



Devon SACRE¹ Annual Report 2020/21

SACRE’s role is to provide advice and support, and to monitor the provision and quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship in Devon schools

Foreword by Chair of Devon SACRE

I would like to begin this forward by saying how indebted we are to the teachers and school leaders in schools across Devon who have worked tirelessly over the last year and a half under the most difficult Covid restrictions. In particular, Devon SACRE wants to thank teachers of RE in primary, secondary and special schools for their commitment to continuing to teach the subject, whether pupils were at home or on school premises.

During this period SACRE has offered resources and shared links to help teachers maintain the momentum of their RE, and LTLRE groups have continued to provide twilight CPD through their network of experienced RE hub leaders. One of the upsides of the pandemic has been the increased use of online connectivity, which has enabled many more teachers to access support from their local groups.

In place of a LTLRE conference in autumn 2020 we hosted a set of CPD talks, but we are planning to hold a full online conference in October 2021.

I would also like to thank members of SACRE for their willingness to embrace the technology necessary to meet ‘virtually’ and to show such enthusiasm for training events and conferences that have been made available through our membership of national organisations.

With the publication of the [Ofsted Research Review](#) into RE in May, SACRE has been active in offering input for schools to help them understand what high quality RE looks like. This is timely, given the renewed interest Ofsted is showing into subjects in the school curriculum. Ed Pawson has guided SACRE with great professionalism and his usual enthusiasm through these really challenging times maintaining links with local communities and national bodies contributing to the development of learning in Religion and Worldviews. SACRE records its thanks to him.

Jeremy Roberts

Chair of Devon SACRE 2020/21

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¹ Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Devon SACRE has taken the decision to change the timing of this annual report, to get the report into schools in a more timely manner. We have moved to a pattern where the report is published in the summer term, reflecting on the academic year which is coming to an end.

1 SACRE organisation

a) Membership

This year we are pleased to welcome Helen Brown, Caitlin Cornwell and Matthew Harding as full SACRE members and to welcome back John Goody as a co-opted member. Following DCC elections in May 2021, we are pleased to welcome 5 new councillors: Tracy Adams, Janet Bradford, Sarah Parker-Khan, Debo Sellis, Daniel Thomas

We have said goodbye to Bernard Lane, Sue Shute, Penny Rouvas and Lorna Clay, and also to Councillors Carol Whitton, Poly Colthorpe, Iain Chubb and Gordon Hook. We would like to express our sincere thanks to them all for their SACRE service over many years.

b) Professional support for RE

During this year SACRE has been well supported by Gerry Rufolo on behalf of Devon County Council and Sally Watts and Sam Chapman on behalf of Babcock/LDP. Ed Pawson has acted in the role of Adviser to SACRE with Jeremy Roberts as chair.

2 SACRE activity and updates

a) Covid 19

Covid 19 has significantly affected the way schools have been operating over the past year, and this has impacted on the work of SACRE. However, schools have reported that the new Agreed Syllabus has been especially valuable during this time.

With schools closed for long periods and visits stopped it has been much harder to connect with school leaders and teachers. Some monitoring has continued online, but schools have mostly been in 'survival mode', so there is a limit to how much they have engaged during the year.

Significant effort has gone into making provision to support lockdown learning including newsletters, lesson resources, online learning and useful websites, including links to access online visitors and resources.

Whilst collective worship was missed by most schools, there have been many examples of successful virtual collective worship and class bubble recitals transmitted through various IT platforms.

b) Bedding in the RE syllabus for Devon schools²

Feedback from schools regarding the new RE syllabus for Devon schools continues to be very positive. What is especially appreciated is the clarity and breadth of the syllabus and its accompanying resource materials. The way that it supports schools in identifying the Ofsted markers of Intent, Implementation and Impact has been especially appreciated.

c) Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)³

During 2020/21 all LTLRE hub meetings have had to move online, due to Covid restrictions. This has considerably changed the way hub groups work. What we have lost is the experience

² <https://www.babcockldp.co.uk/improving-schools-settings/curriculum-additional/religious-education>

³ <http://www.ltlre.org>

of face-to-face engagement and support. However, what has been gained is better attendance at many of the meetings, with more teachers accessing this free CPD input. We have been able to offer more diverse sessions, with people attending training from across (and outside) the region. The experience of hosting successful virtual meetings will prompt a future discussion about whether some hubs will want to run more online forums in the future. We are also pleased to have established a new Hub group for Special Schools, which has met 3 times already.

We had to cancel the October 2020 Annual Conference, but a series of twilight talks and training sessions were put on instead. These were well received.

An online conference is being planned for October 2021. This will take place on Friday 15th October.

During the Summer Term 2021 LTLRE has been carrying out an evaluation process, to ascertain the impact of the programme. This will be reported on in next year's SACRE Annual Report.

d) Teacher Training and CPD

Online training for teachers of RE has been offered by Devon SACRE during 2020/21. 3 courses on Understanding Christianity have been run and a training day for RE leaders in Primary schools. Other courses have been offered, but cancelled due to lack of numbers booking.

e) RE and Ofsted

SACRE has given guidance, in the form of the [Ofsted toolkit](#) developed by LTLRE hub leaders, to enable schools to understand how the current Ofsted framework will impact on their schools. The toolkit gives step by step advice on how to make provision for the Intent, Implement, Impact aspects of a potential Deep Dive into RE.

Guidance has also been offered on the new [Ofsted Research Review](#), which is the first report from Ofsted into RE for 8 years.

f) South West SACRE conference

7 delegates from Devon SACRE attended the online SW SACRE Conference in March 2021. The keynote speaker was Dr Farid Panjwani (UCL and Aga Khan University, Pakistan), talking about "Decolonising the curriculum, achieving greater awareness of historical and worldview literacy."

