



# Northumberland

## County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Andrea Todd

**Email:** Andrea.Todd@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 01670 622606

**Date:** Tuesday, 26 January 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a virtual meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2021** at **4.00 PM**.

**Please note this will be a “virtual meeting” that will be streamed live on our Youtube channel at [youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV](https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV)**

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally  
Chief Executive

**To Members of the Northumberland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) members as follows.**

**Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this virtual meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>. Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Committee meeting. However, the only participants in the virtual meeting will be the SACRE members concerned and the officers advising the Committee.**



**Daljit Lally, Chief Executive**  
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF  
T: 0345 600 6400  
[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



## **AGENDA**

### **PART I**

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. MINUTES**

(Pages 1  
- 6)

Minutes of the meeting of the Northumberland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), held on 18 November 2020, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Chair.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code of Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.

**N.B.** Any member needing clarification must contact the Legal Services Manager on 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

**4. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION**

To receive an update from Caroline Weir, Part-time RE Consultant about the provision of RE in-service training and contacts with schools since the last related meeting.

**5. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER**

(Pages 7  
- 16)

(a) To receive a copy of the 42nd issue of the Northumberland SACRE newsletter, dated January 2021.

(b) To consider the arrangements for the contents to be included in the next edition, Issue No.43, of the SACRE newsletter (for April 2021).

Reminder any copy documents in word format to be sent to Dave Cookson in the first instance for inclusion in the next edition of the SACRE newsletter – issue No.43 for April 2021.

**6. AGREED SYLLABUS UPDATE**

To provide an update.

7. **STATUTORY ANNUAL NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE REPORT FOR 2019/20 ACADEMIC YEAR** (Pages 17 - 28)

To receive a copy of the (draft) statutory annual report of Northumberland SACRE, for consideration and approval. (Report attached as Appendix A).

8. **NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE ACTION PLAN JANUARY 2019 TO DECEMBER 2021** (Pages 29 - 38)

To monitor the Northumberland SACRE Action Plan January 2019-December 2021 and points raised following the School Survey about RE and Collective Worship. (Attached as Appendix B).

9. **URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

**IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:**

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussion or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

<b>Name (please print):</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>
<b>Date:</b>
<b>Item to which your interest relates:</b>
<b>Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):</b>
<b>Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):</b>
<b>Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?</b>

**1. Registerable Personal Interests** – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or

b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

**2. Non-registerable personal interests** - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

### **3. Non-participation in Council Business**

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

**This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.**

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## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

At a virtual meeting of the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** on Wednesday, 18 November 2020 at 4.00 p.m.

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor G. Renner-Thompson  
Chairman, in the Chair

#### **COUNCILLORS**

Crosby, B

#### **TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES**

Duffield, A

#### **CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES**

Hudson, C.

Rusby, P.W.

#### **REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS**

Khan, M.  
Marley, Rev E H

Miller, J  
Van Der Velde, Mrs D

#### **CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES (Observers)**

Dearlove, S.

#### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bennett, Mrs L.M.  
Cookson, D

Weir, Caroline

Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Commissioner for Secondary  
Education  
RE Consultant

#### **45. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Ch.'s Initials.....

Members welcomed the following to the Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education:-

Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (replacing Councillor Wayne Daley).

Joyce Miller as a representative of the Buddhist community

Caroline (Caz) Weir, newly appointed part-time RE Consultant

#### **46. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

It was noted that Councillor G. Renner-Thompson had been elected as Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, for the ensuing Council year.

#### **47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mrs E Bainbridge and Ms C Naylor, Mrs S. Walton and, M Warrington.

#### **48. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 8 July 2020, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **49. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION**

Mr Dave Cookson, Commissioner for Secondary Education, informed Members that contact with schools had been minimal during the COVID19 lockdown. However, religious education was back on the agenda, particularly as school structures and routines were more settled now. He felt that contact would begin to increase again and reach a new normal. One school had requested support and this had been passed to Caroline Weir, in her capacity as part-time RE Consultant.

Paul Rusby informed Members that RE was a core subject for Church of England schools and collective worship had continued in a different way, such as using YouTube. Remembrance Day had been observed and Christmas activities were being planned. The festivals of other religions were also marked.

Ch.'s Initials.....

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **50. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER**

Dave Cookson reported that he had not received any content for the proposed December 2020 newsletter and that he planned to delay publication until January 2021. The next newsletter would be a shorter version reminding schools about forthcoming festivals and introduction Caroline Weir. He added that he would be grateful for any content for inclusion. Miriam Khan stated that the Islamic Diversity Centre was able to offer virtual workshops via Zoom, Google or Microsoft Teams and this could be advertised in the newsletter.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **51. NASACRE ISSUES**

### **The NASACRE Newsletter – SACRE News**

Members received the NASACRE Briefing Nos. 26 and 27, for information (a copy of the briefing has been filed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

Dave Cookson reported that he had been asked at the last meeting whether collective worship still had to go ahead and he had been informed by the DfE that it did. There was a section in Briefing No. 27 stating that collective worship should continue using whichever groups or bubbles were appropriate to a school and most schools were doing this and using Youtube or the PA system.

It was noted that £4,000 funding via the Westhill awards was available for schools who excel at RE/Collective Worship, however, Members commented that it was probably not worth applying due the large amount of time and work required.

There was interest in work that had been done in Cumbria relating to virtual tours of places of worship and this was something that could be done in the future. Joyce Miller agreed to share developments with the Cumbrian project as she was working as an adviser on the project. Mrs Van Der Velde stated that she would be happy to offer virtual tours using photographs.

**RESOLVED** that the NASACRE Briefing Nos. 26 and 27 be received.

## **52. AGREED SYLLABUS UPDATE**

Ch.'s Initials.....

