



**Liverpool**

**Standing Advisory Council  
For Religious Education**

**Annual Report**

**September 2011 - August 2012**

## ***Meetings***

The full Liverpool SACRE has met three times since September 2011. Copies of the minutes of these meetings are enclosed with this report.

Extra meetings were arranged during the spring term to enable members to plan for and to judge entries into a local Celebrating RE competition.

A secondary teacher representative on SACRE is on the executive and steering group of the National Association of Teachers of RE and another co-opted member of SACRE has been elected vice-chair of National Association of RE Inspectors and Advisers. Together they are running cluster meetings in Liverpool for RE teachers. Liverpool LA School Improvement Service runs a subject-specific RE/RS network for secondary teachers

## ***SACRE supported activities***

- In January 2012 Liverpool SACRE launched a competition for key stage 1, 2, 3 and 4 pupils. The competition attracted almost 500 entries. Prizes and certificates were awarded for the winning entry in each school and key stage. Each school that submitted entries to the competition was presented with a certificate. Cash prize of £100 to develop RE and Collective Worship provision was awarded to the school submitting the best overall entry. £50 was awarded to the runner-up.
- Last year the need to support schools to deliver effective Collective Worship was identified as a priority for SACRE. Liverpool SACRE has arranged a one-day CPD conference on RE and collective worship to take place during the autumn term 2012. BDBE has been commissioned to deliver the CPD at the conference. As part of the commissioned project each school will receive an extensive bank of resources advice and guidance to support collective worship.
- Liverpool SACRE was pleased that 2 members were able to attend the NASACRE AGM in May 2012.
- Liverpool SACRE has developed positive links with other local SACREs.
- Members of Liverpool SACRE attended both Liverpool and Wirral ‘Holocaust Memorial Day’ commemorations
- Liverpool School Improvement Services has facilitated RE teacher networks and has provided bespoke support for RE to individual schools as required
- The SACRE action plan has been updated
- Standards in RE are monitored via analysis of results in secondary schools at GCSE and GCE A Level

## ***SACRE Documentation***

### **Minutes**

The Liverpool SACRE encourages all members to attend meetings. If members are unable to attend they are encouraged to send a deputy to attend meetings if possible. Minutes are circulated to members soon after each meeting with actions arising clearly stated.

### **Action Plan**

We have an action plan in place for 2011 - 2013.

### ***Advisory Support for RE***

The current LA School Improvement Officer with responsibility for RE joined SACRE in January 2011. Liverpool LA provides administrative support for SACRE. This includes taking minutes at SACRE meetings, maintaining the contacts list for members, circulation of invitations to meeting and associated documents and handling general correspondence relating to SACRE.

Both LA School Improvement Officer with responsibility for RE and Clerk to SACRE are based at Toxteth Annexe Conference Centre, Aigburth Road, Liverpool L17 7BN.

### ***Complaints Concerning RE***

There have been no formal complaints concerning RE.

### ***Collective Worship***

#### **Determinations**

The SACRE has not received any requests for determinations with regard to Collective Worship.

#### **Complaints**

There have been no formal complaints under the statutory complaints relating to Collective Worship.

### ***Finance***

The Liverpool SACRE has a small budget which is managed by the LA School Improvement Officer. This enables attendance at conferences, opportunities to run CPD for teachers, for example a conference on Collective Worship, and other activities to support RE in Liverpool.

# **Liverpool STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) MEMBERSHIP**

1 September 2011 – 31 August 2012

## **Appointed Representative**

Roman Catholic	Meg Buckley
Jewish	Harold Cohen
Muslim	Hafiz Amjad Patel
Muslim	Tareq Ahmado
Hindu	Bisakha Sarker
Sikh	Amrik Garcha
Buddhist	No representation at present
Church of England	Penny Thompson
Church of England	Carol Close

## Teachers of RE

Secondary Schools	Heather Marshall Jackie Allward
Primary Schools	Debra Garvey
Diocese	Matthew Hargreaves

## Local Authority

Councillor Barbara Murray (SACRE Chair from January 2011)  
Councillor Chris Lenton  
Councillor Jane Corbett  
Councillor Nick Small

Gill Lawson	LA Representative
Sue Shinkfield	LA Representative

## Co-opted Members:

Dr Matthew Thompson – Community Partnership  
Joy Schmack – Liverpool Hope University  
Carol Moore – Administrator

## Minutes of full SACRE meetings from September 2011 to August 2012

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council Religious Education held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011 Sudley Junior School

