

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Meeting to be held on Tuesday 18th July, 2023 at 6.00 pm
at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 65-67 Walsall Road, Willenhall, WV13
2RD**

**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

Democratic Services, The Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW
Contact Name: **Mr Neil Picken, Principal Democratic Services Officer** Telephone
(01922) **654369**
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

Church of England

Mrs P. Lane
Mr A. Orlik - Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education
Mrs K. Donnellan
Mrs R. Graham
Vacancy

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

Dr G. Gomez - Roman Catholic
Mrs V. Heydon-Matterface - Methodist, Brownhills and Willenhall
Deacon Helen Webster - Methodist, Walsall
Mr D. Lomax - United Reformed Church
Mrs D. Letford - New Testament Church of God
Mrs B. Groombridge - Walsall Quakers
Mr M. Sacha - Muslim Welfare Society
Imam Saeed-Ur-Rahman - Mosque and Islamic Centre
Mr K. Bhatt - Shree Ram Mandir (Walsall)
Mr M. Ashik Ali - Bangladesh Islamic Association
Mr G. Singh - Guru Nanak Gurdwara
Mr K. Mavi - Guru Nanak Sikh Temple
Mrs B. Kaur Nijjar - Walsall Sikh Forum
Mr G. Tsiappourdhi - Black Country Orthodox Trust
Mr Bill Green - Humanist Representative
Vacancy - Muslim Faith
Vacancy - Hindu Faith
Vacancy - Jewish Faith
Vacancy - Buddhist Faith
Vacancy - Salvation Army

Teacher Representatives

Mr G. Headley - National Union of Teachers
Ms H. Leadley - Blackwood Primary School

Local Authority

Councillor I. Hussain }
Councillor F. Mazhar }
Councillor R. K Mehmi } - Local Education Authority
Councillor E. Morgan }
Councillor Singh Sohal }
Councillor C. Statham }
Councillor M. Statham }

Co Opted Members

Vacancies

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Appointment of Chair for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair for the 2023/24 Municipal year.
4. Apologies.
5. Late Items to be introduced by the Chair.
6. Minutes

To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th March, 2023 - **To follow**
7. 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.
8. Constitution/review of membership

To note that Council, at its meeting held on 17th April, 2023 approved the proposed change to the Constitution in terms of membership and to consider any further amends in line with paragraph 15 c of the Constitution.

Copy enclosed (Page 6 to 13).
9. Election of Spokespersons for Groups

To appoint spokespersons for each Group - **Copy enclosed (Page 14).**
10. KS4 data – **Copy enclosed (Page 15 to 16).**
11. SACRE Action Plan - **Copy enclosed (Page 17).**
12. NASACRE Conference 2023 - **Copy enclosed (Page 18).**
13. SACRE National Updates from RE Today - **Copy enclosed (Page 19 to 24).**

14. RE in Walsall - OFSTED updates - Copy **enclosed (Page 25 to 26)**.
15. Education in Walsall updates - ***Verbal Update***
16. RE Hub – ***Presentation***
17. Date of Future Meetings:
 - **23rd October, 2023 at 6.00 p.m.**
 - **18th March, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.**
 - **15th July, 2024 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 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.

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- democracy.
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- 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:

- 1 Baptist

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

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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 at any time by giving notice in writing to their Nominating Body and to the Clerk of SACRE
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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.

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- 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 three SACRE meetings per academic year, one per term. Meetings will be convened by the LA. The summer term meeting will be the AGM.
- 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.

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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.

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WALSALL COUNCIL

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

TUESDAY, 18 JULY 2023

ELECTION OF SPOKESPERSON 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 **18th July, 2023**. 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.

