

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2014 – 2015

September 2014 – August 31st 2015

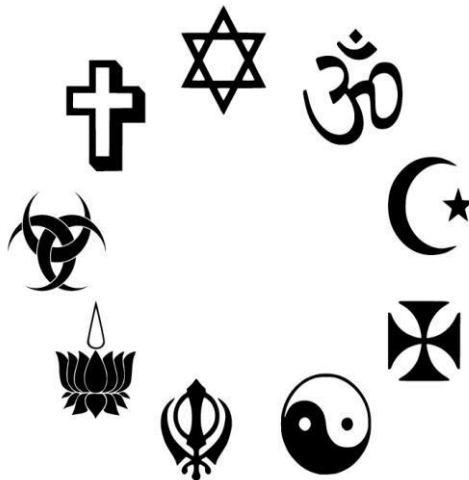


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This Information can be made available in other languages and formats on request, such as large print, Braille and audio cassette. Please contact Jane Hall, Clerk to SACRE on 01604 365086 or jhall@northamptonshire.gov.uk
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This Annual Report has been collated by
Jenny Dixon, Chair, SACRE September 2015
Jane Hall, Clerk to SACRE
An adviser commissioned by the Local Authority.

**FOREWORD BY Chris Paddock ACTING CHAIR OF THE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SACRE 2014-15**

Welcome to the 2014/2015 Annual report of the Northamptonshire Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE).

The past year has seen a considerable amount of work by our various subcommittees and their members are to be congratulated on their efforts.

SACRE has held four full meetings during the year and we are most grateful to our hosts for their hospitality. Whilst the current financial arrangements are in place, SACRE will continue to be dependent upon these freely offered facilities.

During the year our Chair, Elizabeth Drage, had to resign for health reasons. I wish to place on record our appreciation of all that Beth did for SACRE. We wish her all the best. Another resignation was that of Lesley Pollard, the Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) R.E. adviser to SACRE. Lesley's expertise was hugely valuable and she regularly put in many more hours than required by her contract with NCC.

Having lost two key personnel Northamptonshire SACRE has been forced to examine how it can fulfil its mandate: as a result we have refocused the SACRE, a process that we hope will be completed in the near future by NCC's appointment of a Religious Education (RE) Adviser. I believe that, provided adequate support is provided, SACRE will prove to be well positioned to meet any reasonable expectations in the future.

I commend this report to you and assure you of our continuing intent to provide leadership and support within Northamptonshire's provision of RE.

Chris Paddock
Acting Chair April 2015 – August 2015

INTRODUCTION

The 1988 Education Reform Act established the statutory requirement for all Local Authorities (LA) to establish a permanent body called the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The Northamptonshire SACRE is an independent body which advises the Local Authority on matters concerned with the provision of RE and Collective Worship. Further information about the statutory duties of the SACRE can be found in [Appendix 1](#) and The Terms of Reference for the Northamptonshire SACRE, which were revised in 2013, can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

It is a legal requirement that the SACRE publish an Annual Report to inform relevant parties, including schools, of the advice that SACRE has given to the Local Authority

and of the actions taken to support RE and collective worship in schools using the Agreed Syllabus, that have resulted from this advice.

This report covers the work of the Northamptonshire SACRE during the academic year from September 1st 2014 to August 31st 2015.

Meeting dates and attendance of members can be found in **Appendix 3** and agendas and minutes of meetings can be found on the SACRE website - www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/SACRE.

The report is sent to the headteachers/Chair of Governors of all schools in the county, to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), Faith Groups and the Local Authority. The report is also available on the SACRE pages of the Northamptonshire website.

THE SACRE'S MISSION STATEMENT

To offer Northamptonshire Local Authority high quality, informed advice in relation to the provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools.

Values

In undertaking its statutory functions the Northamptonshire SACRE will:

- Value and promote cultural diversity and religious, social and racial harmony;
- Respect and value the beliefs, views and opinions of individual members; □
- Establish effective, sensitive, respectful and positive partnerships.

Aims

The Northamptonshire SACRE's aims are:

- To promote a positive understanding of Religious Education and the valuable contribution that it can make to young people's education and personal development;
- To promote high quality Religious Education in Northamptonshire schools, encouraging schools to see the value of the subject as part of the education young people receive;
- To recognise and celebrate high quality provision of Religious Education and to disseminate good practice;
- To help teachers to raise standards in Religious Education by supporting and promoting training for schools and sharing good practice;

- To promote effective teaching and learning in Religious Education which allows pupils to explore what religious belief involves, promotes enquiry, independent thinking, discussion, collaboration, creativity and reflective thinking and enables pupils to develop positive values and beliefs by which to live their lives;
- To help schools to improve the quality of collective worship in schools in order that it makes an effective contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and physical development;
- To monitor and evaluate:
 1. The training and support given to schools;
 2. Standards in RE in Northamptonshire schools;
 3. The effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus;
 4. The effectiveness of the Northamptonshire SACRE;
- To contribute towards community cohesion by ensuring that local faith communities, schools and the Local Authority come together to share the common aim of working towards a society which values the individual and the diversity of beliefs; encourages empathy, sensitivity and respect; and which promotes a sense of belonging to local, national and global communities;
- To advise the Local Authority of its statutory duties to effectively support the work of the SACRE.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SACRE advises the LA to bring this report to the attention of schools and governing bodies and, in particular, to highlight the following points:

- Schools are reminded that a **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for RE in Northamptonshire is now available, initiated by the Diocese of Peterborough**. Schools are directed to the SACRE Newsletter or the Diocesan website for further details:
<http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events?tags=school>;
- Schools are expected to **identify their training needs for RE and Collective Worship**. The SACRE is able to advise schools on local RE expertise to provide bespoke training as required for individuals, departments, full staff or clusters of schools upon request. (Please contact the Chair or Clerk of the SACRE for further details);
- The **RE Teacher Network Support Group sessions**. These sessions are focused on teacher requests and will be provided by the Diocese of Peterborough. Details are found in the SACRE RE newsletter and on the Diocesan website;
- **The SACRE publish a RE newsletter for all schools** three times a year. RE subject leaders/RE co-ordinators and teachers of RE are encouraged to read this to keep up to date with developments, new resources and training

opportunities and to see examples of good practice from schools around the county. Schools are also encouraged to contribute to the RE newsletter to share good practice. (Past newsletters can be found on the SACRE website www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/SACRE);

- **The SACRE will continue to send additional e-mail communication to schools where appropriate** to keep them as up to date as possible with new resources and developments in RE. The information will be sent from the SACRE Clerk to headteachers and chairs of governing bodies to be forwarded to RE leaders. (RE subject leaders are asked to provide their details to the Chair of the SACRE if they would prefer a direct e-mail);
- In all maintained schools, other than Voluntary Aided schools or schools of a religious character, but including Voluntary Controlled Schools, **Religious Education has to be taught according to the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus. However, the Diocese of Peterborough continues to recommend that all Church of England schools also follow the Agreed Syllabus;**
- **Secondary schools are reminded that Religious Education is a statutory subject** and that all Key Stage 4 students must follow an accredited course as is required in the Agreed Syllabus. Whilst RE is not included in the English Baccalaureate it counts as part of “Performance 8” and is still a requirement by law;
- **Academies are reminded of their statutory requirement to teach Religious Education in accordance with their Funding Agreement.** Academies in Northamptonshire are invited to use the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus to ensure that they fulfil their statutory requirements;
- Senior leadership teams are urged to **ensure that appropriate and effective Subject Leaders for RE are appointed and that all staff teaching the subject are appropriately trained or supported** to ensure that all pupils receive the high quality RE provision and learning experiences to which they are entitled;
- Senior leaders and governing bodies are urged to ensure that **RE subject leaders/RE co-ordinators are adequately supported** in terms of ongoing professional development, opportunities to monitor and evaluate the subject, opportunities to train and support colleagues and in having an adequate budget in order to help raise standards in Religious Education;
- RE subject leaders/RE co-ordinators are encouraged to use the criteria for the **RE Quality Mark (REQM) to help them to carry out a self-evaluation in RE** (www.reqm.org). The process is a very straightforward one and helps the school to identify strengths and areas for development;

- Schools are urged **to apply for the REQM** to raise the profile of RE in school. There are three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold can be achieved and schools will be able to demonstrate their good practice in RE and have hard work recognised and rewarded (www.reqm.org);
- Schools are reminded that the Teachers' Standards (Part One:3) require all **teachers to demonstrate a good subject and curriculum knowledge** and this is crucial within RE in order that pupils develop clear and accurate understanding of different faith communities and world views;
- All teachers are urged to ensure that learning experiences and **tasks set for all pupils are appropriately challenging** and meet the needs of the learners. Again, this is a requirement of the Teachers' Standards (Part One:1, 2 & 5);
- **Teachers are asked to use strategies that are known to be more effective with boys** to try to narrow the gap in attainment that exists between boys and girls, particularly in secondary schools;
- **Teachers are asked to bear in mind the gap in attainment that exists, particularly in secondary schools**, between boys and girls and ensure that the strategies they employ maximise the attainment of all pupils'

- Schools are reminded of the **expectation to assess pupils' progress in Religious Education. Despite other curriculum subjects no longer having levels**, the Agreed Syllabus still requires levels to be used in planning and assessing RE. This will continue until at least 2016 when the Agreed Syllabus will be reviewed. Teachers are reminded that the syllabus gives guidance on assessment and how to use the level descriptors and the CD of support materials contains "I Can" statements and information on APP for RE;
- All schools are reminded they are still required to **send the results of their end of Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 assessments to the SACRE at the end of each academic year**. This data is not collected in any other way by the LA or the DFE. The SACRE has a statutory duty to monitor standards and collection of the data helps to fulfil this duty.

