



**Warwickshire Standing Advisory
Council
for Religious Education**

**Annual Report
2023-24**



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Introduction

This is the annual report of the Warwickshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for 2023/24 and is published in accordance with the requirements of section 391 (6) of the Education Act 1996. It provides an account of SACRE activities during this period.

Circulation of this report

This report will be circulated electronically to:

- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Warwickshire schools
- Warwickshire Councillors
- Department for Education
- Diocesan Board of Education (Coventry Church of England Diocese)
- Diocesan Education Service (Roman Catholic Archdiocese Birmingham)
- The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)
- SACREs in neighbouring authorities
- Faith groups

It will also be available to download at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre

Message from the Co-Chairs of SACRE

This has been another eventful year, marked by the launch of our agreed syllabus and the appointment of a new RE Facilitator.

We have been privileged to continue our unique partnership with Coventry SACRE, sharing experiences, ideas and support structures such as the SACRE website, joint meetings and especially the new Agreed Syllabus. This has only been possible because the two Local Authorities share the vision and commitment to work together on behalf of the schools and children in their area. The result is that we have been able to continue our combined efforts, resources and encouragement, leading to levels of service and support for schools that could only be dreamed of by the Local Authority acting alone.

We would like to record our thanks to our amazing RE Facilitator, Jennifer Jenkins, who stepped down in July. She inspired and guided both SACREs and local schools on a remarkably small allocation of time. We were delighted to be able to appoint Gemma Hathaway as her replacement. They have both been excellently supported in this by Lucy Lambert & Martin Legard from Coventry LA and Jane Bennett & Debbie Hibbert from Warwickshire LA. To all these people, Warwickshire SACRE extends its heartfelt thanks.

We met three times over the year and attendance at all meetings was very good, including a joint meeting of Coventry and Warwickshire SACREs on 5th February.

The result of this ongoing co-operation is that SACRE has not only been able to meet its statutory commitments but managed to work on producing resources for schools and support the events and initiatives of religious communities. Examples included the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus in April, regular CPD sessions to support the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus and the regular RE Bulletin to schools. Further details of these events and initiatives are to be found within the Report, although the words on paper can only faintly bear witness to the events themselves.

Finally, we thank all the members of SACRE for their attendance, ideas, support, flexibility and forbearance as they represent their respective faiths and bodies, as we learn and journey together. These words cannot fully reflect the buzz and community interaction that has happened over the year – even if some of the interaction has been virtual.

Executive Summary

The main priorities for Warwickshire SACRE in 2023/2024 were:

Item	Actions	Person Responsible /Overview
1a – RE provision across the LA	New RE Agreed Syllabus for Coventry and Warwickshire is successfully implemented	RE Facilitator LA officers SACRE members Teacher writing group
1b – Standards of achievement and public examination entries	Monitoring of GCSE and A-Level results Ofsted outcomes & follow-up	RE Facilitator LA officers SACRE clerks
1c – Quality of learning and teaching	Refining and reviewing the new RE Agreed syllabus and accompanying resources using feedback, monitoring and evaluation	RE Facilitator LA officers SACRE members Teacher writing group
1d – Quality of leadership and management, including the provision and management of resources	INSET for RE subject leaders. Development of hub/consortiums within MATs and locality groups	RE Facilitator
1e – Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff	Training of RE subject leaders and RE teachers Developing relationships with ITT Providers	RE Facilitator

CPD in 2023-2024 included:

RE Curriculum Symposium – October 23

- What is a Worldviews Approach to Teaching RE
- Theology: Thinking About Beliefs in Worldviews
- Philosophy: Thinking About Knowledge and Thought in Worldviews
- Human and Social Sciences: Thinking About Worldviews as Lived Experience
- Metacognition and Assessment: Tracking Understanding and Knowledge of Concepts
- Personal Knowledge: Pupils as Worldview Explorers
- Reconciliation: A Local Matter of Global Significance

Twilight CPD – January to April 24

- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: EYFS
- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: KS1
- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: Lower KS2
- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: Upper KS2
- Modelling New Units from the New Agreed Syllabus: KS3
- Pagan Worldviews
- Non-religious Worldviews

Agreed Syllabus launch – April to July 24

- Agreed Syllabus launch event
- Agreed Syllabus Q&A
- Assessment in the new Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus
- RE Syllabus clinic

In person sessions were also held in 2023-2024 in response to the demands of the new locally agreed syllabus and the shift to a religion and worldviews approach:

SACRE members offered in-person and remote visits to schools via Teams and Zoom during 2023-2024, visiting primary and secondary schools.

