

# Bury

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**



Annual Report, 2023 – 2024

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## **Foreword by the Chair of Bury SACRE**

Bury SACRE is a group of professionals and members of faith communities which is actively involved in ensuring that all children in our borough receive a high standard of Religious Education, including non-religious world views. We are delighted that we have been one of the first SACREs to design its own RE award to cover what we see as the entitlement of pupils in their learning in RE in Bury. We provide detail of this AWARE Award in the body of this report. This builds on our work in promoting the 2021 Agreed Syllabus with both maintained schools in Bury and the increasing number of schools joining Multi Academy Trusts. We want to ensure that teachers and other staff providing RE in our schools have the knowledge and training to ensure that we are helping children to develop enquiring minds and an investigative, questioning approach. We seek also to promote the high-quality training which we can provide for practitioners through our partnership with RE Today. The SACRE is well attended, supported strongly by the local authority, and active in regional and national networks. I commend this annual report to all interested readers.

Alan Beedie

SACRE Chair

## **Overview of the work of SACRE**

Since 1988, each Local Authority (LA) has been required by law to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

The remit of a SACRE is principally to oversee the Religious Education (RE) and collective worship within the authority principally to:

- advise Bury Council upon matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship in community schools and in foundation schools which do not have a religious character. Religious Education in these schools is to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus.
- advise Bury Council on teaching methods, choice of materials and teacher training in Religious Education and Collective Worship.
- require Bury Council to review the locally agreed syllabus for religious education at least every five years.

The reporting period of the 2023 - 2024 report starts from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and runs to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2023 – 2024. All meetings were hybrid to allow as many members as possible to attend.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### **Standing items in meetings:**

Apologies for absence

New or substitute members

Member Updates

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

- Training and Development for Schools
- SACRE Membership
- Development Plan
- National RE News

## **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

- The Bury SACRE AWARE Award
- SACRE annual report
- Training and Development for Schools
- SACRE Membership
- National News

## **10<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

- The Bury SACRE AWARE Award
- Development Plan Update
- Training and Development for Schools
- Deep and Meaningful 2024
- National News
- SACRE Membership
- Diocesan Inspections
- Ofsted Inspections

## **Section 2: Religious Education**

### **The Locally Agreed Syllabus and RE in schools**

RE is not part of the national curriculum. Each LA is required to produce an Agreed Syllabus for RE. Each LA is required to begin reviewing the current Agreed Syllabus within five years of its production. The Bury Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education continues to be the legal basis for the religious education delivered by maintained schools and for those non-religious academy schools who choose to make use of it for the planning and delivery of religious education. The current Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education is due for review in 2026.

### **Standards and monitoring of RE**

At present, the results from 2024 are unvalidated. Please see appendix A for the unvalidated results from 2024.

### **The BURY AWARE Award**

A key development for Bury SACRE during the academic year has been the commencement of the Bury SACRE AWARE award.

The Bury Award for Widening Achievement in RE has been developed to provide schools with the opportunity to receive recognition for the quality of their pedagogy and practice against a number of criteria.

- A member of the school community has undertaken CPD for RE in the past year
- A visit by pupils to a place of worship or a virtual tour
- Pupils have shared their learning with parents/carers
- Arrange an encounter day and invite a member of the SACRE
- Enter a competition related to RE
- Share learning with another class

Schools submitting evidence for the award are asked to comment on three or more of the above criteria. Each application is shared within the SACRE for comment or discussion before the school receives the award. In the academic year 2023 – 2024 the following schools in Bury have been successful in attaining the AWARE award.

Philip's High School

The Derby High School

Whitefield Community Primary School

St. Mary's, Hawkshaw

## Holcombe Brook Primary School

A member of the SACRE visits each of the successful schools to present the certificate on behalf of the SACRE. This is a key element in the role of the SACRE in monitoring the standards in RE in Bury.

## School Workforce Data

The SACRE also received an update from the DfE census data on the amount of time given to the teaching of religious education in secondary schools in the local authority.

School name	Religious character	School type	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% year 12 hours - philosophy	Total Mixed hours taught
School A	Does not apply	Academies	1.8	1.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	z	0.0
School B	Roman Catholic	Academies	11.8	12.6	12.5	13.2	12.7	z	0.0
School C	Does not apply	Local authority-maintained schools	z	z	z	z	z	z	455.0
School D	Does not apply	Academies	4.1	4.2	4.2	0.0	1.8	z	0.0
School E	Does not apply	Academies	4.0	4.3	4.3	5.5	3.4	z	0.0
School F	Does not apply	Academies	2.8	2.9	2.6	1.8	2.2	z	0.0
School G	Does not apply	Academies	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	z	0.0
School H	Roman Catholic	Academies	10.1	10.9	11.1	11.5	9.3	z	0.0

### Bury validated GCSE RS data 2024

School	Cohort	No. 9-4 Pass	Grades attained									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U
Unsworth Academy	6	5				1	1	1		2		1
Hazel Wood High School	46	31	3	7	5	7	5	8	2	4	5	
The Heys School	10	8	1		1	3	1	1	1	2		
St Gabriel's RC High School	207	127	17	14	44	30	26	33	20	11	7	5
The Elton High School	40	28	4	4	4	5	2	7	4	7	3	
Manchester Mesivta	0	0										
St Monica's RC High School	209	155	9	22	22	22	40	28	23	21	21	1
The Derby High School	62	39	2	2	18	8	8	6	8	6	3	1
Tottington High School	1	0	1									
Parrenthorn High School	194	121	20	13	31	31	27	29	18	11	5	9
Philips High School	21	17	1	1	1	2	2	3	5	3	2	1
Woodhey High School	25	15	1	6	3	3	2	4	3	2	1	
Bury Church of England High School	143	93	7	12	30	17	26	30	14	5	1	1
Elms Bank Specialist Arts College												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>19</b>

