

To: All SACRE Members, Council Members,
Kent County Council Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education,
Head Teacher / Chair of Governors all schools in Kent NASACRE

**KENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017**

The Statutory Duties of a SACRE

All LAs are required to establish and support a SACRE.

A SACRE's main function, as set out in the 1996 Education Act is:

“To advise the Local Education Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in County schools and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus as the Authority may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit”. (s.391 (1) (a))

Such matters include: -

“Methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers”.

A SACRE also:

- Requires the LA to support a five-yearly review of its current Agreed Syllabus (s.391(3))
- Must consider applications made by a head teacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in County schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the Collective Worship provided for some or all of the pupils in a particular school - “determinations”. (s.394(1))

It is a legal requirement that the SACRE publish an Annual Report to inform relevant parties, including schools, of the advice that SACRE has given to the Local Authority and of the actions taken to support RE and Collective Worship in schools using the Agreed Syllabus, that have resulted from this advice.

The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools through:

- Giving advice on methods of teaching using the Agreed Syllabus Religious Education;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to by the LA;
- Asking the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.

Opening remarks from the Chair of SACRE

Welcome to the 2016 - 17 Annual Report of the Kent SACRE.

The SACRE has met three times during the academic year. We have continued our commitment to hold at least one meeting each year in a venue away from County Hall. This year's June meeting was hosted by 'The Quaker Meeting Rooms' in Canterbury. This reflected SACRE's ongoing desire to engage with the broad range of faith and denominational groups that are component parts of Kent SACRE.

SACRE has continued to make efforts to engage with all schools across Kent, to ensure their compliance with requirements to provide high quality Religious Education and opportunities for Collective Worship. SACRE has worked with the Kent Association of Head teachers to seek membership of representatives from Primary and Secondary school head teachers. Through the communications with national appointing bodies, SACRE has tried to quickly fill vacancies that arise in the Groups. We believe it is important that we have a membership drawn from the Faith Groups and the range of schools found locally as they help to ensure that SACRE is reflective of the diversity found in Kent.

SACRE continues to benefit from its partnership with the different faith groups, the Anglican Diocesan Education boards of Canterbury and Rochester and with Canterbury Christ Church University. We are also thankful for the support that is provided by our former AST colleagues. Not only are they each a member or co-opted to SACRE, but they do provide a valuable link between Secondary Schools / Academies and ourselves.

SACRE has also been undertaking the review of the Kent Agreed Syllabus as this is a task which is undertaken every 5 Years. This has resulted in extra work and I am grateful for the support of the KCC cabinet member for Education Mr. Roger Gough.

Kent SACRE has also been active in contributing to national initiatives such as the Commission on Religious Education.

This year Kent SACRE has also become part of a wider grouping of SACRES in the South East and we look forward to working with this group to share best practice.

As Chairman, I would like to give a very special mention and express thanks to the officers from Democratic Services who have supported our meetings. I would like to thank all those who serve on Kent SACRE, teachers, Diocesan and faith group representatives, and fellow County Councillors. The professional support of our consultant /adviser and the democratic support are also gratefully acknowledged. This team has worked very hard this year to provide support so that we are able achieve our aims despite challenges in a time of ongoing austerity.

We are grateful for the ongoing support and interest of the Local Authority and for the active involvement of senior officers and Members in our activities. I would like to pay a special thanks to the Vice Chairman Mrs. Nicky Younosi who has provided invaluable support through the year and Penny Smith-Orr for her work as the consultant advisor to Kent SACRE.

I believe that Kent SACRE is very well placed to face the challenges ahead as we continue to ensure that Religious Education and Collective Worship retain their rightful place at the heart of our schools.

Councillor Steve Manion, Chairman, Kent SACRE

Management of Kent SACRE

The Council engages an RE Consultant to attend meetings and give advice to schools. A clerk to SACRE is also provided and administrative support between meetings. The Council also provide an annual budget to support the running costs of Committee meetings and for the SACRE to perform its statutory functions and space on KELSI web pages for RE and Collective Worship resources.

Three SACRE meetings were held in this academic year, two in the Council offices in Maidstone and one at The Friends Meeting House in Canterbury, these were all quorate. Three SACRE briefing meetings were held with the chairs of each of the constituent groups where the agenda was set.

Details of SACRE Membership and attendance at meetings can be found in Appendix 3 and agendas and minutes of meetings can be found on the KCC website - www.Kent.gov.uk/SACRE.

