

# **Coventry Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

## **Annual Report 2018-19**



Coventry City Council

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## Introduction

This is the annual report of the Coventry Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for 2018/19 and is published in accordance with the requirements of section 391 (6) of the Education Act 1996. It provides an account of SACRE activities during this period.

### Circulation of this report

This report will be circulated electronically to:

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Coventry schools  
 Coventry City Councillors  
 Department for Education  
 Diocesan Board of Education (Coventry Church of England Diocese)  
 Diocesan Education Service (Roman Catholic Archdiocese Birmingham)  
 The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)  
 SACREs in neighbouring authorities

It will also be available to download at: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre)

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*Information on administrative and organisational matters is available from Lucy Lambert: Education Improvement and Standards, PO Box 15, Council House, Coventry, CV1 5RR – telephone 024 76976979 or email [lucy.lambert@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.lambert@coventry.gov.uk).*

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Urdu	اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کا ترجمہ کرنے میں مدد درکار ہے تو براے مہربانی اتھنک مائنارٹی اچیومنٹ سروس سے 02476787752 پر رابطہ کریں۔

## Message from the Co-Chairs of SACRE

This has been another very productive and exciting year for Coventry SACRE, and in many ways this Annual Report, although detailed and accurate, cannot fully reflect the buzz and community interaction that has happened over the year. We have been privileged to continue our unique partnership with Warwickshire SACRE, sharing experiences, ideas and support structures such as the SACRE website, joint meetings and Agreed Syllabus. This has only been possible because the two Local Authorities share the vision and commitment to work together on behalf of the schools and children in their area. The result is that we have been able to continue our combined efforts, resources and encouragement, leading to levels of service and support for schools that could only be dreamed of by the Local Authority acting alone. Primarily this is possible because of the work of our tremendous RE Facilitator, Jennifer Jenkins, who manages to inspire and guide both SACREs and schools on a remarkably small allocation of time. She is supported in this by Lucy Lambert and Juliet Silverton from Coventry LA, Jane Bennett and Sarah Tregaskis from Warwickshire LA and the Education Team from Coventry Cathedral. To all these people, Coventry SACRE extends its heartfelt thanks.

The result of this ongoing co-operation is that SACRE has not only been able to meet its statutory commitments but managed to work on producing resources for schools and support the events and initiatives of religious communities across the city. Examples include the CPD sessions to support the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus, the new Peace and Remembrance module and a session for newly qualified teachers; the regular RE Bulletin to schools, the films being made as a result of a successful grant application to the Westhill Trust, Warwick University Marketplace event for newly qualified teachers, school assemblies, monitoring and support visits to schools, , the Lord Mayor's Peace Poetry Competition supporting the Bridge project planning and the Peace Walk. Further details of these events and initiatives are to be found within the Report, although the words on paper only faintly bear witness to the events themselves.

Finally, we thank all the members of SACRE for their attendance, ideas, support and forbearance as they represent their respective faiths and bodies, as we learn and journey together.



**Miss Manjit Kaur**



**Mr Chris Mellers**

# 1. SACREs role and function

## **SACRE has a statutory duty:**

- To advise the Local Authority on collective worship and Religious Education in community schools and foundation schools which do not have a religious character. Religious Education in these schools must be delivered in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus.
- To advise the Local Authority on collective worship and methods of teaching, choice of materials and teacher training in Religious Education and collective worship.
- To provide an annual report.
- To require Coventry City Council to periodically review the locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (at least every 5 years).

## **In addition the SACRE can:**

- Consider applications made by a Headteacher to release some or all of the pupils in a particular school from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (a Determination).

## **Membership of SACRE:**

Coventry SACRE comprises four statutory groups:

- Group A – such Christian Denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area. Currently Coventry SACRE has provision for representatives from the following faiths – Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity (Free churches, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholicism, Society of Friends), Islam, Judaism.
- Group B – Church of England (Christianity)
- Group C – Teacher Associations
- Group D – Local Authority

Additional members including people with particular expertise in areas of religious education or who represent perspectives not included in the statutory groups are co-opted by SACRE.

In 2018/19 Coventry SACRE had co-opted members representing:

- The ITE department at the University of Warwick

Membership details are shown in Appendix A.

