

North Somerset
Standing Advisory
Council on
Religious
Education
(SACRE)

22nd Annual Report

2017 – 2018



CONTENTS

Foreword from the Chair of SACRE

1. Standards and Quality of Religious Education (RE) Provision in North Somerset Schools
2. SACRE Activities and Developments
3. The Effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus
4. Collective Worship in North Somerset Schools
5. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority Agenda

Appendix A Tables of GCSE Full Course Religious Studies and
Advanced level results (to follow)

Appendix B SACRE Membership

Appendix C Development Plan 2017-2018

FOREWORD

It is my privilege to again present the annual report of the North Somerset Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Whether you are involved in the SACRE, personally deliver Religious Education, represent a faith or just wonder who we are and what we do, I trust you will find it informative.

All young people need the opportunity to obtain core knowledge and understanding of the religions and worldviews which not only shape their history and culture but which also guide their own development. A confidence in their own beliefs and values, is a first step to enabling respect for the religious and cultural differences of others, and thereby contributing to a cohesive and compassionate society.

The importance of Religious Education must be communicated effectively and understood widely, in order for its place on the curriculum to remain strong. This is exactly what our SACRE here in North Somerset are committed to supporting. There must be a note of special thanks extended to our Associate Advisor David Rees for his continued support and specialist advice.

We warmly invite thoughts, ideas and feedback from everyone, so please feel free to get in touch with us.

North Somerset SACRE Chair – Councillor Sarah Codling

1 STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) PROVISION IN NORTH SOMERSET SCHOOLS

SACRE monitors and evaluates the quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education, through analysis of examination results, discussions with teachers and visits to schools where possible.

In previous years SACRE has attempted to gather information from schools via a survey – this information centred on the provision of RE, visits from the faith communities and Collective Worship. SACRE had also run termly network subject meetings as well as various conferences for Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Sadly, due to budget restraints these were unable to be funded during the last year.

During the next Year SACRE will be discussing new ways of finding out a truer picture including hopefully compiling an RE newsletter.

Examinations and Certificates

The unvalidated exam results for Summer 2017 will hopefully be available soon – at time of writing individual subject results for RS were unavailable.

2 SACRE ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Meetings

Three full meetings of the North Somerset SACRE were held. These were on Tuesday 14th November 2017, Wednesday 11th April 2018 and Thursday 5th July 2018 (all at Clevedon Community School). The membership list is recorded in *appendix B* of this report.

Membership and Training

New SACRE members receive a welcome letter from the Chair of SACRE, and access to materials that includes the locally agreed syllabus, recent SACRE Newsletters, a NASACRE guide to SACREs and minutes of recent North Somerset SACRE meetings. SACRE continues to benefit from a consistent chair and vice chair who ably lead the SACRE. Councillor **Sarah Codling** was re-elected as Chair for the 2017-18 municipal year and **Jo Backus** was re-elected Vice-Chair for the same period.

North Somerset SACRE members were amongst those who attended the South-West SACREs conference held at Dillington House in March 2018. The day featured 2 keynote addresses firstly from Stephen Pett of RE Today reflecting on the first year of 'Understanding Christianity' and secondly from Denise Cush on of the probable recommendations of the Commission on RE (CoRE).

There were also workshops on a variety of issues including the big ideas project by Barbara Wintersgill, how to handle the diversity of non-belief in the classroom and the role of councillors in SACREs.

SACRE Development

SACRE keeps North Somerset Council advised on its activities through an annually reviewed development plan which is updated for each meeting by the RE Adviser – see *appendix C*. It produces this Annual Report and distributes it to relevant individuals and organisations.

During the year, SACRE's Associate Adviser and members undertook the following initiatives:

- Ensuring the new locally agreed RE syllabus Awareness, Mystery and Value (AMV) 2016 was made available to all North Somerset schools.
- Looking at the constitution to see if the Humanist representative could be made a full member
- commenting on examination results;
- considering the question of representing non-faith beliefs in the RE curriculum;
- continuing to edit and upload new schemes of learning to the new agreed syllabus website in partnership with Bath & NE Somerset and Bristol SACREs;
- supporting local training events on RE for teachers, including those provided by the Diocese of Bath & Wells;
- considering possible opportunities for joint working with Bath & North-East Somerset SACRE and other SACREs;

- considering implications of new examination specifications for GCSE and A level religious studies;
- Discussing the monitoring and development of the SACRE Resources collections;
- supporting interfaith events being held in the region,
- sending delegates (but not financing) to the South-West area SACREs annual conference;
- attempting to build links with academies and free schools for example by speaking to the Education Excellence Partnership Board (EEPB) and offering support
- linking with other LAs who have adopted our locally agreed syllabus for RE, *Awareness, Mystery and Value (AMV)*,
- being a leading partner in the 'Learn-Teach-Lead Project thanks to the work of teacher representative Laura Harris

Financial and Adviser Support

The SACRE was advised by an Associate Adviser, David Rees, through Jan Lever Education Consultancy and Training Ltd.

Training Activities for Teachers

During the year there were few opportunities for teachers to participate in RE training provided within the Local Authority.

There were no RE network meetings for RE leaders in primary schools due to budgetary issues.

