

## **TWENTY EIGHTH REPORT OF THE BOLTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2017-2018**



## **Introduction**

Bolton SACRE continues to thrive and members and observers have made a fantastic contribution to the support that SACRE is able to offer schools in Bolton. It is their passion for ensuring that all children in Bolton receive good quality RE provision that has been at the forefront of our work.

Two of our very long standing members have stepped down this year. Margaret Marks has served as the Society of Friends representative for over 10 years and Rev'd Martin Short, our Chair this year, has served as a Church of England representative for over 17 years. We will really miss their wealth of knowledge and expertise.

However, we have been very fortunate to welcome new to SACRE, initially as an observer and then as a full member, Mohammed Amejee who comes with a whole wealth of experience of teaching in schools beyond Bolton and Kevin Malone, a humanist representative, who has joined SACRE as an observer.

These are 'interesting times' for Religious Education in schools, with a national review of Religious Education, GCSE's putting pressure on non-exam elements of the curriculum and a recognition that RE has a huge part to play in promoting an inclusive, tolerate and understanding generation of young people.

This report highlights some of the activities undertaken by Bolton SACRE throughout the year.

Georgina Ryding  
(Vice Chair SACRE)

## 1. The constitution and current membership of SACRE 2017-2018

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

Mr P Agravat	(Hindu)
Mr M Mistry	(Hindu)
Mr S Akuji	(Muslim)
Mr F Ali	(Muslim)
Mr M Amejee	(Muslim)
Mrs H Lewis	(Jewish)
Father P Malone	(Free Church – Baptist)
Mrs S Wright	(Free Church – Methodist)
Ms H Browne	(Free Church – Salvation Army)
Ms B Jordan	(Society of Friends)

Committee B: The Church of England (4 members)

Mrs A Hart  
Mrs G Ryding

Committee C: Teacher Associations (8 members)

Mr P Bottomley	(ATL)
Mrs N Moore	(NASUWT)
Ms S English	(NUT)
Mrs J Pilling	(NAHT)

Committee D: Local Education Authority (5 members)

Cllr K McKeon  
Cllr S Pickup  
Cllr J Walsh  
Cllr Mrs AM Watters  
Cllr C Wild

Clerk to SACRE: Marie Foley, Governance Training Officer

Terms of Reference and 'A Guide for SACRE' members are reviewed each year and copies provided for all members. 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**

- 2.1** Bolton's Locally Agreed Syllabus continues to be used by maintained schools across Bolton. It provides guidance on curriculum content and assessment from Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 3. Most Religious Studies at Key Stage 4 is delivered through a GCSE. In the coming year SACRE will consider provision in Key Stage 4 as well.

Copies of the syllabus can be accessed through Bolton's Extranet or by contacting SACRE directly. A review of the syllabus is due in the coming year, although this may be affected by the outcomes a national review of RE due out this year.

## **3. Standards and Quality of Provision in RE**

### **3.1 RE Conference**

38 primary school delegates attended the annual conference in June led by Julia Diamond Conway from RE today. The conference explored Hinduism, Islam and Humanism, with a focus on the commonality of approach to peace and understanding and tolerance of other religions, shown by different faiths. All our key speakers are SACRE members and their contribution was really well received.

## **4. Statutory Responsibilities**

### **4.1 Determinations**

Sunning Hill School applied to renew its determination this year. The acting headteacher presented the application at the meeting in March and it was approved.

### **4.2 Withdrawal from RE.**

There have been no requests for advice regarding withdrawal from RE in 2017-2018

### **4.3 Complaints about RE.**

There have been no complaints made to SACRE regarding RE in 2017-2018 . However, Bolton Hindu Forum wrote to SACRE to request some advice on action they could take to address their concern at the 'lack of focus on the faith of Hinduism in secondary education in Bolton and wider.' Concerns were raised about a particular school in Bolton. This was discussed at the SACRE meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018. It is recognised that the constraints of each exam board are limiting the range of faiths covered in some schools after Year 7. It was suggested that a representative of the Hindu Forum contacted the school to see if they could offer help and advice for staff in reviewing the curriculum.

#### 4.4 Advice to statutory bodies:

In 2017 SACRE was contacted for advice by a school around the use and organisation of Prayer Rooms. Guidelines were developed and shared. The school has reported that the space used for prayers is monitored by the Head of RE and there have been no concerns raised.

### 5. Wider SACRE Involvement

#### 5.1 North West Hub

Bolton SACRE have continued regular involvement in the North West Hub, where SACRE's from across the North West come together to discuss issues and share ideas that are relevant to everyone. It has been really valuable to be part of a larger group and something SACRE is keen to continue.

A representative also attended the National Conference.

#### 5.2 Inter-faith Activity

We are so fortunate in Bolton to have a really active and effective Interfaith Council, led by Chan Parmer, who regularly attends Bolton SACRE meetings. There continues to be a wide range of activities and events organised throughout the year to support community cohesion and engagement. There is a strong focus on all those of faith and no faith working together in a positive way.

### 6. GCSE Data for Religious Education

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies - Summer 2018 – Bolton LA

No. On Roll	No. of Entries	9	8	7	6	5	4	Average Point Score
3251	1691	124	141	218	270	244	204	5.01
3	2	1	U	%7-9	%5-9	%4-9	%1-9	
223	145	83	39	29%	59%	71%	98%	

Source: DFE Provisional Schools Checking Data, Oct 2018

### 7. Management of SACRE

#### 7.1 Local Authority Support

SACRE continues to be very well supported by Nick Pounds the Local Authority Officer. He regularly attends the SACRE meetings and has been involved in all the major projects. Nick is keen to engage teachers in the process and is very supportive of high quality RE across the town.

SACRE is clerked by Governance Support Clerking Service. Marie Foley (clerk) is really knowledgeable on the workings of SACRE and enables the committee to carry out its work effectively.

## **7.2 Additional Support**

As a SACRE we value the contribution all our members make. However, in order for SACRE to continue to be effective and develop provision in Bolton it has been agreed that Georgina Ryding, headteacher and SACRE member, will provide 3 full days of SACRE support in each financial year.