



City of Wolverhampton SACRE

11 March 2021

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Other Committees
Venue MS Teams

Membership

Martin Gomberg (Chair)	Representative of the Jewish Community
Akeel Ahmed	Representative of the Muslim Community
Tanya Athwal	
Jaswinder Singh Chaggar	Representative of the Sikh Community
Kay Cresswell-Green	Association of Teachers and Lecturers Representative
Ourmala Devi	Uplands Junior School Representative
Yvonne Fegan	National Association of Schoolmasters / Union of Women Teachers Representative
Fr. Craig Fullard	Representative of the Roman Catholic Church
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Rev. Stephen Jackson	Representative of the Baptist Church
Maggie Keeley	Representative of National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Daniel Lee	Representative of the Pentecostal Church
Aman Rai	Representative of the Church of England
Alison Smith	Representative of the Church of England
Ven. Bante Tejwant	Representative of the Buddhist Community
Rev. Nick Watson	Representative of the Church of England
Rebecca Wood	Representative of the United Reformed Church

Information

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Shelley Humphries
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 554070 email: shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Agenda

PART 1 – Items open to press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Welcome and Introductions**
- 2 **Apologies**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 4)
[To approve the minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2020 as a correct record.]
- 4 **Matters Arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2020.]
- 5 **Agreed Syllabus Conference**
[To vote on the Wolverhampton 2021-2026 Agreed RE Syllabus and Scheme of Work.]
- 6 **Locally Agreed Syllabus Launch Update**
[To receive a verbal update on the Locally Agreed Syllabus Launch.]
- 7 **Service Level Agreement 2021-2022 Update**
[To receive a verbal update on the Service Level Agreement 2021-2022.]
- 8 **Report from Religious Education (RE) Today** (Pages 5 - 10)
[To receive an update report from RE Today.]
- 9 **Secondary Education**
[To discuss RE provision for Secondary Education.]
- 10 **Local Authority Updates**
[To receive an update from the Local Authority.]
- 11 **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**
[To receive an update on Ofsted findings during the last quarter.]
- 12 **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter**
[To receive an update on findings from SIAMS and Inspection 48 Visits.]

13 **Dates of further meetings**

[The next meeting is scheduled for 20 May 2021.

The proposed dates for the remainder of 2021 – 2022 are:

- 7 October 2021
- 10 March 2022
- 19 May 2022.]

14 **Any other business**

This page is intentionally left blank

 <p style="font-size: small;">CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">City of Wolverhampton SACRE</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Minutes - 10 December 2020</h3>
--	--

Attendance

Members of the City of Wolverhampton SACRE

Councillor Dr. Michael Hardacre (in the Chair)	Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council
Akeel Ahmed	Representative of the Muslim Community
Kay Cresswell-Green	Association of Teachers and Lecturers Representative
Laura Jude	Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council
Vickie Longson	Representative of the Church of England
Rev. Nick Watson	Representative of the Church of England

In Attendance

Tanya Athwal	Nominee for SACRE Membership
Lat Blaylock	RE Today
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
Maggie Keeley	Nominee for SACRE Membership
Phil Leivers	Head of Service Educational Excellence

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Welcome and Introductions**
Existing and prospective members of SACRE were asked to introduce themselves and state which group they would be representing. Maggie Keeley and Tanya Athwal attended as observers.
- 2 Apologies**
Apologies were received from Martin Gomberg, Mark Cooper, Ourmala Devi, Fr. Craig Fullard, Aman Rai and Alison Smith. Vickie Longson attended on behalf of Mark Cooper and it was agreed that Councillor Dr. Michael Hardacre take the Chair in Martin Gomberg’s absence.
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting**
Resolved:
 That the minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2020 and 8 October 2020 be approved as a correct record.
- 4 Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5 **Draft Wolverhampton 2021-2026 RE Agreed Syllabus.**

Lat Blaylock, RE Today delivered a presentation and led the discussion on the Draft Wolverhampton 2021 – 2026 RE Agreed Syllabus.

The presentation set out the intentions, structure and content of the Syllabus and the Scheme of Work and it was noted that this year had seen the inclusion of resources for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The syllabus also incorporated Judaism to reflect the growing faith community in Wolverhampton.

It was noted that each religion was visited in turn to allow them to absorb the learning on each one. It was intended to generate interest with a publicised launch once the syllabus was ready to publish.

It was noted how positive it was that many teachers had engaged with the consultation process for the Syllabus and contributed when they were also still responding to COVID-19 within schools.

The final Draft of the Wolverhampton 2021-2026 RE Agreed Syllabus would be presented at the next meeting of SACRE where a consultation process would take place in order to approve the publication of the document.

