

SACRE Annual Report

City of Bradford Metropolitan District 2018

Chair's Introduction and Context

Bradford SACRE serves a local authority with considerable ethnic, cultural and religious diversity. This is reflected in our membership which includes the different faith communities and represents other world views including Humanism. Members appreciate the opportunity afforded by SACRE to interact respectfully with members of other communities and believe this to be one of Bradford SACRE's strengths. Members feel that they learn from each other and can take that learning back to the organisations that they represent. Another unusual aspect of Bradford is the number of schools which have Determinations. There are currently 45 Bradford schools with Determinations which, because of the religious make-up of their intakes, have applied to Bradford SACRE to remove the requirement for their Acts of Collective Worship to be 'wholly or mainly Christian'.

We are fortunate to have maintained strong links this academic year with the Council's Diversity and Cohesion Team. We have a very effective clerk provided by this team. However, like most Local Authorities at the present time, Bradford SACRE has fewer resources to enable the evaluation of the quality of the provision of both religious education and collective worship.

Although Bradford has strong networks across all its schools, whatever their designation, it is harder to maintain links with academies around collective worship. The support offered to them in obtaining a Determination is very limited because they do not have to engage with SACRE in order to obtain a Determination.

Primary schools are more likely to seek support with collective worship and RE than secondary schools. Many primary schools including academies continue to buy in the services of the Interfaith Education and Diversity Team who support with collective worship, RE lessons and visits to places of worship.

Our plans for next year include the provision of further support for collective worship and regular network meetings for RE coordinators. We are also considering how we might reflect good practice elsewhere by establishing a young SACRE.

Advice to statutory bodies

The Local Authority has strong representation in SACRE through both elected members and officers who act as a conduit to other officers and members. Early in the year, we concluded our 'Thought for the Day' project which was kindly supported by the Westhill Foundation and was a significant aspect of our advice to schools.

[See the report here.](#)

The conclusion was a presentation to SACRE members which showed how much a group of schools had benefited from the project and how much their schools' collective worship had improved as a result. This led to our reflection that the written guidance on collective worship was not as helpful as it could be. Therefore, considerable time this year, both in meetings and through small group sessions

between meetings, has been devoted to re-writing our guidance on collective worship which is now available to all schools via the council's website. We believe the guidance to be much more helpful to all schools with more emphasis on what good practice looks like and less on the process of applying for a Determination.

We were also able to make a short presentation to the 2018 NASACRE conference in London. As a result of this, the Chair of Bradford SACRE has been invited to speak at Hull and East Yorkshire SACRE in 2019.

Standards and Quality of Provision of RE

In the Bradford District there are 33 mainstream secondary schools, including academies and free schools but not independent schools. All but two of those schools had GCSE year groups in summer 2018.

Of the 31 possible schools, 28 schools entered at least one pupil for full course GCSE Religious Studies in 2018; 29 of a possible 29 schools did so in 2017. No schools entered pupils for the short course only. A number of schools entered considerably fewer than the full cohort.

Number of pupils entered

A) Full course

In 2017, 2331 pupils were entered for the full course, which was 40% of the cohort. In 2018, 2281 pupils were entered. This is a slight drop in numbers and also a slight drop in the proportion of the cohort, to 38.4%.

In 2017, state funded schools nationally entered 46.9% of the cohort; in 2018 that dropped to 34.1% which is lower than the figure for Bradford. Therefore, in spite of the slight drop in entries in Bradford, entries for GCSE in the District are still above national.

B) Short course

In 2017, 544 Bradford pupils were entered for the short course taking the percentage of pupils entered for a qualification in Religious Studies to 59.5%. In 2018 212 were entered, taking the overall entries as a percentage of the cohort to 41.9%.

Nationally in state funded schools it was an overall percentage of 51.4% in 2017 and 36.8% in 2018. Bradford figures are still above national for overall entries but the reason for the significant drop in entries for short courses needs investigation.

Outcomes

For the full course, Bradford state funded school pupils achieved 72.2% grades 9-4 and 98.6% 9-1, an improvement on 70% A*-C and 97.1% A*-G in 2017 and slightly better than the national figures.

State funded school pupils nationally achieved 71.0 % grades 9-4 and 98.2% grades 9-1, very close to 70 % A*-C and 97.9% A*-G in 2017.

Withdrawal from RE and Complaints

Nobody has contacted the LA about either a withdrawal from RE or a complaint about RE.

Agreed Syllabus

2018/19 was the third year of the current syllabus. The next review will begin in the 2020/2021 academic year, assuming no national changes before that date.

Collective Worship

As already stated, support to schools was focused strongly on collective worship in 2018. The guidance includes evaluation tools which are accessible in terms of schools' own evaluation of the quality of their worship. [Link to guidance](#)

Other than for schools with Determinations, it is difficult to make a judgement about the quality of collective worship across the district. We have re-established networks for RE coordinators, who have requested further support for collective worship as well as RE.

