

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Meeting to be held on 14 July 2025 at 6.00 pm**

**At St Mary's the Mount Catholic Primary School**

**NOTE: MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE  
EVERY ENDEAVOUR TO ATTEND THE MEETING  
IN ORDER TO ENSURE A WIDER REPRESENTATION  
OF THE GROUPS**

**QUORUM: 8 Members from 3 out of 4 groups**

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Democratic Services, The Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW  
Contact Name: **Mr Edward Cook, Democratic Services Officer** Telephone (01922)  
**653204**  
*www.walsall.gov.uk*

**If you are disabled and require help to and from the meeting room,  
please contact the person above**

## Walsall Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Representatives

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### Christian denominations, other religions and religious denominations to reflect the principal religious traditions in Walsall.

Dr G. Gomez	-	Roman Catholic
Deacon H. Webster	-	Methodist, Walsall
Mr D. Lomax	-	United Reformed Church
Mrs M. Mather	-	Walsall Quakers
Mr K. Bhatt	-	Shree Ram Mandir (Walsall)
Mr M. Ashik Ali	-	Bangladesh Islamic Association
Mr G. Singh	-	Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Willenhall
Mr J. Singh-Bachra	-	Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Caldmore
Mr S. Singh Padda	-	Walsall Sikh Forum
Mr Bill Green	-	Humanist Representative
Imam M. Saeed	-	Aisha Mosque & Islamic Centre
Ms L.D. Sharma	-	Mandir Baba Balak Nath
Mr I. Sacha	-	Muslim Welfare Society
Mrs C. Highton-Nicholls	-	The Salvation Army
Mrs D. Letford	-	New Testament Church of God
<i>Vacancy</i>	-	<i>Jewish Faith</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	-	<i>Orthodox Faith</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	-	<i>Buddhist Faith</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	-	<i>Methodist Faith</i>
<i>Vacancy</i>	-	<i>Baptist Faith</i>

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### Church of England

Mrs P. Lane		
Mr A. Orlik	-	Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education
Mrs K. Donnellan		
<i>Vacancy</i>		
<i>Vacancy</i>		

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### Teacher & Union Representatives

Ms H. Leadley	-	Blackwood Primary School
Ms W. Duffus	-	NASUWT
Mrs L. Dosanjh	-	NEU

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### Local Authority

Councillor R. K. Mehmi	}	
Councillor L. Nahal	}	
Councillor S. Nasreen	}	- Local Education Authority
Councillor Singh Sohal	}	
Councillor C. Statham	}	
Councillor M. Statham	}	
<i>Vacancy</i>		

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### Co Opted Members

None

## Agenda

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Late Items to be introduced by the Chair**
4. **Minutes** *– Enclosed*  
To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2025.
5. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**  
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
6. **Election of Spokespersons for Groups** *– Enclosed*
7. **Membership and Constitution Review** *– Enclosed*
8. **Action Tracker** *– Enclosed*
9. **Walsall SACRE Action Plan 2025-26** *– Enclosed*
10. **Feedback from NASACRE Annual Conference 2025** *– Enclosed*
11. **National RE Updates from RE Today** *– Enclosed*
12. **RE in Walsall – Review of OFSTED reports of Walsall Schools** *– Enclosed*
13. **Education in Walsall update** *– Enclosed*
14. **Dates of Future Meetings:**
  - Monday 24 November 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
  - Monday 16 March 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
  - Monday 13 July 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

## **Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)**

### **Access to information: Exempt information**

#### **Part 1**

#### **Descriptions of exempt information: England**

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
  - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
  - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
  - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
  - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

## **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**Monday 17 March 2025 at 6.00 p.m. in Conference Room 2, Walsall Council House**

### **Present:**

Mr D. Lomax (United Reformed Church) (Chair)  
Mrs K. Donnellan (Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education)  
Mrs P. Lane (Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education)  
Mr A. Orlik (Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education)  
Dr G. Gomez (Roman Catholic)  
Mr M. Ashik Ali (Bangladesh Islamic Association)  
Mr B. Green (Humanist)  
Ms M. Mather (Quakers)  
Mr S. Singh Padda (Walsall Sikh Forum)  
Ms H. Leadley (Blackwood Primary School)  
Councillor R.K. Mehmi  
Councillor L. Nahal  
Councillor A. Nawaz  
Councillor Singh Sohal  
Councillor C. Statham  
Councillor M. Statham

### **Nominees to SACRE present:**

Mrs C. Highton-Nicholls (The Salvation Army)  
Mr I. Sacha (Muslim Welfare Society)  
Mrs L. Dosanjh (NEU)

### **In attendance:**

Debbie Yeomans (RE Today Advisor)  
Edward Cook (Democratic Services Officer, Walsall Council)  
Harjinder Lal (Community Building and Cohesion Officer)  
Sarah Oakley (Voluntary, Community and Cohesion Manager)

## **60. Welcome and Introductions**

All present were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves. The Chair welcomed Mr Sacha and Mrs Dosanjh who had been newly nominated to SACRE.

## **61. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Deacon Webster and newly nominated members Ms L.D. Sharma, Imam Saeed and Ms Duffus.

**62. Late Items to be introduced by the Chair.**

There were no late items to be introduced.

