

People Directorate  
Setting and School Effectiveness

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Date November 2018



# Annual SACRE Report

2017-2018



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 2017-2018. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at

[http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Committees/tabid/170/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_CommitteeDetails/mid/589/id/1120/Default.aspx](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. Paul Smith at [paul.a.smith.mk@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.a.smith.mk@btinternet.com)

Clerk: Janet Gleghorn at [janet.gleghorn@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:janet.gleghorn@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Local Authority Officer: Linda Bartlett at [linda.bartlett@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:linda.bartlett@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

### **SACRE Developments in 2017-2018**

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

1 November 2017

7 February 2018

20 June 2018

Reverend Paul Smith continued to serve as Chair of the SACRE, along with 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.

Attendance this year has become a challenge with two of the three meetings not being quorate. Despite this, the SACRE has still managed to maintain a presence in Milton Keynes' schools with: a survey of secondary schools; training for the new syllabus; the production of guidance material for the new syllabus; and regular RE network meetings. 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.

A Catholic representative has been approached to fill the vacancy but has not yet been nominated and there have been several changes in councillor membership. It has been agreed that the humanist representative, currently co-opted, should become a full member of the SACRE. This has been delayed because of the inquoracy of the last two meetings.

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.

## **Budget 2017-2018**

### **Income**

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>SACRE consultancy</b>   | 4000        |
| <b>Conference expenses</b> | 300         |
| <b>SACRE misc expenses</b> | 235         |
| <b>Central print</b>       | 0           |
| <b>Procurement</b>         | 27          |
| <b>Total income</b>        | <b>4562</b> |

|  | <b>Expenditure</b> |
|--|--------------------|
| Oxford Diocese RE Consultant                           | £600               |
| Oxford Diocese RE consultant Primary RE Co meetings    | £150               |
| Denbigh consultant for the Youth SACRE                 | £810               |
| Islamic Awareness Training provided by the EMA Network | £0                 |
| Oxford Diocese Review of Agreed Syllabus draft         | £1200              |
| Guidance for syllabus                                  | £400               |
| Oxford Diocese edits guidance for syllabus             | £800               |
| Secondary survey                                       | £300               |
| Youth SACRE  | £100               |
| NASACRE attendance                                     |                    |
| NASACRE subscription                                   | £195               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>4555</b>        |
| <b>Remaining budget</b>                                | <b>7</b>           |

### **Partnership working**

The Vice-chair, Mrs Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra, attended the NASACRE AGM in London in May 2018. The Chair, Revd Paul Smith, gave presentations on the SACRE to the Children's and Families Committee, the Council of Faiths and the U3A.

A Quaker and two teachers have been welcomed as observers to SACRE meetings. The Quaker offered some resource information. A Hindu community member has volunteered to support schools with the teaching of Hinduism.

Contact has been established with providers of NQT training and there are plans to develop this further.

The SACRE has engaged in discussion on the interim report from the Commission on RE and the NATRE workforce data survey.

The leader of the Youth SACRE is working with a range of providers to stage a philosophy and ethics conference in the next academic year.

### **Review of the year's plans**

The Youth SACRE has sustained interest, with a consistent range of schools attending. Shammi Rahman continues to lead the meetings; which have been based at Denbigh Teaching School. RE teachers from Ousedale have been very supportive and committed to Youth SACRE meetings, alongside other primary schools. The impact is beginning to be noticed as there has been an increase in knowledge of RE in the new Year 7 students coming up from the feeder schools.

Youth SACRE members under the leadership of Shammi Rahman have organized workshops which have focused on providing an opportunity for colleagues to hear and see the interest of the young people shine through. There has been more involvement from Ousedale students alongside the significant involvement of Denbigh students and the intention is now to get older students from all schools attending to take more of a leading role in the sessions. There is still more work to be done in reaching out to new schools.

The Youth SACRE has continued to lead faith workshops for diversity days and now students are taking part in the annual commemoration ceremony for remembrance of the holocaust. Ousedale School also took part and the holocaust remembrance committee have asked the group to be part of the 2019 ceremony and invite other schools through the Youth SACRE.

A SACRE representative has a seat on the Young People and Children's Scrutiny Committee.

A secondary RE meeting has now been included as part of the secondary subject leader meetings.

Regular updates continue to be provided to schools about RE using Educ@te, an online email communication with all schools, and direct to a mailing list of RE Coordinators. Communication is challenging as RE coordinators change post regularly.

All members of the SACRE have access to the NASACRE website log in. A Catholic representative will be approached to fill the Roman Catholic vacancy.

## **Religious education in 2017 - 2018**

Two training sessions were held early in the academic year to launch the new syllabus. 42 teachers from 40 schools attended the sessions and feedback on the syllabus and the training was positive. Some of the materials used will be incorporated into the syllabus guidance material.

