

**Bristol Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education:**



# SACRE



## Annual Report 2016 17



**Pupils from year 6 at St Michaels on the Mount CofE Primary School visit Shah Jalal Jame Mosque on Stapleton Road.**

## **Chair's Introduction**

Welcome to our annual report 2016-2017 showing just how busy Bristol SACRE has been in the last year. We have provided a valuable service as we continue to meet regularly and work enthusiastically to support RE in Bristol Schools. Bristol SACRE is proud to have such a diverse, talented and committed team who have supported the vision of excellence in RE in Bristol schools. We have achieved this through: monitoring, training, CPD, provision of materials to support our agreed syllabus, a new website, hub meetings bringing RE teachers together as well as our SACRE annual conference providing networking and CPD. We have also created new projects such as "WIRE" (Widening Inclusion in RE) to promote engagement in RE in schools through visits and events. We have continued to develop meaningful relationships with other organisations and faith groups to ensure that we can offer our schools the best support possible.

## **Supporting Good RE through CPD**

We have been creative in our CPD this year in order to challenge and inspire. We launched the new website and changes to the Agreed Syllabus at a training event on January 25th 2017. This was very well reviewed, it was led by Dave Francis who is a nationally known speaker and RE adviser for Bath and North East Somerset. Bristol shares the agreed syllabus with BANES as well as North Somerset and Haringey.

Our agreed syllabus AMV (Awareness Mystery and Value) offering schools new guidance particularly on assessment, along with sample SOL and model lesson plans, can be downloaded from our new website: <http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/>

We are so pleased to have been able to continue to employ Katy Staples as the adviser to SACRE whose experience, talent and ability to connect with others has been a tremendous benefit to SACRE. Through the bespoke support that she has given to schools and the RE community she has succeeded in galvanising the talents of SACRE members and the RE community we have seen good progress.

During this year, acting as Hub leaders, Adam Robertson (RE subject leader at Horfield Primary School) and Esther Messinger (RE teacher at Bristol Cathedral Choir Secondary School.) have been able to organise and offer regular Hub meetings, facilitating school to school support. This has been jointly organised through the Learn Teach Lead Initiative funded by the Jerusalem Trust and the St Matthias trust. LTLRE has injected life into the community of RE by organising a conference in June 2017 at Bailbrook Hotel in Bath - this was attended by 26 teachers from Bristol and was unanimously heralded as an excellent conference.

Jenny Brookes from the Local Authority has been able to ensure the link between the SACRE and the council. SACRE is grateful to Bristol City Council for its continuing support to Bristol SACRE through funding a service level agreement that ensures that SACRE continues to have up to date advice. We also thank our local councillors who serve on the Board of SACRE for their time, experience and advice.

## **'Meaningful relationships'**

We have meaningful relationships with LA schools, academies, faith groups, and other local SACRE's to ensure that we can offer our schools the best support possible.. We continue to work closely with faith communities in Bristol and ensure that teachers can access faith speakers and people to help ensure visits to places of worship run well. We signpost the annual "Diverse Open Doors Day" for teachers which is run by Bristol Multi-faith Forum. We also have a close

partnership with Bristol University (Dr Janet Orchard a member of SACRE is a senior lecturer and organised the RE PGCE course during this reporting period). We work together to ensure there is continued support for teachers of RE from their PGCE or ITT into their teaching career. (We also maintain close links with local interfaith groups and Duncan Struthers from Bristol Multi-Faith Forum also sits on Bristol SACRE. We are also forging new relationships with the Teaching Schools Alliance and groups of schools such as Partnership NW24 and offer CPD and support to improve standards in RE in Bristol through those networks.

## **RE Success**

While it is important to tackle the concerns and challenges faced by the RE community, it is also worth taking a moment to celebrate our successes. Our GCSE figures show highest level of performance this year in comparison with the last 5 years, with 70% A\*-C and 97.2% A\*-C at GCSE and 74% A\*-C success at A Level. A particular well done to those schools that have maintained high performance and improved success. Congratulations to SMRT and Redland Green and Bristol Cathedral Choir School for outstanding success. Also well done to Ashton Park, Bristol Free School, Fairfield High School, Oasis Brightstowe, and St Bedes who all celebrated significant increases in RE qualification performance figures.