Further advice to the Local Authority from Northamptonshire SACRE Autumn 2014 – 2015

SACRE requests that the Local Authority:

- provides the necessary and sufficient resources to support SACRE and enable it to fulfil its statutory duties;

- provides the necessary and sufficient resources to support a review of the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus during the year 2015-2016 as is statutorily required;
- meets its responsibility, to provide training in Religious Education for teachers;
- appoints an adviser to support SACRE;
- provides the resources and support to enable the SACRE website to be updated;
- provides the resources and support to enable the LA and SACRE working together to produce a SACRE newsletter to keep all schools up to date with local and national events and developments;
- maintains subscriptions to appropriate national and local organisations to enable SACRE and the LA to meet their responsibilities; and
- enables SACRE to take note of schools data on Religious Education in order to advise the LA
- provides feedback about the effectiveness of the Prevent Strategy and
- clarifies the funding position for SACRE.

Jenny Dixon Chair

DETAILS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SACRE'S WORK

Meetings

SACRE held four meetings in public during the year. One was held at the Gateway Centre (The Bangladeshi Association) in Northampton, one at the Swaminarayan Hindu Temple in Wellingborough, one at Northampton School for Boys, and one at The Heritage Centre (All Saints Church, Brixworth). SACRE enjoyed a tour of the buildings. These were opportunities for SACRE members to learn about faiths other than their own. SACRE members would like to thank the hosts for their hospitality.

Membership of the SACRE goes beyond attendance at the main meetings. The SACRE expects all of its members to attend all the main meetings and to belong to at least one working party, contributing to the overall work as fully as possible with reference to the group that they represent. This helps the SACRE to issue relevant advice to schools and to the local authority. Members are then expected to report back to the group / faith community which they represent and bring back to the next meeting any comments or suggestions.

The Agreed Syllabus and Interfaith Resources working party and the Collective Worship working party met several times. Each drafted a final copy of their work, which was circulated to members. These await approval. SACRE owes thank to those members who worked hard to completely revise the two documents.

Members received reports, updates and presentations at each meeting from the independent learning adviser to the SACRE, Lesley Pollard. These included updates on local and national developments in RE and collective worship, feedback from

professional meetings and training and reports from school training and consultancy sessions.

Northamptonshire County Council continued to agree funding of £6000 to support the work of the SACRE.

Reports from the NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) Annual Conference and the AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) Annual Conference were given, and members discussed the implications for the Northamptonshire SACRE.

The December 2014 meeting elected Beth Drage as Chair, and Joy Ward as scrutineer. The position of vice chair was unfilled. SACRE approved the co-option of Chris Paddock as the representative of the British Humanist Association. Co-opted members do not have a vote.

At the March 2015 meeting Chris Paddock was approved as vice chair. On Beth's resignation due to ill-health in July 2015, Chris Paddock became acting chair. He continued in that role to the end of that reporting year (August 31st 2015).

The SACRE Annual Report was finalised and accepted at this meeting.

Lesley Pollard kept the group informed throughout the year of the data for pupils' achievement.

The Diocese of Peterborough continued to offer training for all teachers in the county. Diocesan schools accessed this for a small fee and all other schools paid a higher fee. SACRE is very grateful to the Diocese for providing this training.

Full details of meetings are available in the minutes of the meetings which can be found on the SACRE website - www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/SACRE

Resources

New resources were outlined in the RE newsletter, written by Lesley Pollard, and published to all schools three times each year. Past newsletters can be found on the SACRE pages of the Northamptonshire website - www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/SACRE

Monitoring Standards

Schools are still required to report on the end of Key Stage 1, end of Key Stage 2 and end of Key Stage 3 attainment, in terms of teacher assessment. The SACRE is grateful to schools for ensuring that these end of key stage proformas are completed.

The SACRE is keen to fulfil its statutory requirements and feel that this is one way that helps them to do so.

Teacher Network Groups

The Diocese of Peterborough offers teacher network meetings at Bouverie Court. SACRE continues to support and encourage schools to take up the Quality RE Mark Award.

SACRE MATTERS

National Links

National links were further developed through the year. The Northamptonshire SACRE remains an active participant in National Religious Education organisations.

The SACRE has maintained its membership of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), and has been represented at meetings and national conferences arranged by this body.

SACRE benefitted from the information gathered at these conferences and shared with members.

The independent learning adviser to the SACRE, Lesley Pollard, is a member of The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC). Regular attendance at the Midlands regional meetings and at the National Annual Conference helps to ensure that the SACRE was well informed and updated.

SACRE Arrangements – Professional and Administrative Support

The SACRE is supported by administrative services from the local authority. Its business is administered by Jane Hall (Governor Services) who acts as Clerk to the SACRE.

Funding for 2014 – 2015 was allocated to SACRE to provide the following functions:

- Membership of the NASACRE;
- Attendance at the NASACRE Annual Conference;
- Attendance at the AREIAC Annual Conference;
- Completion of the SACRE Annual Report;
- The SACRE Development Plan actions; □ Termly RE Newsletters for schools;
- Administration – copying, postage etc.

SACRE Development Plan 2011 – 2015

The SACRE have continued their work on the development plan and its key areas, which are:

- To develop the Northamptonshire SACRE, ensuring its membership is representative of the diversity of faith groups in the county and that members understand the importance of the role they are taking on;
- To engage with the views of young people regarding RE and issues linked to religion and belief;
- To support schools with RE and Collective Worship;
- To raise and monitor standards in RE.

