

Wirral Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education



**Children and Young People's
Department**
Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Twenty Third Annual Report of Wirral SACRE

The Annual Report of the Wirral Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) 2012

Message from the Director of Children's Services, Julia Hassall, and the Chair of Wirral SACRE, Martin Dickson

We are pleased to send you this Annual Report of the Wirral Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for 2012.

I am delighted to inform you that at the time of writing this letter the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE 2013 has been published and circulated to all Wirral schools and that a launch of the new syllabus has been arranged for 20th June 2013. A working group has also been set up to refresh the Primary Schemes of Work for RE. This task is due for completion by the end of the summer term.

While there is some uncertainty within RE nationally at this time, this report confirms once again that the teaching of Religious Education across Wirral continues to be of a very high standard. The publication of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus will help to ensure continuity of provision for RE in Wirral schools.

As well as there being a number of potential threats to RE there are some encouraging things going on locally and nationally with innovative thinking on new syllabuses, new models of partnership between academies and SACREs and new networks to support RE (REQM, F2F, 3FF, Faith Ambassadors, etc). As a SACRE we are keen to work with you to make the most of these encouraging opportunities as we all endeavor to give our children and young people the best possible start in life spiritually, socially and morally.

Your feedback is vital in this and so too are the thoughts of our pupils and governing bodies. We always welcome suggestions as well as invitations and presentations from schools which will enable SACRE to work more closely and effectively with them.

We commend the report to you and hope that you and your colleagues and partners, will find it interesting and informative.

Martin Dickson
Chair of SACRE

Julia Hassall
Interim Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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and Chair of SACRE, Martin Dickson

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Part 1 What SACRE Does

The Twenty Third Annual Report of Wirral SACRE

The Annual Report of the Wirral Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, 2012

1.1 Responsibilities of SACRE

The SACRE has a statutory duty to advise the LA on religious education and collective worship in maintained schools, with the aim of supporting and improving both.

The SACRE has two particular functions:

- it can require its LA to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to review its current Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- it may determine, on application by the Headteacher, that the requirement for collective worship in community schools be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils in a particular school. Wirral has not received any applications.

In addition the work of SACRE includes;

1. the monitoring and improvement of the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE
2. the partnership between the SACRE, the LA and other key stakeholders
3. the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus
4. the monitoring and improvement of the provision and quality of collective worship
5. the contribution of the SACRE to the promotion of social and racial harmony. In the 2009 Ofsted framework this racial harmony was defined as Community Cohesion and Equal Opportunities.

Since the 1992 Education Act, all meetings of Wirral SACRE have been open to the public. Invitations have gone out to all governing bodies. SACRE welcomed five observers on one occasion to meetings during 2012

1.2 What SACRE has done since September 2011

The following summary provides an overview of the range of matters SACRE has considered at its meetings during the past year. All of these matters were referred to SACRE by the Wirral Local Authority and there is a close working relationship between Wirral LA and Wirral SACRE. Where the advice provided by SACRE is not fully indicated in this section, further details are provided in the relevant sections of this report. Fuller details of the way in which SACRE meets each of the responsibilities outlined above can be found in Parts 2 and 3.

During the school year 2011/2012 SACRE has:

- Continued to implement and review the SACRE Action Plan related to areas identified within the Ofsted Report 'Transforming Religious Education' (Ofsted 2010). SACRE remains keen to hear the views of Wirral schools on any aspect of the Action Plan, details of which appear at appendix 1 of this report.
- Continued to encourage schools to develop their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Requested Wirral Governors Forum to invite school governors to respond to the 2011 SACRE Annual Report.
- Monitored Standards in RE via analysis of results in secondary schools at GCSE and A Level.
- Continued to maintain Community Cohesion as a standing item on the agenda for Wirral SACRE meetings.
- Continued to actively consider which other methods could be used to monitor RE in schools, via the SACRE Action Plan.
- Received and responded to correspondence related to RE and Collective Worship. (see 'Links 'section)
- Supported the planning, funded from the SACRE budget, and sent representatives to Wirral Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration February 2012.
- Maintained correspondence with the ARIEAC Trans-Pennine group.
- Invited Wirral Schools to submit applications for the Westhill Award for R.E. 'Education into Diversity'.
- Submitted the Wirral SACRE Annual Report 2011 to NASACRE.
- Convened the Wirral Agreed Syllabus Conference and maintained an overview of the review of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus.
- Recognised the concerns of Special Schools about the lack of advice on assessment in RE in the 2007 Agreed Syllabus. Referred this to the Agreed Syllabus Conference for incorporation into the revised Agreed Syllabus.
- Received confirmation of the DfE statement on Academies and Religious Education.
- Received an address by the British Humanist Association.
- Responded to a Freedom of Information request regarding SACRE from a representative of the national press.
- Continued to develop positive links with other local SACREs.
- Received confirmation of the commitment of Wirral LA to maintain Wirral SACRE.
- Vice -Chair of SACRE attended the NASACRE AGM in London in May.2012.
- Continued to support the development of the PSRE Values Framework.
- Vice-Chair of SACRE attended the St Gabriel's Trust Conference in October 2012.

