

# Annual Report of the Cheshire East Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2011/12

## *Celebrating Religious Education in Cheshire East*



## Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
<b>2 Religious Education in Cheshire East Schools</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus	
2.2 Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus	
2.3 Standards in Religious Education	3
2.4 Teaching Methods, Advice, Materials and Training	4
2.5 Initiatives undertaken and supported	
2.6 Complaints concerning Religious Education	
<b>3 Collective Worship</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Supporting Collective Worship	
3.2 Determinations	
3.3 Complaints	
<b>4 Links with other agencies</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 National and International	
4.2 Local and Regional	

## Appendices

Appendix 1 Examination Statistics 2012	7
Appendix 2 LA publications	8
Appendix 3 SACRE Development Plan	
Appendix 4 SACRE Statutory Functions	
Appendix 5 Distribution	9
Appendix 6 Meetings of the Cheshire SACRE	
Appendix 7 Membership of the Cheshire East SACRE	10

# **ANNUAL REPORT** *of the* Cheshire East Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education **2011-12**

November 2012

## **1 Introduction**

I am delighted to introduce the 2011-2012 SACRE report for the authority of Cheshire East. During this year unlike many authorities, we have been able, by careful management of resources, to continue to provide support to schools through our two officers sending emails, making telephone calls, leading twilights and network meetings.

The first meeting of the Cheshire East 2011-12 took place on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Marlborough Primary School. In January 2012 we met at Offley Primary School in Sandbach and in June we were welcomed by the RE department of Tytherington High School.

Lois Wilkinson, clerk to the SACRE has continued to support our activities.

I am grateful for the knowledgeable support provided by my fellow councillors and members of our local faith communities as well as our officers.



**Councillor Steve Wilkinson**  
**Chair of CE SACRE**

## 2. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CHESHIRE EAST SCHOOLS



### 2.1 Locally Agreed RE Syllabus



#### *Engaging Encounter & Reasoned Response*

**The new Cheshire East Religious Education Agreed Syllabus was launched in July 2011.** The locally agreed syllabus is the statutory syllabus for RE in Cheshire East schools prepared under schedule 31 to the Education Act of 1996.

**It must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination and all church controlled schools within the local authority.** Copies of the syllabus CD Rom can be obtained from Lois Wilkinson clerk to the SACRE

Ofsted use the local syllabus as the yardstick by which their inspectors make their judgements on the delivery of the RE curriculum in individual Cheshire East schools.

The existing syllabus is further supported by in-service training (INSET) led by two part-time consultants who are also available to lead INSET for staff in response to requests from schools, provided that schools are able to buy in their support. Telephone and email advice is also often sought and provided by the consultants.

## 2.2 Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus

**The SACRE have a statutory duty to monitor the impact of the locally agreed syllabus.**

**Analysis of Ofsted Reports** – Please refer to minutes of SACRE meetings for full details which can be found on the Cheshire East SACRE website.

Analysis of Section 5 Ofsted inspection reports which identifies the performance of schools with respect to spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum continues to give a simple indicator of school performance in RE. The reports for schools in the authority which have been visited by Ofsted are analyzed for each SACRE meeting and reported upon. If concerns are raised then advice and support can be offered by the two advisory consultants, Sue Glover (Primary) and Sue Wilson (Secondary).

Under the Ofsted reporting system, detailed information about RE is not available, unless it is an HMI religious education subject survey visit. No RE HMI subject surveys were made during the last academic year. SACRE members remain concerned about how RE is often marginalized in schools. A lack of contact with diverse communities or other cultures within the local area makes it difficult for schools to fully demonstrate a well developed understanding of other faiths and cultures. Consultants have highlighted this concern with colleagues at network meetings and encouraged staff to consider how they could ensure that more visits to places of worship or visiting guest speakers can become regular parts of the RE curriculum.

## 2.3 Standards in Religious Education

### 2.3.1 Examinations in Religious Studies

The report is based upon the provisional statistics for 2012.

A total of 15 Cheshire East secondary schools entered candidates for the full GCSE course in Religious Studies in 2012. This is the same number as last year. 16 schools entered candidates for the short course and 9 entered candidates for both. The four main examination boards were used.

#### GCSE Full Course

In GCSE full course there has been another increase in the number of pupils taking the examination. 89.7% of candidates achieved grades A\*-C. This is an increase from last year (85.1%)

The comparable national figures are unavailable at present.

#### GCSE Short Course

A smaller number of students, though a larger proportion of the cohort (68.9%) were entered this year. 57.1% achieved grades A\*-C. This is above last years' result (52.6%).

The national figures are unavailable at this time.

#### GCE 'A' level

89 students were entered for this examination, a slight fall on last year (92, 106 in 2010) 100 % achieved grades A-E. This reflects a lot of hard work by students and staff, who are to be congratulated.