## 2. Advice provided by SACRE

### a) Advice to Local Authority

SACRE continues to support the Local Authority in seconding a RE specialist in the form of an RE Facilitator to provide support to Coventry schools and Coventry SACRE.

Coventry SACRE also continued joint-working with Warwickshire through the merging of the two Chairs Groups.

The RE Facilitator spoke at a Coventry Head Teacher briefing, sharing what support SACRE could offer to schools.

SACRE supported Coventry Local Authority in developing a statement of support for schools with regards to the teaching of the new RSE Programme for Primary Schools.

SACRE shared learning from NASACRE AGM with Local Authority.

### b) Schools

SACRE updated the constitution. This will be evaluated during 2019-20. A target has been set to encourage more teachers to join SACRE to ensure Group C is quorate.

SACRE Co-Chair and RE Facilitator attended the NASACRE AGM and Conference in May 2019 and reported back crucial updates to SACRE and Coventry LA in terms of impact upon schools and monitoring.

Schools are updated with developments such as those made in the CORE Report and the New Ofsted Framework which will impact upon RE provision in schools.

SACRE supported schools requesting Hindu and Jewish visitors and also created a wider document providing information and contacts for making visits and inviting visitors into school.

### c) Government or other bodies

n/a

### 3. Standards and Quality of Provision of RE

#### a) Public examinations - 2018 validated results

In 2018, 1389 Coventry year 11 students were entered for Religious Studies qualifications, this is approximately 41% of the year 11 cohort. There were 1376 entries for the full GCSE, and one for the short course GCSE.

16 of the 22 Coventry schools offered the full GCSE course. However of the remaining 6 schools, 1 did not have a year 11 cohort in 2018.

Some schools (Barr's Hill, Bishop Ullathorne, Blue Coat, Cardinal Newman, Cardinal Wiseman, Eden Girls' School, Grace Academy, Riverbank Special School) enter the vast majority of their students for Religious Studies.

The numbers taking short course Religious Studies GCSE are low, which reflects the national situation. There has been a decrease in entries from 151 in 2017, down to 1 in 2018.

The proportion of students attaining a Grade 5 or above in their GCSE is 59.5% which is above the national figure of 58.7%.

Students at Eden Girls' School performed particularly well in 2018 compared to other schools with a high number of entries. Attainment was also high at Finham Park, compared to other schools where relatively fewer students were entered.

	Full GCSE Coventry	Full GCSE National
Number of entries	1376	170880
9-1 passes	1335	167360
9-5 passes]	819	100300

At post-16 there were 125 year 12 students entered for AS Religious Studies and 125 for A Level. 12 Coventry schools entered students for these qualifications.

At AS Level 88% attained A - E grades including 38% at grades A - B. The national figures were 86% and 36% respectively.

At A Level 96% attained A\* - E grades, including 42% at A\* - B and 13% at A\* - A. The national figures are 98%, 52% and 23%.

## **b) Quality of RE provision in schools**

Ofsted visits to Coventry schools in 2018-19 were as follows:

Nursery/Early Years 0 inspections

Primary Schools 24 inspections

Secondary schools 7 inspections

Special schools 4 inspections

Total 35 inspections under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. This also included schools subject to short inspections.

Typically comments made about RE, SMSC and Collective Worship were very positive, with only one comment made in a primary Ofsted report indicating RE required some development. These have formed actions for SACRE in 2019-20.

Ofsted commented that SMSC was well-developed in most schools, with use made of the curriculum to develop cultural awareness. Pupils were cultivating British Values and their RE knowledge supported them for life in modern Britain, showing schools regard the development of future citizens as a critical component of any curriculum. Pupils have opportunity to respond to and develop their understanding of all faiths through RE curriculums which contain challenge and allow for the discussion of difficult topics. Pupils are able to give their own views and enjoy RE lessons. Local RE provision is enhanced by educational visits to places of worship, faith visitors in school, special topics, festivals and celebrations, assemblies and focus days. These educational experiences are valued by pupils and contribute to their enthusiasm for the subject.

For some examples of Ofsted's comments on RE see Appendix B.

