



Suffolk County Council

Suffolk SACRE: Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education: Annual Report 2016 - 2017

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SUFFOLK SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Chair's Introduction from Helen Matter

1. Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to present this report on the work of Suffolk SACRE for the year 2016-17. I would like to thank members of the SACRE be they faith representatives, teachers or councillors, for their commitment and constructive work this year. Special mention goes to Jan McGuire, our Servicing Officer, for updating us clearly and effectively on the national picture of RE, giving us new ways of working together and setting in motion the process of syllabus revision with the local authority. We are also grateful to Linden Pitcher for her highly efficient clerking of SACRE.

Suffolk SACRE understands well that religious education can make an important contribution to young people's understanding of, and respect for, different faith traditions and worldviews. We have been delighted at the continuing success of the Toolkit on Controversial Issues, published last year. This year has seen a successful bid to Westhill to help schools in rural areas with largely mono-cultural communities; we look forward to seeing this work come to fruition next academic year.

Our SACRE remains committed to supporting initiatives which will give our young people a better awareness of the beliefs and practices of others in the wider world. A number of our members acted as faith advisers in the development of support materials for KS1 and KS2 as part of the Diocesan-led Emmanuel Project, a scheme of work covering our Agreed Syllabus. We have been pleased to see the good work and the enthusiasm which the scheme has generated.

Co-operation with the Diocese and with EEFA (East of England Faiths Agency) remain invaluable, and we are indebted to both organisations for the amount of face to face work with schools they do. It is good to know we can point teachers to such resources at a time when SACRE's direct contact with schools is limited.

The increased disparity between requirements in different types of school, and the ways in which schools relate to each other, continue to make it difficult for us to know their actual needs. Our SACRE, alongside many others, is on quite a journey to discover the best ways of finding that information and providing the most relevant challenge and support in the twin areas RE and Collective Worship, in a much changed landscape.

The meetings of the Suffolk SACRE continue to be open public meetings and agendas and minutes are published on the County Council's website. We would welcome members of the public who wish to attend our meetings.

I am pleased to commend this report to you.

Helen Matter

November 2017

2. The Purpose of the Report

Religious Education is an important curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality Religious Education.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), from each Local Authority, will publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

This entails:

- advising the Local Authority on Religious Education given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its Agreed Syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- providing advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus;
- providing advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its Local Authority, considering whether any changes need to be made in the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE;
- offering advice to the Local Authority, and through the Local Authority to schools, concerning how an existing Agreed Syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

3. Management of SACRE: LA Support, Governance &

Membership: LA Support September 2016 – September 2017

The LA provides an experienced and respected clerk, Linden Pitcher, to minute the meetings and provide the Chair and Servicing Officer with valuable, although limited support and guidance. In May 2017, after a prolonged absence of support from the LA Link Officer, SACRE was provided with a transitional LA representative. Paul Calver's appointment has been warmly welcomed, and the early support provided to the Chair and Servicing Officer of SACRE has been of an elevated level.

There have been significant cutbacks in many Local Authorities. However, Suffolk County Council has continued to provide some support to SACRE and its work to encourage the development of quality Religious Education and SMSC in schools, and has agreed to proceed with the funding and convening of an Agreed Syllabus Conference to commence in June 2017. The LA currently supports the funding of the Servicing Officer time, at one paid hour per week.

In 2016 – 2017 SACRE called three formal meetings that were attended by Committee A, B, C and D members. £2,000 is allocated by the LA to cover the expenses of the attendees at these meetings, as well as for covering venue, refreshment and additional training costs. In addition, SACRE receives an additional £4,000 (2016-2017), allocated to cover the role of the Servicing Officer, Jan McGuire, who provides specialist RE advice and governance support, writes the Government reports and commissioned bids, organises the conference, attends county and AREIAC/ NASACRE meetings or conferences and deals with day to day matters. SACRE members consider this to be insufficient time

for the role. The current situation allows for only 12 paid days of time per year (one paid hour per week)

The LA remains unable to fund the termly Religious Education network meetings in Suffolk and this role, in part, has been adopted by the Diocese, under the experienced guidance of Helen Matter, the Diocesan Education Adviser. The networks are used to share resources and materials for the agreed syllabus and provide much needed support.

