



## Suffolk SACRE: Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education: Annual Reports 2017-2018 / 2018-2019 / 2019-2020 (combined)

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# SUFFOLK SACRE ANNUAL REPORTS (2017-8 / 2018-9 / 2019-20)

## 1. Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to present this combined report on the work of Suffolk SACRE for the years 2017-2020. I would like to thank members of the SACRE, be they faith representatives, teachers or councillors, for their commitment and work. Our membership has changed considerably over this period and our ways of working likewise. The revision of our Agreed Syllabus has been on hold for a variety of reasons but it has been good to see other exciting developments, and a variety of achievements by our SACRE members in our combined work to support Religious Education and Collective Worship in Suffolk.

In summary:

**2017-18** saw two exciting days enabling several of our most rural schools to meet those from a multi-ethnic school in central Ipswich as a result of the successful bid to Westhill in 2016-7 under the auspices of the then Servicing Officer, Jan McGuire. Our SACRE remains committed to supporting initiatives which will give our young people a better awareness of the beliefs and practices of others in the wider world. Work continued on the Agreed Syllabus but this stalled; the new versions of the primary assessment section, however, went out for trials. SACRE applied successfully for a variety of awards. A Diocesan RE conference drew in almost all the church schools in the county and was supported by SACRE members.

**2018-19** saw a group of four of our secondary SACRE members working on their joint Farmington to research and develop resources for our secondary schools. The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich continued to develop, and at the end of 2019, to revise the Emmanuel Project, a scheme of work which provides a conceptual way of teaching our Agreed Syllabus, and which has been utilised by schools across the country. A successful RE conference was held in the summer with key note speakers from the Holocaust Education Trust and Inspiring Classrooms. The first awards were made for our newly-introduced WIRE award, designed to encourage inclusivity in our largely mono-cultural schools.

**2019-2020** saw a single meeting in the autumn and then a halt in proceedings due to the COVID pandemic. Sadly the support of our inter-faith bodies was badly affected by this and visits had to be curtailed. The WIRE award was also affected and very few schools were able to complete their work for the award. The county has not been able to provide data for public exam results this year.

We are grateful for the support of the Local Authority and especially to Linden Pitcher for her highly efficient clerking of SACRE, throughout this time. For the majority of the period we have been able to co-operate and draw on the staff and invaluable expertise of the Church of England Diocese and also EEFA (East of England Faiths Agency) and we are indebted to both organisations for the amount of

face to face work with schools they have done. It is good to know we can point teachers to such resources at a time when SACRE's direct contact with schools has been limited.

The increased disparity between requirements in different types of school, and the ways in which schools relate to each other, continue to make it difficult for us to know their actual needs. Our SACRE, alongside many others, is on quite a journey to discover the best ways of finding that information and providing the most relevant challenge and support in the twin areas RE and Collective Worship, in a much changed landscape. We are grateful for the number of Farmington Trust awards we have received over the last few years which have enabled various SACRE members to develop the Emmanuel Project, investigate the secondary situation, and generally extend their professional abilities.

The meetings of the Suffolk SACRE continue to be open public meetings and agendas and minutes are published on the County Council's website. We welcome members of the public who wish to attend our meetings.

I am pleased to commend this report to you.

Helen Matter, Chair of Suffolk SACRE, Autumn 2020

### **3. The Purpose of the Report**

Religious Education is an important curriculum subject and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality RE.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), from each Local Authority, will publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year. This entails:

- advising the Local Authority on Religious Education given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its Agreed Syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- providing advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus;
- providing advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its Local Authority, considering whether any changes need to be made in the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE;
- offering advice to the Local Authority, and through the Local Authority to schools, concerning how an existing Agreed Syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

## **2. Management of SACRE: LA Support, Governance & Membership: LA Support September 2017 – August 2019**

The LA provides an experienced and respected clerk, Linden Pitcher, to minute the meetings and provide the Chair and other SACRE members with valuable support for their work.

There have been significant cutbacks in many Local Authorities in relation to support for SACRE. However, Suffolk County Council has continued to provide such support although its nature has changed over the last two years.

