



Rochdale SACRE Annual Report to NASACRE 2015-2016

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1. Chair's introduction and context

a) Introduction and context

Rochdale SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) serves a borough with a mixed faith community, with high percentages of Christian and Muslim followers, and smaller groups of Hindu, Humanist, Jewish and Mormon followers. Non-conformist Christian denominations are also well-represented (Methodist, Baptist, URC and Unitarian). Two of the Local Authority's thirteen secondary schools are Roman Catholic Voluntary-Aided schools and one is a joint Anglican/Roman Catholic Voluntary-Aided school. Eighteen of the Local Authority's sixty-eight primary schools are Church of England Voluntary-Aided schools (one of which is a joint Church of England/Methodist school) and eleven are Roman Catholic Voluntary-Aided schools.

Rochdale's history of the last few years makes it particularly important for local faith communities to be integrated and co-operative, and this is one of Rochdale SACRE's highest priorities. Rochdale SACRE has good representation from all four groups (Church of England, other faiths and denominations, teaching associations and the Local Authority) and enjoys strong links with the local Anglican community and with Rochdale Council of Mosques. There is good representation from primary and secondary sectors and Rochdale SACRE works collaboratively with neighbouring Local Authorities, particularly with Oldham SACRE, with whom Rochdale SACRE has collaborated on several initiatives and events in 2015-2016.

The current Chair of Rochdale SACRE is Rev Margaret Smith, Rochdale's Town Centre Chaplain, who was elected to the position of Chair of SACRE in December 2015, and Gillian Rhodes (ex-Headteacher of St Michael's CE Primary School in Bamford and School Advisor for Manchester Diocese) is Rochdale SACRE's Vice Chair. The current Local Authority representative to SACRE is Peter Owen (School Improvement Officer, Early Help and Schools) and the current Clerk to SACRE is Liz Lasan (Local Authority Admin Officer).

b) Membership 2015-2016

Group A: Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations

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|----------------------|---|
| Rev Margaret Smith | Rochdale Town Centre Chaplain (chair) |
| Ghulam Rasul Shahzad | Rochdale Council of Mosques |
| Rev Shammy Webster | Rochdale Unitarian Church |
| Rabbi Tony Walker | Jewish Representative Council of Manchester |
| Margot Reeve | Branches Christian Fellowship |

Group B: Church of England

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|-------------------|--|
| Gillian Rhodes | School Advisor for Manchester Diocese (vice chair) |
| Rev Frances Guite | St Martin's Anglican Church Castleton |

Group C: Associations representing teachers

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|-----------------|--|
| Francis Farrell | Edge Hill College (Higher Education representative) |
| Karen Race | Headteacher St Gabriel's RC Primary School |
| Clair Kitching | Year 5 Teacher and RE Co-ordinator St James' CE Wardle |
| Emily Clark | Head of RE Falinge Park High School |
| Aisha Mohammad | Head of RE Oulder Hill Community School |

Group D: Local Authority

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Councillor Jane Gartside | Elected member (Conservative) |
| Yasin Khan | Local Authority Community and Cohesion Officer |
| Liz Lasan | Local Authority Admin Officer (clerk to SACRE) |
| Councillor Kathleen Nickson | Elected member (Labour) |
| Peter Owen | School Improvement Officer (LA representative to SACRE) |

2. Advice to statutory bodies

a) Local Authority

Rochdale SACRE advises Rochdale Local Authority on quality and standards of Religious Education in the schools of the borough as follows.

