



**Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education**

Supporting Rutland Schools in delivering Religious Education



# **Rutland Standing Advisory Council For Religious Education (SACRE)**

## **Annual Report September 2022 – August 2023**

Version	Version 1.0
Guardian	Jane Narey, Scrutiny Officer <a href="mailto:democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk">democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk</a>
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Rutland SACRE annual report. This report covers the academic year from September 2022 to August 2023.

The report is short but details the great deal of work that has been undertaken by the SACRE and that of the Local Authority Officers who have continued to support schools and regularly reported to SACRE.

Four meetings were held in total during the 2022/2023 academic year. Two meetings were held in-person in the Council Chamber at the Council offices and two were held virtually. This was the result of an agreement by the SACRE members, following the easing of the pandemic lockdown restrictions, to continue to hold the autumn and winter meetings virtually but to hold the spring and summer meetings in person.

SACRE's aim has always been to ensure that our children receive a balanced, open-minded and comprehensive education in RE. The main tasks undertaken by SACRE during this academic year were the completion of the Agreed Syllabus and Rutland SACRE's self-evaluation.

2023-2024 promises to be an exciting one as the Agreed Syllabus, which was published on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, comes into effect and the Rutland SACRE produces its Development Plan for 2023-28.

Britain's society continues to change but we hope that teachers, schools, parents and pupils will continue to adapt by building on the syllabus detailed in the new Agreed Syllabus.

With thanks to everyone on the committee.

*Gurdev Singh (Chair: July 2022 – present)*

*Revd James McWhirter (Vice Chair: June 2023 - present)*

## 2. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS – SEPTEMBER 2021 – AUGUST 2022

Eight Ofsted inspection reports were received regarding Rutland schools during the past academic year:

- 1) [Cottesmore Primary School](#)
- 2) [Catmose Primary School](#)
- 3) [St Nicholas CofE Primary School](#)
- 4) [Edith Weston Academy](#)
- 5) [The Shires at Oakham](#)
- 6) [Ryhall CofE Academy](#)
- 7) [Uppingham Community College](#)
- 8) [Ketton CofE Primary School](#)

An Ofsted report on the quality of Religious Education curriculums taught in schools was expected in 2022 but to date nothing has been published. However, we continue to encourage schools to actively review their curriculums.

### **3. STATUTORY INSPECTION OF ANGLICAN AND METHODIST SCHOOLS (SIAMS) REPORTS**

All church schools will be additionally inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. These SIAMS reports are not the responsibility of SACRE or the Local Authority so there is no requirement to report on them in the Rutland SACRE Annual Report.

### **4. RE TEACHERS' NETWORK**

During the academic year 2022-2023, it was noted that attendance at the network meetings was not as high as expected and that the format of the meetings needed to be revised.

The Rutland SACRE agreed that the RE Adviser would undertake a review of the network meetings. The review included a meeting with representatives from Rutland's schools to ascertain what schools wanted to achieve from the network meetings. It also included an investigation into the possibility of holding twilight sessions as well as changing the meetings from 'in-person' to 'virtual'.

As part of the review, the RE Adviser also met with the Diocese of Peterborough to discuss the possibility of inter-county meetings with Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

Further discussions were planned for September/October 2023 regarding the way forward before the RE Adviser reported back to the Rutland SACRE with the results of the review regarding the network meetings.

### **5. KEY STAGE 4 AND 5 RESULTS**

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

Fewer pupils had undertaken GCSE religious education (140 pupils in the academic year 2021-2022 compared to 105 for the academic year 2022-2023) but 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).

