

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report September 2015 – August 2016

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1 Overview

1.1 Requirements as under the Education Act 1996

In accordance with requirements of section 391 (7) of the above act, SACRE has advised Bath and North East Somerset Council of its recommendation to adopt a new agreed syllabus (see below).

There have been no applications from Headteachers in community schools to waiver the requirements that collective worship shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

2 Religious Education

2.1 Locally agreed syllabus

Bath and North East Somerset SACRE collaborated with Bristol, North Somerset and the London Borough of Haringey SACREs to produce a revised e-version of the locally agreed syllabus 'Awareness, Mystery and Value'. This was adopted by the four authorities from September 2016. The Isles of Scilly may also be maintaining its membership of the group, subject to its SACRE's approval.

The new agreed syllabus consists of:

2.1.1 The current unchanged programmes of study, which are now available at <http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/syllabus/>

2.1.2 The current requirements regarding coverage of religions and beliefs at different key stages, with the additional requirement for students to be taught about 'a non-religious worldview such as humanism at Key Stage 3 or 4' (as well as Christianity, Buddhism and Sikhism).

Although the syllabus itself has not changed much, SACRE has produced additional non-statutory guidance for schools, particularly on **assessment**. This is now also published on the new agreed syllabus **website**: <http://awarenessmysteryvalue.org/>.

A link to the site is also published on the Bath & North East Somerset SACRE website: <http://banes-sacre.com/>

3 Standards in Religious Education

3.1 Reports and Monitoring

SACRE has not been informed by the Local Authority of any concerns about standards of religious education in primary, secondary and special schools.

3.2 Schools' Self-evaluation of Religious Education

In order for SACRE to gain information about RE and collective worship in Bath & North East Somerset schools, SACRE has begun to send a short survey to a proportion of schools on a rotational basis each year.

3.2.1 At the time of writing, replies had been received from 16 out of 27 schools in the first cohort. These responses were from one community junior school, three community primary schools, two voluntary controlled junior schools, six voluntary controlled primary schools, one voluntary aided primary school, one community secondary school and two voluntary aided secondary schools.

3.2.2 All but four of the schools were providing an average of at least 50 minutes of RE on the timetable each week. In terms of a budget for

RE, five schools said that they had no budget and had to request money as needed, six provided at least £1.50 per pupil for RE resources and only one less than 50p.

- 3.2.3 Four schools (two community primary, one community junior and one VC junior) reported that one or two pupils were being withdrawn from *all* of RE by their parents, and only two schools (both community primaries) reported that one or two pupils were being withdrawn from *part* of the RE programme.
- 3.2.4 Eight of the schools reported average levels of attainment in RE and eight above average. Only three schools (two church primaries and one church secondary) reported that attainment was high in relation to expected levels. None of the schools reported that attainment was low overall. In terms of the standard of progress and learning in RE, four schools reported a need for improvement, nine that standards were good and three (one VC primary, one VA primary and one VA secondary) outstanding.
- 3.2.5 All the schools that responded to the questionnaire had an RE leader in place but there was a very mixed picture of continuing professional development (CPD) with eleven of the schools not engaging in any *internal* training for staff in the previous year. At the same time, all bar three of the schools had organised training for at least one member of staff on a course *external* to the school during the year. No schools, however, reported that any teacher had received RE training of more than one day over the year.
- 3.2.6 All bar two of the schools had organised visits for pupils in the previous year, with ten having conducted two or more. All bar one had received at least two outside visitors to contribute to RE lessons. All had built up their own artefact collections, and seven reported use of the SACRE Resources held at Saltford School. Only four schools subscribed to RE Today, and only three had current membership of National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). Six schools reported that they had no contact with an RE adviser (from the LA, Diocese or faith community) in support of RE during the year.
- 3.2.7 Six schools (one community primary, one VC junior, two VC primaries, one community secondary and one VA secondary) reported that there was insufficient time for RE in some years.

3.3 Secondary schools' public examination results

- 3.3.1 This year there were 569 students entered for the **GCSE full course** in RS (28.1% of the cohort), with Bath Academy, Oldfield School, St Gregory's Catholic College and Somervale School Specialist Media Arts College entering nearly all their Year 11 students for the examination. Of the whole entry, 80.3% gained A*-C grades. 62.5% achieved at least a B grade.
- 3.3.2 There were 518 students entered for the **GCSE short course** in RS (25.6% of the cohort), with Chew Valley School, Norton Hill Academy and St Mark's CofE School entering nearly all their Year 11 students for the examination. Of the whole entry, 61.8% gained A*-C grades. 45.3% achieved at least a B grade.

- 3.3.3 In addition, St Gregory's Catholic College entered 34 students for the **Entry Level Certificate** in RS. 17.6% achieved a grade 2 and 82.4% achieved a grade 3.
- 3.3.4 88 students were entered for '**A' level** Religious Studies. 39 of these achieved an A*-B grade (ten from Beechen Cliff School, eight from Hayesfield Girls School, two from Norton Hill Academy, two from Oldfield School, five from Ralph Allen School, four from St Gregory's Catholic College, two from Somervale School and six from Writhlington School).
- 3.3.5 108 students were entered for '**AS' Level** RS this year. 75 of these achieved an A-C grade (twelve from Beechen Cliff School, one from Chew Valley School, 17 from Hayesfield Girls School, 14 from Norton Hill Academy, two from Oldfield School, 14 from Ralph Allen School, six from St Gregory's Catholic College, two from Somervale School, two from Wellsway School and seven from Writhlington School).
- 3.3.6 *SACRE would like to pass on its congratulations to the staff and students for all their efforts.*

4 Methods of teaching, material and training

4.1 Teaching materials

The new website for the syllabus: <http://awarenessmysteryvalue.org/> contains a wealth of resources for teachers. As well as the programmes of study and exemplars of schemes of learning, there are guides for visits and visitors and planning materials for subject leaders.

