

## **Bradford SACRE Annual Report 2024/25**

### **SACRE Chair's Introduction – Richard Crane, Assistant Director for Schools & Learning, Interim Strategic Director for Children's Services**

Welcome to the 2024/5 SACRE Annual Report. I hope that you will find it useful in terms of highlighting the significant work done across Faiths and Communities to support each other and to promote tolerance and knowledge and understanding. It is a great privilege to Chair this group and to welcome the contributions to the work of SACRE throughout the year.

#### **Overview**

Bradford SACRE met three times in the 2024-25 academic year, in November, March and July. The meetings were in person twice and virtually via Microsoft Teams once.

At the November 2024 meeting, there was a review of the committee's constitution incorporating a discussion about the then vacant chair's position. The committee discussed and approved the annual SACRE report for 2023/24. Updates were provided on the newly implemented 'Believing and Belonging' RE syllabus and the school RE Network.

The March 2025 meeting saw the ratification of the amended constitution as well as the application for the renewal of determination of Killinghall Primary School which was granted following a detailed discussion.

A representative from the organisation Solutions Not Sides presented their work at the July meeting and there was a discussion on whether this should be promoted to schools across the district. The renewal application for the determination of Saltaire Primary School was discussed and approved. There then followed a review of the determination application form and policy for future applications.

#### **Statutory responsibilities - Religious Education**

Due to the timings of the meetings this year, it was too soon to review examination data for summer 2024 but this will be discussed at the next meeting. Bradford SACRE hasn't received any complaints this year.

#### **Statutory responsibilities – Collective Worship**

The determination applications of Killinghall Primary School and Saltaire Primary School were considered and approved this year.

Due to the increasing amount of academies across the Bradford District, there are very few maintained schools with determinations (just 7 now from a previous high of almost 50). As a result, there are no further renewals applications due until June 2027. The clerk will contact those schools when their determinations are due for renewal to offer SACRE's support.

#### **Links to Other Bodies**

The RE Teachers network is affiliated with NATRE local groups, and the termly meetings are led by the SACRE clerk with guest speakers. This network is crucial to emphasise the importance of RE in schools and offer the RE Leads an opportunity to link with colleagues.

SACRE also has close links with the Interfaith and Diversity Education Team at Bradford Council.

## Links to Other Bodies (Ctd.)

The team provides traded support the RE Leads and their colleagues to enhance their knowledge of the subject via teacher CPD training as well as affording pupils invaluable enhanced learning through the lived experience of the tutors in the team via guided visits to places of worship, workshops and assemblies. This service is unique across the region and therefore also supports schools from other LAs. Team members attend the RE Teachers network meetings to understand key issues in the teaching of RE and answer any questions from teachers around their faith and how to teach it within the new syllabus.

We also work with Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale SACREs through the shared agreed syllabus, and with Pennine Learning. Bradford teachers have the opportunity to join Pennine Learning syllabus meetings with colleagues from the other 3 LAs. Pennine Learning also has a slot at every RE network meeting to provide updates and opportunities in terms of funding, continuous professional development training and further networking opportunities. This resource is greatly valued by the leaders who attend and every school receives the information even if they are unable to send a delegate to the meetings. The opportunity to join the wider regional secondary meetings have proved invaluable to secondary colleagues which is by its nature a smaller cohort with their own specific questions and challenges.

## Statutory Responsibilities – SACRE Arrangements

### Professional and administrative support

The LA provides a clerk to SACRE. The LA representative is the Assistant Director for Schools & Learning, Interim Strategic Director for Children's Services and he currently chairs the committee as we have been unable to secure a volunteer for this role at the moment.

### Membership, Representation and Recruitment

Bradford SACRE appears to be quite large in comparison to other SACREs (potential membership of 35) and a significant number of attendees make a regular commitment to attend the meetings. However, there have been issues around quoracy and difficulties filling certain vacancies. The membership was also reviewed in light of the 2021 census data. To address these issues, a review of the committee's constitution and quoracy rules was undertaken and completed this year.

There are currently vacancies on Committees A and C and efforts continue to fill these positions from the relevant community organisations. This academic year we have welcomed one new member, there have been two resignations, one due to the term end in line with that particular's faith organisation's policy of representation on committees and the other due a lack of time as a result of changed personal circumstances.

This year has seen a review of our attendance policy within the constitution and the addition of a sunset clause for non-attendees similar to that of school governing boards.

There are currently 12 of a possible 20 members on Committee A, Committees B and D have full representation, whereas Committee C has 4 vacancies.

### Meeting Attendance 2024-25

Committee	No of places	Working members	Vacancies	14/11/24	17/03/25	15/07/25
				Attendance	Attendance	Attendance
A	20	12	8	8	7	7
B	5	5	0	3	3	3
C	5	5	0	1	1	1
D	5	5	0	1	3	2

### Finance

SACRE has a draw-down budget provided by the LA, which it can call upon as required.