

City of Wolverhampton SACRE

15 July 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	Representative of Teachers' Professional Association
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, Skills and Work
Rev. Stephen Jackson	Representative of the Baptist Church
Laura Jude	Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council
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
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 11 March 2021 as a correct record.]
- 4 **Matters Arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2021.]

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION

- 5 **Local Authority Updates**
[To receive a verbal update from the Local Authority covering:
 - 5a **Update on the NASACRE Conference**
 - 5b **Westhill/NASACRE Funding Bid Update**
 - 5c **Launch of the Wolverhampton RE Syllabus**
 - 5d **Supporting RE in Schools – Academic Year: 2021 - 2022.]**
- 6 **Report from Religious Education (RE) Today** (Pages 5 - 10)
[To receive an update report from RE Today.]
- 7 **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**
[To receive an update on Ofsted findings during the last quarter.]
- 8 **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.]
- 9 **Any other business**
- 10 **Dates of further meetings**
 - 7 October 2021
 - 10 March 2022
 - 19 May 2022



City of Wolverhampton SACRE Minutes - 11 March 2021

Attendance

Members of the City of Wolverhampton SACRE

Martin Gomberg (Chair)	Representative of the Jewish Community
Tanya Athwal	Representative of Teachers' Professional Associations
Kay Cresswell-Green	Association of Teachers and Lecturers Representative
Fr. Craig Fullard	Representative of the Roman Catholic Church
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Lynsay Jennings	Representative of the Church of England
Laura Jude	Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council
Maggie Keeley	Representative of National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Aman Rai	Representative of the Church of England
Alison Smith	Representative of the Church of England
Rebecca Wood	Representative of the United Reformed Church

Employees

Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
Phil Leivers	Head of Service Educational Excellence

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Welcome and Introductions**

2 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from members Reverend Nick Watson and Reverend Stephen Jackson.

Lynsay Jennings attended as a representative of the Church of England for Reverend Nick Watson.

Emma Bennett also submitted apologies.

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

4 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2020.

5

Agreed Syllabus Conference

Lat Blaylock, RE Today led the Agreed Syllabus Conference and delivered a supporting presentation which included an outline of amendments made to the draft since the last meeting of SACRE. Members were invited to table any further amendments if required and these would be added.

It was noted that a consultation process had been undertaken engaging with teachers, faith leaders and other stakeholders. The voting procedure was outlined and any further comments were invited.

It was acknowledged that RE was for everyone and included those without a faith or religion as the subject also incorporated exploring beliefs of all kinds. It was stated that the new syllabus included resources to support all teachers in delivering quality RE and even cover religions they were unfamiliar with.

It was stated that the syllabus was excellent and the question format for each unit was particularly interesting. It was queried whether there would be any resources to support this format for teachers coming across any unfamiliar faith subjects and it was noted that there were plans to revise the accompanying Scheme of Work to include these resources.

Sincere thanks were expressed to Laura Jude and Lat Blaylock for leading on the work on the refreshed RE Syllabus and this was extended to all who had contributed as well.

The final draft of the RE Syllabus was commended and it was voted upon whether to proceed in publishing and adopting the Syllabus. Following this vote, it was unanimously agreed by all members present that the Wolverhampton 2021 – 2026 RE Syllabus be published and adopted.

Resolved:

That the Wolverhampton 2021 – 2026 RE Syllabus be agreed and adopted.

6

Locally Agreed Syllabus Launch Update

It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus Conference had ceased and the group was now meeting as City of Wolverhampton SACRE.

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council reported that a soft virtual launch had been planned for June 2021 with a focus on continuing professional development (CPD) and how to support teachers in utilising the Syllabus. The intention was to then follow this up with a face to face launch event planned for September 2021. It was also acknowledged that training for schools was important to accompany the new RE Syllabus and this would be the next area of focus.

Resolved:

That the Locally Agreed Syllabus Launch Update be received.

