



# City of Wolverhampton SACRE

## 10 March 2022

**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
Fr. Craig Fullard	Representative of the Roman Catholic Church
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work
Laura Jude	School Improvement Advisor for Equalities
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 support team:

**Contact** Shelley Humphries  
**Tel/Email** Tel: 01902 554070 email: [shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto: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 7 October 2021 as a correct record.]
- 4            **Matters Arising**  
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2021.]
- 5            **Report from Religious Education (RE) Today** (Pages 5 - 10)  
[To receive an update report from RE Today.]
- 6            **Westhill Project Update**  
[To receive an update on the progress of the Westhill Project.]
- 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            **Dates of further meetings**  
[19 May 2022.]
- 10          **Any other business**

 <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">City of Wolverhampton SACRE</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Minutes - 7 October 2021</h3>
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## Attendance

### Members of the City of Wolverhampton SACRE

Martin Gomberg (Chair)	Representative of the Jewish Community
Tanya Athwal	Representative of Teachers' Professional Association
Ourmala Devi	Uplands Junior School Representative
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Laura Jude	Representative of CWC
Maggie Keeley	NASUWT Representative
Alison Smith	Representative of the Church of England

### In Attendance

Lat Blaylock	RE Today
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
Janine Wright	Prospective Member of Wolverhampton SACRE

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*    *Title*

**1        Welcome and Introductions**

**2        Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Members of Wolverhampton SACRE were invited to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair of Wolverhampton SACRE.

Following nominations and elections, it was agreed that Martin Gomberg, Representative of the Jewish Community and Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre, representative of the Local Authority be elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. All members of Wolverhampton SACRE present agreed to these elections. It was also agreed that Janine Wright be welcomed to the membership.

Resolved:

1. That Martin Gomberg be appointed as Chair of Wolverhampton SACRE.
2. That Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre be appointed as Vice-Chair of Wolverhampton SACRE.
3. That Janine Wright be appointed as a member of Wolverhampton SACRE.

**3        Apologies**

Apologies were received from Wolverhampton SACRE member Daniel Lee.

Apologies were also received from Phil Leivers.

4 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of 11 March 2021 and 15 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

5 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

Lat Blaylock, RE Today presented the report from RE Today and highlighted salient points. The report provided an update on RE related matters over the past few months.

Particular attention was drawn to RE public examinations. GCSE entries had been falling therefore a National Plan to address this had been called for by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and the National Association of Teachers of RE. SACRE members were invited to consider how this compared in this LA and how this could be addressed. There had been however an increase in students opting to study RE at A level which had been encouraging.

Also noted were events such as Interfaith Week, taking place from 14 -21 November; Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2022 and the annual NATRE Spirited Arts creative competition.

Laura Jude reported that there were new communication platforms for teachers which were being used to share bulletins, resources, etc. It was agreed that the RE report be circulated using this channel.

Resolved:

1. That the Report from Religious Education (RE) Today be received.
2. That RE Today report be circulated to teachers in the City.

7 **Review of City of Wolverhampton SACRE Action Plan 2020 - 2021**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council presented the Review of City of Wolverhampton SACRE Action Plan 2020 – 2021 and highlighted salient points. The report set out progress over the last year and the status of each objective.

The two key areas highlighted were SACRE vacancies and continuing professional development audit. Steps were being taken to fill the vacancies and details of the NASACRE audit would be provided in due course.

The report was commended as a good reflection of a busy year despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

Resolved:

1. That the Review of City of Wolverhampton SACRE Action Plan 2020 – 2021 be approved.
2. That outcomes from the NASACRE audit would be shared with SACRE members.

8 **City of Wolverhampton SACRE Annual Report 2020 - 2021**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council presented the City of Wolverhampton SACRE Annual Report 2020 – 2021 and highlighted salient points. The report provided a summary of work undertaken by SACRE over 2020 – 2021 and included the Action Plan for 2021 – 2022 which outlined priorities for the coming year.

Particular attention was drawn to the successful delivery of continued professional development (CPD) for teachers and thanks were extended to Lat Blaylock, RE Today for his ongoing support in this.