### **Teacher training materials and advice for schools**

During the year 2023 – 2024 the area of focus for training for schools was the outcomes of the Ofsted report entitled Deep and Meaningful? This report formed the basis of training attended by schools, primary and secondary and by members of the SACRE with reference to the following areas

- Substantive Knowledge
- Disciplinary Ways of Knowing
- Personal Knowledge
- Leadership
- Time allocation
- Responsibilities of senior leaders and governors
- Assessment

Individual training was also provided to schools upon request and included

- Progression in RE
- Mapping RE
- Implementing the Agreed Syllabus

### **Other information**

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about RE during the year.

### **Advice given to the Local Authority**

Advice was given to the local authority around the membership of the SACRE in relation to the 2021 census data for Bury.

### **Section 3: Collective worship**

#### **Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship**

Ofsted and Diocesan inspections reports were presented to the SACRE where mention was made of Collective Worship.

#### **Determinations**

No determinations were requested in the year 2023 – 2024.

#### **Teacher training provided**

No CPD was provided on Collective Worship.

#### **Other information**

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about collective worship during the year.

#### **Advice to the Local Authority**

No advice was given to the local authority in relation to collective worship.

## **Section 4: Links with other bodies**

### **National Bodies**

Bury SACRE are pleased to be linked with national bodies and receive national updates from Ian Nicholson, RE adviser.

Bury SACRE has links with NASACRE and has received feedback from the NASACRE annual conference. It regularly utilises NASACRE's self-evaluation toolkit.

Information from NATRE and the REC has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.

SACRE members can attend NASACRE webinars.

### **Local bodies**

Salford Roman Catholic Diocese provided information to the SACRE on inspections in the academic year 2023 - 2024.

## **Section 5: SACRE involvement in the Local Area**

### **Governor and head teacher links**

Information is provided by the SACRE to local governor and headteacher groups in relation to religious education.

### **Advice on community issues**

The RE adviser regularly gives advice on speakers coming into schools and visits to places of worship locally.

## Section 6: Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority (LA)

### Professional and administrative support

During the reporting period, clerking of SACRE was undertaken by Rebecca Hoyle, Rebecca Taylor and Jacqui Mellor of Bury LA.

The Local Authority provided funding to support SACRE activity 2023 – 2024 by contracting with RE Today Services of an RE Consultant for SACRE support and continuing professional development.

Ian Nicholson, National RE Adviser from RE Today continued in the role of RE consultant.

Paul Cooke, Strategic Lead for Education, holds responsibility for SACRE support and liaises with the RE consultant.

### Membership

The table provided below demonstrates the composition of Bury SACRE.

#### Membership of the SACRE and Attendance 2023 – 2024

P – Present

A - Apologies

	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	22 <sup>nd</sup> January	10 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Committee A</b>			
Alan Beedie (Chair)	P	P	P
Alison Knott	A	P	A
Russell Conn	A	A	
Bec Hyndman			
Anne Walsh	A	A	
Fatima Zubair	P		
Martin Knowles	A	P	
Laura Ettrick			
<b>Committee B</b>			
Sheryl Farnworth	P	P	A
Claire Clark	P	P	P

Gail Branch			P
<b>Committee C</b>			
Jane Walsh	A		P
Jude Fair-Lawton	P	P	
<b>Committee D</b>			
Cllr K Hussain	P		
Cllr S Thorpe	P		A
Cllr M Hayes		P	P
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Paul Cooke	P	P	
Ian Nicholson	P	P	P
Jenny Dobson		P	P

### **Committee A Membership**

Considering the 2021 census data and the outcome of the right of a member of the Humanist community to be members of Committee A, the SACRE formally requested that the local authority recommend two members of the Humanist UK community to join. Two members were recommended by the local authority.

### **Finance**

The LA allocated members of the Education and Skills Department and the Governors Support team for support to SACRE from the RE Consultant. The Governors Support team also provide clerking for all meetings.

### **Development Plan**

The SACRE Development Plan was regularly discussed at the SACRE meetings throughout the year. The development plan relates to the five key aspects of the work of Bury SACRE as outlined below.

- 1 Monitoring the provision and quality of RE and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on
  - methods of teaching
  - choice of teaching material

- provision of teacher training
2. Monitoring the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus, including whether any changes need to be made to improve the quality of teaching and learning in RE, whether in the syllabus itself or the support offered in implementing the syllabus. Central to this is the review of the locally agreed syllabus within five years of the last review.
  3. Maintaining a partnership between SACRE, LA and other bodies. This includes preparing an annual report
  4. Handling applications for determinations from 'wholly or mainly Christian' acts of collective worship.
  5. Monitoring the contribution of SACRE to the promotion of SMSC.

## Appendix A:

### **Circulation of the Annual Report**

The Bury Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report will be:

- Provided, via e-mail, to all SACRE Members
- Provided, via e-mail, to the Department for Education
- Provided, via e-mail, to NASACRE
- Published on the Local Authority website
- Provided to all schools covered by the Bury SACRE.