Videos were added to Coventry SACRE YouTube Channel, including: those made by SACRE members and all CPD sessions created by the RE Facilitator:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCffPoYcgj0e3cpIRa0jmG6Q>

Resources for schools were developed in line with local needs and national developments in RE and national events (e.g. the release of the 2021 Census data on religion).

Westhill grant funding has allowed for the development of a digital photo pack of local communal worldviews, places of worship and faith communities developed with the support of a local photographer. Images '*That Speak*' will be a resource developed during 2023-2024 and complement the new locally agreed syllabus.

SACRE continued to support local community projects, such as Coventry Sacred Space, the Lord Major's Peace Committee Coventry Peace Award, the annual peace poetry competition and events taking place to celebrate Interfaith Week.

SACRE Meetings 2023-2024

Attendance at SACRE Meetings

Warwickshire SACRE met on three occasions during the 2023/24 academic year. Details of venues and attendance are provided in the table below.

Date	Venue	Numbers in attendance from each group					Other attendees
		Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Co-opted members	
October 2022	Veterans Contact point Nuneaton	4	2	0	0	1	2
February 2023	Joint meeting with Coventry, Greek Orthodox Church.	7	4	0	1	0	3
June 2023	DBE offices in Rugby	2	3	2	2	1	3

SACRE met in person during 2023-2024. SACRE met in places of worship and Local Authority premises and schools.

Support for RE

SACRE continues to support the Local Authority in seconding a RE specialist in the form of a RE Facilitator to provide support to Warwickshire schools and Warwickshire SACRE.

Warwickshire SACRE also continued joint-working with Coventry through the merging of the two Chairs Groups and one joint full SACRE meeting annually.

The RE Facilitator updated SACRE on national developments in RE, including the Religion and Worldviews Approach and Multi-Disciplinary RE and the underpinning principles from the Religion & Education Council's Worldviews Project that has fed into our syllabus development.

The new agreed syllabus has been launched and begun implementation. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has been assembled and active since September 2022. In the interim period, the RE Today syllabus has been extended for a further two years and this will come to an end in July 2024.

Uptake of Agreed Syllabus (including academies)

230 Warwickshire schools have RE Leads who receive information from SACRE.

New Syllabus Comments

Firstly, thank you so much for all the hard work you and your team have put in to creating the new syllabus - I cannot believe how much has been provided - for people like me who is new to it and a complete novice, it will be so useful!

RE lead

Thank you so much Jennifer.

I'm looking forward to the additional training online today - really am so impressed with the quality of resources / curriculum guidance we have been given.

Kind Regards

Helen Ward

Brill - we have started teaching different modules and the kids are really enjoying it - just one of the lessons at the start a whole class changed their view from seeing RS as irrelevant to them personally to being really important!

RE Department Lead at Rugby Free Secondary School

We decided to change the name of the subject to world views. This had been greatly received by pupils, parents and staff, especially on open evening. Yr7 have enjoyed their introduction so far and last lesson they did the lenses and statement match up and found it interesting that even the statements don't fit to just one lens sometimes. Yr8 enjoyed making their own glasses and magnifying glasses which we laminated and now use.

RE lead Myton School

Standards and monitoring of RE

Ofsted Follow Up

OFSTED visits to Coventry schools in 2023-2024 were as follows:

Ofsted inspections 23/24

Ofsted visits to Warwickshire schools in 2023-24 were as follows:

Maintained Nursery Schools 3 inspections.