Resolved:

1. That the feedback on the Draft Wolverhampton 2021-2026 RE Agreed Syllabus be received.
2. That the final Draft of the Wolverhampton 2021-2026 RE Agreed Syllabus would be presented during a conference at the next meeting of SACRE for approval to publish.

6 **Scheme of Work and Service Level Agreement**

Lat Blaylock, RE Today delivered a presentation on the Scheme of Work and Service Level Agreement. The presentation provided an overview of the review of the Scheme of Work and outlined the revisions that were required which included incorporating OFSTED's three learning outcomes; revision and inclusion of updated resources, refreshing learning outcomes to reflect current practice, and including additional input from faith community leaders across the City.

It was noted that the current SACRE budget would not cover the work on the Scheme of Work. It was proposed that Council officers would explore securing additional funding and, subject to agreement from SACRE, would use this to work with RE Today consultants to develop the Scheme of Work. It was agreed that figures would be discussed with RE Today then at Children's Services Leadership and finally brought before SACRE members to agree.

Resolved:

1. That costs for developing the Scheme of Work would be discussed with RE Today.
2. That additional funding be sought to develop the Scheme of Work with RE Today and utilised subject to approval from Wolverhampton SACRE.

7 **Draft City of Wolverhampton SACRE Constitution**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council presented the Draft City of Wolverhampton SACRE Constitution for approval. The draft Constitution set out the purpose, conduct and activity of SACRE and it was highlighted that a Humanist Representative would be sought to join the membership and that terms of membership had been refreshed. The document was considered sound and was approved for adoption.

Resolved:

That the Draft City of Wolverhampton SACRE Constitution be approved

8 **Guidance for Schools: Wearing of the Kirpan - Draft Policy**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council presented the Guidance for Schools: Wearing of the Kirpan - Draft Policy for approval. It was noted that it had been refreshed following consultation feedback from a Sikh headteacher and a Safeguarding advisor from the Authority.

The refresh also included the addition that the school's preference would be that the Kirpan was not worn during physical or outdoor activities for safety reasons.

In order to satisfy this, guidance was included on providing appropriate storage which respected the kirpan as an article of faith and ensured that the kirpan could be safely kept close by the wearer in accordance with maryada. The item could be collected following the end of the lesson.

Resolved:

That the Guidance for Schools: Wearing of the Kirpan - Draft Policy be approved.

9 **New Membership**

Following voting, it was agreed that Maggie Keeley and Tanya Athwal be appointed to City of Wolverhampton SACRE as new members.

Resolved:

That Maggie Keeley and Tanya Athwal be appointed to SACRE to as new members.

10 **Local Authority Updates**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council provided a summary of the items discussed earlier in the meeting.

Resolved:

That the Local Authority Update be noted.

11 **Report from Religious Education (RE) Today**

Lat Blaylock, RE Today presented the Autumn report from RE Today and highlighted salient points.

The Spiritual Arts competition had come to a close which had proved a popular activity during lockdown and had attracted record numbers of entries. The themes had been set for the coming year and the closing date for entries was July 2021.

Conversations had been ongoing around continuation of teaching RE during lockdown periods. It had been agreed that a focus was needed on maths and English however it had been acknowledged that RE included elements of wellbeing, spiritual and social teaching and was still an important subject.

It was highlighted that Eid ul Fitr would occur in early May next year, which may present problems for students who were fasting during the examination period. Phil Leivers, Head of Service Educational Excellence reported that this had been flagged and the Local Authority had raised concerns with the DfE regarding timings of SAT exams and the impact this may have on the children in Wolverhampton's Muslim communities. No action had been agreed as yet, but an update would be provided at the next meeting. Akeel Ahmed, Representative of the Muslim Community thanked the Authority on behalf of the Muslim community for this consideration. Attention was drawn to the fact that older students would also be studying for GCSEs around this time and to be mindful of this.

Resolved:

That the Report from RE Today be received.

12 **Secondary Education**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council provided a brief verbal update advising members of SACRE that the pandemic had placed a lot of pressure on schools, however hosting virtual meetings with schools to encourage engagement in RE was still a priority and schools would be approached early in the new year.

Resolved:

That the update on Secondary Education be noted.

13 **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**

There had been no visits undertaken since the last meeting of SACRE.

14 **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter**

There had been no visits undertaken since the last meeting of SACRE.

15 **Any other business**

The Chair wished all a safe and happy holiday season.

