



**Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education**

Supporting Rutland Schools in delivering Religious  
Education



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

**Report April 2020 – August 2021**

This report can be made available in other languages  
and formats on request.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Rutland 2020-2021 SACRE report. This report covers an eighteen-month period and, as such, spans the extent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated lockdowns. From now on SACRE annual reports will be aligned with the academic year to fit in with school plans and to ensure that the results data included is recent and up to date.

This report is short, primarily due to the lack of Ofsted reports and published key stage results and also the limited monitoring of the teaching of Religious Education due to the extreme difficulties faced by schools during this period including online learning and school closures. However Local Authority Officers have continued to support schools and have regularly reported to SACRE.

After the cancellation of 2 meetings in the summer of 2020, SACRE started to meet virtually and has met 4 times in this way during the academic year 2020-21. One benefit of accessing meetings online is that I and Revd James McWhirter were able to attend the National Conference of SACREs in May 2021. The title was 'Authority in Religious Education' and there were some high level key note speeches on 'Sources of Authority in Religions/Worldviews' from a professor of Religious Education and on 'Religious Education and the Quality of Education' from Ofsted's subject lead on this topic. There was also the opportunity to participate in some useful workshops with much to be gained and learnt by Rutland SACRE through involvement in such forums and through accessing national resources.

The next main task for the SACRE is the development of the Agreed Syllabus from September 2023. Work has already begun, and we had a very useful discussion at our July meeting on the study of Religious Education, the difference between Religion or Religions and the nature of World Views. Whilst this could be seen as merely a title change, it is in fact hugely significant as, in the context of the new Ofsted framework and its recent report on the study of Religious Education (RE), it represents a change from one where pupils are taught about different religions to one where they study certain areas in depth and acquire a range of detailed knowledge of different concepts and ideas which enables them to consider more complex ideas about religion.

This should be good news for Religious Education if it ensures a more rigorous approach to the subject, appreciating the value it can add to the development of rounded, reasonable and above all thoughtful young people as they continue their journey through life.

So, to summarise the last 18 months for SACRE, it has been a challenging year for everyone, especially those involved in teaching, but SACRE has continued to support schools and has been able to use the time to start the groundwork for the next agreed syllabus and to utilise technology to participate more widely in national events and have some challenging discussions.

The next year promises to be exciting as we work on the next syllabus and also one of consolidation where we reconfirm how we effectively deliver our statutory role and ensure that we are fully inclusive in our membership.

With thanks to everyone on the committee.

Rosemary Powell (Chair 2020-21)

## **2. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS – April 2020 – August 2021**

Although there were no formal inspections in Rutland schools in this time scale, three monitoring visits did go ahead. Whissendine and Vale of Catmose made no mention of Religious Education but it was noted at the other monitoring visit that 'This term you are focusing on developing pupils' knowledge in religious education and personal, social, health and economic education.' [Brooke Hill Academy September 2020](#)

In its last annual report SACRE was pleased to note the new OFSTED framework, announced in December 2019, which heralded a wider assessment of schools' curriculum delivery of other subjects including RE and the impacts on pupils' outcomes, both academic and in terms of personal development. With Ofsted's return to undertaking full inspections from May 2021 Rutland SACRE is looking forward to seeing the implementation of the new framework and the impact on the overall delivery of RE.

In May 2021 Ofsted published its review on what contributes to a high-quality Religious Education curriculum, assessment, pedagogy and systems. This will be followed in the spring term of 2022, by a report on the quality of Religious Education curriculums taught in schools. Evidence for this will be gathered through subject 'deep dives' during inspections and, in order to prepare for these, schools are being encouraged to actively review their curriculums.

## **3. SIAMS REPORTS**

All church schools will be additionally inspected under section 48 of the Education Act 2005. These Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) are not the responsibility of SACRE of the LA and therefore have no requirement to report on them in the Annual Report.

## **4. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS' NETWORK**

There were three network meetings planned during the 2020-21 academic year but only two took place due to Covid 19 and lockdown. The Autumn term meeting was held virtually and had three themes, Ofsted, RE across the curriculum and SEND pupils and RE. The spring term meeting was cancelled due to lockdown and summer term meeting was also cancelled but due to a

lack of attendees. With life hopefully going back to more normality in the new academic year it is hoped that the meetings will get back to full strength.

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

Normally the SACRE report would include Key Stage 4 and 5 results in RE for Rutland schools but these have not been published at individual establishment level for 2020 or 2021 as the Department for Education in its Guidance (Coronavirus (COVID-19): school and college accountability 2019/20) states *'We will not hold schools and colleges to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2020 and that data will not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account'*

## **6. AGREED SYLLABUS**

The current agreed syllabus has run from September 2018 and Rutland SACRE has now started the process of developing a new Agreed Syllabus which will commence from September 2023. An action plan with timelines is being developed and this has been added to the development plan. In preparation for this, SACRE has held some useful initial discussions at its meetings in 2021 on the title of such a syllabus and the difference between the titles 'Religions and World Views' and 'Religion and World Views'.

