

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

WOLVERHAMPTON SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Annual Report of Wolverhampton SACRE covers the academic year 2020-2021. The report briefly records the work of the Advisory Council in that period and sets out the proposed priorities for the coming academic year, 2021-2022. This report is being sent to:

- National Standard Advisor Council for Religious Education
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Wolverhampton schools
- City Councillors
- Department for Education
- NASACRE
- Free Church Federal Council
- Inter-Faith Network, UK
- Local relevant voluntary and statutory organisations

An electronic version of this report will also be made available to parents, teachers and other interested individuals and organisations.

2.0 SACRE'S role and function

2.1 The SACRE has a statutory duty:

- To advise the Local Authority on Religious Education and Collective Worship in community schools
- To advise the LA on methods of teaching, choice of materials, teacher training in Religious Education, and on Collective Worship
- To provide an Annual Report

In addition to the above the SACRE can:

- Require the LA to review its current agreed syllabus for Religious Education
- Consider applications made by a Headteacher to release some or all of the pupils in a particular school from the requirement for Collective Worship which may be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character

3.0 How Wolverhampton SACRE works

3.1 Members of Wolverhampton SACRE are appointed by their parent body for a term of five years, and:

- The SACRE appoints a Chair from amongst its members
- The current Chair was elected in 2014-15 and has been annually re-elected since
- Any voting on the SACRE takes place by the panels, each of which has a single vote
- Up to four additional members may be co-opted by the SACRE depending on prospective members' particular expertise and possible contribution to the work of SACRE

- Meetings are held three times a year
- All meetings are open to the public
- Wolverhampton SACRE approved a new Constitution in 2020 which is publicly available online via the Wolverhampton SACRE webpage

3.2 The SACRE is composed of four panels as follows:

PANEL A: Christian denominations and other faiths active in Wolverhampton: ten members: Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, United Reformed, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh. In addition, Wolverhampton SACRE has a vacancy for a Humanist representative. Each member is nominated by his/her parent body.

PANEL B: The Church of England – five members: nominated by the Lichfield Diocese.

PANEL C: The Teachers' Professional Associations – five members: nominated by NEU, NASUWT and NAHT.

PANEL D: Local Authority – up to five members: nominated by City of Wolverhampton Council.

Details of the membership during the 2020 – 2021 academic year are shown in Section 8.

4.0 A review of the academic year 2020-2021

4.1 The Local Authority continue to provide facilitation for the City's SACRE without requiring a contribution from the SACRE budget. Wolverhampton SACRE benefits from strong ongoing support from across the Local Authority.

4.2 Determinations

During the 2020-2021 academic year SACRE received no applications from schools wanting to be completely or partially exempted from collective acts of worship which are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

4.3 Complaints

As in the past, no formal complaints regarding the provision of collective worship in schools have been received by SACRE or the LA.

4.4 Links with Other Agencies

National Association of SACRES (NASACRE): Wolverhampton SACRE has been affiliated to the NASACRE since its inception and considers it to be an important and valuable link. It welcomes the significant role played by NASACRE in providing us with a national voice on issues impacting on the future developments of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools. Wolverhampton SACRE's membership of NASACRE has been

reinstated for the 2021-2022 academic year, after a lapse in membership in 2020-2021.

RE Today: Wolverhampton SACRE continue to work with RE Today. Consultancy services from RE Today in 2020-2021 have included; support with the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus, CPD for teachers through the RE network and support, advice and information for SACRE including attendance at SACRE meetings.

5.0 Monitoring

- 5.1 Take-up of RE and examination outcomes: Entries and results for GCSE and A Levels RE exams for Summer 2021 have not been published by the Department for Education due to the cancellation of public examinations as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Historically, Wolverhampton has had relatively low levels of GCSE and A Level entries for RE as compared to other Local Authorities nationally. As a result, it is a continued and ongoing priority for Wolverhampton SACRE to provide increased support to secondary schools to improve and extend the teaching of examined RE. More details of this support can be found in the action plan (appendix 1).

6.0 Local events and activities

- 6.1 Review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus: Wolverhampton SACRE is undertaking a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus. This review involved an in-depth consultation with schools over the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years. The consultation period has been extended as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 6.2 Wolverhampton SACRE Kirpan Policy: A new Kirpan policy was written, approved and published for use by schools. This policy is available publicly, online.
- 6.3 RE Subject Leader Network: With the support of SACRE, the City of Wolverhampton Council continues to provide a service level agreement to schools for subject leaders in RE. This consists of termly CPD sessions open to all schools, facilitated by RE Today. During this academic year the RE network benefitted from CPD on a range of topics including writing in RE.
- 6.4 *Westhill NASACRE Award*: Wolverhampton SACRE applied for the 2021-2022 Westhill NASACRE Award and our project proposal and grant application were successful. The Project 'Multi-faith Approaches to Diversity and Racial Equality' will be a student led project which aims to develop pupil and teacher understanding of the approaches to diversity and racial equality across different religions and world views.

7.0 Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda:

Equalities: Wolverhampton SACRE have contributed to the Local Authorities' equality

Duties through the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus, of which equalities has been a theme and through their CPD offer to schools.

In addition, the Westhill NASACRE Award project outlined above has an equalities focus.

8.0 SACRE Action Plan 2021-2022

8.1 Please refer to appendix 1 of this document, which contains the action plan. Wolverhampton SACRE has a number of key priorities for the 2021-2022 academic year which can be summarised briefly as follows:

- Increasing membership and participation in SACRE
- Continued development for SACRE members
- Undertake a review of the Scheme of Work which accompanies the Locally Agreed Syllabus
- Improve CPD offer for teachers, particularly secondary practitioners and non-specialists including the Westhill NASACRE project.

8.2 Please refer to appendix 2 of this document which contains a review of the 2020-2021 action plan. Briefly, the following objectives have been continued into the 2021-2022 academic year as they were not fully completed last year

- Increase membership and participation of SACRE
- Continued development for SACRE members – CPD audit

9.0 SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2019-2020

PANEL A	
Body	Nominee
Baptist Representative	Vacant
Methodist Representative	Vacant
Roman Catholic Representative	Fr Craig Fullard
Buddhist Representative	Ven Bante Tejwant
United Reformed Representative	Rebecca Wood
Pentecostal Representative	Daniel Lee
Hindi Representative	Vacant
Humanist Representative	Vacant
Sikh Representative	Jaswinder Singh Chagger
Jewish Representative	Martin Gomberg (Chair)
Islam Representative	Akeel Ahmed

Panel B	
Body	Nominee
Church of England Representative	Aman Rai
Church of England Representative	Alison Smith
Church of England Representative	Vacant
Panel C	
Body	Nominee
NEU	Kay Cresswell-Green
NEU	Vacant
NAHT	Vacant
NASUWT	Maggie Keeley
Panel D	
Body	Nominee
Wolverhampton City Council	Laura Jude Shelley Humphries (Democratic Services)
Elected member	Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Co-options	
Representing:	Nominee
Uplands Junior School	Ourmala Devi

9.2

Meetings for the 2021-2022 academic year have been agreed as follows:

- 07 October 2021
- 10 March 2022
- 19 May 2022

3.1 Further information

If you would like to receive further information regarding the work of the Wolverhampton SACRE please contact:

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