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Introduction

The law specifies Religious Education must be taught in all schools, although it is not a part of the national curriculum (https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/overview).

Every Local Authority has to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) (http://www.nasacre.org.uk). Further information is available from the National Association of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (http://www.nasacre.org.uk).

The aims of religious education are to enable pupils to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of religion, particularly as expressed in Christianity
- the other principal religions represented in Great Britain
- develop the ability to reflect, respond thoughtfully and evaluate what they learn about religions

Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Local authorities have a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to advise them on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education. Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils.

SACRE publishes support materials, approves a programme of training for teachers and sponsors or supports other projects, which it deems to be consistent with its responsibility to promote religious education and spiritual, moral, social and cultural education in schools. Each year Peterborough SACRE submits a report of its activities to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

SACRE produces a locally determined Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education at least every five years. It advises and monitors the quality and provision of statutory Religious Education and Collective worship in foundation, community and voluntary controlled church schools and reports on this annually to schools, the DfE and National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). The Agreed Syllabus for RE 2018 along with a glossary of terms and primary assessment statements can be found below.

Promoting community cohesion and values in school

The Education Act 2002 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents) laid a duty on maintained schools to:

- promote the well-being of pupils at the school, and in the case of a school in England, promote community cohesion

> Ofsted will be looking for evidence to evaluate a school's contribution to promoting well-being. Guidance on practical examples of the ways in which schools can contribute to well-being includes 'Delivering high quality citizenship and RE, to help children understand how society works; to prepare them for playing their part as adult citizens; and to help them understand other faiths and cultures while developing a sense of shared identity'.

The Education Act 1944 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/7-8/31/contents/enacted) laid a requirement on schools “to promote the spiritual, moral, mental, cultural and physical development of pupils”. This is sometimes referred to in the abbreviation ‘SMSC’.


Development plan

> Review the Agreed RE Syllabus to ensure its effectiveness
> Strengthen links with schools to contribute to the monitoring and improvement of standards, quality and provision of RE in schools
> Develop links with other partners (other key partners being: the local authority, local faith communities, relevant associations and local parents).
> Collective Worship: contribute to monitoring and improvement of quality and provision of collective worship
> Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development: encourage best practice in schools, including promotion of inter faith harmony

The SACRE regularly review the progress of its Development Plan at its meetings, you can download the latest agendas and minutes and the latest annual report produced by SACRE.

Annual reports


SACRE agendas and minutes

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Collective worship

The collective worship guidance (http://www.nassac.org.uk/media/file/ColWorRevisit.pdf) includes sections on: the legal requirements; definitions of SMSC (social, moral, spiritual and cultural development) which Ofsted use for their school inspections, planning successful collective worship including half termly planning sheets; reflection and prayer; monitoring collective worship by gathering evidence from staff and pupils and much more.

Schools have a legal responsibility to offer collective worship each day. Should they consider this is not appropriate they can request the SACRE to determine whether this should be relaxed by completing the attached withdrawal form.


SACRE membership

The Peterborough SACRE meet once a term, which comprises of four statutory groups:

> Group A - representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions and religious denominations
> Group B - representatives of the Church of England
> Group C - representatives of the teachers’ associations
> Group D - representatives of the Local Authority

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<tr>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Janet Berkman - Jewish representative</th>
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<td>Gurdev Singh - Sikh representative</td>
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<td>Adrian Peters - Free Church representative</td>
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<td>Sukaina Manji - Muslim representative</td>
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<td>Ryan Blackburn - other Christian domination representative</td>
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<td>Kelsang Rak-Ma - Buddhist representative</td>
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<td>Vacancy - Baptist Church representative</td>
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<td>Vacancy - Orthodox representative</td>
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<th>Group B</th>
<th>Philip Davies - Church of England: Peterborough Diocese</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Father Toby Sherring - Church of England: Peterborough Diocese</td>
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<td>Alexandra Carton - Church of England: Peterborough Diocese</td>
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<th>Group C</th>
<th>Jack Buley</th>
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<td>Mark Tomlins</td>
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<td><strong>Group D</strong></td>
<td>Councillor Brian Rush</td>
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<td>Councillor Nick Sandford</td>
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<td>Councillor Amjad Iqbal</td>
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<td><strong>Co-opted members</strong></td>
<td>Martin McBean - Humanist Representative</td>
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<td>Iain Simper - Peterborough Learning Partnership</td>
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**SACRE responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the SACRE are:

- to advise the Local Authority on Religious Education in accordance with an agreed syllabus
- to monitor the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus
- to provide advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education in accordance with the local agreed syllabus
- and advise on maintaining the quality and standards of Religious Education
- to provide advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching the Peterborough City Council Agreed Syllabus, including the choice of teaching materials
- to decide whether the Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education needs to be reviewed and to require the Local Authority does so
- to produce an annual report to QCDA and Schools
- to provide advice to the Local Authority on Collective Worship in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled Schools)
- to consider any requests from Head teachers to hold Collective Worship that is not of a broadly Christian character
- to advise on matters relating to training for teachers in RE and Collective Worship.


**Useful links**

The following websites for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) are recommended for schools' consideration:

- www.smsg.org.uk (http://www.smsg.org.uk/)
- www.teachingideas.co.uk (http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/)
- www.transforminglives.org.uk (http://www.transforminglives.org.uk/)
- www.twinkl.co.uk (http://www.twinkl.co.uk/)

The following websites are the recommended key related links to Religious Education:

- www.nasacre.org.uk (http://www.nasacre.org.uk/)
- www.transforminglives.org.uk (http://www.transforminglives.org.uk/)
- www.diversityanddialogue.org.uk (http://www.diversityanddialogue.org.uk/)
- www.retoday.org.uk (http://www.retoday.org.uk/)
- www.smsg.org.uk (http://www.smsg.org.uk/)
- www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk (http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/)
- www.primaryresources.co.uk (http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/)
- www.natre.org.uk (http://www.natre.org.uk/)
- www.teachingideas.co.uk (http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/)
- www.csta.org.uk (http://www.csta.org.uk/)

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Contact SACRE

If you need any further information please contact:

▷ The Clerk to SACRE
   Laura Corcoran
   Learning and Skills Children’s Services
   Peterborough City Council
   Telephone: 07985 755462
   Email: laura.corcoran@peterborough.gov.uk

▷ RE Advisor for Peterborough City Council and SACRE
   Amanda Fitton
   Cambridgeshire County Council
   Stanton House
   Stanton Way
   Huntingdon
   PE29 6XL
   Telephone: 01480 375881
   Email: amanda.fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Further information is available from the National Association of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (http://www.nasacre.org.uk/).