City of Wolverhampton SACRE members offered feedback on further support they would like to see. It was noted that there were ongoing challenges for primary teachers and support was needed in strengthening subject knowledge. It was reported that only five hours was typically devoted to RE in teacher training and many teachers had felt this was insufficient. There were similar challenges reported in secondary schools and it was also felt that more lessons could be dedicated to applying learning in RE in the context of the wider world view.

Resolved:

1. That the progress detailed within City of Wolverhampton SACRE Annual Report 2020 – 2021 be approved.
2. That the priorities set out in the SACRE Action Plan for academic year 2021 – 2022 be approved.
3. That the feedback on CPD be noted.

9 **NASACRE Virtual Training Offer**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council provided a verbal update on the virtual training offer provided by NASACRE, further details of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was reported that sessions were now being recorded to make them easily accessible at any time. As NASACRE members, it was noted that Wolverhampton SACRE members had full access to all online training opportunities and were encouraged to take these up wherever possible.

Resolved:

That the NASACRE Virtual Training Offer update be noted.

10 **Westhill Project Update**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council provided a verbal update on the progress of the Westhill Project.

It was reported that the bid for funding had been successful, the project planning was in the final stages and awaiting final internal sign-off. Officers had been engaging with secondary schools to gain an understanding of what was currently being taught and what they hoped to achieve with the project.

It was reported that there was one place remaining if another secondary school wished to participate.

Resolved:

That the Westhill Project Update be received.

11 **Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter**

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council reported that there had been some recent inspections however there had not yet been a substantial RE update available.

Resolved:

That the update on Ofsted Findings During the Last Quarter be received.

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

Laura Jude, Representative of City of Wolverhampton Council reported that there were some SIAMS inspections due and outcomes would likely be ready for the next meeting of SACRE.

Resolved:

That the update on Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter be received.

13 **Any other business**

There was no other business.

14 **Dates of further meetings**

- 10 March 2022
- 19 May 2022

### Inspecting RE: An examination of OFSTED inspections

The publication of the [Religious Education Research Review](#) was greeted positively by many teachers.

NATRE has examined the inspections reports published between 1st May - 14th Oct 2021. NATRE investigates whether inspectors are taking account of the factors identified in the research and if this is improving the potential of inspections to drive up standards in RE. A detailed article outlining sample reports and themes is available for NATRE members.

#### Key themes that are commented on are

1. Studying the curriculum in depth, knowing more and remembering more
2. A well sequenced curriculum to ensure that pupils learn the knowledge they need for later topics.
3. Planning an ambitious curriculum
4. 'Collectively enough' – is subject content 'collectively enough' for pupils to gain a good understanding?
5. Adequate curriculum time is given to RE, so that leaders can deliver an ambitious curriculum.
6. Developing pupils' personal knowledge helps them to relate the content to themselves (for example, their own prior assumptions).
7. There is sufficient training and professional development so that teachers have appropriate subject professional knowledge.
8. The importance of visits and visitors
9. Links to SMSC and Personal Development
10. Generally poor or non-existent provision
11. The importance of subject leadership

NATRE members can download the full document [on this link](#).

Could SACRE encourage schools to become members of NATRE to gain up to date information such as this? Is SACRE monitoring OFSTED reports? How far does SACRE training help support teachers to meet these descriptions of good quality RE?

### Analysis of teacher survey on Secondary RE and RS

A ninth secondary NATRE Survey – July 2021 was conducted during the spring term of 2021 via a number of teacher networks supported by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), and RE Today Services. Conclusions can be drawn around provision, GCSE entries, timetabling and the supply of specialist RE teachers.

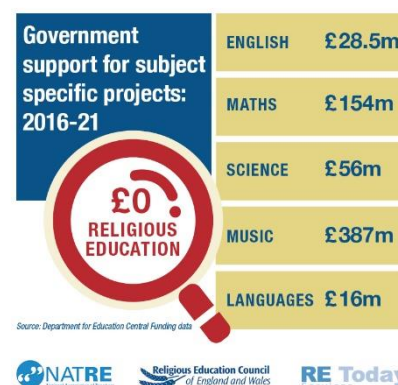
See the report [www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/an-analysis-of-a-survey-of-teachers-on-the-impact-of-government-policy-on-student-opportunity-to-study-gcse-rs/](http://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/an-analysis-of-a-survey-of-teachers-on-the-impact-of-government-policy-on-student-opportunity-to-study-gcse-rs/)

Is this something that should be discussed on our SACRE agenda? Are we aware of the picture in our schools? Are senior leaders aware of their duties around RE?

