



## SUFFOLK SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### a. Words from the Chair.

It is with pleasure that I present this report on the work of the Suffolk SACRE for the year 2021-22. We have again met as a main group virtually with some smaller working groups meeting in person. That work has largely been focussed on the new Agreed Syllabus and I would like to thank all those who have been involved in producing it. It has been an extensive and careful piece of work and has been sent out for discussion prior to its statutory implementation in September 2023. There has been a lot of valuable training work carried out through the excellent efforts of our diocesan adviser. It has not been an easy year for our schools and the effects of Covid will be seen for a long time. But there is much to be proud of.

In thanking all our members, for their time, insights and contributions I would also like to thank our clerk, Linden Pitcher and the LA for its continuing support.

I commend this report to you.

John Cox, Chair of Suffolk SACRE, 2021-2022

#### b. Overview

In spite of the difficulties the SACRE met, virtually, on four occasions. The meeting in June was specifically to approve the draft of the new Agreed Syllabus. At the other meetings reports were received from the LA Officer, the Professional Advisory Team (PAT), NATRE Ambassador and the Diocesan Schools' Adviser. Minutes were published on the SACRE website – SACRE- Suffolk Learning.

2 November 2021. Items included:

- A formal letter to be sent to an Academy Trust concerning its RE provision
- A report on RE and CW provision gleaned from school website was presented and action discussed
- Reports on finance and Ofsted reports were received
- RC and Councillor representation was discussed

- The Diocesan School's Adviser reported on her planned training programme for the Spring term
- Work to date on the Agreed Syllabus was presented

3 March 2022. Items included:

- Reports from LA Officer, PAT team, NATRE Ambassador, Diocesan Schools Adviser
- A presentation on the latest work on the Agreed Syllabus

8 June 2022.

- The meeting received the draft Agreed Syllabus and unanimously voted to accept it.
- Further actions on the AS were agreed

4 July 2022. Items included:

- A report was given on a meeting by two members with representatives from an Academy where there had been concerns about their RE provision.
- Discussion on how to follow up on other schools where RE provision is understood to be lacking.
- Reports on exam results
- Effect of Covid on exams; the absence of performance tables; Ofsted reports
- It was noted that the work on the Agreed Syllabus meant an overspend on budget
- Report from the Diocesan Schools' Advisor on training and networking
- Report and discussion on the process towards the launch of the Agreed Syllabus
- Report on the NASCARE Annual Conference (virtual) including the Culham St Gabriel courses

Between these meetings of the full SACRE there were meetings of those involved in the production of the new Agreed Syllabus. 2 members attended the NATRE Annual Conference.

### **c. Agreed Syllabus**

Work on the new Agreed Syllabus 'Where do I Stand?' was completed during the course of the year and support materials continue to be written. The document was presented to cabinet in the summer term of 2022. The document was posted on the Suffolk SACRE website in September 2022 for implementation in September 2023 following training in the latter half of the academic year 2022/23.

The new syllabus:

- presents RE within the framework of theology, philosophy and human/social science.
- builds on work common in many Suffolk schools, with the widespread use of the 'Emmanuel project', using key questions, ideas and concepts related to religions and worldviews.

- outlines an enquiry process designed to promote excellence in RE and offers sample long-term plans.
- pays careful attention to continuity for KS3 pupils and to proper provision for Key Stages 4 and 5.
- includes questions designed for use in staff INSET.

Outside the syllabus itself are supplementary materials including suggested content for teachings about specific concepts and beliefs. Materials to help with a range of methods of assessment and a bank of videos to use in school inset are planned.

SACRE is grateful to all those who have worked on, and commented on, the new materials.

## **2. RE**

### **a. Agreed Syllabus take up**

The implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus from September 2023 we hope will give us some indication of how well the current syllabus is embedded and what will help to improve it. Training on the new syllabus is being publicised to school.

### **b. Monitoring**

Monitoring of schools includes website checks to establish if the Suffolk Syllabus and recommended resource the Emmanuel Project are being used by schools. Those schools who do not publish their RE curriculum online are advised to do so.

