

North Somerset
Standing Advisory
Council on
Religious
Education
(SACRE)

21st Annual Report

2016 – 2017



CONTENTS

Foreword from the Chairman of SACRE

1. Standards and Quality of Religious Education (RE) Provision in North Somerset Schools
2. SACRE Activities and Developments
3. The Effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus
4. Collective Worship in North Somerset Schools
5. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority Agenda

Appendix A Tables of GCSE Full Course Religious Studies and
Advanced level results (to follow)

Appendix B SACRE Membership

Appendix C Development Plan 2016-2017

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present this annual report of the North Somerset Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Whether you are involved in the Advisory Council, deliver Religious Education, represent a faith or just wonder who we are and what we do, I trust you will find it informative.

The role of religious education remains important (and sometimes controversial!) to pupils, parents, teachers, those of faith and those of no faith. I am privileged to Chair North Somerset's SACRE and I am extremely grateful for the contributions of all members of our diverse and dedicated group. It is our hope that our considerations are meaningful and that our outcomes are constructive.

A note of special thanks must be extended to our Associate Advisor David Rees for his unstinting support.

Our efforts next year will focus on identifying ways to obtain a truer picture of Religious Education across North Somerset. We warmly invite thoughts, ideas and feedback from everyone, so please feel free to get in touch with us. There is an awful lot to be proud of, but we believe we can add more value to the provision of Religious Education in our schools.

North Somerset SACRE Chair – Councillor Sarah Codling

1 STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) PROVISION IN NORTH SOMERSET SCHOOLS

SACRE monitors and evaluates the quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education, through analysis of examination results, discussions with teachers and visits to schools by the Associate Adviser for RE and other school improvement service advisers where possible.

During the year this work was further promoted at termly network subject meetings as well as various conferences for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as indicated in this report.

In previous years SACRE had attempted to gather information from schools via a survey – this information centred on the provision of RE, visits from the faith communities and Collective Worship. Whilst the results were illuminating the number of responses was disappointing thus not creating a full picture of what is happening in North Somerset. During the next Year SACRE will be discussing new ways of finding out a truer picture.

Examinations and Certificates

Due to recent cutbacks in the local authority the associate advisor has been unable to obtain the unvalidated Key Stage 4 and 5 results for the Summer of 2017. The advisor will keep open a dialogue with the LA and try to obtain these, however the correspondence so far stated that there was no-one available to provide this information. Full tables of results will be included if the LA provides them.

2 SACRE ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Meetings

Three full meetings of the North Somerset SACRE were held. These were on Wednesday 16th November, on Monday 20th February (at Clevedon Secondary School) and Wednesday 28th June (at Clevedon Community School). The membership list and attendance is recorded in *appendix B* of this report.

Membership and Training

New SACRE members receive a welcome letter from the Chair of SACRE, and a pack of materials that includes the locally agreed syllabus, recent SACRE Newsletters, a NASACRE guide to SACREs and minutes of recent North Somerset SACRE meetings.

In the Summer term meeting Councillor **Sarah Codling** was re-elected as Chair for the 2017-18 municipal year and **Jo Backus** was re-elected Vice-Chair for the same period.

North Somerset SACRE members were amongst those who attended the South-West SACREs conference held at Dillington House in March 2017. The title of the day was 'RE: Now and in the future?' and featured a keynote address from Dr Joyce Miller representing the early findings of the Commission on RE (CoRE). A Second keynote was given by Ian Jamison of the Tony Blair institute concerning 'Generation Global', an initiative designed to link schools globally in live discussions through technology.

There were also workshops on a variety of issues including how to engage with local faith communities, linking schools across the world and the 'Learn, Teach, Lead RE' projects. It was an interesting, revealing and rewarding day.

SACRE Development

SACRE keeps North Somerset Council advised on its activities through an annually reviewed development plan – see *appendix C*. It produces this Annual Report and distributes it to relevant individuals and organisations.

During the year, SACRE's Associate Adviser and members undertook the following initiatives:

- Liaising on the review of the locally agreed RE syllabus concluding in the release of Awareness, Mystery and Value (AMV) 2016
- reviewing questionnaires designed to support the monitoring of standards in RE and collective worship across the LA;
- commenting on examination results;
- considering the question of representing non-faith beliefs in the RE curriculum;
- editing and uploading new schemes of learning to the new agreed syllabus website in partnership with Bath & NE Somerset and Bristol SACREs;
- supporting local training events on RE for teachers, including those provided by the Diocese of Bath & Wells;

- considering possible opportunities for joint working with Bath & North-East Somerset SACRE;
- considering implications of new examination specifications for GCSE and A level religious studies;
- Discussing the monitoring and development of the SACRE Resources collections;
- supporting interfaith events being held in the region,
- sending delegates to the South-West area SACREs annual conference;
- continuing to maintain links with academies and free schools for example by inviting governors and headteachers in those institutions to apply for places at the annual SACRE seminar and to send a representative to SACRE meetings;
- linking with other LAs who have adopted our locally agreed syllabus for RE, *Awareness, Mystery and Value (AMV)*, and continue the 'Learn-Teach-Lead Project

Financial and Adviser Support

The SACRE was advised by an Associate Adviser, David Rees, through Jan Lever Education Consultancy and Training Ltd.

