

GATESHEAD
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020

Content:

Section		Page
1.0	Council Members 2018/19	3
2.0	Supporting RE teaching	4
3.0	Communicating with Schools	4
4.0	Review of SACRE Constitution	4
5.0	Examination Data Analysis	4
6.0	Self Assessment	5
7.0	Action Plan for 2020-2021	6

Chair's foreword?

This past year has been a very trying time for us all in the UK, and no more so than in education. Pupils missing a lengthy period of school, with not only an effect upon academic studies, but also on well-being. At present headteachers have problems with staff absences through Covid19 and keeping our pupils safe. In amongst all of this RE has a big part to play in a world which has been turned upside down through the pandemic, as faith is a great help with mental well-being and security for us all.

So I hope in this coming year, we here in Gateshead can help our pupils through our RE in this topsy-turvy world.

Many thanks for your hard work.

Revd Brian Howell MBE MA

SACRE Members 2019/20

1.0 The membership of the council is:

Brian Howell (Chair)	Church of England
Councillor J McElroy	Gateshead Council
Councillor M Foy	Gateshead Council
Councillor M Hood	Gateshead Council
Councillor P McNally	Gateshead Council
Michael Glickman	Judaism
Kirtida Richardson	Hindu (ISKCON) Educational Services
Christine Ingle	Roman Catholicism
Rev Dorothy Snowball	Church of England
Pastor Bob Adams	Baptist Representative
Vacancy	Islam
Kathleen Farrell	Teachers' Union Representative
Rajwant Nibber	Primary Special School Teacher (Eslington)
Joanne Whitehead	Secondary Special School Teacher (Hill Top)
Jenny Howliston	Primary School Teacher (Front Street)
Stephen Jones	Co-opted
Les Milne (Observer)	Humanism
Julie Latimer	Clerk to SACRE
Jon Ward	LA Education Service

The group meets termly.

Formal minutes are produced of every meeting.

Dorothy Snowball resigned from the SACRE at the meeting held in February 2020, as she is retiring from work and will be pursuing other hobbies and activities. We thank her for her work with us and wish her very well for the future.

The principal topics discussed this year have included:

- Supporting local schools in their delivery of the locally agreed syllabus. [See Section 2]
- Communication with schools. [See Section 3]
- Review of the SACRE constitution [See Section 4]
- Self Review [see Section 6]
- Action Planning [see Section 7]

The outcomes of deliberations in these areas form the basis of this Report.

2.0 Supporting RE Teaching

SACRE sponsored an RE Conference for local teachers in November 2019. This was largely organised by Stephen Jones and we are grateful for his input. Forty-three delegates attended, and between them they represented all sectors and phases of local education. This is considered to be a good turnout for local conferences and the £500 surplus generated by the conference was earmarked to support RE Network meetings. Feedback from delegates was positive with thirty rating the conference 'extremely good' and ten rating it 'good'. The conference was opened by Sarah Clark, the newly appointed Bishop of Jarrow, and her talk went down very well indeed. One of the themes of the conference was on assessment in RE and in particular how to capture assessment in written work.

Points which have been highlighted for future consideration include: high quality teaching resources for schools to use; an imbalance in this conference in religions supported, with a need for more on Buddhism and Sikhism; and the possibility of considering Ofsted's 'deep dives' in RE and how schools can be prepared for these. It is hoped that the conference will be an annual or bi-annual event – though Covid-19 has meant that no plans have been made to host another conference yet this year.

Two RE Network meetings were planned following the conference, one for April and one for June. However, these were cancelled due to 'Covid lockdown'. We hope these will run in 2020/21, albeit as virtual meetings.

We reviewed the websites of Gateshead's mainstream secondary schools and in particular what they said about the teaching of RE, and in the case of Academies compared this with relevant statements in their funding agreement. In March the SACRE Chair wrote to a number of local secondary schools whose websites did not make it clear enough to us that they were providing pupils with an appropriate RE curriculum. There were several responses and promises of further information which merit further exploration. However, this follow-up was not done during lockdown and is planned for next year.

A complaint by a member of the public to the DfE regarding the alleged inadequate teaching of RE at one of our local schools was investigated by the Local Authority and a report made to SACRE by the Education Service Head. The conclusion of the investigation was that the provision of RE in the school was not inadequate and no action was needed.

3.0 Communicating with Schools

Traditionally, the SACRE has communicated with schools through a variety of means, including a termly newsletter. This year, however, we have decided to change this. RE will be covered in an annual 'curriculum letter' from the LA to Primary Schools and by information about network sessions.

4.0 Review of the SACRE Constitution

Work by the LA on reviewing the SACRE Constitution has been completed and we will now implement it. during [MGI] future mee

5.0 Examination Data Analysis 2019 outcomes – based on provisional data

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent cancellation of public examinations in the summer of 2020, there is no results-based accountability for schools this year. The DfE has decided not to release the teacher assessments which replaced examinations. We considered writing to schools to gather this information but decided against this, partly because the outcomes would not be comparable with

previous years so would be less meaningful and partly through a desire not to place an additional burden on schools during the pandemic.

6.0 Self Assessment

Work to populate the virtual platform that Gateshead LA has offered to the SACRE is ongoing. More needs to be done to make best use of this.

The letters to Head Teachers of local secondary schools regarding RE provision need to be followed up, as appropriate to the responses received.

RE Network meetings have not taken place due to the effects of Covid-19 and these need to be established.

Now that the constitution has been reviewed, the cycle of reviewing committee membership should be re-instated.

7.0 Action Plan for 2020-2021

This Action Plan focusses on supporting teachers, communications and on analysis of examination data.

Successful implementation will be reliant on the active engagement of SACRE members, the school community, and the School Improvement Team.

Monitoring will be a standing item at SACRE meetings.

SACRE Action Plan 2020/21				
Action	By when	By whom	Intended outcome	Progress Monitoring
1. Analyse secondary school data (summer 2021)	Within 4 weeks of data becoming available	LA Officer	Performance in revised examination arrangements reviewed Issues identified	Item on SACRE agenda
2. Continue to develop the SACRE space on the new Learning Platform or other location. This item is continued from last year.	Review and revamp teaching and learning resources in the Autumn term initially and add/post these resources as they become available	Working party	Key documents including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes • SACRE Newsletters • Action Plan • National Reports • Guidance booklets • Material to support schools relating to SACRE will be available for schools and other users to access 	Item on SACRE agenda
3. Implement revised constitution including triggering a review of committee representation	Autumn term 2020 Spring term 2021	SACRE chair and vice chair. All SACRE members LA	SACRE members are familiar with the practical application of the constitution and legal requirements are met.	Item on SACRE agenda
4. Support a local RE Network for teachers.	Easter Autumn 2020	SACRE members	Teachers offer mutual support in raising the quality of RE education. SACRE finds out the issues facing schools regarding teaching RE and about items of interest to include in the newsletter.	Item on SACRE agenda
5. Consider supporting a regional RE Conference	Autumn term	SACRE members	Support local schools to deliver high quality RE Stronger links with local schools.	Item on SACRE agenda
6. Monitor, and challenge where necessary, RE provision in secondary schools. This item is continued from last year.	Autumn term 2020 and Spring term 2021	LA Officer and Chair	Improved access to RE for secondary students.	Item on SACRE agenda