

Bristol SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2019 -20

How the lesson continued at Fishponds...

After hearing the creation story he decided to join the dough table. I asked if he had a good idea for what he could make. "Yes, I make monster, he need eyes, need mouth". He added different materials and some decorations. "This can be his hair". "Look I made funny clown". "I asked him if he had finished and he said "not yet, I making a lovely clown". "I making everybody". "I clown more clown and small clown, baby small". "I said it looked like a family and he repeated the word "yeh family".

Make something new for the world

Create own artwork...

...and have time to discuss

EYFS teaching about Creation through play at Fishponds CE Academy. This exemplary RE was showcased in a workshop at our Annual Conference.

Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship

What do you talk to when you are happy, sad, or worried or afraid about something? Maybe you speak to your Mum and Dad or a friend or grandparent.

Having people use prayer as a way of speaking to things they pray to that are their own or made by others. It often takes place in a church but you can pray anywhere!

* What do you think people might be talking to God about when they pray?

The Hymn of praise

Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise the Lord For the wonders of His world. Thank you for the beauty of the world. Give thanks for the things that are good and for all these things. That our Lord and Jesus bring.

Please to: Praise to: Praise the world For the wonders of the world. Thank you for the beauty of the world. Give thanks for the things that are good and for all these things. That our created world bring.

Holymead Infant School Brislington
Year 1
Home learning about how Christians Pray and worship

Stewards or Vandals?

OUR COMMON HOME

Laura Harris, Callum Humphries and Adam Robertson
Annual RE conference – January 2020

A key question for Key Stage 2 taken from our 2020 Conference "RE to Save the Planet"

Answer lesson question: Why did St Nicholas of Tolentino choose this artwork for their nativity?



Material from a new resource written for KS3 this year, by Redland Green School, about Refugee support offered at St Nicholas Tolentino RC Church in Bristol
<https://bristolacre.org.uk/site/faith-in-action-st-nicholas-of-tolentino-ks3/>



CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Annual Report 2019 -20.

This has been an extraordinary year for us all. Until March 2020 SACRE was able to meet and serve teachers in its usual ways. After 19 March 2020 through July 2020 (the end of our accountability year), we met and served teachers in the virtual world: our meetings were held on Zoom and we provided support using our website, training and hub meetings were conducted on Zoom, and 1:1 support was given by phone and online video platforms.

Throughout the year, Bristol SACRE has worked tirelessly to support outstanding RE across Bristol's schools via a number of initiatives:

CPD EVENTS

- Our Annual Conference, "**RE to Save the Planet**", was held on 29 January 2020 at **Engineers House in Clifton**. The theme was "The Environment and RE" and the keynote talk was presented by **Fiona Moss**. We were fortunate in that this was a physical conference. It garnered outstanding reviews and was very pertinent to concerns to preserve a world future.
- Katy Staples has continued her outstanding work as Advisor to SACRE, providing *individual bespoke support* to **12** schools.

MEANINGFUL LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

We have worked extremely hard to enhance our close working relationships with schools and civic organisations across Bristol to ensure that RE is recognised as an important component of contemporary life in our city.

- We provide an up-to-date directory on our website of speakers and places of worship for schools to visit.
- We liaise with faith communities across Bristol to ensure that teachers have access to faith speakers and community members and that visits to places of worship across the city run smoothly and this year have signposted schools to local faith communities and representatives who have offered local virtual tours and Q and A sessions for schools.
- We maintain a close partnership with both universities in the city. Our relationship with Bristol University is facilitated by SACRE member Dr Teresa Griffiths, who organises the University's RE PGCE programme. We collaborate to ensure continued support for RE teachers as they move from their PGCE or ITT into their teaching career.
- We continue our close links with local interfaith groups and with Bristol City Council. This was most visible in 2019-20 through SACRE's contribution to the development of Bristol's Faith Manifesto for the (postponed) May 2020 Mayoral elections.

BRISTOL SACRE INITIATIVES

We have continued to develop accessible and inspiring support for RE across the city.

- We have worked hard to widen our SACRE membership with new co-opted members to better represent the religious diversities of Bristol residents.
- We have expanded our visibility with civic groups to better champion the role SACRE can play regarding national and local issues. On behalf of SACRE, Tamar Hodos Lucas signed up to the Bristol's Equalities Charter and joined the Bristol Equality Network.
- We have written guidance documents for schools to address some barriers to participation in aspects of the curriculum, guidance to ensure that Relationship Sex and Health Education is faith-sensitive, and guidance for schools about Ramadan. All these documents can be found here : <https://bristolsacre.org.uk/site/ensuring-religious-diversity-and-inclusion/>

DEVELOPMENTS AT BRISTOL SACRE

Bristol SACRE remains very well placed to navigate successfully the uncertainties that lie ahead in the coming year. Covid made us refocus our immediate priorities in spring 2020, and we have continued to support Bristol's teachers virtually to deliver outstanding RE education to our children. The toppling of Colston's statue in June 2020 reminded us of the relationship between faith and our individual and collective heritages. Over the coming year, we will revisit our membership to ensure that our SACRE is able to represent Bristol's faith diversity even more effectively, and we will review our Locally Agreed Syllabus to provide an education that celebrates our related and divergent faith and non-faith practices and promotes tolerance and mutual respect.

