

# **Kirklees Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

## **Annual Report 2014 – 2015**



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This annual report is prepared for Kirklees Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) as part of its statutory responsibility. It may only be reproduced with permission from SACRE. For further information on the report or on RE and Collective Worship in Kirklees, please contact Alastair Ross at [alastair.ross@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.ross@kirklees.gov.uk).

## Part 1: The Work of Kirklees SACRE

SACRE is required to produce an annual report as one its statutory responsibilities. This year we have continued to keep the report simplified to make it more accessible and relevant. SACRE can report with insight and authority on the matters included in this report but does not have the resources to comment in detail on every aspect of the detailed provision of RE or collective worship in every school. Detailed analysis of public examination results is included and an overall picture of religious education in Kirklees.

### Meetings of SACRE

There were four meetings of SACRE during the year 2014 - 2015. The meetings were held on the following dates and the minutes are included in Appendix 4.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014
- 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (AGM)

A full programme of meetings has been planned for the year 2015-16.

- 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 (17:30)
- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (17:30)
- 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (18:00)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 (17:30)

### Membership

SACRE membership includes representatives from all four constituent committees.

- Committee A           Faiths and denominations except Anglicans
- Committee B           The Church of England

- Committee C            Teachers and schools
- Committee D            Kirklees Council

Membership of faith communities has been strengthened with, in particular, active participation from a range of Christian, Jewish and Muslim representatives. Training and induction is provided for SACRE members and recently this has included: Understanding of British Values, the changes to GCSE and Collective Worship.

## **Events and Developments**

During 2014-2015 the principle goal of SACRE has been to embed the revised syllabus and non-statutory units of work. SACRE does not provide other training but recognises and encourages the comprehensive provision of training and support through Kirklees Learning Services. It has also funded and supported specific events from time to time. Details of this provision are in Appendix 2.

Kirklees Learning Service also provides separate network meetings for teachers of RE at primary and secondary level. These are held each term and are part of the Kirklees Network Package.

Some priorities for 2014-2015 included:

- Exploring the possibility of partnership in a regional RE training hub as proposed by the RE Council
- Developing partnership working with Calderdale and other neighbouring SACREs

A more detailed explanation of the work carried out this year is included later on in the report.

## **Financial support**

Kirklees SACRE has a budget of £15,000 a year provided by Kirklees Council as part of its statutory duties. Most of this budget funds RE training and consultancy and other statutory roles. As part of the local agreed syllabus the sale of the units of work has increased the budget that SACRE can use to support RE. This will be discussed as part of the work plan for

SACRE in 2015 – 16. The budget for 2015-2016 remains as £15000 for the fourth successive year, though SACRE will share additional income from schools' subscriptions to the units of work.

During 2014-2015 the RE advisor, Alastair Ross, is contracted to support SACRE and is funded by Kirklees Council. He is also contracted to deliver training in RE and other areas through Kirklees Learning Services. The total amount of time allocated for SACRE and other related areas of RE is 40 days a year.

### **Partners, Support and advice**

SACRE is grateful for the expertise of its members. Teacher and governor representatives continue to advise on the needs and progress of schools.

SACRE receives advice and information from a number of sources including: Kirklees MC. NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE), NASACRE (National Association of SACREs), The RE Council of England and Wales, Culham St Gabriel's.

There were no formal complaints registered to SACRE throughout the academic year.

### **The future of SACREs**

The future of SACREs is under serious question. The HMI for RE and the Director of Culham St Gabriel's have together argued for the removal of the SACRE system. They have called for their replacement by a new national structure. This is an important debate though any substitute for SACREs would need to be carefully thought through.

In the summer of 2015, a pamphlet was produced by Charles Clarke, former Secretary of State and Linda Woodhead, Professor of Sociology of Religion at the University of Lancaster. The pamphlet, *A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools* arose from research and debate carried out by the Westminster Faith Debates (founded by Mr Clarke and Professor Woodhead) and the Religion and Society Research programme which gave rise to them. Both were supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, and Lancaster University.

The pamphlet has no formal authority but will be influential as a call for changes in the direction of RE. SACRE will wish to discuss and consider the proposals it outlines.

Its principle recommendations are:

- An end to compulsory collective worship;
- A new national RE syllabus determined by the Secretary of State;
- The government should consider making this syllabus compulsory for all schools;
- SACREs' role to be limited to participation in consultation and support for implementation
- A more robust system of inspecting RE;
- Continuation of faith schools but modifications to admissions and possible removal of separate inspection regime

The full recommendations are included as Appendix 5.