7

Service Level Agreement 2021-2022 Update

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council provided a verbal update on the Service Level Agreement 2021 - 2022. It was noted that it had been agreed at the last meeting that additional funding be explored to support the Service

Level Agreement 2021 – 2022. It was reported that the work planned was ambitious however funding had been secured for extra units to be incorporated and a further update would be provided at the next meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the Service Level Agreement 2021 – 2022 Update be received.
2. That a further update on the Service Level Agreement 2021 – 2022 would be provided at the next meeting of SACRE.

8

Report from Religious Education (RE) Today

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

Particular attention was drawn to the Review of Engagement between faiths and local governments was highlighted which sought to improve the current level. This was welcomed as support from central government would be hugely beneficial for SACREs throughout the country. It was hoped that the Department for Education would take an active role in this engagement process.

The REConnecting Lincolnshire project was highlighted which had produced some excellent resources outlining diversity in faiths which were freely available to all schools and contact details were provided within the report.

An item not in the report was raised outlining funding available from the Westhill Trust to members of NASACRE and it was reported that there were around six awards of £4,000 that could be available to SACREs to back an RE related project.

It was queried whether bids had ever been submitted historically however it was thought the Authority had not applied in the last five years therefore SACRE members were invited to put forward any suggestions for a possible project.

It was suggested that there had been an appetite for a network to be established for teachers and pupils to share best practice and discuss resources for the Scheme of Work. It was also thought that engagement of this kind could further support the improvement of RE uptake in secondary schools. It was agreed that Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council would explore how to take this forward with Lat Blaylock's support and report back to SACRE.

Resolved:

That Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council would explore funding bids for a network project and provide an update at the next meeting of SACRE.

9

Secondary Education

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council provided a verbal update and advised that pupils had returned to school as part of the first phase of leaving lockdown which had been helpful. It was noted that the funding and the development of the new Scheme of Work to support secondary colleagues would be beneficial in improving RE delivered and it was again noted that the refreshed Scheme of Work included areas aimed in bolstering support to secondary school colleagues particularly for non-specialists in the subject. There was also an additional

focus on facilitating young people in moving on to gaining qualifications in RE in further or higher education.

Resolved:

That the Secondary Education update be received.

- 10 **Local Authority Updates**
It was noted that agenda items had covered all areas and there were no further updates.
- 11 **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**
There had been no visits undertaken since the last meeting of SACRE.
- 12 **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.
- 13 **Dates of further meetings**
Dates of Further Scheduled Meetings:

20 May 2021

Proposed Dates for 2021 – 2022:

 - 7 October 2021
 - 10 March 2022
 - 19 May 2022
- 14 **Any other business**
There was no other business.

National RE Updates for SACREs Summer 2021

Ofsted publishes research review on religious education

The latest review, published on 12th May 2021 draws on the education inspection framework (EIF) and other religious education (RE) literature to identify what contributes to high-quality RE.

Read the [RE research review](#) here.

Brief Summary

The review recognises that there is no single way of constructing and teaching a high-quality RE curriculum, but identifies some common features:

- The curriculum should cover substantive content and concepts collectively (or ‘collectively enough’), rather than covering excessive amounts of content superficially. Content is sufficient for pupils to grasp a bigger picture about the place of religion and non-religion in the world.
- What is taught and learned in RE is grounded in what is known about religion or non-religion from academic study. This helps prevent pupils from developing misconceptions about religion and non-religion.
- Pupils study certain areas of the RE curriculum in depth and acquire a range of detailed knowledge of different concepts and ideas, which they remember long term. Drawing on this prior knowledge enables them to consider more complex ideas about religion. Leaders and teachers select this ‘depth of study’ from contrasting religious and/or non-religious traditions so that pupils avoid developing misrepresentations.
- The curriculum is well sequenced to ensure that pupils learn the knowledge they need for later topics.
- There is a consideration of when pupils should relate the content to their own personal knowledge (for example, their own prior assumptions).
- How the curriculum is taught and assessed focuses pupils’ attention squarely on the knowledge they need to learn.
- Adequate curriculum time is given to RE, so that leaders can deliver an ambitious curriculum.
- There is sufficient training and professional development so that teachers have appropriate subject professional knowledge.

