

Birmingham

# SACRE

Standing Advisory Council  
on Religious Education

# SACRE



## Annual Report 2014-2015

[www.faithmakesadifference.org.uk](http://www.faithmakesadifference.org.uk)



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## 1. MEETINGS

### Full SACRE meetings during 2014-2015

- 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015
- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Cllr Dr. Barry Henley continued as Chair of SACRE during this year.

This year saw the passing of a very respected SACRE member, Mrs. Betty Richmond. Betty was a long serving and dedicated member and served on many different working groups. Her work, perspective and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

The practice was continued of alternating SACRE meetings between afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to accommodate the attendance of as many members as possible.

For SACRE membership (see appendix)

### Officers

The following people have had a function with regard to SACRE:

Simone Whitehouse,  
*RE Adviser, Learning and Assessment Service, Services for Education*

Sarah Marshall  
*Services for Education*

All other officers attend at the invitation of SACRE



### **The statutory role and responsibilities of SACRE:**

- To advise the Local Authority (LA) upon such matters connected with religious worship in community schools as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.
- To advise the LA upon such matters connected with religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus in community schools as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.
- To consider applications made by a head teacher for a determination which lifts the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character for some or all of the pupils at the school.
- To publish an Annual Report.
- To consider whether or not to require a review of the agreed syllabus currently adopted by the LA and to require a Statutory Conference to be called into being to review the agreed syllabus.



## 2. THE BIRMINGHAM AGREED SYLLABUS DEVELOPMENTS

### 1. Enabling Resources Context:

- a. The website [www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk](http://www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk) was further developed as a teaching tool in a number of ways: information, news and interactivity.
- b. Videos of lessons at the different key stages were added to show teachers how the learning materials could be used effectively in a classroom setting.

### 2. Protecting and Embedding the Syllabus in the Community:

- a. We actively and systematically approached Academies to encourage them to continue to use the Syllabus if they left local authority control
- b. Similarly we were pleased to note that Free Schools set up in Birmingham also adopted the Syllabus even though not legally obliged to do so.

### 3. Future Action:

- a. Continued work on the Agreed Syllabus monitoring and evaluation survey
- b. Extending the use of the material developed for the Syllabus into daily Collective Worship in schools to make it more meaningful and spiritually uplifting than the conventional format.



### 3. Trojan horse events and SACRE's response

In Spring 2014 an anonymous letter was circulated to Birmingham City Council and the media purporting to be written by the perpetrators of a plan to increase the influence of Islam in schools. Although it was a hoax three reports were commissioned into the allegations by Peter Clarke, Ian Kershaw and Stephen Rimmer about individuals in certain schools who were teachers or Governors. The recommendations in the reports were incorporated into an action plan by BCC.

BCC asked SACRE to assist with several of the actions and this work has been in progress throughout 2015/16. The key tasks are:

- Quality assurance of current provision of Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship (CW) in Birmingham schools through 150 visits a year by educational professionals familiar with safeguarding children, the legal requirements for RE and CW and the BCC approved syllabus. The visits also include faith schools and academies.
- Further development of curriculum resources to provide age appropriate materials for RE from EYFS to Key Stage 5 and for vulnerable pupils
- Training for Head Teachers and Governors on the legal requirements for RE and collective worship

Prior to visiting schools, SACRE designed and developed a self-evaluation survey tool for schools that will enable the collection and collation of intelligence on current RE & CW provision across the city. The information from the survey will help inform school monitoring visits and provide examples of good practice. A copy of the survey document is at appendix 2.