## **Part 2: Provision of Religious Education**

### **The Local RE syllabus**

The Agreed Syllabus for Kirklees was revised during 2013 - 14 with an entirely new syllabus created to reflect national priorities and local needs. It was jointly produced and funded with Calderdale and also the Anglican Diocese of Wakefield. A joint steering group helped to guide this process. A scheme of work with over 50 units has been written to support the delivery of the syllabus and approximately 90% of schools now have access to these across Kirklees.

### **Provision of Training**

SACRE does not directly provide other training but recognises and encourages the comprehensive provision of training and support through Kirklees Learning Services. It has also funded and supported specific events from time to time. Kirklees Learning Service also provides separate network meetings for teachers of RE at primary and secondary level. These are held each term and are part of the Kirklees Network Package. Details of all training and support provided is listed in Appendix 2.

### **Public examination results**

Exam entries for GCSE full course remain reasonably steady. In 2014, 2373 students were entered and in 2015, 2287 were entered. This represents 49% of the total Y11 cohort in Kirklees. This figure is well above the national average of 44% taking GCSE full course exams. There have been no short course RS GCSE entries during this year. SACRE would like to investigate what provision is in place for RE at KS4 for students not taking a GCSE course. One of the main priorities for 2015 – 2016 is to offer a British Values Health check for schools and an examination of RE will be part of these health checks.

Twenty one schools entered pupils for full course examination. It appears 4 secondary schools in Kirklees did not enter students for GCSE: Almondbury Community School, Salendine Nook, Westborough and Batley Business and Enterprise College. SACRE would like

to know what provision for RE is in place within these schools. Six schools entered students for A level Religious Studies with 62 entries. This number is the same as the cohort for 2014.

More girls were entered than boys for GCSE and girls attain higher than boys A\* - C grades. More girls were entered for A Level exams than boys this year and attained higher grades than the boys at A\* - A. Boys attained more highly at A\* - B than girls

It is heartening to note that the percentage of pupils achieving A\* - C grades at GCSE has increased from 64.9% in 2014 to 67.8% this year. This was still below the national average of 71.8%. It appears from analysis of the results at RS GCSE that girls scored a greater proportion of A\* - C grades than boys. Girls attained 74.9% of A\*- C grades with boys attaining 59.4% A\* - C.

Comparative data for AS and A2 levels nationally were not available at the time of this report being prepared. However a comparison with this year's results and those of 2014 show that students achieved slightly lower at A\* - B grades for A level (30.7 %) in 2014 this was 36.5%. It appears that there is a slight downward trend in attainment at A level

## **Conclusion**

Although we continue to face uncertainty, there is reason for optimism about the importance and role of RE in Kirklees. The rich diversity of culture, tradition and faith in our communities is an asset to be celebrated and only emphasises the need for imaginative and constructive religious education. But there is no room for complacency. The commitment of schools to support and encourage RE is critical to nurturing a generation of young people who know, understand and respect diversity and can explore the meaning, purpose and value of their own lives. Kirklees SACRE, supported by the local authority, will do all it can to help teachers, governors and students in this task.



### **Part 3: Collective worship**

The 1988 Education Act required collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. This allows schools to focus on some broad, universal and important themes, common to world faiths and non-religious world views: compassion, forgiveness, generosity. It also allows schools to remember specific festivals or stories from Christianity and all world faiths, as well as secular perspectives.

A determination may be authorised by SACRE to maintained schools which have a distinctive non-Christian religious make up. These schools must make provision for any minorities but a determination should not mean that there are separate acts of collective worship. This would negate the description 'collective'. A determination should be renewed every five years. Free schools and academies need to apply to the Education Funding Agency rather than to SACRE.

There are determinations in place for five Kirklees maintained schools. These are listed below with the date of expiry. All five have been granted because the pupil population is overwhelmingly Muslim.

Alternative provision should still be inclusive for all pupils and SACRE discourages the provision of 'alternative assemblies' in all schools, including those with a determination. SACRE will be carefully reviewing its approach to determinations during the next year though none fall due for renewal in this period.

Purlwell I&N School (March 2016)

Hyrstmount Junior School (Nov 2015)

Field lane J, I&N School (Nov 2015)

Park Road J,I&N School (Nov 2015)

Warwick Road J,I&N School (Jan 2016)

Each of these schools have been visited by the RE advisor this year to review their practice. As a result of these reviews it appears that schools due for renewal of their determinations will probably allow them to lapse.

One of SACRE's key responsibilities is to monitor and support collective worship. During 2014-15 SACRE undertook a monitoring exercise. All Kirklees schools and academies were offered a visit from SACRE to observe collective worship, offer feedback and review the overall pattern and priorities. Two schools in particular wanted support on patterns of collective worship and how to make these inclusive for all.

