

Calderdale Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual Report 2014 – 2015



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This annual report is prepared for Calderdale Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) as part of its statutory responsibility. It may only be reproduced with permission from SACRE. For further information on the report or on RE and Collective Worship in Calderdale, please contact the clerk debby.simpson@calderdale.gov.uk.

Part 1: The Work of Calderdale SACRE

SACRE is required to produce an annual report as one its statutory responsibilities. This year the report has remained simplified to make it more accessible and relevant. SACRE can report with insight and authority on the matters included in this report but does not have the resources to comment in detail on every aspect of the detailed provision of RE or collective worship in every school. Detailed analysis of public examination results is included and an overall picture of religious education in Calderdale.

Meetings of SACRE

There were four meetings of SACRE during the year 2014-2015. The meetings were held on the following dates and the minutes are included in Appendix 4.

- 22 September 2014
- 25 November 2014
- 25 February 2015
- 4 June 2015 (AGM)

A full programme of meetings has been planned for the year 2014-15.

- Monday 14 September 2015
- Monday 23 November 2015
- Tuesday 15 March 2016
- Wednesday 22 June 2016 (AGM)

Membership

SACRE membership includes representatives from all four constituent committees.

- Committee A Faiths and denominations except Anglicans
- Committee B The Church of England
- Committee C Teachers and schools
- Committee D Calderdale Council

Membership of faith communities has been strengthened. Training and induction is provided for SACRE members and recently this has included: collective worship; the new GCSE requirements; British Values and SMSC.

Events and Developments

During 2014-2015 the principle goal of SACRE has been to embed the revised syllabus and non-statutory units of work. SACRE does not provide other training but recognises and encourages the comprehensive provision of training and support through Pennine Learning Ltd. It has also funded and supported specific events from time to time. Details of this provision are in Appendix 2.

Pennine Learning also provides separate network meetings for teachers of RE at primary level and has encouraged teach meet meetings for Secondary teachers. These are held each term and are part of the Pennine Learning Network Package.

Some priorities for 2014-2015 included:

- Exploring the possibility of partnership in a regional RE training hub as proposed by the RE Council;
- Developing partnership working with Kirklees and other neighbouring SACREs.

A more detailed explanation of the work carried out this year is included later on in the report.

Financial support

Calderdale SACRE has a budget of £3000 a year provided by Calderdale Council as part of its statutory duties. Most of this budget funds meetings and other statutory roles. As part of the local agreed syllabus the sale of the units of work has increased the budget that SACRE can use to support RE. This will be discussed as part of the work plan for SACRE in 2015 – 16.

During 2014-2015 Pennine Learning was contracted to support SACRE and is funded by Calderdale Council. They are also contracted to deliver training in RE and other areas through a partnership agreement with Calderdale Council. The total amount of time allocated for SACRE and other related areas of RE is 12 days a year.

Partners, Support and advice

SACRE is grateful for the expertise of its members. Teacher and governor representatives continue to advise on the needs and progress of schools.

SACRE receives advice and information from a number of sources including: NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE), NASACRE (National Association of SACREs), The RE Council of England and Wales, Culham St Gabriel's.

There were no formal complaints registered to SACRE throughout the academic year.

The future of SACREs

The future of SACREs is under serious question. The HMI for RE and the Director of Culham St Gabriel's have together argued for the removal of the SACRE system. They have called for their replacement by a new national structure. This is an important debate though any substitute for SACREs would need to be carefully thought through.

In the summer of 2015, a pamphlet was produced by Charles Clarke, former Secretary of State and Linda Woodhead, Professor of Sociology of Religion at the University of Lancaster. The pamphlet, *A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools* arose from research and debate carried out by the Westminster Faith Debates (founded by Mr Clarke and Professor Woodhead) and the Religion and Society Research programme which gave rise to them.

Both were supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, and Lancaster University.

The pamphlet has no formal authority but will be influential as a call for changes in the direction of RE. SACRE will wish to discuss and consider the proposals it outlines.

Its principle recommendations are:

- An end to compulsory collective worship;
- A new national RE syllabus determined by the Secretary of State;
- The government should consider making this syllabus compulsory for all schools;
- SACREs' role to be limited to participation in consultation and support for implementation
- A more robust system of inspecting RE;
- Continuation of faith schools but modifications to admissions and possible removal of separate inspection regime

The full recommendations are included as Appendix 5.

Part 2: Provision of Religious Education

The Local RE syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus for Calderdale was revised during 2013 - 14 with an entirely new syllabus created to reflect national priorities and local needs. It was jointly produced and funded with Kirklees and also the Anglican Diocese of Wakefield. A joint steering group helped to guide this process. A scheme of work with over 50 units has been written to support the delivery of the syllabus and approximately 90% of schools now have access to these across Calderdale.

Provision of Training

SACRE does not directly provide other training but recognises and encourages the comprehensive provision of training and support through Pennine Learning. It has also funded and supported specific events from time to time. Pennine Learning also provides separate network meetings for teachers of RE at primary level. These are held each term and are part of the Pennine Learning Network Package. Details of all training and support provided is listed in Appendix 2.

Public examination results

Exam entries for GCSE full course have stayed reasonably steady this year with 800 students being entered compared with 797 students in 2014. 30.3% of the total Yr11 cohort within Calderdale schools sat the full course. This is well below the national average of 44%. As the short course option is discouraged the number of entries for any examination at GCSE has dropped drastically. SACRE is once again concerned that it appears students are not offered entry for RS GCSE and would like to investigate what provision is in place for RE at Key Stage 4 for these students. As part of the British Values Health Check being offered to all secondary schools, SACRE will be asking what provision for RE at KS4 is in place. Only four schools in Calderdale entered more than half of their cohort. It is worth noting that a neighbouring local authority entered 50% of the Y11 cohort for examination at GCSE. SACRE

is naturally concerned about the difference in these figures and that the low entry for GCSE in Calderdale is a reflection on how RE is valued in Calderdale schools.