SACRE continues to promote the value of schools networking and there have been some successful partnerships formed. In addition, Suffolk SACRE are supporting a nationally funded RE REQM Secondary Hub project in the county that also encourages networking.

Governance

In 2016 – 2017 SACRE called three formal meetings that were attended by Committee A, B, C and D members.

The Suffolk Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2012-2017 provides statutory requirements for planning, teaching and assessment procedures. Updates regarding learning without levels were discussed in 2016 - 2017 where it was recommended that the levels in the Agreed Syllabus would remain statutory until their review in 2017-2018. Continued professional development sessions are offered to all schools to ensure the effective implementation of the syllabus. Training is not well attended by secondary colleagues, however primary colleagues are regularly provided with professional advice through training events provided by the Diocese, SACRE and teaching colleagues in the county. Co-operation with the Diocese has been invaluable, and we are indebted to Helen Matter, Diocesan Advisor for all her time spent on developing primary school resources and primary RE teacher training opportunities.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened in June 2017. The SACRE Servicing Officer presented an outline of the review process with clear deadlines, actions and costing that was considered and adopted by SACRE members in June 2017.

The LA has awarded SACRE a budget of £2985.02 (40.5 hours) to complete the revision.

Membership 2016 - 2017

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Suffolk SACRE, which has met three times this year, comprises of four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable. We continue to ensure the membership reflects the demographic. The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A – representatives of Christian denominations and other religions and their religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;
- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations;
- Committee D – representatives of the Local Authority.

Our current Chair, Helen Matter, was elected Chair in January 2016. Suffolk SACRE would like to extend their thanks to Helen Matter for her commitment to supporting SACRE, Religious Education in schools, providing advice on Religious Education, taking a leading role in supporting the training

and development of RE teachers in Suffolk and providing leadership to a dynamic SACRE during the period of September 2016- September 2017.

Membership of Suffolk SACRE the standing advisory council on Religious Education:

Committee A: Christian denominations and other religions and their religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area

Prabjot Kaur: Sikh

Dr Andrew Marfleet: Baptist

Manwar Ali: Muslim

Ian Prettyman: Methodist

Elizabeth Sugarman: Jewish (Chair until January 2016)

Denis Johnston: Humanist

Janus van Helvert: Buddhist

Alison Pentreath: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Committee B: Church of England

Helen Matter: Schools' Adviser, Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich (Chair from January 2016)

Jane Sheat: Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich

Helen Moore: Church of England

Committee C: representatives of the teachers' associations /Teachers

Steph Crossley: St Albans Catholic High School, Ipswich (until March 2017)

Trina Rankin: Hearing Impaired Unit, Westgate Primary School, Bury St Edmunds

Sarah Cobbold: St Benedict's Catholic Upper School Bury St Edmunds

Wayne Buissett: Ormiston Denes, Lowestoft

Gemma Kingston: St Mary's Primary, Mildenhall

David Yaroslow: Debenham High School

Martin Cobbold:

Committee D: Local Authority

Joanna Spicer: County Councillor, Conservative

Derek Hackett: County Councillor, UKIP (until May 2017)

Sonia Barker: County Councillor, Labour (until May 2017)

Councillor Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw, Green Party, Beccles (from June 2017)

Councillor Karen Soons, Conservative, West Suffolk, (from June 2017)

Janice Lee: LA representative (until May 2017)

Paul Calver: LA representative (from May 2017)

Servicing Officers

Jan McGuire: Independent Adviser for RE & LA Servicing Officer for Governance (from April 2015)

Linden Pitcher: Business Support Officer - (Clerk to SACRE)

4. Standards and Quality of Provision of Religious Education ***

DATE	EXAM	STUDENTS ENTERED	% A* - B	% A - C	Comment
Key Stage 5 Attainment					
2013	A LEVEL	182	55		Entry maintained.
2014	A LEVEL	186	50	75	5% lower may reflect grade boundary changes
2015	A LEVEL	183	59	80	9% Increase on 2014 A* - B grades
2016	A LEVEL	167	42	74	6% lower than 2015
2013	A/S LEVEL	53	34		The AS examination is still being offered by examinations boards.
2014	A/S LEVEL	272	43		
2015	A/S LEVEL	266	37		
2016	No data				
Key Stage 4 Attainment					
2013	GCSE FULL COURSE	1877		64	Marked increase in entry
2014	GCSE FULL COURSE	1956		63.8	Grades maintained
2015	GCSE FULL COURSE	2313		61.8	Trend for increased entry
2013	GCSE SHORT COURSE	2621		52	Marked decrease in entry reflects increase in full course
2014	GCSE SHORT COURSE	1920		51	Grades maintained
2015	GCSE SHORT COURSE	1366		59	8% improvement on grades achieved A-C

