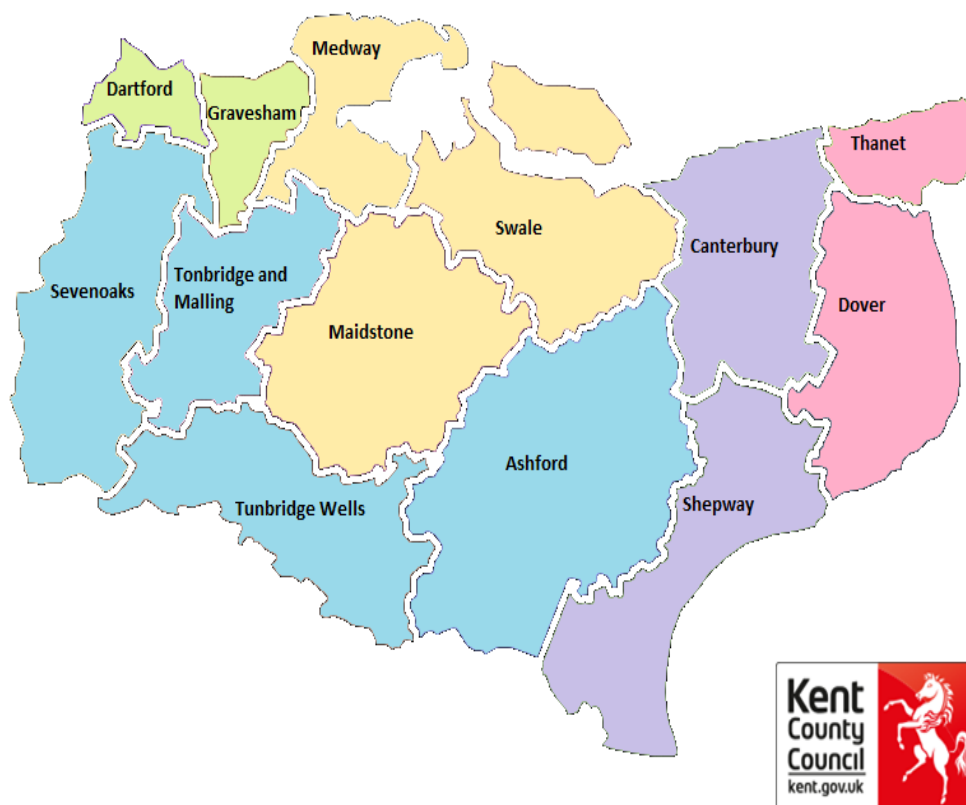


To: All SACRE Members, Council Members,  
Kent County Council Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education,  
Head Teacher / Chair of Governors all schools in Kent NASACRE

# **KENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**



All LAs are required to establish and support a SACRE.

A SACRE's main function, as set out in the 1996 Education Act is:

"To advise the Local Education Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in County schools and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus as the Authority may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit". (s.391 (1) (a))

Such matters include: -

"Methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers".

A SACRE also:

- Requires the LA to support a five-yearly review of its current Agreed Syllabus (s.391(3))
- Must consider applications made by a head teacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in County schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the Collective Worship provided for some or all of the pupils in a particular school - "determinations". (s.394(1))

It is a legal requirement that the SACRE publish an Annual Report to inform relevant parties, including schools, of the advice that SACRE has given to the Local Authority and of the actions taken to support RE and Collective Worship in schools using the Agreed Syllabus, that have resulted from this advice.

The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools through:

- Giving advice on methods of teaching using the Agreed Syllabus Religious Education;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to by the LA;
- Asking the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.

Kent SACRE is a member of NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) and representatives attend national meetings.

Kent SACRE does not have an opportunity to contribute to other agendas within the Council.

