



December 2014

**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 2014.

**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)  
Janet Looker (Lab)  
Paul Firth (Lib Dem)  
Christina Funnell (Lab)

**Representing the Church of England:-**

Olivia Seymour  
Imelda O'Grady  
Janet Dunn (Heworth CE Primary School)

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

Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)  
Suraya Lloyd (Muslim)  
Jerry Karlin (Jewish, Vice Chair)

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Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community)

## **Representing Teachers:-**

Shabana Jabbar (Head of RE, York High; Chair)  
Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)  
Jenny Mooney (Westfield)  
Josh Warren (Hull)

## **Co-opted:-**

Mick Phythian (Humanist)

## **In attendance:-**

Mike Jory (Education Adviser)  
Naomi Watson (Clerk)

### **3. Religious Education**

During the period January 2014 to December 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 2 SIAMS inspections in York since last December:  
Elvington Primary: 03-Oct 2014 1 (outstanding)  
Wheldrake with Thorganby Primary: 20-Jun 2014 1 (outstanding)

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

As in 2013 the number of pupils taking accreditation at the end of KS4 continued to rise with a higher number of pupils taking the full course GCSE at the end of KS4. This indicates that the subject continues to have a place in the secondary school curriculum in York despite changes to the KS4 league tables and the introduction of the EBacc.

### **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 guidance to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance can be found 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 a SACRE development plan for 2013 – 2015 has been shared with SACRE members.

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- (1) Raising the profile of SACRE.
- (2) Developing a CPD programme for R.E. teachers.
- (3) The development of a Youth SACRE

- In the past twelve months three SACRE meetings have been held and attendance has been maintained at the improved level seen in 2013.
- Primary training through a network learning group supporting effective teaching and learning in RE has been provided by the Chair of SACRE
- 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
  
- NB The plan was reviewed in September 2014 and a new development plan will be in place in September 2015

## 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 Curriculum Support and Network Learning Groups as they work together to implement the Agreed Syllabus.
- Members of SACRE are actively involved in planning the City of York Council's commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2015. SACRE is providing financial support for HMD by facilitating a Drama project with Primary schools (led by external consultant Colin Jackson)
- York SACRE has actively supported the first regional RE conference held at Harrogate on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014. This was in partnership with North Yorkshire SACRE, the Diocese of York, NYCC and CYC.

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

### A2 Level

Four out of the 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 15 entries; Archbishops had 3, Huntington 15 and Joseph Rowntree 9. York College entered 28.

Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
70	4	5	20	27	11	3	0	70

### AS Level

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Two 11-18 secondary schools in York and York College entered a number of students for the AS level examinations in Religious Studies.

Entries	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
25	3	7	7	3	4	1	25

## **Commentary**

There were slightly fewer students studying at AS level in 2013-14 (25 down from 28) and the number studying and achieving full A level also dropped (70 down from 86). The schools attracting the largest number of students continue to be All Saints and Huntington. The majority of students achieve at the highest grades A\*-C with the percentage of students achieving A\*-C at 80% for the second year in a row.

## **Full Course GCSE**

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
2014	982	78.8	98.7
2013	794	73.0	98.7
2012	736	71.6	98.5
2011	685	70.1	96.5

## **Commentary**

The entries for the Full Course GCSE continue to rise in line with the national picture. The pass rate continues to rise.

## **8. Methods of Teaching**

The Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions. Resources are available for all teachers in York for the teaching of RE from the York St John University's David Hope RE Centre, which also provides access to resources via its website.

SACRE keeps a watching brief on national developments taking place around the R.E. curriculum. The R.E. Review was published in November 2013 and several members of SACRE attended the launch event. SACRE will embark on the revision of the agreed syllabus in 2014-15. The chair is actively recruiting teachers to join the review group and the work of the group will be supported by SACRE.

## **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.

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## **11. Complaints regarding Collective Worship**

None were made to the SACRE during this reporting year.

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