

Telford & Wrekin SACRE Committee Meeting
20 November 2025 – 6pm to 7.30pm
Meeting Point House
Minutes

The attendance list can be found [here](#)

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Chair Jacquie Osmund Smith (JOS) welcomed SACRE members to the meeting, including colleagues who joined the meeting online.
- Scott Thomas White (STW) joined the meeting at the request of Rebecca Carey (RC) – STW is Principal Safeguarding & Enrichment Specialist, responsible for Education Safeguarding, the Multicultural Development Team and the Youth Offer.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (26 June 2025)

- The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the last meeting.

3. Matters arising

Annual Report

- As the draft Annual Report 2024-25 had now been drafted and was available for discussion, JOS moved this to agenda item 8.

Agreed Syllabus Review

- This was moved to agenda item 6 to enable more detailed discussion.

Membership Update

- JOS reported the following changes to the membership:
 - David Rolfe (DR), representative of the Telford Quakers, has resigned from SACRE. JOS thanked DR for his contribution over many years. DR has indicated that the Telford Quakers may decide to appoint a new representative in due course.
 - A representative of Humanist UK, Simon Corden (SC), will join SACRE from March 2026; this was welcomed by members.
 - JOS has been in discussion with John Proctor (JP), Telford Christians Together, about the possibility of joining SACRE. All members present agreed that JOS should formally invite JP to join SACRE.
 - JOS is continuing discussions with a possible Buddhist representative.
- The group discussed possible additional community representation – colleagues will give this further thought and contact JOS with any suggestions.

RE Coordinators

- JR reported that, due to capacity issues, it has not been possible to arrange an RE Coordinators' meeting for the past two terms. However, JR is hoping to be able to arrange something in the Spring Term 2026. Other possibilities could be considered going forward, including brokerage through the STSA, or procuring additional support from NATRE.

Actions:

- **JOS will provide contact details for SC to SD to enable SC to be invited to the Spring Term SACRE meeting.**
- **JOS will formally invite JP to join Telford & Wrekin SACRE and provide contact details to SD (as above).**

- ***JOS will continue discussions with a possible Buddhist representative.***
- ***SACRE members will contact JOS if they have any suggestions for further community representation.***

4. Calendar of Meetings for 2025-26

- The next meeting is taking place Thursday 5 March 2026 from 6pm to 7.30pm – JOS asked SD to arrange a meeting room at Telford College.
- The Summer Term meeting will take place Thursday 18 June 2026 from 6pm to 7.30pm – the venue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Actions:

- ***SD will approach Telford College to request a meeting room for the Spring Term.***
- ***The venue for the Summer Term meeting will be discussed at the next meeting.***

5. Feedback from NASACRE Virtual Training (Oct 2025)

- CL and SY attended the virtual NASACRE training session which took place 20 October 2025 - 'How can SACREs make strategic use of the New Oak National Curriculum?'
- The session focused on understanding the Oak National Resources for RE, what Oak is providing free to schools, an overview of the resources, liaison with schools and networking.
- A copy of the presentation has been circulated to all SACRE members.

6. Curriculum Review

- A general discussion took place about the outcome of the National Curriculum Review, including:
 - The earliest date the new curriculum will be introduced is September 2028.
 - RE will sit with Humanities, which will potentially increase its popularity and take up. This is likely to result in schools being required to recruit additional RE teachers.
 - The Secretary of State for Education will be ultimately responsible for the content of the RE curriculum, which all faith leaders will want to agree to; this will also have implications for SACREs.
 - Ofsted *may* be the sole mechanism for inspection, which will have implications for dioceses and diocesan advisers / current SIAMS inspectors.
- It was agreed that Telford & Wrekin SACRE needs to reflect on the changes it decides to make to the local RE Syllabus in the light of pending major curriculum changes nationally.
- Whilst the outcome of the review is still very new, with much unknown / still to be determined, Headteacher forums will be discussing the curriculum and its implications over the next 12 months.

Actions:

- ***SACRE will continue to consider curriculum developments over the coming months.***

7. NASACRE & RE Hubs

- JOS shared details of an online meeting - '*In Conversation with NASACRE*' - taking place 26 November 2026 from 5pm to 6.30pm. JR offered to attend and provide feedback to the next SACRE meeting.

Actions:

- ***JR will feedback at the next SACRE meeting from his attendance at 'In Conversation with NASACRE'***

