

**SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE
LANCASHIRE STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2011 – 12**



CHAIRMAN OF LANCASHIRE SACRE

SACRE chairman's report 2011-12



SACRE chairman's introduction to the 2011-12 REPORT

A year ago we were pleased to record the completion of the Agreed Syllabus revision. This year, from September 2012, we see the Syllabus in place in our County and Controlled schools, and the task now is to ensure that its delivery is assured throughout the Authority.

The position of Religious Education in the school curriculum has once more brought lively national debate and discussion, and for secondary schools, the argument for its inclusion in the Ebacc has been lost. This will not deter the Lancashire SACRE from restating at every opportunity its belief that the subject is pivotal to the development of the whole person, and at the core of what we believe education to be.

Redrawing the boundaries of what can be funded by the Local Authority is about to terminate the role of our Advanced Skills Teacher. We celebrate the contribution of Jo Crabtree to the Primary school sector in establishing local networks to permit continued sharing of best practice.

Ahead of us lies consideration of how best to engage with the newly expanded Academies sector and Free Schools – outside of Local Authority control but with a statutory duty unchanged to deliver Religious Education for all pupils. We have no duty in this regard, but feel that we may be able to provide a service and real expertise and experience through our officers and our talented members.

Our professional officer and our consultant have established a very constructive method of working together and this, together with the much stronger attendance of members at both full SACRE and Quality & Standards meetings, gives great encouragement to the chairman.

Thanks are due to the indefatigable Katrina Dale and Josh Mynott (for the Clerk to the SACRE) for their invaluable advice and support.

LANCASHIRE SACRE

Lancashire SACRE has met four times over the academic year 2011 – 12 and has been quorate at all meetings. The minutes of these meetings can be found at www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category_id=19

The SACRE's work is supported by Officers from the Local Authority and an RE Consultant. Meetings are clerked by the Office of the Chief Executive. The SACRE has been pleased to receive reports and information from their Youth SACRE, a member of the Religious Society of Friends and Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement, Jonathan Hewitt. Meetings include an activity related to RE or Collective Worship and a 'Getting to Know You' item where the SACRE hears from individual members about how their background equips them to serve. SACRE is a member of NASACRE [National Association of SACREs] and two representatives attended this year's AGM in London. Details of the SACRE's membership can be found at http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category_id=142

STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF PROVISION

Quality and Standards Sub-Committee [QSS]

The QSS meets between meetings of the full SACRE to drive forward the SACRE's business. Reports from these meetings are considered by the SACRE and are available on the SACRE web site.

QCDA's [former Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency] self-evaluation document informs this group and helps it create and monitor the Lancashire SACRE Development Plan. The progress of the development plan (2011-2013) is a standing item for both the full SACRE and QSS and a progress report is available [here](#). This body receives and responds to post Ofsted reports and considers end of key stage data. Reports of QSS meetings are also available on the RE web site.

Standards and Quality of Provision

SACRE recognises the high quality of religious education in Lancashire schools and appreciates schools' support in gathering end of key stage data.

End of Key Stage Performance

At the end of KS1 performance improved by 3% in 2012 with around 83% of pupils reaching the expected levels of attainment. At the end of KS2 attainment also improved with just under 80% of pupils reaching the level expected of 11 year olds. Key Stage 4 entries for the full and short Religious Studies GCSE courses fell in 2012 and attainment in the short course also fell significantly and is currently around 10% below the national average at grades A-C. Attainment in the full course remained similar to 2011 and was broadly in line with the national average.



Quality Mark for RE

Acknowledging good RE has been one of the Development Plan aims. Lancashire SACRE was pleased to support the pilot phase of the National Quality Mark for RE and has been delighted that Broughton Business and Enterprise College received a Gold award and Burnley Brunshaw Primary, Clifton Primary and Hapton Primary all gained the Silver award.

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

The county continues to offer a highly regarded support programme for teachers of RE. This includes:

- Consultancy and Support
- A marketed course programme
- Support from an Advanced Skills Teacher for network meetings for teachers of RE in primary schools

The advanced skills teacher for RE (Jo Crabtree) has supported primary schools in developing the quality of RE provision and the following report outlines her work in this area.

