



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for  
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2018 - 2019**

## **Peterborough Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education Annual Report 2018 -2019**

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## **Chairperson's Introduction**

Studying Religious Education (RE) in schools helps provide the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils of all ages as well as enhances in building bridges within the wider community. All pupils are entitled to receive high-quality RE and the Government is keen to ensure this is delivered effectively. There are many challenges faced by people of Faith background which can be recognised and understood through the delivery of Religious Education. By coming together on common issues people of all backgrounds and faiths actively participate within the wider society. To create a cohesive society for future generations, the role of young people is imperative and by appreciating the role of their RE work they can understand how religious views play an important part in shaping the life of faith communities.

Peterborough SACRE is always very keen to support the development of our young citizens in the city. As a SACRE we play an active part in supporting schools with their RE teaching as well as providing a locally agreed syllabus for use within various key stages. The New (2018) Locally Agreed Syllabus has been received well and used in schools to deliver effective RE for our young people in the city.

The year has successfully passed with members once again giving up their time and effort voluntarily for the meetings and supporting any SACRE projects. It is important to recognise that every member plays an important part within the SACRE and their efforts make the success of SACRE. I would like to thank them all for their efforts and to also request them to keep up with the commitment for Peterborough SACRE as it helps to shape the locally agreed syllabus and support the work of Religious Education within the city.

Our SACRE Adviser, Amanda Fitton, continues to give her services to Peterborough SACRE as well as supporting Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SACREs. This report gives an outline of all the training and support she has given to supplement the teaching and learning of RE. I take this opportunity to thank her for all her work in supporting Peterborough SACRE.

The Local Authority has always supported Peterborough SACRE and we are proud to say using an allocated budget we continued to support schools with transport in visiting places of worship. This project is a great achievement for SACRE and has been appreciated by both teachers and students. Feedback has shown that this project benefitted students by being able to first-hand experience various places of worship. We look forward to supporting more schools in the future.

In August 2018, Lucia Hawes who had served as our clerk for almost five years bid us goodbye. I would like to thank her for all the excellent services to SACRE. In September 2018, we were very pleased to welcome Laura Corcoran who continues to ensure all the communications are kept in order and I take this opportunity to thank her for all her services to SACRE.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2019, the SACRE adviser attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of our SACRE. A termly RE newsletter is sent out every term to all schools to give news from the RE world as well as any updates to support the teaching and address any challenges of RE in schools.

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

1. Work to support teachers and leaders to provide meaningful and challenging RE;
2. Continuously involve wider representation (Faith / Belief / Universities / Academies);

3. Ensure engagement and benefit to pupil / student in gaining and shaping an excellent 'RE within the city;
4. Meeting the challenges of the changes to the curriculum at GCSE and A level and provide appropriate support wherever essential.
5. Actively contribute towards the development of our young Peterborough citizens through high quality RE provisions.

Sukaina Manji  
Chair of SACRE

### **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**

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 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 Local Authority.

SACRE welcomed new members:

Committee B – Rebecca Smith - Church of England – Ely Diocese

Co-opted Member Jenny Weeden

We said farewell to Martin MacBean (Co-opted Member) whom we thank for his contribution to SACRE.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Peterborough County Council SACRE website at <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/religious-education/>

### **Agreed Syllabus**

From September 2018 the agreed Syllabus 2018 – 2023 for Cambridgeshire superseded the previous syllabus.

### **Network Meetings**

The primary network meetings for the academic year have been led Amanda Fitton (RE Adviser). Only two sets of meetings were held in the Spring and Summer terms of 2019. This was due to changes in provision for the meetings. Those who attended the meetings were able to take away copies of PowerPoints and other resources. The meetings covered a variety of different topics to support RE in primary schools. These have ranged were; Challenge in RE and the Broader Curriculum and subject Knowledge. These will continue into the next academic year. SACRE would like to thank the following schools for hosting the meetings: **William De Yaxley Academy and Discovery Primary Academy.**

### **Training**

Training continued to be popular with a range of training being held over the year and has continued to support schools with the new syllabus. Themes for the year have ranged from; Planning and the New Syllabus, Creative Ideas in RE, Assessment in RE and Leading RE. Network meetings took place on a half termly basis, giving schools from both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to attend at their preferred location.

### **NASACRE Conference**

The RE adviser attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of Cambridgeshire SACRE on 22nd May 2019 in Manchester. There were two keynote speakers at the conference. Peter Bull head teacher at Alsop High School in Liverpool speaking about how SACRE can help schools become beacons of hope. The second speaker was Julian Stern from St John's University York speaking on Uncertainty and Morality in reference to Community Cohesion.

### **Determinations**

SACRE had no new requests for determinations.

### **Complaints**

There have been no complaints made to SACRE.

### **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.

### **RE Newsletter**

The newsletter has been sent out every term over the academic year. The newsletter has been a mixture of news from the RE world, advice, notifications and links to resources <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/religious-education/SACREnewsletters>

### **Faith Direct Event**

Faith Direct event was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and was attended by 10 secondary schools across Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. Pupils for years 9 and 10 had the opportunity to question a number of different people from a range of faiths and beliefs.

### **Prevent**

The Prevent team from Peterborough and Cambridgeshire talked to SACRE regarding the work of Prevent. They explained how it worked and the role of channel and the issues Peterborough faced with radicalisation.

### **Working Parties**

SACRE used extra funding to support school visits to religious buildings across the city. The project was initiated as a result of feedback from schools where the costs of transport was seen a hindrance in taking pupils to visit places of worship. The aim of the bursary is to promote a wide range of children and young people (from a range of backgrounds and demographics) visiting places of worship as a meaningful part of their structured learning. Schools were invited to bid for a £250 bursary towards a school trip. A subcommittee was set up to look at all the bids and decide who the money was allocated to. Part of the bid was for feedback on the impact of the visit for the pupils. SACRE are hoping to carry on with the grants into 2018 -2019 academic year.

See Appendix A for the feedback.

### **SACRE visits**

Over the year members of SACRE visited the Husaini Islamic Centre and other Mosques as part of their open days.

### **Exam results**

#### **A Level results**

2018 is the first year to have A' level results since 2014. Numbers of entries in 2014 were 97 and 2018 are 98 which is encouraging that this figure is not showing a decline. Since 2014 there have been changes to the A level courses a comparison on data is not appropriate until 2019.

#### **GCSE results**

Numbers being entered for the GCSE are showing only a small decline with 850 in 2017 and 838 in 2018. Due to changes in how GCSEs are graded all analysis will begin in 2019.