

Wiltshire Council



Wiltshire SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022



Wiltshire SACRE's Annual Report 2021-22

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1. Introduction

Words from the Chair/s

Welcome to our annual report. Despite the difficulties we continued to face as we emerged from the pandemic, I hope that when you read this report you will agree that Wiltshire's SACRE made significant progress last year and offered some well received support for schools. Effective monitoring of provision has allowed us to identify next steps, which have been incorporated into the new Wiltshire SACRE Development plan for 2022-23, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead as this work progresses.

As the newly elected Co-Chairs (from 30/11/2022) we would like to thank everyone who made this possible. Our thanks go to school leaders and all staff for working tirelessly to deliver quality education and support pupils in so many varied ways as Covid continued to provide challenges to this work. Our thanks extend to SACRE members who have given their time and expertise tirelessly to support the work that we do despite some significant challenges for our SACRE in terms of demands on members time, changes in membership, as well as a substantial medical absence of the Professional Advisor to our SACRE. Everyone's patience and support has been greatly appreciated.

In relation to other changes, we would like to offer special thanks to Katy Staples our Professional Advisor for her excellent insights and wisdom over the years. We are delighted to have been joined by Laura Harris who has now taken over this role as our Professional Advisor. We are also very grateful for the work carried out by Annette Earl, our humanist representative who was on SACRE for a long time and kindly stepped in to Chair our SACRE until March 2022. We wish them both the very best for the future.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank both the Diocese of Salisbury and Bristol for continuing to work so pro-actively in our schools to support staff to deliver high quality RE to all the children in our Wiltshire schools in many varied ways.

We are looking forward to period of greater stability across 2022-23 and re-gaining the momentum for the impact of our SACRE across Wiltshire as we work relentlessly to guide, support and improve practice in the target areas identified within our new development plan.

Cathy Milton & Celia Hicks – Joint Chairs of SACRE

Overview – SACRE meetings

Wiltshire SACRE met twice in the last academic year.

The group met online on 7th October 2021, with nine representatives present and two officers. Eight apologies were noted. This meeting was inquorate due to the lack of Church of England group representatives being present.

The Spring term meeting was held online on 17th March 2022. There were nine representatives in attendance and two officers. Ten apologies were noted. This meeting was quorate.

The summer term meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to the ill-health and absence of the professional adviser to SACRE.

In meetings these topics were discussed:

- ‘RE in my school’ – contributions from teacher members
- RE hub meetings – attendance and subject matter
- Long term agreed syllabus options and issues
- What an effective SACRE looks like
- SACRE constitutional changes
- DfE Workforce data on Secondary RE provision
- WIRE award (Widening Inclusion in RE)
- SACRE development plan
- OFSTED reports – references to RE and collective worship
- Partnerships between SACRE, LA and other key stakeholders
- Diversity and inclusion
- Collective worship and assemblies
- Feedback from the South West SACRE conference

Overview – Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

In the previous academic year, a decision was made by SACRE not to change the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus for RE. This was a carefully considered decision, made for a variety of reasons predominantly around the wellbeing of school staff in the post-Covid context and the possible imminent changes around RE curriculum nationally.

As such, a review of the existing Wiltshire syllabus took place in this academic year and revised materials and resources were shared with schools on the Right Choice website and through a series of training events for RE teachers and subject leaders.

What materials have been made to help teachers?

Most of the materials new for 2022 are to support schools as they prepare for inspection under the new Ofsted Framework:

- A suggested Intention statement that schools can use to adapt and write their own in their own context.
- Progression grids that will help to evidence the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus.
- New Guidance for RE within the Early Learning Goals.
- For schools who do not enter their whole cohort for an external examination in RE there is a decision prompt for non-exam RE at KS4 with a suggestion of appropriate materials.
- A suite of materials that offer scaffolding for ensuring appropriate use of language skills for discussion and writing in Religious Education and will help to contribute to a key element of British Values and Personal Development: that of disagreeing well and appreciating difference.

New 'top sheets' have been produced for most enquiry-based questions, which include the key learning objectives and vocabulary, to help teachers know what is the required learning journey for that question. These will aid planning for progression throughout the pupil's time in school. These materials can be found on the Religious Education pages of the Right Choice website [HERE](#)

Wiltshire's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education hopes that these materials will aid schools to teach engaging and thorough RE. In the year ahead (2022-2023) the Agreed Syllabus Conference will reconvene to begin to consider the options for the next syllabus review which will be due in 2027.

How was training engaged with and received on the revised materials?

