



**Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education**

Supporting Rutland Schools in delivering Religious Education

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

**Report September 2021 – August 2022**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Rutland SACRE annual report. This report covers the academic year from September 2021 to August 2022.

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 during the 2021/2022 academic year. All the meetings were held virtually despite the easing of lockdown restrictions following the COVID-19 pandemic, as members found these meetings easier to attend and just as effective.

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 development of the Agreed Syllabus and the review of the Rutland SACRE itself using the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit.

The next year promises to be an exciting one as work continues on the Agreed Syllabus, which will become effective from 1 September 2023. British society is changing and we hope that teachers, schools, parents and pupils will prepare for that change by adapting to and building on the changes planned in the Agreed Syllabus.

With thanks to everyone on the committee.

*Councillor Rosemary Powell (Chair: October 2021- July 2022)*

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

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

Five Ofsted inspection reports were received regarding Rutland schools during the past academic year. These included an inspection of a residential provision conducted under the social care common inspection framework and a Section 8 inspection of Great Casterton Church of England Primary School.

The inspection of The Shires in Oakham, which comprises of two specialist independent schools and one children's home, was undertaken in March 2022 and although the resulting report was 'good' it was disappointing to read that 'there are too few opportunities for pupils to learn about different faiths and cultures, and what it means to live in modern Britain.'

In May 2021 Ofsted published its review on what contributes to a high-quality Religious Education curriculum, assessment, pedagogy and systems. This was to be followed in the spring term of 2022, by a report on the quality of Religious Education curriculums taught in schools but to date nothing has been published. However, evidence for this will be gathered through subject 'deep dives' during inspections and we continue to encourage schools 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 or the LA and therefore have no requirement to report on them in the Annual Report.

### 4. RE TEACHERS' NETWORK

Network meetings had been arranged over the academic year via Zoom for all teachers of RE in Rutland. Topics included Ofsted and deep dives, books and resources for the primary schools, the agreed syllabus and what does knowledge look like in RE.

Attendance was not very good over the year despite the meetings being online and being held on different days. Those that attended did find the information useful, along with the resources and being able to talk and share information with other teachers of RE.

The format of meetings moving forward will be reviewed along with training needs for schools and will involve the diocese.

### 5. KEY STAGE 4 AND 5 RESULTS

#### Religious Studies results – GCSE's and A-levels 2022

Results in RE for Rutland schools were published for the first time in two years due to the pandemic.

Data was taken from:

- [Key Stage 4 performance 2022 - National statistics announcement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/key-stage-4-performance-2022-national-statistics-announcement)
- [Infographics for A level results, 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/infographics-for-a-level-results-2022)
- <https://www.ncer.org/Home.aspx>
- <https://www.finder.com/uk/gcse-statistics>

| 2022                           | Year group total | Cohort entry size | % of children sitting RE | GCSE 9 % | GCSE 5 or above % |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Casterton College              | 117              | 15                | 13%                      | 0%       | 66.7%             |
| Catmose College                | 197              | 44                | 22%                      | 11.4%    | 70.4%             |
| Uppingham College              | 177              | 29                | 16%                      | 3.4%     | 65.5%             |
| Local Authority                | 491              | 88                | 20%                      | 4.9%     | 67.5%             |
| National results (ALL SCHOOLS) | 5,349,250        | 243,875           | 4.6%                     | 9.7%     | 66.2%             |

## **6. AGREED SYLLABUS**

The current agreed syllabus has run from September 2018 and Rutland SACRE was continuing the process of developing a new Agreed Syllabus which will commence from September 2023. The action plan with timelines and budgets has been developed and added to the development plan.

## **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 – The Role of SACRE
- Appendix B - Membership and Meeting Details of SACRE Meetings
- Appendix C – SACRE Development Plan 2020-22

## 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 B for membership details.

In Rutland, SACRE is supported by a clerk and a professional officer. The professional officer we 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 four times each academic year and this has usually been at Rutland County Council's Catmose building reflecting SACRE's position as a committee of the Council. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, the four meetings held during the academic year 2021-2022 were all held virtually.

All of the 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 frequent 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.



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

The Rutland SACRE met on the following occasions in 2021-2022:

| DATE                     | VENUE            |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday, 12 October 2021 | Virtual via Zoom |
| Tuesday, 18 January 2022 | Virtual via Zoom |
| Tuesday, 8 March 2022    | Virtual via Zoom |
| Tuesday, 21 June 2022    | Virtual via Zoom |

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

| Name            | Representing              | Eligible Attendance | Actual Attendance |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Aga Cahn        | The Jewish Faith          | 3                   | 0                 |
| Rhoda Gibson    | The Baptist Church        | 4                   | 1                 |
| Andrew Hull     | Humanists UK              | 4                   | 4                 |
| Andreas Menzies | The Roman Catholic Church | 3                   | 0                 |
| Gurdev Singh    | The Sikh Faith            | 4                   | 4                 |
| Bjoern Finke    | The Roman Catholic Church | 3                   | 2                 |
| Sheila Gewolb   | The Jewish Faith          | 1                   | 1                 |

### Group B – Church of England Representatives

| Name            | Representing         | Eligible Attendance | Actual Attendance |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sara Barrett    | Rutland Deanery      | 2                   | 0                 |
| Rev P Holmes    | Peterborough Diocese | 4                   | 3                 |
| Rev J McWhirter | Rutland Deanery      | 4                   | 2                 |
| Daniel Alfieri  | Peterborough Diocese | 1                   | 1                 |
| Fiona Wilce     | Peterborough Diocese | 1                   | 1                 |

### Group C – Teacher Representatives

| Name        | Representing                   | Eligible Attendance | Actual Attendance |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Megan Davis | Primary Teacher Representative | 4                   | 4                 |

|                   |                                |   |   |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Mary-Anne Marples | Primary Teacher Representative | 1 | 1 |
| Cara Topping      | Primary Teacher Representative | 1 | 1 |

**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      | 4                          | 4                        |
| Councillor Lucy Stephenson | RCC Councillor      | 3                          | 1                        |
| Councillor David Blanksby  | RCC Councillor      | 1                          | 0                        |

**Local Education Authority Officers**

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Representing</b>   | <b>Eligible Attendance</b> | <b>Actual Attendance</b> |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gill Curtis           | Head of Learning and Skills, RCC  | 1                          | 2                        |
| Amanda Fitton         | SACRE/RE Advisor, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council | 4                          | 4                        |
| Elizabeth Papworth    | Service Manager – Learning and Skills, RCC                                | 4                          | 2                        |
| Stacey Potter (Clerk) | Assistant Business Support Manager, RCC                                   | 3                          | 3                        |
| Jane Narey (Clerk)    | Scrutiny Officer, RCC   | 1                          | 1                        |

## 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 has been delayed and tasks will be carried forward into 2022-23

| STRATEGY  | TASK   | GROUP  | PROGRESS  |
|---|--|--|---|
| Management of SACRE & partnership with LA                                       | <p><u>Scheme</u><br/>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><br/>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><br/>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  |   |