

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

KENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

**Kent SACRE is a member of the National
Association of SACREs**



SACRE Chairman's remarks

Recent events highlight the need for good quality religious education so our students can understand some of the issues which underpin these events. In Kent we strive to improve the quality of religious education. Awards like the Wire Award encourage teachers to be proactive in delivering religious education.

Kent SACRE is also keen to ensure that collective worship is also being used effectively by school across the county as we see the enormous benefits that this can lead to our young people's mental health.

We in Kent SACRE continue to receive exemplary support from Kent County Council and I wish to highlight this as I understand that many other SACREs around the country do not enjoy such support. I would like to express my thanks to the local authority for this support.

I also want to thank the wider SACRE membership along with our professional adviser as well as Kent County Council in supporting Kent SACRE.

Cllr Steve Manion

Kent SACRE met three times during the year at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on 9 November 2023, 19th March 2024 and 13th June 2024. These are hybrid meetings with about half the members online and half in person. The arrangements and Agenda setting is done on Zoom with leaders of each group, the clerk and the RE Consultant.

Attendance at Meetings 2023-2024

| GROUP A: Faiths and other beliefs other than C of E | Attendance | GROUP B: Church of England | Attendance |
|--|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| A Goldstein Jewish | 2 | Canterbury Diocesan board of Education | |
| J Grant Baha'i Retired Aug 2023 | 1 | R Walters | 2 |
| R Smith Baha'i Joined Sept 2023 | 1 | B Naden | 2 |
| | | Ms Ralph | 2 |
| J Wigg Salvation Army | 1 | K Porteous Joined Sept 2023 | 3 |
| N Kaur Cheema Sikh | 3 | Rochester Diocesan Board of Education | |
| F Hawkes Catholic | 2 | | |
| M Paddison Baptist | 3 | C Bostock | 2 |
| C Elapatha Buddhist | 2 | N Brownfield | 2 |
| A Sinha Hindu Joined Dec 2023 | 0 | G Hitch Joined Sept 2023 | 1 |
| S Bowen Humanist Joined Dec 2023 | 2 | GROUP D: LA | Attendance |
| GROUP C: Teachers | Attendance | S Manion | 2 |
| K Burke | 2 | M Baldock Retired June 2024 | 1 |
| J Paul | 3 | S Hamilton | 3 |
| M Lawson | 3 | Mr Jeffrey | 3 |
| H Williams Joined Sept 2023 | 2 | Others | Attendance |
| | | Clerk from Democratic Services | 3 |
| Co-opted - E Pope | 0 | P Smith-Orr RE Consultant | 3 |
| Co-opted - Mr A Shepherd | 2 | | |
| Co-opted - H Curtis Joined Nov 2023 | 0 | | |
| Co-opted – E Watson Joined Nov 2023 | 0 | | |

Overview

At the meetings we have a few standing items such as the budget, the development plan progress, membership, and the Kent SACRE WIRE award. Other discussions this year were NASACRE and a report from the RE Consultant each term. The self-evaluation tool was used in Spring 2024 by the committee members attending the Spring meeting. A development plan with progress achieved and the self-evaluation results are at the end of this report.

Religious Education Statutory responsibilities.

During the early part of the academic year there were a number of requests from schools who needed the link to the new RE Syllabus which were dealt with by the RE Consultant.

Monitoring is difficult but is done through looking at websites and receiving emails from schools. We run the WIRE award in Kent and schools send in evidence to be judged by the committee at each meeting. This does give an indication of the work being done in schools that apply. Members of the SACRE go to the schools and award the certificates.

As far as we know no school has applied for the REQM.

We now have two RE networks running in Kent, one in Thanet and one near Wrotham. We also have a Secondary HOD group running from a school in Tunbridge. The Primary groups are held each term mainly on zoom, but some are face to face. The Secondary one is on zoom. They are run by teacher members of SACRE with the RE consultant's support. A larger face to face meeting was planned and eventually took place in September 2024 near Maidstone. The two Diocese advisers also run networks for the church schools, but community schools can join in, so monitoring of RE in schools is mainly done through these groups and from emails requesting advice and guidance from the RE Consultant through the year.

Advice to the LA is to ask again for exam results and to use our budget for a Kent wide meeting.

The exam results were sent in January 2025 and are in Appendix A.

