



SACRE

Annual Report 2011-2012

Message from the Chair

It is a pleasure to introduce the annual report of the Bedford Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for 2011-2012.

The aim of this report is to update readers about the work of the members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. Our function is to advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. The SACRE monitors the effectiveness and appropriateness of the agreed syllabus, which is formally reviewed every five years. This process took place a year ago when SACRE and the Teacher Working Group worked with the professional body RE Today and neighbouring LA's to update the agreed syllabus. The new syllabus was launched in November 2011 for implementation in schools in September 2012.

Since the launch of the Agreed Syllabus, we have been fortunate to work with RE Today, who have delivered high quality religious education training to over 300 teachers and Head teachers across Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton. It has been a period of real partnership across the LA's with teachers and advisers sharing good practice as they work together to plan challenging Religious Education (RE) lessons in their schools. We are grateful for the support of secretaries across the LA's and St. Albans Diocese and the tireless work of the RE Society of Bedfordshire who have welcomed

participants at all the courses.

The Agreed Syllabus has been sent to every school in the LA and is available on:

www.beds-re-resources.org.uk

This website contains many written resources for RE teachers and lists the artefacts and resources available for loan at St. Mark's RE Resource Centre, Brickhill, Bedford. Volunteers, employees and funding from the church, Diocese of St. Albans and the RE Society of Bedfordshire support the work of this centre and we are most grateful for this dedication to the work of RE teachers in the area.

SACRE are grateful for the work and support of Carrie Traill, as part of her LA advisory role to SACRE. Carrie has worked closely with the Bedford Professional Study Group (PSG) and Bedford Council of Faiths to offer training and advice to Bedford Borough schools. We also wish to thank Greg Jeffrey for his work for SACRE as senior committee service officer.

In January, Bedford SACRE members attended the Council of Faiths' Holocaust Memorial Day where participants were reminded to 'Speak up and Speak out'. Members also joined together with Central Bedfordshire for the sixth public commemoration of the Holocaust alongside a remembrance of all victims of genocide, racism, and persecution across the world. This was held in Redborne Upper School and Community College and was attended by many students, elected members, SACRE members and teachers. We would like to

thank all those who were involved in the organisation of these events.

Members of SACRE bring much expertise and a spirit of thoughtful co-operation to meetings. The Council brings together councillors, teachers and faith representatives. The commitment of the members of SACRE to promoting religious education in Bedford is strong and evident in their active interest, involvement in developmental work and in monitoring the quality of religious education in the Borough's schools.

SACRE receives much positive information from Ofsted reports and school visits about the quality of RE and its impact on pupils' spiritual and personal development. Some reports reveal outstanding and innovative work in schools. We acknowledge the hard work of RE subject leaders and teachers. The importance of high quality religious education cannot be overstressed. Our teachers make a vital contribution to the promotion of social cohesion in our multi-faith society and the development of critical thinking in the RE classroom.

There have been some membership changes to Bedford SACRE this year; we have welcomed new members and thanked those who have come to the end of their term. SACRE particularly wishes to thank Barry Shine for his contribution to SACRE.

I am pleased to commend this report to you.

Jane Chipperton
Chair, SACRE (2011-2012)

Standards in Religious Education

Previously at each of the meetings of SACRE, members considered sections of the Ofsted reports which referred to judgements on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development and Community Cohesion. As well as reviewing all Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS) reports, focusing on comments and judgements on RE and Collective Worship.

However from January 2012 Ofsted Framework, Inspectors will judge the quality of education provided in the school, its overall effectiveness, taking account of the four principal judgements and how well the school is promoting the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and the extent to which the education provided by the school meets the needs of all pupils including those who have disabilities and those who have special educational needs. Therefore whilst still reported on, SMSC does not have a separate grade while Community Cohesion is no longer reported on.

It is important to note that in judging the school's overall effectiveness, inspectors consider whether:

- the standard of education is 'good' (grade 2), or exceeds this standard sufficiently to be judged as 'outstanding' (grade 1)
- the school 'requires improvement' as it is not a 'good' school because one or more of the four key judgements 'requires improvement' (grade 3), and/or there are weaknesses in the overall provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Between September 2011 and January 2012, a total of seven Bedford Borough Schools were inspected under the old Section Five Ofsted Framework. Of these, three were middle schools and four were lower schools.

In the aspect of SMSC, 14% (1) of schools were judged outstanding, 43% (3) were judged as good and 43% (3) as satisfactory.

Under the judgement of Community Cohesion, 14% (1) of schools were judged to be outstanding in this area, 29% (2) were judged good and whilst 57% (4) were judged satisfactory.

