



# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

## Annual Report 2020/2021

This report covers the work of the Cumbria SACRE  
for the period September 2020 to August 2021

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## Contents

### 1. Words from the Chair

This has been an exciting year for Cumbria SACRE with the start of a new project (see section 5) and record attendance at RE events, especially the Cumbria SACRE primary RE annual conference, RE training for school governors and a new CPD titled Leading and Developing RE – a post Covid-19 response. Although it has continued to be an extremely challenging time for schools during the pandemic, the increased use of online platforms for training and meetings has enabled much greater contact with RE teachers across Cumbria.

Cumbria SACRE said a sad farewell and huge gratitude to David Pitkeathly this term, who is re-locating to West Sussex. He has been a member of Committee A for 12 years, representing the Church of Scotland. David has always been an active member on Cumbria SACRE, contributing to working groups, conferences, interfaith activities and the RE Teachers in Cumbria Facebook group.

### When and where did SACRE meet?

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2020-2021 the following meetings took place:

#### 20 October 2020 - Virtual meeting (due to Covid-19)

Attendance: 19 members present (Committee A – 4; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 4; Committee D – 4; Co-opted – 3, LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- SACRE Annual Feedback form
- Culham St Gabriel's grant
- Feedback from Pran Patel
- Anti-racism training
- SACRE Newsletter
- National Update

#### 9 March 2021 - Virtual meeting (due to Covid-19)

Attendance: 18 members present (Committee A – 6; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 4; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 2; LA Officers - 2). This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- SACRE/RE Conference 2021
- Governor Services
- SACRE Newsletter
- National Update

#### 9 June 2021 – Virtual meeting (due to Covid-19)

Attendance: 16 members present (Committee A – 4; Committee B - 2; Committee C – 3; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 2; LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Assemblies and Collective Worship - Dr Brian Gates
- Virtual Voices in RE project (Culham St Gabriel's)
- SACRE/RE Conference Feedback
- SACRE Newsletter
- National Update

### When are future meetings?

Autumn meeting - 8 November 2021 Virtual meeting

Spring meeting – 7 March 2022 – Cumbria House, Carlisle

Summer meeting – 13 June 2022

**The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2021-2022 will be:**

- Leading the Virtual Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project in conjunction with staff from Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC)
- Continued Dissemination of Buried Treasure Unit of Work: What can we learn from religious texts? and Visits and Visitors for RE.
- Continue to increase teacher awareness of SACRE through newsletter and social media.
- Provision of governor training in RE across the county.
- Provision of a needs based CPD programme for RE 2021-22.
- Continue to raise profile and involvement in National Association for SACRE and other national RE organisations.
- Continued involvement with Cumbria Development Education Centre, including virtual visits for religion and worldviews
- Continue to engage with RE teachers across Cumbria
- Encourage individual SACRE members to include SACRE in any community cohesion work they do.
- Begin to consider the revision of the Agreed Syllabus and the transition to a new LA Officer

## **2. A section on RE**

### **What are SACRE's Responsibilities?**

To advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with: RE CW etc

#### **1. Religious Education (RE) This year SACRE has:**

- Sent out a feedback form to secondary schools to complete (to be repeated annually).
- Run a SACRE/RE conference for primary teachers.
- Updated online resources for schools including the booklet on visits and visitors for RE.
- Produced a termly SACRE newsletter.

### **What Professional Development Opportunities have there been?**

The following courses for RE ran:

10 February and 28 April 2021 - Leading and Developing Religious Education – A Covid-19 Response-Provider: Jane Yates - 33 Attendees

Evaluations 10 February Overall satisfaction 4.12 out of 5

Evaluations 28 April Overall satisfaction 4.6 out of 5

11 May, 25 May, 8 June, 15 June and 22 June 2021

Do we need Religious Education now more than ever? Provider: Jane Yates – 95 Attendees

Evaluations 11 May Overall satisfaction 4.6 out of 5

Evaluations 25 May Overall satisfaction 4 out of 5

Evaluations 8 June Overall satisfaction 4.5 out of 5

Evaluations 15 June Overall satisfaction 4.6 out of 5

Evaluations 22 June Overall satisfaction 4.75 out of 5

14 June 2021

Virtual SACRE/RE Conference – Guest Speaker Fiona Moss (RE Today) – 56 Attendees  
Evaluations Overall satisfaction 4.62 out of 5

### Some slides from the Conference



The most important thing about RE is...

