



Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education in
South Gloucestershire

South Gloucestershire SACRE's Annual Reports 2014-16



Chair's foreword

2014 - 16 was a productive two year period for South Gloucestershire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) as we continued to serve the schools in the authority with access to Continuing Professional Development that supported their teaching of Religious Education. This sought to improve the experiences of pupils and equip them to be able to live with the religious diversity represented in the United Kingdom.

2015 -16 saw a change for South Gloucestershire SACRE as the advice given to support the council began to be delivered through a Service Level Agreement with Bristol Diocese and fulfilled by Katy Staples. This represents the first year that South Gloucestershire Council has not provided this support "in house". Although this may not have been our preferred option, the support given has been of a quality that has allowed us to offer our schools some continuity of support and the SACRE to function with advice.

2014-15 was also a year of change for South Gloucestershire SACRE as our treasured long serving Chair Alderman Colin Craddock served his last year, as did our excellent clerk Joanna Wallis. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Colin and Joanna in our July meeting. It should be acknowledged that Colin has been an amazing enthusiastic ambassador for Religious Education in the local authority and beyond. He has tirelessly championed the subject and fought for funding and ensured that schools gained access to focus days such as "Needless Greed" and the "Big Questions". He was gracious and eloquent in his introductions of people and in his witty and impassioned speeches he left no one in doubt as to the importance of RE for children's education. As a chair he had a mission to make meetings entertaining and worth turning up to, and he succeeded in forging South Gloucestershire SACRE into a warm community. None of this would have been possible without his right-hand woman, Joanna Wallis. Joanna made sure that Colin had the right piece of paper in his hand at the right time and that the SACRE worked efficiently.

It was with some trepidation that I took on the role of Chair of South Gloucestershire SACRE. In the last year SACRE has gone on to develop a new style of meeting which has ensured that we have been productive and focussed on our core purpose: ensuring the high quality of Religious Education is on offer to the children in the schools of South Glos. Our meetings always start with a talk either from a serving teacher explaining good practice in their school, or from a faith representative explaining how they serve schools and Children's workshop providers like the New Room and Bristol Cathedral. The meetings also ensure that SACRE continues to ensure that teachers are equipped to teach good RE and that schools and academies are challenged to ensure they are fulfilling pupil's entitlement to RE by providing sufficient curriculum time for the subject.

2015-2016 was an Academic year in which much of SACRE's attention was spent on deciding how best to serve schools with an appropriate Agreed Syllabus to serve schools going into the future. To that end an Agreed Syllabus working party was convened and through their recommendations we decided to adopt a new Agreed Syllabus written by the RE Today Services Team. This will be launched in the next reporting year 2016-17.

The Annual RE Teachers' Conference was a highlight of the year 2015-16, again this was held jointly with Bristol SACRE and our keynote speaker was Lat Blaylock who was very inspiring and constructive. The Best Practice Forums held for both Primary and Secondary teachers continue to be well attended in the main (Primary - around 20 -25 teachers and Secondary 6-8). Delegates report that they appreciate the on going support and networking that these forums provide.

The new team of Katy Staples as Adviser and Hannah Wood as clerk have settled into their roles and I am proud to say that it appears that SACRE is serving South Glos Schools with a high level of support and challenge.

Jane Allinson

Chair of South Gloucestershire SACRE



What is SACRE?

SACRE is the abbreviation for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. Its composition is specifically multi-faith and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers. There is also a representative from the British Humanist Association.

It is a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and to support its work. The purpose of SACRE is to advise on the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship.

The South Gloucestershire SACRE believes that Religious Education is unique because it is the only subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but agreed locally. This means that we can ensure that the syllabus we offer children and young people gives examples of belief lived and practised by people who have lived and currently live in their locality.

SACRE takes an active part in the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus every 5 years. The current syllabus is called 'Mystery and Meaning' and was reviewed in 2014.

Support for schools

As part of its role to offer advice on the provision of effective RE, SACRE runs events to support the work of schools.

The key events during the academic year of 2014 -15 were as follows:

Annual Teachers' conference:

This was held on 30th January 2015 at Engineers' House, Clifton, and was, once again, a shared event with Bristol SACRE. SACRE fully funds the conference to ensure that the only costs to schools are supply cover for the day. Many South Gloucestershire schools send at least one representative to the day. We have found that holding it jointly with the Bristol SACRE helps to spread the cost, and also gives opportunities to share good practice with our Bristol colleagues.