Tamar Hodos Lucas

Dr Tamar Hodos Lucas
Chair of Bristol SACRE



What is SACRE?

SACRE is the abbreviation for the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**. Its composition is specifically multi-belief and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers. There is also representation from the British Humanist Association.

It is a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and to support its work. The purpose of SACRE is to advise on the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship.

Bristol SACRE understands the unique status of Religious Education as it is currently the only subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but is agreed locally. This means that we can ensure that the syllabus we offer children and young people gives examples of beliefs lived and practiced by people who have lived and currently live in their city.

SACRE takes an active part in the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus every five years. During this academic year 2019 -20 we continued to use our Agreed Syllabus, Awareness Mystery and Value: <http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org> . This Agreed Syllabus is shared by Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and the London Borough of Haringey.

How SACRE is funded and administered

SACRE received funding of £10,000 from Bristol City Council. As a statutory board SACRE is clerked through the Council's services. All SACRE's members are volunteers who give up their time freely and enthusiastically to help SACRE with its work.

SACRE Adviser

The SACRE Adviser advises SACRE and enacts the decisions made at meetings. Since 2009, Katy Staples (Bristol Diocese) has provided the advice and support for Bristol SACRE. She invoices the local authority three times a year and keeps within the budget set. This has provided SACRE with a dedicated and experienced resource. Katy also advises Swindon SACRE and has extensive expertise in education and working in schools. She also line manages Adam Robertson, the adviser to South Glos SACRE, which means that there is a joined up service for SACRE support across the region. During this period, Bristol City Council has been represented by Jenny Brookes Teaching and Learning Consultant, who has worked tirelessly and offers an important link between SACRE and the Local Authority and acts as a line manager and critical friend for Bristol SACRE's service to schools.

SACRE works to the non-statutory guidance in the 1994 document: Circular 1/94. Parts of that document have been replaced with the guidance: 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non- statutory guidance 2010'.

Bristol City Council has approved a constitution for SACRE. A copy of the constitution may be obtained from the Bristol SACRE website

<https://bristolsacre.org.uk/site/about/public-documents/>

Priorities for 2020-21

In the coming year, we have two main priorities:

Review our membership to improve representation.

Review our Locally Agreed Syllabus

In addition, we will continue with our development plan, which focusses on the following:

- To improve Religious Education in Bristol schools
- To develop and enhance the possibilities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development offered through Collective Worship (Assemblies)
- To encourage Schools, Academies and Colleges to celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in Bristol and work with other local agencies to ensure this

This development plan ensures that the funding we receive is used well and targeted to support teachers in schools deliver high quality RE.

Support for schools

In line with its key priority to raise attainment in RE through advising and training teachers, SACRE undertook the following work in 2019-20:

Annual RE Conference

Teachers in Bristol were offered the opportunity to attend the Bristol and South Glos SACRE Annual RE conference. 33 teachers from Bristol schools attended this conference. This year the Key Note speaker was Fiona Moss from RE Today Services. She spoke about “**RE to Save the Planet**” and helped teachers to gain confidence in their subject knowledge by inspiring them with new ideas to investigate what religions teach about humans relationship and responsibilities towards the natural world. There were excellent workshops including: “**Hands on Creation for EYFS**” led by Claire Hawkins and Elinor Watt from Fishponds CE Academy, “**Stewards or Vandals**” led by Adam Robertson, Laura Harris (NATRE Regional Ambassador for RE), with Callum Humphries (Christian Aid).

There were two secondary workshops. One focussed on “**Buddhism and the Environment**” and was led by Emma Woodshaw from Gordano School and Advayamati from the Bristol Buddhist Centre. “**Christianity, Climate Change and Poverty**” was led by Jill Dickinson, former head of Religious Studies at Saint Mary Redcliffe and Temple School.

Most of the materials from this conference remain accessible on our website:
<https://bristolsacre.org.uk/site/religious-education/cpd-for-re-teachers/>

The day received only positive evaluations, and the Bristol teachers who attended spoke with great enthusiasm of being able to use the ideas and strategies immediately in their teaching and of communicating to other teachers in their school.