During the past year Kirklees Learning Services provided a half day course to support senior leaders and teachers in collective worship.

There were no complaints made during the year to SACRE about Collective Worship.

## Part 4: Summary of achievements and priorities

### Achievements and good practice during 2014 – 2015

These included:

- **Exploring further joint working with Calderdale and other local SACREs.** We have looked at working with Calderdale SACRE to form a joint publicity working party including the development of a local RE website which students and teachers can use.
- **Exploring the possibility of partnership in a regional RE Hub.** We have successfully applied for a grant from Culham St Gabriel's to run a subject knowledge course for up to 20 teachers across Kirklees and Calderdale. This has been very successful and many delegates are considering further academic studies at MA level.
- **Embedding and offering further support in the new RE Local syllabus.** A number of schools have asked for support in embedding the local agreed syllabus and the RE consultant has carried out staff training in a number of schools and clusters, as well as providing a teaching and learning course in RE. At present over 90% schools have subscribed to the non-statutory units of work for the local agreed syllabus.
- **Conducting a review of collective worship, including the approach to determined worship.** All schools which have a determination for Collective worship have been reviewed. Two primary schools have taken up the offer of moderation of collective worship.
- **Support for the professional development of RE teachers in Kirklees.** A number of courses and networks have been led by the RE consultant. A list is provided in Appendix 2.
- **Contributing to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supporting teachers and schools in this task.** The consultant has developed briefings on SMSC and British Values for all schools. A list of these is included in appendix???

- **Developing publicity and information promoting the work of SACRE for schools and parents.** This is an ongoing piece of work and may include working with other local SACREs including Calderdale and Leeds.

## **Main priorities for 2015 - 16**

These include:

- To support the professional development of RE teachers in Kirklees. This will include arranging a network for primary schools and running courses on current issues such as assessment. Tailored support is also offered to individual schools or clusters as staff meetings or training days.
- To review and revise resources on RE Hub. There are plans to expand the provision of resources to special schools and to consider how KS3 units may be revised to dovetail with new GCSE specifications.
- To monitor and support RE in Kirklees. This will primarily be achieved by consultants' work on supporting fundamental values and through visits to schools for training etc. SACRE has no resources to undertake *systematic* monitoring of RE or collective worship.
- To offer 'British Values', SMSC and RE 'health check' to secondary schools;
- To support the professional development of SACRE members. Training in collective worship and through awareness of the 'Prevent' duty will be arranged.
- To continue exploring partnership working with other SACREs in West Yorkshire.

## Appendix 1 – Examination results

### Kirklees Summative Data 13- 15

	National Average	Kirklees Average
2013 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - C	74%	56.6%
2013 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - G	98%	96.4%
2014 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - C	69.6%	64.9%
2014 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - G	97.8%	98.1%
2015 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - C	71.8%	67.9%
2015 Religious Studies GCSE Grade A* - G	97.9%	98.0%

The reporting on grades at GCSE has now changed to first entry rather than best so there may be a slight decline in the percentage pass rates.

### RS GCSE Full Course Gender Comparisons (Kirklees)

	NOE Boys	NOE Girls	A*-C Average Boys	A* - C Average Girls
2011	806	891	62.76%	77.34%
2012	1132	1180	64.32%	72.13%
2013	1279	1276	46.39%	66.61%
2014	1090	1283	56.2%	72.2%
2015	1022	1265	59.4%	74.9%

### A level Grades 2015 Kirklees vs National

A Level Grades	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A*-A	A*-C	A*-E
National	5.5%	18.9%	30.1%	25.4%	13.8%	5.1%	24.4%	79.9%	98.9%
Kirklees	1.6%	6.5%	22.6%	32.3%	24.2%	12.9%	8.1%	62.9%	100.0%

### RS GCE A Level Gender Comparisons (Kirklees)

	NOE Boys	NOE Girls	A* - B Average Boys	A* - B Average Girls
2011	9	47	66.67%	50%
2012	9	53	65%	53.66%
2013	10	44	30%	31.8%
2014	8	55	12.5%	40.0%
2015	13	49	38.5%	28.5%

## Appendix 2

### Professional development and consultancy provided by Kirklees Learning Services

#### Courses during 2014-2015

Date	Title	Approx numbers
13 October 2014	Primary RE network	20
6 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	Secondary RE Network	10
24 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Time for Thought: Collective Worship	20
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2014	Teaching and Learning with the New RE Syllabus	25
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Primary RE network	20
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2015	Secondary RE network	10
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015	Being an effective RE Coordinator	40
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2015	Primary RE network	30
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	Secondary RE Network	80
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	British Values, SMSC and Ofsted Briefing for Governors	60

Schools were visited by Kirklees Learning Partners for a range of purposes including SMSC training, RE syllabus training. Further training on RE was also provided for ITE trainees on both the primary and secondary SCITT programme.

