

DRAFT 1

Annual SACRE Report

2018-2019



The SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) has several aspects to its role. It:

- Advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- Advises on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- Decides whether or not to grant determinations to those schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- Identifies the need for a revised religious education syllabus

The Milton Keynes SACRE works closely with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) and the Diocese of Oxford. All meetings of the SACRE are open to the public.

This report sets out a brief summary of the work of the Milton Keynes' SACRE over the academic year 2018-2019. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found

http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Committees/tabid/170/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/589/id/1120/Default.aspx

For more information about the role and business of the SACRE please contact:

Chair: Revd. Dr. Paul Smith smith.paul.a@icloud.com

Clerk: Janet Gleghorn at janet.gleghorn@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Local Authority Officer: Linda Bartlett at linda.bartlett@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Adviser to SACRE: Anne Andrews anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org

Introduction to Milton Keynes SACRE 2018 - 2019

Meetings of the SACRE during this year were held on the following dates:

21 November 2018

13 March 2019

26 June 2019

Reverend Paul Smith has continued to serve as Chair of the SACRE and Mrs Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra as Vice Chair. Anne Andrews remains as professional adviser to the SACRE, in her capacity as RE adviser in the Oxford Diocese.

Although attendance this year has continued to be a challenge only one of the three meetings was not quorate. It has therefore been possible to appoint some new members, although Groups C and D still only have one member each. Work on many of the projects begun in 2107-18 has continued. The survey of secondary schools has been expanded and additional guidance for new RE leaders has been approved. RE network meetings have continued, meeting in the local Gurdwara, the Greek Orthodox Church and a school. Support for the

primary and secondary school RE co-ordinators' networks continued to be organised under the leadership of the LA officer and run by the adviser to SACRE.

The humanist representative, previously co-opted, has become a full member of SACRE and new Buddhist and Hindu reps have been appointed.

New members are regularly made aware of the SACRE members' handbook published by NASACRE on its website. All members of SACRE have access to the NASACRE website log in.

The Youth SACRE under the leadership of Shammi Rahman (Denbigh Teaching School), continues to grow and flourish and Shammi was much in demand at the NASACRE AGM as news about the Youth SACRE has spread.

Budget 2018 - 2019

Income

Professional services	4000
Non staff expenses	535
Total income	4535

Expenditure	
Oxford Diocese RE Consultant	£600
Oxford Diocese RE consultant Primary RE Co meetings	£150
Oxford Diocese RE Consultant	£1200
Annual Report writing	£200
Denbigh Consultant	£810
Islamic Awareness training provided by EMA	£0
Oxford Diocese editing guidance	£600
Secondary Survey	£300
Additional Survey work	£300
Youth SACRE miscellaneous	£100
NASACRE attendance	£127.70
NASACRE Subscription	£105
Total	£4492.70
Remaining budget	£42.30

Advice offered to LA and Schools

The LA has continued to fund SACRE but has also been advised of the suggestion from NASACRE that funding should be 2% of CSSB. It will become clear next academic year if this advice has been heeded.

The LA was also advised that as supporting a SACRE is a statutory requirement for a LA it should be made possible for at least one councillor to attend each of the meetings. The last two meetings of the year each had a councillor in attendance.

Advice to schools has been offered in the form of the network meetings and the syllabus guidance that has been offered to all schools. At the first network meeting of the year, in the Gurdwara the focus was on Sikhism, but also how to integrate a visit into a unit plan. At the Orthodox Church the focus was on the key differences between Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic Christianity and the impact of following Orthodox teaching. The final session of the year was a work moderation session, with teachers looking at outcomes in RE. Teachers were appreciative of the sessions and found them useful.

Educate continues to be the main method of communication between SACRE and schools, and information is being gathered through a range of survey on Religious Education.

No advice has been offered by SACRE to government this year.

Standards, Quality and Provision of RE

The secondary school survey has been the main way that Milton Keynes SACRE has been monitoring provision in RE. 4 secondary schools have participated in Phase 1. Most of the schools had a dedicated RE lead, and anywhere from four to twelve teachers who regularly teach RE. All are qualified teachers, but only one teacher in the four schools has a RE qualification. The number of hours of RE at GCSE varies from 1 to 3 hours per week, with very little time given to RE for non-GCSE pupils. Two of the schools do not offer RE at A-level, and very little time is given to RE at post-16 level, except at St Pauls. In half the schools, time given to RE is in addition to collective worship.

All of the surveyed schools have RE in their curricula and all except St Pauls (a catholic school) follow the locally agreed syllabus for KS3. All four schools include Christianity as one of the GCSE topics. Judaism, Buddhism and Islam are the preferred second faith for GCSE study.

Provision of RE to pupils not taking GCSE RE is quite limited in all schools except St Pauls. Half of the schools offer RE A-level courses, and provision of RE to post-16 pupils is also limited.