The development of curriculum resources in 2015/16 included:

- online platforms for the delivery of KS3,4&5 RE and CW materials
- more general website content including "frequently asked questions" about RE in schools
- CPD materials on Collective Worship for schools/governors
- working with School & Governor Support to develop and deliver training for Head Teachers and Governors



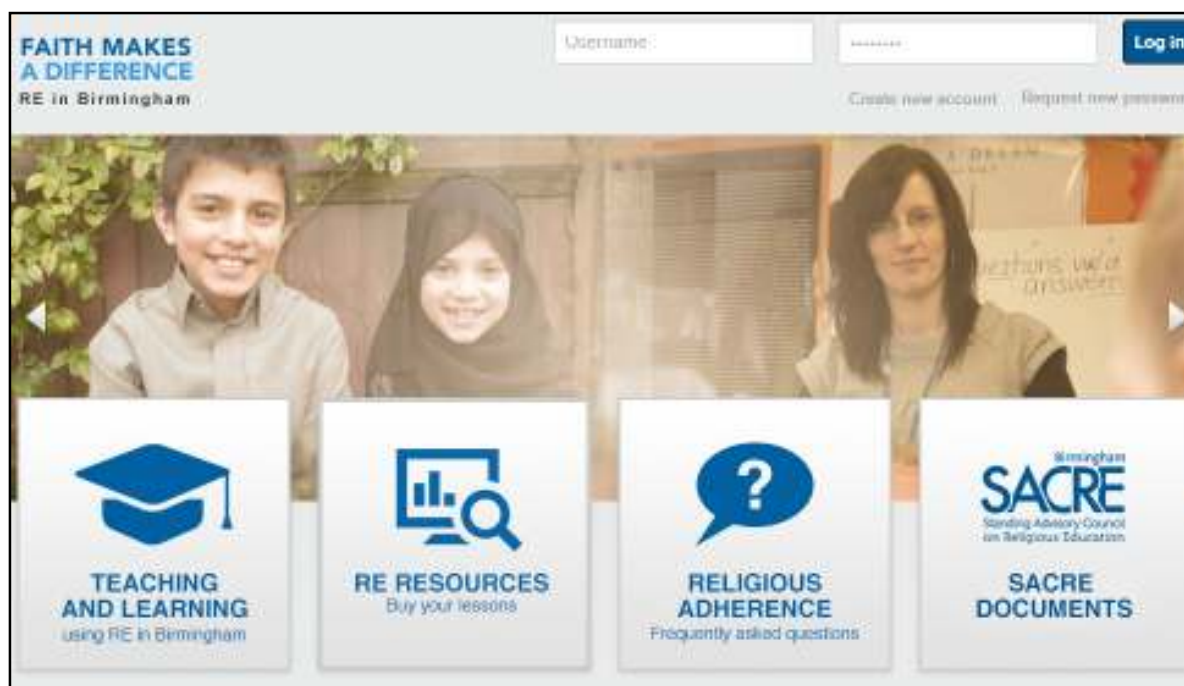
## 4. WEBSITE AND UPDATES

### Updates

The website continues to be a dynamic vehicle for how SACRE's vision for the Agreed Syllabus is shared within schools. For teachers, the schemes of work have been amended and changes have been instantly accessible.

- A comprehensive, multimedia magazine featuring inspirational films and articles to guide you through the Birmingham approach to Religious Education.
- Information for planning Religious Education and delivering Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education for Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Academies.
- Films featuring parents, governors, faith leaders and teachers using and endorsing the Birmingham approach.

[www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk](http://www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk)



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## Purple Mash



[www.purplemash.co.uk](http://www.purplemash.co.uk)

Birmingham SACRE is working in conjunction with the creators of Purple Mash. Our materials can be used with their full range of fun learning activities including making posters, leaflets and post-cards.



Work with Purple Mash is ongoing with an additional 70 'Made in Birmingham' assets and resources due to be rolled out through the Purple Mash website under their 'values' header. It is hoped that these assets will help to generate an income source and enable investment in the further development of resources.



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## SACRE AND OTHER INITIATIVES