## Appendix 3

### SACRE membership 2014-2015

	No		Exp	
<b>GROUP A – ALL FAITH GROUPS EXCEPT ANGLICANS</b>				
Roman Catholic Church	1	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Baptist	1	The Rev Wayne Clark	<b>Jun-17</b>	
Methodist	1	Suzanne Bridges	<b>Sep -17</b>	
United Reformed Church	1	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Baha’i	1	Christine Deihim	<b>Sep-17</b>	
Islamic representatives nominated by mosques	4	Fatima Mamaniyat	<b>Mar-15</b>	
		Hashim Sacha	<b>Jul-16</b>	
		Lukman Patel	<b>Jul-16</b>	
		Ayub Bismillah	<b>Mar-18</b>	
Fellowship of Evangelical Churches in Kirklees	1	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Buddhist rep	1	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Hindu rep	1	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Jewish rep	1	David Amdurer	<b>Jul-16</b>	
Sikh rep	1			
Humanist rep	1	Amy Donovan	<b>Mar -17</b>	
<b>GROUP B – C OF E</b>				
Church of England (lay & clergy)	5	<b>VACANCY</b>		
		The Rev Gill Johnson	<b>Jun 17</b>	
		The Rev Anita Raggett	<b>Mar 15</b>	
		Emma Stone	<b>Feb 16</b>	
		<b>VACANCY</b>		
<b>GROUP C – SCHOOLS</b>				
Primary School Head Teacher	1	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Secondary School Head Teacher	1	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Infant School Teacher	1	<b>VACANCY</b>		
Junior School Teacher	1	Mehrun Mohammed Helen Boutle	<b>Nov 17</b>	
ATL	1	Janice Leam	<b>Jun-17</b>	
NUT	1	Carol Walters	<b>Sep- 17</b>	
Special School Teacher	1	Stewart Geddes*	<b>Mar-15</b>	
<b>GROUP D – COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>				
Elected Members of Kirklees Council	4	Cllr Mohan Sokhal (Lab)	<b>2014-15</b>	
		Cllr Andrew Marchington (L D)	<b>2014-15</b>	
		<b>VACANCY</b>		
		Cllr Simon Alvy (Lab)	<b>2014-15</b>	
<b>CO-OPTED MEMBERS</b>				
Not to exceed 1/4 of members appointed to Group A	4	Dr Emma Salter (Hudds Univ)	<b>2014-15</b>	
		David Raven-Hill		
<b>EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS</b>				
		Alastair Ross		

- Resigned or retired during the year



## **Appendix 4**

### **Minutes of SACRE meetings**

KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**KIRKLEES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF SACRE Meeting

Held at Headfield CE Junior School, Thornhill Lees , Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 beginning at  
5:30pm

**Minutes taken by** Ian Ross

**Status** Agreed

#### **Members**

##### **Committee A**

Representing Other Denominations and Faith Groups	Fatima Mamaniyat ( Muslim) Lukman Patel (Muslim) Christine Deihim (Baha'i) Wayne Clarke (Baptist)
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##### **Committee B**

Representing the Church of England	Anita Raggett Gill Johnson Emma Stone
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##### **Committee C**

Representing teachers	Helen Boutle Mehrun Mohamed Carol Waters Janice Leam
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##### **Committee D**