The report is sent to the Head teachers/Chair of Governors of all schools in the county, The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), The Department of Education and the Local Authority. The report is also available on the SACRE pages of the Kent website.

Kent SACRE is a member of NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) and representatives attend national meetings. A representative also attends the regional meetings for SACRE.

Kent SACRE does not have an opportunity to contribute to other agendas within the Council.

This report covers the work of the Kent SACRE during the academic year from September 2016 to August

Advice to the Local Authority (LA)

The SACRE advises the LA to bring this report to the attention of schools and governing bodies and, in particular, to highlight the following points:

The existing statutory requirements of the Kent Agreed Syllabus (2012) are still valid until September 2018 although schools are encouraged to start implementing the new Agreed syllabus during the Summer term 2018. Schools should use this syllabus as the basis of their R.E. curriculum planning. The statutory requirements and the non-statutory guidance of this syllabus are available for download from the KELSI website. <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/Curriculum/curriculum-resources/standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education>

In all maintained schools other than Voluntary Aided schools or schools of a religious character, but including Voluntary Controlled Schools, Religious Education has to be taught according to the Kent Agreed Syllabus. The Diocese of Canterbury continues to recommend that all Church of England schools also follow the Kent Agreed Syllabus and the Diocese of Rochester recommends that its Voluntary Controlled schools use the Kent Agreed Syllabus;

Academies are reminded of their statutory requirement to teach Religious Education in accordance with their Funding Agreement. Academies in Kent are recommended to use the Kent Agreed Syllabus to ensure that they fulfil their statutory requirements;

In accordance with the expectations of the Kent Agreed Syllabus, schools are reminded of the requirement to assess pupils' progress in Religious Education and to report separately in the Summer reports.

Secondary schools are reminded that Religious Education is a statutory subject and that all KS4 students should follow an accredited course as required in the Agreed Syllabus.

All schools are reminded of their responsibilities to provide opportunities for daily Collective Worship. The place of collective worship in schools is upheld by statute and has been so since 1944. The basic requirement is that all registered pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day. There are only two exceptions to this: parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and pupils in school sixth forms are permitted to decide for themselves whether to attend or not. The Education Reform Act (ERA) 1988 stipulates collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'; it is deemed to be fulfilling this description if it 'reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief, without being distinctive of any Christian denomination'.

Schools need to be aware that only a limited CPD programme for RE is currently being initiated by the LA; instead schools are expected to identify and access their own training needs through local and national organisations; Senior Leaders and Governing Bodies are urged to ensure that RE Subject Leaders/RE Co-Ordinator's are adequately supported in terms of professional development, opportunities to monitor and evaluate the subject, opportunities to train and support colleagues and in having an adequate budget in order to help raise standards in Religious Education;

Schools are encouraged to apply for the RE Quality Mark (REQM). Three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold can be achieved, and schools will be able to demonstrate their good practice in RE and have hard work recognised and rewarded (www.reqm.org); This is also a useful tool to use as a bench mark for excellent RE.

Kent SACRE continues to work with KCC to ensure that essential and appropriate supporting materials and resources are made available on the Kent Education Learning and Skills Information (KELSI) web pages. Currently the Agreed Syllabus and Non-Statutory Guidance can be accessed here:
<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/Curriculum/curriculum-resources/standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education>

Religious Education

Kent Agreed Syllabus; It was decided at the 5-yearly review of the Kent Agreed syllabus 2012 that a new syllabus was required. This has been purchased from RE Today Services and much of the work during this year has been centered on this work. A working group was convened in March and met three times to ensure that the purchased syllabus had a relevance to Kent schools. An introduction was written by this group and the Diocesan Advisers wrote a curriculum plan for the church schools to use which fits in with their use of the Understanding Christianity materials which they had implemented the year before. The SACRE rep for Islam also rewrote some parts of the Islam sections. It was decided to provide material on the basic teaching of the six major faiths in the syllabus. The launch of the Syllabus was set for Autumn and Spring in the 2017-18 academic year and full implementation of the new syllabus will take place from September 2018.

With the increased number of Academies, it is difficult to ascertain the level of specialist RE teachers in Kent schools and monitoring of the quality of religious education. With the number of schools in Kent it is hard to fulfill the monitoring role of SACRE and this has been discussed during meetings during the year. There is no provision for RE Coordinator network meetings although an RE Teacher's Hub has held meetings in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University and Teacher Associations.

