



Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2021/2022

This report covers the work of the Cumbria SACRE
for the period September 2021 to August 2022

Contents

1. Words from the Chair

Cumbria SACRE has continued to go from strength to strength during 2021-2022. At the start of the year, we saw pupils fully return to schools after four terms of disruption to learning as a result of the pandemic. It has been encouraging to see schools begin to open up for RE visits and visitors, with several Cumbria SACRE members making virtual and face-to-face visits. The Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project (see section 5) has engaged a wider group of RE visitors and increased activity with schools through events and CPD. The VVRE project has enabled Cumbria SACRE to raise its profile more on a national level, engaging with the shift towards an education in religion and worldviews. We are delighted to increase our membership this year to include, for the first time, local representation recommended by the Hindu Education Board.

At the end of the spring term, we said goodbye to our longstanding and valued LA officer, David Salmon. He was replaced by Senior Advisor, Gerry Ball, who continues with the mantle in making sure Cumbria SACRE can fulfil its statutory responsibilities and is well supported by the LA. Cumbria is currently undergoing a Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) into two unitary authorities by April 2023. This has been a regular item on Cumbria SACRE agenda for the last year, and members are continuing to be involved liaising with NASACRE and the LA to navigate this change, and what it means for Cumbria SACRE.

We have continued to offer online CPD for RE and were delighted to be able to hold our first face-to-face annual primary RE conference for two years. In the summer term, we convened an Agreed Syllabus conference with members and teachers.

Finally, I am thrilled to have been one of eight teachers selected for the Culham St Gabriel's Trust RE Leadership Programme Stage 2 for 2022-2023. I look forward to developing my skills and expertise at a regional and national level and I am confident this will benefit Cumbria SACRE as we navigate some significant changes over the coming year.

When and where did SACRE meet?

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2021-2022 the following meetings took place:

8 November 2021 - Virtual meeting (due to Covid-19)

Attendance: 19 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 3; Committee C – 3; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 3, LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- SACRE Development Plan
- Secondary Questionnaire
- School Workforce Census
- SACRE Newsletter
- National Update

7 March 2022 – Hybrid Cumbria House and also via Teams

Attendance: 15 members present (Committee A – 4; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 4; Committee D – 1; Co-opted – 1; LA Officers - 3). This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- SACRE Development Plan
- Cumbria Agreed Syllabus
- SACRE/RE Conference 2022
- NASACRE Training Sessions
- SACRE Newsletter
- National Update

13 June 2022 – Hybrid Cumbria House and also via Teams

Attendance: 12 members present (Committee A – 3; Committee B - 2; Committee C – 1; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 1; LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Cumbria Agreed Syllabus
- Local Government Re-organisation
- SACRE/RE Conference
- Governor Services
- SACRE Development Plan
- SACRE Newsletter
- National Update

When are future meetings?

Autumn meeting – 20 September 2022 – Cumbria House, Carlisle

Spring meeting – 28 February 2023 – The Queen Katherine School, Kendal

Summer meeting – To be arranged

The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2022-2023 will be:

- Creating a framework and process for Cumbria SACRE to operate legally and effectively following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in April 2023
- Establishing and working with the Agreed Syllabus Conference group to complete the revised Agreed Syllabus
- Organising the annual Cumbria SACRE RE conference to launch the new Agreed Syllabus
- Completing of the Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project in conjunction with staff from Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC)
- Continuing to increase teacher awareness of SACRE through newsletter, social media and other LA channels, including School Improvement and Governor Services
- Provision of school and governor CPD on the revised Agreed Syllabus
- Provision of a needs based CPD programme for RE 2022-23 in line with other LA subject offers
- Continuing to raise profile and involvement in National Association for SACRE and other national RE organisations.
- Engagement with the new regional RE Hubs
- Continued involvement with Cumbria Development Education Centre, developing their website support for RE
- Continuing to engage with RE teachers across Cumbria through CPD and online channels
- Encouraging individual SACRE members to include SACRE in any community cohesion work they do, including Inter Faith Week, Holocaust Memorial Day

2. A section on RE

What are SACRE's Responsibilities?

To advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with: RE CW etc

1. Religious Education (RE) This year SACRE has:

- Convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference group (two online meetings during the summer term)
- Sent out a feedback form to secondary schools via subject leaders to complete (to be repeated annually)

- Run a SACRE/RE conference for primary teachers.
- Produced a termly SACRE newsletter.
- Taken a leading role in the Cumbria Virtual Voices in RE(VVRE) Project funded by Culham St Gabriel's
- Increased the profile of Cumbria SACRE on a national level

What Professional Development Opportunities have there been?

