

# **SACRE Annual Report**

## **City of Bradford Metropolitan District 2019**

### **Chair's Introduction and Context**

Bradford SACRE serves a local authority with considerable ethnic, cultural and religious diversity. This is reflected in our membership which includes the different faith communities and represents other world views including Humanism. Members appreciate the opportunity afforded by SACRE to interact respectfully with members of other communities and believe this to be one of Bradford SACRE's strengths. Members feel that they learn from each other and can take that learning back to the organisations that they represent. SACRE members also feel that as a group they have the skills and expertise to support Bradford's young people and schools.

An unusual aspect of Bradford is the number of schools which have Determinations. There are currently 47 Bradford schools with Determinations which, because of the religious make-up of their intakes, have applied to Bradford SACRE to remove the requirement for their Acts of Collective Worship to be 'wholly or mainly Christian'.

We are fortunate to have maintained strong links this academic year with Bradford Interfaith and Diversity Education, who continue to support both Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship in schools. We have a very effective clerk provided by the Education Safeguarding Team. However, like most Local Authorities for the last few years, Bradford SACRE has had limited resources to enable the evaluation of the quality of the provision of both religious education and collective worship. Plans are in place to address this in 2020.

Although Bradford has strong networks across all its schools, whatever their designation, it is harder to maintain links with Academies around both RE and collective worship. The support offered to them in obtaining a Determination is very limited because they do not have to engage with SACRE in order to obtain a Determination. One school which is shortly to become an academy presented its Determination to Bradford SACRE and the support that SACRE provided, both in the meeting and subsequently from a member, should support them in the process of obtaining an Academy Order.

Primary schools are more likely to seek support with collective worship and RE than secondary schools. Many primary schools including academies continue to buy in the services of Bradford Interfaith and Diversity Education's faith tutors who provide support with collective worship, RE lessons and visits to places of worship.

A major aspect of our work this year has been consideration of the LA policy for Relationships and Sex Education. A draft policy was discussed at SACRE and feedback was taken into account in finalising the LA model policy for schools. In the context of Bradford, this approach was strengthened by a significant contribution to the policy by the Council for Mosques, who are represented at SACRE.

Our plans for next year include continuing to hold termly network meetings for RE co-ordinators. We have also secured sufficient funding to carry out formal monitoring of the quality of Religious Education in Bradford schools. We have developed a set of principles to ensure that this is a developmental process as well as providing information for SACRE and Bradford LA.

We will also be holding a meeting of a Young SACRE in the Spring Term 2020.

### **Advice to statutory bodies**

The Local Authority has strong representation in SACRE through both Elected Members and Officers who act as a conduit to other officers and members.

The chair of SACRE was invited to speak at East Yorkshire SACRE in July. This invitation came about as a result of our presentation to NASACRE at the 2018 National Conference. Bradford SACRE has shared its Collective Worship guidance with North Yorkshire SACRE.

SACRE provided advice to the Local Authority Governor Service on the inclusion of RE in curriculum. The chair of SACRE attended the training in support.

### **Standards and Quality of Provision of RE**

In summer 2019 there were 33 mainstream secondary schools in Bradford, including academies and free schools but not independents. All but one had a year 11 cohort.

Of the 32 possible schools, 29 schools entered at least one pupil for full course GCSE Religious Studies in 2019; 28 of a possible 31 schools did so in 2018. One school entered pupils for the short course only in 2019; two schools entered no pupils at all. Of the two schools with no entries, one only entered one pupil last year; the other entered no pupils last year. A number of schools entered considerably fewer than the full cohort.

### **GCSE Entries**

#### **A) Full course**

In 2019, 2571 pupils were entered for the full course, which was 42.3% of the cohort, an increase on last year. In 2018, 2281 pupils were entered, which was 38.4% of the cohort.

In 2019 state funded schools nationally entered 35.1% of the cohort which significantly lower than the figure for Bradford. In 2018 the figure was 34.1%.

#### **B) Short course**

In 2019, 252 pupils were entered for the short course which makes the total number overall 2823, an overall percentage of 46.4% which is an increase.

In 2018, 212 Bradford pupils were entered for the short course, a total percentage of 41.9%.

Nationally in state funded schools it was an overall percentage of 37.6% in 2019 and 36.8% in 2018, suggesting that RE is a relatively popular choice in Bradford.

## **GCSE Outcomes**

For the full course, Bradford state funded school pupils achieved 59.5% grades 9-4 and 96.9% 9-1, compared to 72.2% and 98.6% the previous year.

State funded school pupils nationally achieved 70.3% grades 9-4 and 97.9 at grades 9-1, similar to 2018 figures of 71.0 % grades 9-4 and 98.2% grades 9-1.

## **Withdrawal from RE and Complaints**

The clerk to SACRE was made aware of one withdrawal from RE this year.

SACRE discussed a complaint received by a parent whose son has asked for prayer facilities to be made available at his school. The request was denied and the parent asked for SACRE's support. We provided a guidance document to the school and the parent, and an elected councillor who is a member of SACRE attended meetings at the school as a mediator.