Ten schools entered students for GCSE. It is worth noting that five secondary schools did not enter any students for GCSE examination. SACRE are planning on investigating this further to ensure full compliance of teaching RE at KS4 through school visits.

Seven schools entered students for A Level Religious Studies with 49 entries at this level. This number of entries is higher than the number of entries in 2014. No AS level data was available for analysis at this time.

More girls were entered for GCSE than boys nationally and the girls scored higher grades. No gender data for Calderdale students was available from the local authority for analysis at this time.

SACRE would like to congratulate the students who achieved so well in their examinations this year. 82.88% of students entered for GCSE Religious Studies attained A* - C. This was above the national average of 71.8%. Calderdale GCSE RS students scored overall better than students in neighbouring authorities. Students that attained A* – G in GCSE full course compares well to the national average with Calderdale students achieving 99.57% and the national average being 97.9%.

Comparative data for AS and A levels nationally were not available at the time of this report being prepared. However a comparison with this year's results and those of 2014 show that students achieved better at A- C grades for A level 81.62 compared with 68.9% in 2014.

From all of the analysis, SACRE has many questions for schools regarding how RE is valued and will be pressing the local authority to investigate further.

Conclusion

Although we continue to face uncertainty, there is reason for optimism about the importance and role of RE in Calderdale. The rich diversity of culture, tradition and faith in our communities is an asset to be celebrated and only emphasises the need for imaginative and constructive religious education. But there is no room for complacency. The commitment of schools to support and encourage RE is critical to nurturing a generation of young people who know, understand and respect diversity and can explore the meaning, purpose and value of their own lives. Calderdale SACRE, supported by the local authority, will do all it can to help teachers, governors and students in this task.

Part 3: Collective worship

The 1988 Education Act required collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. This allows schools to focus on some broad, universal and important themes, common to world faiths and non-religious world views: compassion, forgiveness, generosity. It also allows schools to remember specific festivals or stories from Christianity and all world faiths, as well as secular perspectives.

A determination may be authorised by SACRE to maintained schools which have a distinctive non-Christian religious make up. These schools must make provision for any minorities but a determination should not mean that there are separate acts of collective worship. This would negate the description 'collective'. A determination should be renewed every five years. Free schools and academies need to apply to the Education Funding Agency rather than to SACRE.

There are determinations in place for two Calderdale schools, though only one of these is a maintained school for which SACRE has legal responsibility. Both are listed below with the date of expiry. Both were been granted because the pupil population is overwhelmingly Muslim.

Alternative provision should still be inclusive for all pupils and SACRE discourages the provision of 'alternative assemblies' in all schools, including those with a determination. SACRE will be carefully reviewing its approach to determinations during the next year though none fall due for renewal in this period.

Parkinson Lane, 2015 [as a maintained school Calderdale SACRE has legal responsibility]

Beech Hill, 2015 [as an academy the Schools Funding Agency has legal responsibility]

One of SACRE's key responsibilities is to monitor and support collective worship. During 2014 -2015 SACRE undertook a monitoring exercise. All Calderdale secondary schools and academies were offered a visit from SACRE to observe collective worship, offer feedback and review the overall pattern and priorities. Four secondary schools invited the RE

consultant to observe collective worship and advice was offered to each school on how collective worship can be improved. In the year 2015 – 16, Calderdale MC have agreed to amend the contract for Pennine Learning to include 7 days to monitor British Values in all secondary schools. A review of collective worship will be part of this 'health check'.

During the past year Pennine Learning provided a half day course to support senior leaders and teachers in collective worship.

There were no complaints made during the year to SACRE about Collective Worship.

Part 4: Summary of achievements and priorities

Achievements and good practice during 2014 - 2015

This year the priorities for SACRE have included:

- **Investigating and promoting the effective provision of RE at Key Stage 4;** SACRE has sent questionnaires to all secondary schools requesting information on provision at Key Stage 4. The results of this questionnaire were inconclusive as only 3 schools responded. It is the intention of SACRE to use the 'British Values Health Check' in schools in the year 2015 – 16 to gain a better picture of provision for years 9 to 11.
- **Embedding and offering further support in the new RE Local syllabus;** The consultants have been invited into a number of schools across Calderdale to support staff in embedding the new syllabus.
- **Exploring the possibility of partnership in a regional RE Hub as proposed in the RE Review by the RE Council;** We have successfully applied for a grant from Culham St Gabriel's to run a subject knowledge course for up to 20 teachers across Kirklees and Calderdale. This has been very successful and many delegates are considering further academic studies at MA level.
- **Conducting a review of collective worship, including the approach to determined worship;** Four secondary schools have invited SACRE to review collective worship in their schools. A priority for 2015 will be to review the determinations in place for two primary schools.
- **Exploring how schools can access appropriate representatives of faith communities to support their work in collective worship and RE;** SACRE have formed a number of working parties including a visitors in school group to start building a database of 'approved' faith visitors for schools. Another working party is examining how SACRE could provide a website with faith centre links for use in schools. This could be a joint venture with Kirklees SACRE.