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Gill Lawson	LA Representative
	Cllr Barbara Murray	Local Authority
	Cllr Chris Lenton	Local Authority
	Meg Buckley	Catholic Representative
	Richard Neale	Wirral SACRE Chair
	Sue Shinkfield	Local Authority
	Debra Garvey	Teacher of RE Primary
	Harold Cohen	Jewish Representative
	Heather Marshall	Teacher of RE Secondary
	Cressida Godding	Liverpool Community Spirit
	Andrew Adebayo	Clerk

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b>  Welcome to RN from Wirral SACRE.	
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>  Penny Thompson, Matthew Thompson, Carol Close, Amrik Garcha, Bisakha Sarker, Tareq Ahmado, Matthew Hargreaves and Cllr Clare Wilner	
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>Minutes of the last Meeting and Matter Arising</u></b>  The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.  No matters arising.	
<b>4.</b>	<b><u>Links with Wirral SACRE</u></b>  It was agreed that it was good to be forging relationships and links with other SACRE groups. It was agreed that collaborative work would open up opportunities for RE teachers and create access to shared resources and costs.  RN thanked the group for inviting him and invited the group to the next	



	will be a cross phase event which is on EDnet and the information about it has been sent out to schools via Head's associations and direct email to schools. SS offered to publicise the event at the Director's briefing to chairs of governors.	<b>SS</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b><u>Results 2010 (item deferred from last meeting) – any feedback?</u></b> <b><u>Results 2011 – subject to availability.</u></b>  GL gave the group copies of the provisional 2011 data she had been able to get. It was agreed that both the 2010 and 2011 results would be looked at together when the final data for 2011 was available.	
<b>9.</b>	<b><u>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council of Christians and Jews- Mr H. Cohen</u></b>  HC gave the group an overview of the 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The anniversary is next year and he will update the group when he gets more information.	<b>HC</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b><u>EBacc update</u></b>  HM informed the group that there was nothing new to report at the moment. The group discussed their concern of RE teachers being phased out for other EBacc subjects and the importance of keeping up the publicity of RE. BM agreed to find out Andy Burnham's view on what is happening. BM also highlighted the importance of SACRE membership and attendance.	<b>BM</b>
	<b><u>AOB</u></b>  GL showed the group a coloured copy of the new logo. It was agreed that logo looked very good. The point was raised that the Baha'i community would also like to be on the logo. GL agreed to check this and she will also look at putting the Liver Bird on the bottom of the logo.  DB was thanked for hosting this meeting at her school, Sudley Junior School.	
	<b><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></b>  11 <sup>th</sup> January at 3.30pm in St James House.	

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council  
Religious Education held on Wednesday 11 January 2012**

**at St James House**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Gill Lawson Cressida Godding Penny Thompson Cllr Chris Lenton Cllr Barbara Murray Matthew Hargreaves Carol Close Cllr Claire Wilner Dr Tareq Ahmado Jacqui Allward Debra Garvey Carol Moore	LA Representative Liverpool Community Spirit Church of England Representative Local Authority Local Authority Diocese Representative Church of England Representative Local Authority Muslim Representative Free Church Representative Primary Schools Representative Clerk to SACRE
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		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b></p> <p>BM welcomed colleagues and asked the group to introduce themselves for the benefit of new representatives.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Bisakha Sarker, Matthew Thompson, Amrik Garcha, Meg Buckley, Sue Shinkfield, Heather Marshall, Harold Cohen, Cllr Jane Corbett, and Joy Schmack.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last Meeting and Matter Arising</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>Ministerial Statement on the National Curriculum Review</u></b></p> <p>GL reported a change to the planned timetable for the introduction of the new National Curriculum. The new curriculum for all subjects will be introduced in 2014. We will start to look at updating the RE Syllabus in January 2013.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b><u>Collective Worship Conference</u></b></p> <p>GL circulated a copy of feedback from the Collective Worship training day. The day was valued by the attendees; the feedback was excellent. Attendance at the event was good given the fact that the Diocese and Archdiocese provides CW training for the Church of England and catholic schools.</p>	



