

Minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

15/10/2025 – MS Teams/Committee Room 4 Civic Suite

Present

Name	Role/Representative
Claire Potts (NEW Chair)	Senior education improvement adviser Solihull MBC
Donna Grosvenor (Vice-Chair)	Teacher St Mary & St Margaret's CE Primary School
Ian Carnell	Church of England and United Reformed Churches
Councillor Michael Carthew	Solihull MBC
Keith Farquhar	Birmingham Diocesan
Selina Giles	Teacher Castle Bromwich Junior School
Councillor Jean Hamilton	Solihull MBC
David Harris	Catholic Church
Cecil Knight	Methodist Church
Michael Lancashire	Humanist representative
Hannah Lowe	Teacher Tudor Grange Academy, Solihull
Councillor Wazma Qais	Solihull MBC
Afifa Tufail	Solihull Muslim Association
Paul Wilkinson	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Councillor Alison Wilson	Solihull MBC

Apologies

Name	Role/Representative
Councillor Keith Green	Solihull MBC

Consent was sought and given by attendees for today's meeting to be recorded.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Claire Potts welcomed attendees to the first SACRE meeting of the academic year.
- Noted the meeting is now publicly accessible via the Solihull website.
- Introductions were made by all attendees, including representatives from various faiths, schools, and councillors.

2. Review of SACRE Composition

- Claire requested updates on representation to ensure accurate SACRE composition.
- Councillor Alison Wilson raised the issue of Hindu representation; Claire confirmed attempts had been made to contact a suggested representative.
- Donna Grosvenor noted she may represent both Birmingham Diocese and teachers.

3. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Claire to confirm with Kim Sherlock whether minutes were circulated.
- Donna and others noted they had not received them.

4. SACRE Constitution and Collective Worship Guidance

- Reviewed documents prepared by Bev Petch (former Chair).
- Collective Worship guidance praised for clarity and usefulness.
- Cecil Knight and David Harris highlighted the inclusion of resources and the importance of compliance.
- Donna Grosvenor and Michael Lancashire confirmed the documents were informative and well-received.
- Documents ratified with minor formatting updates (e.g., red text to be changed to black).

5. NASACRE Membership

- Claire reminded members of access to NASACRE resources and training.
- Michael asked about the annual conference; Claire confirmed details will be shared when available.

6. Strategic Direction for SACRE

Claire proposed key focus areas for the year:

- **Support for schools** through SACRE expertise.
- **Progress in RE**: inviting RE leaders in schools to share experiences.
- **Visits to places of worship**: enhancing pupil understanding.
- **Resource sharing**: creating trusted links and guides for teachers.

Discussion Points:

- Donna suggested curated resources on the SACRE website.
- Michael supported working groups to develop materials.
- Alison highlighted links to the Faith Forum and cultural strategy.
- Selina Giles proposed RE hubs and collaborative planning across schools.
- Cecil raised the issue of RE Today subscriptions and suggested gathering data on school uptake.
- Paul and David supported inviting RE leads to meetings and visiting schools.
- Keith Farquhar introduced himself and offered to share feedback from Birmingham Diocese schools.

7. Actions and Next Steps

Action	Responsible	Deadline/Notes
Confirm circulation of previous meeting minutes	Claire Potts / Kim Sherlock	ASAP
Claire to contact Selina Giles to develop school-to-school collaboration	Claire Potts	Autumn Term
Explore RE Hub model for Solihull	Claire Potts & Selina Giles	Ongoing
Follow up with Paul Wilkinson and Alison Wilson regarding Faith Forum links	Claire Potts	Autumn Term
Plan SACRE meeting at Donna Grosvenor's school	Claire Potts & Donna Grosvenor	Summer Term
Contact faith representatives to develop one-page guidance for schools	Claire Potts (starting with Afifa Tufail)	Autumn Term
Monitor compliance with collective worship and agreed syllabus	Claire Potts	Personal Development Audit due Summer Term

Action	Responsible	Deadline/Notes
Share NASACRE conference details	Claire Potts	When available
Gather data on RE Today subscriptions across schools	Claire Potts	Spring Term

8. Meeting Close

- Claire thanked all members for their contributions.
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:50 PM.