### Comment

- It is not clear if the percentage of the cohort who are not entered for any examination are receiving their entitlement of RE lessons in KS4
- Some schools are starting GCSE courses in year 9. Early entry means that KS3 has been impoverished in time and depth. The foundations for good understanding at GCSE are undermined.
- The effect of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate on GCSE entries has yet to be seen. Anecdotal evidence suggests that option choices are being restricted. Further changes to the short course in 2014 may also have a negative impact on entries to GCSE RE.

### 2.3.2 Monitoring of Secondary RE Departments

Four RE departments were visited this year by Sue Wilson, Secondary RE advisor (employed for 10 days). Other support was offered through telephone calls, emails and network meetings included: supporting new heads of department, the implementation of KS3 requirements, analyzing resource material and looking at teaching and learning.

#### Subject strengths

- There has been an increase in the number of students entered gaining good GCSE results in Religious Studies full and short courses .
- 100% of students at 'A' Level achieved A-E grades. 52.8% of these were grades A\*-B.
- Cheshire East SACRE has been able to fund 6 'twilight' inset sessions, one in the north and one in the south of the authority, two each term, to ensure some access to professional development for teachers of RE.
- Three CE schools applied to receive the RE Quality Mark. Middlewich achieved the Bronze award and Holmes Chapel the Gold.

#### Areas for development

- The impact of the English Baccalaureate needs to be carefully monitored
- Some schools are not fulfilling the legal requirements at KS4, in terms of time allocation.
- Early entry for GCSE short course means that the KS3 RE curriculum is reduced and in some cases, year 11 students are not receiving their legal entitlement to RE.



#### 2.4.1 Artefact Bases- Materials

- A substantial collection of religious artefacts purchased previously by SACRE are held at Knutsford High School who will lend it to local primary schools on request. *Please contact Chris Perry 01565 633294.*
- There is another collection of artefacts in the south of the authority at Sir William Stanier High School. *Please contact Mike Chester 01270 583431*

#### 2.4.2 Advice and Inset Training for Teachers- Provided by Consultants

##### Primary Schools

- More than 30 primary schools were given email or telephone advice during the academic year. Support was mainly given to RE subject leaders. Advice was primarily based on planning the primary curriculum, assessment and implementing the requirements of the local agreed syllabus. A small number of queries centred around collective worship.
- One visit sponsored by SACRE was made to a local primary school who needed support for developing teaching and learning in RE.
- Four primary school network meetings also sponsored by SACRE were held in different areas of the county with over 60 teachers attending. This was a unique opportunity for subject leaders to come together to share good practice. The main emphasis of the meetings were to look at practical delivery of the newly agreed syllabus. Medium term plans were developed to support the implementation of the new syllabus. These were circulated to all primary schools in the spring term. The plans are a supplement to the locally RE Agreed Syllabus (2011) and a flexible tool for assisting teachers to use with their own school planning. Copies can be obtained from Lois Wilkinson clerk to the SACRE or Sue Glover, Primary RE Consultant. Schools are free to use, improve on or disregard the supplementary documents as required. These plans are an actual RE Scheme of work that can be picked up and used without alteration in a given primary school.

##### Secondary Schools

- Cheshire East SACRE has been able to fund 6 'twilight' inset sessions, one in the north and one in the south of the authority, two each term, to ensure some access to professional development for teachers of RE. In the autumn term these were hosted by Holmes Chapel and Shavington, in Spring, Wilmslow and Sir William Stanier and in the summer term Wilmslow and Ruskin provided venues.
- Five RE departments were visited this year by Sue Wilson, Secondary RE advisor (employed for 10 days).
- Other support was offered through telephone calls, emails and network meetings included: supporting new heads of department, the implementation of KS3 requirements, analyzing resource material and looking at teaching and learning.

**Notices about courses, network 'twilights' and other initiatives are given via the Cheshire East bulletin.**

## 2.5 Complaints

There have been no complaints to the LA during the past year in respect of RE, requiring the LA's Special Appeals Committee to be convened.

## **3 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **3.1 Supporting Collective Worship**

All previously published material giving guidance for collective worship still stand in respect of the law.

The School and Standards Frameworks Act 2006 continues to reflect the current law governing collective worship. NASACRE (National Association of Standing advisory Council for RE) have produced a paper giving further insights into collective worship which is available on request.

Under the Ofsted framework, inspectors do comment on the opportunities for spiritual development in schools.

Further advice and materials are available from both the primary and secondary RE consultants.

### **3.2 Determinations**

The SACRE has not been called upon during the past year to make any determinations concerning collective worship.

### **3.3 Complaints**

There have been no complaints to the LA during the past year in respect of collective worship requiring the LA's special Appeals Committee to be convened.

## 4 LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

### 4.1 National and International

The Cheshire East SACRE is a member of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE).

Jane Brooke, previously chair of NASACRE is a member of Cheshire East SACRE. Jane is an independent consultant and until recently worked as an RE Project Development Officer for the National Society. She is also the Principal Consultant for Chester Diocese.

Sue Glover primary RE Consultant attended the NASACRE AGM in London in May of this year and reported back the key messages to the Cheshire East SACRE. Members of Ofsted, REC and the DCSF also took part. It is hoped that SACRE members will continue to attend national events in future years funding permitting. The NASACRE Newsletters 'SACRE News' are much valued by SACRE members, providing a very useful insight into the activities of SACREs and the teaching of RE across the country.

To date no new government publications in RE have been produced. 'RE in English schools Non Statutory Guidance 2010' and the Ofsted HMI RE Subject Inspection report of January 2012 are the last government documents giving in depth guidance on RE.

The Diocese of Chester has continued to fund Sue Glover, Primary Schools Consultant to support religious education in Cheshire East Church primary schools as part of their work in schools.

**You can download publications or order copies online at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications)  
Search using ref: DCSF-00114-2010**

### 4.2 Local and Regional

Cheshire East SACRE has links with the local Macclesfield Interfaith Group. The Cheshire East faith audit producing local data is of valuable assistance in the SACRE's work.

Cheshire East SACRE continues to have some links through the in-service programme with the University of Chester and Chester Diocese

Jane Brooke continues to support the Rochdale SACRE and also works for Chester Diocese.

Jane Brooke and Mary Myatt are pioneering nationally a new RE quality mark, the REQM. Sue Glover and Sue Wilson have been involved in the recent pilot supported by Cheshire SACRE to trial this in various schools across the county, both becoming REQM assessors. Several awards were given including one gold and one silver award to local high schools; one bronze and one silver award to primary schools. The overall aim is to celebrate outstanding RE practice in schools and further details can be found at [www.reqm.org](http://www.reqm.org).

As well as supporting Cheshire East primary schools as a consultant Sue Glover also serves on Cheshire West SACRE and works for Chester Diocese supporting RE and Collective worship in Church of England schools.

Sue Wilson completed her work as a mentor for the Resilience initiative this year and Sue has also supported other authorities in the North West.



## Appendix 1 Examination Statistics 2012

	Cheshire East 2012	Cheshire East 2011	Cheshire East 2010	Cheshire East 2009
<b><u>GCSE Short Courses in RE</u></b>				
Number of candidates entered	2115	2189	1931	1648
Number of grades A* -C	1207	1151	1102	952
Percentage gaining A* -C	57.1%	52.6%	57.0%	57.9%
Percentage gaining A* -G	96.3%	95.4%	97.2%	97.2%
Percentage of cohort entered	68.9%	54.2%	58.7%	41.0%
<b><u>GCSE Religious Studies</u></b>				
Number of candidates entered	778	760	639	589
Number of grades A* -C	2617	647	520	497
Percentage gaining A* -C	89.7%	85.1%	81.5%	84.5%
Percentage gaining A* -G	99.9%	99.5%	99.2%	99.8%
Percentage of cohort entered	26.6%	18.8%	20.9%	14.7%
<b><u>GCE 'A' Level Religious Studies</u></b>				
Number of candidates entered	89	92	106	76
Number of grades A-E	89	92	106	75
Percentage gaining grades A-E	100%	100.0%	100.0%	99.0%
Percentage of cohort entered	5.5%	5.7%	6.3%	5.4%
<b><u>GCE 'A/S' Level Religious Studies – Year 12</u></b>				
Number of candidates entered	22	26	43	88
Number of grades A-E	21	22	40	83.6
Percentage gaining grades A-E	95.5%	84.6%	93.0%	95.0%
<b>Percentage of cohort entered</b>	1.4%	1.4%	2.2%	6.2%

## **Appendix 2 LA Publications**

All RE publications are available, generally from the clerk to SACRE, Lois Wilkinson. Lois can be contacted by email at [Lois.Wilkinson@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Lois.Wilkinson@cheshireeast.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01606 2743083.

The locally agreed syllabus and the accompanying handbook and all other documentation for religious education in primary and secondary schools will soon be available on the Cheshire East website.

### **LA guidance on Collective Worship**

Guidance on Collective Worship in community and controlled schools can be obtained from the RE Consultants.

### **SACRE Annual Report**

Further copies of the annual SACRE reports are available from the Clerk to the SACRE, as above.

## **Appendix 3 SACRE Development Plan**

This year 2011-12 the main areas of activity were:

- To support teachers in dissemination of good practice teaching/resources.
- To help teachers and schools to raise standards in RE and the quality of RE teaching.
- To help schools improve the quality of collective worship.
- To contribute towards social cohesion, particularly in respect of improving religious and racial harmony within the community.
- To discharge its responsibilities effectively.