- i) Ofsted inspection reports on any Rochdale schools who have been inspected are read and scrutinised by the Local Authority School Improvement Team for comments on SMSC, Religious Education, collective worship, British Values, PSHCE or any comments in the Personal Development, Behaviour and Wellbeing section which may have comments of judgments relevant to Religious Education.
- ii) SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) reports and Roman Catholic Diocesan reports from inspections carried out on Ofsted's behalf are read and scrutinised by the Local Authority School Improvement Team.
- iii) Pupil Outcomes in Religious Education are monitored by the Local Authority School Improvement team by considering the outcomes for GCSE Religious Education when these are available (usually in the unvalidated Secondary RAISE Online document in December) and the Local Authority representative on SACRE, which is also a member of the School Improvement Team, advises the Local Authority on SACRE's behalf (as well as reporting to SACRE on the Local Authority's behalf regarding GCSE results in Religious Education in Rochdale's Secondary Schools).
- iv) Any issues reported to the Local Authority regarding the Teaching, Learning and Assessment of Religious Education in Rochdale schools, whether via an Ofsted inspection or via an independent complaint, will be followed-up by a discussion between the School Improvement Team and the LA SACRE representative, who will then report to SACRE regarding any appropriate action to be taken.
- v) In his role as School Improvement Officer, the Local Authority SACRE representative regularly conducts reviews and monitoring visits at Rochdale primary and secondary schools where Safeguarding, SMSC, British Values and PSHCE are a focus. During these reviews or monitoring visits there may be a focus on the provision or teaching of Religious Education, and if there are comments on this in the written report, these will be shared with the School Improvement Team and with SACRE.
- vi) Requests from parents regarding withdrawal from Religious Education (or from schools who have received such requests) are passed to the Local Authority SACRE representative. Any such inquiries are referred to SACRE (time permitting and depending on whether there is a SACRE meeting in the period immediately following the inquiry). In dealing with any such requests, SACRE and the LA representative to SACRE provide advice and guidance to Local Authority officers as well as to the school or parents.

b) Schools

Rochdale SACRE advises Rochdale schools on quality and standards of Religious Education in the as follows.

- i) Rochdale SACRE advises Rochdale schools through the provision of a locally-agreed syllabus for Religious Education which was last revised in spring term 2013 for a September 2013 start (see below). The Rochdale Agreed Syllabus is next due for revision in 2018, consequently SACRE will be discussing the syllabus revision and implementation during its meetings in spring and summer terms of 2017.

- ii) Rochdale SACRE advises schools on the procedure whereby they should apply for a determination (which lifts the requirement for the school's worship to be 'wholly or mainly of a Christian nature'). Rochdale SACRE provides advice and guidance about the circumstances under which a school may apply for a determination and a pro-forma for that application. The pro-forma is submitted to SACRE as that school's application for a determination and SACRE makes a decision accordingly.
- iii) Where a parent makes a request to the school to withdraw their child from Religious Education in whole or in part, or from any aspect of the school's spiritual or religious activities, schools contact Rochdale SACRE via the Local Authority representative to SACRE (who is also a School Improvement Officer). Until 2015-2016 advice and guidance has been given to schools on a case-by-case basis, incorporating advice from the Local Authority, the Community Cohesion team, the Diocese and Section 71 of the *School Standards and Framework Act* (1988). From 2016 onwards SACRE is preparing a package of advice and guidance that can be provided for all schools.
- iv) Rochdale SACRE advises Rochdale schools on the provision of Religious Education via regular teacher networks and hubs (see below) and by invitation to shared events with other SACREs and Local Authorities (predominantly Oldham). The network and hub meetings are co-ordinated by serving members of SACRE (who are also teachers in Rochdale schools) and provide bespoke training, guidance and support on the preparation, delivery and assessment of Religious Education in Primary and Secondary schools.
- v) Rochdale's Chair of SACRE, Rev Margaret Smith, undertakes an annual programme of visits to Primary and Secondary schools in Rochdale, providing bespoke advice and guidance, and taking assemblies, acts of worship and Religious Education lessons to support schools in their delivery of Religious Education.

c) Government or other statutory bodies

Rochdale SACRE has not provided any specific advice to the government, to any government bodies, or to any other statutory bodies in the academic year 2015-2016.

d) Response to the advice given

Rochdale Local Authority (School Improvement Team and Community Cohesion Officers) have responded to Rochdale SACRE's advice as follows.

- i) Rochdale Local Authority refers all requests for determination and all school inquiries (or parental inquiries) regarding the withdrawal of children from Religious Education to Rochdale SACRE via the LA representative to SACRE and supports any advice and guidance given to schools or parents by SACRE and its representatives.
- ii) Rochdale Local Authority refers any specific inquiries from schools regarding the teaching of Religious Education, collective worship or the celebration of festivals to SACRE and accepts SACRE's advice and guidance on all such matters.
- iii) Rochdale Local Authority refers any FOI (Freedom of Information) requests regarding Religious Education or collective worship to SACRE via the LA representative to SACRE and accepts and implements SACRE's advice on a case-by-case basis.
- iv) Rochdale Local Authority's Community and Cohesion Officer has collaborated with SACRE representatives on several reviews and monitoring visits of Rochdale schools, and the LA Community Cohesion Officer has been elected as a member of SACRE in 2015-2016 to increase and strengthen the mutual advice and guidance arrangements which exist between the LA (Early Help and Schools) and SACRE.