Under these priorities a number of targets were set which the SACRE have addressed through Working Parties during the year.

Working Parties have focused on the following:

1. The Agreed Syllabus Group – have ensured that all schools have had copies of the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus “Growing Together” and have continued to make the syllabus available beyond the county through granting copyright licences.
The resources to support the Agreed Syllabus have been intensively reviewed and revised and await approval by SACRE.
2. Faith Community Visitors in Schools – this group has developed guidance for religious visitors in schools and has updated information on contact details for local religious visitors for schools, and for places of worship to visit. This group also revised Advice for Teachers to support the new resources document which is pending approval by SACRE.
3. The Raising Standards Group – have monitored local and national assessment data for RE.
4. Collective Worship Group– have redesigned advice and resources and this is awaiting approval;
5. The Website Group – have reviewed the current website and are awaiting approval of the above information before installing the information on the website.
6. The Youth SACRE has not progressed due to difficulties of members’ workload and time
7. Supporting RE and Collective Worship –SACRE members shared the production of newsletters throughout the year with the LA adviser ensuring that a newsletter was sent out each term

Review of the development plan has been delayed. It is coded with RED (not fulfilled), AMBER (part way to completing), GREEN (completed) or left WHITE if not yet timetabled to be addressed.

Membership

During the academic year, a number of members resigned Sunita Prasad, Rheanne Tubb, Beth Drage, Lesley Pollard, Emma Lopes. Their service to the SACRE was acknowledged in meetings with thanks.

Future Agendas

The SACRE looks forward to another busy year in 2015 – 2016. Agenda items in the coming year are likely to focus on:

- Reviewing the SACRE development plan and actions to be completed;
- Reviewing the content of the Agreed Syllabus and making a decision on the format of an Agreed Syllabus Conference;
- Monitoring Religious Education, collective worship and SMSC in county school Ofsted reports;
- Listening to youth voice concerning RE and collective worship;
- Updating the SACRE website;
- Approving updated guidance on visits to places of worship and faith visitors to schools and suggested relevant school policies
- Approving updated advice on RE resources
- Approving updated advice on collective worship for schools;
- Maintaining the RE newsletter for schools;
- Working in partnership with NCC and the Diocese of Peterborough to ensure a programme of support and professional development is made available to local schools.
- Hearing more about good teaching and learning in Religious Education.
- Creating better and positive relationships with academies, independent and Free Schools to further the aims and objectives and value of Religious Education in all the schools in the county

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Locally Agreed Syllabus 2011

Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires local authorities to institute a review of the locally Agreed Syllabus five years after the completion of its last review. The current syllabus, 'Growing Together', was implemented in county schools from September 2011 and is being used successfully in county schools, including Church of England Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools (as recommended by

the Diocese of Peterborough). Feedback about the syllabus has been extremely positive.

Academies, independent and Free Schools in the county are invited to use the locally Agreed Syllabus.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The County Council Professional Development programme did not include Religious Education during 2014- 2015.

However, the Independent Learning Adviser to the SACRE has:

- Provided schools with bespoke in-house training and consultancy;
- Published a termly newsletter to schools.

Details of the training programme provided by the Diocese of Peterborough can be found on their website: <http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events?tags=school>

Teachers can always approach SACRE to highlight training needs.

In School Support for Religious Education

Over the year the independent learning adviser to the SACRE, Lesley Pollard, continued to make visits to primary and secondary schools on request.

The SACRE is pleased to see that a number of county schools are still ensuring that Religious Education receives the attention and support deserved of a statutory subject and encourages all senior leadership teams to ensure that RE is considered when identifying school improvement and training needs. The RE Quality Mark (REQM) is proving extremely helpful for schools to evaluate their RE and develop action plans to move the subject forward.

During the year covered by this report, schools in the county worked towards achieving this Quality Mark. Three schools achieved the Silver Award.

All Saints CE (VA) Primary School & Nursery Unit, Wellingborough

West Haddon Endowed Church of England Primary School

Yardley Gobion Church of England Primary School

SACRE warmly congratulates the schools on their success.

RE Newsletter

The SACRE members received copies of the termly RE newsletter circulated to all Northamptonshire and Rutland schools.

Standards in Religious Education

The Agreed Syllabus emphasises standards of attainment expected at the end of each Key Stage and includes guidance on planning and assessment. The SACRE remind schools that they are required to submit the returns for attainment at the end of Key Stages 1, 2, and 3 so that data can be analysed effectively. This continues to be the case despite the Department for Education (DfE) withdrawing level descriptors and the requirement to report on levels in other subjects. Level descriptors in RE will remain statutory for local schools until any changes that may be made when the Agreed Syllabus has to be reviewed (2016).

Key Stage 1

A summary of the results can be found in [Appendix 4](#).

