

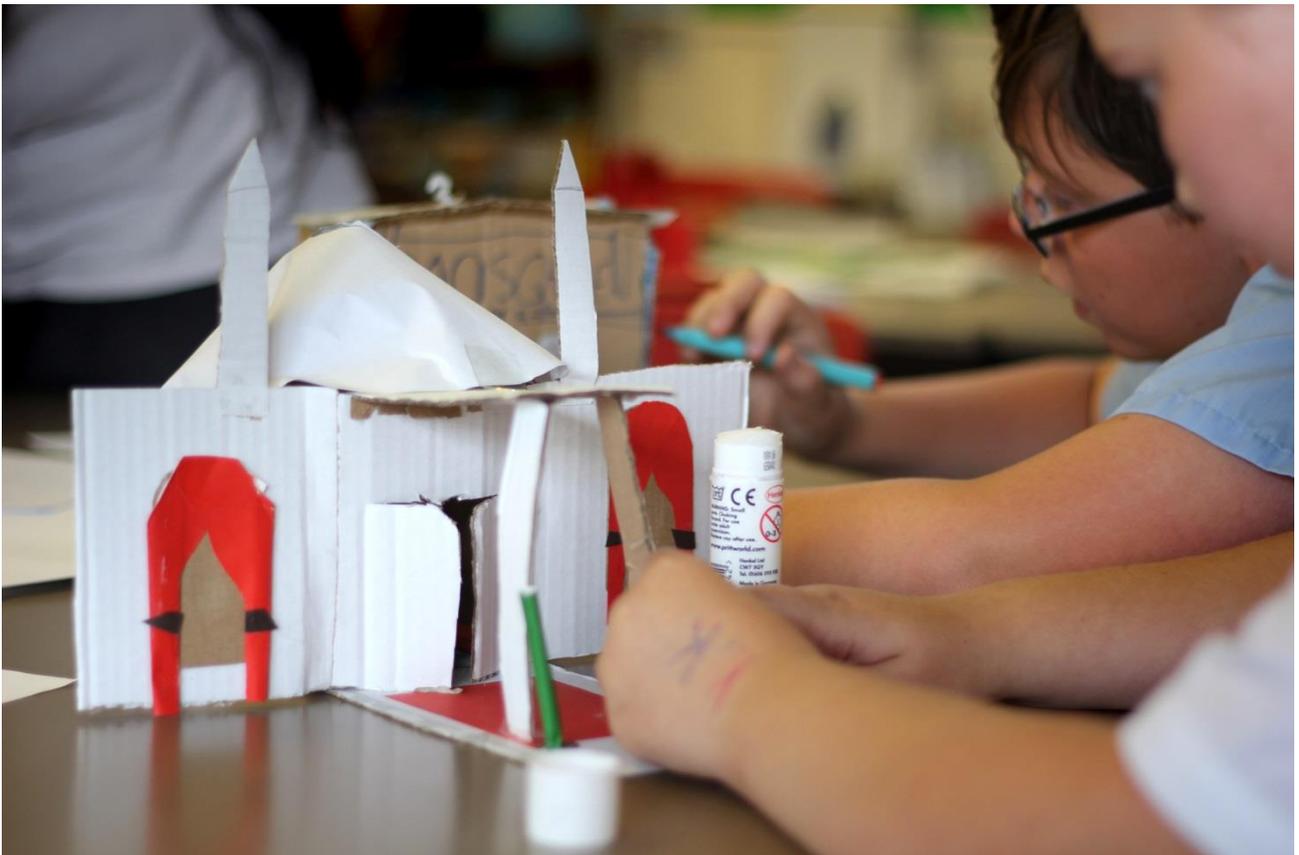
**Bristol Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education:**



**SACRE**



## **Annual Report 2015 16**



**Children from Horfield CofE Primary School design a new Mosque**

## **Chair's Introduction**

### **Welcome to our annual report 2015/16**

Bristol SACRE has continued to meet regularly to support teachers in delivering engaging and challenging RE to the children and young people of our city.