Rochdale primary and Secondary Schools have responded to Rochdale SACRE's advice as follows.

- i) Schools have responded well to the provision of the Locally Agreed Syllabus and to the provision of network and hub support for Religious Education. SACRE receives regular requests for the Locally Agreed Syllabus, for resources to support it, and for access to hub and network support, usually in (but not limited to) situations where there is a newly-appointed Religious Education co-ordinator in the school.
- ii) Schools have contacted Rochdale SACRE (via the Local Authority) on several occasions in the last three years (and on several occasions in 2015-2016) regarding advice around parental withdrawal from Religious Education. This is covered under item 3d (standards and quality of provision of Religious Education: withdrawal from Religious Education) below.

3. Standards and quality of provision of RE

a) Public examinations

Eleven of Rochdale's thirteen secondary schools entered a total of 1,108 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016, representing 53% of the Year 11 cohort in those eleven schools and 48% of the Year 11 cohort in all thirteen schools. Nationally, 46% of the Year 11 cohort entered GCSE Religious Education, so Rochdale has a higher percentage of Year 11 students entering GCSE Religious Education than the national average. In 2015, 1109 students entered GCSE Religious Education from ten secondary schools, so Rochdale has increased the number of its secondary schools who enter students for GCSE Religious Education but the size of the cohort has remained the same.

Two of Rochdale's secondary schools (Middleton Technology School and Redwood Special School) did not enter any students for GCSE Religious Education (see below). Five secondary schools entered more than 80% of their Year 11 cohort for GCSE Religious Education (four of which are church schools) and four secondary schools entered nearly all of their Year 11 cohort (more than 95%) for GCSE Religious Education (three of which are church schools).

| School | Entry | Of cohort | A/A* | %A/A* | A*-C | %C+ | A*-G | %G+ |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| Cardinal Langley RC | 171 | 95.5% | 36 | 21.1 | 113 | 66.1 | 168 | 98.2 |
| Falange Park | 220 | 95.2% | 51 | 23.2 | 146 | 66.4 | 215 | 97.7 |
| Hollingworth Academy | 44 | 18.8% | 17 | 38.6 | 40 | 90.9 | 44 | 100.0 |
| Holy Family RC and CE | 110 | 99.1% | 30 | 27.3 | 78 | 70.9 | 110 | 100.0 |
| Kingsway Park | 26 | 14.6% | 1 | 3.8 | 19 | 73.1 | 25 | 96.2 |
| Matthew Moss | 35 | 21.1% | 18 | 51.4 | 32 | 91.4 | 35 | 100.0 |
| Oulder Hill | 12 | 4.8% | 6 | 50.0 | 9 | 75.0 | 12 | 100.0 |
| Siddal Moor | 27 | 13.4% | 3 | 11.1 | 15 | 54.9 | 27 | 100.0 |
| St Anne's Academy | 74 | 82.2% | 1 | 1.4 | 28 | 37.8 | 71 | 95.9 |
| St Cuthbert's RC | 236 | 98.7% | 50 | 21.2 | 165 | 69.9 | 226 | 95.8 |
| Wardle Academy | 153 | 73.2% | 30 | 19.6 | 104 | 68.0 | 153 | 100.0 |
| National average | | 46.0% | | 27.5 | | 70.3 | | 98.0 |

Schools entering the majority of the Year 11 cohort for GCSE Religious Education

Cardinal Langley RC entered 171 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 95.5% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 165 in 2015). At Cardinal Langley RC 66.1% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (4.8% lower than in 2015 and 4.2% lower than the national average).

Falange Park High School entered 220 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 95.2% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 221 in 2015). At Falange Park High School 66.4% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (2.4% higher than in 2015 but 3.9% lower than the national average).

Holy Family RC and CE College entered 110 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 99.1% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 112 in 2015). At Holy Family RC and CE College 70.9% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (5.9% lower than in 2015 but 0.6% higher than the national average).