It was disappointing to have a drop in the numbers of schools returning their Key Stage 1 data compared with last year, with only 47% compared with 74% in 2013. Overall 86% achieved the expected level (L2+) by the end of the year in 2014 and 20% exceeded that expectation (L3). This shows a drop of 2% at the expected level compared with 2013 and a 2% rise at L3. 16% were working below the expected level, 3% more than last year.

There was little difference between the outcomes for boys and girls in the reported data.

Schools were also asked to include an analysis of their strengths and areas for development. For Key Stage 1 they are summarised as follows:

Strengths:

- The use of drama and 'Talk for Writing'
- Pupils' recall and retelling of stories
- Pupils' attitudes to RE and empathy for other religious beliefs
- Discussion and questioning in lessons
- Use of prayer spaces
- Practical approaches to learning

Areas for Development:

- Finding more visitors who represent different religions
- Finding more places to visit
- Finding more resources to support teaching and learning
- Staff training to develop subject knowledge, develop accurate assessments, improve planning and develop cross curricular links
- Provide more challenge for the more able
- Develop pupils' knowledge of the Bible
- Understand more about the Jewish faith
- Ensure good coverage of the curriculum

- Make collective worship more inspiring

Key Stage 2

A summary of the results can be found in [Appendix 4.](#)

There was also a drop in returns of Key Stage 2 assessment data down to 40% from 54% last year.

There was a sharp drop in the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level of attainment (L4+) compared with last year with the total dropping 5% to 75% according to reported data. This now represents a three year downward trend in achievement at L4+. There was a 3% rise however in pupils who achieved above the expected level (L5+) and this year 0.3% of pupils were reported as achieving L6. There was only 1% of difference between boys and girls at L4% but girls outperformed boys by 5% at L5.

Schools were also asked to include an analysis of strengths and areas for development. For Key Stages 2 they are summarised as follows:

Strengths:

- Pupils' engagement in discussion, giving opinions, asking questions, sharing ideas and making comparisons between religions
- The use of questioning in lessons
- Showing respect for other faiths
- Good understanding of Christianity
- Good research skills
- Use of drama and video clips

Areas for Development:

- Arranging visits and visitors from a variety of religions
- Developing and acquiring resources
- Making cross curricular links and developing opportunities for writing in RE
- Training teachers to deliver RE within the new curriculum
- Subject leader training and time for monitoring e.g. book scrutiny and lesson observations, accuracy of assessments
- Providing more challenge for the more able
- Ensuring proper time is allocated to RE

Key Stage 3

A Summary of the results can be found in [Appendix 4.](#)

There was a further increase in reporting at Key Stage 3, with 50% of school sending in returns.

The reported data shows a 5% increase in the overall percentage of pupils achieving the expected level 5+ compared with 2014 and the gap between boys' and girls'

attainment narrowed by 1%. The number of boys working below the expected level is 3% lower than girls.

Schools were also asked to include an analysis of strengths and areas for development. At Key Stage 3 they are summarised as follows:

Strengths:

- Pupils' engagement in discussion, debate and group work
- Pupils' ability to compare religious practices
- Progress from KS2 to KS3
- Pupils drawing on own experience
- Use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

Areas for Development:

- Securing the engagement of boys
- Making secure assessments
- Making links with writing
- Support for non specialist teachers
- More specialist teachers
- Providing challenge for the more able
- Developing more personalised learning

The information provided has been very helpful and has enabled the SACRE to have up to date information on pupils' attainment at Key Stage 3 across the county.

SACRE notes that there was little mention of engagement in the PREVENT strategy as part of schools' areas for development and would encourage them to regard this initiative as an important element in teaching RE in schools.

GCSE and GCE Results

TO BE UPDATED WHEN DATA HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM BIPI- not yet available due to data currently being transferred from one system to another.

Ofsted Report

Schools are reminded to refresh themselves with the Long Report for RE from Ofsted – “Realising the Potential” (Ofsted 2013).

The SACRE has continues to use this and the All Party Parliamentary Group Report (APPG) on RE – “The Truth Unmasked” in order to compare RE nationally with the local picture.

SACRE members received a presentation and analysis from Lesley Pollard on the

'Trojan Horse' scenario in Birmingham.

School Self-Evaluation

The SACRE recommends that all subject leaders for RE in all schools should regularly evaluate the quality of provision in the subject to identify strengths and areas for development. They recommend schools use the RE Quality Mark criteria to help with this as well as the support materials which accompany the Agreed Syllabus.

The local Independent RE Adviser was able to carry out RE Subject reviews in schools and to support schools as they worked to develop the provision through RE through:

- Providing training for subject leaders;
- Supporting schools with planning and assessment in RE;
- Developing the subject knowledge of non-specialist teachers; □ Supporting schools to carry out their self-evaluation processes;
- In-house/Cluster training.

Complaints about Religious Education

The SACRE did not receive any complaints about Religious Education during the year.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Quality Collective Worship

Collective Worship guidance and resources has been reviewed by a SACRE working party and will be sent to schools when approved.

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Determinations

The 1996 Education Act (section 394 – 1) empowers a SACRE to grant the request of a head teacher for alternative Collective Worship, where it is considered that the nature of a pupil population makes it inappropriate to be wholly or mainly Christian.

