

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

Annual SACRE Report 2024-2025

(Sep 2024-Aug 2025)

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1) Introduction and Overview

Chair's Reflections – Cllr. Richard Burton

The past year has been one of transition and renewed strategic focus for BCP SACRE. It was a privilege to serve as Chair throughout 2024–25, drawing on my background in education and leadership in local schools. As we begin the new academic year, I've handed over the role of Chair to Vincent Saunders, and I am pleased that Lynda Ford-Horne is continue supporting SACRE as Vice Chair. Vincent brings a wealth of experience from his role as an RE teacher at Winchelsea Special School and has already made a significant impact, particularly through his contributions to the development of our new Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE Religious Education Adviser role has been recommissioned for the 2025–26 academic year, allowing us to review its impact and explore how it might evolve to offer more direct, school-based support. David Rees continues in this role and is working closely with Vincent and Georgie Pinder, our named Education Adviser at BCP Council, to strengthen the support available to RE teachers across our schools.

This work is more important than ever. We are seeing a troubling rise in religious hatred, both locally and nationally. Schools recognised as Schools of Sanctuary have, sadly, been targeted by far-right groups, and hate crimes continue to affect communities across England. SACRE remains firmly committed to helping schools foster inclusive, respectful environments through high-quality Religious Education and collective worship. Across the BCP area, there is a wealth of expertise and excellent practice in RE, and SACRE is determined to champion this work. By sharing and building on these strengths, we aim to further enhance the teaching of RE and ensure that all pupils benefit from a curriculum rooted in understanding, empathy, and social cohesion.

As SACRE enters this new phase of leadership and development, we remain focused on our statutory responsibilities, supporting educators, and engaging meaningfully with diverse faith and worldview communities. The year ahead presents valuable opportunities to build on our progress and respond proactively to the evolving needs of our schools and communities.

2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE

The new Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole was launched in January 2023 following a robust consultation process. Feedback from teachers was actively incorporated, and the syllabus was well received at the launch event. SACRE worked in close partnership with the local authority throughout its development, and support networks were established to aid schools during the initial implementation and embedding phase.

Throughout 2024–25, SACRE continued to monitor and support the teaching of Religious Education across the BCP area. The outgoing Chair, Lynda Ford-Horne, remained actively involved, regularly visiting schools to deliver sessions on Judaism. Other SACRE members also contributed by speaking in schools and representing a range of worldviews. SACRE benefits from teacher representatives across Key Stages 1–5 and from SEND settings, many of whom play a key role in facilitating teacher networks.

The hub lead meetings, coordinated by the Salisbury Diocese and covering the entire BCP area, were successfully established last year and have continued to provide valuable support. These meetings are open to all schools and have become an important part of the local RE infrastructure.

SACRE did not receive any reports of pupil withdrawals from RE during the year. While no schools were known to have received the RE Quality Mark (REQM) this year, SACRE remains committed to promoting the award. The RE Adviser, who is also a REQM assessor, regularly shares information about the award through the termly SACRE newsletter. With the recent refresh of the REQM website, the updated map will help SACRE identify and celebrate local schools that have achieved the award.

To further support RE teachers and leaders, SACRE continues to produce a termly newsletter compiled by the RE Adviser. These newsletters include updates on local and national events, CPD opportunities, new resources (particularly free ones), and reflections from key conferences and networks such as the NASACRE AGM, RE Hubs, SWSACRE Conference, and Strictly RE.

3: Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship

3.1: Monitoring Collective Worship and British Values

The named BCP Education Adviser continues to conduct desktop reviews of Ofsted and SIAMs reports, alongside on-site visits to schools. These visits include a review of school culture and ethos, encompassing acts of collective worship (CW) and the promotion of British values. This work is directly linked to the local authority's statutory responsibilities for Religious Education (RE) and collective worship.

To support schools, SACRE has actively engaged with local religion and worldview communities to provide appropriate speakers who can share lived experiences and lead meaningful reflections. SACRE members have also made themselves available to speak in schools upon request.

