



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016 – 2017**

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Annual Report 2016-2017**

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Chairperson's Introduction From Sukaina Manji

Religious Education (RE) makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality RE.

Peterborough SACRE is very keen to support the development of our young citizens in the city. Peterborough SACRE plays an active part in supporting schools with their teaching as well as providing a locally agreed syllabus for use within various key stages.

Members have to be congratulated for giving up their time and effort voluntarily for the meetings. Each member plays an important part within the SACRE and this has to be recognised. I would like to thank them for their efforts and to also remind them to keep up with the commitment for Peterborough SACRE.

During the year, our Chair Rev Ian Forsyth said farewell after giving his time to Peterborough SACRE. I would like to thank him for all his contributions and wish him well in his future career.

Amanda Fitton started working as the SACRE Adviser for Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. I would like to thank Amanda for her services to Peterborough SACRE.

Peterborough SACRE joined with Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland for the purpose of reviewing the next Agreed Syllabus. The review process involved piloting the new syllabus as well as faith representatives writing up the progression stages for each religion.

SACRE continues to send a representative to the NASACRE AGM. Amanda Fitton (SACRE Adviser) attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of Cambridgeshire SACRE on 16th May 2016.

A termly RE newsletter was compiled by the RE Adviser in September 2016 and sent out to all schools. Lucia Hawes, our Clerk, is very efficient in ensuring all the communications are kept in order and I would like to thank her for all her services to SACRE.

SACRE will continue to meet the challenges and changes outlined below in the forthcoming year:

1. Work to support teachers to provide meaningful and challenging RE;
2. Involve wider representation (Faith / Belief / Universities / Academies);
3. Pupil / student involvement with SACRE;
4. Meeting the challenges of the changes to the curriculum at GCSE and A level.
5. Contribute towards the development of our young Peterborough citizens through active RE.

Sukaina Manji
Chair of SACRE

The purpose of the report:

Religious Education (RE) is an important curriculum subject and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality RE.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority (LA) publishes a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

This entails:

- advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the agreed syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus;
- provide advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its LA, consider whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the agreed syllabus to improve the quality teaching and learning of RE;
- offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

Management of SACRE

With the changing face of education both nationally and locally in the past year, SACRE has had to grapple with its role and function in the LA and nationally. The 'Non Statutory Framework for Religious Education' was produced in October 2013 and is being encouraged by the Religious Education Council for England and Wales to be a significant document to inform a locally Agreed Syllabus Conference when determining its future syllabus for RE. This will be taken into account when the review of Peterborough's Agreed Syllabus happens in 2017.

SACRE is very pleased to report that the LA has continued to support the work of SACRE by providing a named officer from the LA responsible for SACRE and a clerk for the administration, and has secured the services of a RE Adviser to support SACRE's work to schools. Despite significant cutbacks in many local authorities, Peterborough City Council has continued to support SACRE and its work.

Peterborough SACRE, which has met once a term, comprises of four statutory groups.

Attendance at meetings has been variable. The four groups are as follows:-

- Group A -representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions and religious denominations;
- Group B -representatives of the Church of England;
- Group C - representatives of the teachers' association;
- Group D – representatives of the LA.

Reverend Ian Forsyth continued as chairman and Sukaina Manji was voted as Vice Chair. Efforts have been made to secure Hindu, Buddhist and Roman Catholic representatives but to no avail. Numbers at meetings improved by the end of 2016 but the meeting of February 2017 had to be postponed due to the number of members who could not attend. This is an area that needs to be discussed and improved.

SACRE said farewell and thank you for their contributions to Reverend Ian Forsyth, Rt Reverend John Flack and Nick Senior (Humanist representative).

SACRE welcomed Amanda Fitton as RE adviser to both the local authority and SACRE. They also welcomed Janet Berkman who joined Committee A to represent the Jewish community, Martin McBean to represent the Humanist community, Jack Buley joined Committee C and Ryan Blackburn joined Committee A to represent non-Anglican Christian denomination.

Support for Improving the Teaching of the Local Agreed Syllabus Agreed Syllabus Conference

SACRE began the process of reviewing the Agreed Syllabus for Cambridgeshire in conjunction with Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland SACREs. Four joint Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) meetings were held from December 2016 to July 2017, with sub-committees looking initially at the Framework, Assessment and Progression with the aim of a number of schools by September 2017 piloting the syllabus. Expert advice was also sought from different schools, different faiths and teachers. Thanks are extended to all these persons.

Determinations

SACRE had no new requests for determinations.

SACRE and Academies

Peterborough SACRE continues to enjoy a positive relationship with some of the academies in the city. There are members from academies on SACRE. Teachers from academies attend network meetings to share and exchange ideas and materials.

NASACRE Conference

The SACRE Adviser attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of Cambridgeshire SACRE on 16th May 2016. The two key note speakers at the conference were Dr Joyce Miller and Aaqil Ahmed who both talked about 'Preparing for Life in Britain today' and RE's role in this pertinent topic.

RE Newsletter

From September 2016, a termly RE newsletter has been compiled by the RE adviser and sent out to all schools in Peterborough. The newsletter has been a mixture of news from the RE world, advice, notifications and links to resources.

Agendas and Meetings

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Peterborough City Council website:

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/religious-education/>

A and AS level RE: At present these results are unavailable.

GCSE RE: The percentage A* - C pass rate is again below national average but did improve on last year with 64% gaining an A* to C grade. The number of candidates being entered for the full GCSE has fallen from 1139 in 2016 to 850 in 2017. This is concerning for a subject that is statutory until KS5. SACRE needs to continue supporting schools with the GCSE for 2017 and make sure schools meeting their statutory obligations in regard to RE.

	2017 Pboro	2017 National	2016 Pboro	2016 National	2015 Pboro	2015 National
Number of candidates entries	850	248,063	1,139	268,437	1,012	253,196
Percentage of candidates gaining grades A*-C	64.0%	70.3%	62.5%	71.7%	65%	70.9%

KS1 - 3 RE Schools have often assumed that the removal of levels from National Curriculum subjects would also apply to RE, and have therefore in many cases been using the Agreed Syllabus but not the assessment part of it. The data that SACRE has usually been able to gather has not been asked for, and therefore no conclusions with regard to progress at KS1, KS2 and KS3 can be drawn. SACRE needs to continue supporting teachers with assessment and look to introduce new assessment criteria in line with other subjects from the National Curriculum. This continues to be a development area for SACRE for the coming year.