- **Support for the professional development of RE teachers in Calderdale;** A number of courses have been run by Pennine Learning in partnership with Calderdale MBC. A list of these is included in Appendix 2
- **Contributing to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supporting teachers and schools in this task;** A number of briefing sessions have taken place throughout the year provided by Pennine Learning including cluster and school based level. A priority for 2015 – 2016 will be to provide a health check to all secondary schools on British Values and SMSC.
- **Exploring further joint working with Kirklees and other local SACREs.**

Main priorities for 2015 - 16

These include:

- To support the professional development of RE teachers in Calderdale. This will include arranging a network for primary schools and running courses on current issues such as assessment. Tailored support is also offered to individual schools or clusters as staff meetings or training days.
- To review and revise resources on RE Hub. There are plans to expand the provision of resources to special schools and to consider how KS3 units may be revised to dovetail with new GCSE specifications. The Hub is run by Kirklees Learning Services on behalf of three West Yorkshire authorities including Calderdale.
- To monitor and support RE in Calderdale. This will primarily be achieved by consultants' work on supporting fundamental values and through visits to schools for training etc. SACRE has no resources to undertake *systematic* monitoring of RE or collective worship.
- To offer 'British Values', SMSC and RE 'health check' to secondary schools;

- To support the professional development of SACRE members. Training in collective worship and through awareness of the 'Prevent' duty will be arranged.
- To continue exploring partnership working with other SACREs in West Yorkshire.

Appendix 1 – Examination results

GCSE Results – Full Course (number of entries)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total entries	304	307	363	381	382	666	678	793	772	799	930	797	800

GCSE Results – Grouped comparison

%age	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
A*-C	65.1	71.0	77.0	70.0	69.1	71.3	72.5	63.5	75.0	76.0	70.5	83.3	82.88
A*-C (national)			68.5	70.2	71.1	72.5	73.4	73.1	74.0	74.0	73.6	69.6	71.8
A*-G	97.0	97.4	99.0	98.0	97.9	99.2	98.6	98.5	98.7	98.9	96.9	99.7	99.75
A*-G (national)			98.0	98.2	98.3	98.5	98.6	98.6	98.0	98.0	98.3	97.8	97.9

GCSE Results – Full Course – Grade breakdown (%)

Grade	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
A*	9.2	9.1	8.8	8.6	13.1	9.3	4.6	5.6	3.0	5.9	9.4	10.4	11.0
A	15.4	13.7	18.4	19.1	14.6	19.6	19.1	12.9	15.8	21.0	16.8	25.0	24.88
B	19.4	25.4	21.7	18.4	19.4	22.9	25.4	20.2	26.3	26.8	23.1	28.5	26.75
C	21.0	22.8	28.6	24.1	22.0	19.5	23.7	24.8	29.9	22.3	21.3	19.9	20.25
D	12.5	13.0	11.2	12.3	12.0	9.7	12.8	14.0	12.7	10.36	10.8	10.0	10.38
E	8.8	6.8	6.0	5.5	8.4	10.1	5.2	13.0	5.3	6.3	7.0	3.4	3.38
F	6.9	3.2	3.8	5.8	5.0	5.5	4.9	5.1	2.1	3.9	4.8	2.0	2.13
G	3.6	3.2	1.4	3.7	3.4	2.6	3.0	2.8	3.6	2.5	3.8	0.5	1.00
U	2.9	0.6	0.2	2.4	2.1	0.6	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.1	3.1	0.3	0.25

A Level Results: Number of entries

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total entries	12	19	30	22	25	42	40	38	40	41	35	42	49

A Level: Grade Comparisons

%age	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
A*-C			61.3	45.4	60	64.3	56.5	59.4	72.5	85.4	74.3	68.9	81.62
A*-C (national)			79.5	80.1	81.1	80.9	81.0	79.3	80.8	79.8	79.9	78.1	Not Avail
A*-E			99.6	94.8	100	97.5	86.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
A*-E (national)			98.4	98.5	98.7	98.6	98.6	98.3	98.8	98.9	99.1	99.8	Not Avail

A Level: Grade Breakdown %

Grade	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
A*								12.5	0.0	0.0	2.9	7.1	4.08
A	8.3	5.3	23.0	9.1	28	14	16.1	12.5	15.0	22.0	22.9	19.0	12.24
B	8.3	42.1	15.3	9.1	24	21.7	16.2	9.4	42.5	31.7	22.9	23.8	36.73
C	8.3	42.1	23.0	27.2	8	28.6	24.2	25.0	15.0	31.7	25.7	19.0	28.57
D	41.6	0	23.0	27.2	28	14.1	23.8	31.3	22.5	9.8	17.1	19.0	12.24
E	16.6	10.5	15.3	22.2	12	19.1	6.4	9.4	5.0	4.9	8.6	11.9	6.12
U	16.6	0	0	0	0	2.5	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Appendix 2

Professional development and consultancy

The courses below have been provided by Pennine Learning for Calderdale schools and in some cases also by Kirklees Learning Services

Date	Title	Aprox numbers
1 October 2014	Calderdale RE network	33
10 October 2014	Teaching and Learning with the new RE Syllabus	15
16 October 2014	SMSC and British Values Briefing	27
14 November 2014	Being an effective RE Coordinator	16
9 February 2015	Creative Enquiry in RE: Planning inspiring RE	12
26 February 2015	Calderdale RE Network	33
9 June 2015	Calderdale RE Network	33
10 June 2015	Teach Meet for Secondary teachers	15
29 June 2015	Promoting 'British Values' in your school	20

Schools were visited by the consultants for a range of purposes including SMSC training, RE syllabus training and general advice and support. Other training included day courses for ITE trainees on both the SCITT programme and through Schools' Direct provision from a Calderdale Teaching School Alliance. The consultants also attended meetings of Calderdale Interfaith Council and worked with Schools Linking Network on its Calderdale project.

