

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2017 – 2018

September 2017 – August 31st 2018

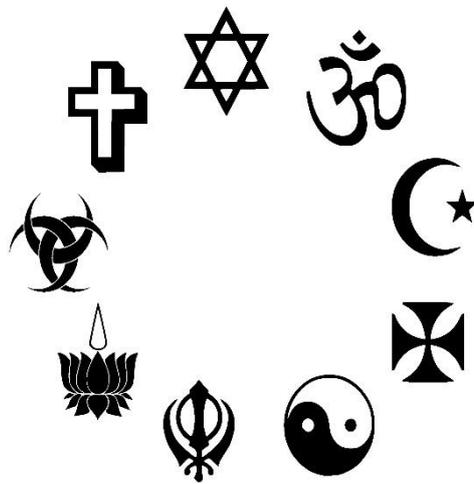


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**Northamptonshire Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education:
Annual Report 2017-2018**

Foreword by Morcea Walker - Chair of the Northamptonshire SACRE 2017-2018

The last year has proved to be as busy as the previous year. The aim has been to continue to promote a high standard of RE through the Local Agreed Syllabus and to give advice to the Local Authority regarding collective worship and religious education.

The Northamptonshire SACRE comprises of a group of dedicated representatives from faith and non-faith organisations, teachers, councillors and officers. I wish to thank them all unreservedly for their hard work over the past year.

Amanda Fitton has continued her part-time role of SACRE Adviser. The sharing of good practice between ourselves, Peterborough, Rutland and Cambridgeshire has helped with the delivery of RE within our schools.

We were able to complete the Agreed Syllabus for Northamptonshire thanks to the hard work and support from SACRE members and Amanda Fitton. There was a successful launch of this on 3 May 2018.

The meetings of the Northamptonshire SACRE are open public meetings and agendas are published on the County Council website in advance of the meetings. We are pleased to welcome members of the public who would like to attend.

Morcea Walker MBE, DL
Chair Northamptonshire SACRE

THE PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Religious Education is an important curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and also makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality Religious Education.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

This entails:

- advising the Local Authority on Religious Education given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its Agreed Syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- providing advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus;
- providing advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its Local Authority, considering whether any changes need to be made in the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE;
- offering advice to the Local Authority, and through the Local Authority to schools, concerning how an existing Agreed Syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

MANAGEMENT OF SACRE

The Local Authority has continued to support the work of SACRE through funding that provides a clerk for the meetings, services of an RE Adviser to support SACRE, its work and teacher training for the teaching of Religious Education, and advice about Collective Worship.

During the past year SACRE continued the process of reviewing the Agreed Syllabus and agreed to work jointly with Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland SACREs. The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) completed the agreed syllabus in May 2018.

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Northamptonshire SACRE, which has met four times this year, comprises four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been good. SACRE continues to ensure the membership reflects the demographic.

The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A - representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions, and world-view communities;
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;
- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations;
- Committee D – representatives of the Local Authority.

SACRE welcomed Saifillah Nassir.

SACRE said farewell to Doug Spenceley and many thanks were extended to him for his contribution to SACRE and RE in Northamptonshire.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Northamptonshire County Council SACRE website at <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/information-for-school-staff/curriculum-and-resources/Pages/religious-education.aspx>

Support for Improving the Teaching of the Local Agreed Syllabus

Agreed Syllabus Conference

The process of reviewing and writing the Agreed Syllabus for Northamptonshire in conjunction with Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland SACREs carried on through to May 2018. Three joint Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) meetings were held from September 2017 to May 2018. The final document was adopted by Northamptonshire County Council in March 2018 and launched at a conference for all teachers in May 2018.

Agreed Syllabus launch

The launch took place on 3 May 2018 at the Marriott Hotel Huntingdon. Northamptonshire along with those of Peterborough, Rutland and Cambridgeshire SACRE held a conference for the New Agreed Syllabus. 180 head teachers, teachers and teaching assistants attended and joined in a number of workshops. The Keynote speakers were Dr Kathryn Wright and Dr Janet Orchard. SACRE would like to thank everyone who presented a workshop.

NASACRE Conference

The RE adviser attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of Northamptonshire SACRE on 24th May 2018 London. The key note speaker at the conference was Dr Vanessa Ogden who talked about 'Celebrating the Power of Community'.

Network Meetings

Two network meetings for all primary schools were held in Northamptonshire and each meeting had a different focus; Assessment and the New Syllabus and Using Art in RE. SACRE and the RE Adviser would like to thank Lumbertubs Primary School Northampton for hosting the meetings. Going forward, meetings need to include more schools and cover a wider area of Northamptonshire. Greater efforts need to be made in engaging with secondary schools across the county to help share good practice and support schools in the GCSE and A level exams.

Agreed Syllabus Road Shows

The agreed syllabus was further launched at two road show events held in the County Council offices in June 2018. The events were attended by 21 schools from across the county and supported the schools in looking at RE curricula and what the schools needed to do in the coming terms.

Formal Complaints

There have been no formal complaints made to the Local Authority.

Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

The SACRE has not received any complaints about Collective Worship.

Determinations

There have been no determination requests in regard to Collective worship made to SACRE.

Secondary Schools Data

- **A-Level Entries:**

Since the last data was evaluated in 2016 there has been a decrease in A level entries across the county down from 199 in 2016 to 157 in 2018. See attached for the breakdown in figures.

Areas of development

- Schools need to be made aware of the benefits to students in studying RE to A level and the correlation with entries to Oxford and Cambridge universities and the Russell group of Universities to encourage more to take the subject as an option.
- To support schools and teachers through network meetings and passing on CPD opportunities.

- **GCSE Full-Course Entries:**

Since the last data was evaluated in 2016 the number of entries for the GCSE has fallen significantly from 7650 in 2016 to 1653 in 2018. Though this is in line with a national fall of entries for the Religious Studies GCSE. See attached for the full breakdown for the county.

Areas of development

- To continue to support schools with RE in KS3 and to make schools aware of the benefits of RE.
- To continue to make schools aware of their statutory requirements of RE to be part of the school curriculum until the end of year 11.

APPENDIX

Membership 1 September 2017 – 31 August 2018

Name	Organisation
Mrs Farnush Tanhai	Bahai Faith
William Duncan	Buddhism
Arthur Newbury	Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
Mr Chris Paddock	Humanist
Mr Bhupesh Parekh	Hinduism
Saifullah Nassir	Islam
Mr Daniel Tabor	Judaism
Sister Aidan Richards	Catholic Diocese
Mr Harkirat Singh	Sikh Faith
Mrs Morcea Walker	United Reform Church
John Flory	Religious Society of Friends

Group B – Representative of the Church of England

Mrs Val Griffiths	Church of England
Nicholas Edwards	Church of England
Rev. Doug Spenceley	Church of England

Group C – Representatives of the Teacher Associations

Mrs Jenny Dixon	Primary Teacher Representative (NEU)
Mrs Justine Davies	Secondary School Representative (NASUWT)
Mrs Elaine Coe	Head Teacher Representative (NEU)
Mrs Julie Barke	Head Teacher Representative (NAHT)
Mrs Yvette Timms	Primary Teacher (ATL)

Group D – Representatives of the Local Authority

Cllr Dudley Hughes	LA
Cllr Wendy Brackenbury	LA

Independent Learning Adviser to SACRE

Amanda Fitton