

**Warwickshire Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education**

**Annual Report
2017-18**

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Introduction

This is the annual report of the Warwickshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for 2017/18 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 County 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)

Free Churches Group

Local Faith Groups

Warwick District Faiths Forum

SACREs in neighbouring authorities

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

If you would like any of the text in this report to be translated please contact the Clerk to SACRE on 01926 742075, or email <mailto:sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk> and we will endeavour to meet your requirements.

The above sentence has been translated into four of the most widely spoken languages in Warwickshire, other than English: Polish, Panjabi, Gujarati and Portuguese.

Jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać przetłumaczoną kopię tekstu znajdującego się w raporcie, proszę skontaktować się z urzędnikiem SACRE, który postara się sprostać Państwa wymaganiom.

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਵਿਚ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਹੋਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਹਿੱਸਾ, ਆਪਣੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿਚ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ 'ਸੈਕਰੇ' (SACRE) ਸੰਸਥਾ ਦੇ/ਦੀ ਕਲਰਕ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਕੇ ਦੱਸ ਦਿਓ ਅਤੇ ਉਹ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਇਸ ਲੋੜ ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕਰਨਗੇ।

ਜੇ ਆ ਰਿਪੋਰਟਿੰਗ ਲਯਾਅਮਾਂਥੀ ਛੋਏ ਪਛਾ ਹਿਲਲਾਕੀ ਤਮਕੇ ਤਰਜੁਮੀ ਕਰਾਵਯੋ ਹੋਯ, ਤੀ ਸਾਡੇ (SACRE) ਨਾ ਕਲਰਕੀ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਵਾ ਮਹੇਰਯਾਗੀ ਕਰਸ਼ੀ, ਜੇ ਤਮਾਰੀ ਯਤ੍ਰਿਯਾਤੀਯੇ ਪਹੋਂਯੀ ਯਯਾਯਾ ਕੋਸ਼ੀਸ਼ ਕਰਸ਼ੀ.

Se quer que alguma parte deste relatório seja traduzida por favor contacte o funcionário de SACRE que fará os possíveis para corresponder ao seu pedido

Message from the Co-Chairs of SACRE

The academic year 2017 /2018 has been one of continued engagement and building bridges, working with Coventry SACRE, developing joint working patterns whilst retaining the opportunity to maintain local autonomy.

We have developed a joint Chairs' group, comprising of the leader of each representative group (faith members, LA representatives and teachers' groups) to provide an overview whilst maintaining the local perspective. This allows greater understanding, appreciation and co-operation across both local authorities.

The new Agreed Syllabus was successfully launched, with the Bishop of Coventry at the inaugural events. SACRE provided further support for schools who were unable to attend or had new personnel in place. We are delighted with the responses to the material and overall structure of the syllabus. It appears to have been universally approved. Some additional units have been developed to supplement the programme and there is scope for more, which we hope teachers and faith groups will want to join us in creating.

Now the task is to continue supporting schools and monitor the implementation of the syllabus and arrange training with a view to start monitoring visits in 2019.

One of the exciting developments this year was the appointment of an specialist RE Facilitator to provide support in schools, advise SACRE and the local authority and lead the regular RE co-ordinators meetings. We are enormously grateful to both Coventry and Warwickshire local authorities for their encouragement of this vision and collaboration, in particular we are indebted to Ruth Waterman and Sarah Tregaskis for their unstinting support and professionalism.

SACRE continues to explore issues around continuity of membership and ensuring that faith groups and teachers are adequately represented when people move on, training for members on various issues such as 'Prevent' and faith group perspectives.

The SACRE toolkit, developed by NASACRE, was used to help identify priorities for 2018/2019. Which are:

- Continue to provide support to schools using the Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus (2017-2022) and supplement the syllabus with additional units to provide more local context and through support from the RE Facilitator
- Confirm how well schools are using the Agreed Syllabus and begin the monitoring process
- Membership review- fill current vacancies and ensure representation across all relevant groups and faith communities
- Continue conversations with Coventry around joint working
- Gain approval for suggested changes to SACRE constitution
- Enhance communication with schools to assist good quality delivery of RE

- Update induction booklet for new SACRE members



Miss Manjit Kaur



Mr Rocky Grove

1. SACREs role and function

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 County Council to periodically review the locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (at least every 5 years).