Primary Schools 63 inspections and 4 monitoring visits

Secondary schools 8 inspections and 3 monitoring visits

Special schools 6 inspections and 1 monitoring visit

There were 51 inspections under section 5 of the Education Act 2005, all inspections under section 8 and did not result in a change of judgement.

Some comments made in Warwickshire schools' Ofsted reports regarding RE were:

- Through the choice of texts for study and subjects like religious education, the school has taken important steps to widen pupils social and cultural knowledge.
- Children learn about different faiths and cultures through celebrating religious festivals.
- They know about difference and welcome visitors.
- However, pupils' knowledge of other faiths and cultures is not as well developed.
- There is careful integration of wider experiences into the curriculum. Pupils are helped to recover from their fractured experiences through personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) lessons and inspiring trips. These allow pupils to grow in their own aspirations and realise what is possible for them.
- The 'undivided club' hosts events such as 'Asian festival' and 'pan-African festival' to celebrate the different cultures that exist. All of this prepares pupils to make an active contribution to society and prepares them well for life in modern Britain.
- Cultural diversity is celebrated, and a recent culture day was successfully undertaken at the request of pupils.
- Pupils speak confidently about different faiths and cultures.
- The school places a strong emphasis on pupils' personal development. Pupils are taught about world religions, beliefs and cultures.

Where RE was specifically mentioned or implied, email contact was made with the school of the following nature:

- To congratulate them on the RE provision
- To offer support with regards to a particular finding or comment in the report.

One response from a headteacher: *Thank you so much for your email, it is lovely that you've taken the time to read through our Ofsted report. It was great that our efforts to arrange visits from people of different faiths into our school was acknowledged by Ofsted. During the Spring term we welcomed Abeda and her friend Ayesha from the Muslim community and Hema from the Hindu community. Both were just brilliant and hugely enriched the children's learning in RE - we look forward to inviting them into our school again next year to support the teaching of the new syllabus.*

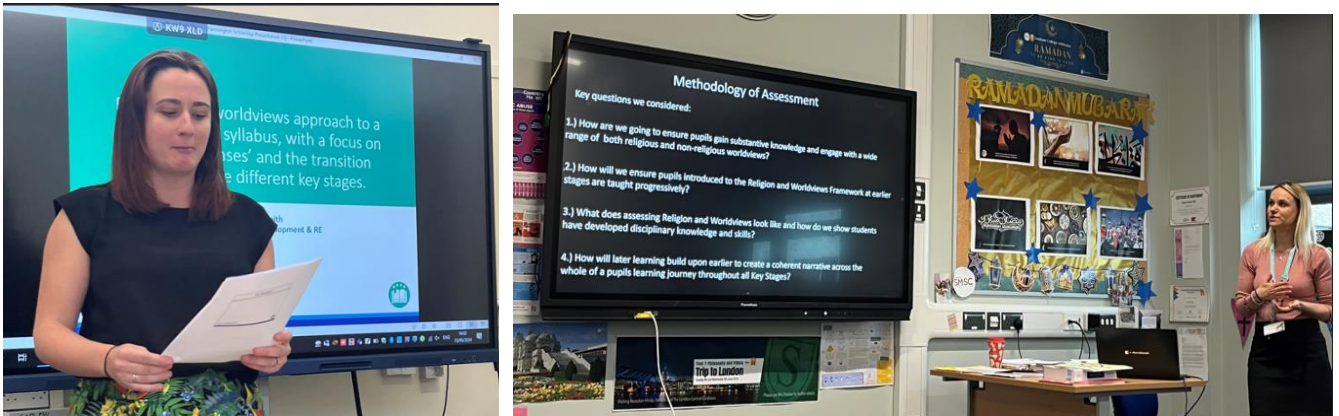
Thank you for your continued support.

One response from a headteacher: *Dear Gemma, Thank you so much for taking the time to read our Ofsted report. As you can imagine, we are delighted with the outcome. I am so proud of the pastoral and SMSC curriculum that Asif has worked tirelessly to develop. The children we support have such a rich experience with us as a result. Please feel free to come and visit us at UHCW or at Whitmore Park Annexe.*

Thanks again.

