

Bristol Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education:



SACRE



Annual Report 2014 - 15



St Michael on the Mount Primary School visits the New Rooms in Bristol

Chair's Introduction

Welcome to our annual report 2014-2015.

Bristol SACRE has continued to take a proactive stance in offering support to all schools, academies and individuals within the Bristol LA. Despite all the challenges faced within the RE community to deliver quality RE in a changing educational climate..

Supporting Good RE through CPD

We have been creative in our CPD this year in order to challenge and inspire. 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 Fiona Moss as the keynote speaker this year and the topic was '*RE to inspire and engage*'. The feedback from the conference was exceptionally 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. Jenny Brookes has offered support from the Local Authority to ensure the link between the SACRE and the council. 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. Adam Robertson who is subject lead teacher at Horfield CofE Primary School has started to lead the Primary RE network in Bristol.

'Contributing to awareness and tolerance'

During this year a major National Government directive has been the emphasis for all pupils to be fully prepared for life in modern Britain which has become part of the Ofsted framework . In July 2015 all schools became subject to the "Duty to Prevent " extremism. To equip schools to be able to meet the new Ofsted and legal requirements SACRE organised a conference that looked at the place of Religious Education in helping schools comply with this agenda. This conference was called "From Fear to Belonging" . 62 schools accessed this training with workshops on "Ensuring all voices are valued" "Islamophobia" and "RE and British Values".

'Meaningful relationships'

We have continued to support our schools in Bristol; we have meaningful relationships with LA schools, academies, faith groups, and other local SACRE's to ensure that we can offer our stakeholders a rounded and robust approach to making RE relevant and fit for purpose within schools today. We continue to work closely with faith communities in Bristol and ensure that teachers can access faith speakers and people to help ensure visits to places of worship run well. We signpost the annual "Diverse Open Doors Day" for teachers which is run by Bristol Multi-faith Forum . We also have a close partnership with Bristol University (Dr Janet Orchard is a member of SACRE she is a senior lecturer and organises the RE PGCE course) and we work together to ensure there is continued support for teachers of RE from their PGCE or ITT into their teaching career. We also maintain close links with local interfaith groups and Marie Hackett from Bristol Multi-Faith Forum also sits on Bristol SACRE.

'Immensely proud'

I continue to be immensely proud to serve as the Chair of Bristol SACRE and am grateful for the hard work and diligence of this committed group of diverse individuals, who share one purpose to contribute to the effectiveness of RE in Bristol, 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. Katy has made a huge contribution to Bristol SACRE with her never ending supply of new and creative ideas on RE.

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



Esther Deans MBE

Chair, Bristol SACRE

Pictured here at the MTM awards ceremony 2014 where she won the Unsung Hero award in recognition for her commitment to community work.

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 2014 - 15:

Committee A

Kelsong Choden / Rak-Ma Kelsang
Miranda Moore
Ray Bray
Eurfron Parry
Isabella Harding
Zaheer Shabir
Nassir (Mohammad-Nassir Miah)
Sian Hancocks
Javinder Singh

Committee B

Jill Dickinson
Ruth Wallace

Committee C

Esther Deans
Adam Robertson
Jackie Walsh

Committee D

Leslie Alexander
Claire Hiscott
Claire Campion-Smith
Peter Hammond

Co-opted members:

Marie Hackett
Michael Gower
Janet Orchard
Hugo Whately

Support Officers:

Katy Staples
katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Jenny Brookes

Christian Denominations and other faiths

Buddhist
Buddhist
Religious Society of Friends
Methodist
Roman Catholic
Islam
Islam
Baptist
Sikh

The Church of England

Associations representing teachers

Bridge Learning Campus (Chair)
Horfield CofE VC Primary School
Ashton Gate Primary School

The local authority

Conservative
Conservative
Liberal Democrats
Labour

Bristol Interfaith Group
Humanist
Bristol University
Redland High School

SACRE Adviser
Telephone: 0117 906 0100

Local Authority Link Officer

Clerk:
Sam Ford

Billy Forsythe
Becky Wilkins

Diocese of Bristol Communications and Training
Administrator
Bristol City Council
Bristol City Council

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 2014-15

23rd October 2014
2:00pm – 3:30pm
Horfield CofE Primary School
Bishop Manor Rd
Bristol
Avon
BS10 5BD

The main agenda items were:

- 1. Talk and explanation about RE at Horfield CE Primary**
- 2. Public examinations: results and ramifications**
- 3. 2014-15 Action Plan**
- 4. New Ofsted framework September 2014 for RE, CW and SMSC (Post Trojan Horse)**

26th March 2015
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Ashton Gate Primary School
Ashton Gate Road
Bristol
BS3 1SZ

The main agenda items were:

- 1. A presentation about RE at Ashton Gate Primary School**
- 2. The Annual Report**
- 3. The Action Plan**
- 4. Feedback from Conferences and CPD**

