

Kirklees Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual Report 2017 - 2018



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This annual report is prepared for Kirklees Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) as part of its statutory responsibility. It may only be reproduced with permission from SACRE. For further information on the report or on RE and Collective Worship in Kirklees, please contact Ian Ross at ian.ross@kirklees.gov.uk.

Foreword by Chair of SACRE

Here is the SACRE report for 2016- 2017.

SACRE members continue to give their time to meet to monitor RE and Collective Worship in the area and discuss current issues within education. We welcome new and diverse members to the Council and would encourage anyone who understands the value and importance of Religious Education in the school curriculum to think about joining us.

We have continued to work with neighbouring SACREs. The collaboration of a variety of minds is helping us to think of new ways of raising the profile of RE to increase awareness of its importance to the full education of our children.

The concerns raised by our collaboration have been echoed by the Interim report of the Commission on Religious Education. The Commission has reiterated:

‘RE remains a vital academic subject for education in the 21st century. Studying RE gives young people the knowledge, understanding and motivation they need to understand important aspects of human experience, including the religious, spiritual, and moral. It gives insights into the arts, literature, history, and contemporary local and global social and political issues. It provides them with a space in the curriculum to reflect on their own worldview and to engage with others whose worldview may be different.’

As noted last year, the impact of the English Baccalaureate is taking its toll as is the necessity for schools to pursue league tables. RE is being downgraded, given less time, not taught by specialists and in some cases given no time at all. Thankfully, we are supported by Kirklees and excellent officers who continue to provide training for teachers in the widely welcomed Syllabus as well as British Values and SMSC. Our hand to act will be strengthened by the SACREs working together.

However, we remain passionate about RE and its contribution to Community Cohesion and the wider educational context. There are some concerning statistics in this report showing that the once popular Short Course GCSE is no longer in favour.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all SACRE members, Alastair Ross and Ian Ross for their steadfast support. With their help, and with the publication of the full commissions report, we will ensure RE is given the prominence in the Curriculum it warrants.

Carol Waters Chair of SACRE

Part 1: The Work of Kirklees SACRE

The Annual Report and SACRE's responsibilities

SACRE is required to produce an annual report as one of its statutory responsibilities. The main purpose of the annual report is to inform the Secretary of State and key partners about RE and collective worship in schools, together with any advice SACRE has given to the local authority during the year and the response to such advice.

SACRE has responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on its schools:

- For Religious Education (RE), SACRE advises community, voluntary controlled and Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.
- For Collective Worship SACRE advises the LA on community, Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

Although not part of its compulsory statutory role, Kirklees SACRE also seeks to serve and support all schools and academies within the area and makes its agreed RE syllabus freely available to all.

SACRE can report with insight and authority on the matters included in this report but does not have the resources to comment in detail on every aspect of the detailed provision of RE or collective worship in every school. However, through offering training and monitoring visits the RE Consultant is able to gain insight into many aspects of the provision of RE and collective worship in Kirklees. This knowledge has been included in this report. Detailed analysis of public examination results is also included.

Meetings of SACRE

There were four meetings of SACRE during the year 2017-2018. The meetings were held on the following dates and the minutes are included in Appendix 1: 10th October 2017, 17th December 2017, 13th March 2018 and 27th June 2018. A full programme has been arranged for 2018-2019 with meetings scheduled for 12th October 2018, 4th December 2018, 12th March 2019 and 26th June 2019. Venues will be published once these have been confirmed. Any subcommittee or working group arrangements will be published as appropriate.

In addition, the meeting in March 2019 will be a joint meeting with Calderdale, Leeds and Bradford SACREs.

Membership

SACRE membership includes representatives from all four constituent committees.

Committee A	Faiths and denominations except Anglicans
Committee B	The Church of England
Committee C	Teachers and schools
Committee D	Kirklees Council

A full list of members and their attendance record is included in Appendix 2.

Joint working and West Yorkshire SACREs

During the year there has been a commitment to work together among SACREs in West Yorkshire. This has developed through the implementation of joint and similar syllabuses in Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees. Though not sharing this syllabus, Bradford has also been involved in this inter-SACRE collaboration. A joint meetings of West Yorkshire SACREs (WYSACRE) were held on 13th March 2018 in Bradford. At this meeting we were addressed by Dr Joyce Miller who is a commissioner on the Commission for RE or CoRE. This meeting discussed the possible changes to RE and SACREs and the implications for future working. Kirklees SACRE have discussed these implications further and would like to continue to investigate how many secondary schools in Kirklees are providing effective RE teaching through Key Stage 4 and sixth forms. A further joint meeting of West Yorkshire SACREs has been planned for the 12th March 2019. Chairs and vice-chairs will be meeting in Autumn 2018 to plan this event and continue forward planning for the rewriting of the Re Syllabus.

The commitment to joint working will be developed in the year ahead. Ideas discussed included:

- Exploring new cross curricular units of work with PSHE and citizenship
- Creating video material on faith perspectives
- Instituting a West Yorkshire RE Award aligned to the REQM.

Events and Developments

During 2017-18 the principle goal of SACRE has been to continue to embed the revised syllabus and non-statutory units of work and to begin the review of the syllabus for publishing in 2019. During the year a number of resources for the syllabus have been edited. These include:

- A slimmed down and more consistent version of the assessment protocols at the end of each unit
- Progression maps in key concepts for Islam and Christianity to support teachers plan effectively for progression. The Christianity version is due to be aligned with the Understanding Christianity scheme of work by the end of September 2018.
- A new Islam unit of work for KS3 and a simplified version for Y5 at KS2.
- A general review of all resources in the units of work and adding/ removing links to websites and videos.

