

Annual Report
2019 - 2020
2020 - 2021



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Introduction

During these two years Birmingham SACRE has continued with its statutory duty to advise the local authority on Religious Education and Collective Worship, even though meetings have been disrupted due to the Covid pandemic.

At the time of writing the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) convened in 2017 is nearing its completion. Without giving too much away, with the continued use of the dispositions in Religious Education you will need to 'watch this space' in order to see the new syllabus and the updated teaching resources. As ever our thanks go to the members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference for their time and commitment. We must also thank the syllabus' two drafting secretaries: Dr. Marius Felderhof and Dr. Simone Whitehouse for their dedication and work.

It is with sadness that we mark the death of David Perkins in August 2019. David was the former CEO of Services for Education and had been involved with SACRE for many years with his work at BCC. Through his commitment many projects have been enabled and the work of SACRE has flourished over recent years. David's dedication and support has been greatly appreciated and will be sadly missed.

With the statutory introduction of Relationships, Sex and Health Education in September of 2020, I am pleased to report SACRE's partnership with Birmingham City Council in the generation of planning documents to support the teaching of this important curriculum area. These planning documents map the continuities between the dispositions and this recently introduced area of provision.

With this in mind and with a new syllabus nearing completion there are exciting times ahead for Religious Education in Birmingham. As ever we wish to thank all of the volunteer members on SACRE who give so much of their time and commitment to enable the teachers in the city to have the support and materials to deliver Religious Education and 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.

Regards,

Cllr. John Cotton
Chair Birmingham SACRE

Full SACRE meetings during 2019-2020

- 26th September 2019 SACRE
- 26th November 2019 Agreed Syllabus Conference and SACRE
- 11th February 2020 Agreed Syllabus Conference and SACRE
- 2nd July 2020 SACRE – scheduled meeting did not take place due to Covid-19

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.

Full SACRE meetings during 2020-2021

Due to the Covid pandemic, meetings did not take place this year

For SACRE membership (see appendix)

Officers

David Bishop, *Birmingham City Council*

Alan Michell, *Birmingham City Council*

Laura Hendry, *Birmingham City Council*

Simone Whitehouse, *RE Adviser, Services for Education*

Natasha Lawson-Hollingsworth, *Clerking, Services for Education*

Paul Davies, *Vyka Ltd*

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.

Agreed Syllabus Conference

The task of an Agreed Syllabus Conference is to unanimously agree a syllabus for Religious Education to be taught to pupils who live in an inclusive city where there are families from different faith communities who live side by side with families who adhere to other perspectives. The Conference comprises four groups as required by law, each of which has an interest in Religious Education. The four groups included teachers, City Council representatives and representatives from the wide range of faith communities that enrich Birmingham.

This Agreed Syllabus is being devised for schools in the diverse city of Birmingham; a city where many faiths flourish. For the purposes of RE, nine religious traditions have been noted to have a significant representation within the city (Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Rastafari, Sikhism). Additionally, the syllabus will take into consideration the growing number of people who do not adhere to traditional religious beliefs or attend religious institutions. The syllabus looks to positively influence the lives of all pupils in Birmingham, beginning their journey through RE from a familiar place. Hence, heritage and background are considered to be the best starting point for each child, whether this encompasses a religious affiliation or not. Every tradition is entitled to be presented accurately. No person should be subjected to a distorted characterisation by others or be the object of intolerance or hatred.

Dispositions

The syllabus will continue in the same direction as the 2007 syllabus with the learning driven through the 24 dispositions, in order that pupils not only gain knowledge of religions and non-religious worldviews, but also understand and be concerned with what traditions are about, that is how to live well and in harmony with others.

Dimensions of Learning

The Birmingham Agreed Syllabus Conference has decided that in addition to 'Learning About Religious Traditions' and 'Learning From Faith', 'Learning from Experience' and an evaluative element is also needed. 'Learning to Discern' enables pupils to be given the opportunity to engage more reflectively and critically in their understanding of religious and non-religious perspectives. The dispositions are collectively developed through these four related dimensions.

In every phase of a pupil's education, different aspects of the four dimensions will have a greater or lesser emphasis in terms of pupil outcomes. In the primary phase, greater emphasis will be given to Learning From Experience, Learning About religious and non-religious traditions and Learning From Faith. While in the secondary phase, Learning About and Learning to Discern will take priority. Each dimension will be explored at an appropriate level for every phase of a pupil's education. When planning, questions have been generated in order to prompt this development.

