



# SACRE



## Annual Report 2013 -14



The central mission of SACRE's work for 2013 – 2014 has been serving Bristol schools in offering challenging and exciting RE. Our particular emphasis has been on ensuring pupils have access to understand the local diversity of faith within Bristol



## Chair's Introduction

Welcome to our annual report 2013-2014.

This year RE has faced a huge challenge against a Government backdrop which has seen a changing place for RE in the curriculum. Although still part of the core curriculum, new changes in Government policy and the growth of academies has seen a shift in the provision of RE and academic take up in some schools. Bristol SACRE have been proactive in offering support to all schools in Bristol with RE still showing a significant contribution in our GCSE and A-level league tables. Bristol SACRE has been keen to recognise improving schools and work with developing practice to ensure that all schools, regardless of status, have the support they need to provide quality RE for all pupils within their care.

We have continued to support our schools in Bristol; we have had a continually meaningful relationship with LA schools and with academies.

We have offered schools training through our very successful annual RE teacher's conference which we organise jointly with South Glos. SACRE. We were fortunate to have Mary Myatt as the keynote speaker this year and the topic was 'Enquiry in RE: Raising Engagement, Improving Progress'. The feedback from the conference was most positive. 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. SACRE has also offered continuous CPD opportunities to all schools throughout the year with two further opportunities of network meetings for primary and secondary schools/academies.

Bristol SACRE has also worked with all faiths and community groups supporting many initiatives alongside the multi-faith forum, such as the Bristol Diverse Open Doors Day. This was particularly important in creating greater understanding and awareness of other. I personally enjoyed the Speed Faithing event organised by Katy Staples for Bristol teachers and community members to get a greater connection between what happens in the community and what happens in the classroom. Bristol SACRE has been building a new electronic directory of speakers who represent the variety of beliefs present locally who are available to Schools.

*Two major initiatives this year were the Ambassadors of Sanctuary and Belief Conference for secondary school students and Sixth Formers and the Speed Faithing Conference which helped teachers meet and engage with members of different belief communities.*

This year we have responded to national developments, particularly at such a political time, in order to support and advise schools. It is unfortunate that while it has been recognised that SACREs hold a vital role in their contribution to community issues and their place in "promoting British values of the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs", this comes at a time when we are seeing many schools cutting back on the provision of RE. Michael Gove's belief that RE would be protected due to its core curriculum status has not been enough to protect the provision of RE in schools. This is a fundamental issue the Government must tackle as the SMSC which RE provides is often a very significant chunk of the overall SMSC of a school, and provides pupils with the resilience to try to understand others.

Bristol SACRE has worked at developing an active, meaningful SACRE Action Plan which has focussed our attentions on developing locally distinctive RE and trying to ensure greater engagement in RE from faith communities and from those with other world views. We were also successful in gaining a NASACRE grant for a conference in June 2014 about Sanctuary and Belief which links with Bristol as a City of Sanctuary and focuses on refugees' and asylum seekers' beliefs and experiences. This was a very powerful and successful conference. Many schools are now on their way to becoming City of Sanctuary ambassadors. Bristol SACRE is very grateful to Westhill / NASACRE for funding this project.

I continue to be proud to serve as the Chair of Bristol SACRE and am grateful for the hard work and diligence of this committed group of individuals that make up SACRE – all the community leaders, teachers, LA councillors and, of course, our very own Katy Staples who, as our school's advisor and through her consultancy work, makes an enormous contribution to the smooth running and effective work of Bristol SACRE.



Wishing you love, peace, understanding, tolerance, happiness and joy.

**Esther Deans MBE**  
**Chair, Bristol SACRE**

Pictured here with Faruk Choudary the first Muslim elected to be Lord Mayor of Bristol

## 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 2012-13:

- **Committee A**  
Kelsong Choden / Rak-Ma Kelsang  
Miranda Moore  
Ray Bray  
Eurfron Purdy  
Paul Evans  
Isabella Harding  
Zaheer Shabir  
Nassir (Mohammad-Nassir Miah)  
Sian Hancocks  
Les Fry  
Javinder Singh
  - **Committee B**  
Jill Dickinson  
Jane Simpkins  
Alison Cannon  
Ruth Wallace
  - **Committee C**  
Esther Deans  
Adam Robertson  
Claire Roberts  
Jackie Walsh
  - **Committee D**  
Leslie Alexander  
Claire Hiscott  
Claire Champion-Smith  
Peter Hammond
- Christian Denominations and other faiths**  
Buddhist  
Buddhist  
Religious Society of Friends  
Methodist  
Roman Catholic  
Roman Catholic  
Islam  
Islam  
Baptist  
United Reformed Church  
Sikh
- The Church of England**
- Associations representing teachers**  
Bridge Learning Campus (Chair)  
Horfield CofE VC Primary School  
Fishponds Academy  
Ashton Gate Primary School
- The local authority**  
Conservative  
Conservative  
Liberal Democrats  
Labour
- Co-opted members:**  
Marie Hackett  
Lee Cottier  
Jordan Colliver  
Janet Orchard  
Hugo Whateley
- Bristol Interfaith Group  
Humanist  
Humanist  
Bristol University  
Redland High School

