

ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Date and Time:- Thursday 4 December 2025 at 4.00 p.m.

**Venue:- Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street,
Rotherham. S60 2TH**

The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence from any members who are unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from any members with respect to an item of business.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

To determine whether any items on the agenda require the exclusion of members of the public or press.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 4 - 11)

To review and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th September 2025 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and to be signed by the Chair.

5. Continuous Professional Development Update

To receive an update on recent Continuous Professional Development (CPD) activities.

6. Development Plan Update

To receive a verbal update on the SACRE Development Plan.

7. RE Hubs

To consider and discuss the use of and the resources available on the RE Hub website for the Yorkshire & Humber region.

8. Feedback from the Agreed Syllabus Conference

To receive an update on the recent Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting and progress made on the review of the Local RE Agreed Syllabus.

9. Curriculum and Assessment Review - Proposals for Religious Education (Pages 12 - 18)

To receive an update on the outcome of the government commissioned Curriculum and Assessment Review and the proposals for Religious Education.

10. Membership Update

To receive an update on the current SACRE Membership.

11. Draft SACRE Annual Report 2024-2025 (Pages 19 - 36)

To receive and consider the Draft SACRE Annual Report for 2024/2025.

12. SACRE Budget Update (Page 37)

To receive updates relating to the SACRE budget, including the following:

- Any update to the proposed forecast spend for 2025-2026.
- An update on the future reporting of the SACRE budget, including an Annual Budget Report and regular Budget Briefings.

13. RE Awards Ceremony Update

To receive an update on plans for the RE Awards Event.

14. Together for Tomorrow Project Update - Ask Me Anything Panel 21 October 2025

To receive an update and feedback on the Together for Tomorrow - Ask Me Anything panel, which took place on 21 October 2025.

15. Urgent Business

To determine any items which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

**The next meeting of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education will be held on Thursday 19 March 2026
commencing at 4.00 p.m.
in Rotherham Town Hall.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Edwards', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Edwards
Chief Executive.

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)****THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2025****Present:-****Group 1**

T. Griffin

Group 2

H. Lambert (Chair)

Group 3

L. Melvin

S.Yasseen

Group 4

Councillor R. Ismail

Councillor V. Cusworth

N.Devlin

F. Radford.

Also in attendance was Vanessa Gregory, Specialist RE Advisor to SACRE.

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from D.Homer and T.Williams.

56. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press and public.

57. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the last meeting on 5 June 2025, were approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

59. AN OVERVIEW OF SHEFFIELD SACRE'S ACTIVITIES

This item was deferred by the Chair.

60. REWARDS EVENT FEEDBACK

This item provided an update and feedback on the RE Awards Event which took place in June 2025, during which the following was noted:

- PowerPoint slides were included within the agenda pack for this item.
- The positives of the Rewards Ceremony were as follows-
 - Students loved the ceremony and responded well to it. They were very appreciative of the Mayor's attendance and the chance to have a photograph with the Mayor.
 - Certificates and recognition were great, and the tour of the Town Hall was very well received. Town Hall employees were very helpful, and refreshments were provided to the pupils, at this point the Mayor spoke to all of the children in groups.
 - Overall, the afternoon was a lovely celebration of RE.
- Suggested areas for development for next year's Rewards Ceremony were as follows-
 - The preparation beforehand was felt to be time consuming, it was felt that there was too much 'red tape', an example was provided of completing the Mayors Visit Form.
 - There was a misunderstanding in which the Town Hall Team thought that the school were hosting the event.
 - It was felt that certificates should be checked beforehand as there were some missing.
- Future considerations should be as follows-
 - A more structured approach was required.
 - Funding for the event needed to be agreed in advance by SACRE members, at a SACRE meeting beforehand.
 - Consideration should be given as to whether to invite parents.
 - Next year's RE Awards should include multiple schools and consideration should be given to how this could be managed.

- SACRE should provide the certificates or award.
- Given the timescales for arranging the event at the last minute, the event was viewed as a huge success.
- It was felt that a SACRE working group should be created to arrange the RE Awards for summer 2026.
- The Cabinet Member would like to develop a link between Neighbourhood Working, Ward Councillors and their local schools. Each ward was provided two and a half days a week support via a Neighbourhood Co-ordinator. The Cabinet Member would explore this link and report back at the next SACRE meeting on any updates relating to this.
- Before the pandemic the RE Awards Ceremony was delivered in conjunction with the Children's Culture Event. The Ceremony was held during the evening, teachers were also nominated for RE Awards as well as pupils, and there were guest speakers that attended the event. Applications for the awards were assessed by the Chair of SACRE and the RE Specialist Advisor to SACRE.
- Members felt that it was important to publicise the RE Awards Ceremony for 2026 to ensure attendance and that the Ceremony should be held as an evening event so that parents could also attend.
- Consideration would be given to aligning the RE Awards Ceremony in 2026 with the Together for Tomorrow Project Celebration Event. The CYPS Officer present would be visiting Arc Cinema in the upcoming weeks to view their venue as a potential venue option for the Ceremony.

Agreed Actions:-

- 1) That a working group be developed to plan and organise the 2026 RE Awards Ceremony, in conjunction with the Together for Tomorrow Project.
- 2) That the following SACRE members volunteered to form the working group and provide an update to SACRE members at the December meeting:
 - V. Gregory
 - L. Melvin
 - S. Yasseen
 - F. Radford.

