

SACRE meets regularly as a whole group and appoints various sub-groups to work on specific issues. The Chair of SACRE is Alderman Colin Cradock [details], the Vice Chair Hazel Jefferies [details] The Clerk to SACRE [details] and the LA's serving Officer to SACRE is Antony Evans [details]



Standing Advisory Council  
on Religious Education in  
South Gloucestershire



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# What is SACRE?



**SACRE** is the abbreviation for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. Its composition is specifically multi-faith and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers. It is a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and its purpose is to advise it of the **effective provision of RE and Collective Worship**.

The South Gloucestershire SACRE believes that Religious Education is unique because it is the only curriculum subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but agreed locally.



There are many ways in which South Gloucestershire's SACRE helps schools and their RE teachers. One of its most important duties is to write and publish every five years the locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education. It is called **Mystery and Meaning**.

“ By living a way of life that expresses our basic goodness, we fulfil our humanity and give our actions dignity, worth and meaning. ”

HH 14th Dalai Lama





Among its many other activities SACRE provides opportunities for primary and secondary teachers to meet together. It publishes guidance papers, holds an annual training conference, and day-long events for hundreds of children **sharing important experiences** which modern RE teaching can provide.

For example it has organised specific events on the theme of Holocaust and genocide, and 'NeedLessGreed', and produced a widely circulated Peace poster assembled from children's work reflecting on the events of 9/11. SACRE knows from pupils' responses to these events that, for some, they are **life changing experiences**.



“ Peace is not something you wish for, it is something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away. ”

Mahatma Gandhi





Religion is often blamed for human conflict, but it also inspires much that is good including examples of supreme heroism and sacrifice. It is therefore essential that our children and young people explore through good RE teaching, the reason for these apparent contradictions and the value of religious faith in everyday life, which is one of the defining characteristics of **what it means to be human**.

We are living in a multi-faith, multi-cultural society which generates lively interest among young people in issues of **morality, ethics and citizenship**. The South Gloucestershire SACRE believes that RE provides the forum for these matters to be explored openly and constructively. Its aim is to allow children both to learn about and to learn from religious and non-religious belief, and to explore what it means to hold a religious belief.



“ You can only be safe and secure in a society that practices tolerance, cherishes harmony and celebrates difference. ”

Rabbi Hugo Gryn