From January 2012 to July 2012, twelve Bedford Borough Schools were inspected under the new Section Five Ofsted Framework. Of these seven lower or primary schools, three were middle schools and two were specialist schools.

Due to the important nature of SMSC under the new Section Five Ofsted Framework, all judgements made in relation to SMSC have been recorded from each report as well as the details of the inspection team with the intension of creating a report on the local picture of SMSC practice to inform and support schools further to be written and released in 2013.

Bedford Borough RE Examination Results in 2012

The results below represent the results in all seven Bedford Borough Schools. We are now able to report upon the results from the Bedford Academy therefore this needs to be taken into account when comparing 2012 results to 2011.

Religious Studies Exam: GCSE Short Course

Across the Borough there were 532 students entered for this examination. Of these 58.1% gained a grade between A* and C and 98.3% between A* to G. 'White British' students made up the majority of these entries (367) with "Asian" students in the next largest group (95). The cohort was made up of 261 girls and 271 boys. Girls outperformed the boys at grades A* - C (64% to 52%)

Comparison to 2011

The number of students entered for this examination fell by 38 students in 2012. The percentage gaining between A* - C also rose by 4.9%. The picture regarding gender representation remains the same as in 2011 as girls continue to outperform boys at grades A* - C.

Religious Studies Exam: GCSE Full Course

Six of the seven Borough's upper schools entered students for this examination. There were 718 students entered across the Borough. Two schools entered considerably more students than the other three. (Sharnbrook 322 and St. Thomas More 184). 74.2% of students gained grades A* - C with 98.2% gained A* - G. Again, White British students represented the largest group entered (536). Asian students was the second largest group entered (84). The cohort was made up of 401 girls and 317 boys. Girls outperformed the boys at grades A* - C (77.8% - 69.7%).

Comparison to 2011

165 more students were entered for this examination than 2010 (553 in 2011). Furthermore 343 more students studied full course RE for their exam in 2012 than in 2010. Plus two more local Bedford Borough schools offered full course RE in 2012 than in 2011. The percentage of students gaining an A* - C rose slightly on 2011 +4.6%. In 2011, girls also outperformed the boys at grade A* - C however while girls attainment fell slightly (-1.4) boys rose by 10.4%.

End of Key Stage 5 outcomes

The data shown reflects those students leaving school in Year 13 and does not include the Year 12 results for the current year. These will be reported when the students are at the end of Key Stage 5.

Religious Studies Exam: GCE AS Level

24 students completed Key Stage 5 from 4 different upper schools with an AS in RE. 25% gained a grade between A – B. Of the 24 students entered, 17 were of White British heritage. The cohort was made up of 16 girls and 8 boys. Boys and girls equally achieved at grade A – B (25%).

Comparison with 2011

2 more students were entered for this examination in 2012 compared to 2011.

Religious Studies Exam: GCE A Level

68 students were entered across 4 upper schools. Of these 7.4% gained an A* in their examination. 19.2% gained between A* - A, 54.4% between A* - B and 100% between A* - E. White British students represented the majority ethnic grouping at 42 students with the 16 Pakistani Asian students forming the second largest groups. The cohort was made up of 46 girls and 22 boys. Boys slightly outperformed the girls at grades A* - B (54.5% - 54.3%).

Comparison with 2011

Entries were slightly up in 2012, (+7 students). The percentage of students attaining at either a grade A* or A rose in 2011 by 1.2% and the percentage of students obtaining grade A* - B rose by 5.2%. Boys outperformed girls with girls attainment at grades A* - B rising slightly by 3.3%, boys attainment at grades A* - B rose by 31.4%.

In school support

Across the academic year, four Bedford Borough schools received Foundation Subjects support in terms of RE. This can be broken down into three lower schools and one middle school. These consist of supporting a newer school develop their department and how RE fits into the curriculum, assessment in RE, which the Lead Teacher for RE is assisting with and support with a parental query.

LA Agreed Syllabus and Launch Events

Three launch events were held to introduce the new LA Agreed Syllabus to our schools. Two events were held at Putteridgebury Luton with the final event being held at the Marston Centre in Bedford.

The launches were beneficial for teachers as it gave teachers from all phases the opportunity to meet and listen to changes in our syllabus, access workshops led by national figures and hear and share new ideas specific to their age range.

Participant feedback was very positive and SACRE would like to thank Jane Chipperton, Lat Blaylock and Fiona Moss for all of their hard work.

Bedford Borough winner of the designing art work for the syllabus, Lucy from Putnoe Primary attended the first launch event on the 2 November 2011 to be presented with her award from Deputy Major Charles Royden. Lucy's art work is featured on page 107 in the syllabus.

Below is a full break down of attendance in terms of phase range over all three events.

