

**Bristol Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education:**



# **SACRE**



## **Annual Report 2017 - 18**



**Using Persona Dolls in Religious Education at  
Hannah Moore Primary School**

## Chair's Introduction

Welcome to our Annual Report 2017-18.

Bristol SACRE has continued to meet regularly and work enthusiastically to support RE in Bristol Schools. We have done so in a number of ways.

### SUPPORTING GOOD RE THROUGH CPD

Once again, we were able to support schools with excellent, well attended and evaluated conferences, and additional support.

- Our **Annual Conference**, organised jointly with South Gloucestershire SACRE, was held on 26 January 2018 at Engineers House in Clifton. The theme was **"Clearing the Fog" - Demystifying key beliefs of world faiths** and the keynote speaker was Helen Matters.
- We were also able to signpost teachers to the **LTLRE Conference** held on 28 and 29 June at Bailbrook Hotel in Bath. 24 Bristol teachers attended. The conference title was **Different voices: engaging with similarity and diversity in RE** and the keynote speakers were Sushma Sahajpal, Janet Orchard and Katie Freeman.
- The **Learn Teach Lead Initiative**, funded by the Jerusalem Trust and the St Matthias Trust, has also injected life into RE in the region by training and offering support to RE Hub leaders. During this reporting period, Adam Robertson has been the Primary Bristol RE Hub leader, and Alice Sarbicki has been the Secondary Hub leader. Hub meetings are cross-phase and have covered topics such as "Understanding Islam" and "Diversity within Christianity". Hub meetings are free and open to all schools; they attract from 8 to 25 attendees.
- We have been able to continue to employ Katy Staples as the adviser to SACRE and, through her, **individual bespoke support** has been given to nine schools. Jenny Brookes from the Local Authority has been able to ensure the link between the SACRE and Bristol City Council (BCC). SACRE is grateful to BCC for its continuing support to Bristol SACRE through funding a service level agreement that ensures that SACRE continues to have up-to-date advice.
- Our adviser was also instrumental in organising the **National AREIAC (Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) Conference**, held on 2-3 July at the Bristol Hotel. Teachers from Bristol schools contributed and delegates visited local places of worship and had a talk from a Bristol Rastafarian. Delegates were particularly complimentary about the quality of the presentations made by the teachers, especially those by Jackie Walsh from Easton Primary School (Vice Chair of Bristol SACRE) and Peter Edwards, Head of Religious Education at Bristol Cathedral Choir School.

### MEANINGFUL LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

We have meaningful relationships with LA schools, academies, faith groups, and other local SACREs to offer our schools the best support possible.

- We continue to work closely with faith communities across Bristol and ensure that teachers can access faith speakers and people to help visits to places of worship run well.
- SACRE also offers an up-to-date directory of speakers and places of worship.
- We signpost to teachers the annual Diverse Open Doors Day, held in February each year and organised by Bristol Multi-Faith Forum.
- We also have a close partnership with our two local universities. Our relationship with Bristol University is facilitated through our SACRE member Dr Teresa Griffiths, who organises the University's RE PGCE course. We work together to ensure there is continued support for teachers of RE from their PGCE or ITT into their teaching career. Katy Staples and Adam Robertson both teach on the Teach First Programme and the ITE offer at the University of the West of England. Katy Staples also works with Bristol Primary Teaching School Alliance offering RE training for their Teach First students and to Bristol LA's NQTs. Through the Governor Services in Bristol, the adviser has also trained Governors about RE, CW, SMSC and British Values.
- We also maintain close links with local interfaith groups, especially the Bristol Multi-Faith Forum, via our SACRE member Duncan Struthers.

### **BRISTOL SACRE INITIATIVES**

We have continued to reflect upon what we offer and to innovate to provide accessible and inspiring support for RE.

- Our Collective Worship Guidance, *Time to Breathe*, was reviewed and updated in this reporting year. It can be found here : <https://bristolsacre.org.uk/site/collective-worship-2/collective-worship-documents/>
- We have also launched an award scheme for Bristol Schools called *The WIRE Award* (Widening Inclusion in Religious Education). One of the criteria for the award is having organised a trip to a place of worship that represents a belief other than the majority represented by the pupil population at that school.
- We have begun, in this reporting period to create a new SACRE website, this was led by the tireless work of one of our members, Rachel Noyce. <https://bristolsacre.org.uk/site/>. This is a one-stop shop for all of your SACRE needs.

### **DEVELOPMENTS AT BRISTOL SACRE**

During 2017-18, our longstanding Chair, Esther Deans MBE, stepped down after 11 years of service as Chair and around 20 years of sitting on Bristol SACRE. We are very grateful

for her commitment and passion for Religious Education in the City, and nationally. She has been a great advocate for good RE, and her generous commitment of time and interest has helped make SACRE the robust body it currently is.