Highlights of the year

Sophie Smith and Alice Thomas presenting their research as part of the Farmington Scholarship programme



A wonderful celebration at the Summer SACRE meeting where we said farewell to Jen Jenkins as the RE Facilitator – heartfelt thanks for your service over the last 8 years.



Our Co-Chair Manjit Kaur visiting a Primary School this academic year



Manjit Kaur co-chair presented in September at the Religion and media conference details of the focus from Manjit can be found below.

RE is part of the basic curriculum not the national curriculum.

RE is locally determined and put together through input from teachers' association, LA representatives, other Christian denomination and faiths and C of E. It is reviewed every five years. Which could mean a child in KS1 may experience three agreed syllabuses.

We are reviewing our agreed syllabus and considering locally the following items:

1. Young people comments
2. 'Peace and Reconciliation
3. Linking to local, national and global issues and their effect on the city/county.
4. Academisation and Arrangements with funding organisation
5. Our secondary schools are all academies. We continue with '**assertive communication**'.

Sixth form students attended a conference In collaboration with the Religion and Media Centre



Religion Media Centre @R... · 05/10/2023 ...
 Some great questions and interesting discussions about faith, communities & the media - as well as a number of really strong stories from our fantastic guests today. Thank you to everyone who came along to #CreatingConnections at @CovCathedral. #medialiteracy #religiousliteracy



Religion Media Centre @R... · 05/10/2023 ...
 The Dean of @CovCathedral, the Very Reverend John Witcombe, is welcoming everyone to the cathedral and explaining its importance in bringing #communities together and its role in promoting #peaceandreconciliation.



[Reimagining the accidentally local in English RE](#) – It was wonderful for our new locally agreed syllabus to be mentioned in the linked article by Paul Smalley

[Curriculum and Assessment Review - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#) we are proud to have shared our thoughts and suggestions as a SACRE to the DfE review

Images of the first Commonwealth Remembrance service held in Foleshill Peace Park. Acknowledging Sikhs by placing romalla sahib at Ravidass Gurdwara and gurdwara presenting a khanda poppy.



SACRE Resources for Schools

The following resources were provided for schools during 2023-2024.

- Autumn/Spring/Summer RE Bulletins
- New syllabus updates
- SACRE worldview youtube page dedicated to supporting the new Locally Agreed syllabus
- Full range of RE Subject Enhancement materials available to schools via the Coventry SACRE syllabus website

SACRE Visits to Schools

SACRE representatives continued to offer visits to local schools as requested. Schools can access SACRE members and request visits using our SACRE suggested lists of visits and visitors available on the Warwickshire SACRE website.

School visits to places of worship

Local schools continue to visit a variety of local places of worship. We have a set of guidance for this on the Warwickshire SACRE website. This document is proving to be incredibly useful as schools implement the new locally agreed syllabus.

Withdrawals from RE

Warwickshire SACRE has not been made aware of withdrawals from RE although these are encountered at times during SACRE or RE Facilitator monitoring visits. Appropriate advice and documentation are signposted.

Complaints

SACRE received no complaints during 2023-2024.

Advice to the LA

The RE facilitator provided advice to the LA regarding national updates around the Religion and Worldviews approach, as well as ongoing feedback from the REC and NATRE. This has been used to support the development and implementation of the new locally agreed syllabus. SACRE provided advice to Warwickshire LA regarding Collective Worship and withdrawal protocols.

Advice to other bodies/organisations

During 2023-2024 SACRE offered the following support to other bodies/organisations:

REC Conference in July 2023 – Gemma Hathaway & Jen Jenkins presented the rationale in the new locally agreed syllabus and the alignment of the religion and worldviews approach.