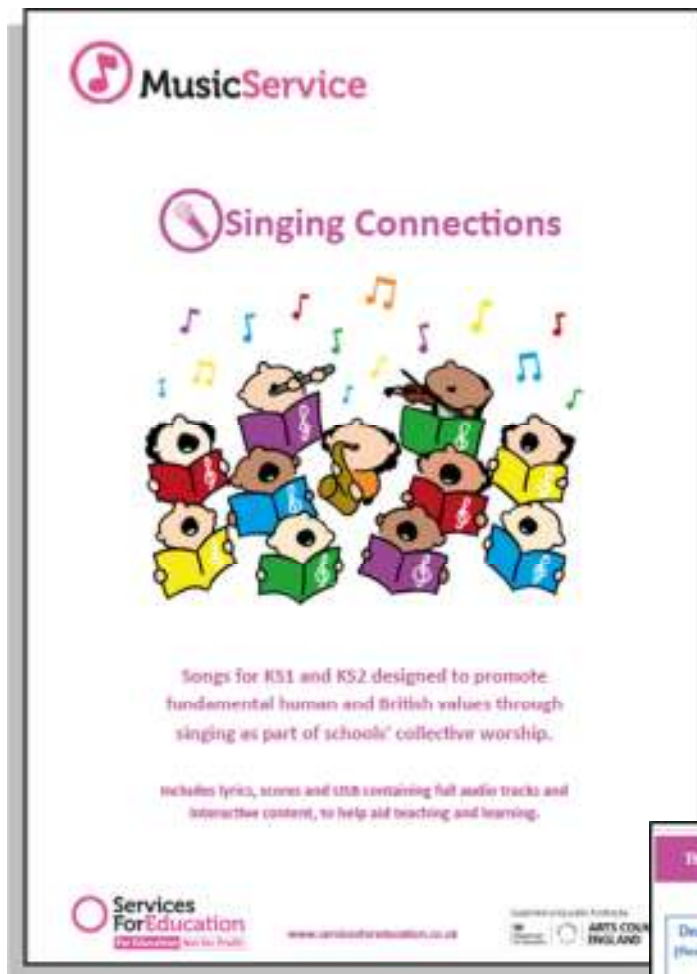
### Sound and Silence

SACRE members worked with Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) to produce the Sound and Silence exhibition which took place 13th September-13th December at BMAG. The exhibition celebrated the personal reflections and experiences of people across the city. Vyka was commissioned to produce an original film which was shown on a loop throughout the exhibition. Through the medium of film, photography, testimony and personal artefacts, the exhibition explored why people pray or contemplate and the effects for individuals, families and communities across six of the major faiths in Birmingham. Artwork from schools was also displayed and school visits took place.




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## Singing Connections

In September, Ciaran O'Donnell, Head of the Music Service visited the SACRE meeting asking for support for a joint venture between SACRE and the Music Service.

The result is 'Singing Connections', songs designed to promote fundamental human and British values (the dispositions of our syllabus) through singing as part of schools' Collective Worship. The songs have been written and composed by Sarah Baker of the Music Service in conjunction with Simone Whitehouse. The songs explore many aspects of behaving and being which help build happy and fulfilled communities.



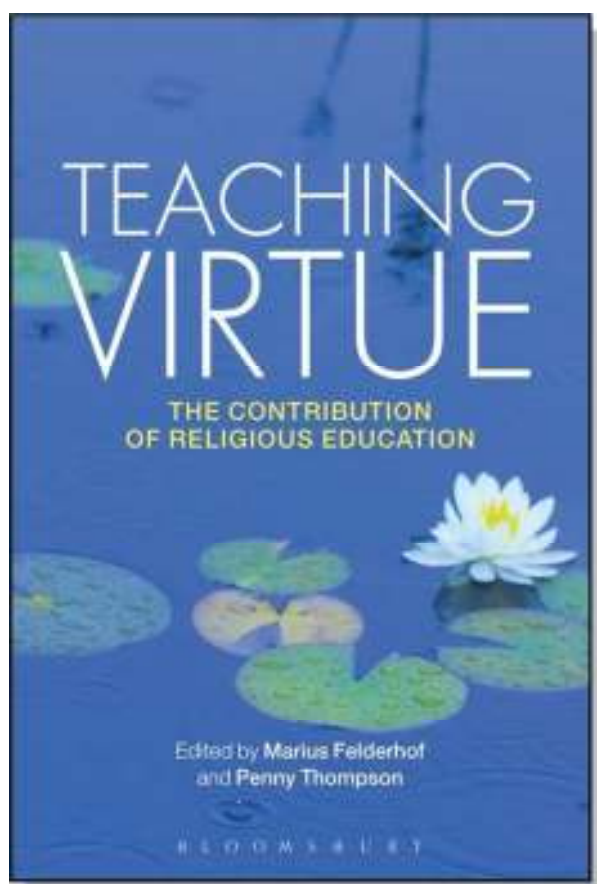
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## Teaching Virtue

In November of 2014 Marius Felderhof and Penny Thompson published 'Teaching Virtue'. The various contributors explore the teaching of virtue ethics through the focus of learning from religion, rather than learning about religion. The authors focus on eight key virtues, examining these for what they can offer of religious value for pupils and teachers.

