

## Annual Report 2017 - 2018



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## **Introduction**

During this year Birmingham SACRE has continued with its statutory duty to advise the local authority on Religious Education and Collective Worship. This work is carried out with the support of the RE adviser Simone Whitehouse. In addition to SACRE gaining knowledge from and responding to Simone's contact and work with schools, SACRE also supports the training that Simone conducts for teachers through her work with Services for Education. Later on in the report there is a more in depth overview of one of these courses: Encountering Faiths. This course supported teachers in learning about planning a visit to a place of worship. This work is so important in that it supports the development of religious literacy and confidence of teachers and therefore their pupils to meaningfully engage with the faiths of Birmingham. This is at the heart of the Agreed Syllabus and aim of Birmingham SACRE.

During this year the local authority convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference to begin the review of the 2007 syllabus. Agreed syllabuses are statutorily reviewed every five years. The syllabus was previously reviewed in 2012, with no major changes. At the time of the present review there are a number of national matters that need to be addressed. One of the major discussions centres on the inclusion of non-religious worldviews in view of the growth in the number of people pertaining not to belong to a 'traditional belief system'. The Conference and drafting secretary are considering how non-religious worldviews will be incorporated into the dispositional approach. Another element under consideration is how to officially add a more critical element to the dispositional approach, which exists in the non-statutory planning but not in the Agreed Syllabus itself. At present these discussions consist of the addition of 'learning to discern'. A consideration will also need to be made as to how the current materials can be updated in order to respond to these changes. In the light of these discussions, it will also give the conference the opportunity to discuss how best to serve teachers by updating the website. [www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk](http://www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk)

Also during this year we acknowledged the work of two long-standing members of SACRE who due to other commitments tendered their resignations. Cllr Jon Hunt and Lucretia Fields have served SACRE for a number of years offering their valued experience and insight into working parties and committee meetings. My sincere thanks go to you both.

In addition my thanks go to all of the members of SACRE and the ASC for their time and continued efforts in supporting the delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship for the children and young people of Birmingham.

Regards,

**Guy**

**Guy Hordern**

**Deputy Chair SACRE and Chair of 2017 ASC.**

## **Full SACRE meetings during 2017-2018**

- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Agreed Syllabus Conference
- July 2018 – Agreed Syllabus Conference & SACRE

Cllr Dr. Barry Henley continued as Chair of SACRE during this year.

The practice was continued of alternating SACRE meetings between afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to accommodate the attendance of as many members as possible.

For SACRE membership (see appendix)

## **Officers**

The following people have had a function with regard to SACRE:

Simone Whitehouse,  
*RE Adviser, Services for Education*

Sarah Marshall  
*Services for Education*

Rebecca Stokes  
*Services for Education*

Natasha Lawson-Hollingsworth  
*Services for Education*

All other officers attend at the invitation of SACRE

### **The statutory role and responsibilities of SACRE:**

- To advise the Local Authority (LA) upon such matters connected with religious worship in community schools as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.
- To advise the LA upon such matters connected with religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus in community schools as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.
- To consider applications made by a head teacher for a determination which lifts the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character for some or all of the pupils at the school.
- To publish an Annual Report.
- To consider whether or not to require a review of the agreed syllabus currently adopted by the LA and to require a Statutory Conference to be called into being to review the agreed syllabus.

## Encountering Faiths

Encountering Faiths took place on 13<sup>th</sup> February. One of the aims of the course was to develop teachers' knowledge of places of worship to visit in Birmingham. An additional aim was to support teachers to have confidence in planning visits to places of worship and how to incorporate a visit into lesson planning and the dispositional approach. The 2007 syllabus refers to the city having a 'treasury of faith'. This course was designed to support teachers to access this treasury so that they have the knowledge and confidence in order to enable pupils to encounter faiths, literally on their doorstep.

Teachers were encouraged to take photographs and ask questions in preparation for a visit in an actual place of worship. This time the course took place at Central Mosque. Mohammed Islam, a trained faith guide, supported during the visit. Mohammed gave teachers a knowledgeable and accessible tour of Central Mosque incorporating elements of the building and aspects of Islam including preparation for prayer and Islamic worship. The visit was much enhanced by Mohammed's open approach and his ability to respond to the myriad of questions asked of him. Thanks Mohammed!



Teachers commented that the course was 'insightful', 'interesting' and 'It has given me the confidence to plan visits and support my pupils during a visit'.

## Three Faiths Forum



On 14<sup>th</sup> November Rich Pringle came to inform SACRE of the work of the Three Faiths Forum (3FF). Rich outlined the objectives of the 3FF in working to build religious literacy, empathy, skills for dialogue and communication with the aim to build understanding and lasting relationships between people of all faiths and beliefs.

We believe that young people should feel confident communicating and collaborating with anybody, regardless of their faith, belief, culture or background. Our Schools Programmes help young people to:

- Learn how different people **understand and live** their faiths and beliefs
- Dispel common myths and stereotypes
- Understand the **diversity within and between** different traditions
- Become more able to **ask and answer questions** in a sensitive way
- Learn to **understand and share** their own faiths and beliefs

## Our Programmes



Rich talked to SACRE about the 3FF's School Linking programme that provides opportunities for young people of different faiths and beliefs to meet and create long-lasting bonds of understanding and friendship.

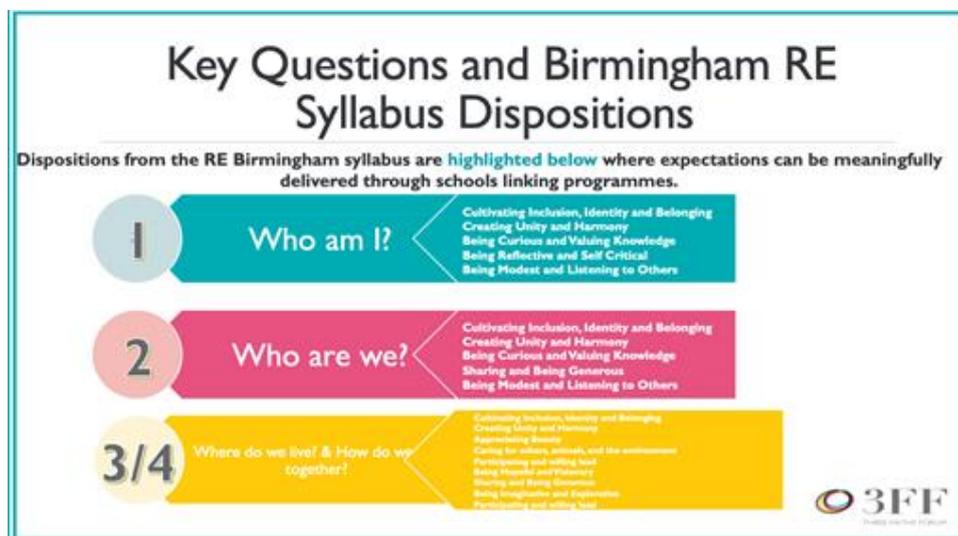
## Students on the Linking programme:

1. Take part in engaging and memorable link experiences throughout the academic year
2. Deepen knowledge and understanding of different beliefs by engaging directly with students from different backgrounds
3. Develop skills of communication, empathy and reflection

## Teachers on the linking programme:

1. Build long-lasting links with local schools
2. Receive expert interfaith guidance on the provision of SMSC in their school
3. Network with other teachers and education professionals through our programme of Continued Professional Development.

The current offer to schools is based on three days training. The first is based around the question 'Who am I?' the second day 'Who are we?' and the third day 'Where do we live and how do we live together?'. Rich and the team have personalised the materials to correspond with the dispositions of the Agreed Syllabus.



Currently there are 24 Birmingham schools that are involved in the programme.

If any schools are interested in the current work of the 3FF and Linking Programme contact:

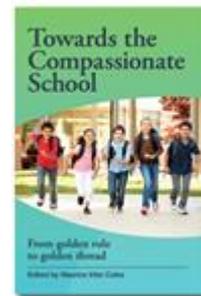
[www.3ff.org.uk](http://www.3ff.org.uk)  
[rich@3ff.org.uk](mailto:rich@3ff.org.uk)



## Collective Worship

During this year the work of the Collective Worship has continued. The training scheme proposed by the Collective Worship group was endorsed by SACRE. The scheme aims to prepare faith visitors for school visits. The programme has been devised in response to requests from Head teachers asking for lists of suitable visitors to lead acts of Collective Worship. The course will outline legal requirements, principles and address safeguarding issues that a visitor should know prior to a school visit. Members of faiths who have received training will be placed on a list of 'potential Collective Worship visitors trained by Birmingham SACRE'. This list will be held by Simone Whitehouse, the RE adviser and displayed on the website ([www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk](http://www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk)).





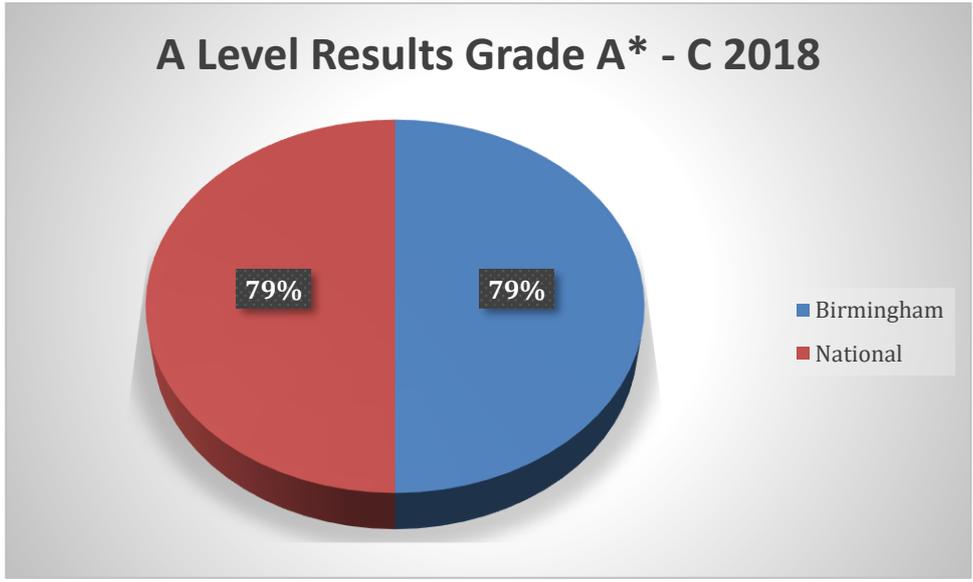
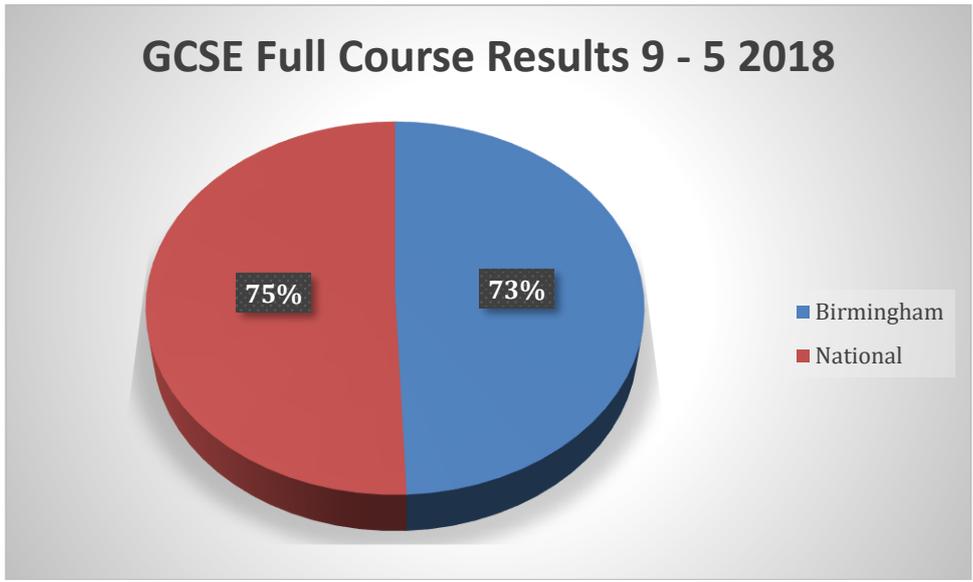
### **Compassionate Schools Conference**

SACRE was asked to present at the BCC Compassionate Schools Conference 9<sup>th</sup> February. The concept of the Conference stemming from the Co-Ed Foundation's underpinning of the Charter for Compassion: the aim of building compassionate thinking into the centre of religious, moral, political and educational life. This is further demonstrated in Maurice Cole's 'Towards a Compassionate School' publication. The premise of book being that in order to create a compassionate school, school leaders need to demonstrate compassion in how they manage and lead all aspects of school life. In 'leading through the dispositions' Paul Davies and Simone Whitehouse examined how the dispositions exemplify the majority of these characteristics. During the course of the session various examples were used to show how the dispositions could support the work of compassionate leadership in schools. For example in terms of the quality of 'Truthfulness' this was related to the disposition of 'Being Honest, Open and Truthful'. Accordingly this translates on a day-to-day level with leaders having a deep and accurate understanding of your school's effectiveness, whilst being open and honest with colleagues as to how their performance contributed to the overall effectiveness of the school.

Progressing on from this, the qualities and dispositions were then mapped out against the requirements to develop aspects of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development working through examples from the current Ofsted framework. For example if an outcome for pupils needs to be 'pupils are confident and curious about their learning' what does personal development and welfare need to look like in order for this to take place? Consequently, what will the quality of teaching, learning and assessment opportunities afford pupils? Underpinning this, what does leadership and management need to be like in order to create the ethos and atmosphere for the other elements to take place?

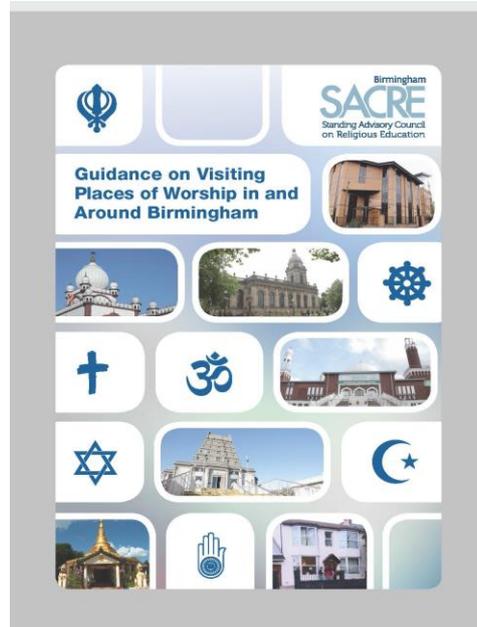
In addition to conclude the workshop case studies were shown through the work of two SACRE members. Gopinder Kaur Sagoo exemplified this manner of working through her involvement with the Nishkam Schools Trust, whilst Zahida Hussain, demonstrated how she worked as a Head teacher.

**Exam Results**



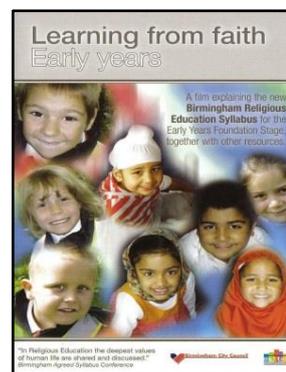
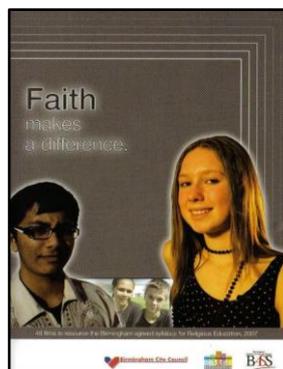
## DVDs Supporting The Agreed Syllabus And Collective Worship

To enhance the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus, and working with Television Junction, SACRE has commissioned a series of DVDs to support the syllabus.



### Teaching Resources

These include *“Faith makes a difference”* which provides over four hours of material which takes a unique look at faith through the 24 dispositions.



These are suitable for primary and secondary phases of education.

More recently, this has been augmented by *“Learning from Faith: Early Years”*.

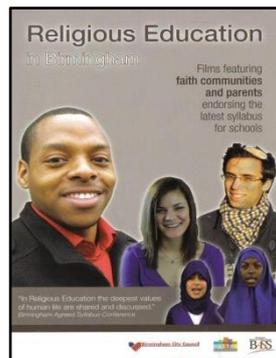
It introduces the aims and shows how the new RE syllabus can be built into everyday

practice in the Early Years phase of education.

Whilst RE is not statutory in the Early Years Foundation Stage, the film demonstrates how practitioners and leaders find the syllabus useful in planning their activities.

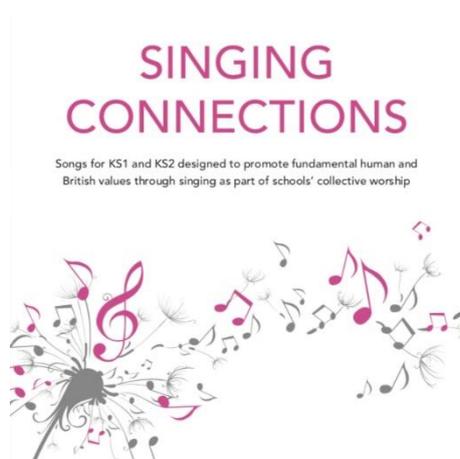
### Ownership by Parents and Faith Communities

“Religious Education in Birmingham” provides a series of films in which faith communities and parents endorse the Agreed Syllabus. *“What I like about the new Syllabus is that it takes children’s spirituality seriously.”* - **Bishop David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham**



### **Singing Connections**

Collective Worship resource developed with colleagues from the Music Service



## Determinations For Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) states that “the majority of Acts of Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character. They should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination”.

However, it recognises that, although the spiritual traditions of the country are Christian, in some schools the spiritual/cultural make-up includes significant numbers of pupils of many faith traditions.

In these schools an application can be made to SACRE for a Determination which lifts the requirement that the majority acts of collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a Christian character”.

School	Date determination Granted by SACRE	Date of Expiry/ Renewal
Adderley Primary	April 2015	April 2020
Arden Primary School	September 2014	September 2019
Birchfield Community School	September 2015	September 2020
Bordesley Green Girls’ Specialist and Enterprise School	September 2013	September 2018
Broadway School	September 2012	September 2018
Canterbury Cross Primary School	September 2015	September 2020
Kings Heath Primay School	September 2016	September 2021
Highfield JI	December 2013	January 2018
Ladypool Primary	December 2013	January 2018
Marlborough Infant School	September 2015	September 2020
Marlborough Junior School	December 2013	January 2018
Shaw Hill Primary School	September 2013 “part school”	September 2021
Wilkes Green Junior School	September 2015	September 2020
Yew Tree Community School	January 2013	January 2018

**SACRE Membership Appointments From 2017**

<b><u>COMMITTEE A</u></b>	
<b><u>NOMINATING BODIES</u></b>	<b><u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u></b>
<b>Ahmediyya Muslim Association</b>	Waqar Ahmedi
<b>Baptist Churches</b>	Revd Siôr Coleman
<b>Buddhist Community</b>	Dh Sinhavacin
<b>The New Jerusalem Church</b>	Bishop Melvin Brooks
<b>Duke Street Chapel</b>	Mrs Janet Hopton
<b>Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC)</b>	Mrs Sue Fearon
<b>Hindu Community</b>	Kuldip Singh Ubhi
	Jay Jina
<b>Jewish Community</b>	Rabbi Shmuel Arkush
<b>Methodist Church</b>	Keith Dennis
<b>Muslim Community</b>	Gulamraza Dato
	Ms Zahida Hussain
	Elaine Ashraf
	Sara Visram
	Shamin Akhtar
<b>Orthodox Church</b>	
<b>Roman Catholic Church</b>	Peter Conley
	Bill Ozanne
<b>Sikh Community</b>	Gopinder Kaur
<b>United Reformed Church</b>	Revd. Dr Marius Felderhof

<u>COMMITTEE B</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
<b>The Church of England</b>	Dr Rachel Jepson
	Mrs Patricia Williams
	Mrs Jill Stolberg
	Jill Appleton
	Canon Dr. Andrew Smith
	Evelyn Murphy

<u>COMMITTEE C</u>	
<u>NOMINATING BODIES</u>	<u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u>
<b>ATL</b>	Andrew Hopton
<b>NAHT</b>	Sarah Hewitt-Clarkson
<b>NASUWT</b>	Alan Jones
	Clare Kelly
	Jo Weir
<b>NUT</b>	Ayisha Ali
<b>ASCL</b>	Ronald Skelton
<b>Voice</b>	Jane Hetherington

<b><u>COMMITTEE D</u></b>	
<b><u>NOMINATING BODIES</u></b>	<b><u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u></b>
<b>The Local Authority</b>	Guy Hordern
	Barry Henley
	Blair Kessler
	Chauhdry Rashid
	Debbie Clancy
	Gurdial Singh Atwal
	Philip Davis
	Fiona Williams
	Blair Kessler
<b><u>CO-OPTED</u></b>	
<b><u>NOMINATING BODIES</u></b>	<b><u>NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE</u></b>
<b>Rastafarian Community</b>	Jennifer Moses
<b>Jewish Community</b>	Amanda Grant
<b>Church of the Latter Day Saints</b>	David Cook
<b>Humanist Association</b>	Adrian Bailey
<b>Higher Education</b>	Lisa Goddard

**Officers In Attendance**

*Simone Whitehouse  
RE Adviser, Services for Education*

*Sarah Marshall  
Project Manager for ASC, Services for  
Education*

*Rebecca Stokes  
Clerk, Services for Education*

*Natasha Lawson-Hollingsworth  
Project Manager for ASC and Clerk,  
Services for Education*

**SACRE Working Groups*****IT***

*Rabbi Shmuel Arkush*

***Collective Worship***

*Keith Dennis  
Zahida Hussain  
Shamin Akhtar  
Bill Ozanne  
Patricia Williams  
Jill Stolberg  
Rev Andrew Smith  
Blair Kessler  
Amanda Grant*

***Curriculum***

*Gulamraza Dato  
Zahida Hussain  
Elaine Ashraf  
Shamin Akhtar  
Gopinder Kaur  
Dr Rachel Jepson  
Jill Stolberg  
Alan Jones  
Clare Kelly  
Jo Weir  
David Cook*

***Relationships and Sexual Health***

*Sarah Hewitt-Clarkson  
Guy Horden*

***Finance***

*Rabbi Shmuel Arkush  
Revd. Marius Felderhof  
Guy Horden  
Barry Henley*