In addition the 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:

Warwickshire SACRE comprises four statutory groups:

- Group A – Christian Denominations and other religions that appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions of the area. Currently Warwickshire SACRE has provision for representatives from the following faiths – Baha'i, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity (Free Churches), Roman Catholicism, and Sikhism.
- Group B – Church of England (Christianity)
- Group C – Teacher Associations
- Group D – Warwickshire County Council (Elected members)

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

In 2017/18 Warwickshire SACRE had co-opted members representing:

- Humanists UK (previously British Humanist Association)
- The Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
- Polish Catholic Mission
- Warwickshire academies (secondary)

Membership details are shown in Appendix A.

2. Advice provided by SACRE

a) Advice to Local Authority

SACRE supported the Local Authority to second an RE specialist in the form of an RE Facilitator to provide support to Warwickshire schools and Warwickshire SACRE.

SACRE identified that the constitution needed updating. This process has begun and is being progressed.

SACRE Chair attended the MIRAP (Midlands Religions and Philosophy Network) conference and wrote a report for SACRE members and LA representatives about key issues for RE that were discussed.

b) Schools

SACRE provided advice to a school and a place of worship with regards to school visits.

3. Standards and Quality of Provision of RE

a) Public examinations

Please note: The 2018 examination results are not yet available, they are due to be published at the end of January 2019. The data below is from examinations taken in summer 2017.

2017 GCSE Results (see Appendix B, page 18 for additional information)

- Compared with 2015-16 there has been a four percentage point increase in the number of Warwickshire students entered for the RS GCSE full course. 65% of the cohort were entered in 2016-17 compared to only 61% in 2015-16.
- The number of short course entries has continued to drop year on year, with only 2.1% (119) pupils entered in 2016-17.
- Girls continue to outperform boys in both the full and short course.
- 69% of pupils in Warwickshire achieved grades A*-C in the GCSE full course, this is an increase of one percentage point from 2016.

- 60% of Warwickshire secondary schools entered more than 90% of their Year 11 cohort for an RS exam.

2018 A-Level Results

- 79% of pupils achieved A*-C grades in Religious Studies at A-Level, this is slightly below the national figure (81%).

b) Quality of RE provision in schools

Between September 2017 and July 2018 Ofsted undertook 60 inspections in Warwickshire schools:

- 45 in primary (13 academy, 32 maintained)
- 9 in secondary (all academy)
- 2 nursery inspections
- 4 in special schools (all academy)

The following are examples of quotes taken from Ofsted reports and SIAMS reports of schools inspected during 2017/18, where Religious Education, Collective Worship or Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) development have been highlighted.

Primary schools (45 inspections)

Teaching and Learning/RE Curriculum

The school's broad and balanced curriculum, enrichment activities and extra-curricular clubs ensure that pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is effective. Displays around the school reflect the many opportunities pupils have to develop their understanding of British heritage and culture to prepare them well for life in modern Britain.

Pupils and parents acknowledge how the school's work prepares pupils well for living in a wider society. The curriculum includes opportunities for pupils to learn about other cultures and faiths.

Improve the quality of RE across the school by reviewing the RE curriculum map to ensure that the balance between Christianity and other world faiths is consistent across the school, and improve teacher subject knowledge through regular training, making sure that work matches the needs of all learners.

SMSC

Leaders strongly promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a result, pupils are reflective, considerate, sociable and tolerant of others.

The school's broad and balanced curriculum, enrichment activities and extra-curricular clubs ensure that pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is effective. Displays around the school reflect the many opportunities pupils have to develop their understanding of British heritage and culture to prepare them well for life in modern Britain.

