



Meeting of the Surrey SACRE



Date: Wednesday 25th June – Summer Term 2025

Time: 4.00-6.00pm

Venue – Church House Guildford

Hybrid Meeting - this meeting was recorded on Teams as part of minute taking.

Quorum required – 9 (at least 1 from each group). Meeting quorate 4.00pm.

Officers present x3 / Clerk x1 / Members Present 16 – Total 19 (Sarah Harris counts twice as officer & group A member)

Present: x 19

Officers x3:

Sarah Harris - Chair of SACRE

Rachel Boxer – Adviser to Surrey SACRE/RE Consultant

Jo Kenyon – SCC Service Manager (joined at 4.18pm)

Clerk: Liz Mitchell - Diocesan Administrator & Clerk to SACRE

Group A x8: Jennie Johnson - Chair of Group A, Sarah Harris - Chair of SACRE, Rev Allan Taylor - Vice Chair of SACRE, Rosslyn Doney, Peter Ward, Sadia Irfan, Dr Suha Rawhani (attended in place of SM), Rashida Nasir (joined at 4.07pm)

Group B x2: Jane Whittington – Chair of Group B, Shaun Burns (online)

Group C x5: Sadia Nawaz (online – left at 5.11pm), Deborah Jackson, Emma Johnston (co-opted member), Naomi Ezzard (new member observing), Fiona Lewis (new member observing – joined online at 5.04pm)

Group D x1: Robert Hughes

Item No.	SACRE Business meeting All papers for the meeting are emailed as attachments/links prior to meeting named by item number for ease of reference. Meeting convened at 4.00pm Meeting being recorded on Teams for minuting purposes. No objections.	Actions arising	
		By whom	By when
1.	Welcome and Introductions Chair SH opened the meeting with welcome and thanks for RSVPs from SACRE members. Members introduced themselves for benefit of new members.		
2.	Apologies for Absence: Officers: Alex Tear Group A: Inderjeet Rehncy, Raju Pandya and Patrick Thueanmuenwai, - apologies given. Simon Mortimore – apologies given and sent replacement representative. Group B: Rev Sarah Hutton – apologies given. Group C: Saima Saleh - apologies given. Group D: Dennis Booth – apologies given/stepped down. Chris Townsend expected as replacement. Buddi Weerasinghe – apologies given. Jordan Beech – no response. Action: Chair SH asked Clerk to follow up members who gave no RSVP for 25.06.25 meeting	Clerk	Aug 25
3.	Approval of minutes for SACRE meeting 12.03.2025 (paper3): Prior to 25.06.2025 meeting, Clerk circulated 12.03.2025 minutes to SACRE members by email on 17.04.2025 and with papers on 12.06.2025. No comments received from SACRE members by email. RH commented in meeting he had followed up on action about County Council membership in Group D. RH also informed he has asked to remain on SACRE and believes he will be reappointed. RH advised Chris Townsend should also be appointed who is an independent councillor for Mole Valley and will be a good addition on SACRE. No other comments received. As meeting quorate Chair SH asked SACRE to agree minutes for 12.03.2025: proposed by RH and seconded by JJ. No objections - minutes of last meeting 12.03.2025 formally agreed by SACRE and signed off electronically..	SACRE	25.06.25
4.	Matters Arising from previous SACRE Meeting 12.03.2025: <i>Rashida Nasir joined meeting in person at 4.07pm</i> RB advised most of matters arising will be addressed in the meeting and in the papers sent out prior to meeting. Referred SACRE to and shared paper 4 on screen re comms for School Bulletin: RB advised written first draft on behalf of SACRE. Happy to take feedback and amend as required. SACRE discussed the draft communication to schools aimed at highlighting the diverse community of individuals SACRE is working together for high-quality RE in schools.		