Dave Cookson informed Members about the update to the syllabus which was due to be launched in September 2021. It was felt that the current syllabus was in a good state and that no major changes were required. Permission had been granted to work with Newcastle as its syllabus had just been updated.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **53. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY UPDATE**

Dave Cookson reported that the update had been circulated with the papers for the last meeting and it was now ready to be printed and circulated to schools. It was testament to the previous work on the policy that it had stood the test of time.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **54. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY EVENT**

Dave Cookson reported that an event would take place in 2021 but would be online and include a number of elements which were currently being worked on by a working group of officers and Councillors. It was hoped that there would be a blessing from the Rabi Lipsey. Paul Rusby added that children from his school could be involved if required. Mrs Van Der Velde offered recordings of work she was doing for the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese on stories about the Holocaust.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **55. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE ACTION PLAN JANUARY 2019 TO DECEMBER 2021**

Members were requested to monitor the Northumberland SACRE Action Plan January 2019 to December 2021 (a copy of which has been filed with the signed minutes as Appendix B).

Dave Cookson reported that there had been little progress since the last meeting but he hoped that this would change with the appointment of the new part-time RE consultant.

**RESOLVED** that the position be noted.

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### **56. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting was scheduled for 3 February 2021 at 4:00 pm.

Ch.'s Initials.....

CHAIRMAN: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE : \_\_\_\_\_

Ch.'s Initials.....

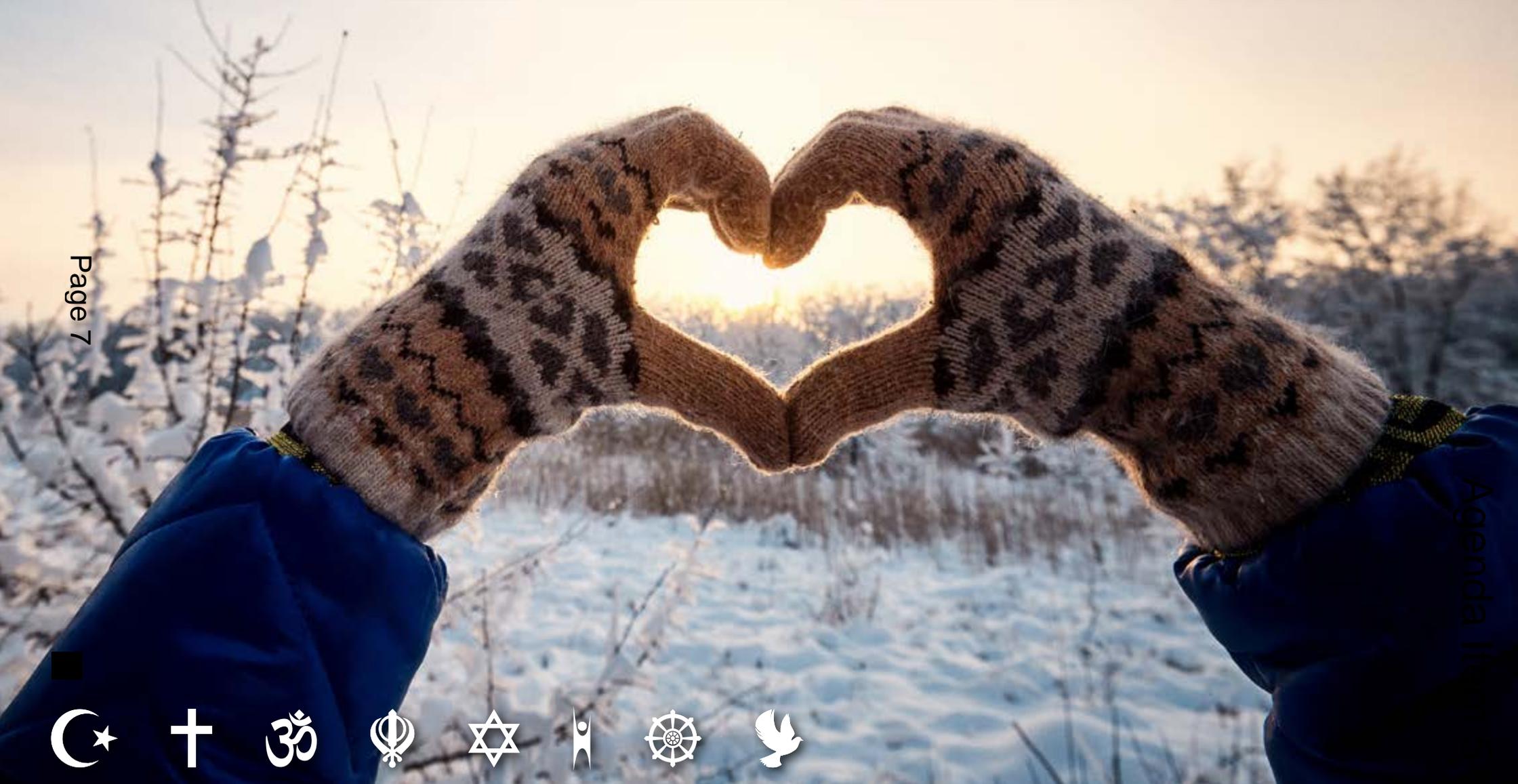
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# SACRE



Northumberland  
County Council

Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for Northumberland



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Agenda Item



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If you would like to submit an article and/or images for inclusion in the next newsletter please contact [Dave Cookson](#).



# Welcome Caroline!



Northumberland SACRE are delighted to announce the appointment of Caroline Weir as our new part time RE Consultant.

Caroline studied Theology at Durham and subsequently trained as a secondary RE teacher. She has taught RE in secondary schools in the North East for ten years and most recently has been working as an RE Advisor for the Church of England dioceses of Durham and Newcastle supporting colleagues across all phases. Alongside this, Caroline also works for Christian Aid as part of their Schools Team coordinating the Global Neighbours accreditation scheme which seeks to empower children and young people to be active global citizens.

She has experience of creating, developing and delivering engaging RE at KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form (both A Level RS and statutory RE). She has worked as a Key Stage 3 RE Coordinator, a Head of RE and has also supported teaching and learning across a secondary school as a Lead Practitioner. Caroline is a member of Durham and Sunderland SACREs, and is looking forward to working with Northumberland

SACRE and getting to know colleagues and schools across the county.