8. Draft Annual Report and Reflections on the NATRE Subscription

- RC has drafted the Telford & Wrekin SACRE Annual Report (2024-25), which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting for consideration.
- The following amendment to the draft report was agreed: *'Non-religious world views are represented by the Humanists'* to be replaced with *'Other world views are represented by the Humanists'* (Section 1.1, page 3)
- The group considered SACRE's three actions plans, focusing on (i) curriculum; (ii) collective worship, and (iii) community cohesion and the progress made on each.
- It was agreed to include the anonymised RE syllabus research report as an appendix to the Annual Report.
- A thorough **curriculum audit review** has been carried out and reported upon; it was suggested that this now needs to be followed up by a **collective worship review** (potentially with 6-8 schools). This review could be undertaken by SACRE representatives in the Spring Term, with support from the LA's education team. The outcome of the review might be a toolkit focusing on what collective worship looks like, with good practice suggestions and links to external organisations which can support the delivery of collective worship.
- MH volunteered to support the collective worship review, although he confirmed that he will need to consult with other diocesan colleagues about the protocols for 'crossing diocesan boundaries'. However, he would certainly be able to participate in helping to draw up the questions to be used. RC will ask LA Quality Assurance colleague, Michelle Bishton, to contact MH early in the Spring Term. RC will also approach both the Primary Heads Forum and the Secondary Heads Forum PHF to enlist support from headteachers for the collective worship review. A progress report will be shared at the next SACRE meeting.
- It was noted that CPD emerged from the curriculum review as an area for further development – for all staff, not just RE Leads and Coordinators.
- In terms of **community cohesion**, STW agreed to work with RC to share local demographic data with SACRE members (which is publically available). Colleagues suggested that the demographic data might help to inform decisions about which sample units would best support community cohesion.
- MH mentioned 'The Difference' course, which examines the differences within schools, and suggested that this might be a resource to recommend to schools in the future.
- **RE Syllabus:** the curriculum review concluded that schools are accessing the local RE Syllabus, but this is being supplemented by various elements which are being bought in. It was acknowledged that SACRE does not have the capacity to re-write the syllabus and a discussion took place about the possibility of procuring some external units to supplement those which have been written locally.
- SACRE would also like to develop crib sheets for each faith to help to inform teachers of the key aspects which children need to know.
- Reflecting on SACRE's subscription to the cross phase enhanced NATRE membership, SD was asked to formally approach NATRE to better understand the copyright restrictions for adapting and sharing the curriculum materials /units.
- MH will assist SD in establishing a list of RE curriculum companies (nationally) in order that SD can explore what they offer, how much they cost and the degree of flexibility they would provide to enable SACRE to 'cherry pick' / adapt their materials / units etc.

Actions:

- **RC will also approach both the Primary Heads Forum and the Secondary Heads Forum to enlist support for the collective worship review from headteachers.**

- ***RC will ask LA Quality Assurance colleague, Michelle Bishton, to contact MH early in the Spring Term to arrange to meet and draw up some questions for the collective worship review.***
- ***A progress report on the collective worship review will be provided at the next SACRE meeting.***
- ***SD will formally approach NATRE to request further clarity about the copyright restrictions for adapting and sharing the curriculum materials / units.***
- ***MH will assist SD in establishing a list of RE curriculum companies (nationally) in order that SD can explore what they offer, how much they cost and the degree of flexibility they would provide to enable SACRE to 'cherry pick' / adapt their materials / units etc.***

9. Festivals Calendar and Teacher Training

- An example of a festivals calendar was circulated before the meeting.
- Colleagues agreed that it would be very helpful to collate something similar locally and that the Interfaith Council could be ideally placed to fulfil this role.

Actions:

- ***RC will contact Cllr RM to ask if the Interfaith Council put together a skeleton local festivals calendar.***
- ***STW and RC will liaise with the Attendance Support Team for further information.***

10. Faith Student Engagement – update

- The Gurdwara has reported that all continues to go well with school visits averaging 2-3 per week. Very positive feedback is being received from both pupils and teachers and most of the visits are initiated by previous year group visits or teachers sharing experiences with colleagues.

11. Any other business

- As there was no further business the meeting was closed.

Appendix A

Carol Morgan	Group A: Church of England	Attended online
Jacquie Osmund Smith	Group A: Baptist Church (Chair)	Attended
Angela Evans	Group A: Methodist / United Reform Church	Attended
Sajid Younis	Group A: Muslim faith	Attended online
Mark Harrington	Group B: Church of England	Attended
Diane Whiteley	Group C: Teacher representation	Attended
Jon Rawson	Group C: Teacher representation	Attended
Rebecca Carey	Group D: T&W Council Members	Attended
In attendance		
Scott Thomas White	Telford & Wrekin Council	Attended
Sue Dyson	SACRE Clerk T&W Council	Attended

Apologies and non-attendance

Name	Representing	Status
Cathy Landau	Group A: Jewish faith	Apologies
Dave Rolfe	Group A: Quaker Faith	Apologies / resigned
Pardha Saradhy	Group A: Hindu Faith	-
Cathy Pocock	Group A: Salvation Army	-
Kully Chahal	Group A: Sikh Faith	Apologies
Geet Dhillon	Group A: Sikh Faith	Apologies
Vacancy	Group A: Free Church	Vacancy
Vacancy	Group A: Humanist	Vacancy
Rev Tim Carter	Group B: All Saints Church, Wellington	Apologies
Matthew Welton	Group B: Church of England	-
Mary Jennings	Group C: Ercall Wood Academy	-
Vacancy	Group C: NEU	Vacancy
Karl Downes	Group C: NAS/UWT	-
Shaad Dhillon	Group C: Teacher representation	Apologies
Ali Bushnell	Group C: Millbrook Primary School	-
Claire Jones	Group C: Teacher representation	-
<i>Suky Kaur</i>	<i>Group C: Teacher representation</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Cllr Raj Mehta</i>	<i>Group D: T&W Council Members</i>	<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Cllr Shirley Reynolds</i>	<i>Group D: Telford & Wrekin Council</i>	<i>Apologies</i>