Some schools entered pupils for the short course and got very good results. Many of the schools that entered pupils for the full course got over 85% passes.

Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

There is a Guidance on Collective Worship available on the Kelsi website for schools.

There have been no Determinations referred to SACRE, members have been trained in how to deal with this if it arises.

Links with other bodies

Kent SACRE members are linked with, and part of many different other organisations. The committee has members of the Diocese of both Rochester and Canterbury board of education. The church schools in Canterbury Diocese follow the Kent Agreed syllabus.

We also have members of Interfaith forums and Governors of Kent schools. We are members of NASACRE and the RE Consultant is a member of AREIAC (association of religious education inspectors, advisors and consultants). For representation of different faiths see the table of attendance above.

Local Involvement

Members of Maidstone and Tunbridge who are members of SACRE visit schools and talk about their faith. We also have a Humanist rep and he also goes into schools to give talks.

SACRE'S Statutory Responsibility

The SACRE has the support of an RE Consultant at each meeting and advising teachers by email. We also have the support of the Democratic Services to do clerking for the meetings, The members of Kent SACRE are reasonably representative of the county of Kent, new members are sought by the clerk if there is a vacancy, and members are asked for a letter of recommendation from their governing body.

We are fortunate to have members from both the Rochester and Canterbury Boards of Education, this is useful for links with schools in Kent and for their insight into the state of RE and Collective Worship in the County.

The budget holder of the SACRE budget is available and provides a termly budget update and the SACRE has up to £5000.00 per year to spend. Hybrid meetings have been held at the Kent County Council offices in Maidstone since Covid but discussions are ongoing to visit a different venue at least once a year.

Appendix A- Hours of RE taught and % of Full and Short Course pupils entered and results

| School name | % hours - RE | KS4FCEntries | KS4SCEntries | FC % 9-4 | SC % 9-4 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Dartford Science & Technology College | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Northfleet School for Girls | 0.08 | 13.6 | 0 | 53.6 | |
| Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School | 3.79 | 18.1 | 0 | 100 | |
| Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys | 2.95 | 13.2 | 0 | 100 | |
| Weald of Kent Grammar School | 2.38 | 25.5 | 0 | 98.7 | |
| Highsted Grammar School | 1.64 | 0 | 98.6 | | 92.5 |
| The Community College Whitstable | 3.51 | 2 | 0 | 100 | |
| Highworth Grammar School for Girls | 4.92 | 99.1 | 0 | 95.3 | |
| The Harvey Grammar School | 3.07 | 6.5 | 69.8 | 100 | 86.6 |
| Dover Grammar School for Girls | 3.6 | 29.8 | 0 | 97.3 | |
| Astor College (A Specialist College for the Arts) | | 0 | 0 | | |
| King Ethelbert School | 1.44 | 6.5 | 0 | 33.3 | |
| Hartsdown Technology College | 3.23 | 0.8 | 0 | 100 | |
| Towers School and Sixth Form Centre | 2.02 | 4 | 0 | 60 | |
| Brockhill Park Performing Arts College | 3.6 | 0 | 98.2 | | 45 |
| The North School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Maidstone Grammar School | 3.55 | 96.8 | 0 | 94.3 | |
| Maidstone Grammar School for Girls | 3.02 | 96.2 | 0 | 89.2 | |
| Borden Grammar School | 2.14 | 21.1 | 0 | 92.3 | |
| The Norton Knatchbull School | 1.37 | 28.3 | 0 | 81 | |
| Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School | 1.65 | 32.3 | 0 | 96.3 | |
| Bennett Memorial Diocesan School | 6 | 99.7 | 0 | 75.4 | |
| The Judd School | 4.03 | 94.2 | 0 | 99.4 | |
| The Maplesden Noakes School | 0.58 | 7.3 | 0 | 46.7 | |
| Saint George's Church of England School | 4.7 | 91.5 | 0 | 53.1 | |
| Dartford Grammar School | | 33.7 | 0 | 96.8 | |
| Thamesview School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre | 0.82 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Wrotham School | 2.26 | 9.6 | 0 | 68.8 | |
| Dartford Grammar School for Girls | 4.83 | 17.9 | 0 | 100 | |
| Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Fulston Manor School | 3.12 | 28.9 | 0 | 62.7 | |
| The Skinners' School | 2.42 | 11.9 | 0 | 100 | |
| The Canterbury High School | 1.51 | 3.5 | 0.5 | 71.4 | 100 |
| Oakwood Park Grammar School | 4.16 | 100 | 0 | 91.7 | |
| The Malling School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| The Archbishop's School | | 88.2 | 0 | 51.5 | |
| Sir Roger Manwood's School | 4.14 | 31.4 | 0 | 96 | |
| St Simon Stock Catholic School | 8.3 | 97.8 | 0 | 69 | |
| The Westlands School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School | 9.71 | 93 | 0 | 61.7 | |
| The Folkestone School for Girls | 2.98 | 97.1 | 0 | 85.2 | |
| Mascalls School | 1.75 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Tonbridge Grammar School | 2.97 | 0 | 96 | | 98.8 |

| | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Barton Court Grammar School | 4.09 | 87.9 | 0 | 98.4 | |
| St Anselm's Catholic School | 8.62 | 91.1 | 0 | 62.6 | |
| St George's Church of England Foundation School | 7.13 | 92.5 | 0 | 56.3 | |
| Herne Bay High School | 4.98 | 20.2 | 0 | 83.7 | |
| Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School | 2.7 | 0 | 99.4 | | 93.5 |
| Hillview School for Girls | 2.55 | 11.6 | 0 | 84 | |
| The Hayesbrook School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Northfleet Technology College | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Dover Grammar School for Boys | | 81.9 | 0 | 90.4 | |
| Dane Court Grammar School | | 26.2 | 0 | 100 | |
| St John's Catholic Comprehensive | 6.12 | 96.4 | 0 | 66.7 | |
| Chatham House Grammar School for Boys | | 46.3 | 0 | 93.6 | |
| Sandwich Technology School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Gravesend Grammar School | 2.49 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Ursuline College | 8.63 | 95.1 | 0 | 46.2 | |
| The Marsh Academy | 1.22 | 9.2 | 0 | 71.4 | |
| The Leigh Academy | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Spires Academy | 2.49 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Longfield Academy | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey | 1.55 | 4.5 | 0 | 0 | |
| Skinner's Kent Academy | 1.86 | 4.1 | 0 | 100 | |
| Knole Academy | 1.28 | 0.4 | 0 | 100 | |
| Duke of York's Royal Military School | 2.93 | 7.3 | 0 | 100 | |
| The John Wallis Church of England Academy | 6.73 | 95.8 | 0 | 38.1 | |
| Wilmington Academy | | 13 | 0 | 60 | |
| Westlands School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| The Canterbury Academy | 1.51 | 3.5 | 0.5 | 71.4 | 100 |
| Highsted Grammar School | 1.64 | 0 | 98.6 | | 92.5 |
| Sandwich Technology School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Fulston Manor School | 3.12 | 28.9 | 0 | 62.7 | |
| Leigh Academy Tonbridge | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Dartford Grammar School | | 33.7 | 0 | 96.8 | |
| Highworth Grammar School | 4.92 | 99.1 | 0 | 95.3 | |
| Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School | | 46.3 | 0 | 93.6 | |
| Tonbridge Grammar School | 2.97 | 0 | 96 | | 98.8 |
| Weald of Kent Grammar School | 2.38 | 25.5 | 0 | 98.7 | |
| Herne Bay High School | 4.98 | 20.2 | 0 | 83.7 | |
| Sir Roger Manwood's School | 4.14 | 31.4 | 0 | 96 | |
| Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School | 2.7 | 0 | 99.4 | | 93.5 |
| Hartsdown Academy | 3.23 | 0.8 | 0 | 100 | |
| Towers School and Sixth Form Centre | 2.02 | 4 | 0 | 60 | |
| King Ethelbert School | 1.44 | 6.5 | 0 | 33.3 | |
| Dane Court Grammar School | | 26.2 | 0 | 100 | |
| Bennett Memorial Diocesan School | 6 | 99.7 | 0 | 75.4 | |

| | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Oakwood Park Grammar School | 4.16 | 100 | 0 | 91.7 | |
| Mascalls Academy | 1.75 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Gravesend Grammar School | 2.49 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Hillview School for Girls | 2.55 | 11.6 | 0 | 84 | |
| Brockhill Park Performing Arts College | 3.6 | 0 | 98.2 | | 45 |
| Barton Court Grammar School | 4.09 | 87.9 | 0 | 98.4 | |
| Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre | 0.82 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Ebbsfleet Academy | 6.6 | 31.2 | 0 | 88.4 | |
| Saint George's Church of England School | 4.7 | 91.5 | 0 | 53.1 | |
| The Sittingbourne School | 4.9 | 4.7 | 0 | 16.7 | |
| Borden Grammar School | 2.14 | 21.1 | 0 | 92.3 | |
| The Maplesden Noakes School | 0.58 | 7.3 | 0 | 46.7 | |
| The Folkestone School for Girls | 2.98 | 97.1 | 0 | 85.2 | |
| The Norton Knatchbull School | 1.37 | 28.3 | 0 | 81 | |
| Astor Secondary School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| The Harvey Grammar School | 3.07 | 6.5 | 69.8 | 100 | 86.6 |
| Meopham School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Wrotham School | 2.26 | 9.6 | 0 | 68.8 | |
| Trinity School | 5.67 | 95.5 | 0 | 81.7 | |
| Wye School | | 25.4 | 0 | 87.5 | |
| Hadlow Rural Community School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| St Simon Stock Catholic School | 8.3 | 97.8 | 0 | 69 | |
| The Skinners' School | 2.42 | 11.9 | 0 | 100 | |
| St Gregory's Catholic School | 9.71 | 93 | 0 | 61.7 | |
| St Anselm's Catholic School, Canterbury | 8.62 | 91.1 | 0 | 62.6 | |
| The Leigh UTC | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Ursuline College | 8.63 | 95.1 | 0 | 46.2 | |
| The Charles Dickens School | 2.26 | 11.4 | 0 | 62.5 | |
| Dartford Grammar School for Girls | 4.83 | 17.9 | 0 | 100 | |
| The Whitstable School | 3.51 | 2 | 0 | 100 | |
| Folkestone Academy | | 0 | 0.5 | | 0 |
| Turner Free School | | 0.6 | 0 | 100 | |
| Goodwin Academy | 2.05 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Stone Lodge School | | 11 | 0 | 76.9 | |
| The Holmesdale School | | 1.2 | 26.8 | 0 | 50 |
| Leigh Academy Rainham | | | | | |
| The North School | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Barton Manor School | 5.2 | | | | |
| Maritime Academy | 7.2 | | | | |
| Aylesford School | 2.51 | 7 | 0 | 30 | |
| The Abbey School | 4.64 | 11.3 | 75.9 | 45.5 | 41.2 |
| Dover Christ Church Academy | | 0 | 0.8 | | 0 |

Appendix B Self-Evaluation of Kent SACRE – March 2024

| Number | Key Area | Requires improvement | Developing | Established | Advanced |
|--|---|----------------------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Section 1 management of SACRE | | | | | |
| 1a | Funding: Professional and financial support | | | | X |
| 1b | SACRE meetings | | | X | |
| 1c | Membership and training | | | X | |
| 1d | Improvement/development planning | | | X | |
| 1e | Information and advice | | X | | |
| 1f | Partnerships with key stakeholders | | | X | |
| 1G | Relations with the Academies sector | | | X | |
| Section 2 Standards and Quality of Provision of RE | | | | | |
| 2a | RE provision across the LA. | | | X | |
| 2b | Standards of achievement and public examination entries | X | | | |
| 2c | Quality of learning and teaching. | | X | | |
| 2d | Quality of interaction and communication with leadership and management of RE | | | X | |
| 2e | Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools. | X | | | |
| Section 4 How effectively does the SACRE fulfil its responsibilities for the provision and practice of Collective Worship | | | | | |
| 4a | Supporting pupil entitlement | | X | | |
| 4b | Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship | xx | | | |
| 4c | Responding to requests for determinations | | | | X |
| Section 5 Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community | | | | | |
| 5a | SACRE's membership | | X | | |
| 5b | SACRE's understanding of the local area | | | | X |
| 5c | SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda | | | | X |

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|----|--|---|--|--|--|
| 5d | SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion | x | | | |
|----|--|---|--|--|--|