Three online training sessions were attended by the following number of staff:

04 April 2022– 18 teachers 07 April 2022– 8 teachers 17 May 2022– 24 teachers

Some feedback on the training –

- *'A most useful session. Thank you'*
- *'Thanks for all your help'*
- *'I thought it was very informative and useful'*

And some actions planned as a response:

- *'Lead CPD for the rest of the school and it will help me to form an action plan for my school'*
- *'I am going to ensure that I try and end each unit with the question that we began with'*
- *'I will be reassessing our RE curriculum and checking it with how we use Discovery RE. I will spend more time looking at Right Choice'*

1. Religious Education

DfE workforce data – this summarises the average hours taught for each curriculum area over a two week sample period. In response to the data for Wiltshire schools, information was requested from secondary schools on their RE provision and evaluation of evidence on school websites was undertaken. In a letter from SACRE, schools were thanked for their data reflecting good priority given to RE, or offered support in response to a concern with their hours for RE. There is a clear reflection that in many secondary schools in the area, many KS4 and 5 students are not receiving the required teaching of RE.

The WIRE Award - the Widening Diversity in Religious Education (WIRE) award has been introduced and offers an important opportunity for Wiltshire SACRE.

To achieve the WIRE award a school must:

- Send a teacher to at least one continuing professional development (CPD) opportunity for RE. This could be the conference, or a local RE hub.
- Put on an additional event of some kind for RE over and above the normal lesson provision for the school. This could be an exhibition, a 'faith' or 'worldviews' drop-down day or pupils entering the national 'Spirited Arts' competition from NATRE.
- Take pupils on a visit to a place of worship that is not the majority religion of their school. For many schools in Wiltshire, this will be mostly be a visit to a faith other than Christianity.

The reward has been created to further SACRE's priority to encourage mutual understanding of different faiths, and to break down stereotypes and barriers, as well as improve the profile and engagement of schools and pupils with RE.

Thus far, three Wiltshire schools have received their WIRE award: Ashton Keynes Primary, Durrington Juniors and Malmesbury School.

In addition, schools who have already received the WIRE award can then work towards a WIRE Gold Award. To achieve the gold award schools will extend their already good practice in RE to complete tasks to do with extending their impact - working with parents, communities and other schools and teachers.

SACRE will be seeking to promote this award significantly now that the post-pandemic landscape may allow for greater engagement. It will be signposted in the SACRE newsletter, through all hubs and at training events throughout the year.

Local RE Network Hub Meetings - These are run by Hub Lead Practitioners (HLPs). The HLP project has been running since 2018 and is funded through a grant from Sarum St Michael's Education Charity secured and overseen by the RE Strategic lead from the Diocese of Salisbury Board of Education (also a Wiltshire SACRE member). The project aims to develop

leaders of RE in all schools to provide networking and CPD for all staff teaching RE within a 35 minute drive of their school or home.

Hub lead practitioners (HLPs) facilitate at least two hub meetings per year aimed at both primary and secondary teachers. Details of the meetings are advertised through the Wiltshire SACRE pages [Global Search | Right Choice \(wiltshire.gov.uk\)](#) and communications (including termly newsletters) to all types of schools. Details of the meetings and HLP contact details are held on the Diocesan website. In Wiltshire there are 4 RE Network groups, 3 of which are run by HLPs and one by a Learn Teach Lead RE Area 2 Network leader. Because of Covid, meetings across 2021-22 were a mixture of in-person and virtual. Data across all groups was tracked for the 4 Network meetings in November 2021 and these were attended by a total of 33 Wiltshire schools. (NB Covid was high at this point and cancellation rate was at 30%).

Content of this year's sessions included: the concept of God and the diversity of views and beliefs within and between world views; a focus on Jewish worldviews; assessment strategies and demonstrating progress in RE.

As HLPs, the RE Network Leaders get access to high quality training twice per year. In 2021/22, Wiltshire SACRE's RE Adviser supported their training on the worldviews approach in RE and invited a secular Jew to share her lived experience of the Jewish tradition. Last year (2020/21) all HLPs were trained in the use of the resource Understanding Christianity and schools have been able to 'buy in' support for teaching Christianity from HLPs for staff meetings or Staff Development INSET sessions. Four Wiltshire schools requested this support.

Annual conferences – teachers of RE in Wiltshire have access to three conferences each year.

- i) Annual regional SACRE conference, 'How interesting are you?!', held at Engineers' House, Bristol in January 2022, with delegates both online and in person. This conference offers places to schools from Bristol, Swindon, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. This year one Wiltshire teacher attended in person, three online and one SACRE member from Wiltshire attended. Keynote speaker Lat Blaylock spoke about the 'fascinations of others', sharing six ideas for the classroom in different key stages. Teachers attended workshops on subjects including identity and values, worldviews at GCSE and approaches for the EYFS classroom. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 98% of delegates commenting positively on the keynote, and 98% positive about the general organisation of the day. Next year's event will take place once again at Engineers' House, on February 3rd 2023.
- ii) Annual online CREative, RE inspiring RE conference – co-created by a working party made up of members from 3 SACRES including Wiltshire. In its 2nd year in

Spring 2022, the conference had 77 attendees of which 32 were from Wiltshire schools. SACRE members were offered free places. RE Today's Adam Robertson gave the keynote and the conference had a focus on Muslim and Humanist worldviews. Attendees could choose two out of six workshops (the others were recorded for watching at a later date). Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 40 responses received. Of these, 100% of whom agreed or strongly agreed (24/40) that they would recommend this conference to others. Next year's event will take place once again virtually on 21st March 2023.