'Teaching Virtue' contains many intellectual and creative insights in a skilful blend of theory and practice that ensures that this collection will be an invaluable resource for school practitioners, academics and policy makers for years to come'. Stephen McKinney, Professor and leader of Creativity, Culture and Faith research group, University of Glasgow.



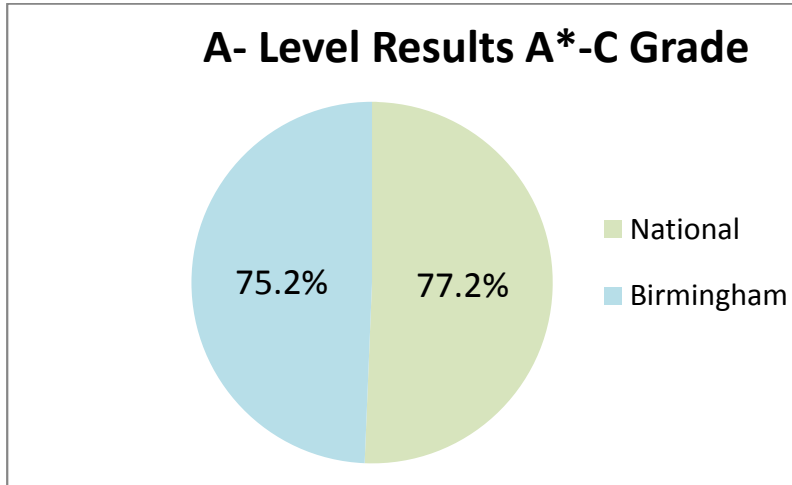
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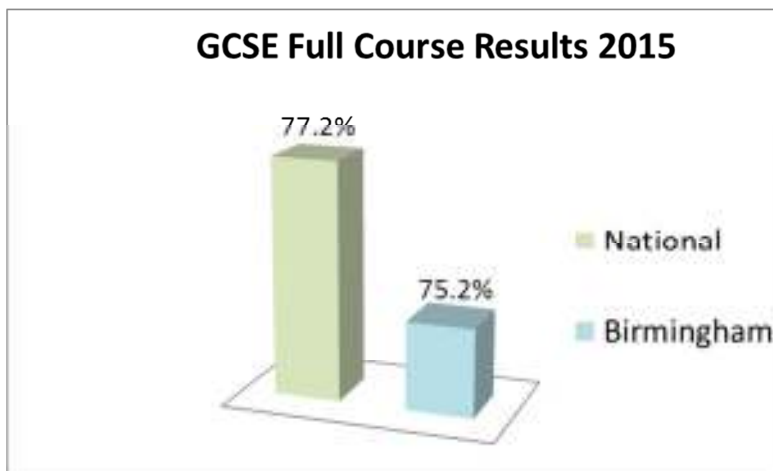