A Primary conference was held in July with 27 schools taking part in a day of activities. The day was organised by the Diocesan Advisers of Canterbury and Rochester and was held at Highworth School in Ashford and was very successful, several members of SACRE attended and the faith representatives volunteered to give workshops on aspects of their own faiths.

There were no formal complaints about Religious Education referred to Kent SACRE during this year.

Exam results for Kent schools

With the increased number of Academies it is difficult to ascertain the level of specialist RE teachers in Kent schools and monitoring of the quality of religious education. There is still a system of grammar school education in Kent. Seventy-three schools entered pupils into the full course GCSE. Thirteen schools achieved 100% A*-C grades with four schools achieving 98% or above at A*-C. Only four of the total number of schools entered the whole cohort into the religious education exam.

The short course RE GCSE is much less popular with schools now that it doesn't contribute to their statistics. In Kent 1372 pupils were entered for the short course and nationally 10269 pupils were entered.

SACRE would like to acknowledge the successes of Kent students and recognise the continued dedication of RE teachers across the county whose skill and hard work have supported students in their achievements at all levels.

SACRE continues to be concerned about the decline in the number of students being entered for GCSE Religious Studies courses, and also about the increasing number of schools that are entering no students at all for GCSE Religious Studies

Full Course GCSE summary for Kent Schools and Academies

	2017
%A*-C	67%
%A*-G	97%
Girls A*-C	76%
Boys A*-C	58%
Number entered	6495
National Number entered	248210

Summary of the AS and A level results for Kent schools and Academies

AS Level	2017	A Level	2017
National % A*-B	47%		55%
Kent A*-B	32%		44%
Kent A*-E	83%		88%
No. of Schools	32		43
Number entered	230		581
National number	13910		21289

The number of entries for the AS level were much reduced nationally which was reflected in Kent schools.

Collective Worship

The SACRE's Determinations procedure is available on request. There have been no applications for a determination this year. There have also been no complaints concerning Collective Worship referred to SACRE during this academic year.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SACRE'S WORK:

The full SACRE has met three times over the academic year, an Agreed Syllabus Conference was reconvened and met twice during the year. Group pre-meetings are held from 9:00 a.m. The full meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. Meetings end at 12:30p.m.

November 29th, 2016

The RE Adviser for Kent, Mr. Alan Foster, told the meeting that he was retiring and introduced the new RE Consultant, Penny Smith-Orr, who would be engaged by KCC to continue this work. There was also a new clerk to SACRE at the meeting.

The budget for SACRE as discussed including the use of money offered to schools towards the cost of applying for the RE Quality Mark. A Primary school event had been planned to take place in October but had been postponed until July 2017. There was a discussion on the best ways to contact all the schools to encourage them to come to the event. A Secondary school event due in November had been cancelled and a discussion took place on how to engage the Secondary schools. It was suggested that a type of 'Roadshow' could be looked into and this would possibly take place in 2017-18.

The Annual Report was presented and discussed, it was agreed although the exam results for Kent schools were not available yet and would be added at a later date.

The Agreed Syllabus review was continued, Mr. Foster was concerned that the budget was still not showing the costs related to a new syllabus. He had held discussions with RE Today Services and presented two options that he had negotiated. The first was to assist Kent in writing their own syllabus, although this option was likely to be expensive. The second option was to purchase a model syllabus the cost of which would be supported by schools being able to buy in to modules, after some questioning about the RE Today syllabus it was agreed that there would be a presentation at the next meeting.

Finally, the SACRE had a presentation from Rudolf Elliott Lockhart Chief Executive Officer of the RE Council who talked about the RE Council's Commission on RE. Kent SACRE subsequently sent in an initial response to the commission.

March 7th, 2017

SACRE met and discussed the budget for the syllabus, the Local Authority had promised £10,000 for the costs. Arrangements for the Primary conference in July were outlined and it was reported that 22 schools had booked. It was agreed that the Secondary conference would take place after the launch of the new syllabus.

The meeting was followed by the reconvened Agreed Syllabus Conference and the committee had a presentation by two members of RE Today Services. The constituent groups held discussions and a vote was taken on whether to buy the RE Today syllabus. This was passed unanimously on the proviso that the promised budget was secured.

June 14th, 2017

This meeting was held at The Friends meeting House in Canterbury. There was an update on the Teachers Hub which is supported by Canterbury Diocese and also has a face book page.

The matter of the SACRE presence on the Kelsi website was raised and it was decided to request that the Kent SACRE pages should be made more prominent.