Best Practice Forums and Learn, Teach, Lead RE Conference

The successful *Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)* project has continued this year. In Bristol the project has extended to include two new hub leaders for South Bristol, Vicky Wiltshire from Holy Mead Infant and Junior Schools, Brislington, and Richard Murphy, St Bernadette's RC Secondary School, Whitchurch (this recognises the geographical distances in the city). Hub leaders met for training on 20th November 2019 and the 28th February 2020 (in person) and on the 4th of June (on Zoom.) Successful Hub meetings for all teachers of RE in Primary or Secondary settings have been held in Bristol throughout the year despite the Pandemic. Bristol RE Hubs meet 3 times per year and are free for all Bristol teachers and teaching assistants. Bristol SACRE has used some of its budget to support these hubs. Adam Robertson is the primary RE Hub leader and Alice Sarbicki the secondary. The Hub met three times in 2019-20 with participation ranging between 8 – 24 people per session. The variety of the Hub meetings ensured that RE leaders and teachers in Bristol were able to receive the support that they needed. Thanks go to Hub leaders for their drive and organisation.

Teachers in Bristol would normally be invited to attend the Learn Teach Lead RE Summer Conference which was to be held in Swindon, but due to the Covid19 pandemic was postponed. It will take place in June 2021 instead.

Offering special support to schools during Covid

RE lessons for home and school learning and guidance for Collective Worship/Assemblies during Covid were posted on the Bristol SACRE website. These had been created by the Bristol SACRE adviser with Adam Robertson (adviser to South Glos SACRE). Through our link adviser Jenny Brookes they were disseminated to schools in the weekly bulletin. These excellent helpful materials can be found here:
<https://bristolsacre.org.uk/site/coronavirus-resources-for-schools/>

Monitoring of RE provision in Bristol

A key task for SACRE is to monitor the overall provision of RE in Bristol schools. The main evidence base that SACRE has to work from to monitor provision is the data from public examinations. In the academic year 2019 - 20 no public examinations took place and so we are unable to look at this evidence to monitor the outcomes of Religious Education in the city.

Statutory matters

SACRE has a statutory role to decide on any determinations. These are requests by schools to move away from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly, broadly or mainly of a Christian character. During the period of this report, there have been no requests for determinations.

Where a complaint has been made about the RE curriculum in a Bristol school, it should be referred to Bristol Council for it to deal with. Bristol City Council has undertaken to seek SACRE's advice on any such complaint. There have been no formal complaints within this reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

The four groups or committees that have served for the year 2019-20

Committee A

Tamar Hodos Lucas
Mohammad-Nassir Miah
Rachel Noyce
Peter Cook
Balbir Nirwan

Christian Denominations and other faith

Jewish
Muslim
Free Church
Baptist
Sikh

Committee B

Jill Dickinson
Duncan Struthers
Fiona Dorman

The Church of England

Committee C

Esther Deans
Jackie Walsh
Vicky Wiltshire
Alice Sarbicki

Associations representing teachers

Malmesbury Secondary School
Easton CE Academy
Holymead Primary School, Brislington
Redland Green School

Committee D

Liz Radford
Ruth Pickersgill
Carole Johnson
Lesley Alexander

The local authority

Conservative
Labour
Labour

Co-opted members:

Michael Gower and Matt Evans
Teresa Griffiths
Reissa Perry

Humanist
Bristol University

Support Officers:

Katy Staples
katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

SACRE Adviser
Telephone: 0117 906 0100

Jenny Brookes

Local Authority Link Officer

Clerk: during this reporting period

2019-20 the clerk was Steve Gregory
steve.gregory@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol City Council

Members may be nominated by appropriate organisations but are appointed by the Council. Other members may be co-opted. (Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996).

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2019 -20

Thursday 7th November 2019

Bristol Baha'i Centre.

8 Church Road

Lawrence Hill

Bristol

BS5 9JA.

2pm - 3.30pm

The main agenda items were:

1. A talk about the Baha'i faith
2. Reports from the Religious and Cultural Working Group, and the KS4 non-exam working group.
3. Proposals for the "Gold Wire Award"
4. Feedback from the RE teachers Hub meeting
5. Scrutiny of School Websites for evidence of RE provision.

Wednesday 11th March 2020

City Hall

College Green,

Bristol

BS1 5TR

6pm - 7.30pm

The main agenda items were:

1. Report from KS4 Development Group
2. Website checking 2020 - suggested timeline allocation and changes to process?
3. Annual Report - for accuracy and for actions
4. Feedback from the Religious and Cultural Working Party
5. Feedback from Annual RE conference, hub meetings and Dillington Conference
6. Development Plan 2019 - 21 including plans for Agreed Syllabus Conference

Thursday 18th June 2020

Zoom Meeting

9 am - 10.30 am

The main agenda items were:

1. Report for KS4 working group
2. Website checking - suspension?
3. Feedback from the Religious and Cultural Working Party
4. Feedback from hub leaders training and local RE Hubs
5. Setting out plans for the Agreed Syllabus Working Party

Two meetings were well attended by members and were quorate, however the meeting held at the Baha'i Centre was not well attended.

All SACRE meetings are open to members of the public who should contact the Clerk for details of forthcoming meetings.

SACRE's clerk is Steve Gregory steve.gregory@bristol.gov.uk