

# Bristol SACRE Annual Report 2012 - 13



The central focus for SACRE's work for 2012 – 2013 has been serving Bristol schools in offering challenging and exciting RE



With thanks to Adam Robertson who shared his Yr 5 "Angels" work at a primary RE Cluster meeting

With thanks to Horfield CofE VC Primary School, Fishponds Academy and City Academy for these images

I have looked at how different artists and musicians represent angels.

We thought how Mary might have responded to the news from Gabriel. What emotions would have run through her? How does the artist show this?

We sketched some details of angels from artists we liked. We wrote what we would see, hear and feel in the presence of an angel.

When I look at this image I see.....

It makes me feel.....

What is the artist trying to say about angels? How is it different to the other images?

How do you respond to this image?

When I look at this image I see.....

It makes me feel.....

How did this song make you feel?

What is Robbie saying about angels? What is their relationship with us?

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Annunciation*, 1855

Anthony Gormley, *Angel of the North*, 1998

Jacob Epstein, *Saint Michael*, 1958

Edward Burne-Jones, *A vision of Angels*, 1873

Robbie Williams, *Angels*, 2007

## Chair's Introduction

Welcome to our annual report 2012 – 2013

This year has certainly been another engaged and interesting year for Bristol SACRE.

We have continued to support our schools in Bristol and have had a continually meaningful relationship with LA schools and with Academies

We have offered schools training through our very successful annual RE teacher's conference which we organise jointly with South Glos. SACRE. This year we were grateful to Dilwyn Hunt who was our keynote speaker for the second year and provided the theme of the conference

**“Challenging RE: Critical Thinking”**. We also offered two extra CPD opportunities for teachers through our Secondary and Primary network meetings. We have been able to continue to employ Katy Staples as the adviser to SACRE and through her bespoke support has been given to particular schools in need of targeted action.

Sue Thompson, who had worked tirelessly supporting teachers in schools and in writing materials for the website for “Awareness Mystery and Value” (the locally agreed syllabus for RE), retired from teaching and from Bristol SACRE in July 2012 and is sorely missed. Adam Robertson has begun to offer support in the Primary RE network meetings and his gifts and inspirational ideas are being widely appreciated.

Kate Rick was the link officer for SACRE from the LA and through her practical vigilance and clear thinking she established a Service Level Agreement for the SACRE adviser and clarified that role and relationship, increasing accountability and efficiency for SACRE. However she retired in 2012 and this role has yet to be adequately filled which has meant the effective communication and reporting to and from the LA has been lacking.

This year we have responded to National Developments such as the RE Review, we have worked at developing an active meaningful SACRE Action plan which has focussed our attentions on developing locally distinctive RE and trying to ensure greater engagement in RE from faith communities and those with other world views. We were also successful in gaining a NASACRE grant for a conference about Sanctuary and Belief which links with Bristol as a City of Sanctuary and focuses on refugees' and asylum seekers' beliefs and experiences. This conference will take place in the summer term 2014.

I continue to be proud to serve as the Chair of Bristol SACRE and am grateful for the hard work and diligence of this committed group of individuals.



Esther Deans

## Executive Summary

The report meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Act, which states that:

- The council shall in each year publish a report of their functions and any action taken by representative groups on the council during the preceding year.
- The report is required to specify any matters in respect of which the council has given advice to the authority, and the nature of that advice.

The key function of SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus.

The composition of SACRE is set out in legislation.

The four groups or committees that have served for the year 2012-13:

- **Committee A**  
Kelsong Choden  
Miranda Moore  
Gordon Purdy  
Ray Bray  
Eurfron Purdy  
Paul Evans  
Zaheer Shabir  
Nassir (Mohammad-Nassir Miah)  
Sian Hancocks  
Les Fry
  - **Committee B**  
Jill Dickinson  
Jane Simpkins  
Alison Cannon
  - **Committee C**  
Esther Deans  
Adam Robertson  
Claire Roberts  
Jackie Walsh
  - **Committee D**  
Leslie Alexander  
Claire Campion-Smith  
Peter Hammond
- Christian Denominations and other faiths:**  
Buddhist  
Buddhist  
Religious Society of Friends  
Religious Society of Friends  
Methodist  
Roman Catholic  
Islam  
Islam  
Baptist  
United Reformed Church
- The Church of England:**
- Associations representing teachers:**  
Bridge Learning Campus (Chair)  
Horfield CofE VC Primary School  
Fishponds Academy  
Ashton Gate Primary School
- The local authority:**  
Conservative  
Liberal Democrats  
Labour
- Co-opted members:**  
Bernard Omar  
Lee Cottier  
Janet Orchard  
Hugo Whateley
- Bristol Interfaith Group  
Humanist  
Bristol University  
Redland High School

**Support Officers:**

Katy Staples SACRE Adviser (Telephone 0117 917 5583)  
[katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org)

**Clerk:**

Debbie Curtis Senior Office Administrator, Bristol Education Centre  
Julie Ley Administrator

Members may be nominated by appropriate organisations but are appointed by the council. Other members may be co-opted. (Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996)

**SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2012-13****16th October 2012****St Mary Redcliffe & Temple CE VA Secondary School (SMRT)****1.00-3.00pm**

- The subject leader at SMRT, Jill Dickinson, made a presentation about Religious Education at SMRT. Two Year 11 SMRT students attended this session to answer questions about RE from the group, which they did very knowledgeably and eloquently.
- Re-election of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Arrangements for local MP Stephen Williams to visit an RE lesson in a Bristol Secondary School (Bristol Cathedral Choir School)
- National Updates
- The RE Review
- Budget
- Analysis of KS4 and KS5 Exam Results
- Development Plan progress

**7th March 2013****SARI (Support Against Racist Incidents)****15 Portland Square, St Pauls BS2 8SJ****6.00-7.30pm**

This meeting was not Quorate as no Local Authority councillor was present.

- An introduction from Esther Deans about the work of SARI
- Jolana from SARI shared with the group her presentation 'Roma People – European Citizens'
- Annual Report
- SACRE Development Plan
- Work on Sanctuary and RE: feedback on meeting and sharing of new materials  
<http://www.bristoldiocesecyp.org/> and [www.bristol.anglican.org](http://www.bristol.anglican.org)
- RE Review
- Feedback from the annual conference and other CPD
- The retirement of Bernard Omar - a long serving member of SACRE (Bristol Interfaith Group)

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013**

**Bristol Jamia Mosque**

**Green Street, Totterdown, Bristol, Avon and Somerset, BS3 4UB**

**10.00am–1.00pm**

- Zaheer Shabir gave a very interesting introduction to the largest mosque in the South West
- Membership changes: Marie Hackett for Bristol Interfaith Group and Ray Bray for the Religious Society of Friends
- Development Plan progress update
- Distinctively Local RE (Sanctuary, John Wesley, and the Sisters of the Church on Ashley Road)
- Update on the National REC RE review
- Training feedback
- The Future of SACREs - a discussion of a talk given by Mark Chater at the NASACRE conference
- Our successful NASACRE bid to train young people in Bristol Secondary Schools and 6th Form Colleges to become “Ambassadors of Sanctuary and Belief”

## **Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead**

**Challenges** for SACRE include:

- Continuing to give support to teachers to ensure outstanding RE in Bristol Schools
- Maintaining schools’ engagement with local RE with increased individualisation of schools (Academies and Free Schools etc)
- Offering more targeted support for some schools
- Need to monitor compliance and standards in RE effectively particularly in the light of the changes to KS4 for some schools

**Opportunities** include:

- On-going attendance and interest of some dedicated SACRE members.
- Our forthcoming Sanctuary and Belief Conference
- Our forthcoming “Speed faithing, speed phasing” event
- On-going commitment and dedication of teachers as shown by attendance at the Secondary and Primary training opportunities and at Network meetings
- Providing exciting opportunities for schools to engage with local belief

## **1. Standards and quality of Religious Education (RE) Provision**

### **1a Compliance and time allocation for RE**

Due to the lack of information available through Ofsted reporting, it is impossible to determine the number of community schools and academies that are compliant with the statutory requirements for RE.

### **1b Public Examination entries in RE**

Results for the **2013 GCSE**:

#### **1b Public Examination entries in RE**

2684 students were entered for a public examination (Full Course or Short Course) in RE this is an increase of 573 students since last year when 2111 students were entered.

## Full Course

**1,555** students were entered for **full course** which is the highest number of students entered since 2006. In 2012 1376 were entered

Results from the 2011 full GCSE were 66.6% A\* - C which is below the national average of 72.4 % and below the results in Bristol for previous years, but a larger cohort is being entered with a greater ability range, little time allocation other than that was given to the short course in some contexts and a lack of parity of time allocation compared to other subjects.

GCSE Full Course: Pupils Achieving ...							1376	1555
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
A*-C	75	69	62	68	65	63	62	67
A*-G	98	98	94	99	95	97	97	98

Nineteen secondary and special schools entered pupils for the full GCSE.  
In Bristol eight schools results were above the national average.

St Bede's have continued the development from previous years of entering high attaining students for AS. They entered 2 students who both achieved A grades.

## Short Course

**1129** students were entered for **short course** RE which is an increase from last year.

Results from the short course were 37 A\* - C which represents the worse results for short course GCSE since 2006.

GCSE Short Course: Pupils Achieving...							735	1129
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
A*-C	40	39	46	45	51	53	53	37
A*-G	89	90	91	96	95	96	96	88

Overall 17 schools entered pupils for the RS short course.

### Key Stage 5 Religious Studies Outcomes

8 centres entered students for **AS level** in Bristol last year.

111 students were entered for AS and achieved 78%

### A level

A level numbers for 2013 are 61 which is a decrease from last year.

61% of students entered gained A\*-B

## 1c Standards and achievement quality of teaching and quality of leadership and management of RE

There are no methods for collecting verifiable evidence of levels of achievement in RE other than through public examination results.

There are no opportunities to access sufficient information to make a well-substantiated judgement on the quality of RE teaching or leadership and management of RE in Bristol schools.

## 2. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

During this year the LA and SACRE partnership has been severely impaired with the retirement of Kate Rick as link officer and with no replacement having been found. There is no-one holding the work of SACRE to account and there is no-one to whom SACRE can turn to and offer challenge about RE in the LA. SACRE has had no official budget and has just continued spending as it has done in previous years.

Bristol SACRE has maintained its partnership with other local SACREs through sharing an annual conference with South Glos. SACRE and an Agreed Syllabus with Somerset, North Somerset, and Bath & North East Somerset. Members of SACRE also attended the regional conference for SACRE held in Dillington where the current landscape for RE, the impact of the new REC RE Review, locally distinctive RE, and Collective Worship. Members of SACRE also maintain links with local interfaith groups.

### 2a SACRE development

#### CPD offered:

During the year, 3 secondary and 4 primary training opportunities were offered to teachers in Bristol:

Primary/Secondary/Venue	Date/Topic
Secondary Best Practice Learning Hub All Saints Centre	27 November 2012 4.30–5.45 Raising Standards at GCSE
Primary Cluster All Saints Centre	29 November 2012 4.00-5.30 How to be an effective Subject Manager?
Secondary Preliminary Engagement Meeting All Saints Centre	13 February 2013 Ambassadors for Sanctuary and Belief Project
Secondary and Primary RE Annual Conference Engineers House	25 January 2013 9.30 am – 3.30 pm Challenging RE: Critical Thinking Dilwyn Hunt keynote speaker RE Consultant
Secondary RE Best Practice learning Hub All Saints Centre	13 June 2013 4.30–5.45 Compelling Learning Experiences in RE
Primary Cluster All Saints Centre	13th June 2013 4pm - 5.30pm Providing Challenge: Raising standards
Secondary RE Best Practice learning Hub All Saints Centre	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2013 4.30 pm – 6pm Enquiry in RE - raising engagement - deepening thinking

## 3. The effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

During 2011 SACRE made the important decision to adopt the neighbouring (North Somerset, Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset) Agreed Syllabus “Awareness, Mystery and Value”.

The Adviser to SACRE and other teachers have been very productive in writing exemplars of good schemes of work for the Agreed Syllabus which have been loaded on the website for all teachers of RE across BANES, North Somerset and Somerset, Haringey and the Isles of Scilly to download. This hard work continued throughout 2012–13. The new agreed syllabus is now well populated with exciting exemplars which provide ideas for how effective RE can be delivered in Bristol schools.

When the new agreed syllabus has been established it will be appropriate to assess its effectiveness – but we are currently only in the first year of this agreed syllabus' life and many colleagues are still embedding their new schemes of work.

The RE Adviser has found that an increasing number of schools are seeking her support in leading staff meetings, guiding work scrutinies and clarifying what is required to make progress in RE.

#### **4. Collective Worship**

Last academic year (2011-12) we reviewed the Collective Worship guidance we offer schools in Bristol. It was decided to adopt the North Somerset guidance for Collective Worship with some amendments for Bristol Schools. Time to Breathe – offering space and stillness <http://www.bristoldiocesecyp.org/index.php/search?q=collective+worship+guidance> was sent to all schools in Bristol (electronically) and has been well received.

Headteachers and Governors continue to be signposted to training which will assist them in ensuring that students in their school have outstanding Collective Worship that will support their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

There were no determinations in force during the reporting year.

No formal complaints or other matters were referred to SACRE this year.

#### **5. SACRE as a representative, effective diverse community**

Bristol SACRE is a more effectively diverse community than it has been. However, it still lacks the appropriate representation that would fully reflect the diversity in the city.

In the last year the SACRE has worked with energy and commitment and has an action plan that will actively seek to ensure greater diversity of commitment to Religious Education throughout the city. This may result in a greater diversity of people sitting on SACRE.

Bristol SACRE has a group of committed and interested members who are seeking to ensure that the opportunities for learning that pupils gain in RE and Collective Worship are exciting and will further their ability to live peacefully and contribute constructively in our world.