



# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

## Annual Report 2022/2023

This report covers the work of the Cumbrian SACRE  
serving the schools in Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness  
for the period September 2022 to August 2023



Westmorland  
& Furness  
Council

Working for **Cumberland Council** and  
**Westmorland & Furness Council**

## Contents

### 1. Words from the Chair

The year of 2022-2023 has seen significant change for our SACRE. Following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in April 2023, we became Cumbrian SACRE – serving the schools in Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council. This involved a huge amount of extra workload as Chair and for the Clerk and LA Officers. An outcome of LGR has also been to secure the role of a paid Professional Adviser for Cumbrian SACRE. I am delighted to take on this role and will be standing down as Chair in October 2023 after 8 years. We are particularly grateful to Claire Clinton from NASACRE who was extremely supportive through the process of LGR especially when consulting with the DfE.

During the summer term, we said goodbye to LA Officer Gerry Ball. Despite only being on Cumbrian SACRE for a year, Gerry was able to confidently navigate us through LGR to ensure we complied with legal requirements in forming our new SACRE. LA Officers, David Hodgkiss (Westmorland & Furness Council) and Rachel Laverack (Cumberland Council) have seamlessly slipped into Gerry's shoes and have both been equally effective in the activities required to set up the new Cumbrian SACRE and the completion of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The main RE activity of the year has been the completion and launch of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus. After much discussion and consultation, the LAs conference group decided to adopt the Norfolk SACRE Agreed Syllabus with some appropriate revisions for the context of our own schools. The syllabus was successfully launched at our annual RE conference in June 2023 to nearly 100 delegates with much positive feedback. Plans are underway to work with the Assistant Education Director from Carlisle Diocese to develop a series of online and face-to-face CPD over the year of implementation from September 2023 before the syllabus becomes legal in September in 2024.

The Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) Project funded by Culham St Gabriel's Trust was completed in December 2022. It has been showcased at a number of local and national events, including Devon and Torbay SACRE Conference and the AREIAC national Conference. Schools continue to use the resource and it fits well with our new LAs. The legacy of the VVRE Project will be to run an annual online event with 'voices' during Inter Faith Week each year.

Finally, I was thrilled to complete the Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Programme in July 2023. This programme is designed to help RE leaders to find a 'voice' in order to work more regionally and/or nationally. I am delighted that my research project, carried out as part of the programme, will be platformed through two national RE opportunities. This includes an article in the Professional Reflection section of RE Today Magazine (spring 2024 edition) and a workshop at the national Strictly RE Conference in January 2024. In April, I was appointed as the North West Lead for the new RE Hubs – which is proving to be a perfect opportunity to work more regionally with much benefit to Cumbrian SACRE.

I would particularly like to express my gratitude to members of Cumbrian SACRE. This has been a challenging year to navigate the formation of a new SACRE and the publication of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus at the same time. I would also like to thank the conference group for all their hard work on the new Cumbrian Agreed Syllabus for RE – both SACRE members and teachers. This syllabus charts a new way forward for RE for our schools and puts our new Cumbrian SACRE in a strong position for supporting schools across Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness over the next few years.

### **When and where did SACRE meet?**

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2022-2023 the following meetings took place:

#### **20 September 2022 – Cumbria House, Carlisle (also via Teams)**

Attendance: 12 members present (Committee A – 3; Committee B – 1; Committee C – 3; Committee D – 2; Co-opted – 2, LA Officers – 1) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Local Government Re-organisation (LGR)
- SACRE Development Plan
- Cumbria Revised Agreed Syllabus
- SACRE Newsletter
- SACRE membership
- National Update

#### **1 March 2023 – The Queen Katherine School, Kendal (also via Teams)**

Attendance: 13 members present (Committee A – 4; Committee B – 1; Committee C – 5; Committee D – 0; Co-opted – 2; LA Officers - 1). This meeting was not quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Local Government Re-organisation (LGR)
- Cumbria Revised Agreed Syllabus
- SACRE/RE Conference 2023
- SACRE Development Plan
- RE Ambassador for North West
- SACRE Newsletter
- National Update

