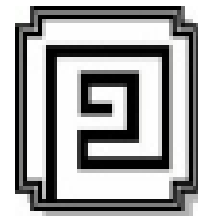
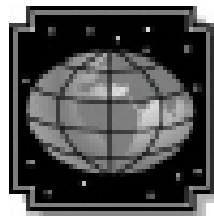
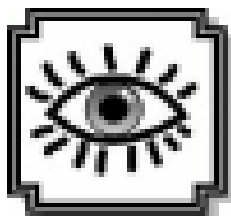




**SOMERSET STANDING
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014**



**SOMERSET STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

(SACRE)

ANNUAL REPORT (2013-14)

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1 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF SOMERSET SACRE

It has been a busy year again for the members of Somerset SACRE.

The popular annual RE training day for governors and teachers was held at the Canalside Centre and led by RE Consultant Andy Midwinter. Training days for primary and secondary teachers were led by RE Consultant Dave Francis. A number of primary schools also received twilight training in RE led by myself.

Six schools gave exciting presentations at our biannual RE Celebration day, which was held at Creech St Michael Baptist Church.

The annual Barbara Agutter award was won by St Andrews Church School in Taunton.

The second group of Somerset schools responded to our survey about standards in RE, which is enabling SACRE to respond to issues raised and provide support. Despite outstanding results from some Somerset schools, this has been an appalling year for RE examination results across the county. Numbers of pupils taking an RE examination have fallen by 34% (compared to 8% nationally) and the quality of results for the RE full course have also fallen sharply. Working with schools to seek to address this in the coming year will need to be the highest priority for Somerset SACRE.

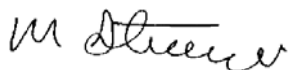
A group of SACRE members is in the process of developing innovative new materials to promote non-violent communication in our schools.

Our RE syllabus is further supported by a growing body of exemplars.

There have been a number of changes in SACRE membership:

- Alison Jacobson, RE teacher at King Alfred School in Burnham, has replaced Lorna Innalls as SACRE's Methodist representative.
- David Curl, Governor at St Benedict's School in Glastonbury, has replaced Mike Haslam as SACRE's Governor representative.
- Adrian Legg, Chaplain at Wadham School in Crewkerne, has replaced Matthew Gardner as SACRE's Somerset Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH) representative.
- Liz Payne-Ahmadi has joined SACRE as a co-opted Humanist representative
- Andrew Sutton resigned as SACRE's Muslim representative
- Andrew Govier has resigned as SACRE's Labour County Councillor representative.

I continue to be grateful to our gifted and active SACRE members for their commitment to Religious Education and Collective Worship in our schools. We are also thankful for the unstinting on-going support of our RE Advisor, Dave Francis, and for the recent welcome addition of Andy Midwinter to the team.



Mike Strange, Chair of Somerset SACRE

2 OVERVIEW OF ADVICE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The annually reviewed Development Plan (see Appendix C) is the main means by which SACRE informs the local authority of its business. Schemes of learning to support the new agreed syllabus were added to the syllabus website along with updates to guidance for schools on the SACRE website.

SACRE maintained its e-support for schools on two websites:

- <http://tinyurl.com/SomSACRE> contains advice on assemblies and collective worship, spiritual development, Ramadan and links between RE, PSHE and Citizenship at Key Stages 1 and 2 (*Other Dimensions*). Guidance on Collective Worship, links between RE, PSHE and Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4 and Post-16 (*Further Dimensions*). The site also contains a sample RE policy document and an archive of SACRE newsletters as well as details of SACRE's membership and;
- <http://amv.somerset.gov.uk/> is the site for the agreed syllabus for religious education in Somerset, '*Awareness, Mystery and Value (AMV) 2011*'. The site contains statutory requirements for RE, the agreed syllabus programme of study plus supporting materials for teachers, headteachers and governors.

3 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SOMERSET SCHOOLS

Agreed Syllabus

An agreed syllabus, named '*Awareness, Mystery and Value 2011*', was made available online at <http://amv.somerset.gov.uk/> and was supported with additional documentation. During the year, further materials were added.

The syllabus has been adopted, not just by the three local authorities that supported its writing (Somerset, North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset), but also by Bristol City, the Isles of Scilly and Haringey.