## **c) Withdrawal**

SACRE is not aware of any withdrawals from RE made during 2018-19.

## **d) Complaints**

No formal complaints were received by SACRE regarding RE in 2018-19.



Pupils enjoying a Diwali Walk at a local primary school

### The Four Noble Truths

<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Noble Truth: You can avoid suffering</b></p> <p>enlightenment    Nirvana</p> <p>The suffering can end if we learn to live a day at a time and let go of our cravings.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Noble Truth</b></p> <p>we can all find the truth if we be like Buddha and how we found out we sit under the bichal tree. We He found the truth by meditating. ✓</p>
<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Noble Truth : How to avoid suffering</b></p> <p>avoid extremes    find the right balance</p> <p>The Noble 8-fold Path is the path you must follow which leads to the end of suffering.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">   </div>	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Noble Truth</b></p> <p>if you want to be perfect you will need to find the right balance in the 8-fold path. ✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You have a good knowledge of the 4 Noble Truths</p>



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
6:0  
What is the Jewish sabbath?

The Four Noble Truths  
enlightenment    Nirvana

**Why do Jews celebrate the sabbath day?**  
It's a day of rest and reminds god that when god made the world. For in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and made it holy.

**What are the Jews not allowed to do on the sabbath day?**  
Jews are not allowed to do cooking, switching on any electrical equipment, play a musical instrument, driving a car, using public transport, watching television, riding a bicycle or motorcycle or lighting a fire.

**How do Jews prepare for the sabbath days?**  
Have a bath, do all the work before, light candles, prepare the table and food.



RE work observed during RE Monitoring visit

## 4. Agreed Syllabus

The main priorities for Coventry SACRE in 2018/19 were:

- Continue to provide support to schools using the Coventry and Warwickshire agreed syllabus and supplement the syllabus with additional units to provide more local context
- Confirm and implement the monitoring process for monitoring how well schools are using the agreed syllabus.
- Fill current vacancies and ensure representation across all relevant groups and faith communities
- Gain approval for suggested changes to the SACRE constitution
- Enhance communication with schools to assist good quality delivery of RE  
Update the induction booklet for new SACRE members

1) An RE Subject Leader Twilight session was held on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 for Coventry and Warwickshire RE subject leaders on the theme of Peace and Remembrance to support schools in marking the centenary of the end of WW1. Links were made to Coventry Cathedral and the aspects of peace and reconciliation contained in the Agreed Syllabus for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3, encouraging a local flavour to RE.

2) RE Bulletins were sent out at the beginning of each term, informing teachers of local and national RE developments, new resources and CPD opportunities.

3) In February 2019 an RE Subject Leader Twilight was held focusing on assessment in RE, following on from requests made on evaluation forms from prior CPD sessions.

4) In May 2019 an RE Subject Leader Twilight was held on RE and the Arts, with a guest speaker from Coventry Cathedral explaining the spiritual significance of the architecture and art of the cathedral, again offering a local flavour to RE provision.

5) In July 2019 an additional RE Subject Leader Twilight was held on 'New to RE Subject Leadership' in a bid to ready new RE subject leaders for the demands of leading the subject, particularly in light of new Ofsted requirements around foundation subjects, curriculum and leadership and the introduction of the 'Deep Dive', which places RE on a par with other subjects for focus during an inspection.

6) In April a Westhill Grant Application was made by Warwickshire on behalf of both SACREs to run RE subject knowledge sessions led by SACRE members and held in places of worship. They will include a tour, talk and Q&A, with films and a resource document available digitally following each session for use by schools, therefore increasing the impact and distribution of the programme. In May SACRE learnt of its success in this endeavour. The sessions have been planned in response to requests made for subject knowledge support on evaluation forms and the emphasis on subject knowledge for all subject leaders and teachers of RE in the new Ofsted Framework. These sessions will run termly during 2018-19 and will initially focus on Sikhism, Islam and Judaism, with Coventry making a mirror-bid application in 2019-20 in order to complete the other 3 major faith traditions, plus Humanism.

7) In response to requests from teachers, SACRE have produced a 'SACRE Suggested list of visitors and places to visit' to support schools in planning for 'encounter' with living faith.