SACRE maintains a collection of artefacts for all of the major religions at Saltford Primary School. A member of staff there receives a small stipend for managing the resources and arranging free loans to Bath & North East Somerset schools.

4.2 Teacher training

Two training events for teachers took place in the year. The first was an afternoon seminar for primary RE co-ordinators, held at Saltford Primary School in November 2015 and led by Dave Francis.

The second event was a World Religions workshop on Christian and Sikh Religion resources. This was led by faith representatives and held at Saltford Primary School in March 2016.

4.3 SACRE website: <http://banes-sacre.com/>

The SACRE website was maintained and updated during the year. A co-opted member of SACRE receives a small stipend for managing the site and ensuring it is kept up-to-date.

4.4 Complaints about Religious Education

The Local Authority/SACRE received no formal complaints concerning RE.

5 Collective worship

5.1 Monitoring

As with religious education (see section 3.2), SACRE has initiated a survey of a selection of schools on a rotational basis over three years, providing schools with the opportunity to provide a self-evaluation of the provision and quality of collective worship.

5.2 Schools' Self-evaluation of Collective Worship

5.2.1 There were 16 responses to the survey on collective worship. Five of the schools surveyed (three community primaries, one VC junior and one VA secondary) had between two and nine pupils being withdrawn from acts of collective worship by their parents. One (a community junior) had one pupil withdrawn. The others reported no withdrawals at all.

5.2.2 All the schools bar two (a community junior and a community secondary) received support from local ministers of religion. All bar two community primary schools received contributions to collective worship from visitors other than a local minister of religion.

5.2.3 Only five schools (31%) reported that there was a genuine opportunity for pupils to participate in an act of worship every day. Three schools (two community primaries and one VC primary) reported that there was, on average, only one genuine opportunity for pupils to participate in collective worship each week.

5.2.4 Four of the schools (two VC primaries, one VA primary and one VA secondary) considered that the quality of pupils' experience of assemblies / acts of collective worship was 'outstanding'. Seven reported that the experience was 'good'. In two schools (one VC junior and one VC primary) the quality was judged to be 'requiring improvement', and in one school the quality was judged to be inadequate.

5.3 Training

No training on collective worship was organised by SACRE during the year but information from other local providers, such as the Diocese of Bath & Wells was circulated to schools.

5.4 Complaints and determinations

The Local Authority/SACRE received no formal complaints, and there were no requests from schools to vary the legal requirement for collective worship.

6 Links with other agencies

6.1 National

Two SACRE members attended the Southwest Conference for SACREs, 'RE: Now and in the Future', at Dillington House in Somerset and reported back to members. Conference workshops included material on religious extremism and British values and the keynote speaker was Rudi Elliott Lockhart, the new Chief Executive of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC).

6.2 Regional

Bath & North East Somerset SACRE took part in a regional Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE) project, with funding from Diocesan and other charities, aiming to provide training in religious education, especially through the building of communities of RE teachers across the region. Two SACRE members and the Associate Adviser took part in the steering group for the project and another SACRE member was appointed to be a Project Leader for RE (PLRE). A regional conference was held in June/July providing an excellent foundation from which to develop support for teachers in the area.

6.3 Local

Contact is maintained and found helpful with North Somerset and Bristol SACREs, the Secondary Heads of Religious Education and the Bath Interfaith Group.

7 Other issues

7.1 Governor training

No LA governor training took place during the year specifically on RE or collective worship, though the Diocese of Bath & Wells provides regular RE and collective worship courses for governors in a variety of schools, including non-church schools. Plans are being put in place to offer SACRE-based governor training in the coming year to explain the requirements of the new agreed syllabus.

7.2 SACRE Self-evaluation

The SACRE development plan is proving a useful management tool to ensure finance is directed at priorities based on feedback from schools and national initiatives.

7.3 A conference sponsored by Bath Spa University and supported by SACRE was held for GCSE students in the authority.

8 SACRE arrangements

8.1 Professional and administrative support

SACRE was supported by Dave Francis, the Associate Adviser for Religious Education and Clerk to SACRE.

8.2 Finance

(See Financial Statement over)

SACRE Financial Statement 2015-16

Allocation	£13,000.00
Additional LA funding to support agreed syllabus review	£ 1,000.00

Expenditure

Briefings and planning meetings with Chair and Council Officers	600.00
Agreed Syllabus Statutory Review admin, meetings and writing	2,950.00
RE Co-ordinators' Workshop – November 2015	1,694.75
World Religions Workshop – March 2016	800.00
Resource Centre	402.80
RE Visits/Visitors' grants	1,200.00
Secondary grants	600.00
NASACRE subscription and conference fees	185.00
Meeting costs	85.00
Members' expenses & fees	476.25
Monitoring & collective worship	395.00
Website management	325.00
Professional fees	3,980.00
TOTAL	13,693.80
Underspend	306.20