The LA funded both the three formal meetings each year including the expenses of the attendees, as well as covering venue, refreshment and additional training costs (approx. £2000). In addition it funded a Servicing Officer until 31 July 2018 with an additional £4000 to provide specialist RE advice and governance support, write the Government reports and commissioned bids, organise the conference, attend county and AREIAC/ NASACRE meetings or conferences and deal with day to day matters.

Following the end of the Servicing Officer's contract, a trial arrangement was agreed with Debenham High School, the then Diocesan Education Officer (chair of SACRE), and three high School Teachers to support SACRE as a Professional Advice Team using the money allocated for SACRE to fund this. This way of supporting SACRE is still in early stages and will be reviewed as necessary.

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Suffolk SACRE, which meets three times each year, comprises of four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable. We continue to work on ensuring the membership reflects the demographic.

The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A – representatives of Christian denominations and other religions and their religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area;
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;
- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations;
- Committee D – representatives of the Local Authority.

Our current Chair, Helen Matter, was elected Chair in January 2016 and has overseen some substantial changes in membership of SACRE during the period 2017-2019. These are shown below. We said farewell to some very long-standing members of SACRE who have served faithfully for many years. We are pleased to welcome some new members and have been delighted that many are practising teachers, representing a variety of schools and faith organisations. In the year 2019-2020, our key Local Authority member, having done sterling work, especially with the County Council members, retired.

### **Membership of Suffolk SACRE:**

#### **Committee A: Christian denominations and other religions and their religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area**

- Prabjot Kaur: Sikh (retired from SACRE 2019)
- Dr Andrew Marfleet: Baptist (retired from SACRE 2019)
- Manwar Ali: Muslim
- Ian Prettyman: Methodist (retired from SACRE 2019)

- Elizabeth Sugarman: Jewish (Chair until January 2016)
- Denis Johnston: Humanist
- Janus van Helvert: Buddhist
- Alison Pentreath: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Anita Gopinath - Hindu (joined Autumn 2019)
- Avtar Athwall - Sikh (joined Summer 2019)

#### **Committee B: Church of England**

- Helen Matter: Schools' Adviser, Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich (Chair from Jan 2016, retired from the Diocese Summer 2019)
- Jane Sheat: Diocesan Director of Ed, Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich (until Spring 2019)
- Helen Moore: Church of England (formerly Creting St Mary Primary)
- Ven. John Cox (joined SACRE Summer 2018, formerly DDE)
- Ruth Dennigan (joined SACRE Spring 2019, formerly Head of RE, currently Lay Educator)

#### **Committee C: representatives of the teachers' associations /Teachers** (all the teachers starred have been in receipt of Farmington awards)

- Steph Crossley: St Albans Catholic High School, Ipswich (until March 2017)
- Trina Rankin: Hearing Impaired Unit, Westgate Community Primary School, Bury St Edmunds (until summer 2017)
- \*Sarah Cobbold: St Benedict's Catholic Upper School Bury St Edmunds
- \*Wayne Buisst: Ormiston Denes Academy, Lowestoft
- \*Gemma Kingston: St Mary's C of E Academy, Mildenhall (until summer 2017, rejoining in 2019 as Diocesan Education Adviser)
- \*David Yaroslow: Debenham High School
- \*Martin Cobbold: Debenham High School
- Katie Gooch (HLTA – Sidegate Primary School from 2018, NATRE ambassador from 2019)
- \*Wendy Rayner (Kingsfleet Primary School, Felixstowe joining from 2019)

#### **Committee D: Local Authority**

- Joanna Spicer: County Councillor, Conservative
- Derek Hackett: County Councillor, UKIP (until May 2017)
- Sonia Barker: County Councillor, Labour (until May 2017)
- Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw: County Councillor Green Party, Beccles (until June 2018)
- Caroline Page, County Councillor, Liberal Democrat, Woodbridge ( from June 2018)
- Karen Soons: County Councillor, Conservative, West Suffolk, (from June 2017)
- Janice Lee: LA representative (retired Spring 2020, replaced by Kathryn Roper)

#### **Servicing Officers**

- Jan McGuire: Independent Adviser for RE & LA Servicing Officer (until July 2018)
- Linden Pitcher: Business Support Officer - (Clerk to SACRE)

## 4. Standards and Quality of Provision of Religious Education \*\*\*

### GCSE

In 2018 the percentage of students achieving a grade 4 or above in GCSE RE was 71.9% nationally compared to 64.2% in Suffolk. This shows a marked difference between the results achieved in Suffolk compared to the rest of the country. However, this was an improvement compared to the results seen in 2017.