The 2015 event was on the theme of: "*RE to inspire and engage*". The keynote Speaker was Fiona Moss from RE Today Services.

It comprised a day of workshops and sharing, with lunch and networking.

The day's aims were to help RE teachers in:

- inspiring learners to want to know about others' faiths and beliefs
- helping learners to engage with the variety of responses to life's big questions

Ninety-six teachers attended the day and feedback from attendees was extremely positive. Thanks are due to SACRE members who helped on the day by running workshops.

British Values, the Duty to Prevent, and Religious Education

During this year a major National Government directive has been the emphasis for all pupils to be fully prepared for life in modern Britain which has become part of the Ofsted framework.

In July 2015 all schools became subject to the “Duty to Prevent” extremism. To equip schools to be able to meet the new Ofsted and legal requirements, SACRE organised a conference that looked at the place of Religious Education in helping schools comply with this agenda.

This conference was called “*From Fear to Belonging*”. 62 schools accessed this training with workshops on

“Ensuring all voices are valued”

“Islamaphobia”

“Religious Education, Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural (SMSC) development and British Values”.

This was widely acknowledged as being extremely helpful and gained excellent feedback.

We are again indebted to the dedication and hard work of SACRE members in ensuring that this conference, which was again shared with Bristol SACRE, took place and helped schools prepare for addressing these pertinent questions surrounding how we live well with difference.

We continue to work closely with faith communities in South Gloucestershire and Bristol, and ensure that teachers can access faith speakers and people to help ensure visits to places of worship run well. We have kept an up to date data base to offer teachers who want to organise visits or visitors from all faiths and worldviews.

We signpost the annual “Diverse Open Doors Day” for teachers which is run by Bristol Multi-faith Forum. Every year a small number of South Gloucestershire teachers take the opportunity to benefit from this day.

Best Practice Forum:

Through a grant awarded by Culham St Gabriel’s to the Secondary Best Practice Forum, one meeting during the year was able to invite Stephen Pett from RE Today services to lead afternoon training in using media to engage pupils at Key stage 4.

Two further sessions were offered by Katy Staples as part of the authority’s Service Level Agreement - one focussed on teaching Islam and the other on teaching Christianity. All of these training opportunities happened at Little Stoke School. They were attended by between 4 and 6 delegates.

Two Best Practice sessions for primary teachers were held at Hillside House, Parkway North (the Diocesan training rooms). They were led by Katy Staples and

each session ensured time for ideas to enhance spiritual development in RE, offered a deepening of subject knowledge of no more than two religions, and gave some practical ideas of activities to try in the classroom both for KS1 and KS2.

A morning of training to explore SMSC and RE for 28 Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs)'s was held at Cleeve Rugby club on May 14th 2015 by Katy Staples.

The key events during the academic year of 2015 - 16 were as follows:

Annual Teachers' conference:

This was held on 29th January 2016 at Engineers' House, Clifton, and was, once again, a shared event with Bristol SACRE

The 2016 event was on the theme of: "*Playful RE: to inspire and challenge*". The keynote Speaker was Lat Blaylok from RE Today Services.

It comprised a day of workshops and sharing, with lunch and networking.

The day's aims were to:

- Equip teachers with inspiring strategies to deepen children's learning
- Offer teachers greater subject specific knowledge to inform their teaching

89 delegates attended and the feedback was all positive.

Best Practice Forum:

The Secondary Best Practice Forum again had one meeting led by Stephen Pett from RE Today Services who shared ways of deepening student's understanding about Christianity. Two further sessions were offered to Secondary teachers of RE by Katy Staples one focussed on Spiritual Development through RE and the last looked at the new GCSE syllabuses and how to teach Humanism. All of these training opportunities happened at Hillside House in Stoke Gifford (the Diocese of Bristol's training rooms). Between 5 and 8 delegates attended these forum meetings. They were very positively evaluated.

The Primary Best Practice Forum also occurred 3 times in 2015-16. One of these training sessions happened at Stoke Lodge and the others at Hillside House. The focus on the first meeting was creating space for dialogue in the classroom and making room for all voices. We also explored experiential ways of exploring Islam. The other sessions featured subject knowledge for the teaching of Christianity and Hinduism, Spiritual Development through RE and assessment. These sessions were attended by between 32 and 22 delegates, and again the feedback was all positive.

A morning of training to explore the Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural aspects of learning and RE for 25 Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs), from across the local authority, was held at Stoke Lodge on May 22nd 2016 by Katy Staples. This was appreciated and the contribution that the RE adviser to SACRE is making to the induction of NQTs has increased.