St Anne's CE Academy entered 74 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 82.2% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 90 in 2015). At St Anne's CE Academy 37.8% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (7.9% higher than in 2015 but 32.5% lower than the national average).

St Cuthbert's RC entered 236 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 98.7% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 244 in 2015). At St Cuthbert's RC 69.9% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (8.8% higher than in 2015 but 0.4% lower than the national average).

Wardle Academy entered 153 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 73.2% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 179 in 2015). At Wardle Academy 68.0% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (1.5% higher than in 2015 but 2.3% lower than the national average).

Schools entering a cohort smaller than 25% of their Year 11 cohort for GCSE Religious Education

Hollingworth Academy entered 44 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 18.8% of their cohort and compared to a zero entry in 2015). At Hollingworth Academy 90.9% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (20.6% higher than the national average).

Kingsway Park High School entered 26 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 14.6% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 50 in 2015). At Kingsway Park High School 73.1% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (29.1% higher than in 2015 and 2.8% higher than the national average).

Matthew Moss High School entered 35 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 21.1% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 20 in 2015). At Matthew Moss High School 91.4% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (16.4% higher than in 2015 and 21.1% higher than the national average).

Oulder Hill High School entered 12 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 4.8% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 16 in 2015). At Oulder Hill High School 75.0% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (6.3% lower than in 2015 but 4.7% higher than the national average).

Siddal Moor Sports College entered 27 students for GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (representing 13.4% of their cohort and compared to an entry of 12 in 2015). At Siddal Moor Sports College 54.9% of students entered gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education in 2016 (54.9% higher than in 2015, when no students gained grade C or better in GCSE Religious Education, but 15.4% lower than the national average).

b) Attainment in Religious Education not covered by public examination

Only two of Rochdale's Secondary Schools do not enter any students for GCSE Religious Education and therefore have no GCSE Religious Education results shown: Middleton Technology School and Redwood Special School. Middleton Technology School provide Religious Education via an AQA Cultural Studies GCSE (as an option). Redwood have no GCSE Religious Education provision as only a very small percentage of their students take GCSE. Both schools were visited by the Chair of SACRE, rev Margaret Smith, in 2015-2016 to discuss their provision for Religious Education.

c) The quality of Religious Education provision in schools

There are no Rochdale schools which have been judged to be inadequate by Ofsted which are not now academies. As of December 2016, 87% of Rochdale schools are good or better and 13% of schools are outstanding. Ofsted inspection reports and monitoring by SACRE suggest that the quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship in Rochdale schools is usually good or better. The 2015-2016 annual return to SACRE gives a positive picture of Religious Education in Rochdale schools. Rochdale SACRE will refine and revise the annual return procedure for 2016-2017 as part of their ongoing project to increase the amount, detail and quality of information on Religious Education to which SACRE has access regarding Rochdale schools.

Rochdale's Chair of SACRE (Rev Margaret Smith) visited several schools during the academic year 2015-2016, particularly focusing on secondary schools who did not offer GCSE Religious Education in 2015 or 2016. Middleton Technology School last offered GCSE Religious Education in 2014 via the WJEC (Welsh Joint Education Council), when they attained a 100% pass-rate and a 70% pass-rate at A*/A. Short Course Religious Education also had an A*-C pass-rate of 86% but in 2015-2016 Religious Education was not offered beyond the end of Year 10 and the school did not enter any candidates for GCSE Religious Education. Redwood is a Special School with 246 learners between the ages 11-19 and covering a wide spectrum of special and additional needs. Religious Education is largely incorporated into Humanities, although the ethos of the school is broadly Christian (white English 129, Pakistani 31). Project work is often used as a vehicle for incorporating spiritual themes and religion into whole-school work and outcomes.

Schools expressed their concerns that although many pupils enjoy Religious Education, are challenged by Religious Education, and would like to study Religious Education further, the emphasis on the importance of English and Mathematics can preclude this happening.

d) Withdrawal from RE

Rochdale SACRE guides and advises Rochdale schools regarding parental applications to withdraw their children from Religious Education as follows.

i) Rochdale context

An increasing number of schools have contacted SACRE in the last two years regarding parents' intention to remove their children (partially or wholly) from RE, from collective worship or from spiritual religious activities which form part of the school's curricular and extra-curricular provision (carol services, faith celebration days). In several instances this has centred on proposed visits with pupils to Mosques or Churches, and there have been instances of Christian parents wishing to remove their children from Mosque visits, Muslim parents wishing to remove their children from Church visits, and humanist parents wishing to exempt their children from all visit to places of worship.