This report covers the work of the Kent SACRE during the academic year from September 2017 to August 2018

## **Opening remarks from the Chair of SACRE**

### **Welcome to the 2017 - 18 Annual Report of the Kent SACRE.**

The SACRE has met three times during the academic year. We have continued our commitment to hold at least one meeting each year in a venue away from County Hall. This year's June meeting was hosted by Aylesford Priory. We heard a very interesting presentation on the work of the Priory in the modern world. This reflected SACRE's ongoing desire to engage with the broad range of faith and denominational groups that are component parts of Kent SACRE. SACRE has continued to make efforts to engage with all schools across Kent, to ensure their compliance with requirements to provide high quality Religious Education and opportunities for Collective Worship. Through the communications with national appointing bodies, SACRE has tried to quickly fill vacancies that arise in the Groups. We believe it is important that we have a membership drawn from the Faith Groups and the range of schools found locally as they help to ensure that SACRE is reflective of the diversity found in Kent. SACRE continues to benefit from its partnership with the different faith groups, the Anglican Diocesan Education boards of Canterbury and Rochester and with Canterbury Christ Church University. We are also thankful for the support that is provided by our former AST colleagues. Not only are they each a member or co-opted to SACRE, but they do provide a valuable link between Secondary Schools / Academies and ourselves.

The Launch of the Kent agreed syllabus has been accomplished. To assist schools, we put on three Primary and one Secondary training days for teachers, to help them understand the new syllabus.

This has resulted in extra work and I am grateful for the support of the KCC cabinet member for Education Mr. Roger Gough. Kent SACRE has also been active in contributing to national initiatives such as the Commission on Religious Education. This year Kent SACRE has also become part of a wider grouping of SACRES in the South East and we look forward to working with this group to share best practice. As Chairman, I would like to give a very special mention and express thanks to the officers from Democratic Services who have supported our meetings. I would like to thank all those who serve on Kent SACRE, teachers, Diocesan and faith group representatives, and fellow County Councillors. The professional support of our consultant /adviser and the democratic support are also gratefully acknowledged. This team has worked very hard this year to provide support so that we are able achieve our aims despite challenges in a time of ongoing austerity. We are grateful for the ongoing support and interest of the Local Authority and for the active involvement of senior officers and Members in our activities. I would like to pay a special thanks to the Vice Chairman Mrs. Nicky Younosi who has provided invaluable support through the year and Penny Smith-Orr for her work as the consultant advisor to Kent SACRE.

Cllr Steve Manion

Chair of Kent SACRE

## **Management of Kent SACRE**

A Religious Education (RE) Consultant attends meetings and gives advice to schools through email contacts. A clerk to SACRE is also provided and administrative support between meetings.

The Council provides an annual budget to support the running costs of Committee meetings and for the SACRE to perform its statutory functions and there are documents on the KELSI web pages for RE and Collective Worship (CW) resources.

Three SACRE meetings, which were all quorate, were held in this academic year on,

28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at The Friars, Aylesford Kent

Three SACRE briefing meetings to set the agenda were held with the chairs of each of the constituent groups.

Details of SACRE Membership and attendance at meetings can be found in Appendix 3 and agendas and minutes of meetings can be found on the KCC website - [www.Kent.gov.uk/SACRE](http://www.Kent.gov.uk/SACRE).

The report is sent to the Head teachers/Chair of Governors of all schools in the county, The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), The Department of Education and the Local Authority. The report is also available on the SACRE pages of the Kent website.

## **Advice to the Local Authority (LA)**

The SACRE advises the LA to bring this report to the attention of schools and governing bodies.

In all maintained schools other than Voluntary Aided schools or schools of a religious character, but including Voluntary Controlled Schools, Religious Education has to be taught according to the Kent Agreed Syllabus 2017. The Diocese of Canterbury continues to recommend that all Church of England schools also follow the Kent Agreed Syllabus and the Diocese of Rochester recommends that its Voluntary Controlled schools use the Kent Agreed Syllabus;

Academies are reminded of their statutory requirement to teach Religious Education in accordance with their Funding Agreement. Academies in Kent are recommended to use the Kent Agreed Syllabus 2017 to ensure that they fulfil their statutory requirements.

Secondary schools are reminded that Religious Education is a statutory subject and that all KS4 students should follow an accredited course as required in the Agreed Syllabus.

In accordance with the expectations of the Kent Agreed Syllabus, schools are reminded of the requirement to assess pupils' progress in Religious Education and to report separately in the Summer reports.

Secondary schools are reminded that Religious Education is a statutory subject and that all KS4 students should follow an accredited course as required in the Agreed Syllabus.

