



Bristol SACRE



Annual Report

2011-12



With thanks to St Barnabas CE VC Primary School, Horfield CE VC Primary School and Fishponds CE Academy for providing these pictures of their acts of Collective Worship

The central focus for SACRE's work for 2011–2012 was to embed the new agreed syllabus and to review the guidance given to schools about Collective Worship. A new document was adopted:

Time to Breathe – offering space and stillness

which can be found at: www.bristoldiosecyp.org.



Chair's Introduction

WELCOME to our annual report 2011–2012!

This year has certainly been another engaged and interesting year for Bristol SACRE. We have continued to support our schools in Bristol despite the growing impact of the Academies Bill and the reduced funding to the Local Authority.

We have offered schools training through our very successful annual RE teachers' conference which we organise jointly with South Gloucestershire SACRE.

We also offered extra training for staff in how to implement the new agreed syllabus for RE ("Awareness Mystery and Value") as well as the termly network meetings. We have been able to continue to employ Katy Staples as the adviser to SACRE and, through her, bespoke support has been given to particular schools in need of targeted action.

Sue Thompson worked tirelessly supporting teachers in schools and in writing new materials for the website for the new locally agreed syllabus. We were very sad to lose her support (as Advanced Skills Teacher for RE) at the end of the summer term 2012 and her hard work and guidance will be missed by primary schools within the LA.

RE continues to be the most successfully taught Humanities subject in Bristol in terms of GCSE A*-C outcomes.

We have audited our schools in terms of time allocation, specialism and the need for support as a monitoring activity to judge the impact of changes made by the Government.

In October 2011 Kate Rick was appointed as link officer for SACRE from the LA. Through her practical vigilance and clear thinking she has established a Service Level Agreement for the SACRE adviser and clarified that role and relationship, increasing accountability and efficiency for SACRE.



This year we have re-focused on the support we offer schools in terms of guidance for Collective Worship and have re-written our guidance for schools, adapting existing guidance used in North Somerset. Schools have been signposted to further training for Collective Worship and Spiritual Development in their schools.

Esther

Esther Deans

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 2011-12 are:

Committee A - Christian Denominations and other faiths:

Kelsong Choden	Buddhist
Miranda Moore	Buddhist
Gordon Purdy	Religious Society of Friends
Eurfron Purdy	Methodist
Paul Evans	Roman Catholic
Zaheer Shabir	Islam
Sian Hancocks	United Reformed Church

Committee B - The Church of England:

Jill Dickinson
Jane Simpkins
Alison Cannon

Committee C - Associations representing teachers:

Esther Deans	Bridge learning Campus (Chair)
Sue Thompson	Elmlea Junior School
Claire Roberts	St Matthias and Dr Bells
Jackie Walsh	Ashton Gate Primary School

Committee D - The local authority:

Leslie Alexander	Conservative
Claire Champion-Smith	Liberal Democrats
Peter Hammond	Labour

Co-opted members:

Bernard Omar	Bristol Interfaith Group
Janet Orchard	Bristol University
Hugo Whatley	Redland High School

Support Officers:

Katy Staples	SACRE Adviser (Telephone 0117 917 5583) katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org
Kate Rick	Bristol LA Link Officer

Clerk:

Debbie Curtis Senior Office Administrator, Bristol Education Centre

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 2011–12

Unfortunately only one of these meetings was quorate because on two occasions there was no representative from Group D: The Local Authority

13th October 2011 (not quorate)

St. Agnes Church, St Pauls, Bristol

A Faith perspective: How this majority African-Caribbean Anglican Church serves its majority Muslim CofE Primary School

Provisional RE exam results

National Updates : RE and the EBacc + SACREs relationship with Academies

Development Plan progress

CPD

New Agreed Syllabus

Budget

23rd February 2012 (not quorate)

All Saints' Resource Centre

Membership Update

Annual Report

Collective Worship Working Party Feedback

Budget and SLA

Feedback from the annual conference and other CPD

RE Advisers Report

National Updates

Development Plan

29th June 2012 (quorate)

Arnos Vale Cemetery

A talk from Janine Marriott (Education Officer) about the work of the centre in supporting RE

Membership – diversity issues

Ratification of the New Collective Worship Guidance

New Agreed Syllabus training feedback

Feedback from letters sent to Academies and from the survey of schools

Format of Meetings

Engagement of Local MPs in RE

Why is RE like it is?