These instances are all, naturally, unique in their own way, and in terms of their complicated links to external agencies, social media and the local religious context. SACRE has consistently offered advice and guidance to schools drawn from statutory documentation (principally Section 71 of the *School Standards and Framework Act (1988)*). SACRE has also collaborated with the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Diocese and the Local Authority Community and Cohesion Team in terms of their advice and guidance in these situations.

ii) Case study

- In October 2016 SACRE received a communication from a Rochdale Primary School to the effect that the parents of a Muslim pupil had requested that their child be withdrawn from Religious Education lessons and from collective worship.
- The communication was passed to the Local Authority representative to SACRE who took action to advise the school and resolve the situation as SACRE were not scheduled to meet until 16th October and the school needed advice and support immediately.

- The Local Authority representative to SACRE telephoned the Headteacher to discuss the case and to offer verbal advice and guidance.
- Subsequent to the telephone conversation the Local Authority representative to SACRE emailed the Headteacher (a) a summary of the statutory guidance on withdrawal from Religious Education, (b) a summary of Rochdale SACRE advice and (c) a summary of the advice provided by Salford Anglican Diocese to a different school in a similar situation (having previously agreed with Salford Diocese's representative that this advice could be shared with other schools).
- SACRE also arranged for the Local Authority Community Cohesion officer to visit the school and discuss the case with the Headteacher.
- As a result of the advice and guidance provided via the channels shown above, the Headteacher was able to write a letter to the parents to confirm the arrangements for the withdrawal from Religious Education but also to emphasise the importance of Religious Education and to maintain a positive relationship between school and the parents.
- SACRE and the Local Authority received a copy of the letter sent by the Headteacher and the entire process was reported to SACRE at its October 2016 meeting.

iii) Planning for the future

To date, SACRE has advised schools on a case-by-case basis as shown above, but as a result of the increasing number of such queries and the likelihood that their frequency will increase, SACRE has resolved to prepare a set of documentation which (a) clarifies the legal position, (b) reinforces statutory advice, (c) explores links with Manchester Diocese's policy statement and guidelines and (d) provides guidance on handling such situations and on raising the profile of Religious Education and visits to religious centres.

The purpose of the guidance package will be to advise schools of their statutory obligations if a parent does request the withdrawal of their child from Religious Education or collective worship, but also to offer a range of proactive actions, drawn from our experience and from the advice of the Local Authority Community Cohesion Team, which would reduce the likelihood of such a situation arising. Rochdale SACRE will be working on this package of advice and guidance for schools in the spring and summer terms 2017 with a view to making it available to all schools from September 2017 onwards.

Based on the case study shown above, and discussions at SACRE meetings since then, the points of good practice that SACRE will be recommending within the guidance package provided for schools will be the following.

- Prompt contact with Local Authority and SACRE as soon as a request for withdrawal from Religious Education is received by the school.
- Comprehensive package of advice and guidance sent to the school by SACRE.
- Telephone conversation between Headteacher and Local Authority representative to SACRE and/or Local Authority Community Cohesion Officer as soon as possible.
- Visit to school by Local Authority representative to SACRE and/or Local Authority Community Cohesion Officer if required as follow-up to telephone conversation.
- Model letter (based on the letter written in the case study above) shared with Headteacher as guidance and as an example.

e) Complaints about Religious Education

No complaints have been received about Religious Education provision in Rochdale schools and no complaints have been received about Rochdale SACRE by the Local Authority or Ofsted.

4. Agreed Syllabus

a) If there was a review of the syllabus

Rochdale Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was reviewed and revised in summer 2013 and launched in Rochdale schools from September 2013 onwards. All schools (except for church schools who follow the Diocesan syllabus) follow the appropriate syllabus, and all schools who have responded have confirmed that they allocate at least the minimum recommended time for each part of the syllabus as recommended.

b) When the next review will take place

The next review of the Rochdale Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education is due take place in 2018. Over the course of its meetings in 2016-2017, Rochdale SACRE, on the advice of the Chair, Rev Margaret Smith, will consider whether it is more appropriate to review and revise the Agreed Syllabus ourselves, drawing on expertise within the borough, or whether to adopt an Agreed Syllabus provided by another Local Authority.

