

Bolton SACRE

Bolton Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Twenty Sixth Report

Bolton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

2014-2015



Introduction

This report provides a summary of the work done by SACRE between September 2014 and July 2015. In this time the key focus has been on sharing the syllabus support materials and planning for future professional development opportunities. It is always a delight to work with the teachers that are delivering RE as they are always so enthusiastic and keen to provide high quality experiences for their children.

For the coming year SACRE has commissioned a group to develop materials to support the teaching of RE at Key Stage Three and has also started planning for more in-depth training for a group of Primary RE Subject Leaders so they can deepen their knowledge and begin to support other teachers across Bolton.

Finally, I stepped down as Chair in July and hand over to Jill Pilling who has been the Vice Chair for the last year. I wish her every success and know that SACRE will continue to serve the children of Bolton well under her care.

Georgina Ryding
(Chair)

1. The constitution and current membership of SACRE 2014-2015

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

Ms B McLeod	(Hindu)
Mr S Patel	(Hindu)
Mr S Akuji	(Muslim)
Mr M Q F Ali	(Muslim)
Mrs H Lewis	(Jewish)
Father P Malone	(Free Church – Baptist)
Mrs S Wright	(Free Church – Methodist)
Ms H Browne	(Free Church – Salvation Army)
Mrs M Marks	(Society of Friends)

Committee B: The Church of England (4 members)

Mrs A Hart
Mrs G Ryding
Rev M Short

Committee C: Teacher Associations (8 members)

Mr B Lingard	(ATL)
Ms C Brathwaite	(NASUWT)
Mrs N Moore	(NASUWT)
Mrs J Pilling	(NAHT)

Committee D: Local Education Authority (5 members)

Cllr A Bury
Cllr K McKeon
Cllr S Pickup
Cllr J Walsh
Cllr Mrs AM Watters

Clerk to SACRE: Marie Foley, Governor Training Officer

Terms of Reference and 'A Guide for SACRE' members are reviewed each year and copies provided for all members. In addition, new members are provided with a copy of 'Effective SACREs' produced by NASACRE (National Association of SACREs). 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

The support materials for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two of the Locally Agreed Syllabus were published near the start of the academic year and have been very well received by schools. The materials included:

- i) Planning and Support Materials Foundation Stage
- ii) Planning and Support Materials Key Stage One and Key Stage Two
- iii) 'I can' Assessment Statements

All schools have been provided with a paper copy to add to their existing SACRE file and all the documents have been made available on the Extranet.

So many people have contributed to the development of these materials of the last year and a half and I would like to thank teachers who have shared their expertise, SACRE members for their support and guidance, LA Officers for their commitment to the process and Fiona Moss from RE Today for taking the time to understand the 'Bolton' family and developing materials to enable us to best support our children.

3. Teaching and Learning Conference – December 2014

Once again the conference was very well attended. The morning session focused on teaching aspects of Christianity and Revered Jan Ainsworth of the Turton Moorland Team came to speak about her life as vicar and the importance of Christianity in her life. Fiona Moss introduced a range of activities that can be used in the classroom to explore aspects of Christianity or that can be adapted for work on other faiths.

The afternoon session centred around the new syllabus. Teachers were guided through the planning process and given ideas for how adapt this model to their own school. Particular attention was paid to the balance of AT1 and AT2 as well as using the levels within the plan to ensure that pupils are challenged to a high standard where possible.

4. Interfaith Council and Bolton's Young Ambassadors

At the July meeting Chan Parmar gave an overview of the continuing work done in Bolton by the Bolton Interfaith Council, particularly in relation to the Faith Trail. He also spoke about Bolton's Young Ambassadors, an interfaith group of girls Year 7 and above, and outlined the role that they play in Bolton. In the coming year it is hoped that the Young Ambassadors can get involved in the development of the Key Stage 3 Curriculum.

5. National Documents

SACRE responded to a Letter sent to Local Authorities by Lord Nash the Parliamentary Under Secretary for State Schools. The letter was about the role of SACRE's and Local Authorities in promoting the teaching of Religious Education.

SACRE recognise the difficulties with this, particularly as the LA no longer has a monitoring role in RE.

6. Determinations

No determinations were made this year.

7. Complaints

No complaints were received by the SACRE regarding provision of Religious Education or Collective Worship in school.

8. SACRE budget

SACRE continues to receive a budget from the Local Authority which enables it to undertake its statutory duties including any review and updates of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

9. Evaluation of Priorities 2014-2015

i) **To develop support materials for the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Key Stage 3**

All arrangements for this to happen are in place.

ii) **To explore opportunities to engage young people from 11-18 years in RE within Bolton**

Chan Parmar has spoken the SACRE about the role of Bolton's Young Ambassadors and it is likely that this will be the group of young people that are engaged in the development of the RE materials in the coming year.

iii) **To consider how SACRE can best support the training needs of teachers within Bolton, in relation to RE across all Key Stages**

SACRE have agreed to fund a long term project for up to 10 Primary Subject Leaders so that they can develop a strength and depth of knowledge with a view to supporting colleagues across Bolton in the future.

iv) **To offer support to schools who are considering applying for the RE Quality Mark.**

As yet SACRE have not actioned this priority

v) **To build new partnerships with the Academies and Free Schools in Bolton so that SACRE can build a clearer picture of the nature of RE across the borough.**

The make-up of schools across Bolton continues to develop and change. This is a piece of work that needs to continue into the coming year.

10. Priorities for 2015-2016

- i) To complete the development of support materials for the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Key Stage 3 and disseminate widely.
- ii) To build an up to date list of schools in Bolton including Free Schools and Academies and collate information about the RE Syllabus each school uses.
- iii) To develop depth in the training and support offered for teachers in Bolton through the Teaching and Learning Conference and other CPD Opportunities.