Workshop sessions were attended on: 'Primary RE and a decolonised curriculum', 'The future of SACREs and Local Area Networks', 'Training RE teachers using a Worldviews Approach'. 5 delegates from Devon SACRE also attended the NASACRE national conference, listening to a presentation from the Richard Kueh, HMI for RE, talking about how schools can make provision for high quality RE.

g) Half termly RE newsletter

The half termly RE newsletter continues to give extensive advice about CPD events, conferences and teaching resources for primary and secondary schools. This is emailed out through an RE email list, sent to all schools and can be found on the homepage of the [Learn, Teach, Lead RE website](#), the [Devon RE webpage](#) and sent out online by Babcock/LDP.

h) Religion and Worldviews

During the course of the year Devon SACRE has been kept abreast of national developments taking place in RE. In particular this has included important debates about a worldviews approach to RE, following on from the CoRE report in 2018. The [Nobody Stands Nowhere](#) animated film has been really well received by many schools across the County.

i) Governor training

Training on RE, collective worship and SMSC has been provided for governors in Devon schools through Babcock/LDP. This has delivered updates to school governors on current curriculum requirements, statutory expectations and governor roles and responsibilities.

j) Guidance on collective worship

Guidance on Collective Worship has been updated and posted on the [Devon RE webpage](#). This guidance has been shared with schools.

3 Interfaith work

Devon SACRE continues to work closely with faith and belief groups in the region, including Devon Faith and Belief Forum (DFBF).

a) Faith and belief school visitors

Contact details for potential faith and belief visitors are advertised in the half termly RE newsletter and can be found on the [LTLRE website](#).

b) Universal Peace Prayers Book

Devon Faith and Belief Forum has updated its [Interfaith Prayer Book](#), and a link has been sent to all schools for use as a resource in their collective worship provision.

4 Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 events looked very different this year. With no physical events possible schools were sent a sent details of resources they could access suitable for online learning. A number of films were [recorded and shared with schools](#). These included talks and presentations by local people to illustrate aspects of the Holocaust and other genocides, explained in age-related ways.

5 Standards in Religious Education

a) Monitoring RE in secondary schools

With the introduction of the current (2019) RE syllabus, and with a more subject-specific focus from Ofsted, a number of schools are realising the need to review their provision for RE. Devon SACRE continues to support secondary schools, especially where there are concerns about compliance, time allocation or low take-up for Religious Studies at GCSE. SACRE maintains good relationships with schools across the county and, when concerns about RE are raised, any approaches to schools are made in a spirit of support and cooperation. Healthy conversations have been engaged in with a number of secondary schools over the last year, with follow-up visits set up to continue the discussion.

b) Monitoring standards and compliance in RE in Devon primary schools

Given the large number of primary schools in Devon it is difficult to fully monitor the provision of RE in all schools. With Ofsted inspections having been halted during this academic year there has been no evidence available to follow up via inspection reports.

However, regular RE newsletters are a good way to continue to provide input into schools, and this creates a communication channel that is used by many schools.

6 Collective Worship

New guidance on collective worship/assemblies was made available to Devon schools in 2020, and this has been well received. This new guidance aims to support schools to develop an up-to-date policy and to encourage active pupil participation in collective worship/assemblies. We want to help schools put in place effective practice, offering opportunities for reflective experiences for their pupils. The guidance document offers an explanation of the legal obligations, including the right to withdrawal, and outlines some of the rich opportunities that assemblies/collective worship can offer pupils for spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.

Due to Covid restrictions collective worship/assemblies have been significantly curtailed during the last year, but support has been given to help schools access virtual input for this important aspect of school life.

There have been no formal complaints about Collective worship in schools and no applications for determinations.

APPENDIX 1: MEMBERSHIP OF DEVON SACRE June 2021

Group A: Christian and other religious denominations, not including Church of England.

13 places: Appointment for four years ending on 30 April 2025

Jude Taylorson	Buddhist Community
Mary Hext	Methodist Church
Ravi Nathwani	Hindu Community
Richard Halsey	Jewish Community
Helena Hastie	Baha'i Community
Keith Denby	Devon Humanists
Maia Miller	Pagan Community
Gurmit Kang	Sikh Community
Bill Becher	Quaker Community
Helen Brown	Roman Catholic Community

Group B: The Church of England

6 places: Appointment for four years ending on 30 April 2025

Claire Hulbert	Diocesan Board of Education
Jeremy Roberts	Diocesan Board of Education
Tatiana Wilson	Diocesan Board of Education
Belinda Twiggs	Diocesan Board of Education
Ruth Ingrouille	Diocesan Board of Education
Sandra Gill	Diocesan Board of Education

Group C: Teachers' Associations

12 places: Appointments for four years ending on 30 April 2025

Caitlin Cornwell	Teaching union/NEU
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Matthew Harding	Teaching union/NASUWT
Wendy Harrison	Teaching union/NEU
Gerry Winnall	RE teachers association/NATRE (primary)
Phil Randall	Secondary school leaders/SHA
Ruth Flanagan	Higher Education/ITE/UCU
Edgar Mihas	USU (FE)
Penny Hammett	Primary Headteacher

Group D: The Local Authority

6 places:

Cllr Tracy Adams	
Cllr Janet Bradford	County Councillor
Cllr Christine Channon	County Councillor
Cllr Sarah Parker-Khan	County Councillor
Cllr Debo Sellis	County Councillor
Cllr Iain Chubb	County Councillor
Cllr Margaret Squires	County Councillor
Cllr Daniel Thomas	County Councillor

Co-opted members

Up to 6 places: Appointments for two years ending on 30 April 2023

Saxon Spence
Rosemary Khreishah
Rebecca Northcott
John Goody