Data was taken from:

- [Key stage 4 performance 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/key-stage-4-performance-2023)
- [Infographics for A level results, 2023 \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/infographics-for-a-level-results-2023)
- <https://www.ncer.org/Home.aspx>

2023	Year group total	Cohort entry size	% of children sitting RE	GCSE 9 %	GCSE 5 or above %
Casterton College	177	16	9%	12.5%	44%
Catmose College	202	26	13%	7.7%	65.2%
Uppingham College	173	20	11.5%	10%	50%
Local Authority	552	62	11%	10.1%	53.1%
National results (ALL SCHOOLS)	5,543,840	201,590	4%	7.7%	61.3%

2023	Cohort entry size	A-levels A*- A	A-levels A*-B	A-levels A*-E
Harrington	20	15%	40%	100%
National results (ALL)	14,055	6%	55.9%	98.1%

## 6. AGREED SYLLABUS 2023-2028

Each local Authority's Agreed Syllabus must be revised every five years as per Section 375 and Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996. Rutland's Agreed Syllabus was last reviewed in 2018 so an Agreed Syllabus Conference was formed in 2022 to undertake its revision.

All the religious groups in the area were represented on the Agreed Syllabus Conference as were the Rutland County Councillors appointed to SACRE. All contributed to the new Agreed Syllabus including the SACRE school representatives. Schools were also invited to send participants to contribute to the working groups formed as part of the process.

Rutland is in a tri-county agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and one adviser works across all three Local Authorities. The total cost for the Agreed Syllabus preparation was £20,888 for all three Local Authorities and this included the cost of the launch, which was held jointly so reduced the overall cost. Rutland's share of this was 6% based on the number of schools compared to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The new Agreed Syllabus for 2023-2028 was formerly approved by Rutland County Council's Cabinet on the 7 March 2023. It was officially launched on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and was published to the [Rutland SACRE](#) website on the same day.

The Agreed Syllabus for 2023-2028 became effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 and further events to support the introduction of the Agreed Syllabus in schools will take place during the academic years 2023-2025 for all schools in Rutland.

The Agreed Syllabus is broadly Christian in nature and reflects the religious and non-religious makeup of the local community. However, there will be a much

greater emphasis on Worldviews and ensuring that the three different types of knowledge (Substantive Knowledge, Ways of Knowing and Personal Development) are being used in all curriculums. The new syllabus provides some units of work and a list of suggestions for all key stages.

The Rutland SACRE will monitor and support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus over the next 5 years.

## **7. COMPLAINTS ABOUT COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

There were no complaints about Collective Worship made to the Rutland SACRE by parents in the period of this report.

## **8. APPENDICES**

- Appendix A – Rutland SACRE Constitution
- Appendix B - Membership and Meeting Details of SACRE Meetings
- Appendix C – SACRE Development Plan 2020-22

## APPENDIX A

### Rutland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

#### CONSTITUTION 2022-2023

A SACRE is required by the Education Reform Act of 1988 to be established by the local authority (cf. also DFE Circular 1/94, para.89: 1 and 2; The Education Act 1996, Chapter 111; and RE in English Schools Non-Statutory Guidance 2010, pages 10-16). The Local Authority (LA) must provide SACRE with a suitable annual budget to ensure that SACRE can carry out its statutory responsibilities effectively.

The LA is Rutland County Council.

Rutland SACRE is an independent body which exists to advise the local authority on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in state-maintained schools.

'Member' means a member of Rutland SACRE, usually appointed, but includes a substitute or co-opted member.

A meeting will only be quorate if all four of the following groups are represented:

- Group A - Representatives of other Churches and faiths
- Group B - Church of England Representatives
- Group C - Teacher Representatives
- Group D - Local Education Authority Representatives

A Member can only represent one group. Rutland SACRE has the power to co-opt members as agreed by the majority of its members. All members are entitled to speak and vote on any issue, but substitute or co-opted members may speak but not vote at any meeting. Rutland SACRE will always seek to reach decisions on a consensus basis but in the event of a vote being taken only one vote is allowed from each of the FOUR groups. In the event of a tied vote on any issue the Chair may exercise the casting vote.

