

Telford & Wrekin Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual Report for Academic Year 2012/13

1. Telford & Wrekin SACRE – constitutional details

1.1 Officers: Chair: Michael Mottram Vice Chair: Ben Hollas
RE Consultant: Joan Furlong
Assistant Director Education & Corporate Parenting: Jim Collins
Clerk: Phil Smith

1.2. Committee A: Other Christian Denominations / other Faiths

Mrs J Osmund- Smith	Baptist Church
Pastor Josie	Free Gospel Church
Mr David Rolfe	Religious Society of Friends
Mrs Cathy Pocock	Salvation Army
Mr Ajmer Singh	Sikhism
Mr Bill Morris	Greek Orthodox
Dr Eve Clevenger	Judaism
Mr Henry White	Methodist
Mr Qamar Maqsood	Islam
Mr Austin Atkinson	Roman Catholic
Mrs Madhu Venkat	Hinduism
Mrs Sylvia Bailey	United Reformed Church

Committee B: Church of England

Mr Phillip Sell	Hereford Diocese +vacancy
Mrs Joan Furlong	Lichfield Diocese
Mr Ben Hollas	Lakeside Academy

Committee C: Teachers' Associations

Ms Sam Fothergill	NUT
Mr Michael Mottram	ATL
Mrs Mary Jennings	NASUWT

Committee D: LA Members

Cllr Kevin Guy	Councillor
Cllr Amrik Jhawar	Councillor
Cllr Leon Murray	Councillor

Co-opted:

Mrs C Smith	Humanism
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1.3 Quorum. The quorum is one member from at least three of the groups, with a total presence of no less than one third of the members.

2. Administrative Matters

- 2.1. There have been three meetings of the SACRE in the academic year 2012 / 2013 since the last report. Minutes of all the meetings are available on application to the Clerk, Telford & Wrekin Council, Democratic Services, Darby House, Telford. Meetings are open to the public.
- 2.2. With the change in venue of various LA support services, it was with great relief that the Multi-Cultural resource centre, with all its resources and space to hold RE network meetings and the SACRE was kept at Hollinswood Primary. Thanks were expressed to Jim Collins for managing this decision, and preserving the status, role & continuity of RE provision for schools.

3. RE advisory support

- 3.1. **Joan Furlong** 's contract as Telford & Wrekin RE consultant – 10 days a year – was renewed for the academic year. She is able to be contacted by email or phone for individual school support. Her details are on the Learning Platform.
Joan.furlong@telford.gov.uk 01952 404381 07896 898179
Joan.furlong@lichfield.anglican.org
She has no budget for this work. An accountability paper for her time is attached.
- 3.2. **The RE networks** for Secondary, Special and Primary schools have each met three times in the year. Primary meetings are held in the RE resource room at Hollinswood Primary, Secondary meetings are held at Blessed Robert Johnson. 75% Secondary RE managers have attended and 40% of primary RE co-ordinators. Colleagues have been very appreciative to have such support. Secondary meetings tend to focus on national issues, examination issues and LA issues. Primary meetings have focused on Teaching Core Beliefs in Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, and Hinduism, followed by teaching core concepts from these religions. It was agreed that Judaism & Buddhism would be taught at Key Stage 3.(see 3.5.)
- 3.3. 2 primary schools have had **RE reviews** with Joan and 1 school **staff inset on CW**.
- 3.4. A **central course** at Teagues Bridge for primary schools entitled 'Worldwide Christianity' - to ensure Christianity is presented as a worldwide faith, within many countries & cultures- was attended by 13 schools.
- 3.5. **The review of the RE Agreed Syllabus** has been discussed with all schools. It was decided that the most urgent need was a primary scheme of work, to ensure consistency of religious experience, teaching, and the highest possible achievement in RE at the Primary level. Lat Blaylock (RE Today Consultant) has been contracted to do this work, 28 RE units, 4 each for R, yr1,2,3,4,5,for £4,500 - implementation September 14. There has been a very positive response to the 2 units seen so far. Joan has oversight of this work. Thanks go to Jim Collins for finding finance to cover this project.
- 3.6. **Prayer Spaces in schools**
This initiative in secondary schools has made a great contribution to SMSC (spiritual, moral, social, cultural development) Two talented teams of volunteers are regularly providing this experience at Hadley Learning Centre, Burton Borough, Newport Girls Academy, Adams Academy. Annual training courses have been held at Admaston House for teachers – run by the 'Prayer Spaces' and 'Sacred Spaces' in schools teams. Other academies are interested in implementing this.