We have also produced an information leaflet for LGBTQ and Faith which is included in the hub resources.

SACRE does not provide other training but recognises and encourages the comprehensive provision of training and support through Kirklees Learning Services. It has also funded and supported specific events from time to time. Details of the provision for training and support are in Appendix 4.

Kirklees Learning Service also provides separate network meetings for teachers of RE at primary and secondary level. These are held each term and are part of the Kirklees Network Package.

Some priorities for 2017-18 included:

- **To support the professional development of RE teachers in Kirklees.**
- **To support the development of collective worship within schools**
- **To support the professional development of SACRE members**
- **To monitor and support RE in Kirklees**
- **To begin the review of the RE Syllabus.**

Financial support

Kirklees SACRE has a budget of £15,000 a year provided by Kirklees Council as part of its statutory duties. Most of this budget funds RE training and consultancy and other statutory roles. As part of the local agreed syllabus the sale of the units of work has increased the budget that SACRE can use to support RE. This will be discussed as part of the work plan for SACRE in 2018 -19. The budget for 2017-2018 remains as £15000 for the seventh successive year, though SACRE will share additional income from schools' subscriptions to the units of work.

During 2017 -18 the RE advisors, Alastair Ross and Ian Ross, are contracted to support SACRE and are funded by Kirklees Council. They are also contracted to deliver training in RE and other areas through Kirklees Learning Services. The total amount of time allocated for SACRE and other related areas of RE is 40 days a year.

Partners, Support and advice

SACRE is grateful for the expertise of its members. Teacher and faith representatives continue to advise on the needs and progress of schools.

SACRE receives advice and information from a number of sources including: Kirklees MBC, NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE), NASACRE (National Association of SACREs), The RE Council of England and Wales, Culham St Gabriel's, The Anglican Diocese of Leeds.

There were no formal complaints registered to SACRE throughout the academic year.

Part 2: Provision of Religious Education

The Local RE syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus for Kirklees was revised during 2013 - 14 with an entirely new syllabus created to reflect national priorities and local needs. It was jointly produced and funded with Calderdale and also the Anglican Diocese of Wakefield. A joint steering group helped to guide this process. A scheme of work with over 50 units has been written to support the delivery of the syllabus and approximately 90% of schools now have access to these across Kirklees.

To achieve a broad and balanced curriculum, the syllabus is built around three aims. RE should ensure that all pupils:

- A. Investigate the beliefs and practices of religions and other world views (Religious Studies);
- B. Investigate how religions and other world views address questions of meaning, purpose and value (Philosophy);
- C. Investigate how religions and other world views influence morality, identity and diversity (Ethics and Community Cohesion).

To fulfil these aims, teaching and learning should be focused around rigorous investigation of key questions, an 'enquiry model'. Questions for enquiry should be contemporary, relevant and engaging. Study of religious and non-religious approaches to life can help to equip young people to explore personal questions of meaning and to engage with profound issues and contemporary questions that face our communities now and in the future.

The law requires all schools to teach about Christianity and another five world faiths: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. However, there is enormous diversity within these traditions and this should be recognised in curriculum planning. The syllabus also encourages schools to study faiths and traditions not included in the six world religions defined in guidance. Schools have discretion in this and should reflect the community and context within which they work.

Teaching should explicitly include study of both religious and other world views at every key stage. This recognises that one of RE's most important contributions to education is enabling all learners to explore questions of meaning, purpose and value. This is important from a perspective of faith or non-religious understanding and recognises that most people do not adhere to formal religious structures.

The Local Agreed Syllabus is to be reviewed and edited during the 2018 – 19 academic year. A number of consultation events have taken place with teachers, governors, SACRE members and Kirklees Learning Services. It was agreed at the meeting in March 2018 that the new syllabus will continue to be a joint one with Calderdale and Leeds SACREs. A steering group made up of members from the three SACREs has been set up and will guide the process of the review. The main points have been discussed by SACRE.

The key findings are:

- There is widespread and almost universal approval for the present syllabus and also for the resources that support it. There is no call for major change but some 'tidying up' and updating is needed;
- It is sensible to align the three syllabi and this will be based on the current (2015) Leeds Syllabus which is the most recent;
- There should be no change to the basic 'architecture' of the syllabus, focused around three areas of learning: religious studies, philosophy and ethics/identity;
- Some updating is needed, mostly consolidating work done since 2015. For example: assessment without levels; learning outside the classroom;
- More detailed guidance and more robust requirements should be put in place for non-GCSE KS4 students;
- Include additional guidance on aligning and preparing for GCSE;
- Include specific guidance for voluntary controlled schools;

- Include progression grids on subject knowledge, outlining more clearly what pupils should know about each world faith at each key stage, the units of work should be aligned to these;
- Append advice on wider religious awareness in schools – such as the importance of building children’s encounter with different faiths;
- Offer the option of some introductory work on Hinduism and Buddhism, at present included at KS3.

It is planned that a number of new (optional) units of work will be written to strengthen coverage of Christianity and World Faiths. These will be part of the West Yorkshire RE Resources Hub. About 400 schools subscribe to this and have access until 2019. Revised arrangements will be in place by then. The Hub is managed through Kirklees on behalf of the other authorities.

Now that initial consultation has taken place, the timetable for revision will be as follows:

Autumn 2018: Syllabus drafted; units of work and knowledge grids drafted

Spring 2019: Final syllabus agreed (Local Agreed Syllabus Conference, March)

Summer 2019: Syllabus published and revised resource Hub open. Training and briefing for teachers provided.

Autumn 2019: Syllabus in effect and taught in schools.