- iii) LTLRE conference – Twenty-eight delegates attended this conference on 1st July 2022, at Engineers' House, 'Creating a Connected Curriculum'. Two Wiltshire Primary RE subject leaders attended the day. Teachers reported that they enjoyed exploring 'practical ideas to use in the classroom', ideas for deepening curriculum, and valued the 'passionate and knowledgeable speakers'. Next year's event will be on Friday 30th June, with the venue to be confirmed.

Communication - termly SACRE newsletters have been shared with all schools throughout the year, with three across the school year in total. The newsletter contains contact details for various communities and resources, as well as ideas for the classroom and information on upcoming events and CPD.

All relevant materials and resources for RE and collective worship can be found on the RE section of the Wiltshire [Right Choice website](#), an invaluable central hub for communication with schools, teachers and SACRE members

2. Collective worship

Policies and guidance - In the year 2021-22, no collective worship monitoring has been undertaken, as schools gradually returned to normal processes for worship at various points in the year. As Covid outbreaks continued, some schools reverted for periods of time back to virtual collective worship, resuming in person worship when it was judged to be safe to do so. This year (2022-23), SACRE have decided to undertake a review of guidance on collective worship around the UK with a view to creating new guidance for schools on collective worship and assemblies. A new working party met in June 2022 and began the process of exploring guidance from other areas. This work will continue in the year ahead, to include some feedback from pupils about their experience of collective worship and evaluation of existing provision and needs in schools across the area.

Determinations - During this reporting period there were no determinations applied for.

3. Links with other organisations

NASACRE – Wiltshire SACRE continues to maintain its membership to the National Association of SACREs. This provides access to important updates on national issues and the use of recommended templates for policies and guidance documents.

The adviser attended the NASACRE annual conference ‘Ambitious SACREs’ on 23rd May 2022. REC Vice Chair Ed Pawson presented the current picture with worldviews in the UK, HMI Dr Richard Kueh spoke about developments in OFSTED and RE and David Hampshire gave an analysis of SACRE reports across the UK this year.

The adviser also attended NASACRE training events throughout the year on Worldviews, the new NASACRE annual report template, public perceptions and SACRE self-evaluation.

Salisbury and Bristol Diocese – Wiltshire SACRE has an excellent professional relationship with both Diocesan partners. RE expertise is shared and the time of Nicola Coupe, Diocesan adviser for Salisbury is gifted to support the facilitation of our teacher hub groups. Bristol Diocese continue to provide the contracted professional RE adviser to SACRE via a robust Service Level Agreement. This relationship benefits all schools, allowing for consistent advice for CofE schools in terms of RE and collective worship, and for community schools and Academies in accessing expert support.

Other local involvement

SWARE (South West Advisers of RE) – the adviser continues to be an active member of this cross-authority group. Meeting three times a year, advisers across the South West are able to share resources, policies and processes for effective and impactful advisory work. In the year 2021-22 advisers were able to discuss: responses to DfE workforce data, the Templeton national Worldviews project, the impact of the OFSTED research review and research papers on syllabus development.

4. SACRE arrangements 2021-22

Organisation -

Chair – Annette Earl (until March 2022) (2023 Joint Chairs catherine.milton@wiltshire.gov.uk, Celia.Hicks@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Clerk – Simone Kermode (simone.kermode@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Local Authority link officer - Steve Wigley (2023 andrew.best@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Adviser – Katy Staples (2023 laura.harris@bristoldiocese.org)

Membership – as reported in the introduction, one meeting in this period was inquorate due to in attendance of Group B – Church of England. Previous meetings were quorate with nine members in attendance at each meeting.

Members of SACRE Sept 2021 - August 2022:

Committee A: Christian and other religious denominations

X11

Tod Gobledale (Free Churches)

Tony Wilson (Free Churches)

Lynda Ford-Horne (Jewish)

Bal Kaur (Sikh)

Jo Backus (Buddhist)

Annette Earl (Humanist) (vacancy 2023)

Vacancy x2 (Roman Catholic)

Vacancy x1 (Muslim)

Vacancy x1 (Hindu)

Committee B – Church of England

X5

Nicola Coupe (Diocese of Salisbury)

Helen Cooke (Diocese of Salisbury)

Katherine Bloomer (Diocese of Bristol)

Vacancy x2

Committee C – teachers and teaching unions

X7

Mark Perraton (Secondary)

Adam Watkin (Secondary)

Rebecca Carson (Primary HT)

Vicky Bunting (Secondary HT)

Hannah Crook (Primary)

Claire Brooks (Primary)

Amanda Garton (Primary)

Vacancy – 2x governor (community)

Vacancy – Special provision

Committee D – Local Authority representatives

Cllr Antonio Piazza

X4

Cllr Stuart Palmen

Local authority education officer

Steve Wigley / Nicki Shewring

Adviser to SACRE

Katy Staples