8) The RE Facilitator made supportive monitoring visits to a primary school and a hospital education service provider following RE/SMSC flagged up on Ofsted reports and a phone appointment was made with the Head Teacher of a special school following Ofsted feedback. All schools welcomed support and the opportunity to gain an external view on their RE provision. In total, 4 schools received an RE Monitoring visit in 2018-19. One school was offered a visit following an Ofsted report and has postponed this until the following academic year whilst working on core subjects initially.



## 6. Management of SACRE

### a) Attendance at SACRE Meetings

Coventry SACRE met on three occasions during the 2018/19 academic year. Details of venues and attendance are provided in the table below.

Date	Venue	Numbers in attendance from each group					
		Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Co-opted Members	Other attendees
24/09/18	University of Warwick	2	1	2	2	1	3
28/01/19	Southam College	2	2	1	3	0	4
10/06/19	Gurdwara Guru Nanak Parkash	5	3	3	3	0	7

#### Membership Groups:

Group A – Christian and other religious denominations other than the Church of England (9 members)

Group B – Church of England (5 members)

Group C – Teacher Associations (5 members)

Group D – Coventry City Council (4 members)

SACRE has continued to select meeting venues which reflect its three key partnerships; schools, faith groups and the Local Authority. Where a meeting is held in a school, there is usually an opportunity for SACRE members to have a look at the RE work on display and to learn about the delivery of the RE curriculum across the school. This is also the case with meetings held at places of worship, where members of the faith community will provide an insight into their particular faith or belief through a short presentation to members and/or tour of the building.

### b) Membership and training

Members of SACRE attended a session on the CORE Report led by Rudi Elliott Lockhart, CEO of Religious Education Council, in January 2019.

### **c) Professional and Financial Support**

A budget is provided to SACRE by the City Council to cover the priorities identified. The SACRE Chairs' Group has advised the local authority on priorities and how this funding should be spent. In 2018-19, this was used to fund the following:

- Supporting the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus
- Monitoring delivery of the Agreed Syllabus in schools
- Training for local RE teachers, including venue, hospitality and printing costs
- Salary for RE Facilitator one day a week during term time, plus expenses (mileage and resources)
- Servicing of SACRE meetings – venues, refreshments
- NASACRE annual subscription / attendance at AGM
- NATRE annual subscription
- CPD for RE Facilitator

The local authority has continued to provide annual support to SACRE with LA Officer time, a clerk and other administrative staff in order to enable SACRE to fulfil its duties.

### **e) Complaints about RE and Collective Worship**

No formal complaints were made about Religious Education or collective worship during 2018/19.

## **7. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda**

### **a) SACRE contributions to LA agenda and other agendas**

#### **1) Implementation of Agreed Syllabus**

The main priority for SACRE in 2018/19 was to continue to support schools to implement the locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, providing CPD opportunities to support teachers in this endeavour. Coventry SACRE contribute to Warwickshire SACRE's website, so that schools in both authorities can access resources and information to support them in delivering a quality RE curriculum.

#### **2) Role of RE Facilitator**

Coventry SACRE continue to support the local authority in seconding a RE Specialist Facilitator to provide support to Coventry schools and SACRE. This is a joint appointment with Warwickshire SACRE and has proved very successful, with evaluations of training sessions run in 2018-19 as follows:

Briefing Content: Excellent or Good 99%  
 Organisation: Excellent or Good 99%  
 Scheduling and Timing: Excellent or Good 91%

The RE Facilitator is in regular contact with the Local Authority officers to ensure support offered to school is appropriate in terms of content and timing.

### **3) Joint working – Coventry and Warwickshire SACREs**

Coventry SACRE has continued conversations with Warwickshire SACRE around joint working and partnership working between Coventry and Warwickshire SACRE has continued. In 2017/18 it was agreed to merge the two Chairs' Consultative Groups and this continued in 2018/19. There continues to be overlap in the membership with the two SACREs, sharing a co-chair and a number of representatives in Group A and Group B and the agreed syllabus for both Coventry and Warwickshire schools. The appointment of the RE Facilitator continued as a joint appointment during 2018-19.

