

Rotherham Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report 2024–2025

ILSC Presentation

Niall Devlin – Service Director, Education & Inclusion

Purpose & Assurance

- Provide statutory annual update on Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) work
- Assure ILSC that RE, collective worship and governance duties are met
- Highlight progress, risk and next steps

It is recommended that Members of ILSC:

- Note the Rotherham SACRE Annual Report for 2024–2025 and its key findings; and
- Endorse SACRE's forward plan priorities for 2025–2026, including continued CPD, annual RE conference, RE awards, and development of educational visits/visitors' guidance.

Key Headlines

- Stronger membership including secondary RE specialists
- CPD programme strengthened with interfaith Q&A sessions
- South Yorkshire Conference delivered with positive feedback
- Artefact library improved and actively used
- Re-launched the Religious Education Awards

A Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Statutory body mandated for every Local Authority to advise on RE and collective worship in schools. SACRE:

- Advises the LA on matters relating to religious education
- Establish the agreed syllabus conference and writing the agreed syllabus.
- Considering applications to alter requirement for collective worship to be of a Christian nature.
- Providing advice and support to schools and teachers
- Monitor the quality of RE provision and publish an annual report

The areas for development

Issues:

- Breath of membership
- Professional development
- Refresh the agreed syllabus
- Collective worship
- Stronger community cohesion

Response:

- 3 new members (including specialists) and hybrid meetings
- Establish regular subject specialist networks and Q&A sessions
- Reviewing the agreed syllabus and organised the Agreed Syllabus Conference
- Review schools' applications
- Together for Tomorrow project and working across the region (South Yorkshire Conference)

The Annual Report

- SACREs have a duty to publish an annual report. This report has to be sent to the Secretary of State for Education as well as to key partners, including schools, teacher training institutions, libraries and councillors. The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account

The Annual Report

- Introduction
- Advice given to statutory bodies (LA, Schools, etc)
- View on the quality of provision of RE
- Collective worship contribution to the wider community agenda

Financial Position

- Total expenditure £6,000
- Fully funded through DSG
- No overspend or underspend

Forward Plan 2025–26

- Enhanced subject leader support offer
- Annual RE conference maintained
- Introduction of RE awards framework
- Visits/visitors guidance produced for all schools

ILSC – What is Required Today

- Note the statutory annual report
- Endorse forward plan priorities
- Provide any additional steer on syllabus review or cohesion work