### **Supporting Good RE through CPD**

We have been creative in our CPD this year in order to challenge and inspire. We have offered schools training through our very successful annual RE teacher's conference which we organise jointly with South Glos. SACRE. We were fortunate to have Lat Blaylok from RE Today services as the keynote speaker this year and the topic was '*Playful RE to engage and challenge*'. The feedback from the conference was exceptionally positive. We were also able to jointly organise with Bristol University and with funding from the Westhill Project two conferences to support Secondary Teachers of RE : one focusing on the new GCSE . The speaker was Deborah Weston (NATRE and Culham St Gabriels) and the focus was on the new expectations from the exam boards and the expectations of teaching the differences within faiths . The differences between Sunni and Shiite Islam was a particular focus . We also help a course helping teachers prepare for the teaching of the new A'Level. Both courses were very well reviewed and teachers were appreciative of the support they received. We have been able to continue to employ Katy Staples as the adviser to SACRE and, through her, bespoke support has been given schools and groups of schools. During this year we have also begun to increasingly benefit from the work of Adam Robertson (RE subject lead at Horfield CofE Primary School and Esther Messinger (from Bristol Cathedral Choir School) who have been able to offer school to school support , acting as Hub leaders funded through the local Learn Teach Lead RE project. Jenny Brookes from the Local Authority has been able to ensure the link between the SACRE and the council . SACRE is grateful to Bristol City Council for its continuing support to Bristol SACRE through funding a service level agreement that ensures that SACRE continues to have up to date advice.

### **'Meaningful relationships'**

We have continued to support our schools in Bristol; we have meaningful relationships with LA schools, academies, faith groups, and other local SACRE's to ensure that we can offer our stakeholders a rounded and robust approach to making RE relevant and fit for purpose within schools today. We continue to work closely with faith communities in Bristol and ensure that teachers can access faith speakers and people to help ensure visits to places of worship run well. We signpost the annual "Diverse Open Doors Day" for teachers which is run by Bristol Multi-faith Forum . We also have a close partnership with Bristol University (Dr Janet Orchard is a member of SACRE she is a senior lecturer and organises the RE PGCE course) and we work together to ensure there is continued support for teachers of RE from their PGCE or ITT into their teaching career. (It was through this partnership that we were able to offer the two Secondary focussed conferences that we were able to run this year.) We also maintain close links with local interfaith groups and Marie Hackett from Bristol Multi-Faith Forum also sits on Bristol SACRE. We are also forging new relationships with the Teaching Schools Alliance and groups of schools such as Partnership NW24 and offer CPD and support to improve standards in RE in Bristol through those networks.

## **Agreed Syllabus Conference**

We convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference this year which decided to keep the same Agreed Syllabus but give new guidance to schools about assessment and other matters such as SMSC and British Values and offer a new data base of places of worship and visitors to schools.

The launch of this work falls in the next reporting year.

## **National RE Commission**

This year I have been appointed one of 14 Commissioners in the UK to serve on the Commission on Religious Education (CORE). As we have noted a series of concerns about the state of RE in the face of Government reforms this seems the right time to review RE. The Commission on Religious Education had been established to review the legal, education, and policy frameworks for religious education. This review will be a wide-ranging, inclusive and evidence-based process designed to inform policy makers. The ultimate aim will be to improve the quality and rigour of religious education and its capacity to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. The current intention for full Academisation of schools means that there will be severe implications for SACRE's. The Commission will review this challenge along with the broader education policy and issues that affect religious education. By doing so the commission hope to provide a new vision for the subject. More on our website: <http://religioueducationcouncil.org.uk/commission-on-re>

## **Thank you**

I would like to personally thank all the schools that have worked with us and are producing such fantastic young people. We have enjoyed seeing the creativity of the work produced and the ever evolving ways teachers continue to inspire young people. I am especially pleased with exam results which show great trends towards getting those higher grades. Special recognition must go to St Mary Redcliffe & Temple CE VA Secondary who managed an astonishing 45 A\* and 53 A grades in one of the biggest cohorts to go through this year. Well done to Jill Dickinson who leads the team there and I know is happy to offer good practice advice to other schools

## **'Immensely proud'**

I continue to be immensely proud to serve as the Chair of Bristol SACRE and am grateful for the hard work and diligence of this committed group of diverse individuals, who share one purpose to contribute to the effectiveness of RE in Bristol, that make up SACRE – all the community leaders, teachers, LA councillors and, of course, our very own Katy Staples who, as our school's advisor and through her consultancy work, makes an enormous contribution to the smooth running and effective work of Bristol SACRE. Katy has made a huge contribution to Bristol SACRE with her never ending supply of new and creative ideas on RE.

