

GATESHEAD
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023

Content:

Section		Page
1.0	Council members 2022/23	2
2.0	Supporting RE teaching	2
3.0	Monitoring RE provision	3
4.0	Examination data analysis	4
5.0	National links	6
6.0	Locally Agreed Syllabus	6
7.0	Self assessment	6
8.0	Action plan for 2023-24	6

Chair's Foreword

All of us involved in education, whether in schools, churches, or other religious groups, are sometimes faced with the horrors of war, including war between people of different faiths or world views. All of this is very real in the minds of our students, if not always at the front of their minds. Somehow during our lessons our job is to show that people of different beliefs can live peacefully together.

Revd. Brian Howell MBE MA

1.0 SACRE Members 2022/23

The membership of the council was:

Name	Representing	Committee
Brian Howell (Chair)	Anglicanism	B
Andrew Fowler	Anglicanism/HT Lord Lawson	B
Councillor John McElroy	LA	D
Councillor Paul McNally	LA	D
Councillor Freda Geddes	LA	D
Councillor Tom Graham	LA	D
Chloe Shaw	Teacher - Kibblesworth Academy	C
Joanne Whitehead	Teacher - Hill Top	C
Jennifer Howliston	Teacher - Front Street Primary	C
Rebecca Harle	NET/Thorp Academy - Secondary	
Kathleen Farrell	Teachers' Union Rep	C
Jonathan Klajn	Judaism	A
Kirtida Richardson	Hinduism	A
Angela Kumar	Hinduism	A
Pandit Nayankumar Vyas	Hinduism	
Les Milne	Humanism	A
Rob Young	Roman Catholic	A
Rajwant Kaur Nibber	Sikhism/Eslington Primary School	A
Steve Horne	RE Professional	
Jon Ward	LA Education Service	
Julie Latimer	SACRE Clerk	

The Gateshead SACRE met three times in the academic year 2022/2023. These meetings were face to face at Gateshead Civic Centre, but we plan to trial hybrid meetings next year using Microsoft Teams so that some folk do not have to travel to attend.

SACRE is still working with the LA to increase the representation of local faith communities. Once again, Gateshead SACRE offered the online NASACRE Training sessions to its members.

2.0 Supporting RE Teaching

SACRE was very pleased to have the services of Mr S Horne as an RE Professional supporting the teaching of RE in Gateshead this year.

At the start of the year Mr Horne outlined his development plan for this support. This had three main aims:

- To support the teaching of RE in schools through active teacher networking and the sharing of expertise and effective practice.
- To ensure that SACRE has an accurate assessment of the quality of RE provision within Gateshead schools and uses this knowledge to celebrate success and direct support, when appropriate.
- To begin to prepare to produce the next Gateshead Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Three RE Networks for local teachers were run over the course of the year. These were well received by the RE Lead Teachers who attended – approximately 25 people at each session.

The agendas for these sessions were driven by teacher requests and included:

A look at the journey of one school in particular as the RE Curriculum was developed – including the pace of developments and the type of detail in the resources given to teachers. This school has recently been awarded the RE Quality Mark at Gold Standard from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and the presentation reflected this quality. After this, the RE Professional offered to talk with individual RE Leads about curriculum development, though there was not a high take-up of this offer.

An overview of Humanism from a member of the SACRE and the local resources which are available to schools, including visiting speakers.

AN overview of Hinduism from a member of the SACRE and the local resources which are available to schools, including visiting speakers.

A presentation from a local Deputy Headteacher about their school's experience of an Ofsted Inspection which included a particular focus on the development and delivery of the RE curriculum.

AN overview of the new RE Hub recently established in Durham and headed by Karenza Passmore – who has worked with Gateshead SACRE in the past and is well respected.

3.0 Monitoring of RE provision

Last year the Chair of SACRE wrote a third letter to a local secondary school requesting clarification of the RE provision there, based on a review of the school website. The letter went with an offer of support with RE if this was deemed helpful. The letter was not responded to either so our RE Professional made a personal approach to the Head Teacher there. The school has had 4 Head Teachers in recent years so has been undergoing some unsettled times. The current Head Teacher has re-established RE on the KS4 Curriculum and SACRE is again happy that the statutory obligation to deliver RE is being met.

4.0 Examination Data Analysis 2023 outcomes. This is based on Provisional data

Introduction:

1. The aim of this analysis is to promote SACRE's understanding of the quality and breadth of provision of RE at KS4 and KS5 across Gateshead. It is based on provisional data.
2. The report provides headline information relating to outcomes. It also highlights individual school outcomes and, where this is high, there could potentially be support enlisted to bolster future developments.
3. These outcomes are based on provisional data sourced from the National Consortium for Examination Reporting's Nova analysis software.