61. SACRE BUDGET UPDATE

This item provided an overview of the 2025-2026 SACRE budget, including the proposed forecast spend for 2025-2026, during which the following was discussed:

- The 2025/2026 SACRE budget, including the proposed forecast spend, was included within the agenda pack.
- Previously there was not an Annual Budget Report provided to SACRE members for the SACRE budget. Therefore, this budget item was added to the agenda to ensure that any decisions made relating to the proposed spending of the budget, would be considered and/or agreed by SACRE members.
- In future a detailed Annual Budget Report would be provided to SACRE members every year, alongside a standard budget briefing which would be presented to SACRE members at every SACRE meeting. CYPS were working to establish which directorate within the Council would be responsible for the Annual Budget Report.
- The available SACRE budget for 2025/2026 was £5685.00, the proposed forecasted spend was £5178.00, this would create a balance of £517.00 left. The proposed spend was presented to SACRE members as follows:
 - £115.00- NASACRE annual subscription 2025/2026
 - £1,000.00- RE Conference keynote speaker
 - £813.00- RE Conference room hire and catering (based on an estimate of 50 delegates)
 - £1,750.00- RE Advisor to SACRE (V.Gregory for 5 days per year)
 - £1,500.00- RE Subject Leader facilitation (H Lambert, Chair of SACRE).
- Members noted that the proposed forecast spend required amending to include any associated costs for the RE Awards Ceremony, such as room hire, refreshments and certificate costs.
- Members were advised that there had been low uptake in hiring the artefact boxes based at Rockingham, although this had been publicised via ROSIS and subject leader sessions. The RE Advisor and/or Chair would provide the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion with a short paragraph of text detailing what boxes were

available, so that this could be circulated to schools within the borough.

- The RE Advisor to SACRE advised that they received a quote for Lat Blaylock to attend the RE Conference in January 2026, the quote was £1155.00 for the full day. This would be an increase to the proposed spend forecast factored into the 2025/2026 budget, only £1000.00 had been budgeted for the RE Conference keynote cost. Historically the Conference was two days, one day for primary and one day for secondary, however the cost for both days would be £2310.00. Members discussed and agreed that research should be completed to see what other available options there were, rather than paying the same company and/ or individual to deliver the training every time.
- Previously there hadn't been many attendees at the RE Conference. Members were advised that during the previous year, the Conference was made free to all Rotherham schools wishing to attend and only under 50 attendees attended, this also included several teachers from Sheffield.
- It was clarified that any decision to make the conference free for Rotherham schools in future, should be considered and/or approved by SACRE members at a SACRE meeting.
- Members were asked to bear in mind the low attendance when considering the costs associated with the Conference. Members felt that spending up to £2000.00 for 30 Rotherham schools to attend a Conference would not be the best use of the SACRE budget. Therefore, the following two alternative proposals were discussed with SACRE Members:
 - That the option of hiring a keynote speaker be removed and the Conference be organised and hosted in January by SACRE Members and the SACRE RE Advisor, alongside inviting RE Leaders from schools and faith leaders to attend and present. This option would save the SACRE budget between £1000.00- £2000.00.
 - That the Chair and SACRE RE Advisor host an additional Subject Leader Session in the spring term of 2026, instead of holding the RE Conference in January 2026, and that the allocated budget for the RE Conference be re-purposed and invested into the RE Awards Ceremony in Summer 2026.

Agreed Actions-

- 1) That the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion establish whether any remaining funds from the SACRE Budget can be rolled over into the next financial year.
- 2) That the proposed forecasted spend budget table be amended to include the following:
 - A £1000.00 cost for the RE Awards Ceremony be added, to include room hire, refreshments and certificate costs.
- 3) That the revised proposed forecasted budget be brought back to the next SACRE meeting for consideration and/or approval in December 2025.

62. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT'S UPDATE FOR 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025

- The Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion drafted a SACRE Annual Report for 2024-2025, the draft would be presented to SACRE members at the next meeting in December 2025.
- The SACRE Annual Report 2024-2025 would be presented to the Improving Lives Select Commission in February 2026, Full Council in April 2026 and sent to NASACRE by the end of April 2026, following all required approvals.
- In relation to future SACRE Annual Reports, the following timeline was agreed:
 - End of June- Annual Report draft to be completed (pending GCSE results being added in August).
 - September- internal service approvals to be completed for the draft report and draft report to be presented to the SACRE meeting in September for consideration and/or approval.
 - September- if approval from SACRE received, the annual report will be presented to the Improving Lives Select Commission in September.
 - November- Annual Report to be presented to Full Council in November.

- Once all approvals received, the Annual Report would be sent to NASACRE and the Department for Education in November.

Agreed actions-

- 1) That the draft SACRE Annual Report for 2024-2025, be presented to SACRE members for consideration and/or approval in December 2025.

63. AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update on the activities of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) following the meeting held on the 4th September 2025. During which the following was noted:

The ASC Agreed that:

- More context be added to the Local Agreed Syllabus relating to the world view approach and that work schemes be amended to be clearer, ensuring questioning would be a starting point.
- That adaptation of the content within the Local Agreed Syllabus be completed to assist SEND schools to use and access the Agreed Syllabus. Additional specific alternative schemes of work should also be produced for SEND schools.
- That the exact number of schools within the borough that use the Local Agreed Syllabus be established.
- That the current Census be reviewed and analysed, to provide SACRE ASC members with a good idea of the current beliefs that were held across the borough.
- That SACRE ASC form a further sub-group to lead on the updating of the statutory part of the Local Agreed Syllabus and to identify what changes were required, what could be kept and what further detail needed to be included within the syllabus.
- That the sub-group meet face-to-face before the next SACRE ASC meeting in December.
- That an update be provided to the sub-group on the activities of the Together for Tomorrow Project, to establish whether any resources developed as part of the project could be included within the review

of the Local Agreed Syllabus.

- That the sub-group seek to invite a representative of the Islamic faith to be part of the sub-group.
- That the Chair contact's the Humanist representative of the SACRE ASC to invite them to take part in the sub-group.
- That the feedback from this meeting be provided to the next SACRE meeting on the 18 September 2025, and an invitation to join the further sub-group is extended to all SACRE members at the September meeting.

64. RE CONFERENCE 2026 UPDATE

The Chair advised that this update was provided during the agenda item SACRE Budget Update (Minute 61).

65. CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Members were advised that there was no update to provide relating to Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

66. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

This agenda item provided an update on the SACRE Development Plan. The following was discussed and noted:

- The Development Plan was included within the agenda pack and was a working document.
- In relation to objective three- developing links with Doncaster and Sheffield SACRE, it was advised that Barnsley had not been added to this list as Rotherham SACRE were still working to develop links with Doncaster and Sheffield SACRE.

67. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

NASACRE statement on the Curriculum and Assessment Review report, *Building a world-class curriculum for all*

The NASACRE Chairs welcome the publication of the Curriculum and Assessment Review report, *Building a world-class curriculum for all*, and are pleased that RE has been given due attention in the review. We wish to thank in particular Dr Vanessa Ogden who led on the 'Deep Dives' into RE.

