



# **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

## **Annual Report 2017/2018**

This report covers the work of the Cumbria SACRE  
for the period September 2017 to August 2018

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## What are SACRE's Responsibilities?

To advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with:

### 1. Religious Education (RE) This year SACRE has:

- Run a joint SACRE/RE conference for primary & secondary teachers.
- Been successful in their bid for £4,000 Westhill/NASACRE funding. Details given later in this report.
- Produced a SACRE newsletter.

### 2. Collective Worship in community schools

SACRE has published Guidance to Schools on Collective Worship, to support schools in their statutory responsibility to deliver daily acts of Collective Worship.

### 3. Determinations - To allow any exception to the law that Collective Worship be broadly or mainly Christian

SACRE has received no requests for a determination for exemption from the law.

### 4. To hear any complaints about RE or Collective Worship

SACRE hears any complaints brought to the LA about RE and collective worship. No complaints from parents were received this year.

### 5. To publish an annual report on its work

This document is the annual report for the academic year 2017-2018.

Anyone wishing to receive the minutes of termly meetings can contact Sue McGaw by email [sue.mcgow@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgow@cumbria.gov.uk) or visit Cumbria SACRE's website:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

## Who was on Cumbria SACRE in 2017-2018

**Chair:** *Jane Yates*

### Committee A: Christian denominations (other than Church of England) & other faiths

*Tina Battle (Catholic)*

*Dai Cowles (Free churches)*

*Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)*

*Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)*

*Rob Martin (Methodist) – resigned*

*Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i)*

*David Pitkeathly (Churches Together)*

*Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)*

### Committee B: Church of England

*Richard Cox*

*Susan Davies*

*Penny Hollander*

*Deborah Smith*

### Committee C: Teacher Associations

*James Douglas (NUT)*

*Brian Eaton (VOICE)*

*Carolyn Reade (NATRE & AULRE)*

*Irene Roberts-Green (Vice Chair) (NAHT)*

*Jane Yates (NASUWT)*

### Committee D: Local Authority

*Roger Bingham (Conservative)*

*Neil Hughes (Liberal Democrat)*

*Liz Mallinson (Conservative)*

*David Southward (Labour)*

*Mark Wilson (Labour)*

### Co-opted Members

*Georgia Prescott (University of Cumbria)*

*Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)*

*Karen Shankland (Primary Academy Rep)*

### LA Support Officer

*David Salmon - Clerk to SACRE*

*Sue McGaw – Admin for SACRE*

## When & where did SACRE meet?

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2017-2018 the following meetings took place:

### 17 October 2017 at James Rennie Special School, Carlisle

Attendance: 16 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 1; Committee C – 5; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 0, LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- SACRE Development Plan (Working Group)
- Westhill/NASACRE Award
- SACRE Annual Report
- SACRE Membership
- National Update

### 20 February 2018 at County Hall, Kendal

Attendance: 23 members present (Committee A – 7; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 5; Committee D – 4; Co-opted – 3; LA Officers – 2). This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- RE/SACRE Conference
- NASACRE Fees
- Westhill/NASACRE Award
- CofE Vision for Education
- National Update

### 7 June 2018 at Whitehaven Mosque

Attendance: 13 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 1; Committee C – 3; Committee D – 2; Co-opted – 0 LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Governor Training
- National Update
- Westhill/NASACRE Award update
- SACRE Conference - Feedback



## When are future meetings?

10 October 2018 – Dowdales School, Dalton-in-Furness

Spring meeting 25 March 2019 – Cumbria House, Carlisle

Summer meeting 6 June 2019 – West venue tbc

**The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2018-2019 will be:**

- Plan and deliver 2019 Agreed Syllabus conference in new format
- Trial and development of new educational resource: Buried Treasure
- Increase teacher awareness of SACRE through newsletter and social media
- Provision of governor training in RE across county
- Involvement in plans for Cumbria Lancashire joint SACRE conference in 2020
- Plan for needs based CPD programme for RE 2019-20
- Increased profile and involvement in National Association for SACRE

Non members are welcome to attend, to observe SACRE meetings. Please contact Sue McGaw (email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk)) to for confirmation of times and venues.