### **4) NASACRE AGM**

Coventry Co-Chair and RE Facilitator attended the NASACRE AGM in May 2019 in Manchester. A verbal report was shared with SACRE members at the June meeting, with future projects in light of what was shared at the NASACRE AGM scheduled for 2019-20.

### **5) Coventry Head Teachers Primary Steering Group**

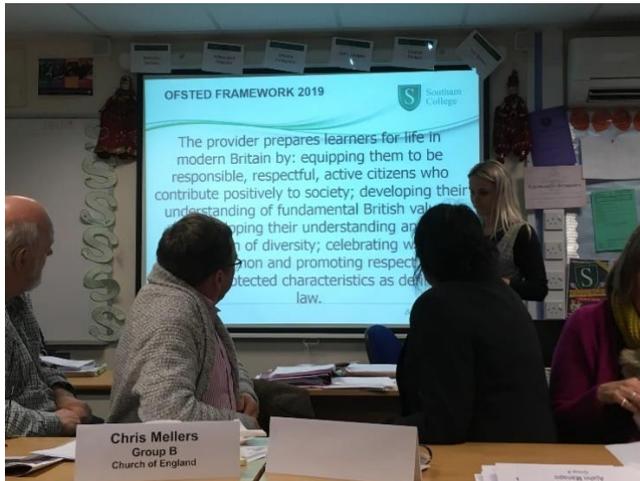
The RE Facilitator attended a meeting of the Coventry Head Teacher's Primary Steering Group, sharing what support was available for schools in terms of RE. Following this, she was invited to speak to all Coventry Head Teachers at their Summer Head Teacher Briefing in June 2019.

## **b) SACRE support to schools (events and training)**

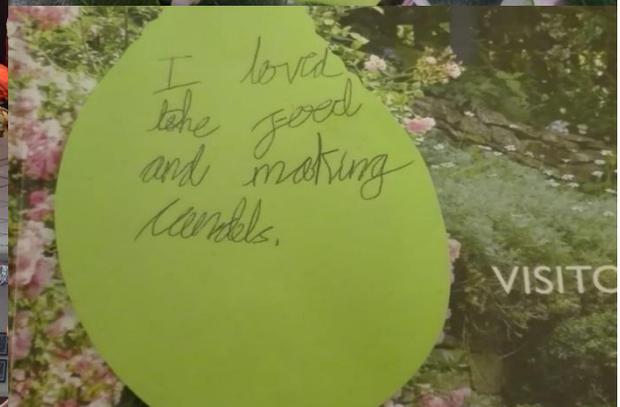
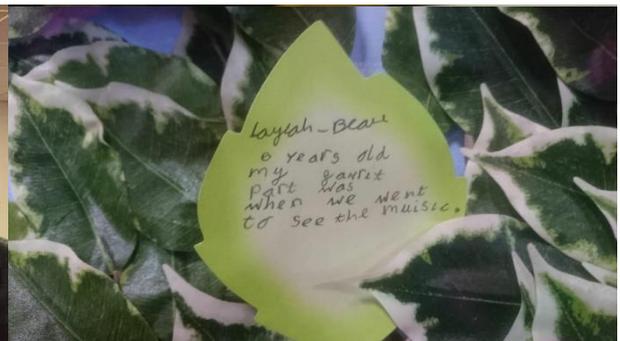
In 2018-19 4 RE Subject Leader Twilight Sessions were held on the following topics:

- Peace and Remembrance
- RE and Assessment
- RE and the Arts
- New to RE Subject Leadership

In January 2019 a joint Coventry and Warwickshire SACRE meeting was held at a local secondary school and SACRE members were able to hear a presentation about the RE department's excellent provision and exam results.



During 2018-19 SACRE created a 'SACRE-suggested visits and visitors' document in response to requests made by schools. This document aims to support schools in developing 'encounter' and learning outside the classroom as part of their RE curriculum.