The Local Agreed Syllabus Conference in March then agrees the final version. Legally, there will need to be three separate decisions, one taken for each authority on the same evening. The local authorities then make a final decision on adopting the syllabus.

Resources

The syllabus is supported by an extensive range of units of work for use by teachers. These are housed in the West Yorkshire RE Resources Hub shared by Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale.

The Hub also contains a range of other support materials including:

- Anthology of religious stories
- Faiths background information
- Governors' guidance
- Ofsted guidance
- RE Council national framework
- RE policy template

The units of work are non-statutory and schools are free to use, adapt or change these in line with their local needs and the requirements of the syllabus. Indeed, schools are encouraged to devise their own curriculum reflecting their circumstances, resources and priorities.

Visits and visitors

As an integral part of learning, pupils should be given the opportunity to engage with people and communities of faith within school or through visits outside school. This is often a difficult practical issue for schools. To support schools and faith communities a directory of possible visits and visitors. This list is provided to help schools to make contact with faith communities and so enrich students' religious education and, more widely, enhance awareness, understanding and tolerance of religious diversity in our region.

It includes individuals who are willing to come into school and bring some direct engagement with faith communities. It also includes some general information about places and organisations. Generally speaking the list covers Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds. It is revised regularly and does not of course supplant good local relationships and opportunities.



During the year a further initiative has been started to support faith communities, called 'Schools Welcome' The Schools welcome badge recognises and affirms the commitment of a faith community or individual to work in partnership with schools to deliver an effective and appropriate contribution to education. To achieve this, volunteers or employed staff will have received training about safeguarding, RE and appropriate learning strategies. The organisation will have safeguarding policies and protocols in place. The badge is not a replacement for due diligence and schools remain responsible for their own safeguarding. However, it should give confidence to organisers of visits about the integrity of the education offered.

A training package has been developed and has been delivered on three occasions during the year, involving about 40 people from different faiths across Leeds and the Dewsbury area. This project will be funded in the first two years by Kirklees Learning Services and will be managed by Pennine Learning Associates.

RE Quality Mark

This report also notes continuing positive developments in RE. The RE Quality Mark (REQM) has been developed to celebrate high quality religious education, providing community schools, church schools and academies with a framework to capture good practice. It encourages the development and celebration of school wide commitment to excellent teaching and learning in religious education. There are three award levels: bronze, silver and gold. After applying for the REQM an assessor will visit the school, interview learners and meet the subject leader and a member of the senior leadership team. SACRE wishes to encourage schools to enter for the REQM and wants to make the achievement of the REQM in schools a priority for the next year. SACRE has developed an RE Award as an

opportunity to review the quality and provision religious education in schools and to discover their strengths and priorities for future improvement. It can be used as an internal self-assessment tool or it can be the focus for a review with the RE Consultant, leading to recognition by a badge and award.



Like the Kirklees RE Agreed Syllabus, the criteria emphasise the importance of RE in community cohesion, SMSC and the fundamental values that we seek to encourage among young people as citizens of Kirklees, Yorkshire and the UK.

The award has also been designed to dovetail with the national RE Quality Mark and it can act as a stepping stone towards achievement of that national recognition. The five strands mirror the five areas of assessment in the REQM Bronze award but we have tailored these to the local syllabus priorities and to local schools. The award will itself be evidence that can be used towards gaining the REQM.

As part of supporting RE, all primary schools will be offered the opportunity of a half day review of RE, free of charge. Ten places will be allocated.

The aims of the reviews will be to:

- Offer the opportunity to support your self-evaluation in this important area;
- Recognise and celebrate good practice in RE and community cohesion;
- Identify future priorities for improvement;
- Act as a springboard for schools which may wish to gain the national RE Quality Mark.

Public examination results

Exam entries for GCSE full course have continued to decrease this year compared to 2017. This year 1122 students were entered compared with 1856 students being entered in 2017. 25% of the total Yr11 cohort within Kirklees schools sat the full course. This is a decrease from 42% entered in 2017. The numbers entered for full course RS is still below the national figure of 37%. As the short course option is not as valued as before due to Progress 8 and the EBACC, the number of entries for any examination at GCSE has dropped drastically. Data for the short course option was not available at the time of this report being prepared. SACRE believes a further 2 schools entered students for the short course option. SACRE is once again concerned that it appears students are not offered entry for RS GCSE and would like to investigate what provision is in place for RE at Key Stage 4 for these students.

Only five schools in Kirklees entered more than half of their cohort for RS GCSE Full course. SACRE is naturally concerned that the low entry for GCSE in Kirklees is a reflection on how RE is valued in Kirklees schools.

Seventeen of the twenty-six schools in Kirklees entered students for GCSE. Some schools may have entered students for both full course and short course and some may have entered students for short course only.

SACRE would like to congratulate the students who achieved so well in their examinations this year. 71.1% of students entered for GCSE Religious Studies attained grades 9 -4 this year. This figure is in line with the national average of 72% achieving grades 9 -4.

Students that attained grades 9 -1 in GCSE full course compares well to the national average with Kirklees students achieving 98.8% and the national average being 98%. These high scores must be seen as a contributing factor for the percentage of GCSE students attaining 5A*-C (or equivalent) grades including English and Mathematics.

More girls were entered for GCSE than boys locally and the girls scored higher grades. 75.7% of girls entered scored Grades 9 -4 compared to boys in Kirklees who scored 62.9%. Both

these scores for boys and girls compare favourably with national figures with 79% of girls and 63% of boys achieving grades 9 -4.

Five schools entered students for A Level Religious Studies with 55 entries at this level. This number is higher than the number of entries in previous years. There is no national comparative data for A Level and AS Level when this report was being prepared. Girls did better than boys in A Level this year with 68.8% attaining A -C compared with 42.8% for boys, though it is worth noting that the statistical set size is very small.

