

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Report



Annual Report of the Cheshire West and Chester Standing Advisory Council

on

Religious Education

2016-2017



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ANNUAL REPORT of the Chester and Cheshire West Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2016/17

1 SUMMARY

Karen Shore became Chair of SACRE with Nicole Meardon as vice chair. Advisory support to SACRE was from Jane Brooke, Naomi Anstice and Tim Lee.

SACRE meetings have been held termly in local schools where members have heard about RE from those who teach there.

2 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER SCHOOLS

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Cheshire West and Chester Agreed Syllabus has been in use from September 2013. This will be reviewed in 2018.

2.2 Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus

Due to capacity issues, the impact of the Agreed Syllabus is monitored through email requests from schools and through the RE Hubs.

2.3 Standards in Religious Education

2.3.1 Examinations in Religious Studies

KS4 GCSE course - 17 out of 19 CWAC schools had GCSE entries in 2017

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
CWAC Number of entries	1214	1260	1242	1305	1202	1226	1125
% A*-C (national)	68.4 (71.2)	73.0 (71.5)	69.6 (71.8)	77.3 (70.2)	73.5 (72.2)	72.3 (72.6)	79.8 (72.0)
% A*-G (national)	98.4 (97.9)	97.1 (97.8)	98.1 (97.9)	98.9 (97.9)	99.4 (98.4)	98.4 (98.5)	99.5 (98.4)
Average points¹ (national)	5.1 (5.3)	5.3 (5.3)	41.5 (41.8)	43.18 (41.22)	42.4 (41.7)	41.9 (41.9)	44.1 (41.7)

¹ New points score introduced in 2016

KS4 short course – there are no short course entries this year

	2013	2012	2011
CWAC Number of entries	887	1063	1374
% A*-C (national)	51.2 (50.1)	50.6 (50.4)	46.8 (50.6)
% A*-G (national)	92.9 (94.7)	94.0 (94.7)	92.9 (94.9)
Average points (national)	17.6 (17.6)	17.8 (17.7)	16.9 (17.7)

KS5 A level - 13 out of 14 CWAC schools with 6th forms had A level entries in 2017

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
CWAC Number of entries	121	140	133	118	123	119	126
% A*-A (national)	13.2 (24.0)	25.0 (24.1)	18.0 (24.4)	22.0 (22.3)	24.4 (22.3)	27.7 (22.1)	26.2 (22.8)
% A*-E (national)	99.2 (98.7)	100 (98.9)	97.0 (98.9)	100 (99.8)	100 (99.8)	100 (99.9)	100 (99.5)
Average points (national)	n/a	n/a		224.2 (225.15)	223.9 (224.8)	229.4 (225.0)	225.5 (224.9)

National figures include colleges

KS5 AS level

12 out of 14 CWAC schools with 6th forms had AS entries in 2017. 'AS' numbers appear low as often schools do not 'cash in' the AS result at the end of year 12, so they do not appear on any tables

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
CWAC Number of entries	51	74	41	46	41	56	41
% A -B (national)	19.6 (n/a)	5.4 (n/a)	2.4 (43.1)	26.1 (27.1)	22.0 (28.7)	20.1 (29.8)	39 (30.1)
% A -E (national)	68.6 (n/a)	70.3 (n/a)	73.2 (92.1)	80.4 (86.4)	75.6 (85.2)	94.6 (86.5)	92.5 (88.8)
Average points (national)	n/a	n/a		82.5 (88.2)	76.5 (87.7)	101.3 (89.4)	98.8 (91.8)

2.3.2 Analysis of Ofsted Reports

Ofsted reports were reviewed and if comments on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development were evident then letters of congratulation were sent to schools or an offer of support. Letters were sent to: Cambridge Road Community Primary and Nursery School, Childer Thornton Primary School, Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School, Helsby Hillside Primary School, Lache Primary School, Saughall All Saints Church of England Primary School, St Chad's C of E Primary School, Witton Church Walk Church of England Primary School, Wolverham Primary and Nursery School and University Church of England Academy. Schools responded positively to the SACRE letters.

2.4.1 RE teachers are supported through a network of local hubs. Pathways Hub meets half termly supporting the old Vale Royal area normally meeting in Winsford or Northwich. This year Pathways have been looking closely at the role of British Values in RE and the use of key vocabulary. Naomi Anstice and Tim Lee handed over as chairs of this hub to Neil Duncalf, Tim continues to support the group as required. Our other hub is part of the LTLRE North regional network and is based in Chester led by Rachel Inns, meeting termly. One of their meetings this year involved a faith carousel with a wide variety of speakers. Naomi supports this hub as required. Both hubs are open to all who are involved with the delivery of support of RE in schools and welcome new members.

2.4.2 There is an active Facebook group for RE in Cheshire West and Chester where news is shared and support offered.

2.4.3 Naomi Anstice (primary) and Tim Lee (secondary) commenced their roles as CWAC RE advisors in March 2017 and have established a program of activities for the next academic year. Jane Brooke is continuing to support them for a period of transition. SACRE would like to thank Jane for all her tireless commitment and passion for RE within Cheshire West and nationally. She is continuing to stay involved locally, especially with Diocese schools, as well as having a national role for this year.