...a way to understand differences,  
...a way to accept new ideas,...  
a way to be generous and compassionate,  
...a way to be a part of the world.  
But the most important thing about RE is finding a way  
By Catherine Clark



The most important thing about RE is...

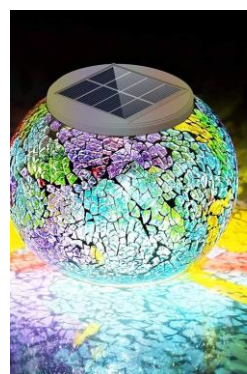
It helps you to learn about others and choices they make;  
It helps you to understand about others and journeys they take;  
It helps you to care, reflect & explore;  
so that your life can gradually mean more. That's the important thing about RE.

Deborah Dickenson

The most important thing about RE is...

It helps you to think deeply, question openly and to empathise  
It helps you to understand community and interdependence  
and how, no matter our worldview  
It's likely that we all want happiness, and not want difficulties.  
It shows us the richness and variety of worldwide beliefs, practices and ritual  
Above all, the important thing about RE is...  
It helps you to think deeply, question openly and to empathise

By Wendy Ridley



The most important thing...

The important thing about RE is that it is enlightening. It sheds light. Disperses the darkness of ignorance, suspicion, mistrust and doubt. Shines out the light of unity and oneness. Illuminates hearts and minds. Guides to the realisation of true nobility. But the important thing about RE is that it is enlightening.

Karen O'Donoghue - Baha'i member of Cumbria SACRE

## Religious Education Quality Mark – REQM

Schools can apply for three levels of the REQM award. A school's evidence and provision are assessed by an external assessor, against nationally recognised criteria. Cumbria SACRE encourages all schools to access the REQM assessment materials to use as an audit tool, even if they feel the time and cost of full accreditation is not an immediate priority. See <http://www.reqm.org/> Gold Award holders in Cumbria are: Dowdales School, The Queen Katherine School and Bridekirk Dovenby CofE School. Please note that due to Covid-19, there are different measures in place for assessments.

### 3. A section on CW

#### Collective Worship in community schools

SACRE has published Guidance to Schools on Collective Worship, to support schools in their statutory responsibility to deliver daily acts of Collective Worship. Cumbria SACRE also provides a section on Collective Worship for community schools as part of school governor training. Cumbria SACRE is investigating the possibility to be involved in a Collective Worship project with the University of Cumbria.

#### Determinations - To allow any exception to the law that Collective Worship be broadly or mainly Christian

SACRE has received no requests for a determination for exemption from the law.

SACRE hears any complaints brought to the LA about RE and collective worship. No complaints from parents were received this year.

#### What is the RE and Collective Worship support for Cumbrian schools?

For Secondary and Primary Schools: David Salmon, General Adviser

Tel: 07900 146836, email: [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)

#### **4. A section on links with other bodies**

SACRE has developed strong links with Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC) and Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