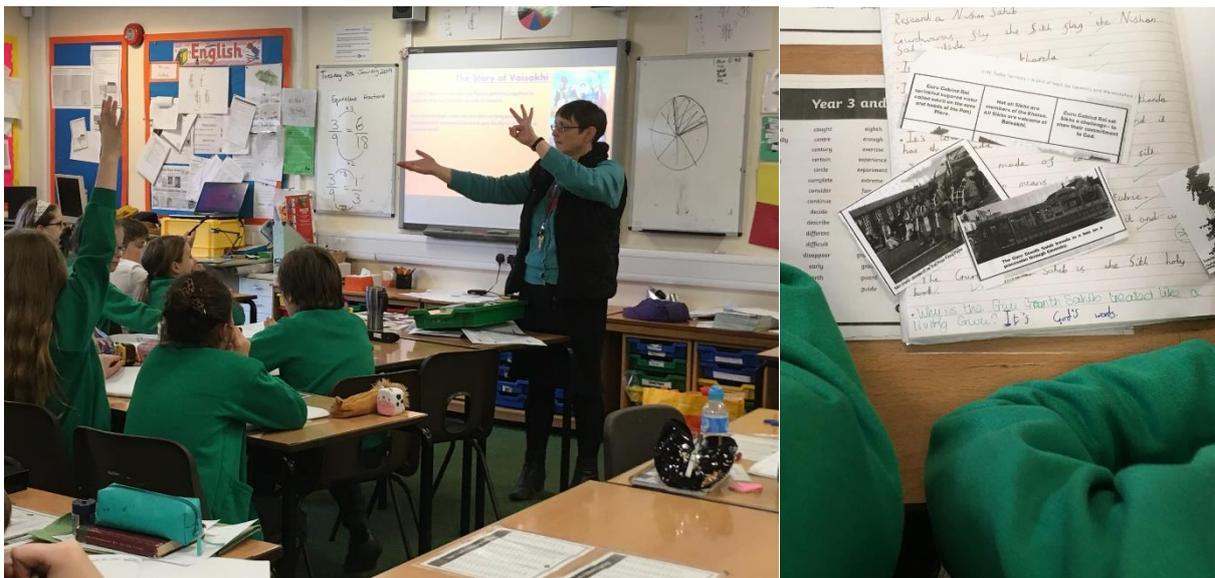


Thankyou so much for a fantastic visit. You were all so accomodating to our group who have a variety of different needs. The hands on experiences and music were brilliant for our students and everyone was so kind and helpful.

### Pupils visiting Guru Nanak Parkash Gurdwara in Coventry.

The SACRE Buddhist representative visited a primary school in October 2018. The children listened well and asked some good questions. At the end of the session one of the boys said: 'It's like you've opened a gate to show us that there's a different way to live.' He then asked if he could bow to the Buddha image. The Buddhist representative, a monk, was quite moved by this gesture.

A joint mock monitoring visit was conducted at a Warwickshire school to ensure SACRE monitoring procedures are robust and supportive. This was supported by a Coventry SACRE member with a teaching background.



A monitoring visit was offered to one Coventry school following an Ofsted report but this was postponed until 2019-20 whilst the school focused on improvements in core subjects initially.

The SACRE Chair (Sikh) and Muslim representative visited a Muslim Girls' School in Coventry and did a talk on faith groups working together. They then were shown the joint project of the Muslim school working with a Christian school and a Sikh school to do a 3-school soup kitchen project to feed the homeless of the city. The RE Facilitator attended the evaluation meeting for the project, noting the genuine friendships that had been nurtured between the girls as a result of the project.

# Year 10 pupils at Eden Girls' School provide food for residents at a centre for homeless people

BY

**Izzy Sanders**

16:05, 2 JUL 2019



Students from Seva School, Blue Coat Church of England School and Music College, and Eden Girls' school came together to provide food for a local centre helping the homeless



The students delivered the food they had cooked to Harnall Lifehouse which serves food as part of the Salvation Army service