Part 2 Religious Education in Wirral Schools

2.1 Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

- 2.1.1** The first Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was introduced in 1993 and was implemented in Wirral Schools to the same time scale as the National Curriculum Orders for History and Geography. Guidance materials for RE and Collective Worship model policy statements and the Wirral Model Primary Scheme of Work for RE, ensured that the major requirements of the Agreed Syllabus were speedily put into place.
- 2.1.2** There is a statutory requirement to review a locally Agreed Syllabus every five years. The revised Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was introduced in 1999, and the Model Primary Scheme of Work was updated to support the introduction of the revised syllabus.
- 2.1.3** The **current** Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was introduced in **2007**. The 2007 review had been timed so that the revised syllabus would reflect the then developing Non-Statutory National Framework for RE. The Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE (2007) has been issued to all Wirral Schools and Governing Bodies. The Primary Schemes of Work for RE were also updated to support primary schools in teaching the Agreed Syllabus for RE, and were delivered to all Wirral primary schools at the same time as the Agreed Syllabus. The model policy for RE was updated in, 2009, for Wirral primary schools.
- 2.1.3** The Five Yearly Review of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE was commenced in the first half of the Summer Term 2012 with the convening of the Agreed Syllabus Conference and a consultation with schools on the degree of satisfaction with the Agreed Syllabus. (see appendix 4). A summary of the outcomes of the consultation appear at Appendix 5.
- 2.1.4** The Agreed Syllabus Conference completed the process of identifying the areas requiring change and the way the changes would be brought about at the end of 2012. It was agreed that the 2013 Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education would be ready for circulation to all Wirral schools by the end of the Spring Term 2013. The working group to revise the primary schemes of work in the light of the revised syllabus would meet in the Summer term to carry out this task so that it would be available to schools for the implementation of the revised syllabus at the start of the Autumn Term 2013.

The complete 2007 Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and the Primary Schemes of Work are located on The Wirral Learning Grid - www.wirral-abc.gov.uk/re/index.asp. The Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2013 is available on WESCOM.

2.2 Programme to support the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

The process of reviewing the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE has provided the major part of the programme to support the Agreed Syllabus in 2012. In addition to this, Network meetings for Secondary Heads of RE were held termly. Participants in the Secondary Network meetings were provided with updates on developments in Religious Education and some useful learning resources as well as the opportunity for dialogue between schools.

SACRE also organised Wirral Holocaust Memorial Day activities involving members of SACRE and Wirral teachers and pupils. Over seven hundred RE, History and Citizenship students attended this important event at the Floral Pavillion, New Brighton in February 2012, where Rudi Oppenheimer, Holocaust Survivor, gave testimony to students, councillors, and members of Wirral SACRE. Seventeen Wirral schools were represented at this event, and Wirral Students from these schools made the Statement of Commitment. The Commemoration also included the powerful reflections of students from South Wirral High School, on their experience of visiting Auschwitz.

2.3 Working Groups

The SACRE Action Plan Working Group continued to meet during 2012. The Agreed Syllabus Conference Teachers Working Group met twice in the Autumn term 2012 to complete the process of Agreed Syllabus review.

2.4 RE Assessment – The Eight level scale

The 2007 Wirral Agreed Syllabus contains a helpful progression chart which features ‘pupil friendly’ versions of the level descriptors for RE which teachers have found very useful to support assessment for learning (AfL) in RE. (See ‘Wirral Agreed Syllabus, 2007’). It was agreed that this guidance would be replicated in the revised Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE (2013). In addition it was agreed that the revised syllabus should provide additional guidance on Assessment in Religious Education for pupils with Special Educational Needs, and that the assessment model for RE which was produced by the Advisory Team to support progression through the Assessment Scale for RE and has been adopted by several Wirral primary schools should be included with the revised schemes of work for RE.

2.5 Standards in RE

Wirral LA’s annual analysis of standards and of examination results for secondary schools shows the achievement in RE in Key stages 4 – 5. Since 2008 Wirral LA has been unable to collect KS3 data for Foundation Subjects and RE.

2.6 SACRE and Ofsted:- Pupils’ Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and how well the school promotes/contributes to Community Cohesion and how well pupils contribute to their School and Community Cohesion

SACRE continued to monitor the Ofsted reports for the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of pupils, how well the school promotes/contributes to Community Cohesion, and how well pupils contribute to their School and Community Cohesion until January 2012 when the new Ofsted Framework ceased to provide grades for these three judgements. If specific concerns were identified within the report SACRE would request the LA to provide appropriate support and advice to these schools.

2.7 Primary Schools

2.7.1 Data on the extent of primary pupils' spiritual, moral social and cultural development was no longer provided in Ofsted reports from January 2012 as noted above.

2.8 Secondary Schools

2.8.1 Wirral LA carries out a detailed scrutiny of standards in all subjects, including RE, at public examination level and refers these to SACRE for reflection in the Annual Report.

2.8.2 Termly network meetings are held for representatives of RE departments and hosted by Wirral schools. Updates for schools were provided and resources were distributed providing information on subjects such as "Awe and Wonder" and Holocaust Memorial Day. SACRE would like to extend their gratitude to Marion Landor for the production of these resources.