	<p>Action: look at another more effective way to gather RE syllabus information through Schools Annual Return and make information more visible on Education Services hub.</p> <p>Recruitment of Local Authority County Councillors to SACRE – JK updated followed up action with Members Services who are currently realigning different councillors to different responsibilities following natural turnover. Informed conversations about recruiting County Councillors to SACRE are ongoing and JK will provide update as progress is made on the review of councillor alignments.</p> <p>Action: JK to send Clerk SCC contact to confirm names of councillors assigned to SACRE for 2025/26.</p>	RB / JK JK	Aut term Aug 25
7.	<p>Surrey SACRE Membership Updates: Introduction of new members – Chair SH welcomed new members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naomi Ezzard (NE) and Fiona Lewis (FL) as observing members in first meeting attending in Group C. - Dr Suha Rawhani (SR) attending in Group A as Bahá'í replacement for SM who advised is stepping down. SR confirmed he is happy to become the Bahá'í representative. <p>RB outlined appointment process for NE, FL and SR of being observers in June meeting and to be formally voted on and appointed in Autumn term meeting. Invited NE, FL and SR to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Action: at Autumn meeting SACRE to vote on membership of new SACRE members – Dr SK (Group A Bahá'í), NE and FL in Group C.</p> <p>Sourcing members for vacancies in Group A – RB informed has found candidate for long standing URC rep vacancy in Group A through umbrella organisation that helps to appoint to SACREs and AT. No Quaker rep as yet found.</p> <p>Action: RB/Clerk to update SACRE on and invite URC member to attend meeting in Autumn term.</p> <p>Broadening Surrey SACRE memberships – Discussion by SACRE around broadening representation on Surrey SACRE for Group A Christian denominations.</p> <p>Action: JK to look at getting breakdown of Christian denominations in Surrey from School census. Action: JJ to look at getting breakdown of Christian denominations in Surrey from British Social Attitudes Survey.</p>	SACRE RB/Clerk JK JJ	Aut term Aut term Aut term Aut term
8.	<p>National Updates – NASACRE AGM & Conference May 25 feedback – RB, SB, PW and Chair SH attended the NASACRE conference which focused on controversial issues and social cohesion. SB shared attendees positive feedback about the conference noting the high attendance and the valuable discussions on RE's role in addressing controversial issues. The conference theme emphasised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how we as SACREs can address and support on controversial issues and not duck them. - the importance of RE and SACREs in providing a safe space for pupils to discuss controversial issues and support social cohesion with informed balanced discussions. - the resources SACREs can provide for schools to support teachers to have conversations. <p>SB and PW highlighted the keynote speaker Joyce Miller who discussed the role of RE in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting and enabling social and community cohesion - the government's view on RE's contribution to enabling community cohesion which will hopefully be reflected in the Curriculum Review. - focus on value of RE in talking about religion, world views and opportunity for young people to join, identify with or draw from. <p>Discussion by SACRE about aspects of belonging to groups in religious and non-religious ways and how shapes them for life.</p>		

	<p>RB signposted SACRE to keynote presentations on NASACRE website and termly briefings.</p> <p>Lord Khan of Burnley video message and discussion - Chair SH outlined Lord Khan of Burnley video message to SACREs which emailed to members prior to meeting. Chair SH invited comments from SACRE members on video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - very good message (JJ) - coming from local government perspective not DfE which links to community theme. Significant local government taking interest in education to make it consciously present (PW) - shows joined up thinking in that under Lord Khan’s department there are local councils and SACRE is a council committee (SB) - resonance of social cohesion and encouraging Lord Khan clearly understands value of RE in the curriculum. Encouraged to be valued by someone at high level in government and impact for the CAR (RB) <p>National Curriculum and Assessment Review (CAR) update – RB outlined independent CAR commissioned to gather information and evidence on RE on behalf of SACREs. Interim report published March 2025. Final report due to be published in the Autumn 2025 term.</p> <p>RB signposted SACRE to CAR Interim Report (page 29) which acknowledges the impact of certain decisions on RE and the need for national content standards to ensure quality provision. The report acknowledges the negative impact of excluding RE from the EBacc subjects and the pressures created by the academies agenda. Recognition that RE holds an unusual place in the curriculum and current situation not good enough. Despite fact that RE is compulsory lack of national content standard has led to national disparities. The need for national content standards to ensure quality provision of RE was emphasised in the report.</p> <p>RB also signposted SACRE to page 22 of CAR Interim Report about sense of belonging and RE. The report highlights the importance of ensuring that all young people feel represented in the curriculum and the role of RE in supporting equality and challenging discrimination.</p> <p>RB outlined companion document ‘CAR – Conceptual Position paper’ Curriculum and Assessment Review - conceptual position paper . Gives confirmation across curriculum that the approaches we have taken with RE syllabus in relation to substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge which are likely to be replicated across all subjects.</p> <p>RB signposted SACRE to RE podcast by Louisa Smith who was a secondary teacher in Reigate. JK flagged examination data results shows local but also a national decline in students taking RE. JK suggested podcast may be a way to promote information about RE – to look at QA aspect.</p> <p>Action: to send out link to podcast after meeting and CAR interim review document with minutes.</p> <p>RB and Clerk LM reminded SACRE to access NASACRE website for training resources and latest briefing 43 which has up to date information for SACRE members: SACRE Briefing - NASACRE</p>	RB/Clerk	July 25
9.	<p>Local Updates: Update on implications of SCC Unitary restructure & key issues for Surrey SACRE – JK provided an update on the unitary restructure explaining that now in a waiting position with Surrey fast-tracked for devolution/Local Government Reform (LGR). Plans have been submitted to government for the restructure to be an East-West-North or East-West split. Currently in a process of information seeking and gathering. Next stage is planning to look at what need to consider in terms of statutory duties, contract provision and impact evaluations. Will then move on more rapidly once get government decision on two way or three-way split. Surrey looking at having separate services (education, children’s, highways etc) by unitary authority. Elections will take place in May 2026 to new shadow unitary council(s) followed by official ‘vesting</p>		