Representing Kirklees Council	Cllr Mohan Sokhal
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In attendance	Alastair Ross Emma Salter
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	Action
<p><b>Apologies and Welcome</b> CW welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions was made. Apologies were received from Cllr Alvy, Amy Donovan and David Amdurer</p>	.
<p><b>Minutes of AGM</b> These were accepted as a true record with the amendment of Cllr Sokhal had sent his apologies.</p>	
<p><b>Matters Arising</b> Matters arising from the minutes include membership review. The clerk has written to a number of faith centres asking for representation from Sikhs and Muslims. SACRE members agreed to chase these invitations up in the Gurdwara and Mosque.</p>	<p>IR to send invitations to Emma Salter for Interfaith Kirklees. IR to write to Methodist circuits</p>
<p><b>Communications and Publicity Group</b> CW outlined some of the work that the communications and publicity group had looked at. The group will produce a leaflet/ poster for each school that includes the role of SACRE and what SACRE can do for schools. This leaflet could also be distributed to parent groups and linked to the website.</p>	<p>Next meeting 14/10/14 5.30 at Overthorpe Academy</p>
<p><b>Collective Worship</b> SACRE will be monitoring collective worship this year. Due to the review of the syllabus and writing of the units last year, collective worship wasn't monitored last year. Training will be provided for volunteers from SACRE at the November meeting. AR will write to schools in November asking for volunteers to take part in monitoring in January – February. AR will write to schools with determinations to ask for a mid term review.</p>	<p>AR to prepare training AR to write to schools</p>
<p><b>Annual Report</b> The annual report for 2013 – 14 has been drafted. A data request has been sent to the LA in order for the analysis of the GCSE and A Level results to go into the report. The final draft will be sent to members of SACRE before the meeting in November for perusal.</p>	<p>IR data analysis CW foreword AR edit</p>
<p><b>RE Hub</b> The RE Council as part of their review last year recommended some RE Hubs to extend teacher subject knowledge and pedagogy. Three pilots were set up and bids were invited over the summer to extend the number of hubs. Teamworks Teaching School Alliance, Pennine Learning and the diocese have applying for funding to run a course for 10 – 20 teachers. This will focus on developing subject knowledge and pedagogy. Provisional dates for this course have been booked as: Jan17, March 18, May 21, and June 23 with a presentation evening on 9<sup>th</sup> July.</p>	

<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>The diocese has commissioned 3 units of work written by Lat Blaylock on World War 1. These are free units as a gift from the diocese. The link for these units can be found at: <a href="http://www.westyorkshiredales.anglican.org/ww1REresourcesforschools">www.westyorkshiredales.anglican.org/ww1REresourcesforschools</a></p> <p>SACRE would like to thank the school for hosting our meeting this evening</p> <p>The meeting closed at 6:30pm</p>	<p>AR to send to all schools</p>
<p><b>Dates for Future Meetings (please note all meetings start at 5:30pm)</b></p> <p>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November      Dalton, St Paul's</p> <p>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March              Overthorpe Academy</p> <p>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June                  Venue in Huddersfield TBC</p>	<p>JL to arrange</p> <p>HB and MM to confirm</p>

## KIRKLEES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### MINUTES OF SACRE Meeting

Held at St Paul's Methodist Church, Dalton, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 beginning at 5:30pm

**Minutes taken by** Ian Ross

**Status** Agreed

#### Members

##### Committee A

Representing Other Denominations and Faith Groups

Christine Deihim (Baha'i)  
Wayne Clarke (Baptist)  
Suzanne Bridges (Methodist)  
David Amdurer (Judaism)

##### Committee B

Representing the Church of England

##### Committee C

Representing teachers

Carol Waters  
Janice Leam

##### Committee D

Representing Kirklees Council

Cllr Simon Alvy

In attendance

Alastair Ross  
Emma Salter

	Action
<p><b>Apologies and Welcome</b></p> <p>JL welcomed us to St Paul's Church and gave is a brief background of the church. CW welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions was made. We especially welcomed Suzanne Bridges as the new Methodist representative. Apologies were received from Anita Raggett, Helen Boutle, Fatima Mamaniyat, Gill Johnson and Mehrun Mohammed.</p>	.
<p><b>Minutes of AGM</b></p> <p>These were accepted as a true record proposed by Emma Salter and seconded by Wayne Clarke.</p>	

<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Matters arising from the minutes include membership review.</p> <p>The new RE hub has been successful and 15 teachers have now been allocated places on a subsidised course looking at in depth subject knowledge in different faiths.</p>	<p>IR to send invitations list to ES FM to continue to seek Muslim representatives. WC to continue to seek Evangelical church representative.</p>
<p><b>Report from Publicity Group</b></p> <p>The communications and publicity group have met on a number of occasions now and have produced 2 leaflets for discussion. One leaflet is for schools and one is for parents. These were read and discussed and suggestions for improvements made.</p> <p>A discussion was held as to whether to join with Calderdale SACRE to work jointly on communications and publicity including setting up a website and twitter/ facebook account.</p>	<p>CW to take back to group CW to contact chair of Calderdale SACRE.</p>
<p><b>Collective Worship</b></p> <p>AR lead the meeting in training on collective worship and monitoring strategies. Volunteers are needed to support this in Kirklees schools in January and February 2015.</p> <p>The application forms for schools wishing to apply for a determination will be reviewed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Members to inform AR if they wish to support monitoring. AR to review application form.</p>
<p><b>Annual Report</b></p> <p>The draft annual report was presented for discussion and amendments agreed. SACRE would like to thank Alastair and Ian for their hard work in preparing this report.</p>	<p>CW Foreword AR to send link to schools etc.</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>SACRE thanked St Paul's Church and Janice for hosting us. The meeting closed at 7:30pm</p>	
<p><b>Dates for Future Meetings (please note all meetings start at 5:30pm)</b></p> <p>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March                      Overthorpe Academy</p> <p>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June                          Venue in Huddersfield TBC</p>	<p>HB and MM to confirm</p>