**63. Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2024, a copy having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**64. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items in private session.

**65. Appointments to SACRE**

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Nawaz and **seconded** by Councillor M. Statham and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1. That letters be sent by the Chair to the outgoing SACRE representatives to thank them for their services to SACRE.**
- 2. That the following nominations be recommended to Council for appointment to SACRE:**

Nominee	Vacancy to be filled	Nominating body
Mrs Claire Highton-Nicholls	The Salvation Army	Darlaston & Willenhall Salvation Army Community Churches)
Laxmi D. Sharma	Hindu faith	Mandir Baba Balak Nath
Imam Muhammad Saeed	Muslim faith	Aisha Mosque & Islamic Centre
Mr Imran Sacha	Muslim faith	Muslim Welfare Society
Ms Wendy Duffus	Union Representative	NASUWT
Lakhbinder Dosanjh	Union Representative	NEU

*Prior to the vote taking place, Group D members appointed Councillor Nawaz as their spokesperson for the duration of the meeting, as the Group D (Local Authority) spokesperson was not present.*

*At this juncture, with the consent of the meeting, the meeting was adjourned to allow members observing Ramadan to break their fast at 6:19pm. The meeting reconvened at 6:30pm.*

**66. Action Tracker**

The action tracker was submitted and updates on the actions from previous meeting were received.

(annexed)

**Resolved**

**That the Action Tracker be noted.**

**67. Walsall SACRE Action Plan 2024-25**

The Chair introduced the report.

(annexed)

**Resolved**

**That the Action Plan be noted.**

**68. Agreed Syllabus Renewal**

The RE Today Advisor presented an overview of the next steps required to review the Agreed Syllabus.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Singh-Sohal and **seconded** by Councillor Nawaz and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

**That SACRE request the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to undertake a review of the Walsall Agreed Syllabus.**

**69. Questionnaire Feedback**

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report.

(annexed)

SACRE discussed how they could support the provision of collective worship at schools. SACRE discussed the potential of forming a sub-group focussed on collective worship and sought volunteers. It was recognised that any support for delivering collective worship needed to be of value

SACRE discussed the low response rate and considered options for how to more effectively generate feedback in future. Building two-way relationships with schools and developing contacts with school RE leads were identified as important processes.

### **Resolved**

- 1. That SACRE note the findings of the questionnaires.**
- 2. That members interested in participating in an informal group of individuals looking into Collective Worship to be led by Mrs Lane, contact the Clerk.**

## **70. Walsall SACRE Network Meetings**

The RE Today Advisor introduced the report.

(annexed)

The RE Today Advisor provided positive feedback from recent sessions and raised concerns regarding low turnout due to limited circulation of the events. She identified that teachers had spoken of difficulties arranging faith visits and stated that RE Hubs could help this but more engagement from faith organisations was required. SACRE discussed how to improve RE Hubs registration, including sharing details of it through members' networks and other bodies such as the Faith Forum.

### **Resolved**

- 1. That SACRE note the report.**
- 2. That details of upcoming Network sessions be circulated to all schools by the Quality Assurance Team.**
- 3. That details to register for RE Hubs be re-shared with SACRE Members.**
- 4. That SACRE request that the Places of Worship/Faith Organisations contact list held by the Inclusions team, be updated.**

## **71. Inclusion Update**

The Community Building and Cohesion Officer and the Voluntary, Community and Cohesion Manager presented the report.

(annexed)

The Community Building and Cohesion Officer provided an overview of the Community Cohesion Strategy including the consultation process used in its development and highlighted the focuses regarding faith, race and hate crime. SACRE discussed the importance continuing to work with different communities and encouraging inter-community and -faith conversations and activities.

**Resolved**

**That the update be noted.**

**72. National RE Updates from RE Today**

The RE Today advisor provided an overview of the report.

(annexed)

**Resolved**

**That the update be noted.**

**73. RE in Walsall – Review of OFSTED reports of Walsall Schools**

The report was submitted.

(annexed)

The RE Today Advisor highlighted that Ofsted were rarely making RE-specific comments. Members discussed if it would be possible or appropriate to receive reports from SIAMS inspections, reviewing RE provision at Church of England schools.

**Resolved**

**That the report be noted.**

**74. Date of Future Meetings:**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 14 July 2025 at St Mary's the Mount Catholic Primary School.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7:38pm.

Signed:

Date:

**Walsall Council Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
Monday 14 July 2025**

**Election of Spokespersons for Groups**

1. Paragraph (vii) of the Constitution provides that:-

“At the Annual Meeting, each group shall elect a Spokesperson who shall also act as Chairman of the Group if necessary. The spokesperson must allow all Members of the Group to express an opinion and vote. A record of this vote shall be reported to the full meeting, but the single vote of the Group must be cast in favour of the simple majority of the Group. In the case of a tied vote the whole group must be presented as an abstention.”

Paragraph (viii) of the Constitution provides that:-

“There shall be a permanent sub-group of the Council able to give immediate guidance to officers (especially the Religious Education Adviser) and to deal with urgent business between meetings. This sub-section shall consist of the Chairperson and the Spokesperson of each of the three Groups other than the one to which the Chairperson belongs. Members may meet or consult informally by letter or telephone.”

