



# **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017**

This report covers the work of the Cumbria SACRE  
for the period September 2016 to August 2017

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## What are SACRE's Responsibilities?

To advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with:

### 1. Religious Education (RE)

This year SACRE has:

- Issued the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2017)
- Run a joint SACRE/RE conference for primary & secondary teachers.
- Elected a new Chair.

### 2. Collective Worship in community schools

SACRE has a guidance document for schools on Collective Worship, to support schools in their statutory responsibility to deliver daily acts of Collective Worship.

### 3. Determinations - To allow any exception to the law that Collective Worship be broadly or mainly Christian

SACRE has received no requests for a determination for exemption from the law.

### 4. To hear any complaints about RE or Collective Worship

SACRE hears any complaints brought to the LA about RE and collective worship. No complaints from parents were received this year.

### 5. To publish an annual report on its work

This document is the annual report for the academic year 2016-2017.

Anyone wishing to receive the minutes of termly meetings can contact Sue McGaw by email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk) or visit Cumbria SACRE's website:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

## Who was on Cumbria SACRE in 2016-2017

**Chair:** *Wendy Ridley – Jane Yates (from 7 June 2017)*

### Committee A: Christian denominations (other than Church of England) & other faiths

*Dai Cowles (Free churches)*

*David Pitkeathly (Churches Together)*

*Tina Battle (Catholic)*

*Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)*

*Rob Martin (Methodist)*

*Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)*

*Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)*

*Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i)*

### Committee B: Church of England

*Deborah Smith*

*Penny Hollander*

*Susan Davies*

### Committee C: Teacher Associations

*Brian Eaton (VOICE)*

*Carolyn Reade (NATRE & AULRE)*

*Jane Yates (NASUWT)*

*Irene Roberts-Green (Vice Chair) (NAHT)*

*James Douglas (NUT)*

### Committee D: Local Authority

*Brenda Gray (Liberal Democrat)*

*Eileen Weir (Labour)*

*Liz Mallinson (Conservative)*

*Roger Bingham (Conservative)*

### Co-opted Members

*Georgia Prescott (University of Cumbria)*

*Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)*

### LA Support Officers

*Richard Cox - (resigned 31/3/17)*

*Sue McGaw – Admin for SACRE*

*David Salmon - Clerk to SACRE*

## When & where did SACRE meet?

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2016-2017 the following meetings took place:

### 2 November 2016 at Penrith Fire Station

Attendance: 15 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 2; Committee D – 2; Co-opted – 2, LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Understanding Christianity Project
- Development Plan
- New Agreed Syllabus
- SACRE Annual Report
- National Update

### 2 March 2017 at CCC Offices, Cumbria House, Carlisle

Attendance: 16 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 5; Committee D – 1; Co-opted – 1; LA Officers - 2). This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- RE Conference 2017
- New Agreed Syllabus
- Development Plan
- National Update
- New SACRE Chair

### 7 June 2017 at The Thornleigh Christian Hotel, Grange over Sands

Attendance: 14 members present (Committee A – 7; Committee B - 1; Committee C – 3; Committee D – 0 (period of suspension pending outcome of General Election); Co-opted – 2 LA Officers – 1) This meeting was not quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- New Agreed Syllabus
- National Update
- GCSE RE Full Course Results
- Westhill/NASACRE Award
- SACRE Conference - Feedback
- Development Plan

## When are future meetings?

17 October 2017 – James Rennie School, Carlisle

20 February 2018 – Committee Room 2, County Hall, Kendal

7 June 2018 – Whitehaven Mosque

The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2017-2018 will be: To support and promote best practice, working group formed to advise how SACRE can fulfil this.

Non members are welcome to attend, to observe SACRE meetings. Please contact Sue McGaw (email [sue.mcgalw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgalw@cumbria.gov.uk)) for confirmation of times and venues.

## What is the SACRE Budget?

SACRE's budget covers the cost of meetings, venue expenses, supply cover costs for teacher members, postage, photocopying, travel expenses, and subscription costs for membership of national organisations for RE. Additional resources are obtained from the County Council when necessary for the review, development and publication of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

In the year 2016-2017 the total amount spent was £4109: Supply cover £1543; Travel expenses £905; Conference fees £990; Publications and Subscriptions £195 and Printing of Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for RE, copies for schools £476.