Neil Picken
Principal Democratic Services Officer



Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60184000

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Q	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	650480	112020	10.4	12.1	13.3	17.3	13.9	10.2	11.0	6.4	3.5	0.0	1.4	0.6	66.9	77.1	98.0	4.8
-	National (State Funded)	587630	103950	8.9	11.4	13.0	17.4	14.4	10.7	11.7	6.8	3.7	0.0	1.4	0.7	65.0	75.7	97.9	4.7
-	LA (State Funded)	3656	591	10.2	11.3	15.6	14.7	12.0	9.8	12.7	6.9	3.4	-	2.4	1.0	63.8	73.6	96.6	5.3
5405	Aldridge School - A Science College	255	65	6.2	6.2	6.2	18.5	20.0	12.3	16.9	7.7	6.2	-	-	-	56.9	69.2	100.0	4.8
5406	Barr Beacon School	267	18	-	27.8	38.9	22.2	-	5.6	-	5.6	-	-	-	-	88.9	94.4	100.0	6.6
4004	Blue Coat Church of England Academy	141	141	4.3	2.8	7.1	12.1	10.6	14.2	21.3	12.8	5.7	-	6.4	2.8	36.9	51.1	90.8	3.9
6907	Grace Academy Darlaston	199	42	11.9	7.1	19.0	9.5	19.0	7.1	19.0	-	2.4	-	-	4.8	66.7	73.8	95.2	5.4
4007	Joseph Leckie Academy	229	27	-	11.1	7.4	14.8	7.4	11.1	22.2	22.2	-	-	3.7	-	40.7	51.9	96.3	4.2
4106	Pool Hayes Academy	193	10	-	-	-	-	10.0	20.0	40.0	10.0	10.0	-	10.0	-	10.0	30.0	90.0	2.8
5404	Queen Mary's Grammar School	149	148	15.5	21.6	31.8	18.2	8.8	2.7	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	95.9	98.6	100.0	7.0
5403	Queen Mary's High School	119	39	51.3	28.2	12.8	5.1	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	8.2
5400	The Streetly Academy	249	79	1.3	6.3	11.4	17.7	22.8	17.7	6.3	10.1	5.1	-	1.3	-	59.5	77.2	98.7	4.8
4002	Willenhall E-ACT Academy	165	21	-	-	-	14.3	-	14.3	42.9	9.5	9.5	-	9.5	-	14.3	28.6	90.5	3.0

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60188790

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Q	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	650480	47150	9.3	11.1	12.8	16.2	14.4	11.8	10.5	7.2	4.2	0.0	1.7	0.7	63.9	75.7	97.6	4.9
-	National (State Funded)	587630	45610	8.6	10.9	12.7	16.2	14.6	12.0	10.8	7.4	4.4	0.0	1.7	0.7	63.0	75.0	97.6	4.8
-	LA (State Funded)	3656	421	3.6	6.9	14.0	16.4	17.3	13.1	10.9	10.9	5.0	-	1.0	1.0	58.2	71.3	98.1	4.8
5402	Shire Oak Academy	276	17	5.9	5.9	11.8	23.5	23.5	11.8	11.8	5.9	-	-	-	-	70.6	82.4	100.0	5.4
4606	St Francis of Assisi Catholic College	178	175	5.1	12.6	17.7	20.0	11.4	11.4	6.3	1.1	-	0.6	-	-	72.6	84.0	99.4	5.6



QAN: 60188790

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Q	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
5401	St Thomas More Catholic School, Willenhall	242	229	2.2	2.6	11.4	13.1	17.0	14.4	13.1	14.8	8.3	-	1.3	1.7	46.3	60.7	96.9	4.2

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60300632

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	650480	25000	9.8	11.3	13.0	17.3	14.1	10.5	10.8	6.9	4.2	1.6	0.5	65.5	76.0	98.0	4.9
-	National (State Funded)	587630	23690	9.1	10.9	12.8	17.4	14.3	10.7	11.1	7.2	4.4	1.6	0.5	64.5	75.2	97.9	4.9
-	LA (State Funded)	3656	15	6.7	6.7	6.7	26.7	13.3	13.3	20.0	-	6.7	-	-	60.0	73.3	100.0	5.1
4003	West Walsall E-ACT Academy	172	15	6.7	6.7	6.7	26.7	13.3	13.3	20.0	-	6.7	-	-	60.0	73.3	100.0	5.1

WALSALL SACRE 2022-23 ACTION PLAN

ACTIONS TO BE COMPLETED IMMEDIATELY

- Meetings to be held at a variety of venues- the first meeting was at Blue Coat Primary school and the next is at a Gurdwara
- Members to have access to training- members have received details of NASACRE training
- Have opportunities to hear from students- this happened at our meeting at a Blue Coat Primary School.

ACTIONS TO BE COMPLETED THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

COMPLETED

- The chair to attend the NASACRE Conference.
- Review the present membership of Walsall SACRE.
- Use co-option to ensure the membership is well informed and represents the diversity of the local community.