2. Members of the Committee are requested to put forward nominations for Spokesperson for their individual groups at the meeting on **14<sup>th</sup> July 2025**. I would remind Members that the person so nominated would then become Members of the permanent sub-group which would deal with urgent business between meetings.
3. For information, the Spokespersons appointed for the 2024-25 Municipal Year were:

Group A	Christian and other religious denominations.	Mr. B. Green
Group B	Church of England	Mrs P. Lane
Group C	Teacher Representatives	Ms H. Leadley
Group D	Local Authority	Councillor I. Hussain

**Edward Cook**  
**Democratic Services Officer**

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) 14 July 2025**

### **Membership and Constitution Review**

#### **1. Aim**

To review the membership and constitution of SACRE to ensure diverse representation and the effective delivery of SACRE's functions.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That SACRE recommend to the Local Authority that the nominations set out in paragraph 3.4 be appointed to SACRE.
- 2.2 That SACRE request that the local authority consider delegating authority to the Director – Access & Inclusion, to make appointments to SACRE for Groups A, B and C.
- 2.3 That the Chair write a letter of thanks to the outgoing members of SACRE.

#### **3. Report detail – know**

- 3.1 The Constitution of SACRE requires that the membership be reviewed annually at the AGM in the summer term and that the Constitution be reviewed every two years.

#### **Composition of SACRE**

- 3.2 SACRE is comprised of members from four Representative Groups and any members co-opted to SACRE. The four Representative Groups are as follows:
  - Group A: Christian Denominations, Other Religions and Denominations (and persons of non-religious beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to religious beliefs).
  - Group B: Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education The Church of England
  - Group C: Teachers' Associations
  - Group D: Local Authority
- 3.3 SACRE's constitution, approved in 2023, establishes the composition of SACRE. This includes the number of representatives of each religion, denomination or belief which, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the Council's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area, as indicated by the 2021 census data.

## **New nominations**

- 3.4 Appointments to SACRE are made by the Local Authority based on nominations from appropriate nominating bodies. In the absence of clear delegations, this is currently done through referrals to Council. It is recommended that Council consider delegating authority to officers to formally appoint non-Local Authority representatives.
- 3.5 The following nominations have been received to fill existing vacancies or as replacements where previous representatives have resigned or been replaced:
- Mr Jay Hart – Jewish faith representative

## **Representatives not in attendance**

- 3.6 SACRE's Constitution states that *'Following non-attendance of a member at two consecutive meetings without apology, the SACRE will recommend to the LA [Local Authority] that a replacement nomination be sought from the relevant Nominating Body.'*
- 3.7 There are several existing members who have not attended two or more consecutive meetings without apology. The Clerk has written to these Members and their nominating bodies to seek new nominations.

## **Vacancies**

- 3.8 Since the previous meeting the Clerk has received the resignation of Mrs R. Graham (Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education).
- 3.9 There are currently several vacancies on SACRE which are as follows:

### Group A:

- 1 Buddhist faith
- 1 Orthodox
- 1 Methodist
- 1 Baptist faith
- 1 Jewish faith\*

### Group B:

- 2 Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

### Group C:

- 2 Maintained School Head teachers
- 1 Secondary Academy Head teacher
- 1 Subject Leader Primary
- 1 Subject Leader Secondary
- Representatives of Unions

*\*note: a nomination has been received for this position*

- 3.10 The Clerk has contacted organisations in Walsall and (where appropriate) regionally to seek nominations to fill vacancies.

## **Nominating Bodies**

- 3.11 Appointments to SACRE are made by the Local Authority following nominations from appropriate nominating bodies. The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure that individuals appointed to sit on SACRE are representative of the group they are nominated to represent.
- 3.12 The Local Authority has sought guidance from NASACRE regarding best practice.

## **5. Review**

- 5.1 The Clerk keeps records of attendance. Where a member is absent without apology from consecutive meetings, this is noted and the Clerk contacts the nominating body for a new nomination.
- 5.2 SACRE shall review the membership annually at the AGM in the summer term.

## **Author**

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## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(S.A.C.R.E.)

### CONSTITUTION

#### 1. Legislative Background

The Education Act 1996, Sections 375-397 (in conjunction with 'Religious Education In English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010').

#### 2. Terms of Reference

- a) The broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship in schools. Walsall Local Authority will work with the SACRE to monitor and review the existing provision for RE and Collective Worship.
- b) The functions of SACRE are detailed in section 391 Education Act 1996 (as amended). Other responsibilities are outlined in: Religious Education in English Schools: non-statutory guidance 2010; SACRE and Self Evaluation: A guide Ofsted 2005; Circular 1/94 (Collective Worship).

These responsibilities are:

- a) **to advise** the Authority on such matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship in Walsall Community schools, Foundation schools without a religious character and Voluntary Controlled schools.
- b) **to monitor** the provision and quality of RE taught according to its Agreed Syllabus together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus in all schools.
- c) **to provide** advice and support on the effective teaching of the Agreed Syllabus.
- d) **to provide** advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training.
- e) **to require** the LA to set up a statutory conference to review the Agreed Syllabus if, in the opinion of the SACRE, this becomes necessary. This must be reviewed and updated every five years but a majority of representative groups on the SACRE, other than that consisting of persons chosen to represent the Authority (Group D), may at any time require a review of the Agreed Syllabus which is currently being used by the Authority.