In addition, SACRE has produced a suite of materials to assist schools in delivering collective worship. These include:

- Suggested themes for assemblies and reflections
- A code of conduct for visitors
- Curriculum-linked resources

These materials will be made readily available to schools as a reminder of the support SACRE can offer.

3.2: Determinations

It has not been necessary to renew any determinations during this year. (A determination allows a school to provide daily collective worship that is not 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.) SACRE has not considered the Determination Process in recent years.

4: Partnership and External Engagement

BCP SACRE maintains active links with other SACREs, benefiting from the cross-membership of individuals who also serve on SACREs in neighbouring areas such as Wiltshire and Dorset. The SACRE Adviser has additionally collaborated with SACREs in the Pan-Berkshire region, fostering connections that support professional development and shared learning. These relationships have enabled the organisation of virtual CPD sessions and conferences, which continue to offer valuable opportunities for collaboration and dissemination of best practice, even as the immediate impact of the pandemic has subsided.

SACRE continues to prioritise its membership of NASACRE, with an annual budget allocation to support this affiliation. The SACRE Adviser endeavours to attend the NASACRE AGM and conference, although recent shifts back to in-person formats have presented logistical challenges. Nevertheless, materials and insights from these events are routinely shared with SACRE members at subsequent meetings to ensure continued alignment with national developments.

The SACRE Adviser, David Rees, plays a key role in maintaining SACRE's engagement with recognised RE organisations such as RE Online and RE Hubs. The outgoing Chair has also provided regular updates on initiatives from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and interfaith programmes such as *Many Faiths Living Better Together*. SACRE remains committed to expanding its network of contacts and encourages members to explore both local and national opportunities for collaboration.

SACRE has also supported work with the Schools of Sanctuary initiative. A particularly strong link was established through the review of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, which has now been awarded School of Sanctuary status. The SACRE Adviser was directly involved in this process, and the school's journey exemplifies how sanctuary values can be embedded across curriculum, ethos, and community engagement. This work highlights SACRE's commitment to promoting inclusive values and supporting schools in fostering environments of welcome and belonging.

In recognition of the importance of inclusion and representation, SACRE established *Diversity and Equality* as a standing agenda item several years ago. This has included inviting speakers from the local authority and external service providers to contribute to SACRE meetings, enriching discussions and informing future practice.

5: Local Involvement

BCP SACRE continues to explore ways to strengthen its engagement with local schools and educators. Recent discussions have focused on further utilising the expertise of religion and worldview representatives within SACRE to support teacher development through high-quality RE CPD. Local teacher conferences have regularly featured contributions from Muslim, Jewish, and Humanist representatives, offering valuable insights and lived experiences that enrich classroom practice. SACRE is committed to sustaining and expanding this approach, with the aim of identifying and involving additional representatives from a broader range of worldviews.

Plans are underway to host another teacher conference in February 2026, building on the success of the previous event which followed the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus. While the BCP area is characterised by relatively limited religious and cultural diversity, SACRE recognises the potential to broaden opportunities through collaboration with other SACREs and virtual engagement with members of religion and worldview communities known to SACRE members and local educators.

This strategic approach reflects SACRE's commitment to ensuring that all pupils receive a rich and inclusive RE curriculum, informed by authentic voices and diverse perspectives.

6: SACRE Arrangements

In the financial year beginning April 2024 SACRE was granted budget of £5000

BCP SACRE continues to be well supported by the local authority. David Rees serves as the SACRE Professional Adviser, bringing a wealth of experience through his membership of AREIAC and NATRE, and his previous role as editor of the RE Online website and newsletter. The Council's support is further strengthened by the involvement of Georgie Pinder, the named LA officer, whose contributions have been instrumental in maintaining effective communication and coordination.

SACRE benefits from strong working relationships across the Council, and lines of communication remain open and constructive. These partnerships ensure that SACRE is well-positioned to fulfil its statutory responsibilities and respond to emerging needs within the local education landscape.

All four membership groups are consistently represented at SACRE meetings, and there have been no issues with quoracy during the year. Efforts have been made to broaden representation, particularly among faith and worldview communities. While some progress has been achieved, SACRE remains committed to further outreach to fill remaining vacancies and ensure diverse perspectives are reflected in its work.