2.8.3 Results in RE Summary for 2010-2012

Religious Education continued to play a strong part in the curriculum of Wirral Secondary Schools in 2012, although there has been some decline in the numbers taking GCSE RE, A level and AS level. 17 Wirral Schools entered a total of 1,407 students for the GCSE (full course) in Religious Studies, which represented an increase in numbers of near to 150. The results at A* - C were 73.2%, which was above the national average, but slightly below the result for the previous year. At GCSE Short Course, 11 schools entered students, and while 46.8% gained grades A* to C, representing an improvement of 4% on the previous year, only 94.5% gained Grades A* - G. At A Level, 15 centres entered students and 48.2% achieved the higher grades of A* - B; while 99.4% achieved A* - G. At AS Level, 12 centres entered students and while there was a further decline in entries, to 40 students across the Borough, 50% achieved Grades A – B, and 92.5 achieved grades A – E.

A summary of the results for 2010 appears below:

| 2010 | Entries | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|--------|--------------|
| | Boys | Girls | Total | %A* - C | Absent | Unclassified |
| GCSE RS | 666 | 876 | 1542 | 72.1 | 0.10 | 1.00 |
| GCSE RE Short Course | 484 | 256 | 740 | 34.3 | 1.80 | 4.30 |
| GCE A Level RS | 41 | 150 | 191 | 78.4 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| AS | 37 | 31 | 68 | 41.2 | 0.00 | 23.50 |

A summary of the results for 2011 appears below:

| 2011 | Entries | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------------|
| Level | Total | %A* - C | %A*-G | Unclassified |
| GCSE RS | 1292 | 77.7 | 98.8 | 1.2 |
| GCSE RE Short Course | 889 | 42.3 | 95.8 | 4.2 |
| GCE A Level RS | 181 | %A*-B | A*-G | |
| | | 50.8 | 100 | |
| AS | 58 | %A - B | %A - E | |
| | | 34.5 | 82.08 | 17.2 |

A summary of the results for 2012 appears below:

| 2012 | Entries | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------------|
| Level | Total | %A* - C | %A*-G | Unclassified |
| GCSE RS | 1407 | 77.7 | 93.2 | 0.9 |
| GCSE RE Short Course | 731 | 42.3 | 94.5 | 5.5 |
| GCE A Level RS | 168 | %A*-B | A*-G | |
| | | 50.8 | 99.4 | 0.6 |
| AS | 40 | %A - B | %A - E | |
| | | 50 | 92.5 | 7.5 |

2.9 Complaints

There were no complaints by parents referred to SACRE regarding RE or collective worship in 2012. SACRE was consulted on a number of issues regarding RE, and appropriate support and advice was offered.

2.10 Resources

Use continues to be made of the Schools' Library Service book and artefact loan service.

2.11 Teacher Training

The Wirral SACRE Annual Report for RE is provided annually to Initial Teacher Training colleges, and to individual students on request. The Wirral Agreed Syllabus has been provided to all local Initial Teacher Training colleagues. The Head of Liverpool Hope University's RE Department is a member of Wirral SACRE, and provides a link with PGCE and ITT training. Edge Hill University has alerted teachers to opportunities for accreditation in RE teaching.

Part 3 Collective Worship

3.1 Advice on Collective Worship

Advice is provided to schools on the requirement to offer a daily act of collective worship for all pupils in Wirral maintained schools. Schools are provided with a monthly planner, based on the SHAP calendar, for collective worship which indicates any religious festivals which occur in that month and helps schools to ensure that the majority of those acts are 'in the main broadly Christian'. The planner is used by the majority of Wirral primary Schools. Model policy statements for Collective Worship and Guidance can be found in the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE 2007. The Wirral Code of Conduct for Schools for Religious Believers visiting schools can be found at Appendix 3.

3.2 Monitoring

SACRE has monitored Ofsted findings on schools' contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development via its evaluation of Ofsted reports. (See Section 2.6) SACRE also carried out a consultation with schools on the degree of satisfaction with the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE.

3.3 Training

The RE Advisor to SACRE responded to requests for particular advice on Collective Worship.

3.4 Determinations

There are no determinations exempting schools from 'broadly Christian' Collective Worship in Wirral Schools. There have been no complaints regarding Collective Worship in 2012.

Part 4 Links

4.1 SACRE links with other organisations

4.1.1 Wirral SACRE continues its links with several national bodies. Wirral SACRE continues to be affiliated with NASACRE. The NASACRE website is a useful source of information on all matters connected to RE. The Chair of SACRE Mr Richard Neale, and the Vice Chair Mr Richard Evans reported to SACRE on all NASACRE meetings attended during 2012. Wirral SACRE has also formed close links with Liverpool SACRE with representatives attending each other activities and meetings.

4.1.2 Links continue with the Association for Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC).

4.1.3 A link continues with Liverpool Hope University's RE Department and they have provided support to SACRE and to the LA by way of involvement with advice to schools on matters related to RE. The Head of the RE Department at Liverpool Hope is co-opted to Wirral SACRE and links have been made with The University of Chester and Liverpool SACRE.

4.1.4 Links continue with local associations. SACRE supports schools links with the voluntary sector in Wirral. These include the Council of Churches, Wirral 'Churches Together', Wirral Youth for Christ, the Wirral Multi-Cultural Organisation and the

Merseyside Council of Faiths. Wirral Governors Forum has occasional agenda items on SACRE.