In 2019 the percentage of students achieving a grade 4 or above was 72.6% nationally compared to 68.8% in Suffolk. This does show a rise greater than the national rise compared to 2018, and that the gap has been closed somewhat, but the local results are still lagging behind.

All GCSE RE examinations now feature the 9-1 grading system as opposed to the alphabetised system. The number of entries has declined nationally, again congruent with what has been seen in Suffolk.

With changes to the OFSTED framework now in place (and a greater focus on provision of RE), it will be interesting to monitor the trends moving forward. As a SACRE, we should continue to provide updates on the legal requirements regarding RE and provide support to schools making changes, through both the Professional Advisory team (in terms of curriculum design) and our faith representatives in aiding subject knowledge and providing expert insight. We hope to continue to close the gap between the local and national results data, however it is a continually changing picture, with some schools changing their delivery of RE from short course to full course or removing RE public examinations completely.

### Post-16

2018	A level Religious Studies	108 entries	43% A*-B
2019	A level Religious Studies	110 entries	48% A*-B

For Post-16 RE, examination entries have remained steady, despite the national picture showing a dip in entries. In terms of results, Suffolk results are mainly in-keeping with the national picture, though most national analysis now focuses on A\*-A as opposed to A\*-B, so direct comparisons cannot be accurately drawn.

### **Attainment in RE not covered by public examination**

In addition to the data provided, information on RE in primary schools was gathered:

- during school visits principally by the Diocesan Schools' Adviser, EEFA speakers, and by the Servicing Officer while in post
- from local teachers' network meetings – largely anecdotal
- from the development of the practice of scrapbooking in RE which began in 2016-7 in relation to the Emmanuel Project scheme of work for RE and has gained in momentum and popularity in primary schools – SACRE members were able to see scrapbooks at their meetings and at conferences

- from SIAMS inspections in some church schools
- from external awarding of REQM (see below)
- from the institution of the Suffolk SACRE WIRE award in 2018-2019 (see below)

### **RE Quality Mark (REQM) 2017-2019**

The Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) was introduced in 2014 to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding RE. The Suffolk SACRE has been represented from the outset, as the previous Servicing Officer, Mary Myatt, was instrumental in founding the award programme. Suffolk SACRE promotes this award on its website. Suffolk has a number of trained REQM assessors based in Suffolk. A number of our Gold award teachers have joined SACRE.

During 2017-2019 SACRE has monitored the uptake of REQM with interest as there has been a marked decrease in schools applying. We believe the cost and time taken to apply for the award is a problem in many schools.

However, some 50 or so schools met regularly during this period, led by the Diocesan adviser, to discuss how to improve RE in their schools, using the handbook for REQM as their guide. SACRE is grateful for the work done by these schools and for the guide freely available from REQM; many schools made real progress in RE as a result but few could afford to apply for the award. The chair of SACRE submitted evidence to REQM manager, Linda Rudge (another former Suffolk teacher), about this.

#### **REQM awards in this period:**

<b>Name of school:</b>	<b>Award Date:</b>	<b>Award:</b>
Red Oak Primary School, Lowestoft	2019	Silver
St Edmunds RCVA Primary, Bury St, Edmunds	2018	Gold
St Matthews C of E Primary School, Ipswich	2018	Silver
Debenham High School, Debenham	2018	Gold
Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham	2018	Gold
Barningham C of EVC Primary, nr Bury St Edmunds	2017	Gold

#### **RE WIRE award 2018-2019**

During a visit to speak at the Bristol RE conference, Helen Matter brought back details of their WIRE award – Widening Inclusivity in Religious Education. The aim of the award is to challenge schools to widen the opportunities for their schools to meet faith communities, to involve their subject leaders in training or networking and to celebrate RE with other stakeholders in their schools and wider afield. All of these are areas which schools in Suffolk can find challenging.