	<p>The group discussed how we could offer further training for CW to schools and other authorities. GL agreed to look at the cost and what we could charge for the training.</p> <p>The group agreed to consider including the new curriculum as part of</p>	<b>GL</b>
	<p>the same training day.</p> <p>BM thanked GL for her time and effort she put in to the collective worship training day.</p>	<b>Action</b>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>RE/RS Results</u></b></p> <p>GL reported on the results and explained the breakdown year by year. GL confirmed there is a slight increase on pupil numbers last year for GCSE RE/RS. 2011 GCSE A*-C for Liverpool is 74.3% which is 2.2 percentage points above national and 2.3 ppt improvement on last year's figure of 72%. The 2011 average point score for GCSE in Liverpool is 42.2, up 0.9 on 2010 (Grade C= 40pts).</p> <p>Nationally the number of pupils taking full course GCSE RS is increasing but there are still fewer entries than there are for GCSE History and Geography.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>SACRE Members News</b></p> <p>BM welcomed Jacqui Allward from Childwall Sports College. Jacqui is the Free Church Representative to SACRE.</p> <p><b>Humanist Representative</b></p> <p>The group discussed the request from Ritchie Thompson regarding a Humanist representative. It was agreed that we would not confirm an invite to join Liverpool SACRE at this time. The group would discuss at the future meetings any further contact from the Humanists.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Holocaust Memorial Day</b></p> <p>GL reported on resources on a website from the HMD Trust and the Council of Christians and Jews 'Speak Up Speak Out' theme, and confirmed there has been a lot of interest from schools.</p> <p>GL invited SACRE members to attend Wirral Commemoration of Holocaust memorial Day on Wednesday 1 February 2012.</p> <p>PT said she would be happy to go and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>BM agreed to contact CM with a date for Liverpool Town Hall, Holocaust Memorial Day. CM to Email to the group with the date.</p>	<p><b>PT</b></p> <p><b>BM/CM</b></p>

<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Celebrating RE</b></p> <p>GL reported that the Celebrating RE display put on by SACRE members and schools last year was very well received. GL asked for suggestions of what we could do this year?</p> <p>MH suggested having a competition and asking pupils to submit a poem, a short essay, or painting to show what their idea of Heaven or Happiness is.</p> <p>The group discussed suggestions and how schools could get involved this year. It was agreed to have a sub group to look at the options. CM will invite colleagues to express an interest in joining the sub group and to contact GL by email.</p>	<p><b>CM</b></p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>CC reported that Wigan SACRE would like to use the model of the Liverpool SACRE Syllabus. BM asked the group for their thoughts The group discussed and agreed to share the syllabus with others, on the understanding that there would be mutual sharing, and to explore the possibility of a wider Merseyside Collective Worship event. GL to write a letter inviting authorities to get involved.</p> <p>GL reported there will be a NASACRE AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 9.30am-4pm, in London and will email colleagues to invite them to attend. It was agreed that up to 2 SACRE members could be funded to attend the event and report back at the summer term SACRE meeting.</p> <p>BM thanked Cressida for the use of the room today.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p><b>GL</b></p> <p><b>GL</b></p>
	<p><b><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></b> 3.30pm, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 at Toxteth Annexe Corporate Suite</p>	

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council**  
**Religious Education held on Thursday 31 May 2012**  
**at Toxteth Annexe**

**Present:**

Cllr Barbara Murray	Local Authority
Gill Lawson	LA Representative
Dr Matthew Thompson	Liverpool Community Spirit
Penny Thompson	Church of England Representative
Rev Carol Close	Church of England Representative

Meg Buckley  
 Dr Tareq Ahmado  
 Harold Cohen  
 Debra Garvey  
 Heather Marshall  
 Robin Grinter  
 Carol Moore

Catholic Representative  
 Muslim Representative  
 Jewish Representative  
 Primary School Representative  
 Secondary School Representative  
 Humanist (Guest speaker)  
 Clerk to SACRE

		Action
1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b>            Bisakha Sarker, Amrik Garcha, Sue Shinkfield, Cllr Jane Corbett, and Joy Schmack, Jaqui Allward, Cllr Claire Wilner, Cllr Chris Lenton</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b>            BM welcomed colleagues and asked Robin to start his Humanism presentation.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Presentation of the Humanist believes</u></b>            Robin opened the presentation with an outline of the SACREs he is connected to in the North West. He went on to explain why someone with no faith and no religion wants to be a part of Liverpool SACRE. Robin then gave a presentation on the humanist beliefs.            BM thanked Robin and invited colleagues to ask questions about the presentation.            PT enquired what RG is asking for; does he want Humanism to be taught in schools or would he like a place on Liverpool SACRE?            Robin confirmed he only wanted to inform the group of Humanist beliefs. It is important that pupils have the opportunity to discuss all aspect of beliefs or worship. The golden rule is a part of all faiths 'we are not trying to be seen but to be complimentary to all'. It is important to emphasise common values to children who don't have faith.              DG observed that these values are presented to children in other ways, through Citizenship and PSHE for example.              HM agreed and confirmed we don't label children's behaviour.              HC raised the point that in Liverpool one of the most sought after schools is King David High and it is not for the faith but the school's ethos.            Robin thanked everyone for their time and left the meeting.              BM thanked everyone for their input. We have a lot to discuss; it is not an easy decision to make and one we won't make lightly. If it is agreeable to everyone we will defer the decision to the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>Humanist membership on SACRE to be an item on the next SACRE agenda and a decision to be reached next meeting.</b></p>