- 4.1.5** SACRE has appreciated the valued work done by the RE Council in providing guidance on standards and teaching and learning in RE.
- 4.1.6** Wirral SACRE promoted the planning for the 2012 National Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in Wirral at which Wirral hosted a commemoration for pupils of GCSE RE, History and Citizenship, teachers, Councillors and SACRE members and church leaders. Through this Wirral has strong links with Beth Shalom and the Holocaust Educational Trust.
- 4.1.7** SACRE receives regular correspondence from a range of organisations working in the field of RE and Collective Worship. These include: RE Services Today; Resources in Hinduism; The Humanist Association. The Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants, Regional Subject Advisors and the Religious Education Council for England and Wales, Liverpool Hope University, and the Anglican Diocese of Chester and the RC Diocese of Shrewsbury.

Part 5 Training for Governing Bodies

- 5.1** All Chairs of governing bodies receive copies of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE and the SACRE Annual Report. A briefing on the revised Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE and the responsibilities of the Governing Body regarding RE has been provided for Chairs of Governing Bodies by members of Wirral SACRE. All governors are invited to SACRE's termly meetings. RE subject leaders are often requested to provide presentations to governors on policy and practice in their schools, and governors are regularly invited to attend acts of Collective Worship.

One meeting each year is held in a Wirral school. In 2012 Woodchurch High School hosted a very fully attended meeting and made an informative presentation on RE and the ethos of the school.

Part 6 Conclusion

- 6.1** Wirral SACRE wishes to thank Wirral teachers for their continued commitment and hard work which is making teaching and learning in RE increasingly effective and is effectively raising standards in many Wirral schools. Thanks also go to the members of the working groups (mentioned in 2.3).

Thanks also to the Interim Director, David Armstrong and to the new Director, Julia Hassall for their support for the work of SACRE; to Deirdre Smith, Principal Manager and RE Adviser for SACRE, and to Lisa Kelly, Clerk to SACRE to June. Jayne McMorran became Clerk to SACRE in June 2012.

SACRE is grateful to Wirral LA which provides funding for all matters requested by SACRE, e.g. attendance at meetings of NASACRE; and has funded and provided LA support for meetings of SACRE, and support for events provided for schools noted above.

Appendix 1

Part 1 The Legal Framework

1.1 Overview, The Legal Framework

- 1.1.1** Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988 requires every Local Education Authority to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Each SACRE must publish an annual report indicating the issues on which the SACRE has advised the LA, summarising the advice given, and explaining why advice has been offered on matters which were not referred to it by the LA. Copies of the report must be sent to NASACRE, to schools and ideally to local teacher training institutions. These functions are carried out by Wirral's clerk to SACRE.
- 1.1.2** The Wirral SACRE was established and met for the first time in 1988.
- 1.1.3** The Standing Advisory Council comprises four committees as defined by Education Reform Act (ERA) 1988.
- 1.1.4** New members appointed and welcomed to SACRE during 2012 were Ms J Lewtas (WTP Representative), Councillor C Meaden (Local Authority Representative) and Mr R Pritchard (Observer for the British Humanist Association). Mrs J McMorran succeeded Mrs L Kelly as SACRE Clerk during the year.

The names of current representatives are: -

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Committee A</p> <p>Christian denominations other than the Church of England and other faith groups</p> <p>Free Churches Mrs E Large Roman Catholic Mrs E McGunigal Jewish Mr H Cohen Chinese/Vietnamese Community Vacancy Muslim Mr S Syed Mr Choudhury Sikh Mr H Sohal Hindu Vacancy Buddhist Mr K Tsering Wirral Youth for Christ Mr M Dickson</p> <p>Committee B</p> <p>The Church of England: Ms K Leighton Mr R Neale Rev D Newstead Mr I McKenzie Vacancy Rev C Coverley Co-opted Member Mrs J Schmack</p> | <p>Committee C</p> <p>Teacher Representatives:</p> <p>ASCL Mr S Duggan NAHT Mrs C Hibbard WTP Mrs M Landor WTP Mrs R Razbully WTP Miss J Lewtas (VOICE) PAT Vacancy</p> <p>Co-opted Mr R Evans</p> <p>Committee D</p> <p>Local Education Authority: Councillor P A Smith Councillor C Meaden Councillor W Smith Councillor W Clements Councillor B Mooney Councillor P Kearney</p> |
|--|--|

SACRE would like to place on record it thanks to Rev K Addenbrooke (Committee B), Mr J Heslop (Committee C) and Councillor G D Mitchell (Committee D) who resigned during the year. Similarly grateful thanks are due to Mrs L Kelly, former SACRE Clerk, who left the Local Authority during the course of the year.

1.2 Chairmanship of SACRE

- 1.2.1** At the meeting held on 9 February 2012 SACRE re-elected Mr R Neale as its Chair for the calendar year 2012. At the same meeting, Mr R Evans was elected as Vice Chair for the calendar year 2012.

1.3 Administrative Matters

SACRE has had one meeting per term in 2012. One meeting took place in a Wirral school, Woodchurch High School. The average attendance at meetings has been 11. Members who are not able to attend a meeting are empowered to arrange for a substitute. SACRE is keen to increase participation during 2013. Two observers attended the February meeting, one of whom was Ms J. Lewtas who has since joined SACRE. Educational advice has been provided by Deirdre Smith, Principal Manager and from Marion Landor, AST for Citizenship, who has since joined Committee C.

