



# **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016**

This report covers the work of the Cumbria SACRE  
for the period September 2015 to August 2016

---

## What are SACRE's Responsibilities?

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

### 1. Religious Education (RE)

This year SACRE has:

- Developed a pupil feedback questionnaire for use by teachers in schools.
- Run a joint SACRE/RE conference for primary & secondary teachers.
- Produced a Cumbria SACRE constitution.
- Produced a guidance document for teachers on school visits to places of worship.
- Established an Agreed Syllabus Conference & set up a working group to revise the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus.

### 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 2015-2016.

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 2015-2016

**Chair:** *Wendy Ridley*

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

*Dai Cowles (Free churches)*

*David Pitkeathly (Churches Together)*

*Jacqueline Hampson (Catholic)*

*Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)*

*Rob Martin (Methodist)*

*Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)*

*Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)*

### Committee B: Church of England

*Bert Thomas*

*Deborah Smith*

*Penny Hollander*

*Susan Davies*

### Committee C: Teacher Associations

*Brian Eaton (VOICE)*

*Carolyn Reade (NATRE & AULRE)*

*Jane Yates (NASUWT)*

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

*James Douglas (NUT)*

### Committee D: Local Authority

*Brenda Gray (Liberal Democrat)*

*Eileen Weir (Labour)*

*Liz Mallinson (Conservative)*

*Mark Wilson (Labour)*

*Roger Bingham (Conservative)*

### Co-opted Members

*Georgia Prescott (University of Cumbria)*

*Karen Shankland (Primary Academy Rep)*

*Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)*

### LA Support Officers

*Richard Cox*

*Sue McGaw – Admin for SACRE*

*David Salmon - Clerk to SACRE*

## When & where did SACRE meet?

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2015-2016 the following meetings took place:

### 15 October 2015 at Penrith Fire Station

Attendance: 16 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 1; Committee C – 5; Committee D – 1; Co-opted – 2, LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Pupil Feedback Questionnaire (Working Group)
- SACRE Constitution
- New Agreed Syllabus
- SACRE Annual Report
- National Update

### 3 February 2016 at Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, Penrith

Attendance: 17 members present (Committee A – 6; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 4; Committee D – 1; Co-opted – 2; LA Officers - 2). This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- RE Conference
- New Agreed Syllabus
- Development Plan
- National Update
- SACRE Constitution
- A New Settlement (Charles Clarke's recommendations)

### 7 June 2016 at County Offices, Kendal

Attendance: 17 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B - 2; Committee C – 4; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 1 LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Guidance on school visits to places of worship
- National Update
- Prevent Strategy
- New Agreed Syllabus
- SACRE Conference - Feedback
- Development Plan

## When are future meetings?

2 November 2016 – Penrith Fire Station

2 March 2017 – Carlisle venue

7 June 2017 – Kendal venue

**The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2016-2017 will be:** To enable the Agreed Syllabus Conference and Working Group to publish a revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education by Easter 2017.

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 costs 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 2015-2016 the total amount spent was £4355: Supply cover £1050; Travel expenses £1485; Venues/Catering £305; Conference fees £1320; Publications and Subscriptions £195.

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

For Secondary and Primary Schools: Richard Cox, Senior Adviser

Tel: 07929164812, email: [richard.cox@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:richard.cox@cumbria.gov.uk)

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

The following one day courses for RE ran:

**Leading the Improvements of Standards in RE** – provider Wendy Ridley  
12 November 2015 – A total of 11 delegates attended.

**Leading Outstanding Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in your School** –  
provider Wendy Ridley - 2 February 2016 – A total of 17 delegates attended.

**Cumbria SACRE/RE Conference 2016** - provider Lat Blaylock/SACRE  
26 April 2016 - A total of 38 delegates attended.

All these CCPD events received excellent evaluations.

## **Useful Websites**

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

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

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

## **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/>

## **North North West Hub**

David Salmon, (Clerk), and Dr Sheila Gewolb, (Jewish faith member), represented Cumbria SACRE at the North West SACRE Hub meetings in November 2015, March 2016 and June 2016 - all of which took place at the Woodlands, in Chorley, Lancs.