## **'Immensely proud'**

I continue to be immensely proud to serve as the Chair of Bristol SACRE and am grateful for the hard work and diligence of this committed group of diverse individuals, who share one purpose: to contribute to the effectiveness of RE in Bristol. They are all RE champions in their own right bringing together such expertise in their respective fields. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work this year. I would also like to thank our amazing advisor Katy Staples whose commitment, energy, smile and patience in continuing to pull together all of the strands that make Bristol SACRE so relevant and successful. My continued thanks to all of the RE community that support us and of course to Bristol City Council for funding that makes our work possible.

Let's keep up the good work.

**Esther Deans MBE**

**Chair, Bristol SACRE**



## What is SACRE?

SACRE is the abbreviation for the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**. It is a constituted committee of Bristol Council; Its composition is specifically multi-faith and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers. It also includes representative councillors from the council. There is also a representative from the British Humanist Association.

It is a **statutory** requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and to support its work. Religious Education is the only curriculum subject to have a curriculum that is *locally agreed*. The purpose of SACRE is to advise on the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship, and to create and monitor the Agreed syllabus within Bristol.

Bristol SACRE believes that Religious Education is unique because it is the only subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but agreed locally. This means that we can ensure that the syllabus we offer children and young people gives examples of belief lived and practised by people who have lived and currently live in their locality.

SACRE takes an active part in the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus every 5 years. The current agreed syllabus was implemented in 2016 and will next be reviewed in 2021.

## How SACRE is funded and administered

During this reporting year SACRE received funding of **£ 9,625** from Bristol Council. SACRE creates an annual budget plan for how its funding is to be spent and expenditure is monitored at every meeting.

All SACRE's members are volunteers who give up their time freely and enthusiastically to help SACRE with its work.

## SACRE Adviser

The SACRE Adviser advises SACRE and enacts its decisions. In 2012, a Service Level Agreement was drawn up between the Diocese of Bristol and the SACRE. This has provided SACRE with a dedicated and experienced resource, in the shape of Katy Staples. Katy also advises South Glos and Swindon SACRE and has extensive expertise in education and working in schools. During this period, the Local Authority was represented at SACRE meetings by Elected Members and Jenny Brookes, Teaching and Learning Consultant with "Trading with Schools". Jenny has acted as a link officer for SACRE to the Local Authority to ensure that the services offered by the Service Level Agreement are effective and met the needs of SACRE and teachers of Religious Education in Bristol.

SACRE works to the non-statutory guidance in the 1994 document: Circular 1/94. Parts of that document have been replaced with the guidance: 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non- statutory guidance 2010'.

Bristol Council has approved a constitution for SACRE. A copy of the constitution may be obtained from the Clerk to SACRE, April Pye [april.pye@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:april.pye@bristol.gov.uk)

## **Priorities for 2016 - 2017**

SACRE has created a five year development plan which focusses on the following key priorities:

- Improving Religious Education in Bristol Schools
- Ensuring the effectiveness of SACRE's partnership with the Local Authority and to assess the impact of the locally agreed syllabus
- To develop and enhance the possibilities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development offered through Collective Worship (Assemblies)
- Encourage Schools, Academies and Colleges to celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in Bristol and work with other local agencies to ensure this

This development plan ensures that the funding we receive is used well and targeted to support teachers in schools deliver high quality RE.

## **A renewed agreed syllabus for Bristol**

During 2016 a wholesale review was held of the agreed syllabus. This is a key responsibility of SACRE, and therefore the key activity for this period. After discussion with members of SACRE, and members of other SACREs with whom we share an Agreed Syllabus and teachers more widely, it was decided to move to renew the existing syllabus and relaunch it with a new website. The following reasons guided SACRE's decision in this matter:

- Feedback from teachers (particularly in the primary sector) that they needed more support in assessment in line with systems in other subjects.
- We had only changed the agreed syllabus in 2010 and many schools felt in a period of huge upheaval in other subjects. Teachers had only just started to fully implement the 2010 syllabus, so it was not the time for further change..

To this end, the Agreed Syllabus conference worked with members from North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, and Haringey to update the guidance and support for schools and to make it accessible through a new, stylish and efficient website:

<http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/>

In addition, Bristol SACRE have made some recommendations about the engagement that schools should make with local beliefs : At each key stage they are recommended to visit at least one place of worship or have a visitor from the Christian faith and at least one other belief. SACRE have also developed some 'locally distinctive' units that are based on religion and belief found in the local area – for example, the life of John Wesley and his links to Bristol, the Sunday Assembly as a local expression of collective atheist/ agnostic

belief, St Nicholas Tollentino as a community seeking to welcome and support Refugees and Asylum seekers.