#### Membership

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Number of representatives</b>
Baptist Church	1
Humanist UK	1
Jewish Community	1
Methodist Church	1
Muslim Community	1
Quakers	1
Roman Catholic Church	1
Sikh Community	1



United Reform Church	1
<b>Group B</b>	
Rutland Deanery	2
Peterborough Diocese	2
<b>Group C</b>	
Teacher Representatives	5
Education Support Staff	1
<b>Group D</b>	
Local Authority County Councillors	2

Rutland SACRE can co-opt members when it is deemed a person's expertise is required to help inform SACRE's work. Co-opted members do not have voting rights.

In addition, there is a Local Authority SACRE Officer or Adviser and a Local Authority SACRE Clerk. Both are appointed by the Local Authority but neither have voting rights.

### **The Responsibilities of Membership**

All Members shall be committed to education and to respecting the views of others. Members shall remain until such time as they will have resigned or fulfilled their duties of membership under the rules dictated by their Governing Body e.g.co-opted temporarily because of a specific expertise in Religious Education. There can be a substitute Member nominated by an absent Member. Notice of this substitution should be received by the LA SACRE Clerk at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

If a Member is absent for 3 or more consecutive meetings for any reason not acceptable to the LA, it shall be assumed that a vacancy now exists. The matters will be referred to the sub-group of Members responsible for Membership.

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be chosen from the Members of the Rutland SACRE and shall be elected at the first meeting in each academic year. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair at any meeting the LA can elect one of its members to act as the Chair for that meeting.

Rutland SACRE has the power to co-opt people as agreed by the majority of its members.

All Members are entitled to speak and vote on any issue, but substitute or co-opted Members may speak but not vote at any meeting.

### **The Duties of the Rutland SACRE**

Rutland SACRE's main function is to advise the LA on matters related to RE, which follows the locally agreed syllabus, and on collective worship in schools. This means Rutland SACRE:

- can require the LA to review its agreed syllabus;

- must consider applications from a head teacher that the school be released from the requirement for collective worship to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.” (A determination.); and
- must publish an annual report of its work.

Further Rutland SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools/colleges through. This means Rutland SACRE shall:

- provide advice on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- advise the LA on provision of training for teachers;
- gather feedback and evidence from inspection reports and exam entries and results on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Personal Development;
- consider complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to SACRE by the LA;
- ask the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus; and
- contributing to Community Cohesion and Safeguarding of young people and children.

### **The Agreed Syllabus Conference**

An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) is a statutory body brought together in order to produce an agreed syllabus for RE. It is a separate legal entity from a SACRE. An ASC:

- has the same committee structure as the SACRE; and
- can be made up of SACRE members but need not be so. There is no provision for co-opted members.

The Chair of the ASC can be appointed by the LA, or the LA may allow the ASC to choose its own chair. The LA’s responsibility to convene the ASC implies a duty to provide funds and support for its work. Rutland County Council uses Rutland Agreed Syllabus and works in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council SACRE’s.

### **Procedures for SACRE**

#### Dates

The Rutland SACRE meets four times a year.

#### Agenda

Matters for the agenda of any meeting shall be sent to the clerk at least ten days in advance of the meeting. The clerk shall agree the agenda with the chair and the agenda shall be distributed to each member seven days in advance of the next listed meeting.

### Minutes

The draft minutes of meetings shall be circulated to members within one month of the meeting taking place.

### Notification

Rutland SACRE is a public meeting, and the clerk shall ensure public notice is given as with any Rutland County Council meeting and arrangements made for the public to attend should they so wish. Minutes will also be made public once approved.