Kent SACRE continues to work with KCC to ensure that essential and appropriate supporting materials and resources are made available on the Kent Education Learning and Skills Information (KELSI) web pages <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/>

All schools are reminded of their responsibilities to provide opportunities for daily Collective Worship. The place of collective worship in schools is upheld by statute and has been so since 1944. The basic requirement is that all registered pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day. There are only two exceptions to this: parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and pupils in school sixth forms are permitted to decide for themselves whether to attend or not. The Education Reform Act (ERA) 1988 stipulates collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'; it is deemed to be fulfilling this description if it 'reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief, without being distinctive of any Christian denomination.

Schools need to be aware that only a limited CPD programme for RE is currently being initiated by the LA, Kent SACRE continues to work with KCC to ensure that essential and appropriate supporting materials and resources are made available on the Kent Education Learning and Skills Information (KELSI) web pages <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/>

Schools are encouraged to apply for the RE Quality Mark (REQM). Three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold can be achieved, and schools will be able to demonstrate their good practice in RE and have hard work recognised and rewarded ([www.reqm.org](http://www.reqm.org)); This is also a useful tool to use as a bench mark for excellent RE.

## **Religious Education**

**Kent Agreed Syllabus;** It was decided at the 5-yearly review of the Kent Agreed syllabus 2012 that a new syllabus was required. As previously reported, this was purchased from RE Today Services. There were four launch events, each taking a whole day, three for Primary schools in the Autumn Term and one for Secondary schools in the Spring term. These were led by RE Today trainers with the RE Consultant for Kent SACRE in attendance. The Chair or Vice Chair of SACRE attended all the events and members of SACRE also attended. Schools were asked to start implementing the syllabus fully by September 2018. A hard copy of the syllabus was given to all teachers who attended the training and subsequently copies were sent to all schools by Easter. Due to copyright reasons the syllabus cannot be put onto the Kelsi website but there is information as to how to apply for a digital version.

Schools were also given the opportunity to purchase a comprehensive set of schemes of work at a reduced price. The Diocesan Advisers for Rochester and Canterbury included a document for church schools who use the Kent syllabus to incorporate the Understanding Christianity model into their planning.

A further training event, again led by RE Today trainers, will be held in Spring 2019 for schools that missed the first training and those who would like further ideas for teaching the new syllabus. There is no provision for RE Coordinator network meetings although an RE Teacher's Hub has held meetings in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University and Teacher Associations. There is also a face book group for Kent RE teachers.

With over 500 schools in Kent it is hard to fulfill the monitoring role of SACRE and this has been discussed during meetings during the year. It was decided at the Spring meeting that Kent SACRE members would monitor schools' websites for mention of RE and CW, the syllabus used, and the time taken. By the end of the year half the schools had been monitored and the

members decided to carry on and also to send a letter to all schools with the general results of the monitoring.

There were no formal complaints about Religious Education referred to Kent SACRE during this year.

### **Exam results for Kent schools**

This was the first year of the new types of GCSE grade from 9-1 instead of A\*-G. In Kent 64 schools entered pupils into the full course GCSE using the new grading system. Out of the national number of entries, 313,803, only 5107 pupils were entered in Kent. Interestingly, 10 schools entered pupils into the old-style exam with A\*-G grades, this was 296 pupils out of a national entry of 7320. No school entered the whole cohort this year with several schools only entering less than 10 pupils from the cohort which could be between 150 -200 students altogether. The law still states that every pupil registered in school must be taught Religious Education but as the subject does not count towards the progress of school's data and is not part of the Ebacc set of subjects, schools are not entering the numbers of pupils that they used to.

The short course RE GCSE doesn't contribute to the school statistics and is much less popular with schools. In Kent 706 pupils, approximately half of last year's numbers, were entered for the short course and nationally 11780 pupils were entered.

Nationally only 4060 pupils were entered for the RE As level exam. In Kent ten schools entered a total of 50 pupils into this exam with three pupils gaining an A grade. Nationally the As level is being phased out which explains this low figure.

Thirty-three Kent schools entered 230 pupils for the A level in Religious studies, the national number of entries was 16280.

