

Annual Report 2021 - 2022



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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. I am proud to state that during this year, the new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education has been agreed by the Conference and was adopted by the City Council on 8th February 2022 with cross party support. It was heartening to know that although the wider community could not physically attend the meeting (due the Covid regulations) many people tuned in and watched through a live link to watch 'the moment'. Throughout the summer term, training of teachers took place and teachers were shown a new film that had been produced outlining the changes and updates in the new syllabus in readiness for teaching at the start of the new academic year. Advisers, teachers and faith communities have been involved in updating the lesson planning materials which will now be housed within the City Council main website.

Again, I wish to thank all of the volunteer members on the Agreed Syllabus Conference and 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

Overview SACRE Meetings

Full SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings during 2020-2021

- **7th October 2021 SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference, Broadway Academy:** Determination from Kings Heath Primary School was discussed and accepted by all committees. Members were appraised of the CORE Report and a discussion took place. The Agreed Syllabus Conference discussed the position of worldviews, humanism and the nones within the Agreed Syllabus.
- **1st March 2022 SACRE, The Signing Tree:** Determination applications from Bordesley Green Primary School and Blakesley Hall Primary School were considered and granted. The majority of the meeting centred round discussion of the Agreed Syllabus implementation: lesson plan update and promotion.
- **27th June 2022 SACRE, Broadway Academy:** The meeting was appraised of the progress on updating the lesson planning in accordance with the new Agreed Syllabus, training for teachers that was taking place and a new film that had been produced to highlight the changes and updates in the new syllabus. The renewal of the Constitution was also discussed.
- 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

Laura Hendry, Birmingham City Council

Dr. Simone Whitehouse-James, RE Adviser, Services for Education

All other officers attend at the invitation of SACRE

Paul Davies, Vyka Ltd

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.

The Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

Agreed Syllabus Conference

The task of an Agreed Syllabus Conference is to unanimously agree a syllabus for Religious Education. This syllabus will be taught to pupils who live in an inclusive city where there are families from different traditions (religious and non-religious) live side by side. The Conference comprised of 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 and non-religious worldviews that enrich Birmingham. The Agreed

Syllabus was agreed by the Conference 10th November 2021 and adopted by the Birmingham City Council's Cabinet 8th February 2022.

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 belong to religious institutions. Within this 'group' whilst some people adhere to a non-religious worldview, others would state that they do not have a particular worldview and are known by a sociological term the 'nones'. 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 pupil, whether this encompasses a religious affiliation or not.

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 religious and non-religious worldviews but will also begin to 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.

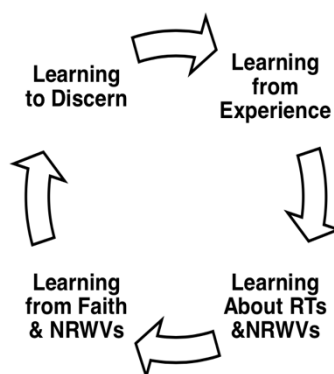
The dispositions are collectively developed through these four related dimensions. In each phase of a pupil's education, different aspects of the four dimensions will have a greater or lesser emphasis in terms of pupil outcomes. Each dimension will be explored at an appropriate level for every phase of a pupil's education. When planning, questions have been generated in order to prompt this development.

- Learning from Experience
- Learning about RTs and NRWVs*
- Learning from Faith and NRWVs*
- Learning to Discern.

Key:

*RTs- Religious Traditions

*NRWVs- Non-Religious Worldviews.



Resources and Training

The teaching of the syllabus will continue to be supported by a series of bespoke lesson plans which are available online. These resources will be updated ready for the teaching of the new Agreed Syllabus. Hybrid training has been made available to teachers and, many took the opportunity to top up their knowledge of the Birmingham approach with an online overview course, whilst others opted for a face to face more detailed look at RE, the origin of the dispositions and the new syllabus.



Being Thankful

At this point in the process we would like to express our gratitude to Dr Marius Felderhof and Dr Simone Whitehouse-James who together, with the support of 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.