## 5. EXAM RESULTS

### 2015 A-LEVEL RESULTS A\* - C



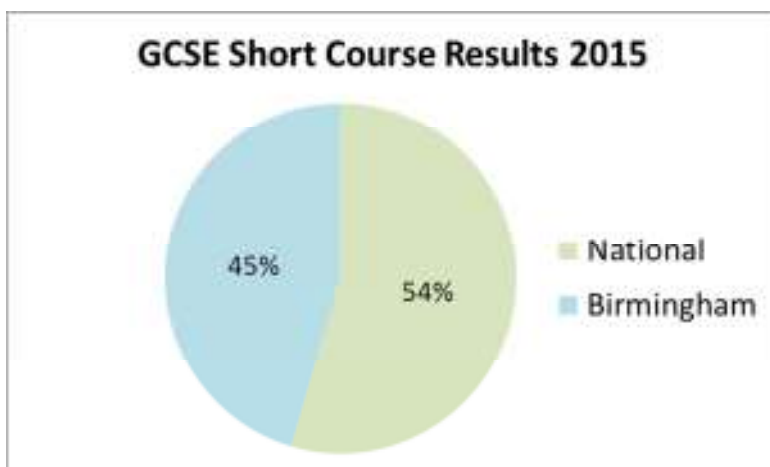
### 2015 FULL COURSE A\* - C



- 35% gained A\*-A grades.
- 52% of pupils on role were

entered for the exam

### 2015 SHORT COURSE A\* - C



- 9% of pupils on role were entered for the exam

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## 6. DVDs SUPPORTING THE AGREED SYLLABUS

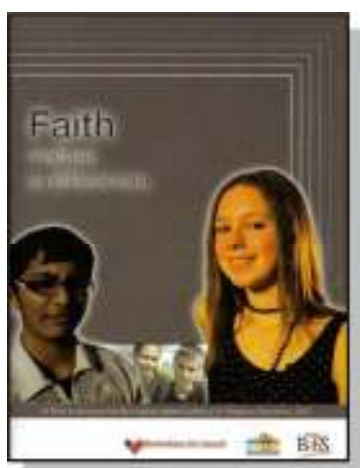
To enhance the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus, and working with Television Junction, SACRE has commissioned a series of DVDs to support the syllabus.

### Teaching Resources

These include *“Faith makes a difference”* which provides over four hours of material which takes a unique look at faith through the 24 dispositions.

These are suitable for primary and secondary phases of education.

More recently, this has been augmented by *“Learning from Faith: Early Years”*.

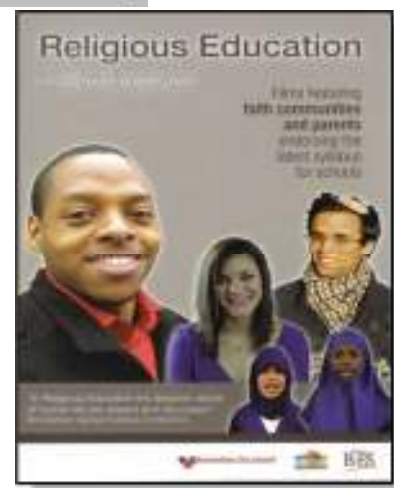


It introduces the aims and shows how the new RE syllabus can be built into everyday practice in the Early Years phase of education.

Whilst RE is not statutory in the Early Years Foundation Stage, the film demonstrates how practitioners and leaders find the syllabus useful in planning their activities.

### Ownership by Parents and Faith Communities

*“Religious Education in Birmingham”* provides a series of films in which faith communities and parents endorse the Agreed Syllabus. *“What I like about the new Syllabus is that it takes children’s spirituality seriously.”* - **Bishop David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham**







## 7. DETERMINATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) states that “the majority of Acts of Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character. They should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination”.

However, it recognises that, although the spiritual traditions of the country are Christian, in some schools the spiritual/cultural make-up includes significant numbers of pupils of many faith traditions.

In these schools an application can be made to SACRE for a Determination which lifts the requirement that the majority acts of collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a Christian character”.

School	Date determination Granted by SACRE	Date of Expiry/ Renewal
Adderley Primary	April 2015	April 2020
Anderton Park Primary School	January 2008	January 2013
Arden Primary School	September 2014	September 2019
Birchfield Community School	September 2015	September 2020
Bordesley Green Girls’ Specialist and Enterprise School	September 2013	September 2018
Broadway School	September 2012	September 2018
Canterbury Cross Primary School	September 2015	September 2020
City Road Primary School	January 2010	September 2015
Conway Primary School	September 2004	September 2009
Cromwell JI (NC) School	September 2012	September 2017
George Dixon International	September 2011	September 2016
Highfield JI	December 2013	January 2018
Ladypool Primary	December 2013	January 2018
Marlborough Infant School	September 2015	September 2020
Marlborough Junior School	December 2013	January 2018
Moseley School Language College	June 2011	June 2016
Nansen Primary School	September 2010	September 2015
Oldknow Academy	January 2006	January 2011
Park View Secondary School	April 2008 “part school”	April 2013

