



Partnering Visits

*Surrey SACRE's support for RE in
Surrey's maintained schools*

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



The Surrey Agreed Syllabus



RE remains, and has always been, a **compulsory subject** in the curriculum for **all pupils** (unless withdrawn by parental request), in all schools.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. Schools are reminded that failure to provide a **broad and balanced curriculum that includes RE** could adversely affect their Ofsted grading.



As schools will be aware, according to the 2019 Ofsted Framework, they will be judged under the inspection heading '**Quality of Education**' and encouraged to talk about the curriculum they teach in terms of **Intent, Implementation and Impact**.

Inspectors will draw evidence about leaders' curriculum intent principally from discussion with senior and subject leaders, and will explore:

- whether leaders are following the national curriculum and basic curriculum [which includes religious education] or, in academies, a curriculum of similar breadth and ambition;
- how carefully leaders have thought about what end points the curriculum is building towards, what pupils will be able to know and do at those end points, and how leaders have planned the curriculum accordingly. This includes considering how the intended curriculum will address social disadvantage by addressing gaps in pupils' knowledge and skills;
- how leaders have sequenced the curriculum to enable pupils to build their knowledge and skills towards the agreed end points;
- how leaders have ensured that the subject curriculum contains content that has been identified as most useful, and ensured that this content is taught in a logical progression, systematically and explicitly enough for all pupils to acquire the intended knowledge and skills.



There is already evidence from local inspections that inspectors have been looking at schools' RE curriculum as evidence of 'Preparing for life in modern Britain' in SMSC, as well as conducting RE **deep dives**. It is important that schools take actions to ensure that they understand and can articulate the **intent** of the RE curriculum in the Surrey Agreed Syllabus, to **implement** the syllabus in ways that meet statutory requirements, as well as being creative and age-appropriate, and also to reflect on the **impact** of the RE that is being taught in classrooms.

Support for your RE & collective worship

A SACRE **partnering visit** is one way in which schools can take some time to focus on their RE curriculum. The specific focus of each **FREE visit** is always agreed with the host school in advance and is designed to be both supportive and informative.

Each half-day visit aims to:

- establish how the syllabus has been received, how it is being used and to identify any areas of development;
- give schools opportunity to showcase their best work in RE;
- meet pupils, teachers and leaders to talk about and reflect on teaching and learning in RE;
- identify good RE practice across the county, as well as to support and challenge where appropriate;
- consider the role of the school's collective worship to pupils' spiritual, moral, social & cultural development;
- inform SACRE's future work, especially in regard to the Agreed Syllabus, and identify ways in which SACRE can continue to support RE and collective worship.

SACRE has additionally had the privilege of observing collective worship, which has also benefitted the committee's understanding of the **spiritual, moral, social and cultural development** dimensions of school life and help school leaders to articulate their contribution to the whole school community.

A visit usually consists of two part-lesson observations (if possible, in different key stages) and attending an act of collective worship, as well as informal meetings with the school's RE subject leader / SLT, a short audit of pupil work and an opportunity to talk to pupils about their experiences of RE.

Feedback from schools (see inserts below) would suggest that the benefits of a partnering visit far outweighed any worries or concerns they had, and that the experience did indeed give school leaders, class teachers and pupils valuable opportunities to 'rehearse' the articulation of their curriculum intent in RE.

SACRE recently visited our school to review and evaluate our RE provision. As RE leader I found the experience really helpful. It provided some dedicated time to have some fresh eyes looking at RE across the school. It was great to be able to explore how we could strengthen RE as well as recognise the things that are going well. The report received following the visit was really useful to share with governors, as well as use as action points for future development.

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.

During the work audit, I was able to discuss links between lessons, planning and how the Agreed syllabus is working for us. The feedback really highlighted strengths within our school and provided me with clear areas to continue to develop. Although inviting SACRE into your school may sound like a daunting prospect, it really isn't! It will definitely be an encouraging and insightful visit that will really help you develop RE within your school.

Please do [contact us](#) if your school would like to host a visit. There are a limited number of visit available for any academic year.