<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last Meeting and Matter Arising</u></b>  The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.</p> <p><b><u>Holocaust Memorial Day</u></b>  PT and GL attended the Wirral Commemoration of HMD at the Floral Hall, New Brighton on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012. PT reported on the Holocaust event; it was a fantastic afternoon, the children responded very well.  GL reported on the HMD event at Liverpool Town Hall, 26<sup>th</sup> January; an excellent event. Many children from Liverpool schools attended and contributed to the event. A number of speakers presented interesting and moving stories.</p> <p><b><u>Humanist Presentation</u></b>  The group discussed briefly the Humanist Presentation by Robin. It was felt by a number of members that it was not necessary for Humanism to have a place on Liverpool SACRE.  BM noted it was difficult to make a decision now. We need to go away and have time to reflect. It was agreed to include the matter as an agenda item next term and have a vote at the next meeting.  BM would like colleagues to send any thoughts or comments to CM or to bring to the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALL/CM</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>Feedback from the NASACRE AGM</u></b></p> <p>GL circulated a full programme from the NASACRE AGM. GL reported the agreed syllabus it is due for review in September 2013. The government is to make a final decision on the wider curriculum; GL proposed that the syllabus update is postponed in line with advice from NASACRE.  BM proposed that we look again at the position.</p> <p>GL reported that Liverpool SACRE are one of 40 SACREs (out of 143 SACREs registered with NASACRE) to submit an Annual Report which has been posted on the NASACRE website.  GL confirmed to follow up on regional support for SACREs.</p> <p>PT circulated notes from the AGM. PT reported on Professor Robert Jackson who gave an address on the REDco Project 2006-09 which researched the views of pupils on religion in 8 countries. They had found positive attitudes to RE.  PT reported on NASACRE producing a leaflet to encourage academies to use the agreed RE syllabus.  The group discussed the matter and it was agreed to look for a</p>	<p><b>GL - make enquiries to NASACRE regarding regional support that they are developing</b></p>

	<p>representation from one of the Liverpool academies to join Liverpool SACRE.</p> <p>PT reported on a RE quality mark pilot that will be ready for September 2013.</p> <p>PT/HM agreed to send CM a copy of their AGM report to send out to colleagues.</p>	<p><b>GL</b></p> <p><b>PT/CM</b></p>
6.	<p><b><u>Reflective Music for Worship</u></b></p> <p>GL circulated a music for RE and CW document for the group to look at.</p>	<b>Action</b>
7.	<p><b><u>Liverpool SACRE commission Training for Teachers</u></b></p> <p>GL reported that we have commissioned Lisa Fenton and Helen Sage from Blackburn to deliver a CPD training day during the autumn term 2012 on Collective Worship and RE. The provisional date for the event is 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012.</p> <p>PT suggested inviting teachers from Wigan SACRE.</p>	<b>GL</b>
8.	<p><b><u>Celebrating RE</u></b></p> <p>GL reported on the competition winning entries. GL reported 14 schools and approximately 500 entries were submitted, the winning entries were displayed around the room.</p> <p>GL thanked everyone for their support in judging the entries. It was suggested that we could put the entries in to a booklet to offer to schools for a charge, we could also put a small article in Educate magazine.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>RE Teacher Network</u></b></p> <p>GL reported that the LA is setting up subject specific secondary networks for teachers. Calderstones and St Margaret's CE High School are the lead schools for the RE network. There will be opportunities for the LA to commission appropriate CPD for the RE network.</p>	
10.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>MT reported that Cressida Godding has moved on to a new job. Matthew Meaney is Cressida's replacement</p> <p>MT said he would like to pass on his thanks on behalf of the group to GL, BM and CM for the LA support.</p>	<b>Action</b>