### Religious Education and the lack of support by government funding

A written parliamentary question tabled has led to the government sharing that it has been supporting curricular projects in many areas of the curriculum, but has allocated no funds on religious education specific projects in the last 5 years.

The RE community are asking people to write to their MP to ask if this can be changed. According to a Savanta survey commissioned by Culham St Gabriel's Trust, 64% of UK adults agree that RE is an important part of the school curriculum today. Religious Education requires support by the government.



Can SACRE talk to local MPs about this and ask them to press the government on this?

### NASACRE Conference 2022 - Ambitious SACREs

Taking place in Birmingham on Monday 23 May, this conference will provide an opportunity for SACRE members to engage in discussion around issues of RE and Collective Worship. Keynote speakers will be Sarah Lane-Cawte (new Chair of the REC - Religious Education Council), HMI Richard Kueh (Ofsted) and David Hampshire, a previous chair of NASACRE, who will present the analysis of the most recent (2021) SACRE annual reports.

Additional sessions will look at the new SACRE audit tool, Westhill award winners, the Local area Network report and other topical issues of interest to SACREs.

Who can attend this on behalf of our SACRE?

### LAN (Local Area Network) report

'Still Standing' – the REC Local Area Network Report is now live [here](#).

#### The report asks SACREs to consider the following points:

1. Reviewing SACRE membership in partnership with the LA to ensure that it is representative of the local community, and supports the religions and worldviews included in the Agreed Syllabus. Having a diverse range of voices with specific roles on SACRE is essential if an LA is to be able to discharge its legal responsibilities. SACREs can start the process of working with their LA to update membership now. This may require a change to the constitution or terms of reference; the LA legally approves your members and there is nothing in the present legislation that would hinder this.
2. Continue to build local partnerships with the LA to ensure necessary funding.
3. Within the present legislation regarding their ability to widen their membership, the CoRE report helpfully suggests SACREs think about adding to their membership - if they haven't done so already - education departments at museums and universities, local ITT providers, local RE CPD providers, training school hubs, parents, governors, pupil voice, academies and free schools, to name but a few possibilities. Widening representation and local buy-in strengthens the work of high quality RE in schools.

Claire Clinton, the report's author, believes that there are some useful documents developed by SACREs who participated in the project, for other SACREs to use in their work, including

- An audit tool for Agreed Syllabus reviews
- A simple participatory action research template
- A membership tool



## Spring Term 2022 National SACRE updates from RE Today

NASACRE hopes that there will be an opportunity for SACREs to find out more about these tools and discuss the impact of the report at the (hopefully!) face-to-face May 2022 conference in Birmingham.

What can our SACRE learn about this? Could someone go back and find out more about this and lead a discussion at our next meeting?

### NASACRE's SACRE Self-evaluation tool

The NASACRE development group has worked hard on reviewing, updating, and improving the SACRE self-evaluation tool. This tool will enable SACREs to consider their effectiveness in all areas of its work in order to produce a targeted and costed Development Plan in partnership with your LA.

The SEF is available [here](#) for use at SACRE meetings.

There will be a workshop at the conference in May 2022 around how to use the tool to best effect.

Should this be on our summer agenda, led by whoever attends the NASACRE conference?

### NASACRE's new online training programme

NASACRE members can access these recorded sessions [here](#) along with the slide shows and resources. The programme for 2021-22 can be accessed [here](#).

Can anyone from SACRE attend any of these? Which might be useful?

### Religion and Worldviews in Religious Education

This new page on the REC website hosts a series of resources relating to worldviews. It includes a new animation from Jason Ramasami, well known animator and former RE teacher, that captures the key characteristics of how this new approach represents religions in the classroom, a Bibliography from Dawn Cox of articles, blogs and other material that have been published in response to the CoRE Report and a series of FAQs.