There are currently 18 Local Authority maintained schools which have Determinations and 27 academies. One school sought advice regarding a parental complaint when they consulted with parents about their Determination; this related to a misunderstanding which the head teacher was able to resolve.

SACRE Management

Attendance at SACRE

A significant number of attendees make a regular commitment to meetings. However, the other commitments of some members which reduce their attendance, and the difficulty filling some vacancies, are both issues that need to be addressed.

There are currently vacancies on all except Committee D. In 2018 there have been 6 resignations, 3 dismissals of members who haven't attended, and we have welcomed 5 new members. The new members were all direct replacements of people who have resigned or been dismissed. There are currently 17 of a possible 23 members on Committee A, 4 of a possible 5 on Committee B, 3 of a possible 6 on Committee C and a full complement of 5 on Committee D.

Attendance by committee at each meeting in 2018

Committee	6/2/18		25/4/18		7/7/18		2/10/18		5/12/18	
	Possible	actual	possible	actual	possible	actual	possible	actual	possible	actual
A	19	8	19	8	19	9	16	8	15	6
B	4	3	4	2	4	2	3	2	4	3
C	3	2	4	2	4	2	3	2	3	1
D	5	2	5	1	5	4	5	2	5	3

Membership at the end of 2018

Religion/denomination	Committee	Name	Surname
Buddhist	A	Takao	Maruyama
Christian (Independent Churches)	A	Meg	Henry
Christian (Methodist)	A	Rev Graeme	Dutton
Christian (Moravian)	A	Maureen	Colbert
Christian (Quaker)	A	John	Cope
Hindu	A	Natwarlal J	Lad
Humanist	A	Dermot	Bolton
Jewish Community	A	Tamar	Yellin
Muslim (Arabic Muslim)	A	Dr Sharif Kaf	Al-Ghazal
Muslim (Council for Mosques)	A	Ayub	LaHer
Muslim (ISB)	A	Shannaz	Zahoor
Muslim (Women's Association)	A	Farha	Patel
Muslim	A	Mohammed	Saleem
Sikh	A	Govinder Singh	Dhaliwal
Sikh	A	Surinder	Jagpal Kaur
Sikh	A	Sukhdev	Singh
Church of England	B	Jan	Hesselwood
Church of England	B Vice Chair	Fiona	Beevers
Church of England	B	Mike	de Villiers
Church of England	B	Denise	Poole
NUT	C	Hayley	Bennet
Secondary HT	C	Martin	Hings
ATL	C	David	Mallard
Labour Group	D	Cllr Nussrat	Mohammed
Liberal Democrat	D	Cllr Geoff	Reid
Conservative Group	D	Cllr Naveed	Riaz
Labour Party	D	Cllr Michelle	Swallow
Children's Services	D	Yasmin	Umarji
Co-opted	Co-opt	Mohinder Singh	Chana
Co-opted	Co-opt Chair	Ros	Garside
Co-opted	Co-opt	Rizwana	Saleem

Complaints to SACRE

SACRE itself has received no complaints in 2018.

Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda

Links with other LA teams

Bradford SACRE has links to the Interfaith Education and Diversity Team, who are a team of faith tutors representing the Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist faiths. The team offers support for religious education lessons, visits to places of worship, and support for collective worship in schools. They support community cohesion by offering visits to places of worship for adults during Interfaith Week and at other times as requested and by delivering collective worship in schools as a team, teaching about themes from the perspectives of their respective faiths.

SACRE has also supported the Stand Up, Speak Out, Make A Difference (SUSOMAD) project in schools which promotes community cohesion and challenges all forms of prejudice.

Support through events and training

Bradford SACRE Chair and clerk have recently revived network meetings for coordinators of RE and collective worship. A meeting was held in the autumn term 2018 and the plan is to hold these termly in 2019.

In addition to our work on collective worship, we spent meeting time considering the report from the Commission for RE in depth. One of the Commission members also spoke at a meeting of joint SACREs, which included Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale as well as Bradford. This was held in Bradford, and Bradford SACRE was well represented.

Summary

Key events and activities

- Meetings took place on 6 February, 25 April, 5 July, 2 October and 5 December 2018.
- External speakers at this year's meetings have been: Reverend Dr Toby Howarth, the Bishop of Bradford, who talked about the Church of England's 'Vision for Education'; Helen Sellers, who gave a presentation on the 'Thought for Today, Thinking for Tomorrow' project; and Meg Henry and Azam Ali from the Linking Network, who spoke about their community cohesion work with schools in Bradford and nationally.

Future plans

- Improvements to the application form for Determinations
- Consideration of how to increase capacity for evaluating the quality of provision
- Presentation to Public Forum for Education in Bradford