Report of AST for Primary RE

A key part of my work this year has been the development of the Syllabus website and, thanks to the help of many teachers throughout Lancashire, there are planning grids available for every year group for KS1 & 2. New grids are being written all the time and we've even got some creative schools writing their own grids for the Jehovah's Witness and Mormon faiths.

Although the number of networks has fallen, the remaining ones are popular and numbers are consistently high. Their main focus has been how to implement the Agreed Syllabus 2011 and how to deliver it effectively to non-specialist staff. Teachers are now moving towards finding ways to make their RE even more creative, especially using visits and visitors. The work we have covered and the effort the teachers have shown has, again this year, been impressive.

I have had the opportunity to work with an increasing number of RE subject leaders in Lancashire. The main focus of my visits has been how to fit the new syllabus into the existing curriculum. It has been a pleasure to work with dedicated and enthusiastic subject leaders who are professional and open minded about the process.

Teachers know they can contact me with any RE related problem they have. I continue to respond to emails and phone calls regularly.

Details of professional development opportunities for teachers including the implementation of the Lancashire agreed syllabus for RE 2011 can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/cpd

YOUTH VOICE



Lancashire Youth SACRE

Young people are key partners in Lancashire SACRE. We always welcome schools who wish to participate in this work. During the last year Youth SACRE has:

- Advised on the development of the agreed syllabus for RE 2011
- Worked on individual student-led research projects into aspects of the SACRE development plan eg. involving parents in RE and writing investigative modules for the Lancashire Syllabus
- Planned and delivered a youth RE conference in partnership with Primary, Special Schools and local faith communities and individuals
- Attended meetings of the full SACRE to report on their work
- Developed a model of students working in partnership with their RE Departments, fellow students and Lancashire SACRE

More information can be found on the Lancashire SACRE web site www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category_id=83

Lancashire Youth Conference

2012 saw the 7th Lancashire SACRE Youth Conference enabling 60 Lancashire students aged 10 – 13 to investigate what it means to 'Search for Meaning'. Seminars were held by The Hollins Technology College and Ashton Community Science College with the support of SACRE representatives and Trumacar Primary pupils. The conference was held at the Gujarat Hindu Society and involved a group of Hindu devotees including SACRE members. This enabled students to carry out an enquiry into the importance of the Temple in the lives of this Hindu community.



LANCASHIRE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE 2011 – 'SEARCHING FOR MEANING'

This year saw the development of the Lancashire Syllabus for RE. This had been created in 2010/11 after extensive consultation with teachers, pupils and faith communities, locally and nationally, and launched in March 2011, for implementation in September 2012. Over 120 Primary and Secondary School teachers attended marketed courses to ensure that they were able to embed the syllabus' investigative model in their schools. Network meetings focused on the best way to ensure effective delivery as well as affording opportunities to write exemplar resources.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship has continued to be an area of importance for Lancashire SACRE.

The Lancashire guidance for Collective Worship, Mirrors and Doors, has been updated to become 'Mirrors and Doors 2' and is available on line to schools which are supported by the SACRE. This provides a comprehensive resource to equip effective delivery of this important area of school life. The site provides proformas and ideas to create meaningful acts of collective worship.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Marketed training is available on the agreed syllabus and collective worship from the Lancashire Professional Development Team who can be contacted either via email, cpd@lancashire.gov.uk or via telephone 01257 516100. Alternatively please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/cpd.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE SACRE TO THE WIDER DIVERSITY AGENDAS

Lancashire SACRE reflects the religious and ethnic diversity of the local/regional community. Elaine Saunderson, a member of the Religious Society of Friends, was a new Observer this year and an invitation was also made to a humanist to attend in this role.

SACRE, school networks and Youth SACRE have met over the year in places of worship in order to forge links and consider effective ways to develop learning with living faith communities.

A website http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category_id=62 is available to support linking schools with faith groups in the Lancashire area. The SACRE is supporting the contribution of RE to social, racial and religious harmony and to community cohesion in the area by continuing to support the working of local faith forums and groups. Youth SACRE has met at and worked with Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist communities through the support of Faith representatives on SACRE.

The SACRE and Youth SACRE held their Summer meetings at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre, as it celebrated its 10 year anniversary.