<p>day' expected in May 2027. JK urged SACRE members to become involved in understanding about the LGR from information available in the public domain.</p> <p>RH added incredible amount of work going on because the complexity of the restructure is huge.</p> <p>Discussion by SACRE on impact of restructure on Surrey SACRE structure – with two unitary authorities could result in 2 SACRE committees. RB discussed possible models at NASACRE conference with other SACREs who have gone through unitary restructures.</p> <p>Action: JK to give longer update on LGR at Autumn meeting when has more information</p> <p>Action: JK to provide the link for the public consultation on the LGR to all SACRE members.</p> <p><i>FL joined meeting online at 5.04pm.</i></p> <p>FL gave introduction to members. Informed hosting a Culture & Arts day at Gordon's School for year 12s with one slot for faith representatives. Invited reps from SACRE to join JJ,</p> <p>RN briefed holding community event w/c 30th June with focus in social cohesion and diversity. Invited SACRE members to join to give short talk.</p> <p><i>SN left meeting at 5.11pm – apologies noted.</i></p> <p>Discussion took place about School Visits by SACRE members and Monitoring process – RB highlighted the value and importance of visiting schools to understand the impact of the syllabus and how SACRE supports schools. Since COVID these visits have not taken place at all, impacted by the syllabus review and support for implementation.</p> <p>JK raised how visits by SACRE into schools are tracked and monitored from QA perspective.</p> <p>RB explained no legal right to go into schools and inspect. Visits are more in a supportive role to meet and talk with schools. As a SACRE need to decide how to effectively monitor quality of RE in our schools with time, resources and budget we have.</p> <p>Discussion by SACRE how can offer 'partnering visits' to schools and track these visits to ensure a balanced approach. JK flagged need to make distinction between purpose of visits as either a SACRE member/activity or as invited speaker/supportive visit by an individual faith rep.</p> <p>SI suggested to have standardised feedback form. JK emphasised need to establish purpose of activity to ensure have correct balance of questions.</p> <p>JJ highlighted some SACRE members have had training for visits in past. RB reassured training given as part of the speakers formal group with guiding principles to use on what SACRE member is there to do on visits which schools have tended to request. SACRE member there as a presenter and a resource/facilitator of lesson content. Not there as a teacher or to criticise or comment. No expectation on feedback except how children received the RE lesson content. SACRE has had its own QA process which is part of a conversation with the school subject lead which RB has documentation of. RB present in professional capacity.</p> <p>RB highlighted benefits of school visits for SACRE is in gaining understanding and insight into what it is actually like in the classroom. Not there to monitor appropriate levels achieved like an Ofsted visit.</p> <p>RB subsequently forwarded to JK documents relating to past Partnering Visits. Info about Partnering Visits can be found on the SACRE webpages.</p> <p>Action: JK to ask what elements of RE are looked at by SCC visits to schools and report back to SACRE.</p>	<p>JK JK</p> <p>JK JK</p>	<p>Aut term Aug 25</p> <p>Aut term</p>