## **Agreed Syllabus**

2019/20 is the fourth year of the current syllabus. The next review will begin in the 2020/2021 academic year, assuming no national changes before that date.

## **Collective Worship**

Support to schools in relation to Collective Worship in 2019 was mainly to schools requesting Determinations. The guidance published last year includes evaluation tools which are accessible to schools for their own evaluation of the quality of their worship. [Link to guidance](#)

Other than for schools with Determinations, it is difficult to make a judgement about the quality of Collective Worship across the District. We have continued to hold termly networks for RE coordinators. The teachers value these meetings and continue to request further support for Collective Worship as well as RE.

There are currently 16 Local Authority maintained schools which have Determinations, and 31 Academies. As well as supporting maintained schools, we will continue to support academies with determination applications, on the understanding that we have no statutory role and they may choose whether or not to engage with us.

## **SACRE Management**

### **Attendance at SACRE**

A significant number of attendees make a regular commitment to meetings. However, the other commitments of some members which reduces attendance and the filling of vacancies are both issues.

There are currently vacancies on all except Committee D. In 2019 there have been 5 resignations, 5 dismissals of members who haven't attended, and we have welcomed 7 new members. One member transferred from Committee B to C.

There are currently 19 of a possible 23 members on Committee A, 3 of a possible 5 on Committee B, 3 of a possible 6 on Committee C and a full complement of 5 on Committee D.

### Attendance by committee at each meeting in 2019

Committee	5.2.19		11.4.19		3.7.19		2/10/19		5/12/19	
	Possible	actual								
A	15	6	17	9	19	9	18	9	19	11
B	4	2	5	4	5	4	4	3	3	2
C	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	3	2
D	5	4	5	3	5	3	5	2	5	4

### Membership at the end of 2019

Representing	Committee	Forename	Surname
Buddhist	A	Takao	Maruyama
Christian (Independent Churches)	A	Meg	Henry
Christian (Methodist)	A	Rev Graeme	Dutton
Christian (Moravian)	A	Maureen	Colbert
Christian (Quaker)	A	John	Cope
Christian (Salvation Army)	A	Claire	Whybrow
Christian (Roman Catholic)	A	Tim	Garthwaite
Hindu	A	Ravinder	Dharni
Hindu	A	Rajni	Parmar
Humanist	A	Dermot	Bolton
Jewish Community	A	Tamar	Yellin
Muslim	A	Dr Sharif Kaf	Al-Ghazal
Muslim (Women's Council)	A	Saadia	Mushtaq
Muslim (Council for Mosques)	A	Ishtiaq	Ahmed
Muslim (Women's Association)	A	Farha	Patel
Muslim (Iqra Education)	A	Mohammed	Saleem
Sikh	A	Surinder	Jagpal Kaur
Sikh	A	Sukhdev	Singh
Church of England	B	Mike	de Villiers
Church of England	B	Rev Robert	Johnson
Church of England	B	Janet	Tringham
NEU	C	Jan	Hesselwood
Secondary HT	C	Martin	Hings
Primary Headteachers	C	Linda	Wright
Labour Group	D	Cllr Nussrat	Mohammed
Liberal Democrat	D	Cllr Geoff	Reid
Conservative Group	D	Cllr Naveed	Riaz
Labour Party	D	Cllr Michelle	Swallow
Children's Services	D	Sue	Lowndes
Co-opted	Chair	Ros	Garside
Co-opted	Co-opt	Mohinder	Singh Chana

## **Complaints to SACRE**

SACRE itself has received no complaints in 2019.

## **Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda**

### **Links with other LA teams**

Bradford SACRE has links to Bradford Interfaith and Diversity Education, which is a team of faith tutors representing the Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist faiths. The team offers support for religious education lessons, visits to places of worship, and support for collective worship in schools. They support community cohesion by offering visits to places of worship for adults during Interfaith Week and at other times as requested and by delivering collective worship in schools as a team, teaching about themes from the perspectives of their respective faiths.

SACRE has also supported the LA's Stand Up, Speak Out, Make a Difference (SUSOMAD) project which works with young people in schools to promote community cohesion and challenge all forms of prejudice.

### **Support through events and training**

The network meetings for RE and Collective Worship continue to be popular with teachers. The group is affiliated to NATRE and advertised through the NATRE website as well as Bradford Council's own communication channels.

In October 2019 we began a review of our work with a view to considering what we can offer Bradford schools in the coming year. We have developed a format for reviewing schools' provision in a way that is supportive and developmental whilst providing key information to SACRE about the quality of provision in the district and we intend to begin visiting schools in the spring term.

## **Summary**

### **Key events and activities**

- Meetings took place on 5 February, 5 April, 3 July, 2 October and 5 December 2019.
- External speakers at this year's meetings have been Sarah Cartin from Schools of Sanctuary, who talked to us about her work in schools and asked for our support to bring more schools on board, and Kate Butler from Bradford Hate Crime Alliance who spoke about the rise of the far right amongst young people and how the teaching of RE in schools can help to combat far right narratives.