NASACRE is pleased that the report recognises, *"Some SACREs support high-quality regional practice."* There is great work that many SACREs do in supporting high quality RE and we are reassured that there will be support for SACREs to continue this work in the future.

We are glad to see that the report notes that, *"Stakeholders' responses to our Call for Evidence showed there was a strong consensus about the subject's importance and its essential place in a school's curriculum, stressing its important role in children and young people's intellectual, personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. RE is a place where they encounter differing beliefs, sometimes for the first time, understand the tenets of major faiths, and learn how to reason and wrestle with existential questions."*

The report continues to highlight that fact that, *"RE provides a space for pupils to learn about human mutuality and reciprocity, that it develops their capacity to understand one another, and that it supports strong, secure, and confident communities with good relationships. Given the role that religion, belief and values play in local, national, and international events, it continues to be vital for children and young people to have access to high-quality RE."*

The report notes that there is considerable inconsistency in quality of RE as well as compliance at both primary and secondary levels. We know that with 80% of secondaries now being academies and therefore do not need to follow an Agreed Syllabus, this has led to many Academies not understanding that they must still provide RE for all pupils. We note that the proposal is for RE post-16 to become non-statutory for all pupils. *"We believe this will better reflect actual practice and foster parity across 16-19 settings. We recognise that some schools will want to continue providing RE up to 18, and they would be free to do so. If learners wish to continue to study RE at 16-19, level 3 qualifications are available for them to do so"* We see this as a pragmatic decision given the levels of non-compliance outside of sixth forms with a religious character and that 6th Form and FE colleges do not have to provide RE.

We note that, *"The Review ultimately wishes to see RE in the national curriculum, but it recognises that it is unrealistic for this to be achieved immediately. We therefore believe that a staged approach to reform is the most appropriate way forward."*

Whilst opinion is divided, many SACRE members will be pleased that the *"The Review believes that RE should be moved to the national curriculum to improve access to high-quality provision and to prevent further diminishment"*, and we welcome that a staged process for this is proposed, with the involvement of a range of parties from the RE community, of which NASACRE will be an active participant. The REC National Content Standard will be a good starting point for these discussions.

Going forward in the sector, NASACRE looks forward to fully engaging with this process which will create a curriculum written by RE experts, whilst maintaining the voice of religion and belief communities. We look forward to seeing how the legislation is framed to limit potential future outside influence on the RE curriculum. It is important that there are significant opportunities for local RE to continue and for RE to include the lived experience of members of religion and belief communities. The report celebrates both of these aspects of RE.

We are encouraged that the report suggests a way forward for RE that will prepare pupils for life in a multi-faith, multi-secular, local, national and global society. We hope that the government and the RE community will respond to these proposals positively for the benefit of pupils, teachers, schools and society as a whole.

Bill Moore, Chair

Claire Clinton, Vice Chair

Denise Chaplin, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Paul Smalley, Executive Officer

5th November 2025

- Reviews the subject content, balance of assessment and assessment methods of GCSE Dance so that the qualification is inclusive, representative and better suited to the discipline.

Religious Education (RE)

- RE is a basic curriculum²⁹⁹ subject from Key Stages 1 to 4 and in school sixth forms.
- Take-up of the optional GCSE in Religious Studies was 28% in 2009/10 and 31% in 2024/25.
- In 2024/25, 70% of state-funded schools entered students for GCSE Religious Studies.
- A Level Religious Studies entries made up 2% of A Level entries in 2009/10 and 2% in 2023/24.

Since 1944, RE has been a compulsory subject in schools in England in some form. Initially, this was 'religious instruction' and was limited only to Christianity. At the time of the 1988 Education Reform Act, the subject's title changed to 'Religious Education' and encompassed the other main world religions represented in Great Britain in addition to Christianity. Local Authority Standing Advisory Councils on RE (SACREs) became mandatory, and RE became part of a school's basic curriculum for all pupils and students between the age of 5 and 18. The legislative requirements for RE in relation to maintained schools have since been mirrored in funding agreements for academies.

The RE stakeholder context is diverse, including different faith bodies, secular groups and experts from teaching and the education sector more widely. Stakeholders' responses to our Call for Evidence showed there was a strong consensus about the subject's importance and its essential place in a school's curriculum, stressing its important role in children and young people's intellectual, personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.³⁰⁰ RE is a place where they encounter differing beliefs, sometimes for the first time, understand the tenets of major faiths, and learn how to reason and wrestle with existential questions. Understanding the tenets of Christianity also unlocks a wider understanding of British culture in terms of Christianity's historic

²⁹⁹ A 'basic curriculum' subject is not on the national curriculum but must be provided by schools. Parents or carers have the right to withdraw their child from these subjects, though different conditions may apply between subjects: GOV.UK (2025) - [The national curriculum: Overview](#)

³⁰⁰ The National Archives (2025) - [Education Act 2002](#)

influence and how it has shaped modern-day Britain. We have heard that RE provides a space for pupils to learn about human mutuality and reciprocity, that it develops their capacity to understand one another, and that it supports strong, secure, and confident communities with good relationships. Given the role that religion, belief and values play in local, national, and international events, it continues to be vital for children and young people to have access to high-quality RE.