Teacher training for schools delivered by Services for Education



Understanding the 2022 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education – an overview. *An introduction to the main changes made in the new Agreed Syllabus. Taking place virtually over two hours.*

13th June
16th June
17th June
20th June AM and PM
21st June
12th July

Understanding the 2022 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education – in detail. *A more comprehensive look at the new syllabus in the light of Religious Education as locally determined and the background to the dispositional approach. This training was delivered face to face.*

14th June
22nd June AM and PM
24th June

Primary RE Subject Leaders' Network. *A termly updates session for primary subject leaders to network and gain local and national updates. A face to face delivery.*

11th October, 15th February, 27th May

New to Leading RE. *A face to face one and a half day course to immerse new leaders to the role of leading and managing the subject of RE, within national and local contexts.*

20th October and 25th January

Standards and monitoring of RE

Correspondence with schools

At each SACRE meeting the Religious Education adviser feeds back on the correspondence with schools. This can take many forms:

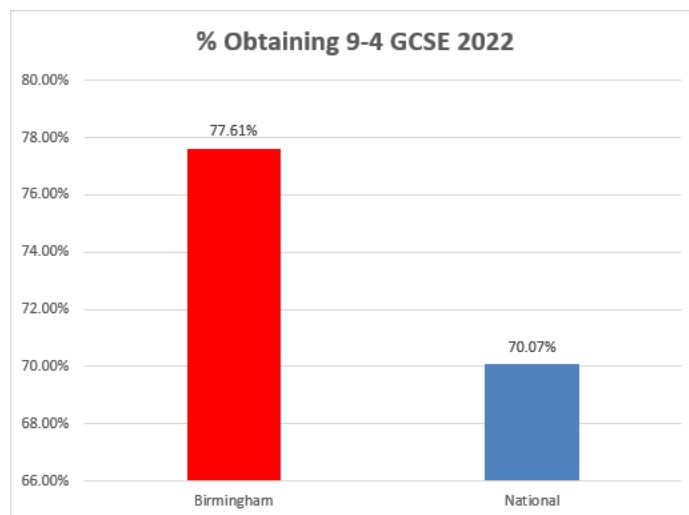
- Phone calls and emails asking for advice
- Reports on work carried out with individual schools, such as working with new RE leads, working with current RE leaders, observing lessons, working with a school council, training a governing body
- Training for whole staff groups
- Training delivered at Services for Education to teachers
- Reviews of schools for Religious Education or SMSC
- Schools contacting to share good practice
- Schools asking to review their documentation

Ofsted

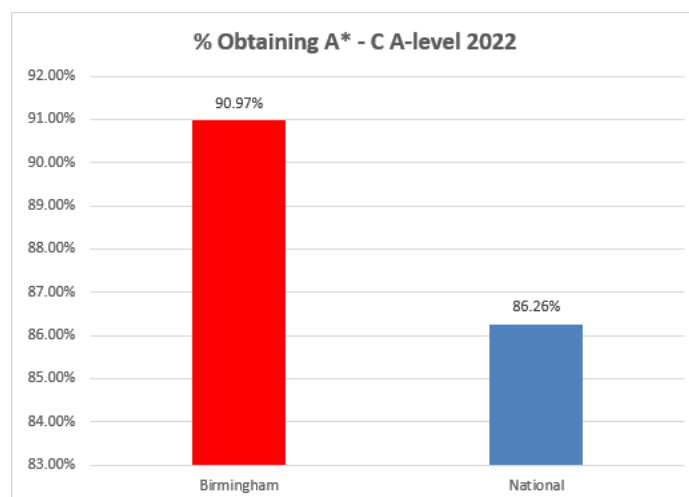
Ofsted reports are read and scrutinised and the SACRE is informed of comments in regard to Religious Education, Collective Worship, SMSC or as to whether a school was subject to a deep dive in RE. Letters are sent to schools where good practice has been identified. Where an ofsted report reveals concern, the RE adviser writes to the headteacher on SACRE's behalf to arrange suitable support. Likewise, where there is not a comment about Religious Education, a school is asked to write to SACRE to explain their current practice.