Training Activities for Teachers

During the year there were opportunities for teachers to participate in RE training provided within the Local Authority.

There were RE network meetings for RE leaders in primary schools. These featured the latest information on Religious Education from a local and national perspective. A brief description of the meetings is shown below

- Thursday October 20th – this meeting focussed on the content of the existing agreed syllabus. As part of the review process, teachers were asked about the strengths of the existing syllabus and what improvements could be made to the new one. The meeting also looked at some Christmas assessment units from Discovery RE
- Wednesday 1st February – this meeting focussed on assessment, looking at existing units in the AMV syllabus and discussing how teachers would need to be supported in the educational landscape after assessment levels. The meeting also showed other amendments made to the new version of AMV including the redesigning of the website. Time was spent ensuring teachers knew where the essential material like units of study were located on the new website.
- Thursday 15th June – this meeting gave further updates on AMV. Teachers were also introduced to the 'RE Definitions project' which Dave Francis and True Tube were developing with the support of RE Online. The project aims to help teachers' subject knowledge by creating a database of religious terms, giving working definitions and providing audio clips as to how to pronounce these words. At the meeting teachers were given the opportunity to see some of the work completed and feedback the effectiveness of it. The project will be ongoing and will eventually appear online for teachers and students to use.

Each meeting gave an opportunity for issues to be raised by N Somerset teachers and provided an essential way of helping RE teachers support each other and be supported by SACRE

‘Learn, Teach, Lead RE’

North Somerset is also a key contributor to the ‘Learn Teach Lead RE’ project. This involves termly network meetings run by Laura Harris, who is also a teacher representative on North Somerset SACRE. These meetings offer training and support for teachers, network with other Learn, Teach, Lead RE areas and arrange conferences which focus on teaching and learning, liaising with faith communities and informing on national RE issues.

3 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS

The agreed syllabus, ‘*Awareness, Mystery and Value 2011*’, has been reviewed during the year and the new version of the syllabus was launched in Autumn 2016 and the website has undergone a complete overhaul to reflect the changes and to offer support to teachers especially in reference to assessment exemplars. The programmes of study have not been changed in relation to content.

The syllabus has been adopted by Bath & North-East Somerset, Bristol City, Haringey, North Somerset. Somerset has developed their own version of the syllabus and will operate independently; the Isles of Scilly have also decided not to adopt the syllabus this time.

Other SACRE’s publications continue to be available on the North Somerset Council website at: www.n-somerset.gov.uk (search > ‘standing advisory council’).

The SACRE web pages contain an introduction to the work, plans and membership of North Somerset SACRE, advice approved by the Local Authority on the new agreed syllabus, assemblies and collective worship, spiritual development, links between RE, citizenship and personal, social, health and economic education (PSHEe) and contact details for SACRE’s officers.

Schools are regularly reminded, through the termly RE networks, of local places of worship, speakers and artefacts collections which may be borrowed free of charge from the SACRE RE resource centres now at *Churchill CofE Primary School*, BS40 5EL (tel. 01934 852 446), *Mary Elton Community Primary School*, Clevedon, BS21 7YL (tel: 01275 876432) and *St Georges CofE/Methodist VA Primary School*, Weston-super-Mare (tel. 01934 426901). Maintenance of these resource centres will be discussed further in the next year as funding has been reduced

Complaints and determinations

The Local Authority/SACRE received no formal complaints concerning RE or Collective Worship. There were no requests from schools to vary the legal requirement for collective worship.

4 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN NORTH SOMERSET SCHOOLS

Collective Worship

SACRE's guidance on collective worship contains advice on legal requirements, spiritual development, a rationale and policy exemplar for collective worship in schools, ideas for planning and using themes in collective worship and guidance for using visitors to lead assemblies. There is also an extensive list of websites that can assist in planning and resourcing collective worship.

The Guidance can be found on the North Somerset Council website
Also available there is the North Somerset SACRE working group report, *Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development*, which provides additional information about the contribution of RE and collective worship to school life.

Monitoring Collective worship is often difficult, previous attempts through surveys showed an incomplete picture. SACRE will be discussing ways of monitoring and supporting Collective Worship further in the year ahead.