\*For the purpose of this document British values are those identified by the DFE and monitored by OFSTED

- democracy.
- the rule of law.
- individual liberty.
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

- f) **to consider**, in partnership with the LA, whether any changes need to be made to the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of RE and the learning of pupils.
- g) **to offer** schools and the LA advice concerning how an existing syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with wider changes in education.
- h) **to receive, determine and review** applications from headteachers that the requirement for **Collective Worship** in community 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 at that particular school.
- i) **to publish** an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting reasons for offering advice on matters which were not referred to it by the LA. This report will be presented to the LA and schools and is to be delivered to the Department for Education and NASACRE (the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education) by the date specified. This report should also be made available to the public. The report will provide at least the information specified by the receiving body.
- j) **to develop** SACRE's own role, supported by the LA and working with inter-religious bodies, to enhance the important contribution that the study of religion and belief can make to community cohesion, British values\* and the combating of religious prejudice and discrimination.
- k) **to offer** advice to the Walsall LA on any matters related to SACREs.

### 3. Membership of SACRE

- a) The number of representative members shall be determined from time to time by the LA and the individual appointments should be made by the LA after taking all reasonable steps to assure itself that the individual is representative of the denomination or the teacher association concerned. It is desirable that all members have an interest in education in general and in religious education in particular.
- b) SACRE is to be comprised of the members of the four Representative Groups and members co-opted to SACRE
- c) The four Representative Groups shall be:

**Group A:** Such Christian denominations other religions and religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in Walsall and religions and faiths covered by the Agreed Syllabus. The number of representatives of each religion and religious denomination appointed shall, so far as consistent with the efficient discharge of the Council's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area as indicated by the 2021 census data:

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- 1 Baptist
- 1 Black Country Orthodox Trust
- 2 Methodist
- 1 New Testament Church of God
- 1 Quakers
- 1 Roman Catholic
- 1 Salvation Army
- 1 United Reform Church
- 3 Muslim
- 2 Hindu
- 3 Sikh
- 1 Jewish
- 1 Buddhist

### **Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions**

- 2 appointed representative for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group so long as the non-religious beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to a religious beliefs as per the following guidance:-
  - To be “analogous” we consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.
  - Any appointment is dependent on the relevant local authority’s opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority’s area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the local authority, and they are best placed to assess whether a SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

### **Nomination and election process**

Nominations for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group in Category A should be submitted in writing to Democratic Services. Nominations to be reviewed by the Director of Children’s Service together with the Portfolio Holder for Education and SACRE, to consider eligibility. A recommendation to Council shall then be made.

**Group B: Church of England.** This group is made up of 5 members of the Church of England, representing the Diocese of Lichfield. It can include both clergy and lay people. Each nominee will be proposed by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education and appointed by the LA. The nominating body will be the

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point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment.

**Group C: Teacher representatives** to represent a spread of teacher specialisations as listed below, and these should reflect as broad a spread of teacher associations as possible. Any teacher association that is not represented by the teacher category criteria will have the right to nominate an additional representative. The nominating body will be the point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment:

- 2 Maintained School Headteachers (Primary or Secondary)
- 1 Secondary Academy School Headteachers
- 1 Primary Academy School Headteacher
- Local RE subject leader Primary
- Local RE subject leader secondary
- Representatives of Unions (NUT, NASUWT, ATL, ASCL, NAHT)

**Group D: Local Authority.** This group shall comprise a group of up to seven elected members as nominated by the political parties represented on the council.

**Co-opted members:** SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional members for the remainder of the municipal year. Co-opted members may take part in any of the discussions but do not belong to any of the groups and do not have voting rights. The co-opted members shall be appointed only by those members of SACRE who have not themselves been co-opted.

Co-opted Members to include a Humanist UK representative.

#### 4. Officer Support

- a) Local Authority senior officer or representative (non-voting)
- b) Clerk to SACRE (non-voting)
- c) RE Consultant (non-voting)

The nominating body will be the point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment. The Head of Service will be the point of reference should SACRE have any questions pertaining to the Local Authority Senior Officer.

#### 5. Membership

- a) The LA shall appoint the members of the SACRE after consulting with the Nominating Bodies as appropriate.
- b) Nominating bodies will review their representation at the beginning of each municipal year or up to every five years as they see fit.
- c) An individual representative member may resign as any time by giving notice in writing to their Nominating Body and to the Clerk of SACRE

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- d) An individual representative member may be removed from membership by the LA, if in the opinion of the LA he or she ceases to be representative of the nominating denomination or teacher association.
- e) Following non-attendance of a member at two consecutive meetings without apology, the SACRE will recommend to the LA that a replacement nomination be sought from the relevant Nominating Body.

## **6. Term of Office**

- a) Appointments to SACRE shall generally be for a term of 5 years from the date that the new member should have attended their first meeting. Groups can re-nominate members after the end of the 5 years for consideration by the LA. Members may not serve for more than two consecutive periods of 10 years (i.e. ten consecutive years in total). SACRE may waive this rule with the agreement of all voting members of SACRE if the continued service of a Member was considered to be beneficial to the Council.
- b) The SACRE shall review the membership annually at the AGM in the summer term.