### **Support for schools**

In line with its key priority to raise attainment in RE through advising and training teachers, SACRE undertook the following work in 2016 – 2017:

#### ***RE-Launch of the agreed syllabus***

The agreed syllabus was re-launched at a special conference held on 25th November 2016 at the Engineers House in Clifton. The keynote speaker was David Francis who was the architect of “Awareness Mystery and Value” and is the adviser to Bath and North East Somerset SACRE. 28 delegates attended the launch, with 100% of respondents saying the event was ‘good or excellent’.

Further support to schools that had not been able to attend the initial re- launch was offered through hub meetings where implementing the newly launched agreed syllabus was an item. Katy Staples and Adam Robertson also offered support to Bristol schools who are part of the NW24 Partnership through offering a workshop at their annual conference held on January 3rd 2017 , there were 15 attendees. The response to the agreed syllabus has been very positive, with teachers specifically commenting that they can see the improvement in the quality of children’s engagement and learning about religion and belief.

#### ***Best Practice Forums and Learn, Teach, Lead RE***

A very exciting development in RE has been the *Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)* project. This is a project that has run successfully in Devon and Cornwall, and has been extended to include Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. It has secured funding from external sources with the aim of creating a network of RE ‘hubs’ that will train ‘hub leaders’ to offer support and training to all teachers, both primary and secondary to improve the teaching of RE.

The inaugural conference for the LTLRE project was held from 30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 at Tortworth Court in Gloucestershire. 62 delegates attended, many from across Bristol schools. Speakers had a national profile and the conference which was a one night residential was very well reviewed and helped to forge a tighter RE community.

The Best Practice Network meetings, run by SACRE for many years, have now been rebranded as the ‘Bristol RE Hubs’. They meet 3 times per year and are free for all primary and secondary Bristol teachers and teaching assistants. Bristol SACRE has used some of its budget to support these hubs and is delighted that a member of SACRE and teacher at Horfield CE Primary School, Adam Robertson, has become an accredited hub leader for the Primary phase. Esther Messinger, a Secondary RE teacher at Bristol Cathedral Choir School, co-ordinates the secondary group. The SACRE adviser, Katy Staples, assists in organising and briefing delegates. The new hub met three times over 2016 -17 and attracted good numbers of attendees – an average of 15 per session, which

is a big increase on previous years. Thanks go to Adam and Esther for their drive and organisation.

### ***Individual support for schools***

In addition to designing and hosting conferences, SACRE has also continued to offer schools in Bristol the opportunity to have individualised support led by the SACRE adviser. This can be in the form of working with teachers or leading staff meetings or INSET. Katy and Adam Roberston have worked with Bridge Farm, Fishponds CofE Academy, Saint Mary Redcliffe Primary, Sefton Park, Whitefields, Hannah Moore, Waycroft, Headley Park and Fair Furlong to help them develop their understanding of the new curriculum.

### ***Support for faith communities and schools***

We continue to work closely with faith communities in Bristol and ensure that teachers can access faith speakers and people to help ensure visits to places of worship run well. Chris Selway, a member of South Glos SACRE, has produced a directory that contains a list of high quality contacts to enable schools to know who to go to for visits. This has been incredibly well received by staff across Bristol. and is available for schools via the AMV website :

<http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/2016/g03-resources-visitors-and-local-places-of-worship/> .

In addition, we signpost the annual “*Diverse Open Doors Day*” for teachers which is run by Bristol Multi-faith Forum . Every year a small number of Bristol teachers take the opportunity to benefit from this day.

### **Monitoring of RE provision in Bristol**

A key task for SACRE is to monitor the overall provision of RE in Bristol schools. This is quite a difficult task, as it is some years since individual school Ofsted reports specifically commented on RE. The main evidence base that SACRE has to work from is the data from examinations. The data is presented and analysed below

### **Public Examination results**

Results for the **2017 GCSE**:

A total of 1836 students were entered for a public examination in RE which is a decrease since last year of 44 students.(This decrease is much less than in other parts of the country) 966 of these students were female: 51% of entrants were female. This represents a better gender equality of uptake for RE than is found in other parts of the country.

Results from the 2017 GCSE showed that 70% of students received a grade between A\*-C, which is the same as the national average of 70 % but higher than the results in Bristol last year of 67% A\*-C.