Appendix 3: SACRE membership 2014-2015

COMMITTEE 'A' (Faiths and denominations except Anglicans)		Att/4
John Butterfield	Bahai	3
Dr John Hargreaves Alternate: Ann Ashton	Upper Calder Circuit (Methodist Church)	3
Richard Constantine (RC)	Diocese of Leeds (Roman Catholic)	3
Anne Linehan (Buddhist)	Buddhist	3
Dermot Bolton (Humanist)	British Association of Humanists	3
Rachel Amdurer (Jewish)	Jewish	2
Dr Fiaz Farooq (Muslim)	Muslim	3
COMMITTEE 'B' (Church of England)		
The Rev Canon James Allison	Diocese of Wakefield (Church of England)	2
The Rev John Hellewell (Chair)	Diocese of Wakefield (Church of England)	4
The Rev Gill Johnson	Diocese of Wakefield (Church of England)	1
The Rev Chris Ball	Diocese of Wakefield (Church of England)	1
COMMITTEE 'C' (Teachers)		
Mark Stephenson	Secondary teacher	3
Shelagh Hirst Alternate: Tony Parker	ATL	3
Michael Gosling Alternate: James Franklin-Smith	Secondary head	3
Simon Scott	Primary head	0
Gwenda Dewhirst (resigned in autumn 2014)	Primary teacher	1
Liz Whetham (resigned during year)	Primary head	2
COMMITTEE 'D' (Calderdale Council)		
Cllr Dot Foster	Calderdale Council	3
Cllr Faisal Shoukat	Calderdale Council	0
Cllr Peter Caffrey	Calderdale Council	2
<i>In Attendance</i>		
Ian Ross Alternate: Alastair Ross	Consultants	4
Debby Simpson	Clerk	4

Appendix 4

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL CALDERDALE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Minutes of SACRE Meeting
Monday 22 September 2014
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
Holy Trinity Primary School**

Members in attendance:

Committee A

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths	Dr John Hargreaves (JAH) Mr Dermot Bolton (DB) Dr Fiaz Farooq (FF) Mr Keith Meadows (KM) - part
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Committee B

Representing the Church of England	Rev John Hellewell (JH) The Rev Gill Johnson (GJ)
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Committee C

Teacher Associations CPHA CASH Secondary Teachers	Miss Gwenda Dewhirst Ms Liz Whetham Mr James Franklin-Smith Mark Stephenson (MS)
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Committee D

Representing Calderdale Council	Cllr Dot Foster (DF)
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In attendance

Mrs Debby Simpson – Clerk (DS) Mr Ian Ross (IR)
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Quorum for the meeting is 1 representative from each of the 4 Committees

Introductions were made for new members.

1. **Apologies and Welcome**

Apologies were received from John Butterfield, Cathy Gunningham, Anne Linehan, Rachel Amdurer and Peter Caffrey.

2. **Minutes of Meeting Held 21 May 2014**

Subject to minor amendments with names, the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising**

Membership Review: DAS had now checked the membership and the email list was now up to date. The member that was definitely leaving was Seema Buttoo.

JH had not contacted the Council of Mosques for nomination of members but will endeavour to do so before the next meeting. He also asked that if any other members of SACRE had any nominations to make from any other denomination, then he would be happy for them to come to the meeting.

Annual Report/Scrutiny: JH had spoken to Scrutiny re the Annual Report and they had said they were going to act upon this, however, he had heard nothing since. After discussion it was agreed that the way forward would be to look at the Annual Report for this year as it will contain the new syllabus. JH will try and get this on the Agenda for January 2015.

Syllabus Launch: The feedback from the Syllabus Launch was really good. There had now been 130 teachers trained in the Units of Work all feedback for this was also positive.

Sensitivity and Understanding of Faiths: The Launch for Sensitivity and Understanding of Faiths had now taken place at Heath Training & Development Centre. DB asked FF if he had read any of the Units of Works. FF felt that the Sensitivity document was good and he had done 1 of the Units of Work, however, he would like to spend more time on this. FF would be speaking at the next teachers network. It was felt that all members should familiarise themselves with the Units of Work. IR re-iterated that AR had offered members access to the Units of Work, however, no-one had come forward. If members want to gain access they need to contact AR.

JH asked if he could attend any of the presentation being made. IR said the next one was full, however, he could attend the network running on 26 February 2015 at the Halifax Minster.

Annual Report: The data had not been completed as yet as it was not yet available.

Budget: DAS explained that £1,000 had been put in the SACRE Budget to pay for catering, clerking, conferences etc. This amount was agreed as there was no syllabus to pay for this year.

The group discussed various options of where funding could be obtained, however, in order to obtain funding a statement would need to be made on what the funding was required for and at the moment this was unavailable. This would need to be looked at in the organisation of SACRE.

4. Organisation of SACRE – Committees and Work Plan

MS felt that an audit needed to be carried out in secondary RE. Two secondary schools had been checked and it was found that they were not compliant with regulations. It was agreed that a survey needed to be done on both primary and secondary with secondary being the priority. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a survey needed to be done. IR would consult with AR to see if Pennine Learning could carry out this work as an addition to the contract and paid from the SACRE budget. A preliminary set of questions for the survey need to be emailed to AR/IR before the end of September – the survey needed to be completed by 20 October 2014.

It was agreed that members of the group that would audit RE would be:-

DF, MS, DB, AR, GJ, FF – GW would like to take a part in this although she is resigning from SACRE.

It was agreed that members of the Data Group would be: IR, JH, DF and the first meeting would be on 5 November 2014 at Savile Park at 9.15 am. DAS would ask Rebecca Troth if the data could be provided earlier than the end of October.

JH re-iterated that the committees were open meetings and anyone could attend if they wanted to.

5. **Collective Worship**

IR explained that the contract for Pennine Learning provided 3 days to be spent on Collective Worship and this would involve looking at 9 schools. After discussion it was agreed that because the priority was secondary, 9 schools would not be representative in primary however, this would be more representative if all 9 schools were secondary.

It was agreed that a standing committee be set up and members would be IR, DB, GJ, AL, JH, FF. This would look at a development plan for SACRE and general working arrangements. The first meeting would be on 15 October 2014 – 9.30 am at Savile Park.

6. **Annual Report 2013-14**

AR had drafted a slimmer version and would not be going through the Ofsted Reports this year. This will be circulated before the November meeting.

