

# **Luton SACRE Annual Report**

## **September 2024 - March 2026**

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## 1. Introduction

In the period September 2024 to March 2026, Luton SACRE met five times. The main focus of this year's work was support for the implementation the new agreed syllabus for Luton as well as securing the refreshed constitution and role of the SACRE.

The new agreed syllabus can be seen here: [Luton Agreed Syllabus](#).

New Councillors were nominated and admitted onto the SACRE and they were signposted to NASACRE training.

Schools Forum agreed to carry forward unspent funds which enabled SACRE to fund agreed initiatives, namely Teaching and Learning Consultant support for the development of curriculum materials for the new syllabus (2024-25) and continued support for Luton Council of Faiths for their work with schools.

Thanks, must be extended to John Williams who served as chair of the Luton SACRE for many years. The new chair of SACRE is Noshin Hussain, Headteacher of Chantry Primary Academy.

### **Comment from the Chair, Noshin Hussain**

Over the past year, it has been a privilege to step into the role of Chair. We have been working extensively behind the scenes to redefine our role and purpose, ensuring that SACRE is fully representative of our community and that all members thoroughly understand our statutory responsibilities. To support this governance framework we have completed a comprehensive review of both our Constitution and our Code of Conduct. A core component of our statutory duty is to advise the Local Authority. We successfully fulfilled this responsibility recently by establishing a clear consensus and issuing formal guidance on the wearing of religious artefacts in schools.

Supporting our teaching workforce has also been a major priority this year. In collaboration with the Local Authority representative, we have focused on creating "one-stop-shop" support and resources manual. This began with the launch of the Key Stage 1 RE manual, designed to guide teachers through the delivery of the new locally Agreed Syllabus. Following highly positive feedback from KS1 teachers and strong demand for further support, I am pleased to share that we have now commissioned a Key Stage 2 RE manual.

Our commitment to professional development was highlighted in December when we hosted the RE Network Conference. The event was exceptionally well-received, offering teachers a valuable opportunity to network and learn from a diverse and high-calibre range of guest speakers. Furthermore, we are dedicated to enriching the RE curriculum through creative partnerships. We have commissioned the Khayyal Theatre Company to continue their excellent storytelling work within our schools, and we maintain a strong and collaborative relationship with the Luton Council of Faiths.

Looking ahead, we continue to closely monitor the wider educational landscape to assess any potential shifts regarding whether RE will become a mandatory National Curriculum subject.

I would like to thank all members and partners for their continued dedication to ensuring high-quality Religious Education across our schools.

## 2. Religious Education (Statutory Responsibilities)

### **Locally Agreed Syllabus**

Following the review of the Agreed Syllabus, Luton's new Agreed Syllabus was completed in July 2024 and formally adopted by the Executive of the Local Authority on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

### **Standards**

Luton Education Service, on behalf of the Luton SACRE, have analysed uptake and achievement in GCSE Religious Studies. More than half of pupils sit GCSE RE in Luton, which is a much higher proportion than the national average (see Appendix 1). Results in RE are broadly in line with national averages, which is a positive picture considering the high proportion who sit the exams.

### **Teacher Training: Chiltern Teaching School**

In March 2025, the Luton SACRE commissioned Chiltern Teaching School to run a conference for RE teachers in Summer 2025 and a series of network meetings through the school year to support the implementation of the new agreed syllabus. See Appendix 2 for more details.

### **Teacher Training: Luton Council Education Service**

The Luton SACRE commissioned the Local Authority Education Service to collaborate with teachers and a SACRE sub-group on the development of a Teachers' Manual to support with the implementation of the agreed syllabus, with a focus on Key Stage 1. This Teachers' Manual is in the form of a publicly available padlet: [Luton RE Teachers' Manual](#). In addition, information to support the teaching of RE, including online resources and websites of organisations are shared with schools through the fortnightly Education Service Newsletter.

### **Advice to the LA: Kirpans and religious jewellery**

Extensive consultation has been undertaken in relation to the wearing of the Kirpan in Luton schools. We are very grateful to Jasvinder Nagra Singh for his work on this area (Appendix 3). In addition guidance on the wearing of religious jewellery was agreed by the Luton SACRE (Appendix 4).