Making RE accessible for students with special educational needs in something Caroline feels particularly strongly about and she has several years' experience of teaching students with moderate learning difficulties and visual and hearing impairments. Caroline firmly believes that when RE is taught well it can be transformative for young people and the communities in which they live.

If you would like support from Caroline please contact her via [caroline.weir@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:caroline.weir@drmnewcanglican.org)

*Caroline firmly believes that when RE is taught well it can be transformative for young people and the communities in which they live.*



# Resources to aid RE Teaching

The Northumberland LA School Improvement Team are curating resources across many subjects, including RE. Their collection can be found [here](#).

[RE Online](#) provide a range of free resources for teachers via a database searchable by key stage/religion/theme and type of resource.

**G**ood News for Everyone (formerly known as Gideons UK) have a number of free resources available to schools. To see what is on offer click [here](#).

We are into a much more virtual form of education whether we love it or not. Be it full school closures, whole classes self-isolating or groups of pupils across classes working from home, the job of teaching all our pupils and ensuring they make progress has become more complicated. The ideas in [this document](#) from NATRE offer some starting points and inspiration!

[Oak National Academy](#) is an online classroom made by teachers, for teachers. The free, high-quality video lessons and resources are available throughout 2020/21. RE lessons are available for key stages 1 to 4.

[BBC Bitesize](#) is a well known resource. The free, high-quality video lessons and resources are available for key stages 1 to 4.



# Could your school be a worthy winner?

We are pleased to announce that for 2021 the Accord Inclusivity Award will, as usual, be given to schools that can demonstrate their commitment to inclusion. We have every confidence there are schools in Northumberland that could easily secure the Award and urge such schools to consider applying for it.

Are you a school promoting an inclusive ethos committed to the growth of mutual understanding, especially on the grounds of religion, belief and ethnicity? If so, the 2020 Accord Inclusivity Award is well worth considering because it rewards schools that work hardest to promote these aims.

The annual Accord Inclusivity Award is now in its twelfth year and former Award winners have displayed a wide range of high quality and thoughtful work, with many having excelled at RE. For example, Old Basford Primary School in Nottingham, [stood out](#) for having recognized that its RE had been neglected and for implementing an impressive overhaul of its provision of the subject.

The annual Award is listed by Ofsted as a way for schools to complement their duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (to advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations and tackle discrimination).

The Award is free to enter and open to all state funded schools in England and Wales. Accord has tried to make the process of applying as simple as possible. Most of the questions the [nomination form](#) poses will have already been answered, if not seriously considered, in material already produced by the school for Ofsted, the school prospectus, newsletters or internal policy documents. For more information on the Award please visit <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2021/>.

The 2021 Award will be judged by another respected and experienced panel. Previous judges have included former Education Secretary, Lord Baker; former Director of the UCL Institute of Education, Prof Becky Francis CBE; Shadow Foreign Secretary, Lisa Nandy; the Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson; and journalist and political commentator, Ian Dale.

**The deadline for entries is Sunday February 21st 2021** and prizes will be awarded in the Spring. Please contact Accord at [paul@accordcoalition.org.uk](mailto:paul@accordcoalition.org.uk) or on 020 7324 3071 with any queries.



# Scholarships for teachers from the Farmington Institute

Applications for the 2020 to 2021 Farmington Scholarships are now open. These are scholarships for teachers of Religious Education and associated subjects in UK secondary, primary and special schools. Headteachers who wish to undertake research into either Religious Education or Values Education are also eligible to apply.

Scholarships for teachers from the Farmington Institute Scholarships cover the cost of tuition, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale.

Scholarships last for a maximum of 30 days and can be taken at a local university (the Farmington Institute has links with 12 universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) or be home-based with a local tutor.

Further information and an application form can be found on the Farmington Institute website: <http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/>

The website above reveals that the Farmington Institute has links with York, Durham and Glasgow universities, all of which are within relatively easy travelling distance for teachers and headteachers living or working in Northumberland.

The SACRE recommends this as an excellent way for teachers and headteachers to refine their knowledge, skills and understanding about Religious Education and Values Education.



*“Farmington Institute has links with York, Durham and Glasgow universities, all of which are within relatively easy travelling distance for teachers and headteachers living or working in Northumberland.”*

# Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2021

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is, as always, on 27th January, and we are confident that many Northumberland schools have already planned events on or around this date. The theme for 2021 is “Be The Light In The Darkness”, so it is likely that many events will reveal what happens when people from different backgrounds share a common concern for the preservation of human life irrespective of issues such as race, ethnicity, religion, belief, gender, sexuality and/or ability/disability.

**N**eedless to say, many examples of how groups of people are marginalised and scapegoated can be examined both in the past and today. All these are worth reflecting on. This year's theme is intentionally broad and open-ended. If your school has yet to confirm how HMD will be commemorated, we suggest that an outstanding starting point for ideas is the HMD Trust website ([www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)), where, among other things, you can find out what is happening in other parts of the country and access lots of excellent teaching and learning materials.

[Holocaust Learning UK](#) have created a Docufilm 'OUT OF THE DARKNESS', that allows students in Years 8 - 13 to see and listen to a Holocaust Survivor tell their story. It furnishes them with the historical and contemporary contexts with which to understand the Holocaust and to give them insights to help them build a safer, better future. Additional downloadable resources will be provided to enable teachers to prepare the students for the film and follow up afterwards.

The programme will be available for schools at **no charge** via our website, during February and March, to stream to students within school or via school into students' homes, should this become necessary.

If schools wish to share with a larger audience what they did to commemorate HMD, send a summary to [Dave Cookson](#) and it will be published in a forthcoming SACRE Newsletter.