In the year of this report, the SACRE has not received any requests from schools for a determination.

Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

The SACRE has not received any complaints about Collective Worship during the reporting year.

APPENDIX 1

The Statutory Duties of a SACRE

All LAs are required to establish a SACRE.

A SACRE's main function, as set out in the 1996 Education Act is:

“To advise the Local Education Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in County schools and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus as the Authority may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit”. (s.391 (1) (a))

Such matters include:-

“Methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers”.

A SACRE also:

- Can require the LA to review its current Agreed Syllabus (s.391(3))
- Must consider applications made by a head teacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in County schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the Collective Worship provided for some or all of the pupils in a particular school - “determinations”. (s.394(1))

All SACREs are required by law to produce an Annual Report, a copy of which must be sent to the Qualification and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA).

The SACRE comprises four groups:

- Group A:** Representatives of Christian denominations and other religions such as Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, and Sikhism, and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.
- Group B:** Church of England representatives
- Group C:** Teacher representatives
- Group D:** LA representatives

Each group has equal status and voting rights.

The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools through:

- Giving advice on methods of teaching using the Agreed Syllabus Religious Education;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC);

- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to by the LA;
- Asking the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.

The Northamptonshire SACRE usually meets three - four times a year. SACRE meetings are open to the general public who may attend as observers.

Membership of the Northamptonshire SACRE can be found in [Appendix 3](#).

APPENDIX 2

Northamptonshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Terms of Reference

1. PREAMBLE

1.1. This document explains the duties and responsibilities of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education in Northamptonshire, which shall be called the SACRE from this point on.

1.2. The SACRE shall, in line with the law and guidance issued by Parliament, the Courts, the Department for Education (DFE) and Northamptonshire County Council as the Local Authority (LA), advise on such matters connected with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools and other educational establishments in the LA's area, excluding Religious Education and Collective Worship in Voluntary Aided schools, Collective Worship in Voluntary Controlled schools and schools with a trust deed which specifies alternative provision.

1.3. If there is a conflict between these Terms of Reference and the law, the SACRE shall comply with the law.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. The SACRE aims to:

- a) Keep under review provision for Religious Education and Collective Worship in all the LA's schools and to make recommendations to the LA as necessary;
- b) Ensure that Religious Education has equal standing in relation to the core and other foundation subjects within a school's curriculum;
- c) Make recommendations to the LA relating to appropriate training, materials and other resources in the context of the relevant law and guidance;
- d) Advise the LA of the need to review the Agreed Syllabus as required by law.

2.2. In order to achieve the above, the SACRE has set itself the following objectives:

- a) To promote the provision and monitor the standards of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools;
- b) To prepare and make various recommendations to schools on methods and resources to support good practice in RE and Collective Worship;
- c) To review training needs of teachers and monitor training programmes;
- d) To consider and decide upon applications for determinations in relation to Collective Worship,
- e) To arrange presentations to the SACRE related to good teaching and learning in Religious Education and resources for RE and Collective Worship;
- f) To consider the content of the LA's Agreed Syllabus and advise whether a new or modified Agreed Syllabus is required;
- g) To undertake any other activities necessary to achieve the SACRE's aims and comply with its legal duties.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SACRE

3.1. In line with the law and current guidance, the SACRE shall:

- a) Offer advice to the LA on matters connected with Collective Worship in its schools and Religious Education in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus; this can include methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers;
- b) When requested by a majority of its representative groups, not including that group representing the LA, instruct the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus and to convene a conference for that purpose. Such a review shall **begin not later than five years after the completion of the previous review**. An Agreed Syllabus Conference, established for this purpose, may recommend the inclusion of attainment targets, programmes of study and assessment arrangements in locally determined form. Any new Agreed Syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in this country are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented here;
- c) Inform schools of any amendments to the Agreed Syllabus and provide guidance to schools on matters relating to the implementation of the law with respect to Religious Education and Collective Worship;
- d) Inform schools of arrangements for seeking a “determination” with respect to Collective Worship. Upon receipt of a written application from a Head Teacher of a community school or any foundation school which has not been designated as having a religious character, to determine whether it is appropriate to disapply the requirement for broadly Christian Collective Worship in the case of that school, or of a class or other description of pupils at the school. Due regard must be given to any circumstances relating to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils. The ‘determination’ must be reviewed after five years, or earlier if requested by the school;
- e) Publish an annual report on the SACRE’s work, specifying those matters on which advice has been given to the LA, the nature of such advice, and the reasons for offering advice on matters not referred to it by the LA. The report should be sent to schools and the National Association of SACREs and an annual return should be submitted to the DFE each year giving the number and effect of any ‘determinations’ with respect to Collective Worship made by the SACRE;
- f) Consider complaints referred by the LA to the SACRE with respect to provision for Religious Education or Collective Worship.

