

Annual SACRE Report 2013



December 2013

The Annual Report of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2013.

1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Director of Adult and Children's Education Services on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Representing the City of York Council are Councillors:-

Jenny Brooks (Con)
Janet Looker (Lab)
Paul Firth (Lib Dem)
Christina Funnell (Lab)

Representing the Church of England:-

Olivia Seymour
Imelda O'Grady
Janet Dunn (Heworth CE Primary School)

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Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-

Revd Ann M Vaughan (Methodist)
Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)
Suraya Lloyd (Muslim)
Jerry Karlin (Jewish, Vice Chair)
Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community)

Representing Teachers:-

Shabana Jabbar (Head of RE, York High; Chair)
Caroline Moore (Archbishop Holgate's)
Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)
Jenny Mooney (Westfield)
Kate Sowter (St Lawrence's)
Keith Geary (Canon Lee)
Lisa Furtado-Morris (Westfield)
Josh Warren

Co-opted:-

Mick Phythian (Humanist)

In attendance:-

Mike Jory (Education Adviser)
Claire Marshall (Clerk)
Naomi Watson (Clerk)

3. Religious Education

During the period January 2013 to December 2014 there were no Ofsted subject inspections of Religious Education. Of the schools inspected during 2013 all were seen to be making at least satisfactory provision for developing SMSC and in a number of schools the promotion of SMSC was seen to be a strength. Inspection reports indicate that all schools appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE.

There have been 3 SIAMS inspections in York since last December - 2 VC Primary and 1 VA Secondary
Dunnington and St Pauls are both VC so RE not specifically reported on but both were outstanding overall

The VA secondary - Manor Academy was graded outstanding overall and outstanding for RE All the reports are public documents and are available on <http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/your-schools/our-schools/>

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As in 2012 the number of pupils taking accreditation at the end of KS4 continued to rise with a higher number of pupils taking the full course GCSE at the end of KS4. This indicates that the subject continues to have a place in the secondary school curriculum in York despite changes to the KS4 league tables and the introduction of the EBacc.

During 2013-14 SACRE intends to work with York Challenge Partners to gain an understanding of the quality of teaching and learning in R.E. in both primary and secondary schools.

4. Collective Worship

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework and in the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE has compiled and published guidance to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance can be found on the City of York SACRE website.

5. Update on the work of SACRE

- The following priorities for the development of SACRE have been discussed and a SACRE development plan 2013-2015 has been drafted and shared with SACRE members:
 - (1) Raising the profile of SACRE.
 - (2) Developing a CPD programme for R.E. teachers.
 - (3) The development of a Youth SACRE
- In the past twelve months three SACRE meetings have been held and attendance at has noticeably improved.
- Primary training through a network learning group supporting effective teaching and learning in RE has been provided by the Chair of SACRE
- SACRE continues to identify best practice models that promote flexible and creative approaches to teaching and learning in RE. This will be a growing focus for SACRE's work following the publication of the RE Review

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6. Support for Schools

Members of SACRE are keen to support staff in schools to raise standards in RE and have been kept up to date with the strategies to achieve this through who is supporting RE and Collective Worship, on behalf of the LA and also by:-

- Support for RE subject leaders through the primary and secondary Curriculum Support and Network Learning Groups as they work together to implement the Agreed Syllabus.
- SACRE is continuing to support the work of the Yorkshire & Humber Faiths Forum.
- Members of SACRE are actively involved in planning the City of York Council's commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2014. SACRE is providing financial support to develop teaching and learning materials for schools

7. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2013

A2 Level

All five 11-18 secondary schools in the City and York College entered students for the A2 level examinations in Religious Studies and success rates remain high. All Saints had 31 entries, Archbishops had 2, Huntington 13, Fulford 6 and Joseph Rowntree 2. York College entered 32.

Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
86	4	18	33	19	8	4	0	86

AS Level

Two 11-18 secondary schools in York and York College entered a number of students for the AS level examinations in Religious Studies.

Entries	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
28	1	10	4	7	5	1	28

Commentary

There were slightly fewer students studying at AS level in 2012-13, however the number studying and achieving full A level continued to improve. The schools attracting the largest number of students continue to be All Saints and Huntington. The majority of students achieve at the highest grades A*-C with the percentage of students achieving A*-C above 80% consistently which indicates that the quality of teaching post 16 remains good.

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Full Course GCSE

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
2013	794	73.0	98.7
2012	736	71.6	98.5
2011	685	70.1	96.5

Short Course GCSE

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
2013	660	62.4	97.1
2012	705	61.3	99.0
2011	834	62	97.4

ELQ B and C

York High School entered 21 students for this entry level accreditation and achieved the following:

	Entries L2 (A*-C)	L1 (A*-G)
2013	21	47.6
2012	40	35.0

Commentary

The Entry Level Qualification, which is designed especially for lower attaining pupils who need additional support to achieve qualifications, was delivered at York High only in 2013. In 2012, 2 further establishments offered the ELQ in Religious Studies.

8. Methods of Teaching

The Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions. Resources are available for all teachers in York for the teaching of RE from the York St John University's David Hope RE Centre, which also provides access to resources via its website.

SACRE keeps a watching brief on national developments taking place around the R.E. curriculum. The R.E. Review was published in November 2013 and several members of SACRE attended the launch event. SACRE will issue further advice and guidance to schools in 2013-14.

9. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

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10. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a “determination”; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship to be ‘wholly or mainly Christian’. The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

11. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

None were made to the SACRE during this reporting year.

12. After-word

At the start of the academic year 2013-14 one key change was made to the membership of SACRE; it is being supported by a different Local Authority Adviser, Mike Jory, General Adviser(Secondary). This change has provided an opportunity to revisit and refocus the SACRE development plan.

Report produced by Shabana Jabbar, Chair and Mike Jory, General Adviser (Secondary).