Monitoring

SACRE's officers continue to monitor the impact of the agreed syllabus on RE, particularly through examination results, through a self-evaluation process and through visits to schools by SACRE members (see reports below). Consideration is also given to the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS) reports on Somerset schools.

Standards in RE

(a) SACRE Survey

Towards the end of the school year, the first SACRE questionnaires were sent to all schools within the South Somerset district.

31 responses were received from across the range of schools, from community primary schools to secondary Church of England VC schools; and one special school. Of these more than 74% were providing at least 50 minutes of RE on the timetable each week, though four schools reported that they provided less than 40 minutes of RE per week.

Many schools reported that, though there was no annual budget for RE resources, funding was provided as needed. The vast majority of the rest of the schools provided a budget of at least 50p per child, and 58% of the total provided at least £1 per child.

Only five schools reported that there were children being withdrawn from RE by their parents, and of these, three were secondary schools. Three schools reported that more than two pupils were being withdrawn.

In terms of attainment in relation to expected levels, eighteen schools reported above average levels of attainments (grade 2), while all but one school reported average attainment (grade 3). One secondary academy reported low attainment. In terms of progress, all but 2 schools reported that pupils were making at least 'good' progress in their learning in RE, and six (five primaries and one secondary: two VC first; two primary academies, one secondary academy, one community primary) schools judged this to be 'good' to 'outstanding'.

All bar one schools (a secondary academy) had an RE leader in place but there was a very mixed picture of continuing professional development (CPD): about half of the schools had not engaged in any training for staff within their school and in eleven schools no-one from the staff had attended any external training whatsoever in the previous year. Of those who had attended training, most had attended one day of training.

21 of the 31 schools had organised visits for pupils in the previous year and 18 had received outside visitors to contribute to RE lessons. Eleven schools had had no contact with a local authority, diocesan or faith adviser in the previous year, though the vast majority had built up their own artefact collection. Only eleven of the schools reported having made use of the SACRE artefact collections.

Only four of the schools had current membership of National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE), and only five subscribed to RE Today. Most of these schools were secondary schools.

All the primary schools reported compliance with the agreed syllabus requirements in each year. At KS4 3 schools reported that they were not in compliance (two academies and one community school). Two secondary schools reported non-compliance at post 16 (one CofE VC and one academy). Interestingly, three respondents reported that their school did not give sufficient time to RE overall; all three were secondary schools.

(b) SACRE Evidence from Ofsted

There were no Ofsted *subject inspections* of religious education in Somerset schools this year.

From September 2013 to August 2014 Section 5 Ofsted inspection reports were received on 51 schools in total. Of these, seven were secondary and one a middle school. Of the primaries, 16 were community schools and one was a Roman Catholic School. The remaining 27 were Church of England schools. Of these, three schools (all primary) were judged to be 'Outstanding'; 36 were judged 'Good' (including five secondary schools); ten schools 'Require Improvement' (including two secondaries) and two were judged 'Inadequate' (both primaries). (Voluntary Aided (VA) schools receive reports on arrangements for religious education from the diocesan inspection authorities).

This year, three reports mentioned religious education specifically, in most cases to commend the contribution of the subject to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. These were Wadham School, Stogumber, and South Petherton Infants School. In South Petherton Infants the inspectors identified that "religious festivals are marked and celebrated" which promoted a "better understanding of the multi-cultural nature of the nation in what is a predominantly white British area". In the case of Frome College, the "high quality teaching" of Religious Studies in the 6th form was mentioned (together with other subjects). In Ruishton, specific mention was made of the resources used with years 1 and 2 in the teaching of Diwali. It was interesting that all the schools in which RE received a specific mention, were judged as being either good or outstanding.

In some cases schools were commended for broadening pupils' multi-cultural awareness through links with other schools. For example Stogumber was commended for developing links with a school in The Gambia. Ashcott School was commended for developing links with schools in Kenya, China and France; as well as a multicultural school in Bristol "to help pupils learn about other cultures in UK". Similarly, Catcott was commended for the breadth of "educational experience and opportunity" afforded to its pupils. This included links with Zululu Primary School in Kenya and visits to Glastonbury Abbey and Wells Cathedral. The outstanding schools were all highly commended for their provision of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSCD). For example in the Curry Mallet School report, inspectors said, "Through the activities provided and the values of the school, the social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding of the pupils has developed very well." Conversely, one school was criticised for not providing enough "opportunities to develop an understanding of the cultural diversity of the UK".

