

## **SALFORD SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014-15**

### ***The Locally Agreed Syllabus***

Salford's most recent Locally Agreed Syllabus came into force in September 2011. Throughout the 2014-15 school year, SACRE continued to support schools with the delivery of this syllabus but also started to turn its attention to the review of the syllabus that has to take place every five years. The plan will be to launch a new syllabus in the summer term of 2016, ready for implementation in the September of that year. This means that the extensive review and re-writing process would need to begin fairly early in 2015. The March 2015 meeting of Salford SACRE agreed to the following timetable for the review of the new syllabus, with agreement having been secured already from Salford Council's Children's Services.

To review the syllabus, a working party of teachers would meet three times, for a full day on each occasion, in March, June and November 2015. The working party would consist of two Salford secondary school teachers, two Salford primary school teachers and the educational consultant who supports Salford SACRE. After each meeting of the working party, the consultant would produce a report for SACRE, who would then discuss the main principles recommended. SACRE members with particular subject expertise were also invited to the June and November meetings to support some of the detailed creation of new ideas and materials. The plan for the 2015-16 school year is for the consultant, with support from other relevant colleagues and SACRE members, to write up the new syllabus, ready for its launch to schools in May/June 2016.

At the June 2015 meeting of SACRE, it was agreed to proceed with the following principles in the work under way to review the syllabus:-

- Layout of the new syllabus will allow easier cross-referencing between themes and aspects of individual religions. In the existing syllabus these are shown separately.
- There will be clearer links to SMSC – Spiritual Moral Social Cultural aspects of education. There has been a renewed focus on this in recent inspections.
- Guidance and examples will be provided for teaching controversial topics and Fundamental British Values.
- Just four religions will be taught at Key Stage 2 - Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. In the existing syllabus, all six world faiths are covered in Key Stage 2 and all six are covered again at Key Stage 3. Under this proposal, Sikhism and Buddhism would only be covered at Key Stage 3, along with more in-depth study of the other four world faiths. The idea here is to focus on a greater depth of quality understanding, rather than the breadth of knowledge.

Further explanation of the content and rationale of the existing Salford syllabus (2011-16) can be found at [www.salford.gov.uk](http://www.salford.gov.uk)

### ***Support for maintaining standards in RE***

For the whole of the 2014-15 academic year, support for RE in Salford was provided by a consultant, funded for eight days per year by Salford Council. This consultant support was provided by Steve Illingworth. This involved supporting teacher network meetings, leading training sessions on RE for schools, reporting to SACRE, helping to organise events such as Holocaust Memorial Commemorations, monitoring provision and standards in schools and leading on the implementation of a new syllabus.

For the period of syllabus review ahead of the new RE syllabus for 2016, extra consultant days were agreed, to oversee the teachers' working party and to provide ongoing reports to SACRE on this matter. Three of these days were used in the 2014-15 school year and the other two would be used in 2015-16 (see 'Finance' for further details).

SACRE members were keen to receive assurances about the quality of support they would be receiving, especially in the light of increased funding for consultant support with the new syllabus. To this end, the consultant was interviewed by two senior officials from Salford Children's Services in April 2015 and provided written examples of the materials and guidance he had produced for quality assurance. A report on this quality assurance process was scheduled to be presented to the SACRE meeting in October 2015.

Additionally, the primary RE hub teacher for Salford, Kindra Belcher, has provided extra resources for supporting the maintenance of standards. Although the hub teacher has not been expected to report directly to SACRE on a regular basis, she has liaised with the consultant in this respect and has provided ongoing specialist support to colleagues in schools. It was agreed that the funding for one of the consultant days (see above) should be diverted to Monton Green Primary School to cover any costs incurred through the work of the school's RE co-ordinator in her wider role across the Local Authority.

In August 2015, Steve Illingworth relinquished his role as adviser to Salford SACRE to take up a full-time university lecturer post. It was agreed that Kindra Belcher would be seconded by her school for eight days per year to act as adviser to SACRE in 2015-16.

### ***Professional Development 2014-15***

Professional development in RE has continued to be a strength in 2014-15, especially in the primary sector. Salford's continued involvement in the

Greater Manchester Collaborative gave its teachers access to another regional RE conference in Manchester in June 2015, at a generous rate.

In the Autumn Term 2014, there were several requests from primary schools in particular for support and guidance with RE and collective worship. This seemed to be due to the increased focus placed on RE by OFSTED in the light of national developments earlier in 2014, such as the 'Trojan Horse' affair, where there was concern that schools may have been giving pupils a biased religious education. In response, the Salford consultant provided face-to-face guidance for the Headteacher or RE co-ordinator, policy documents and in some cases whole school training.