Grade	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/16	2016-17
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A*-C	62.5%	68.9%	68.6%	71.0%	67%	70%
A*-G	97.2%	96.3%	97.3%	96.9%	96.4%	97.2%

Count of Candidate Number	Column Labels										Grand Total
Row Labels	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U			Grand Total
Ashton Park School	4	23	45	34	20	22	10	7			165
Bedminster Down School		3	7		2	1	1			14	
Bridge Learning Campus			2	3		2	2	1			10
Bristol Brunel Academy	1	2	4	4	3	1					15
Bristol Cathedral Choir School	8	12	13	7	4					44	
Bristol Free School	9	13	18	16	9	6	6	1			78
Bristol Metropolitan Academy		5	4	10	5	1	1		1		27
Colston's Girls' School	4	14	8	8		2					36
Cotham School	7	13	31	26	25	12	3	2	4		123
Fairfield High School	9	17	38	19	18	10	3	5	2		121
Henbury School	1	2	9	16	9	20	17	11	15		100
Oasis Academy Brightstowe	2	9	19	15	18	18	8	8	12		109
Oasis Academy Brislington	8	12	12	13	7	4	3	5			64
Oasis Academy John Williams		5	7	11	4					27	
Orchard School Bristol	3	14	21	18	24	9	12	6	5		112
Redland Green School	34	44	51	29	14	2	4		1		179
St Bede's Catholic College	38	36	53	30	7	3	1	1			169
St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School	5	16	39	17	21	10	8	8	7		131
St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School	49	59	58	19	14	3	2	2	2		208
The City Academy Bristol	10	19	19	20	15	9	4	7	1		104
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>1836</b>

### Table of GCSE results 2017

Some schools (Bedminster Down, Bridge Learning Campus, Bristol Brunel Academy, Bristol Cathedral Choir School, Bristol Metropolitan Academy, Bristol Free School, Colston's Girls' School, Oasis Academy Brislington, Oasis Academy John Williams,) are entering less than 100 candidates for a public exam. This may lead us to ask what access to the legal entitlement to Religious Education the students who were not entered for a public exam are being afforded at KS4.

Some schools are entering a majority of their pupils for a public examination and have seen an improvement in their exam results, Ashton Park entered 165 pupils and saw an 11% increase in A%-C grades, Bristol Free School entered 78 students and saw a 5% improvement in the A\*-C grades, Fairfield High School entered 121 pupils and had a 9% improvement in A\*-C, Oasis Brightstowe 109 entries and a 9% improvement, St Bedes 169 students and also a 9% improvement.

The school entering a large cohort which may need the greatest support going forward is Henbury school which entered 100 students and saw a drop of 13% in their A\*-C achievement for Religious Education.

### Key Stage 5 Religious Studies Outcomes

A total of 143 students were entered for GCE A' Level RE, from 9 centres, this represents a general consistency in entry numbers from last year from the 145 entered last year.

Of the 80 students we have received data about, from the 143 entered, they achieved 74% A\*-C grades. As the data is not complete we are unable to make any further comparisons or conclusions.

3	Count of Pupil Number	Column Labels								
4	Row Labels	*	A	B	C	D	E (blank)	Grand Total		
5	Ashton Park School		1	1	1	1	1	3	8	
6	Bristol Cathedral Choir School		3	1	5	5	1	3	4	22
7	Colston's Girls' School		1		1	1		3	6	
8	Cotham School				3	4	1	1	8	17
9	Merchants' Academy				1	2		1	4	
10	Redland Green School		1	6	4	3		9	23	
11	St Bede's Catholic College		1	1	2	1	2	1	10	18
12	St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School		4	4	6	6		14	34	
13	The City Academy Bristol							11	11	
14	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>143</b>

### A table of Religious Studies A' Level results 2017

### Attendance by SACRE members at outside events

#### South West Regional SACRE conference

Two SACRE members attended the March 2016 conference of South West SACREs and reported back to the following SACRE meeting.

#### National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) Annual General Meeting,

17<sup>th</sup> May 2016:

This was attended by our SACRE adviser Katy Staples.

The keynote speech was by **Rt. Hon. Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Schloss**, chair of the recently commissioned Commission on Religions and Belief in British Public Life. This is a key piece of work that may have significant ramifications for the state of religious education in the UK, and the role of SACREs in the future.

### Statutory matters

SACRE has a statutory role to decide on any determinations. These are requests by schools to move away from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly, broadly or

mainly of a Christian character. During the period of this report, there have been no requests for determinations.