On the whole there was a direct correlation between the quality of SMSCD and the overall judgement. In schools which were judged to be 'outstanding' or 'good', the school was praised for its focus on and the quality of the provision of SMSCD. They were offering curriculum and enrichment activities, through which SMSCD was actively promoted. However, in one of the two schools judged 'inadequate', the school was criticised because "teaching time was not used to...develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding (of the pupils)".

(c) Examinations and Certificates in Somerset Secondary Schools

In total 2,819 took examinations in Religious Studies in Key Stage 4 (Full and Short Course) in 2014. This compares to 4,274 in 2013. This represents a 34% drop in numbers taking the subject. Nationally there has also been a decrease in numbers but only by 8%. This means that 52.1% of the numbers on roll within the county (5,407) took an examination in Religious Studies.

In terms of the Full Course there has been a reduction from the previous year of 113 (5% decrease) on the previous year. However, it is 57 higher than in 2012. Nevertheless, the fall is a concern when considering nationally there was a 7% increase in numbers taking full course. Additionally the quality of results has also slumped for the full course. Only 5.9% of students achieved A*, compared to the national figure of 10.8%. Those achieving A*/A is 23.3% compared to the national average of 30.2%. The percentage of students achieving A*-C fell within the county to 66.6%, (which is down from 72.3% in 2013 and is below the national average of 71.3%).

The total number taking short course fell to 682, which is only 34% of the numbers taking the course the year before (when the number was 2,024; a fall of 64%). However, take up of the GCSE RS short course in England by 30% to 99,661.

Taken together, it seems the number of students taking a qualification at KS4 in Somerset in Religious Studies has both fallen and the grades suggest that the caliber of student has declined (though without further in-depth analysis of qualitative data this is not unequivocal).

Nevertheless, it must be noted that some schools are achieving excellent results in the full course. Of particular note this year are; The Kings of Wessex Academy, Cheddar achieved 85.6% A*-C (National Average 71.3%), with 43.3% achieving A*/A. This is compared to the national average of 30.2%! They also entered 97% (291) of their students for the exam. Sexey's School entered 99% of its students, with 33.2% achieving A*/A and 78.2% A*-C. In Ansford Academy 83% of its students achieving A*-C, while at Bishop Fox's School it was 84.3% and at Kingsmead School 81.8%.

Of the schools entering smaller proportions of pupils for the Full Course, The Blue School, Wells entered 35% (93 students) of its cohort, with 91.4% of its pupils achieving A*-C and 43% of its students achieving A*/A. In terms of percentage on roll being entered for full course GCSE, Heathfield entered 96% (218 students); Castle School 95% (225).

In Short Course GCSE Religious Studies there were 682 candidates from Somerset and of these 93.7% were awarded A*- G grades and 47% A*- C grades. The highest performing school was Court Field Community School where 55% achieved A*-C.

This year, 66 students took 'A' Level RS, fifteen more than the previous year. Of these 46 were female and 20 male. Fifty five of these came from just three schools: Frome College (18), The Kings of Wessex (22) and The Blue School (15). Two of

these schools achieved impressive results: Kings of Wessex achieved 50% A*/A; the Blue School 40% achieved A*/A; which compares to the national average of 24.8%. An impressive 77.3% of Kings of Wessex School achieved A*-B, when the national average is 54.2%.

A total of 146 candidates (88 girls and 58 boys) was entered for 'AS' Level RS, 16 more than the previous year across 7 schools in the county; with 51 of these from The Kings of Wessex Academy, Cheddar; 28 from Frome Community College and 31 from the Blue School, Wells. Overall, 34.2% achieved A-B grades; which compares to the national average of 44.0% nationally. Only Kings of Wessex achieved above the national average with 52.9% achieving A-B at AS level.

In conclusion, there are some serious areas of concern for SACRE to discuss and investigate further. The fall in numbers in students taking a qualification at KS4 begs the question: what RE provision are those schools making for those students not taking any examination in RE- almost half of all students in the county- to ensure they fulfil their statutory requirement to provide RE throughout KS4? The fall in the number of students achieving the top grades at GCSE also needs investigating further. It might be that the impact of EBacc is now being felt in terms of the calibre of students taking full course RS across the county, though further analysis and possible research is required. At KS5 the numbers are very much dependent upon 3 schools. Three of the 7 schools delivering GCE RS had 5 or less students being entered for the examination. This begs the question, 'Why is RS so popular in some of the county's schools and not others?'