**Wishing you love, peace, understanding, tolerance, happiness and joy.**



**Esther Deans MBE**  
**Chair, Bristol SACRE**

## 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 2015 -16

### **Committee A**

Kelsang Ra-kma  
 Miranda Moore  
 Ray Bray  
 Eurfron Parry  
 Isabella Harding  
 Zaheer Shabir  
 Nassir (Mohammad-Nassir Miah)  
 Sian Hancocks / Rachel Noyce

### **Committee B**

Jill Dickinson  
 Ruth Wallace

### **Committee C**

Esther Deans  
 Adam Robertson  
 Jackie Walsh  
 Vicky Wiltshire

### **Committee D**

Ani Stafford/Rob Telford  
 Claire Hiscott  
 Claire Campion-Smith  
 Gill Kirk

### **Co-opted members:**

Marie Hackett

### **Christian Denominations and other faiths**

Buddhist  
 Buddhist  
 Religious Society of Friends  
 Methodist  
 Roman Catholic  
 Islam  
 Islam  
 Baptist

### **The Church of England**

### **Associations representing teachers**

Malmesbury Secondary School  
 Horfield CofE VC Primary School  
 Ashton Gate Primary School  
 Holymead Primary School Brislington

### **The local authority**

Green  
 Conservative  
 Liberal Democrats  
 Labour

Bristol Interfaith Group

Michael Gower  
Janet Orchard

Humanist  
Bristol University

**Support Officers:**

Katy Staples  
[katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org)

SACRE Adviser  
Telephone: 0117 906 0100

Jenny Brookes

Local Authority Link Officer

**Clerk:**

**Carolyn Saville , Lindsay 'Obrien  
Adam Robertson**

Bristol City Council  
Diocese of Bristol

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 2014-15**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**2:00pm – 3:30pm**

**The New Rooms**

**36, The Horsefair**

**Bristol**

**BS1 3JE**

The main agenda items were:

- 1. A talk about The New Rooms as a National Heritage Site for Methodism and the Education officer's work in supporting schools**
- 2. Feedback from the GCSE and Islam Course**
- 3. Learn Teach Lead RE - and new project for distributed RE training and growing expertise and school to school support to meet unmet needs in RE**

**10th March 2016**

**6:00pm – 7:30pm**

**BMCS organised - Shah Jalal Mosque and then a Car showroom !**

**Stapleton Road**

**Bristol**

**BS5**

The main agenda items were:

- 1. A tour of the Mosque and Q&A with Rizwan Ahmed an engagement officer from BMCS**
- 2. Constitution**
- 3. Annual Report**
- 4. Annual Conference feedback**
- 5. LTLRE update**

**30th June 2016**

**9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Holymead Primary School**

**Wick Rd, Brislington  
Bristol  
BS4 4HB**

The main agenda items were:

- 1. Religious Education at Holymead Primary school was explained by the subject leader Vicky Wiltshire**
- 2. Mike Gower gave a talk about Humanism**
- 3. Feedback from the NASACRE AGM, , The Primary Best Practice Forum, the A'level Conference and LTLRE development and conference**
- 4. The Constitution**
- 5. Agreed Syllabus development**
- 6. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the support offered to SACRE by the Adviser**

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

**Challenges** for SACRE include:

- Continuing to give support to teachers to ensure outstanding RE in Bristol schools and academies
- Offering more targeted support for some schools, creating greater school to school support
- Offering appropriate challenge that will be accepted and heeded, to Bristol City Council and to academy providers within the city
- Continuing to offer a community of effective support in the face of increasing constraints on school (and LA) budgets

**Opportunities** include:

- Ongoing attendance and interest of some dedicated SACRE members
- Ongoing commitment and dedication of teachers as shown by attendance at the Annual Conference , the GCSE conference and at Network meetings
- Growing capacity for school to school support and new leaders of Religious Education amongst teachers attending Conferences and leading network meetings
- LTLRE( Learn Teach Lead RE; a programme for succession planning for RE funded by the Jerusalem Trust and the St Matthias Trust) as a tool for growing new leaders of Religious Education in our area

## **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 **2016 GCSE**:

A total of 1880 students were entered for a public examination in RE which is a decrease since last year of 83 students.(This decrease is less than in other parts of the country) 986 of these students were female: 52% or entrants were female

Results from the 2016 GCSE showed that 67% of students received a grade between A\*-C, which is just below the national average of 71.6 % but higher than the results in Bristol in some previous years. 73% of female students and 62% of male students received a grade between A\*-C; A total of 3% of students received an ungraded result which is higher than the national average of 2%.