The review refers to 3 different types of subject-specific knowledge that pupils learn in RE. Each of these is powerful and should not be confused with ‘mere facts’. The first is ‘substantive’ knowledge about various religious and non-religious traditions. The second type is ‘ways of knowing’, where pupils learn ‘how to know’ about religion and non-religion. The third type is ‘personal knowledge’, where pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about what they study. The review suggests that improvement in RE at both primary and secondary level includes knowing more of these ‘pillars of progression’. This prepares pupils to engage in a complex, multi-religious and multi-secular world.

In the spring term of 2022, Ofsted will publish a report on the quality of RE curriculums taught in schools, gathering evidence through ‘deep dives’.

How can SACRE encourage schools to engage with Ofsted’s findings?

NASACRE Report on SACRE funding in England

NASACRE has published its research report on SACRE funding following a freedom of information request to local authorities. The report reveals the startling statistic that only 8% of Local Authorities provide NASACRE’s recommended level of funding for their SACREs. The 2% benchmark represents the proportion of the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) government funding that is deemed necessary

to fulfil the statutory functions of a SACRE and an Agreed Syllabus Conference. The full report can be viewed here: [1-376-nasacre-report-on-sacre-funding-in-england-2021.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/1-376-nasacre-report-on-sacre-funding-in-england-2021.pdf)

What can our SACRE learn from this report?

Spirited Arts 2021 – Still time to enter!

Entries for this year's Spirited Arts competition are still welcome up until the deadline of 31st July. Click here to watch Lat Blaylock, RE Today editor and National RE Adviser, explain you everything you need to know about this year's competition: [Spirited Arts & Poetry Competition 2021 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfXWzvDwIY)

How can SACRE encourage schools to enter this competition?

Research for RE

RE:online has had a bit of a refresh. Access some of the latest research online, including the 'Research of the Month' featuring a different piece of research each month: [Research of the Month - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](https://reonline.org.uk/research-of-the-month/)

How can SACRE encourage teachers of RE to keep up to date with current research?

RE Today recruits a new adviser

RE Today are delighted to announce the appointment of Adam Robertson as National RE Adviser. Adam is an experienced primary teacher and subject leader for RE. In addition, he worked as a schools adviser for the Diocese of Bristol for four years Adam has been a member of the NATRE Executive since 2018. He has also served as a SACRE adviser and led RE Hub groups in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

"Learning to Listen" report

The recent APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) report on Religion in the Media aimed at 'working with parliamentarians, industry leaders, journalists, academics and faith communities to improve religious literacy in broadcast and print media' draws attention to the importance of education in religion and worldviews. The full report can be viewed here: [APPG+Learning+to+Listen+12+04+21+\(2\).pdf \(squarespace.com\)](https://square.squarespace.com/appg-learning-to-listen-12-04-21-(2).pdf)

Katie Freeman, Chair of NATRE: "Understanding people and their unique perspective on the world is a vital skill for us all, especially young people. Good religious education plays a vital role in that, helping create a more cohesive society, ensures young people receive a balanced education, and supports a vibrant economy by preparing employees and future business leaders for the globalised workplace and that includes roles in the media"

How can SACRE bring this important report to the attention of school leaders in our local authority?

NATRE call to action: Time for the government to address the consequences of their neglect of RE teachers

NATRE's recent article claims that the demands of teaching Religious Education are generally poorly understood. A teacher of RE in modern Britain must not only understand the principal religious and non-religious worldviews, but also the diversity within and between those traditions, but many teachers are ill-equipped to do so effectively. The article can be read here: [Time for the government to address the consequences of their neglect of teachers of RE? \(natre.org.uk\)](https://natre.org.uk/time-for-the-government-to-address-the-consequences-of-their-neglect-of-teachers-of-re/)

How does this apply to schools in our local authority?

NATRE Curriculum Symposium: expression of interest

We are planning to hold a 24-hour residential curriculum symposium in the Autumn.

There will only be 25 places: if you are interested please complete the expression of interest form. The form can be accessed here: [NATRE Curriculum Symposium: expression of interest](#)

Understanding Christianity now in over 6,500 schools

Since its launch in May 2016, the substantial resource, Understanding Christianity: Text Impact Connections has made its way into RE classrooms in more than 6500 schools throughout the UK, helping to lay the foundations for excellent learning at 14+/GCSE and A Level.