TO BE DONE

- Ensure SACRE plays a key role in promoting community cohesion- ONGOING
- Monitor the early effectiveness of the new agreed syllabus by receiving feedback from teachers
- Gain information about RE provision in schools and examination entries

ACTIONS FOR 2023-24

- Gain information regarding the practice of delivering collective worship in schools
- Establish communication between SACRE and school leaders
- Develop effective communication with academies
- Produce a guide for visiting places of worship

NASACRE CONFERENCE 2023 REPORT BY DAVE LOMAX

The conference was held in London on the 22nd May 2023 at Fishmongers Hall. A wonderful building now associated with a terrorist attack which is a shame as it is beautiful in a interesting area- when I got bored I could look out on the Thames and the Shard. The food was also amazing.

We had 3 guest speakers,

- Dr. Kathryn Wright CEO of the Culham St. Gabriel's Trust who offer support to Sacre's. I have booked an online workshop with her.
- Charles Clark- former Education Secretary and Home Secretary in a Labour Government. Without being biased he was rather political but he did identify strengths and weaknesses of Sacre.
Strengths- community cohesion, strong values, the moral high ground, brings people from different communities and faiths together in a positive way and considers the outcomes for young people.
Weaknesses-financially weak, lack resources and have a marginal role, not always seen as important.
- Dr. David Smith who did a summary of the 2021-22 Sacre reports. He reported on a number of aspects to the reports,
 1. There are 153 local authorities in England, therefore 153 Sacre's. However, only 67 sent in a report. I don't understand this as I thought it was mandatory.
 2. 78% of Sacre's had funding. Implying that 22% did not get LA support.
 3. Most reports discussed RE but few considered collective worship
 4. Many reports gave no advice to schools or local authorities.
 5. 63% of reports considered GCSE RE but only 30% considered RE below key stage 4 and non-examination RE.

For me the best part of the conference was the opportunity to speak with people from other Sacre's. On my table there was a Council Official from Blackburn, 2 Sacre members from Surrey, a Sacre member from Essex (Surry and Essex clearly cover huge areas), a Sacre member from Waltham Forest in London and 2 people from Rochdale Sacre, one of whom was the LA school improvement officer! One thing we discussed was funding and it was very different. Rochdale get £2000, Essex £12000 and Surrey couldn't remember the amount but thought it was £20,000

Dave Lomax

National SACRE Updates for Walsall SACRE from RE Today Summer 2023

Ofsted appoint new Acting Subject Lead for RE



Hazel Henson HMI was appointed as acting subject lead for RE in March 2023. She has a background in primary education and was a headteacher in Derbyshire. We are expecting OFSTED to bring out a report on RE in schools, akin to the old subject reports in the next few months.

Children's Commissioner shares her view on RE with former pupil and the REC

Shammi Rahman, NATRE exec member, recently interviewed The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza. Dame Rachel is a previous RE teacher and headteacher and Shammi, is a former secondary teacher and now a Race Equality Adviser. Dame Rachel was her RE teacher!

Dame Rachel says, 'a former RE teacher myself, I believe RE teachers have a crucial opportunity to teach children about the wider world and principals of fairness and equality. It was great to talk about how different faiths can teach us different things, for example treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves; having compassion for others; and celebrating the beauty of life in our environment.'

Listen to their conversation here: [Conversation with Shammi Rahman: The importance of Religious Education | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2023/05/16/conversation-with-shammi-rahman-the-importance-of-religious-education/)



Dame Rachel also spoke robustly at the 50th anniversary Religious Education Council meeting about the 'safe space' offered by good RE teaching in schools, remarking that it is "the one place in the curriculum" where young people can discuss "important and exciting philosophical, religious and moral conundrums in safe spaces". <https://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/2023/05/childrens-commissioner-50th-agm/>

The place of Humanists on SACRE

Humanists cannot be excluded from Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education: The High Court has ruled that local authorities cannot exclude [humanist representatives](#) from their Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs). The ruling followed a case brought by humanist Steve Bowen, who challenged Kent County council for refusing him a place on the grounds that he did not represent a religion. SACREs are responsible for reflecting the principal religious traditions in the area and the judgment states their role is about tolerance and pluralism in society. In a commentary on the case, Law Professor Russell Sandberg says this is a significant step forward and highlights how the protection of non-religious beliefs continues to be controversial and lacking in clarity. Read his commentary here: "Humanism and religious instruction in schools: the landmark case of Bowen" in [Law & Religion UK, 30 May 2023](#)

As you know we already have a Humanist representative on Walsall SACRE and have been reviewing our constitution. As part of this we had already decided that it is suitable to have a Humanist as a full member of committee A.