## **7. Voting**

- a) Each of the four Groups on SACRE shall have one vote. Groups are to determine their own internal voting arrangements. Decisions within a group about how that vote is cast do not require unanimity. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings including provision for resolving deadlock.
- b) A proposal shall not be deemed to be carried unless it has been approved by at least three of the four Groups, unless otherwise required by law or guidance. If there is a tied vote then the issue would fail, and no action would be taken.
- c) The validity of the proceedings of SACRE or of the members of SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected by a vacancy in the office of any member of SACRE, or on the ground that a member appointed to represent any religion, religious denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the religion, religious denomination or association in question.

## **8. Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of one member from at least three of the constituent groups with a total presence of no less than eight of the appointed members.

## **9. Chairs and Vice Chair**

- a) The chair and vice chair will be appointed by the membership of SACRE at the AGM in the summer term or any meeting during the year when the position is vacant. Normally the chair and vice chair will remain in their positions for two years.

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- b) The chair and vice chair, where possible, will represent different Groups of the SACRE and if possible have different religious backgrounds.
- c) SACRE will put in place procedures to consider succession planning for the posts of chair and vice chair.
- d) Where a vote is required, voting will be by a simple majority with each Group being assigned one vote.
- e) The Chair will be responsible for:
  - the management of meetings
  - representing the SACRE to other bodies
  - such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.
- f) The Vice Chair will be responsible for:
  - deputising for the chair as required;
  - representing the SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the chair or in agreement with the Chair
  - such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

## 10. The Clerk

The LA shall appoint, fund and supervise a Clerk to:

- a) attend the full meetings of SACRE, any agenda setting meeting and Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings
- b) take appropriate minutes and notes at meetings
- c) maintain and update the records of SACRE and its meetings
- d) perform any other necessary administrative duties
- e) provide a copy of the minutes and papers of meeting to the members of SACRE and LA

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## **11. The Local Authority Senior officer**

SACRE shall be served by a Local Authority Senior Officer. The LA officer will:

- a) attend each SACRE and ASC meeting
- b) represent the views of the LA at these meetings
- c) provide necessary information and support to the RE Consultant regarding RE and Collective Worship in the Walsall schools
- d) ensure that the LA provide sufficient funds for SACRE to perform its functions.

## **12. The RE Consultant**

The RE adviser will:

- a) attend each meeting of the SACRE and support the SACRE to fulfil its function with regard to RE and Collective Worship
- b) work with the Chair, Clerk and LA Officer to prepare the SACRE agenda and any reports, papers or advice required
- c) report regularly to SACRE on work completed on behalf of SACRE
- d) provide expertise and advice in the areas of RE and Collective Worship.

## **13. Meetings of SACRE**

- a) There will normally be constitutio
- b) Special meetings may be called by the Chair, Vice Chair and LA acting jointly.
- c) Details of the business to be considered by the meeting, which will be included in the agenda, must be received by the Clerk not later than 15 school days before the meeting.
- d) The Clerk will, no later than 5 working days before the meeting, circulate the agenda and supporting papers to the members.
- e) Meetings of SACRE shall be held in public except where an item of business is being considered which involves the consideration of confidential information in accordance with the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils).

## **14. Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference**

- a) Walsall LA is required to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years. An ASC may be requested to be convened by SACRE more frequently.
- b) This conference will ideally have the same composition as SACRE. There is no provision for co-opted members, however some individuals may be invited to all meetings of the conference and its Groups in order to give their advice.

\*For the purpose of this document British values are those identified by the DFE and monitored by OFSTED

- democracy.
- the rule of law.
- individual liberty.
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

## 15. General

- a) The SACRE may if it wishes establish working parties to take forward specific projects comprising representatives of each of the groups and the RE Consultant. These working parties will report back to SACRE regularly, according to a schedule agreed at the outset of the project.
- b) In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education Act 1996 and associated regulations, the press and public will be entitled to attend meetings of the SACRE, but may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of items containing information capable of being treated as exempt information if meetings of SACRE were meetings of a Local Authority. The press and public are not entitled to attend meetings of an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- c) The Constitution will be reviewed on a biennial basis at the Summer term meeting of SACRE (the AGM) and suggestions for amendment voted on as described in Sections 7 & 8. Minor amendments may be brought to any meeting, with the agreement of members, and such minor amendments voted on as described in Section 7 & 8.

\*For the purpose of this document British values are those identified by the DFE and monitored by OFSTED

- democracy.
- the rule of law.
- individual liberty.
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

**SACRE Action Tracker**  
**14 July 2025**

Meeting date	Agenda Item	Action	Person	Update
17 March 2025	<b>Membership Update</b>	Write to resigning/retiring members to thank them for their service to SACRE.	Dave Lomax Ed Cook	Completed.
	<b>Agreed Syllabus</b>	Establish and organise Agreed Syllabus Conference.	Ed Cook Nick Perks Debbie Yeomans	Director (Access & Inclusion) notified 19/03/2025.
	<b>Primary Networks</b>	To share details of upcoming Primary Network meetings with schools and to share an updated contact list (if appropriate) with Debbie for circulating details of future meetings.	Nick Perks	Sent 21/03/2025 as part of briefing email.
		Re-share details of RE Hubs registration with SACRE members and other forums such as the Walsall Faith Forum.	Ed Cook Harjinder Lal	Shared with SACRE members 18/03/2025.
		Update the contact list for places of worship in the Borough.	Harjinder Lal	Completed.