2.5 Currently schools in CWAC with a current Quality Mark in RE are:

Gold Awards

Bishops Blue Coat C of E High School

Capenhurst C of E Primary School

Christ Church C of E Primary School

Elton Primary

Farndon Primary School

Frodsham C of E Primary School

Frodsham Manor House Primary School

Hartford Church of England High School

Helsby High School

Lostock Gralam C of E Primary School

The Russett School

Tushingham with Grindley C of E Primary School

Witton Church Walk C of E Primary School

Woodlands Primary School

Silver Awards

Antrobus St Mark's C of E Primary School

Childer Thornton Primary School

Great Budworth C of E Primary School

Greenbank School

Wimboldsley Primary School

Winsford Academy

Bronze Awards

St Oswald's C of E Primary School

SACRE assisted with REQM applications for a number of these schools.

The certification lasts for 3 years. Other CWAC schools have previously held the award and maybe in the process of updating their accreditation. Information from REQM Website (Autumn 2017). Both hubs have been actively promoting and supporting schools applying for REQM. Some Gold schools have also taken up the opportunity of becoming assessors for REQM.

- 2.6 The RE subject leader at Frodsham Manor Primary School has been working with local schools as a LTLRE (Learn Teach Lead) Consultant and is a member of NATRE (National Association of the Teachers of RE) Exec. She is a Specialist Leader in RE.
- 2.7 Naomi Anstice attended the NASACRE annual conference in York and the Westminster Education Forum on the Prevent Agenda and reported back to SACRE members.
- 2.8 A conference for Ellesmere Port Area schools on Respect for All, was held in September 2016 at the National Waterways Museum. This included workshops led by Imran Kotwal (Muslim Learner Services), Prayjoti (Pushpanjali Dance), Cheshire Development Education Centre and local Muslim speakers organized by SACRE member Rahima Ahmed. Funding for the conference was by an application by SACRE member Cllr Nicole Meardon from locality Kick Start Funding. The conference was attended by the local MP and was organised by Naomi Anstice.
- 2.9 A working party met three times during the academic year to discuss assessment without levels in RE at Frodsham Manor House. Samples of assessment ideas were shared as well as reporting formats. Samples of these were circulated to all CWAC schools.

- 2.10 A competition was held for all schools in March 2017. The competition theme was “Compassion”. The entries could be submitted in various forms for example by computer graphics, poetry, art or 3 dimensional. The winning entries were selected from each Key stage. A book voucher was awarded to each Pupil and the school was awarded £100 towards RE.
- 2.11 The Fourth Annual SACRE Lecture was in March 2017 at Chester University. The speaker was James Holt on an introduction to world religions with a case study on Sikhism.
- 2.12 SACRE welcomed a member of the RE Commission (summer term 2017) to find out about the work of the Commission and to answer questions for evidence. The Commissioner spent the afternoon at Frodsham Manor House, observing RE and interviewing the subject lead before attending the meeting. Throughout the year we have responded to NASACRE and RE Commission surveys.

2.13 **Right to Withdraw**

There have been a couple of Subject Leads and Head Teachers who have requested advice concerning children being withdrawn from RE, particularly lessons on Islam.

2.14 **Complaints**

There have been no complaints to the LA during the past year in respect of RE, requiring the LA’s Special Appeals Committee to be convened.

3 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 Supporting Collective Worship

Queries have been answered through email concerning collective worship and the law.

3.2 Determinations

The SACRE has not been called upon during the past year to make any determinations concerning collective worship.

3.3 Complaints

There have been no complaints to the LA during the past year in respect of collective worship requiring the LA's special Appeals Committee to be convened.

4 **LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

4.1 National and International

NASACRE newsletters are circulated and Naomi Anstice attended the NASACRE AGM.

Jane Brooke is the Chair National Advisers for RE Association.

Naomi Anstice is a member of NATRE Exec.

Some members of SACRE are also involved with Cheshire West Interfaith Network (Harmony Project).

4.2 **Local and Regional**

Jane Brooke is Principal consultant for Chester Diocesan schools.

LTLRE hub in Chester is part of a regional network. Pathways Hub is affiliated to NATRE.

Appendix 1 Membership of SACRE

SACRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (as at November 2017)

NAME	REPRESENTING
Rahima Ahmed	Muslim Community
Naomi Anstice	CWAC / Specialist Leader in RE / Union Representative
Cllr Alex Black	CWAC
Jane Brooke	Chester Diocese
Geraldine Dickie	Academies
Sue Glover	Chester Diocese
James Holt	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Cllr Susan Kaur	CWAC
Tim Lee	CWAC / Specialist Leader in RE (Secondary)
Helen Longmuir	Baha'is
Rachel McCarthy	Church of England
Cllr Nicole Meardon	Vice Chair
Nawal Prinja	Hindu Faith
Cllr Lynn Riley	CWAC
Simon Shaw	Mormons/Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church
Cllr Karen Shore	Chair of SACRE

Vicky Sewell	NUT Rep
Heather Staniland	Methodists
Catriona Stewart	Humanist

Appendix 2 – SACRE Meeting Dates

13 March 2017	Newton Primary School
16 June 2017	Frodsham Manor Primary School
7 November 2017	Hartford Church of England High School