3.2 Budgetary management The

SACRE shall:

- a) Monitor the use of the funds provided by the LA for its activities; and
- b) Appoint a Scrutineer (who shall be elected annually by the SACRE) to oversee the SACRE budget, meet with the Chair and LA Officer to the SACRE at least three times a year and report to the SACRE regularly.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Representative Members

4.1. In line with the relevant legislation, the SACRE will include members appointed by the LA from the following four representative groups:

- a. Such Christian and other religious denominations not including the Church of England, as in the opinion of the LA, broadly reflect the proportion of those denominations or religions represented in the area;

- b. The Church of England;
- c. Associations representing teachers, as in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area; and
- d. The LA.

Co-opted Members

4.2 The SACRE may include co-opted members, who are persons appointed by its own members.

4.3 The relevant appointing body must notify the SACRE Clerk in writing of any representative and co-opted member appointments, prior to the new member's first meeting.

Vacancies.

4.4 In the event of a vacancy on the SACRE the Clerk shall:

- a. Advise the relevant appointing body and/or NASACRE of the vacancy;
- b. Where appropriate, refer any nomination to the LA; and
- c. Where such nominations are agreed, record the person as a member of SACRE.

4.5 In the absence of nominees from a representative group, the LA may nominate and appoint any person that it considers to be representative of that group and it deems appropriate, to fill the vacancy.

Term of Office

4.6 The SACRE shall review the membership annually at the autumn term meeting on receipt of the Annual Report.

End of Membership

4.7 A member shall cease to be a member of the SACRE if:

- a. They write to the SACRE or the Clerk and tender their resignation;
- b. They were appointed by virtue of being representative of the religion, denomination or associations which they were appointed to represent, but in the opinion of the LA, they cease to be such a representative, or to be representative of the authority;
- c. The other members of their representative group notify the LA that the member should no longer act as one of its representative on the SACRE, and the LA agrees to their removal;
- d. The LA determine, on reasonable grounds, that the member is unable, unwilling or an unsuitable person to continue these duties.

Officers to the SACRE.

4.8 The Chair of the SACRE shall be appointed either by the LA or, if the choice is made not to exercise this right, by members in attendance at the relevant meeting, at:

- a. The first meeting each Academic Year, or

- b. Any meeting during the year when the position is vacant.

4.9 Where the Chair is appointed by the voting members this will be by a simple majority.

4.10 The Chair shall be responsible for:

- a. The management of meetings;
- b. Representing the SACRE to other bodies;
- c. Such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

4.11 The Vice-chair shall be appointed by a simple majority of the voting members, at:

- a. The first meeting each Academic Year; or
- b. Any meeting during the year when the position is vacant.

4.12 The Vice-chair shall be responsible for

- a. Deputising for the Chair as required;
- b. Representing the SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the Chair or by agreement with the Chair such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

The Clerk

4.13 The LA shall appoint and supervise a Clerk to:

- a. Attend the meetings of the SACRE;
- b. Take appropriate minutes and notes at the meetings;
- c. Maintain and update the records of SACRE and its meetings; and
- d. Perform any other necessary administrative duties.

5 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Arrangements for Meetings

5.1 Meetings will be called by the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and the Officer serving the SACRE and will generally be open to the press or the public.

5.2 The SACRE must meet at least three times a year, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Chair.

5.3 Special meetings may be called by the Chair and the LA acting jointly.

5.4 Details of the business to be considered at the meeting, which will be included in the agenda, must reach the Clerk not later than ten school days before the meeting.

5.5 The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, shall no later than five working days before the meeting;

- a. Prepare the agenda; and
- b. Circulate the agenda to those Members and bodies entitled to receive a copy of the minutes.

5.6 Each agenda shall, amongst other matters, include:

- a. An invitation to the SACRE to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; and
- b. Any applications for a determination if any have been received.

5.7 It is expected that all members of the SACRE will attend the meetings planned unless they are prevented from so doing due to circumstances over which they have no control. If members are aware that they will be unable to attend a meeting they should, as far as possible, arrange for a suitable person within the group that they are representing to stand in for them at the meeting. This representative would then be expected to liaise with the SACRE member to feedback from the meeting so that members remain fully informed.

Voting

5.8 On any question to be decided by the SACRE only the representative groups shall be entitled to vote and each representative group shall have a single vote.

5.9 Each representative group shall determine its own internal voting processes.

5.10 A proposal shall not be deemed to be carried unless it has been approved by at least three representative groups unless otherwise required by the law or guidance issued by Parliament, the Department for Education or the LA.

Quorum

5.11 For the purposes of meetings, the SACRE will be deemed quorate **when three representative groups are represented.**

5.12 For the purposes of voting, the SACRE will be deemed quorate when at least one member of **each of** four Committees and not less than a third of the total membership are present.

Report of Proceedings

5.13 A copy of the minutes of each meeting shall be supplied by the Clerk, as soon as possible after the meeting, to:

- a. Each member of the SACRE; and
- b. The LA.

Exclusion of the Public

5.14 The SACRE shall determine whether its meetings or parts of its meetings are open to the public, for a specific meeting or for the rest of the Academic Year, at:

- a. The first meeting each Academic Year: or
- b. Any meeting during the year at which the issue is raised by a Committee of the SACRE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The members of SACRE would like to acknowledge that these Terms of Reference are based on those of The Staffordshire SACRE. Thanks to them for granting permission to use them as a basis for Northamptonshire's own.