#### **5 June 2023 – Cumbria House (also via Teams)**

Attendance: 15 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B - 0; Committee C – 3; Committee D – 2; Co-opted – 3; LA Officers – 2) This meeting was not quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Cumbria Revised Agreed Syllabus
- SACRE/RE Conference 2024
- NEW SACRE Constitution
- SACRE Development Plan
- Northwest RE Hubs
- Roles and Responsibilities

### **When are future meetings?**

Autumn meeting – 2 October 2023 – Penrith Methodist Church

Spring meeting – To be arranged

Summer meeting – To be arranged

### **The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2023-2024 will be:**

- Setting up the working practices of the new Cumbrian SACRE, including a new constitution.
- Developing a programme of CPD to support the introduction and implementation of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus.
- Increased joint working with the Assistant Education Director for Carlisle Diocese.
- Complete the NASACE self-evaluation process.
- Organising the annual Cumbria SACRE RE conference in June 2024.
- Continued dissemination of the Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project in conjunction with Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC).
- Continuing to increase teacher awareness of SACRE through newsletter, social media and other LA channels, including School Improvement and Governor Services.
- Continuing to raise profile and involvement in National Association for SACRE and other national RE organisations.
- Engagement with the new regional RE Hubs.

- Continued involvement with Cumbria Development Education Centre, developing their website support for RE.
- Continuing to engage with RE teachers across Cumbria through CPD and online channels.
- Encouraging individual SACRE members to include SACRE in any community cohesion work they do, including Inter Faith Week, Holocaust Memorial Day.
- Continue to offer school speaker visits by Cumbrian SACRE members.

## **2. A section on RE**

### **What are SACRE's Responsibilities?**

To advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with: RE CW etc

#### **1. Religious Education (RE) This year SACRE has:**

- Adopted the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus for RE and consulted with Norfolk SACRE members on the process of revision.
- Published a new Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE in conjunction with the LAs Conference group – Religious Education for the Future: Understanding religion and Worldviews for life in a changing world.
- Organised and ran a SACRE/RE conference to launch the syllabus for primary and secondary teachers.
- Produced a termly SACRE newsletter.
- Completed the Cumbria Virtual Voices in RE(VVRE) Project funded by Culham St Gabriel's.
- Increased the profile of Cumbria SACRE on a national level through RE Hubs, NASACRE, NATRE and AREIAC e.g. our Chair gave a presentation about being an effective Chair for NASACRE.
- Involvement in setting up a new online NATRE Local Group for RE: *RE Teachers in Cumbria*.
- Continued with the NASACRE self-evaluation process.
- Continued to offer school speaker visits by Cumbrian SACRE members (online and face-to-face).

### **What Professional Development Opportunities have there been?**

The following courses for RE ran:

14 March 2023 - Are you New or Aspiring to Lead Religious Education

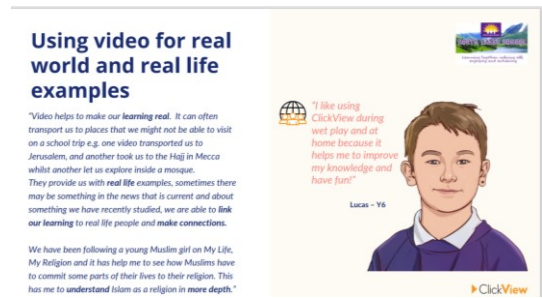
Provider – Jane Yates – Online – 10 delegates attended

Evaluations Overall Satisfaction – 4.5 out of 5

26 June 2023 - SACRE/RE Conference – Guest Speakers Stephen Pett, National RE Adviser (RE Today) and Saima Saleh – NATRE Local Groups Officer

Venue: North Lake Hotel, Penrith - 83 attendees

Evaluations Overall satisfaction – 38 responses – 4.7 out of 5



Photos: Conference delegates and presenters, including pupils from North Lakes School.