16 **Dates of further meetings**

- 11 March 2021
- 20 May 2021

SACRE National Updates from RE Today: Spring 2021

Government launches review into Faith Engagement

From Gov.uk website: The government announced that Colin Bloom had been appointed as the Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). As Faith Engagement Adviser, Colin is leading a review into how best the government should engage with faith groups in England. He will make recommendations to the Communities Secretary about how the government can best celebrate and support the contribution of faith groups, break down barriers and promote acceptance between faiths, and promote shared values while tackling cultures and practices that are harmful.

Colin Bloom's initial proposal is to structure the review around 4 main sections:

- the first section asks the question, "Are faith groups, places of worship and people of faith a force for good in society?"
- the second section explores the extent to which government and its agencies have sufficient faith literacy and considers the partnership between faith groups and the State
- the third section looks at some aspects where harm might be caused through religious or faith-based practices and a review of the government's role in tackling them
- the fourth and final section will be a set of recommendations for the government to consider and respond to.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence> is the weblink for the latest update.

Ofqual – consultation on proposed changes to GCSE and A level examinations 2021

In light of the recent government announcement about the 2021 exams, NATRE has already been in contact with officials, and will continue to engage positively and constructively with both Ofqual and DfE as they consult about the replacement for exams. The consultation on the replacement for exams has not yet reported.

Subject knowledge Enhancement

Following the disappointing news that ITE training bursaries had been cut for most subjects including RE, it was really good news that Religious Education had been selected for funded subject knowledge enhancement courses. The funding will be available from April 2021 and hopefully will help support those people wishing to apply to teach RE who do not have a first degree in the subject. This decision follows intensive lobbying to make the point that about 84% of trainee secondary RE teachers do not have a degree in Theology or Religious Studies and therefore need support in developing their subject knowledge.

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske-courses>

Independent Evaluation of the Understanding Christianity Resource

This report was published on 11th December 2020. It presents findings and analysis from a study that examines the impact of Understanding Christianity in schools across England. The study, conducted by Dr Rachael Shillitoe at the University of Birmingham, seeks to evaluate the impact of RE Today's Understanding Christianity teaching resources amongst pupils and teachers across primary and secondary schools, with a particular focus on schools without a religious character.

This study aims to find out the extent to which the resource has 'made a difference' to teaching and learning about Christianity in RE.

“Overall, the response to *Understanding Christianity* has been extremely positive, from both pupils and teachers, particularly in relation to the ‘Big Story’, pupil engagement and increased teacher confidence. Both pupils and teachers noted, in particular, the impact the frieze had on engagement and understanding. Teachers found pupils had an increased awareness of the big story in Christianity and pupils demonstrated their ability to connect this to core theological concepts.

Understanding Christianity was valued for its promotion of pupil agency and individual reflection. Both teachers and pupils found the lessons to be inclusive with pupils from a range of religious and nonreligious backgrounds finding the lessons enjoyable and accessible. Pupils felt their lessons encouraged discussion, individual reflection and debate with a range of different viewpoints considered.

There was considerable/noted improvement of textual understanding and knowledge of core concepts after using *Understanding Christianity*. The ability of pupils to articulate, discuss and reflect on core theological concepts was significantly improved when the *Understanding Christianity* resources, such as the Big Frieze and the Core Concept icons were used.”

The full report can be viewed on the [Understanding Christianity](#) website, [available here](#).

RE Today is really pleased to be moving into a new phase of working with the resources of Understanding Christianity, focusing on **delivery to community schools**. We have done some successful fundraising and have generous funds to support new school users of the resource during the next three years. This money will mean that we can offer thousands of primary and secondary community schools and academies hugely discounted prices to be trained in using Understanding Christianity in their schools – typically this may cost a school just £60 instead of up to £300. This is an excellent resource and a great opportunity for schools to get on board. This year courses have been offered online and they are going down really well as you can follow the trainer then use break-out rooms to have a more in-depth discussion.

Please note that this could bring funds into our schools via SACRE from charitable sources. Should we offer this to our schools? It will support our Agreed Syllabus.

Conversations about religious literacy: creativity and the classroom

The Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE) is curating and working with the support of Culham St Gabriel's to deliver a national arts and RE symposium to be held virtually on the **23 February 2021**. The Symposium is the first of its kind in the UK to bring RE teachers, creatives and policy makers together to specifically focus on the potential impact of creative processes on the development of religious and worldviews literacy. It has at its heart the experiences of LDBE, whose devising and delivery of the **REConnecting Lincolnshire** project over the past four years resulted from the identified need to address significant concerns and frustrations from schools and their wider communities in relation to religious and worldview literacy.

Those engaged in research, teaching and supporting schools to deliver effective RE will have a voice as part of the discussions that will take place during the Symposium.