RE Adviser's Report

Islam for Bristol Schools (Zaheer Shabir Governor at Hillcrest School and Chair of "Building the Bridge")

SACRE Development Plan

Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead

Challenges for SACRE include:

- Continuing to give support to teachers to ensure outstanding RE in Bristol Schools
- Maintaining schools' engagement with local RE with increased individualisation of schools (Academies and Free Schools etc.)
- Offering more targeted support for some schools
- The need to monitor compliance and standards in RE effectively, particularly in the light of the changes to KS4 for some schools

Opportunities include:

- On-going attendance and interest of some dedicated SACRE members.
- On-going commitment and dedication of teachers as shown by attendance at the Secondary and Primary training opportunities and at Network meetings.

1. Standards and quality of Religious Education Provision

1.a) 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. However, through the survey that we asked schools to complete we established the following information. (A questionnaire was sent to 137 schools and returned by 37 (27%). 20 were returned from Primary schools/Academies and 17 from Secondary schools/Academies/Independent schools).

- In 81.1% schools in Bristol RE is taught to all pupils in all year groups.
- In 54.1% of schools RE is taught discretely as a separate subject
- In 5.4 % of schools RE is integrated with other subjects
- In 45.9% of schools RE is delivered through a combination: integration and being taught separately
- The average allocation of time given for RE per year group is approximately 1–1½ hours per week, allocated in differing patterns
- 50% of schools in Bristol teach the Locally Agreed Syllabus (Awareness, Mystery and Value <http://amv.somerset.gov.uk/>), which is the same Agreed Syllabus taught in Somerset, North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, the Isles of Scilly and Haringey
- In 60% of Primary Schools RE is taught by the class teacher
- In 47.1% of Secondary Schools all pupils were entered for a GCSE qualification in RE (Full or short course)
- 69% of schools felt that they were adequately resourced in RE

1.b) Public Examination entries in RE

1.b)i Results for the 2012 GCSE

2111 students were entered for a public examination in RE (full or short course). This is an increase of 53 students since last year when 2058 students were entered.

Full Course: 1,376 students were entered for the full course which is the highest number of students entered since 2006. In 2011 1,174 were entered. Results from the 2011 full GCSE were 62.4% A*-C which is below the national average of 72.5% and below the results in Bristol from previous years. However, in many schools a larger cohort is now being entered with a greater ability range of students. Many of these students will not have opted to take the course whereas in smaller cohorts it is likely they will have chosen the subject. This compulsory factor affects students motivation to succeed.

Seventeen secondary and special schools entered pupils for the full GCSE. In Bristol six schools were above the national average. Staff at the following schools (which all entered a large cohort) are to be commended on real improvements on 2011 outcomes:

GCSE Full Course: Pupils Achieving ...							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
A*-C	75	69	62	68	65	63	62
A*-G	98	98	94	99	95	97	97

- Bridge Learning Campus an 18% improvement
- Henbury School up 17%
- St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School up 5%

City Academy outcomes were broadly the same but a much larger cohort were entered. Fairfield and Oasis John Williams have declined in outcomes but a much larger cohort entered in 2012 and so there is likely to be a wider ability range.

The following schools are to be particularly commended as they succeeded in achieving grades that exceed the national average for a large cohort of students:

- St Bede's Catholic College (159/193) 93.7%,
- St Mary Redcliffe & Temple Church of England Secondary School (202/213) 84.7%

St Bede's has continued the development from last year of entering high attaining students for AS. The school increased the entry number to 14 and increased A-B grades to 86% a 13% improvement on 2011.

Short Course: 735 students were entered for short course RE which is the lowest number for 6 years. Results from the short course were 53.1% A*-C which is above the national average of 50.3% and equal the best results for short course RE that Bristol schools have attained since 2006.

GCSE Short Course: Pupils Achieving...							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
A*-C	40	39	46	45	51	53	53
A*-G	89	90	91	96	95	96	96

Overall, 15 schools entered pupils for the RE short course. The national average A*-C was 50.3%. In Bristol, overall achievement was above the provisional national average at

53.1%. This is a small improvement on 2011. The following schools entered a significant cohort for the short course: Redland Green School (175/189) 90% A*-C, Bristol Brunel Academy (42/166) 68%, both above national average.

The following schools' results improved on 2011: Orchard School's were up by 6%, Redland Green School's by 27%, and Bristol Brunel Academy which significantly increased its 2011 cohort from 2 when no students gained A*-C to 42 students, 68% gaining A*-C.

Entry Level Qualifications: Brightstowe Oasis Academy, St. Mary Redcliffe & Temple Church of England Secondary School, and Fairfield High School have all entered pupils for ELQ qualifications, ensuring that low attaining pupils are given access to public examinations and so gain points scores.

1.b)ii Key Stage 5 Religious Studies Outcomes

AS-level: 6 schools entered students for AS-level in Bristol last year. The results show the numbers who have “cashed in their results” at the end of the year. Many of course will go onto study A2 and therefore their AS results do not show in these figures. Overall there has been a rise in A-E passes but a 20% decline in A*-B passes from 2011.