The following courses for RE ran:

4 October 2021 - Do we need RE now more than ever? (Governor Services)

Provider: Jane Yates – ONLINE - 7 attendees

Evaluations Overall satisfaction 4.5 out of 5

18 October 2021 – Leading and Developing RE – a post Covid 19 response

Provider: Jane Yates – ONLINE – 14 attendees

Evaluations Overall satisfaction 4.17 out of 5

11/18/25 November SAPERE Philosophy for Children (P4C) Level 1

Provider: Jane Yates – ONLINE – 9 attendees

Evaluations Overall satisfaction 4.5 out of 5

26 April/3/10 May 2022 SAPERE Philosophy for Children (P4C) Level 1

Provider: Jane Yates – ONLINE – 12 attendees

Evaluations Overall satisfaction 4 out of 5

Various CPD opportunities for teachers provided as part of the Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project - see section 5

27 June 2022 - SACRE/RE Conference – Guest Speaker Adam Robertson (RE Today) and Claire Clinton (Newham SACRE/NASACRE)

Venue: Roundthorn Hotel, Penrith - 47 attendees

Evaluations Overall satisfaction – 20 responses – 4.5 out of 5



Religious Education Quality Mark – REQM

Schools can apply for three levels of the REQM award. A school's evidence and provision are assessed by an external assessor, against nationally recognised criteria. Cumbria SACRE encourages all schools, via termly newsletter and during CPD, to access the REQM assessment materials to use as an audit tool, even if they feel the time and cost of full accreditation is not an immediate priority. See <http://www.reqm.org/> Gold Award holders in Cumbria are: Dowdales School, The Queen Katherine School and Bridekirk Dovenby CofE School.

3. A section on CW

Collective Worship in community schools

SACRE has published Guidance to Schools on Collective Worship, to support schools in their statutory responsibility to deliver daily acts of Collective Worship. Cumbria SACRE also provides a section on Collective Worship for community schools as part of school governor training. Cumbria SACRE has been involved in talking to schools about a Collective Worship project being proposed by the University of Cumbria.

Determinations - To allow any exception to the law that Collective Worship be broadly or mainly Christian

SACRE has received no requests for a determination for exemption from the law.

SACRE hears any complaints brought to the LA about RE and collective worship. No complaints from parents were received this year.

What is the RE and Collective Worship support for Cumbrian schools?

For Secondary and Primary Schools: Gerry Ball, General Adviser

Tel: 07825 340591, email: gerry.ball@cumbria.gov.uk

4. A section on links with other bodies

SACRE has continued to develop strong links with Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC) and Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

Cumbria SACRE has continued to develop links with Humanist UK. The Humanist member has provided advice for their new funding bid for school work and has been asked to be a key presenter at the SACRE reps CPD session in March 2023.

5. A section on other areas of SACRE involvement locally

Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project

2021-2022 has been the main year of the VVRE Project – a collaboration between Cumbria SACRE and Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC) funded by Culham St Gabriel's Trust. During the autumn term, the project gathered a group of volunteer 'voices' from across Cumbria to engage with students and teachers. The project team worked with the voices to support them to create their own personal 'worldview' film to share with schools as a preparation activity. During the spring and summer terms, a series of facilitated virtual events were held with a range of age ranges and schools. Events included:

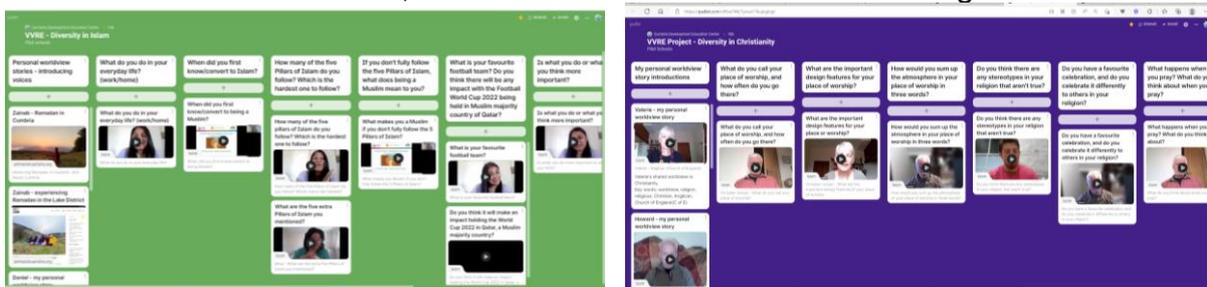
Title and date of event	Worldview voices involved	School	Age Range
Exploring Humanism 8 Feb 2022	Humanist celebrant	Keswick School	Y8
Abrahamic 28 Feb 2022	Jewish, Christian, Islam & Baha'i	Asby Endowed, Captain Shaw's, Holme St Cuthbert's schools	YR to Y6
Dharmic 21 March 2022	Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh	Asby Endowed, Crosby Ravensworth schools	YR to Y6
Introducing the project resources (face-to-face) 5 April 2022	All voices	University of Cumbria, RE Department	ITT students 1st/2 nd year
Diversity in Christianity 8 June 2022	Anglican, Orthodox, Quaker, Methodist and Free Church	William Howard School	Y7
Diversity in Islam (10 June 2022)	Shi's, Sunni, Sufi	William Howard School	Y8



An example of a write up of the project on William Howard School website is [here](#).