## **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. APPENDIX A**

### **i. The Role of SACRE**

#### **Background:**

The 1988 Education Reform Act confirmed the statutory requirement for all LAs to reform a permanent body for Religious Education – The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The Rutland SACRE is an independent body which exists to advise the LA on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The world of education has been, and is continuing, to change and successive governments strive to find ways to improve educational outcomes. Over recent years the role of the Local Authority in relation to schools has reduced but SACRE continues to be a statutory body.

The Government's stance is that British Values and an understanding of others' cultures and faiths can best be taught through RE. The subject contributes significantly to meeting the Government's Prevent agenda.

**SACRE comprises of four groups:**

Group One: Representatives of faiths (other than Church of England) and world views

Group Two: Church of England Representatives

Group Three: Teacher Associations

Group Four: LA Representatives

Each group has equal status and voting rights. See Appendix A for membership.

In Rutland SACRE is supported by a clerk and a professional officer. The professional officer we now have supports both SACRE and The Agreed Syllabus Conference. She is a part-time appointee for Rutland and also supports SACREs in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. Rutland's Head of Learning and Skills also actively supports SACRE.

**The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in maintained schools / community colleges through:**

- Advising the LA on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on Religious Education, Collective Worship and SMSC development of pupils;
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to SACRE by the LA;
- Obtaining support from the LA to review its Locally Agreed Syllabus;
- Contributing to community cohesion.

The Rutland SACRE meets at least three times each academic year and, since July 2015, this has been at Rutland County Council's Catmose building reflecting SACRE's position as a committee of the

Council. SACRE meetings are open to the public who may attend as observers and minutes are published on Rutland County Council's website.

## **ii. Religious Education**

There is a legislative requirement that a Local Authority should undertake a review of its locally Agreed Syllabus every 5 years. This Agreed Syllabus was last under review during 2017/18. English Martyrs Catholic Voluntary Academy follows 'Come and See', the RE syllabus for schools within the Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese.

## **iii. Collective Worship**

Rutland primary schools all have whole school collective worship but it is far more difficult for secondary schools to have whole school collective worship because of the demands of timetabling large numbers of young people and the space that is required for all young people in a secondary school to meet together. It does happen but more frequently collective worship takes place in smaller groups such as Year Group or House Assembly.

In addition to collective worship faith schools also offer the opportunity for morning/end of day/lunchtime prayer. Pupils in these schools regularly recite the Lord's Prayer and children themselves write, and lead, prayers. Church of England schools use the Bible to support worship and pupils also have opportunities to worship in church.

In secondary schools in Rutland there is an emphasis on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education and British Values.

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

The Rutland SACRE has met on the following occasions in 2020-21:

DATE	VENUE
Tuesday 6 October 2020	Virtual meeting
Tuesday 12 January 2021	Virtual meeting
Tuesday 27 April 2021	Virtual meeting
Tuesday 6 July 2021	Virtual Meeting

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

Name	Representing	Actual Attendance	Eligible Attendance
Ms R Gibson	The Baptist Church	3	4
Ms Aga Cahn	The Jewish Faith	0	4
Mr A Hull	Humanists UK	4	4
Mr Andreas Menzies	The Roman Catholic Church	0	4
Mr Gurdev Singh	The Sikh Faith	3	4

### Group B – Church of England Representatives

Mrs Sara Barrett	Rutland Deanery	2	4
The Revd Dr Peter Holmes	Peterborough Diocese	4	4
The Revd R Watts	Peterborough Diocese	2	4
The Revd J McWhirter	Peterborough Diocese	3	4

### Group C – Teacher Representatives

Mrs M Davis	National Association of Head Teachers	3	4
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<b>Group D – Local Education Authority Representatives</b>			
Mrs Rosemary Powell	RCC Councillor	4	4
Mrs Lucy Stephenson	RCC Councillor	2	4

<b>Rutland LA Officers Supporting the Rutland SACRE</b>	
Ms Gill Curtis	Head of Learning and Skills
Mrs Amanda Fitton	SACRE/RE Adviser – Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough, and Rutland
Ms Lizzie Papworth	Education Development Lead
Mr Kit Silcock	Governance Officer (Clerk to the Rutland SACRE) up to 27 April 2020
Mrs Joanna Morley	Governance Officer (Clerk to the Rutland SACRE) from 6 July 2021

10. APPENDIX C – DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020-22

**Due to the closure of schools, rescheduling of meetings and revised priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic, progress against the development plan has been delayed this year and tasks will be carried forward into 2021-22**

<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Progress</u>
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	