Being Thankful

At this point in the process we would like to express our gratitude to Dr Simone Whitehouse and Dr Marius Felderhof who together, with Paul Davies, are responsible for the drafting of the Agreed Syllabus. Our thanks also go to the members of the Conference who are giving so generously of their time and expertise to create the syllabus in order to enable the pupils of Birmingham to have access to the treasury of traditions within the city.

SEND

Birmingham SACRE is committed to supporting all SEND pupils and their teachers in both mainstream and special school settings. Monitoring visits to a sample of Birmingham's special schools during 2016 and 2017 revealed that teachers and carers in special education are finding it particularly difficult to deliver the statutory requirements for Religious Education. The monitoring also revealed concerns that some SEND pupils are more vulnerable to the pressures that can lead to radicalisation. In answer to these concerns, a growing resource is being authored to assist special school teachers.

Resources

Teaching the syllabus will continue to be supported by a series of bespoke lesson plans which are available by accessing our website. These resources will be updated ready for the teaching of the new Agreed Syllabus.

Examination Results

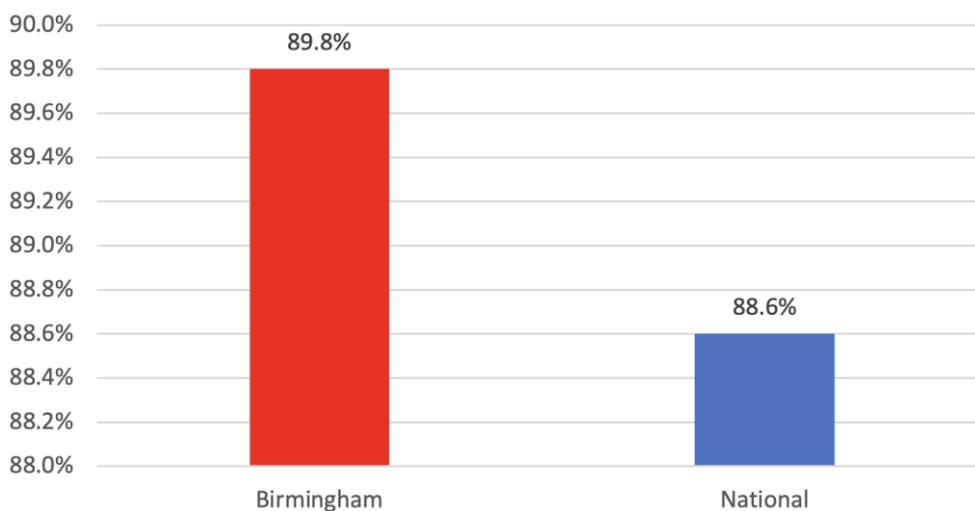
GCSE Results

Only the national data is available for this time frame (2019-21) due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
From the table below you can see the data from the previous two years (2017-19) in order to contextualise.

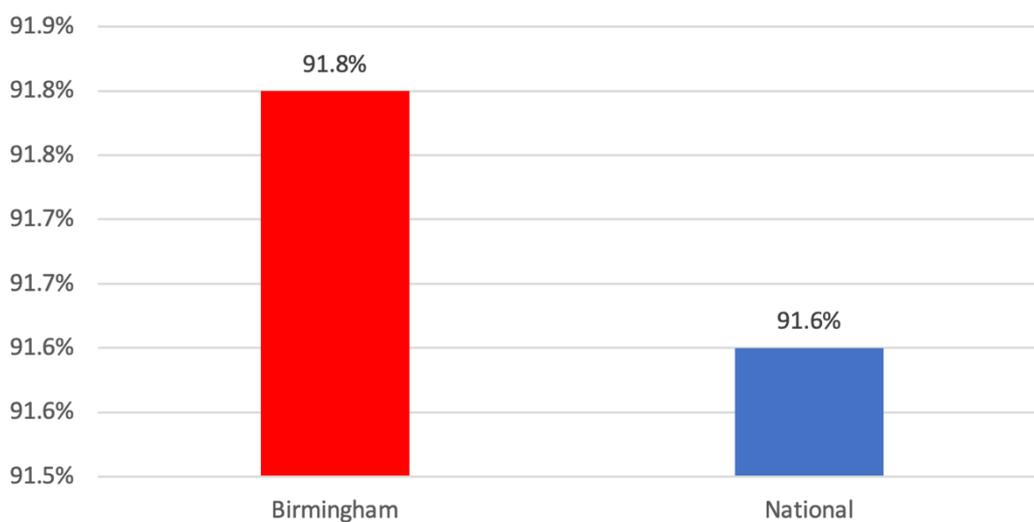
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
The percentage of pupils achieving a grade A*-A/9-7	30%	30.7%	34.5%	37.4%
The percentage of pupils achieving a grade A*-C/9-4	71.8%	72.4%	79.5%	80%
The percentage of pupils achieving a grade A*-G/9-1	98.1%	98.2%	99.2%	98.7%

