

Hertfordshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE):

Enhancing collective worship and RE



What is SACRE?

- SACRE is a statutory LA Council to support and oversee the provision of RE and collective worship
- It consists of teachers, faith representatives and LA representatives
- Its role is to advise on all matters to do with RE and collective worship
- SACRE's two core functions are:
 - » To review the locally agreed syllabus
 - » Determine whether a school may be exempt from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- SACRE must publish an annual report on its work

The importance of RE

RE is statutory in all schools, including Academies and Free Schools.

Its importance, however, lies not in its legal status but in what it brings to pupils, schools, community and society as a whole. This is because RE:

- explores a distinctive dimension of what it means to be a person
- engages in a search for meaning, purpose and value in a wondrous but also often confusing and sometimes threatening world
- offers pupils the chance to raise and reflect on perennial questions about life
- is both rigorously academic and deeply personal.
- Promotes understanding of self, others and different faiths and beliefs
- Beliefs influence how people behave and live, so it is important to give children and young people the opportunity to reflect on this



RE really should be challenging.

RE really can be engaging.

RE really does matter.

The importance of collective worship

Schools are more than places of academic learning. They are full of young people, who grow into older people, who go out into society and contribute to the kind of world we live in.

Schools are people-builders and community-builders. What holds people and communities together are relationships and values and these lie at the heart of a school.

Collective worship and assemblies:

- pull all members of the school together into a cohesive community
- promote the shared values of the school
- provide opportunities to reflect on deeper spiritual, moral, social and cultural values of religions and beliefs.

Collective worship is not the same as religious congregational worship.

- it is an invitation to and opportunity for worship in an educational context
- It provides opportunities to reflect on what is truly 'of worth' through the vehicle of Christianity and other faiths and the wisdom of non-religious philosophies and arts.
- It includes and builds bridges with the pupils' own views and experiences helping them to reflect on and develop their ideas about what is important in life
- It helps create and sustain the ethos, values and learning culture of an aspiring and inspirational learning community. It is inclusive, invitational, participatory, reflective and celebratory

Ofsted 2019

“All pupils in maintained schools are expected to study the basic curriculum, which includes national curriculum, religious education and age-appropriate relationship and sex education. Academies are expected to offer all pupils a broad curriculum that should be similar in breadth and ambition.”

- Ofsted will be inspecting the school’s curriculum intent, implementation and impact.
- It is clear that RE will form a part of this in the same way as any other subject.
- Part of this process will include a ‘deep dive’ into subjects and aspects. These have already included RE, SMSC and Personal development.
- Schools will need to ensure that they have a clear rationale for RE and that the curriculum “is designed and delivered in a way that allows pupils to transfer key knowledge to long-term memory. It is sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before and pupils can work towards clearly defined end points.”

SACRE supports schools in the development of meaningful and inspiring religious education and collective worship, appropriate to the pupils’ age and background, rooted in sound educational principles and within the legal framework. We provide:

- Advice, guidance and support on the teaching of RE
- Advice, guidance and support on the provision of collective worship, including ‘Determinations’
- School networking
- Contacts with faith and belief groups in Hertfordshire
- Places to visit
- Advice and support for communications with parents and communities

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For further information about Hertfordshire SACRE
please also see the following website:

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/re/sacre/>