SACRE would like to acknowledge the successes of Kent students in the religious education exams and recognise the continued dedication of RE teachers across the county whose skill and hard work have supported students in their achievements at all levels.

However, SACRE continues to be concerned about the decline in the number of students being entered for GCSE Religious Studies and therefore the A level courses, and about the increasing number of schools that are entering no or very few students at all for GCSE Religious Studies.

All the results issued in December 2018 are still provisional.

### **Collective Worship**

At the Summer term meeting of the SACRE the RE Consultant led a training for members on the mechanics of collective worship determinations. This was as a result of using the self-evaluation tool for SACREs and members requesting this information.

A guidance on Collective worship for Kent Schools, 'Gathering Together', can be found on the Kelsi website.

There have been no applications for a determination this year. There have also been no complaints concerning Collective Worship referred to SACRE during this academic year.

## **AN OVERVIEW OF THE SACRE'S WORK:**

The full SACRE has met three times over the academic year. Group pre-meetings are held from 9:00 a.m. The full meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. Meetings end at 12:30p.m. At each meeting there is an examination of the budget. In 2016-17 the whole budget plus an extra £10,000 from the LA was spent on the new syllabus and the five training sessions.

At the Autumn meeting SACRE members agreed a slight change to the constitution and discussed the RE Council commission's interim report. Members were asked to respond to the document and a response was sent from Kent SACRE. The Chair and Vice Chair had attended a meeting of the Chairs of SACREs from across the south of England and reported on this. A training session on the Prevent strategy was given to members by Nick Wilison. The previously proposed development day for members was decided against but it was agreed that at the Spring meeting members would work together on the self-evaluation tool kit that is produced for SACREs. This took up most of the meeting and as a result of the group discussion, it was recognised by members of SACRE that they were not as involved with school curriculums as initially hoped. It was felt that SACRE needed to strengthen its communication with School Governors and Councillors to ensure information was being cascaded effectively and efficiently through the appropriate school governing bodies. The Chair welcomed the suggestion of reintroducing the use of an RE bulletin to remind Governors of their responsibility around Religious Education and direct them to the KELSI website which contains guidance and information for schools around the statutory and non-statutory requirements that need to be conducted around Religious Education and Collective Worship.

A discussion, led by the Chair, on whether a SACRE could put in a freedom of information request to schools to find out about RE and CW concluded that this would only be as a last resort. It was decided that once some monitoring of websites had been undertaken the SACRE would write to schools with their findings and encourage them to include information about RE and CW on their websites if we did not find it there.

The Chair and the RE Consultant attended the NASACRE AGM in London and reported back to members on the proceedings.

Kent SACRE supported the County in establishing the County Interfaith Forum with a meeting in Interfaith Week 2017. Members attended planning meetings and were actively involved in the County event to celebrate National Interfaith Week. There is now a website and has SACRE as one of the organisations involved.

Appendix 1

**KENT SACRE Membership and Attendance at meetings 2017 – 2018**

**GROUP 1: CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS REFLECTING THE PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE AREA (13)**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>Attended</b>
<b>Free Church (4)</b>	
Miss J Webb – (Baptist)	<b>3</b>
Mrs E Talbot - (Methodist)	<b>0</b>
Mrs E May – (United Reformed Church)	<b>0</b>
Mrs J Wigg -(Salvation Army)	<b>3</b>
<b>Roman Catholic (3)</b>	
Mrs A Donnelly	
Mrs F Hawkes	<b>2</b>
Miss S Malone	<b>2</b>
<b>Buddhism (1)</b>	
Mrs C Elapatha	<b>2</b>
<b>The Greek Orthodox Church (1)</b>	
Mr M Papadopoulos	<b>1</b>
<b>Hinduism (1)</b>	
Mr R Chakkedath	<b>0</b>
<b>Islam (1)</b>	
Mrs N Younosi ( <i>Group Convener/SACRE Vice-Chair</i> )	<b>2</b>
<b>Judaism (1)</b>	
Rabbi C Cohen	<b>0</b>
<b>Sikhism (1)</b>	
Mrs Deepinder Kaur Gill	<b>0</b>
<b>Co-opted Members</b>	
Mrs J Grant (Baha'i)	<b>2</b>