5 THE CONTRIBUTION OF SACRE TO THE WIDER LOCAL AUTHORITY AGENDA

National Links

One way in which North Somerset SACRE keeps in touch with initiatives to support community cohesion is by maintaining its membership of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). In addition, the Associate Adviser, David Rees, is a member of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and a member of the Association for RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC). He has attended the NASACRE AGM in York and provided SACRE with regular reports and updates on the business of key RE bodies like the REC. In the next year further updates will include the interim report from the Commission on RE (CoRE)

Local links

North Somerset's officers and the Associate Adviser for RE continue to work with the Diocese of Bath and Wells' schools' advisers in preparing support for RE, collective worship and spiritual and moral development. The Associate Adviser also maintains links with colleagues in neighbouring South-West authorities and makes reports to SACRE on developments in the region.

Appendix A

SUMMER 2017 EXAMINATIONS

Tables of GCSE Full Course Religious Studies, GCSE Short Course Religious Education and GCE Advanced level results

These have been requested and will be added once submitted

Appendix B

SACRE Membership 2016-2017

SACRE Membership

Group A – Christian and other religious denominations

Name	Organisation
Joan Willcocks	Society of Friends
Kevin Magner	Roman Catholic
Qair Majeed	Muslim Community
Ganga Devi	Hindu Community
Martin Taylor	United Reformed Church
Jo Backus	Buddhist Community – Vice Chair of SACRE
Emma Smith	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Vacancy	Greek Orthodox Community
Vacancy	Jewish Community
Vacancy	Sikh Community

Group B – Church of England

Name	
Pauline Dodds	Bath and Wells diocese
Cathy Cowell	

Group C – Teachers Associations

Name	Association
Chris Sammons	SHINS
Marianne McAleer	NUT Secondary
Jan Thomson	PHANS
Will Farrell	NASUWT
Laura Harris	NUT Primary
Vacancy	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Vacancy	VOICE
Vacancy	Secondary Heads Association

Group D – Local Authority

Name	
Robert Cleland	Councillor
Sarah Codling	Councillor – Chair of SACRE
Deborah Yamanaka	Councillor

Co-Opted Member

Dr David Cameron	British Humanist Association
------------------	------------------------------

Associate Advisor for RE

David Rees	Jan Lever Education Consultancy and Training Ltd.
------------	---

Appendix C

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016-2017
(see separate paper)**

North Somerset SACRE action plan April 2016-March 2017

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Summer 2016	Autumn 2016	Spring 2017
A. To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership. STATUTORY DUTIES	1. Fill membership vacancies	End March 2017	SACRE Chair Committee Services				
	2. Adviser handover	June/July 2016	Dave Francis and Jan Lever	X2 half days for each adviser			
	3. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year)	Termly SACRE meetings: Summer 2016 Autumn 2016 Spring 2017	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting	Mtg 2016 Date 6/7/16	Mtg 2016 Date 16/11/16	Mtg 2017 28/6/17
	4. Share of new website costs with other AMV SACREs	Summer term 2016	SACRE Advisers	Supply cover costs for x2 teachers to attend SACRE meetings - from SACRE allowance 1-day adviser time			

<p>B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools and</p> <p>C. To support the implementation of the revised AMV Agreed Syllabus for RE</p>	5. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2016	SACRE Adviser and clerk	SACRE Adviser x1 day		Bring draft to November meeting	Presented at Spring mtg and to Councillo rs
	6. Review the action plan at each meeting and update for next year	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time included in A2 above			
	7. Subscribe to NASACRE Representation at annual NASACRE conference, NASACRE AGM local SACRE events e.g. SW SACRE Conference	Ongoing	SACRE members SACRE Adviser	Subscription £95 SACRE Adviser time if needs to be the SACRE representative at NASACRE conference x1 day plus travel if SACRE Adviser represents N. Somerset SACRE at South West conference	JL to attend NASACRE conference in London/Birmi ngham.		

	<p>1. Provide a termly primary RE network meeting for Reading teachers, 4-5.30 SACRE members welcome.</p>	<p>Summer term 2016: 16 June 2016 Venue: The Hive 4-5.30pm</p> <p>Autumn term 2016: 20 October Venue: The Hive</p> <p>Spring term 1st February 2017, For all healthy living Centre</p> <p>Summer 2017 15th June Civic Offices</p>	<p>Led by Jan Lever Education Consultancy</p>	<p>SACRE Adviser x3 half days Paid by LA... NOT from SACRE budget</p>	<p>Summer 2016 mtg held.</p>	<p>Autumn 2016 mtg held.</p>	<p>Spring 2017 mtg held.</p>
	<p>2. Review resource centre stock and</p>			<p>Check to see if funds available</p>			

	replace/renew/re-stock						