Rabbi Cohen, the Jewish representative, had attended the NASACRE AGM and sent a short report about the proceedings.

The RE Consultant gave members an update on the progress towards a new syllabus with a presentation on costs and the work of the teachers working party who had met three times. The working party had written an introduction to the syllabus which would make it reflect the Kent area and Mrs. Younosi was in the process of writing a revised

part of the Islam section. The syllabus would be going to print early in the Autumn term and the launches were planned to be held in the form of 5 training days in November, January and February.

Mrs. Younosi, the representative for Islam on SACRE, said a prayer for the victims of the terrorist events in London and Manchester and gave a short talk on Islam to members.

KENT SACRE Membership and Attendance at meetings 2015 – 2016

GROUP 1: CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS REFLECTING THE PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE AREA (13)

MEMBERSHIP	29/11/16	7/3/17	14/6/17
Free Church (4)			
Miss J Webb – (Baptist)	y	y	y
Mrs E Talbot - (Methodist)	y	n	n
Mrs E May – (United Reformed Church)	n	y	n
Mrs J Wigg -(Salvation Army)	n	y	y
Roman Catholic (3)			
Mrs A Donnelly	n	n	n
Mrs F Hawkes	y	y	n
Miss S Malone	y	n	n
Buddhism (1)			
Mrs C Elapatha	y	y	n
The Greek Orthodox Church (1)			
Mr M Papadopoulos	n	y	y
Hinduism (1)			
Mr R Chakkedath	n	n	n
Islam (1)			
Mrs N Younosi (<i>Group Convenor/SACRE Vice- Chair</i>)	y	y	y
Judaism (1)			
Rabbi C Cohen	y	y	n
Sikhism (1)			
Mrs Deepinder Kaur Gill	n	n	n
Co-opted Members			
Mrs J Grant (Baha'i)	y	y	y

GROUP 2: CHURCH OF ENGLAND (6)

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education (3)			
Mrs V Corbyn (<i>Group Convenor</i>)	y	y	n
Miss N Brownfield	y	y	n
Miss C Bostock	y	y	y
Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education (3)			
Mrs B Naden	n	y	y
Mrs N Paterson	n	n	y
Miss R Walters	y	y	n

GROUP 3: TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (6)

National Union of Teachers Mr W Chambers	n	n	n
National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers Ms K Burke (<i>Group Convenor</i>)	y	n	y
Association of Teachers and Lecturers Vacancy 1.4.2014			
Kent Association of Head Teachers Primary Mrs N Caisley	n	n	n
Kent Association of Secondary Head Teachers Mrs R Joyce	n	y	n
Mr A Fowler	n	y	n
National Association of Head Teachers Kent Branch Vacancy			
Co-opted Members Miss E Pope Miss T Kelvie	Y n	Y n	n n

GROUP 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY (4)

Nominees of Conservative Group (2)			
Mr S Manion (<i>SACRE Chairman and Group Convenor</i>)	n	n	y
Mr M J Northey	y	y	y
Nominee of the Labour Group (1)			
Mr T Maddison	y	y	n
Nominee of UKIP Group (1)			
Mr A Crowther	y	n	n

Appendix 1

A diagnostic check-list on the quality of education for governors and Head teachers

The quality of education provided in the school	Yes	No	Unsure
1. Is your curriculum rich, relevant broad and balanced - is there no unexplained narrowness?			
2. Is there a teaching of and a support for fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs?			
3. Do pupils have opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities and volunteering within their local community?			
4. Are pupils being given opportunities to learn how to resolve conflicts effectively?			
5. Is there a balanced approach to the pupil's RE that is broadly Christian but takes account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions in Britain?			
Quality of leadership and management in the school			
6. Can all members of your school community articulate what it understands as SMSC and can relate this to the school's overall purpose and ethos?			
7. Is your school auditing where it is planning for and delivering SMSC? Avoid a scattergun approach. RE, CW, PSHE and Citizenship are areas that are of key importance.			

