

CUMBRIAN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 4 JUNE 2025

PENNINE WAY PRIMARY AND ALSO VIA TEAMS

Committee A: Other Faiths/Denominations

Present: Sheila Gewolb, Rev David Milner, Karen O'Donoghue (Chair), Wendy Ridley, Jane Yates, Michael Watmough

Apologies: Mohammed Dhalech, Rashmi Manemi

Committee B: Church of England (CE)

Present: Lauren Watson

Apologies: Richard Cox, Sarah Harrison

Committee C: Teachers Associations

Present: James Douglas, Brian Eaton, Irene Roberts-Green, Katherine France

Apologies: Bernadette Little

Committee D: Local Authority

Present: Janet Battye (W&F), John Murray (W&F), Elaine Lynch (Cumberland)

Apologies: Chris Southward (Cumberland)

Co-opted

Present: Georgia Prescott, Carolyn Reade

Apologies: Vicky Bunter

Clerk to SACRE

Sue McGaw

LA Support Officer

Present: Rachel Laverack (Cumberland)

Apologies: David Hodgkiss (W&F)

Vacancies:

- Baptist
- Pentecostal
- Unitarian
- United Reformed

- Orthodox
- Salvation Army

1. Welcome and Introduction

Apologies for absence and substitutions – as above. The meeting was quorate. Members introduced themselves.

Farewell and thanks to Rev David Milner as Methodist Rep, Morgan Tebb-Roger will be replacing him in the autumn and also to long standing member Georgia Prescott who was thanked for all her contributions over the many years. JY read a thank you note from Neil Hughes for the warm wishes from SACRE members after he stepped down. He has now moved to France.

New members welcomed, Councillor Janet Battye cabinet member for Children's Services, Education and Skills who is also a school governor and John Murray cabinet member for Transport and Regulatory Services, he is a school governor and former head teacher. Amy Clarke welcomed from Sunderland SACRE who joined via Teams to observe the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 11 March 2025

An amendment was made to point 4 – CR's work on school websites – RE is often covered under other subjects such as PHSE and Personal Development in KS4 (in KS4 was added to the end of the sentence). The minutes were agreed.

JY had organised for members to be able to chat to pupils from Pennine Way Primary. 24 children from various year groups joined the meeting, they were able to ask our members questions about their faith and beliefs and in turn members asked them about theirs.

3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- Data from schools – after the meeting with Deborah Weston (point 4.2 in the last meeting notes) it is believed that not all schools are logging the amount of time spent on RE as it is often down under a different subject. JY taking this forward. **JY**
- SACRE Annual Report 2023/24 has now been distributed and will be put onto the Council Websites. **SMc**

4. Feedback from working group

- SACRE Conference – 17 June, North Lakes Hotel, Penrith. The numbers are down from last year with 57 delegates booked on so far. Although JY pointed out that the last two conferences included the updated revised agreed syllabus for RE which leads to higher attendance. It was agreed that at future conferences we would ask delegates to complete the SACRE survey by using a QR code, to get more responses.
- SACRE Annual Survey – only 40 responses so far even after it was promoted widely. From the responses it appears that most primary school do teach RE for 1 hour every week. Positive feedback for the revised syllabus and the training provided by JY and LW. JY will write a report by the autumn term summarising the findings. **JY**
- Development Plan – CR's work on monitoring secondary school websites will feed into this and the monitoring of Ofsted reports by RL and DH. **JY**

- CPD for 2025-26 – details have gone out to all schools in the Newsletter. Look at running full day CW training as well as training sessions for Governors and Subject Leads. **JY/LW**

All members welcome to join the working group, if they would like to. The meetings normally take place on the morning before the main termly meeting.

5. Links with other organisations

Members are pro-active in promoting our SACRE and securing links with other organisations:

- Congratulations to JY who has now been appointed as a new NASACRE Executive member (National Association of SACRESs) SG is also an Executive, she now represents Rutland.
- JY and SG also attend the North West SACRE meetings.

Other events attended included a Culture Bazaar, Community Cohesion Group, Iftar events in Carlisle and Barrow.

A new mosque has been given the go ahead in Dalton-In-Furness. Unfortunately there has been opposition to this and misinformation spread. KO'D asked if SACRE could do anything to help counter the misinformation and encourage diversity. KF (The Queen Katherine School) offered to contact other local secondary schools, Dowdales and Ulverston Victoria High School and get in touch with MD our Muslim Rep. KF

6. North West RE Hubs

AS the NW RE Hubs lead JY has been active in increasing the numbers of speakers in places of worship on the site.

Online session on AI in RE, JY said she could share the recording by Paul Hopkins [RE Hubs 4 local group leaders on AI 15.5.25.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

JY has a stall at the CofE Conference.

7. Local and National Updates – already distributed

- KO'D asked members to think about the questions in JY's updates eg The Interim Curriculum and Assessment Review – How can Cumbrian SACRE best respond to the interim report?
- Interfaith week, see question on update – response from the group, good to have this publicised. Send reminder to schools in the autumn term. Takes place this year from 9 November 2025. It was agreed that we will provide short video recordings for schools to use in assemblies or classrooms, utilising Young Ambassadors/Virtual Voices members. JY
- Social Cohesion, JY shared a video of Lord Khan speaking at the NASACRE conference encouraging the work of this through all SACRES. [Lord Khan-Nasacre.mp4](#)
- Young ambassadors for RE project – 24 July, KF and JY going with students from The Queen Katherine School and Grayrigg CofE to Westminster. Can we get media to cover this? JY

8. SACRE Newsletter

Latest version June 2025 has been distributed. Members to let JY know if they have anything they would like included. The SACRE survey did show that most teachers are aware of the Newsletters. KF said this was a good time in the school year to share details on planning. JY was thanked for all her work on the Update and the Newsletter.

9. Arrangements for future meetings

Dates were arranged

- Autumn – Tuesday 11 November venue TBD in Westmorland and Furness
- Spring – Tuesday 10 March venue TBD in Cumberland
- Summer – Thursday 2 July venue TBD in Westmorland and Furness

10. Members updates

- JY has been doing more work with Humanists UK she has applied for a small role as co-ordinator for online assemblies [Assemblies For All](#)
- BE has been working in a catholic school who have had a catholic school inspection visit, it's remit is The Catholic Way of Life. They are definitely taking a more formal approach. Criteria are Catholic Life and Mission. Collective worship based on the quality of liturgy and prayer. This is more a whole school inspection and ranked broadly similar to OFSTED.

All catholic schools in Cumbria are likely eventually to be part of the Mater Christie Trust (although this has been paused at present). Our SACRE have struggled for some time to get a catholic representative, BE said he could approach Elisabeth Mallinson who was a SACRE member for many years, she is now a Director and Chair for the Trust. BE happy for further discussion, outside of the meeting.

- KO'D involve with - Unity Festival in Kendal on 26 July, including Escape to Safety Exhibition and By Stander training (preparing to respond to racist language or attitudes) Bahai National Youth Conference – 4 day event KO'D involved with Safeguarding and also with running the Bahai Summer School

11.AOB

none