
NORTH SOMERSET LOCAL AUTHORITY

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

2024 - 2025



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Foreword

It is a privilege to write this foreword for the 2024–2025 Annual Report of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in North Somerset. As the recently appointed Education Lead, I have had the joy of joining a committed and diverse group of individuals who bring wisdom, passion and faith from across our communities. Our membership reflects a rich tapestry of voices—representatives from Christian and other faith denominations, the Church of England, teacher associations, local authority officers and colleagues from RE Today.

This year marks an exciting chapter for SACRE as we look forward to growing together in purpose and partnership. With renewed energy and a shared vision, we are preparing to engage with all stakeholders across North Somerset to review and refresh our Religious Education syllabus. Our aim is to ensure that RE continues to inspire curiosity, deepen understanding and foster respect among all learners, equipping them to navigate an increasingly diverse world with empathy and confidence.

It is with heartfelt thanks that we recognise those who have laid the foundations for this work. The commitment, time and enthusiasm shown by all members throughout 2024–2025 has created a strong platform from which we can build. We move ahead with a sense of appreciation for what has been achieved and anticipation for what lies ahead.

Together, we look forward to strengthening our collaborative work, championing high-quality Religious Education and ensuring that the voices of schools, faith communities and young people remain at the heart of our vision.

Sarah McGahern (Education Link Person for the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)

Overview of the work of SACRE

Since 1988, each Local Authority (LA) has been required by law to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

The remit of a SACRE is principally to oversee the Religious Education (RE) and collective worship within the authority principally to:

- advise North Somerset Council upon matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship in community schools and in foundation schools which do not have a religious character. Religious Education in these schools is to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- advise North Somerset Council on teaching methods, choice of materials and teacher training in Religious Education and Collective Worship;
- require North Somerset Council to review the locally agreed syllabus for religious education at least every five years.

The reporting period of the 2024 - 2025 report starts from September 1st 2024 and runs to August 31st 2025.

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2024 – 2025, all of these were virtual meetings.

SACRE met on the following dates during the period covered by the report - 21st January 2025, 10th March 2025 and 15th July 2025

Minutes for these meetings are available on the North Somerset Council website.

Standing items in meetings:

Apologies for absence

New or substitute members

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Additional items in meetings:

21st January 2025

Annual SACRE report

SACRE Development Plan

National RE Update

10th March 2025

Workforce Data

GCSE and A Level Data

Recruitment to Committee A

Meeting Dates 2025 – 2026

15th July 2025

SACRE Annual Report

Feedback from NASACRE Conference

Website

Authorised Absences in School

Section 2: Religious Education

The Locally Agreed Syllabus and RE in schools

RE is not part of the national curriculum. Each LA is required to produce an Agreed Syllabus for RE. Each LA is required to begin reviewing the current Agreed Syllabus within five years of its production.

Standards and monitoring of RE

During the year covered by this report the SACRE has undertaken its role for monitoring religious education in North Somerset in a number of ways. The information presented to the SACRE has included the DfE Workforce Data, examination results and Ofsted reports. These items are noted in the minutes of the relevant meetings and are also included in this report.

At present, the results from 2025 are unvalidated. Please see appendix A for the unvalidated results from Summer 2025.

DfE Workforce Data – not all schools have submitted data as it is not a requirement in the census

School name	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% year 12 hours - RE	% year 13 hours - RE	% hours - RE
Nailsea School	6.34	5.73	5.46	4.78	5.07	0	0	4.22
Churchill Community Foundation School and Sixth Form Centre	4.37	4.21	6.41	3.3	1.07	2.05	2.47	3.37
Priory Community School	2.47	3.16	2.27	0.42	0.35			1.48
St Katherine's School								
Backwell School								
Gordano School								
Clevedon School	2.49	3.62	6.7	5.34	5.41	2.84	3.03	4.38
Worle Community School	3.55	2.24	6.41	0.9	1.89			2.95

Monitoring of Ofsted Reports – only reports containing a mention of RE are included in the report

Golden Valley Primary School – May 2025

Pupils develop a good understanding of current affairs and different religious festivals.