Where a complaint has been made about the RE curriculum in a Bristol school, it should be referred to Bristol Council for it to deal with. Bristol City Council has undertaken to seek SACRE's advice on any such complaint. There have been no formal complaints within this reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

The four groups or committees that have served for the year 2016-17

**Committee A**

Isabella Harding  
Dr. Tamar Hodos  
Mohammad-Nassir Miah  
Rachel Noyce  
Eric Aidoo  
Annette Allen  
Balbir Nirwan  
Rob Ford

**Committee B**

Jill Dickinson  
Duncan Struthers

**Committee C**

Esther Deans  
Adam Robertson  
Jackie Walsh  
Vicky Wiltshire

**Committee D**

Gill Kirk  
Liz Radford  
Ruth Pickersgill  
Carole Johnson

**Co-opted members:**

Marie Hackett  
Michael Gower  
Janet Orchard/ Teresa Griffiths

**Support Officers:**

Katy Staples  
[katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org)

Jenny Brookes

**Clerk: April Pye**  
[april.pye@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:april.pye@bristol.gov.uk)

**Christian Denominations and other faith**

Roman Catholic  
Jewish  
Muslim  
Baptist/ Free Churches  
Baptist  
Salvation Army  
Sikh  
Quakers

**The Church of England**

**Associations representing teachers**

Malmesbury Secondary School  
Horfield CofE VC Primary School  
Ashton Gate Primary School  
Holymead Primary School Brislington

**The local authority**

Green  
Conservative  
Labour

Bristol Interfaith Group  
Humanist  
Bristol University

SACRE Adviser  
Telephone: 0117 906 0100

Local Authority Link Officer

Olubodunrin Tokosi  
April Pye  
Bristol City Council

Members may be nominated by appropriate organisations but are appointed by the council. Other members may be co-opted. (Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996)

### **SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2016-17**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016**  
**2:00pm – 3:30pm**  
**St Nicholas Tolentino Church**  
**Easton**  
**BS5 0RE**

The main agenda items were:

1. A talk about the worship and work of St Nick's  
In particular their work with and for asylum seekers and refugees "Borderland" project
2. Election of officers and membership welcome and update
3. Launch of the new agreed syllabus
4. Development plan

**14th March 2017**  
**6:00pm – 7:30pm**  
**SARI (Stand Against Racism and Inequality) Offices**  
**Portland Square**  
**Bristol**  
**BS2 2WX**

The main agenda items were:

1. An explanation of the work of SARI and a discussion of the rise of Islamophobic incidents post the Brexit vote.
2. The Annual Reports and the necessary actions coming from that.
3. The Development plan
4. The Constitution of SACRE

**29th June 2016**  
**9:00am – 12:00pm**  
**Bristol Muslim Cultural Society**  
**Mivert Street**  
**Easton**  
**Bristol**  
**BS5 6JF**

The main agenda items were:

1. The support offered to schools by BMCS
2. Duncan Struthers offered a reflection on The Casey Review and its implications for the work of SACRE
3. Work on the Development Plan
4. Ratification of the Constitution

5. Bristol's response to the national Commission on Religious Education (CORE)

**Action Plan for 2017 - 2018**

SACRE has created a development plan, as outlined above.

Key areas of work for 2017-2018 include:

- Implementing the revised agreed syllabus through training of teachers in schools and developing teaching materials.
- Hosting an annual conference to provide high quality CPD for teachers in all schools.
- Creating and promoting an award for schools (The WIRE Award) to recognise their contribution to bringing children into contact with different faith groups to their own, and promoting the diversity of life in modern Britain.
- Supporting the Bristol RE hub to provide training and networking opportunities for teachers.
- Revise the SACRE Collective Worship support for schools to ensure good SMSC in schools and developing training to this end.
- Visits to schools – either by SACRE members or with SACRE's help in facilitating visits.
- Ensuring that pupils in schools have a rich experience of the diversity that exists in Bristol and are equipped to live in modern Bristol, modern Britain and indeed the modern world.

SACRE meetings in 2016-17 were held at various locations in Bristol and we are very grateful to all the people who hosted us so generously.

The meetings were, on the whole well attended by members and all were quorate.

All SACRE meetings are open to members of the public who should contact the Clerk for details of forthcoming meetings.

Bristol SACRE can be contacted via its current Clerk:

April Pye [april.pye@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:april.pye@bristol.gov.uk)