



December 2012

**The Annual Report of the City of York
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2012.

1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Director of Adult and Children's Education Services on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Representing the City of York Council are Councillors:-

Jenny Brooks (Con)
Lindsay Cunningham-Cross (Lab)
Paul Firth (Lib Dem)
Christina Funnell (Lab)

Representing the Church of England:-

Olivia Seymour
Imelda O'Grady
Janet Dunn (Heworth CE Primary School)

Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-

Revd Ann M Vaughan (Methodist)
Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)
Suraya Lloyd (Muslim)
Jerry Karlin (Jewish, Vice Chair)

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Representing Teachers:-

Shabana Jabbar (Head of RE, York High; Chair)
Caroline Moore (Archbishop Holgate's)
Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)
Jenny Mooney (Westfield)
Kate Sowter (St Lawrence's)
Keith Geary (Canon Lee)
Lisa Furtado-Morris (Westfield)
Josh Warren

Co-opted:-

Mick Phythian (Humanist; Chair)
Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community)

In attendance:-

Maxine Squire (Education Adviser)
Claire Marshall (Clerk)
Naomi Watson (Clerk)

3. Religious Education

During the period January 2012 to December 2012 there were no Ofsted subject inspections of Religious Education. Of the schools inspected during 2012 all were seen to be making at least satisfactory provision for developing SMSC and in a number of schools the promotion of SMSC was seen to be a strength. Inspection reports indicate that all schools appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE. There were six Section 48 SIAS inspections of Church of England schools between January 2012 and December 2012. Four of the six schools were judged to be good overall and two were judged to be outstanding.

In 2012 the number of pupils taking accreditation at the end of KS4 continued to rise with a higher number of pupils taking the full course GCSE at the end of KS4. This indicates that the subject continues to have a place in the secondary school curriculum in York despite changes to the KS4 league tables and the introduction of the EBacc.

During 2012-13 SACRE intends to work with School Improvement Partners to gain an understanding of the quality of teaching and learning in R.E. in both primary and secondary schools.

4. Collective Worship

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework since January 2012 and in the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE has compiled and published guidance to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance can be found on the City of York SACRE website.

5. Update on the work of SACRE

- In the past twelve months three meetings have been held with discussions ranging from support for the next generation of R.E. teachers, the potential impact of the EBacc on R.E and the priorities for the development of SACRE over the next two years.
- Primary and secondary training through network learning groups supporting effective teaching and learning in RE has been provided.
- SACRE continues to identify best practice models that promote flexible and creative approaches to teaching and learning in RE.
- The following priorities for the development of SACRE have been discussed and a SACRE development plan 2012-2015 is being drafted and shared with SACRE members:
 - (1) Raising the profile of SACRE. This is being done through the contribution to Holocaust Memorial Day and also by a letter from the new Chair, Shabana Jabbar, to all head teachers in the city. This letter provides head teacher with information about the purpose of SACRE and invites heads to contact SACRE if they require further information. It also directs them to the Agreed Syllabus CD and the website.
 - (2) Developing a CPD programme for R.E. teachers. Maxine Squire is organising a RE CPD programme for teachers to be included in the School Improvement Course Brochure. A provisional cross phase session has been arranged for 24th January 2013 to see if there is an appetite for further professional development sessions for RE teachers. It was felt that it would be good to provide opportunities to share best practice and work with partners such as York St John University and the Diocese of York.
 - (3) The development of a Youth SACRE.

6. Support for Schools

Members of SACRE are keen to support staff in schools to raise standards in RE and have been kept up to date with the strategies to achieve this through who is supporting RE and Collective Worship, on behalf of the LA and also by:-

- support for RE subject leaders through the primary and secondary Curriculum Support and Network Learning Groups as they work together to implement the Agreed Syllabus.
- SACRE is continuing to support the work of the Yorkshire & Humber Faiths Forum.
- Jerry Karlin is actively involved in planning the City of York Council's commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2013. SACRE is providing financial support to develop teaching and learning materials for schools

7. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2011

A2 Level

All four 11-18 secondary schools in the City and York College entered students for the A2 level examinations in Religious Studies and success rates remain high. All Saints had 28 entries, Huntington 7, Fulford 9 and Joseph Rowntree 8. York College entered 37 (some from York schools but also many from outside York)

Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
89	2	19	28	24	14	1	1	89

AS Level

All four 11-18 secondary schools in York and York College entered a very small number of students for the AS level examinations in Religious Studies.