7. **RE Hub Briefing**

A discussion took place on the Hubs of Excellence. At the moment there was pilot hub work going on in collaboration with partner organisations. This could be done for Calderdale and Kirklees. Teamworks had been approached and training can be provided for 10 – 20 teachers. The training will provide a jumping off point for teachers of RE.

8. **Any Other Business**

Hali-facts: JAH handed out the Hali-facts Brochure that had been produced by the Halifax Minster. These were available to schools in Calderdale.

NSACRE: IR informed members about the NASACRE Annual Return that was now available on-line. Members can complete this if they wish to do so.

RE Units: GJ informed members about free units of work that had been compiled by the Diocese as well as resources for WW1. These can be found on the website:

www.westyorkshiredales.anglican.org/WW1REresourcesforschools

Schools will be informed of their availability.

**CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CALDERDALE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Minutes of SACRE Meeting
Tuesday 25 November 2014
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
The Trinity Academy**

Members in attendance:

Committee A

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths	Dr John Hargreaves (JAH) Mr Dermot Bolton (DB) Dr Fiaz Farooq (FF) Mr Richard Constantine (RC) Ms Rachel Amdurer (RA) Ms Anne Linehan (AL) Mr John Butterfield (JB)
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Committee B

Representing the Church of England	Rev John Hellewell (JH) Rev Christopher Ball (CB) Rev James Allison (JA)
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Committee C

Teacher Associations CASH Secondary Teachers	Ms Shelagh Hirst (SH) Mr James Franklin-Smith Mark Stephenson (MS)
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Committee D

Representing Calderdale Council	Cllr Dot Foster (DF) Cllr Peter Caffrey (PC) Mr Alastair Ross (AR)
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In attendance

Mrs Debby Simpson – Clerk (DS) Mr Ian Ross (IR)
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Introductions were made for new members.

1. **Apologies and Welcome**

Apologies were received from Liz Whetham, Gill Johnson, Cathy Gunningham and Tanveer Boston. Members introduced themselves and welcomed Rev Christopher Bull and Shelagh Hirst.

2. **Minutes of Meeting Held 22 September 2014**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising**

Sensitivity and Understanding of Faiths: FF had attended the Teachers Network and his input on this subject had been appreciated by course delegates.

4. **Report on the work of the Management Group**

Members had already received a copy of the report. JH went through the separate items:

The Management Group had estimated possible expenditure for 2014/15 in order to accommodate the work plan

Develop Appropriate Budget: This did not include the cost of 12 days for Pennine Learning or Admin time. **Financial Cost: £450.**

Publicity/Promotion: Kirklees were ahead of Calderdale in promoting SACRE. The group had discussed various ways of promoting the work of SACRE in order to raise the profile. The audience for promotion would be Elected members, this would be done through CYPs Scrutiny. Schools could be through posters, information leaflets and possibly a website. Governors could be targeted through possible training, posters/leaflets or through CGA. The group was keen to set up partnership working with Kirklees SACRE and possibly Bradford. **Financial Cost: £450.**

SACRE Website: This would include initial set up, ongoing costs, updating costs. The other suggestion was to set up a possible collaboration with Kirklees SACRE to have a joint website. **Financial Cost: £1,270.**

New RE Units: The group looked at introducing more work units for schools, initially for combatting violent extremism. **Financial Cost: £600.**

Promote Uptake of RE Quality Mark in Calderdale: The idea would be to target 10% of schools in the first instance and would include ½ day in school support. **Financial Cost: £1,000.**

Approved Faith Representatives: This would provide a list of people/groups who others have found to be worthwhile in terms of Collective Worship, RE and faith visits in schools. This was discussed and it was felt that although this was a good idea and SACRE would filter this, it would need to be quality assured. Ultimately it would be the schools responsibility of who goes into their premises. **Financial Cost: £30.**

Develop Working Links with Kirklees SACRE: This did not incur a cost but would look at building links with Kirklees, promoting and modelling collaborative working and sharing resources appropriately. IR had already met with Kirklees SACRE and they were happy for a partnership to be looked at.

Monitoring of RE Provision in Calderdale: This would look at monitoring provision across Calderdale in a systematic way and also provide support and advice to schools at the same time. **Financial Cost: £5,250.**

It was agreed that in order to achieve this as well as the current management group that has been set up, a number of sub-groups would also need to be found. Membership and remit was agreed as follows:-

Publicity: This would entail leaflets/posters and the initial setting up of the website. Members were SH, RA, JB and AL.

Approved Faith Representatives: DB agreed to raise this at the next Bradford SACRE. This group would find representatives to go into school. Members were DB, JA, RC and FF.

5. Collective Worship Training

AR did a presentation to members on Collective Worship and what is required when monitoring. Members were invited to attend monitoring visits. Anyone wishing to do so should to respond to AR once a list of dates and times have been sent to members. Members had asked that in the first instance SACRE focus on secondary schools. JFS agreed to bring this up at the next CASH meeting to encourage secondary schools to get involved and DF will mention

this at Ryburn Valley High where she is a governor. AR agreed to send a letter to secondary schools regarding Collective Worship.

Members of SACRE who had done Collective Worship monitoring had enjoyed it the last time and if they were available on the dates provided would attend. SH and DF were also interested in attending.

6. Annual Report 2013-14

Members had received a copy of the report. Various amendments were made throughout this item. It was explained to members who had not attended previous meetings that SACRE communicated through the CYPS Scrutiny Panel via the elected members in SACRE when investigating schools not valuing RE. It was hoped that this would be brought up at the meeting in March. A Survey Monkey had been done in order to question secondary schools on this.

AR explained how funding was obtained.

Questions had been raised re the review of SACRE provision. The main priorities for the forthcoming year would be reflected in what SACRE do.

It was agreed that the report should now be sent to all headteachers and published on the SACRE websites.