KS4 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY ***** fft aspire data not fully included *****

2016 RE Examinations:

Students started to study for the new AS and A levels in religious studies in September 2016. In the summer of 2018 students will take the first tranche of the new AS and A levels in religious education and religious studies.

Students started to study the new GCSEs, graded 9-1 in September 2016. Students will take exams for the new GCSE'S in religious studies, graded 9-1, in the summer of 2018.

Key Stage 4

The entry numbers for pupils taking examinations at Key Stage 4 has remained relatively stable for the last three years in Suffolk, with 2,275 pupils attaining examination awards in Religious Studies in 2017. However, the 2017 attainment and progress data reveal that results in Suffolk are currently significantly below the national average. In 2017 62% of pupils at key stage 4 attained a grade 4+ compared to the national average of 70%. Whilst previous data on Key Stage 4 results divided the results into Short Course and Full Course entry, progress and attainment, the 2016/17 results have amalgamated the results. As a result, it is difficult to analyse the data to discover if the marked decline is linked to one or both courses. SACRE and the LA will need to monitor the provision and standards of RE at Key Stage 4 in identified schools and, where appropriate, offer additional support to teachers in raising the quality of RE.

Key Stage 5

A Level Examination: The attainment and progress data for 2016 indicates that there has been a decline in attainment at Key Stage 5. In 2016 Key Stage 5 examination entry declined by 14 students :167 students in 2016, compared to 181 students in 2015. There was also a decline in A*-B grades awarded at Key Stage 5: 2016 (42%) compared to 2015 (59%). In the short and medium term, schools will require support to improve the A*-C grades, to a level that improves upon the national average of 79% A*-C attainment. Suffolk is currently in line with the national average with a 74% A*C attainment, however, this is a disappointing decline from 2015 when 80% of students attained A*-C grades.

AS Examination: In 2015 there was a slight increase in students being entered for the short course, with 308 additional students taking the course in 2015 compared to 2014. 2016 data for the AS level examination has not been received to allow for the analysis of the attainment and progress for this period.

Attainment in RE not covered by public examination

In addition to the data provided, information is also gathered during school visits, continuing professional development (CPD) and local teachers' network meetings.

RE Quality Mark (REQM) 2016- 2017

The Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) was introduced in 2014 to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding RE. The Suffolk SACRE has been represented from the outset, as the previous Servicing Officer, Mary Myatt, was instrumental in founding the award programme. Suffolk SACRE actively promotes this award across schools as well as offering additional support from trained REQM assessors and RE advisors based in Suffolk. REQM award schools are celebrated by SACRE and Gold award teachers are actively invited to be members of the SACRE committee.

Currently there are 16 Suffolk schools that have achieved the REQM award. This is an increase of only two schools for the 2016-17 period.

14 Schools have achieved the Gold award. This demonstrates the high quality of RE taught in these schools, and this should be celebrated.

SACRE are monitoring the uptake of the REQM award with interest as there has been a marked decrease in schools applying. This may be linked to the cost of the award, as it has been noted that when REQM has been able to offer small schools a subsidised fee they have been able to meet the remaining cost, and this has been reflected in higher application numbers amongst small schools in Suffolk.

