



Summer 2020

**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 2019 to July 2020.

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 Olivia Rowley
Cllr Tracey Austin

Representing the Anglican Diocese:

Rev Gill Johnson / Archdeacon Peter Townley / Simon Sloan

Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:

John Wadsworth Free Church Federal Council
Kieron Flood Catholic

Representing Teachers:

Mark Taylor NAHT (Head of St Mary's)

Hugh Griffith
Nicola Madarasz
Jill Davidson
Lyndsay Ranby

ATL (Airedale Academy)
NUT (Minsthorpe Community College)
AST RE Horbury Academy
Acting Chair (Head of Darrington School)

Observers:

Maria Stead
Katherine Toney
Michaela Page
Leanne Hargrave
Suzanne Tomlinson

Cathedral Academy
Cathedral Academy
Castleford Academy
All Saints, Normanton
Outwood Grange Academy

In attendance:-

Rachel Redfearn (Adviser)
Andy Hoole (Clerk)

- Long standing member and representative of the Free Church Federal Council (Baptist), Elizabeth Martin, stepped down from her role in SACRE and we would like to thank her for her valuable input.
- Mark Taylor was appointed as Chair from September 2019.

3. Methods of Teaching

The Wakefield Agreed Syllabus was implemented in September 2018 and training was commissioned during 2019 – 2020 to support the delivery of the syllabus for both primary and secondary colleagues. The first training event, subsidised by SACRE, took place during October 2019, led by staff from RE Today. This event focused specifically on supporting teachers in reviewing learning and assessing pupils' understanding and progress. The SACRE also agreed to subsidise resources which teachers were able to collect and use during the training and in school after the event.

A second event was scheduled to take place focusing on Creativity in RE, once again linked to the agreed syllabus. Due to school closures from March 2020 as a result of Covid 19, this event has been rescheduled for November 2020.

Secondary teachers requested support in promoting RE in school. In order to support closer collaborative working, SACRE continued to fund teachers to attend a local secondary network of RE leaders, providing colleagues in schools with the opportunity to review practice, share successes and learn from visiting speakers.

SACRE agreed to provide both primary and secondary schools with selected additional resources to supplement and enhance the teaching of the locally agreed syllabus. These resources were distributed to all secondary schools and to primary schools who accessed training at the start of the academic year 2019-2020.

4. Outcomes of SIAMs inspections

During the period September 2019 to July 2020 there were 4 Ofsted subject inspections of Religious Education. Inspection reports indicate that all schools are compliant in the statutory provision of RE and outcomes were, once again, very positive during 2019-2020.

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|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Methodist J&I School | September 2019 | Good |
| St. Mary's CofE Primary School | February 2020 | Excellent |
| The Cathedral Academy | February 2020 | Excellent |
| Horbury Bridge Academy | March 2020 | Excellent |

The schools were all inspected under the new SIAMs inspection framework. Reports were extremely positive, recognising the many strengths in provision:

- **Excellent pastoral care walks in tandem with phenomenal academic progress, especially for those who are more vulnerable and those whose sense of self-worth is low.**
- **High quality religious education (RE) and inspiring, creative chaplaincy support academic outcomes, character development and the spiritual growth of all, irrespective of age and background. (The Cathedral Academy)**

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Recommendations were made in reports to share good practice widely:

- **Share and develop the excellent practice that exists, internally and externally with a wider audience. Develop support offered to other schools in enhancing spiritual wellbeing and Christian distinctiveness. (St. Mary's CoE)**

5. Supporting wider opportunities

Following a highly successful visit from a local secondary school to places of worship in London during 2018-2019, SACRE agreed to consider any requests to subsidise visits to places of worship beyond Wakefield from other schools. This intention was shared with schools through the secondary RE network and SACRE received a request to support with funding visits. Unfortunately, again due to Covid 19, these visits did not take place and will be rescheduled.

6. Widening membership of SACRE

This continues to be a key focus for the SACRE. During 2019 – 2020, a representative from the Catholic church joined the group. SACRE continues to seek representatives from other faiths and this remains a very important priority.

7. Summary of Key Priorities 2020 - 2021

The following priorities for the development of SACRE have been discussed and agreed with SACRE members:

- To continue to promote effective collaborative working for secondary school teachers
- To continue to promote and enhance learning of RE post 14 in secondary schools through subsidising enrichment activities where schools make successful applications; to ensure that high performing secondary schools have the opportunity to share strong practice with other schools where take-up is low and where results are below national
- To ensure that teachers continue to access appropriate CPD to deliver the revised syllabus skilfully, so that RE is an integral component of a carefully planned primary curriculum
- To widen the membership of Wakefield SACRE with increased representation from religions beyond Christianity within the district
- To strengthen the knowledge and expertise of SACRE members through appropriate training and development opportunities

8. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2019

Full Course GCSE

See embedded document



2019 FFT GCSE.pdf

64% of pupils entered for the exam achieved level 4+. Comparison with previous years is difficult due to the new GCSE exam and changes to grading. This is significantly below the national average of 71%.

12 out of 18 secondary schools entered pupils for GCSE in RE. Numbers of entries vary between schools (8 pupils at Freeston Academy and 236 pupils at St. Wilfrid's Catholic Academy, for example). Entry numbers are above 40 at Castleford Academy, Horbury Academy, St. Thomas a Becket Catholic High School and St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School.

Higher performing schools include Castleford Academy, Kettlethorpe High School and Minsthorpe Community College.

(Please refer to embedded document for further details).

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 Mark Taylor (Chair) and Rachel Redfearn (School Improvement Adviser)

Ratified by SACRE on 4.6.20