

Bury
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2022 - 2023



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1. Introduction

a. Foreword

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 have been keen since the launch of our new agreed syllabus in 2021, to have an overview of delivery of the subject in primary, secondary and tertiary phases of education. 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. As more schools academise, we are also recommending to trusts to adopt our agreed syllabus, to ensure consistency in the quality of RE across the borough. 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

b. Overview of the work of SACRE

A Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body set up to advise the Local Authority on matters related to religious education and collective worship. Its members are drawn from teachers, Local Authority representatives including Councillors, faith representatives from the Church of England and a range of Christian denominations, and representatives from other religious groups represented in the area.

SACRE's key functions include 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 and provision of teacher training. This is primarily done through the review and implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, a process which is required every five years. This is followed by on-going monitoring of its effectiveness in the light of changing national education policy.

It is a legislative requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work and that this is published, sent to the local authority, to NASACRE and to other interested parties such as the Department for Education.

During the academic year 2022 - 2023 we have continued to be supported by Paul Cooke, as the responsible officer from the local authority. We also have the professional subject specialist input of Stephen Pett from NATRE/ RE Today, a very effective partnership which allows the SACRE to offer an excellent standard of training and professional development in RE.

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2022/2023. The management and access to these meetings has been in line with all regulations.

Detailed information on attendance at meetings can be found in Appendix A.

A brief overview of each meeting can be found below

3 October 2022

- *Network meetings*

- *Training for Schools*
- *SACRE membership*
- *National RE News*
- *Member Update*

23 January 2023

- *Training for schools*
- *SACRE membership*
- *National RE News*
- *Member Update*
- *Annual SACRE report*

12 June 2023

- *Report back on network meetings/ hubs*
- *Training for Schools*
- *SACRE Development Plan*
- *Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus*
- *Partnerships*
- *The Bury RE Award – preliminary discussion*

2. Religious Education

a. The locally agreed syllabus and RE in schools

The Bury agreed syllabus was launched in June 2021 and the academic year 2022-2023 saw it continue to be embedded into the planning and delivery of RE in Bury for those schools where the agreed syllabus is applicable.

b. Standards and monitoring of RE

The GCSE results for schools in Bury are included in the Annual SACRE report .

SACRE reviews school workforce survey data when it is available, reviewing school websites and surveying schools to explore provision further. SACRE also takes account of the return of the LA level data for the delivery of RE in 11 – 16 and 11 – 18 schools in terms of the proportion of curriculum time given to RE or to Philosophy which is reported separately.

OFSTED reports can also provide a way of monitoring RE. Where an Ofsted report makes mention of RE this is then reported to the SACRE at the subsequent meeting after the inspection. The new OFSTED inspection framework and RE research review is bringing a renewed focus on RE in schools where RE was struggling to get sufficient curriculum time.

c. Teacher training and materials and advice for schools

Network meetings

There is an active RE hub meeting which is led by a member of SACRE, and which meets termly to provide support to primary colleagues across the borough. This group was formed under the auspices of Manchester Diocese, but all teachers are welcome to attend, and there is an agreed focus for each meeting. There is a renewed focus by the SACRE on supporting the professional development of teachers in the secondary phase.

SACRE primary RE conference, 7th June 2023 and 20th June 2023

The annual primary RE conference took place virtually over two days to support attendance at the event. The attendance figures outlined below were signatories for a school and more people attended the conferences as more than one teacher was able to attend in some cases.

Wednesday 7th June 2023 – 15 Attendees

Session 1 – Encountering Religions – Ways in through Art

Session 2 - Jewish people: teaching lived reality and progression with 4-7s

Tuesday 20th June 2023 – 13 Attendees

Session 1 - Building knowledge & progression in primary RE

Session 2 - Ways of knowing in RE 7-11

Secondary webinars

SACRE are looking at ways of reaching out to secondary RE departments and this is an item to be included in the review of the Development Plan for the academic year 2023 – 2024.

d. Other information

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

e. Advice given to the local authority

SACRE continues to support the implementation of the agreed syllabus, and ASC will take the lead on a review of the syllabus in the five year cycle.

3. Collective worship

a. Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

SACRE members have made a commitment to visit schools to discuss the provision of collective worship as part of the statutory responsibility to review the standards and monitor the provision of Collective Worship in schools. During the academic year 2022 – 2023 this has not been possible and is a focus for the SACRE Development Plan for 2023 – 2024.

b. Determinations

No determinations have been requested in the year 2021-22.

c. Teacher training provided

No SACRE training on collective worship has been provided in 2022 - 2023, although the Diocese of Manchester continues to support its schools in this area.

d. Other information

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

e. Advice to the Local Authority

No advice was given to the local authority around the provision of collective worship.

4. Links with other bodies

a. National Bodies

- Bury SACRE is a member of NASACRE. Its newsletters are circulated to all members.