Learn Teach Lead Religious Education (LTLRE)

During 2015-16 a new initiative to support the quality of religious education in the region was launched. Through the efforts of the adviser to SACRE funding was secured from the St Matthias Trust and the Jerusalem trust to invest in a new grass roots succession planning programme. This appoints existing teachers to train them to be RE subject leaders in their area. Chris Selway (RE subject leader at Wick Cof E Primary School) was appointed as the Primary LTLRE hub leader for South Glos and Mary-Anne Wilmott from The Castle School, Thornbury was appointed the RE Secondary Hub leader and in the next reporting period they will take on their duties.

SACRE website:

The SACRE has previously had a small section of the South Gloucestershire Council website. This contained online versions of the Agreed Syllabus, all of the SACRE publications for schools, details of its membership, and minutes of its meetings. This is no longer online and SACRE has been concerned that these documents are not currently available for schools. SACRE has been advised that it will be able to post documents onto a new SharePoint based website, but at the time of writing this has not yet taken place. This is the second year that SACRE has had to report that it does not have a strong web presence due to the Local Authority's failings in this regard. This has meant that many of the excellent materials for teaching RE and leading Collective Worship have only been made accessible through Bristol Diocese website which is not an acceptable way forward. South Gloucestershire SACRE, although grateful to the diocese for readily posting the documents that they wish to offer schools, would rather not use a website which belongs to any one religious group or denomination.

In the reporting year of 2015-16 this issue was not resolved and there is still no active South Glos SACRE website presence through the local authority. Work continues and should be resolved soon.

Agreed Syllabus for RE in South Gloucestershire

In the academic year 2013 -14 SACRE decided not to undertake a full review of its syllabus as the REC curriculum review had only just published their report and there was still some uncertainty about GCSE and A' Level syllabus.

The review done in 2013 - 2014 corrected some errors, and clarified issues such as assessment which have now altered again as a result of national changes.

In the Academic year 2015-16 The SACRE convened an Agreed Syllabus Council and it was decided to adopt a new agreed syllabus written by RE Today services.

This was not launched until the next reporting year (November 2016) but if anyone reading this report should like to access the New Agreed Syllabus they can contact the clerk to South Glos SACRE who will ensure they can download it.

Hannah.Wood@southglos.gov.uk)

Monitoring of RE provision in South Gloucestershire

It is difficult for SACRE to monitor the overall provision of RE in South Gloucestershire schools. It is some years since individual school Ofsted reports specifically commented on RE. The RE Advisory teacher has visited and given support to at least 12 individual subject leaders of RE and from that limited sample, and anecdotal evidence it can be detected that the time offered to RE and the support offered to RE by Senior Leadership Teams (SLTs) varies greatly from school to school. The quality of teaching and learning also varies and pupils are not having a consistent entitlement to RE across the local authority

Public Examination results 2015

Religious Studies GCSE ¹

1331 out of a possible 2992 pupils were entered for a GCSE exam in South Glos in 2015 (45%). It is impossible to calculate this figure for 2016 GCSE exam entries as we have not received all data.

In 2015 69% of those pupils entered for full course gained A*-C grades this compares with 71% nationally. In 2016 of those entered for full course in South Glos.(that we have the data for) 72% gained A*-C grades

It is of concern that a large percentage of young people who are educated in South Glos are not entered for a public examination in Religious Education. SACRE has worked hard to ensure where students are not entered for an exam at KS4 that they are receiving their full entitlement to Religious Education which is a legal requirement for all schools.

The following schools entered the majority of their students for a public exam:

¹ Please see appendix 1 for more detail

School	Numbers entered 2015	A*-C % 2015	Numbers entered 2016	A-C% 2016
Abbeywood Community School	99/113	61.6	No data	No data
Bradley Stoke Community School	55/179 + 115 SC ²	74.5	171 FC ³ 2 SC 173/178	60.2% 12.8
Chipping Sodbury	125/136	69.6	81/103	94%
Brimsham Green	107/202 + 87 SC	72.9	155 full course+39 short course	65.8% (FC)
John Cabot Academy	113/160 +36 SC	63.7	154/160	46.1%
Mangotsfield School	208/235 + 16SC + 17ELQ	71.6	No data available	No data available
Patchway School	110/131	53.6	82/107	44.83%
The Castle School	256/259	71.1	249/260	66.7%
The Ridings International Academy Yate	88/93 + 2 SC	58	100/101	41%

SACRE wrote to the senior management of the schools in 2015 to congratulate them on ensuring the majority of their students can access a qualification in Religious Studies.