REQM

Name and Address of the school:	Award Date:	Award:
Barningham CofE Voluntary Controlled Primary School	2017	Gold
Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Lane, Ipswich, IP44JD	05/10/2016	Gold
Walsham-le-Willows CEVC Primary School, Wattisfield Road, Walsham-le-Willows, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 3BD	23/06/2016	Gold
St Alban's Catholic High School, Digby Road Ipswich IP4 3NJ	22/06/2016	Gold
Elveden C of E Primary Academy, London road, Elveden, Thetford, IP24 3TN	24/11/2015	Gold
St John's CEVA Primary School, Victory Road, Ipswich IP4 4LE	02/12/2015	Gold
IES Breckland, Crown Street, Brandon, IP27 ONJ	20/07/2015	Silver
St Edmunds Catholic Primary School, Westgate Street, Bury St, Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QG	10/07/2015	Gold
St Benedict's Catholic School, Beetons Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6RH	29/04/2015	Gold
St Mary's Church of England Academy, Trinity Avenue, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7LR	23/03/2015	Gold
Ormiston Denes Academy, Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft, NR32 4AH	09/03/2015	Gold
Debenham High School, Gracechurch Street, Suffolk, IP14 6BL	01/12/2014	Gold
St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School, School Lane, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 9DE	19/06/2014	Gold
St Edmundsbury CEVA Primary School, Grove Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3BJ	06/05/2014	Gold
Thomas Gainsborough School Head Lane, Great Cornard, Suffolk CO10 0JU	21/07/2014	Silver
Stradbroke High School, Wilby Rd Stradbroke, Suffolk IP21 5JN	27/06/2014	Gold

63 other schools are being supported by hubs around the county, led by the Diocesan adviser, to prepare for the award.

Monitoring of provision

2016- 2017 Monitoring of Primary Schools:

Members of SACRE have links with primary schools through their faith communities within the county. SACRE continues to offer training, consultations and events to support schools and monitor the delivery of RE. The Servicing Officer works closely with the Diocesan Religious Education Adviser. There is a growing concern for SACRE's ability to report on progress in the future if schools all use their own assessment systems. It will be difficult to standardise these for the purpose of analysis and comparison at Primary level. This is a development area for SACRE in the next academic year, alongside the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus review process.

2016- 2017 Monitoring of Secondary Schools:

Academies bring new challenges in terms of accountability – however, SACRE has continued to have positive working relationships with some academies that continue to use the locally agreed syllabus. One formal partnership has been established with an Academy, and a representative from the Academy sits on the Suffolk SACRE committee.

SACRE also monitors the Ofsted reports and the Religious Education Quality Mark awards for progress and excellence in SMSC and RE delivery.

5. Ofsted Reports

SACRE has started to establish a new process to monitor Ofsted Reports in Suffolk for information and comment made on the provision and quality of Religious Education and SMSC. This will be supported by the Local Authority representative going forward. Generally, the picture for RE reflects the overall picture and grading for a school. Mostly, the reports do not make specific reference to RE but report on social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

Where it has been made known that a school is not meeting statutory advice, SACRE will contact the school and offer support.

6. Support for Improving Teaching of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

- Commissioned projects
- Consultancies
- Resources and Materials
- Research awards
- Suffolk Conference
- Relevant Links
- Suffolk SACRE and Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Commissioned Projects: 2016-2017

Ofsted identifies a need for a greater awareness of diversity and enrichment activities that broaden the experience of the pupils and students in our care. Therefore, SACRE actively offers opportunities to schools to attend activities that enable the staff and students to engage with diverse communities and the wider SMSC and British Values agenda.

Suffolk SACRE Prevent Project: Teaching controversial issues in the classroom: 2016-17: National Award from Accord

[Suffolk recognised in inclusive education award February 2017](#)

Suffolk County Council's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) was recognised in a national award celebrating those SACREs that work hardest at promoting the growth of mutual understanding between those of different religious beliefs.

The Suffolk SACRE was granted a Special Commendation by judges of the 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award for its '[Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit](#)', which seeks to give confidence and offer practical guidance to local teachers in delivering controversial issues linked to:

- A School and teacher's 'Prevent' duty to stop people being drawn into terrorist-related activity
- A School's obligation to promote pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development
- The requirement on schools to teach Fundamental British Values (of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs)

The toolkit was produced with support from Suffolk County Council's Localities and Partnerships team who secured Prevent grant funding from the Home Office.

This funding was used to commission the work, project managed by Jan McGuire and produced by a respected team, which drew on established relationships it had forged with members of local religion as well as belief groups (SACRE) and classroom teachers.

Consultancies

The SACREs work included consulting with local teachers about their needs and wishes from the proposed resources.

