



# WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

**21 April 2022**

**Councillor Fiona Baker – Portfolio Holder for  
Children, Families and Education**

<b>Report Title</b>	The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report
<b>Report Author</b>	Jane Hall, School Effectiveness Team

## Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	Catherine Whitehead	Confirmation received by email: 11.04.22
<b>Chief Finance Officer</b>	Martin Henry	Confirmation received by email: 29.3.2022
<b>Director of Children's Services</b>	Chris Kiernan	Confirmation received by email: 24.3.2022
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## List of Appendices

### **Appendix A – Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. Local Authorities have a duty to establish a permanent body known as the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (“SACRE”) in accordance with the Education Act 1996. The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in schools and to enrich the experience of RE and collective worship for all pupils. Further information about SACRE is set out in the appendix to this report.

- 1.2. The SACRE's terms of reference require that an annual report on the work of SACRE is produced annually. It is considered best practice for the report to be received by the Council.

## **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 This report covers the period 2020/2021 and because of the disruption due to the COVID pandemic and there being no advisor, it is restricted in terms of the detail that can be reported. No RE data was collected or subsequently monitored from schools but the Committee met three times via Zoom and were available to respond to any requests/complaints (none received). There have been limited opportunities for training but members have responded when possible. Relationships with community organisations remains a strength.

## **3. Recommendations**

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- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council receives and approves the SACRE annual report.

## **4. Reason for Recommendations**

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- 4.1 After being accepted by the Council the report will be published to schools. Schools will take note of the advice given in the report and act on it in order to improve the quality of provision for RE and collective worship.

## **5. Report Background**

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- 5.1 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 states that it is the statutory duty of the Council to establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to advise the Council on matters concerned with Religious Education and Collective Worship.

- 5.2 Councils must appoint representatives to each of four committees, representing respectively:
- Group A: Christian denominations and such other religions and religious denominations as, in the authority's opinion, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area;
  - Group B: the Church of England;
  - Group C: teacher associations;
  - Group D: the LA.

- 5.3 The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and collective worship by:
- Giving advice on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for RE;
  - Advising the Council on the provision of training for teachers;
  - Monitoring inspection reports on RE, collective worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC);
  - Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship referred to it by the LA.

- 5.4 Section 391 (6) and (7), Education Act 1996 states: "Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which

it has advised the Local Authority, broadly describe the nature of that advice and set out reasons for offering advice not referred to the Local Authority”.

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## **6. Issues and Choices**

- 6.1 The full SACRE annual report is attached.

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## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

### **7.1 Resources and Financial**

- 7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

### **7.2 Legal**

- 7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

### **7.3 Risk**

- 7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

### **7.4 Consultation**

- 7.4.1 Before the final report was agreed, there was discussion and consultation within the SACRE. The SACRE comprises four groups: the Church of England, other Christian denominations and the major faiths represented in Northamptonshire, teachers and the Council. All groups have voted in support of the final version of the report.

### **7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

- 7.5.1 The report has not formed part of the work programme of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny function.

### **7.6 Climate Impact**

- 7.6.1 There is no direct climate impact arising from the proposals.

### **7.7 Community Impact**

- 7.7.1 There is no distinct community impact arising from the proposals.

### **7.8 Communications**

- 7.8.1 No PR risks or opportunities identified.

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## **8. Background Papers**

8.1 None.