The following schools entered the minority of their students for a GCSE exam in Religious Studies

² SC = Short Course

³ FC = Full Course

School	Numbers entered 2015	A*-C % 2015	Numbers entered 2016	A* - C % 2016
Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy	1/126	0%	No data	No data
The Ridings Academy Winterbourne	57/291 + 59 SC	78.9	No data	No data
Downend School	32/197	87.5	42/175	92.9%
Hanham Woods Academy	15/179	73.3	No data	No data
Kings Oak Academy	19/98	52.6	No data	No data
Marlwood School	1SC/171	-----	0	0%
Sir Bernard Lovell School	24/183	91.7	12/200	75%
The Grange School and Sports College	20/130	100	No data	No data

SACRE wrote to the senior management in the schools in 2015 to enquire as to what religious studies the majority of their students are accessing at KS4. SACRE will also offer support to ensure that pupils can be religiously literate and equipped to live in modern Britain through continual professional development offered through Best Practice Forums and conferences. Most schools replied and explained their curriculum offer for Key stage 4 to SACRE.

Anecdotally some schools are providing inspiring and challenging RE which SACRE is helping to resource. In other contexts where schools have not been prioritizing the subject, teachers of RE report an uphill struggle to gain curriculum time, budget and Senior Leadership Team support. SACRE remains keen to explore any avenues to accurately monitor the provision of RE as it is a key role for all SACREs.

AS and A 'Level'⁴

AS Level

In 2015 101 students were entered for AS level Religious Studies in South Glos and 25.7% of these gained grades A-B this compares with 43.1% nationally.

⁴ Please see appendix 2 for more detail

12 centres entered students for AS Level within the authority.

6 centres entered more than 10 students

Castle School is to be commended for their results as 70% of AS Religious Studies Students gained graded A-B

In 2016 66 students were entered for AS Religious Studies but we do not have the A-B data to offer a comparison with other years or nationally.

9 centres entered students for AS level

Only 4 centres entered 10 or more students

Brimsham Green Secondary School's Religious Studies exam results were of a particular high standard.

A' Level

In 2015 60 students within South Glos were entered for A' level Religious Studies and 35% gained grades A-B compared with 54.5 nationally.

12 centres entered students for this examination.

3 centres entered more than 10 pupils.

Chipping Sodbury School is to be congratulated in that 75% of their students gained grades A-B at A' Level.

In 2016 44 pupils that we have data for were entered for an A' Level exam.

We have not been offered the A-B exam data for this cohort and so are unable to make comparisons with previous years or National data.

7 centres entered students for an A' Level examination in 2016.

Only one centre entered more than 10 pupils (Chipping Sodbury).

Attendance by SACRE members at outside events

South West Regional SACRE conference 2015:

Two SACRE members attended the March 2015 conference of South West SACREs and reported back to the following SACRE meeting.

The keynote address was given by: **Joyce Miller on Community Cohesion**

Workshops included:

Pat Hannam - SACRE Monitoring Responsibilities

Sharing good SACRE practice - Ed Pawson

Andy Midwinter - Employers and REQM

Katy Staples - Post Trojan Horse Radicalisation and RE

Linda Rudge spoke about the Learn/teach/Lead RE

Pauline Dodds - A Values-led Curriculum: in Christian schools

South West SACRE Conference 2016

This conference was attended by two SACRE members: Derek Jay, Chris Selway and Katy Staples the adviser to SACRE

The title of the Conference was **“RE: “Now and in the future?”**

The keynote speaker was Rudolph Elliott the chief Executive officer of the REC (the Religious Education Council) he was speaking about the possible need for a new settlement for Religious Education.

Workshops included:

Jonathan Marshall MBE - **“The Prevent duty and RE’s unique contribution to Building resilience”**

Ed Pawson: **“GCSE and A Level: a bluffer’s guide to the new specifications”**

Chris Selway (from South Glos. SACRE):

“Local RE : SACRE members as appreciative audience for Good RE” and “How to make the most of visits and visitors”

David Hampshire: **“Religious Extremism and the 2015 Act”**

Patricia Hannam: **“RE Curriculum or RE Agreed Syllabus: what’s in a name?”**

Verity Holloway: **“RE without levels; Assessment in RE”**

National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) Annual General Meeting,

21st May 2015 and 6th June 2016 :

This was attended by one of our SACRE members: Derek Jay

The keynote speech in 2015 was by **Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke**, Secretary of State for Education and Skills, 2002-4, Visiting Professor, School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication Studies, University of East Anglia

He spoke about the role of religion in public life and in particular the role of Religious Education and SACRES.

