

**CUMBRIAN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION (SACRE)
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 MARCH 2025
VOREDA HOUSE, PENRITH AND ALSO VIA TEAMS**

Committee A: Other Faiths/Denominations

Present: Mohammed Dhalec, Sheila Gewolb, Rashmi Manemi, Karen O'Donoghue (Chair), Wendy Ridley, Jane Yates

Apologies: Michael Watmough, Rev David Milner

Committee B: Church of England (CE)

Present: Sarah Harrison, Laura Watson

Apologies: Richard Cox

Committee C: Teachers Associations

Apologies: James Dougals, Brian Eaton, Irene Roberts-Green, Katherine France, Bernadette Little

Committee D: Local Authority

Present: Elaine Lynch (Cumberland), Chris Southward (Cumberland)

Co-opted

Vicky Bunter, Georgia Prescott, Carolyn Reade

Vacancies

- Baptist
- Orthodox
- Pentecostal
- Salvation Army
- Unitarian
- United Reformed

Clerk to SACRE

Sue McGaw

LA Support Officer:

Present: Rachel Laverack (Cumberland), David Hodgkiss (Westmorland and Furness)

Apologies: Rebekah Ackroyd

1. Welcome and introductions

Apologies for absence and substitutions – as above. The meeting wasn't quorate. Members introduced themselves. From JY's update members were asked 'Should the subject of RE be part of a new National Curriculum?' An interesting discussion took place with a variety of

opinions being shared to help inform and develop an understanding of the issues involved.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 9 October 2024

an amendment was made to the role of Sally Elton-Chalcraft who works with primary teachers, not secondary. The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- Councillor CS asked if there was a vacancy for a Roman Catholic rep at present Bernadette Little is on committee C, Teacher Associations but she is also from a catholic school.
- SACRE Annual report – this has been delayed as we are waiting for data on A level and GCSE results, the delay is down to the DfE. This data hasn't been in our reports over the last few years. Once the data is received the report will be ready to go. **(RL/DH/JY)**

4. Feedback from working group

- Development Plan – it was agreed that the points in our Development Plan should be evaluated after each meeting.
- A meeting took place with Deborah Weston, NATRE Research Officer and JY, RL and DH regarding provisional data received from schools via the school workforce census. Some schools are not responding. We need to get correspondence out about the importance of accurate input, ask Senior Manager to help. The results are in the process of being validated. A Level results still outstanding for Cumberland. **(RL/DH)**
- CR has been looking at the information on school websites, 37 schools have been reviewed. The findings were re-assuring for KS3. RE is often covered under other subjects such as PHSE and Personal Development. CR will write up a report and circulate to members. DH highlighted evidence that children who are taught RE and worldviews do better in their education. CR thanked for all the work she has done on this. **(CR)**
- Community Cohesion – JY and KO'D are now attending a lot more events to talk about SACRE. The newsletter is also being sent to other organisations that we are linking with. Members were asked if anyone else was interested in attending future events to promote SACRE.
- JY is working with Colne Park Primary in Lancashire as part of her RE Hubs role. The school has embedded community cohesion in their RE and equalities work. Can our schools learn from this? JY to circulate presentation slides about the school. **(JY)**
- Look at updating our Visits and Visitors guidance for schools. **(JY)**
- CPD – Collective Worship training run by JY and LW had been well received.
- Our Cumbrian SACRE survey 2025 has been sent to all schools, 16 responses so far.
- JY was invited to speak at the recent Primary Heads Association (PHA) Conferences to promote SACRE. Link with Special Schools to be developed.

5. School data - already mentioned

6. Supporting the work of SACRE in secondary schools

JY introduced Sophie French a new General Adviser for Learning Improvement Service her role is Secondary and Post 16. She was previously the Head of sixth form at Keswick School. JY has spoken to her about making better connections for SACRE with secondaries. SF will also be involved in talking to schools about exam results. JY will send attainment articles from Deborah Weston to SF. **(JY)**

7. SACRE/RE Conference 2025

This is taking place on 17 June 2025 at the North Lakes Hotel. Run by Cumberland School Development.