Recruitment crisis in teaching and especially in secondary RE

London, 6th March, 2023: A campaign to attract a new generation of RE teachers has kicked off with teaching groups, religious organisations and parliamentarians stressing the importance of the subject for preparing students for life in modern Britain.

As of January, UCAS data show that teacher recruitment for all subjects is down 22% from last year. However RE stands out, being down a third of applicants from the last recruitment cycle.

Government inaction over recruiting teachers to RE has been blamed. The Department for Education (DfE) has so far missed its target for the recruitment of RE teachers in nine of the last ten years.

Despite this year's fall in applicants, the subject continues to grow in popularity. Over the last five years entries to the GCSE have stood around an average of 250,000 with entries to the full course GCSE rising by 30% over the last decade.

The recruitment campaign – entitled 'Beyond the Ordinary' - draws attention to the academic and knowledge rich approach of the subject to life's big questions, and will seek to attract a set of talented graduates up to the task of getting young people to grips with the complex nature of modern belief.

Kathryn Wright, Chief Executive Officer of Culham St Gabriel's Trust, which is supporting the campaign, said: "Religious education is an important curriculum subject enabling children and young people to navigate our complex multi religious, multi secular society. Everyone has a worldview, and it's important we prepare young people to become free thinking, critical participants in public discourse, who can make informed judgements about matters of religion or belief and reflect meaningfully on the big questions in life."

We are looking for ambitious graduates from a range of humanities and social science subjects who can deliver an academic and rigorous curriculum aimed at getting young people to think critically about their own beliefs and those of others."

Last March, the Father of the House, Sir Peter Bottomley MP hosted a roundtable on the future of the subject. In October, a Westminster Hall Debate saw MPs and Peers from across the House agree on its importance for life in modern Britain as well as express concern around a lack of government support for the subject.

Lord Karan Bilimoria said: "The latest teacher recruitment figures are deeply worrying. Parents are concerned, schools are concerned and so too the young people are missing out.

“As a Champion for RE, I’ve heard numerous times from students that this is one of the few times in the classroom where they get to say what they think about the world around them. At present we face doing a disservice to a generation of young people ill-equipped to deal with the complexities of belief in Britain and the world beyond. This campaign is about getting the best humanities graduates into the classroom to help them deliver a modern RE curriculum reflective of belief in our society.”

Teacher training courses are open to graduates from a range of academic disciplines and from all sorts of diverse backgrounds, with Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses available from schools, universities or other providers.

Anyone looking for more information about training to be a RE teacher should visit <https://www.cstg.org.uk/campaigns/teacher-recruitment/becoming-a-teacher>

Do we know what this problem is like in Walsall Secondary schools?

Why does the rate of entry for GCSE Religious Studies vary so much around England? Does the 2021 census provide part of the answer?

In answer to a parliamentary written question asked by Janet Daby MP and **answered by Nick Gibb MP in January**, the minister provided a table ranking each local authority in relation to the number of entries for GCSE Religious Studies in 2022. The range is significant; from 14.4% to 81.0%. Looking for an explanation for this gap, we tabulated the percentage of the population in each local authority that recorded they belonged to a religion in the 2021 Census alongside the average entries for GCSE. The correlation is interesting as you will see by the colour coded shading in the last column. Comparisons between the local authorities entering the most and the least students are worth noting as follows:

An average of 57% of the English population, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census

An average of 51% of the population, in the bottom 10 LAs in terms of entries for GCSE RS, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census

An average of 71% of the population, in the top 10 LAs in terms of entries for GCSE RS, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census

The full table can be downloaded here.

Even though this is correlation and not proven causation, SACREs may like to consider the following:

- How do entries in their LA compare with other LAs in their region and nationally?
- Does the census data provide part of the answer or not?
- Why do some LAs buck the trend implied by the census data – i.e. pupils appear to be more likely to be entered for GCSE RS in areas with a larger proportions of people who identify with a religious worldview?
- Might parental views of what their child should study be affecting curriculum design? See CSTG survey of parents [here](#).
- What are the implications of the answers to these questions for Religious Education in England?

Find out more in the document linked below

[Local Authorities entries for GCSE and census records](#)

How can we encourage more than 28.1% of pupil entries for GCSE RS, especially as we know disadvantaged pupils often do well in the subject?