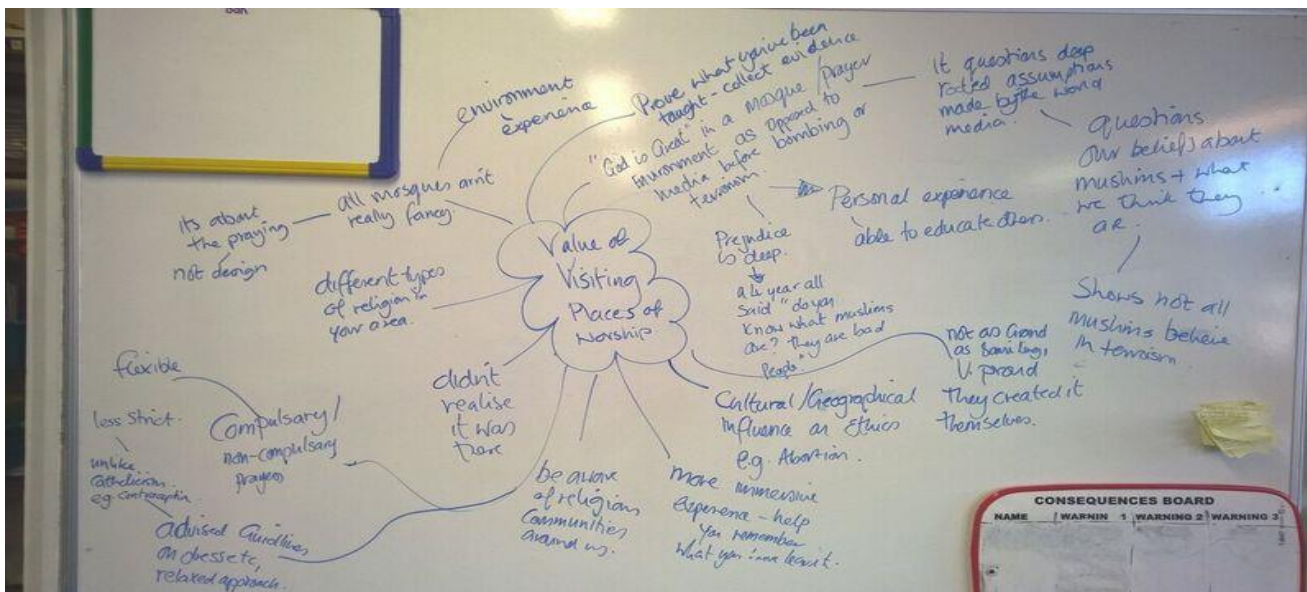
The Hub was formed two years ago to bring together SACREs in the north-west region to provide reciprocal support on topical issues and share information and best practice. Other Hub members in the group come from Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Cheshire West/Chester, Halton/Widnes, Lancashire, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan. Cumbria SACRE is privileged 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 how teaching about British values could be incorporated into the RE syllabus; the issue of humanist representation on SACREs; and working on new Agreed RE Syllabus.

## **Cumbria SACRE RE Conference**

A successful SACRE conference was held at North Lakes Hotel on 26 April 2016 attended by 38 teachers from both primary and secondary schools across Cumbria. We were delighted to welcome back Lat Blaylock from RE Today to provide the valuable input for the day. His main focus was on spirituality and values in RE. As always, participants went away feeling inspired and energised towards teaching RE. Everyone was particularly struck by the images of the wonderful Milton Keynes Tree Cathedral, introduced as part of a cycle of learning around cathedrals and spirituality.

A powerful presentation was also provided by Year 10 GCSE Philosophy & Ethics students from Ullswater Community College, along with their teacher, Mrs Nicola McCanny. Following a visit to the Penrith Mosque which was organised by SACRE member Mohammed Dhalech, the pupils considered the value of visiting places of worship and how it has enhanced their understanding of faith in their community.



Teachers also had the opportunity to join a P4C enquiry with the pupils around the topic of negativity portrayed in the media towards Muslims.

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)