



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Telford and Wrekin SACRE

Annual Report for 2024-25



THINK - don't print!



Creating community cohesion through understanding of faith and culture

Telford & Wrekin SACRE Annual Report 2024–2025



Contents

<u>Welcome from the Chair of SACRE</u>	Page 2
<u>Executive Summary</u>	Page 2
<u>Section 1: Information about SACRE and its Meetings</u>	Page 3
1.1. Composition and Membership	Page 3
1.2. Meetings	Page 3
1.3. Professional and Administrative Support	Page 3
<u>Section 2: Religious Education (RE)</u>	Page 4
2.1. Compliance and Provision	Page 4
2.2. Standards and Achievement	Page 4
2.3 Monitoring and Support	Page 4
2.4. Agreed Syllabus Review	Page 4
<u>Section 3: Collective Worship</u>	Page 4
3.1. Compliance	Page 4
3.2. Support and Guidance	Page 5
<u>Section 4: Links with Other Bodies</u>	Page 5
4.1. National and Regional Links	Page 5
4.2. Local Faith Communities	Page 5
<u>Section 5: Contribution to Social and Racial Harmony</u>	Page 5
<u>Section 6: SACRE Arrangements</u>	Page 5
6.1. Funding	Page 5
6.2. Training and Development	Page 6
<u>Section 7: Summary and Recommendations</u>	Page 6
7.1. Key Achievements	Page 6
7.2. Priorities for 2025–2026	Page 6

Welcome from the Chair of SACRE

On behalf of Telford & Wrekin SACRE, I am pleased to present our annual report for 2024–2025.

This year, SACRE has continued to work in partnership with schools, faith communities, and the Local Authority to ensure that Religious Education and collective worship remain vibrant, inclusive, and relevant for all our young people. Our meetings have been well attended, reflecting the commitment and diversity of our membership, and we have benefited from the insights and expertise of colleagues across the borough.

The review of our locally agreed syllabus has provided valuable feedback from schools, highlighting both strengths and areas for further development. We are grateful to all those who contributed their views and experiences, and we are determined to use this evidence to shape our future work.

I would like to thank all SACRE members, school leaders, teachers, and faith representatives for their dedication and collaboration over the past year. Together, we have made significant progress in supporting high standards in RE, promoting community cohesion, and ensuring that all pupils have the opportunity to explore and understand the rich diversity of beliefs and values in our society.

As we look to the year ahead, SACRE remains committed to listening, learning, and leading in partnership with our community. We welcome your feedback and involvement as we continue this important work.

Jacquie Osmund Smith

Chair, Telford & Wrekin SACRE

Executive Summary

The 2024–2025 academic year has been a period of reflection, collaboration, and progress for Telford & Wrekin SACRE. This annual report outlines the statutory work undertaken to support and monitor Religious Education (RE) and collective worship across the borough, in line with the NASACRE framework.

Key achievements this year include:

- A comprehensive review of the locally agreed syllabus, involving school surveys and visits, which highlighted strong engagement but also identified areas for development, particularly in resources, assessment, and staff confidence.
- Continued efforts to ensure all faiths are fairly represented in the curriculum, with strengthened links to local places of worship and faith communities.

- Promotion of community cohesion through interfaith activities, school visits, and support for events such as Interfaith Week and Holocaust Memorial Day.

Looking ahead, SACRE is committed to updating the agreed syllabus, improving data collection, and further supporting schools in delivering high-quality RE and inclusive collective worship. The partnership between SACRE, the Local Authority, schools, and faith communities remains central to our shared vision of fostering respect, understanding, and achievement for all pupils.

Section 1: Information about SACRE and its Meetings

1.1. Composition and Membership

Telford & Wrekin SACRE comprises representatives from:

- Group A: Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, Free Church and other religions, Jewish, Sikh, Muslim, Hindu. Other world views are represented by the Humanists.
- Group B: The Church of England.
- Group C: Teachers' associations and schools.
- Group D: The Local Authority.

Membership is reviewed annually to ensure broad representation. Attendance at meetings is strong, with apologies and vacancies recorded in minutes. Co-opted members and faith representatives are regularly invited to ensure that SACRE reflects the local demographic.