<p>8. Is the responsibility for the leadership of SMSC, RE and CW is clear, shared and held to account? Are those responsible, given appropriate support through continuing professional development, and governor scrutiny and challenge?</p>			
<p>9. Is the responsibility for the leadership of SMSC, RE and CW is clear, shared and held to account. Are those responsible given appropriate support through continuing professional development, and governor scrutiny and challenge?</p>			
<p>10. Are there clear lines of intelligent accountability and self-evaluation frameworks for SMSC, RE and CW? Does your school have a lead governor with responsibility for SMSC who liaises with school leadership, teachers and pupils to develop a system for monitoring and evaluating SMSC with realistic targets and an appropriate framework for analysing the effectiveness of any provision?</p>			
<p>11. Is SMSC built into the core life and work of your school as a tool for human flourishing? Do you include SMSC in reporting systems to parents and students? Do you recognise and plan for SMSC as a tool for raising attainment and as a supporting strategy for closing attainment gaps?</p>			

12. Does your school include a rounded programme of assemblies that help to promote pupils' SMSC, providing clear guidance on what is right or wrong?			
13. Do governors and the school promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (and those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles – do they support through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain?			
The behaviour and safety of pupils at the school			
14. Are there safeguarding arrangements that include keeping pupils free from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism? Do these include checking and monitoring (e.g. of external speakers at school assemblies)?			
15. Does the school have effective systems for ensuring a school culture where pupils conduct themselves with respect courtesy and good manners and do they understand how such behaviour contributes to school life, relationships, adult life and work?			
16. Does the school have effective systems for monitoring and tackling all forms of bullying and harassment? (This includes cyber bullying, prejudice based bullying related to SEN, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.)			

Actions:

Yes = What is your evidence? Are there any further questions to ask about the provision?

No = Then this needs to be an action for development. Unsure = Investigate further.

“Schools should focus on a limited number of activities or approaches for the implementation of SMSC. Done well, these are likely to be more effective and more open to a critical evaluation than many spread too thinly to make any real difference.”

(RSA Schools with Soul p25 2014) http://www.thersa.org/action-research-centre/learning,-_cognition-andcreativity/education/reports-and-events/reports/schools-with-soul#download-report

Appendix 2

SACRE Development Plan 2015 -17 A new plan will be prepared in Spring 2018

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: Advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus

What?	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements
Monitor implementation of Agreed Syllabus, and provision of RE	Short Annual questionnaire to Chairs of Governors	Written summary to SACRE annually	Consultant – 2 days Admin. support	Monitor the provision and quality of RE
Monitor provision and compliance for Collective Worship	Short Annual questionnaire to Chairs of Governors	Written annual summary to SACRE	Consultant – included above Admin. support	Reporting to LA on CW in schools
Analysis of exam results	Compilation of local and national data	Written Draft report to SACRE Annual Report to NASACRE Annual Report to LA Education Cabinet Committee	Consultant – 2 days SACRE Chairman	Publish an Annual Report which is sent to NASACRE
Review of Agreed Syllabus for implementation after Sept 2017	Plan for establishing Agreed Syllabus Conference Prepare successful business plan to achieve funding for Review Set out Timeframe for Review process	ASC and timeframe agreed by SACRE Principles for new KAS agreed by SACRE	SACRE members ASC members Consultant Budget for meetings and resources	To review locally Agreed Syllabus

OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE

What?	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements
Hold 3 meetings of SACRE p.a. plus 3 meetings of Chair's pre-briefing meeting	Booked in County Hall and Oakwood House Calendars	Agendas and Minutes Financial Budget Annual Report	Consultant – 6 days Admin. support Chair Membership	Hold meetings in public. Make Agendas and Minutes available to the public
Advise LA on RE and CW matters relating its functions	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support SACRE Chairman	Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate

SACRE PRIORITIES

What	and How	Reporting	Resources
SACRE Key Stage 4 Conference	Working group Half-day conference Nov 2016 Link to KYCC?	Evaluation and Feedback to SACRE	Working group Admin. support Financial support (?)
SACRE Primary Conference	Working group Half-day event May 2016	Evaluation and Feedback to SACRE	Working group Admin. support Financial support (?)
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Youth SACRE events Communications with LA and schools Attendance at local and national events SACRE members visits to schools Relationship with LA	Evaluation and feedback to SACRE SACRE Annual report	SACRE members SACRE Chairman Consultant Admin. support
Deliver high quality CPD	LA to be advised to commission CPD Collaboration with Dioceses Collaboration with CCCU and Regional (NATRE) Hub	Financial support from budget as appropriate Evaluation and feedback to SACRE	SACRE members SACRE Budget
Development of SMSC Guidance for schools	Working Group reviewed 'Shaping the Spirit' to reflect recent DfE and Ofsted guidance	Reviewed guidance by SACRE published on KELS1 web page	Consultant Working Group