# Forthcoming Important Festivals/Commemorations

5 January	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	(Sikh Nanakshahi Calendar)	25 March	Mahavir Jayanti	(Jain)
6 January	Epiphany	(Western Christian)	28 March	Holi	(Hindu)
6 - 7 January	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	(Orthodox Christian, Armenian Apostolic, Rastafarian)	28 March	Pesach/Passover	(Jewish)
27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day	(National)	29 March	Hola Mohalla	(Sikh)
28 January	Tu B'Shevat	(Jewish)	29 March	Lailat-al-Bara'a/Barat	(Muslim)
1 February	Imbolc	(Pagan)	29 March - 4 April	Holy Week	(Western Christian)
2 February	Candlemas/The Presentation of the Lord	(Christian)	02 April	Good Friday	(Western Christian)
8 February	Nirvana Day	(Buddhist)	04 April	Ch'ing Ming	(Chinese)
12 February	Darwin's Birthday	(National)	04 April	Easter Day	(Western Christian)
12 February	Yuan Tan/Chinese New Year	(Chinese)	08 April	Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Day	(Jewish)
16 February	Shrove Tuesday	(Western Christian)	13 April	Baisakhi	(Sikh)
17 February	Ash Wednesday	(Western Christian)	13 April	Start of Ramadan	(Muslim)
17 February - 3 April	Lent	(Western Christian)	20 April	Ridvan	(Bahai)
26 February	Purim	(Jewish)	21 April	Rama Navami	(Hindu)
26 February	Teng Chieh	(Chinese)	23 April	St. George's Day	(National)
1 March	St. David's Day	(National)	27 April	Hanuman Jayanti	(Hindu)
5 March	Women's World Day of Prayer	(Christian)	1 May	Beltane	(Pagan)
8 March	International Women's Day	(International)	02 May	Pascha/Easter Day	(Orthodox Christian)
11 March	Maha Shivaratri	(Hindu)			
11 March	Lailat-al-Miraj	(Muslim)			
17 March	St. Patrick's Day	(National)			
21 March	Naw-ruz	(Bahai, Zoroastrian)			

A searchable calendar of festivals is available [here](#).

# The SACRE members

## Committee A: Other Faiths

Mrs. J. Cousin: Roman Catholic Church

Reverend E. H. Marley, OBE: United Reformed Church (URC)

Represented by the URC: Baptist Church

Represented by the URC: Methodist Church

(SE Northumberland Ecumenical Area)

Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara: Hinduism

Mariam Khan: Islam

Harpal Singh: Sikhism

Joyce Miller: Buddhism

Mrs. D. Van der Velde: Judaism

Mr. A. Gillespie: Society of Friends

## Committee B: Church of England

Mrs. E. Bainbridge

Mr. C. Hudson

Mr. P. Rusby

Reverend J. Scott

## Committee C: Teaching Associations/Unions

Mr. A. Duffield (middle school teacher)

Miss C. Naylor (secondary/high school teacher)

Mr. T. Nicholls (secondary/high school teacher)

Ms. S. Walton (primary school teacher)

## Committee D: Local Authority

Councillor D. Campbell

Councillor B. Crosby

Councillor G Renner-Thompson

Councillor T. Thorne

## Co-opted Representatives

Mr. S. Dearlove: North-East Humanists

Maddy Wardingham (special school teacher)

## Observer (representing the academies and free schools)

Vacant

## Local Authority Officers in Attendance

Caroline Weir, Part-time RE Consultant

David Cookson, Commissioner for Secondary Education and Sixth Forms

Andrea Todd, Clerk to the SACRE, Democratic Services



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## **Northumberland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

### **Annual Report: Academic Year 2019 – 2020**

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### **The Chair's Introduction and Context**

The work of Northumberland's SACRE has continued and 2019-20 proved to be a year like no other. It was an interesting time to take up the Chair of SACRE! I am pleased to report that the Locally Agreed RE Syllabus, revised and launched for use in schools from September 2016, remains popular with all the schools using it. The working party updating the syllabus will begin work shortly with a view to a new syllabus being launched for September 2021.

In some respects, our focus has remained the same: monitoring OfSTED reports; looking at the work of individual schools; and reflecting on best practice in the county and elsewhere. However one of our usual foci - considering exam results at GCSE, AS Level and A Level has not taken place due to the impact of COVID on public examinations.

We work in a rapidly changing educational environment. The full impact of COVID is unknown and we continue to be concerned over the future of RE in our secondary and high schools as the subject struggles to remain relevant outside of the EBacc. This may be exacerbated by the pandemic in the sense that core RE/collective worship may have taken a back seat whilst schools have been partially closed.

I firmly believe that the SACRE does and will continue to play an important role in providing a support framework within schools. We can also, through our CPD, the [SACRE webpage](#) and the termly [SACRE Newsletter](#), inspire teachers in all schools to understand the massive benefit that RE can bring to whole-school life.

Resources to support the work of the SACRE continue to be ring-fenced with a specific financial contribution from Northumberland County Council, and the commitment of all SACRE's members continues to be priceless. We depend on the goodwill of a very small central team who have an impact way beyond their number. The same is true of teachers and others working in our schools, many of whom face their own considerable pressures.

It is a privilege to serve as the Chair of the SACRE and to work with a group of dedicated, enthusiastic and knowledgeable members. Our meetings are enjoyable and constructive, and based on shared commitment to the promotion of the best possible provision of teaching and learning. We work in an atmosphere of mutual respect and celebrate what we can learn from each other by reflecting our increasingly diverse communities.

I want to thank all those who have helped us during the last year, and particular thanks go to my colleagues who make this task so worthwhile. These are challenging times, but with challenges come opportunities to bring about change for the better.

**Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson**

**Chairperson, the Northumberland SACRE**

### **Advice to Statutory Bodies**

The SACRE advised the local authority that, in order to fulfil its responsibilities adequately, consideration should be given to (a) continuing to allocate an agreed budget for the financial year, and (b) ensuring that the part-time RE Consultant is given an appropriate number of days per annum to meet various responsibilities. Regarding the budget, the SACRE received assurances that all necessary and reasonable costs will continue to be met centrally. Regarding the part-time RE Consultant, a new appointment was made and a target number of days engagement has been agreed.

In late 2019 the SACRE emphasised that the current OfSTED inspection framework makes it almost impossible to draw firm conclusions about the quality of RE, collective worship or Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development. We were hopeful that OfSTED “deep dives” would begin to provide some insight but there were no deep dives into RE in the 25 inspections in Northumberland between October 2019 and March 2020, when inspection activity was paused.