## Religious Education Quality Mark – REQM

Schools can apply for three levels of the REQM award. A school's evidence and provision are assessed by an external assessor, against nationally recognised criteria. Cumbria SACRE encourages all schools, via termly newsletter and during CPD, to access the REQM assessment materials to use as an audit tool, even if they feel the time and cost of full accreditation is not an immediate priority. See <http://www.reqm.org/> Gold Award holders in Cumbria are: Dowdales School, The Queen Katherine School and Bridekirk Dovenby CofE School.

### 3. A section on CW

#### Collective Worship in community schools

SACRE has published Guidance to Schools on Collective Worship, to support schools in their statutory responsibility to deliver daily acts of Collective Worship. Cumbria SACRE also provides a section on Collective Worship for community schools as part of school governor training. Collective Worship will be evaluated as part of the NASACRE self-evaluation process in Autumn 2023 and this may lead to some future developments.

#### Determinations - To allow any exception to the law that Collective Worship be broadly or mainly Christian

SACRE has received no requests for a determination for exemption from the law.

SACRE hears any complaints brought to the LA about RE and collective worship. No complaints from parents were received this year.

#### What is the RE and Collective Worship support for Cumbrian schools?

For secondary and primary schools please email Rachel Laverack, LA Support Officer – Cumberland, [rachel.laverack@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.laverack@cumberland.gov.uk) or David Hodgkiss LA Support Officer – Westmorland & Furness, [david.hodgkiss@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:david.hodgkiss@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

#### 4. A section on links with other bodies

SACRE has continued to develop strong links with Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC), Anti-Racist Cumbria (ARC) and Culham St Gabriel’s Trust. This year has seen further links with the new RE Hubs and AREIAC. As part of her role as North West Lead for RE Hubs, the Chair has been selected as a facilitator for the AREIAC Young RE Ambassadors Project with a focus on advocacy work for Freedom of Religion or Belief. The two lead schools will be The Queen Katherine School and Grayrigg Primary School, and the project will have a regional reach.

Cumbria SACRE has continued to develop links with Humanist UK. The Humanist member has provided advice to the Humanist Heritage Team for their successful funding bid to develop a virtual tour of Conway Hall in London. The Humanist member also provided the main presentation for the national CPD for teachers. In the summer term of 2023, the Humanist member was successful in becoming a contracted teacher trainer for Humanist UK for their national CPD programme for schools and ITT.

#### 5. A section on other areas of SACRE involvement locally Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project

December 2022 saw the completion of the VVRE Project – a collaboration between Cumbria SACRE and Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC) funded by Culham St Gabriel’s Trust. In the final term of the project, the focus was on sixth form students during Interfaith Week 2022. The final term involved developing a digital resource which now has over 100+ recorded clips by ‘voices’ responding to a huge range of questions asked by young people of all ages. This resource also fits well with a disciplinary approach to RE of human social sciences, which is our new approach in the LAs. An outcome of the project has also been an increase in school speakers to schools, either face to face or online. The VVRE Project page can be accessed [here](#).

Title and date of event	Worldview voices involved	Schools	Age Range
Science and Religion – is there a conflict Nov 2022	Christian: Greek Orthodox, Quaker, Methodist, C of E; Jewish, Muslim, Baha’i,	West Lakes Academy, William Howard School	Sixth form and some GCSE RS students



Pupils from William Howard School taking part in the VVRE event.

An example of a write up of the project is on the William Howard School website [here](#). The VVRE project was also written up as a case study in the Inter Faith Week 2022 report (see page 37 [IFW Report 2022 \(interfaithweek.org\)](#)). The project has been showcased at more events including the Devon and Torbay SACRE conference, ARIEAC conference, and the Humanist UKs national CPD training event.

