

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



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Introduction

During this year Birmingham SACRE has continued with its statutory duty to advise the local authority on Religious Education and Collective Worship. In addition, the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) convened in 2017 continues its work of Reviewing the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The syllabus will take account of national and local developments that have arisen since the last Agreed Syllabus Conference.

As ever our thanks go to the members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference for their commitment and for their generosity in voluntarily giving so much of their time to the work of SACRE. Our thanks also go to Birmingham City Council for providing the funding needed to enable the Birmingham SACRE to do its work in assisting teachers and giving them the support and materials to deliver the Agreed Syllabus and to hold daily acts of Collective worship. Many thanks also go to the teaching staff of Birmingham who deliver the syllabus to enable the dispositions to be lived in the lives of the pupils in Birmingham.

We must also thank the syllabus' two drafting secretaries: Dr. Marius Felderhof and Dr. Simone Whitehouse for their dedication, professionalism and hard work.

During this year we have also used the NASACRE audit tool to review and evaluate where we are as a SACRE. Cross committee groups discussed areas of this document to reflect upon our current practices and to decide on the future focus of our work. This will be steered through the work of the SACRE Chairs' group.

With the prospect of a new agreed syllabus there are exciting times ahead for Religious Education in Birmingham.

Regards,
Cllr Tristan Chatfield
Chair June 2018-February 2019

Cllr John Cotton
Chair February 2019- Present

Full SACRE meetings during 2018-2019

- 17th September 2018 Agreed Syllabus Conference and SACRE
- 29th November 2018 Agreed Syllabus Conference
- 14th February 2019 - SACRE
- 1st July 2019 – SACRE

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, Services for Education

Natasha Lawson-Hollingsworth
Clerk, administration and finance, 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.

Developments

1. Enabling Resources Context:

- a. The website 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 adopted a systematic approach to 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.

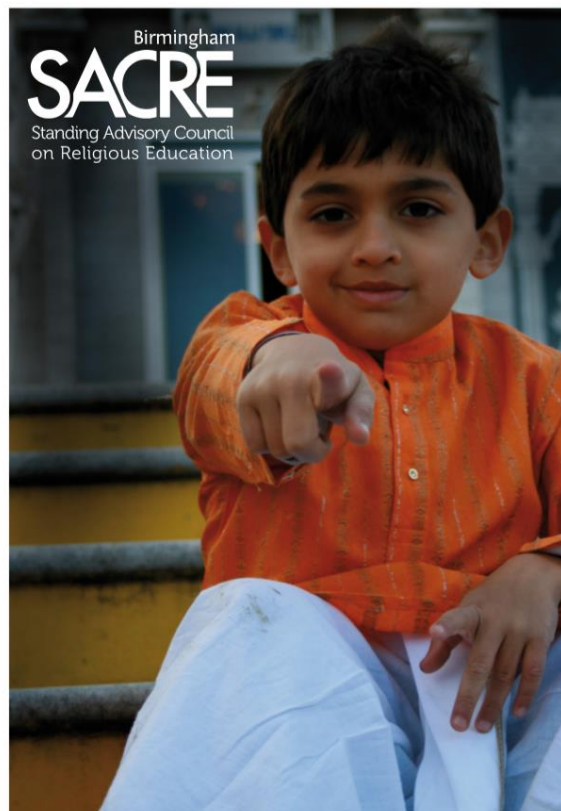
3. Future Action

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.

Matters Concerning Religious Adherence

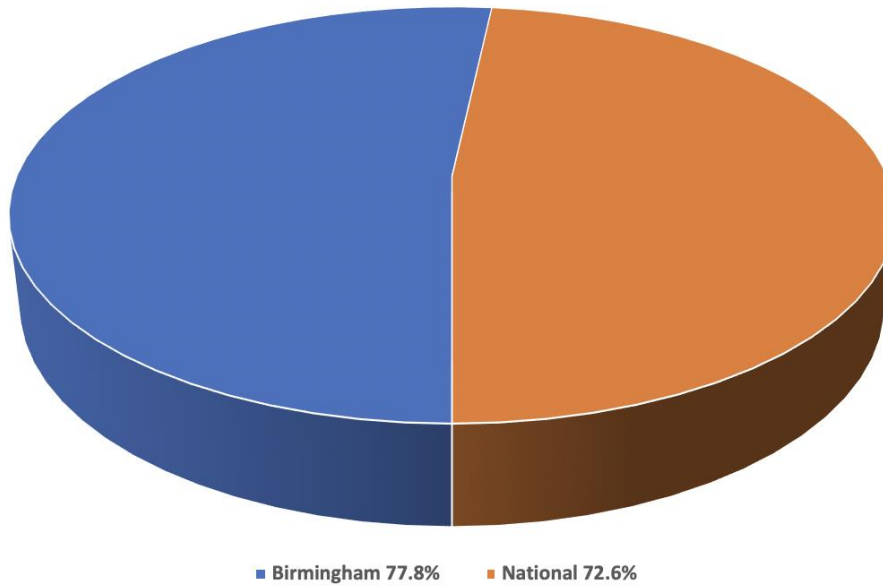
SACRE produced guidance regarding religious adherence a few years ago. Since then a SACRE group has been working to update this document to address the guidance concerning leave of absence for family religious adherence. The guidance highlights that religious ceremonies may or may not form part of a religious festival. That some festivals or ceremonies may require observance on the day, others during that evening, whilst others can be celebrated at the nearest weekend. The guidance also stresses that this may be different for different branches in the same religion, so it is important to ask the family involved. Where necessary this may involve getting in touch with the parents' religious body. In addition to the previous guidance, SACRE in line with the Local Authority, strongly advises that schools avoid 100% attendance award schemes since this has the potential to discriminate against children on religious grounds. SACRE also reinforces that there should be an expectation that pupils will catch up from any work missed during days taken for religious adherence. Religious groups have also updated their days of religious adherence which are required unavoidably. For the updated guidance follow the link:

<https://www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk/faqs>

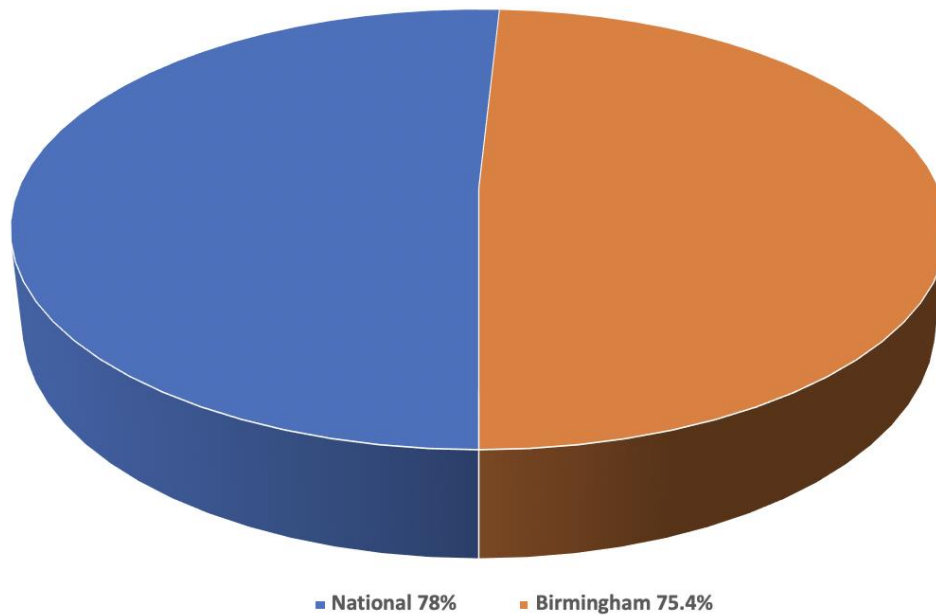


Exam Results

GCSE Full Course Results Grade 9 - 4 (equivalent A* - C) 2018

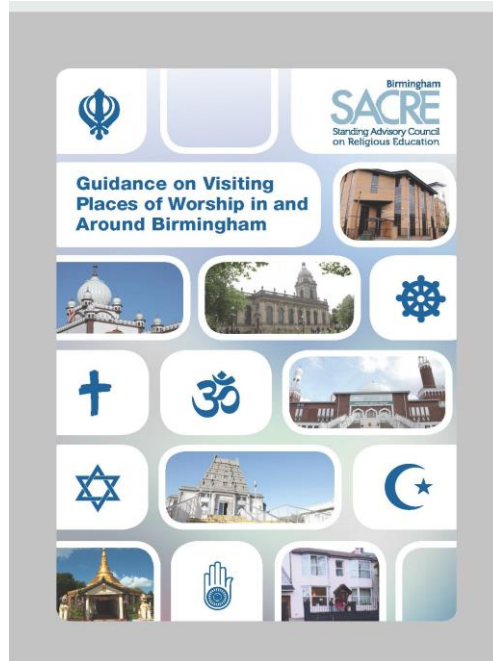


A Level results A* - C 2018

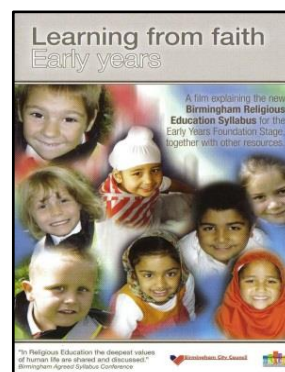
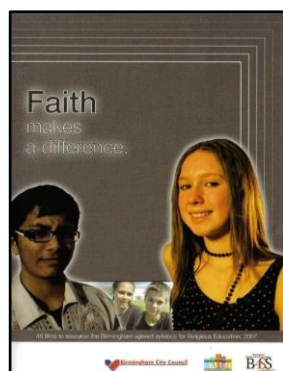


Resources Supporting Religious Education and Collective Worship

To enhance the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, and working with Vyka, SACRE has commissioned a series of resources to support the syllabus.