**Support Officers:**

Katy Staples SACRE Adviser (Telephone 0117 906 0100)  
[katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org)

Jenny Brookes Local Authority Link Officer

**Clerk:**

Maribel Harrington Local Authority Clerk  
Sam Ford Diocese of Bristol Communications and Training Administrator

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 2013-14****17th October 2013****Christ Church, Clifton Down Road, Bristol, BS8 3BN****2.00-3.30pm**

The main agenda items were:

- The role of the schools worker at Christ Church in supporting RE in local schools and at Easton CE Primary School
- Young Ambassadors for RE
- Feedback from CPD
- REC RE Review launch
- SACRE Development Plan 2013-15

**27th March 2014****All Saints Centre, 1 All Saints Court, Bristol, BS1 1JN****6.00-7.30pm**

This meeting was not quorate as no Local Authority councillor was present or anyone from the Church of England group.

The main agenda items were:

- An explanation and briefing by Forward Maisokwadzo about the forthcoming Sanctuary and Belief Conference
- Annual Report
- SACRE Development Plan 2013-15
- Planning of "Speed Faithing Conference" (part of the Development Plan)
- St Matthias Bid to support RE
- Feedback from the annual conference and other CPD

**Thursday 10th July 2014**

**Horfield Methodist Church, Churchways Avenue, Horfield, Bristol BS7 8SN**

**10.00am–1.15pm**

The main agenda items were:

- A talk about Methodism and Horfield Methodist Church in particular from Eufron Parry (vice chair of SACRE)
- Membership update
- Feedback from the Sanctuary and Belief Conference
- Feedback from the Speed Faithing Event
- Reviewing SACRE Development Plan 2013-15

## **Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead**

**Challenges** for SACRE include:

- Continuing to give support to teachers to ensure outstanding RE in Bristol schools and academies
- Offering more targeted support for some schools, creating greater school to school support
- Offering appropriate challenge that will be accepted and heeded, to Bristol City Council and to academy providers within the city
- Utilising national and local concerns about British values and counter-terrorism to strengthen the position of RE without skewing its core purpose

**Opportunities** include:

- Ongoing attendance and interest of some dedicated SACRE members
- Ongoing commitment and dedication of teachers as shown by attendance at the Annual Conference and at Network meetings
- Growing capacity for school to school support and new leaders of Religious Education amongst teachers attending Conferences and leading network meetings

## **1. Standards and quality of Religious Education (RE) provision**

### **1a 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.

### **1b Public Examination entries in RE**

Results for the **2014 GCSE**:

2304 students were entered for a public examination (Full Course or Short Course) in RE. This is a decrease of 380 students since last year when 2,684 students were entered.

## Full Course

1,555 students were entered for the full course which is an increase since last year of 249 students

Results from the 2014 full GCSE were 70% A\*-C which is just below the national average of 71.5 % but higher than the results in Bristol in previous years. This year a larger cohort was entered with a greater ability range, little time allocation other than that given to the short course in some contexts and a lack of parity of time allocation compared to other subjects.

| GCSE Full Course: numbers entered |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1376 | 1555 | 1804 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                   | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| %A*-C                             | 75   | 69   | 62   | 68   | 65   | 63   | 62   | 67   | 70   |
| %A*-G                             | 98   | 98   | 94   | 99   | 95   | 97   | 97   | 98   | 98   |

- Nineteen secondary and special schools entered at least one pupil for the full GCSE
- Nine schools entered the majority of their cohort
- In Bristol nine schools results were above the national average

## Short Course

Only 500 students were entered for short course RE which is a huge decrease from last year. This is due to the short course no longer being counted as one of the 'basket of 8' subjects in the league tables.