The SACRE Annual Report has been circulated to:

- All SACRE members
- All schools (1 copy)
- All Chairs of Governors in Wirral schools
- University of Liverpool, John Moores University, Liverpool Hope University
- Colleges of HE: LIPA, University College Chester, Warrington Collegiate Institute, Edge Hill, University College of St. Martins, Lancaster.
- All members of the CYPD Department Management Team, Wirral's Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive.
- The Chester Anglican Diocese, The Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocese.
- Local MPs
- Liverpool SACRE
- NASACRE

Wirral SACRE Action Plan

WIRRAL SACRE ACTION PLAN

Objective 1: To improve communication between SACRE, LA and schools to allow for effective partnership

| | Action | Success Criteria |
|------------------------|---|---|
| By 2011 Short term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute 2010 SACRE Annual Report 2. Circulate to other agencies as required 3. Invite feedback 4. 4. Provide Subject Leader Meetings – termly – Primary and Secondary 5. Offer CPD opportunities for schools 6. Communicate to schools re RE entitlement through EQ | <p>Done ✓ Done ✓ Positive feedback received. Flame Radio Chairman's interview feedback awaited In place via Education Quality/Service Level Agreement (EQ) ✓</p> <p>In place for Primary schools, NA for secondary schools, much done for both in 2010-2011. In place, clearly stated in EQ documentation.</p> |
| By 2012 Medium term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review format of SACRE Annual Report 2. To develop 5 and 6 above in context of EQ and continuing statutory requirements 3. To commence the process of AS review by conducting a consultation. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New format agreed by working group and implemented in 2012. ✓ 2. Schools are fully aware of statutory requirements and implementing these. ✓ 3. Process commenced by Spring term 2012. ✓ Consultation in the Spring term. ✓ 4. Agreed Syllabus Conference convened and Review commenced in Autumn Term. ✓ |
| By 2014 Long term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the link between SACRE and Wirral schools. 2. Develop a Wirral SACRE website. 3. Ensure the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE is completed by the end of Spring term 2013. 4. Liaise with Wirral EQ to provide a signature event for all schools to support the launch of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE 2013. 5. Convene a Working Group to further develop the Primary Schemes of Work for RE. | <p>Success Criteria to be identified at next SACRE meeting</p> |

