

## Who are the members of Surrey SACRE?

Surrey SACRE is made up of four groups, which meet as part of SACRE at least three times a year. The groups represent:

**Group A:** Christian denominations other than the Church of England and other groups that represent the main traditions of the area (religious & non-religious)

**Group B:** the Church of England

**Group C:** Teachers' associations and representatives from Surrey RE networks

**Group D:** The Local Authority (Surrey County Council)

In addition, the SACRE can co-opt members who may have expertise in the area of religious education or who may represent other interested groups, such as academy groups, if all parties are in agreement.



The SACRE benefits from and appreciates ongoing funding and support from Surrey County Council. It also works with neighbouring SACREs through the South Central SACRE RE 'hub'.

Surrey SACRE is a member of **NASACRE** (the National Association of SACREs) and members attend annual conferences and AGMs.



# Surrey SACRE:

## Supporting RE & Collective Worship Information for Governors

### If you wish to contact us:

Surrey SACRE welcomes enquiries from anyone interested in supporting the development of RE in Surrey.

For further information, please visit [SACRE's webpages](#) or contact Rachel Boxer, adviser to Surrey SACRE: [rachel.boxer@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:rachel.boxer@cofeguildford.org.uk)



## What is a SACRE?

SACRE stands for **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**. Every local authority must establish, support and maintain its own SACRE in order to fulfil the requirements of the 1988 Education Act.

## What should governors know?

As a governor, you should be aware of the statutory nature of RE and collective worship and know how your school chooses to deliver good quality experiences for pupils that are a part of their entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum and contribute to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is a legal requirement for schools to provide a daily act of collective worship (this might be called an 'assembly' in your school). SACRE has produced guidance for schools in relation to the act of collective worship, referenced opposite.



RE remains a **compulsory subject** in the curriculum for **all pupils** (unless withdrawn by parental request), in all schools. The **Surrey Agreed Syllabus** is the statutory RE curriculum for community and voluntary controlled church schools. Academies and free schools are welcome to use the Surrey syllabus, but whilst they must still provide RE for all pupils, they are free to choose any syllabus that meets the

requirements of the law. Failure to provide a **broad and balanced curriculum that includes RE** could adversely affect a school's Ofsted grading. Whilst the syllabus sets out the statutory content for Religious Education, there are also comprehensive resources available to support good teaching and learning in RE on the [Agreed Syllabus website](#) including **materials to support RE subject leaders**.

**Schools are required by Ofsted** to publish their curriculum on their school website **by year group** and **by subject**, which **must include RE**. This is to help parents to see what their child will be learning, and in relation to RE, to understand how the content is delivered in a way that is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs. There should also be clear information about the right of withdrawal and how this is managed within the school.

## What is a SACRE for?

The **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**:

- produces a **locally agreed syllabus** which determines the content of religious education in Surrey maintained schools, reviewed every five years;
- **advises** on matters of **collective worship (assemblies)** in maintained schools and **religious education (RE)** in line with the agreed syllabus;
- **assists with any complaint** about religious education or collective worship in schools and responds to any requests made by schools for a **determination** in relation to collective worship. For academies or free schools wishing to apply for a **determination**, the Academy Trust would apply, through the EFA, directly to the Secretary of State;
- **publishes an annual report** detailing any action that SACRE has taken and any advice it has given. These can be found on [SACRE's webpages](#).

## How does Surrey SACRE support schools?

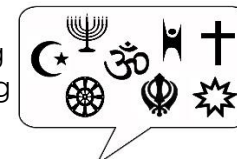
Surrey SACRE is passionate about creating the best opportunities for children and young people in Surrey schools to learn about different religions and beliefs (both religious and non-religious). Listed below are key resources and support that SACRE can offer to schools:

- **Partnering visits:** Surrey SACRE regularly conducts visits to schools wishing to develop their RE curriculum, which also helps to inform SACRE's future work. With Ofsted's focus now being on schools' curriculum **intent, implementation and impact**, a partnering visit could be a useful focus for reflections about the RE curriculum. The focus of these visits are always agreed with host schools in advance and are designed to be both supportive and informative (and are certainly NOT inspections!). Please ask your school to [contact us](#) if they would like to host a visit. There are a limited number available each year.

One RE leader said: 'The SACRE visitors were keen to listen to all my ideas and let me really explain how RE worked at my school. The visit that I was initially worrying about turned into a really insightful and incredibly valuable experience for me, as both a teacher and subject leader.'

- **Speakers' Forum:** one of the main roles of any SACRE is to be a resource to support the delivery of the locally agreed syllabus. **Speakers' Forum** is one way in which Surrey SACRE chooses to do this.

As a group of speakers from different perspectives of faith and belief, they are passionate about engaging children and young people in our schools with the big questions they have. Over the short period of time since it was set up, the group has supported



interfaith dialogue in several Surrey secondary schools – and (perhaps more importantly!) been invited back! – and are now working on developing appropriate resources for the primary phase, in partnership with several primary schools. **Speakers' Forum** currently has 8 committed team members representing: *Baha'i, Christianity, Hinduism, Humanism, Islam, Judaism & Sikhism*.

- **Guidance materials** that support schools with their RE & collective worship. **'Encounters with Faith & Belief'** contains advice & protocols for both schools and belief communities in regard to planning visits and visitors as part of RE or collective worship. **'Time to Reflect'** sets out guidance for maintained schools' collective worship (assemblies) in a multi- or no-faith environment. Both documents are available on [SACRE's webpages](#)



- **Visits to places of worship:** many of our SACRE members regularly support schools with visits to key places of worship in Surrey and have also facilitated training for primary RE subject leaders.