The details of the event can be found [here](#); Zoom login details will be sent through when you have confirmed your booking. Please do feel free to share this information with colleagues and within your networks.

If you are able to attend the Symposium, please emailing David Lambert at david@culturalsolutions.co.uk by the 5th February 2021. For any further information about the project and its impact, please email Gillian Georgiou at gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org.

NATRE curriculum symposium – a national move forward for RE

NATRE are excited to announce that we will be running a 24 hour residential curriculum symposium in Autumn. We have been planning to run this for almost a year but took the decision to wait until it can be run as a face to face event as we want to create a curriculum learning community.

There will only be 25 places for delegates therefore we will be running an application process as we want to attract delegates from a variety of school types and at a variety of stages on their curriculum design journey for RE/Religion and worldviews.

As part of the symposium we will hear from both experts and practitioners in the area of curriculum design generally and curriculum design in for RE/Religion and worldviews. As part of the process there will be tasks to complete before the symposium that will be shared with other delegates to prepare for our time in the learning community. There is also an expectation that all delegates will provide a write up of their learning and subsequent curriculum development in early 2022.

Parts of this event will be filmed and written up so that this symposium, or aspects of it, can be replicated in NATRE local groups, departments and local hubs. This face to face event and the subsequent legacy materials for use by others is generously supported by Westhill and CSTG.

[Curriculum Symposium Expression of Interest Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk)

How can we encourage our schools to consider this event? Can we send the link out?

New NATRE National Executive

It is exciting that after elections for the new NATRE executive last year the first (virtual) meeting of this group of RE activists took place. The executive is made up of mainly practising teachers and the group is made up of a balance of primary and secondary teachers. Please take a look at the NATRE executive web page to see who is representing teachers.

NATRE is primarily a responsive organisation. This is a necessary result of the chiefly voluntary capacity of our work, and the often fast changing educational environment in which we work.

However, alongside this responsive work, we aim to prioritise certain tasks and projects over the course of the life of an Executive Committee.

Below you will read the principal aims, objectives and outcomes which frame our work.

Aim: NATRE aims to support the development of high quality teaching and learning in RE/Religion and Worldviews for all pupils in all schools

Key objectives:

1. To support and improve classroom practice

This includes promotion of the understanding and application of substantive, disciplinary/ways of knowing and personal knowledge in RE, support for quality, efficacy and understanding of medium and long-term planning, improving teacher subject knowledge and awareness of research amongst teachers.

2. To influence the influencers

We will focus on promoting informed conversations about the National Plan for RE and lobby government and other stakeholders about the need for action to strength the level and quality of provision of RE. Continuing our work to campaign broadly to improve public perception and develop more appreciation of the nature of RE and its importance in a broad and balanced curriculum. NATRE will continue to challenge government and others to invest in raising the standard of the workforce: to ensure all children in all schools are taught by well trained and qualified teachers whilst also providing support for teachers of RE working to secure space for religious education in school curriculums:

3. To increase membership of NATRE

We will particularly work to promote the value of NATRE membership in 'hard-to-reach' schools, including primary, secondary, ITE.

4. Develop fit for purpose structures and processes

This work will include support and development of NATRE local groups.

Free Lockdown home learning from NATRE and RE Today

As a response to the amazing work that teachers and school staff are doing teaching pupils both in school and remotely NATRE and RE Today would like to offer our support by making all the home learning resources that were created for use by NATRE members in the last lockdown free to all schools. These multi-faith resources are all available on our website and offer support for home learning about religious and non-religious worldviews for primary and secondary school pupils.

NATRE will be offering further support by creating more member and free home learning resources over the next few weeks.

www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/

How can we share this information with our schools?

“Good News for Everyone (formerly known as **Gideons**) has worked with RE Today to develop a range of free resources for school assemblies and lessons: “All our visitors to schools have been trained by Lat Blaylock of NATRE. The offer of a free copy of the New Testament and Psalms (now including the Book of Proverbs) to pupils is a benefit to schools as it helps to ensure that all pupils know about and understand a range of religious beliefs.” Here’s the link: <https://goodnewsuk.com/node/778>



For many years we have been invited to speak to school pupils at school assemblies and lessons, and offer each pupil a copy of the New Testament and Psalms. That offer still exists. If you are in a school that we have not visited, either as a teacher, a governor, or in any other capacity, and would like suitably qualified members to come and speak at an assembly in your school and offer Testaments to pupils, or if you would like to know more about what we offer please fill in the contact form via the link, and we’ll be in touch.”