9th July 2015
9:00am – 12:00pm
George Muller House
7 Cotham Park
Bristol BS6 6DA

The main agenda items were:

- 1. A talk about the person and faith of George Muller and the work he did in setting up the Muller orphanages - looking at the materials available to schools and the activities for children that the museum provides**

2. An explanation about Discovery RE was given (as some schools in Bristol have started to use this resource)
3. Localising Bristol RE – further ideas were explored
4. A new settlement for RE report (Woodhead and Clark) was discussed
5. The feedback from the Cluster meetings and the “From Fear to Belonging” Conference was discussed

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
- LTLRE(Learn Teach Lead RE; a programme for succession planning for RE funded by the Jerusalem Trust and the St Matthias Trust) as a tool for growing new leaders of Religious Education in our area

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 **2015 GCSE**:

A total of 1963 students were entered for a public examination in RE which is a decrease since last year of 193 students. 1018 of these students were female, showing that there were more female students than male.

Results from the 2015 GCSE showed that 71% of students received a grade between A*-C, which is just below the national average of 72.1% but higher than the results in Bristol in previous years. 76.5% of female students and 65% of male students received a grade between A*-C; this shows that female students received better grades than male students. A total of 3.1% of students received ungraded, which is higher than the national average of 1.7%.

Grade	Year					
	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
A*-C	63.5%	63.0%	62.5%	68.9%	68.6%	71.0%
A*-G	96.7%	96.8%	97.2%	96.3%	97.3%	96.9%

Key Stage 5 Religious Studies Outcomes

A total of 94 students were entered for GCE A RE and achieved on average 77.6% A*-C grades.; this represents an increase in numbers from 54 and an increase in average % grade from 72.2% last year - however it is below the national average for GCE A Religious Studies which was 80.1%. A total of 22.3% of students in Bristol achieved a grade of A*-A, which is 2.4% below the national average of 24.7%.

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 strengthened through the hard work and dedicated support of Jenny Brookes as link officer. It is beneficial that there is 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 to 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 entitled "Post Trojan Horse? Radicalisation and RE? What role should SACRE be playing?"

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. Mohammad-Nassir Miah works for Bristol Muslim Cultural Society and has been an important link for SACRE to provide support for the teaching of Islam in Bristol Schools.

CPD offered:

During the year, 2 secondary and 2 primary training opportunities were offered to teachers in Bristol, as well as the Annual Conference for all teachers across phases and the "From Fear to Belonging" conference which focused on RE British Values and the Duty to Prevent.

Primary/Secondary/Governors	Venue/Date/Topic
Secondary Best Practice Learning Hub	Redland Green School Redland Court Road, Bristol, BS6 7EH 27th November 2014 4pm - 6pm

	<p>How are we assessing RE: does it work?</p> <p>This session was led by Emma Godshaw (who went on to become HOD at Gordano School in North Somerset)</p>
Primary Best Practice Learning Hub	<p>Horfield CE VC Primary School Bishop Manor Road, Bristol, BS10 5BD 29 November 2014 1pm - 4pm RE, Creativity and Spiritual Development Adam Robertson, Subject leader at Horfield Primary School led this training</p>
Secondary and Primary RE Annual Conference	<p>Engineers' House The Promenade, Clifton Down, Avon, Bristol, BS8 3NB 29th January 2015 9:30am–3:30pm <i>RE to inspire and engage</i> Fiona Moss RE Today Services</p>
Secondary and Primary RE, British Values and the Duty to Prevent Event	<p>Engineers' House The Promenade, Clifton Down, Avon, Bristol, BS8 3NB 15th June 2015 9am – 1pm <i>"From Fear to Belonging"</i> Jonathan Palk HMI, the Ofsted Regional Lead for Extremism in the South West</p>
Primary Best Practice	<p>Holymead Primary School Wick Road, Brislington, BS4 4HB 1st July 2015 <i>"Spice up your RE"</i> Vicky Wiltshire (subject leader at Holymead Primary School) led this session</p>
Secondary Best Practice	<p>Fairfield Secondary School 29th June 2015 Sharing Best lessons and "teach meet" This session was led by Claire Greenwood, HOD at Fairfield School</p>

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 SACREs. The forthcoming year 2015-16 sees the SACRE reviewing the Agreed Syllabus.

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 2014-15. A new unit was written about George Muller and which encourages pupils to learn about how his faith was put into action to improve the lives of poor children in Bristol.

4. Collective Worship

In the academic year 2011-12, we reviewed the Collective Worship guidance, and since then “Time to Breathe – offering space and stillness” has been on offer to support all schools and Academies in the Bristol area.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/239489/Bristol%20SACRE%20Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%202012.pdf/83a86b69-646c-4267-82e9-a4937bef8c45>

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.

4. SACRE as a representative, effective, diverse community

Bristol SACRE is a diverse 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 grow in religious literacy to be able to navigate the complex world of competing ideologies with safety and confidence.

Avonmouth Primary School's "Experience Christmas"

