5%	66.7%	44%
Catmose College	197	202	44	26	22%	13%	11.4%	7.7%	70.4%	65.2%
Uppingham College	177	173	29	20	16%	11.5%	3.4%	10%	65.5%	50%
Local Authority	491	552	88	62	20%	11%	4.9%	10.1%	67.5%	53.1%
National results (ALL SCHOOLS)	5,349,250	5,543,840	243,875	201,590	4.6%	4%	9.7%	7.7%	66.2%	61.3%

	Cohort entry size		A-levels A*- A		A-levels A*-B		A-levels A*-E	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Harrington	20	20	60%	15%	75%	40%	100%	100%
National results (ALL)	15,520	14,055	33.8%	6%	65.1%	55.9%	98.5%	98.1%

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