



Bradford SACRE Annual Report 2021-22

1. Introduction

Contents

1. Statutory responsibilities - religious education
2. Statutory responsibilities - collective worship
3. Links with other bodies
4. Statutory responsibilities – SACRE arrangements

Words from the Chair of SACRE

As we come to the end of another year I am very grateful to all our members for their continued support. It has been fantastic to return to in-person meetings after a period of Covid19 restrictions and we have maintained the usual high standard of contributions from our diverse and thoughtful membership. Throughout our meetings, dialogue continues to be constructive and respectful of other members and of divergent views.

The locally agreed syllabus which we share with Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale has been adopted by Bradford schools and the feedback from teachers has been overwhelmingly positive.

Overview

Bradford SACRE has met three times in the 2021-22 academic year, in November, March and June. In contrast to the previous year, all meetings were face to face at Margaret McMillan Tower, a Bradford Children's Services base in the city centre.

At the November 2021 meeting we invited an RE subject leader from one of our primary schools to feedback on her implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus. Her overview was extremely positive. In addition, we received a primary school Determination. Detailed feedback was provided to enhance an application which was judged to be of high quality. Our final activity was to share a film made in Bradford during Black History Month. The film illustrates the contribution of refugees and asylum seekers to our community and celebrates Bradford's status as a City of Sanctuary.

We also included an element of self-evaluation at the November meeting. Members felt that we had been successful this year in spite of the difficulties of meeting. In addition to discussion in the meeting, we invited email comments.

At the March meeting Linda Wright, primary head teacher representative, spoke about the Boy 87 project. Boy 87 is a novel about a refugee child. A physical copy of the book has been gifted to all year 6 pupils in Bradford schools, and the schools are provided with an accompanying unit of work. It is hoped that this initiative will raise awareness of sanctuary seeking in general and Refugee Week in particular.

We discussed membership and attendance, and agreed that a review was due since the membership was last discussed and agreed in 2012. As the census is being conducted this year, we agreed that the review of SACRE membership should be postponed until the census data are available. Regarding attendance, it was agreed that a place will become vacant if a member missed 3 consecutive meetings without an acceptable reason.

Ros Garside, chair, announced her resignation, effective from the end of this academic year.

SACRE considered a primary school determination, which was declined. The school was to be contacted with an offer of support. They have previously made a successful application.

At the June meeting, SACRE considered two primary determinations, one of which was the resubmission from March. Both were approved, and it was noted that a particular strength of the second school's submission was the breadth of consultation that it showed.

In addition, we welcomed Kate Hart, the new education officer from Schools of Sanctuary. This is a national movement developed to work with schools to ensure that they are equipped to support asylum seeker and refugee pupils. There are currently over 350 schools with School of Sanctuary status, 6 of which are in Bradford. Kate would like to expand its reach

and asked for our support. She was invited to speak at the primary schools' partnership meeting in the Autumn term.

We thanked Ros Garside for her 8 years as chair, and members were informed that the LA has co-opted a new chair, Fiona Beevers. Fiona has previously represented the Church of England at Bradford SACRE and will join us in the Autumn term.

| Attendance 2021-22 | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | 9.11.21 | | 9.3.22 | | 30.06.22 | |
| Committee | possible | actual | possible | actual | possible | actual |
| A | 19 | 11 | 20 | 8 | 17 | 7 |
| B | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| C | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| D | 5 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

Statutory responsibilities - religious education

There was no examination data available for summer 2021.

Bradford SACRE hasn't received any complaints this year.

The West Yorkshire syllabus, Believing and Belonging, was formally adopted for use from September 2021.

Statutory responsibilities – collective worship

SACRE considered three determinations, all for primary schools. All were approved, though in one case a re-submission was required. The school that re-submitted was offered support in order to improve the standard of their paperwork and to consider the nature and purpose of collective worship.

There are 47 schools with current or historic determinations from SACRE. 32 of these are now academies and as such do not apply to SACRE for renewals. The clerk contacts those schools when their determinations are due, to offer SACRE's support, but the offer is usually declined.

SACRE provides guidance to schools on collective worship and determinations, which was amended slightly this year in response to feedback from members. It is available [here](#).

Links to other bodies

The RE Teachers network is affiliated with NATRE local groups, and the termly meetings have been led by the chair and clerk.

SACRE has close links with the Interfaith and Diversity Education Team at Bradford Council. The team provides traded support for religious education and collective worship to which schools can subscribe. Team members often attend the RE Teachers network meetings.

We also have close links with Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale SACREs, with whom we share an agreed syllabus, and with Pennine Learning who provide consultancy and who wrote the syllabus in partnership with those SACREs before it was adopted in Bradford. Joint meetings are held termly.

Statutory responsibilities – SACRE arrangements

Professional and administrative support

The LA provides a clerk to SACRE. There also an LA rep from the senior leadership team who regularly attends meetings.

Membership, representation and recruitment

A significant number of attendees make a regular commitment to meetings. However, there have been issues around quoracy and difficulties filling certain vacancies. For example, the Baha'i vacancy has been empty for 5 years and others for significant periods. We intend to review our membership in light of the 2021 census data. The review will take place in early 2023, which will be the first time we meet after the data are released.

There are currently vacancies on all Committees. This academic year there have been four resignations, two dismissals of members who haven't attended, and we have welcomed five new members. There are currently 17 of a possible 24 members on Committee A, 3 of a possible 5 on Committee B, 2 of a possible 5 on Committee C and 4 of a possible 6 on Committee D.

Finance

SACRE has a draw-down budget provided by the LA, which it can call upon as required. This academic year it has only been needed for meetings and refreshments.