## **What is the SACRE Budget?**

SACRE's budget covers the cost of meetings, venue expenses, supply cover costs for teacher members, postage, photocopying, travel expenses, and subscription costs for membership of national organisations for RE. Additional resources are obtained from the County Council when necessary for the review, development and publication of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

In the year 2017-2018 the total amount spent was £1822.75: Travel expenses £985.40; Venues/Catering £203.35; Conference fees £330; Publications and Subscriptions £195; Print Unit £109.

## **What is the RE and Collective Worship support for Cumbrian schools?**

For Secondary and Primary Schools: David Salmon, General Adviser  
Tel: 07900 146836, email: [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)

## **What Professional Development Opportunities have there been?**

The following one day courses for RE ran:

### **Improving Standards in RE using the new Cumbria Agreed Syllabus**

provider Wendy Ridley – 15 November 2017 – A total of 15 delegates attended.

**Philosophy For Children**, Foundation Level 1, Day 1- provider Jane Yates  
14 March 2018 – A total of 10 delegates attended.

**Philosophy For Children**, Foundation Level 1, Day 2 – provider Jane Yates  
20 March 2018 – A total of 10 delegates attended.

### **Active and Creative RE using the new Cumbria Agreed Syllabus**

Provider Wendy Ridley – 21 March 2018 – A total of 20 delegates attended.

**Improving your Provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and British Values** – Provider Wendy Ridley – 20 June 2018 – A total of 11 delegates attended.

**Cumbria SACRE/RE Conference 2018** – provider Lat Blaylock/SACRE  
25 June 2018 – A total of 37 delegates attended.

All these CCPD events received excellent evaluations.

## **Useful Websites**

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

Twitter: @CumbriaSACRE. We welcome all schools in Cumbria to share photographic evidence of RE and Collective Worship using the hashtag #CumbriaSharingRE The Twitter account also follows the key local and national organisations for RE and will re-tweet relevant updates.



Facebook: RE Teachers in Cumbria. This is a closed group for primary and secondary teachers in Cumbria to enable an information exchange for RE and CW, training, events and new resources. Cumbria SACRE members will also use this as a forum to keep teachers updated.

## Religious Education Quality Mark – REQM

Schools can apply for three levels of the REQM award. A school's evidence and provision are assessed by an external assessor, against nationally recognised criteria. Cumbria SACRE encourages all schools to access the REQM assessment materials to use as an audit tool, even if they feel the time and cost of full accreditation is not an immediate priority. See <http://www.regm.org/> Gold Award holders in Cumbria are: Dowdales School, The Queen Katherine School and Bridekirk Dovenby C of E School

## Westhill Bid

We were one of six SACREs nationally to be successful in our bid for £4,000 of funding from the Westhill NASACRE Awards for 2018-19. Our project, Buried Treasure will involve pupils from Years 6, 7 and 8 taking part in a day event approaching sacred texts as explorers and creating a treasure chest of "gems" to be shared with others and available as a lasting resource. The resource will be showcased at the Cumbria SACRE conference in 2019.

## North North West Hub

David Salmon, (Clerk), and Dr Sheila Gewolb, (Jewish faith member), represented Cumbria SACRE at the North North West SACRE hub meetings in November 2017, March 2018 and June 2018 which took place at The Exchange, County Hall Preston.

The hub, formed in 2014, brings together smaller SACREs in the north-west region to provide reciprocal support on topical issues and share information and best practice. Other hub members in the group come from Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Cheshire West/Chester, Halton/Widnes, Lancashire, Rochdale, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan. Cumbria SACRE continues to be amongst the most active and well-supported in this group, hosting the only annual SACRE conference for RE teachers in this region.



Topics discussed over the past year included the urgent need for RE teacher training and CPD provision; the practice of withdrawal for Jehovah Witness and Mormon pupils; and feedback from the NASACRE conference in June. Cumbria SACRE was congratulated on their successful Westhill Award bid: 'Hidden Treasure and Sacred Texts', which aims to provide a context for pupils to explore different faiths, especially supporting a KS2-3 transition. Sheila Gewolb was also congratulated on being elected as a Development Officer on the National SACRE body - NASACRE. The report from the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) was due to be published in September 2018, and this would be the focus for the next hub meeting in November.

## **Cumbria SACRE RE Conference: What makes RE vital? Thinking deeply, exploring values, writing well**

*"You know when you come to a Cumbria SACRE conference, you will come away with lots of ideas you can use" Evaluation comment*

A successful SACRE conference was held at Stoneybeck Inn, Penrith on 25 June 2018 attended by 40 teachers from both primary and secondary schools across Cumbria, and members of Cumbria SACRE. We were joined again by national RE advisor, Lat Blaylock from RE Today for an engaging and productive series of sessions on thinking, values and writing. Evaluations were particularly positive about the inclusion on writing in RE.

*"Quality of writing outcomes was a new focus and extremely valuable" Evaluation comment*

After lunch, we were joined by Year 8 pupils from Morton Academy for a Q&A Inter Faith Panel with Cumbria representatives from Christianity, Islam (by previously recorded film clips), Judaism, Buddhism, Bah'ai and Humanism. This provided an opportunity for teachers to see a Q & A panel in action and develop their subject knowledge.

*"Interfaith panel was brilliant. Would be great to do in school. It also opened up ideas regarding the use of IT to have some faith reps participate via technology" Evaluation comment*



Cumbria SACRE Interfaith panel in action



Year 8 pupils from Morton Academy



Muslim rep Mohammed's filmed responses

### Series of questions prepared by Morton Y8 pupils prior to the conference

How does your faith affect your everyday life?
What is worship like in your religion?
What festival or celebration in your religion do you think is the most important?
How would you describe God?
What are your views on other religions?
What are your views on issues such as LGBTQ?
What are the main challenges for you living in Cumbria and being religious?
Have you ever found it difficult to follow your religion, especially in such a multicultural society?
What is your response to Terrorism? Is religion making it worse?
Have you ever experienced religious hate crime or prejudice?
Why do you think it is important that young people know and understand a range of different religions?
Why are Humanism and Buddhism represented in RE lessons when neither believe in God?
Were you brought up in your religion or did you become religious?
Have you ever had a moment when you questioned your belief in God because something bad had happened?
If you had one wish that meant everyone in the world would know something about your religion, what would it be and why?

SACRE is pleased to receive photographic, written or anecdotal evidence of good work in RE and Collective Worship in Cumbria's schools. If you have things you wish to share please contact Sue McGaw on 01228 226805, email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk)

Thanks to Westfield Primary and Brough School for sharing the following with SACRE

## Westfield Primary



## Brough School

In Summer Term 2018, Brough Community Primary School had a Multi-Faith Activity Day. In the morning the children spent time in their house groups learning about Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism - they danced, designed Hindu patterns, wrote their own version of the ten commandments, and enjoyed lots more activities. In the afternoon they welcomed Imran, a British Muslim and Iman, who led an assembly for the whole school followed by two excellent sessions for the older children. Imran told us all about his life in Bolton, his family, his work, his beliefs and his love for Manchester United! It was an excellent day of learning and developing cultural awareness for everyone, which resulted in the creation of a fabulous display in the school foyer.







### **Do you have any comments on this SACRE Report?**

Responses to this Annual Report from school governors, elected members, head teachers, teachers or members of the public are welcomed by SACRE. Please email David Salmon, Clerk to SACRE, [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)