

TWENTY NINTH REPORT OF THE BOLTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2018-2019



Introduction

I have served my first term as Chair of SACRE and have been so proud to serve the Bolton Family in this position.

I had the privilege of attending the NASACRE Conference for the first time in May this year and it was fantastic to meet with so many people who work so hard to promote and support RE across the country.

With the new OFSTED Framework out in draft form many schools are re-looking at their Religious Education provision and Georgina Ryding (Vice Chair) has been able to support a number of schools and subject leaders in their development of RE this year. This has been a new venture for SACRE and something we hope to continue in the future.

Steph English
(Chair SACRE)

1. The constitution and current membership of SACRE 2018-2019

Committee A: Christian and other religious denominations (13 members)

Mr P Agravat	(Hindu)
Mr M Mistry	(Hindu)
Mr S Akuji	(Muslim)
Mr F Ali	(Muslim)
Mr M Amejee	(Muslim)
Mrs H Lewis	(Jewish)
Mrs S Wright	(Free Church – Methodist)
Ms B Jordan	(Society of Friends)

Committee B: The Church of England (4 members)

Mrs A Hart
Mrs G Ryding

Committee C: Teacher Associations (8 members)

Mr P Bottomley	(ATL)
Ms S English	(NUT)
Mrs J Pilling	(NAHT)

Committee D: Local Education Authority (5 members)

Cllr D Bagnall
Cllr K McKeon
Cllr J Walsh
Cllr Mrs AM Watters
Cllr C Wild

Clerk to SACRE: Marie Foley, Governance Training Officer

Terms of Reference and 'A Guide for SACRE' members are reviewed each year and copies provided for all members. These documents are designed to support members in their duties. The NASACRE website also provides up to date information and guidance for SACRE members.

2. Locally Agreed Syllabus

- 2.1** The Bolton Agreed Syllabus is to be reviewed. SACRE members considered a range of options and have decided that the most effective and efficient way to move forward is to 'buy in' a syllabus that is already used in other Local Authorities. Work will start at a pace in the coming year.

3. Teaching and Learning

3.1 RE Conference

This year Fiona Moss from RE Today led the morning session which focused on the new OFSTED Framework and implications for subject leaders, particularly those leading RE. The session incorporated some practical activities that could be used to check out children's knowledge with a really clear overview of the 'Quality of Education' element of the new Inspection Framework. Feedback about the impact this session would have back in schools was very positive.

SACRE Invited Jeremy Michaelson to lead the afternoon session. He presented a range of activities that could be used to support the teaching of Judaism within a primary school, basing them around his home life and daily routine. The session also enabled delegates to develop their own knowledge of Judaism and to explore some big questions in a really engaging discussion. Jeremy is due to retire at the end of this year. He has worked across many schools in Bolton and I know his knowledge, enthusiasm and passion will be missed.

3.2 Support for RE Leads

Georgina Ryding (Vice Chair) and Headteacher in Bolton has been commissioned by SACRE to offer support to schools to improve the quality of teaching and learning. She has worked directly with five schools, leading staff meetings, developing curriculum overviews for schools with mixed year groups and reviewing provision that best meets the needs of pupils with SEND.

This work will continue next year.

3.3 Bolton RE Hub

Bolton has a thriving RE hub that is led by Matthew Harding from St Matthew's Little Lever. Initially it was set up to support VA Schools from across Bolton but it quickly widened its scope to incorporate all schools and often has over 25 RE leads at the termly meetings.

4. Statutory Responsibilities

4.1 Determinations

There have been no requests for determinations this year.

4.2 Withdrawal from RE.

There have been no requests for advice regarding withdrawal from RE in 2018 – 2019

4.3 Complaints about RE.

There have been no complaints made to SACRE in 2018 -2019

4.4 Advice to statutory bodies:

SACRE has approached for guidance on a number of issues this year including advice for Primary aged children considering fasting during Ramadan and the inclusion of religious headwear in uniform policies. In each case it was clear that schools were keen to support their communities and wanted advice to make sure that they were doing this in the most inclusive and consistent way.

A number of schools have their own guidance around fasting and in the coming year SACRE is going to work with the Bolton Council of Mosques (BCOM) to review and update this guidance so it can be shared more widely.

5. Wider SACRE Involvement

5.1 North West Hub

North West Hub . Bolton SACRE have continued regular involvement in the North West Hub, where SACRE's from across the North West come together to discuss issues and share ideas that are relevant to everyone. It has been really valuable to be part of a larger group and something SACRE is keen to continue.

5.2 NASACRE Conference

Both the Chair and Vice Chair attended the NASACRE conference held in Manchester this year. NASACRE now have regional ambassadors for RE and the discussion around their role and how they can be contacted was a really valuable part of the conference, as was the opportunity to meet delegates from across the country.

5.3 Inter-faith Activity

We are so fortunate in Bolton to have a really active and effective Interfaith Council, led by Chan Parmer, who regularly attends Bolton SACRE meetings. Chan has now retired and his enormous contribution to community cohesion in Bolton cannot be underestimated. There continues to be a wide range of activities and events organised throughout the year to support community cohesion and engagement. There is a strong focus on all those of faith and no faith working together in a positive way.

6. GCSE Data for Religious Education

		Grade Summary:											
No. On Roll	No. of Entries	9	8	7	6	5	4	<4	%7-9	%5-9	%4-9	%1-9	Average Point Score
3323	1961	99	197	281	310	276	193	605	29%	59%	69%	98%	4.98

Source: DFE Provisional Schools Checking Data, Oct 2019

7. Management of SACRE

7.1 Local Authority Support

SACRE continues to be very well supported by the Local Authority. Catriona Fletcher took on this role towards the end of the Summer Term, when she attended her first meeting. The LA is keen to make sure that all schools are informed about the role of SACRE and the launch of a new syllabus. A plan for the coming year has been put in place for this.

SACRE is clerked by Governance Support Clerking Service. Marie Foley (clerk) is really knowledgeable on the workings of SACRE and enables the committee to carry out its work effectively.