I took on the mantle of Chair in June 2018. Already, I have found the role exceptionally rewarding, as it has brought me into contact with groups and individuals across Bristol and beyond who share a passion for mutual understanding and respect. It has served to reinforce my view that Religious Education is an essential part of learning. I look forward to serving this body and working to ensure that the children and young people of Bristol gain access to outstanding Religious Education opportunities that will enable them to flourish and understand others more fully in our diverse and complex world.

*Tamar Hodos Lucas*

Dr Tamar Hodos Lucas  
Chair of Bristol SACRE



## **What is SACRE?**

SACRE is the abbreviation for the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**. It is a constituted committee of Bristol Council; its composition is specifically multi-faith and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers. It also includes representative councillors from the council. There is also a representative from the British Humanist Association.

It is a **statutory** requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and to support its work. Religious Education is the only curriculum subject to have a curriculum that is *locally agreed*. The purpose of SACRE is to advise on the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship, and to create and monitor the Agreed syllabus within Bristol.

Bristol SACRE believes that Religious Education is unique because it is the only subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but agreed locally. This means that we can ensure that the syllabus we offer children and young people gives examples of belief lived and practised by people who have lived and currently live in their locality.

SACRE takes an active part in the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus every 5 years. The current agreed syllabus was implemented in 2016 and will next be reviewed in 2021.

## **How SACRE is funded and administered**

During this reporting year SACRE received funding of **£ 9,625** from Bristol Council. SACRE creates an annual budget plan for how its funding is to be spent and expenditure is monitored at every meeting.

All SACRE's members are volunteers who give up their time freely and enthusiastically to help SACRE with its work.

## **SACRE Adviser**

The SACRE Adviser advises SACRE and enacts its decisions. In 2012, a Service Level Agreement was drawn up between the Diocese of Bristol and the SACRE. This has provided SACRE with a dedicated and experienced resource, in the shape of Katy Staples. Katy also advises Swindon SACRE and has extensive expertise in education and working in schools. During this period, the Local Authority was represented at SACRE meetings by Jenny Brookes, Teaching and Learning Consultant with Trading with Schools. Jenny has acted as a link officer for SACRE to the Local Authority to ensure that the services offered by the Service Level Agreement are effective and meet the needs of SACRE and teachers of Religious Education in Bristol.

SACRE works to the non-statutory guidance in the 1994 document: Circular 1/94. Parts of that document have been replaced with the guidance: 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non- statutory guidance 2010'.

Bristol Council has approved a constitution for SACRE. A copy of the constitution may be obtained from SACRE website: <https://bristolsacre.org.uk/site/about/public-documents/>

## **Priorities for 2017- 18**

SACRE created a development plan which focusses on the following key priorities:

- Improving Religious Education in Bristol Schools
- Ensuring the effectiveness of SACRE's partnership with the Local Authority and to assess the impact of the locally agreed syllabus
- To develop and enhance the possibilities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development offered through Collective Worship (Assemblies)
- Encourage Schools, Academies and Colleges to celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in Bristol and work with other local agencies to ensure this

This development plan ensures that the funding we receive is used well and targeted to support teachers in schools deliver high quality RE.

### **The Agreed syllabus for Bristol**

The agreed syllabus was renewed in the last reporting year, so this year has focused on consolidation and the re-writing and creation of some units (Islam for KS2 and Christianity and Slavery for KS3/4.) The agreed syllabus, including these new materials can be found at this website:

<http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/>

### **Support for schools**

In line with its key priority to raise attainment in RE through advising and training teachers, SACRE undertook the following work in 2017 -18:

#### ***An Annual Conference for teachers of RE***

The Annual RE Conference is organised jointly between Bristol and South Glos SACREs.

It was held on 26th January 2018 at Engineers House in Clifton, The theme was

**“Clearing the Fog” - Demystifying key beliefs of world faiths** and the keynote speaker was **Helen Matters**. This was attended by 100 teachers, 36 of whom were from Bristol schools.

We were also able to signpost teachers to the LTLRE (L earn Teach Lead RE) conference held on the 28th and 29th June at Bailbrook Hotel in Bath and 22 Bristol teachers attended. (There were 88 teachers at the conference).