Given RE's status as a basic rather than national curriculum subject, its content is not nationally defined, and no specified national standard exists against which to benchmark the quality of compulsory RE at Key Stages 1 to 4. While there are undoubtedly pockets of excellent practice in both faith and non-faith schools, the evidence suggests that provision for RE in many schools is not good enough and does not prepare pupils adequately for life beyond school.³⁰¹

Syllabi for RE are locally determined by an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). SACREs then advise local authorities on their delivery; they also advise local authorities on all matters relating to RE. Some SACREs support high-quality regional practice, but many no longer have the resources or reach to provide such support, resulting in increasing fragmentation.³⁰² Financial constraints have led to squeezed support in many areas, meaning that producing new agreed syllabi is often done with a 'very tight budget' and is 'increasingly reliant on voluntary support'.³⁰³ The 2018 Commission on RE concluded that the structures and systems supporting RE have not kept pace with changes in the wider education sector, including greater academisation, a move towards a school-led system, and a world in which children and young people encounter a broader range of world views, including, for example, Humanism.³⁰⁴

All this is further exacerbated by the complex legislative framework underpinning RE, which hasn't changed in substance since 1944, apart from some minor updates in 1988. Curriculum requirements depend on school type and may differ between academies and maintained schools, as well as between schools with a religious designation and those without. As Ofsted has concluded, the quality of RE is not necessarily determined by the type of school, but the differing requirements seemingly contribute to a lack of parity across the sector.³⁰⁵ Moreover, the Review has heard that, in practice, the dated legislation has invited 'workarounds', including regarding the ongoing requirement to teach RE to the age of 18 in schools. Throughout our engagement with sector experts and during the Call for Evidence, we have heard that this static statutory backdrop, with

³⁰¹ Ofsted (2024) - [Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report](#); Religious Education Council (2018) - [Religion And Worldviews Approach to RE: Resource Page](#)

³⁰² A report from the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on RE (NASACRE) found that the majority of SACREs in England were not receiving a sufficient share of the central school services block (CSSB) which would reasonably be expected so that they could meet their statutory functions, including the provision of a clerk. NASACRE (2023) – NASACRE's Second Report.

³⁰³ Smalley, P. (2019) - [A critical policy analysis of local religious education in England](#)

³⁰⁴ Religious Education Council (2018) - [Religion And Worldviews Approach to RE: Resource Page](#)

³⁰⁵ Ofsted (2024) - [Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report](#)

complex and fraying local support arrangements, has led to uneven provision and tokenistic practice in some areas.

Some work to improve and standardise a curriculum offer for RE has been done, most notably by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), which published its National Content Standard for RE in England in 2023.³⁰⁶ This has received consensus from across the sector and laid strong foundations for change. We believe it has potential as a catalyst for more substantial reform.

RE can be controversial and contentious. Different sector and faith organisations have different beliefs and different interests in the present arrangements. We have therefore engaged widely on this subject during the Review, seeking as many views as possible and aiming to identify points of consensus as well as areas of debate. Having evaluated the evidence, we are of the view that RE's importance is not currently reflected in its standing in the curriculum. The Review believes that RE should be moved to the national curriculum to improve access to high-quality provision and to prevent further diminishment. However, we are conscious of the sensitivities and complexities involved, including the legislative implications and the wider considerations relating to voluntary-aided schools with a religious character. It is important that these issues are accounted for in our recommendations.

The Review ultimately wishes to see RE in the national curriculum, but it recognises that it is unrealistic for this to be achieved immediately. We therefore believe that a staged approach to reform is the most appropriate way forward. To this end, we recommend that the Government invites the sector to establish an independent task and finish group made up of representatives from faith bodies, secular groups and experts from the teaching and wider education sector, to develop a draft RE curriculum. This group should be consultative, continuing the work of the Review in liaising with relevant external parties (including faith groups and communities, secular groups and faith and non-faith schools) and should seek to build on the REC's National Content Standard. The group should also consider whether there would be benefit in changing the name of Religious Education.

The process of producing a draft RE curriculum will be important in establishing whether a core of RE content can be agreed on across the sector to facilitate any move of RE to the national curriculum. Most stakeholders agree that all pupils, regardless of the type of school they attend, should have an entitlement to high-quality RE and that the most effective way to do this is by moving it to the national curriculum. However, if this desired quality and consistency are to be achieved, there will be trade-offs, and all parties will have to make compromises to achieve consensus.

³⁰⁶ Religious Education Council (2023) - [National Content Standard for RE in England – 1st Edition – 2023](#)

We recognise that making RE a national curriculum subject is not a panacea that will automatically improve the quality and quantity of compulsory RE. Other mechanisms would also be needed, including reviewing the DfE's non-statutory guidance for RE (which has not been updated since it was published in 2010) and the wider framework (which includes SACREs, for example). Following any changes, attention may also need to be given to the subject content of the optional GCSE in Religious Studies.

Finally, the Review has carefully considered the requirement that learners study RE between the age of 16 and 18. Currently, this requirement applies only to learners attending school sixth forms and does not extend to other 16-19 providers, such as sixth form colleges and further education colleges. The Review considers that, by age 16, students should have a secure grounding in RE, and one that should be strengthened if the recommendation about the national curriculum is taken forward. We also consider the compulsory study of RE to 18 to be inconsistent with 16-19 study's aim of prioritising learners' choices and subject specialisms. As such, we recommend removing the statutory requirement that learners in school sixth forms study RE: the Government should consider this as part of its review of the wider legislation in which RE sits. We believe this will better reflect actual practice and foster parity across 16-19 settings. We recognise that some schools will want to continue providing RE up to 18, and they would be free to do so. If learners wish to continue to study RE at 16-19, level 3 qualifications are available for them to do so.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Government:

- Adds RE to the national curriculum in due course. A staged approach should be taken, in line with the following steps:

Stage 1:

Representatives from faith groups, secular groups and the wider teaching and education sector that we heard from during the Review should build on the constructive and collaborative work they have been doing through the course of the Review. DfE should invite the sector to form a task and finish group, convened and led by an expert Chair who is independent of any particular secular or faith group interest or representation. The review recommends that, given her leadership of this strand of the Review's work (based on her expertise), Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE should undertake this role, ensuring momentum in the successful convening she has established. This group should liaise with relevant external parties and, building on the existing National Content Standard for RE in England, engage with faith and non-faith schools, as well as RE organisations and faith communities, to co-create a draft RE curriculum.

Whilst this work should be sector-led, the DfE should welcome efforts the sector makes to reach a consensus and support and facilitate this group where necessary.

Alongside this, the DfE should consider the legislative framework for RE, including, for example, what any changes to its status in the curriculum would mean for functions such as SACREs. A long-term plan for implementing potential changes to legislation should be drafted.

As part of this review, the DfE should consider removing the statutory requirement for learners in school sixth forms to study RE.

In parallel, the DfE should review the non-statutory guidance for RE, which has not been updated since 2010, to establish whether beneficial changes to subject content could be made in the short term that do not pre-empt the wider work the Review is recommending.