Collective Worship

a) Standards and monitoring

New guidance for schools regarding collective worship was developed and issued to schools, with support from SACRE members. Legal compliance for a daily act of collective worship mainly of a broadly Christian character was included in the guidance, alongside a proposed structure, resources and making use of visitors.

b) Determinations

There were no applications for determinations to alter the character of collective worship for all pupils in any schools during 2023/24.

c) Teacher training

No CPD on collective worship took place in 2023-2024.

d) Advice to LA

The guidance document on collective worship was positively received by Warwickshire LA and distributed to schools. It is housed on the Warwickshire SACRE website alongside other SACRE resources.

SACRE work with the community

- SACRE continues to support the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative
- SACRE chair supported a number of community celebrations including interfaith week, peace walks, Hiroshima Day at Coventry Cathedral, Community Iftar events and school-based projects.
- SACRE continues to support the Annual Peace Poetry event in Coventry Methodist Central Hall
- SACRE chairs supported the Religion & Media Council events.

SACRE Arrangements and Working SACRE has a statutory duty:

To advise the Local Authority on collective worship and Religious Education in community schools and foundation schools which do not have a religious character. Religious Education in these schools must be delivered in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus.

To advise the Local Authority on collective worship and methods of teaching, choice of materials and teacher training in Religious Education and collective worship.

To provide an annual report.

To require Warwickshire City Council to periodically review the locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (at least every 5 years).

In addition, SACRE can:

Consider applications made by a Headteacher to release some or all of the pupils in a particular school from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (a Determination).

Membership of SACRE:

Group A – such Christian Denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area. Currently Coventry SACRE has provision for representatives from the following faiths – Baha’i, Buddhism, Christianity (Free churches, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholicism, Society of Friends), Islam, Judaism.

Group B – Church of England (Christianity)

Group C – Teacher Associations

Group D – Local Authority

Additional members including people with expertise in areas of religious education or who represent perspectives not included in the statutory groups are co-opted by SACRE.

Membership details are shown in Appendix B.

Training:

Members of Warwickshire SACRE attended the online NASACRE Conference in 2023- 2024.

NASACRE webinars were also attended.

SACRE members received training on the Religion & Worldviews approach and multidisciplinary RE courtesy of the RE Facilitator.

Professional and Financial Support

A budget is provided to SACRE by the City Council to cover the priorities identified. The SACRE Chairs’ Group has advised the local authority on priorities and how this funding should be spent. In 2023-24, this was used to fund the following:

- Supporting the writing and development of the Agreed Syllabus
- Monitoring RE provision via Ofsted report scrutiny and exam entry/results data
- Training for local RE teachers
- Salary for RE Facilitator one day a week during term time, plus expenses (mileage and resources)
- Servicing of SACRE meetings – venues, refreshments
- NASACRE annual subscription / attendance at AGM
- NATRE annual subscription
- Chartered College annual subscription
- CPD for RE Facilitator

The local authority has continued to provide annual support to SACRE with LA Officer time, a clerk and other administrative staff to enable SACRE to fulfil its duties.

Appendix A

SACRE MEMBERSHIP

GROUP A	
Sikhism	Jatinder Birdi (chair of Group A)
Sikhism	Manjit Kaur (<i>Co-chair</i>)
Baha'i	Rocky Grove (<i>Co-chair</i>)
Buddhism	Dr. Sethsiri Wijieratne
Hinduism	Hema Pragada
Hinduism	Santosh Kundi
Islam	Abeda Vorajee
Islam	Zafar Bahatti
Judaism	Tommer Spence
Judaism	Avi Tordjman
Christian Non-conformism	Ruth Henderson
Roman Catholicism	Katie Madia
Humanists UK (formerly BHA)	Jane Sault
GROUP B	
Church of England	Roderick Clark
Church of England	Anne Moseley
Church of England	Emma Griffiths
Church of England	Gavin Collins
GROUP C	
	Aveninder Kaur (<i>chair group C</i>)
	Karen Steele
	Sophie Smith
	Alison Thomas
	Jennifer Quartly-Watson
GROUP D	
Liberal Democrats	Cllr Sarah Boad
Conservatives	Cllr Parminder Birdi
Conservatives - June 2021	Cllr John Cooke
Conservatives - June 2021	Cllr Justin Kerridge
Labour - June 2021	Cllr Barbara Brown
Co-opted Members (non-voting)	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.	Jonathan Pywell
Polish Catholic Mission	Stas Librowski
RE Facilitator	Jennifer Jenkins / Sept 2024 Gemma Hathaway
Warwickshire SACRE Clerk	Jane Bennett
Warwickshire LA	Debbie Hibberd July 2024 / Emma Burnell