## What is the RE and Collective Worship support for Cumbrian schools?

For Secondary and Primary Schools: David Salmon, General Adviser

Tel: 07900 146836, email: [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)

## **What Professional Development Opportunities have there been?**

The following one day courses for RE ran:

**Improving your Teaching of RE** – provider Wendy Ridley

1 February 2017 – 13 delegates

**Improving Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development along with British Values in your School** – provider Wendy Ridley – 8 June 2017 – 10 delegates

**Cumbria SACRE/RE Conference 2017** - provider Lat Blaylock/SACRE

19 June 2017 - A total of 29 delegates attended.

All these CCPD events received excellent evaluations.

## **Useful Websites**

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

## **Religious Education Quality Mark - REQM**

Schools can apply for three levels of the REQM award. A school's evidence and provision are assessed by an external assessor, against nationally recognised criteria. Cumbria SACRE encourages all schools to access the REQM assessment materials to use as an audit tool, even if they feel the time and cost of full accreditation is not an immediate priority. See <http://www.reqm.org/>

## **North North West Hub SACRE Report 2016**

David Salmon (Clerk to SACRE) and Dr Sheila Gewolb (Jewish faith member) represented Cumbria SACRE at the North North West SACRE hub meetings in November 2016, March 2017 and June 2017 which took place at The Exchange, County Hall Preston.

The hub, formed in 2014, brings together smaller SACREs in the north-west region to provide reciprocal support on topical issues and share information and best practice. Other hub members in the group come from Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Cheshire West/Chester, Halton/Widnes, Lancashire, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan. Cumbria SACRE continues to be amongst the most active and well-supported in this group, hosting the only annual SACRE conference for RE teachers in this region.

Topics discussed over the past year included the concern about the withdrawal of some students from RE, which appears to be a worrying trend; building links with free schools and academies; and how to promote the effectiveness of SACREs to schools. The new Agreed Syllabi were shared; and the Judaism GSCE Definitive Resource was presented by Sheila Gewolb.

## **Cumbria SACRE RE Conference 2017**

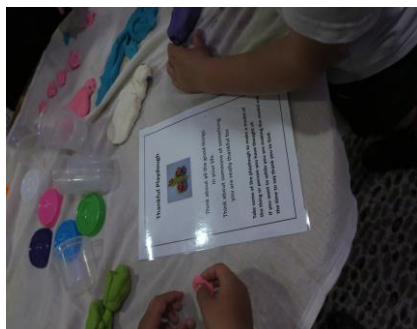
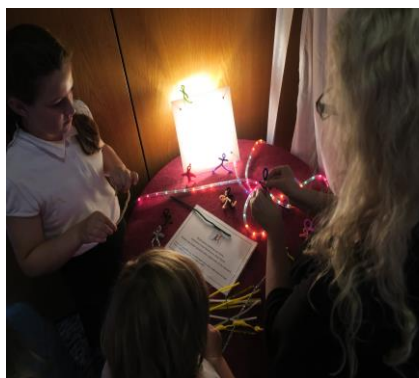
A successful SACRE conference was held at North Lakes Hotel on 17 June 2017, attended by 29 teachers from both primary and secondary schools, and 6 Cumbria SACRE members.

The day started with the official launch of the revised Agreed Syllabus for RE and all participants received a hard copy of this. Lat Blaylock from RE Today then provided inspiring input on concept, creative and values learning in RE. After lunch, Emma Richardson from



Prayer Spaces for Schools, presented an interactive workshop with pupils from the Collective Worship Team from Beaconside CofE School. Teachers were able to experience a Prayer Space in action alongside the children then hear their hugely powerful responses afterwards. Alongside this workshop, Lat provided a personalised session on assessment for secondary schools (as requested at last year's conference). Feedback from the conference was extremely positive although it was noted that numbers were lower than previous years. A date for next year's conference has already been set, 25 June 2018 and was highlighted to delegates, This will be included in the Cumbria CPD booklet. Discussion about changing the format of the conference will be discussed at the autumn SACRE meeting.

Please see below a collection of photographs taken on the day.



This year, Cumbria SACRE has been proactive in creating an online social media platform for schools and teachers in Cumbria to share photographic evidence of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Twitter: @CumbriaSACRE. We welcome all schools in Cumbria to share photographic evidence of RE and Collective Worship using the hashtag #CumbriaSharingRE. The Twitter account also follows the key local and national organisations for RE and will re-tweet relevant updates.

Facebook: RE Teachers in Cumbria. This is a closed group for primary and secondary teachers in Cumbria to enable an information exchange for RE and CW, training, events and new resources. Cumbria SACRE members will also use this as a forum to keep teachers updated.

**Do you have any comments on this SACRE Report?**

Responses to this Annual Report from school governors, elected members, head teachers, teachers or members of the public are welcomed by SACRE. Please email David Salmon, Clerk to SACRE, [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)