**Approved: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

## APPENDIX B - MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING DETAILS OF SACRE MEETINGS

The Rutland SACRE met on the following occasions in 2022-2023:

DATE	VENUE
Tuesday, 6 September 2022	Council Chamber, RCC, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
Tuesday, 29 November 2022	Virtual via Zoom
Tuesday, 14 March 2023	Virtual via Zoom
Tuesday, 6 June 2023	Council Chamber, RCC, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

### Group A – Representatives of faiths (other than Church of England) and world views

Name	Representing	Eligible Attendance	Actual Attendance
Andrew Hull	Humanists UK	3	3
Julia Ewans	Humanists UK	1	1
Rhoda Gibson	The Baptist Church	2	2
Madeleine Gilbert	The Baptist Church	2	2
Sheila Gewolb	The Jewish Faith	4	3
Bjoern Finke	The Roman Catholic Church	4	3
Gurdev Singh	The Sikh Faith	4	4

### Group B – Church of England Representatives

Name	Representing	Eligible Attendance	Actual Attendance
Rev P Holmes	Peterborough Diocese	1	1
Daniel Alfieri	Peterborough Diocese	4	4
Fiona Wilce	Peterborough Diocese	1	1
Mary-Anne Marples	Peterborough Diocese	1	1
Rev J McWhirter	Rutland Deanery	4	3

### Group C – Teacher Representatives

Name	Representing	Eligible Attendance	Actual Attendance
Megan Davis	Primary Teacher Representative	4	3

Mary-Anne Marples	Primary Teacher Representative	3	1
Cara Topping	Primary Teacher Representative	4	0

**Group D – Local Education Authority Representatives**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Eligible Attendance</b>	<b>Actual Attendance</b>
Councillor Rosemary Powell	RCC Councillor	3	2
Councillor David Blanksby	RCC Councillor	3	0
Councillor Sue Webb	RCC Councillor	0	1
Councillor Christine Wise	RCC Councillor	1	1
Councillor Steve McRobb	RCC Councillor	1	1

**Local Education Authority Officers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Eligible Attendance</b>	<b>Actual Attendance</b>
Amanda Fitton	SACRE/RE Adviser for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council	4	4
Elizabeth Papworth	Service Manager – Learning and Skills, RCC	4	4
Jane Narey (Clerk)	Scrutiny Officer, RCC	4	4

## APPENDIX C – DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020-22

Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021-2022, some progress against the development plan had been delayed so tasks had been carried forward into 2022-23.

STRATEGY	TASK	GROUP	PROGRESS
Management of SACRE & partnership with LA	<p><u>Scheme</u> The LA and SACRE are mutually dependent upon each other and ensure statutory requirements are met.</p> <p><u>Analysis</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All four committees are represented fully from the local community consistently attending the meetings.</li> <li>2. Produce annual report &amp; follow up.</li> <li>3. Constitution, Development Plan, Engagement Plan</li> </ol>	SACRE members	Ongoing
Incorporation of Commission on RE Report recommendations into the work of SACRE	<p>Form a view on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Name</li> <li>2) National entitlement</li> <li>3) Impact of the broader OFSTED framework</li> <li>4) Parental / guardian right to withdraw children from RE</li> <li>5) Share view formally with the commission</li> </ol>	SACRE	Production of recommendations to be sent to NASACRE
Raise the profile of RE within schools in Rutland	<p>1a) <u>Monitoring:</u> Survey to identify what, when and how RE is currently taught to include the teachers' view and the view of the pupils.</p> <p>1b) <u>Evaluating:</u> To determine what 'good' is and to develop a consensus of what 'good' looks like in practice.</p> <p>2) Ensure full schools' involvement and belief in the value of the subject by sharing best practice, access to training (including insight into choosing a curriculum that best suits our schools and delivers / on – line teaching resources)</p>	Head Teachers' Forum / RE network / teacher representatives on SACRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring to include noting patterns of attendance at various of the network meetings (specifically by non-denominational schools) and SACRE.</li> <li>- On-going reviews so more specific dates can be set and to include cross – curricular considerations as is appropriate</li> </ul>
New Agreed Syllabus	Develop action plan for new agreed syllabus and work with other neighbouring authorities	SACRE	New Agreed Syllabus launched 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 for commencement from the 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023.

**A large print version of this document is available on request**



Rutland County Council  
Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

01572 722 577  
[enquiries@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@rutland.gov.uk)  
[www.rutland.gov.uk](http://www.rutland.gov.uk)