Two-thirds of secondary early career teachers rate subject knowledge training as ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’

In May, NATRE conducted a flash survey for secondary teachers in their first two years in the profession since qualification (ECTs). They wanted to hear their assessment of the delivery of the government funded programme designed to develop their subject knowledge. When NATRE began its grant funded New2RE programme 7 years ago, one of the drivers was the evidence that lack of subject knowledge was a key factor in the alarming proportions of teachers leaving the profession in the early years of their careers. We are proud to report that New2RE participants, with the benefits of extensive subject knowledge learning, stayed in teaching at significantly higher rates.

When the government announced their Early Career Framework with a clear commitment to addressing the issue of subject specific knowledge and skills in 2019, we might have dared to be optimistic. However, the news from the classroom was not good. Anecdotal evidence from those attending NATRE’s free monthly subject knowledge webinars during this academic year, was that little or no attention was being paid to subject knowledge in their schools’ early career offering. Worse still, many of the ECTs were the only subject specialist on their staff team, so there was no one properly qualified to support this aspect of the early career programme.

Earlier this month, the government’s education select committee announced an inquiry into the recruitment, training and retention of teachers so the flash survey was launched. Open for just a week to hit last Friday’s submission deadline, we still attracted 60 responses. These are set out below. As you can see, almost 2/3rds of our respondents reported that, in relation to teacher standard 3: Develop good curriculum and subject knowledge, their rating of the ECT programme was either poor (37%) or very poor (28%). Only one in ten thought the programme was good in this respect. Obviously, this is a small sample, but NATRE will ask this question again as part of the secondary survey which will begin in a few weeks’ time.

So, we have told the government that there is a job to do here and that **NATRE’s ECT membership**, including its subject knowledge webinars, which are open to all, is playing its part. However, this is an issue that needs urgent attention, not only because it affects teacher confidence and consequentially retention, but even more importantly, standards of religious education for pupils.

Do we know what support is being offered to RE ECTs here? Can we direct them to the free offer above?

NATRE Spirited Arts 2023 – a reminder

Will the LA’s schools join hundreds of from around the world taking part in this year’s Spirited Arts competition? Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form pupils can think of. Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE?

The deadline for this is Monday 31st July 2023

1. “We have more in common than that which divides us.”
2. Green faith, green future? [‘God’s good earth?’]
3. Where is God today?

4. Faith in action, values in action.
5. Sacred space and holy buildings
6. All God's creatures?

More details here www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/

Training, networking, and other support

The RE Podcast: FREE CPD for teachers, and RE professionals



The RE Podcast is an amazing resource for Teachers and Students. Hosted by the fabulous Louisa Jane Smith – who is a current Secondary teacher for RE. Each week she produces a podcast on a range of brilliant RE topics with fantastic guests. All the previous episodes are on the website.

<https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/> - or listen through your Mobile Podcast App!

FREE CPD for Early Career Teachers

Early Career Teachers have access to a range of free support through a series of online sessions. 'Café' sessions give you a chance to talk with experienced teachers and experts from different worldview backgrounds. The taught sessions offer expert input with a focus on practical classroom strategies.

Date – All Mondays 4.00-5.30pm	Topic
10 July	Café NATRE: Subject knowledge Christianity

ECT webinars booking link www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/

NATRE: new membership packages!

NATRE is the largest membership organisation which promotes, defends and supports RE teachers and RE teaching. It does this through producing high-quality resources and CPD, lobbying government, being involved in conversations with the DfE and Ofsted, LAs and SACREs, telling teachers' stories and experiences and being a voice for all teachers.



Membership packages for students, ECTs, teachers, schools, RE professionals and RE enthusiasts!

Details: www.natre.org.uk/membership

Culham St Gabriel's launch FREE new self-study course

Digging Deeper: Subject Knowledge, this short, self-study course builds on the introduction level course and is available for FREE. Find out more here: [Culham St Gabriel's Trust Moodle \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://Culham-St-Gabriel's-Trust-Moodle-(cstg.org.uk))

Understanding Humanism launches new animation and free resources

Understanding Humanism has launched a **NEW animation** 'One Life, live it well' voiced by author and presenter, Alice Roberts. Accompanied by classroom activities, this simple but beautiful animation illustrates how humanists try to approach life: [One Life, Live It Well: watch our new animation narrated by Alice Roberts » Understanding Humanism](#)

They also have available new FREE resources for children in early years, and the stories of four amazing humanist women who changed the world.

RE Hubs – Website now live!



RE Hubs website is now live at www.re-hubs.uk. RE Hubs aim to connect those who can provide resources with those who need them and create a neutral platform being RE professionals together.