The WIRE award is not an award for high standards in RE, although these are much to be hoped for, but as a free award, fairly easy to achieve for a school

teaching RE, it proved to be very attractive to many schools. The entries also provided evidence of RE happening in schools.

SACRE made its first awards at the summer conference 2019. Some 15 awards have been made so far. Discussions are under way to consider how to extend the award to secondary and a trial award planned for faith communities, piloted by the C of E group on SACRE.

## **Monitoring of provision**

### **Primary Schools:**

Over this period there has been considerable discussion about gathering evidence of provision of RE given that most SACRE Members have not had extensive links with primary schools. Progress in RE is even more difficult to gauge.

The government requirement to provide curriculum information for each year group on the school website seemed a useful way to find out what schools were providing, even if this was no marker of quality. SACRE members spent time learning how to review school websites to see what schools were reporting about their own provision basing this on a proforma provided by the Chair for members to use. SACRE also agreed to notify schools of its action through the weekly Suffolk Headlines service. SACRE discussed appropriate letters to send to schools, for encouragement or for asking questions. These letters have not yet been sent.

### **Secondary Schools:**

With fewer schools bound by the Agreed Syllabus due to academisation, alterations to examination choices, lack of information from Ofsted reports, it has not been easy to monitor secondary schools. The application to Farmington in 2017 by our four secondary members was a deliberate move to address the lack of information and contact, and to begin to work on ways in which SACRE could support schools even where they did not use the local Agreed Syllabus any longer. This work was a very successful start to a new way of offering support to secondary schools, and monitoring provision in Suffolk.

Martin Cobbold (Debenham High School) was responsible for the provision of coaching and mentoring for teachers across Suffolk. This included observations and feedback of lessons, advice on curriculum design, sharing of resources (including those made by members of our team as part of the scholarship) as well as providing guidance on issues such as the legality about RE and how to manage a department of specialists. This included visits to schools across the county and many of these relationships continue either in person or via email, Whatsapp and so forth.

*Please see brief reports from each of the members of SACRE involved in the Farmington project in Appendix 1.*

## **5. Ofsted Reports**

During this period SACRE has started to establish a new process to monitor Ofsted Reports in Suffolk for information and comment made on the provision and quality of Religious Education and SMSC. This will be supported by the Local Authority representative going forward with the LA bringing to SACRE's attention any mentions of RE or CW. Generally, the picture for RE reflects the overall picture and grading

for a school. Mostly, the reports do not make specific reference to RE but report on social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

In 2017-18, Ofsted identified the teaching of/provision for RE in one Suffolk primary school as a concern. As a result, a new subject leader was appointed, who then attended some of the Diocesan courses on offer and became part of a local RE network, eventually re-establishing the subject in their school.

Elsewhere in the report we have recorded other approaches we are putting in place to track RE provision. Where it has been made known that a school is not meeting statutory advice, SACRE will contact the school and try to offer advice and ideas for support.

## 6. Support for Improving Teaching of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

**Suffolk SACRE Prevent Project - Teaching controversial issues in the classroom: 2016-17:** The work of our Servicing Officer and members of a SACRE writing team led to a special commendation in the 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award for its 'Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit'. This Toolkit has continued to receive positive comment during 2017-2020 and SACRE has given permission for the material to be used / hosted by various organisations.  
<http://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/11-19-learning-teaching/religious-education/sacre/prevent>

**Westhill NASACRE Project Award 2017** - Under the direction of the project manager, and then Servicing Officer of Suffolk SACRE, Jan McGuire, Suffolk SACRE secured funding of £4,000 in May 2017 to offer mono-cultural schools, in deprived rural and coastal areas of Suffolk, the chance to engage in an educational experience that aimed to promote respect and celebrate cultural diversity. The project culminated in a joint celebration and visit in 2018 at a mosque in Ipswich. It enabled pupils to encounter and talk with those who have beliefs and views different from their own, to break down barriers constructed through ignorance and fear of the unknown, and to challenge the resulting stereotypes they may have experienced.