Anti-racist RE – free project resources from NATRE for primary and secondary schools

NATRE and RE Today, working with the Free Churches Group and Methodist Schools are launching a project to help teachers tackle racism in RE lessons. The project aims to:

- Enable a team of 60+ black, Asian and minority ethnic teachers of RE and members of different communities to articulate perspectives on the contributions of RE to anti-racist education, accessible for all teachers of RE
- Provide challenging and well planned resources, case studies, plans and lessons for teachers of RE in both primary and secondary schools to use in RE that challenge and confront racism and are also good RE, mounted and free from web platforms hosted both by RE Today and by the Free Churches Group and the Methodist Schools.
- Create a forum for teacher education and development in relation to anti-racist RE, recognising that practice in RE in this area is patchy and inconsistent (also online)
- Disseminate better practice in anti-racist RE widely, using the wide range of contacts and networks available to RE today

Wide partnerships to maximise the impact of the project have been used, including for example with NATRE and the Jo Cox Foundation. Teachers can access a planned unit of six topics for primary and of 8 topics for secondary RE, including ready to use resources and a wide range of support materials.

www.natre.org.uk/anti-racist-RE **Can our SACRE publicise this to schools? Primary training is being offered on this in the network meeting- should we run a session for secondary teachers?**

Art in Heaven 2020 and 2021

- The 2020 Art in Heaven and Spirited Poetry competitions attracted record entries – lots of teachers set it in lockdown! flagship for ‘Spirited Arts’, our strategy to make RE more imaginative and creative.
- The latest website update is excellent – take a look! The relaunched 2020 section includes many amazing responses to last year’s themes, and our YouTube video to encourage entries had about **15000 views last year**. We will be doing another of these for 2021.
- A Climate Justice theme features again this year: ‘God’s good earth?’ The most popular theme, overtaking the hardy perennial ‘Where is God?’
- We have international interest – e.g. from Indonesia, Poland, Australia, India, South Africa, Ireland, Cyprus and New Zealand.

Promote further study to examination classes with these films of Graduates in Theology and Religious Studies

To study for a degree in Theology or Religious Studies is to open up a vast range of options for worthwhile careers. TRS-UK is launching a set of recently-filmed interviews with TRS graduates in jobs as varied as television documentary-making, law, local government, public relations, education, and many more. These high-quality YouTube films are to be made available as ten individual (3-minute) filmed interviews and two 5-minute compilations, where graduates speak about the value of their degrees and show how they put their skills and knowledge to work in their jobs. They do not advertise a specific University, only the value of the degree and the doors it has opened for them.

These films (which can be selected at will) would be ideal for showing to pupils wondering about taking a degree in this subject, but unsure about where it might lead, or pressured to answer that question by parents. The answer is: it could take you in a myriad of exciting directions, and employers are intrigued and delighted to have applicants with a degree in this subject. TRS graduates have some of the highest employment rates of any University graduates, as they acquire multiple skills and a varied knowledge-base that is crucial for navigating our complex world.

There are ten individual profiles and two compilations.

[View careers playlist](#)

[YouTube TRS-UK](#)



The Culham St Gabriel’s Leadership Programme: Finding your voice as a leader of Religion and Worldviews 2021-22

Following a successful pilot programme in 2020-21 CSTG are now inviting applicants to be part of a new Cohort of Leaders for Change in 2021-22. This is an amazing opportunity for teachers.

Programme Outline The funded programme aims to develop leaders in the following four areas; research, curriculum, classroom and politics

Programme Partners The programme builds on the hugely successful AREIAC Revitalise scheme. It is funded by Culham St Gabriel’s and the Jerusalem Trust. It brings together the following organisations who all have representatives on the steering group which oversees the programme:

- Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC)

- Association of University Lecturers on RE (AULRE)
- Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)
- National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)
- National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE)
- RE Council of England and Wales (REC)

Stage 1

This stage is for those local or regional leaders who are beginning to work across more than one school. For example, leading Religion and Worldviews across a MAT or supporting other schools in a Federation and/or leading a local group or hub. Some NATRE Regional Ambassadors, SLEs, REQM Gold award RE leads or LTLRE Hub leads might find this Stage of CPD helpful.

Stage 2

This Stage is for teachers who have completed Stage 1 and/or for those who already have a regional/national role and would like to develop their expertise further. This stage is particularly for teachers/advisers who are likely to continue their specialism into senior leadership roles within or outside of their school situation. Those who are seeking to become advisers, ambassadors or an Executive member of one of the RE Organisations are particularly encouraged to apply. Please go the website for more details, participant guides and the application form. Applications need to be in by March 31st. Find out more [on the RE:Online website](#).