A level and AS results

A and AS Level percentage achieving A* - C 2019



A and AS Level percentage achieving A* - C 2020

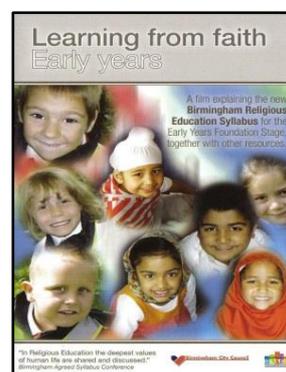
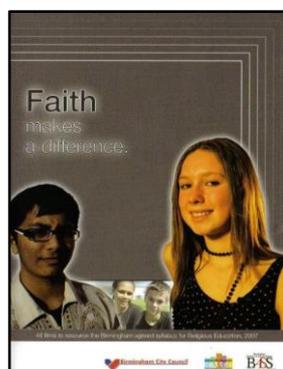


Resources supporting Religious Education and Collective Worship

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



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



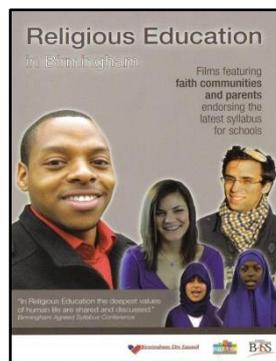
These are suitable for primary and secondary phases of education.

'Learning from Faith: Early Years' 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.

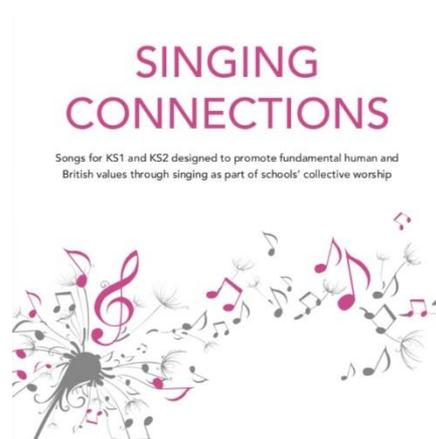
Ownership by Parents and Faith Communities

“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**



Collective Worship

Singing Connections is a resource developed with colleagues from the Music Service containing music and lyrics which can be used in Collective Worship.



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
Birchfield Community School	September 2015	September 2020
Bordesley Green Primary School	September 2016	September 2021
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	April 2015	April 2020
Moseley Secondary School	September 2016	September 2021
Somerville Primary School	September 2016	September 2021
Starbank Primary School	April 2017	April 2022
Wilkes Green Junior School (William Murdoch Primary School)	September 2015	September 2020

SACRE Membership Appointments From 2019

<u>COMMITTEE A</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association	Waqar Ahmedi
Baptist Churches	Reverend Siôr Coleman
Buddhist Community	-
The New Jerusalem Church	Bishop Melvin Brooks
Duke Street Chapel	Janet Hopton
Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC)	Sue Fearon - ending July 2019 Matthew Cook – starting July 2019
Hindu Community	Kuldip Singh Ubhi
	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	Bill Ozanne
	Fr. Peter Conley

Sikh Community	Gopinder Kaur
United Reformed Church	-

<u>COMMITTEE B</u>	
<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

<u>COMMITTEE C</u>	
<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	Ron Skelton
Voice	Jane Hetherington

<u>COMMITTEE D</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
The Local Authority	Guy Hordern
	Cllr. Olly Armstrong
	Cllr. Chauhdry Rashid
	Cllr. Debbie Clancy
	Cllr. Gurdial Singh Atwal
	Cllr. Sybil Spence
	Cllr. John Cotton (Chair)
	Blair Kessler
<u>CO-OPTED</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
Baha’l Community	-
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
Educational expertise	Sue Fearon