

East Riding of Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report – 2019/20

This report provides a summary of the actions and impact of the East Riding of Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. The role of the SACRE is to

- Advise the local authority on matters connected with religious education and collective worship
- Monitor provision and standards in religious education
- Advise on methods of teaching, choice of materials and provision of teacher training
- Support schools in reviewing and self-evaluating their provision for RE and collective worship
- Consider complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship referred to it by the local authority
- Publish an annual report of its work
- Make a determination on collective worship when requested
- Establish an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the agreed syllabus for RE adopted by the LA every five years

Advice to statutory bodies

Local authority:

- a briefing paper was written for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2020. This addressed the corporate priorities of Helping Children and Young People Achieve and Promoting Healthy Lifestyles.
- East Riding SACRE and Hull SACRE agreed to work together to develop the 2021 locally agreed syllabus. North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire LAs chose to purchase the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus, having previously worked with the East Riding and Hull.
- Members set a budget with anticipated spend. A role description for the SACRE RE consultant was agreed. These provide evidence of SACRE's expenditure requirements.

Schools:

- Schools were provided with advice and support for teaching RE during lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Schools were forwarded details of numerous activities to support RE and collective worship throughout the year, including links to items of interest from the NATRE website and HERI (Hull and East Riding Interfaith) group.
- Sue Holmes (RE Consultant) was paid by SACRE to plan, run and follow up on 6 RE network meetings across the local authority throughout the year. In the later part of the year, these took place via Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

Government and other statutory bodies:

- Members agreed to fund 2 places at the NASACRE annual conference

Standards and quality of provision of RE

This was a very challenging year for all schools as the COVID -19 pandemic began. As a result, standards in RE have not been monitored for a large part of the year. However Ofsted introduced a new Inspection Framework in September 2019 with curriculum being the focus. A small number of schools nationally have had a 'deep dive' in RE where inspectors scrutinise the quality of work in this areas. Locally, the quality of RE remains unchanged as far as SACRE can tell from discussions with RE leaders. No visits to schools have been made during the course of this year.

Public examinations:

GCSE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of students taking Religious Studies GCSE	1850	1503	1647	1058	1445
% grade 4+ (out of 9, with 9 being highest)	68% (sig-)	70%	63% (sig-)	70%	64% (national 71%)
% grade 5+	47%(sig-)	47%(sig-)	41%(sig-)	55% (sig -)	48% (national 59%)
% grade 7+	22% (sig-)	23%(sig-)	19% (sig-)	20% (sig-)	20% (national 29%)

Table 1 A summary of RE GCSE outcomes in East Riding secondary schools over time

At GCSE level, 2018 results were improved on 2017. However, numbers taking the Religious Studies GCSE have reduced over the past four years.

A level	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of students taking Religious Studies A level	87	88	63	38
% A*-E	100%	98%	98%	95% (nat 98%)
% A*-C	85%	83%	71%	68% (nat 77%)
% A*-A	8%	9%	11%	13% (nat 20%)

Table 2

A summary of RE 'A' level outcomes in East Riding secondary schools over time

The numbers of pupils taking Religious Studies 'A' level reduced significantly in 2018 as did the proportion of pupils gaining A*-C.

Withdrawal from RE

SACRE is able to provide advice to schools who receive request for withdrawal of their child from RE but none were received during this period

Complaints about RE

A complaint had been received about the provision of RE in one of the secondary schools in the LA. SACRE members agreed there is a need to gain a picture as soon as this is possible across the LA of what provision there is for RE in secondary schools following reports that some students are unable to access RE within the main school day.

Agreed Syllabus

An Agreed Syllabus Committee was established and met during the course of the year to review the LAS and start the process of developing a new LAS.

SACRE reviewed a number of different syllabi both in terms of content, relevance to the local needs and cost. SACRE members commissioned Sue Holmes to rework the existing syllabus. This will be done with Marilyn Cowling. The reworked syllabus will be launched in 2021

Collective worship

A copy of the Worship Works is available in all schools to support collective worship.

There were no determinations during the period of this report.

There were no complaints received by SACRE during the period of this report.

Management of SACRE

Action to ensure membership is active.

SACRE MEMBERSHIP – EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Committee A: Christian and other Religions / Denominations / Faiths in the Community (10 members)		
Tina Grant	Beverley Community Church	Free Churches
Dr Sholeh Missaghi Hakiman	Baha'i Faith	
Ashish Kundi	Hinduism	
Vacancy	Buddhism	
Vacancy	Islam	
Vacancy	Roman Catholic Church	
Vacancy	Sikhism	
Vacancy	Jewish Orthodox	
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Committee B: Church of England (4 members)		
vacancy	Diocese of York	
Miss Jane Cawthorn	Diocese of York	
Professor Julian Stern	Diocese of York	
Reverend Eleanor Robertshaw	Sheffield Diocese	
Committee C: Teacher Associations (6 members)		
Mr Howard Nind	NASUWT	
Mrs Julie Cattle	NAHT	
Mr Martin Cox	NEU	
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Committee D: Local Authority members (4 members)		

Mr Chad Chadwick (Vice-Chairman)	ERYC(Conservative Group)	
Councillor Philip Davison (Chairman)	ERYC (Liberal Democrat Group)	
Councillor David Elvidge	ERYC (Conservative Group)	
Councillor Geraldine Mathieson	ERYC (Independent Group)	
Co-options (no more than 4 members)		
Mrs Lucy Jordan	School Improvement	
Kevin Precious	Humanist Representative	
Mrs Sue Holmes	RE Consultant	
Revd James Trowsdale		

CLERK – Iain Edmiston, Senior Committee Manager, East Riding of Yorkshire Council,

- There are still a significant number of vacancies on committee A
- Attendance at SACRE meetings during the period of this report was as follows:
 - 26 September 2019 (Attendance 82%)
 - 6 March 19 (Attendance 47%)
 - 16 June 2020 (Attendance 78%)
 - 13 July 2020 (Attendance 75%)

Contribution of SACRE to the wider LA agenda

SACRE has provided funding to enable an RE consultant to network with faith members to organise and run Living Faiths events, attended by East Riding Schools over the course of the year. The number of schools supported this year has been affected by the pandemic.

SACRE has provided funding to enable an RE consultant to liaise with Label of Love (a Christian educational charity) and church communities to deliver REAction RE days to schools across the LA. The number of schools supported this year has been affected by the pandemic.

SACRE provides funding for an RE consultant to provide email/phonecall support in relation to the locally agreed syllabus throughout the year. The number of calls from schools had increased during the period of this report.