	<p><b>Questionnaires Feedback</b></p>	<p>Contact Patti Lane and other members regarding an informal group of individuals to look into Collective Worship.</p>	<p>Ed Cook</p>	<p>Emailed all Members to seek interested parties.</p> <p>Email sent to all who expressed interest, requesting permission to share contact details. Responses not received. Sheet provided at meeting of 14/07/25 for Members to write expressions of interest and confirm consent for data sharing.</p>
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## **SACRE Action Plan 2025-26**

### **Ongoing Actions**

- Meetings to be held at a variety of Schools and places of worship.
- Maintain SACRE's working relationship with RE Today.
- Ensure membership of NASACRE is renewed each year.
- A SACRE member to attend the NASACRE conference each year.
- Review the membership of SACRE and seek to fill vacancies.
- Ensure we invite people with up to date of RE issues to address the meeting.

### **Specific Actions for 2025-26**

- Receive a report on the primary network.
- Facilitate the production of a new agreed syllabus for 2026-2030 (with the Agreed Syllabus Conference).
- Continue to monitor the Inclusion Strategy for Walsall.

## Feedback from NASACRE Annual Conference 2025

### **SACRE Report from Debbie Yeomans following attendance of the Annual NASACRE conference 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Stratford Town Hall.**

At this year's event there were a record- breaking number of SACREs in attendance, 64 SACREs were represented by 115 people.

There are 151 SACREs across England, 133 of which are members of NASACRE.

#### **Below is a summary of the key points that were discussed.**

The successful transition of NASACRE into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), was both explained and celebrated, and the new trustees of the CIO board were introduced and answered questions.

A video from Lord Khan (House of Lords) was also shared. Lord Khan, an advocate for RE, spoke about its importance and the fact that 'RE is more than just a subject', he also added that SACREs were champions for unity. NASACRE will be meeting with Lord Khan in June to further encourage his support for the subject. The video is available for you to watch on the NASACRE website.

Both were encouraging signs of and for the work towards social cohesion through all SACREs, as was the announcement of the Westhill/NASACRE grant winners- congratulations to Barnet, Haringey, Sunderland and Camden SACREs.

Claire Clinton, Lead Director of RE Hubs talked about how the Hubs supports SACREs and teachers; she shared that over 800 school speakers and representatives of places of interest have now been trained and a reaccreditation process has begun for speakers who trained over two years ago.

Kathryn Wright, Chief Executive for Culham St Gabriel's shared information about a 'Primary Focus Week', the details and resources from which can be found here: <https://www.reonline.org.uk/focus-week-primary-re-can-it-provide-a-window-on-the-world-for-pupils/>

A thank you was given to long standing members of the NASACRE Exec, and all SACREs were then invited to share a farewell to some and a welcome to some new Executive members from across the UK.

Following a live survey, suggestions were made for how NASACRE can now continue to support all 151 SACREs across the UK, including as a national voice for RE with the DfE and beyond.

Dr Joyce Miller gave a keynote speech - *Identity, community and commonality: what can Religion and Worldviews offer schools and society?* - sharing the importance

with relevant examples of how RE in schools can and should build on some of the recommendations from the CoRE Report. Whilst it was recognised that lots of work had been done to consider what is understood by "religion" and "worldview" there was also acknowledgement that RE learning could be further enhanced.

This included consideration of why more is needed than just teaching about Islam on its own to combat Islamophobia, and with the suggestion that by including an exploration of spirituality as part of the curriculum, we would enable pupils to more effectively "interculturally navigate" their own identity more inclusively to support appreciation of commonality and therefore more effective social cohesion.

Questions were invited by the trustee's panel which included,

- Why a CIO?
- Can you use CIO to attract wider funding?
- AGM – how have you chosen yourselves before AGM?
- Do central government care about SACREs?
- If RE is included on the National Curriculum – what will be the roles of SACRE?

All the slides from the conference will soon be made available to all 123 member SACREs via the NASACRE website.

With the continued focus on social cohesion, it was suggested this may be an area of work which may be of interest to local SACREs.

A report about the impact on **Interfaith Week for schools**, with which many of us have been involved has been published. This can be found here:

<https://faithbeliefforum.org/report/report-inter-faith-week-consultation/>

And just in case you haven't booked yet, there are still some places available for the upcoming Sea of Faith conference happening at the end of July: <https://sofn.uk/>

# National RE Updates for SACRE from RE Today Summer 2025 for Walsall SACRE.

## Curriculum and Assessment Review

As reported in the previous National Update, the Government is conducting a Curriculum and Assessment Review, led by Professor Becky Francis. The review aims to examine how the curriculum and assessment system can better serve young people in England.

In November 2024, NATRE submitted over 100 pieces of evidence to the review, highlighting the current challenges facing Religious Education. Other key organisations such as the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), NASACRE, and AREIAC also contributed, ensuring the review panel received a broad and well-informed set of perspectives from across the RE community.