From all of the analysis, SACRE has many questions for schools regarding how RE is valued and will be pressing the local authority to investigate further.

These are the questions SACRE would like to investigate:

1. What provision is in place for statutory RE for students at KS4 who do not take a Full Course GCSE in RS? This equates to about 75% of students in the local authority.
2. What timetable allocation is offered to teachers of RS as the GCSE specifications require a longer teaching time? We are aware that some schools start GCSE in Year 9 to fulfil the specifications brief, this then has an effect on how much RE is taught from Year 9 as well as in Key stage 4.

The recent Final Report of the Commission on RE examined some of our concerns at a national level. As one of the SACRE priorities in the 2018 – 19 academic year is to examine and respond to this report fully we will be making comparisons with the national and Kirklees picture of RE. Here are some of the findings from the report:

An increasing number of schools, particularly academies, offer no provision for RE at Key Stages 3 and 4. In 2016, 33.4% of all schools did not offer any RE at Key Stage 4 and 23.1% did not offer any RE at Key Stage 3. This represents nearly 900 schools offering no RE at Key Stage 4, and a significant increase from 22.1% (nearly 600 schools) in 2015.

Curriculum time for primary is also limited, with nearly 30% of schools which responded to the 2016 NATRE primary survey offering less than 45 minutes per week.

There is a clear, and increasing, disparity between school types in terms of provision of RE. For example, the percentage of schools without a religious character offering no RE at Key

Stage 4 in 2016 (38.9%) is almost four times that of schools with a religious character (11.2%)

Figure 1: Schools offering no RE at Key Stage 3¹⁰

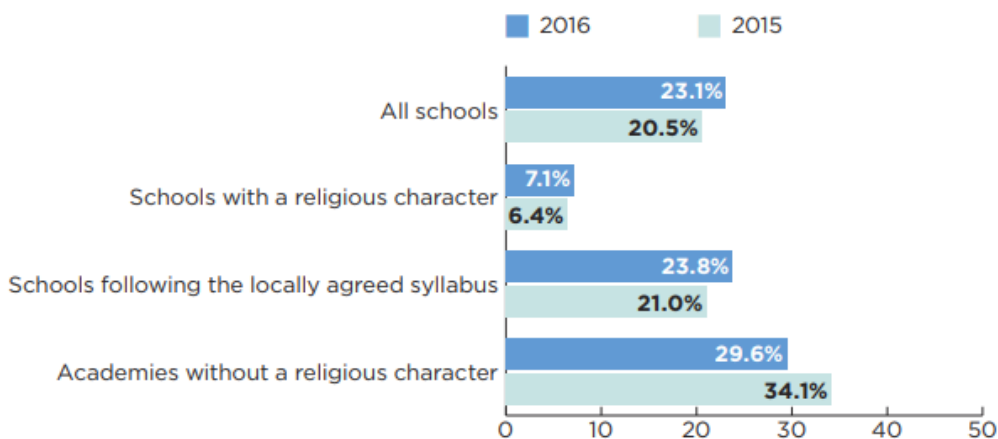
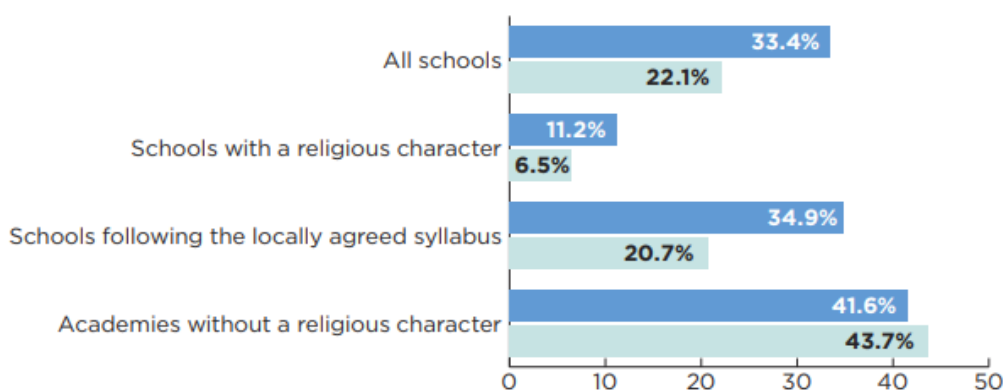


Figure 2: Schools offering no RE at Key Stage 4¹¹



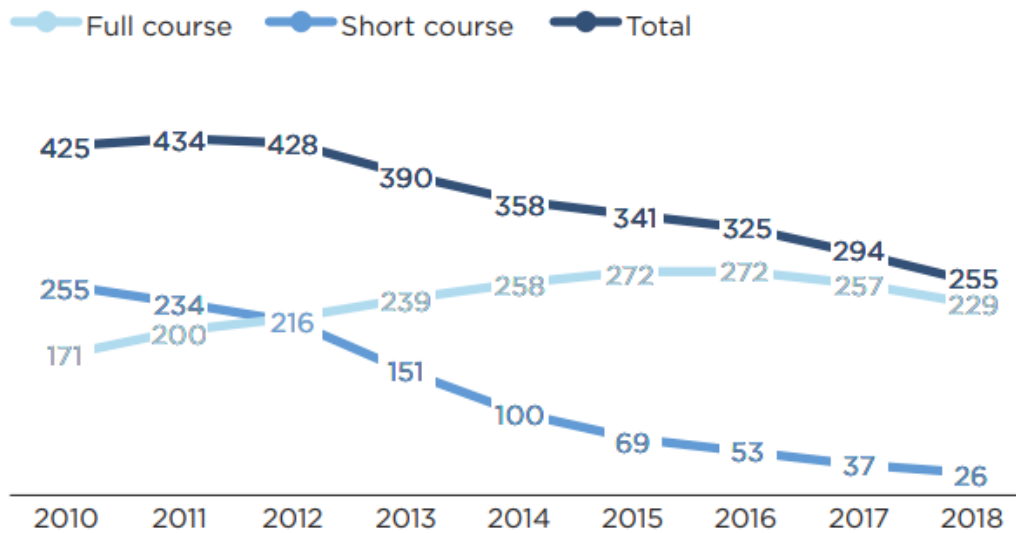
Source: School Workforce Data 2016 analysed by Deborah Weston for NATRE

