



December 2017

## The Annual Report of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

### Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2017.

### 1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education 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 Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills 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 City of York Council are Councillors:-**

Jenny Brooks (Con)  
Chris Cullwick (Lib Dem)  
Christina Funnell (Lab)  
Lars Kramm (Green)

#### **Representing the Church of England:-**

Olivia Seymour (Diocese of York)  
Janet Dunn (Heworth CE Primary School)  
Vacant

#### **Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-**

Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)  
Bilal Banda (Muslim)  
Avtar Matharu (Sikh)  
Daryoush Mazloun (York Baha'i Community)

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Vacant (Jewish)  
Vacant (Salvation Army)

## **Representing Teachers:-**

Shabana Jabbar (Head of RE, York High; Chair)  
Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)  
Jenny Mooney (Westfield)  
Vacant (co-opted)

## **Co-opted:-**

Ian Hodgson (Humanist)

## **In attendance:-**

Mike Jory (Education Adviser)  
Naomi Watson (Clerk)

Long standing and valued member Mick Phythian (Humanist) (resigned 18 January) stepped down this year and we would like to thank him for his valuable input.

### **3. Religious Education**

During the period January 2017 to December 2017 Ofsted inspection reports indicate that all schools appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE.

There have been several SIAMS inspections in York since last December:

- Heworth Primary March 17 Outstanding (RE also Outstanding)
- St Barnabas' Primary March 17 Outstanding (VC so RE not inspected)
- Naburn Primary May 17 Outstanding (VC so RE not inspected)
- St Oswalds Primary June 17 Outstanding (VC so RE not inspected)
- St Pauls Primary Oct 17 Outstanding (VC so RE not inspected)
- Archbishop Holgate's Oct 17 Outstanding (RE also Outstanding) Also just received National Accreditation - Gold RE Quality Mark

All the reports are public documents and are available on <http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/your-schools/our-schools/>

There was again a slight fall in the number of pupils taking accreditation at the end of KS4. This indicates that although the subject continues to have a place in the secondary school curriculum in York there could be the continuing signs of the effect that the changes to the KS4 accountability measures and the introduction of the EBacc are having on non EBacc subjects.

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## 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, the City of York SACRE has compiled and published new guidance in September 2017 to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance will be published on the City of York SACRE website.

## 5. Update on the work of SACRE

- The following priorities for the development of SACRE have been discussed and agreed as part of the annual SACRE plan for 2017-18:
  - (1) Continue to raise the profile of SACRE
  - (2) Support the implementation of the agreed syllabus
- York SACRE is a member of the Learn Teach RE regional hub
- In the past twelve months four SACRE meetings have been held and attendance has been maintained. A key priority for SACRE is to recruit new members especially current teachers.
- Primary training through network learning group supporting effective teaching and learning in RE. This is part of the Pathfinder Teaching School Alliance CPD programme.
- SACRE continues to identify best practice models that promote flexible and creative approaches to teaching and learning in RE. This will be a growing focus for SACRE's work following the publication of the RE Review.

## 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:-

- The continued promotion of the new Agreed Syllabus (2016-2021)
- Membership of the LTRE Hub
- Support for RE subject leaders through Network Learning Groups as they work together to implement the Agreed Syllabus.
- Members of SACRE's active involvement in planning the City of York Council's commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2018.

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## 7. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2017

### A2 Level

All five 11-18 secondary schools in the City plus York College entered students for the A2 level examinations in Religious Studies and success rates remain high. All Saints had 31 entries; Huntington had 18, Fulford 17, Archbishop's 15 and Joseph Rowntree 10. York College entered 35.

Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
<b>126</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>126</b>

### Full Course GCSE

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
<b>2017</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>98.9</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>98.2</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>98.9</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>98.7</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>98.7</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>98.5</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>96.5</b>

### *Commentary*

Entries for the Full Course GCSE have dropped again from 2016. The overall pass rate has improved but the A\*-C rate has dropped, although still above the national average of 70%.

## 8. Methods of Teaching

The new Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions.

## 9. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year. However a query was raised about the content of a RE lesson at a LA maintained secondary school. This was referred to the school and the school addressed the concerns raised.

## 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**

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship.

**Report produced by Mike Jory, School Effectiveness and Achievement Adviser and Shabana Jabbar, Chair**