



# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

## Annual Report 2018/2019

This report covers the work of the Cumbria SACRE  
for the period September 2018 to August 2019

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## What are SACRE's Responsibilities?

To advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with:

### 1. Religious Education (RE) This year SACRE has:

- Run a joint SACRE/RE conference for primary & secondary teachers.
- Launched the Buried Treasure project
- Produced a termly SACRE newsletter.
- Run new training for governors on RE

### 2. Collective Worship in community schools

SACRE has published Guidance to Schools on Collective Worship, to support schools in their statutory responsibility to deliver daily acts of Collective Worship.

### 3. Determinations - To allow any exception to the law that Collective Worship be broadly or mainly Christian

SACRE has received no requests for a determination for exemption from the law.

### 4. To hear any complaints about RE or Collective Worship

SACRE hears any complaints brought to the LA about RE and collective worship. No complaints from parents were received this year.

### 5. To publish an annual report on its work

This document is the annual report for the academic year 2018-2019.

Anyone wishing to receive the minutes of termly meetings can contact Sue McGaw by email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk) or visit Cumbria SACRE's website:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

## Who was on Cumbria SACRE in 2018-2019

Chair: *Jane Yates*

### Committee A: Christian denominations (other than Church of England) & other faiths

*Tina Battle (Catholic) – resigned Feb 2019*

*Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i)*

*Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)*

*Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)*

*Gabrielle Murray (Catholic)*

*David Pitkeathly (Churches Together)*

*Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)*

### Committee B: Church of England

*Richard Cox*

*Katherine Kinsella*

*Penny Hollander*

*Deborah Smith*

### Committee C: Teacher Associations

*James Douglas (NUT)*

*Brian Eaton (VOICE)*

*Carolyn Reade (NATRE & AULRE)*

*Irene Roberts-Green (Vice Chair) (NAHT)*

*Jane Yates (NASUWT)*

### Committee D: Local Authority

*Roger Bingham (Conservative)*

*Neil Hughes (Liberal Democrat)*

*Liz Mallinson (Conservative)*

*David Southward (Labour)*

*Mark Wilson (Labour)*

### Co-opted Members

*Georgia Prescott (University of Cumbria)*

*Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)*

*Karen Shankland (Primary Academy Rep)*

### LA Support Officer

*David Salmon - Clerk to SACRE*

*Sue McGaw – Admin for SACRE*

## When & where did SACRE meet?

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2018-2019 the following meetings took place:

### 10 October 2018 at Dowdales School, Dalton in Furness

Attendance: 20 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 5; Committee D – 4; Co-opted – 2, LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Westhill/NASACRE Award
- SACRE/RE Conference 2019
- SACRE Membership
- National Update

### 25 March 2019 at Cumbria House, Carlisle

Attendance: 20 members present (Committee A – 6; Committee B – 4; Committee C – 3; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 2; LA Officers - 2). This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- RE/SACRE Conference 2019
- Westhill/Buried Treasure
- SACRE membership
- National Update
- SACRE Newsletter

### 25 June 2019 at University of Cumbria, Ambleside Campus

Attendance: 21 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B - 2; Committee C – 5; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 4; LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- SACRE Conference - Feedback
- Buried Treasure Launch
- CDEC Resources
- SACRE Newsletter

## When are future meetings?

25 September – West Lakes Academy, Egremont

Spring meeting - TBC

Summer meeting - TBC



**Buried Treasure Working Group at Cumbria SACRE meeting at Dowdales School.**

**The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2019-2020 will be to:**

- Plan and deliver the 2020 SACRE conference
- Further develop regional links, through Lancashire SACRE and the Northern RE Ambassador
- Publish new educational resource: Buried Treasure, and be pro-active with further KS2/3 transition events
- Continue to increase teacher awareness of SACRE through newsletter and social media
- Revise and update Places of Worship Guidance for schools
- Be involved in the update of RE resource boxes at Cumbria Development Education Centre
- Provide increased governor training across county (RE and P4C)
- Provide a CPD programme for RE 2020-21 with a focus on EYFS and KS1
- Plan a CPD programme for RE 2020-21
- Support arrangements for #CumbriaP4Cis25 with plans for a county conference in May 2020 at the University of Cumbria
- Continue to increase profile and involvement in the National Association for SACRE
- Investigate opportunities and funding for county student led activities e.g. Youth SACRE, RE Ambassadors

Non members are welcome to attend, to observe SACRE meetings. Please contact Sue McGaw (email [sue.mcgow@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgow@cumbria.gov.uk)) to for confirmation of times and venues.