Provision to develop pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural skills is excellent. On a daily basis, pupils of all ages have the opportunity to learn about themselves, others, and the world around them. Pupils of all ages display tolerance and empathy. Pupils are remarkably well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Collective Worship

Pupils' own spirituality is promoted well through collective worship.

Outstanding leadership of collective worship and religious education [RE] enables children to grow into compassionate and responsible young people.

[The school needs to] Develop class reflection areas so that pupils across the whole school who want to, can offer personal prayers and reflections outside the formal worship setting.

Secondary schools (9 inspections)*

**Secondary schools in Warwickshire in 2017-18 were largely inspected under one-day Section 8 inspections and very little comment about RE, SMSC and Collective Worship was made in these reports*

Teaching and Learning/RE Curriculum/SMSC

Pupils are respectful of one another and show a high level of respect for other people's faiths and cultures. Leaders are preparing pupils well for life in modern Britain.

Collective Worship

Through assemblies and tutor time, pupils learn about community and have time for personal reflection.

c) Withdrawal

SACRE is not aware of any withdrawals from RE made during 2017-18.

d) Complaints

No formal complaints were received by SACRE regarding RE in 2017-18.

4. Agreed Syllabus

The main priorities for Warwickshire SACRE in 2017/18 was implementing the Agreed Syllabus and agreeing monitoring processes for 2018/19.

The new Agreed Syllabus was launched at 3 events in July 2017 and schools began using it in September 2017. The Agreed Syllabus is a joint document endorsed by Coventry and Warwickshire SACREs working in partnership. It is an RE Today syllabus with additions and alterations to reflect the needs of Coventry and Warwickshire. Both SACREs have worked together to fund the cost of syllabus for schools and produced their own additional units of work. Schools were also given the option of purchasing a supplementary scheme of work that supports the new Agreed Syllabus via RE Today at a reduced price. Both SACREs received the support of RE Today, in the form of advisers Fiona Moss and Stephen Pett, who ran launch events. The launch events introduced teachers to the new Agreed Syllabus and additional materials and focused on sharing practical classroom strategies to enable teachers to understand the nature of the syllabus and make use of good practice in their own delivery. Each school received a hard copy and sample of exemplar work. One of the launch sessions was held at a place of worship; the Sikh Gurdwara Sahib in Leamington Spa. This included a tour of the Gurdwara, led by a SACRE member who represents the Sikh Community in Warwickshire.

An event in November 2017 was held to ensure any schools who had missed the initial launch events were informed of the new Agreed Syllabus and key messages shared at the two launch events.

5. Collective Worship

There were no applications for determinations to alter the character of collective worship for all pupils in a particular school during 2017/18.

6. Management of SACRE

a) Attendance at SACRE Meetings

Warwickshire SACRE met on three occasions during the 2017/18 academic year. Details of venues and attendance are provided in the table below.

Date	Venue	Numbers in attendance from each group				
		Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Co-opted Members
20/09/17	St John's Primary School and Nursery	7	3	2	0	1
22/01/18	Moseley Primary School, Coventry (Joint meeting with Coventry)	6	2	1	2	1
11/06/18	County Council Offices, Warwick	6	3	1	1	2

Membership Groups:

Group A – Christian and other religious denominations other than the Church of England (11 members)

Group B – Church of England (5 members)

Group C – Teacher Associations (6 members)

Group D – Warwickshire County Council (5 members)

SACRE has continued to select meeting venues which reflect its three key partnerships; schools, faith groups and the Local Authority. Where a meeting is held in a school, there is usually an opportunity for SACRE members to have a look at the RE work on display and to learn about the delivery of the RE curriculum across the school. This is also the case with meetings held at places of worship, where members of the faith community will provide an insight into their particular faith or belief through a short presentation to members and/or tour of the building.

b) Membership and training

SACRE welcomed new members during the course of the year:

- Group A: Jatinder Birdi, Sikh representative

Members of SACRE attended WRAP (Workshop for Raising Awareness of Prevent) training for all SACRE members.

c) Professional and Financial Support

A budget of just over £9,000 is provided to SACRE by the County Council. The SACRE Chairs' Group has advised the local authority on priorities and how this funding should be spent. In 2017-18, this was used to fund the following:

- Implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus including:
 - Embedding the use of the new Agreed Syllabus in schools
 - Training from RE Today on assessment and resources
- Servicing of SACRE meetings – venues, refreshments
- NASACRE annual subscription / attendance at AGM

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

e) Complaints about RE and Collective Worship

No formal complaints were made about Religious Education or collective worship during 2017/18.

7. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda

a) SACRE contributions to LA agenda and other agendas

1) Implementation of Agreed Syllabus

The main priority for SACRE in 2017/18 was to support schools to implement the locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, supplementing with additional units. We have also updated the Warwickshire SACRE web pages so that schools can access the syllabus resources online.

2) Recruitment of RE Facilitator

SACRE supported the local authority to second an RE Specialist Facilitator to provide support to Warwickshire schools and SACRE.

3) Joint working – Warwickshire and Coventry SACREs

We have continued conversations with Coventry SACRE around joint working and partnership working between Warwickshire and Coventry SACRE has continued. In 2017/18 it was agreed to merge the two Chairs' Consultative Groups as there are currently overlaps in the membership with the two SACREs sharing a co-chair and a number of representatives in Group A and Group B, agreed syllabuses for both Coventry and Warwickshire. The appointment of the RE Specialist Facilitator is also a joint appointment.

4) NASACRE AGM – “Stronger Together - Celebrating the Power of Community”

Gill Kingston, member of Group A, attended the NASACRE AGM on 24 May 2018 in London. A written and verbal report was shared with SACRE members at the June meeting.

5) NASACRE SACRE RE Tool

In June 2018 SACRE made use of the NASACRE SACRE RE Tool to set priorities for 2018/19. Each group rated Warwickshire SACRE's current position and the consensus was used to identify areas and aspirations for future improvement.

6) Faith Encounters

SACRE signposted 'Faith Encounters' course to SACRE members and faith groups as a way of encountering other faiths and ensuring school visits are an enriching experience for both places of worship and schools.

b) SACRE support to schools (events and training)

Two twilight sessions for schools were held in April and June 2018 and were co-hosted by Coventry and Warwickshire SACREs. The session goals were to creatively implement the new Agreed Syllabus, consider progress within the syllabus, use additional teaching and learning strategies when teaching RE and to give teachers the opportunity to ask questions and work together to implement the new syllabus in their schools. The sessions also aimed to give teachers confidence in improving RE in their schools, specifically at Primary level, through the use of the Agreed Syllabus. Assessment in RE was also discussed.

In January 2018 a joint Coventry and Warwickshire SACRE meeting was held at a local primary school and SACRE members were able to see a selection of children's work in RE, as well as tour the school and hear about the school's RE provision.

In April 2018 two SACRE faith representatives, representing the Sikh and Buddhist communities, visited a school to conduct workshops around their respective beliefs and practices. The Buddhist representative, a Buddhist Monk, visited a secondary school on two occasions to see classes from Years 7 and 8. He spent about an hour with each, and during that time he spoke to them about the life of a monk, why he decided to become one, and about some of the core teachings of the Buddha - particularly those on Kamma: the moral law of actions and their consequences. After that they meditated for a few minutes, before finishing with a lengthy and hopefully fruitful Q&A session. It was felt that both visits went very well, and it was hoped that the children went away thinking a little more deeply about their own lives. The Sikh representative shared aspects of life as a Sikh, including beliefs and practices, and there was an opportunity for children to ask questions. This was also deemed a positive visit.

In June 2018 the SACRE Buddhist representative visited a school and spoke about his life as a monk, the basic teachings and life of the Buddha and led pupils in a meditation exercise. The children were encouraged to ask questions and the teacher felt that the experience enhanced their learning in RE.