Nevertheless, we must not forget all the excellent practice going on in our schools and the effort students have made individually to achieve their grades. SACRE passes on its congratulations to all the students and their teachers.

INSET Support 2013-14

Dave Francis and Mike Strange led a half day conference for the benefit of primary RE leaders on Wednesday, 12 February, which was held at the Canalside Centre in Bridgwater.

There was a SACRE seminar for governors, teachers and SACRE members on 15th July 2014; which was positively received by those who attended. Proposals for next year's seminar should be a whole day rather than just a morning session, and arranged in small workshops led by a guest speaker able to cover the key stages.

A secondary 'Somerset Schools for Schools' conference on 14th March, '**Raising Attainment and Achievement**' was led by Dave Francis and, from Whitstone School Academy, Shepton Mallet: Giles Atkins (Deputy Headteacher) and Louise Flower (Head of RE). The event featured a keynote address and workshops by Marcella McCarthy. Additional practical workshops were provided by Katy Duncan and Jamie O'Pray, Viv Gordon, and Teachmeet sessions by Tess Hurst, Niel Apps, Louis Flower and Mike Strange.

Enriching RE

As well as through SACRE's own websites, teachers of the agreed syllabus continue to be well supported through the development and promotion of RE:Quest, a national RE website featuring Christianity, which contains specific links to the AMV programmes of study: www.request.org.uk.

Dave Francis is the lead consultant for RE:ONLINE, a website that features advice on RE leadership, knowledge, learning and assessment and hosts an online forum, the RE:ONLINE Café: <http://www.reonline.org.uk>

4. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOMERSET SCHOOLS

Policy Statements and Advice for Schools on RE and Collective Worship

SACRE's guidance on collective worship contains advice on legal requirements, spiritual development, a rationale and policy exemplar for collective worship in schools, ideas for planning and using themes in collective worship and guidance for using visitors to lead assemblies. There is also an extensive list of websites that can assist in planning and resourcing collective worship.

The guidance can be found on the Somerset SACRE website at: <http://tinyurl.com/SomSACRE>

The Governors' Guide to RE and Collective Worship in Somerset schools has also been published on the governors' website and in the 'Network' magazine.

Monitoring the Provision of Collective Worship

(a) SACRE Survey

Responses from SACRE questionnaires to schools within South Somerset revealed that one school had more than nine pupils being withdrawn from acts of collective worship by their parents. Most schools – 24 out of 31 – had no withdrawals at all. Two Church of England primary schools had between two and nine pupils withdrawn.

The vast majority of schools – 21 out of 31 – received frequent and regular support from local ministers of religion, though five schools (a special school and four secondary schools) received no such contributions. All but three schools also received contributions to collective worship from visitors other than a local minister of religion.

It was interesting to see that 14 of the 31 schools reported that there was a genuine opportunity for pupils to participate in an act of worship every day. In one case (a secondary academy) it was reported that there were no genuine opportunities for students to participate in collective worship.

Where collective worship took place, all but five of the schools considered that the quality of pupils' experience was at least 'good'. In five schools it was considered to be 'outstanding' overall. In two schools (both secondary academies), the quality was judged to be 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement'. A few schools wanted to distinguish between assemblies and collective acts of worship. Both said that as assemblies the pupils' experience was at least good; as acts of collective worship they were inadequate.

(b) Evidence from Ofsted

From September 2013 to August 2014 Section 5 Ofsted inspection reports were received on 51 schools in total. Of these seven were secondary and one a middle school. Of the primaries, 16 were community schools and one was a Roman Catholic School. The remaining 27 were Church of England schools. Of these three schools (all primary) were judged to be 'Outstanding'; 36 were judged 'Good' (including five secondary schools); ten schools 'Require Improvement' (including two secondary schools) and two were judged 'Inadequate' (both primaries). (Voluntary Aided (VA) schools receive reports on arrangements for religious education from the diocesan inspection authorities).