Examination Results

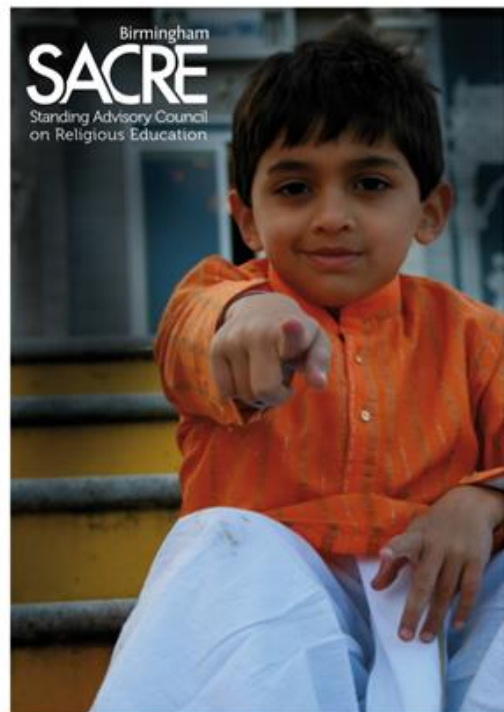
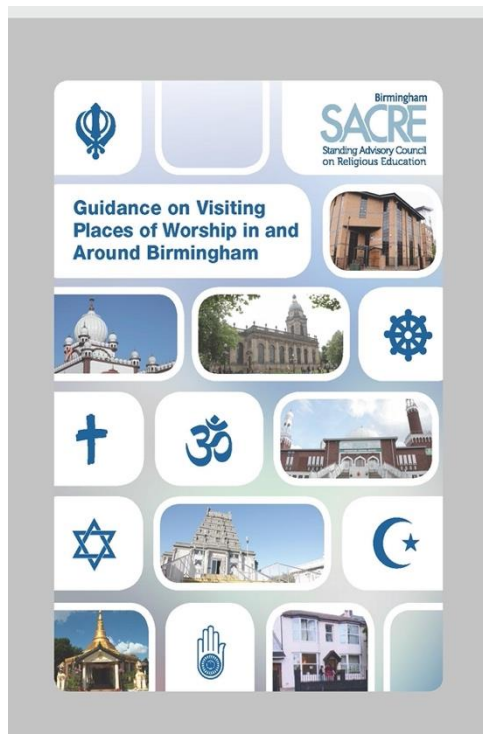
GCSE Results



A level and AS results



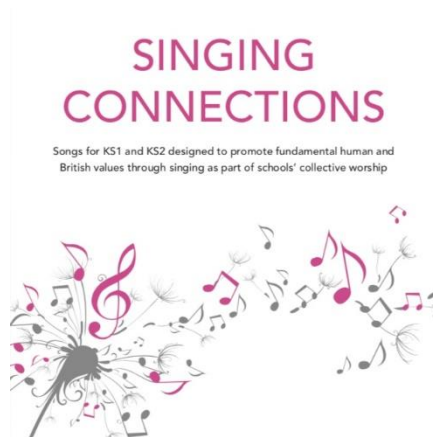
Resources supporting Religious Education



The resources (lesson plans, resource sheets and films) to support the teaching of Religious Education in Birmingham are currently being updated to be in line with the 2022 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Resources supporting 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 and increasingly, a growing number of pupils from non-religious worldviews and pupils from a background termed as ‘nones’ (in that the families do not adhere to a religious nor non-religious worldview).

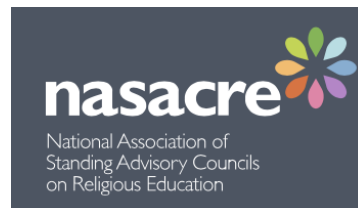
In these schools an application can be made to SACRE for a Determination which lifts the requirement that the majority acts of collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a Christian character’.