Three termly twilight meetings for primary teachers were held during the year, led by the RE adviser from the Diocese of Oxford. Primary and secondary teachers from Milton Keynes and North Buckinghamshire were invited to attend. The first session on 27 November took place at the synagogue. 33 teachers from 28 schools attended and were able to experience a range of activities to help them understand the Jewish faith. In March 17 teachers gathered at the Shia mosque in Granby, where they were warmly welcomed. Two secondary teachers from Denbigh School talked about how they taught Islam from a non-specialist background. The summer term session at the EMA Network looking at resources and planning in RE was less well attended, but appreciated by those who attended.

The numbers and range of schools attending has been recorded and letters will be sent to schools that have not engaged with any training during the year.

Lou Tribus, a member of the SACRE, has undertaken work with local secondary schools; conducting a survey with follow-up discussions to gauge the issues surrounding the teaching of RE in secondary schools. Four schools (St. Pauls Catholic School, The Radcliffe School, Ousedale School and Oakgrove School) have all completed the on-line survey and agreed to meet to answer further questions. Other schools have been approached and will be followed up in the next academic year. A primary schools' survey has been planned for the next academic year to ascertain the impact of the revised syllabus.

## **Religious Education Resources**

Two key resources have been produced this year. The first is a guidance document supporting teachers with background information and planning advice relevant to the revised syllabus. The other document is an introduction for primary NQTs on teaching RE in Milton Keynes; which will be given to all NQTs at the training session in October.

## **Collective Worship**

In line with previous years, no applications for a determination have been received by the SACRE. 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.

## Schools and the SACRE

Educ@te continues to be the main method of communication between the SACRE and schools, and information is being gathered through a range of survey on RE.

Letters were sent at the end of the academic year to schools that had not participated in any RE training through the academic year. Responses will be followed up in the next academic year.

## Attainment in Religious Studies at GCSE in 2018

No of entries: 524 (for new curriculum assessments)

Percentage Achieving:

| 9    | 8    | 7    | 6     | 5     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 1    |
|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 1.5% | 2.9% | 7.3% | 11.6% | 13.4% | 13.7% | 21.2% | 16.2% | 8.4% |

Percentage achieving at least a grade 4: 50.4%

No of entries: 125 (for old curriculum assessments)

| A* | A  | B    | C     | D     | E     | F     | G   | U    |
|----|----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|
| 0% | 0% | 6.4% | 22.4% | 14.4% | 21.6% | 11.2% | 12% | 9.6% |

## Attainment in Religious Studies at A-Level in 2018

Total Students: 58

Percentage Achieving:

| A*   | A      | B      | C      | D     | E     | U     |
|------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| 6.9% | 18.97% | 37.93% | 17.14% | 8.62% | 6.90% | 3.45% |

Percentage achieving at least C: 81%

## Attainment in Religious Studies at AS-Level in 2018

Total Students: 75

Percentage Achieving:

| A      | B      | C      | D      | E      | U  |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----|
| 14.67% | 18.67% | 26.67% | 14.67% | 17.33% | 8% |

Percentage achieving at least C: 60%

## Membership of Milton Keynes Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

| Representing                   | Member   | Meetings attended |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Group A:</b>                | <b>Christian denominations and other religions</b> |                   |
| Free Churches                  | Rachel Foster (MK Bridge builder Trust)            | 2/3               |
| Roman Catholic Church          | Vacancy  |                   |
| Baha'i                         | Latifeh Rowlands                                   | 2/3               |
| Buddhism                       | Vacancy  | 0/3               |
| Hinduism                       | Manjula Korja                                      | 0/3               |
| Islam                          | Arif Master  | 1/3               |
| Islam                          | Aaliya Versi                                       | 2/3               |
| Islam                          | Zainab Manji                                       | 2/3               |
| Judaism                        | Lou Tribus   | 3/3               |
| Sikhism                        | Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra (Vice Chair)           | 2/3               |
| <b>Group B:</b>                | <b>The Church of England</b>                       |                   |
|                                | Rev Paul Smith (Chair)                             | 1/3               |
|                                | Rev Michael Morris                                 | 0/3               |
|                                | Vacancy  | 0/3               |
|                                | Vacancy  | 0/3               |
| <b>Group C:</b>                | <b>Associations representing teachers</b>          |                   |
| Primary                        | Vacancy  | 0/3               |
| Secondary                      | Vacancy  | 0/3               |
| Academies                      | Shammi Rahman                                      | 2/3               |
| <b>Group D:</b>                | <b>The Local Authority</b>                         |                   |
|                                | Cllr Edith Bald                                    | 1/3               |
|                                | Cllr Alan Webb                                     | 0/3               |
| <b>Additional attendees</b>    |  |                   |
| Co-opted Humanist              | Elaine Lever                                       | 2/3               |
| Observers                      | Katie Wilkins (Ousedale)                           | 1/3               |
|                                | Helen Brown (Denbigh)                              | 1/3               |
|                                | Alan Bainbridge (Quakers)                          | 1/3               |
| <b>Professional Adviser</b>    | Anne Andrews                                       | 3/3               |
| <b>Local Authority Officer</b> | Linda Bartlett                                     | 2/3               |
| <b>Clerk/Note taker</b>        | Janet Gleghorn                                     | 3/3               |