



EXECUTIVE 12th July 2023

Report Title	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report 2021-2021
Report Author	Jo Hutchinson – Head of School Effectiveness (Executive Report) Morcea Walker – Chair of SACRE (Author of The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report 2021-2022)
Lead Member	Cllr Scott Edwards – Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report 2021-2021

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Local Authorities have a duty to establish a permanent body known as the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in accordance with the Education Act 1996. The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in schools and to enrich the experience of RE and collective worship for all pupils. Further information and background about SACRE are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 1.2 North and West Northamptonshire Councils established their SACRE in February 2021. The SACRE's terms of reference require that an annual report

on the work of SACRE is produced annually. It is considered best practice for the report to be received by the Executive.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report covers the period 2021/2022.
- 2.2 During the said period SACRE was still without an Adviser. No RE data was collected or subsequently monitored from schools however, the Committee met three times this year and were available to respond to any requests/complaints (none received).
- 2.3 There have been limited opportunities for training but Councillors have responded when possible. Relationships with community organisations remains a strength.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive receives and approves the SACRE annual report for 2021-2022
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendation: To ensure that the following SACRE duties are met:
 - To publish an annual report of its work;
 - To advise the local authority on the provision of training for teachers in RE;
 - To consider complaints about the provision and delivery of religious education and collective worship referred to it by the local authority.
- 3.3 Alternative Options Considered: SACRE has a legal duty to publish an annual report. This report ensures that it complies with that duty and therefore to not present it is not considered to be an alternative option. No alternative options are therefore proposed.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 places a statutory duty on the Council to establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to advise the Council on matters concerned with Religious Education and Collective Worship.
- 4.2 Councils must appoint representatives to each of four committees, representing respectively:
 - Group A: Christian denominations and such other religions and religious denominations as, in the authority's opinion, will

- appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area;
- Group B: the Church of England;
- Group C: teacher associations;
- Group D: the local authority.

4.3 The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and collective worship by:

- Giving advice on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for RE;
- Advising the Council on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on RE, collective worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship referred to it by the LA.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 Section 391 (6) and (7), Education Act 1996 clarifies the background to the recommendations made in this report:

“Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work and on action taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the local authority, broadly describe the nature of that advice and set out reasons for offering advice not referred to the local authority”.

6. Next Steps

6.1. If approved by the Executive, the SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022 will be published to schools.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

7.1.1. There are no resource or financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7.2. Legal and Governance

7.2.1 As set out in the report, section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires the council to establish a permanent body known as the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

7.2.2 The main function of SACRE is to advise the council upon matters connected

with religious worship in schools for which the council has responsibility and with the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus. Under Section 391(6) and (7), Education Act 1996, SACRE is required to publish a report each year as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by representative groups on the council. This report ensures compliance with the statutory duty.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1. The Council's Corporate Plan is relevant to the SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022 and to the statutory duties of SACRE.

7.3.2. The work of SACRE, through their statutory duties, link to the Corporate Plan key commitments:

- Better, brighter futures; and
- Connected communities.

7.3.3 Specifically, the statutory duties that SACRE must adhere to will assist the Council in meeting its commitment to:

- Ensuring that every child has equal access to a high standard of education; and
- Informing and listening to our communities, giving them a greater say in their future.

7.4. Risk

7.4.1. There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.5. Consultation

7.5.1 Before the final report was agreed, there was discussion and consultation within the SACRE.

7.5.2 The SACRE comprises four groups: the Church of England, other Christian denominations and the major faiths represented in Northamptonshire, teachers and the Council.

7.5.3 All groups have voted in support of the final version of the report.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 The Future Communities Executive Advisory Panel's next meeting is on 13th July, after the Executive meeting will have taken place.

7.6.2 The Future Communities Executive Advisory Panel will be consulted via the

Chair of this committee who is the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills North Northants Council.

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1. This report has not been considered by the Council's scrutiny function.

7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1. There is no detrimental impact on any protected characteristic as a result of the recommendations in this report.

7.9. Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1. There is no detrimental impact on the climate or environment as a result of the recommendations in this report.

7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1. There is no distinct community impact arising from the recommendations in this report.

7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 The recommendations in this report will have negligible, if any, crime and disorder impact.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None