

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Report



**Annual Report of the Cheshire West and Chester
Standing Advisory Council
for
Religious Education
2018-2019**



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Annual Report of the Chester and Cheshire West Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2018/ 2019

1 Summary

- Cllr Karen Shore is Chair of SACRE with Cllr Nicole Meardon as Vice Chair. Advisory support to SACRE was from Naomi Anstice (Primary and National) and Tim Lee (Secondary).
- 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 (CW&C) Agreed Syllabus has been in use from September 2013. Throughout this academic year, the new syllabus was designed by both primary and secondary working parties. This altered the amount of time-spent teaching about different religions to reflect the diversity in the local area. One change being that Islam was introduced to KS1. A further significant change was the introduction of “Free Choice Units” to allow schools flexibility to have ownership of their own RE curriculum and allows for extension of learning, topic based approaches and multi faith weeks. Humanism has also become compulsory.

The new Agreed Syllabus had an official launch for Primary Schools in July 2019 including extended presentations on Humanism and Islam as well as a number of other presentations. The new Syllabus will be implemented from September 2019 and Naomi is writing optional schemes of work, which are being published for schools to access during the following academic year.

- 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. Recent Ofsted reports are also monitored and reported to SACRE concerning RE provision.

3 Standards in Religious Education

Examinations in Religious Studies

KS4 GCSE course – Provisional data

16 out of 20 CW&C schools had GCSE entries in 2019

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
CW&C Number of entries	1164	832	1214	1260	1242	1305	1202	1226	1125
% 9-4 (A*- C) (national)	68.6 (72.3)	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)	79.8 (73.8)
% 9-1 (A*- G) (national)	97.5 (98.2)	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)	99.5 (98.3)
Average points¹ (national)	4.8 (5.1)	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)	44.1 (41.7)

¹ New points score introduced in 2016

KS5 A level - 9 out of 14 CW&C schools with 6th forms had A level entries in 2019

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
CW&C Number of entries	62	90	121	140	133	118	123	119	126

% A*-A (national)	12..9 (21.7)	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)	26.2 (22.8)
% A*-E (national)	98.4 (97.9)	96.7 (97.9)	99.2 (98.7)	100 (98.9)	97.0 (98.9)	100 (99.8)	100 (99.8)	100 (99.9)	100 (99.5)
Average points (national)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	224.2 (225.1 5)	223.9 (224.8)	229.4 (225. 0)	225.5 (224.9)

National figures include colleges

KS5 AS level - 3 out of 14 CW&C schools with 6th forms had AS entries in 2019.

'AS' numbers appear low as often schools, do not 'cash in' the AS result at the end of year 12, so they do not appear on any tables

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
CW&C Number of entries	3	20	51	74	41	46	41	56	41
% A -B (national)	0.0 (n/a)	5.0 (n/a)	19.6 (n/a)	5.4 (n/a)	2.4 (43.1)	26.1 (27.1)	22.0 (28.7)	20.1 (29.8)	39 (30.1)
% A -E (national)	0.0 (n/a)	65.0 (n/a)	68.6 (n/a)	70.3 (n/a)	73.2 (92.1)	80.4 (86.4)	75.6 (85.2)	94.6 (86.5)	92.5 (88.8)
Average points (national)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	82.5 (88.2)	76.5 (87.7)	101.3 (89.4)	98.8 (91.8)

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. It has been noted that RE and understanding diversity is receiving more mentions over the last year. We will be changing how we are monitoring provision in 2020.

Autumn Term

Darnhall Primary
Norley Church of England Primary School
The Bridge Short Stay School
William Stockton Primary School

Spring Term

Dee Point Primary School
Frodsham Manor House Primary School
Kingsley St John's Church of England (Aided) Primary School
Parkgate Primary School
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
St Mary's Community Nursery School
St Winefride's Catholic Primary School
Tattenhall Park Primary School
The Russett School
Westminster Community Primary School

Summer Term

Lache Primary School
Leftwich Community Primary School
Overleigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School
St Clare's Catholic Primary School
The Oaks Community Primary School
Utkinton St Paul's Church of England Primary School

Winnington Park Community Primary and Nursery School

Schools responded positively to the SACRE letters.