- Stephen Pett, RE Today, connects SACRE with NATRE, and provides national updates at each meeting. Reports from NATRE, including the School Workforce Data and regular primary and secondary surveys have proved useful to SACRE when monitoring schools. Further resources, such as those for diversity, equity and inclusion from NATRE have been shared with schools.
- Information from the RE Council has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.

b. Local bodies

Bury Council provides excellent support to SACRE, including the necessary funding to have the RE Today support, and clerking of meetings.

5. SACRE involvement in the Local Area

SACRE updates governors and headteachers on resources and training via briefings and bulletins

SACRE encourages a Faith Ambassadors project which has involved students from Holy Cross Sixth Form College who are adherents of different faiths. The project provides opportunities for learning for upper primary age children in schools which take advantage of the scheme, to learn at first hand what it means to be a young person following a faith. It has been of benefit to both the ambassadors and the receiving schools. There is an interest in recruiting faith ambassadors from secondary schools in the borough, to expand the scheme.

6. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority

a. Professional and administrative support

Clerk to SACRE:

Rebecca Hoyle
Governor Support
Knowsley Place
Bury
BL9 0EJ

0161 253 5688

Local authority officer:

Paul Cooke
Strategic Lead (Education Services)
Knowsley Place
Bury
BL9 0EJ

0161 253 5674

Adviser to SACRE:

The LA has a contract with RE Today Services. Stephen Pett is the RE Today national adviser who delivers the contract to Bury LA and SACRE.

RE Today Services
Imperial Court, Sovereign Road, Birmingham B30 3FH

b. Membership, representation and attendance

SACRE has been active in recruiting members to represent all groups. It also considers co-opting those with skills, knowledge and experience who can help to develop SACRE's work. Current vacancies, and repeated absences are discussed by the Chair and LA Officer.

All groups have been represented according to SACRE's terms of reference at each meeting.

c. SACRE attendance

	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
Alan Beedie	Attended	Attended	Attended
Alison Knott	Attended	Attended	Attended
Anne Walsh	Attended	Attended	Attended
Bec Hyndman	Attended	Attended	Attended
Bethany Rothwell	Attended	Attended	X
Claire Clarke	Attended	Attended	Attended
Claire Simon	X	X	X
Fatima Zubair	N/A	X	X
Gail Branch	X	Attended	X
Jane Walsh	Attended	X	X
Kate Stedman	X	X	X
Khalid Hussain		Attended	Attended
Jude Fair-Lawton	Attended	Attended	Attended
Louisa Murphy	X	X	X
Russell Conn	N/A	Attended	X
Paul Cooke	X	Attended	Attended
Sarah Hyndman	Attended	X	X
Sarah Jones	X	Attended	Attended
Sean Thorpe	N/A	N/A	Attended
Sheryl Farnworth	X	Attended	X

d. Training for SACRE (and ASC) members

The SACRE Clerk, Chair, LA Officer and RE adviser are on hand to advise SACRE members.

All members are invited to attend the training provided for schools.

e. Finance given to SACRE for its work

The SACRE is supported through the provision of clerking services and the strategic lead for education for Bury Council provides local authority support alongside this. Bury SACRE is supported by RE Today services through engagement with a National RE Adviser with funding provided by the local authority.

7. Appendices

a. SACRE membership

GROUP A

Roman Catholic Church

1. Bec Hyndman
2. Anne Walsh
3. VACANCY

School where they teach

Holy Cross College
The Heys (retired)

Free Church Federal Council

1. Alan Beedie
2. Alison Knott
3. VACANCY

Holy Trinity

Jewish Faith

1. VACANCY
2. Russell Conn

Muslim Faith

1. Fatima Zubair
2. VACANCY

St Gabriel's RC High

GROUP B

Church of England

1. Sheryl Farnworth
2. Bethany Rothwell
3. Claire Clark

St Thomas's
Philips High
St Mary's Hawkshaw

GROUP C

Teachers' Associations

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| 1. NEU | Marie Saatchi | Bury CE High

St Mary's Prestwich
Woodhey High |
| 2. NAS/UWT | Jane Walsh | |
| 3. NAHT | Sarah Jones | |
| 4. NAHT Edge | Jude Fair-Lawton | |
| 5. SHA-ASCL | VACANCY | |

GROUP D

Local Education Authority

1. Cllr K Hussain
2. Cllr S Thorpe
3. Cllr M Hayes

Paul Cooke (Strategic Lead for Education)

b. Circulation details for this Annual Report

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies.

- Director of Children's Services, Bury LA
- Cabinet Member for Education, Bury LA
- The Department for Education (Central Government)
- NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies of Bury schools and academies
- All members of Bury SACRE, for distribution to the bodies/communities they represent

b. Exam results for Bury schools

Bury GCSE results

No of pupils	Number of GCSE entries	% Full Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades	% Short Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades
2188	1070	48.9%	69.8%	0.1%	0%

National GCSE results

No of pupils	Number of GCSE entries	% Full Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades	% Short Course GCSE Entries	% 9-4 grades
622495	241249	35.7%	72.2%	3%	63

A level results:

27 students completed A level Religious Studies in Bury. 100% gained grades A*-D

A*	3	11%
A	7	26%
B	7	26%
C	7	26%
D	3	11%
E	0	
U	0	