

THIRTIETH REPORT OF THE BOLTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2020-2021



Contents

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Word from the Chair

1.2 SACRE Arrangements

1.3 Syllabus Arrangements including Agreed Syllabus Conference (if appropriate)

Section 2 Religious Education: Statutory Responsibilities

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

2.2 Standards and Monitoring of RE

2.3 Further information including training and requests for advice.

Section 3 Collective Worship : Statutory Responsibilities

3.1 Standards and Monitoring

3.2 Determinations

3.3 Further information including training and requests for advice and complaints

Section 4 SACRE Links

4.1 Links to National bodies

4.2 Links to Local groups

4.3 Further local involvement

Section 5 Bolton SACRE's Arrangements

5.1 Professional and Administrative Support

5.2 Membership information and recruitment

5.3 Training and Information for SACRE members

5.4 Finance given to SACRE for its work

Section 6 Future Developments and Planning

6.1 Developments and Planning for the coming year

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Word from the Chair

This report covers a period of time that seen unprecedented challenges in the form of a global pandemic that has affected us all not least here in Bolton. It has been an incredibly difficult time for individuals and organisations and I am immensely proud of the way that the Bolton Community has pulled together to support all our young people during this time. Schools and colleges have coped with a whole range of new challenges including developing a whole new set of skills to manage remote learning so teaching could continue when schools were closed, supporting those young people in 'exam years' where the way ahead was so unclear and offering wellbeing and mental health support to those in the Bolton family.

At the time of writing this report I have taken over as Chair of SACRE from the previous Chair Steph English who stepped down at the end of the Summer as she has moved away to start a new chapter in her life. Steph brought a tremendous positive energy to the role and she was always so keen to engage and work with others. I would like to thank her for her work, especially in such challenging times.

No one knows what the coming year will bring but Bolton SACRE are keen to offer the support needed to schools as they continue to recover and rebuild.

CLlr Kevin McKeon

1.2 SACRE Arrangements

Bolton SACRE meet three times a year. During the pandemic meetings were held virtually although they are usually held at Bolton Science and Technology Centre (BSTC), Minerva Road. Bolton SACRE is made up of four committees, observers, a Local Authority representative and administrative support is provided through the Bolton Governance Clerking Service.

Committee A : Christian and Other Denominations

Committee B : Church of England

Committee C: Teacher Associations

Committee D : Local Authority

1.3 Syllabus Arrangements including Agreed Syllabus Conference

The current Bolton Agreed Syllabus was launched in 2020 and is due for review in 2025. There is currently no Agreed Syllabus Conference in place. The syllabus was created by SACRE and approved by Bolton Council. SACRE secured the services of RE Today who developed the materials and provided the support and training at the time of the launch.

The syllabus is used by all maintained schools and those Academies and Voluntary Controlled Schools that have made a choice to use it.

Section 2 Religious Education: Statutory Responsibilities

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

The syllabus has been in place for two years. In light of the pandemic, schools were encouraged to implement the syllabus at a pace that was right for their school over the course of the year 2020-2021. The syllabus links clearly to Understanding Christianity and as a resource it supports the teaching of the Christianity units in the syllabus. Schools can choose not to use this and will be able to deliver the syllabus fully without it. However, SACRE has funded, and will continue to fund the training and resource for any school wishing to use Understanding Christianity.

In addition, SACRE have also purchased a copy of Picturing Islam for every school and RE Today has Schemes of Work linked to the syllabus that schools can purchase.

2.2 Standards and Monitoring of RE

As part of the action plan for the coming year SACRE are going to look at ways of monitoring RE in Bolton. At the end of the next academic year SACRE should also have access to external examination results at GCSE and A-Level.

2.3 Further information including training and requests for advice.

Georgina Ryding (Vice Chair of SACRE) is funded by SACRE (approximately 8 days per school year) to provide training and support for schools. This has included visiting individual schools, working with subject leaders and leading staff meetings.

There is a clear and continuing need for support for schools implementing the syllabus and so Bolton SACRE are looking to draw together a small team of Leading Teachers in the coming year to support schools further.

Section 3 Collective Worship : Statutory Responsibilities

3.1 Standards and Monitoring

As part of the action plan for the coming year SACRE are going to explore ways to monitor Collective Worship.

3.2 Determinations

There is currently one determination in Bolton. This was sought and approved in March 2018 and is due for renewal in March 2023.

3.3 Further information including training and requests for advice and complaints

Bolton SACRE have not received any other requests for advice or complaints.

Section 4 SACRE Links

4.1 Links to National bodies

Bolton SACRE is a member of NASACRE and makes use of the advice and guidance they provide.

4.2 Links to Local groups

Bolton SACRE is also a member of the North North West (NNW) SACRE Hub, which brings together SACRE's from across the North West to share ideas and issues. The group did not meet during the pandemic.

4.3 Further local involvement

Bolton SACRE supports the work of organisations promoting cohesion and understanding across the borough. Recently this has included promoting events organised by Bolton Christian Cohesion and circulating flyers regarding Anti-Semitism. Individual SACRE members have had a great deal of involvement in developing educational resources around climate change and environmental issues. SACRE have explored how these feed into the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Section 5 Bolton SACRE's Arrangements

5.1 Professional and Administrative Support

Support is provided by Bolton Governance Services, funded through the SACRE budget. This includes support for meetings, membership, Freedom of information requests and general enquiries.

5.2 Membership information and recruitment

Committee A : Christian and Other Denomination – 13 members, 5 vacancies

Committee B : Church of England – 4 members , 1 vacancy

Committee C: Teacher Associations – 6 members , 5 vacancies

Committee D : Local Authority – 5 members, 0 vacancies

5.3 Training for SACRE Members

There have been limited opportunities for this during the pandemic , but this will be explored further next year.

5.4 Finance give to SACRE for its work.

For the year 2020-2021 , Bolton Council provide SACRE with a budget of £11,800 which is the full allocation based on the DfE formula. SACRE is well supported by Bolton Council.

Section 6 Future Developments and Planning

6.1 Developments and Planning for the coming year

- Increase support for schools implementing the syllabus though the development of a Leading Teacher Group
- Monitoring Worship
- Monitoring standards in RE
- Review the constitution and Terms of Reference for Bolton SACRE
- Use the NASACRE Evaluation and Action Planning Toolkit to identify more effectively areas for development.