Two reports mentioned Collective Worship specifically. These were both CofE primary schools: At Kilmersdon the school held "regular collective acts of worship...in the school, local churches and Wells Cathedral through the school year" which exemplifies "the Christian ethos of the school" which is "shared and valued by all". In North Cadbury, "inspirational sessions of collective worship are led by two members of the local clergy every week."

Many of the reports mention assemblies, which are often linked to the development of SMSCD. Some observation of assemblies took place, for example in St Mary's and St Peter's two assemblies were observed "on forgiveness, providing an opportunity for pupils to reflect on some of the more challenging questions posed to them on how to forgive someone." The opportunity assemblies provide for reflection was mentioned in a number of reports. In one of the schools judged to be 'outstanding' (South Petherton), inspectors praised the school for using assemblies to "take the lead in introducing themes such as caring for others, and these are followed up in lessons. Pupils are actively encouraged to reflect on others and their plight."

Overall, there was a correlation between the emphasis and importance placed on assemblies or collective worship in schools which were judged to be good or outstanding. In these schools such occasions were linked to the curriculum and promoted the school's ethos.

No school was therefore reported to be failing to provide a daily act of collective worship.

5. SOMERSET SACRE PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership with the LA

Somerset SACRE is supported by the LA in a number of different ways:

- a senior LA Officer (Peter Newman) attends SACRE meetings and supports the SACRE Development Plan;
- an Associate Adviser (Dave Francis) has a number of allocated days to professionally advise Somerset SACRE;
- Somerset SACRE also benefits from clerical administrative support (James Mitchell-Cassell);
- The LA also supports Somerset SACRE through the designated SACRE budget and supporting the SACRE Development Plan.

National

Somerset SACRE is actively involved with a wide range of national bodies. As well as the correspondence with ministers regarding SACRE's role in monitoring collective worship, Somerset SACRE remains actively involved with NASACRE. Associate Adviser Dave Francis is the Lead Consultant for RE:ONLINE and is a member of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) Executive. He attends RE Council meetings in that capacity. He has also been a key member of the Association for RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) working party on assessment. He provides SACRE with regular reports and updates on the business of these key RE bodies. In addition, SACRE Chair, Mike Strange, is the editor and manager of the RE:Quest website, which continues to be the most visited website for RE in Britain.

Local

Somerset SACRE members were amongst those who attended the South-West SACREs' conference held at Dillington House, Ilminster, on 20th March 2014. The conference featured a keynote address by Dr Mark Chater on the RE Subject Review and a series of workshops and presentations on RE and collective worship. Members attending were Leonard Daniels, Liz Antliff-Clark, Louise Southgate, Mary Lockwood; Mike Keogh and Mike Strange.

The Barbara Agutter Award continues to be an important project for encouraging pupils to develop their creative and expressive skills. This year's winner was St Andrew's Church School in Taunton.

Somerset SACRE also works in partnership with the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

6. SACRE ARRANGEMENTS

Meetings of the Somerset SACRE 2013 - 2014

Three meetings were held, all beginning with a short period of silence for members to reflect on current local, national and worldwide issues.

Meetings were held on Thursday 10th October 2013 (at the Elmhurst Centre in Street); Tuesday 25th March 2014 (at Bishops Hull School, Taunton) and on Tuesday 15th July (at the Canalside Conference Centre, Bridgwater).

Throughout these meetings, members discussed and contributed to the following issues and initiatives:

- deciding how best to disseminate SACRE's new guidance on bereavement for schools, which was produced collaboratively with North Somerset SACRE, for teachers to better understand the varied religious perspectives on death – this was done via upload to the AMV and SACRE website; it was also attached to the RE newsletter.
- preparing for and delivering the annual SACRE seminar in the summer term;
- editing and uploading new mini schemes to the agreed syllabus website in partnership with Somerset, Bath & NE Somerset, Bristol, Haringey and the Isles of Scilly SACREs;
- considering the best ways to raise awareness of the work of SACRE and its philosophy;
- producing additional support materials for the new agreed syllabus;
- engaging with the RE Council of England and Wales as it conducts its review of RE in the curriculum and with the Church School of the Future Review being conducted by the Church of England;
- considering how the Philosophy for Children (P4C) approach compliments the AMV syllabus and how it could be adopted at the RE Celebration Day.
- considering the Ofsted Thematic report into RE, which criticised the government for its lack of support for RE;
- considering the draft non-statutory framework from the RE Council of England and Wales, which is intended to replace the version produced in 2004;
- issuing questionnaires to a selection of schools in order to support the monitoring of standards in RE and collective worship across the LA;
- monitoring the quality and provision of RE and Collective Worship through analysis of questionnaires and Ofsted reports;
- promoting and judging the annual Barbara Agutter Award for religious education and considering how to link this to celebration events and extend it to the other AMV area schools;
- ensuring Somerset's teaching and faith communities are as fully represented on SACRE as possible;