**KIRKLEES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF SACRE Meeting

Held at Overthorpe CE Academy, Dewsbury, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 beginning at 5:30pm

**Minutes taken by** Ian Ross

**Status** Agreed

**Members**

**Committee A**

Representing Other Denominations and Faith Groups

Wayne Clarke (Baptist)  
Suzanne Bridges (Methodist)  
Ayub Bismillah (Muslim)  
Fatima Mamaniyat (Muslim) (Chair)

**Committee B**

Representing the Church of England

Gill Johnson  
Anita Raggett  
Emma Stone

**Committee C**

Representing teachers

Lukman Patel  
Janice Leam  
Mehrun Mohamed

**Committee D**

Representing Kirklees Council

Cllr Simon Alvy  
Cllr Andrew Marchington

In attendance

Alastair Ross  
Emma Salter

	Action
<p><b>Apologies and Welcome</b></p> <p>A round of introductions were made and Ayub Bismillah was welcomed as a new representative of the Indian Muslim Welfare Society (IMWS). Apologies were received from David Amdurer, Carol Waters, Cllr Mohan Sokhal, Christine Deihim and Helen Boutle.</p> <p>The meeting was chaired by FM as CW was absent for this meeting.</p>	.
<p><b>Minutes of AGM</b></p> <p>These were accepted (with a couple of amendments) as a true record proposed by Janice Leam and seconded by Simon Alvy</p>	
<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>No matters arising from the minutes as further discussions would be held in the agenda.</p>	
<p><b>Organisation of SACRE</b></p> <p>The publicity group has not met since the last SACRE meeting. A discussion was held about using a website to advertise the work of SACRE. This could be linked with Calderdale.</p> <p>GJ recommended that SACRE could produce a work/ development plan that sets out the goals for the year.</p>	<p>CW/ Publicity group to contact publicity group in Calderdale AR to produce a draft plan for discussion at the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>Interim Report on Collective Worship</b></p> <p>IR gave a verbal report on the collective worship monitoring taken place so far. Overall the schools had clear plans which were inclusive, but clearly based on Christian values. Support offered includes using the thought for the day across the school day and then a quiet time before home time. This would then at least support the children who may be attending interventions during worship time.</p> <p>AR defined what a determination is. At present there are 5 schools in Kirklees whose determinations are of a Muslim nature. He has visited schools on an interim review and has agreed with them that their determinations should lapse as their collective worship is of an inclusive nature based on human values. AR has explained that he has designed a new determination application form which takes into account more stakeholders of a school.</p>	<p>IR to pursue the other volunteer schools for a review date.</p> <p>AR to share new form for Determinations</p>
<p><b>Training and Support for Teachers</b></p> <p>RE Hub – This is a course for teachers part funded by the Culham St Gabriel’s, entitled teaching and learning about world faiths. The first session of this was on Sikhism and was well received. In total 16 primary teachers from Kirklees and Calderdale are taking part in this course.</p>	

<p>RE Network – 40 delegates are booked on this. The next meeting has a focus on assessment.</p> <p>Other Courses and Funding – Emma Salter explained that there were a number of courses and funding options open to teachers including the BA at the University.</p>	<p>ES to prepare a briefing for SACRE to be mailed out</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>A letter was received from Lord Nash. This letter was seen as a good sign that RE and the work of SACREs was being positively promoted included the bursaries for trainee RE teachers. This was discussed and agreed that parts of it could be used in publicity for SACRE.</p> <p>The meeting thanked Overthorpe Academy and Mehrun for hosting us this evening.</p>	
<p><b>Dates for Future Meetings (please note all meetings start at 5:30pm)</b></p> <p>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June (AGM)                      Huddersfield University</p> <p>Theme for the meeting to include: British Values and RE</p>	<p>ES to confirm</p>



**KIRKLEES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**MINUTES OF SACRE AGM**

Held at Huddersfield University Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015, beginning at 5:30pm

**Minutes taken by** Ian Ross

**Status** Agreed

**Members**

**Committee A**

Representing Other Denominations and Faith Groups

Suzanne Bridges (Methodist)  
Ayub Bismillah (Muslim)  
Fatima Mamaniyat (Muslim) (Chair)