Academisation and reductions in funding have reduced local authority support for RE via Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) and professional advisers, to the point where such support is unsustainable in many areas and already disappearing in some. This further increases the disparity between schools with a religious character, where support structures remain relatively robust, and those without, where they are increasingly in jeopardy.

Changes to accountability systems have created an environment where there is less and less incentive for schools to offer good RE, particularly at secondary level. These include Ofsted no longer inspecting individual subjects, the removal of GCSE Short Courses from school performance measures and the non-inclusion of Religious Studies GCSE in the Ebacc. This has

led to a significant drop in students taking a Key Stage 4 qualification in RE and has affected, for example, the number of specialist teachers at secondary level.

Figure 3: Trends in GCSE entries for Religious Studies¹³
 Religious Studies GCSE entries in England 2010–2018 (thousands)



Part 3: Collective worship

The Law and Guidance

During the last year updated and clarified guidance on collective worship was drafted and approved by SACRE. This guidance is provided to support schools in fulfilling statutory obligations and promoting good SMSC development. It applies to maintained schools within Kirklees. It does not apply to schools with a religious character which may have guidance from dioceses or other bodies. It does not apply to academies or free schools, where arrangements are governed by the trust deed or funding agreement. However, the basic legal requirements apply to all schools and this guidance may be useful in conjunction with any issued by other authorities.

The current law is determined by the Education Reform Act 1988, with some requirements deriving from the Education Regulations 1981. In summary the law says this:

- All pupils must attend a daily act of collective worship, except for sixth formers who are allowed to decide for themselves whether to attend;
- The legal framework outlined here applies to maintained LA schools. In schools with a religious character collective worship is governed by the trust deed. Arrangements in free schools and academies is determined by the funding agreement.
- There is no need for an act of collective worship to include the whole school all at once. It may be through year groups, classes, key stages or in any combination.
- It may take place at any time during the school day and should normally be on school premises.
- It must be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Responsibility lies with the head and governors, though the precise duties may vary according to the type of school.
- Details of arrangements for collective worship, including the policy, must be documented and available to the public.

The 1988 Education Act required collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. This allows schools to focus on some broad, universal and important themes, common to world faiths and non-religious world views: compassion, forgiveness, generosity. It also allows schools to remember specific festivals or stories from Christianity and all world faiths, as well as secular perspectives.

Determinations

A determination may be authorised by SACRE to maintained schools which have a distinctive non-Christian religious make up. These schools must make provision for any minorities but a determination should not mean that there are separate acts of collective worship. This would negate the description 'collective'. A determination should be renewed every five years. Free schools and academies need to apply to the Education Funding Agency rather than to SACRE. In Kirklees there is only one school that has a determination for collective worship and this school has agreed to annual monitoring visit from the RE consultant.

Support and Monitoring

During the year schools were offered a visit to support collective worship through a visit to an assembly and a review of school policy and practice. It was offered to all schools in Kirklees (including academies and free schools) and was available for up to ten schools. During the year 2017 – 18 there were no requests for a support/ monitoring visit from schools in Kirklees.

Complaints

There were no complaints made during the year to SACRE about Collective Worship.

Part 4: Summary of achievements and priorities

Achievements and good practice during 2017 -18

These include:

To support the professional development of RE teachers in Kirklees.

- Termly networks for primary and Secondary teachers, Primary coordinator course, Teaching and learning strategies and subject knowledge through British Values.
- Developing the West Yorkshire RE Hub (WYRE) for nurturing the skills and knowledge of subject leaders.
- Supporting the hub bid to develop leading teachers and coordinators of RE through the West Yorkshire RE project in conjunction with Huddersfield University.

To support the development of collective worship within schools

- Provided a training session on planning inclusive collective worship, though only 3 schools booked on this.

To support the professional development of SACRE members

- Continue to meet in a variety of faith centres to develop understanding of the faith and activities in localities.
- Visiting speakers with a regional and national perspective e.g. Dr Joyce Miller on the CoRE report and implications for SACRE.

To monitor and support RE in Kirklees

- Through Kirklees Learning Services preparing an RE Award scheme.

To develop collaboration between SACREs in West Yorkshire

- See notes above on how this has developed.

Priorities for 2018 -19

To support the professional development of RE teachers in Kirklees

- Termly networks for primary and Secondary, Primary coordinator course, Teaching and learning course and subject knowledge of three faiths.
- Develop a website for local schools linked to faith centres and as a portal of links for teachers to use.
- Continue to support schools in applying for REQM.

To support the development of collective worship within schools

- Provide a training session on planning inclusive collective worship this could be funded through Learning Services
- Offer a follow up visit from the training to support collective worship in a selection of schools

To support the professional development of SACRE members

- Annual West Yorkshire meeting of SACREs to agree actions and developments across authorities.
- Continue to meet in a variety of faith centres to develop understanding of the faith and activities in localities.