## **Implementation**

In order to complete the work of the Cheshire East SACRE last year, there was an initial allocated budget of £6000 to fund the work of two RE consultants who were employed by the authority to facilitate the work of SACRE, (One primary consultant and one secondary consultant each employed for 10 days). Additional funding allocated part way through the year enabled further support for the implementation of the new agreed syllabus. This enabled the consultants to undertake further training with schools.

Recent Ofsted school inspection reports were studied on RE and Collective Worship for evidence of standards and reported to SACRE. Support was offered where considered necessary.

## **Appendix 4 Statutory Functions**

**These continue to remain the same in line with government legislation**

- To advise the LA on matters relating to RE and collective worship; methods of teaching; choice of teaching material; provision of teacher training.
- To determine any applications from head teachers for dis application in relation to the general requirements for collective worship.
- To monitor the effective provision for RE in community and controlled schools.
- To consider whether changes need to be made in the Agreed RE Syllabus or the support offered to schools.
- To support the effective provision for collective worship in schools.
- To monitor the provision of daily collective worship in schools and consider how to improve such provision.
- To publish an annual report on its work.

## **Appendix 5**

During the 2011-12 academic year the attendance at CE SACRE meetings was as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2011</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>
A	2	2	3
B	3	4	2
C	3	1	1
D	1	3	2

Also in attendance at each meeting were Sue Wilson, Secondary Teacher Consultant, Sue Glover, Primary RE Consultant and Lois Wilkinson clerk to the SACRE. Anne Gadsden Excellence and Equity manager attended all meetings.

Regular items on the agenda include discussion of Ofsted reports; a summary of the consultants' work during the term and the current budgetary position.

Dates for the Cheshire East SACRE meetings during 2012-2013 academic year are as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012: Knutsford High School  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2013: Holmes Chapel Academy- to be confirmed  
Summer 2013: Date and venue to be agreed

## **Appendix 6 Distribution**

The CE SACRE report is sent to the following:

- NASACRE (National Association Of SACREs)
- Cheshire East Schools and colleges
- Members of the Cheshire East SACRE
- Lead Member for Children's Services and the members of the Children's Services Strategic Panel
- Diocesan Education Associations
- Representatives of local faith communities

The report will also be made available on the Cheshire East website [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)

**Appendix 7 - Membership of the Cheshire East SACRE for 2011-2012 Academic Year.**

<b>Committee A – Christian Denominations and Other Religions</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Denomination/Religion</b>	<b>Address</b>
Les Biddulph	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Bridge Cottage, Buxton Road, Upper Hulme, Leek, Staffs ST13 8TT.
Mrs R Habibi	Baha'i	Little Beeches, Bollin Way, Prestbury, SK10 4BX
Mr J Vaja	Hinduism	1 Marlborough Close, Macclesfield, SK10 2LA
Rev Penny Johnson	Unitarian	Fairfield, London Road, Adlington, Macclesfield, SK10 4NA
Heather Staniland	Methodist	
Mark Cohen	Judaism	10 Marlborough Drive, Tytherington, Macclesfield, SK10 2JX
Mr J Ahmed	Islam	71 Ruskin Road, Crewe, CW2 7JS

<b>Committee B – Church of England</b>		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Address</b>
Rev Mrs J Brooke	Church of England	3, Bridge Place, Chester, CH1 1SA
Mrs S Glover	Church of England	8 Pipers Court, Hoole, Chester, CH2 3JL
Rev Mr T Shepherd	Church of England	The Vicarage, 15 Offley Road, Sandbach, CW11 2GY

<b>Committee C – Teachers' Associations</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Association</b>	<b>Address</b>
Mr I V Bonner	ATL	252 Nixon Drive, Winsford, CW7 2JD
Mrs A Boulton	NAHT	Oaklands School, Cheviot Square, Winsford, CW7 1NU
	NUT	
Mrs J Rippin	NUT	96 Moors Lane, Darnhall, Winsford, CW7 2JD

<b>Committee D – Local Authority</b>		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Address</b>
Cllr Mr S R Wilkinson	(Chair)	Dunholme Farm, Pickmere Lane, Knutsford, WA16 0JL
Cllr Mrs S Jones	(Vice Chair)	10 Fairview Avenue, Alsager, Stoke-on-Tent ST7 2NW
Cllr C Andrew		17 Madron Avenue, Macclesfield, SK10 3PW

**Officers Name**

Mrs S Glover Primary Consultant  
 Mrs S Wilson Secondary Consultant  
 Mrs A Gadsden  
 Monitoring & Interventions Manager

**Address**

8 Pipers Court, Hoole Chester CH2 3JL  
 3 Drumblefield, Chelford, Macclesfield, SK11 9BT  
 Room 1 Dalton House, Dalton Way, Middlewich, CW10 0HU