GCSE Short Course and Entry Level Qualification

3. As last year, there appear to have been no entries to a short course or ELQ this year.
4. GCSE Full Course

Please note that there were no results published in 2020 or 2021.

Overview of entries.

Establishment	Number on roll in Y11			Number of entries			% of cohort entered		
	2019	2022	2023	2019	2022	2023	2019	2022	2023
LA	1843	2035	2044	800	902	795	43.4%	44.3%	38.9%
Cardinal Hume Catholic School	208	257	240	207	255	236	99.5%	99.2%	98.3%
Emmanuel College	211	222	233	207	216	224	95.7%	97.3%	96.1%
Furrowfield School	14			0	0		0%	0%	
Grace College (formerly Joseph Swan Academy)	133	208	212	18	9	11	13.5%	4.3%	5.2%
Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy	242	255	228	17	77	43	7%	30.2%	18.9%
St Thomas More Catholic School	227	236	246	226	230	241	99.6%	97.5%	98.0%
Thorp Academy	150	171	226	36	23	0	24%	13.5%	0%
Whickham School	231	258	253	65	92	38	28.1%	35.7%	15.0%
Heworth Grange School	188	207	195	0	0	1	0%	0%	0.5%
Kingsmeadow School	119	155	158	23	0	0	19.3%	0%	0%
Thomas Hepburn Academy	70			0			0%		

Overview of attainment.

Establishment	Proportion entered in 2022	Proportion of entries attaining 9 – 4 in 2022	Proportion entered in 2023	Proportion of entries attaining 9 – 4 in 2023
LA	44.3%	83.9%	38.9%	79.6%
Cardinal Hume Catholic School	99.2%	85.1%	98.3%	72.9%
Emmanuel College	97.3%	83.3%	96.1%	80.8%
Grace College	4.3%	44.4%	5.2%	81.8%
Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy	30.2%	80.5%	18.9%	76.7%
St Thomas More Catholic School	97.5%	77.7%	98.0%	76.7%
Thorp Academy	13.5%	87.0%	0%	
Whickham School	35.7%	91.3%	15.0%	81.6%
Heworth Grange School	0%		0.5%	0%
Kingsmeadow School	0%		0%	

Despite declining from 83.9% to 79.6%, the proportion of young people who took an RE GCSE and successfully attained at least grade 4 compares well with the England equivalent figure of 72.6%.

The entry proportion has fallen from 44.3% to 38.9% but remains significantly higher than the equivalent figure for England which is 16.9%.

Kingsmeadow has again had no GCSE entries.

Thorp Academy has had no entries for the first time in recent years.

5. KS5 / A Level



KS5 Grade Summary by Subject

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE A level (111)

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	*	A	B	C	D	E	Q	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	Avg Pts
-	National (all entries)	14720	6.0	19.5	29.6	23.4	13.1	5.7	-	2.0	0.7	25.5	55.1	97.3	35.4
4605	Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Gateshead	6	-	-	16.7	33.3	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	16.7	100.0	26.7
6900	Emmanuel College	13	-	23.1	46.2	23.1	-	-	-	7.7	-	23.1	69.2	92.3	36.9
4003	Grace College	2	-	-	-	50.0	-	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	20.0
4606	St Thomas More Catholic School, Blaydon	20	10.0	5.0	40.0	45.0	-	-	-	-	-	15.0	55.0	100.0	38.0
4001	Thorp Academy	2	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	40.0
4029	Whickham School	13	-	23.1	30.8	30.8	-	7.7	-	-	7.7	23.1	53.8	92.3	33.8

For the second year running, there do not appear to have been any AS entries.

The total number of A Level candidates in Gateshead is 56. This is very similar to last year (54) and a decrease from 60 in 2019 and 64 in 2018.

The majority of students passed with a grade C or better and just 2 failed to achieve a pass grade. The average points score across the LA was 35.0, which is very close to the national average. It is good to see some Gateshead students attaining the highest possible grades.

5.0 National links

Gateshead SACRE has been affiliated to NASACRE for many years and we value the input we get from this body.

6.0 Locally Agreed Syllabus

The RE Professional has begun the LAS review by consulting with local teachers about the merits or otherwise of the current version. The overwhelming response has been that major changes would be very unwelcome, though some teachers would like a little support in resourcing and assessing the learning in RE. He also spoke to Karenza Passmore to get the view of someone with access to National level information. This review is ongoing.

7.0 Self assessment

It has been good to have a series of successful RE Networks and we are grateful to our RE Professional for facilitating these. SACRE still has some difficulty in gauging the quality of RE provision in local schools as we have no right of access and rely in the main on invitations from schools or snippets of information from the Gateshead Education Service School Improvement Partners.