5 School and Teacher Support

- RE teachers are supported through a network of local hubs. The Pathways Hub meets half-termly supporting the old Vale Royal area normally meeting in Winsford or Northwich. Neil Duncalf is the Chair of this group (from Greenbank School); Tim Lee continues to support the group. The Chester area hub is part of the LTLRE North regional network and is based in Chester; led by Rachel Inns (of Hoole Church of England Primary School), meeting termly. Naomi supports this hub. A new RE Hub has also been established this year for the Ellesmere Port area meeting termly organized by Naomi. All hubs are open to all who are involved with the delivery of support of RE in schools and welcome new members. Some members attend more than one Hub. Group meetings are detailed on the CW&C Facebook Group and circulated to those on the group mailing list. They have also been promoted at training sessions and presented at the Agreed Syllabus Launch in July 2019.
- There is an active Facebook group for “RE in Cheshire West and Chester” where news is shared and support offered. The group had a membership of 95 at the end of the academic year 2018 and now stands with a membership of 154 with most members joining for updates about the Agreed Syllabus.
- Naomi Anstice (primary) and Tim Lee (secondary) commenced their roles as CW&C RE advisors in March 2017 and Naomi is allocated 12 days a year and Tim has 8 days a year. (Naomi has been given 15 days for the following Academic Year to write the new optional schemes of work.)
- A group of primary schools asking for support for RE have signed up to take part in a national RE initiative through NATRE called Primary 1000. This group met once during the summer term and will be meeting termly during the next academic year. These meetings are held during the school day. There are 16 members currently.
- All RE related resources are now based at Hoole Church of England Primary School with the Chester Hub. A wide range of topic boxes for all major world religions can be hired for a small amount to maintain stock.
- Funding was attained by a Westhill Grant to hold an RE Transition Day at Helsby High for cluster schools in July. A small group of pupils from each school with the RE Lead attended the day which included workshops lead by Heather

Swainston, Imran Kotwal and Naomi looking at diversity in the UK supported by GCSE RE pupils from the High School and RE Ambassadors from Frodsham Manor House. It is hoped that a similar day will be repeated during the next academic year elsewhere. This was attended by local county councilors and the local MP.

- The RE subject leader at Frodsham Manor Primary School has been working with local schools and is a member of NATRE (National Association of the Teachers of RE) Exec. She is a Specialist Leader in RE. Naomi was appointed the National Ambassador for RE Networks in October 2018 running a team of ten Regional Ambassadors for one day a week. The Regional Ambassador for the North West is Joanne Harris.
- Naomi has supported 4 primary schools this year asking for support for new RE Leads.

6 REQM (Religious Education Quality Mark)

CW&C Schools currently hold and REQM which is a large reduction in numbers. Previous years have been over 20 schools involved with the scheme. This maybe due to financial implications or schools waiting for the new REQM to be launched which is due in 2020.

Gold Awards

Upton High School
Elton Primary School
Frodsham C of E Primary School
Frodsham Manor House Primary School
Hartford High C of E School
Witton Church Walk C of E Primary School
Lostock Gralam C of E Primary School
Great Budworth C of E Primary School
Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School

Silver Awards

Antrobus St Mark's C of E Primary School

Bronze Awards

None at present

The certification lasts for 3 years. Other CW&C schools have previously held the award and maybe in the process of updating their accreditation. Information above from REQM Website. All 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 and SACRE are keen for more schools to get involved.

7 SACRE Training

SACRE meetings this year have also included talks about A Charter of Compassion by Rahima which has since been adopted by CW&C Council and Ruth from Chester University has been keeping us updated about her research and since joined SACRE. Naomi attended the NASACRE annual conference and AGM and was interviewed as part of a panel and led a workshop. Next year we are looking forward to finding out about “No Outsiders” from Hartford Manor and other local primary schools.

8 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.

9 Collective Worship

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

10 Determinations

The SACRE has not been called upon during the past year to make any determinations concerning collective worship. We have responded to a Freedom of Information Request about Determinations.

11 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.

12 Links with other agencies

- NASACRE newsletters are circulated and annual report submitted
- Naomi attended the NASACRE AGM
- Naomi Anstice is a member of NATRE Executive, NATRE Steering Group and is the National RE Networks Ambassador
- Some members of SACRE are also involved with Cheshire West Interfaith Network (Harmony Project)
- Sue Glover works for Chester Diocesan schools
- LTLRE hub in Chester is part of a regional network
- All 3 hubs are NATRE affiliated.

13 Looking forward

During the next academic year SACRE will be preparing for questions relating to the new Sex and Relationships Education framework and will be hosting an INSET Day for Primary Teachers to visit places of worship in Liverpool. We are also hoping to increase SACRE membership.

14 Thank you

SACRE expresses its thanks to Canon Jane Brooke who has now stepped down from RE support for SACRE although she continues to work with the diocese. Our thanks also to Rahima Ahmed also announced that she would shortly be moving out of the area. Rahima has been a long-term supporter of SACRE and involved with Multi-Faith Networks in Cheshire West.

Appendix 1 Membership of SACRE

SACRE Committee Members (as at July 2019)

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	CW&C
Sue	Glover	Chester Diocese
Cllr Jill	Houlbrook	CW&C
Rachel	Inns	NUT
Tim	Lee	Church of England / Secondary Advisor
Helen	Longmuir	Baha'is
Rachel	McCarthy	Church of England
Nawal	Prinja	Hinduism
Vicky	Sewell	NUT
Simon	Shaw	Mormons/LDS
Catriona	Stewart	Humanist
Cllr Rachel	Williams	CW&C

Appendix 2 – SACRE Meeting Dates

SACRE Meeting Dates for Academic Year 2018-2019

13 September 2018

5 March 2019

25 June 2019