Training planned for March 2020 was cancelled due to lockdown. The SACRE recognises that some of the most effective training now and in the future will be provided to staff in individual schools, or to RE teachers in specific partnerships working through continuing professional development (CPD) programmes which they shape themselves.

### **Standards and Quality of Provision of RE**

The SACRE has monitored the quality of RE far less since March 2020. However prior to that date some information has come back from:

- reports from the RE Consultant following visits to schools
- discussion with RE co-ordinators and heads of RE departments
- examples of good or best practice described in the termly SACRE Newsletter

Anecdotal evidence reveal that some of the most innovative teaching and learning methods exist in our first, primary and middle schools where every effort is made to approach the study of religion and belief in a cross-curricular manner. It should be an aim of SACRE to work more closely with secondary and high colleagues to ensure that such innovation and good practice is explored more closely.

### Public Examination Outcomes

In Summer 2020 examination results were provided to pupils based on moderated judgements from schools, as public examinations were cancelled due to the pandemic. As a result no data was collected from schools by the Local Authority. For the record, the outcomes for the RE courses from 2012 to 2019 are as follows:

<b>RE GCSE Short Course</b>			
	Entries	A* - G (or equivalent)	A* - C (or equivalent)
2012	679	78	25
2013	649	92	29
2014	489	90	52
2015	579	90	42
2016	286	99	54
2017	124	96	39
2018	1	100	0
2019	0	0	0

<b>RE GCSE Full Course</b>			
	Entries	A* - G (or equivalent)	A* - C (or equivalent)
2012	873	96	54
2013	966	95	58
2014	1039	97	55
2015	1436	97	64
2016	1367	96	62
2017	1225	97	57
2018	929	97	62
2019	838	99	65

<b>RE AS Level</b>			
	Entries	A* - G (or equivalent)	A* - C (or equivalent)
2012	38	98	25
2013	45	84	14
2014	44	68	14
2015	165	81	29
2016	150	88	34
2017	60	96	45
2018	31	62	13
2019	21	25	85

<b>RE A Level</b>			
	Entries	A* - G (or equivalent)	A* - C (or equivalent)
2012	88	99	44
2013	70	100	35
2014	71	100	34
2015	95	100	36
2016	88	99	43
2017	81	99	43
2018	63	99	23
2019	52	100	52

### **Training/Continuing Professional Development**

Once schools reopen fully RE teachers will be able to access training by:

- contacting the Northumberland County Council School Improvement Team to arrange in-house RE training for an individual school, a cluster of schools, or RE co-ordinators/subject leaders in a partnership
- contacting the part-time RE Consultant
- contacting the North East Religious Resources Centre (NERRC)
- attending training events in neighbouring local authorities offered to teachers, etc. beyond their boundaries
- attending the County's annual RE Conference.

### **Pupils and Students Withdrawn from RE and Complaints about RE**

Parents can withdraw their children from RE and students aged over 18 can exercise the same right to withdraw. The SACRE is aware of no pupils and students who have been withdrawn from RE. Additionally, during the course of the year, no formal complaint relating to RE was received by the local authority.

### **The Agreed Syllabus**

The Agreed Syllabus working party will begin work shortly with the aim of producing a revised document ready for September 2021. We hope that a launch event will take place in June or July to ready teachers. The working party is made up of SACRE members, the RE Consultant and teachers who have volunteered to take part.

### **Collective Worship**

The Policy and Guidelines for Acts of Collective Worship (ACWs) is been revised for 2021. The advice it contains follows what is considered by a majority within the RE community to be best practice. It will be launched once schools reopen fully with the expectation that schools have reconsidered their provision in time for the new academic year in September 2021.

No formal complaint relating to collective worship was received by the local authority. Nor did the SACRE have to make a determination about the appropriateness, for either a school or a group of pupils or students in a school, of collective worship which is wholly or mainly of a

broadly Christian character.

There are very few recorded instances of pupils or students withdrawn from ACWs. We take this as confirmation that most schools are therefore providing ACWs which achieve inclusivity by, among other things, taking full account of the rich diversity of religion and belief that exists in Northumberland. In other words, ACWs are provided in ways that are in sympathy with the needs and aspirations of the whole school community.

### **Management of the SACRE**

#### *Staff*

The local authority has a School Improvement Leader (The Commissioner for Secondary Education) with ultimate responsibility for RE and collective worship. The local authority employs a part-time a consultant to assist with matters relating to RE and collective worship. Democratic Services provides the SACRE with a clerk who not only minutes the meetings and fields correspondence, but also engages in a host of tasks designed to ensure that the SACRE can conduct its business in an enviably efficient and cost-effective manner.

#### *Finance*

The SACRE receives a ringfenced annual sum from the local authority that covers all necessary and reasonable costs.

#### *SACRE meetings*

The SACRE met on three occasions in the academic year 2019-20, on 13th November 2019, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020. On each occasion the SACRE was quorate with at least one member from each committee present. A majority of SACRE members/representatives were able to attend all or at least two SACRE meetings, thereby ensuring continuity and progression from one meeting to the next.

SACRE meetings were dominated by two issues: topical matters drawn to our attention by members and the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), and the impact of COVID.

### **Contribution of the SACRE to the Wider Local Authority Agenda**

The SACRE contributes to the wider local authority agenda by:

- giving expression to equality, diversity, inclusion and community cohesion. It thereby makes a contribution to the local authority's public sector equality duty (note the broad, balanced and inclusive nature of the Agreed Syllabus and the "Policy and Guidelines for Acts of Collective Worship"; articles published in the termly SACRE Newsletter; etc.)
- helping to raise standards in schools (note the content of the Agreed Syllabus; the termly SACRE Newsletter which highlights best practice; the support that individuals associated with the SACRE provide to schools; the annual monitoring of public exam results; etc.)
- assisting with the annual HMD commemoration, an event for which it has "campaigned" for some years

- providing the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for teachers to provide high quality RE (note the provision of training; consultations via email about specific matters raised by teachers/schools concerning RE and/or collective worship; the termly SACRE Newsletter which highlights best practice; etc.)
- avoiding unnecessary and/or unreasonable costs at a time of considerable financial difficulty/austerity (note the arrangements for meeting costs agreed with the local authority; the relatively few days each year that the part-time RE Consultant works on behalf of the SACRE; the willingness of SACRE members to volunteer when tasks need completing on behalf of the SACRE; etc.).