During 2017-18 SACRE updated their advice to schools on visits to places of worship and these were made available on the Warwickshire SACRE website, with teachers being made aware of where to find this and resources linked to the Agreed Syllabus.

c) Links to broader community initiatives

During Eid, SACRE sent a letter of greetings and peace to local Muslim communities in Coventry and Warwickshire. A reply was received by Coventry SACRE Clerk from the Islamic Chaplain at Coventry University Spirituality and Faith Centre, extending gratitude and appreciation to SACRE for this gesture.

In August 2018 SACRE Chair attended the Hiroshima Peace Day event held at Coventry Cathedral on behalf of Warwickshire SACRE.

Glossary of Acronyms

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
WCC	Warwickshire County Council

Appendix A

Group A – Christian and other religious denominations other than the Church of England (11 members)

Baha'i (1)	Rocky Grove (Co-Chair)
Buddhist (1)	Venerable Ajahn Manapo
Hindu (2)	Santosh Kundi, Ramesh Srivastava
Muslim (2)	Abeda Vorajee, Imam Saeed Jutt
Non-conformist (3)	Anne Davies, Gill Kingston, Robert Maloney
Judaism (1)	<i>Vacancy</i>
Roman Catholicism (2)	<i>Vacancy</i> x2
Sikh (2)	Manjit Kaur (Co-Chair), Jatinder Birdi

Group B – Church of England (5 members)

Birmingham Diocese (1)	Jill Stolberg
Coventry Diocese (4)	Emma Griffiths, Lizzie McWhirter, Tracy Butcher, Father Mark Liddell

Group C – Teacher Associations (5 members)

ASCL	<i>Vacancy</i>
ATL	Aveninder Kaur
NAHT	<i>Vacancy</i>
NASUWT	<i>Vacancy</i>
NUT	Anneka Hurst
VOICE	Elizabeth Banyard

Group D – Warwickshire County Council (5 members)

Conservative	Cllr. Clare Golby
Liberal Democrat	Cllr. Sarah Boad
Labour	Cllr. Caroline Phillips
<i>Vacancy</i>	
<i>Vacancy</i>	

Co-opted Members (non-voting)

Humanists UK (formerly BHA)	Peter Lawley
The Church of the Latter Day Saints	Jonathan Pywell

Polish Catholic Mission
Secondary Academy
Secondary Academy

Stas Librowski
Sally Smith
Karen Steele

Others in attendance

Sarah Tregaskis
Ruth Waterman

LA Officer
Clerk to SACRE

Appendix B

This section provides the confirmed data for Religious Studies exam results in Warwickshire in 2017.

Key Stage 4

Table 1

	NOR	Full Course Entries	Short Course Entries	Entry Level	AS level (early entry)	No. not entered	No. not entered as %
2012-13	6062	3014	1511	-	20	1517	25%
2013-14	5847	3463	956	6	37	1385	24%
2014-15	5806	3443	406	5	21	1931	33%
2015-16	5584	3408	343	4	2	1827	33%
2016-17	5489	3607	119	4	-	1759	32%

Source: All figures from NOVA

Full Course GCSE

Table 2: Results for all pupils and by gender in Warwickshire and nationally, 2016/17 (%)

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Boys	4	14	22	21	15	10	7	4	3
Girls	10	20	27	20	12	6	3	2	1
All	7	17	24	20	14	8	5	3	2
National	9	19	23	19	12	8	5	3	2

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

Table 3: % of pupils entered achieving A*-C grade in GCSE Full Course Subjects 2012-2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017

Warwickshire RS	75	72	72	68	69
National RS	72	70	71	70	70
Warwickshire English* GCSE	87	86	83	83	75**
Warwickshire History GCSE	69	69	69	68	68
Warwickshire Geography GCSE	71	75	75	71	70

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

GCE A Level Religious Studies

Table 4

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No of entries	183	193	219	210	187

Source: NOVA.

Table 5: % of pupils achieving A* – C at A Level

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Warwickshire RS	78	78	76	76	79
National RS	80	79	80	80	81

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