Stage 2:

If consensus on a draft RE curriculum can be reached, the DfE should conduct a formal consultation on the detailed content.

Alongside this, the DfE should consult on proposed changes to the legislative framework, including any proposal to repeal the requirement to teach RE in school sixth forms.

Science

- Science is a statutory core curriculum subject from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4.
- GCSE Combined Science take-up was 63% in 2009/10 and 66% in 2024/25.
- GCSE Biology take-up was 18% in 2009/10 and 24% in 2024/25.
- GCSE Chemistry take-up was 18% in 2009/10 and 23% in 2024/25.
- GCSE Physics take-up was 18% in 2009/10 and 23% in 2024/25.³⁰⁷
- In 2024/25, 91% of state-funded schools entered students for Combined Science; 87% for Biology and 82% for Chemistry and Physics.
- A Level Biology entries made up 7% of A Level entries in 2009/10 and 8% in 2023/24.
- A Level Chemistry entries made up 5% of A Level entries in 2009/10 and 7% in 2023/24.

³⁰⁷ Students may decide to take a single science GCSE alongside their Combined Science GCSE. Therefore, there may be differences in the proportion of take up across the single sciences.

Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report



Academic Year 2024-2025

Rotherham SACRE Annual Report

1. Chair's Introduction and Context

This report outlines the work of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from September 2024 to July 2025. It reflects on the advice given to statutory bodies, the support provided to schools, and the collaborative efforts to improve the quality of Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship across the borough.

On behalf of Rotherham SACRE, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all schools, teachers, RE subject leaders, support staff, and volunteers from our diverse faith communities. Your dedication and hard work over the past year have played a vital role in raising the standard of Religious Education across Rotherham.

Rotherham SACRE continues to benefit from a committed and expanding membership. We remain focused on supporting schools, educators, and subject leaders in delivering high-quality and inclusive RE. Our meetings, typically held four times a year, provide a valuable forum for collaboration and strategic planning. While one meeting this year was not quorate and therefore cancelled, the remaining meetings were fully quorate and productive.

We are particularly pleased to have strengthened Group 3 membership, welcoming a number of highly skilled secondary RE specialists. This has significantly enhanced our collective expertise and capacity to support schools.

Our hybrid meetings, held at Rotherham Town Hall, have improved accessibility and participation, enabling broader engagement from members. Our development plan remains a dynamic and evolving document, regularly reviewed to ensure it aligns with the needs of our schools and the wider local authority.

Looking ahead, our priorities include enhanced training and support for subject leaders, the continuation of our annual RE conference, the introduction of an RE awards ceremony, and the development of a recommended list of educational visits and visitors.

Thank you once again for your continued commitment to Religious Education in Rotherham.

Hannah Lambert

Chair of Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

July 2025

2. Advice to Statutory Bodies

a) Local Authority

SACRE advised the Local Authority on the importance of supporting RE through CPD, interfaith engagement, and curriculum development. The LA responded positively by facilitating CPD events and supporting the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

b) Schools

Advice was given to schools on enhancing RE through interfaith Q&A sessions, resource sharing, and curriculum alignment. Schools responded with positive feedback and increased participation in SACRE-led initiatives.

c) Government or Other Statutory Bodies

SACRE contributed to national discussions through NASACRE and advocated for ring-fenced funding and curriculum standards.

d) Response to the Advice Given

The advice was acted upon by the LA and schools, leading to improved engagement and resource development. No advice was ignored.

3. Standards and Quality of Provision of RE

a) Public Examinations

No data available for this reporting period.

b) Attainment in RE Not Covered by Public Examination

Anecdotal evidence from CPD sessions suggests improved teacher confidence and student engagement.

c) The Quality of RE Provision in Schools

Schools are actively engaging with SACRE resources and interfaith initiatives.

d) Withdrawal from RE

No formal data collected.

e) Complaints about RE

No complaints were received during this period.

4. Agreed Syllabus

a) Review of the Syllabus

An Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened and progress was made toward a revised syllabus.

b) Next Review

The next review is scheduled for the 2025–2026 academic year.

5. Collective Worship

a) Compliance with the Statutory Requirement

Schools are reminded of their statutory duties through SACRE communications.

b) Quality of Collective Worship

No formal monitoring conducted; anecdotal reports suggest varied practice.

c) Determinations

A determination was granted to Thornhill Primary School.

d) Complaints about Collective Worship

No complaints were received.

6. Management of SACRE

a) Attendance at SACRE, by Committee

Attendance records are maintained and available upon request. Rotherham SACRE met on four occasions during the 2024/2025 academic year. Details of venues and attendance are provided in the table below:

Date	Venue	Numbers in attendance from each group					Other Attendees
		Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Co-opted Members	
19 September 2024	Rotherham Town Hall	2	1	3	4	0	1 (Specialist SACRE RE Advisor)
5 December 2024	Rotherham Town Hall	3	1	2	2	0	1 (Specialist SACRE RE Advisor)

27 March 2025	Rotherham Town Hall	2	1	1	3	0	0
5 June 2025	Rotherham Town Hall	3	1	3	4	0	0

b) Membership and Training

The table below highlights the current membership levels for each group in Rotherham SACRE. There has been 1 new member representation Hinduism was added to Group A during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
5	1	6	6

c) Complaints about RE and Collective Worship

No complaints were received.

7. Contribution of SACRE to the Wider Local Authority Agenda

a) Contribution to Other Agendas

SACRE contributed to interfaith dialogue and curriculum development.

b) Public Sector Equality Duty

SACRE promoted inclusivity through its interfaith initiatives.

c) Support to Schools

Provided CPD, resource lists, and interfaith engagement opportunities.

d) Community Initiatives

Collaborated with Rotherham Faith Leaders Group and other SACREs.

8. Finance - Annual Budget

The SACRE budget for the financial year 2024/25 was fully balanced. Total expenditure amounted to £6,000, which was entirely funded through DSG income. This resulted in no net overspend or underspend at year-end.