### **Links with Other Agencies**

#### *National:*

- Membership of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

#### *Local/Regional:*

- Close working relations exist with the NERRC
- Close working relations exist with the region's Free Church denominations and other religious and faith communities, some of which are represented on the SACRE (e.g. the Hindu/ISKCON, Jewish and Sikh communities)
- Close working relations exist with the Anglican and the Roman Catholic dioceses, which are represented on the SACRE
- Close working relations exist with the North-East Humanists, who are represented on the SACRE
- Individual SACRE members sit on other SACREs in the region or are asked to attend other SACREs' meetings to contribute to discussions and debates.

### **Summary of Other Relevant Information**

The SACRE continues to publish a [termly newsletter](#). The newsletter keeps teachers, governors and others informed about the latest developments in RE and collective worship; highlights best practice within the county; identifies training options; provides early warning about important festivals and national and international events that schools may wish to discuss during RE lessons or collective worship; and alerts teachers about the most up-to-date RE resources. We are pleased to report that a few other SACREs in the region (e.g. Darlington, North Tyneside, Gateshead) have found it beneficial, either in the past or present, to experiment with similar exercises designed to promote best practice.

During the academic year 2019-20, the SACRE continued to work through its action plan to ensure its work has structure and coherence (the action plan can be found in Appendix Two). The current action plan covers the period until December 2021.

The SACRE has a designated [webpage](#) where schools, teachers and governors can access the Locally Agreed RE Syllabus, the "Policy and Guidelines for Acts of Collective Worship", copies of all the SACRE newsletters and other relevant documentation.

Schools were encouraged to consider applying for the highly worthwhile [Accord Award](#) for Inclusive Schools, and attention was also drawn to the [RE Quality Mark](#) and the [Farmington Fellowships](#) for headteachers and teachers of RE/RS.

Members of the SACRE played a key role in the county's fifth Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) commemoration in January 2020.

## **Appendix One:**

### **Membership of the SACRE, plus the LA officers who attend, clerk and provide professional advice**

#### **(a) Representatives of Other Churches and Faiths**

Baptist Church	Represented by the United Reformed Church
Methodist Church (SE Northumberland Ecumenical Area)	Represented by the United Reformed Church
Roman Catholic Church	Mrs. J. Cousin
United Reformed Church	Reverend E. H. Marley OBE
Hinduism	Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara
Islam	Ms. M. Khan
Judaism	Mrs. D. Van Der Velde
Sikhism	Harpal Singh

#### **(b) Representatives of the Church of England**

Mrs. E. Bainbridge  
Mr. C. Hudson

Mr. P. Rusby  
Rev. J. Scott

**(c) Representatives of the Teachers' Associations**

Mr. M. Davidson  
Mr. A. Duffield  
Miss F. Gannon  
Mrs. C. Naylor  
Mr. T. Nicholls  
Mrs. H. Shaw  
Ms. S. Walton

**(d) Representatives of the Local Authority**

Councillor D. Campbell  
Councillor W. Crosby  
Councillor G. Renner-Thompson  
Councillor T. Thorne

**(e) Co-Opted Members**

Mr. S. Dearlove	North-East Humanists
Ms. M. Wardingham	Collingwood School and Media Arts College

**(f) Observer (Academies' Rep)**

vacant

**(g) LA Officers in Attendance**

D. Cookson	Commissioner for Secondary Education
C. Weir	Part-time RE Consultant
A. Todd	Clerk to the SACRE, Democratic Services

**Terms of Reference**

Terms of reference as per Circular 3/89, Circular 1/94 and legislation such as the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act:

*"To advise the Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in County schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to the Council or as the Council may see fit."*

**Appendix Two:**

**The SACRE's Action Plan**



**Appendix Three:****Distribution List**

- All schools in Northumberland
- Director of Education and Skills/Head of Children's Services, Northumberland County Council
- Department for Education
- University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- University of Northumbria at Newcastle
- County Library Service, Northumberland County Council
- Northumberland MPs
- All Northumberland County Councillors
- The CE and RC Diocesan Authorities
- Karenza Passmore, North-East Religious Resources Centre
- Rev. David Herbert, United Reformed Church Synod Office, 4 College Lane, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE1 8JJ
- Rev. Stephen Lindridge, Chairman of District, Methodist Church
- Mr. D. Lennox, Secretary of the Baptist Union, North East Region Interfaith Group in Newcastle
- North-East Humanist Association
- Harnham Buddhist Monastery, 2 Harnham Hall Cottages, Belsay, Northumberland, NE20 OHF
- The Board of Deputies of British Jews
- The United Hebrew Congregation, Newcastle
- The Newcastle Reform Synagogue
- Muslim Council of Britain, PO Box 57330, London, E1 2WJ
- Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations UK, 43 Dorset Road, Merton Park, London, SW193EZ
- NASACRE

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## Northumberland SACRE Action Plan January 2019 - December 2021

Key Element: Monitoring standards, quality and provision of RE.

Rationale: To monitor, support and evaluate implementation of the locally agreed RE Syllabus, to monitor RE/RS exam results.

Objective	Action	Responsibility and date to be achieved	Cost	Success criteria/ outcomes	Date achieved
<b>To continue to disseminate information about the locally agreed RE syllabus</b>	Ensure that schools which MUST use the syllabus do so and know how to access its content	The SACRE, LA officers. Ongoing	Officers' time	All school that MUST use the syllabus do so and do so successfully  The syllabus is easily accessible via the SACRE webpage on the NCC website, and teachers and others can navigate the syllabus quickly and with ease	Ongoing – the syllabus is easily accessed via the Council website. Reminders are provided by the termly newsletter.
<b>To support school staff as they implement the RE agreed syllabus</b>	Provide, help to organise or indicate from where support for RE (e.g. consultations, CPD, the annual RE conference) can be accessed by all staff in a school, or RE subject leaders/specialists in one or more schools	The SACRE, LA officers. Ongoing	Officers' time	All schools develop schemes of work which meet with the requirements of the syllabus.  Staff responsible for RE feel confident teaching the subject  The quality of RE improves in all key stages  Pupils and students enjoy RE and are challenged by it even more than at present	Ongoing – schools are aware of how to access general support via Dave Cookson. Phil Andre's retirement has made accessing specific support more difficult. This position will continue until a replacement is found.