The regular Primary RE co-ordinators network meeting has continued to be well attended, with nearly 30 different schools being represented at these meetings. There has been some whole school training for RE in primary schools in 2014-15, particularly in schools that had not received the initial training provided for the 2011 syllabus. Additionally, there has been regular liaison with RE co-ordinators to provide customised support for their school.

Individual support to RE subject leaders in Salford secondary has been provided regularly by the consultant, on many different aspects of teaching and learning.

### ***Membership issues***

Salford SACRE gained some significant new members in 2014-15 and attendance at meetings was generally very good. However, there were discussions about the need to have representation from some key religions, especially Islam. By the end of the summer term in 2015, positive moves had been made in this direction.

### ***GCSE Results for 2014***

Numbers entered for the GCSE Full Course in RE in 2014 were up slightly on the 2013 figure. The percentage of pupils across Salford gaining A\*-C grades in the Full Course decreased from 69% in 2013 to 61% in 2014. The national average was 70%. This is the first decrease in the A\*-C pass rate in Salford for three years (as shown in Appendix 1). A very significant factor in this decrease was that in 2013 one school entered 46 pupils and 44 of them achieved a Grade C or better. In 2014 there were no entries from this school, due to a change in school policy. A similar performance from this school in 2014 would have brought the Salford A\*-C rate very close to the 69% achieved in 2013.

The GCSE Short Course entries in 2014 were down significantly on previous years, probably as a result of the diminished value given to short courses in all subjects in the government's new ways of calculating school performance. Further details are shown in Appendix 1.

In recent years Salford SACRE members asked for examination results trends to be shown over a three year period in the annual report, as well as a more detailed breakdown of the most recent results. This is presented in Appendix 1.

### ***Complaints concerning RE***

There have been no complaints concerning RE.

### ***Determinations***

There have been no applications for determinations during 2014- 2015.

### ***Complaints concerning Collective Worship***

There have been no complaints received about collective worship. However, several primary Headteachers did ask for advice about this matter over the 2014-15 school year, aiming to ensure that their provision was compliant with the law and that it was a high quality meaningful experience for the pupils. The nature of these discussions and their outcomes were discussed at Salford SACRE meetings in 2014-15

### ***Links with other agencies***

Salford SACRE remains a member of NASACRE and sent a delegate to the 2015 annual conference. A full report on the conference was made by this delegate to the June 2015 meeting of Salford SACRE

The consultant hired to serve SACRE has continued to develop links with the Trans-Pennine AREIAC, reporting back to Salford SACRE on various matters.

There are strong links with the Jewish Board of Deputies and Salford SACRE meetings include regular feedback from members who have attended the conferences of this group.

At a local level SACRE has links with the Salford Schools Forum and the Salford Council Equalities and Community Cohesion Team. This cohesive approach has been particularly evident in the collaboration around the annual Holocaust Memorial events.

Links with other Greater Manchester authorities on syllabus collaboration and implementation have been described above. Salford SACRE's involvement in Greater Manchester hub teacher meetings has been maintained throughout 2014-15 by the primary RE hub leader, including involvement in the RE Conference organised by this group in June 2015 (see above).

### ***National Holocaust Memorial Day***

From 2006 to 2011 Salford SACRE played a big part in organising the city's annual commemoration of The Holocaust. Since 2012 the main responsibility for the public memorial event passed from SACRE to the city council's Equalities and Community Cohesion Team. This was mainly because the educational advisers and administrative assistants who had previously done this work were no longer employed directly by the council. The 2015 event was held at The Albion Academy, a Salford secondary school, on 28 January 2015. Salford SACRE made a substantial financial contribution to the staging of the event and several of its members were involved heavily in its organisation and delivery.

Salford SACRE has been keen to promote the involvement of young people in the Holocaust Commemorations. Young people from Salford's Roma community, educated in Salford high schools, gave a talk on their ancestors' involvement in the Nazi persecution of this community. Other young people from the Jewish community read poems and told the story of their grandfather.

### ***Professional and Administrative Support***

Throughout 2014-15 Salford SACRE was supported by an administrative officer and by an independent educational consultant employed by the council for 8 days per year (see above for explanation of arrangements).

### ***Finance***

The SACRE budget covers basic running costs, allows members to represent Salford at national conferences and contributes towards Salford's Holocaust Memorial Events. There is also funding for eight days a year for an educational consultant to support the work of SACRE. This budget was maintained for 2014-15. In addition, extra funding of £2400 was secured, to be used in the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 for the development of a new RE syllabus, to be implemented from September 2016. This funding was (and will be) used for extra consultant days and supply cover to release teachers for a working party.