Rotherham - SACRE Budget

2024/25 Income & Expenditure Statement

SACRE	Actuals 24-25
	(£)
NASACRE Annual Subscription	115
Travel to Rotherham & Return	67
Accommodation	89
CPD Training	1,000
SACRE Management Time - H Lambert	850
SACRE Support - V Gregory	1,750
RE awards	0
Subject Leader Facilitation and coordination time – H Lambert	2,200
Council contribution to SACRE	-71
Total Expenditure	6,000
Total Income (DSG funding)	-6,000
Net Expenditure	0

9. Summary

SACRE has made significant contributions to RE and Collective Worship in Rotherham. While formal monitoring and attendance data could be improved, the engagement with schools and the LA has been positive. SACRE continues to advocate for adequate funding and support.

The following items were discussed at the meetings held during the academic year of 2024-2025:

- **Artefacts Update**

The Specialist RE Advisor to SACRE provided regular updates to SACRE on the artefact resource boxes that were purchased via the SACRE budget, for schools to outsource via a borrowing system. Discussions included how to further promote the artefacts to ensure maximum engagement and usage of them.

- **Continuous Professional Development Update**

Regular updates were provided to each SACRE meeting on the opportunities for CPD, via the SACRE Specialist RE Advisor. Regular Subject Leader meetings were held, including one in the form of a question-and-answer panel arranged by SACRE and the SACRE Specialist RE Advisor.

The question-and-answer panel included a Buddhist representative, a Bahai representative, a Muslim representative and a Jewish representative.

Participation in the meeting was smaller than expected, however all who attended were enthusiastic and open and transparent of the struggles they were facing relating to the required knowledge and resources relating to each faith. SACRE members present offered attendees the option to approach Rotherham SACRE for SACRE's resource list. Teachers provided positive feedback from the meeting and advised that it was helpful for them to be able to think about personal world views

- **Development Plan update**

At every SACRE meeting, members received a progress update for each action on the development plan and the proposed next steps by the Chair of SACRE.

- **South Yorkshire RE Conference Update**

A South Yorkshire RE Conference was held on 29 January 2024. The Conference was added as an action on the SACRE Development Plan and was funded by local authority funding. The Conference was attended by thirty people and the feedback from the Conference was very positive. The Conference was hosted by Lat Blaylock, who was a primary and secondary Religious Education (RE) Specialist and Consultant. Lat was also the Editor of RE Today. Lat had been paid via the SACRE budget to deliver the conference. The conference provided the context to the Ofsted Research Review and how Rotherham SACRE could promote aspects raised within the report that related to areas that Ofsted found were not strong enough. Lat provided SACRE members who attended the course with good practical ideas for the classroom.

- **GCSE Results Update**

SACRE members requested an update on GCSE and A-Level results for the academic year, the GCSE and A-Level results were anonymised and shared

with the Committee members. SACRE members requested the data with specific school's names, local authority officers within the Childrens and Young People's Services sought advice and advised members that the Council's school ISA was not explicit enough to share the school's names with the associated data.

- **Secondary Networking Session Update**

An update was provided to members of SACRE on the Secondary Networking Session that was held.

- **The Together for Tomorrow Project**

The Local Authority was successful in a funding bid to support the delivery of projects and education within the borough, following on from the unrest and disorder in Rotherham, during the summer of 2024. The funding was used to develop the Together for Tomorrow Project, which focused on bringing together PHSE and the RE Curriculum. The funding was used to raise awareness of different cultures and beliefs and bring the communities of Rotherham together through schools and the curriculum. It was also a good project to raise the profile of religious education. The project was available to all schools in Rotherham and content would be recorded and hosted on www.forgecpd.com. The Chair of SACRE and the SACRE CYPS officer in attendance at the meeting were part of the Steering Group which progressed the project. At the end of the project there would be a celebration of the work completed throughout the project and an art exhibition would be held. It was suggested that the art exhibition could be linked to the Children's Capital of Culture which Rotherham was hosting for 2025.

Once the funding would be over, it was anticipated that the project would be sustainable and would be progressed through the curriculum.

- **Rotherham SACRE Terms of Reference and Constitution Updates**

Regular updates were provided to SACRE, via the Governance Advisor on the planned revision of the SACRE Terms of Reference and Constitution. SACRE were involved in drafting the document and then considered and approved the draft document. A briefing note was provided to SACRE members which highlighted the main changes to the Terms of Reference.

- **SACRE Membership Updates**

Regular updates relating to SACRE membership levels were provided to SACRE, this included any new membership for consideration and any current vacancies.

- **Feedback from Interfaith Week**

An update on Inter Faith Week 2024 was provided to the Committee. Three Primary Schools and one Secondary School requested attendance from faith members for Inter Faith Week. The groups were led in pairs of two, representing two different faiths. The attendees used the Inter Faith website

poster which covered a lot of different faiths. A general introduction was completed and both attendees read out their own individual faith quotation from the poster and asked each other questions on how they applied it to their everyday lives. The feedback from the participating schools was very positive, although there wasn't much interaction from pupils during the session, on-going discussions took place in classes after the session. A parent had approached one attendee to provide positive feedback and advise that their child enjoyed the session at school. It was agreed that this would be repeated on an annual basis, the event would be planned earlier next year to ensure wider involvement.

- **Local RE Agreed Syllabus Updates**

The local authority was due to review the Local RE Agreed Syllabus in conjunction with SACRE. SACRE members were reminded of the requirement to convene and an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). An ASC may also be known as a sub-group or working group, which would lead on the review of the Agreed Syllabus. The ASC was a statutory body and would entail between 3-6 meetings, which would include separate published agendas and minutes. SACRE was asked to agree to convene the ASC and to volunteer members to par-take in the ASC. ASC meetings to review the Local RE Agreed Syllabus will begin in September 2025, with the intention of the new Local RE Agreed Syllabus being launched by September 2026.

- **SACRE Determinations**

SACRE completed one determination in the academic year of 2024-2025. A determination was a legal process that RSACRE 8 allowed a school to deviate from the statutory requirement that collective worship be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". Thornhill Primary School requested that a member of SACRE complete a determination, and a SACRE member had completed that determination and brought the findings to SACRE at a meeting. The overall findings of the determination were very positive. The RE leads were knowledgeable and enthusiastic and all class teachers demonstrated subject knowledge. There were multiple examples of good practice across the school. The outcome of the determination recommended that the determination for Thornhill Primary School be renewed.