[www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/worldviews/](http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/worldviews/)

Do we need an item on our next agenda to discuss new developments in worldviews?

### The Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Programme

The programme is a one-to-two-year mentoring and coaching programme developing leadership skills in middle leaders. It is **free** to schools. Applications are open now for a September 2022 start. The programme works at 2 levels.

#### 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.

## Spring Term 2022 National SACRE updates from RE Today

### APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN: Closing date for applications: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

For more details and a film outlining the programme go to [www.reonline.org.uk/leadership/leadership-programme/](http://www.reonline.org.uk/leadership/leadership-programme/)

Who should we be encouraging to join this programme? Can we share this with schools?

### NATRE Spirited Arts 2022

Will schools from our area join hundreds of schools 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 5 themes

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us."
2. God's good earth? ("Beautiful World, wonderful God?")
3. Searching for God
4. A view of the world.
5. Celebrations: Big days and big ideas

Find out more details here [www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2022/](http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2022/)

### Lessons that make a difference

CSTG through RE:ONLINE have launched their blog writing competition. CSTG are inviting children and young people to write a 500-word blog or record a 2-minute audio or visual file about a Religion and about a Religion and Worldviews (or RE) lesson that has made a difference to them. Entries are due in by 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Winning entries will be notified and their blogs/vlogs posted on RE:ONLINE in Summer 2022.

[www.reonline.org.uk/news/pupil-blog-competition-2022/](http://www.reonline.org.uk/news/pupil-blog-competition-2022/)

How can SACRE encourage schools take part in these two competitions? Can this link in with anything going on locally? Some SACREs have held local Spirited arts competitions and worked to display entries in a local museum. Is this something this SACRE might consider?

### New offer from 'Good News for Everyone': free Bible magazine to pupils and primary classrooms

The charity 'Good News for Everyone' – which used to be known as 'The Gideons' – have produced a 48-page magazine which provides children aged 7-11 with extracts from Bible stories, texts and teachings. The extracts include all the major Bible texts used in the 'Understanding Christianity' resources. There are questions for discussion and thinking, and quizzes, all illustrated in an age-appropriate style.

Good News for Everyone exists to give Christian scriptures away, and this new educational collection of Bible texts is available through schools to pupils – for example Good News for Everyone will be happy to send a visitor to schools to give a class set of copies for teachers to use and a personal copy to all school pupils for them to keep. The charity still visits secondary schools to distribute copies of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs free to pupils.

Contact: <https://goodnewsuk.com/bibles-for/education>

## Websites refreshed and relaunched

### RE:Quest

The **RE:Quest** website has refreshed and relaunched with a series of new resources on key Christian concepts such as Salvation, resources for pupils with additional needs and a series of new films. You can also create boards of resources for particular units or topics for pupils and teachers to access. Resources on the key concepts provide sample lesson plans too.

<https://request.org.uk>

### Understanding Humanism

The **Understanding Humanism** website has relaunched with over 100 new FREE resources to support teaching about humanism and non-religious worldviews.

Resources for ages 5-18 organised into several core areas of knowledge to support young people's understanding of a humanist approach to life, humanist history, and the influence of humanism on the modern world. '

<https://understandinghumanism.org.uk>

### True Tube

The **Truetube** website has also had a refresh with a series of new films added for teachers in Primary and secondary schools.

[www.truetube.co.uk](http://www.truetube.co.uk)

## Online training

### Webinar series from University of Edinburgh

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/teachingbuddhism/2021/11/29/who-is-the-buddha-new-webinar-series-for-teachers-jan-march-2022/>

A series of webinars on the life of the Buddha – excellent for KS3 and KS4. The series has already started, but sessions are uploaded afterwards, so you can catch up later.

Register [here on Eventbrite](#)

### Online seminar series from University of Chester

The Chester Uni A level webinar series will be starting again soon. Look out [here](#) to find out about the programme. Details coming soon.

*National News Update prepared by RE Today/NATRE  
February 2022*

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