

**TWENTY FIFTH REPORT  
OF THE  
BOLTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
2013-2014**





## **Introduction**

At the time of writing this report I am looking forward to sharing the support materials for the Primary Phase of our syllabus with teachers from across the borough. The draft materials are being trialled and the complete documents are ready to go to print. This has been the result of so much hard work over the year and I am so grateful to everyone who has been involved. I look forward to similar developments in Key Stage 3 next year.

The role of Religious Education has been under review nationally through major reviews and t OFSTED Investigations. SACRE have worked hard to keep up to date with national developments.

As my time as Chair enters its final year I would like to express my thanks to all members of SACRE for their continual support and hard work. I would also like to recognise the support SACRE is given by the Local Authority which enables SACRE to carry out its duties effectively.

Georgina Ryding  
(Chair of the Bolton SACRE)

## 1. The constitution and current membership of SACRE 2013-2014

Committee A: Christian and other religious denominations (13 members)

Ms P Narsai-Punam	(Hindu)
Mr S Patel	(Hindu)
Mr M Q F Ali	(Muslim)
Mrs H Lewis	(Jewish)
Father P Malone	(Free Church – Baptist)
Mrs S Wright	(Free Church – Methodist)
Ms H Browne	(Free Church – Salvation Army)
Mrs M Marks	(Society of Friends)

Committee B: The Church of England (4 members)

Mrs A Hart  
Rev M Short  
Ms G Ryding (Chair)

Committee C: Teacher Associations (8 members)

Mrs N Moore	(NASUWT)
Ms C Brathwaite	(NASUWT)
Mr B Lingard	(ATL)
Mrs J Pilling	(NAHT)

Committee D: Local Education Authority (5 members)

Cllr A Bury  
Cllr K McKeon  
Cllr S Pickup  
Cllr J Walsh  
Cllr Mrs AM Watters

Acting Clerk to SACRE: John Ashworth, Governor Services Manager

Terms of Reference and 'A Guide for SACRE' members are reviewed each year and copies provided for all members. In addition, new members are provided with a copy of 'Effective SACREs' produced by NASACRE (National Association of SACREs). These documents are designed to support members in their duties. The NASACRE website also provides up to date information and guidance for SACRE members.

## 2. Locally Agreed Syllabus

The key focus of SACRE's work this year has been to develop support materials to sit alongside our existing syllabus. Fiona Moss from RE Today was bought in as our consultant to lead a working party of Primary teachers over the past year to do this work. It is now complete and all the materials are currently in draft form ready to go to print. In December these will be disseminated at the Teaching and Learning Conference.

The work has centred around three key priorities:

i) Early Years Materials

Work has been done to provide support in line with the new Foundation Stage Curriculum. This has taken the form of six key questions that could be developed through all areas within Nursery or Foundation Stage. Guidance has been offered on suggested activities and the aim was to provide detail that would enable RE to be taught accurately and effectively within this creative environment.

Our thanks also go to Laura Wright from Bolton's EYFS team who offered her expertise in this area.

ii) Key Stage One and Key Stage Two

This element of the syllabus has been significantly overhauled to provide more detailed information to support teachers. The layout has been reorganised to take the form of 'key questions' though which subject leaders will be able to ensure that a balanced and creative curriculum can be delivered in their school.

The materials offer guidance on coverage across each Key Stage, guidance on providing a level of challenge in both AT1 and AT2 in each year group and detailed examples that are designed to support teachers who are developing their own knowledge of the subject. This will ensure that schools are able to teach what is set out in the syllabus more effectively.

Feedback from schools that have trialled the materials is very positive.

iii) Assessment

Most RE Subject Leaders are familiar with assessing both AT1 and AT2 and we have adopted a series of 'I Can' statements to support this. These are set out as a series of steps or levels although they are not linked to National Curriculum Levels. Links to these are set out in the teaching materials so that those delivering RE can ensure that they are pitching lessons at an appropriate level.

### **3. Teaching and Learning Conference**

The conference is due to be held in the Autumn Term, rather than the previous Summer Term as has been traditional. The focus will be on improving the quality of teaching and learning in Christianity and training in the use of the new support materials for the syllabus.

### **4. North West SACRE Hub**

In May, Reverend Short attended the NASACRE AGM on behalf of SACRE. It was a very useful day. One of the seminars focused on the development of SACRE Hubs whereby SACRE's could work together on projects and share issues.

In June, Lancashire SACRE invited other SACRE's in the North West to come together. Representatives attended along with members from six other SACRE's. This has the potential to be an effective way of working.

So far we have received a presentation from Helen Harrison on the RA Quality Mark and learnt more about the Young Ambassadors Award. In the future the group is going to explore opportunities for joint training and CPD for teachers.

## **5. Interfaith Council**

Mr C Parmar, Strategic Officer for the Bolton Interfaith Council, gave a presentation about the work of the Interfaith Council. The work of the Council is primarily centred around young people and schools to support community cohesion and also to change perceptions of different faith groups.

They lead on a range of activities and events including the Bolton Faith Trail. This entails organising visits to places of worship either in the local area or region. On average the Bolton Interfaith Council facilitated visits for approximately 4,500 children each year, 95% of these were organised via schools. Visits from schools outside of the borough were also conducted. This activity also allows volunteers from the different places of worship to take part and assist with visits.

The Interfaith Council now want to take the next steps to see how they could further improve as an organisation to work with schools and the community to promote community cohesion and change perceptions for religious education and worship.

## **6. Determinations**

At the meeting in the Spring Term, SACRE approved the application for a determination for Sunning Hill Primary School to be exempt from providing a broadly Christian collective worship in order to provide a broadly Islamic collective worship. There have been no other requests.

SACRE have also developed an application form which will enable any school wishing to apply for a determination in the future to present its information in a more structured and efficient way.

## **7. Complaints**

No complaints were received by the SACRE regarding provision of Religious Education or Collective Worship in school.

## **8. SACRE budget**

SACRE continues to receive a budget from the Local Authority which enables it to undertake its statutory duties including any review and updates of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

## **9. Evaluation of Priorities 2013-2014**

SACRE's main priorities for the coming year have been:

- i) To develop support materials following the review of the Agreed Syllabus with a focus on Early Years Foundation Stage and Assessment. This has been completed.
- ii) To monitor and respond to national developments in curriculum provision for RE. This has been done.

iii) Develop the range of CPD opportunities for all staff through:

- work with the Inter-Faith Council
- Arranging visits to the Jewish Museum
- SACRE's Annual Teaching and Learning Conference.

Some of this work has been undertaken although more work needs to be done to develop the CPD for teachers.

iv) Increased focus on RE within the Secondary Sector. In the last year there have been several new members joined the committee and this has led to a better balance of Primary and Secondary expertise within the group. It is hoped that we can build on this next year.

## **10. Priorities for 2014-2015**

- i) To develop support materials for the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Key Stage 3.
- ii) To explore opportunities to engage young people from 11-18 years in RE within Bolton.
- iii) To consider how SACRE can best support the training needs of teachers within Bolton, in relation to RE across all Key Stages.
- iv) To offer support to schools who are considering applying for the RE Quality Mark.
- v) To build new partnerships with the Academies and Free Schools in Bolton so that SACRE can build a clearer picture of the nature of RE across the borough.