Backwell Church of England Junior School – November 2024

Pupils learn to be respectful of the beliefs of others.

St. Francis Catholic Primary School – September 2024

The school's Catholic ethos permeates its work. However, pupils also experience other faiths and cultures. They visit places of worship and participate in events such as 'International Mass' days .

Teacher training materials and advice for schools

Teachers in North Somerset have received training through the consortium involved in the North Somerset Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about RE during the year.

Advice given to the Local Authority

Advice was given to the local authority around the membership of the SACRE in relation to the four statutory committees.

Section 3: Collective worship

Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

Determinations

There were no requests for determinations received during the period covered by this report.

Teacher training provided

No training was delivered during the period covered by this report.

Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about collective worship during the year.

Advice to the Local Authority

No advice was given during the period covered by this report.

Section 4: Links with other bodies

National Bodies

North Somerset SACRE are pleased to be linked with national bodies and receive national updates from Ian Nicholson our RE adviser.

North Somerset SACRE has links with NASACRE and has received feedback from the NASACRE annual conference. It regularly utilises NASACRE's self-evaluation toolkit.

Information from NATRE and the REC has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.

A member of SACRE attended the NASACRE annual conference and AGM and gave useful feedback at the next meeting.

Local bodies

Bath and Wells Diocese provide excellent support to SACRE and we are pleased to have Lousie Jenkins as a member of committee B.

Local places of worship are well represented on SACRE.

Section 5: SACRE involvement in the Local Area

Governor and head teacher links

All information from the SACRE is shared with senior leaders and governors in school through the LA Adviser – Sarah McGahern.

Advice on community issues

The RE adviser regularly gives advice on speakers coming into schools and visits to places of worship locally.

Section 6: Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority (LA)

Professional and administrative support

During the reporting period, clerking of SACRE was undertaken by Jesse Bellamy of Corporate Services at North Somerset Council.

The Local Authority provided funding to support SACRE activity 2024 - 2025 by contracting with RE Today Services of an RE Consultant for RE Adviser support.

Ian Nicholson from RE Today continued in the role of RE consultant.

Sarah McGahern, Lead Early Years Consultant holds responsibility for SACRE support and liaises with the RE consultant.

Membership

The table provided below demonstrates the composition and attendance of North Somerset SACRE.

Names in bold show attendance at the meeting, an (A) after the name indicates apologies were received.

	21 st January 2025	10 th March 2025	15 th July 2025
Committee A	Don Cameron Martin Taylor Tom Leimdorfer	Don Cameron Martin Taylor Tom Leimdorfer	Don Cameron (A) Martin Taylor Tom Leimdorfer
Committee B	Louise Jenkins Tonya Dixon (A)	Louise Jenkins Tonya Dixon	Louise Jenkins
Committee C	Stephen Webber Matthew Gray (A) Collette Miyagawa (A) Rebecca Poole Lorraine Brawn Jane Arney (A)	Stephen Webber Matthew Gray Collette Miyagawa Rebecca Poole (A) Lorraine Brawn Jane Arney	Stephen Webber Matthew Gray Collette Miyagawa Rebecca Poole Lorraine Brawn Jane Arney
Committee D	Caritas Charles – Councillor Jesse Bellamy – Clerk Helen Caldwell – Education Link Person Pip Hesketh – Assistant Director for Education Partnerships Sarah McGahern – LA Observer	Caritas Charles – Councillor Jesse Bellamy – Clerk Sarah McGahern – Education Link Person	Martin Williams - Councillor Jesse Bellamy – Clerk Sarah McGahern – Education Link Person
In Attendance	Ian Nicholson – RE Today	Ian Nicholson – RE Today	Debbie Yeomans – RE Today

Training

Training is available to members of the SACRE through NASACRE.

Finance

The LA allocated funding for support to SACRE from the RE Consultant and for the work of the Clerk to SACRE.