## **6. A section on SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities)**

### **Who was on Cumbria SACRE in 2022-2023?**

**Chair:** *Jane Yates*

#### **Committee A: Christian denominations (other than Church of England) & other faiths**

*Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)*

*Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)*

*Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)*

*Jane Yates (Humanist)*

*Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i)*

*Rev David Milner (Methodist)*

*Rashmi Manemi (Hindu) Substitute Shweta Marali*

*Micheal Watmough (Quaker)*

#### **Committee B: Church of England**

*Richard Cox*

*Laura Watson – Substitute Charlotte Tudway*

#### **Committee C: Teacher Associations**

*James Douglas (NUT)*

*Irene Roberts-Green (Vice Chair) (NAHT)*

*Brian Eaton (VOICE)*

*Bernadette Little (NASUWT)*

*Katherine France (NATRE)*

#### **Committee D: Local Authority**

*Neil Hughes (Liberal Democrat)*

*Elaine Lynch (Labour) from March 2023*

*Sue Sanderson (Labour) from March 2023*

*Christopher Southward (Labour) from March 2023*

*David Southward (Labour) resigned March 2023*

*Liz Mallinson (Conservative) resigned March 2023*

#### **Co-opted Members**

*Georgia Prescott*

*Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)*

*Carolyn Reade*

*LA Support Officer (W&F) David Hodgkiss*

*LA Support Officer Gerry Ball (Resigned*

*LA Support Officer (Cumberland)*

*July 2023)*

*Rachel Laverack*

*Clerk to SACRE Sue McGaw*

#### **What is the SACRE Budget?**

SACRE's budget covers the cost of meetings, venue expenses, supply cover for teacher members, postage, photocopying, travel expenses, and subscription costs for membership of national organisations for RE. Additional resources are obtained from the County Council when necessary for the review, development and publication of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

In the year 2022-2023 the total amount spent was £4,666 (Travel expenses £541; Supply £935; Training fees £1,040; Subscriptions £400; Professional RE Adviser Fees £1750).

This document is the annual report for the academic year 2022-2022.

Anyone wishing to receive the minutes of termly meetings can contact Sue McGaw by email

[sue.mcgaw@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumberland.gov.uk) or visit Cumbria SACRE's website:

[SACRE website page for Cumberland Council](#)

[SACRE website page for Westmorland & Furness Council](#)

## Useful Websites

- <https://legacy.cumberland.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>
- <https://legacy.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>
- <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>
- <https://www.re-hubs.uk/>
- <http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

Twitter: @CumbriaSACRE. We welcome all schools in Cumbria to share photographic evidence of RE and Collective Worship using the hashtag #CumbriaSharingRE. The Twitter account also follows the key local and national organisations for RE and will re-tweet relevant updates.



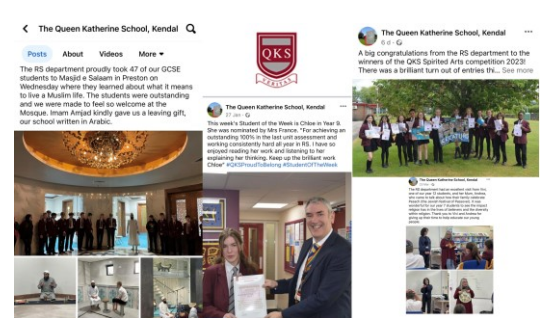
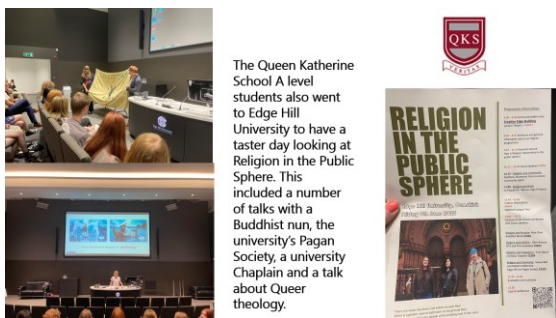
**CUMBRIAN SACRE NEWSLETTER**  
**Summer: 2023**  
 (Twitter @CumbriaSACRE #CumbriaSharingRE)