- supporting the South-West area SACREs' annual conference;
- reviewing, auditing, supplementing and considering the location of the SACRE resources collections;
- engaging with the with the Anne Frank Award;
- considering the possibility of offering schools some alternative medium term plans from Jan Lever, called "Discovery"; which will be relevant to Somerset primary teachers. A discount of £70 has been agreed for Somerset schools. An afternoon training session on the material is being planned for next year.
- considering the best way to promote non-violent communication with Somerset schools. A working party was set up and it was agreed to offer a course that runs through Key Stages 3 and 4, which offers a level 1 and 2 accredited qualification from the Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body. Pilot schemes will begin in September.

Financial and Adviser Support

Agreement on a development plan (see *appendix C*) and SACRE budget for the coming year was reached. The SACRE was advised by an Associate Adviser, Dave Francis. Three SACRE newsletters were produced and promoted to all headteachers, Chairs of Governors and heads of RE / RE co-ordinators in all Somerset schools.

Training Activities for SACRE Members and Governors

Five new members joined SACRE this year, one in October; *Yamuna Wynn*, as a representative from the Hindu community; four in July; *Alison Jacobson*, teacher at King Alfred School in Highbridge as a Methodist representative; *David Curl*, Governor at St Benedict's CofE Junior School in Glastonbury as a Governor representative; *Adrian Legg*, chaplain at Wadham Community School in Crewkerne as a Somerset Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH) representative; and Liz Payne-Ahmadi, as a co-opted Humanist representative.

All have been provided with a welcome pack of information about the role of a SACRE member and information about the work of Somerset SACRE in particular.

By joining SACRE, members are able to experience short information sessions provided by individual members on aspects of their representative group.

The annual summer conference for governors and SACRE members, entitled "*High Standards in RE: Knowledge, Skills and the RE Quality Mark*" was well supported. Andy Midwinter, director of Midwinter Education Consultancy, presented two sessions looking at the essential skills RE develops and the nature of the RE Council's RE Quality Mark. It was agreed by members that the seminar had been a success and the feedback from delegates was very positive.

**Appendix A
SUMMER 2013 EXAMINATIONS**

**Tables of GCSE Short Course Religious Education and GCSE Full Course
Religious Studies results**

GCSE RS FULL COURSE	ENTRIES¹	A* %	A %	B %	C %	Tot. A*-C %	D %	E %	F %	G %	Tot. A*-G %
2014 (21 Schools)	2,137	5.9	17.4	23.6	19.7	66.6	12.1	9.1	5.8	3.9	97.4
2013 (23 schools)	2,250	9.4	19.6	23.6	19.7	72.3	12.9	7.6	4.4	2.0	99.2
2012 (24 schools)	2,080	10	20.7	22.5	19.6	72.8	11.2	7.5	4.4	2.5	98.4
2011 (23 schools)	1,678	9.1	20.4	24.9	19	73.4	12.6	7	3.7	2.3	99.0
2010 (15 schools)	946	7.7	15.5	25.3	22.7	71.2	13.6	7.6	4.4	2.0	98.8
2009 (18 schools)	1,151	6	15	24	21	66.0	15	9	6	3	99.0
2008 (19 schools)	899	8.9	14.6	21.1	19.2	63.8	14.7	10.5	6.1	3.6	98.7
2014 (England)	258,067 (increase of 7%)	10.8	19.3	22.9	18.3	71.3	11.8	7.4	4.6	2.9	98.0