5. SACRE Projects

a) Celebration of Faith Day

SACRE instigates and organises an annual Celebration of Faith Day, attended by schools and invited guests, at which children prepare and show artefacts, artwork, sculpture, readings and music which express what they have learnt about faith, and about faiths other than their own. Celebration of Faith usually takes place in October/November (although from 2016 it is moving to June), and to date there have been five Celebration of Faith days.

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|------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2012 | Wednesday 17 th October | Rochdale VI-Form College |
| 2013 | Wednesday 23 rd October | Siddal Moor Sports College |
| 2014 | Tuesday 11 th November | St Martin's Church Castleton (Remembrance Day event) |
| 2015 | Thursday 22 nd October | Falinge Park High School |
| 2016 | Thursday 9 th June | Rochdale Town Hall (Queen's Birthday event) |

The Celebration of Faith Day 2014 fell on Remembrance Day so the theme was remembrance, and the day included an act of Christian worship which incorporated the commemoration ceremony and the two-minute silence. The events was well-attended by schools and invited guests throughout the day, and there were over a hundred adults and children attending the act of remembrance.

The Celebration of Faith Day 2016 fell in the week of the celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday so the theme was national and local leadership and how spirituality informs that. Local leaders (councillors, Headteachers, Local Authority representatives, the Mayor of Rochdale) conducted workshops for children centred on the importance of spirituality and faith in their leadership roles.

The Celebration of Faith days are attended by Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, local faith leaders, local Anglican clergy, council leaders and elected members, Local Authority officers, the police, Council of Mosques, Interfaith and community workers. They represent an exciting opportunity to celebrate faith in education, to engage faith leaders and education providers in networking opportunities, and to raise the profile of Rochdale SACRE. Rochdale SACRE will be planning the 2017 and 2018 Celebration of Faith days during their meetings in spring and summer terms 2017.

b) Religious Education teacher networks and conferences

Rochdale SACRE supports, facilitates or actively organises a range of hub meetings, teacher networks, CPD opportunities and training days for Religious Education teachers, some of which are provided in collaboration with Oldham SACRE/Local Authority.

i) Rochdale Primary Religious Education Hub

The Rochdale Primary Hub for Religious Education is co-ordinated by SACRE member Clair Kitching (RE Co-ordinator at St James' Church of England Primary School), and meets at least termly (and usually half-termly). Membership and attendance are voluntary, and between ten and twelve schools are usually represented.

SACRE member Clair Kitching also provides bespoke support for Religious Education Co-ordinators in Rochdale Primary Schools (dependent on availability) and Rochdale SACRE maintains a list of quality-assured Religious Education Co-ordinators and leading practitioners so that schools requesting support can be paired with a provider.

ii) Rochdale Secondary Religious Education Network

The Rochdale Secondary Network for Religious Education is co-ordinated by SACRE member Aisha Mohammad (Head of RE at Oulder Hill Community School) and meets termly. Membership and attendance are voluntary, and around half of Rochdale's Secondary Schools are usually represented.

SACRE member Aisha Mohammad also provides bespoke support for Heads of Religious Education in Rochdale Secondary Schools (dependent on availability) and Rochdale SACRE maintains a list of quality-assured Heads of Religious Education and leading practitioners so that schools requesting support can be paired with a provider.

iii) Joint Religious Education Conference with Oldham SACRE

For the last three years (in October 2014, October 2015 and October 2016) Rochdale SACRE has participated in an annual Religious Education conference organised by Oldham Local Authority/Oldham SACRE. In each of the years 2014-2016 the keynote speaker at the conference has been Lat Blaylock (RE Today) and the conference has been attended of representatives of between fifteen and twenty Rochdale schools.

This report was submitted to NASACRE and to the Department for Education on Friday 3rd February 2017 and constitutes the annual report for Rochdale SACRE for 2015-2016. The report will also be submitted to Rochdale SACRE at their next meeting on Tuesday 28th February 2017.

Rev Margaret Smith
Rochdale Town Centre Chaplain
Chair of SACRE

Peter Owen
School Improvement Officer
LA Representative to SACRE