**Committee B**

Representing the Church of England

Anita Raggett

**Committee C**

Representing teachers

Helen Boutle  
Mehrun Mohamed  
Carol Waters

**Committee D**

Representing Kirklees Council

In attendance

Alastair Ross  
Emma Salter

	Action
<p><b>Apologies and Welcome</b> AR introduced the meeting and a round of introductions were made. Apologies were received from: Lukman Patel, Afzal Valimulla, David Amdurer, Janice Leam, Gill Johnson and Councillor Dad.</p>	IR to contact Kirklees asking for councillor nominees.
<p><b>Election of Chair</b> Carol Waters nominated by Mehrun Mohamed, seconded by Emma Salter. Carol Waters re- elected for the next year.</p>	
<p><b>Election of Vice Chair</b> Helen Boutle nominated by Carol Waters and seconded by Mehrun Mohamed. Helen Boutle elected as vice chair for the next year.</p>	
<p><b>Organisation of SACRE</b> CW explained that in the event of a vote each committee needed a chair. As this occasion is rare it was decided that if this was needed then a chair of each committee would be approved at the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015</b> These were approved. Matters arising are to be dealt with as part of agenda items.</p>	
<p><b>Report of the Work of SACRE / Report from NASACRE</b> CW explained that after the extra work put in last year for the syllabus and units of work, SACRE have encouraged schools to embed the units of work into practice. The continuous monitoring of collective worship and determinations has taken place. This year the key activities will include the work of the communication group and working with Calderdale to support website design. No report from NASACRE received.</p>	
<p><b>Work Plan</b> <b>AR presented a draft plan with 5 areas for work. These are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support the professional development of RE teachers (INSET)</li> <li>• To review and revise resources in the RE Hub</li> <li>• Monitor and support RE in Kirklees (especially in secondary schools through the British Values health check)</li> <li>• Monitor and support collective worship and determinations.</li> <li>• Professional development of SACRE members</li> </ul>	AR to edit and send round with minutes. New standing item on agenda linked to work plan. IR to explore with Calderdale the possibility of joint

<p>SACRE may wish to support the Teach Meet events financially so that it can be self-funding.</p> <p>SACRE explored the possibility of members leading training sessions as a standing item on the agenda about their faith, faith centre and community work.</p>	training.
<p><b>GCSE and A Level</b></p> <p>AR lead the meeting through a presentation about the new GCSE and A Level specifications. SACRE were concerned that the new specifications dovetailed with the agreed syllabus and were assured that working through the syllabus from KS1 to KS3 would be good preparation for the requirements at KS4 and 5.</p>	
<p><b>British Values and RE</b></p> <p>AR lead the meeting through a presentation about 'British Values' and how these can be supported by a good RE and PSHE programme. Kirklees will offer a half day health check on British Values in all secondary schools and this will also help in the monitoring of RE throughout the LA.</p>	<p>AR to draft a letter to all schools</p> <p>AR/IR to draft an audit to use for visits.</p>
<p><b>Guidance on Sensitivity to Faith</b></p> <p>AR presented the final draft guidance which has been approved by council and Kirklees Faiths Forum.</p> <p>This will be sent to schools around the 18<sup>th</sup> June and an official launch will happen in September.</p> <p>SACRE thanked Alastair for all his hard work in producing this guidance.</p>	
<p><b>Work with young people</b></p> <p>Nothing to discuss in this meeting</p>	
<p><b>Collective Worship</b></p> <p>The reports for the visits this year will be condensed for the annual report in November.</p> <p>AR explained that he had monitored the 5 schools with determinations for collective worship and was hoping that these could lapse as the collective worship in most schools is very inclusive.</p>	
<p><b>Development of cooperation with other SACREs</b></p> <p>A discussion was held about working with other SACREs on twilight training for members, but also in developing communications and faith visitors into school.</p>	
<p><b>Dates of Meetings for next year</b></p> <p><b>17<sup>th</sup> September (17:30) Al Hikmah Centre</b></p> <p><b>18<sup>th</sup> November (17:30) Guru Nanak Gurdwara</b></p> <p><b>15<sup>th</sup> March (18:00) Possible joint meeting with Calderdale</b></p> <p><b>23<sup>rd</sup> June (17:30) Quaker Meeting House</b></p>	<p>AB to confirm</p> <p>IR to confirm</p> <p>IR to confirm</p> <p>AR to confirm</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>To Co-opt Emma Salter.</p> <p>Nominated by Carol Waters</p> <p>Seconded by Fatima Mamaniyat</p>	

## **Appendix 5**

### **A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools**

In the summer of 2015, a pamphlet was produced by Charles Clarke, former Secretary of State and Linda Woodhead, Professor of Sociology of Religion at the University of Lancaster. It arose from research and debate carried out by the Westminster Faith Debates (founded by Mr Clarke and Professor Woodhead) and the Religion and Society Research programme which gave rise to them. Both were supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, and Lancaster University.