Grade	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/16
A*-C	63.0%	62.5%	68.9%	68.6%	71.0%	67%
A*-G	96.8%	97.2%	96.3%	97.3%	96.9%	96.4%

Row Labels	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Grand Total	
Ashton Park Secondary School	7	13	38	43	25	21	17	12	15	191
Bedminster Down Secondary School	1	2	3	1						7
Bridge Learning Campus		2	1	3	4	2	5	4		21
Bristol Brunel Academy		1	6	5	4	2	1	1		20
Bristol Cathedral Choir School	4	9	9	3			1			26
Bristol Free School	6	12	17	22	10	10	9			86
Bristol Metropolitan Academy	3	4	14	19	8	3	2	2		55
Colston's Girls School	2	15	10	5	3			1		36
Cotham School	12	15	27	24	20	15	3	3		119
Fairfield High School	6	11	25	18	15	9	7	4	7	102
Henbury Secondary School	1	8	13	20	13	7	15	8	16	101
Oasis Academy Brightstowe	3	8	12	12	28	6	19	8	11	107
Oasis Academy Brislington	1	25	45	27	22	11	3	3	3	140
Oasis Academy John Williams	1	1	1	1				1		5
Orchard School Bristol		9	16	26	21	9	1	4	9	95
Redland Green School	31	48	57	27	16	4	1			184
St Bede's RC VA Secondary School	23	32	55	28	16	8	3	1		166
St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School - Bristol	4	18	34	37	19	14	8	3	5	142
St Mary Redcliffe & Temple CE VA Secondary	45	53	50	22	15	7	5	1		198
The City Academy	7	18	20	13	8	4	5	2	2	79
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1880</b>

**A table of Religious GCSE results for Bristol Schools and Academies 2016**

### Key Stage 5 Religious Studies Outcomes

A total of 102 students were entered for GCE A' Level RE and achieved on average 81% A\*-C grades.; this represents an increase in numbers from 94 and an increase in average % grade from 77.6% last year . It is also just above the national average for GCE A Religious Studies which was 80.%. A total of 20.5% of students in Bristol achieved a grade of A\*-A, which is below the national average of 23.5%.9 schools in Bristol entered students for A 'Level Religious Studies.

Count of UPN	Column Labels						
Row Labels	A	B	C	D	E (blank)	Grand Total	
Ashton Park Secondary School	1		2		1	4	
Bristol Cathedral Choir School	4	7	6	3		23	
Bristol Metropolitan Academy			1			1	
Colston's Girls School	2	7	3			15	
Cotham School	2	3	6	2		21	
Merchants' Academy					2	2	
Redland Green School			3	3	1	10	
St Bede's RC VA Secondary School	5	2	4	1	2	20	
St Mary Redcliffe & Temple CE VA Secondary	1	5	8	4	4	33	
The City Academy				3	1	4	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>

**A table of Religious Studies A' Level results 2016**

### **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 greatly strengthened through the work and dedicated support of Jenny Brookes as link officer. It is beneficial that there is someone from the Local Authority holding the work of SACRE to account and commissioning new work from SACRE such as the work with UWE (ITT training) and contributing to a "Bristolised Curriculum". Also it is good that there is someone to whom SACRE can turn to and offer challenge about RE to the LA.

Bristol SACRE has maintained its partnership with other local SACREs through sharing an Agreed Syllabus with North Somerset, and Bath & North East Somerset. The Annual Conference in January 2016 was once again jointly organised and shared with South Glos Local Authority. Through the Learn Teach Lead RE programme teachers have attended conferences that are shared by teachers from Local Authorities from Minehead to Swindon. The Learn Teach Lead Hub leaders are joining a network of support that runs from Cornwall to North Wiltshire and is energising RE through the sharing of best practice.