The main conclusions to be drawn from the first phase of the survey are that

- Schools mainly follow the guidance of the new *Agreed Syllabus*
- St Pauls does not specifically follow the *Agreed Syllabus*, however in practice their curriculum has many elements in common.
- RE teaching is seen as valuable for pupils to develop understanding, tolerance and inclusion.
- RE provision is limited for post-16 pupils who are not doing RE A-levels.
- If given the opportunity, pupils will share their practices, traditions, values and beliefs and engage in discussion about similarities and differences with other faiths.
- If given the opportunity, pupils will engage in study of values and ethics.

A survey of primary schools revealed that many do not have any teachers with RE qualifications, that the teaching of RE is well developed in some places and patchy in others. Time allocation to RE is mostly between 30 – 60 minutes a week, but many schools admitted to offering less and teaching it as and when the opportunity arose. The RE network meeting on moderation showed a wide variation in the quality of primary RE; some of the work was

excellent and similar sessions will be planned for next year, as we aim to prepare schools for the new Ofsted Inspection Framework.

Only one school in Milton Keynes has had a SIAMS inspection in the year 2018-9, but RE there was praised as being inspiring and well developed. As the school is part of a federation, the praise was extended to other schools in the same group. Although these are church schools, as VC schools they use the locally Agreed Syllabus.

No complaints have been received about RE and the LA has not asked SACRE to support any schools with RE. SACRE has not been made aware of any Ofsted reports making mention of religious education.

GCSE & A Level Results:

More pupils were entered for GCSE RE and results were better than last year, with more pupils gaining the top grades and fewer gaining the lowest grades. The number of entries at AS and A level were also slightly increased, but grades were lower than in 2018, with no pupils gaining the top grades.

Agreed Syllabus

Under current legislation the next syllabus review is due in 2022. In the meantime, further guidance is being produced to support teachers and a training session for new RE leaders has been planned and budgeted for.

Standards, Quality and Provision of Collective Worship

SACRE has focused this year on Religious Education so no comments can be made about collective worship, other than to report that there have been no requests for determinations, and no complaints. The LA has not asked SACRE to support any schools with collective worship. The school that was inspected under the SIAMS inspection schedule was praised for its collective worship. SACRE has not been made aware of any Ofsted reports making mention of collective worship.

Any school wishing to explore the relevance of a determination (daily collective worship which is other than 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character) in their context should contact the local authority officer, Linda Bartlett. Church schools are not eligible for a determination. For an academy wishing to apply for a determination the correct process is for the Trust to apply through the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to the Secretary of State.

Management of SACRE

SACRE has met three times as usual and the LA continues to provide support with a local authority officer and a clerk available at each meeting.

Group D, Councillors and Group C, teachers are underrepresented, with only one member per group. This reliance on one person increases the likelihood of a meeting not being quorate.

SACRE is supported by a professional adviser, paid for 3 days a year, but employed on an occasional basis for additional training, such as the planned session for new RE subject leaders.

Contribution to the wider agenda of the local authority and partnership working

Shammi Rahman (Group C) attended the NASACRE AGM in Manchester in May 2019. She took this opportunity to share news about the Youth SACRER with other delegates. Youth SACRE 2 members of SACRE are involved in the Muslim - Jewish women's project.

Attainment in Religious Studies at GCSE in 2019

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No of entries: 957 (GCSE grade 9-1 full course)

Percentage Achieving:

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
5%	8%	14%	16%	17%	11%	16%	9%	3%

U: 1%

Percentage achieving at least a Grade 4: 71%

Attainment in Religious Studies at A-Level in 2019

Total Students: 64

Percentage Achieving:

A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
0%	6%	30%	33%	22%	6%	3%

Percentage achieving at least a Grade C: 69%

Attainment in Religious Studies at AS-Level in 2019

Total Students: 76

Percentage Achieving:

A	B	C	D	E	U
12%	18%	22%	15%	15%	18%

Percentage achieving at least a Grade C: 53%

Membership of Milton Keynes Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
Group A:	Christian denominations and other religions	
Free Churches	Rachel Foster (MK Bridgebuilder Trust)	2/3
Roman Catholic Church	Vacancy	
Baha'i	Latifeh Rowlands	2/3
Buddhism	Vacancy	0/3
Hinduism	Manjula Koria	1/3
Islam	Zainab Manji	3/3
Judaism	Lou Tribus	3/3
Sikhism	Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra (Vice Chair)	1/3
Humanist	Elaine Lever	3/3
Group B:	The Church of England	
	Rev Paul Smith (Chair)	3/3
	Rev Michael Morris	0/3
	Vacancy	0/3
	Vacancy	0/3
Group C:	Associations representing teachers	
Primary	Vacancy	0/3
Secondary	Vacancy	0/3
Academies	Shammi Rahman	1/3
Group D:	The Local Authority	
	Cllr Geetha Morla	1/3
	Cllr Anthony Brown	1/3
Additional attendees		
Observers	Alan Bainbridge (Quakers)	1/3
	Eliot Reeves (Church of Latter Day Saints)	1/3
	Tarika Yayhik (Hindu)	1/3
	Ajit De Silva (Buddhist)	1/3
	Saroj Sidapra (Hindu)	1/3
Professional Adviser	Anne Andrews	3/3
Local Authority Officer	Linda Bartlett	2/3
	Rosy Johnson	1/3
Clerk/Note taker	Janet Gleghorn	3/3