GCSE Religious Studies Short Course

GCSE RS SHORT COURSE	ENTRIES¹	A* %	A %	B %	C %	Tot. A*-C %	D %	E %	F %	G %	Tot. A*- G %
2014 (15 schools)	682	2.0	4.8	13.7	23.9	43.9	19.6	12.7	9.9	6.7	92.8
2013 (27 schools)	2,024	3.1	8.8	13.5	19.1	44.5	16.3	14.3	10.8	7.0	92.9
2012 (27 schools)	2,549	3.2	9.2	15.3	17.7	45.4	16.3	14.1	10.9	7.9	94.6
2011 (25 schools)	3,202	2.2	9.7	16.9	19.6	48.4	17.4	14.2	9.1	6.2	95.3
2010 (26 schools)	3,041	2.4	8.7	16.2	20.7	48.0	16.9	15.3	9.6	6.9	96.7
2009 (25 schools)	2,823	3	11	16	21	51.0	15	14	11	7	98.0
2008 (24 schools)	3,075	2.9	9.4	17.3	22.3	51.9	15.0	13.5	9.9	6.8	97.1
2014 (England)	51,649	7.4	12.2	18.8	18.3	56.7	14.9	11.4	7.8	5.0	95.8

¹ Some schools enter Year 10 as well as Year 11 students for GCSE RS.

GCE Religious Studies A Level (Provisional)

GCE A LEVEL	Male	Female	TOTAL	A* %	A %	B %	Tot. A*-B %	C %	D %	E %	QCA Av Pts
2014	20	46	66	13.6	15.2	22.7	51.5	31.8	13.6	3.0	232.3
2013 (6 schools)	21	30	51	9.8	23.5	33.3	66.6	27.5	5.9	0	241.2
2012 (6 schools)	13	43	56	3.6	25	28.6	57.2	23.2	10.7	8.9	228.2
2011 (6 schools)	14	28	42	2.4	21.4	50	73.8	11.9	9.5	4.8	234.3
2014 (England)	6272	13,924	20,196	6.8	18.3	28.3	53.4	25.3	14.3	5.5	n/a

QCA Points: A = 270; B = 240; C = 210; D = 180; E = 150; N/U = 0

GCE Religious Studies AS Level (Provisional)

GCE A Subsidiary LEVEL	Male	Female	TOTAL	A %	B %	Tot. A-B %	C %	D %	E %	QCA Av Pts
2014 (7 schools)	58	88	146	14.4	19.9	34.3	28.8	15.1	9.6	94.2
2013 (7 schools)	43	87	130	23.1	23.8	46.9	24.6	20	8.5	110.0
2012 (6 schools)	32	63	95	22.1	23.2	45.3	20	18.9	9.5	102.8
2011 (6 schools)	29	73	102	19.6	20.6	40.2	22.5	17.6	8.8	97.4
2014 (England)	10,742	22,260	33,634	21.5	22.5	44.0	22.5	16.0	9.5	n/a

QCA Points: A = 135; B = 120; C = 105; D = 90; E = 75; N/U = 0

Appendix B

RESOURCES

Collections of RE books and artefacts for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism are held at the following RE resource bases in Somerset:

School	Town	Telephone
Brent Knoll Primary	Brent Knoll	01278 760546
Critchill Special	Frome	01373 461837
Elmwood Special	Bridgwater	01278 422866
Fairmead Special	Yeovil	01935 431834
Horsington Primary	Horsington	01963 32132
Knights Templar Primary	Watchet	01984 634385
Parkfield Primary	Taunton	01823 282125
Street Learning Support Centre, Brookside School	Street	01458 443340

Collections of artefacts for Hinduism, Islam and Judaism were held at the following RE resource bases in Somerset:

School	Town	Telephone
Hatch Beauchamp Primary	Hatch Beauchamp, Taunton	01823 480616
Kingsmoor Primary	Bridgwater	01278 683371

Materials to support RE are also available from the Diocesan Resource Centre, The Old Deanery, Wells, (Tel: 01749 670777) and the Resources 4 Learning Centre at Bridgwater (Tel: 01278 421015).

The Schools Library Service (based at Resources 4 Learning) will deliver materials to and from each of these centres free of charge to schools buying into the service via the 'Blue Book'.

Another useful source of RE-related material is the Museum Service in Taunton (01823 355510).

Appendix C

SOMERSET SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013 – 2014

Priorities for Somerset SACRE

Somerset SACRE has identified seven priorities for action for the school years 2014-15. These are in line with SACRE's main aim 'to provide high quality support and advice on RE and collective worship for the benefit of all Somerset children and young people.'