The project has been showcased at several events, including: University of Cumbria RE ITT department (April 2022), The Culham St Gabriel's Showcase event (June 2022), North Cumbria RE secondary cluster group (May 2022), Cumbria SACRE Primary RE Conference (June 2022) with a presentation by pupils, headteacher and RE teacher from Asby Endowed School.

The events were recorded and edited as part of a digital resource which is available for schools across Cumbria. So far, over 30 schools have accessed the digital resources.



Plans for autumn 2022 include a sixth form event as part of Inter Faith Week, and a Diversity in non-religious worldviews event for KS2.

6. A section on SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities)

Who was on Cumbria SACRE in 2021-2022?

Chair: *Jane Yates*

Committee A: Christian denominations (other than Church of England) & other faiths

Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)

Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)

Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)

Harkirat Singh (Sikh) - resigned

Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i)

Rashmi Manemi (Hindu) Substitute Shweta Marali

Committee B: Church of England

Richard Cox

Charlotte Tudway

Laura Watson

Committee C: Teacher Associations

James Douglas (NUT)

Irene Roberts-Green (Vice Chair) (NAHT)

Brian Eaton (VOICE)

Jane Yates (NASUWT)

Katherine France (NATRE)

Committee D: Local Authority

Roger Bingham (Conservative)

Neil Hughes (Liberal Democrat)

Liz Mallinson (Conservative)

David Southward (Labour)

Mark Wilson (Labour)

Co-opted Members

Georgia Prescott (University of Cumbria)

Carolyn Reade

Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)

LA Support Officer David Salmon
(Resigned March 2021)

LA Support Officer Gerry Ball
Clerk to SACRE Sue McGaw

What is the SACRE Budget?

SACRE's budget covers the cost of meetings, venue expenses, supply cover for teacher members, postage, photocopying, travel expenses, and subscription costs for membership of national organisations for RE. Additional resources are obtained from the County Council when necessary for the review, development and publication of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

In the year 2021-2022 the total amount spent was £1266.71 (Travel expenses £47.20; Supply £150; Training fees £580; Resources £274.51; Subscriptions £215).

This document is the annual report for the academic year 2021-2022.

Anyone wishing to receive the minutes of termly meetings can contact Sue McGaw by email

sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk or visit Cumbria SACRE's website:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

Useful Websites

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

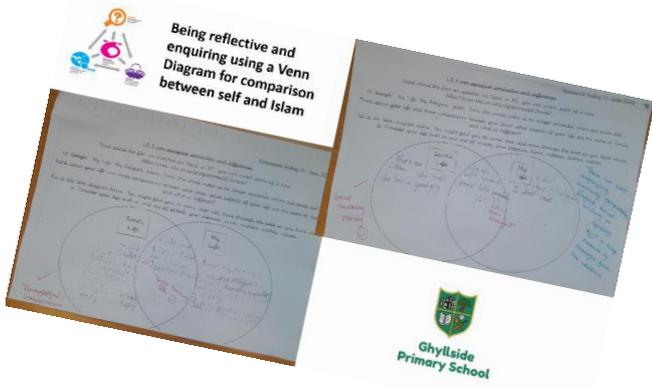
Twitter: @CumbriaSACRE. We welcome all schools in Cumbria to share photographic evidence of RE and Collective Worship using the hashtag #CumbriaSharingRE

The Twitter account also follows the key local and national organisations for RE and will re-tweet relevant updates.



Facebook: RE Teachers in Cumbria. This is a [closed social media group](#) for primary and secondary teachers in Cumbria to enable an information exchange for RE and CW, training,

events and new resources. Cumbria SACRE members will also use this as a forum to keep teachers updated.





With thanks to Cumbrian schools for photos at the Cumbria SACRE Primary RE conference 2022

SACRE is pleased to receive photographic, written or anecdotal evidence of good work in RE and Collective Worship in Cumbria's schools. If you have things you wish to share please contact Sue McGaw on 01228 226805, email sue.mcqaw@cumbria.gov.uk

Non-members are welcome to attend, to observe SACRE meetings. Please contact Sue McGaw (email sue.mcqaw@cumbria.gov.uk) for confirmation of times and venues.

Do you have any comments on this SACRE Report?

Responses to this Annual Report from school governors, elected members, head teachers, teachers or members of the public are welcomed by SACRE. Please email Gerry Ball, LA Support Officer, gerry.ball@cumbria.gov.uk