				Schools consider applying for the RE Quality Mark	
<b>To monitor implementation and delivery of the RE agreed syllabus</b>	<p>Schools, anonymously if they so wish, are encouraged to submit examples of schemes of work to the SACRE</p> <p>LA officers report to the SACRE about delivery of the syllabus observed during visits to schools</p> <p>Encourage more schools to complete the survey about RE and collective worship circulated in Autumn 2018</p>	LA officers. Ongoing	Officers' time	<p>The amount of time allocated to RE conforms with the advice in the syllabus</p> <p>Evidence exists that schools are meeting their statutory duties in relation to the syllabus</p> <p>The SACRE is better informed about what is taught during RE lessons and how the subject is delivered</p>	Ongoing – the RE/collective worship survey last academic year provided an opportunity to see the county picture (although the sample size was small).
<b>To monitor results in RE/RS/philosophy and ethics exams</b>	Examine RE/RS/philosophy and ethics exam results annually for short course GCSE, full course GCSE and post-16 courses, and compare such results with past results in the County, and past and contemporary results nationally	LA officers. Annually, ideally Autumn term	Officers' time	<p>A report is submitted to the SACRE with accurate data, ideally in Autumn or Spring term, for exam results in the Summer before</p> <p>The SACRE has an accurate picture of the provision of RE/RS/philosophy and ethics exam courses and the success</p>	2019 report submitted. The 2021 will be written with the caveat that the results were affected by COVID-19. Comparisons with previous years will be spurious.

				achieved by students in the County	
<b>To monitor the number of pupils and students withdrawn from RE</b>	<p>Examine annually the number of pupils and students withdrawn from RE</p> <p>Consider why the number is high or low</p> <p>If appropriate, offer advice to schools about how they can reduce the number of pupils and students withdrawn from RE (e.g. via an article in the termly SACRE Newsletter)</p>	LA officers, the SACRE. Annually, ideally Summer term	Officers' time	<p>A report is submitted to the SACRE with accurate data, ideally in Summer term</p> <p>Appropriate actions result from the report, perhaps including the provision of advice to schools about how to reduce the number of pupils or students withdrawn from RE</p>	Ongoing. Schools were not asked in summer 2020 due to COVID-19 but the request for information will return in summer 2021.
<b>In the academic year 2020 to 2021, complete the review of the the RE agreed syllabus (retain it as it is, engage in limited/small-scale improvement, engage in substantive/large-scale improvement)</b>	<p>Set up a working party which meets to make recommendations to the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)</p> <p>If necessary, the working party assumes responsibility for amending the existing syllabus</p> <p>If necessary, the new syllabus is officially launched (by July 2021)</p>	LA officers, the SACRE/ASC, the working party. By July 2021	Officers' time	<p>The existing syllabus is retained and schools notified about the decision, or:</p> <p>The existing syllabus is revised and schools notified about the launch date and by when the new syllabus must be fully implemented in schools</p>	To be discussed at the summer 2020 meeting with the expectation that a working group will be set up to commence work in September 2020.

Key Element: Monitoring the provision and quality of Collective Worship in community, foundation and voluntary schools.  
 Rationale: To audit Collective Worship provision and ensure good use is made of the 2006 NCC Collective Worship Policy and Guidelines.

Objective	Action	Responsibility and date to be achieved	Cost	Success criteria/ outcomes	Date achieved
<b>To monitor provision of collective worship in relation to the 2006 NCC Collective Worship Policy and Guidelines</b>	<p>Letter to all appropriate schools seeking confirmation that collective worship conforms with the advice in the 2006 policy and guidelines</p> <p>Encourage more schools to complete the survey about RE and collective worship circulated in Autumn 2018</p>	<p>Chair of the SACRE/LA officers. Annually, ideally by July 2019</p>	<p>Officers' time</p>	<p>The SACRE has a more accurate picture of collective worship provision in the County</p> <p>The SACRE/LA has evidence to confirm to what extent legislative requirements as they apply to collective worship are being met</p>	<p>The policy has been quality assured and is being republished in the autumn term 2020. No changes have been made to the policy.</p>
<b>To encourage schools to share with each other (e.g. via the termly SACRE Newsletter) successful acts of collective worship (ACWs) complying with the 2006 Collective Worship Policy and Guidelines</b>	<p>Letter to all schools with appropriate information</p> <p>An article in the termly SACRE Newsletter about the 2006 Collective Worship Policy and Guidelines and sharing examples of successful ACWs</p>	<p>Chair of the SACRE/LA officers. May 2019, but ongoing</p>		<p>A number of model ACWs exist which can be disseminated among schools</p> <p>Collective worship is inspirational, of a consistently high standard and addresses diverse teaching and learning styles</p> <p>Opportunities for pupil and student participation in</p>	<p>Ongoing – requests for articles to be included in the SACRE newsletter are made termly.</p>

				preparing and presenting collective worship are increased  Collective worship is inclusive for all pupils and students whether they have a religious commitment or not	
<b>To monitor the number of pupils and students withdrawn from collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, and to confirm that suitable alternative provision is made for such pupils and students</b>	Examine annually the number of pupils and students withdrawn from such collective worship, and critically evaluate what alternative provision is made for such pupils and students  Consider why the number of pupils and students withdrawn from such collective worship is high or low  If appropriate, offer advice to schools about how they can reduce the number of pupils and students withdrawn from such collective worship	LA officers, the SACRE. Annually, ideally Summer term	Officers' time	A report is submitted to the SACRE with accurate data, ideally in Summer term  Appropriate actions result from the report, perhaps including the provision of advice to schools about how to reduce the number of pupils or students withdrawn from collective worship	Ongoing. Schools were not asked in summer 2020 due to COVID-19 but the request for information will return in summer 2021.

