



Spring 2015

**The Annual Report of Wakefield Local Authority
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of Wakefield Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from September 2013 to July 2014.

1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every Local Authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Corporate Director of Children and Young People Services on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Representing the Wakefield WMDC are Councillors:

Cllr Ahmed Nadeem
Cllr Ros Lund
Cllr David Hopkins
Cllr Olivia Rowley
Cllr Tracey Austin

Representing the Wakefield Diocese:

Rev Gill Johnson
The Reverend Canon Ian Wildey

Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:

John Wadsworth	Free Church Federal Council
Elizabeth Martin	Free Church Federal Council (Baptist)

Representing Teachers:

Mark Taylor	NAHT (Head of St Mary's)
Hugh Griffith	ATL (Airedale Academy)
Nicola Madarasz	NUT (Minsthorpe Community College)
Jill Davidson	AST RE Horbury Academy
Lyndsay Ranby	Acting Chair (Head of Darrington School)

Observers:

Maria Stead	Cathedral Academy
Katherine Toney	Cathedral Academy
Michaela Page	Castleford Academy
Judith Inman	St Paul's Academy
Leanne Hargrave	All Saints, Normanton
Liz Brook	St Michael's Academy

In attendance:-

Kathy Thompson (Adviser)
Sue Millar (Clerk)

3. Methods of Teaching

The Wakefield Agreed Syllabus (2013 – 2018) provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions. Resources are available via the Wakefield VLE.

A working party of SACRE members were led by RE Advisor, Lat Blaylock from RE Today Services, to develop the Wakefield Agreed Syllabus. Colleagues from the working party planned and delivered workshops at the launch of the Wakefield RE Agreed Syllabus to support the teaching and learning of the subject.

During the period September 2013 to July 2014 there were no Ofsted subject inspections of Religious Education. Inspection reports indicate that all schools appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE.

There have been 3 SIAMS inspections in Wakefield during 2013-14:

St Paul's Alverthorpe – Outstanding
St James' Academy Crigglestone – Outstanding
St Thomas' Featherstone – Good

See appendix for SIAMS Judgement Recording Forms

4. Collective Worship

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework and in the absence of further guidance, updated guidance on Collective Worship is provided on the SACRE VLE and through iPoint.

5. Summary of Key Priorities 2013 - 2015

The following priorities for the development of SACRE have been discussed and a SACRE development plan for 2014 – 2015 has been shared with SACRE members.

- To strengthen the knowledge and expertise of SACRE members through appropriate training and development opportunities
- To provide a summary of up to date guidance for schools on Collective Worship
- To support and promote best practice work in schools on community cohesion, particularly highlighting the contribution of R.E. to community cohesion
- To promote flexible and creative approaches to teaching and learning in RE across all key stages
- To initiate and support appropriate CPD for all teachers of RE in schools across the Wakefield

Action Plan:

- Continue to promote the work of SACRE through the VLE
- Provide regular RE CPD for primary and secondary teachers
- Raise awareness of current trends and initiatives in relation to curriculum development through termly newsletters.
- Provide up to date guidance for schools on Collective Worship
- Continue to support local schools through funding opportunities

6. Support for Schools

Members of SACRE are keen to support staff in schools to raise standards in RE and have been kept up to date with the strategies to achieve this through who is supporting RE and Collective Worship, on behalf of the LA and also by support for RE subject leaders through quality CPD.

7. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2014

Full Course GCSE

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G% (Any GCSE or equivalent)
2014	1142 (31%)	68%	97%
2013	1847 (52%)	58%	97%
2012	1593 (44%)	58%	96%
2011	1803 (53%)	54%	97%

Commentary

2014 - girls 76% Level 2 compared to 58% male

2013 - girls 66% Level 2 compared to 50% male

A* - G average 97%, A* - C risen from 58% to 68% but Cohort has fallen from 52% to 31%.

9. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

10. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination"; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship to be "wholly or mainly Christian". The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

11. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

None were made to the SACRE during this reporting year.

Report produced by Lyndsay Ranby, Chair and Kathy Thompson, School Improvement Adviser

Ratified by SACRE on 11 February 2015