



# North Somerset Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

## North Somerset SACRE Annual Report 2021- 2022

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Words from the Chair**

#### **Welcome to our Annual Report 2021 – 2022**

This annual report covers the academic year September 2021 – September 2022.

### **1.2 Overview – SACRE**

A Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is legally constituted by a Local Authority with the responsibility for overseeing Religious Education and Collective Worship in community, Voluntary Controlled foundation schools without a religious character and trust schools. SACRE has a statutory duty to produce an agreed syllabus for Religious Education.

SACRE has not been functional since 2019. However, in July 2022 the SACRE was reconvened and a decision made to appoint Adam Robertson as Adviser. The SACRE met again in November 2022 and is now reverting to the usual cycle of three meetings per year.

In meetings the following aspects were discussed:

- Ensuring the Council meets its statutory duty to convene a SACRE
- Appointing an adviser to SACRE
- Ensuring the SACRE meets its statutory duty to develop and monitor an agreed syllabus for Religious Education
- Increasing SACRE membership
- Local workforce census data
- Monitoring role of SACRE

### **1.3 Overview – Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)**

North Somerset SACRE has developed and shares a locally agreed syllabus with partner SACREs in Bristol, North Somerset, and the London Borough of Haringey. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, the other SACREs recommended that the updated Syllabus be formally adopted. The updated Syllabus was agreed by North Somerset SACRE in Autumn Term 2022. North Somerset schools were invited to training for teachers. The new syllabus (Awareness Mystery and Value) will run until 2026. The agreed syllabus can be accessed via the website: <https://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/>

## **2. Religious Education**

### **2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus**

The locally agreed syllabus in schools is Awareness Mystery Value (<https://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/>). This is shared by Bristol, North Somerset and the London Borough of Haringey. It is utilised by many schools across the authority, including Academies. During the last year training was held across the 4 authorities who share the agreed syllabus. A total of x schools North Somerset attended the training offered in March.

### **2.3 Standards and monitoring of Religious Education: Ofsted reports**

A statutory role for SACRE is to monitor the quality of provision of RE in the local authority area. One way in which SACRE intends to do this is by analysing Ofsted inspection reports to look for comments relating to RE and Collective Worship. These will be a standing item on the SACRE agenda. The reports will be analysed and advice offered to the local authority regarding any issues that arise.

### **2.3 Standards and monitoring of Religious Education: Analysis of school websites**

As part of its monitoring role, SACRE intends to monitor school websites to examine the RE curriculum and to ensure schools are meeting their legal obligations. Due to the number of schools, this will be done over a 3-year cycle. A simple ‘traffic-light’ system will be used to indicate whether each website contains information about the legal requirements for RE and collective worship, and to credit them where further information had been uploaded regarding aspects of programmes of study and contributions to pupils’ understanding of British Values and to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Results of the survey for 2022 – 2023 will be set out in next year’s annual report.

### **2.4 Standards and monitoring of Religious Education: Public Examination results in Religious Studies**

Add in Exam Data

### **2.5 Support for Teachers and schools: Syllabus teaching materials**

The Agreed Syllabus website <http://awarenessmysteryvalue.org/> contains a wealth of resources for teachers as well as the statutory programmes of study.

## **2.6 Support for Teachers and schools: SACRE website**

The SACRE website <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/religious-education-collective-worship> has not been maintained as well as it should. However, since September 2022 the information has been updated and minutes and agendas of meetings have been added. In addition, the regular SACRE newsletter is also uploaded termly. As policies and materials are made available, they will be updated.

## **2.7 Support for Teachers and schools: Communication and Complaints**

Since the appointment of a SACRE adviser, termly newsletters have begun, with all schools receiving a SACRE newsletter three times per year. The newsletter contains contact details for various communities and resources, as well as ideas for the classroom and information on upcoming events and CPD. The first newsletter was written in Autumn Term 2022.

The Local Authority/SACRE received no formal complaints concerning RE nor was it notified of any disputes relating to withdrawal for RE.

# **3 Collective Worship**

## **3.1 Analysis of school websites**

As for religious education (see 2.3), SACRE intends to analyse school websites to look for evidence of Collective Worship. These results will be analysed and added to forthcoming annual reports.

## **3.2 Training and support**

No training on Collective Worship was organised by SACRE during the year.

## **3.3 Complaints and determinations**

The Local Authority/SACRE received no formal complaints, and there were no requests from schools to vary the legal requirement for Collective Worship. Information for schools on how to do this can be found at: <http://www.banes-sacre.com/collective-worship>

# **4 Links with other organisations**

## **4.1 National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on RE (NASACRE)**

The SACRE is not currently a member of NASACRE but intends to re-join as part of its new reconvened status.

## **4.2 Regional**

No North Somerset SACRE members attended the online South-West Conference for SACREs in February 2022. However, members will be invited to attend the conference in March 2023.

## **4.3 Local: Learn, Teach, Lead RE**

Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) is a regional initiative that includes Somerset, North Somerset, Bristol, Bath and NE Somerset, Swindon and South Gloucestershire. Each area has RE Hubs for primary and secondary teachers with Hub Leaders. The North Somerset Hub is has been led by Laura Harris, primary lead at St Andrews CE Primary in Congresbury. From September 2022, the RE lead is Rachel Mills from All Saints CE Primary, Clevedon. Hub leaders get access to high quality training and facilitate three Hubs per year aimed at both primary and secondary teachers, and teaching assistants.

All meetings have happened online and have been mostly well attended. Feedback has been incredibly positive and there is a real sense of a shared RE community in this group with some innovative exciting ideas shared.

## **4.4 Local: Faith Communities**

SACRE aims to represent local faith communities in order to use their experience and wisdom. For much of the period of this annual report, SACRE was not convened. However, from June 2022 the SACRE is looking to increase the breadth of its membership. We have representatives from the Church of England, Humanist and Free Church communities. A key priority for 2022 – 2023 is to recruit a wider membership.

# **5 SACRE arrangements**

## **5.1 Organisation and support**

For most of the period of this annual report, North Somerset Council did not have an active SACRE. However, when the SACRE was reconvened in July 2022, a decision was made to contract with an Adviser to offer professional advice to SACRE, maintain and write materials for the website, organise monitoring of RE and Collective Worship, write the Annual Report, attend the RE Hubs and write regular newsletters for schools. Adam Robertson from RE Today was appointed as Adviser in September 2022.

## **5.2 Membership and recruitment**

Insert the membership list

## **5.3 Financial report**

### **SACRE Financial Statement 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

During this period there was no budget for SACRE and SACRE was not convened as a formal body.

The Budget for the new period 2022 – 2023 was presented at the SACRE meeting in July 2022, and shows a more budget of £10,000 for the Adviser to carry out the duties of the SACRE.