**Farmington Scholarships** – The four secondary SACRE teachers worked throughout 2018-2019 on a joint Farmington award looking at how to support teachers especially at secondary school level, while the chair of SACRE continued to support primary schools. See elsewhere in the report but the results of this project involved easily available information for secondaries on resources for teaching RE at different levels.

**RE Networks** - Run largely by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, these networks brought together about 50 teachers in small groups to discuss their RE. SACRE is grateful to the Diocesan adviser for running these groups and for the additional information about RE in the county that this brought in for them.

**Eastern Region NATRE RE ambassador** - Katie Gooch (Committee C) applied for this role and SACRE is very proud that she now holds the post and her involvement with NATRE and the other connections it will bring in 2019-2020 are much anticipated by SACRE. Katie writes:

*From January 2019 NATRE appointed 10 regional RE Network Ambassadors across the country with the aim of supporting existing RE networks and facilitating the creation of new network groups. My role as East Anglia Regional Ambassador has given me the opportunity to connect with and support RE professionals across the region. I am also organising a*

*regional conference: **Spotlight on curriculum: Coherence, Continuity and Challenge in RE**, to be held at Keystone Conference Centre, Thetford on March 17th 2020, with the aim of providing an opportunity for RE professionals across all phases in our region to access high quality CPD.*

**RE Conferences** - SACRE did not offer a conference in **June 2018**. An agreement with the Diocese led to a Church of England RE conference in the summer term which focussed on the official launch of the Emmanuel Project, the new SIAMS framework for RE and a focus on such things as Scrapbooking in RE. All 85+ church schools were invited to attend – this being a third of Suffolk schools and attendance was good, displays of work stunning and feedback from teachers on the Agreed Syllabus, assessment and networking useful.

A joint SACRE / Diocesan RE Conference was held in **summer 2019** with many SACRE members in attendance. It was good to see about 35 teachers and another 20 or so SACRE members / speakers in attendance but sad that only one secondary school teacher registered despite a programme being available for them. Key notes were provided by the Holocaust Education Trust and by Saul Penfold, from Inspiring Classrooms. Workshops on Scrapbooking, Art in RE, Reflective storytelling, Pilgrim's Progress, EYFS and Humanism were offered, as well as updates on the Agreed Syllabus, Emmanuel Project and Assessment. The day finished with SACRE members joining a 'speed-faithing' session which was much enjoyed by all. The first WIRE award was presented to All Saints' CEVA Primary in Newmarket whose work in RE is outstanding. Based at the cathedral during the major schools' art and spirituality exhibition, we were also able to tour the cathedral and see the displays.

**The Emmanuel Project Scheme of Work for Primary Schools** - The scheme of work continues to provide excellent support for those schools which use it, a majority of Suffolk primary schools according to sales. Although some schools use Discovery RE or another scheme, this particular scheme was written specifically to fulfil and develop the aims of the Agreed Syllabus while at the same time taking it forward in challenging conceptual ways. The very detailed presentation of the materials, including notes for teachers, offers additional practical support for teachers working with the Suffolk syllabus. The Diocesan adviser has spoken at RE conferences around the country about the scheme and many schools outside Suffolk have been using it.

**East of England Faiths Agency**– Several members of Suffolk SACRE are also members of East of England Faiths agency and speak in local schools. In 2018-19, EEFA experimented with a 'Treasures of Faith' day in Occold, a very small Suffolk village, following discussion with SACRE. They invited rural schools to join them in several venues in the village, where they were able to meet different faith members and discuss things that were treasures to them – artefacts, beliefs etc. Unfortunately with difficulties now facing EEFA's existence and COVID restricting work with schools, the future of this potential outreach into smaller villages is on hold. It was hoped that those schools seriously constrained by travel costs from visiting places of worship or inviting visitors, would find this an excellent substitute.

**SACRE Website / SACRE Papers** – with the assistance of the clerk to SACRE, improvements are being made to SACRE's presence on the internet and a variety of simple resource papers are gradually appearing on the LA website to support teachers.

## **The Agreed Syllabus Conference**

The Agreed Syllabus conference stalled for a variety of reasons. It was agreed to leave it in place with trial end of year assessments for schools wanting to use them. SACRE will return to look at its syllabus in 2020-2021.