### **What is the SACRE Budget?**

SACRE's budget covers the cost of meetings, venue expenses, supply cover for teacher members, postage, photocopying, travel expenses, and subscription costs for membership of national organisations for RE. Additional resources are obtained from the County Council when necessary for the review, development and publication of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

In the year 2018-2019 the total amount spent was £3168.74; Supply cover; £75 Travel expenses £1159.95; Venues/Catering £227; Conference fees £1490; Publications and Subscriptions £216.79

### **What is the RE and Collective Worship support for Cumbrian schools?**

For Secondary and Primary Schools: David Salmon, General Adviser  
Tel: 07900 146836, email: [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)

### **What Professional Development Opportunities have there been?**

The following courses for RE ran:

#### **Building Understanding and Critical Awareness of Extremism and Terrorism**

Jane Yates

October 2019 – A total of 10 attended

#### **Do we need Religious Education now more than ever? Governor Training – provider**

Jane Yates

November 2018 and February 2019 – A total of 17 attended

#### **Philosophy For Children, Foundation Level 1, Day 1- provider Jane Yates**

06 March 2019 – A total of 9 delegates attended.

#### **Philosophy For Children, Foundation Level 1, Day 2 – provider Jane Yates**

20 March 2019 – A total of 9 delegates attended.

**Cumbria SACRE/RE Conference 2019** – provider Dilwyn Hunt/SACRE  
24 June 2019 – A total of 64 delegates attended.

## Useful Websites

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

Twitter: @CumbriaSACRE. We welcome all schools in Cumbria to share photographic evidence of RE and Collective Worship using the hashtag #CumbriaSharingRE The Twitter account also follows the key local and national organisations for RE and will re-tweet relevant updates.



Facebook: RE Teachers in Cumbria. This is a closed group for primary and secondary teachers in Cumbria to enable an information exchange for RE and CW, training, events and new resources. Cumbria SACRE members will also use this as a forum to keep teachers updated.

## Religious Education Quality Mark – REQM

Schools can apply for three levels of the REQM award. A school's evidence and provision are assessed by an external assessor, against nationally recognised criteria. Cumbria SACRE encourages all schools to access the REQM assessment materials to use as an audit tool, even if they feel the time and cost of full accreditation is not an immediate priority. See <http://www.reqm.org/> Gold Award holders in Cumbria are: Dowdales School, The Queen Katherine School and Bridekirk Dovenby CofE School

## Westhill Bid

We were one of six SACREs nationally to be successful in our bid for £4,000 of funding from the Westhill NASACRE Awards for 2018-19. Our project, Buried Treasure involves pupils in KS2 transition activities. Pupils take part in a day event approaching sacred texts as explorers and creating a treasure chest of "gems" to be shared with others and available as a lasting resource. During 2019, the Buried Treasure resource was developed by Baha'i representative, Karen O'Donoghue, in conjunction with a small working group. A short trial of the resource was carried out in January 2019 at Burneside C of E Primary School.

In June 2019, a full day was held at The Queen Katherine School(QKS), Kendal, involving five local primary schools(St Cuthbert's Windermere, Castle Park, Milnthorpe Primary, Selside & Dean Gibson schools). The day was led by Karen and facilitated by Cumbria SACRE faith

reps (Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Bahai'), QKS RE Ambassadors and their RE teacher, Katherine France. The resource was showcased at the Cumbria SACRE conference in 2019 in a workshop led by Katherine France and Jane Yates. The next stage of the project will involve further transition days, and publish as a resource.



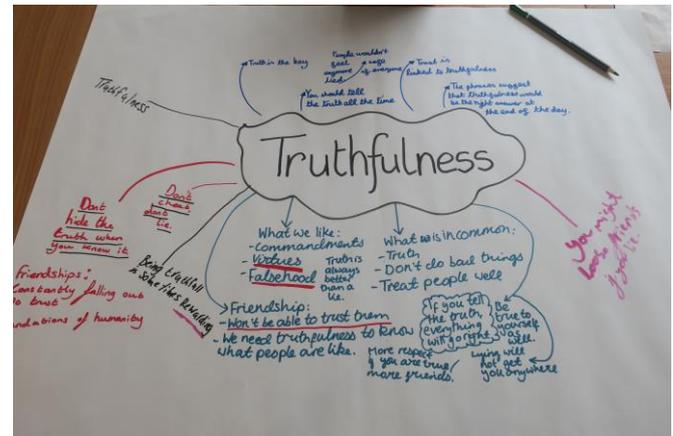
Baha'i faith representative Karen O'Donoghue sharing her personal faith texts (as all faith reps did)



Cumbria SACRE Buried Treasure Working Group!