The SACRE's flexible and non-prescriptive kit provides a '6 Step Plan' to structure the delivery of sensitive and controversial issues, and is accompanied by a bank of resources to support teachers, which focus on 9 themes related to the Prevent duty. The nine themes are: sense of belonging; terrorism; extremism; hate crime; tolerance; being British; radicalisation; world events; culture and faith.

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE, who served as Chair of the 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award judging panel, said:

"The judges consider the toolkit to be of national significance, which highlights the skill and leadership that those involved with RE can offer in addressing and teaching about controversial, sensitive and important religious and cultural issues. They commend the kit, along with the joint working involved in its production, to others."

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, Councillor Gordon Jones said:

"We are thrilled to be recognised for the hard work that Suffolk SACRE have put in to produce the tool kit for teaching controversial issues.

"We have had really positive feedback from school staff who have used the toolkit. It can give teachers more confidence to have conversations about controversial topics on one to one, small group or in whole class scenarios. The materials are also flexible so they can be used across the school and in different subject areas.

"This is the first time the judges of the Accord Inclusivity award have decided to issue a Special Commendation. This is a real accolade and I would like to congratulate the members of SACRE who gave a great deal of their own time to the project."

Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer, member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, said:

"The SACRE identified a need to support staff in schools to have conversations and deliver lessons about controversial topics. When the opportunity arose to apply for Prevent grant funding, the Prevent Delivery Group supported the SACRE to gain the funding they needed to develop this toolkit.

"It is fantastic to see that Suffolk County Council's SACRE have received national recognition for this great achievement."

A Radio Suffolk interview was completed by Jan McGuire on 20th March 2017. The Facebook SaveRE site been used to share the materials in response to the Manchester attack. Jan McGuire was invited to the AREIAC Conference in York in July 2017 to show-case the materials. The Toolkit has been positively received.

Research Awards: 2017: Westhill NASACRE Project Award

Suffolk SACRE is excited that Westhill has provided them with the opportunity to offer mono-cultural schools, in deprived rural and coastal areas of Suffolk, the chance to engage in an educational experience that aims to promote respect and celebrate cultural diversity. The funding of £4,000 was awarded in May 2017, and the outcomes of the project will be reported on in the Suffolk SACRE annual report of 2017-18.

The Westhill funding for 2017-18 will help the Suffolk SACRE, under the direction of the project manager, and current Servicing Officer of Suffolk SACRE, Jan McGuire, to reach out and support the wider community of Suffolk.

Project in summary: Four mono-cultural, socially and economically deprived, rural and coastal primary schools will link with SACRE and pupils from urban multi-faith schools and the local Mosque to explore the theme of cultural diversity. Year 6 pupils will explore what it means to live in a diverse society, using techniques that have been designed to help teachers and pupils explore the teaching of controversial issues in a safe and inclusive manner. The project aims to 'promote respect and celebrate cultural diversity'. The project culminates with a joint celebration and visit (2018).

Context:

Almost 40% of Suffolk's population is rural. Rurality is pertinent to the issue of need and access to rich diversity and social bridging, as rural households are exposed to a series of additional challenges including extra transport costs, fewer educational choices and poor access to enrichment opportunities. In addition, in 2015, there were almost 20,000 income deprived children in Suffolk. Social bridging and wider diversity and faith experience remain a concern in Suffolk, and it can be particularly difficult for mono-cultural rural schools to access relevant opportunities.

Suffolk SACRE and the promotion of diversity:

Suffolk SACRE believes that encountering people of different faiths is one of the most effective ways of breaking down barriers and overcoming prejudices and misconceptions. Children and Young people living in Suffolk have very few opportunities to meet people from faiths and beliefs other than Christianity. Suffolk is not ethnically or religiously diverse. Transport links to the urban areas are poor, and finances are limited, and few families or schools have visited the Mosque in Ipswich, the county town of Suffolk. Many of the urban school pupils have limited experience of what it is like to live in a rural area, and the mono-cultural school pupils have little or no experience of meeting pupils outside of their community.

This project will enable pupils to encounter and talk with those who have beliefs and views different from their own, to break down barriers constructed through ignorance and fear of the unknown, and to challenge the resulting stereotypes they may have experienced.

