

Annual Report of the Cheshire West and Chester Standing Advisory Council

on

Religious Education

2017-2018



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1 Summary

- Karen Shore became Chair of SACRE with Nicole Meardon as Vice Chair. Advisory support to SACRE was from Jane Brooke, Naomi Anstice and Tim Lee.
- SACRE meetings have been held termly in local schools.

2 Religious Education in Cheshire West and Chester Schools

- Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Agreed Syllabus has been in use from September 2013. During the summer term of 2018 working parties were convened for both primary and secondary provision. The secondary team recommended no changes to content and worked on supplementary materials. The primary team recommended that changes be made to the content and spread of religions for across the phrase, following a survey of faiths in schools, an Agreed Syllabus Conference was called. Work on the Agreed Syllabus will be completed during the Spring Term of 2019 ready to be implemented in September 2019.

- Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus
Due to capacity issues, the impact of the Agreed Syllabus is monitored through email requests from schools and through the RE Hubs.

3 Standards in Religious Education

- Examinations in Religious Studies

KS4 GCSE course - 15 out of 19 CWaC schools had GCSE entries in 2018

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
CWaC Number of entries	832	1214	1260	1242	1305	1202	1226
% 9-4 (A*-C) (national)	60.5 (71.7)	68.4 (71.5)	73.0 (71.6)	69.6 (72.1)	77.3 (71.6)	73.5 (73.6)	72.3 (74.2)
% 9-1 (A*-G) (national)	98.1 (98.0)	98.4 (97.9)	97.1 (97.8)	98.1 (97.9)	98.9 (97.6)	99.4 (98.2)	98.4 (98.4)
Average points¹ (national)	5.1 (5.1)	5.1 (5.3)	5.3 (5.3)	41.5 (41.8)	43.18 (41.22)	42.4 (41.7)	41.9 (41.9)

¹ New points score introduced in 2016

Entry levels taken considerable dip in 2018, this is a significant drop as previous 6 years was a consistent level of entry.

- Grade 9-4 (A-C%) Lowest in 7 years and quite significantly- Only 2 years of the last 8 have CWaC previously been below the National average (2017 and 2015) and this was still marginally compared to 2018 results. Risk of becoming 3 year trend.
- A-G% remains in line with national achievement
- APS consistently in line with National average.
- Grade 5 APS is equivalent to 'Strong Pass'- Grade 5 Equates to High C grade to Low B grade.

Short course – there were no short course entries this year

	2013	2012	2011
CWaC Number of entries	887	1063	1374
% A*-C (national)	51.2 (50.1)	50.6 (50.4)	46.8 (50.6)
% A*-G (national)	92.9 (94.7)	94.0 (94.7)	92.9 (94.9)
Average points (national)	17.6 (17.6)	17.8 (17.7)	16.9 (17.7)

KS5 A level - 12 out of 14 CWAC schools with 6th forms had A level entries in 2018 (National figures include colleges).

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
CWaC -Number of entries	90	121	140	133	118	123	119
% A*-A (national)	10.0 (22.8)	13.2 (24.0)	25.0 (24.1)	18.0 (24.4)	22.0 (22.3)	24.4 (22.3)	27.7 (22.1)
% A*-E (national)	96.7 (97.9)	99.2 (98.7)	100 (98.9)	97.0 (98.9)	100 (99.8)	100 (99.8)	100 (99.9)
Average points (national)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	224.2 (225.15)	223.9 (224.8)	229.4 (225.0)

- CWaC entries lowest in 3 year trend and has shown quite a significant dip, 2016 and 2015 did see a rise in entries. 2017 is in line with all other years of an 7 year trend
- A*-A Standards have dipped significantly over the last 2 years. Before 2017 CWAC was generally in line or even above national standard. Last 2 years has seen CWaC fall below national standard and risks becoming a 3 year trend
- A*-E standards consistent- Over 7 years CWaC has 4 years of achieving 100% records. The 3 years that this was not achieved have been in the last 4 years. (2018, 2017 and 2015)

4 Analysis of OFSTED Reports

OFSTED reports were reviewed and if comments on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development were evident then letters of congratulation were sent to schools or an offer of support.

Autumn Term

Cambridge Road Community Primary and Nursery School
 Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School
 St Chad's Church of England Primary School
 The Rudheath Senior Academy (formerly University of Chester Academy Northwich)
 Witton Church Walk Church of England Primary School

Spring Term

Chester Blue Coat Church of England Primary School
 Tushingam-with-Grindley Church of England Primary School
 Upton Westlea Primary School

Summer Term

Over St John's Church of England Primary School
 Saughall All Saints Church of England Primary School
 The Acorns Primary and Nursery School

Schools responded positively to the SACRE letters.