Appendix C- Development Plan September 2023- July 2024

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

Advice and Guidance for Teachers

| What? | and How? | Reporting | Resources | Legal Requirements | Progress |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Analysis of exam results | Compilation of local and national data | Written Draft report to SACRE Annual Report sent to NASACRE, the LA, the DfE and the Education Cabinet Committee | Consultant – 2 days SACRE Chairma n | Publish an Annual Report which is sent to NASACRE and the DofE | Published but no exam results available |
| Hold 3 meetings of SACRE p.a. plus 3 meetings of Chair's pre-briefing meeting | On a virtual platform or face to face as desired | Agendas and Minutes Financial Budget Annual Report | Consultant – 9 days Admin. support Chair Membership | Hold meetings in public. Make Agendas and Minutes available to the public | 3 Hybrid meetings held at Sessions House |
| Advise LA on RE and CW matters relating its functions | Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings | Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings Publish annual report by December 2023 | Consultant – 4 days Admin. support SACRE Chairma n | Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate | Published on time |
| CPD for Kent schools | Train teachers in use of revised syllabus Hold Secondary Hub meetings | To SACRE after the event Report on progress | Adviser, RE today. Liz Pope, Adviser, National Hub leader. Canterbury University | Ensure good quality CPD for schools | Local groups now running- Fiona Hawkes, Natasha Brownfield and Andrew |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | | Sheperd leading with support. All schools invited on March 25 th for an online CPD course run by Penny S-O A large face to face cpd event took place in September 2024 at Lenham. |
| Support for collective Worship in Schools | Discuss CW in meetings Put on training for teachers? | SACRE members to attend training event Cllr members to report on CW from school visits | Adviser Guest Cllrs | To monitor quality and practice of CW In Kent schools | Decisions need to be made on this |
| Monitor provision of RE and schools Encourage teachers to look at the Kelsi website | Re visiting Monitoring websites Send out survey to RE coordinators | Written summary to SACRE annually Guidance sent to schools Send a news sheet to RE Coordinators each term on Kelsi | Consultant – 2 days Admin. support | Monitor the provision and quality of RE | Information was sent to Kelsi website. Kelsi website advertising events Teachers contacting through link on Kelsi |
| The WIRE Award Encourage schools to take | Advertise through news bulletin, the Kent and Medway Hub on Facebook and the Kelsi website. | Each termly meeting to look at any entries and judge them Members of SACRE to give out certificates to local schools | Certificates Judging panel of SACRE members | Monitor the provision and quality of RE | Schools achieving award given certificate 4 schools collecting |

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|------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| the award. Give advice | Tell teachers when the SACRE meeting will be. | | | | evidence for WIRE awards |
|------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------------|

OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE

| What? | and How? | Reporting | Resources | Legal Requirements | Progress |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE Annual Report sent out | Use the self-evaluation toolkit to focus on developing areas Communications with LA and schools Relationship with LA Hold Kent Governors course | At SACRE meetings Evaluation and feedback to SACRE RE Consultant | SACRE members SACRE Chairman Consultant Admin. Support RE Consultant Enquire with Governor services -speak about new syllabus December 2023 | Stakeholders to contribute to wider educational objectives of the LA Governor knowledge of RE curriculum in schools | Undertaken in June 2024 Not achieved |
| Membership of SACRE to better reflect diversity of religions and teacher community | Check membership and ask unrepresented groups to send a rep. Ask Kent teachers to attend | Verbally to SACRE | Membership Chair and Vice Chair Clerk to keep track of membership | Bring together local stakeholders to act positively for the LA on statutory duties for RE and CW and wider strategic educational objectives | Ongoing with help of clerk |
| Membership of SACRE training and understanding of educational objectives | Training for members during SACRE meetings Encourage members to | To SACRE and in Annual report | RE Consultant using NASAC RE materials | Members to advise the LA on RE and CW and wider educational | Members to be given space to report on training sessions from |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---|---|
| | attend NASACRE training event | | | l objectives of the LA | NASACRE Summer term meeting report from NASACRE Agm |
| Support high quality CPD | LA to be advised to commission CPD Collaboration with Dioceses Collaboration with CCCU and Regional (NATRE) Hub | Financial support from budget as appropriate Evaluation and feedback to SACRE | SACRE members SACRE Budget | Monitor the provision and quality of RE | Network meetings and face to face meeting. Members encouraged to do training with NASACRE package |