The keynote speech in 2016 was given by **The Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE** speaking on Religion in Public life and the impact historical changes should have on the teaching of RE.

South Gloucestershire Schools Carol Concert, December 2014 and 15

A number of SACRE members attended this annual event and the invitation extended to SACRE members is much appreciated.

National Issues

Challenging Extremism

One of the most urgent national issues for Religious Education that has focussed our attention during 2014-16 has been the rise in so-called “Islamic extremism” with Charlie Hebdo and young people leaving Britain to fight in Syria, or to become “Jihadi brides”. The rise of right wing extremism which has resulted in religious hate crime in many places in Britain including South Glos. Has also focussed our thinking and planning for support for teachers in the area.

The teaching of British Values within SMSC (including “democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”) has been a catalyst for debate within the religious education community. Ensuring counter narratives are offered in RE and young people can be equipped to understand the complexity of belief and opinion so they handle controversy and can deal with disagreement agreeably is now a clear focus for Religious Education at a National, regional and local level.

Life beyond levels

Much debate and thinking time has been spent at a National level within RE circles to decide what advice should be given to schools to ensure that RE can sit well with other subjects in the curriculum that are moving to a form of assessment that takes pupils “beyond levels”. Various models of assessment have been posited but no one model has been heralded as the nationally agreed one. There is some consensus however at offering schools a form of assessment that uses a similar language to other subjects: “age related expectations” with categories such as “developing, secure and exceeding” or “working towards, working at or working beyond”. The new Agreed Syllabus which is adopted in the next reporting year offers much appreciated guidance to help teachers in assessing using such a model.

A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools

On the 15th June 2015 a pamphlet with the above title, intended to start a public debate, was launched at the House of Lords. The authors are Professor Linda Woodhead and the Right Honourable Charles Clarke and their premise is that much has changed in society since 1944 when the current settlement was inaugurated and it is now time for a new settlement for the place of religion and belief in schools.

Those recommendations which most pertain to SACREs and schools are:

- (1) That collective worship should no longer be statutory; governors and head teachers being able to decide the form and nature of school assemblies.
- (4) That locally agreed syllabuses are replaced by one nationally agreed syllabus, determined by a 'National Standing Advisory Council on RE' made up of "relevant experts on religion and education"
- (11) That local SACREs are given a new role including participating in the consultations about the content of the national RE curriculum, helping local implementation, promoting community cohesion, educating for diversity and giving advice.

Statutory matters

SACRE has a statutory role to decide on any determinations. These are requests by schools to move away from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly, broadly or mainly of a Christian character. During the period of this report, there have been no requests for determinations.

From time to time, local authorities receive Freedom of Information requests from national journalists about the work of their SACREs. During 2014-16 South Gloucestershire Council had received three Freedom of Information requests asking how many schools in our area have an exemption from the legal requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship of a "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". SACRE sent a nil return.

Where a complaint has been made about the RE curriculum in a South Gloucestershire school, it should be referred to South Gloucestershire Council for it to deal with. The Council has undertaken to seek SACRE's advice on any such complaint. There have been no formal complaints within this two year reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

Members of SACRE September 2014 - July 2015

Committee A: Christian and
other religious denominations

7 Members

Colin Cradock

Ramila Patel

Linda Pope

April Begley

Mukhtar Ahmad Younis

Chris John

Committee B – Church of
England – up to 3 members

Esther Saunders

Sally Sibley

Committee C – teachers
nominated by the South
Gloucestershire TCC – up to 6
members:

Kath McCarthy

Hazel Jefferies

Leah Osborne

Mary-Anne Willmott

Alex Wilkinson

Committee D – Local Authority
representatives – up to 3
members

Cllr Jane Allinson

Cllr Gareth Manson

Cllr Matthew Riddle

Committee E – non voting Co-
opted – up to 6 members

Roger Allinson,

Derek Jay

Alex Howard

Peter Day

Susan Weaver

During the reporting period, SACRE's chair was Alderman Colin Cradock, and the Vice-Chair was Mary-Anne Willmott