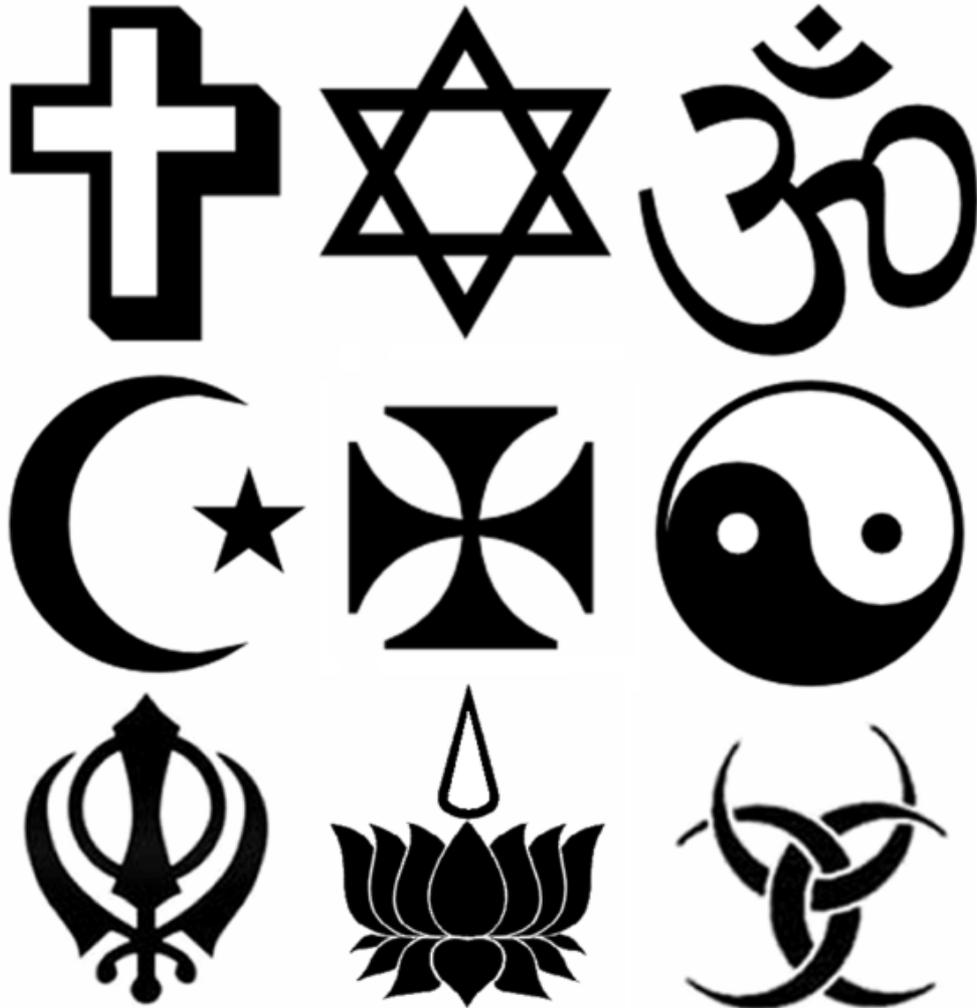
Objective 2: To celebrate success in RE

| | Action | Success Criteria |
|------------------------|---|---|
| By 2011 Short term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 2011 'Celebrating RE' Activities promoted and held in Wirral. 2. Promoting importance of RE in terms of exam success at GCSE and A'Level. 3. Promoting the importance of RE in the curriculum and on a local and national scale. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of schools which took part in celebration. ✓ 2. Published in SACRE Annual Report, results show increase. ✓ 3. Informed local MPs of all parties, Wirral Councillors, Governors, Flame Christian Radio. Positive response and support at local and national level. ✓ |
| By 2012 Medium term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage schools to maintain RE as a strong examination subject. 2. To offer CPD opportunities for schools 3. Celebrate RE in conjunction with other bodies. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Option numbers in schools maintained or increased. ✓ 2. Consultation with schools shows good impact. ✓ 3. Collaborative work with e.g. Liverpool SACRE and NASACRE and Religious Education Council. ✓ |
| By 2014 Long term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To continue to promote the importance of RE as an accredited subject at GCSE and A Level and to ensure schools are aware of the statutory basis of RE for 14-19 year olds. 2. To promote RE and to celebrate its success. 3. To explore the opportunity to provide further events for Wirral students. | Success Criteria to be identified at next SACRE meeting |

Objective 3: To promote meaningful Collective Worship in schools

| | Action | Success Criteria |
|------------------------|--|---|
| By 2011 Short term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce a guidance document on 'Guidance for Visitors to schools for 'Collective Worship' 2. To re-evaluate the collective worship questionnaire. 3. To review the Model Policies on Collective Worship. 4. To continue to provide the model Wirral Collective Worship policy and notes of guidance. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produced and disseminated Guidance ✓ 2. Reviewed and disseminated to schools. ✓ 3. Provided and disseminated to schools. ✓ |
| By 2012 Medium term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate new policies to schools 2. Ensure the revised Agreed Syllabus contains the up to date statutory position on RE and Collective Worship. 3. To support by engaging SACRE in a process of supporting schools in the provision of high quality Collective Worship and RE. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New policies reflect national policy and disseminated. ✓ 2. Include in the Agreed Syllabus for RE. ✓ |
| By 2014 Long term | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the links between SACRE and Wirral schools in order to promote meaningful Collective Worship. 2. To encourage all Wirral schools to prepare acts of Collective Worship that are inspiring, inclusive and respectful. | Success Criteria to be identified at next SACRE meeting |

Religious Believers Visiting insert school name



Code of Conduct

Religious Believers Visiting Schools
Code of Conduct



Religious visitors taking part in the life of our school should:

- Be willing to share their own experiences, beliefs and insights, but avoid criticising the experience and insights of others and imposing their views upon pupils in any way
- Be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies, and plan their involvement in the light of the aims and curriculum at the school
- Seek to use engaging teaching and learning methods that involve the pupils actively, and to communicate at appropriate levels for the age group(s) concerned
- Make clear to pupils who they are, who they represent, and what their aims are
- Be willing to respect and value the faith of the pupils and adults in the school when it is different from their own
- Develop ways of speaking to pupils that communicate their open approach, avoiding any hidden agenda to 'convert' or proselytize

Points to consider

- Is your input carefully planned?
- Have you talked to the staff in advance?
- Will you be open to teacher ideas or evaluations?
- Are the children having to listen for too long?
- Can the children understand what is being said?
- Have you taken into account the differing abilities of the children?
- Is the material too hard or too easy for the age group?
- Is the language pitched at the right level for the children?
- Visitors who involve all of the children and make the presentation engaging with a variety of methods and styles will be more effective.
- Have you carefully selected the content and avoided the temptation to do too much?



A key question to help you reflect on your approach:

If a member of another religion was delivering to a child of my faith and contributed in the same way that I have done, would I be happy with the education given?

School's responsibilities when welcoming religious visitors

- Visitors will be briefed in advance of any visit
- Visitors will be made to feel welcome
- The school will be happy to jointly plan and evaluate the visit
- During the visit the school will remain responsible for the curriculum and collective worship at all times
- The staff will work alongside the visitor and not take on an observational role
- Responsibility for pupils, including their protection, health and safety rests with the school

Issues for discussion prior to a visit

These are issues which may need special discussion and attention:

- If a religious group is evangelistic or has missionary objectives, how will these objectives be kept separate from collective worship and curricular RE?
- How will parents get to know about the religious life of the school? What contribution will they make to shaping the experiences offered to their children?
- What steps can be taken to enable pupils to know what is being offered in voluntary activities supported by faith communities? How can hidden agendas be avoided?
- What can schools do to offer balanced opportunities for pupils to meet and share the lives of religious believers?

