

**TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT
OF THE
BOLTON STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2016-2017**



Introduction

I am so pleased to report that the focus of work through SACRE this year has centred around KS3. The launch of the revised syllabus for KS3 and really supportive CPD to go alongside should continue to ensure high quality provision for pupils in Bolton.

Our particular thanks go to staff from Turton High School who have played a really full part in the development of the materials

It has been challenging time for SACRE as increased workloads and time pressures for SACRE members has meant that aspects of our work have not been driven forward as they should. However, we are looking forward to a purposeful and action packed time in the academic year 2017-2018.

Georgina Ryding
(SACRE Member)

1. The constitution and current membership of SACRE 2016-2017

Committee A: Christian and other religious denominations (13 members)

Mr P Agravat	(Hindu)
Mr M Mistry	(Hindu)
Mr S Akuji	(Muslim)
Mr F Ali	(Muslim)
Mrs H Lewis	(Jewish)
Father P Malone	(Free Church – Baptist)
Mrs S Wright	(Free Church – Methodist)
Ms H Browne	(Free Church – Salvation Army)
Mrs M Marks	(Society of Friends)

Committee B: The Church of England (4 members)

Mrs A Hart
Mrs G Ryding
Rev M Short

Committee C: Teacher Associations (8 members)

Mr P Bottomley	(ATL)
Mrs N Moore	(NASUWT)
Ms S English	(NUT)
Mrs J Pilling	(NAHT)

Committee D: Local Education Authority (5 members)

Cllr L Byrne
Cllr K McKeon
Cllr S Pickup
Cllr J Walsh
Cllr Mrs AM Watters

Clerk to SACRE: Marie Foley, Governance Training Officer

Terms of Reference and 'A Guide for SACRE' members are reviewed each year and copies provided for all members. In addition, new members are provided with a copy of 'Effective SACREs' produced by NASACRE (National Association of SACREs). These documents are designed to support members in their duties. The NASACRE website also provides up to date information and guidance for SACRE members.

2. Locally Agreed Syllabus

- 2.1 The Bolton Syllabus completed its last review of Foundation Stage, Key Stage One and Key Stage 2 ready for the start of the Autumn term 2014. At that time additional support materials were added to the existing syllabus. To that end the next syllabus review needs to be completed by Autumn 2019. Work will need to start in the academic year prior to this. The Key Stage 3 part of the syllabus was reviewed Autumn 2016. To ensure that SACRE continues to meet its statutory requirement the
- 2.2 SACRE have been able to offer some high quality professional development to staff teaching RE at Key Stage Three. This has taken the form of three twilight sessions led by Kate Christopher from RE today. Around 14 staff have attended the sessions which have covered a wide range of topics - in each case the focus has been in increasing levels of enquiry and reflection in the pupils. This CPD offer will continue in the coming year.

3. Standards and Quality of Provision in RE

3.1 Excellence in RE

Alongside the introduction of support materials for the syllabus, SACRE have been keen to increase capacity within the borough to support high quality teaching and learning in RE. Teachers from across the primary phase took part in the Excellence in RE programme led by Julia Diamond Conway from RE Today. Seven teachers engaged with the programme and over the year developed their own skills and knowledge, supported staff in their own schools and worked together to share really good strategies and resources. Some of these teachers made a presentation about the work they have been doing at a SACRE meeting. In the coming year plans are in place to involve them in the Annual Conference and to enable them to support schools.

3.2 Collective Worship

- a) SACRE have not received any complaints about Collective Worship. No determinations have been made or reviewed. An existing determination is due for renewal in the next academic year.
- b) SACRE have become aware that it is increasingly difficult for members to visit

4. Statutory Responsibilities

4.1 Withdrawal from RE.

There have been no requests for advice regarding withdrawal from RE in 2016-2017

4.2 Complaints about RE

There have been no complaints made to SACRE regarding RE in 2016-2017.

4.3 Advice to Statutory Bodies : Prayer Room

One school in Bolton requested some advice and guidance from SACRE about how to make the most effective use of a Prayer Room. Working alongside from BCOM, Mr Pounds and Mrs Ryding drew up guidance based on advice from other Local Authorities. This advice is available should any school wish to use it.

5. Wider SACRE Involvement

5.1 North West Hub

This year we have developed some stronger working relationships with other SACRE's in the North West through the NW Hub. Rev'd Martin Short has regularly represented Bolton SACRE. The Hub brings together up to 10 SACRE's and is a really effective way of sharing good practice, supporting each other and discussing current issues facing SACRE's. Items covered this year have included; the profile of SACRE's on Social Media, funding, and inclusivity. Bolton SACRE make a positive contribution to the meetings and have also gained a great deal.

5.2 Inter-faith Activity

Bolton Inter-faith Council works tirelessly to promote understanding and cohesion across the borough. They lead on a range of projects designed to engage young people in developing their understanding of all faiths. Bolton Faith Trails continue to prove very popular and are accessed by 1000's of young people each year. Bolton Inter-faith week also sees tremendous work done with a wide range of partners through many different experiences.

6. Management of SACRE

6.1 Local Authority Support

SACRE continues to be very well supported by Nick Pounds the Local Authority Officer. He regularly attends the SACRE meetings and has been involved in all the major projects. Nick is keen to engage teachers in the process and is very supportive of high quality RE across the town. SACRE is also well supported by the Governance Clerking Service. Marie Foley (clerk) is also knowledgeable on the workings of SACRE and enables the committee to carry out its work effectively.

6.2 Action Plan

This year has seen the conclusion of our current action plan. At the start of the coming year we are going to consider our future priorities so that we can continue to support our teachers and governors across Bolton to maintain and improve the high quality of RE and worship in all our schools.