Reading different faith quotes or 'gems' about the concept of LOVE



Students sharing their initial thinking about the concept of TRUTHFULNESS



Considering HONESTY scenarios with Carolyn Reed representing Buddhism and Baha'i representative Karen O'Donoghue



Building a bridge of UNITY with Jewish representative, Shelia Gewolb and RE teacher Katherine France



Students choosing their own quotes and expressing through creativity



Treasure boxes of 'gems' to take back to school



Question time for Muslim representative, Mohammed, Dhalech



C of E representative, Deborah Smith and Jewish representative, Shelia Gewolb taking time to compare their personal faith texts (A lovely moment!)

## North North West Hub –

David Salmon, (Clerk), and Dr Sheila Gewolb DL, (Jewish faith member), represented Cumbria SACRE at the North North West SACRE hub meetings in November 2018, and March 2019 which took place at The Exchange, County Hall Preston.

The hub, formed in 2014, brings together smaller SACREs in the north-west region to provide reciprocal support on topical issues and share information and best practice. Other hub members in the group come from Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Cheshire West/Chester, Halton/Widnes, Lancashire, Rochdale, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan. Cumbria SACRE continues to be amongst the most active and well-supported in this group, hosting the only annual SACRE conference for RE teachers in this region.

Topics discussed over the past year included the new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework. It was hoped that this would ensure that RE was taught progressively in every school, and to date, there is some evidence that this is working. Lancashire shared some new Impact/Implementation guidance that was being produced for their RE curriculum and will be available on their website. Another item related to individual SACREs' Constitutions. Lancashire and Halton SACREs shared their terms of reference which proved to be a useful exercise as some statutory requirements were clarified, eg- how voting occurs.

Concerns were also raised about the new Sex and Relationship (SRE) framework. Some religious groups are struggling to ensure that this is taught in their schools. Whilst this issue is not directly a SACRE matter, it was felt that incidents should be monitored.

Following their successful Westhill Award bid: 'Hidden Treasure and Sacred Texts', Cumbria SACRE announced that they will be making a presentation about the scheme at the 2020 NASACRE conference in Manchester on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Cumbria P4C is 25

Cumbria SACRE has a long history of promoting Philosophy for Children as an invaluable methodology for enquiry and reflection in RE. An appendix section about P4C was written into the last Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for RE. This year, the county has been celebrating 25 years since P4C started in Cumbria. The first major P4C project was in 1997, as part of a wider SMSC project involving Cumbria LA, Cumbria Development Education Centre and the University of Cumbria. During 2019, Cumbria SACRE is represented on a new group of key organisations involved in P4C in Cumbria. This has involved a survey of practitioners, the production of a joint P4C banner, awareness raising and events, and plans for a county conference on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at the Ambleside Campus of the University of Cumbria.

## 'New style format' Cumbria SACRE Agreed Syllabus Conference 2019



Keynote speaker, Dilwyn Hunt kicking off with "Mastering the mastery approach in RE"

These are all the organisations represented at the Cumbria SACRE RE Conference 2019



Organisations represented by stalls or workshops  
The Social, Emotional and Ethical (SEE) Learning curriculum *Workshop by Jimi Slattery from Compassion Matters*



Jewish representative, Shelia Gewolb working with students and teachers during the Buried Treasure workshop



Muslim representative, Mohammed Dhalech hosting a stall for Remembering Srebrenica and Holocaust Memorial Day. Mohammed also presented on: "Why should young people commemorate memorial days?"



RE Ambassadors from The Queen Katherine School



Northern RE Ambassador for RE, Katherine France



"Why should young people build understanding of extremism and terrorism?" by Vicky Stabler, West Lakes Academy



"Why should young people care about the climate crisis?" by Gabrielle Murray, St Cuthbert's Windermere (and Catholic rep) and Aiofe O'Farrell, Robert Ferguson School

SACRE is pleased to receive photographic, written or anecdotal evidence of good work in RE and Collective Worship in Cumbria's schools. If you have things you wish to share please contact Sue McGaw on 01228 226805, email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk)

**Do you have any comments on this SACRE Report?**

Responses to this Annual Report from school governors, elected members, head teachers, teachers or members of the public are welcomed by SACRE. Please email David Salmon, Clerk to SACRE, [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)