7. Consultations (GCSE and A Level)

AR went through the new consultations. Concern was raised by DB as this did not seem to contain non-religious world views, nor was it inclusive. The new consultations seemed to go against all advice that had been given before. Members of SACRE were encouraged to respond to this consultation and the fact that it isn't inclusive as the consultation did not finish until the end of the year.

8. Any Other Business

Attendance: It was agreed that if members hadn't attended in over a year they should be written to advising that they must attend the next meeting. DAS agreed to do this.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 25 February 2015 – 6.00 pm – St Augustine's – Hanson Lane.

Thursday 4 June 2015 – 6.00 pm – venue to be arranged

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CALDERDALE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of SACRE Meeting
Wednesday 25 February 2015
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
St Augustine's Centre

Members in attendance:

Committee A

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths	Dr John Hargreaves (JAH) Mr Richard Constantine (RC) Ms Anne Linehan (AL) Mr John Butterfield (JB)
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Committee B

Representing the Church of England	Rev John Hellewell (JH) Rev James Allison (JA)
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Committee C

Teacher Associations	Ms Shelagh Hirst (SH)
CASH	Mr James Franklin-Smith (JFS)
Secondary Teachers	Mark Stephenson (MS)
CPHA	Ms Liz Whetham (LW)

Committee D

Representing Calderdale Council	No Representation
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In attendance

Mrs Debby Simpson – Clerk (DS)
Mr Ian Ross (IR)

Quorum for the meeting is 1 representative from each of the 4 Committees
NB: The meeting was not quorate and therefore no decisions could be made.

Introductions were made for new members.

1. **Apologies and Welcome**

Apologies were received from Fiaz Farooq, Dot Foster, Alastair Ross, Rachel Amdurer and Peter Caffrey. No introductions were needed.

2. **Minutes of Meeting Held 25 November 2014**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record by members present.

3. **Matters Arising**

Attendance: DAS had emailed the members who had not attended SACRE in over a year. No reply had been received from any of the members and none had arrived at this meeting. The following members will therefore be removed. Rajinder Singh Panesar (Sikh), Jo Woodhead (Roman Catholic), Mohammed Arshad (Muslim), Asmat Ali (Muslim) and Tanveer Bostan (Muslim).

Discussion took place on whether more representation could be found and it was agreed that DAS would contact Kevin Barnard at the Interfaith Council at St Pauls in King Cross to see if he could assist in finding representatives from faiths not currently represented on SACRE.

SACRE Budget: DAS went through the budget that has been spent. It was felt that the work plan needed to be secured so that it could be presented to Calderdale LA. This will be discussed by the CORE group.

4. **Organisation of SACRE – Committees and Work Plan**

Steering Group: The Steering Group had produced the last set of work together with budgets and work plan, however, no more decisions could be made until the other committees had fed back.

School Visitors: JA went through the discussions of the group with the main points being raised:

- The purpose of the group was to help SACRE resolve how to support schools to connect with faith and belief speakers in school and in line with curriculum objectives.

- This was needed as it was recognised that appropriate external speakers can provide substantial value and enrichment to the delivery of RE and collective worship. This would be achieved by acknowledging the contribution and value of personal experiences, stories and testimony provided to students and the RE syllabus.
- By doing this it would help schools connect with appropriate external speakers, give support to external speakers in delivering effective and appropriate interactions with students and give an enriched RE experience to young people.
- The group looked at how to achieve these outcomes which were providing a directory and connections service for faith and belief school visitors, guidance for school visitors, training for school visitors, guidance for schools, code of practice and co-operating with other West Yorkshire authorities.
- The next steps for the group would be to identify existing volunteer/visitor/visit structures within Calderdale and other West Yorkshire authorities, eg code of practice. It was also proposed for 1 day training for prospective and existing school volunteers.

This was then discussed by members and it was felt that next steps would be for members to see if they could find examples of good practice for the Schools Visit group and send them to the group.

It should be made clear to schools that the school visits would be tied into the curriculum for the school.

AL would make the Interfaith Council aware that this was something that SACRE were looking at to see if they could assist in any way.

IR would try and get a list of visitors in school from training that was to be carried out on 26 February 2015.

IR will find a code of conduct for volunteers from Kirklees Faiths Forum and ask how this can be collated with volunteers from both Kirklees and Calderdale together in order to widen the pool of faith visitors that can be advertised.

Communication/Publicity: This group had met a couple of times and had been discussing the different target audiences. The difference audiences would be teachers, governors, parents and faith communities however the main one would be the young people themselves and teachers who needed to get a feeling of lived faith within Calderdale.

The group felt that electronic communication was best and needed to look at how to develop the website. DAS agreed to email members a link to the current website.

JH was meeting with DAS and Simon Greaves from IT at Northgate in the morning to look at what were the possibilities. He said if other members wanted to attend they could.

JH was also going to the Interfaith Council on 5 March 2015 to look at possible links between the Calderdale website and the Interfaith website.

There was also the possibility of a launch to provide resources.

5. Collective Worship – Monitoring – Interim Report

Four secondary schools had volunteered to take part in the monitoring – North Halifax Grammar, Sowerby Bridge, Todmorden High and Trinity Academy. Of these two visits had been completed (North Halifax Grammar and Sowerby Bridge) and the other two schools would be completed next week.

AR will do a report for each school and provide each school with each other's contact details in order for them to visit each other's school and share good practice.

6. Training and Support of Teachers

A governor training course had been organised to run on 11 May 2015 on British Values.

A meeting had taken place on the RE Hub and this looked at Sikhism. Other sessions would include Judaism and Humanism in March, Christianity in May and Islam in June/July. Members of the Hub were mainly from Calderdale primary teachers – 18 were members at the moment. JB asked if members of SACRE could attend the HUB. IR asked that JB contact AR to see if this was possible.

AR was advertising re the secondary networks by word of mouth as there had never been a big uptake from secondary schools.