5 Teacher Support

- RE teachers are supported through a network of local hubs. Pathways Hub meets half termly supporting the old Vale Royal area normally meeting in Winsford or Northwich. This year Pathways have been working on creating a calendar of religious festivals and resources. Neil Duncalf is the Chair of this group (Greenbank School), Tim continues to support the group. Pathways meet half termly. Pathways have been looking at Assessment for Learning, Humanism. Neil also gave a presentation at LTLRE North about the work which Pathways have been doing. Our other hub is part of the LTLRE North regional network and is based in Chester led by Rachel Inns (Hoole C of E Primary), meeting termly. Naomi supports this hub. The Chester Hub have been looking at a transition project, Understanding Christianity, Diversity in Christianity, visits to places of worship. Both hubs are open to all who are involved with the delivery of support of RE in schools and welcome new members.
- There is an active Facebook group for “RE in Cheshire West and Chester” where news is shared and support offered. The group has a membership of 95.
- Naomi Anstice (primary) and Tim Lee (secondary) commenced their roles as CWAC RE advisors in March 2017 and are supported by Jane Brooke. Naomi is allocated 12 days a year and Tim has 8 days a year.
- Following the closure of the Cheshire Development Education Centre, all RE related resources are now based at Hoole C of E Primary. SACRE have also purchased additional resources to support the teaching of Christianity and Sikhism during 2017/18. A wide range of topic boxes for all major world religions can be hired for a small amount to maintain stock.
- 20 schools in CWaC hold a current REQM compared to 21 during the previous academic year.

Gold Awards

Bishops Blue Coat C of E High School
Capenhurst C of E Primary School
Christ Church C of E Primary School
Elton Primary

Farndon Primary School
Frodsham C of E Primary School
Frodsham Manor House Primary School
Hartford Church of England High School
Helsby High School
Lostock Gralam C of E Primary School
The Russett School
Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School
Tushingham with Grindley C of E Primary School
Upton by Chester High School

Silver Awards

Antrobus St Mark's C of E Primary School
Childer Thornton Primary School
Greenbank School
Wimboldsley Primary School
Winsford Academy

Bronze Awards

St Oswald's C of E Primary School

The certification lasts for 3 years. Other CWaC schools have previously held the award and maybe in the process of updating their accreditation. Information above from REQM Website (Oct 2018). Both hubs have been actively promoting and supporting schools applying for REQM. Some Gold schools have also taken up the opportunity of becoming assessors for REQM. Naomi and Tim both actively encourage and support schools with their preparation for REQM.

- The Re subject leader at Frodsham Manor Primary School has been working with local schools as a LTLRE (Learn Teach Lead) Consultant and is a member of NATRE (National Association of the Teachers of RE) Exec. She is a Specialist Leader in RE.
- Imran Kotwal of Muslim Learner Services led an INSET for CWaC primary teachers with planning resources by Naomi Anstice in February 2018. This was attended by 18 colleagues. The aim of the training was subject enhancement and knowledge for those delivering Islam. Hosted by High Street Primary School.
- An RE primary subject Co-ordinator day led by Naomi was held in October 2017 attended by 20 colleagues. This session updated colleagues on current national policies, assessment, controversial issues, Chester Mystery Plays, Farmington Scholarships, local hubs and other schemes to support the delivery of RE. Hosted by Frodsham Manor House Primary School.
- An Early Years Afternoon was held in order to work on supporting documents for the new Agreed Syllabus led by Naomi attended by 18 Foundation Stage Leaders. A pack has been written for schools to access alongside the new Agreed Syllabus.
- SACRE meetings this year have also included talks about Global Learning in RE and Later Day Saints.

6 Right to Withdraw

There have been a couple of Subject Leads and Head Teachers who have requested advice concerning children being withdrawn from RE, particularly lessons on Islam.

7 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Supporting Collective Worship

- Queries have been answered through email concerning collective worship and the law.

8 Determinations

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

9 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.

10 LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

National and International

- NASACRE newsletters are circulated
- Naomi Anstice is a member of NATRE Executive and Steering Group.
- Some members of SACRE are also involved with Cheshire West Interfaith Network (Harmony Project).

SACRE would like to express our thanks for the lives of Brina Marks who supported the work of Cheshire West Interfaith Forum as their Jewish Rep for Harmony Weeks and Pastor Wynne Reynolds who supported many schools with the teaching of Christianity in the Vale Royal Area

Local and Regional

- Jane Brooke is Principal consultant for Chester Diocesan schools.
- LTLRE hub in Chester is part of a regional network. Pathways Hub is affiliated to NATRE.

Appendix 1 Membership of SACRE

SACRE Committee Members (as at November 2018)

First Name	Surname	Presenting
Cllr Karen)	Shore	Chair of SACRE
Cllr Nicole	Meardon	Vice Chair
Rahima	Ahmed	Muslin Community Representative
Naomi	Anstice	Specialist Teacher in RE/ Union
Cllr Robert	Bisset	CWaC
Jane	Brooke	Chester Diocesan
Cllr Lynn	Gibbon	CWaC
Sue	Glover	Chester Diocese
Rachel	Inns	NUT
Tim	Lee	Church of England / Secondary Advisor
Helen	Longmuir	Baha'is
Rachel	McCathy	Church of England
Nawal	Prinja	Hinduism
Cllr Lynn	Riley	CWaC
Vicky	Sewell	NUT
Simon	Shaw	Mormons/LDS
Catriona	Stewart	Humanist

Appendix 2 – SACRE Meeting Dates

SACRE Meeting Dates for Academic Year 2017-2018

7 November 2017 – Hartford Church of England High School

6 March 2018 – Farndon Primary School

5 June 2018 – Frodsham Manor House Primary School