## **Relevant Links with other agencies**

Suffolk SACRE has links with other agencies including the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, University of Suffolk, University of East Anglia, AREIAC, NASACRE, NATE and REC.

Suffolk SACRE is particularly appreciative of the support and partnership it has with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Co-operation with the Diocese has been invaluable, and we are indebted to both Helen Matter and now Gemma Kingston, Diocesan Advisers, for their time spent on developing primary school resources, including RE newsletters and for teacher training (Primary and SCITT) opportunities that directly support the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus.

## **7. Compliance with the Statutory Requirement - Suffolk SACRE's Statutory Role 2017-2019**

**Collective Worship:** Suffolk SACRE has a statutory role in considering and granting determinations. Determinations are made where a school, on behalf of a number of parents, requests Collective Worship other than that set down by statute. There were no determinations for Suffolk SACRE to consider and no complaints about CW to deal with.

Suffolk SACRE is aware that CW has not been discussed as part of its meetings for some considerable time and plans to address this in 2020-2021.

Training on CW is provided for schools by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and although some community schools have attended 'basics' courses, the majority of schools attending are Church of England primaries whose CW is inspected under Section 13 arrangements. Links and contacts for support in collective worship are also shared at training and network sessions.

**Religious Education:** Suffolk SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE. In 2017-2020 there were no such formal complaints to deal with. However, Suffolk SACRE was becoming increasingly aware through anecdote that some schools were not fulfilling their statutory requirements. SACRE experimented during 2018-2020 with investigation of school websites as part of several of its meetings, and started to draft possible letters to schools which were not publishing their RE curriculum on-line as required by statute. SACRE informed schools that this was happening through the County Headlines and advised headteachers to review their websites. Letters will begin to go out to schools in 2020-21 with regard to findings.

## **8. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda**

SACRE members continue to generously offer schools their time and expertise. Representatives from the Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist and Christian faith, and also Humanists, have delivered assemblies and supported curriculum planning, and teachers, with individual requests.

The 'Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit', based on the Prevent agenda, helped to support the LA with their social and racial harmony, SMSC, British Values and Prevent agenda as well as providing social bridging opportunities and enrichment of diversity and faith awareness experiences. Social bridging and wider diversity and faith experience still remains an Ofsted concern, and it can be particularly difficult for mono-cultural rural schools to access relevant opportunities. SACRE remains a key partner in offering such opportunities to Suffolk schools, through their committed work in raising the quality of Religious Education in the classroom.

**If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Suffolk SACRE Clerk via e-mail at [linden.pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:linden.pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk)**

## **Appendix 1 – Farmington Scholars’ work (2018-2019) in support of secondary provision of RE in Suffolk**

**Martin Cobbold (Debenham High School)** was responsible for the provision of coaching and mentoring for teachers across Suffolk. This included observations and feedback of lessons, advice on curriculum design, sharing of resources (including those made by members of our team as part of the scholarship) as well as providing guidance on issues such as the legality about RE and how to manage a department of specialists. This included visits to schools across the county and many of these relationships continue either in person or via email, WhatsApp and so forth.

**Sarah Cobbold (St Benedict’s Catholic School)** sourced and created a wide range of resources suitable for use in RE lessons. These vary from whole schemes of work, individual worksheets, websites and podcasts and are for KS3, 4 & 5. These have been made available on our website for free where anybody can access, download and use. They have also been emailed to the person responsible for RE in all our Suffolk Secondary Schools.

**David Yaroslaw (Debenham High School)** was responsible for organising a trip for RE teachers to Coventry, to visit the Cathedral, have lunch at a Gurdwara and purchase artefacts. As there was not sufficient support for a separate trip, teachers were invited to attend the Year 8 trip run by Debenham High School. Two teachers attended and were very positive about the day. The main stumbling block seemed to be reluctance to release colleagues during the summer term, or lack of time. Offers of advice and relevant information were offered to any teachers who expressed an interest.

**Wayne Buisst (Ormiston Denes Lowestoft)** built a website as detailed above which is now available for schools, showcasing RE resources freely for all secondary schools.