- **Membership of SACRE and Support**

SACRE is supported by a clerk and an RE adviser. Membership includes representatives from faith groups, teachers, and the local authority

10. Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Constitution

The current Rotherham SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference 2025, are attached as Appendix 1.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in conjunction with the Chair of SACRE, SACRE members, the Monitoring Officer and the Governance Advisor, reviewed and updated the Rotherham SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference.

The revised document has been drafted in conjunction with the guidance published by National SACRE and the relevant legislation such as the Education Act 1944 and the Education Act 1988, to ensure the revised Constitution and Terms of Reference will be compliant with all relevant statutory requirements.



Rotherham
Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education
(SACRE)

Constitution and Terms of Reference

2025

1. Introduction to SACRE

- 1.1 SACRE stands for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.
- 1.2 Every Local Authority is required by law to have a SACRE. The Education Act 1944 created the origins for SACREs, following the 1988 Education Act, when religious education was confirmed as a compulsory part of the curriculum, it became a statutory requirement for every Local Education Authority (LEA) to appoint a SACRE.
- 1.3 SACRE's advises and supports the local authority in relation to the effective provision of religious education and Collective Worship in schools. These are two distinct and separate matters for which SACRE has responsibility.
- 1.4 Changes to the provision of education, for example through the establishment of Academies and Free Schools and the reducing size of the Local Authority itself means there is considerably less local authority influence on the religious education in schools.

2. Statutory Responsibilities

- 2.1 The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools.
- 2.2 **Rotherham SACRE must:**
 - (a) Advise the LA and its schools on such matters connected with the agreed syllabus, religious education and collective worship either in response to a referral from the LA or as it sees fit.
 - (b) Publish an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and set out reasons for offering advice on matters not referred to it by the LA.
 - (c) Send a copy of the annual report to the Department of Education and National SACRE.
 - (d) Consider applications from a head teacher that the school be released from the requirement for collective worship to be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", for some or all of their pupils (this is known as a determination).
 - (e) Meet in public unless confidential information is to be disclosed; and
 - (f) Produce and publish minutes of its meetings available on the Council's Website, so far as the minutes relate to the parts of the meetings that were open to the public.

2.3 Rotherham SACRE should:

- (a) Monitor the provision and quality of the agreed syllabus RE and of collective worship.
- (b) In partnership with the LA, consider whether any changes need to be made to the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the agreed syllabus, to improve the quality, teaching and learning in RE.
- (c) Offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.
- (d) Require the LA to set up an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference (ACS) to review the agreed syllabus at least every five years. If, at some other time, and after discussion and a vote (the LA group on SACRE is not entitled to cast a vote in this context) the majority of the committees of the SACRE asks the LA in writing to reconsider its agreed syllabus, it must convene a conference for that purpose.
- (e) Maintain a Development Plan with SMART targets to measure effectiveness and review and/or refresh the Development Plan on an annual basis.

3. Membership of SACRE

- 3.1 Rotherham SACRE's members represent various religious and non-religious communities from Rotherham and local representatives who are teachers, school governors, councillors, and others.
- 3.2 A SACRE committee must have appointed representatives to each of four groups, representing respectively:

Group A: Such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area other than the Church of England.

Group B: Representatives of the Church of England.

Group C: Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area, representing as far as is practicable, infant, junior, primary, secondary and specialist schools.

Group D: The Local Authority: those appointed should represent Rotherham

Borough Council. Members of Group D shall be appointed annually by the full Council.

3.3 Composition of Membership

- 3.4 The composition of the groups shall be a non- exhaustive list of the kinds of groups that are represented on SACRE Committees around the country and will represent a range of religions, denominations and non-religious philosophical convictions groups, which could include but is not restricted to:

Group A: Christian and other religious denominations as follows:

- The Afro-Caribbean Council of Churches
- The Bahai Faith
- The Baptist Church
- The Buddhist Faith
- The Hindu Faith
- Humanism
- The Methodist Church
- The Pentecostal Church
- The Religious Society of Friends
- The Roman Catholic Church
- The Salvation Army
- The Orthodox Church
- The United Reformed Church
- The Jewish Faith
- The Islamic Faith
- The Sikh Faith.

Group B: Four representatives.

Group C: Five representatives.

Group D: Four representatives plus the Governance Advisor to SACRE (non-voting).

- 3.5 When appointing a new member of a group on SACRE, the local authority will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the nominee is representative of the religion, denomination, or associations in question.

3.6 Co-opted Members

- 3.7 Other persons may be co-opted by the representative groups on the SACRE for such purposes and such length of time as representative groups on the SACRE might decide. Co-opted members do not belong to any of the groups and do not have voting rights. Co-opted members may resign at any time and may be removed by the representative groups or the LA at any time.

- 3.8 Any member of SACRE unable to attend a meeting should appoint a named substitute to attend in his/her place. Notice of this substitution should be notified to the Governance Advisor of SACRE at least 6 hours in advance of

the meeting. Substitute members may speak but not vote.

3.9 Terms of Office for Representative Members

Members shall remain members until such time as they have resigned or have been absent for 3 or more consecutive meetings for any reason not acceptable or apologies are not passed on to the Governance Advisor, then they shall be deemed to be a vacated place to be filled by the governing body for that class of Members.

The SACRE shall review the composition of each group and the attendance annually (at the Autumn Term meeting).

3.10 Chair and Vice-Chair Positions

3.11 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council shall be elected by the representative members of the SACRE and shall be elected at the last meeting in each academic year. Voting for the Chair and Vice-Chair will be by a simple majority. The Chair and Vice-Chair where possible, will represent different committees of SACRE.

3.12 Persons continuing to be members of the SACRE are eligible for re-appointment to the position of Chair and Vice-Chair.

In the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair at any meeting the local authority can elect one of its members to act as the Chair for that meeting.

The main specific role of the Chair is to manage the work of SACRE in accordance with statutory requirements and local circumstances.