The conference title was

**“Different voices: engaging with similarity and diversity in RE”** where the keynote speakers were **Sushma Sahajpal, Janet Orchard and Katie Freeman**

The Learn Teach Lead Initiative funded by the Jerusalem Trust and the St Matthias trust has also injected life into RE in the region by training and offering support to RE Hub leaders. Adam Robertson from Horfield CE VC Primary School has been the Primary Bristol RE Hub leader during this reporting period. Alice Sarbicki from Redland Green School has been the Secondary Hub leader. Hub meetings are cross phase and have covered topics such as “Understanding Islam at Andalusia Academy (An independent Muslim school in the city)”, “What do Christians believe?” held at the Bristol Cathedral Choir school. Hub meetings are free and open to all schools and attract from between 8 to 28 attendees.

We have been able to continue to employ Katy Staples as the adviser to SACRE and, through her, individual bespoke support has been given to 12 schools. SACRE is grateful to Bristol Local Authority for its continuing support to Bristol SACRE through funding an adviser and ensuring clerking to the body within this time period

### ***Support for faith communities and schools***

We continue to work closely with faith communities in Bristol and ensure that teachers can access faith speakers and people to help ensure visits to places of worship run well. We hold a directory that contains a list of high quality contacts to enable schools to know who to go to for visits. This has been incredibly well received by staff across Bristol and is available for schools via the AMV website:

<http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/2016/g03-resources-visitors-and-local-places-of-worship/> .

In addition, we signpost the annual “*Diverse Open Doors Day*” for teachers which is run by Bristol Multi-faith Forum. Every year a small number of Bristol teachers take the opportunity to benefit from this day.

### **Monitoring of RE provision in Bristol**

A key task for SACRE is to monitor the overall provision of RE in Bristol schools. This is quite a difficult task, as it is some years since individual school Ofsted reports specifically commented on RE. The main evidence base that SACRE has to work from is the data from examinations. The data is presented and analysed below

## Public Examination results 2018

### GCSE:

A total of 1238 students were entered for a full course public examination in RE which is a decrease since last year of 598 students. (However at least two school's examination data (Bristol Free School and St Bede's Catholic College is missing and there is no record for those schools who entered students for the short course examination which although it does not count as part of the "performance 8" accountability measure is still a significant contribution to students understanding of religions and worldviews and should be noted in an Annual Report to SACRE). Again more students who were entered were girls, and girls outperformed the boys.

Results from the 2018 GCSE showed that 74.1% of students received a grade between 9 - 4 (new grading system) which can be compared favourably with last year where students achieved 70 % A\*-C, The national average for Religious Studies is 70.5% (9-4), so pupils in Bristol entered for Religious Studies are exceeding the national average.

Grade	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/16	2016-17	2017-18
A*-C/ 9 - 4	68.9%	68.6%	71.0%	67%	70%	74.1%

2	School	No of entries	Impact	All	PP
3	Ashton Park School	164	-122.38	-0.75	-1.99
4	Bedminster Down School	0			
5	Bridge Learning Campus	10	-8.17	-0.82	-0.94
6	Bristol Brunel Academy	14	16.49	1.18	1.27
7	Bristol Cathedral Choir School	52	72.44	1.39	0.68
8	Bristol Metropolitan Academy	0			
9	City Academy Bristol	93	75.29	0.81	0.67
10	Colston's Girls' School	15	36.37	2.42	2.43
11	Cotham School	2	SUPP	SUPP	SUPP
12	Fairfield High School	0			
13	Henbury School	73	-132.24	-1.81	-1.99
14	Merchants' Academy	0			
15	Oasis Brightstowe	18	18.41	1.02	1.29
16	Oasis Academy Brislington	18	17.13	0.95	-0.71
17	Oasis Academy John Williams	21	-15.04	-0.72	-1.39
18	Orchard School	82	-37.19	-0.45	-0.52
19	Redland Green School	179	-18.70	-0.10	-0.18
20	St. Bernadette Catholic Secondary School	132	28.80	0.22	-0.06
21	St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School	208	143.70	0.69	0.32



## Table of GCSE results 2018

Only 4 schools entered the whole cohort for full course GCSE that we can tell, from the data we have been offered. Those schools were Ashton Park, Redland Green, St Bernadette's and St Mary Redcliffe and Temple (SMRT) St Bede's Catholic College whose data is not included in this table entered the majority of their cohort (157) and 73.2 % of their students gained a 9-4 grade. The impact that Religious Studies is having on the performance data for the school is by far the greatest at St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School and we should therefore be seeking to share their good practice across the city.

4 schools have apparently entered no-one for a public examination in Religious Studies: Bedminster Down, Bristol Metropolitan Academy, Fairfield School and Merchant's Academy. However these centres may be entering students for short course religious studies and the data offered may not be complete.