### **c. Awards**

An alternative version of the WIRE (Widening Inclusivity in RE) award using zoom and other means has been made available to enable schools to make contact with faith communities at a time when distance, availability and cost can be a problem in very rural areas. Awards were made to two schools: Mellis CE Academy and Cavendish CEVCP during the year. For one school this was the second time they had gained the award. For the other, it was the first and involved them in the national 'Spirited Arts' competition. In a new venture the awards were presented by a member of SACRE in a school assembly in each of the schools.

### **d. Training and advice**

Training and advice for primary teachers is provided through the diocese. Courses are well attended and include:

- New to RE training for teachers
- Effective subject leadership
- Deep dive into RE preparation
- Getting assessment in RE right
- Staff meetings for individual schools on implementing and embedding RE

Network meetings are held termly by zoom and attended by RE subject leaders at both community and Church of England schools.

The diocesan advisor also leads RE SCITT training for Norfolk and Suffolk.

### **e. Determinations**

None have been requested and none made.

## **3. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

This is an area SACRE had not discussed for some time but guidance on Collective Worship was written for both primaries and secondaries for the Sacre website this year. The secondary advice in particular was intended to remind headteachers and governors of their

responsibilities. After the syllabus launch, Sacre hopes to revisit this work.

Work on Collective Worship in church schools is ongoing in view of Siam’s inspections but under the auspices of the Diocesan adviser who is fully involved with production of materials, training and support for these schools.

The diocesan adviser responded to a number of individual school enquiries including guidance on policies. Schools continue to be signposted to available resources.

#### **4. LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES**

##### **a. NASCRE**

- Suffolk SACRE is a subscribed member of NASACRE

##### **b. Other Bodies**

- Links with various other bodies are through individual members eg NATRE
- KG has been an active ambassador for RE working with NATRE
- Link with the Diocesan Education Team through GT who is the Schools’ Adviser

#### **5. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT**

##### **a. Governor training**

- Some involvement through the work of the Schools’ Adviser

##### **b. Community Issues**

#### **6. SACRE’s INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS**

##### **a. Professional and administrative support**

- Administrative support is fully funded by the local authority and is provided by Linden Pitcher the clerk.

##### **b. Membership**

<b>Committee A</b>	
Elizabeth Sugarman	Jewish
Alison Pentreath	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Donna-Marie Solker	Muslim
Anita Gopinath	Hindu
Avtar Athwall	Sikh
Karen Harman	United Reformed Church
David Yaroslaw	Independent Free Church
Martin Cobbold	Independent Free Church
Amy Austen	Buddhist
Clare Clark	Catholic
<b>Committee B- Church of England</b>	
Helen Matter	

John Cox	Chair
Ruth Dennigan	
Katey Mills	
<b>Committee c - teachers</b>	
Sarah Cobbold	St Benedicts Catholic Upper School
Katie Gooch	Sidegate primary/NATRE East Anglian Regional Ambassador
Wendy Rayner	Kingsfleet Primary
Susan Groome	NEU
<b>Committee D – Local Authority</b>	
Rachel Hood	County Councillor- Conservative
Simon Harley	County Councillor – Green Party
James Finch	County Councillor- Conservative
Simon Nortcliffe	Regional Lead
Gemma Taylor- Diocese	Diocesan Schools’ Adviser
Serving Officer	
Linden Pitcher	Clerk to SACRE

**c. Training**

As well as two members attending the NASACRE Annual Conference (Virtual), the Chair has attended a number of NASACRE training session (Virtual) including one on the Westhill Award.

**d. Funding**

- Suffolk SACRE is fully funded by Suffolk County Council to fulfil its statutory duties from the Central Services School Block allocated by central government. This covers the cost of clerking, annual membership to NATRE and NASACRE, as well as a subscription to NASACRE’s online training for all SACRE members and to reimburse the chair and other SACRE members for their time, for example supply cover for schools. Additional funding has been secured to support the rewriting of the agreed syllabus for RE and training for schools.

### GCSE/A Level Results

With updated 2019 A level results. 2022 results are provisional.

DATE	EXAM	STUDENTS ENTERED	% A* - B	% 4 - 9
2019	GCSE Religious Studies	1171		69%
2022	GCSE Religious Studies	1409		74%
2019	A level Religious Studies	111	52%	
2022	A level Religious Studies	134	63%	