3.13 The Chair will be responsible for:

- (a) The management of meetings.
- (b) Representing the SACRE to other bodies.
- (c) Leading the SACRE in its own self- evaluation and development and/or training programmes.
- (d) Any other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

3.14 The Vice-Chair will be responsible for:

- (a) Deputising for the Chair as required.
- (b) Representing the SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the Chair or in agreement with the Chair.
- (c) Any other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

3.15 Professional SACRE Advisor

The specific responsibilities of the RE Advisor to SACRE is to:

- (a) Attend each meeting of the SACRE and support the SACRE to fulfil its legislative duties in Rotherham.
- (b) Work with the Chair and Governance Advisor to prepare the SACRE agenda, SACRE Annual Report, any other relevant reports, papers or advice requested.
- (c) Provide advice to the SACRE on professional issues. Professional Advisors are not members of the SACRE and cannot vote.
- (d) Advise and update SACRE members on any new government guidance or policy documents.
- (e) Regularly report back to SACRE on work completed on behalf of SACRE.
- (f) Provide expertise and advice in the areas of RE and collective worship.

3.16 Childrens and Young People's Services Representation

The Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion is the responsible officer and representative for the local authority Children's and Young People's Services. The responsible officer is required to be present throughout the proceedings of the SACRE and to give advice on behalf of the LA as he/she thinks appropriate.

He/she will ensure that the LA provides sufficient funds and support for SACRE to perform its duties and take note of and respond to advice from SACRE. He/she will contribute to the SACRE Annual Report from the perspective of Children's and Young People's Services.

The attendance of a LA officer at a SACRE meeting may be specifically requested by the SACRE when it requires advice or guidance on a particular issue.

4. SACRE Meetings

- 4 SACRE should meet at least 3 times annually, once during each of the summer, autumn and spring terms.
- 4.3 Additional meetings may be called by the Chair and local authority acting jointly. In addition, each group may convene its own group meetings at any time. All of SACRE are expected to attend and contribute to meetings.

4.4 Quoracy

4.5 A meeting shall be quorate if the following numbers of representative/s of the respective groups are present:

4.6 Group A – minimum of 1
Group B – minimum of 1
Group C – minimum of 1
Group D – minimum of 1.

4.7 If the meeting is not quorate either business shall not be transacted, or the meeting could continue but decisions would have to be ratified at the next SACRE meeting.

5. Voting procedures in SACRE

5.1 All members are entitled to speak and vote on any issue. However, substitute or co-opted member may speak but not vote at any meeting.

5.2 SACRE is committed to reaching decisions on a consensus basis but on the rare occasions when voting is necessary the following guidelines will apply:

- (a) On any issue to be decided by the SACRE, except as provided in statement 3.7 above, only the four representative groups shall be entitled to vote. They have equal voting rights: one vote from each group A, B, C or D.
- (b) Issues shall be decided by a simple majority vote.
- (c) A proposal shall not be deemed to be carried unless it has been approved by at least three of the four groups, unless otherwise required by law or guidance.
- (d) In the event of a tied vote the groups shall revisit the issue in question to see if consensus can be reached.
- (e) If the vote is still tied, the Chair may exercise a casting vote.

6. Administrative Arrangements

6.1 The LA shall provide a person to act as Clerk to the SACRE, the Clerk will be a Governance Advisor from Democratic Services.

6.2 The Governance Advisor will:

- (a) Attend the full meetings of SACRE, an agenda setting meeting with the Chair and agreed syllabus conference meetings.
- (b) Distribute agendas, take appropriate minutes and notes at the meetings.

- (c) Maintain and update the records of SACRE and its meetings.
- (d) Perform any other necessary administrative duties.
- (e) Provide a copy of the draft minutes and papers of meetings to the members of SACRE and LA, 5 clear working days before the next meeting takes place.
- (f) Provide information for the development of the Annual Report, such as membership and attendance details.

- 6.3 SACRE members can propose agenda items by contacting the Chair or the Governance Advisor to SACRE. Matters for the agenda of any meeting shall be sent to the Governance Advisor at least 28 days in advance of the meeting.
- 6.4 The Chair should meet with the Educational Representative from the local authority and the Governance Advisor to SACRE 21 days in advance of the meeting, to agree the content and business to be added on the agenda for each meeting.
- 6.5 The draft minutes of meetings shall be published within one month of the meeting.

7. Disputes and Complaints

- 7.1 The SACRE is intended to be a collective, co-operative body and needs to ensure that no particular sector or member is unduly favoured. Problems and issues should normally be debated and resolved at the SACRE meetings. However, if parties feel that these have not been resolved, the following process should be followed, and minutes taken:
 - (a) Stage 1: The parties who are in dispute meet with the Chair if the SACRE and the Professional SACRE Advisor who will assist in finding or recommending a solution.
 - (b) Stage 2: A special meeting of the SACRE is convened, with papers prepared by the parties representing different views. The Chair and the Professional SACRE Advisor also prepare a paper offering possible options for resolution. If the problem is not resolved, the dispute is referred to Stage 3.
 - (c) Stage 3: If the issue is not resolved then guidance or clarification will be sought from the relevant Government Department.
 - (d) Complaints from members of the public will be handled by the Council's Complaints procedure.

Rotherham - SACRE Budget

Overview

The proposed SACRE budget for 2025/26 anticipates total expenditure of £5,178 against an income allocation of £5,695. This leaves an uncommitted balance of £517, which provides flexibility for additional activities or contingency planning.

2025/26 Income & Expenditure Statement

Sacre	25-26 Budget
NASACRE Annual Subscription	115
Travel to Rotherham & Return	0
Accommodation	0
CPD Training	0
SACRE Management Time - H Lambert	0
SACRE Support - V Gregory	1,750
RE Awards	1,813
Subject Leader Facilitation and coordination time – H Lambert	1,500
Total Expenditure	5,178
Total Income	-5,695
Balance not committed	-517

Key Observations

The budget reflects a reduction in overall expenditure compared to the previous year, primarily due to the removal of allocations for CPD training, travel, and accommodation. The introduction of RE Awards represents a new strategic priority. The surplus of £517 provides an opportunity for additional investment, but the absence of allocations for travel and training could present operational risks if these costs arise unexpectedly.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the surplus be considered for allocation to CPD training or travel contingency to mitigate potential risks. The impact and value for money of the new RE Awards allocation should be monitored throughout the year. Finally, the zero allocations for travel and accommodation should be reviewed to ensure that SACRE can operate effectively without incurring unplanned costs.