To monitor and support RE in Kirklees

- Visit 10 primary schools to support the development of quality RE
- Review the Local Agreed Syllabus and supportive documentation (see above)

a. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from:

Pam Kent, Cll Donovan, Mehrun Mohamed, Christine Deihim

b. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were agreed as a true record with a few amendments:

- Carol Waters is representing the NUT arm of the Education Union
- Janice Leam is representing the ATL arm of the Education Union.

c. Matters Arising

IR explained that the Anglican Diocese of Leeds has now produced a syllabus which all aided schools should follow.

d. A Talk by John Froud

John Froud discussed how the Bible Exhibition has been developed over the past few years and how some local schools have visited it this last week. Members had taken the opportunity to visit the exhibition before the meeting.

e. SACRE response to the CoRE Interim report

SACRE discussed the four key recommendations of the interim report and helped to prepare a joint response to NASACRE and the Commission on RE with Calderdale SACRE. IR and CW will collate the joint response with the chair of Calderdale SACRE. NASACRE has developed a survey monkey and a paper copy of a response form. IR urged all members to fill this in as individuals and will be asking teachers on the networks to fill it in and return this to NASACRE as the more responses to the report gives a better overview of the general opinions.

f. SACRE response to the SOTN report

The State of the Nation report was prepared by RE Today and NATRE and includes some startling figures. These figures confirm some of the suspicions that SACRE has developed over the years including '28% of secondary schools surveyed saying they had no provision for RE equating to approximately 800,000 pupils being deprived of their legal right to learn about major religions and beliefs.'

SACRE discussed how they could respond to this report and decided that elements of this could be included in data analysis section of this year's annual report.

g. Planning for Joint SACRE working

There will be a joint meeting of West Yorkshire SACREs on the 13th March 2018. Suggested speakers include Brendan Cox and Dr Joyce Miller (commissioner on the CoRE report). Any other suggestions for the joint meeting to go to the Chair.

CW explained that it might be beneficial to have some more joint working meeting especially with Calderdale in light of the review of the syllabus.

h. Draft Annual Report and data analysis

The draft report has been written and has been sent to the chair for approval. The data analysis of GCSE and A Level results will be put in when this is available from the LA. Once complete all members will receive a copy before the meeting in December.

Any Other Business

There were no items to discuss at this point.

Dates of Next Meetings

- Monday 4 December 2017 – Overthorpe Academy – MM
- Tuesday 13 March 2018 – Venue tbc
- Wednesday 27 June 2018 – Huddersfield University – ES to arrange

A, Apologies and Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions were made. Wayne Clarke explained that this was his last meeting of SACRE as he is to take up a post in Manchester. Mary Whalley will take his place as the Baptist representative.

Apologies were received from:

Pam Kent, Christine Deihim, Emma Salter, Mary Whalley

b. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were agreed as a true record with a few amendments. Proposed by SB and seconded by JL.

c. Matters Arising

None other than will appear in the agenda later.

d. CoRE response and deadline for case studies.

IR explained that he has collated a response to the draft report from the meetings held in October. A few members of SACRE have also responded to the survey monkey from the commission. IR also explained that he hadn't put in a response to the case studies from The Commission due to lack of time. The next draft report should be available for discussion in March. This could form part of the joint SACRE discussions in March or held over for the AGM meeting in June.

e. Annual Report

IR explained that the annual report is still in draft format as the data for GCSE and A Level is not available yet. When this data is available for analysis he hopes that this can then be included in the report for the deadline at the end of December. SACRE discussed amendments to the report including offering training for schools on collective worship and an in school review as agreed within the SACRE contract. SACRE agreed to publish the report with these amendments. This was proposed by WC and seconded by AM. All agreed,

f. Diocesan Syllabus and implications for C of E Schools

IR explained that the diocese had now produced a syllabus for aided schools and that it is highly recommended for aided schools to use this including all the units of work attached. Some schools feel that the level and depth of Christianity studied may not be representative of their community and want to use the local agreed syllabus and incorporate some of the Understand Christianity units to

ensure the 66% rule is followed. SACRE discussed how schools could be supported in adapting the Understanding Christianity units. This could be a further discussion at the joint SACRE meeting with representation of the diocese. IR explained that he is working with some schools to adapt the units and apply the assessment protocols from the local agreed syllabus to support teachers in planning for progression.

g. Collective Worship Training and Monitoring

A discussion was held into why schools were not engaging with the offer of support for collective worship. Although it had been agreed that 10 primary schools would be visited during the year no response had been made last year. SACRE proposed that the training for collective worship could be made free or at a reduced cost and a follow up visit in school to be included. IR would confer with his line manager in Learning Services.

h. Syllabus Review and collective working with Calderdale

SACRE discussed the review of the syllabus and agreed firstly to work with Calderdale to review the syllabus together. The views of teachers using the syllabus will be gained through a survey monkey (a link to the syllabus will be attached) and through network meetings.

i. Update on Yorkshire Spirit

IR explained that Yorkshire Spirit a community interest company has been set up. The directors include Alastair Ross and David Ravenhill. The aims of this company are to further develop community cohesion through school linking, encouraging faith visitors and visits in schools and developing understanding of diversity through student conferences. A few events have already been planned as part of this including faith visitor training in Leeds on the 9th December. SACRE asked if this would be taking place in Kirklees soon including the student conferences. IR confirmed that this should be the case when the trial runs have taken place. AM agreed to find out about Kirklees Faith Forum funding and how this could be shared with Yorkshire Spirit.

Any Other Business

There were no items to discuss at this point.