3.7. **Beacon School Status for RE**

This has been successfully implemented, Lakeside Academy was the first to receive GOLD status, swiftly followed by Haughton and Southall Special schools. Each school was visited by 2 SACRE members. An evaluative report was written for each school and accreditation given by SACRE itself. 3 academies and 2 church primary schools have applied for accreditation academic year 13/14.

3.8. **Analysis of Secondary RE results**

We congratulate schools on their results.

Full course GCSE : the % of A* to C and A* to G was sustained across the borough. This was on the back of a significant rise (23%) in the number of students taking full course GCSE. This compares most favourably to the 9% national rise in students taking full course GCSE.

3.9. **Church school inspection (SIAMS)**

2 primary schools had their SIAMs inspection this year – St Peter's VC Edgmond & Tibberton VC. Both were graded *outstanding*. RE was a contributory factor in the judgment of how Christian distinctiveness meets the needs of learners in these schools.

3.10. **English Baccalaureate**

Time has continued to be spent in the secondary network, responding to the exclusion of Religious Education in the humanities section of the E-Bacc. Most of our schools have worked hard to re-inforce the status of RE with much success. The greater fluidity now being presented by Mr Gove in relation to examination courses is some reward for the 'RE world's work in relation to this issue.

3.11. Schools continue to support the work of the **Inter-faith group & Telford Christian Council**. The Holocaust memorial service was noted as a very special spiritual event.

3.12 **Telford Open Door primary event at All Saint's Wellington June 13**

This event for year 6 pupils, run by volunteers and professional youth/children & schools' advisers, provided a day's experience of living Christianity, presented as a pilgrimage trail around the church. Core RE questions from the Agreed syllabus were the focus for each activity group. 7 schools attended. Feedback was extremely positive.

4. **The Policy Framework**

4.1. RE – National guidance is available on the Learning Platform.

4.2 . The Agreed Syllabus 2009 for RE is still providing the legal requirements for the subject. The supporting papers on Assessment in RE (Joan Furlong 2010) RE & Community Cohesion (Joan Furlong 2011) and Teaching Christian Beliefs in RE (Joan Furlong 2011) are well used.

More modern planning is available from the Leicester City scheme of work for primary schools and RE Today services. Website material forms an important resource for the subject. Currently Lat Blaylock (RE Today services) is writing a scheme of work for all primary schools – implementation September 14.

4.3. Collective Worship

No evidence is available for community schools in Telford & Wrekin. Church schools are monitored through their 5 yearly SIAMS inspection. The 2 SIAMS reports this year were graded outstanding for their Collective Worship (Tibberton VC, St Peter's VC Edgmond)

Joan Furlong wrote Collective worship guidelines May 13 for all T&W schools. These restate legal requirements and contain a rationale for good practice. (see attached)

5. Consultation

5.1 NASACRE (National Association of SACREs)

- NASCRE runs a comprehensive website at <http://www.nasacre.org.uk> this is full of useful information for all those interested in SACREs, RE and collective worship.
- The RE Council and RE Today Services also have a wealth of information regarding the subject.

5.2. SACRE has kept in close touch with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on RE and the process it has developed to ensure the future of the subject in a turbulent national time.

SACRE is fully committed to the support and development of RE as essential to pupils' Education in Telford and Wrekin.

5.3. SACRE (via the Chair) have included articles in the Governors' LEADING magazine to raise the profile of RE and communicate information.

6. Letters

There had been no requests for alternative worship provision for the SACRE to consider.

Report to be circulated to

Members

Telford & Wrekin LA

Telford & Wrekin Maintained Schools

Lichfield and Hereford Diocesan Directors

NASACRE.

Joan Furlong : RE consultant 1.1.14