#### **5. A section on other areas of SACRE involvement locally**

**Virtual Voices in RE project** – Autumn 2020 saw the application and news we had been successful with our funding bid to Culham St Gabriel's Trust. We were awarded £10,000 to develop the Voices in Religious Education (VVRE) project in conjunction with Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC). During Inter Faith Week 2020, we carried out a pilot phase where several members of Cumbria SACRE filmed a series of recordings about their beliefs. These were viewed by all pupils and staff from two large secondary schools in South Cumbria, with helpful feedback from our two Cumbria SACRE secondary members. The VVRE project has enabled us to raise the profile of Cumbria SACRE nationally through regular events organised by Culham St Gabriel's with other grantees. It has also given the opportunity for Cumbria SACRE members to develop knowledge and understanding of the national landscape of RE, particularly around 'religion and worldviews', and engage with the Ofsted Research Review. Through the project, we are starting to build an enthusiastic community of religious and non-religious 'voices' from across Cumbria who are willing to engage with local schools. This has been a valuable experience for members of Cumbria SACRE to be part of. Teachers have been introduced to the VVRE Project through RE CPD, the Cumbria SACRE RE primary conference and RE network meetings. We look forward to involving schools in specific events and activities next year.

#### **6. A section on SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities)**

**Who was on Cumbria SACRE in 2020-2021?**

**Chair:** *Jane Yates*

##### **Committee A: Christian denominations (other than Church of England) & other faiths**

*Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i)*

*Gabrielle Murray (Catholic)*

*David Pitkeathly (Churches Together)*

*Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)*

*Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)*

*Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)*

*Carol Graham (Society of Friends)*

##### **Committee B: Church of England**

*Richard Cox*

*Penny Hollander*

*Katherine Kinsella (Resigned Oct 2020)*

*Deborah Smith (Resigned Sept 2019)*

*Vanessa O'Dea*

##### **Committee C: Teacher Associations**

*James Douglas (NUT)*

*Irene Roberts-Green (Vice Chair) (NAHT)*

*Brian Eaton (VOICE)*

*Jane Yates (NASUWT)*

*Carolyn Reade (NATRE & AULRE)*

##### **Committee D: Local Authority**

*Roger Bingham (Conservative)*

*David Southward (Labour)*

*Neil Hughes (Liberal Democrat)*

*Mark Wilson (Labour)*

*Liz Mallinson (Conservative)*

##### **Co-opted Members**

*Georgia Prescott (University of Cumbria)*

*Katherine France (Queen Katherine School)*

Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)

LA Support Officer David Salmon  
Clerk to SACRE Sue McGaw

### What is the SACRE Budget?

SACRE's budget covers the cost of meetings, venue expenses, supply cover for teacher members, postage, photocopying, travel expenses, and subscription costs for membership of national organisations for RE. Additional resources are obtained from the County Council when necessary for the review, development and publication of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

In the year 2020-2021 the total amount spent was £1266.71 (Travel expenses £47.20; Supply £150; Training fees £580; Resources £274.51; Subscriptions £215).

This document is the annual report for the academic year 2020-2021.

Anyone wishing to receive the minutes of termly meetings can contact Sue McGaw by email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk) or visit Cumbria SACRE's website: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

### Useful Websites

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

Twitter: @CumbriaSACRE. We welcome all schools in Cumbria to share photographic evidence of RE and Collective Worship using the hashtag #CumbriaSharingRE  
The Twitter account also follows the key local and national organisations for RE and will re-tweet relevant updates.



**CUMBRIA SACRE NEWSLETTER**  
**Summer: 2020**  
(Twitter @CumbriaSACRE #CumbriaSharingRE)

**"Our aim is to enrich the quality of learning in R.E. and Collective Worship for all pupils in Cumbria":  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

*Cumbria Updates, National Updates, Resources & CPD, Forthcoming Events*

Facebook: RE Teachers in Cumbria. This is a closed group for primary and secondary teachers in Cumbria to enable an information exchange for RE and CW, training, events and new resources. Cumbria SACRE members will also use this as a forum to keep teachers updated.

SACRE is pleased to receive photographic, written or anecdotal evidence of good work in RE and Collective Worship in Cumbria's schools. If you have things you wish to share please contact Sue McGaw on 01228 226805, email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk)

Non members are welcome to attend, to observe SACRE meetings. Please contact Sue McGaw (email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk)) for confirmation of times and venues.

**Do you have any comments on this SACRE Report?**

Responses to this Annual Report from school governors, elected members, head teachers, teachers or members of the public are welcomed by SACRE. Please email David Salmon, LA Support Officer, [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)