Syllabus Event	2 Nov 2011	24 Nov 2011	19 April 2012	Overall Breakdown
Number of Delegates	22	12	22	56
Lower Schools (%)	16(31)	8(16)	16(31)	40(78)
Middle Schools (%)	3(21)	2(14)	1(7)	6(43)
Upper Schools (%)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Special Schools & PRU (%)	0(0)	1(25)	1(25)	2(50)
All Schools (%)	19(25)	11(14)	18(24)	48(63)

Three events have been planned in RE Today to support the new LA Agreed Syllabus:

- Effective and Engaging Teaching and Learning with the new Syllabus, 4 July 2012;
- Assessment for Learning in RE: Beyond the tick box, 8 October 2012;
- Teaching Three Religions, 30 January 2013.

Flyers advertising these events have been circulated to all school.



Winning Entries



Inoja, aged 13 ^
Chalney Girls
Luton



Roman, aged 4 ^
Cranfield Lower
Central Bedfordshire



Lucy, aged 10 ^
Putnoe Primary
Bedford Borough



SACRE survey

Between September 2011 to May 2012; fifty percent of the foundation and community schools in Bedford Borough were visited with a survey questionnaire adapted from the original version written by Robin Rice. The aim of the survey was to obtain a clearer picture of RE provision across Bedford Borough and to identify any gaps in provision or further support schools required in terms of RE in the classroom, leadership of RE in school and SMSC.

A report from the findings was written and presented to SACRE at the third and final meeting of 2011 – 2012 with an action plan to be created for the first meeting of the 2012 – 2013 academic year.

The report and action plan will be circulated to all schools and SACRE would like to thank the schools who participated in the survey.

Development opportunities for RE teachers

Three Professional Study Group meetings were held in the academic year 2011 – 2012.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday 21 September 2011. A group of 32 lower and middle school teachers attended the Queens Park Faith Tour and this was followed by an afternoon session focusing on changes to the new LA Agreed Syllabus and planning.

At the second meeting on the 9 February, 22 delegates attended representing 20 lower and middle schools (31%).

At the final meeting on the 21 May 2012, 18 delegates attended the meeting on the 21 May representing 18 lower and middle schools (28%).

The focus of the final PSG meetings of 2011 – 2012 was joint planning for the new LA Agreed Syllabus with schools working in phase groups to work and plan together in order to support the teaching launch of the LA Agreed Syllabus from September 2012.

Advice and Support for Schools

Many schools use the support and resources provided by Jane Chipperton, Religious Education Adviser for the Diocese of St Albans, who oversees a resource base at St Mark's church Centre, Brickhill. The resource collection and beds-re website (www.beds-re-resources.org.uk), support the multi faith approach of the Agreed Syllabus, which is available throughout the day and in school holidays. SACRE members wish to express their thanks to the Diocese of St Albans, St. Mark's Brickhill and Jane Chipperton for providing this service.

The RE Society for Bedfordshire has been active in publicising courses running in the area, organising visits to places of worship for different faiths and providing after-school workshops for teachers. SACRE receives copies of the RE Society's informative newsletter which the LA sends to all schools.

Support for SACRE

SACRE wishes to express its appreciation for the support given by Bedford Borough in terms of funding for SACREs work and for enabling the Council to benefit from the services of Greg Jeffrey from Members' Services.

Your comments on any aspects of SACREs work and areas of interest are welcomed.

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Bedford Borough SACRE Members 2010-2011

Group (A) representing Christian and other Major Faiths

- Mary O'Sullivan, Roman Catholic
- Sister Aidan Richards, Roman Catholic
- William Speed, Free Churches
- Marion Roberts, Free Churches
- Barry Shine, Judaism
- Anjani Singhal, Hinduism
- Tirath Singh Bhavra, Sikhism
- Munawar Hussain, Islam
- Venerable Akurula Samitha, Buddhism

Group (B) representing the Church of England

- Jane Chipperton
- The Rev. Jay MacLeod
- Petra Yates

Group (C) representing Teachers' Associations

- Ann Parish, Headteachers
- Lindsay Fraser, Lower Schools
- Karen Jackson, Middle Schools
- Robin Rice, Upper Schools

Group (D) representing the Local Authority (LA)

- Deputy Mayor Borough Councillor Charles Royden
- Borough Councillor Kirsty Adams
- Borough Councillor Pat Olney
- Borough Councillor Mohammad Masud

Group (E) Others on SACRE (No voting powers)

- The Rev. Cassandra Howes, Co-opted (Higher Education)
- Graham McFarlane, Co-opted
- Corinne Royden, Co-opted (Independent Schools)
- Carrie Traill, LA Adviser
- Greg Jeffrey, Clerk to SACRE