Committee A

Baha'i: Rob Lawton
Buddhist: Sali Knight
Free Church:
Hinduism: Bharati Joshi
Humanism Sally Hawksworth
Islam: Maaria Kanamia
Judaism: Lynda Ford-Horne
Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter-Day Saints: Deneen Kenchington
Quaker : Rosemary Browne
Roman Catholicism: Peter Thomson
Sikhi: Balwinder Kaur

Committee B

C of E Portsmouth - Jane Kelly
C of E Salisbury - Nicola Coupe
C of E Winchester - Paul Ruffle

Committee C

Karen Barker - Secondary
Claire Jones - Secondary
Trevor Willis - Secondary
SEND Vincent - Saunders
Shelley Jones - Primary

Committee D

Councillor Marion Le Poidevin
Councillor Richard Burton
Councillor Mike Cox

Co-Opted - PACE Dave Pegg
RE Adviser - David Rees

Appendix 1: Public Examination Results

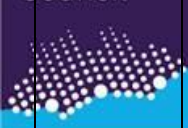
To be released by the Department of Education in November 2025

Appendix 2: CPD Provided to Schools

1. The BCP Teachers conference was held in November 2024 and built on the success of the syllabus launch the previous January. The conference had inputs from local and regional speakers and always has a focus on teaching and learning, the worldviews approach and disciplinary lenses. It is hoped that there will now be an annual face to face RE leaders and teachers conference.
2. Schools were invited to the Creative and RE-Inspiring RE conference run through the Salisbury diocese in March 2025– this conference was cross phase and had workshops on many areas of current interest to RE leaders and teachers. This event is now a regular conference at this time of year and has proved very popular with BCP schools.

Appendix 3: Action Plan

BCP SACRE action plan 2024-2025							
Aim	Actions	Timescale s	People Responsibl e	Cost	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
A. CORE BUSINESS To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well- informed membership	1. Fill membersh ip vacancies	Ongoing	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk		BCP SACRE is representative of the BCP area. However, this needs to be constantly monitored		
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, teacher meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Autumn 2024 Spring 2025 Summer 2025	SACRE Chair/SACR E Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting LA officers/ Adviser time	Weds 20 th November 4pm	Weds 12 th March 4.15pm	2 nd July 2025?
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2024	SACRE Adviser and clerk with foreword by SACRE Chair	SACRE Adviser x1 day (includes draft and revisions)	New format – Draft this term	Completed brought to SACRE - Send to NASACRE by Feb 2025	
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting and discuss updates	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
	5. Subscribe to NASACRE Representatio n at annual NASACRE conference &AGM -Attend	Ongoing	SACRE clerk SACRE Adviser & G Pinder	Subscriptio n £105 SW SACRE conference fee and	Subscriptio n rate £105	SW SACRE conferenc e March DR to attend feedback	NASACR E AGM



	other relevant and useful events		Adviser to find out and inform	<i>advisor time?</i> NASACRE Conference & AGM - SACRE Adviser time to attend NASACRE conference?		to network and SACRE	
	6. Review the Locally agreed syllabus and the 5-year cycle	syllabus launched Jan 2023 - embedding	SACRE	Extra funding usually allocated to allow proper consultation process	Update at each SACRE meeting	Update at each SACRE meeting	Update at each SACRE meeting
	7. Monitor and advise on Collective Worship	ongoing	SACRE	Dependant on the support offered	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting	At each SACRE meeting
B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools.	1. Collate and distribute a termly newsletter	Termly	SACRE Adviser – SACRE members to offer suggestions	Adviser time	Sent out Sept 2024	Jan 2025	April 2025
	2. Provide a RE teachers and leaders conference	Nov 20 th 2024 Merley House	SACRE in house (Adviser time)	Possible Adviser time - Speaker costs - Venue hire etc.	Nov 20 th 2024		
	3. Connect with RE leaders through networks	Ongoing	SACRE teacher reps with support (Hub leads)	T. Willis/S Jones (NC co-ordinating)	Hub networks to take priority		