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Parkfield Primary School	January 2010	January 2015
Shaw Hill Primary School	September 2013 “part school”	September 2018
Somerville JI School	June 2010	September 2015
Springfield Primary School	September 2009	September 2014
Starbank Primary School	April 2003	April 2008
Washwood Heath Technology College	September 2012 “part school”	September 2017
Wilkes Green Junior School	September 2015	September 2020
Yew Tree Community School	January 2013	January 2018



## 8. SACRE MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL YEARS TO SEPTEMBER 2014-15

### COMMITTEE A:

Christian and other religious denominations, not including the Church of England

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais of Birmingham	-	Representative Council of Birmingham and Midland Jewry	Shmuel Arkush Amanda Grant (co-opted)
Heart of England Baptist Association	Revd Siôr Coleman	Methodist Church	Keith Dennis
West Midlands Buddhist Council	Tony Lister	Muslim Liaison Committee	Zahida Hussain Malik Hussain Azkar Mohammed Nasim Awan Mohammed Hashim Tahir Alam Elaine Ashraf
Council of Black-led churches	Garfield Spencer		
Duke Street Chapel	Janet Hopton	Greek Orthodox Church	Kosmos Pavlides
Churches Associated with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Sue Fearon	Rastafarian Community	Jennifer Moses (co-opted)
Hindu Community	Shyam Bhayani	Roman Catholic Church	Father Edwin Cownley Bill Ozanne
International Mahavia Jain Mission	Arvinder Jain (co-opted)	Sikh Community	Gopinder Kaur
		United Reformed Church	Dr. Marius Felderhof

### COMMITTEE B: The Church of England

Jill Stolberg  
Andrew Smith  
Rachel Jepson

Patricia Williams  
Linda Isiorho  
Evelyn Murphy

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### COMMITTEE C: Teachers' Associations

<b>ATL</b>	<i>Andrew Hopton</i>	<b>NUT</b>	<i>Lucretia Fields Samantha Dawson-Smith Ayesha Maher</i>
<b>NAHT includes BHTA</b>	- -	<b>ASCL</b>	<i>Ronald Skelton</i>
<b>NASUWT</b>	<i>Alan Jones Stella Ucheobi Clare Kelly</i>	<b>Voice</b>	<i>Jane Hetherington</i>

### COMMITTEE D: The Local Authority

<i>Birmingham City Council - Guy Hordern Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal Councillor Fiona Williams Councillor Barry Henley</i>	<i>Councillor Jon Hunt Councillor Chauhdry Rashid Councillor Lyn Collin Councillor Phillip Davis</i>
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### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

<i>Simone Whitehouse RE Adviser, Learning &amp; Assessment Service, Services for Education</i>	<i>Sarah Marshall Clerk, Services for Education</i>
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### SACRE WORKING GROUPS

<b>Curriculum</b>		<b>Pupil Related Projects</b>	
<i>Sue Fearon</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Azkhar Mohammed</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Jill Stolberg</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>Samantha Dawson</i>	<i>C</i>
<i>Tony Lister</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Sandra Bailey (Convenor)</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Rachel Jepson</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>Simone Whitehouse</i>	<i>LA</i>
<i>Elaine Ashraf</i>	<i>A</i>		
<i>Zahida Hussain</i>	<i>A</i>		
<i>Simone Whitehouse (Convenor)</i>	<i>LA</i>		
<b>Finance</b>		<b>Collective Worship</b>	

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*Shmuel Arkush*

*A*

*Siôr Coleman* (Convenor)

*A*

*Marius Felderhof*

*A*

*Jill Stolberg*

*B*

*Guy Hordern* (Convenor)

*D*

*Tahir Alam*

*A*

*Mohammed Hashim*

*A*

*Sue Fearon*

*A*

*Malik Fazal Hussain*

*A*

*Azkhar Mohammed*

*A*

*Nasim Awan*

*A*

*Zahida Hussain*

*A*

*Simone Whitehouse*

*LA*

**IT**

*Shmuel Arkush* (Convenor)