- The main speaker is Ian Nicholson, from RE Today.
- Katie Clarke EY Strategic Lead is going to run a workshop. Crosthwaite CofE and Beetham CofE schools involved in a parental engagement in RE workshop with the Faith and Belief Forum.
- Picture News, running a session with involvement from pupils from Inglewood Junior School.

So far 44 schools have booked on, with more expected to sign up after the programme is sent out, JY to send to members. SF was asked to promote the conference in secondary schools. **(JY done, SF)**

JY has already started to work on the 2026 conference, possible lead speaker for this, Julie Childs, from RE Today.

JY asked if there would be funded places available for SACRE members to attend. SMC to look into this with RL and DH. **(SMC/RL/DH)**

8. SACRE links with other organisations – standing item

Members asked if they had anything to mention.

- Friday 21 March – Open Iftar at Carlisle United. JY and LW will be attending invite passed to members to attend. JY will send details and how to book a place. **(JY done)**
- In the process of purchasing a building in Kendal to be used as a Mosque.
- 15 March, Iftar Gathering – Barrow Football Club.
- JY and RM are speaking at an event on 26 March – Greystone Community Centre – JY will forward details. **(JY done)**

9. North West RE Hubs

- JY is the NW RE Hubs Lead. She passed around a business card and leaflet to members to pass on to any schools/contacts. A session is being run on 1 April for Multi Academy Trusts and Federations. JY trying to get a list of RE Leads. The session is free to NATRE and AREIAC members otherwise it is £100. **(JY)**
- JY and SG attend the termly meetings it is hybrid and our SACRE members can ask to attend online. Some of our members have done the free accreditation. Other faith members can apply. **(ALL)**
- JY will circulate a 10 minute clip from a school visit showing how the RE Hub can be used to benefit them. **(JY)**

10. Local and National Updates – sent to all members before the meeting

Members asked for any comments.

Interfaith week - How best can SACRE support the continuation of Interfaith Week?

The council already hold a Holocaust memorial day.

Srebrenica National Memorial Day. Councillor EL and MD involved, pass on details to members when available. **(EL/MD)**

11. SACRE Newsletter

Deadline for getting any information to JY is 4 April. SG's visit to Culgaith CofE to be included. **(ALL)**

12. Arrangements for future meetings – Summer 2025

The next date has already been agreed Wednesday 4 June. Look at holding it in a school with involvement from pupils. We will need a suitable venue in respect of parking and facilities for a hybrid meeting and cost. JY to contact Pennine Way as a possible venue.

The dates for future meetings to be discussed in June. **(JY)**

13. Members updates

- SG alerted the group to Jewish Living Online, a free website with resources appropriate for KS3 (11–14-year-olds). The aim is to combat anti-Semitic views. Website - JLO.org.uk. JY to include information in the next newsletter. **(JY)**
- CofE developing a resource 'Christianity is a Global World Faith' – There will be future CPD linked to this.
- CofE Conference – 10 June. Mary Myatt is the keynote speaker. Theme 'Flourish' JY to attend in RE Hubs role. **(JY)**
- Current fasting period for Bahai – 20 March marks their New Year. KO'D has been elected delegate to National Convention taking place at the end of April.

14. AOB

JY has organised a card for Councillor Neil Hughes after he has stepped down from SACRE after many years. Members asked to sign this by the end of the day.

Currently there are no council members in Westmorland & Furness as Sue Sanderson had also stepped down.

The tragic death of a pupil from Old Hutton School in Kendal – KO'D is going to send a letter to the school on behalf of SACRE. **(KO'D done)**

JY will circulate NASACRE guidance to members on death/grief along with a recording. Look at including this as an item for a future meeting. **(JY done)**