

East Riding of Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report – 2018/19

This report provides a summary of the actions and impact of the East Riding of Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019. The role of the SACRE is to

- Advise the local authority on matters connected with religious education and collective worship
- Monitor provision and standards in religious education
- Advise on methods of teaching, choice of materials and provision of teacher training
- Support schools in reviewing and self-evaluating their provision for RE and collective worship
- Consider complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship referred to it by the local authority
- Publish an annual report of its work
- Make a determination on collective worship when requested
- Establish an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the agreed syllabus for RE adopted by the LA every five years

Advice to statutory bodies

Local authority:

- a briefing paper was written and presented at the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2019. This addressed the corporate priorities of Helping Children and Young People Achieve and Promoting Healthy Lifestyles.
- A joint meeting between East Riding SACRE and Hull SACRE enabled members to discuss at length possible implications of 'Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward' report.
- Councillor Julie Abraham, portfolio holder, Children and Young People, Cllr Davison (Chair East Riding SACRE) and Lucy Jordan (LA adviser East Riding SACRE) attended an event hosted by the Hull and East Riding Interfaith group to hear Alan Brine, co-author of The Way Forward report speak and participate in a Q&A session. The LA recognise this report may impact on a future locally agreed syllabus.

Schools:

- Schools were forwarded details of numerous activities to support RE and collective worship throughout the year, including links to items of interest from the NATRE website and HERI (Hull and East Riding Interfaith) group.
- An information leaflet to explain the role of SACRE and how it can support schools was sent to all nurseries, schools and academies both in hard copy and electronically. This was well-received.
- Sue Holmes (RE Consultant) was paid by SACRE to plan, run and follow up on 6 RE network meetings across the local authority throughout the year.

Government and other statutory bodies:

- A report was sent to NASACRE detailing the collective East Riding SACRE response to The Way Forward report

Standards and quality of provision of RE

The quality of RE provision in maintained East Riding schools is largely unknown except for those schools who attend RE Network meetings, led by the RE consultant provided by SACRE (primary schools) and an LA officer (secondary schools). In these schools, provision is generally good or better. In Church of England schools, the impact RE makes to the school's distinctive Christian ethos is good or better in all schools inspected during the period of this report. In Roman Catholic schools, RE is good or better.

Public examinations:

GCSE	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of students taking Religious Studies GCSE	1850	1503	1647	1058
% grade 4+ (out of 9, with 9 being highest)	68% (sig-)	70%	63% (sig-)	70%
% grade 5+	47%(sig-)	47%(sig-)	41%(sig-)	55% (sig -)
% grade 7+	22% (sig-)	23%(sig-)	19% (sig-)	20% (sig-)

Table 1 A summary of RE GCSE outcomes in East Riding secondary schools over time

At GCSE level, 2018 results were improved on 2017. However, numbers taking the Religious Studies GCSE have reduced over the past four years.

A level	2016	2017	2018
Number of students taking Religious Studies A level	87	88	63
% A*-E	100%	98%	98%
% A*-C	85%	83%	71%
% A*-A	8%	9%	11%

Table 2 A summary of RE 'A' level outcomes in East Riding secondary schools over time

The numbers of pupils taking Religious Studies 'A' level reduced significantly in 2018 as did the proportion of pupils gaining A*-C.

Withdrawal from RE

SACRE is able to provide advice to schools who receive request for withdrawal of their child from RE but none were received during this period

Complaints about RE

A complaint had been received about the provision of RE in one of the secondary schools in the LA. SACRE members agreed to undertake a survey of secondary school websites to check whether RE was part of the curriculum for all pupils.

Agreed Syllabus

The locally agreed syllabus was reviewed and revised in 2016. It is bespoke to the area and well-received by schools. Schools access the site freely via a website hosted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

The Agreed Syllabus will be reviewed in 2020 in time for any updates to be completed by 2021.

Collective worship

A survey of all primary and secondary schools was undertaken in autumn 2018 to ascertain whether schools are meeting the requirement to have a daily act of collective worship. This was undertaken as part of autumn visits made to all schools by local authority advisers. The outcome indicated that schools are meeting the requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship.

A copy of the Worship Works is available in all schools to support collective worship.

There were no determinations during the period of this report.

There were no complaints received by SACRE during the period of this report.

Management of SACRE

Action to ensure membership is active.

SACRE MEMBERSHIP – EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Committee A: Christian and other Religions / Denominations / Faiths in the Community (10 members)		
Tina Grant	Beverley Community Church	Free Churches

Dr Sholeh Missaghi Hakiman	Baha'i Faith	
Mr Michael Westerman	Jewish Orthodox	
Reverend Mark Witherden	Driffield Christian Fellowship	Free Churches
Dennis Young	Yorkshire Baptist Association	Free Churches
Vacancy	Roman Catholic Church	
Vacancy	Buddhism	
Vacancy	Hinduism	
Vacancy	Islam	
Vacancy	Sikhism	
Committee B: Church of England (4 members)		
Mrs S Steel	Diocese of York	
Miss Jane Cawthorn	Diocese of York	
Professor Julian Stern	Diocese of York	
Reverend Eleanor Robertshaw	Sheffield Diocese	
Committee C: Teacher Associations (6 members)		
Mr Howard Nind	NASUWT	
Mrs Wendy Butler	NEU-ATL (Beverley High School)	
Mrs Julie Cattle	NAHT	
Mrs Caroline Swift	NEU-NUT (South Hunsley Academy)	
Vacancy	Voice	
Vacancy	ACSL	
Committee D: Local Authority members (4 members)		
Mr Chad Chadwick (Vice-Chairman)	ERYC	
Councillor Philip Davison (Chairman)	ERYC (Liberal Democrat Group)	
Councillor Victoria Aitken	ERYC (Conservative Group)	
Councillor Geraldine Mathieson	ERYC (Independent Group)	
Co-options (no more than 4 members)		
Mrs Lucy Jordan	School Improvement	
Kevin Precious	Humanist Representative	
Mrs Sue Holmes	RE Consultant	
Revd James Trowsdale		

- The membership of SACRE was reviewed in autumn 2018, following falling attendance. Persistent non-attendees were contacted, leading to some resignations and new members have been sought for vacant positions. 9 vacancies (out of a total of 27 members) has been reduced to 7. Members to represent different faith groups are being actively sought. A requirement for disqualification for non-attendance without approval was approved by SACRE at the autumn 2018 meeting. SACRE congratulated one of its long standing members who has served for 30 years on the council.
- The East Riding SACRE constitution was reviewed and updated during the period of this report.
- Attendance at SACRE meetings during the period of this report was as follows:
 - 15 November 18 (Attendance 88%)
 - 6 March 19 (Attendance 75%)
 - 13 June 19 (Attendance 81%)

Contribution of SACRE to the wider LA agenda

SACRE has provided funding to enable an RE consultant to network with faith members to organise and run 6 Living Faiths events, attended by 10 East Riding Schools over the course of the year.

SACRE has provided funding to enable an RE consultant to liaise with Label of Love (a Christian educational charity) and church communities to deliver 13 REAction RE days to 30 schools across the LA.

SACRE has provided funding for an RE consultant to provide email/phonecall support in relation to the locally agreed syllabus throughout the year.