

REPORT TITLE: Kirklees SACRE Annual Report 2023 -2024

Meeting:	Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny
Date:	4th February 2024
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr A Pinnock
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No

Purpose of Report

Since 1988 local authorities have had a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The SACRE advises the Local Authority on matters relating to collective worship in all schools in the borough and on Religious Education (RE) given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. The SACRE monitors the effectiveness and appropriateness of the agreed syllabus, which is formally reviewed every five years. SACRE is made up of four committees including representatives from the Church of England, Councillors, teachers and faith representatives

In brief, these are the statutory duties of SACRE:

1. To monitor RE provision and produce an annual report for the secretary of state.
2. To monitor and support collective worship.
3. To agree determinations from collective worship.
4. To produce an Agreed Syllabus for RE in community schools, and to revise this every five years.
5. To support religious education in schools through training and resources

A report must be produced for each academic year and published no later than 31 December. This is a retrospective report looking at the last academic year. The report is sent to the Secretary of State and other public bodies e.g. NASACRE.

Recommendations

The report is for information. Scrutiny support is welcomed moving forward on the specific elements of the work.

The following advice is given by SACRE to the local authority:

- To review the membership of SACRE to ensure it reflects the breadth and diversity of the borough in terms of faiths and beliefs and school structures.
- To investigate the provision of quality teaching of RE at Key Stage Four for the non-examined students.
- To provide opportunities for SACRE to work with other key areas of the Local Authority including the Communities team in order to support community cohesion.
- To continue to reflect on the funding of SACRE to ensure it remains in line with national recommendations and good practice.

- To request that Scrutiny Panel offer feedback which will be incorporated into planning in 2025.

Reasons for Recommendations

- Analysis of school website research and discussions with subject leaders in schools.
- Analysis of finance provided to SACRE
- Analysis of Census information

Resource Implications:

DFE recommend that Local Authorities should allocate approximately 2% of the Central School Services Block for the statutory work of SACRE. This includes the support for RE and Collective Worship in schools.

Date signed off by Executive Director & name

Tom Brailsford (24/01/2025)

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?

Not applicable

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?

Not applicable

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Members of SACRE

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered?

1. Executive Summary

The **Kirklees SACRE Annual Report 2023-2024** highlights the significant efforts and achievements in promoting high-quality Religious Education (RE) and collective worship within the borough. The report emphasises the importance of RE in fostering understanding and respect for young people of Kirklees. Throughout the year, SACRE revised and launched the "Believing and Belonging" syllabus in collaboration with other West Yorkshire SACREs, ensuring a comprehensive curriculum based on the Big Ideas in RE.

The report also details the ongoing support and professional development provided to teachers, including network meetings, courses, and webinars. Additionally, SACRE introduced an Inclusive Collective Worship Award and continued to monitor and support schools in maintaining effective collective worship programmes.

The active collaboration of Kirklees SACRE members with various local and national organisations, such as NASACRE and local faith groups, to enhance RE and collective worship is highlighted, alongside initiatives like promoting visits to places of worship,

developing faith trails, and producing educational films about places of worship. The report concludes with recommendations to the local authority.

2. Information required to take a decision

The **Kirklees SACRE Annual Report 2023-2024** is offered for information purposes. Please see Appendix (1)

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

The work of SACRE fully supports the Council plan. The shared outcomes, Aspire and Achieve, and Safe and Cohesive, are particularly aligned with the work of SACRE. Alignment is also seen with the approaches detailed in the inclusive communities framework.

3.2 Financial Implications

National recommendations suggest that 2% of the Central School Services Block (CSSB) should be allocated to SACRE. In 2024 – 2025 the council reviewed the allocation to SACRE. The new amount was used as a benchmark for the recent tender process to commission services of an external advisor to support the functions of SACRE including the school improvement aspect for RE. The current allocation covers fees expected for the contract for these services for the next 3 (+1) years.

Should the amount of the CSSB change in value, there may be the necessity to review the funding allocated to SACRE in advance of the next procurement exercise. Thus the recommendation to continue reflecting on the value of funds allocated to SACRE.

3.3 Legal Implications

The work of SACRE supports our legislative requirements. Empowered by the 1988 Education Reform Act to produce an agreed syllabus and to advise the Local Authority on RE and collective worship.

SACRE is a legal/ statutory body that all councils in England have to have. It is comprised of elected members (4 delegates for Kirklees), representatives from teachers and Head Teachers in the authority, the diocese of Leeds (C of E) and other faiths and denominations.

3.4 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

System engagement with the offer of support for RE improvement services is not achieved. Partners do not prioritise the improvements within the subject area, which means work not undertaken and outputs / outcomes not achieved.

Addressing inequalities is at the very heart of the work of SACRE and is a core ethic. Integrated Impact Assessments can be undertaken on specific elements of the SACRE work to ensure opportunities are in view and there are no accidental adverse implications (this was particularly the case when considering the new Agreed Syllabus).

4. Consultation

The creation of the new Agreed Syllabus had co-production and engagement with stakeholders from Kirklees schools and settings as well as regional collaboration. Co-production was a core value and approach. Faith, community and school partners have been integral to creating and reviewing the new 5 year Agreed Syllabus.

5. Engagement

Engagement with our Schools is crucial, and to support this, a launch event and training session took place to introduce RE leaders to Launch the new Agreed Syllabus, training audits and networks are provided for schools to engage with peers and share best practice.

SACRE members collaborate and share knowledge with constituent groups. This learning and knowledge feeds into the frequent calendared meetings and outcomes shared with key stakeholders as appropriate.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered

National and local collaboration is considered and taken into account by the SACRE advisor when compiling the annual report. The report is agreed and signed of by the SACRE members, including the cross section of elected members.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

The report is for information and Scrutiny support is welcomed moving forward on specific elements of the work.

7. Next steps and timelines

Scrutiny feedback received and incorporated into planning for 2025.

8. Contact officer (s)

Emma Brayford - Senior Learning Partner Emma.brayford@kirklees.gov.uk
SACRE advisor Ian Ross ian@penninelearning.com

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

10. Appendices

Appendix (1) - The **Kirklees SACRE Annual Report 2023-2024**

11. Service Director responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders Service Director – Learning and Early Support. Jo-Anne.Sanders@kirklees.gov.uk