7. Any Other Business

Ofsted: MS informed members that in their last Inspection Rastrick High got outstanding for SMSC and felt that this should be something to be celebrated. JFS said that this had also been the case at Trinity. Members felt that this should be something that is celebrated. DAS agreed to check any Ofsted reports in future to see what schools were getting so that a letter could be sent to school.

SACRE need to look at creating their own letterhead in order to do this.

Annual Report: The annual report is to be presented at Scrutiny on 11 March 2015. JH and IR will be presenting on this.

Next Meetings:

Thursday 4 June 2015 – 6.00 pm – venue to be arranged

**CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CALDERDALE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Minutes of SACRE Annual General Meeting
Thursday 4 June 2015
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
St Augustine's Centre**

Members in attendance:

Committee A

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths	Mr Richard Constantine (RC) Ms Anne Linehan (AL) Mr John Butterfield (JB) Dr Fiaz Farooq (FF) Mrs Rachel Amdurer (RA) Mr Dermot Bolton (DB)
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Committee B

Representing the Church of England	Rev John Hellewell (JH)
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Committee C

Teacher Associations Ms Shelagh Hirst (SH)

Committee D

Representing Calderdale Council Cllr Dot Foster (DF)
Cllr Peter Caffrey (PC)

In attendance

Mrs Debby Simpson – Clerk (DS)
Mr Alastair Ross (AR)
Mr Ian Ross (IR)

Quorum for the meeting is 1 representative from each of the 4 Committees

Formal AGM Business

a. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Mark Stephenson, John Hargreaves, James Franklyn-Smith, Simon Scott, Gill Johnson. No introductions were needed.

b. Election of Chair

As no other nominations had been received for Chair of SACRE, RC nominated JH to carry on as Chair for another year. This was agreed unanimously.

c. Election of Vice Chair

There had been one nomination for Vice Chair. It was agreed unanimously that DB would be Vice Chair for another year.

d. Election of Group Chairs and Vice Chairs

It was agreed that this would only happen if the need arose.

e. Membership Review

There had been 2 resignations, one from Cathy Gunningham (C of E Representative) and one from Liz Whetham (CPHA). It was agreed that DAS

would contact CPHA to find representation and JH would ask GJ if there was anyone from SIAMS and also the Diocese in order to find C of E representation.

Discussion took place re none attendance of elected members. There had been one elected member who had never attended a meeting. Various options were discussed and it was agreed that DF would bring the matter up at the next Group Meeting.

DAS had been contacted by a Quaker who was interested in being a member. JH agreed to chase this up.

JH agreed to contact the Interfaith Council to seek representation from there.

DAS agreed to remind Sail Suleman re asking at the Council of Mosques for representation from the Muslim community.

An interesting discussion place on the different denominations of Muslims within the community. AR agreed to send a link that explained this if any member was interested and it was agreed that FF would arrange a presentation on this for the next meeting.

f. Minutes of Last Meeting held 25 February 2015

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

g. Matters Arising

Good Practice in Schools: DB agreed to follow up on the good practice in schools. There was already a Humanist Schools Volunteer Programme in place and DB agreed to source and bring this to the next meeting.

Meeting with IT: JH informed member how the meeting with IT went. Calderdale would be able to provide a basic website that would be aimed at teachers and used as an information sharing hub that SACRE can use, however, this would not satisfy the vision that SACRE wanted of the site being used by young people. In order to achieve this SACRE would have to develop a site themselves. Various options were discussed and JH agreed to obtain costs for going privately.

Secondary Networks: AR informed members that they had just commenced with Teach Meets with Kirklees. These are run by teachers. There is a possibility that Leeds will also join and AR is acting as the co-ordinator. So far there are 15 people booked on the networks.

General SACRE Business

1. Work Plan and Budget 2015 – 2016

JH said that some of the things that needed to be looked at with the work plan were developing the budget, promoting and developing SACRE and any new/updated RE units.

IR said that David Whalley had agreed an extra 5 days as part of the Pennine Learning Contract to look at British Values. IR said that the network package for primary schools was still available, however, this year Pennine Learning were also offering Network Plus which gave schools an extra half day in schools.

JH went through the work plan and costings so far with members. He explained it still needed tweaking to match the statutory duties.

Members also discussed the RE work units. AR said that over 90% of schools had signed up to use the units of work which was a very positive outcome. It was pointed out that these would need to be kept up to date with links for resources and web links. It was agreed that the success of the Work Units should be highlighted in the Annual Report.

It was felt that the importance of British Values may be a way for SACRE to get into schools.

2. Celebrating SMSC from Inspections

DAS had now created a form so members can see the comments from Ofsted on RE and SMSC and updated members on this. It was interesting to see that all the reports apart from one school had mentioned British Values. It was felt that something about this be added to the Annual Report. It was agreed that once a school had received a visit from Ofsted a standard letter be sent to the school with an extra bit written by the Chair of SACRE. The letter would be sent to the headteacher and Chair of Governors for the school. JH and DAS to arrange.

3. Celebrating REQM Assessments

SACRE were aware of Holy Trinity Primary School had received a silver award from RE Quality Mark and that Trinity Academy and Sowerby Bridge High School were wanting to apply. AR said that he would check with Kirklees to see if there were any more. It was agreed that once schools had received the mark a Certificate and Letter be sent. DAS would then check termly to see if any more had received the award. All the schools who had taken the award had felt that it was good and worthwhile.

4. Reports from Other Working Parties

Community and Publicity

This would be discussed together with the links with Calderdale Interfaith Council.

Visitors in Schools

IR had contacted a number of schools to see if they could give information on visitors to their school, however, they did not seem to want to submit. After discussion it was agreed that DB would find out how it was done in Bradford and bring to the next meeting. It was pointed out that schools were not always specific in what they wanted with regards to visitors in school.