**GROUP 2: CHURCH OF ENGLAND (6)**

<b>Rochester Diocesan Board of Education (3)</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Mrs V Corbyn ( <i>Group Convenor</i> )	<b>2</b>
Miss N Brownfield	<b>2</b>
Miss C Bostock	<b>3</b>
<b>Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education (3)</b>	
Mrs B Naden	<b>2</b>
Mrs N Paterson (resigned Dec 2017)	<b>0</b>
Miss R Walters	<b>3</b>
Mrs R Swansbury (from June 2018)	<b>1</b>



**GROUP 3: TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (6)**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attended</b>
<b>NASUWT</b> Ms K Burke ( <i>Group Convenor</i> )	<b>3</b>
<b>Association of Teachers and Lecturers</b> Vacancy 1.4.2014	
<b>Kent Association of Head Teachers Primary</b>	
<b>Kent Association of Secondary Head Teachers</b> MrsRJoyce	<b>2</b>
Mr A Fowler	<b>1</b>
<b>NUT</b> Mr W chambers	<b>3</b>
<b>National Association of Head Teachers Kent Branch</b> Vacancy	
<b>Co-opted Members</b> Miss E Pope	<b>1</b>

**GROUP 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY (4)**

<b>Nominees of Conservative Group (2)</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Mr S Manion ( <i>SACRE Chairman and Group Convenor</i> )	<b>3</b>
Mr M J Northey	<b>3</b> (with 2 substitutions)
<b>Nominee of the Labour Group (1)</b>	
Mr T Maddison	<b>0</b>
<b>Nominee of UKIP Group (1)</b>	
Mr A Crowther	<b>0</b>

## Appendix 2 Development Plan 2018-July2019

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

What?	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements
Analysis of exam results	Compilation of local and national data	Written Draft report to SACRE Annual Report sent to NASACRE, the LA, the DfE, Education Cabinet Committee	Consultant – 2 days SACRE Chairman	Publish an Annual Report which is sent to NASACRE,
Hold 3 meetings of SACRE p.a. plus 3 meetings of Chair's pre-briefing meeting	Booked in County Hall	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
Advise LA on RE and CW matters relating its functions	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support SACRE Chairman	Produce and publish Annual Report to advise LA Meetings with LA Members & Officers as appropriate
NEW Monitor implementation of Agreed Syllabus, and provision of RE  Provide further training on the new syllabus	FOI in July 2019 Members to monitor school websites  Using RE Today trainers and SACRE budget	Written summary to SACRE annually  Reported to SACRE	Consultant – 2 days Admin. Support  RE Today trainers and RE Consultant	Monitor the provision and quality of RE  Ensure that syllabus is being used
NEW Update documents on the Kelsi website Collective worship Syllabus resources Shaping the Spirit'	Consultant to check and update	To SACRE verbally Members to access Kelsi	Consultant – 3 days Kelsi Admin support	Monitor the provision and quality of RE
NEW Monitor provision and compliance for Collective Worship	FOI in 2019 Members to monitor school websites	Written annual summary to SACRE	Consultant – included above Admin. support	Reporting to LA on CW in schools

**OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE**

<b>What?</b>	<b>and How?</b>	<b>Reporting</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Legal Requirements</b>
Raise profile and status of Kent SACRE	Communications with LA and schools Attendance at local and national events SACRE members (Councillors) visits to schools Relationship with LA	Evaluation and feedback to SACRE SACRE Annual report	SACRE members SACRE Chairman Consultant Admin. support	Stakeholders to contribute to wider educational objectives of the LA
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	Bring together local stakeholders to act positively for the LA on statutory duties for RE and CW and wider strategic educational objectives
Membership of SACRE training and understanding of educational objectives	Training for members during SACRE meetings	To SACRE and in Annual report	RE Consultant using NASACRE materials	Members to advise the LA on RE and CW and wider educational objectives of the LA
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
Ensure that all schools are using the new syllabus	One days training in use of syllabus by RE Today trainerAutumn2018 /Spring 2019	To Members	Budget Admin RE Consultant RE Today	Monitor the provision and quality of RE