David Armstrong
Acting Director – Children's services

Professional Excellence Centre
Acre Lane
Bromborough
Wirral CH62 7BZ
Telephone: 0151-346 6503
Fax: 0151-346 6575
E-Mail: PEC.staffdev@wirral.gov.uk

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To: The Headteacher
All Wirral Schools

18 April 2012

**FAO: The Headteacher
The Head of Religious Education
Religious Education Co-ordinator**

your ref
my ref PM/DS2228/JJ
tel ext 346 6544 please ask for Deirdre Smith

Dear Colleague,

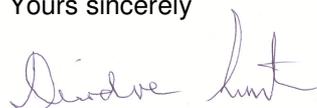
Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education – Five Yearly Review

The Wirral Agreed Syllabus Conference is currently commencing the required five yearly review of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. As a first step in this process Wirral LA has been requested to conduct a survey of schools on their degree of satisfaction with the Wirral Agreed Syllabus. **I would be grateful therefore if you would complete this simple questionnaire and return it to Deirdre Smith, Principal Manager, PEC, Acre Lane, Bromborough or Fax to 346 6575 or email deirdresmith@wirral.gov.uk.**

The statutory requirement for LAs to have a locally **Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education** remains as does the requirement to review the syllabus every five years. The Non-statutory National Framework for RE 2005 is the most recent national guidance and this was used to inform the last review of the Agreed Syllabus in 2005.

The Wirral Agreed Syllabus Conference also recognises that the schools may wish for some renewal and updating of the Primary Schemes of Work for RE. Although these Schemes of Work are non statutory, they were produced by Wirral teachers to help them to meet the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus in an interesting and creative way. The review of the Schemes of Work is included as part of the current consultation. I will shortly be convening a working group for this process if the consultation suggests that this is required and once decisions have been made on the extent of the review of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus.

Yours sincerely



Pp David Armstrong
Acting Director of Children's Services

Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education – Five Yearly Review

SCHOOL:

NAME OF RESPONDEE:

The Wirral Agreed Syllabus Conference seeks your response on the following

a) I am satisfied with the Wirral Agreed Syllabus. Please indicate your degree of satisfaction
1 = high, 4 = low

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

b) I wish to keep change to a minimum, YES NO

c) I believe the syllabus will be improved by:

i) the inclusion or addition of (please complete)

.....
.....

ii) deleting section (please complete)

.....
.....

iii) specific change to section of the Agreed Syllabus as follows: (please complete, continue on separate sheet if needed)

.....
.....

d) I would like the Wirral Agreed Syllabus Conference to set up a working group of practitioners to review the syllabus

e) I would like to become a member of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus Conference working group

f) I would like to become a member of the working group to revise the primary scheme of work in the light of the Agreed Syllabus Review.

Have you any comments or further suggestions for inclusion?

.....

Appendix 5

Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education – Five Yearly Review Responses

The paper summarizing the responses to the consultation has been presented so as to differentiate the responses which related to

- (a) the revision of the Primary Schemes of Work which accompany the Agreed Syllabus and
- (b) those which related specifically to the Agreed Syllabus.

The review of the Agreed Syllabus is the statutory part of what we need to do, and therefore should be completed first and as a priority.

Wirral has provided Schemes of Work to support the Agreed Syllabus in Primary Schools. This is much appreciated by the schools and a large number of the comments relate specifically to improvements/updates of the schemes of work. The Agreed Syllabus Conference needs to decide what priority and what resource can be allocated to this task. Given that the responses to the consultation suggest that the degree of change needed for the Agreed Syllabus is small this may help us to resource the requested revision of the schemes of work in Paper B.

Summary.

Revised Paper A should make it easier to determine which areas of the Agreed Syllabus need change and therefore how we might go about it.

83% of respondents indicated a good degree of satisfaction with the syllabus.

Only one school indicated a low degree of satisfaction, while acknowledging that the syllabus was excellent for mainstream schools but did not make sufficient provision for schools with pupils with learning difficulties.

84% wished to keep change to a minimum.

9% wanted some changes, but these were almost exclusively linked to the Schemes of Work.

Specific modifications related to: opening the range/choice of religions at KS1.

Providing further details on progression/assessment in RE.

Amplifying the Progression model in the Agreed Syllabus by the provision of guidance for schools with pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Paper A – Summary of Responses to the Consultation of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus related specifically to the Syllabus rather than the Schemes of Work

- a) I am satisfied with the Wirral Agreed Syllabus.

Please indicate your degree of satisfaction

1 = high, 4 = low

1 = 17 (36%), 2 = 21 (45%), 3 = 7 (15%), 4 = 1 (2%)

- b) I wish to keep change to a minimum.

Yes = 40 (85%), No = 4 (9%), No Reply = 3 (6%)

- c) I believe the syllabus will be improved by:

- (i) the inclusion or addition of:

A section about different branches of the Christian faith and to compare and contrast them at the end of KS2. (Primary)

More emphasis on ethics and morality and the responsibilities all humans share – whether or not they are religious believers. (Secondary)

More coverage of different religions (KS1) (Primary)

I am satisfied that the document works well for the children on Wirral schools at the moment (Secondary)

More philosophy for KS3 (Secondary)

More frequent work on other religions. (Primary)

P level statements in the 'Assessment Scale' section. P level statements in the 'Progression Chart for Religious Education' section. (Special)

Areas within the topics each ½ term could be highlighted allowing teachers to immediately see which programmes of study still need to be covered. (Primary)

Suggested assessment opportunities or activities for Years 7, 8, 9. To be accompanied by specific resources. (Secondary)

Fine as it is (Primary)