Schools with a current determination for Collective Worship

School	Date determination granted by SACRE	Date of Expiry/ Renewal
Blakesley Hall Primary School	April 2022	April 2027
Bordesley Green Primary School	April 2022	April 2027
Kings Heath Primary School	September 2021	September 2026
Ladypool Primary School	September 2019	September 2024
Starbank Primary School	April 2017	April 2022

Links with other bodies

National Bodies:



Local Bodies:



ENCOUNTER
PROGRAMME



Local Agreements:



Local involvement:

Advice on issues within the community:

- Religious observance
- Places of worship to visit in Birmingham
- Birmingham trained faith guides to speak in schools

matters concerning

1 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- What is the suggested time for RE?
- How can pupils work be recorded in RE?
- How can I be sensitive to religious adherents when planning teaching activities when using material from religious life?
- How do I find out about places of worship and planning a visit?

matters concerning

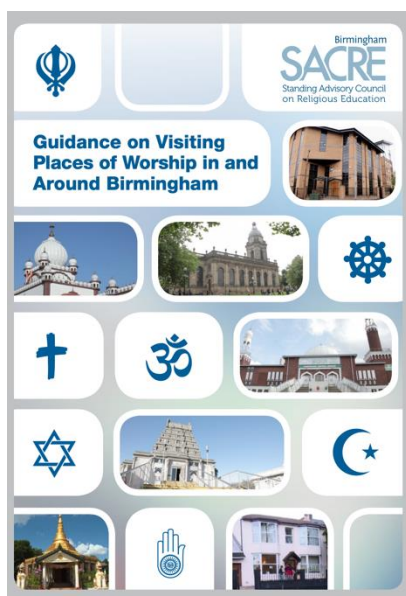
2 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- How can I deliver Collective Worship in a way that is inclusive, educational and spiritual?
- What is a determination?
- How do I apply for a determination?
- What is the difference between a determination and a religious designation?
- What is the parental right to withdraw?
- What is the procedure for visitors at Collective Worship?

matters concerning

3 RELIGIOUS ADHERENCE

- What is the guidance concerning leave of absence for religious observance for staff?
- What is the guidance concerning pupil absence for family religious observance?
- Can pupils wear religious symbols and clothing in school, including for PE?
- Do pupils have to take part in music, drama and dance?
- What about Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)?
- What happens in PE with showering and changing?
- How are pupils' dietary requirements met at school?
- How is religious practice facilitated for pupils?



SACRE Membership Appointments 2021-22

SACRE 2021 – 2022

<u>COMMITTEE A</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association	Waqar Ahmedi
Baptist Churches	Reverend Siôr Coleman
Buddhist Community	Dr. Maung Kyi
The New Jerusalem Church	Bishop Melvin Brooks
Duke Street Chapel	Janet Hopton
Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC)	Matthew Cook
Hindu Community	Mayur Parekh
	Vandna Dey
Jewish Community	Rabbi Shmuel Arkush (Chair)
Methodist Church	Keith Dennis
Muslim Liaison Committee	Gulamraza Dattoo
	Zahida Hussain
	Elaine Ashraf
	Sara Visram
	Shamin Akhtar
	Shamsul Arifeen
	Sheikh Nuru Mohammed
Orthodox Church	-
Roman Catholic Church	-
	-
Sikh Community	Gopinder Kaur

United Reformed Church	-
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<u>COMMITTEE B</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
The Church of England	Dr Rachel Jepson
	Patricia Williams
	Jill Stolberg (Chair)
	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 (Chair)
	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 (Chair)
	Cllr. Olly Armstrong
	Cllr. Chauhdry Rashid
	Ian Garrett
	Cllr. Gurdial Singh Atwal
	Cllr. Sybil Spence
	Cllr. John Cotton (Chair)
	Cllr. Peter Fowler
<u>CO-OPTED</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
Baha'I Community	-
Rastafarian Community	Jennifer Moses
Jewish Community	Paul Rostern-Smart
Church of the Latter Day Saints	David Cook
Jain Community	Arvinder Jain
Humanists UK	Dr. Richard Fern
Higher Education	-