



December 2015

The Annual Report of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2015.

1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Representing the City of York Council are Councillors:-

Jenny Brooks (Con)
Chris Cullwick (Lib Dem)
Christina Funnell (Lab)

Representing the Church of England:-

Olivia Seymour
Imelda O'Grady
Janet Dunn (Heworth CE Primary School)

Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-

Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)
Bilal Banda (Muslim)
Jerry Karlin (Jewish, Vice Chair)
Avtar Matharu (Sikh)
Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community)
Vacant (Salvation Army)

Representing Teachers:-

Shabana Jabbar (Head of RE, York High; Chair)
Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)
Jenny Mooney (Westfield)

Co-opted:-

Mick Phythian (Humanist)

In attendance:-

Mike Jory (Education Adviser)
Naomi Watson (Clerk)

Suraya Lloyd (Muslim) and Josh Warren (co-opted teacher) stepped down this year and we would like to thank them for their valuable input.

3. Religious Education

During the period January 2015 to December 2015 there were no Ofsted subject inspections of Religious Education (RE). Inspection reports indicate that all schools appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE.

There has been 1 SIAMS inspection in York since last December: St Lawrence's – 6/2/15 - Overall grade Good, RE graded Good
There was also a section 48 inspection of St George's RC Primary School – 9th/10th September 2015. The school was graded good overall and good for the teaching of RE

All the reports are public documents and are available on <http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/your-schools/our-schools/>

As in 2014 the number of pupils taking accreditation at the end of KS4 continues to rise with a higher number of pupils taking the full course GCSE at the end of KS4. This indicates that the subject continues to have a place in the secondary school curriculum in York despite changes to the KS4 accountability measures and the introduction of the EBacc. RE in York schools enjoys a good reputation and SACRE will aim to build on this when the new syllabus is launched.

4. Collective Worship

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework and in the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE has compiled and published guidance to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance can be found on the City of York SACRE website.

It is proposed as part of the annual plan for 2015-16 that this guidance will be revisited and refreshed during the course of the academic year

5. Update on the work of SACRE

- The following priorities for the development of SACRE have been discussed and agreed as part of the annual SACRE plan for 2015-16
 - (1) Continue to raise the profile of SACRE
 - (2) Review the agreed syllabus
 - (3) Encourage and support the involvement of as many stakeholders in the review process through the ASCs (Agreed Syllabus Conferences) and CPD events
 - (4) Review the York SACRE guidance on Acts of Collective Worship
- In the past twelve months three SACRE meetings have been held and attendance has been maintained at the improved level seen in 2014.
- Primary and secondary training through network learning groups supporting effective teaching and learning in RE has

been provided by the Chair of SACRE. This is part of the new Pathfinder Teaching School Alliance CPD programme.

- RE Hub – this involves a pilot project working together with North Yorkshire SACRE and York Diocese. It has been jointly funded by all 3 SACRE and a generous funding allocation from Culham St Gabriel's Trust (CSGT). S. Jabbar has attended planning meetings. The focus of the pilot is to develop subject knowledge for Primary RE colleagues. It has involved an application process (because it will be CSGT accredited course).

The focus was chosen because

- 1) Subject knowledge at primary was criticised and highlighted by Ofsted as a weakness in the 2013 report 'RE – realising the potential'
- 2) It will enable the SACREs to work more closely together. There are 6 primary RE colleagues enrolled on the course.

- SACRE continues to identify best practice models that promote flexible and creative approaches to teaching and learning in RE. This will be a growing focus for SACRE's work following the publication of the RE Review

6. Support for Schools

Members of SACRE are keen to support staff in schools to raise standards in RE and have been kept up to date with the strategies to achieve this through who is supporting RE and Collective Worship, on behalf of the LA and also by:-

- Support for RE subject leaders through Pathfinder subject leader meetings as they work together to implement the Agreed Syllabus.
- Members of SACRE are actively involved in planning the City of York Council's commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2016.

7. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2015

A2 Level

All five 11-18 secondary schools in the City plus York College entered students for the A2 level examinations in Religious Studies and success rates remain high. All Saints had 31 entries;

Archbishop's had 8, Huntington 16, Joseph Rowntree 6 and Fulford 10. York College entered 18.

Entries Total	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	
89	3	19	30	23	10	3	1	89

Full Course GCSE

Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
2015 1047	79.9	98.9
2014 982	78.8	98.7
2013 794	73.0	98.7
2012 736	71.6	98.5
2011 685	70.1	96.5

Commentary

The entries for the Full Course GCSE continue to rise, as does the pass rate.

8. Methods of Teaching

The Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions.

SACRE has embarked on the revision of the agreed syllabus in 2015-16. The chair is actively recruiting teachers to join the review group and the work of the group will be supported by SACRE. The first Agreed Syllabus Conference took place on Wednesday 21st October.

9. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

10. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination"; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship to be 'wholly or mainly

Christian'. The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

11. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

There was one complaint in June 2015 about acts of collective worship in a Primary School in York. The Chair of SACRE and the School Improvement Adviser liaised with the parent about the issue. The parent did not want the school to be contacted direct but asked about the guidance that SACRE issues to schools. They confirmed that the current guidance will be reviewed in 2015-16 and be shared with all schools.

Report produced by Mike Jory, School Improvement Adviser and Shabana Jabbar, Chair