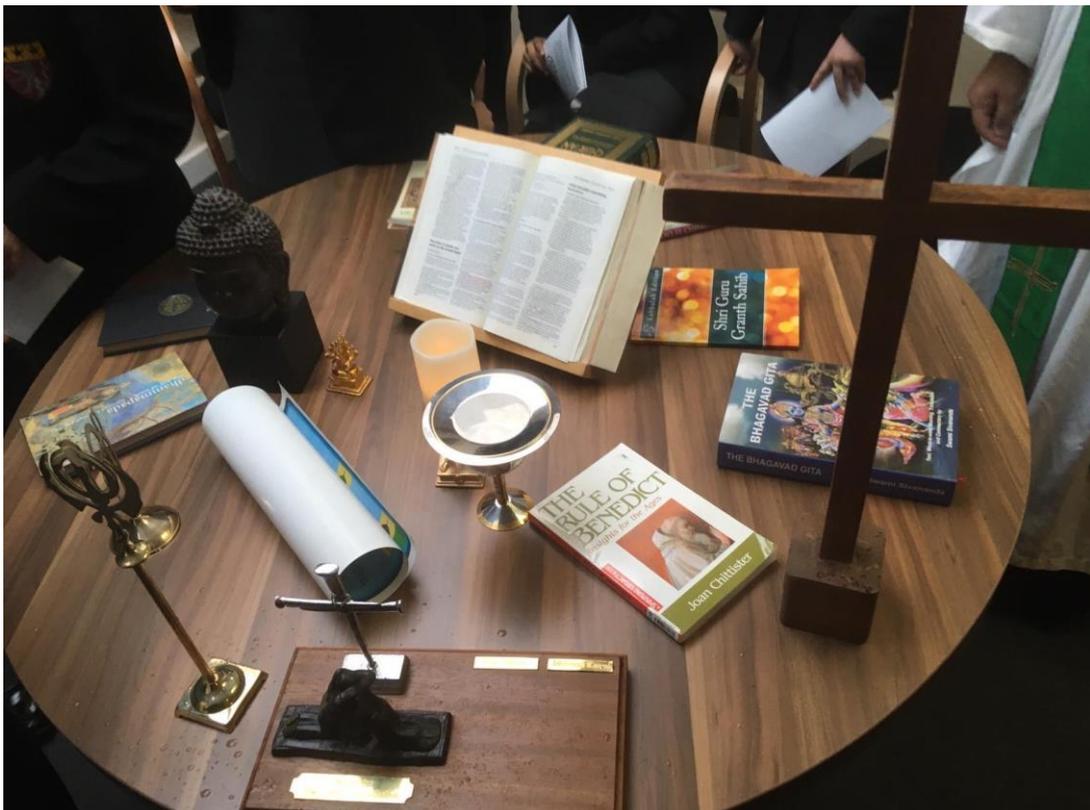
This was a joint effort, and was part of the schools' community days. The students have committed three days during their school year to help local community organisations



Three faith schools in Coventry came together to deliver this student led programme



The RE Facilitator attended the opening of a Faith Centre at an independent school in Coventry, which was also attended by the Bishop of Coventry.



Schools were made aware of Inter Faith Week 2018 and were encouraged to design and register activities to promote this in schools. This was supported by a SACRE member and member of the local Inter Faith network.

A 'Market Place' event was held at the University of Warwick in July for all teacher trainees completing their ITE so they would be well-informed of local opportunities within religious education. This was supported by RE Today, Coventry DBE, Coventry Cathedral and members of faith communities via SACRE. There are plans to repeat this during 2019-20.

COVENTRY SACRE  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

WARWICK  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL  
DIOCESE OF COVENTRY

RE Today  
Services

Warwickshire SACRE  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Rugby Interfaith Forum (RIFF)

W D F  
Warwick District  
Faiths Forum

Coventry  
Multi-Faith  
Forum

Inter Faith  
Week

← Teaching RE

Local Opportunities →

You are warmly invited to a 'market place' event where you can find out what opportunities there are for making RE visits to places of worship in Coventry and Warwickshire, who can support you with your RE teaching and make useful connections with the local RE and faith communities.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
12.00-1.00pm Centre for Teacher Education Avon Building  
University of Warwick Westwood Campus

### c) Links to broader community initiatives

During Eid, SACRE sent a letter of greetings and peace to local Muslim communities in Coventry and Warwickshire. A reply was received by Coventry SACRE Clerk from the Islamic Chaplain at Coventry University Spirituality and Faith Centre, extending gratitude and appreciation to SACRE for this gesture. Similarly, a letter was also sent out at Diwali to local Hindu faith communities. Letters were also sent to the Baha'i community for Naw Ruz, the Buddhist community for Vesak, the Christian community for Easter and the Sikh community for Vaisakhi.