The pamphlet has no formal authority but will be influential as a call for changes in the direction of RE. SACREs will wish to discuss and consider the proposals it outlines.

Its principle recommendations are:

- An end to compulsory collective worship;
- A new national RE syllabus determined by the Secretary of State;
- The government should consider making this syllabus compulsory for all schools;
- SACREs' role to be limited to participation in consultation and support for implementation
- A more robust system of inspecting RE;
- Continuation of faith schools but modifications to admissions and possible removal of separate inspection regime

In full, the recommendations were:

#### **Act of Collective Worship**

1. The current requirement in statute for an Act of Collective Worship should be abolished, and the decision about the form and character of school assemblies should be left to the governors of individual schools. Schools should be required to set out their statement and strategy for promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education, with school community assemblies as an important part of that strategy, upon which they would be inspected by OFSTED. The government should provide non-statutory guidance to help achieve this.

#### **Curriculum**

2. Consideration be given to using the phrase 'Religious and Moral Education' rather than 'Religious Education' in describing this part of the statutory curriculum.

3. The Religious Education syllabus in county and voluntary controlled schools should no longer be set by a system of agreed local syllabuses, but by an agreed national syllabus which would have a similar legal status to the requirements of other subjects in the National Curriculum.
4. The nationally-agreed syllabus would be determined by the Secretary of State in agreement with a newly created 'National Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (NASACRE)' comprising experts on religion and education, and after formal consultation and input from the relevant established professional bodies and representatives of religions, humanism and other belief systems. This nationally-agreed syllabus should be reviewed every 5/7 years.
5. The government discusses with the faith school providers, including academies and free schools, the merits of voluntary-aided and foundation faith schools adopting this nationally-agreed syllabus and, on the basis of such discussions, considers legislating to require all maintained schools to adopt this syllabus.
6. The government also discusses with faith school providers including academies and free schools, the importance of making a distinction within schools between religious instruction, formation and education, including agreement that religious instruction (even of a kind which does not include coercion, or distortion of other religions or beliefs) does not take place within the school day.
7. In addition, the government discusses with independent schools whether they should adopt this nationally-agreed syllabus and, on the basis of such discussions, considers legislating to require all schools to adopt this syllabus.
8. If these changes are agreed, the right of parents to withdraw their children from the Religious Education part of the curriculum should be abolished.
9. The legal requirement for Religious Education at Key Stage 5, after the age of 16, should be removed and that, within the context of a general reform of the curriculum at Key Stage 4, consideration should be given to modifying the legal requirement for Religious Education to a wider study of religious, spiritual, moral, ethical, social, and cultural values.
10. All faith schools, and possibly all schools in receipt of state funding, clearly advertise and explain the kind of religious (or non-religious) ethos and formation which they offer, so that prospective parents and pupils can make informed choices.

11. The local Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) are given a new role which includes participating in the consultations about the content of the national RE curriculum, helping local implementation of the national RE syllabus, promoting community cohesion and educating for diversity, and advising on local availability of religious instruction.
12. An important, though not the only, way to promote community cohesion and to counter radicalization across the school system is to make the kinds of curriculum change which we are proposing. OFSTED should re-establish a strong inspection system to ensure that all schools, faith or not, properly fulfil their duty to promote community cohesion

### **Faith Schools**

13. Children of families of faith should where possible be able to attend schools of that faith, and that their current right to be given priority in the admissions process should not be removed.
14. The churches need to make strong and continued progress in addressing the very real concerns about fairness, and that changes to the current legal position should be considered as an urgent matter if faith bodies fail to make progress in the directions which they have set for themselves. We believe that there are legitimate concerns about using regular attendance at worship as a selection criterion and we recommend that this criterion be kept under review.
15. Further effort be given to developing alternative proposals for fairer admissions procedures to faith schools, procedures which balance the rights of families of faith to have their children educated in that faith with other considerations of fairness to others and serving the whole local community.
16. The ability of faith schools to retain their own inspection process for the content of collective worship and religious formation should be reconsidered within the context of the overall changes we propose.
17. The inspection regime for independent schools continues to be steadily tightened in the context of the curricular changes we propose.

The current arrangements which enable faith schools to discriminate in their employment are kept under review, given legitimate concerns about their effects.