### ***Summary***

This has been a productive year for Salford SACRE, particularly in terms of gaining agreement, time and funding for the development of the 2016 syllabus review. By the end of the school year in July 2015, the syllabus review process was actually ahead of the schedule envisaged in the Autumn Term of 2014. In all Salford SACRE meetings in 2014-15, there had been a high level of debate about the aims of Religious Education in schools and about the

strategies to meet these aims, with a wide range of contributions from members at well-attended meetings.

## Appendix 1

The following chart shows the number of pupils entered for GCSE Full Course Religious Education in 2014. The percentage of pupils gaining each grade is given as well as the percentage gaining grades A\*-C.

### **GCSE results 2014**

	Entries	A*-C	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X
National	240403	<b>70%</b>	10%	18%	23%	19%	12%	8%	5%	3%	2%	0%
LA	612	<b>61%</b>	7%	12%	24%	18%	16%	8%	6%	4%	4%	0%
All Hallows RC High school	112	<b>32%</b>	2%	6%	15%	9%	19%	11%	11%	15%	13%	0%
Harrop Fold School	29	<b>7%</b>	0%	0%	0%	7%	28%	24%	31%	3%	7%	0%
Moorside High School	20	<b>65%</b>	5%	0%	20%	40%	30%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Oasis Academy:												
MediaCityUK	4	<b>100%</b>	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Salford City Academy	9	<b>67%</b>	0%	0%	11%	56%	11%	11%	11%	0%	0%	0%
St Ambrose Barlow RC High School	142	<b>73%</b>	8%	18%	25%	22%	16%	7%	2%	1%	0%	0%
St George's R C High School	104	<b>73%</b>	5%	16%	31%	21%	15%	9%	1%	2%	0%	1%
St Patrick's R C High School	170	<b>74%</b>	12%	12%	31%	18%	12%	4%	4%	2%	5%	0%
The Albion Academy	2	<b>0%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The Swinton High School	10	<b>30%</b>	0%	10%	10%	10%	20%	30%	10%	10%	0%	0%
Wentworth High School	10	<b>70%</b>	0%	30%	20%	20%	20%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%

The following chart shows the number of pupils entered for GCSE Short Course Religious Education in 2014. The number of pupils gaining each grade is given, with totals and percentages at the bottom of the chart.

Establishment	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Total
All Hallows RC High school		1	3	12	9	6	5	2	5	2	45
Buile Hill High School						5	3	3	9	3	23
Irlam & Cadishead Community High School	1	2	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	1	14
Oasis Academy: MediaCityUK						1					1
Salford City Academy			1	3	7	9	7	3	2	1	33
St Ambrose Barlow R C High School		1	1	1	1	2	2				8
St George's R C High School			1	0	1	2	9	7			20
The Canterbury Centre						1					1
<b>Total</b>		1	3	6	21	21	24	20	19	23	145
Percentage (rounded to nearest whole number)		1	2	4	14	14	17	14	13	16	5

## **Salford RE GCSE Results – Trends over three years**

### **Entries**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Full course</b>	626	581	612
<b>Short course</b>	249	241	145

### **Percentage passes at Grades A\* to C**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Full course</b>	63.1	69.0	61.0
<b>Short course</b>	24.1	26.1	21.4

## **Appendix 2**

### ***Membership of the SACRE (in July 2015)***

#### **Committee A**

#### **Christian Denominations & Other Religions and Religious Denominations**

Jeremy Michelson - Jewish Community  
 17 West Meade  
 Prestwich  
 Manchester  
 M25 OJD

Alexander Klein - Jewish Community  
 Flat 2, Cranbrook House  
 34 Sedgley Park Road  
 Prestwich  
 M25 0AN

Isobel Phillips - Roman Catholic  
 12 Barff Road  
 Salford  
 M5 5FS

Pat Wilson - Methodist  
25 Orient Road  
Salford  
M6 8LB

Imran Kotwal - Muslim

Lucy Harris (All Hallows RC) - Catholic

**Committee B**  
**Church of England**

Reverend Daniel Burton

Reverend Kim Wasey

Rose O'Gara, Headteacher, St Pauls Peel CE  
Primary School

**Committee C**  
**Teachers Associations**

Anne Broomhead - NUT  
24 Grange Road  
Eccles  
M30 8JQ

**Committee D**  
**Local Authority**

Councillor Antrobus  
Councillor Brocklehurst  
Councillor Compton  
Councillor J Mullen  
Councillor B Ryan (Chair)  
Councillor R Wilson

**Officers**  
Steve Illingworth – Educational Consultant  
Elizabeth Jones (Clerk)