### Key Stage 5 Religious Studies Outcomes

Count of Candidate number	Column Labels								
Row Labels	*	A	B	C	D	E	U	(blank)	Grand Total
Ashton Park School								1	1
Bristol Cathedral Choir School	1	1	6	4				2	14
Bristol Free School	1			1	2				4
Colston's Girls' School			1	3	4	1			9
Cotham School			2	2	3			2	9
Merchants' Academy								1	1
Redland Green School	1	1	5	3		1	1		12
St Bede's Catholic College		1	4	2	1	1		2	11
St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School		2	6	7	1			7	23
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>84</b>

This is the data that we have received about KS5 entries for Religious Studies, however this is not verified.

### Statutory matters

SACRE has a statutory role to decide on any determinations. These are requests by schools to move away from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly, broadly or mainly of a Christian character. During the period of this report, there have been no requests for determinations.

Where a complaint has been made about the RE curriculum in a Bristol school, it should be referred to Bristol Council for it to deal with. Bristol City Council has undertaken to seek SACRE's advice on any such complaint. There have been no formal complaints within this reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

The four groups or committees that have served for the year 2016-17

**Committee A**

Isabella Harding  
Dr. Tamar Hodos  
Mohammad-Nassir Miah  
Rachel Noyce  
Eric Aidoo/ Peter Cook  
Annette Allen  
Balbir Nirwan  
Rob Ford  
Miranda Moore

**Committee B**

Jill Dickinson  
Duncan Struthers

**Committee C**

Esther Deans  
Adam Robertson  
Jackie Walsh  
Vicky Wiltshire

**Committee D**

Liz Radford  
Ruth Pickersgill  
Carole Johnson

**Co-opted members:**

Michael Gower  
Teresa Griffiths

**Support Officers:**

Katy Staples  
[katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org)

Jenny Brookes

**Clerk: April Pye**  
[april.pye@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:april.pye@bristol.gov.uk)

**Christian Denominations and other faith**

Roman Catholic  
Jewish  
Muslim  
Free Church  
Baptist  
Salvation Army  
Sikh  
Quakers  
Buddhist

**The Church of England**

**Associations representing teachers**

Malmesbury Secondary School  
Horfield CofE VC Primary School  
Easton CE Academy  
Holymead Primary School, Brislington

**The local authority**

Conservative  
Labour  
Labour

Humanist  
Bristol University

SACRE Adviser  
Telephone: 0117 906 0100

Local Authority Link Officer

Olubodunrin Tokosi  
April Pye  
Bristol City Council  
Diocese of Bristol

Members may be nominated by appropriate organisations but are appointed by the council. Other members may be co-opted. (Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996)

**SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2017 - 18**  
**Bristol and West Progressive Jewish Synagogue**  
**Thursday 9th November 2017**  
**2:00pm – 3:30pm**

The main agenda items were:

1. A talk about the worship and work of the Synagogue
2. Election of officers and membership welcome and update - discussion about Bahai membership
3. CoRE
4. Development plan

**28th March 2018**

**6:00pm – 7:30pm**

**The New Rooms, The Horsefair, Bristol**

The main agenda items were:

1. A tour of the Museum and an explanation of the education work of the New Rooms
2. The Annual Report and the necessary actions coming from that.
3. Scrutiny of schools websites
4. The WIRE award and young peacemakers conference

**21st June 2018**

**9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Bristol Cathedral Education Room**

The main agenda items were:

1. The support offered to schools by the Cathedral Education team
2. Thanks to the Chair as she steps down after 11 years service - election of new Chair and Vice Chair
3. Planning for Peacemakers Conference "Don't Look Back in Anger"
4. New SACRE website development

### **Action Plan for 2018 -19**

SACRE has created a development plan, as outlined above.

Key areas of work for 2018 - 2019 include:

- Implementing the revised agreed syllabus through training of teachers in schools and developing teaching materials.
- Hosting an annual conference to provide high quality CPD for teachers in all schools.
- Continuing to promote the SACRE award for schools (The WIRE Award) to recognise their contribution to bringing children into contact with different faith groups to their own, and promoting the diversity of life in modern Britain.
- Supporting the Bristol RE hub to provide training and networking opportunities for teachers.
- Visits to schools – either by SACRE members or with SACRE's help in facilitating visits.

- Ensuring that pupils in schools have a rich experience of the diversity that exists in Bristol and are equipped to live in modern Bristol, modern Britain and indeed the modern world.

SACRE meetings in 2017-18 were held at various locations in Bristol and we are very grateful to all the people who hosted us so generously.

The meetings were, on the whole well attended by members and all were quorate.

All SACRE meetings are open to members of the public who should contact the Clerk for details of forthcoming meetings.

SACRE is currently without a nominated clerk and enquiries should be addressed to : [katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org)



Tamar Hodos-Lucas the Chair of Bristol SACRE presents a WIRE (Widening Inclusion in RE award at Fishponds Academy