

The Bournemouth and Poole
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Annual report 2019-20

Comments from the Chair

It seems a long time ago when in 2016 I suggested separately to Bournemouth SACRE and Poole SACRE that we should merge as we shared the same syllabus, most of the Committee A members were on both SACREs and it was very likely that there would be an official merge of the two councils plus Christchurch in the near future.

On 21st November 2017 Bournemouth and Poole SACREs had their first joint meeting and in June 2019 BCP SACRE had its first official SACRE meeting when it proposed I should be Chair, but as the meeting was not quorate it could not be ratified until our next meeting in November. I will be in post for three years ably supported by my two vice-chairs, Cheryl Smith and Ruth Lawrence, our LA officer Georgie Pinder and David Rees our advisor.

In accepting my appointment, I underlined that in the post of Chair I wanted to ensure that BCP SACRE's main role was to support those who teach Religious Education and to recognise and emphasise with the importance of the children within their care.

I also said that I would try to make sure that we have representation on Committee A from the religious and non-religious faith groups that we have stated in our BCP SACRE constitution. Not an easy thing to do but I am pleased to report that have very nearly succeeded with this!

After our meeting in June that was run as a network meeting David and I brought up Black Lives Matter as we felt that this was something that should be covered in RE and we agreed that 'Equality and Diversity' should be an agenda item at all our future meetings.

I am looking forward to the next academic year with all the challenges it will bring with Covid how it impacts on our teachers and students and supporting them through these difficult times.

Lynda Ford-Horne Chair of BCP SACRE

Introduction.

As the joint BCP SACRE was formed at the end of the 2018 / 2019 academic school year, this was the first full year of the new unified SACRE. This new SACRE benefited from an increased membership which helped ensure that SACRE was quorate for meetings. The SACRE proved itself willing to join together to help monitor RE and Collective Worship.

The 2016 Bournemouth and Poole Agreed Syllabus for RE continues to be used in schools in the area (NB: Christchurch schools had been using the Dorset syllabus previously) and focusses on Key enquiry questions. National developments in RE have centred on looking at religion and worldviews through a variety of lenses and encouraging engagement with the

voice of the believer and understanding the lived experience. World events show how important it is for children to ask challenging questions, developing understanding, empathy and respect for those around them and in the wider world.

SACRE is aware that the agreed syllabus will need to be reviewed soon and will form a syllabus conference to decide on how to proceed. It is thought that the SACRE will encourage a locally determined syllabus and will include teacher consultation as an essential part of the process.

BCP SACRE attempts to keep in touch with schools and teachers and tailors its yearly action plan to meet and support their needs in its aim to keep improving RE learning across the region. BCP SACRE listens to teachers whenever possible through the teacher representatives and presentations to SACREs about issues such as connecting with teachers on social media or through different networks. The SACRE adviser is in regular contact with the regional RE ambassadors arranged via NATRE and the proposed 'hub practitioners' operating out of the Salisbury diocese should offer more opportunities to share and develop excellent practice.

SACRE continues to try to look for resources locally, nationally and online which will help further improve the teaching of high-quality RE. Some of these ideas are disseminated through a SACRE supported newsletter.

BCP SACRE are committed to progressing RE across the region, believing this subject to have major significance to children and young people's development, both personal and academic. A budget is provided to ensure SACRE has some scope on how to fulfil its monitoring and supporting remit.

Bournemouth and Poole SACRE met once each term as required (on Wednesday November 13th, 2019 at Twynham school Christchurch, Thursday 5th March 2020 at Bishop Aldhelm's Primary School, Poole and Monday 29th June 2020. This meeting was held virtually due to the Covid -19 pandemic and was labelled a network rather than a full SACRE meeting.

BCP SACRE is currently supported by David Rees an independent RE adviser who was previously a secondary RE leader in Poole. The adviser brings an action plan to each meeting and SACRE discusses the direction for the next year. BCP SACRE is keen to reach out to teachers and is looking to keep informed about teacher networks involving many different agencies including the Salisbury diocese, regional ambassadors and existing excellent teachers in the area.

Key Events

The work of SACRE this year was adapted to respond to the challenging times for schools, businesses and families in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic which saw a national lockdown starting in early March 2020. This resulted in the Summer term becoming virtual. SACRE is pleased that their crucial work of supporting schools was able to continue and the introduction of a SACRE newsletter has meant that SACRE could reach out more than previously. Hopefully, this layer of support can continue from now on.

After the success of the SACRE organised events last year (SACRE member's training day and RE Teachers Conference both in June 2019) it was hoped that similar events could be planned. Sadly, the pandemic prevented any face to face events from taking place. SACRE is committed to providing events again and will consider virtual conferences if the local situation deems it necessary. Through the greater usage of different virtual platforms, the capacity is available to reach out to teachers and offer guidance, support and continuing professional development opportunities. As always these events will feature local expertise and focus on teaching and learning activities.

Collective Worship Guidance

The Collective Worship guidance written and circulated to Bournemouth and Poole schools last year was made available to Christchurch schools too. The guidance offered information on what constitutes Collective Worship as well as offering suggestions as to how to deliver and resource it effectively. This guidance remains relevant and will be reviewed as and when necessary.

Black Lives Matter/Equality and Diversity

World events shone a bright light on inequality and as a result NASACRE produced some guidance for SACREs to help schools become more aware of issues concerning Equality and Diversity. The BCP SACRE agreed to add Equality and Diversity to each agenda and has already taken steps to ensure that SACRE is informed and able to take part in encouraging equality and challenging inequality. Steps taken have included inviting the Local Authority officer for diversity to attend SACRE meetings as well as an input being given to SACRE by a local provider of world and equality education (DEED) showcasing available projects, resources and opportunities.

Summary of issues raised over the year

Three meetings were held during the year: Wednesday November 13th, 2019, Thursday 5th March 2020 and Monday 29th June 2020. At these meetings the following issues were discussed.

- The Annual SACRE report
- Exam results
- School support including the different networks offered
- Greater engagement between schools and faith communities
- Holocaust Memorial Day: Local events and educational resources
- Collective Worship
- The SW Advisers of RE conference at Dillington House, Somerset in March

Exam results

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the examination series planned was unable to run as normal, results instead were calculated using a variety of methods. This makes meaningful recording

difficult for both Key Stages 4 and 5. At the time of writing verified results were not available.

David Rees
RE Adviser to BCP SACRE
October 2020