**"Our aim is to enrich the quality of learning in R.E. and Collective Worship for all pupils in Cumbria":  
 Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

Working for Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council

Cumbrian Updates, National Updates, Resources & CPD, Forthcoming Events

Facebook: RE Teachers in Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness. This is a closed social media group for primary and secondary teachers to enable an information exchange for RE and CW, training, events and new resources. Cumbria SACRE members also use this as a forum to keep teachers updated.







Year 3/4 pupils went on a visit to a Buddhist Temple to investigate a place of worship.

Thanks to RE Lead Kelly Lightfoot



**Y3 Spirited Arts: Searching for God**  
Always looking down on Me.  
Oliver Ago B  
I hope people will notice my Grandad is in heaven and I can see him up above.

I have a rainbow because everyone is friends and all the people are together.  
My inspiration came from my Grandad who died a couple of years ago and I have a pet a shadow because he is my guardian and he is always following me. I know when he is looking down on me.  
I have a lion and a fish in the picture because God made animals.

I have put a grave because my Grandad died.  
Thanks to RE Lead Claire Armstrong



Inglewood Infants School



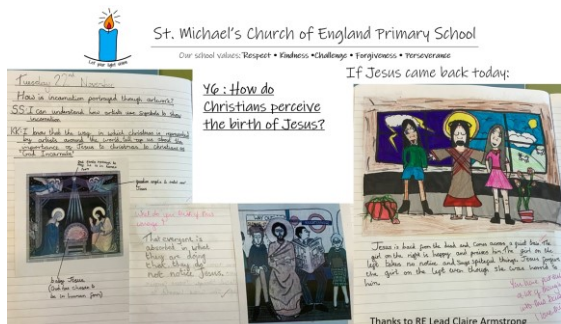
Thanks to RE Lead Fiona Fletcher



Our focus faiths are Christianity and Islam. The photos represent our learning about the Bible and Quran, sorting artefacts of faith in Year One and a visit to the local mosque in Carlisle for Year 2 children to learn about the 5 Pillars of Islam.



culgaithceschool This half term in RE, KS2 are focusing on Religious Festivals. This afternoon we learnt about the Hindu festival of Holi. The children first learnt where the festival originated from and how and why Hindus celebrate Holi. They then moved outside to create their own 'Festival of colour!' 🌈



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School

Our school values: Respect • Kindness • Challenge • Forgiveness • Tolerance

**Y6: How do Christians perceive the birth of Jesus?**

If Jesus came back today:



Thanks to RE Lead Claire Armstrong



**Whole school RE focus on Hinduism**

#CumbriaSharingRE on Twitter



With thanks to Cumbrian schools for photos at the Cumbria SACRE Primary RE conference 2023.

SACRE is pleased to receive photographic, written or anecdotal evidence of good work in RE and Collective Worship in Cumbria's schools. If you have things you wish to share please contact Sue McGaw on 01228 226805, email [sue.mcgow@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgow@cumberland.gov.uk)

Non-members are welcome to attend, to observe SACRE meetings. Please contact Sue McGaw (email [sue.mcgow@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgow@cumberland.gov.uk)) for confirmation of times and venues.

### Do you have any comments on this SACRE Report?

Responses to this Annual Report from school governors, elected members, head teachers, teachers or members of the public are welcomed by SACRE. Please email Rachel Laverack, LA Support Officer – Cumberland, [racheld.laverack@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:racheld.laverack@cumberland.gov.uk) or David Hodgkiss, LA Support Officer – Westmorland & Furness, [david.hodgkiss@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:david.hodgkiss@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)