Appendix B – Glossary of Terms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AREIAC	Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants
ASC	Agreed Syllabus Conference
C of E	Church of England
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
DfE	Department for Education
EBacc	English Baccalaureate
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INSET	In-Service Training Day
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
LOtC	Learning Outside the Classroom
NASACRE	National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education
NATRE	National Association of Teachers of Religious Education
NQT	Newly Qualified Teacher
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education
PEBBLE	Public Body Liaison Committee for British Paganism
RE	Religious Education
REC	Religious Education Council
RS	Religious Studies
SACRE	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
SIAMS	Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools
SMSCD	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

Appendix C:

Exam Results

This section provides the confirmed data for Religious Studies exam results in Warwickshire in 2023

Religious Education

Table 1 – Key Stage 4

YEAR	Numbers on Roll	GCSE Full Course Entries	GCSE Short Course Entries	Entry Level
2021-22	6212	2164	3	
2022-23	6474	2013	13	

Source: All figures from NOVA

Full Course GCSE

Table 2: Results for all pupils and by gender in Warwickshire and nationally, 2022/23 (%)

	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X
Boys	4.9	8.9	9.8	14.4	12.3	12.2	17.8	10.9	5.5	2.5	0.7
Girls	9.9	11.8	10.8	14.3	14.9	9.3	16.1	8.7	2.9	0.8	0.5
All	7.4	10.3	10.3	14.4	13.6	10.8	17.0	9.8	4.2	1.7	0.6
National	7.2	10.1	11.6	16.4	14.2	11.1	14.2	8.3	4.5	1.7	0.5

Source: NOVA. National figure relates to all state-funded schools in England

Table 3: % of pupils entered achieving A*-C /9-4 grade in GCSE Full Course Subjects 2021-22

	2022	2023	
Warwickshire RS	71.8	66.7	
National RS	75.4	70.7	

Source: NOVA. National figure relates to all state-funded schools in England. *English Language, **Standard Pass (Grades 9-4)

Short Course GCSE

Table 4: Results for all pupils and by gender in Warwickshire and nationally (%)

	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X
Boys	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	20.0	40.0	0.0	0.0
Girls	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0
All	7.7	0.0	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.0	7.7	7.7	23.1	38.5	0.0
National	5.0	0.0	7.6	9.7	12.6	12.5	11.0	14.5	10.9	8.4	5.1

Source: NOVA. National figure relates to all state-funded schools in England

Table 5: % of pupils entered achieving A*-C/9-4 grade in GCSE Short Course Subjects 2022

	2022	2023
Warwickshire RS	60.7	30.8
National RS	100.0	58.4
Warwickshire Citizenship Short Course	-	-

Source: NOVA. National figure relates to all state-funded schools in England, *Standard Pass (Grades 9-4)

Key Stage 5

AS Religious Studies

Table 6: Number of entries for AS Religious Studies

	2022	2023
No of entries	21	38

Source: NOVA.

Table 7: % of pupils achieving A – C at AS Level

	2022	2023
Warwickshire RS	90.5	81.6
National RS	71.0	68.6

Source: NOVA. National figure relates to all state-funded schools/colleges in England

A Level Religious Studies

Table 9: Number of entries for A- Level

	2022	2023
No of entries	178	129

Source: NOVA.

Table 10: % of pupils achieving A* – C at A Level

	2022	2023
Warwickshire RS	88.2	85.3
National RS	87.6	78.7

Source: NOVA. National figure relates to all state-funded schools/colleges in England