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	<p>Action: Agenda item for Autumn meeting – organisation of partnering school visits to observe the RE curriculum in action and support for schools, how to QA monitor/track process and training requirements.</p> <p>Jigsaw RE update (paper 9) – RB presented report paper 9 highlighting the key issues and concerns for our schools using commercial schemes of work. RB outlined the use of commercial schemes of work like Jigsaw and the potential conflict with using the Surrey locally agreed syllabus, and conflict of interest with what Jigsaw offering in our patch for training against training offered through the Diocese.</p> <p>RB emphasised the need to provide robust advice to schools and ensure they are aware of the available training resources. Feel SACRE has a duty of care to highlight the challenges to schools in buying a commercial scheme of work with delivering a locally agreed syllabus which could be undermined unintentionally.</p> <p>Discussion about the training offer through Jigsaw and what Diocese offers through SACRE and GDBE Elevate. RB showed resources available on GDBE Elevate on screen. NE and RN outlined use of RE resources in schools teach in provided both by Diocese and Jigsaw – can be dependent on where school is and if in an academy as to what works best. Concern raised over schools not delivering the statutory content due to using schemes of work that are nowhere near it but not being able to do anything about it – grey area.</p> <p>SR questioned if we have a realistic picture of the situation regarding what training resources are available, how many schools use what and how many are happy with the offer or require assistance.</p> <p>Chair SH explained problem of communication – don’t know what schools use what as Surrey gives it’s syllabus for free. As discussed in item 6 hoping to use the Surrey Schools Annual Return which JK is looking into to establish agreed communication pathways to effectively gather more accurate information we can use.</p> <p>Action: JK to have conversation with RB how to formally report schools SACRE have found not to be delivering statutory RE content through SACRE visits and analysis conducted.</p> <p>Surrey Healthy Schools Initiative Steering Group update – RB informed attended steering group on 24th June – highlighted crossover of approach. Elements of SACRE’s work have been linked to the SHS self-evaluation tool.</p> <p>Action: RB to send out information paper where crossover with PSHE occurs to SACRE.</p> <p>Access to GDBE Elevate SACRE & RE resources – RB showed SACRE the Resources library on GDBE Elevate which members can access. All members should register themselves for a GDBE Elevate account following the instructions in the link: How do I use GDBE elevate?</p> <p>Autumn Term events – RB and Chair SH announced upcoming exhibitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Judaism exhibition at the Surrey Synagogue and - a textile art exhibition at the cathedral. - a Methodist Modern Art exhibition in Spring 2026 term. The exhibitions offer opportunities for schools to engage with RE content.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to send out invitations for 3 upcoming exhibitions to SACRE members.</p>	<p>ChairSH/ SACRE</p> <p>JK/RB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>Clerk</p>	<p>Aut term</p> <p>Aut term</p> <p>July 25</p> <p>July 25</p>
10.	<p>SACRE Development Plan (SDP) Paper 10: SACRE to revisit the development plan to assess if the specified focuses for year 3 are still relevant and make necessary adjustments.</p> <p>Action: Chair SH and RB to reconvene sub-committee in early September to look at SDP and present to SACRE at Autumn term meeting.</p>	Chair SH/RB	Aut term