Key Element: The development of SACRE's role and work.

Rationale: To raise awareness of SACRE's role and responsibilities among schools and the local community.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility and</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Success criteria/</b>	<b>Date achieved</b>
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		<b>date to be achieved</b>		<b>outcomes</b>	
<b>To comply with the SACRE's statutory responsibilities, on behalf of the LA</b>	Produce a 3-year SACRE action plan	The SACRE sub-group, The SACRE. July 2019		Raised awareness of the SACRE's role and responsibilities among SACRE members and the local authority as a whole	
<b>To continue producing a termly SACRE Newsletter for schools, which will include information about new RE resources and best practice in the County</b>	<p>Copy to be sent in the first instance to AT and PA, who will edit/proof-read/compose, etc. copy for the Newsletter</p> <p>DC to liaise with in-house or external suppliers to publish the Newsletter</p> <p>The Newsletter to be circulated to all the usual recipients (SACRE members, schools, etc.)</p>	<p>The SACRE, LA officers.</p> <p>Copy TBA at least four weeks in advance of publication (publication is always early every term).</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Assurances have been given that all reasonable costs will be met centrally for the production of the Newsletter	<p>Awareness of the SACRE's role and responsibilities raised among teachers and governors</p> <p>Teachers contribute examples of good practice to disseminate via the Newsletter</p> <p>Good practice in relation to RE and collective worship is replicated in readers' schools</p> <p>The amount of copy produced by the editorial team is reduced as others, including teachers, contribute by writing articles</p>	Ongoing
<b>To produce an annual report about the work of the SACRE for the DfE (Department for</b>	The Chair and LA officers to collate information and write the report for the DfE,	The SACRE, LA officers. December annually	Officers' time	A statutory duty is met and good work carried out by the SACRE, NCC and the County's	Ongoing

<p>Education), etc.</p>	<p>etc.  On completion, the report to be circulated to all the usual recipients</p>			<p>schools affirmed</p>	
<p><b>To broaden the membership of the SACRE, thereby ensuring, a) all four voting committees have sufficient representatives for SACRE to be quorate, and, b) other stakeholders are represented through co-option or as observers</b></p>	<p>The Church of England, other faith communities, Teachers' Associations and the LA to be approached for representation, as appropriate. Other stakeholders to be approached for representation as co-optees, as appropriate</p>	<p>The SACRE, LA officers. Ongoing</p>		<p>The SACRE embraces a rich variety of religions and beliefs, and accesses the viewpoints of a wide range of stakeholders, all of whom seek to improve RE and collective worship in the County</p> <p>The SACRE enhances its knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to RE and collective worship</p> <p>The SACRE is kept informed about concerns, priorities, developments, etc. nationally as they relate to RE and collective worship</p>	<p>Ongoing as required.</p>
<p><b>To send a delegate to NASACRE's Annual Conference</b></p>	<p>A representative of/officer associated with the SACRE volunteers to attend the Conference and to report to the SACRE</p>	<p>May, annually</p>	<p>Conference fee, return rail fare to venue, possible overnight accommodation. Officer's time, if an officer attends</p>	<p>The SACRE is informed about concerns, priorities, etc. of SACREs nationally, and about the latest developments</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	about the main outcomes			in relation to RE and collective worship	
<b>To arrange an occasional SACRE meeting in a school or academy rather than County Hall</b>	LA officers ask schools or academies if they would like to host a SACRE meeting	LA officers	Officers' time	The SACRE acquires first-hand insight into RE and/or collective worship in specific schools or academies, and the SACRE's profile is raised outside County Hall	Ongoing
<b>To take appropriate action in relation to outcomes associated with the 2018 RE conference (arrange a coach trip for teachers to visit houses of worship?), the 2018 SACRE development day (are there issues that still need addressing?) and the 2018 schools' survey about RE and collective worship (given the data, etc. acquired, what actions must follow?)</b>	Documents relating to the conference, development day and survey are examined to extract from them possible action points. A future SACRE meeting agrees what action will be taken re the most important/pressing action points	The SACRE, LA officers. January 2020 at the latest	Officers' time	Schools, etc. acquire confirmation that the SACRE/LA takes issues to do with RE and collective worship seriously by responding constructively to concerns they and others raise  Knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to RE and collective worship are enhanced among stakeholders with interests in these important aspects of school work, SMSC included	Cancelled due to COVID-19.

## **The recent Schools' Survey about RE and Collective Worship: possible action points based on the content of the report.**

Ask schools that have not filled in the survey to do so, so our data, etc. are more reliable than is already the case.

Remind schools of their statutory responsibilities re RE and collective worship, perhaps especially at KS4 and KS5, while indicating that existing data suggest most schools fulfil such responsibilities (and the benefits of doing so?).

Urge schools (individually or within partnerships, or in clusters in a specific geographic area) to identify what their training needs are re RE and collective worship, and confirm that the LA can arrange for suitable people to provide such training.

Encourage schools to designate a governor responsible for RE and collective worship.

Encourage schools to review/revise their policies for RE and collective worship at least every three years.

Encourage schools to teach about religions and secular world views other than Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, perhaps especially if the religions and secular world views have a presence in the school/ local community.

Remind schools of their statutory right to apply for permission to suspend the requirement to provide collective worship that is “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”.

Remind schools of where they can access good quality RE and collective worship resources.

Urge schools to collect/continue to collect accurate data on the number of pupils/students withdrawn from RE and collective worship and the reasons given, if known.

Remind schools how to access the RE Agreed Syllabus and the County’s “Policy and Guidelines for Collective Worship in Community Schools” (and the benefits of doing so?).

Urge schools to share examples of good practice re RE and collective worship via the termly SACRE Newsletter, perhaps especially good practice that enables pupils/ students to think spiritually, ethically and/or theologically.

Arrange the occasional competition for schools re RE and collective worship.

Write to the Secretary of State for Education to express concern that nothing substantive will be done about the recommendations contained in 2018’s Commission on RE’s “Religion and World Views: the way forward”, a report that has enjoyed widespread/almost universal support/approval in the RE community.

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