Thanks to NATRE's strong working relationships with government officials and parliamentarians, representatives were invited to attend meetings with the review panel, including a roundtable discussion with a specific focus on RE. Some of NATRE's evidence was directly included in materials presented by the panel.

In its [interim report](#) (March 2025), the review panel wrote:

*“Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision.”*

This statement reflects one of the most persistent concerns in the RE community: that provision and quality vary significantly between schools and regions, depending on school or trust policy, local authority capacity, and interpretation of legal requirements.

The panel is expected to explore in more depth the causes of these disparities and consider a range of potential solutions.

Importantly, the Department for Education has confirmed:

*“The terms of reference do not prevent the Review from making recommendations for national or basic curriculum subjects that might require legislation. Ministers will take decisions on what changes to make, and how best to implement them, in light of these recommendations.”*

This means that policy options such as:

- Including RE in the National Curriculum (currently it is part of the basic curriculum, which is compulsory but less regulated), and/or
- Introducing a National Content Standard for RE, possibly building on the widely welcomed National Content Standard developed by the REC,

are all still viable possibilities.

However, these changes alone would not address all the systemic issues in RE. As such, a comprehensive National Plan for RE remains a central policy goal—something that includes improved teacher training, accountability mechanisms, curriculum support, and long-term investment.

This set of discussion cards is offered to support groups of teachers wishing to think about the implications of the interim report for RE in their school(s). [#REchatUK to Explore the Interim Curriculum and Assessment Review for Religious Education](#)

## BBC Pilgrimage

The BBC series 'Pilgrimage' follows a group of celebrities as they take a journey of a lifetime. This series has many moments in it suitable for use in the RE classroom.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/mediapacks/pilgrimage-the-road-through-the-alps>

Truetube have a series of clips from previous series, along with downloadable lesson ideas. Search 'Pilgrimage moments' for the relevant clips and resources.

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/>

Teachers need to register for a free Truetube account to be able to download resources and clips.

## NASACRE

NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) continues to work to celebrate, support, strengthen and promote the work of local SACREs and represents their interests at a national level, including training for SACRE members.

## RE Hubs

The RE hubs are offering training for speakers who would like to support schools bring to life their curriculum through first hand experience of meeting and talking with people from different religions and non-religious worldviews, as well as experts in social sciences, philosophy and theology.

Once the training has been completed then speakers are kite marked and then included on the RE hubs web site for the local region. Schools can then access a full list of speakers in their area to help bring RE to life in the classroom. There are a range of training dates available through the RE hubs website for the next academic year. Potential speakers, which may include members of SACREs can register at [Register as a school speaker](#)

For teachers of RE, there is a free 30 minute CPD video to show how to make the most of RE hubs' speakers and places to visit. The film can be accessed at: [How to make the most of our places & people!](#)

## Spirited Arts 2025

NATRE has announced the subject areas for its annual Spirited Arts competition for 2025. This annual competition asks pupils to use their creative talents to explore questions of religious and non-religious worldviews.

This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year for Spirited Arts and there are six themes for pupils to choose from

- Living in a Diverse World
- Stories that Change Lives
- Thinking about God
- Sacred Places
- All God's Creatures? (Sponsored by [AIA](#) & [VinE](#))
- Making Sense of Life

Schools can submit up to entries which should be received by the closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025. Full details are available at [Spirited Arts 2025 - Inspiring students to explore big questions through art](#)

### The Jerusalem Trust: grants for schools

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase Christianity resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state funded schools in England and Wales.

Secondary school and primary school grants are currently available this term. The online form takes about 15-20 minutes to complete.

<https://www.regrants.org.uk/>

### World Humanist Day – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025

**Please note this event has happened, but it's good to be aware that it happens every year and that a virtual tour of Conway Hall is available via the RE Hubs website.**

<https://www.re-hubs.uk/upskill/virtual-tours/>

World Humanist Day is celebrated every year on 21<sup>st</sup> June and it has been celebrated since the 1980s. It's an opportunity for humanists all around the world to publicise the positive values of humanism and to share the global concerns of the humanist movement. There are a number of free resources for schools available at [Understanding Humanism](#) to support schools in teaching Humanism in the RE curriculum. There is also a free CPD event for teachers entitled 'Using the Conway Hall Virtual Tour in the Classroom on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 and this can be booked at [Training » Understanding Humanism](#).

### British Board of Deputies question and answer session for teachers

The last question and answer session for this academic year will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 3.45-4.45pm. Please do pass the flyer and zoom link onto any teachers who may find it useful.

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86011287321?pwd=aX6CT0SXbx9hreqIsF26AFK53p72Al.1>

Meeting ID: 860 1128 7321

Passcode: 676203

## Upcoming RE Today Courses for the Summer Term and beyond!

For more details on any of these courses, click here: <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/?page=1>

### Cross Phase CPD

#### **Mentoring your RE ECT**

17<sup>th</sup> September (Morning 9.30 am – 12.30 pm)

This half day session will investigate the role of the ECT mentor for a new RE Teacher joining your school from target setting to support and guidance against the ECT framework with RE specific examples and input.