11.	<p>Self-Evaluation Tool (Paper 11 - Section 3) Due to meeting time unable to cover the feedback from 12th March meeting – to bring back as agenda item in Autumn meeting/convene a separate opportunity. Action: make self-evaluation tool feedback for section 3 (from 12.03.2025 meeting) an agenda item for Autumn term meeting and agree how to progress.</p>	ChairSH/ SACRE	Aut term
12.	<p>AOB/ Close: Meeting dates discussed for the next academic year 2025/26 based on the responses to date from SACRE members. Clerk awaiting responses – to resend Microsoft form to members. Chair SH also proposed the possibility of organising a social event to foster better communication and understanding among members, which could also include a section of the NASACRE self-evaluation toolkit. Action: clerk to resend Microsoft form/collate members responses to confirm 2025/26 meeting dates following the meeting. Action: Chair SH to send out SACRE Social event proposal.</p>	Clerk Chair SH	July 25 Aut term

The meeting closed at 6.03pm

Signature: _____ Approved by Surrey SACRE Committee / *S Harris* (Chair) _____ Date: __05.11.2025__

Minutes to be circulated to: SACRE Committee, Local Authority SACRE Officers, Diocese and being also published in the public domain via cofeguildford.org.uk

Summary of Actions at 25.06.2025: Action to complete / Action - completed

Item	Action on	By whom	By when
2.	Apologies for Absence: Action: Clerk to follow up members who gave no RSVP for 25.06.25 meeting.	Clerk	Aug 25
4.	Matters Arising from previous SACRE Meeting 12.03.2025 Action: SACRE to agree draft school comms and way to target RE subject leads. Action: RB and JK to liaise on using schools' annual return in relation to use of agreed RE syllabus re wording, format and timing for this year's return.	SACRE RB/JK	Aut term Aut term
5.	Chair's Actions: Action: Chair SH/Clerk to contact members who have not attended regularly and ask if they want to step down or nominate a representative through nominating body. Action: Clerk to update SACRE membership records	Chair SH/Clerk Clerk	Ongoing Aut term
6.	Members' Actions: Action: RB/JK to look at more effective way to gather RE syllabus information and MAT lead contacts through Schools Annual Return and make information more visible on Education Services hub Action: JK to send Clerk SCC contact to confirm names of councillors assigned to SACRE for 2025/26.	JK/RB JK	Aut term July 25
7.	Surrey SACRE Membership Updates: Action: at Autumn meeting SACRE to vote on membership of new SACRE members – Dr SK (Group A Bahá'í), NE and FL in Group C. Action: RB/Clerk to update SACRE on and invite URC member to attend meeting in Autumn term. Action: JK to look at getting breakdown of Christian denominations in Surrey from School census. Action: JJ to look at getting breakdown of Christian denominations in Surrey from British Social Attitudes Survey. Action: London Diocesan Board for Schools to advise new representative for Group B.	SACRE RB/Clerk JK JJ LDBS	Aut term Aut term Aut term Aut term Aut term
8.	National Updates: Action: RB/Clerk to send out link to podcast after meeting and CAR interim review document with minutes.	RB/Clerk	July 25
9.	Local updates: Action: JK to give longer update on LGR at Autumn meeting when has more information Action: JK to provide the link for the public consultation on the LGR to all SACRE members. Action: JK to ask what elements of RE looked at by SCC on school visits/report back to SACRE. Action: Agenda item for Autumn meeting – organisation of partnering school visits to observe the RE curriculum in action and support for schools, how to QA monitor/track process and training requirements. Action: JK to have conversation with RB how to formally report schools SACRE have found not to be delivering statutory RE content through SACRE visits and analysis conducted. Action: RB to send out information paper where crossover with PSHE occurs to SACRE. Action: Clerk to send out invitations for 3 upcoming exhibitions to SACRE members.	JK JK JK Chair SH/SACRE JK/RB RB Clerk	Aut term July 25 Aut term Aut term Aut term Aut term July 25 July 25
10.	Surrey SACRE Development Plan: Action: Chair SH/RB to reconvene sub-committee to look at SDP to report at Aut meeting. Action: RB to liaise with SCC in regard to developing secondary phase RE support.	Chair SH/RB RB/JK/ATear	Aut term Aut term
11.	Surrey SACRE Self-Evaluation Tool: Action: make self-evaluation tool feedback for section 3 (from 12.03.2025 meeting) an agenda item for Autumn term meeting and agree how to progress.	Chair SH/SACRE	Aut term
12.	AOB: Action: clerk to resend Microsoft form and collate members responses to confirm 2025/26 meeting dates following the meeting. Action: Chair SH to send out SACRE Social event proposal.	Clerk Chair SH/Clerk	July 25 Aut term