5. Links with Calderdale Interfaith Council

JH had been emailed by Nancy White after attending a steering group and was encouraged to promote links with the Interfaith Council. To this end AL asked for humanist representation for a visit to the Halifax Minster from Park Lane Learning Trust Year 10 Students to look at tolerance, spirituality and how faith can impact on this, as well as British values. The event was due to take place on 6 July 2015. DB agreed to do this and if he could not make it would arrange for another humanist to take his place.

Hilary Barber the vicar at the Minster was wanting the Interfaith Council to work more closely with SACRE. They were wanting to know more local information which would be better suited once the website was developed. JH will look into developing the website further. Various options were discussed.

6. Dates of Meetings for 2015 – 2016

The following meetings were arrange for next year:-

Monday 14 September 2015 – 6.00 pm –

Monday 23 November 2015 – 6.00 pm –
Tuesday 15 March 2016 – 6.00 pm -
Wednesday 22 June 2015 – 6.00 pm -

The next website meeting was arranged for 22 June 2015, 1.00 pm at Savile Park.

The next core group meeting was arranged for 16 June 2015, 9.30 am at St Augustines.

7. **AOB**

Governors: DAS informed members that Church Schools, especially our Catholic Schools were struggling to find foundation governors. She asked if anyone had any ideas of how to help with this issue to contact her.

Appendix 5

A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools

In the summer of 2015, a pamphlet was produced by Charles Clarke, former Secretary of State and Linda Woodhead, Professor of Sociology of Religion at the University of Lancaster. It arose from research and debate carried out by the Westminster Faith Debates (founded by Mr Clarke and Professor Woodhead) and the Religion and Society Research programme which gave rise to them. Both were supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, and Lancaster University.

The pamphlet has no formal authority but will be influential as a call for changes in the direction of RE. SACREs will wish to discuss and consider the proposals it outlines.

Its principle recommendations are:

- An end to compulsory collective worship;
- A new national RE syllabus determined by the Secretary of State;
- The government should consider making this syllabus compulsory for all schools;
- SACREs' role to be limited to participation in consultation and support for implementation
- A more robust system of inspecting RE;
- Continuation of faith schools but modifications to admissions and possible removal of separate inspection regime

In full, the recommendations were:

Act of Collective Worship

1. The current requirement in statute for an Act of Collective Worship should be abolished, and the decision about the form and character of school assemblies should be left to the governors of individual schools. Schools should be required to set out their statement and strategy for promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education, with school community assemblies as an important part of that strategy, upon which they would be inspected by OFSTED. The government should provide non-statutory guidance to help achieve this.

Curriculum

2. Consideration be given to using the phrase 'Religious and Moral Education' rather than 'Religious Education' in describing this part of the statutory curriculum.

3. The Religious Education syllabus in county and voluntary controlled schools should no longer be set by a system of agreed local syllabuses, but by an agreed national syllabus which would have a similar legal status to the requirements of other subjects in the National Curriculum.
4. The nationally-agreed syllabus would be determined by the Secretary of State in agreement with a newly created 'National Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (NASACRE)' comprising experts on religion and education, and after formal consultation and input from the relevant established professional bodies and representatives of religions, humanism and other belief systems. This nationally-agreed syllabus should be reviewed every 5/7 years.
5. The government discusses with the faith school providers, including academies and free schools, the merits of voluntary-aided and foundation faith schools adopting this nationally-agreed syllabus and, on the basis of such discussions, considers legislating to require all maintained schools to adopt this syllabus.
6. The government also discusses with faith school providers including academies and free schools, the importance of making a distinction within schools between religious instruction, formation and education, including agreement that religious instruction (even of a kind which does not include coercion, or distortion of other religions or beliefs) does not take place within the school day.
7. In addition, the government discusses with independent schools whether they should adopt this nationally-agreed syllabus and, on the basis of such discussions, considers legislating to require all schools to adopt this syllabus.
8. If these changes are agreed, the right of parents to withdraw their children from the Religious Education part of the curriculum should be abolished.
9. The legal requirement for Religious Education at Key Stage 5, after the age of 16, should be removed and that, within the context of a general reform of the curriculum at Key Stage 4, consideration should be given to modifying the legal requirement for Religious Education to a wider study of religious, spiritual, moral, ethical, social, and cultural values.
10. All faith schools, and possibly all schools in receipt of state funding, clearly advertise and explain the kind of religious (or non-religious) ethos and formation which they offer, so that prospective parents and pupils can make informed choices.

11. The local Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) are given a new role which includes participating in the consultations about the content of the national RE curriculum, helping local implementation of the national RE syllabus, promoting community cohesion and educating for diversity, and advising on local availability of religious instruction.
12. An important, though not the only, way to promote community cohesion and to counter radicalization across the school system is to make the kinds of curriculum change which we are proposing. OFSTED should re-establish a strong inspection system to ensure that all schools, faith or not, properly fulfil their duty to promote community cohesion

Faith Schools

13. Children of families of faith should where possible be able to attend schools of that faith, and that their current right to be given priority in the admissions process should not be removed.
14. The churches need to make strong and continued progress in addressing the very real concerns about fairness, and that changes to the current legal position should be considered as an urgent matter if faith bodies fail to make progress in the directions which they have set for themselves. We believe that there are legitimate concerns about using regular attendance at worship as a selection criterion and we recommend that this criterion be kept under review.
15. Further effort be given to developing alternative proposals for fairer admissions procedures to faith schools, procedures which balance the rights of families of faith to have their children educated in that faith with other considerations of fairness to others and serving the whole local community.
16. The ability of faith schools to retain their own inspection process for the content of collective worship and religious formation should be reconsidered within the context of the overall changes we propose.
17. The inspection regime for independent schools continues to be steadily tightened in the context of the curricular changes we propose.

The current arrangements which enable faith schools to discriminate in their employment are kept under review, given legitimate concerns about their effects.