Results from the short course were 48% A\*-C which represents better results than last year.

| GCSE Short Course: numbers entered |      |      |      |      |      |      | 735  | 1129 | 500  |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                    | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| %A*-C                              | 40   | 39   | 46   | 45   | 51   | 53   | 53   | 37   | 48   |
| %A*-G                              | 89   | 90   | 91   | 96   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 88   | 86   |

- Overall 13 centres entered at least one pupil for the RE short course. This is a decrease of 5 centres since last year
- Only three schools entered the majority of their cohort in the RE short course RE

## Key Stage 5 Religious Studies Outcomes

- 8 centres entered students for AS level in Bristol last year.
- 91 students were entered for AS and achieved on average 69% A-C grades
- This represents a reduction in numbers from 111 and a reduction in average % grade from 78% last year - however it still exceeds the National Average for AS Religious Studies which was 66.5%

## A level

- A level numbers for 2014 are 55 which is a decrease of 6 entries from last year
- 22% of students entered gained A\*-B which is less than the National Average of 24.8 %
- Four centres are achieving standards above the National Average

## 1c 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 been greatly improved with the appointment of Jenny Brookes as link officer. It is beneficial that there is now someone from the Local Authority holding the work of SACRE to account and there is someone to whom SACRE can turn to and offer challenge about RE in the LA.

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. The adviser for SACRE also attended the regional conference for SACRE held in Dillington where she led a workshop titled 'Local and Fresh - keeping RE local'. She was then asked to repeat this workshop at the National Association of SACREs' Annual General Meeting.

Members of SACRE also maintain links with local interfaith groups and Marie Hackett from Bristol Multi-Faith Forum sits on Bristol SACRE. Bristol SACRE has close relationships with Bristol University and Dr Janet Orchard - who is PGCE Programme Director - is a member of SACRE. Student teachers from Bristol University RE PGCE course attended the October meeting of SACRE as part of their course.

### CPD offered:

During the year, 3 secondary and 3 primary training opportunities were offered to teachers in Bristol:

| Primary/Secondary/                         | Venue/Date/Topic  |
|--|---|
| Secondary Best Practice Learning Hub       | Bristol Cathedral Choir School, College Square, BS1 5TS<br>14th November 2013 4.30–5.45pm<br>Raising Standards at GCSE through talking into writing and creative assessment   |
| Primary Best Practice Learning Hub         | Horfield CE VC Primary School, Bishop Manor Road, Bristol, BS10 5BD<br>29 November 2013 1pm - 4pm<br>Creative RE for Engaging Learning: Imagination Station RE  |
| Secondary and Primary RE Annual Conference | Engineers' House, The Promenade, Clifton Down, Avon, Bristol BS8 3NB<br>30th January 2014 9.30am–3.30pm<br>"Enquiry in RE: Raising Engagement, Improving Progress"<br>Mary Myatt keynote speaker RE Consultant  |
| Secondary and Primary RE Event             | Hellenic Centre, Greek Orthodox Church Hall, Lower Ashley Rd, Easton, BS5 0YL<br>3rd July 2014 1pm - 4pm<br>"Speed Faithing : Speed Phasing"<br>Learning more about the beliefs held within the local community and making contacts.<br>Explaining to members of communities of belief how best to communicate to children/young people |



### **3. The effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus**

During 2011 SACRE made the important decision to adopt the Agreed Syllabus “Awareness, Mystery and Value” as used by neighbouring North Somerset, Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset.

The Adviser to SACRE and other teachers have been very productive in writing exemplars of good schemes of work for the Agreed Syllabus which have been loaded on the website for all teachers of RE across BANES, North Somerset and Somerset, Haringey and the Isles of Scilly to download. This hard work continued throughout 2013-14. A new unit was written about John Wesley and The New Room which encourages teachers to learn about how John Wesley put his faith into action and encourages teachers to take pupils to visit The New Room.

When the new agreed syllabus has been established it will be appropriate to assess its effectiveness but we are currently only in the second full year of this agreed syllabus’ life and many colleagues are still embedding their new schemes of work. Academic year 2015-16 will see the need for an Agreed Syllabus Review and at that point we will undertake a serious examination of its effectiveness.

The RE Adviser has found that an increasing number of schools are seeking her support in leading staff meetings, guiding work scrutinies and clarifying what is required to make progress in RE.

### **4. Collective Worship**

In the academic year 2011-12 we reviewed the Collective Worship guidance we offer schools in Bristol. It was decided to adopt the North Somerset guidance for Collective Worship with some amendments for Bristol schools: “Time to Breathe – offering space and stillness”. This was sent to all schools in Bristol and has been well received.

Headteachers and governors continue to be signposted to training which will assist them in ensuring that students in their school have outstanding Collective Worship that will support their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development. Training for Collective Worship has been signposted and is delivered through the Diocese of Bristol.

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, effective, diverse community**

Bristol SACRE is a more effectively diverse community than it has been. Through concerted efforts appropriate representation that would fully reflect the diversity in the city is much closer to being realised.

In the last year Bristol SACRE has worked with energy and commitment and has an action plan that will actively seek to ensure greater diversity of commitment to Religious Education throughout the city.

Bristol SACRE has a group of committed and interested members who are seeking to ensure that the opportunities for learning that pupils gain in RE and Collective Worship are exciting and will help them to navigate the complex world of competing ideologies with safety and confidence.