'Learn, Teach, Lead RE'

North Somerset is also a key contributor to the 'Learn Teach Lead RE' project. This involves termly network meetings run by Laura Harris, who is also a teacher representative on North Somerset SACRE. These meetings offer training and support for teachers, network with other Learn, Teach, Lead RE areas and arrange conferences which focus on teaching and learning, liaising with faith communities and informing on national RE issues.

3 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS

The agreed syllabus was launched in Autumn 2016 and the website has undergone a complete overhaul to reflect the changes and to offer support to teachers especially in reference to assessment exemplars. The programmes of study have not been changed in relation to content.

The syllabus has been adopted by Bath & North-East Somerset, Bristol City, Haringey, North Somerset. Somerset has developed their own version of the syllabus and will operate independently; the Isles of Scilly have also decided not to adopt the syllabus this time.

Other SACRE's publications continue to be available on the North Somerset Council website at: www.n-somerset.gov.uk (search > 'standing advisory council').

The SACRE web pages contain an introduction to the work, plans and membership of North Somerset SACRE, advice approved by the Local Authority on the new agreed syllabus, collective worship, annual reports, past newsletters and contact details for SACRE's officers.

Complaints and determinations

The Local Authority/SACRE received no formal complaints concerning RE or Collective Worship. There were no requests from schools to vary the legal requirement for collective worship.

4 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN NORTH SOMERSET SCHOOLS

Collective Worship

SACRE's guidance on collective worship contains advice on legal requirements, spiritual development, a rationale and policy exemplar for collective worship in schools, ideas for planning and using themes in collective worship and guidance for using visitors to lead assemblies. There is also an extensive list of websites that can assist in planning and resourcing collective worship.

The Guidance can be found on the North Somerset Council website

Monitoring Collective worship is often difficult, previous attempts through surveys showed an incomplete picture. SACRE will be discussing ways of monitoring and supporting Collective Worship further in the year ahead.

5 THE CONTRIBUTION OF SACRE TO THE WIDER LOCAL AUTHORITY AGENDA

National Links

One way in which North Somerset SACRE keeps in touch with initiatives to support community cohesion is by maintaining its membership of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). In addition, the Associate Adviser, David Rees, is a member of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and a member of the Association for RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC). He has attended the NASACRE AGM in London and provided SACRE with regular reports and updates on the business of key RE bodies like the REC. In the next year further updates will include the final report from the Commission on RE (CoRE) and how its recommendations will impact on SACREs and RE.

Local links

The RE Adviser maintains links with colleagues in neighbouring South-West authorities and makes reports to SACRE on developments in the region.

Appendix A

SUMMER 2018 EXAMINATIONS

Tables of GCSE Full Course Religious Studies, GCSE Short Course Religious Education and GCE Advanced level results

These have been requested and will be added once submitted

Appendix B

SACRE Membership 2017-2018

SACRE Membership

Group A – Christian and other religious denominations

Name	Organisation
Joan Willcocks	Society of Friends
Kevin Magner	Roman Catholic
Qair Majeed	Muslim Community
Vacancy	Hindu Community
Martin Taylor	United Reformed Church
Jo Backus	Buddhist Community – Vice Chair of SACRE
Emma Smith	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Vacancy	Greek Orthodox Community
Vacancy	Jewish Community
Vacancy	Sikh Community

Group B – Church of England

Name	
Pauline Dodds	Bath and Wells diocese
Vacancy	

Group C – Teachers Associations

Name	Association
Vacancy	SHINS
Marianne McAleer	NUT Secondary
Vacancy	PHANS
Vacancy	NASUWT
Laura Harris	NUT Primary
Vacancy	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Vacancy	VOICE
Vacancy	Secondary Heads Association

Group D – Local Authority

Name	
Robert Cleland	Councillor
Sarah Codling	Councillor – Chair of SACRE
Deborah Yamanaka	Councillor

Co-Opted Member

Dr David Cameron	British Humanist Association
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Associate Advisor for RE

David Rees	Jan Lever Education Consultancy and Training Ltd.
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Appendix C

DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2018

North Somerset SACRE draft action plan April 2017-March 2018							
Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Summer 2017	Autumn 2017	Spring 2018
A. To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership.	1. Fill membership vacancies	End October 2017	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk				
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) <i>and, when possible training events e.g. annual SACRE conference (if run)</i>	Termly SACRE meetings: Summer 2017 Autumn 2017 Spring 2018	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting	Mtg 28/6/17	Mtg Tuesday 14/11/2018 1.30 Clevedon ScJ	Mtg tba
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2017	SACRE Adviser and clerk	SACRE Adviser x ½ day		Bring draft to 14 th November 2017 meeting Sent to NASACRE by end Dec2017	Presented at Spring mtg
	4. Review the action plan at each meeting and update for next year	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time included in A2 above			
	5. Subscribe to NASACRE Representation at annual NASACRE conference, NASACRE AGM	Ongoing	SACRE members SACRE Adviser	Subscription £105 NASACRE Conference and AGM SACRE Adviser time if needs to be the SACRE representative at NASACRE conference	DR attended NASACRE conference in London May 2018 - unfunded)		
B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools	1. Commit to shared maintenance of AMV website (with other AMV SACREs – these have all agreed)	ongoing	SACRE Clerk SACRE Adviser Sam Cavender (arranged by Dave Francis)	£62.50 annual fee			
	2. Support RE teachers with termly networks	Each term	SACRE Adviser – if funded				

Support for teachers through networks was not funded so did not run