1.2. Meetings

SACRE met three times during the academic year:

- 21 November 2024 (Telford College)
- 6 March 2025 (Telford College)
- 26 June 2025 (Telford Gurdwara)

Meetings included both in-person and online attendance, with venues rotated to strengthen community links. Minutes are circulated and approved at subsequent meetings.

1.3. Professional and Administrative Support

The Local Authority provides a clerk and professional adviser to SACRE. The Multicultural Development Team and Quality Assurance specialists support research, monitoring, and development work.

Section 2: Religious Education (RE)

2.1. Compliance and Provision

- All surveyed primary schools deliver RE as a distinct subject.
- Over 70% follow the locally agreed syllabus; others supplement with commercial schemes (e.g., Discovery RE, Jigsaw, NATRE, Understanding Christianity).
- Secondary schools offer a mix of short and long course GCSEs in RE, with all schools providing a KS4 RE offer.

2.2. Standards and Achievement

- In 2023, 506 students sat a full RE GCSE (approx. 20% of the cohort).
- Outcomes generally mirrored those in English and Maths.
- Data collection is ongoing to address gaps from some academies.

2.3. Monitoring and Support

- SACRE undertook a research project (questionnaire and school visits) to evaluate the impact of the agreed syllabus.
- Findings: The syllabus is valued for its aims and structure, but schools request clearer progression, updated resources, and improved assessment models.
- Staff confidence is variable, particularly among non-specialists.
- CPD is accessed by about half of schools, often via external providers.

2.4. Agreed Syllabus Review

- The agreed syllabus is due for review, with feedback from schools informing future revisions.
- SACRE is considering models from other LAs and national guidance.

Section 3: Collective Worship

3.1. Compliance

- All schools report daily collective worship, delivered in various formats (whole school, key stage, classroom).
- No applications for determinations were received in 2024–25.

3.2. Support and Guidance

- SACRE is developing a clear process for determinations, based on the Ealing model.
- The Collective Worship Working Party is in the process of reviewing practice and promoting understanding of statutory requirements.
- Schools request more guidance and resources for inclusive and accurate assemblies.

Section 4: Links with Other Bodies

4.1. National and Regional Links

- SACRE members attended NASACRE conferences and virtual training.
- The LA has a cross-phase enhanced subscription with NATRE, providing access to resources for SACRE members and schools.

4.2. Local Faith Communities

- Strong engagement with local places of worship, especially at primary level.
- Interfaith Week and Holocaust Memorial Day were supported, with efforts to increase school participation.
- SACRE encourages schools to access resources from faith communities and national bodies (e.g., Board of Deputies of British Jews).

Section 5: Contribution to Social and Racial Harmony

- SACRE promotes visits to places of worship and interfaith activities.
- The curriculum and collective worship support community cohesion and respect for diversity.
- SACRE works with the LA's Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Officer to promote events and initiatives.

Section 6: SACRE Arrangements

6.1. Funding

- The LA provides a budget for SACRE activities, including professional advice, clerking, and training.

- Additional funding is accessed as required for specific projects.

6.2. Training and Development

- SACRE members and school staff access CPD via NASACRE, NATRE, and local networks.
- Plans are in place to expand local training and networking opportunities.

Section 7: Summary and Recommendations

7.1. Key Achievements

- High engagement with the agreed syllabus and RE provision.
- Successful research project evaluating the syllabus' impact.
- Strong links with local faith communities and national bodies.

7.2. Priorities for 2025–2026

- Review and update the agreed syllabus.
- Strengthen support for collective worship.
- Improve data collection and analysis of RE outcomes.
- Enhance engagement with secondary schools and under-represented faith communities.
- Continue to promote community cohesion and interfaith understanding.

Telford & Wrekin SACRE remains committed to supporting high-quality RE and collective worship, fostering respect and understanding across the community. The partnership between SACRE, the LA, schools, and faith communities is central to this work.

SACRE welcomes feedback and looks forward to building on this year's achievements in 2025–2026.



Contact us

email: Sue.Dyson@telford.gov.uk
tel: 01952 380886



THINK - don't print!