Appendix A:
Validated Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Exam Data, Summer 2025
GCSE and A level



KS4 Grade Summary by Subject

2024 | NPD | Religious Studies

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60184000

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	105850	6.9	10.2	12.0	17.0	14.2	10.4	13.4	8.3	4.8	2.2	0.6	60.3	70.7	97.2	5.0
-	LA (State Funded)	2459	332	3.3	7.5	11.7	17.8	15.1	9.9	13.6	10.8	7.2	1.8	1.2	55.4	65.4	97.0	4.6
4129	Backwell School	266	56	3.6	10.7	16.1	21.4	21.4	10.7	8.9	3.6	-	3.6	-	73.2	83.9	96.4	5.4
4136	Clevedon School	235	220	1.8	3.6	10.0	15.5	14.1	11.4	16.8	13.6	10.9	1.8	0.5	45.0	56.4	97.7	4.1
4137	Nailsea School	173	29	6.9	17.2	6.9	31.0	10.3	-	10.3	10.3	-	-	6.9	72.4	72.4	93.1	5.4
4143	Priory Community School	314	27	11.1	22.2	22.2	14.8	14.8	7.4	-	3.7	-	-	3.7	85.2	92.6	96.3	6.3

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60188790

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	47940	6.6	9.6	11.4	15.9	14.6	11.5	13.3	8.9	5.7	1.8	0.7	58.1	69.6	97.6	4.9
-	LA (State Funded)	2459	123	12.2	13.0	13.0	26.0	12.2	9.8	4.9	4.1	4.1	0.8	-	76.4	86.2	99.2	5.9
4003	Broadoak Academy	147	14	7.1	21.4	21.4	14.3	7.1	-	14.3	14.3	-	-	-	71.4	71.4	100.0	5.8
4139	Churchill Academy & Sixth Form	260	24	8.3	12.5	-	25.0	12.5	20.8	8.3	8.3	-	4.2	-	58.3	79.2	95.8	5.1
4135	Gordano School	361	60	16.7	13.3	18.3	30.0	13.3	6.7	1.7	-	-	-	-	91.7	98.3	100.0	6.6
4145	Hans Price Academy	212	25	8.0	8.0	8.0	24.0	12.0	12.0	4.0	4.0	20.0	-	-	60.0	72.0	100.0	4.8

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60300632

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (State Funded)	627930	23480	8.3	10.6	11.7	16.4	13.3	10.7	13.2	8.3	5.1	1.7	0.6	60.3	71.1	97.7	5.1
-	LA (State Funded)	2459	21	-	4.8	14.3	4.8	14.3	-	19.0	19.0	9.5	9.5	4.8	38.1	38.1	85.7	3.4
4144	St Katherine's School	169	21	-	4.8	14.3	4.8	14.3	-	19.0	19.0	9.5	9.5	4.8	38.1	38.1	85.7	3.4



KS5 Grade Summary by Subject

2024 | NPD | Religious Studies

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE A level (111)

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	*	A	B	C	D	E	Q	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	Avg Pts
-	National (all entries)	14530	6.2	19.8	28.4	23.2	13.9	5.8	0.0	1.9	0.7	26.0	54.5	97.4	35.3
4129	Backwell School	14	7.1	21.4	14.3	28.6	21.4	7.1	-	-	-	28.6	42.9	100.0	34.3
4139	Churchill Academy & Sixth Form	10	10.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	-	10.0	-	20.0	-	30.0	50.0	80.0	31.0
4136	Clevedon School	4	-	-	25.0	25.0	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	25.0	100.0	27.5
4135	Gordano School	5	20.0	40.0	20.0	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	60.0	80.0	100.0	46.0
4137	Nailsea School	6	-	33.3	33.3	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	33.3	66.7	100.0	40.0

Appendix B:

Circulation of the Annual Report

The [North Somerset Local Authority](#) Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report will be:

- Provided, via e-mail, to all SACRE Members
- Provided, via e-mail, to the Department for Education
- Provided, via e-mail, to NASACRE
- Published on the Local Authority website
- Provided, via a newsletter, to all Local Authority Schools