

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

2020-2021

September 2020 – August 31st 2021



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

This Information can be made available in other languages and formats on request, such as large print, Braille and audio cassette. Please contact Jane Hall, Clerk to SACRE email: jane.hall@westnorthants.gov.uk

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**Northamptonshire Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education:
Annual Report 2019 - 2020**

Foreword by Morcea Walker - Chair of the Northamptonshire SACRE 2020-2021

The COVID pandemic continued to have an immense impact on Education with schools and other educational establishments. COVID restrictions have meant that examination systems have not operated in the normal way. Instead, there has been teacher assessments. The Education profession has taken the opportunity to respond to the need to creating a safe working environment, as well as supporting the needs and wellbeing of all pupils.

In 2020 – 2021 school staff continued to face the pressure created by COVID. Online and 'hybrid' teaching has developed, and this has enabled good quality teaching to take place.

SACRE has not had a worker/Adviser since 2019 so it has been difficult to get information regarding the teaching of RE and the progress of worship in our schools. SACRE members who do training have been doing some online work. Visits to places of worship has not been possible but some organisations have been able to do online tours of buildings etc.

SACRE members through 2020-21 continued to stay at home, as appropriate, following government advice. Our meetings have been via Zoom which has been very valuable. Teacher assessment grades have been awarded to GCSE and A Level students for the second year. These results have not been made available to local authorities so SACRE is unable to share this information.

The other major change is that Northamptonshire is now two new unitary authorities – West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire. SACRE is working across both areas with the aim of supporting both areas effectively. SACRE comprises an excellent team of members who reflect the diverse community of Northamptonshire.

As we continue to work in the shadow of COVID, SACRE will be focussing on how best to support schools in the County including revisiting the Agreed Syllabus and looking at training.

Members look forward to a good, continued working relationship.

Morcea Walker MBE, VLL
Chair Northamptonshire SACRE

1. OVERVIEW

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Northamptonshire SACRE, which has met four times this year, comprises four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been good. SACRE continues to ensure the membership reflects the demographic.

The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A - representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions, and world-view communities;
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;
- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations; Teachers, Teaching Assistants and High Level Teaching Assistants
- Committee D – Representatives of the Local Authority

The Committee have met 3 times via Zoom.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire County Council SACRE website at:

[Religious education - Schools and education \(northamptonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/religious-education-schools-and-education)

2. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES)

- **Local Agreed Syllabus** - This can be found on the SACRE website above.
- **Standards and monitoring of Religious Education** - No data was collected for the period 2020/2021 due to the disruption of schools due to the COVID pandemic
- **Teacher training** - Due to the lack of an advisor and uncertainty around the funding available, no training was able to be offered during this period. Church Schools have been able to access training through the diocese and other schools may have made their own arrangements.

3. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The SACRE has not received any complaints about Collective Worship

Determinations

There have been no determination requests in regard to Collective Worship made to SACRE.

4. LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

We are a member of NASACRE.

We work with the Peterborough Diocese Education Team.

We have regular reports from local interfaith groups.

Community organisations are well represented on SACRE and keep members updated. We have experienced some difficulties communicating this out more widely to schools and teachers.

We are affiliated to Holocaust Educational Trust

5. SACRE INVOLVEMENT LOCALLY

- **Governor training**
- **Advice on issues within the community**

The impact of COVID and the restrictions on schools and face to face meetings has resulted in great reduction in training. Members have delivered some, mainly online. Members have responded and offered advice when requested from the community. Red letter days, community events and festivals have been promoted and supported by SACRE members.

6. SECTION ON SACRE'S OWN ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Professional and administrative support and how LA supports the SACRE (clerking, adviser, links to council initiatives)

Clerking has been consistent and professional which has supported SACRE. This service has been greatly valued.

(b) Membership

Please see Annex A

(c) Training for SACRE

None

Appendix A: Membership of SACRE

APPENDIX

Membership 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021

Name	Organisation
Mr Farnush Tanhai	Bahai Faith
Mr Arthur Newbury	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints
Mr Chris Paddock	Humanist
Mr Bhupesh Parekh	Hinduism
Mr Saifullah Nassir	Islam
Avnish Thackrar	Hinduism
Mr Daniel Tabor	Judaism
Mr Harkirat Singh	Sikh Faith
Mrs Morcea Walker	United Reform Church
Mr John Flory	Religious Society of Friends

Group B – Representative of the Church of England

Mrs Val Griffiths	Church of England
Mrs Julie Barke	Church of England

Group C – Representatives of the Teacher Associations

Mrs Jenny Dixon	Primary Teacher Representative (NEU)
Justine Davies	Secondary School Representative (NASUWT)
Sylvia Erskine	Primary Supply Teacher (NEU)

Group D – Representatives of the Local Authority

Cllr Dudley Hughes	LA
Cllr Wendy Brackenbury	LA

Clerk to SACRE

Mrs Jane Hall