



December 2016

**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 2016.

**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:-**

Stuart Rawlings (Con)  
Chris Cullwick (Lib Dem)  
Christina Funnell (Lab)

**Representing the Church of England:-**

Olivia Seymour  
Janet Dunn (Heworth CE Primary School)  
Vacant

**Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-**

Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)  
Bilal Banda (Muslim)  
Avtar Matharu (Sikh)  
Daryoush Mazloun (York Baha'i Community)

# Annual SACRE Report 2016

Vacant (Jewish)  
Vacant (Salvation Army)

## **Representing Teachers:-**

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

## **Co-opted:-**

Mick Phythian (Humanist)

## **In attendance:-**

Mike Jory (Education Adviser)  
Naomi Watson (Clerk)

Long standing and valued members Imelda O'Grady (C of E) (resigned 31 July) and Jerry Karlin (Jewish) Vice Chair (resigned 13 October), stepped down this year and we would like to thank them for their valuable input.

### **3. Religious Education**

During the period January 2016 to December 2016 there were no Ofsted subject inspections of Religious Education. Inspection reports indicate that all schools appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE.

There have been 2 SIAMS inspections in York since last December:

Archbishop of York Junior School  
St Mary's Askham Richard

Both schools were judged overall outstanding.

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

There was a slight fall in the number of pupils taking accreditation at the end of KS4. This indicates that although the subject continues to have a place in the secondary school curriculum in York there could be the first signs of the affect that the changes to the KS4 accountability measures and the introduction of the EBacc are having on non EBacc subjects.

# Annual SACRE Report 2016

## 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.

Although it was proposed as part of the annual plan for 2015-16 that this guidance would be revisited and refreshed this will now take place in 2016-17 and new guidance will be issued to all schools before the end 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 2016-17:
  - (1) Continue to raise the profile of SACRE
  - (2) Support the implementation of the agreed syllabus
  - (3) Review the York SACRE guidance on Acts of Collective Worship
- In the past twelve months four SACRE meetings have been held and attendance has been maintained. During the course of the year several members have resigned and a key priority for SACRE is to recruit new members especially current teachers.
- 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.
- 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:-

- A very successful Agreed Syllabus Launch Conference in the summer term.
- Support for RE subject leaders through Curriculum Support and Network Learning Groups as they work together to implement the Agreed Syllabus.
- Members of SACRE's active involvement in planning the City of York Council's commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2017.

# Annual SACRE Report 2016

## 7. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2016

### 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 27 entries; Archbishop's had 13, Joseph Rowntree 12, Huntington 11 and Fulford 9. York College entered 36.

Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
<b>108</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108</b>

### Full Course GCSE

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
<b>2016</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>98.2</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>98.9</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>98.7</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>98.7</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>98.5</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>96.5</b>

### *Commentary*

Although the entries for the Full Course GCSE have dropped slightly, as has the pass rate, the A\*-C rate has continued to improve.

## 8. Methods of Teaching

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

## 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

## Annual SACRE Report 2016

direct but asked about the guidance that SACRE issues to schools. It was confirmed that the current guidance will be reviewed in 2016-17 and be shared with all schools.

There was also a question raised about a change in assemblies after the arrival of a new Head at a LA maintained, non- denominational Primary school. Once again the parent had not raised any concerns with the school and did not want SACRE to either. The LA SACRE officer clarified as above about the current guidance and the plans to review it in 2016-17.

**Report produced by Mike Jory, School Effectiveness and Achievement Adviser and Shabana Jabbar, Chair**