The project will allow teachers to try out techniques that they can develop further for use in the classroom to build an RE curriculum that reflects rich diversity and faith, whilst developing their own delivery toolbox and confidence in handling controversial issues.

Link to the 'Teaching Controversial Issues' Toolkit:

<http://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/11-19-learning-teaching/religious-education/sacre/prevent>

Conference: Locally agreed syllabus

The Suffolk Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE was reviewed in 2012 and is available through www.suffolklearning.co.uk Hard copies of the syllabus were made available for those attending the Suffolk RE Conference June 2016. SACRE did not offer a conference in June 2017. The annual Suffolk RE Conference is the principal event for promoting the principles and expectations for the RE syllabus, therefore, SACRE will need to consider how to launch the revised Agreed Syllabus document to schools once the review is completed 2017-2018.

The Agreed Syllabus is currently under review 2017- 2018.

Relevant Links with other agencies

Suffolk SACRE has links with other agencies including the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, IFCF, University of Suffolk, University of East Anglia, AREIAC, NASACRE, LTRE, NATRE, REC and the Suffolk Community Foundation.

Suffolk SACRE and Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Suffolk SACRE is particularly appreciative of the support and partnership it has with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Co-operation with the Diocese has been invaluable, and we are indebted to Helen Matter, Diocesan Advisor, and respected SACRE member for the Church of England, for all her time spent on developing primary school resources and teacher training (Primary and SCITT) opportunities that directly support the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus.

Diocesan contribution to RE in Suffolk for the academic year September 2016- September 2017

The Diocese continues to support, with Keswick Hall Trust funding, a Schools' adviser, whose focus is RE and Collective Worship in all Church of England schools, but whose support extends to all other primaries where wished. The Adviser sits on SACRE and during the year took on the role of Chair. She sends out a termly RE bulletin and runs courses and support groups across Suffolk, which are open to all.

During 2016-7, the Diocese published the final part of the Emmanuel Project, a detailed concept-based RE scheme covering the Suffolk Agreed syllabus from EYFS to Y6. Teachers and SACRE members helped to write and edit the 42 units, which increasing numbers of Suffolk schools are using. An additional 7 Christianity units were published for VA schools, to meet the C of E 'Statement of Entitlement to RE'.

SACRE did not run an RE conference this summer, to allow the Diocese to hold a conference specific to their RE subject leaders, in light of changes to the inspection framework. This conference attracted more than 50 schools. Local teachers ran mini-workshops and hundreds of RE scrapbooks were displayed and examined as Recording and Assessment in RE came under scrutiny.

7. Compliance with the Statutory Requirement

Determinations: Suffolk SACRE's Statutory Role 2016-17

Suffolk SACRE has a statutory role in considering and granting determinations.

Determinations are made where a school, on behalf of a number of parents, requests Collective Worship other than that set down by statute.

There were no determinations in 2016-17 for Suffolk SACRE to consider.

Suffolk SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE and Collective Worship.

In 2016-17 there were no such formal complaints to deal with.

Collective Worship

Suffolk SACRE reminds schools of the importance of collective worship and they are directed to resources prepared by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Links to resources are provided on the Suffolk SACRE area of the LA website. Links and contacts for support in collective worship are also shared at training and network sessions.

8. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda

SACRE members continue to generously offer schools their time and expertise. Representatives from the Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist and Christian faith have delivered assemblies and supported curriculum planning, and teachers, with individual requests.

SACRE has delivered on one project deemed to have 'national significance' in 2016-17, culminating in a national award from the Accord body, and further securing funding from NASACRE and Westhill to help to take the project to monocultural rural and coastal schools in socially and economically deprived areas of Suffolk. The 'Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit', based on the Prevent agenda, both broadens and enriches the experience of pupils and students in Suffolk schools. This project has helped to support the LA with their social and racial harmony, SMSC, British Values and Prevent agenda as well as providing social bridging opportunities and enrichment of diversity and faith awareness experiences. Social bridging and wider diversity and faith experience still remains an Ofsted concern, and it can be particularly difficult for mono-cultural rural schools to access relevant opportunities. SACRE remains a key partner in offering such opportunities to Suffolk schools, through their committed work in raising the quality of Religious Education in the classroom.

If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Suffolk SACRE Clerk via e-mail at linden.pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk