

**Annual Report of the
Lancashire Standing Advisory
Council
on Religious Education
2015- 2016**



CHAIRMAN OF LANCASHIRE SACRE

SACRE Chairman's Report 2015-16



To chair the SACRE in Lancashire is a privilege because of the strength of support offered by its members, and by the Local Authority. This report is a reflection of the impact achieved by that support, and by the hard work of many individuals in our schools.

A year ago, I wrote of the great contribution made by our Officer Jonathan Hewitt. His successor Alison Lloyd has already found the best ways to harness the talent of our outstanding teachers, as she has led the review of the

Agreed Syllabus. I register here my admiration and gratitude, on behalf of all our members.

Our clerking has passed to the talented team led by Misbah Mahmood, whom I thank for coping so ably with the many procedural and date-related complications involved in running the SACRE.

Peter Martin
Chairman, Lancashire SACRE

Role of SACRE

The role of the SACRE is:

- To provide advice to the LA on all aspects of its provision for R.E. in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided Schools);
- To monitor the effectiveness and appropriateness of the LA's Agreed Syllabus for R.E, decide when it needs to be reviewed and require that the LA carries out such a review, at least every five years;
- To provide advice to the LA on Collective Worship in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled Schools);
- To consider any requests from Head teachers to hold Collective Worship that is not of a broadly Christian character.
- To advise on matters relating to continuing professional development (training) for teachers in R.E. and Collective Worship;
- To provide advice on methods of teaching in R.E;
- To provide advice on the choice of teaching materials for R.E;
- To monitor the effectiveness of R.E. and Collective Worship in community schools

Advice

SACRE has provided advice to the local authority on a range of matters relating to policy and provision for religious education. For example

- Providing recommendations on the variety of professional development and breadth of support provided to schools.
- Requesting ongoing evidence in order to accurately evaluate the quality of provision and standards of attainment in RE

SACRE has provided advice to schools through the officer to SACRE on a number of issues relating to the use of the Agreed Syllabus and their statutory duties in the teaching of RE. Schools have responded well to the advice provided.

SACRE has not given any advice to HM Government on RE during the past academic year.

Complaints

SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE and Collective Worship. No such complaints were received in the past year.

Support for SACRE

The Lancashire SACRE is supported the following officers of the County Council:

Mrs A Lloyd – LA Officer – Special Support Adviser
Misbah Mahmood – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Katie Harrison – Democratic Services Officer

SACRE continues to be well support by the Local Authority. Bids are generally submitted and approved on an annual basis. During the 2015/16 financial year £37692 was allocated to the SACRE budget. This money has been used to pay for the services of RE consultants and the Faith Coordinator, the time of the LA Officer, Administrative support, supply cover for teachers supporting the work of the SACRE, conference costs and the purchase of IT support for the development of a new website.

Meetings of Lancashire SACRE

Lancashire SACRE met four times over the year. Minutes of the meetings can be accessed on the SACRE web site

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgOutsideBodyDetails.aspx?ID=385>

A list of members and their attendance at these meetings can be found in **Annex A**.

Quality and Standards Sub-Committee

The QSS meets between meetings of the full SACRE to drive forward the SACRE's business. Reports of QSS meetings are considered by the full SACRE and are available on the RE web site [as above].

The main purpose of the QSS is to provide advice to the Local Authority, monitor the implementation of the development plan, consider changes to policy, respond to the work of other agencies and national reports, promote and champion religious and community harmony and evaluate attainment and the quality of provision in RE.

Quality of provision and attainment

SACRE recognises the high quality of religious education in Lancashire schools and appreciates schools' support in gathering end of key stage data.

2016 has been the final year that Lancashire SACRE has requested attainment to be measured against the 8 level scale and attainment targets 1 and 2. A statutory review of the Agreed Syllabus and accompanying assessment arrangements has now been undertaken and new guidance provided in response to the national removal of levels. For schools to become confident in the new methods of assessment, Lancashire SACRE are aware that a comprehensive training programme will need to be rolled out over the next twelve months accompanied by simple policy guidelines posted on the new website.

Good standards of attainment have been maintained.

KS1

83% of pupils met the expected standard in target 1 – Learning about Religion
81% of pupils met the expected standard in target 2 – Learning from Religion.

KS2

83% of pupils met the expected standard in target 1 – Learning about Religion
82% of pupils met the expected standard in target 2 – Learning from Religion.

Comparisons with local and national results for the core subjects are currently not reliable. Children sitting the KS2 tests in 2016 were the first to be taught and assessed under the new national curriculum. The expected standard has been raised and the accountability framework has also been changed. For example, the proportion of pupils who nationally met the expected standard for their age in reading was 66%, in writing 74% and in mathematics 70%.

KS3

This stable picture of attainment is also consistent with results reported at KS3 however data has not been generated from a sizeable group of schools so must be treated with some caution.

80% of pupils reached the expected level of attainment in both attainment targets which constitutes a 6% reduction on standards reported in 2015.

Lancashire secondary schools have been quick to adapt to changes in national assessment arrangements. Most schools have developed their own assessment models for the KS3 curriculum which no longer align with the 8 level scale and attainment targets 1 and 2. It will be important for the SACRE to ensure that future monitoring requests are in a format that is accessible to all schools regardless of their individual assessment procedures.

KS4

The number of pupils entered for the full GCSE course in all Lancashire schools rose from 7755 in 2015 to 7988 in 2016. Attainment in Lancashire's Schools remained significantly above the national average with 72% of pupils gaining a GCSE at grade A*-C compared with 70% nationally.

Progress was also positive. The value added measure for grades A* - C was +1% which was also significantly above the national average (0%).

Once again, disadvantaged pupils (those eligible for pupil premium funding) did not perform as well as others within Lancashire.

Students of Asian heritage made the most progress when compared to other ethnic groups.

27% of pupils gained a grade A*-A in Religious Studies (30% 2015)

In May 2016 a report was presented to SACRE on the quality of provision in RE in Lancashire's community and voluntary controlled schools. This report reviewed

attainment in schools and also used OfSTED inspection reports to monitor the quality of provision. The main findings of this report were as follows:

- More than 80% of pupils reached Level 2 or above at the end of Key Stage 1 in 85% of primary schools reporting results.
- Fewer than 70% of pupils reached the expected level at the end of Key Stage 1 in 10% of primary schools reporting results.
- More than 80% of pupils reached Level 4 or above at the end of the key stage in 84% of primary schools reporting results.
- Fewer than 70% of pupils reached the expected level at the end of Key Stage in 9% of primary schools reporting results.
- Feedback from OfSTED inspections indicates that provision for pupils' personal development, including their awareness of cultural issues, is effective. It also suggests that schools place a high priority on pupils' personal (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) development.

In 2015/16 members of the SACRE undertook a number of informal visits to schools in order to celebrate exemplary practice and see teaching, learning and assessment in action. Details of visits are fed back to the full SACRE at their termly meetings.

In order to gain a greater understanding of the quality of RE provision in Lancashire, SACRE aim to:

- Consider how to broaden the methods used to monitor standards and the quality of provision, taking ideas from NASACRE and other agencies.
- Develop school to school support so that exemplary practice can be shared.
- Continue to consult with teachers and pupils in relation to:

Professional development needs

The effectiveness of support for teaching RE

The strengths and weaknesses of the Agreed Syllabus

The strengths and weaknesses of support for Collective Worship

In order to sustain and further develop the quality of RE in Lancashire SACRE aim to:

- Continue to provide a range of support for schools in the teaching of RE which respond to school needs
- Develop new approaches to assessment in RE and provide support for schools on assessing RE
- Ensure that the revision of the Agreed Syllabus for RE continues to meet the needs of schools and their pupils

Agreed Syllabus Conference

The ASC met six times over the year to undertake a review of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Education. Although only minor amendments were made to the existing syllabus ("Searching for Meaning") considerable effort was made to develop new materials to support the effective delivery of the Field of Enquiry.

The new 2016 syllabus together with exemplar plans, assessment guidance and new materials to support subject knowledge was launched at a Conference of 10th November at Woodlands Conference Centre. The syllabus and new materials are accessible via a new password protected website.

Lancashire SACRE intend to relaunch the RE newsletter in 2017 so that schools are kept informed of local, national and regional developments in the subject.

Currently three local authorities, and a growing number of academies and out of county schools subscribe to the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.

Lancashire SACRE are indebted to Joanne Harris and Jo Crabtree (locally recognised RE experts) for their tireless efforts on writing new materials and their commitment and support for RE across Lancashire Schools.

Lancashire SACRE also acknowledge the work of following teachers in Lancashire who supported the development of new assessment and planning materials.

Karen Crawshaw (The Rhyddings Business and Enterprise School)
Sonia Brooks (Marsden Heights)
Shelley Gendler (Holy Trinity Primary School, Stacksteads)
Janis Wildeman (Moor- End Primary School Oswaldtwistle)
Rebekah Fielding (St Paul's Constable Lee, Rawtenstall)
Joanne Watson (Gillibrand Primary School, Chorley)

Support for schools

The county continues to offer a highly regarded support programme for teachers of RE. This includes:

- Consultancy and Support
- A marketed course programme
- Support through network meetings for teachers of RE

Throughout 2015/16 consultancies and marketed courses have been provided to support subject leaders in implementing the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus and leading training on the effective teaching and assessment of RE.

Termly network meetings have concentrated on unpicking assessment, discussing the progressive teaching of Islam and how to be creative in the classroom.

All network groups are affiliated to the National Association of Teachers of RE.

RE Quality Mark

Lancashire SACRE has been pleased that the following schools in Lancashire have a current REQM.

Gold Award

Springfield Primary School, Burnley

St Christopher's High School Accrington
St Michael's C of E High School, Chorley.
Clayton le Moors All Saints Primary

Silver Award

Newburgh Church of England primary School
St Matthew's C of E Primary School Preston
St Augustine of Canterbury, Burnley
St Andrews C of E Primary Accrington

Bronze Award

Green Haworth Church of England Primary School
Trumacar Community Primary School

This takes the total number of schools in Lancashire gaining the RE Quality Mark to nine. If you are interested in gaining this award, details of how to apply are available on <http://reqm.org/>

Youth Voice

Young people remain key partners to Lancashire SACRE however due to the time taken revising and launching the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus there was not the opportunity to host a Youth Conference in 2016.

The views of pupils in relation to the strengths and weaknesses of the 2011 syllabus were gathered during the 9th Conference in 2015. These views were taken into account when the revision took place.

Although there was not the capacity to host a youth conference a number of schools have appointed RE ambassadors to act as a student voice and to promote RE. Students from Broughton High School attended a student debate on RE held at Westminster in July 2016.

Through the Faith Centre's 'Faith Friends' project, the SACRE has been able to engage pupils from numerous secondary schools across East Lancashire.

The 'Faith Friends' programme is a unique project whereby two people of different Faiths work in a school/college for four hours a week. The Faith Friends work with school leaders to develop extra-curricular projects, promoting leadership, inspiring Interfaith activities and exploring spirituality.

The Project has been operating in four schools/colleges and has developed a Faith Ambassadors programme. Young people from the different schools regularly come together to get involved in social action, religious and cultural events and challenge behaviours and stereotypes in their own schools.

Through the use of the 'Pupil Attitude Questionnaire' Lancashire SACRE is able to evaluate pupils' attitudes to other cultures and racist behaviour. An evaluation of data for 2015/16 indicates that:

Around 96% of Y6 pupils say that their school helps them understand and care about other people. This has been consistent over the past 3 years.

Around 96% of Y6 pupils are positive about the lack of racist behaviour in school. This has been consistent over the past 3 years.

Around 84% of Y9 pupils say that their school helps them understand and learn about other cultures. This has improved by around 2% over the past 3 years.

Around 86% of Y9 pupils are positive about the lack of racist behaviour in school. This has improved by 2% over the past 3 years.

Around 78% of Y11 pupils say that their school helps them understand and learn about other cultures. This has improved by 5% over the past three years.

Around 88% of Y11 pupils are positive about the lack of racist behaviour in school. This has improved by 6% over the past 3 years.

Collective worship

Collective Worship has continued to be an area of importance for Lancashire SACRE.

The Lancashire guidance for Collective Worship; Mirrors and Doors 2, gives support as well as guidance to Lancashire schools, providing proformas and ideas to create meaningful acts of collective worship. This is available on line to eligible schools www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/ and is password protected.

Determinations

Determinations are made where a school, on behalf of a number of parents, requests Collective Worship other than that set down by statute. No such requests have been received by SACRE during the past year.

Contribution to the Wider Diversity Agendas

Lancashire SACRE reflects the religious and ethnic diversity of the local/regional community. Time has been spent by the full SACRE and its QSS sub-committee to ensure that membership serves the needs of Lancashire Schools and supports the Lancashire Agreed RE Syllabus. Attendance is regularly reviewed and reported upon (see appendix). Faith representatives are fully involved in the work of the SACRE and attend conferences, courses and network groups. For example our Hindu representative is the Chair of 'Community Together' and has forged positive links with local universities and colleges in order to engage students with the diversity of the local community

Lancashire SACRE aim to plan at least one meeting at a place of worship each year.

Community Cohesion

Lancashire SACRE recognises the valuable contribution Religious Education makes to community cohesion and building bridges between different communities.

Lancashire SACRE works innovatively with the Faith Centre to boost inclusion, community cohesion, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different religions and non-religious world views.

The Faith Centre Coordinator is a co-opted member of the SACRE and provides a unique service to schools across Lancashire. The Faith centre helps to deliver the Agreed Syllabus by bringing RE to life. Over the past twelve months over 50 schools across the county have been engaged in activities through the Faith Centre including academy schools, faith schools and further education providers.

Schools are able to take part in special event assemblies, visits from faith leaders, visits to places of worship, interfaith week celebrations, staff/governor training around controversial issues, community engagement and social action projects through Faith Ambassadors, as well as targeted support for hard to reach groups within their schools and providing links with other schools.

The Faith Centre leads on delivering activities during Interfaith Week, engaging schools through the annual RE Showcase. The Centre also supports schools with transition projects through the 'Faith Friends' programme. The Faith Friends support the school with RE bringing the curriculum to life by making connections between life and learning. The Faith Friends interact with the pupils and act as positive role models to demonstrate that two people of different faiths, backgrounds and cultures can be Friends thus contributing to community cohesion in the school/college and therefore in the wider community.

Additionally the Faith Centre coordinator is an approved Home Office WRAP trainer and has supported numerous schools with delivery of staff/governor training and facilitated the delivery of a community based 'Women for Peace Building' Project and Community 'Reach' projects at the Faith Centre.

As a result the impact of the Faith Centre's work in bringing communities together and promoting fundamental British Values has been recognised by OFSTED during a number of school inspections.

Links with Other Agencies

Lancashire SACRE continue to maintain positive links with a number of agencies namely:

The Lancashire Association of School Governing Bodies.

The Chair of the SACRE delivered a presentation to LASGB in March 2016 to raise awareness of the importance of RE and the revision of the syllabus.

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

The LA officer and Chair of the SACRE attended the NASACRE conference in London in May 2016. Pertinent points from the key- note speeches of Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss and Professor Adam Dinham were shared with the full SACRE.

Diocesan Groups

Lancashire SACRE maintains positive links with Diocesan groups e.g.
Anglican – Blackburn and Liverpool
Roman Catholic – Liverpool and Salford.

NATRE and RE Today

A number of SACRE members have strong links with NATRE and RE Today. This ensures that all members are continually updated with new national developments in the teaching and assessment of RE.

Consultants from RE Today have strong links with Lancashire and were the key note speakers at the syllabus launch conference in November 2016.

Universities

It is the intention of Lancashire SACRE to re build positive links with local universities as part of the 2016/2017 development plan. This would involve using the expertise of university lecturers and raising the profile of RE with students and supporting Initial Teacher Training.

North, North West Hub

During the year Lancashire SACRE continued to host a network meeting consisting of a number of SACREs in the northern part of the North West region to raise issues of common concern and share good practice and ways of working together. The meeting was attended by representatives of SACREs in Halton, Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, Cumbria, Lancashire, Warrington and Wigan and was well received.

Areas discussed included:

- Responses to national issues
- Assessment in RE
- Reviewing the Locally Agreed Syllabus
- Determinations
- Monitoring of standards and provision
- The Young Ambassadors for RE scheme
- Constitution of SACREs
- Strategies to support one another in developing professional development in RE

This initiative will be taken forward in the coming year.

National Reports

The following national reports were considered by Lancashire SACRE over the year:

- The High Court Ruling on RE - Nov 2015
- The House of Commons Briefing paper on Religious Education- Jan 2016
- Living with Difference – community, diversity and the common good -Dec 2015

Future targets for Improvement

Lancashire SACRE undertake an annual self-evaluation exercise. Progress in implementing the development plan is evaluated and future priorities for improvement agreed. Annual use is made of the NASACRE RE Tool.

As a result of this annual exercise the following areas for improvement were agreed:

To raise standards by improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education.

Measures of Success

- The 2016 Agreed Syllabus is successfully launched and implemented across Lancashire schools.
- Teachers across Lancashire are confident in planning a Field of Enquiry and have access to an ongoing programme of high quality training and CPD
- Effective RE subject leadership is promoted so that schools can independently sustain their own improvement.
- A system of school to school support is established so that good practice can be shared.
- A new assessment system is implemented which results in reliable judgements about pupil achievement.
- An increasing proportion of schools in Lancashire are awarded an RE quality mark.
- Better systems of communication are established with Lancashire schools so that updates, ideas and resources are more easily disseminated.

The SACRE works in effective partnership with the LA to monitor and evaluate standards and the quality of provision for RE in Lancashire schools

Measures of Success

- Appropriate systems are established to monitor pupil achievement based on reliable assessment.
- New methods to monitor the quality of provision in RE are trialled.

To improve the provision of Collective Worship

Measures of Success

- All Lancashire schools are aware of the 'Mirrors and Doors' support materials and guidance.
- The SACRE has a clear procedure established to ensure an efficient response to requests for disapplication.

To ensure that the SACRE is effectively managed and works in close cooperation with the LA and other key stakeholders.

Measures of Success

- SACRE meetings are purposeful and well represented.
- Effective induction procedures ensure that new members are clear of expectations and know how to contribute.
- All Lancashire schools are clear of the role of the SACRE.
- Consideration is given to how SACRE can build a positive relationship with academies across Lancashire.
- The SACRE works positively in partnership with key local and national stakeholders.

To develop the contribution of RE to Community Cohesion

Measures of Success

- Teachers are well supported through training and resources on how to tackle controversial issues.
- The SACRE actively supports schools in promoting British Values and developing spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Positive links are developed with people of different faiths, beliefs and traditions.

APPENDIX 1

SACRE Dates of Meetings and Record of Attendance for 2015/16

During the academic year 2015/2016, the Lancashire SACRE met on four occasions. The dates and frequency of the meetings are determined by the SACRE itself in relation to what has become a customary pattern. The dates of the meetings during the year and numbers attending according to records are detailed below. Members are encouraged to check that the records present a true record for accuracy purposes:

Name	29/09/15	23/11/15	22/02/16	27/06/16	Total
Officers					
Alison Lloyd	N/A	√	√	√	3
Representing the Roman Catholic Church					
Ms Jo Busby	Apologies	√	√	√	3
Mr Ben McMullen	Apologies	√	Apologies	Apologies	1
Mr Steve Jones	Apologies	Absent	Absent	Absent	0
Representing the United Reformed Church					
Mr Colin Wills	Absent	√	√	√	3
Representing the Methodist Church					
Mrs Anita Corinne Tidswell	Absent	√	Absent	√	2
Representing Assemblies of God					
Mr Pete Baker	Apologies	√	Apologies	√	2
Representing Islam					
Mr Nasrullah Anwar	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	0
Miss Iffat Hussain	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	0
Mr Salim Jogi	Absent	Apologies	Absent	Absent	0
Mr Hussain Mulla	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	0
Mr Z Anwar	Absent	Absent	Apologies	Absent	0
Representing Hinduism					
Mrs Harsha Y Shukla	√	√	Apologies	√	3
Vijayanti Chauhan	Absent	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Mr Ishwer Tailor	N/A	√	√	√	3
Representing Judaism					
Mr Ephraim Guttentag	Apologies	Absent	Apologies	Absent	0
Representing Buddhism					
Kelsang Pagpa	Apologies	√	Absent	Absent	1
Representing the ASC					
Mr Peter Martin (Chair)	√	√	√	√	4
Representing the NUT					
Ms Jo Crabtree	√	Apologies	√	Absent	2
Representing the NAHT					
Mr David Fann	Apologies	N/A	√	Absent	1
Representing the ATL					
Mrs Alice Robinson	Apologies	√	√	√	3

Representing the Church of England					
Mrs J E O'Rourke	√	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	1
Mrs Helen Sage	√	√	Apologies	Apologies	2
Mr John Wilson	√	√	√	√	4
Ms Lisa Horobin	Apologies	√	√	√	3
Mrs Moira Pate	√	√	√	√	4
Representing Lancashire County Council					
Mr Francis Williams	√	√	√	√	4
County Councillor Peter Buckley	Apologies	√	√	√	3
CC A Cheetham	√	√	Absent	√	3
CC K Ellard	√	√	Apologies	Apologies	2
CC Y Motala (Vice-Chair)	√	√	√	√	4
Teachers in the Secondary Sector					
Ms Joanne Harris	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Absent	0
Representing the LASGB					
Mrs Kathleen Cooper	Apologies	√	√	√	3
Representing NATRE					
Ms Jacquie Clarke	Apologies	Apologies	Absent	√	1
Representing Higher Education Sector					
Mr Francis Farrell	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	0
The Faith Centre					
Mr Afrasiab Anwar	N/A	N/A	Apologies	√	1
Representing the Bahá'i Faith					
Dr Malcolm Craig	Apologies	√	√	Apologies	2
Representing the BHA					
Ms Jackie Jarvis	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	0
Representing Pagan Federation					
Mr Andrew Brennand	Apologies	√	Apologies	Apologies	1
Representing the NASUWT					
Ms Julie Roper	N/A	Absent	Absent	√	1

APPENDIX 2

Mission Statement of the Lancashire SACRE

To offer Lancashire Local Authority high quality, informed advice in relation to the provision of both Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools.

Values

In undertaking its statutory functions, the Lancashire SACRE will

- Value and promote religious and community harmony and the establishment of positive partnerships
- Recognise, respect and value the individual beliefs, perspectives and talents of its members
- Recognise itself as a valuable resource to support the development of both Religious Education and Collective Worship in Lancashire schools.

Aims

The Lancashire SACRE has agreed the following statement of aims

1. To promote a positive image of Religious Education and the valuable contribution that it can make to young people's education and personal development.
2. To maintain and develop further the status of Religious Education in Lancashire schools encouraging schools to see it as an effective, important and relevant part of the education that children receive.
3. To recognise and celebrate high quality provision of both Religious Education and Collective Worship in Lancashire schools and to disseminate good practice.
4. To promote processes of learning, discussion and reflective thinking which enable pupils to 'Learn from Religion' and to apply their learning, experience and thoughts to aid their understanding of the communities and world in which they live.
5. To promote learning which enables pupils to explore what religious belief involves and to develop positive values and beliefs by which to live their lives.
6. To encourage schools to develop an explicit and planned approach which enables both Religious Education and Collective Worship to make an effective contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and physical development.
7. To promote high quality advice and training based on 'Best Value' principles to secure high standards of teaching and learning, high teacher expectations and the raising of pupils' achievement.
8. To ensure that SACRE members are well informed and aware of current thinking in both Religious Education and Collective Worship.
9. To monitor and evaluate
 - The advice, support and training provided to schools
 - Standards of both Religious Education and Collective Worship provision to schools
 - The implementation of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus, and
 - The effectiveness of the Lancashire SACRE.