### Primary Phase CPD

#### **Understanding Christianity**

Half Day 1 – 19<sup>th</sup> May (Afternoon 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm)

Half Day 2 – 16<sup>th</sup> September (Afternoon 1.00 pm – 4.00pm)

Half Day 3 – 14<sup>th</sup> January (Afternoon 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm)

Get the confidence and subject knowledge to teach about Christianity: Text Impact Connections through this tried and tested course which is supported by a substantial whole-school teachers' handbook.

Many locally agreed syllabuses include requirements for teaching Christianity that are directly supported by this resource. This resource supports good quality teaching about Christianity and can be used within the requirements of your syllabus guidelines.

#### **Festivals Spotlight – Christmas**

16<sup>th</sup> September (Afternoon 1,00 om – 3.30 pm)

Why and how do people celebrate Christmas? Subject knowledge and effective and creative lesson ideas. A practical dip into Christmas using a sociological and a theological lens. Suitable for ECTs, Teachers, HLTAs and subject leaders.

#### **Help! I'm the RE Subject Leader**

30<sup>th</sup> September (Full Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm)

This one-day course will provide you with the knowledge and confidence to be an effective and inspirational RE subject leader in the primary school. Explore the role of the subject leader, using practical activities to develop your understanding of RE and your leadership and management skills. Focus on creative task setting, planning a scheme of work using your locally agreed syllabus or faith community guidelines, and effective and manageable monitoring and self evaluation. Leave feeling motivated, inspired and equipped with ready-to-use ideas to engage staff and pupils.

## Secondary CPD

### **New Curriculum Leader Secondary**

15<sup>th</sup> September (Full Day 9.30 am – 3.30 pm)

This one day course will introduce you to the role of the Secondary Subject Leader for RE and is suitable for newly appointed colleagues and those wishing to refresh their thinking about and delivery of this fundamental middle manager role. Covering areas such as development planning, analysis of outcomes and supporting staff you will come away with a wide ranging set of resources to support you.

# Are you an RE teacher with questions about Judaism?

A chance to ask anything you like...

**Open to primary and secondary teachers who teach Judaism**

Why don't all...

What's the difference between...

I don't understand which...



**Tuesday 14th July, 3.45-4.45pm**

Any question answered



by Anna Silver,  
Education Officer

**Informal drop in Q & A session:**

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86011287321?pwd=aX6CT0SXbx9hreqIsF26AFK53p72Al.1>

Meeting ID: 860 1128 7321 Passcode: 676203

## **RE in Walsall – Review of OFSTED reports of Walsall Schools**

The following inspection reports have been published between 24 February 2025 and 3 July 2025

From September 2024, Ofsted no longer makes an overall effectiveness judgement in inspections of state-funded schools

### **Primary**

#### **St Paul's Church of England Aided Primary School, Wolverhampton – 26<sup>th</sup> March**

No RE Comment

#### **West Midlands Education and Skills, Walsall - 31 March 2025**

Visits to places such as local Gurdwaras support pupils to develop a sense of cultural identity and belief.

#### **Radleys Primary School, Rushall – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

Pupils enjoy finding out about different faiths, including Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam and Christianity. They understand the importance of symbolism and celebrations to these faiths. This helps pupils to respect differences.

#### **Blue Coat Church of England Aided Junior School, Walsall – 7<sup>th</sup> April**

No RE Comment

#### **Leighswood School, Walsall – 11<sup>th</sup> April**

No RE Comment

#### **Caldmore Primary Academy, Walsall – 6<sup>th</sup> May**

No RE Comment

#### **Bescot Hall, Walsall – 6<sup>th</sup> May**

No RE Comment

#### **Ryecroft School, Walsall – 13<sup>th</sup> May**

Pupils learn about different faiths.

**St Mary's The Mount Catholic Primary School, Walsall – 15<sup>th</sup> May**

A palpable sense of compassion and community shines through at this Catholic faith school, where pupils 'live, love and learn as Jesus taught'.

**Millfield Primary School, Walsall – 15<sup>th</sup> May**

No RE Comment

**King Charles Primary School, Walsall – 15<sup>th</sup> May**

No RE Comment

**Abu Bakr Al-Ihsaan Academy, Walsall – 11<sup>th</sup> June**

They understand and respect people from different backgrounds and faith

**Castlefort Junior Mixed and Infant School, Walsall – 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

No RE Comment

**Secondary**

**Walsall Studio School, Walsall – 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

No RE Comment

**Shire Oak Academy, Walsall – 12<sup>th</sup> May**

No RE Comment

## SACRE Education Update July 2025

Walsall schools have continued to be inspected by Ofsted since September 2025 using the new grading system that removed the **overall** outcome grade.

Now schools are judged by the component grades, with a particular focus on the Quality of Education (QE) element.

Walsall's average of 88.4% of schools being judged as having a good or better QE is significantly above the national average of 83.9%.

Quality of Education % Good or Better Schools	Walsall (Published) 09/05/2025	National End of Mar 2025
Quality of Education	88.4	83.9
Walsall Coverage (No. Schools)	69/122	
Nursery - Overall	100.0	98.7
Primary - Overall	89.4	85.2
Secondary - Overall	85.7	79.1
Special - Overall	100.0	78.9

For the component outcomes of an Ofsted inspection Walsall's outcomes are broadly ahead or in line with the national average for each judgment.