The priorities are time limited and costed, linked to the Children & Young People's Plan and monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. They are:

- a) Promotion of the locally agreed syllabus, including with academies, free schools and other local authorities, including the use of Philosophy for Children (P4C) and further exemplar schemes of learning.
- b) Supporting use of the RE adviser for carrying out SACRE business.
- c) Monitoring schools' RE and collective worship through the schools' questionnaire.
- d) Offering professional development for SACRE members, governors, teachers and headteachers, and providing guidance on RE schemes of learning and effective planning and assessment.
- e) Drawing attention to SACRE's work, e.g. through the RE Celebration Day and the annual Barbara Agutter Award: in any local government organisation SACRE must be recognised as a core service.
- f) Considering the impact and effectiveness of recent SACRE publications.
- g) Development of a pilot programme for 'Non-violent communication' for Key Stages 3 and 4.

More detailed points for action, based on these priorities are spelled out in the full Development Plan published with the 'agendas, reports and minutes' section of the SACRE website at <http://tinyurl.com/SomSACRE>

Appendix D

SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2013-2014

Number of SACRE meetings attended (max = 3)

Group A

Representatives of Christian Denominations and Other Religions

Mrs Elizabeth Antliff-Clark	Roman Catholic	2
Ms Lorna Innalls (until July 2014)	Methodist Church	3
Ms Alison Jacobson (from July 2014)	Methodist Church	1
Mrs Ann Barry	Baptist Union of Great Britain	2
Mr Leonard Daniels	Jewish Community	3
Mr Mike Keogh	Buddhist Community	3
Mr Andrew Sutton (until March 2014)	Muslim Community	0
Ms Yamuna Wynn (from October 2013)	Hindu Community	0
Mr Mike Strange (Chair)	Independent Churches	3

Group B

Representatives of the Church of England

Mrs Pauline Dodds	Diocese of Bath and Wells	2
Ms Charmian Roberts	Church of England	2
Mr Edward Gregory	Church of England	2
Mr Mike Tedstone	Diocese of Bath and Wells	2
Mrs Helen Miller (née Dodds)	Church of England	2

Group C

Representatives of Teachers Associations

Mr Niel Apps	National Union of Teachers	2
Mr David Allinson	Somerset Association of Primary Headteachers and Officers	1
Mrs Mary Lockwood	Association of Teachers and Lecturers	2
Ms Louise Southgate	National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers	2
Mr Matthew Gardner (until October 2013)	Somerset Association of Secondary Heads	0
Mr Adrian Legg (from July 2014)	Somerset Association of Secondary Heads	1
Mr Ralph Bullock (Vice-Chair)	National Association of Head Teachers	3
Mr Mike Haslam (until October 2013)	Somerset Governors Strategy Group	0
Mr David Curl (from July 2014)	Somerset Governors Strategy Group	1

Group D

Representatives of Somerset Local Authority

Mrs Frances Nicholson (Vice-Chair)	County Councillor (Conservative)	3
Mr Andrew Govier (until October 2013)	County Councillor (Labour)	0

LA Advisers and Officers

Mr Dave Francis	Associate Adviser	3
Mr Peter Newman	Champion for Vulnerable Groups	1

Appendix E

CIRCULATION LIST FOR THIS REPORT

- The Secretary of State for Education;
- Her Majesty's Inspectors (OFSTED);
- The National Association of SACREs;
- Frances Nicholson, The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Somerset County Council;
- Iain Liddell-Grainger MP, Bridgwater & West Somerset;
- David Heath MP, Somerton & Frome;
- Jeremy Browne MP, Taunton Deane;
- Tessa Munt MP, Wells.
- David Laws MP, Yeovil.

A pdf copy has been emailed to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) at: memsec@nasacre.org.uk

The following individuals/organisations have been made aware that this report is available on the SACRE Active Website, at: <http://tinyurl.com/somsacre>

- members of Somerset SACRE;
- elected members of Somerset County Council;
- all Somerset County and Voluntary Controlled schools;
- Somerset Colleges of Further and Higher Education;
- all governors of Somerset schools (via the Governor Services website).

For further information about SACRE, this and other SACRE publications, please contact:

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Taunton
Somerset TA1 4DY

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