

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

2021-2022

September 2021– August 31st 2022



This Information can be made available in other languages and formats on request, such as large print, Braille and audio cassette. Please contact Jane Hall, Clerk to SACRE email: jane.hall@westnorthants.gov.uk

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**Northamptonshire Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education:
Annual Report 2021 -2022**

Foreword by Morcea Walker - Chair of the Northamptonshire SACRE 2021-2022

The impact of the COVID pandemic continued into the period of this Annual Report. Its impact on Education, schools and other educational establishments did not diminish. However people working in this field were able to find creative ways of teaching students whilst catering for their wellbeing.

In 2021 – 2022 “Hybrid” teaching still continued for a while until schools were able to bring students back full time. This enabled quality teaching to take place through both methods.

SACRE has not had an Adviser since 2019 and this continues to be the case. Therefore it has been difficult to obtain information about the teaching of RE and the progress of worship in our schools/educational establishments. Some online training has been provided by SACRE members and a few visits to places of worship and other buildings have used the same method.

SACRE meetings followed Government guidelines and were held via Teams. This proved very valuable. The lifting of certain COVID restrictions meant that students were able to sit GCSEs and A levels in 2022.

Northamptonshire is settling into having two unitary authorities – West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire. SACRE has been fortunate to have the support, at meetings, of the Heads of School Effectiveness for each Unitary Authority. SACRE works in both areas made easier by having joint meetings. SACRE members reflect the diverse community that is Northamptonshire.

We have now come out of the shadow of COVID so the role of SACRE will be to look at the best way to engage with schools in the North and West Northamptonshire Councils. This will include revisiting the Agreed Syllabus and training needs.

SACRE members continue to look forward to good working relationships with a range of Agencies and the wider community.

Morcea Walker MBE, VLL
Chair Northamptonshire SACRE

1. OVERVIEW

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Northamptonshire SACRE, which has met three times this year, comprises four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been good. SACRE continues to ensure the membership reflects the demographic.

The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A - representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions, and world-view communities;
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;
- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations; Teachers, Teaching Assistants and High Level Teaching Assistants
- Committee D – Representatives of the Local Authority

The Committee have met 3 times via Zoom.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire County Council SACRE website at:

[Religious education - Schools and education \(northamptonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/religious-education-schools-and-education)

2. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES)

- **Local Agreed Syllabus** - This can be found on the SACRE website above.
- **Standards and monitoring of Religious Education** - No data was collected for the period 2021/2022 due to the on-going disruption of schools because of the COVID pandemic
- **Teacher training** - Due to the lack of an advisor and uncertainty around the funding available, no training was able to be offered during this period. Church Schools have been able to access training through the diocese and other schools may have made their own arrangements.

3. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The SACRE has not received any complaints about Collective Worship

Determinations

There have been no determination requests in regard to Collective Worship made to SACRE.

4. LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

We are a member of NASACRE.

We communicate with the Peterborough Diocese Education Team.

We have regular reports from local interfaith groups.

Community organisations are well represented on SACRE and keep members updated. We have experienced some difficulties communicating this out more widely to schools and teachers.

We are affiliated to Holocaust Educational Trust

5. SACRE INVOLVEMENT LOCALLY

- **Governor training**
- **Advice on issues within the community**

The impact of COVID and the restrictions on schools and face to face meetings has resulted in great reduction in training. Members have delivered some, mainly online. Members have responded and offered advice when requested from the community. Community events and festivals have been promoted and supported by SACRE members.

6. SECTION ON SACRE'S OWN ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Professional and administrative support and how LA supports the SACRE (clerking, adviser, links to council initiatives)

Clerking has been consistent and professional which has supported SACRE. This service has been greatly valued.

(b) Membership

Please see Annex A

(c) Training for SACRE

NASACRE Conference – 23 May 2022 – 1 person

NASACRE Training – “Where now with worldwide views?” – 1 person

(d) Finance given to SACRE for its work

The Financial status was unclear

(e) Liaison with other local SACRES

Church of England Members (Committee Group B)

Appendix A: Membership of SACRE

Membership 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022

Name	Organisation
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Committee A – Representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions and world-view communities

Farnush Tanhai	Bahai Faith
Mr Arthur Newbury	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints
Chris Paddock	Humanist
Robert Farmer	Humanist
Mr Bhupesh Parekh	Hinduism
Mr Saifullah Nassir	Islam
Avnish Thackrar	Hinduism
Mr Daniel Tabor	Judaism
Mr Harkirat Singh	Sikh Faith
Mrs Morcea Walker	United Reform Church
Mr John Flory	Religious Society of Friends

Committee B – Representative of the Church of England

Oliver Coss	Rector of all Saints Church, Northampton
Mrs Julie Barke	Church of England
Val Griffiths	Church of England

Committee C – Representatives of the Teacher Associations, Teachers, Teaching Assistants and High Level TAs

Mrs Jenny Dixon	Primary Teacher Representative (NEU)
Sylvia Erskine	NEU
Will Kneeshaw,	Secondary representative (NASUWT)

Committee D – Representatives of the Local Authority

Cllr Chris-Smith-Haynes	LA Representative North Northamptonshire
Cllr Keith Holland-Delamere	LA Representative West Northamptonshire
Cllr Tom Partridge-Underwood	LA Representative North Northamptonshire
Cllr Imran Choudhury	LA Representative West Northamptonshire

LA Representatives

Katie Morlidge - West Northamptonshire
Jo Hutchinson - North Northamptonshire

Clerk to SACRE: Mrs Jane Hall