8.0 Action plan for 2023-24

The RE Professional will be asked to continue the development of work started last year by developing 3 strands of work with SACRE, based on priorities:

1. To support the teaching of RE in schools through active teacher networking and the sharing of expertise and effective practice.
2. To ensure that SACRE has an accurate assessment of the quality of RE provision within Gateshead schools and uses this knowledge to celebrate success and direct support, when appropriate.
3. To begin to prepare to produce the next Gateshead Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Successful implementation of the action plan will be reliant on the active engagement of SACRE members, the school community, and the School Improvement Team. Monitoring will be a standing item at SACRE meetings.

SACRE Action Plan 2023/24				
Action	By when	By whom	Intended outcome	Progress Monitoring
1. Analyse secondary school data (summer 2023)	Within 4 weeks of data becoming available	LA Officer	Performance in examinations reviewed and Issues identified	Item on SACRE agenda
2. To ensure that SACRE has an accurate assessment of the quality of RE provision within Gateshead schools	On going	RE Professional, educationGateshead staff, SACRE members	Use this knowledge to celebrate success and direct support, when appropriate.	Item on SACRE agenda
3. Support a local RE Network for teachers.	Autumn 2023	RE Professional, SACRE members	Teachers offer mutual support in raising the quality of RE education. SACRE finds out the issues facing schools regarding teaching RE and about items of interest to include in the newsletter.	Item on SACRE agenda
4. Consider supporting a regional RE Conference	Autumn/Summer term	RE Professional, SACRE members	Support local schools to deliver high quality RE Stronger links with local schools.	Item on SACRE agenda
5. To continue to prepare to produce the next Gateshead Agreed Syllabus for RE.	2023/4	RE Professional, educationGateshead staff, SACRE members	Agreed syllabus can be brought up to date with principles of best practice and assist teachers with following Ofsted guidance where appropriate	Item on SACRE agenda

Further information on development priorities:

Gateshead RE/SACRE Development Plan 23/24

The key focus of RE teaching is to ensure that our children and young people develop an understanding and respect for the diverse faiths, world views and communities that are part of a modern United Kingdom.

In addition, RE is uniquely placed to stimulate and challenge children's and young people's thinking in considering meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God and what it means to be a human being.

This plan is for the 23/24 academic year and is structured on three priorities.

4. To support the teaching of RE in schools through active teacher networking and the sharing of expertise and effective practice.
5. To ensure that SACRE has an accurate assessment of the quality of RE provision within Gateshead schools and uses this knowledge to celebrate success and direct support, when appropriate.
6. To begin to prepare to produce the next Gateshead Agrees Syllabus for RE.

To support the teaching of RE in schools through active teacher networking and the sharing of expertise and effective practice.

Actions

- I. To ensure all teachers of RE and especially subject leaders are invited to networking sessions. The network sessions to be organised by the Council's school improvement team and agendas to be with schools a week before sessions. One session to take place per term.
- II. To ensure that network sessions are driven by the requirements of RE teachers.
- III. The Council's RE consultant to visit a range of schools on invitation.
- IV. To explore the possibility of some schools agreeing to take RE focussed visits from other schools.

To ensure that SACRE has an accurate assessment of the quality of RE provision within Gateshead schools and uses this knowledge to celebrate success and direct support, when appropriate.

- I. SACRE to receive presentations for any RE focussed visits made by the consultant.
- II. SACRE to devise a method that assesses the quality of RE provision within schools.
Through.
 - Production of an RE audit for schools to complete, that identifies perceived strengths and weaknesses of the RE curriculum in schools.
 - A desktop exercise that identifies any RE related strengths or weaknesses through analysis of Ofsted inspection reports of Gateshead schools. It should be noted that RE as a subject may not be mentioned but the Personal Development judgement made by Ofsted may cast some light on the quality of the RE curriculum and the pupils' understanding of faiths and cultures other than their own.

To begin to prepare to produce the next Gateshead Agrees Syllabus for RE.

- I. Following full consultation with schools, an agreed approach to the production of the next Agreed Syllabus to be shared by SACRE.

- As this this time (Autumn term 2023), Gateshead schools are keen not to make significant changes to the Agreed Syllabus. However, SACRE is mindful of the potential national developments in relation to the review of RE as a subject and the growing call around the concept of world view. Essentially, a national set of expectations maybe published in regard to RE and world view.
- While the Agreed Syllabus is under review, further guidance to be given to schools in relation to ensuring that flexibility is given to the RE curriculum if the school's community has children of a faith group not specified in the AS.