Members of SACRE September 2015 - July 2016

Committee A: Christian and other religious denominations

7 Members

Ramila Patel

Jane Allinson

Linda Pope

April Begley

Mohammed-Nassir Miah

Chris John

Iris Segall

Committee B – Church of England – up to 3 members

Esther Saunders

Sally Sibley

Frances Taylor

Committee C – teachers nominated by the South Gloucestershire TCC – up to 6 members:

Kath McCarthy

Leah Osborne

Chris Selway

Alex Wilkinson

Committee D – Local Authority representatives – up to 3 members

Cllr Ben Stokes

Cllr Mike Drew

Cllr Ian Boulton

Committee E – non voting Co-opted – up to 6 members

Roger Allinson,

Derek Jay

Alex Howard

Susan Weaver

How SACRE is funded/administered

Since 2014 South Glos. SACRE has been served through a Service Level Agreement with Bristol Diocese. From April 2014 until 31st March 2015 this was for

the sum of £ 8,254 and during this period the conference and any SACRE training came from another budget. For the period April 2015 to 31 March 2016 the SLA was renegotiated and an annual sum of £ 13,249 was agreed but this is to include the organisation and costings for the Annual Teacher's conference and the payment for any SACRE training during the year.

An extra sum of £5,490 was agreed for this period to pay for the Agreed Syllabus Conference and for payment for the New Agreed Syllabus process and adoption, which was beginning to take place in 2015-16.

At Every SACRE meeting the SACRE adviser offers a report on how the funds have been utilised since the previous meeting. However the SLA is between the Local Authority and the Diocese and so it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure the contract delivers the desired outcomes. To this end there are regular meetings between the local authority and the adviser to ensure value for money and effectiveness of the agreement.

SACRE's Serving Officer:

Since the establishment of the South Gloucestershire local authority, and the South Gloucestershire SACRE, an officer from the CYP advisory staff has acted as SACRE's Serving Officer. This was an important post. The Serving Officer advises SACRE, and enacts its decisions. The post has been a key part of SACRE's success and in particular the holding of events for schools. Following the promotion of Kathryn Symmons in her school The Tynings in 2014 she could no longer serve as advisory teacher for Religious Education.

So Following discussions with South Gloucestershire local authority a Service Level Agreement has been drawn up between Katy Staples, Schools Advisor at the Bristol Diocese, and the SACRE. So In the last year she has been providing support for SACRE and has been planning and leading RE conferences and Best Practice Forums for both Primary and Secondary RE teachers. The Local Authority was represented at SACRE meetings by Susannah Hill (Head of Education, Learning and Skills) and Louise Lewis (Consultant Headteacher). Susannah and Louise are the link officers for SACRE to the Local Authority and ensure that the services offered by the Service Level Agreement are effective and meet the needs of SACRE and teachers of Religious Education in South Gloucestershire. Bi-annual meetings were held with the Chair to SACRE, Katy Staples and Susannah Hill in 2014-16.

SACRE works to the non-statutory guidance in the 1994 document: Circular 1/94. Parts of that document have been replaced with the guidance: 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non statutory guidance 2010'.

South Gloucestershire Council has approved a constitution for SACRE. A copy of the constitution may be obtained from the Clerk to SACRE (Hannah Wood, Hannah.Wood@southglos.gov.uk).

SACRE has a 5 year development plan aiming to work on the following priorities this 5 year period began at the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year:

Wholesale revision of Agreed Syllabus

Visits to schools – either by SACRE members or with SACRE’s help in facilitating visits. Helping our faith representatives to offer their expertise.

Identifying schools’ needs and supporting schools in their evaluation of their own provision

Identifying the unmet needs for Religious Education and Collective Worship in the Local Authority

Providing support for special schools – helping to facilitate opportunities to learn from Gloucestershire which has specific training in this area

Training RE teachers, and Higher Level Teaching Assistants– supporting their professional development

SACRE’s own professional development – via continuing our membership of NASACRE and attending national and regional events

Taking account of proposals for new proposals for RE

SACRE has also considered what can be done to streamline its own organisation in order to better achieve its own priorities.

SACRE meetings in 2014-15 were held at Warmley Community Centre Thanks are due in particular to Ramila Patel for organising this (and for the outstandingly splendid leaving supper that was organised for Colin and Joanna in July 2015)

The meetings were well attended by members and all were quorate

All SACRE meetings are open to members of the public who should contact the Clerk for details of forthcoming meetings.

The South Gloucestershire SACRE can be contacted via its Clerk:

Hannah Wood (Hannah.Wood@southglos.gov.uk)