Two members of Coventry SACRE and the RE Facilitator represented SACRE at the Coventry Peace Walk in 2018.

SACRE supported two exhibitions at Guru Nanak Parkash Gurdwara in Coventry based around the Sikh contribution to WW1 and encouraged schools to attend for tours and workshops.

In August 2019 SACRE Chair attended the Hiroshima Peace Day event held at Coventry Cathedral on behalf of Warwickshire SACRE and met the Japanese Ambassador.



The RE Facilitator met with representatives from two local teacher training providers to support trainee teachers and NQTs in their RE teaching. A survey for trainees was produced to allow trainees to share their experiences of teaching RE on placements and to tailor support offered in the future.

## Glossary of Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AREIAC	Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants
ASC	Agreed Syllabus Conference
C of E	Church of England
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
DfE	Department for Education
EBacc	English Baccalaureate
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INSET	In-Service Training Day
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
LOtC	Learning Outside the Classroom
NASACRE	National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education
NATRE	National Association of Teachers of Religious Education
NQT	Newly Qualified Teacher
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education
PEBBLE	Public Body Liaison Committee for British Paganism
RE	Religious Education
REC	Religious Education Council
RS	Religious Studies
SACRE	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
SIAMS	Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools
SMSCD	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

## **Appendix A**

### **SACRE Membership**

#### **Group A**

Ajahn Manapo (Buddhist)  
Jonathan Passman (Jewish)  
Helen Maoudis (Greek Orthodox)  
Bill Rattigan (Baha'i)  
Claire Rutter (Catholic)  
Pauline Lockett (Free Church)  
Eleanor Nesbitt (Society of Friends)  
Ghulam Vohra (Muslim)  
Jatinder Singh (Sikh)

#### **Group B**

Chris Mellers (Co-Chair)  
Sacha Slavic  
Joanne Evans  
Roderick Clark  
Jennifer Jenkins

#### **Group C**

Michelle Carrier  
Georgia Allen (NASUWT)  
Pam McKiernan (NEU)  
Alice Thomas (Secondary Teacher)  
Anna Jewell (Secondary Teacher)

#### **Group D**

Reverend Terry Colling  
Cllr Joe Clifford  
Manjit Kaur  
Gyll Brown – Vice-Chair

## Co-opted members

Rachel Cooper (Warwick University ITE)

## Appendix B Ofsted Report Comments on RE

Here are some examples of RE comments made on Ofsted reports on Coventry schools in 2018-19:

### Primary

*It promotes personal development, positive behaviour, spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness, and fundamental British values very well. The curriculum prepares pupils effectively for life in modern Britain.*

*Leaders have plans in place to improve the wider curriculum, including pupils' spiritual, moral, social and emotional development. However, the implementation of these plans is at a very early stage so the impact of them on pupils' development is yet to be seen. The weaknesses in the teaching of the wider curriculum mean that pupils' understanding of fundamental British values is not fully developed. Pupils have opportunities to enhance their learning through enrichment activities such as trips and visits.*

*The school's ethos and curriculum make an outstanding contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Classrooms provide a safe and secure environment where pupils are not afraid to tackle demanding work or to discuss sensitive issues.*

*Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is a significant strength of the school. Pupils show a high level of respect for all cultures. The strength of pupils' SMSC development is exemplified through pupils' views. One pupil commented, 'There are children here from many different countries but we are all one family.' Leaders and teachers take every opportunity to promote pupils' SMSC development. It is evident throughout the curriculum. As one senior leader said, 'It is the glue that sticks everything together and brings the curriculum to life.'*

*The school is a very cohesive and supportive school community. Special topics, cultural and religious festivals and celebrations and the wide range of educational visits and visitors improve pupils' knowledge and understanding of the different cultural, religious and ethnic traditions that exist in the United Kingdom and beyond. These activities make a strong contribution to pupils' social and cultural development.*

## Secondary

*Leaders' work to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding is strong. The programme to promote this aspect of the school's work is embedded well across the curriculum and further through additional activities. These include outside speakers, bespoke assemblies and focus days. Pupils value these sessions and speak highly of them.*