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.

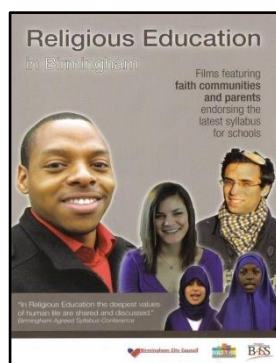
More recently, this has been augmented by *“Learning from Faith: Early Years”*.

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.

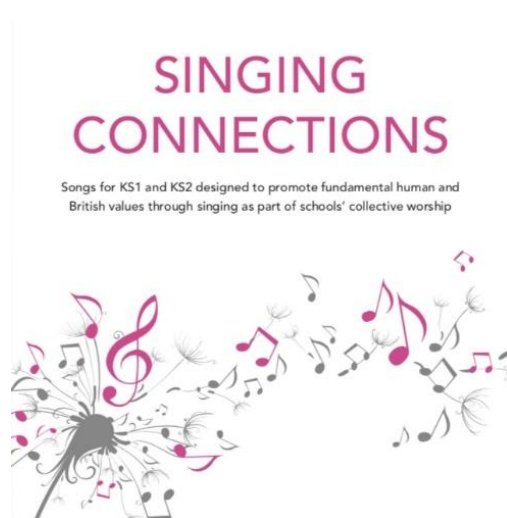
Ownership by Parents and Faith Communities

“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**



Singing Connections

Collective Worship resource developed with colleagues from the Music Service



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 School	April 2015	April 2020
Arden Primary School	September 2014	September 2019
Birchfield Community School	September 2015	September 2020
Canterbury Cross Primary School	September 2015	September 2020
Kings Heath Primary School	September 2016	September 2021
Ladypool Primary School	September 2019	September 2024
Marlborough Infant School	September 2015	September 2020
Wilkes Green Junior School	September 2015	September 2020

SACRE Membership Appointments From 2018

<u>COMMITTEE A</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association	Waqar Ahmedi
Baptist Churches	Revd Siôr Coleman
Buddhist Community	
The New Jerusalem Church	Bishop Melvin Brooks
Duke Street Chapel	Janet Hopton
Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC)	Sue Fearon
Hindu Community	Kuldip Singh Ubhi
	Jay Jina
	Tarang Shelat
Jewish Community	Rabbi Shmuel Arkush
Methodist Church	Keith Dennis
Muslim Community	Gulamraza Dattoo
	Zahida Hussain
	Elaine Ashraf
	Sara Visram
	Shamin Akhtar
	Shamsul Arifeen
	Sheikh Nuru Mohammed
Orthodox Church	
Roman Catholic Church	Peter Conley

	Bill Ozanne
Sikh Community	Gopinder Kaur
United Reformed Church	Revd. Dr Marius Felderhof

COMMITTEE B

<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
The Church of England	Dr Rachel Jepson
	Patricia Williams
	Jill Stolberg
	Jill Appleton
	Canon Dr. Andrew Smith
	Evelyn Murphy

COMMITTEE C

<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
ATL	Andrew Hopton
NAHT	Sarah Hewitt-Clarkson
NASUWT	Alan Jones
	Clare Kelly
	Jo Weir
NEU	Samantha Dawson-Smith
ASCL	Ronald Skelton
Voice	Jane Hetherington

<u>COMMITTEE D</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
The Local Authority	Guy Hordern
	Olly Armstrong
	Chauhdry Rashid
	Debbie Clancy
	Gurdial Singh Atwal
	Sybil Spence
	John Cotton
	Blair Kessler
	Tristan Chatfield
<u>CO-OPTED</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
Rastafarian Community	Jennifer Moses
Jewish Community	Paul Rostern-Smart
Church of the Latter Day Saints	David Cook
Jain Community	Arvinder Jain
Humanist Association	-
Higher Education	Lisa Goddard

Officers in Attendance

Simone Whitehouse

RE Adviser, Services for Education

Natasha Lawson-Hollingsworth

*Clerk, administration and finance, Services for
Education*

Paul Davies

Digital Services Adviser, Vyka Ltd