Reforming RE Blog

Teachers and RE professionals can access the latest news and opinions on Religion and Worldview by reading the Reforming RE blog: [Reforming RE – A blogspace for a Worldviews Curriculum \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Blog competition winner: Why does an education in Religion and Worldviews matter?

This was the question that many teachers posed to their pupils last term for an inaugural Blog Competition.'

RE:online has all the blog entry winners. This is a great resource for inspiring classroom discussion and activities. Read winning entries here: [Blog - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](#)

OARS Education End of Project Event 1 July

The Oxford Argumentation in Religion and Science (OARS) project team is hosting a public End of Project Event to share resources, research, and outcomes of the three-year project. More details can be found here: [OAR End of Project Event | OARS Education](#)

The RE Podcast: Decolonising RE

The next episode of the podcast is in collaboration with Ash Kundi, There will be a series of podcasts which look at how we might decolonise RE. Dr. Jasjit Singh will enlighten listeners about how we can be more authentic in teaching Sikhi. But the discussion goes so much deeper, exploring the representation of Sikhi in the media, the history of Sikhs in Britain and the contribution they have made to British culture. Dr. Singh is both knowledgeable and wise, and presents ideas that will change the teaching of Sikhi in RE. Listen here: [The RE Podcast: Season 3 Episode 4: The One About Sikhi on Apple Podcasts](#)

Humanist Heritage website launch

'To mark the 125th anniversary of Humanists UK, Understanding Humanism have launched a new, free online resource that will support teachers and students to explore the rich history and influence on the UK of humanist thought and action.' [Humanist Heritage - Exploring the rich history and influence of humanism in the UK \(humanists.uk\)](#)

Video Resources for RE

Real People: Real Faith

The Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub recently launched its Real Faith: Real People project. Funded by Westhill and hosted on the NATRE website, this is a series of interviews filmed in locations across Berkshire, featuring local faith communities answering questions about their faith. Two questions, specific to each key stage were asked across the range of venues and in most venues, several people answered each question. This allows pupils and teachers to explore some of the diversity both between and within faith communities. The same six communities

were interviewed at each key stage. Each film has a page of notes outlining the key questions and concepts, with a brief summary of the answers and some suggested follow-on activities. The hub is planning more videos in the next academic year. The clips and accompanying notes can be found here: [Real People Real Faith \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk)

Nobody stands nowhere

A new animated film by Emily Downe, created in partnership with Culham St Gabriel's Trust and Canterbury Christ Church University, unpacks the idea of worldviews and invites the viewer to consider how their own unique view of the world might co-exist with other vantage points held by those around them.' View the film here: [Nobody Stands Nowhere - Theos Think Tank - Understanding faith. Enriching society.](https://www.theos.ac.uk/think-tank/understanding-faith/enriching-society/nobody-stands-nowhere)

Premier League footballer talks about his experience of Ramadan

Wolves defender Romain Saiss talks to the BBC's Match Of The Day about what it's like being a Premier League footballer and fasting during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Watch the video here: [MOTDx: Wolves' Romain Saiss on being a footballer during Ramadan - BBC Sport](https://www.bbc.com/sport/motd/59033133)

Bhaktivedanta Manor virtual visit

Every year thousands of teachers and students visit Bhaktivedanta Manor to learn about Hinduism and 'lived religion'. Because of lockdown schools have been unable to go on any educational visits. This short informative video can be shared with students. Watch the video here: [Temple Visit - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLjyfzXGKkU)

BBC Being...