Members of SACRE also maintain links with local interfaith groups and Marie Hackett, from Bristol Multi-Faith Forum, sits on Bristol SACRE. Bristol SACRE has close relationships with Bristol University and Dr Janet Orchard (who is PGCE Programme Director) is a member of SACRE. Student teachers from Bristol University RE PGCE course attended the March meeting of SACRE as part of their course. Mohammad-Nassir Miah works for Bristol Muslim Cultural Society and has been an important link for SACRE to provide support for the teaching of Islam in Bristol Schools.

#### **CPD offered:**

During the year, 2 secondary courses and primary training opportunities were offered to teachers in Bristol, as well as the Annual Conference for all teachers across phases and the “Learn Teach Lead residential Conference

Primary/Secondary/Governors	Venue/Date/Topic
New GCSE and Islam Conference	University of Bristol Department of Education Friday 16th October 2015 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Bristol University Department of Education 35 Berkeley Square, Bristol BS8 1JA  Deborah Weston
Secondary and Primary RE Annual Conference	Engineers’ House The Promenade, Clifton Down, Avon, Bristol, BS8 3NB 29th January 2016 9:30am–3:30pm <b>Better RE: Creativity, Playfulness,            Achievement</b> Lat Blaylock RE Today Services
Primary Best Practice	Deepening Learning in RE Horfield CEVC Primary Bishop Manor Road Bristol BS10 5BD
Primary Best Practice	Encountering Islam BMCS 35 Mivart Street Bristol BS5 6JF Muhammed Massir Miah and Rizwan Ahmed
Secondary New A Level preparation	Graduate School of Education 35 Berkeley Square, Bristol BS8 1JA Leilah Boyce (HOD at Chipping Sodbury School) and Jill Dickinson (HOD at Saint Mary Redcliffe and Temple VA Secondary School)
LTLRE Area 2 Launch Conference	30th June -1st July 2016 Tortworth Court Hotel, Wotton-under-Edge, South Gloucestershire Speakers include: Martin Palmer (author and broadcaster) Alan Brine (former HMI in RE) Dave Francis (RE adviser and consultant) Juliet Lyal (NATRE local groups officer and KS1 teacher)

### **3. The effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus**

Since 2011 SACRE has been using the Agreed Syllabus “Awareness, Mystery and Value” a syllabus used by neighbouring SACREs. During 2015-16 some members of Bristol SACRE joined with other members of SACREs sharing “AMV” to review the Agreed Syllabus. Much work and deliberation took place to decide what guidance should be offered to schools about assessment in particular. Members of SACRE, particularly Muhammed Nassir Miah, Adam Robertson worked hard to produce assessment exemplars for teachers. The effectiveness of these new assessment ideas will be seen in the following reporting year when teachers are trained and begin to use the new planning structures and assessment guidance following the launch of the new website and conference.

During 2015-16 the Adviser and others continued to write distinctively local units of work to support engagement with local faith communities and make learning alive and local for Bristol pupils. Units about Challenging hate crime in Bristol and working with refugees can be found here

<http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/2016/c06-exemplars-distinctively-local-schemes-of-learning/>

### **4. Collective Worship**

In the academic year 2011-12, we reviewed the Collective Worship guidance, and since then “Time to Breathe – offering space and stillness” has been on offer to support all schools and Academies in the Bristol area.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/239489/Bristol%20SACRE%20Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%202012.pdf/83a86b69-646c-4267-82e9-a4937bef8c45>

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. Training for Collective Worship has been signposted and is delivered through the Diocese of Bristol.

There were no determinations in force during the reporting year.  
No formal complaints or other matters were referred to SACRE this year.

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

Bristol SACRE is a diverse group of people with a commitment to see children and young people gaining a knowledge and understanding of the ways in which beliefs and actions can shape lives and communities.

During this year the group has asked questions of its own composition, purpose and effectiveness. SACRE needs to ensure it has strategies for good succession planning so that Bristol SACRE can be a lively, fully diverse active and important council serving an important function for RE in the years to come



**Religious Education Display at Bristol Cathedral Choir School**