A-level: A-level numbers for 2012 at 96 are a small increase on 2011 (92). Bristol A*-A at 25% remains the same as in 2011. Redland Green School is to be commended for achieving 38.9% A-A* and St Mary Redcliffe & Temple for 24.1% A*-B. Bristol average improved by 2% points on 2011. Redland Green and Cotham School were both well above national average with 70+% (a 44% improvement for Cotham on 2011 outcomes). St Mary Redcliffe & Temple's outcomes declined from 71% in 2011 to 59% this year.

1.c) 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 improved with Kate Rick as link officer establishing a Service Level Agreement with the Adviser. The work of SACRE support is now held to account (ensuring that targeted support is given to the schools in most need) which has assisted better outcomes in some cases. The budget has been more efficiently managed and clarity of purpose has increased.

Bristol SACRE has maintained its partnership with other local SACREs through sharing an annual conference with South Gloucestershire SACRE and an Agreed Syllabus with Somerset, North Somerset, and Bath & North East Somerset. Members of SACRE also attended the regional conference for SACREs held in Dillington where the current landscape for RE was a major focus, as was teenage spirituality, relationships education, RE and Collective Worship.

Members of SACRE also maintain links with local interfaith groups. A co-opted member - Bernard Omar - is the Chair of the Bristol Inter-faith Group and another member - Zaheer Shabir - is Chair of "Building Bridges" - an organisation that seeks to create peace across communities. Their understanding and information about the work of their organisation is fed into SACRE work.

SACRE development

CPD offered: During the year, three Secondary and four Primary training opportunities were offered to teachers in Bristol:

Primary/Secondary/Venue	Date/Topic
Secondary Best Practice Learning Hub All Saints Centre	22 nd Sept 2011 4pm – 6pm <i>Enquiry based RE</i>
Primary Cluster Elmlea Junior School	15 th November 2011 <i>Enquiry based RE</i>
Secondary and Primary RE Annual Conference Engineer's House	27/01/2012 9.30 am – 3.30 pm <i>"Getting to grips with AT2 to raise attainment in RE"</i> keynote speaker Dilwyn Hunt, RE Consultant
Secondary RE Best Practice learning Hub All Saints Centre	15 th March 2012 4pm – 6pm <i>Compelling Learning Experiences in RE</i>
Primary RE Training Opportunity All Saints Centre	22 nd March 2012 9am – 12.30 <i>Implementing the New Agreed Syllabus for Primary Schools</i>
Primary Cluster Elmlea Junior School	15 th May 2012 4pm – 6pm <i>How to be an RE subject leader</i>
Secondary RE Best Practice learning Hub All Saints Centre	14 th June 2012 4pm – 6pm <i>Spiritual Development in RE</i>

3. The Effectiveness of the local Agreed Syllabus

During last year SACRE made the important decision to adopt the neighbouring Agreed Syllabus "Awareness, Mystery and Value" (North Somerset, Somerset, and Bath & North East Somerset).

The Advanced Skills Teacher for RE, the Adviser to SACRE and other teachers have been very productive in writing exemplars of good schemes of work for the new Agreed Syllabus which have been uploaded onto the website for all teachers of RE across these local authorities to access. This hard work continued throughout 2011–12. The new Agreed Syllabus is now well populated with exciting exemplars which provide ideas for how effective RE can be delivered in Bristol schools.

When the new agreed syllabus has been established it will be appropriate to assess its effectiveness but we are currently only in the first year of this syllabus' life and many colleagues are still embedding their new schemes of work.

4. Collective Worship

As Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in schools is once again a part of the new Ofsted framework, it was felt timely to review the Collective Worship guidance we offer schools in Bristol. A Collective Worship Working Party was set up and it was decided to adopt the North Somerset guidance for Collective Worship, making some amendments for Bristol schools: "Time to Breathe – offering space and stillness" (<http://www.bristoldiocesecyp.org/index.php/search?q=collective+worship+guidance>). This has been sent to all schools in Bristol electronically and has been well received.

Headteachers and Governors have been signposted to training which will assist them in ensuring that students in their schools have outstanding Collective Worship that will support their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

There were no determinations in force during the reporting year.

No formal complaints or other matters were referred to SACRE this year.

5. SACRE as a representative and effective diverse community

Bristol SACRE is a more effectively diverse community than it has been. However it still lacks the appropriate representation that would reflect the diversity represented in the city.

Bristol SACRE has a group of committed members who are seeking to ensure that the opportunities for learning that pupils gain in RE and Collective Worship are exciting and will further their ability to handle the complexity and wonder of life.