Entries	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
31	3	7	9	5	4	3	31

Commentary

There were slightly fewer students studying at AS level in 2011-12, however the number studying and achieving full A level continued to improve. The schools attracting the largest number of students continue to be All Saints and Huntington. The majority of students are continuing to achieve at the highest grades A-C which indicates that the quality of teaching post 16 remains good.*

Full Course GCSE

9 secondary schools in York this year entered students for the full GCSE course in Religious Studies

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
2012	736	71.6	98.5
2011	685	70.1	96.5

Commentary

The number of pupils taking the full course has continued to rise and outcomes have continued to improve. The percentage achieving A-G in 2012 is in line with the national average (98.5%) and the improvement in this percentage means that the majority of pupils taking full course GCSE achieve accreditation. The percentage achieving A*-C is broadly in line with the national average (72.1%). No pupils achieved the highest grades A*/A in 2012 and as a result the value added for the 2012 cohort was significantly below expectations for the percentage achieving A*-C grades. This may be due to the limited curriculum time available to R.E. in comparison to other subjects at KS4.*

Short Course GCSE

8 secondary schools are continuing to enter students for the short course which is designed to be taught for one hour a week, or the equivalent, over key stage 4. The RE short course has been the most successful short course nationally and now in York almost all Y11 pupils achieve a qualification in RE/RS at the end of their statutory schooling.

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
2012	705	61.3	99.0
2011	834	62.0	97.4

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Commentary

The short course continues to successfully provide students with an accreditation after 11 years of compulsory RE/RS lessons and is once again significantly better in comparison to the national figure; 61.3% when the national average was 50.3%. Numbers and outcomes are slightly down on last year for A-C but these are not significant as numbers increased in the full course and the percentage achieving A*-G improved. Archbishop Holgate's and Millthorpe continued to enter the majority of their cohorts for the short course in 2012, however, they along with other schools will need to plan for the removal of the short course in 2014.*

ELQ B and C

Manor, Millthorpe and York High School entered 40 students for this entry level accreditation and achieved the following:

0% L2 (A*-C)

100% L1 (A*-G)

Commentary

The Entry Level Qualification, which is designed especially for lower attaining pupils who need additional support to achieve qualifications is again successfully being delivered at Manor, York High and Millthorpe.

8. Methods of Teaching

The Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions. Resources are available for all teachers in York for the teaching of RE from the York St John University's David Hope RE Centre, which also provides access to resources via its website.

SACRE will continue to keep a watching brief on national developments taking place around the R.E. curriculum through the R.E. Review which is currently taking place and will issue further advice and guidance to schools as it becomes available during 2012-13.

9. Changes to Ofsted Framework

From September 2012 a new Ofsted framework has been introduced which will be significantly different to the previous frameworks. The key judgements have been slimmed down in order to drive improvements in schools with an emphasis on reading and writing and four key judgements.

The 4 judgements are: achievement of pupils at the school; the quality of teaching including the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; behaviour and safety and leadership and management.

The overall effectiveness of the school will be judged to be 'inadequate' if ***'there are serious weaknesses in the overall promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'***

The slimmer framework will enable inspectors to spend more time in classrooms, talk more with pupils and listen to parents' views of the school. There will no longer be a judgement relating to community cohesion.

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Inspectors will judge the quality of education provided in school including how well the school is promoting SMSC and inspectors will take into account how well the school helps all pupils to make progress including specific groups such as ethnic minorities and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.

SACRE will have a significant role to play in working with schools to help them to deliver on pupils' SMSC development in this new framework. RE also has a strong input into this area and as such may be inspected more rigorously in future. SACRE will continue to support teaching and learning in RE and monitor progress against the Ofsted criteria.

Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

10. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination"; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship to be 'wholly or mainly Christian'. The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

11. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

None were made to the SACRE during this reporting year.

12. After-word

At the start of the academic year 2012-13 two key changes were made to the membership of SACRE; a new the Chair, Shabana Jabbar started her period of office and SACRE is being supported by a different Local Authority Adviser, Maxine Squire, Principal Adviser(Secondary). These changes have provided an opportunity to revisit and refocus the SACRE development plan.

Report produced by Shabana Jabbar, Chair and Maxine Squire, Principal Adviser (Secondary).