To include clauses for special schools to 'choose' from the following areas making allowances for differing learning difficulties. (Special)

- (ii) deleting section (please complete)
I don't believe any sections need to be deleted (Secondary)
Satisfied with overall syllabus. Allows you to select material appropriate for your students needs. Very flexible and a wide range of suggested content for study. (Secondary)
- (ii) specific change to section of the Agreed Syllabus as follows: (please complete, continue on separate sheet if needed)

Would change very little of the key stage 3 syllabus. (Secondary)

Breadth of study – pg 28 – to have some elements of, pg 34 – an introduction to Buddhism, as an alternative PoS. (Infants)

Other comments and further suggestions for inclusion

It would be of use to have a list of inter faith individuals or groups who could be called upon to speak to children about their faiths in class and even participate in leading / participating in assemblies in order to enhance collective worship provision. (Primary)

We would be happy to help and support in any way we can.(Secondary)

Once school RE review has been completed / updated – feedback to working group / Network Schools. (Primary)

The syllabus works well within schools alongside assemblies and PSHCE lessons weekly. (Primary)

I would like to become a member of the Wirral Agreed Syllabus Conference working group. (Secondary)

Should Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism be briefly introduced in KS1 (through assemblies perhaps)? (Infants)

The daily act of worship? Is it a workable requirement in every school? (Secondary)

Consideration of the teaching of RE in special schools. There is new guidance and ELGs for the foundation stage so this section of the agreed syllabus will have to be adapted. (Special)

I think that the syllabus review of 2005 was very thorough, and I am more than happy with its content. (Secondary)

I believe that the syllabus provides a strong backbone to RE Provision in school as it gives coverage of what is expected. (Primary)

Overall very satisfied with the range and programme of study offered. (Secondary)

Everyone in school happy to leave syllabus as it is. (Primary)

My only comment really is that I think the syllabus is great for mainstream, but it is extremely difficult to make meaningful for our children who have complex learning difficulties (Special)

I am new to the role of Head of Humanities and I am not familiar with the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE. My specialism is in Geography so any schemes of work for RE would be most useful and appreciated. (Secondary)

Suggestions for a sensory approach to learning in RE P levels for assessment (Special)

Paper B - Comments from schools relating to the Schemes of Work rather than Agreed Syllabus

The F2 units having wider cultural coverage and linking more relevantly to the scale point descriptions and EYFS framework objectives. (Primary)

More of the emphasis on cross-curricular links for use within the creative curriculum. (Primary)

More updated resources (very dated e.g. 2006) (Infants)

Contemporary Moral / Global / Social issues. (Primary)

A few years ago, I was part of a focus group who came up with suggested lessons for new agreed syllabus – what happened to this? I worked hard on it. (Junior)

More ideas about links to PSHE / Citizenship and SEAL (Primary)

More Christian focused units, bible stories etc (Primary)

More specific lesson plans with particular reference to extended writing pieces. (Primary)

Maybe adding more Bible stories (Primary)

Updated resources ideas including speakers / visits, ICT opportunities. (Primary)

Including more charities / how we can help others. (Primary)

More indepth ideas for each lesson and some units of work needs to be longer to cover a 6 week term. (Primary)

The assessment sheets could be revised to include all of the 7 programmes of study onto the one assessment sheet. (Primary)

Much more creative lesson suggestions / examples.

More detailed range of resources and range of Internet resources available (Primary)

Considering Ofsted's New Framework:

How SMSC can be promoted in the lesson.

How literacy and numeracy can be promoted in each lesson.

Differentiated activities for literacy and numeracy suggested.

More creative examples for teaching.

Consideration of continuous provision areas in KS1 planning (e.g. sand, construction etc)

Wirral contacts for visitors / visits merged into planning. (Primary)

More ICT suggestions / aspects (Primary)

The inclusion of more ICT links (Primary)

Teaching mixed year groups (guidance schemes of work e.g. Yr 1/2) (Primary)

A unit of work that offers flexibility on the 2nd choice of a non christian PoS in KS1 e.g. Buddhism. (Infants)

Suggestions for deleting from Schemes of Work

Fewer SEAL / Science type units. The Natural World, Precious (Primary)

'Feelings' section of journeys – too simple (Primary)

Schools should have a choice on the 2nd unit of work linked to World Faiths. (Infants)

Suggestions for specific changes

Further information, support and guidelines for the units 'Christmas and Easter' in art. (Primary)

Concerned about Christmas / Easter specific areas to cover as currently repetition. Bible stories / Christianity – more specific to avoid repetition. (Primary)

Angels – possible ICT elements – not exciting or interesting. Journeys – less emphasis on feelings. More emphasis on Pilgrimage. (Primary).

No Specific change but the inclusion, or some recognition of, special educational needs / teaching / learning in any appropriate sections. (Special)

Further comments related to Schemes of Work

Could the list of website be updated. More resources and books at appropriate reading / interest levels available for loan. (Primary)

Fewer units that duplicate areas already being covered in other subjects. (Primary)

Some of the units are quite close in content to our PSHE curriculum and we sometimes combine the two. (Primary)

Buddhism very good topic that children enjoyed. (Primary)

Changes could be made to Easter and Christmas planning to focus on celebrations in other countries / religions. (Primary)

None thanks – Scheme of Work could be updated if possible. (Primary)