## 3. Collective Worship (Statutory Responsibilities)

In 2024 - 2026, the Luton SACRE received no requests for determinations from maintained schools and no complaints were recorded. A request for determination was received from an academy, who were directed to apply directly to the Secretary of State for Education in line with their funding agreement.

## 4. Links with Other Bodies

### **NASACRE**

The Luton SACRE refreshed its membership of NASACRE, and members have benefitted from attendance at online webinars as well as the national conference in London in May 2025. The clerk to SACRE informs members directly when opportunities for training arise, or new information is shared by NASACRE.

### **Luton Council of Faiths**

#### **Funded Activity - Luton Council of Faiths - Ryad Khodabocus**

As of this financial year, we have engaged 6 schools already on a 45 minutes school assembly with a panel of faith leaders learning how we can live together despite differences (2000 children involved already) and those activities are ongoing towards the Annual Peace Walk in September and post Peace Walk depending on the school.

We have also launched this year's Artwork competition on Kindness where schools are taking part which is linked towards the Peace Walk.

We took part in training for school visitors and places of worship through the RE Hub (see summary in Appendix 5).

The Peace Walk day is on the 27th of September and a series of work going on where schools will join for this annual walk.

We have also had another successful event at Foxdell Primary School back in April for their interfaith workshop which we facilitated. This activity has been praised by OFSTED in their last inspection at the school.

If any school would like the Faith leaders panel assemblies with Q&A, please get in touch with us at [info@lutonfaiths.org](mailto:info@lutonfaiths.org)

Further impact information can be found in Appendix 5.

### **Khayaal Theatre Company**

Khayaal Theatre Company toured Luton Primary Schools with a show telling stories from multiple faiths. See Appendix 6 for the full report.

## 5. Luton SACRE's own Arrangements (Statutory Responsibilities)

During the period September 2024 to March 2026, the Luton SACRE embedded the constitution and raised the profile of the SACRE through closer links with the Education Service and regular communication with members and schools. Senior members of the Education Service have been co-opted on to the SACRE.

The annual budget agreed by Schools Forum is £15,118. It was noted that NASACRE recommend funding should equate to 2% of the Central School Services Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Luton currently funds at 0.9% of CSSB and the national

average is 0.62%<sup>1</sup>. Luton Schools Forum agreed to carry forward the balance from FY 2023-24 to support implementation of the syllabus in 2024-25.

A new chair was elected with effect from September 2025, following the retirement of John Williams. The new chair is Noshin Hussain, Headteacher of Chantry Primary Academy.

Moving forward, the SACRE annual report will cover the respective financial year. The next annual report, in June 2027, will cover the Financial Year April 2026 to March 2027.

## 6. Appendices

### Appendix 1) GCSE Religious Studies – uptake and outcomes

| % of cohort entered for GCSE RE | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Luton</b>                    | 49%  | 52%  | 54%  |
| <b>National</b>                 | 29%  | 28%  | 28%  |

| Full GCSE          |       |       |       |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| RE 9-5             | 2023  | 2024  | 2025  |
| <b>no. entries</b> | 1456  | 1650  | 1676  |
| Luton              | 59.8% | 63.8% | 58.4% |
| National           | 59.6% | 59.7% | 59.8% |
|                    |       |       |       |
| Short GCSE         |       |       |       |
| RE 9-5             | 2023  | 2024  | 2025  |
| <b>no. entries</b> | 5     | 172   | 171   |
| Luton              | 20.0% | 49.4% | 41.5% |
| National           | 47.6% | 43.8% | 47.1% |

### Appendix 2) RE CPD Report



RECPD Report  
2025-26.pdf

### Appendix 3) Wearing of the Kirpan: Guidance for the 5Ks



Five Kakaars (5 Ks)  
Luton SACRE guidanc

### Appendix 4) SACRE Advice on Religious Jewellery in Schools



SACRE advice on  
religious jewellery.pdf

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<sup>1</sup> SACRE funding in England: A second report from NASACRE – Paul Smalley August 2023

## Appendix 5) Luton Council of Faiths Report



LCOF SACRE  
funding.pdf



Peace Walk  
Poster.pdf

## Appendix 6) Khayaal Theatre Company Report – September 2024 – Mar 2026



Khayaal Theatre  
Company 2025-26