(June 2013)

APPENDIX 3

Membership of the Northamptonshire SACRE and Attendance at Meetings 2014-2015

The SACRE has met on the following occasions:

Monday 8 September 2014 – Gateway Centre, (Bangladeshi Community)
Northampton

Wednesday 3 December 2014 – Swaminarayan Mandir, 2-22 Mill Road,
Wellingborough

Tuesday 3 March 2015 – Northampton School for Boys, Billing Road, Northampton

Wednesday 3 June 2015 – The Heritage Centre, All Saints Church, Brixworth

GROUP ONE

Representatives of other churches and other faiths

Dr Derrick Whitehouse
Religious Society of Friends
3/4

Mrs Beverley Evans (Matthews)
Bahai Community
2/4

Sister Aidan Richards
Catholic Diocese
2/4

Mrs Lindsey Cole
United Reform Church
2/4

William Duncan
Buddhist Community
3/4

Harkirat Singh
Sikh Community
2/4

Jo Elijah-Sigston
Jewish Community (Reformed)
4/4

Mr Daniel Tabor
Jewish Community (Hebrew
Congregation)
2/4

Mr Anthony Twigger
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints
3/4

Mr Akik Miah
Bangladeshi Community
1/4

Mrs Elizabeth Dunning
Methodist Community

Hitesh Jethna
Hindu Community

2/4

1/4

Krishnar Thakrar
Hindu Community
0/4

Pet Finden
Buddhist Community
0/1

Anwarul Momen
Muslim Bangladeshi Community
1/4

GROUP TWO

Church of England Representatives

Reverend Philip Davies
4/4

Reverend Doug Spenceley
2/4

Reverend Andrew Dutton
3/4

Reverend Chris Tremththanmor
0/1

GROUP THREE

Primary Schools

Mrs Jenny Dixon (NUT Representative)
4/4

Mrs Beth Drage (ATL
Representative)
2/4

Mrs Yvette Timms (ATL Representative)
3/4

Secondary Schools

Miss Justine Davies (NASUWT
Representative)
2/4

Emily Hopfinger (ATL
Representative)
1/4

Rheanne Tubb (NUT Representative)
1/4

Mrs Emma Lopes
0/1

Mrs Elizabeth Bonner (NUT Representative)
0/4

Mrs Karen Woolley (NUT Representative) 0/4

Mrs Amanda Fitton
University of Northampton 2/2

Special Schools

Mrs Joy Ward (NASUWT Representative)
3/4

GROUP FOUR

Local Education Authority Representative

Cllr Dudley Hughes
3/4

CO-OPTED

Chris Paddock – Representative of the British Humanist Association
3/3

Independent Learning Adviser to SACRE

Mrs Lesley Pollard

4/4

Clerk to SACRE

Mrs Jane Hall

APPENDIX 4

End of Key Stage Results 2014

Religious Education Teacher Assessments

End of Key Stage 1 Northamptonshire Schools including Academies (47% Return Overall)

	%Working Towards (WT)Level 1	%Level 1	%Level 2	%Level 3
Boys	1	15	64	20
Girls	1	12	66	21
All Pupils	1	13	65	21

End of Key Stage 2 Northamptonshire Schools including Academies (40% Return Overall)

	% WT L1	% Level 1	%Level 2	%Level 3	%Level 4	%Level 5	%Level 6
Boys	0.4	0.5	5	22	52	20	0.1
Girls	0.2	0.4	3	18	53	25	0.4
All Pupils	0.3	0.4	4	20	52	23	0.3

End of Key Stage 3 Northamptonshire Schools including Academies (35% Return)

	%Below Level 5	%Level 5	%Level 6	%Level 7+
Boys	4.5	58	30	7.5
Girls	1.5	52	35	12
All Pupils	2	55	33	10

Year 11 Religious Studies (Full Course)

Northamptonshire Schools (including Academies where data has been shared)

**National Maintained Schools (Year 11 only)
Includes Academies and CTCs where data has been shared**

Year 11 Religious Studies (Short Course)

Northamptonshire Schools (including Academies where data has been shared)

National Maintained Schools (Year 11 only)

G.C.E. Advanced Level Religious Studies Northamptonshire Schools

(including Academies where data has been shared) Years 13 and 14 - 2014

National *Maintained Schools. All Candidates Years 13 and 14 (Including Academies and CTCs where data has been shared)

G.C.E AS Level Religious Studies

Northamptonshire Schools (including Academies where data has been shared)

Year 12 to 14 - 2014

National Maintained Schools. All Candidates Years 12, 13 and 14 (including Academies and CTCs where data has been shared)

APPENDIX 5

NAMES AND LOCATIONS OF THE CLERK TO THE SACRE

Mrs Jane Hall
Clerk to Northamptonshire SACRE
Leadership & Governance Team
Learning, Skills and Education
Children Families & Education Directorate
The Old Gaol Block
County Hall
Northampton
NN1 1ED

jhall@northamptonshire.gov.uk