Tuesday 13 March 2018 – Venue tbc (this is a West Yorkshire SACREs meeting)

Wednesday 27 June 2018 – Huddersfield University – ES to arrange

Notes of the Joint West Yorkshire SACREs

Tuesday 13th March 2018

Held at the View Room, Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford

Present:

Bradford: Ros Garside, Mohinder Singh Chana, S Jaspall, Sukhdev Singh, Mary Nowsham, Shannaz Zahoor, M Ahmad

Calderdale: John Butterfield, Janet Tringham, John Hellewell, Shelagh Hirst, Dot Foster

Kirklees: Janice Leam, Anna Twist, Simon Sloan, Carol Waters, Suzanne Bridges

Leeds: Mark Edon, Diane Norton, Janet Buttanshaw, Russell Trudgeon, Margaret Halsey, Kevin Paynes

In attendance: Alastair Ross, Ian Ross

Guest: Joyce Miller

Introduction

As members arrived and as part of networking they shared their concerns, priorities and work of their individual SACREs. This was in the form of three questions:

What key things has your SACRE done this year?

Input from the Bishop of Bradford

Revised guidance on Collective Worship

Seminars for schools applying for determinations

Prevent Strategy course

Further information sharing on different faiths e.g. Bahá'í, A Bible exhibition, Islam

What are your SACRE priorities this year?

Collective worship training and monitoring

CPD for teachers and SACRE members

School Visits to look at good practice RE

What as a SACRE are you concerned about?

Shrinkage of the RE curriculum

The loss of more localised control of RE

Concern that RE is not given an important status

Perspectives of academies

Evaluating practice with very limited resources

State of the Nation Report showing not much RE being taught at KS4

Lack of money and resources

Welcome

Ros Garside (Chair of Bradford SACRE) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dr Joyce Miller.

Joyce Miller is a long standing member of Bradford SACRE and is currently a commissioner on the Commission on RE. Joyce lead us through a powerpoint outlining the work of the commission and the current priorities as part of the consultation held in 2017.

Members discussed a variety of points from the presentation including:

What is RE? What religions should/ could be taught?

Does the name RE need to change to reflect a more diverse remit?

How can the National Entitlement be adapted for local needs?

How much consultation has taken place with young people?

How can the work of the commission now support change in schools? How could this proceed through parliament?

John Helliwell (Chair of Calderdale SACRE) thanked all members for attending and suggested that individual SACREs meet and discuss the big questions that have been brought to the meeting especially 'What is RE?' and 'What should be in the curriculum?'.

Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees SACREs held individual meetings to discuss the review of syllabi and processes for consultation.

Kirklees SACRE specific meeting

Motion to recommend to Kirklees Council that the new Syllabus for 2019 should be a joint one with Calderdale and Leeds Local Authorities.

Proposed by Simon Sloan, Seconded by Carol Waters. All in favour. As this meeting of the SACRE was not quorate this decision will be shared across members via email and ratified at the next full SACRE meeting.

Carol Waters has volunteered to represent Kirklees SACRE on the joint steering group. Other members of SACRE (especially teacher reps will be sought through email conversations)

KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

KIRKLEES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Minutes of SACRE AGM and Meeting on 27th June 2018
Held at Hudawi Community Centre at 5.30 pm**

Members in attendance:

Committee A

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths	Suzanne Bridges (SB) Eileen Webb (EW)
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Committee B

Representing the Church of England	Janet Tringham
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Committee C

Teachers/Unions	Carol Waters (CS) - Chair Janice Leam (JL) Anna Twist (AT)
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Committee D

Representing Kirklees Council	No Representation
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In attendance

	Ian Ross (IR)
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Quorum for the meeting is 1 representative from each of the 4 Committees

Apologies and Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions were made.

Apologies were received from:

Emma Salter

1 Election of Chair

Carol Waters has intimated that she wishes to resign from SACRE this year. Proposed that Carol is appointed as chair for this meeting and to seek nominations from other members from the next meeting in October.

2 Election of Vice Chair

Ayub was absent from the meeting as he has been unwell. The election of vice chair will be carried out at the next meeting and nominations would be sought from other members.

3 Election of Group Chairs

It was explained that this would be carried out if necessary when needing a vote from each committee e.g. at the Local Agreed Syllabus Conference.

4 Membership review

Representation is still needed from the Church of England, both laity and clergy. IR had written to the committees of the local gurdwaras for Sikh representation. Members present were asked to consider who they could invite to join SACRE. The appointments panel of the council has nominated two members to represent the council. CW had written back to the appointments panel explaining that neither councillor had attended any SACRE meetings for the last 2 years. IR and CW have put a plan into place to investigate this further and approach a number of different party leaders.

5 Minutes of the last SACRE meetings December 17 and March 18.

The minutes of both meetings were agreed as true records. Proposed by Eileen Webb and Seconded by Janice Leam.

6 Matters Arising from Minutes

IR explained that Yorkshire Spirit (a not for profit Community Interest Company) has been set up and is able to access charity funding and to receive funding from the assets of Kirklees Faiths Forum. Three strands of work have been allocated to this from Kirklees Learning. The three strands are about community cohesion and enhancing RE through pupil conferences and faith visits and visitors. The funding from Kirklees Learning will be for 2 years as a start up grant for the CIC to continue this work in 2020. One of the strands will be the training and accreditation of faith centres and visitors with a Schools Welcome badge and so enhance RE in schools.

7. Work Plan and Budget 2018 -19

A discussion was held around the work plan and budget. The majority of the additional work for 2018 will be the review of the syllabus. The work plan for 2018 will also include:

- A review of RE in secondary schools including time allocations and numbers of students accessing GCSE.
- Providing ten free visits to primary schools for RE Reviews and a Kirklees RE award.
- Continuing the professional development of SACRE members and a focus on different denominations in Christianity for teachers.