A new series from the BBC, showing British Sikhs, Hindus, Jewish people, Christians and Muslims celebrating some of life's biggest moments, from birth and coming of age to marriage and the end of life makes a great classroom resource. [BBC iPlayer - Being... - Series 1: 2. Sikh](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b09q3t3v/bbc-iplayer-being-series-1-2-sikh)

How Islam began in under 10 minutes

True Tube tells the turbulent tale against the clock, with all the names, dates and events on a timeline. Watch here: [How Islam Began - In Ten Minutes - TrueTube](https://www.trutube.com/video/how-islam-began-in-ten-minutes)

PRIMARY NEWS

Primary RE Facebook group

This group is intended to provide a supportive forum for teachers of Religious Education to Primary age children: [Primary RE - for everyone teaching RE in Primary Schools! | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/primaryre/)

Teaching the Holy Trinity: Free Resource

Liz Johnson teaches at Our Lady of Pity Catholic Primary School on the Wirral. This PowerPoint sequence supports ideas from Summer 2021's REtoday magazine pages 24-25:

[Religious education \(RE\) resources - FREE, KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4 \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/resource/teaching-the-holy-trinity-free-resource)

PRIMARY CPD

NEW! RE: Intent, Implementation and Impact

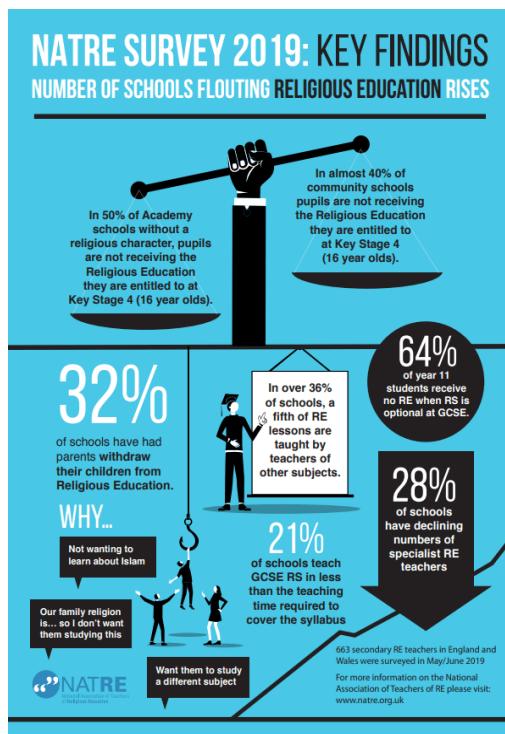
[Online \(Day course\) 22nd June](https://www.natre.org.uk/resource/re-intent-implementation-and-impact)

SECONDARY NEWS

NATRE Secondary Survey 2021

NATRE is conducting its eighth secondary survey about the current state of RE in all types of schools. This helps the organisation to continue to support teachers in the classroom by raising awareness of the impact of government policy on RE. The deadline for participating in this survey is Friday 25th June and all teachers completing the survey will be entered into a prize draw. The survey can be found here: [NATRE Secondary Survey 2021 \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NATRE_Survey_2021)

You can see some of the findings from the 2019 survey in the infographic:



New blog launched for Key Stage 3 Buddhism

Dr Rachel Jackson-Royal has recently launched a new blog, entitled Unity and Diversity: Exploring Buddhism in KS3. Its aim is to help teachers towards a more authentic presentation of Buddhism in Key Stage 3 RE. The blog can be viewed here: [Unity and Diversity: Exploring Buddhism in KS3 – Reforming RE \(wordpress.com\)](https://unityanddiversityexploringbuddhisminKS3.wordpress.com/)

WHS Essay Competition 2021

The Wesley Historical Society runs an annual essay competition, open to Sixth Formers, seeking short essays on religious history.

There is a prize of up to £250 and the deadline is 1 October. Enter here: [The Wesley Historical Society: Events](https://wesleyhistoricalsociety.org/events/)

Secondary CPD

Understanding Christianity training

This day course will provide you with an overview of the 'Understanding Christianity' approach, units of work strategies, activities and classroom resources to support learning through an extensive resource pack.

Next date: 12 July 2021

Autumn term: 28th September 2021

Community schools could save £150 on the course fee, and pay just £60!

The RE Update: a day course for every secondary RE teacher

Online (Day course), 2nd July 2021

NEW! Help! I'm a secondary non-specialist RE teacher

Online (Day course), 2nd July 2021

Click here to book a place: [Upcoming Courses & Events \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-and-events)