Many organizations serve RE/RVE/R&W education in the UK, from places of worship and school speakers to CPD partnerships and resource providers. However, until now, there hasn't been a single place to equip, enable, and signpost everyone within the community.

The Hub area for Stoke-on-Trent is West Midlands, led by Chris Giles.

*How can we encourage speakers and places of worship to sign up to the training and appear on the site?
What links do you have where you can share this?*

NATRE Secondary Survey



The NATRE survey of secondary RE teachers is now underway and open until Monday 31st July. Everyone who completes the survey will receive a £5 coupon for the RE Teaching Resources online shop as well as being entered into a prize draw to win a NATRE School Enhanced membership worth £270. The survey is here: [NATRE Survey - Secondary 2023 \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://surveymonkey.co.uk)

Review of OFSTED reports of Walsall Schools

The following inspection reports have been published between **28th February 2023 and 10th July 2023**

Alumwell Junior School 10 and 11 May 2023 Good

Leaders promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well. Pupils learn to look through 'windows and mirrors' when learning about other faiths and cultures. This helps them to look at other people's beliefs, experiences and perspectives and then reflect on their own. As a result, pupils understand the need to treat everyone equally and value each other's differences.

Blue Coat Church of England Academy 24 and 25 January 2023 Good

No comment on RE

Christ Church CofE Primary School 21 and 22 March 2023 Good

Pupils are respectful of others. They talk about the school's Christian values such as 'friendship' and 'forgiveness' and how these link with fundamental British values. Pupils learn about different faiths and cultures. They can talk about other religions and their differences with respect.

Edgar Stammers Primary Academy 17 and 18 January 2023 Good

No comment on RE

Fibbersley Park Academy 25 and 26 April 2023 Good

No comment on RE

Lindens Primary School 2 and 3 March 2023 Good Deep dive

Despite the fact this was a school with a deep dive in RE absolutely no comment on RE

Manor Primary School 2 and 3 February 2023 Good

No comment on RE

Old Hall School 28–29 March 2023 Good

No comment on RE

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy 25 and 26 January 2023 Good

No comment on RE but this was said

Pupils also develop their understanding of fundamental British values, equality and diversity.

A link to the curriculum page on the website is here [Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy - Philosophy & Ethics \(scacademy.co.uk\)](https://scacademy.co.uk/Philosophy%20&%20Ethics)

Queen Mary's Grammar School 28 and 29 March 2023 Outstanding

There are numerous trips and cultural events, including a workshop for Ramadan and an Easter concert where over 150 pupils participated.

The school is successful in its aim to promote diversity and equality. Pupils appreciate this. They said there is 'equity for everyone'.

Ryders Hayes School 14 and 15 February 2023 Good

No comment on RE

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Darlaston 25 and 26 April 2023 Outstanding

As this is a school with a religious character there is no inspection of RE provision. RE is inspected in a specific inspection by the Catholic Schools inspectorate.

Despite this the OFSTED inspection report stated,

Leaders provide an exceptional personal development offer for all pupils. Pupils learn not to discriminate against others, such as by race or gender. They learn about different religions, cultures and celebrations. For example, younger pupils recently visited a Hindu temple to learn more about Diwali. They created Rangoli patterns and listened to the story of Rama and Sita. This helps pupils to understand and respect difference and understand the diverse society they live in.

St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School 16 and 17 May 2023 Good

As this is a school with a religious character there is no inspection of RE provision. RE is inspected in a specific inspection by the Catholic Schools inspectorate.

Walsall Academy 22 and 23 November 2022 RI

Pupils choose which subjects they will study for GCSE at the end of Year 8. This means that they do not study a range of subjects with a similar breadth and depth to the national curriculum up to the end of Year 9. As a result, pupils miss content that is taught in Year 9 in the subjects they have not opted to take. For subjects pupils do not study at GCSE, pupils do not develop their knowledge in the subject in sufficient depth.

Pupils have many opportunities to celebrate and learn about the diversity of different cultures. For example, pupils study the events surrounding Windrush Day

Note this judgement may suggest something about RE provision [Curriculum Learning Journeys - Walsall Academy](#)

West Walsall E-ACT Academy 17 and 18 January 2023 Good

No comment on RE

[wwa-re-ltp-and-intent.pdf \(e-act.org.uk\)](#)

Woodlands Academy of Learning 13 and 14 March 2023 Good

They learn about different faiths and learn that it is ok to be different. This work is preparing pupils for life in modern Britain.