8. Reports from outside agencies

The NASACRE membership has been renewed and it will be possible for 1 member of SACRE to attend the national conference next year. The CoRE report next steps will be shared at a conference in Autumn. The date for this will be shared via email.

9. Review of the Local Agreed Syllabus

Consultation with schools and teachers through a questionnaire, meetings and networks has taken place. The results of this consultation were shared with members. The key priorities will be for a progression chart to be included and then new units of work written in Autumn. The steering group will maintain communication with SACRE on progress of the syllabus. CW was confirmed as a member of the steering group and AT volunteered to attend too. The first meeting of the steering group will be on 4th September at Dewsbury Town Hall.

10. Dates of meetings 2018 -1 9

- Thursday 12th October- Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints (EW to confirm)
- Tuesday 4th December - Dewsbury Town Hall (IR to book)

- Tuesday 12th March – Joint SACRE meeting (This could change to be April and include the LASC)
- Wednesday 26th June – Huddersfield University or Hudawi Centre

Appendix 2 - SACRE membership and attendance 2017 - 2018

	No		Exp	Attendance
GROUP A – ALL FAITH GROUPS EXCEPT ANGLICANS				
Roman Catholic Church	1	VACANCY		
Baptist	1	Wayne Clarke/ Mary Whalley	Sep 19	50%
Methodist	1	Suzanne Bridges	Sep 19	100%
United Reformed Church	1	VACANCY		
Baha'i	1	VACANCY		
Islamic representatives nominated by mosques	4	VACANCY		
		VACANCY		
		Lukman Patel	Sep 19	0%
		Ayub Bismillah	Sep 19	50%
Evangelical Churches in Kirklees	1	VACANCY		
Buddhist rep	1	VACANCY		
Hindu rep	1	VACANCY		
Jewish rep	1	VACANCY		
Sikh rep	1	VACANCY		
Humanist rep	1	VACANCY		
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints	1	Eileen Webb	Mar19	75%
GROUP B – C OF E				
Church of England (lay & clergy)	5	Simon Sloan/ Janet Tringham	May 20	50%
		Pamela Kent	Mar19	0%
GROUP C – SCHOOLS				
Primary School Head Teacher	1	VACANCY		
Secondary School Head Teacher	1	VACANCY		
Primary Teachers	3	Mehrun Mohammed	Nov 20	25%
ATL	1	Janice Leam	Jun 19	100%
NUT	1	Carol Walters	Sep 19	100%
Secondary School Teacher	1	Anna Twist	Sep 19	75%
GROUP D – COUNCIL MEMBERS				
Elected Members of Kirklees Council	4	Cllr Nosheen Dad	17 - 18	0%
		Cllr Marchington	17 - 18	25%
		Cllr Andrew Palfreeman	17 - 18	0%
CO-OPTED MEMBERS				
Not to exceed 1/4 of members appointed to Group A	4	Dr Emma Salter (Hudds Univ)	2017 - 18	25%
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS				
		Alastair Ross/ Ian Ross		100%

SACRE is looking for new members to join from any faith or education background especially in the areas with a vacancy.

Appendix 3 – Examination results

Kirklees Summative Data 14- 18

	National Average	Kirklees Average
2014 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - C	69.6%	64.9%
2014 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - G	97.8%	98.1%
2015 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - C	71.8%	67.9%
2015 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - G	97.9%	98.0%
2016 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - C	71.5%	63.7%
2016 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - G	97.8%	97.4%
2017 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - C	71.2%	62.6%
2017 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - G	97.9%	97.5%
2018 Religious Studies GCSE Grade 9 -4	72%	71.1%
2018 Religious Studies GCSE Grade 9- 1	98%	98.8%

RS GCSE Full Course Gender Comparisons (Kirklees)

	NOE Boys	NOE Girls	A*-C Average Boys	A* - C Average Girls
2014	1090	1283	56.2%	72.2%
2015	1022	1265	59.4%	74.9%
2016	942	1243	53.5%	71.4%
2017	784	1072	54.2%	68.7%
2018	405	717	62.9%	75.7%

A level Grades 2018 Kirklees

A Level Grades	A	B	C	D	E	A - C	A - E
Kirklees	1.8%	23.6%	40%	25%	7.3%	65.5%	98.2%

RS GCE A Level Gender Comparisons (Kirklees)

	NOE Boys	NOE Girls	A* - B Average Boys	A* - B Average Girls
2014	8	55	12.5%	40.0%
2015	13	49	38.5%	28.5%
2016	12	38	41.6%	34.2%
2017	11	35	36.4%	28.6%
2018	7	48	14.2%	27%

Appendix 4

Professional development and consultancy provided by Kirklees Learning Services

Courses during 2017 - 2018

<u>Training</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
RE Secondary Network	2 nd Oct 2017	5
RE Primary Network	4 th Oct 2017	35
Don't Panic! Leading RE in an Effective and Practical Way	13 th Oct 2017	9
SMSC, British Values and Equality Network	15 th Nov 2017	6
RE Primary Network	8 th Feb 2018	35
Religious Education Secondary Network	5 th Feb 2018	5
Time for Reflection – Collective Worship in Schools	13 th Feb 2018	4
SMSC and British Values for Governors	9 th May 2018	10
SMSC and Equality Network	19 TH June 2018	6
RE Primary Network	12 th June 2018	35
Religious Education Secondary Network	12 th June 2018	9

Schools were visited by Kirklees Learning Partners for a range of purposes including SMSC training, RE syllabus training. Further training on RE was also provided for ITE trainees on both the primary and secondary SCITT programme.