

People Directorate  
Setting and School Effectiveness

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# Annual SACRE Report

2015-2016



The SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) has several aspects to its role. It:

- Advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- Advises on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- Decides whether or not to grant determinations to those schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- Identifies the need for a revised religious education syllabus

The Milton Keynes SACRE works closely with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) and the Diocese of Oxford. All meetings of the SACRE are open to the public.

This report sets out a brief summary of the work of the Milton Keynes' SACRE over the academic year 2015-2016. The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found

[http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Committees/tabid/170/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_CommitteeDetails/mid/589/id/1120/Default.aspx](http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Committees/tabid/170/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/589/id/1120/Default.aspx)

For more information about the role and business of the SACRE please contact:

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Clerk: Janet Gleghorn at [janet.gleghorn@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:janet.gleghorn@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Local Authority Officer: Linda Bartlett at [linda.bartlett@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:linda.bartlett@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

### **SACRE Developments in 2015-2016**

Meetings of the SACRE during this year were held on the following dates:

- ☐ 26 November 2015
- ☐ 10 February 2016
- ☐ 29 June 2016

Reverend Paul Smith continued to serve as Chair of the SACRE, along with Mrs Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra as Vice Chair. The change in the time of meetings to after school in the previous year continued to ensure that there was a high level of engagement from schools. Milton Keynes Council had delegated responsibility for the appointment of members to the SACRE to the SACRE itself and members were pleased to use this power to select and appoint Sharon Marland, Arif Masters, Shammi Rahman and Matt Bonnett. The primary representative Charlie Colombo from The Willows

School resigned when she left the school for a different role. The previous non-attendance by any councillors (Group D) has been addressed due to the appointment of Cllr. Alan Webb and Cllr Edith Bald.

The previous Oxfordshire Diocese professional adviser to the SACRE retired and has been replaced by Anne Andrews. Support for the primary and secondary school RE coordinators' networks continued to be organised under the leadership of Zoe Terry (Lord Grey School) and the development of a Youth SACRE under the leadership of Shammi Rahman (Denbigh Teaching School). The organisation of a cross Milton Keynes' philosophy debate by Matt Bonnett (The Hazeley Academy) was cancelled due to staff capacity.

The budget allocated for the SACRE during this year was £971. An additional £4000 was made available by the Council to pay for RE initiatives. This was led by a variety of practitioners in support of religious education in schools in all phases across Milton Keynes.

### **Partnership working**

Shammi Rahman, a teacher representative on the SACRE (Group C), and Linda Bartlett, the Local Authority Officer with responsibility for the SACRE, attended the NASACRE AGM in May. It was beneficial to meet members of other SACREs throughout the country. Group discussions enabled the sharing of ideas and concerns with representatives from SACREs in nearby areas. The Rt. Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss CBE, spoke about the outcomes of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life, for which she was Chair. Professor Adam Dinham, Professor of Faith and Public Policy at Goldsmiths, University of London, spoke about 'RE for REal: The future of teaching and learning about belief', as co-author with Martha Shaw. Outcomes of the conference were shared with the SACRE.

### **Review of the year's plans**

The Youth SACRE was established by Shammi Rahman, based at Denbigh Teaching School. There were four sessions, which were attended by 12 schools and on average 30 pupils per session over the year. This was made up of eight primaries (Jubilee Wood, Cold Harbour, Somerfield, Orchard, Two Mile Ash, St. Monica's Catholic, Great Linford, Christ the Sower) and four secondaries (Stantonbury Campus, St. Paul's Catholic, Lord Grey, Denbigh). These meetings allowed the children from across the borough to inspire religious education with new ideas that are relevant to their world. The Youth SACRE is currently supporting the review of the Locally Agreed RE Syllabus, by consulting pupils about what matters to them for inclusion in the syllabus. The next step is the development of Young RE Ambassadors from the Youth SACRE membership.

Regular updates have been provided to schools about RE using Educate, an online email communication with all schools.

There have never been any applications for determinations; thus, there has been no urgency to develop a process.

New members were made aware of the SACRE members' handbook published later in the year by NASACRE on its website. All members of SACRE have access to the NASACRE website log in.

### **Religious education in 2015 - 2016**

3 termly twilight meetings for primary teachers were held during the year. 13 primary schools were involved. The Global Learning Programme provided input, with the local lead school, The Chestnuts, in February 2016. Due to lack of capacity for the teacher leading the RE Co-ordinators' meetings in 2016-2017 these will be led by the Oxford Diocese RE adviser.

A decision was made to suspend the Secondary RE Co-ordinator's Meetings due to lack of attendance. Teachers are willing to work together for specific reasons and have good contact details across schools. The Youth SACRE is now making links even more successful.

The EMA Network has delivered Islamic Awareness training to Lord Grey, Oakgrove, St Pauls, Cold Harbour, Ashbrook, Loughton Manor, Falconhurst, Southwood and Brooksward schools.

The EMA Network is trialling Stepping Stones, a programme for primary schools which addresses similarities and cultural impact as an aspect of possible radicalisation and sensitisation. This links to faith and belief. The Me & You project to protect secondary students from radicalisation, linked to identity and recognition of faith and belief was delivered to: Lord Grey, Milton Keynes Academy, Sir Herbert Leon Academy, Stantonbury Campus, The Hazeley Academy, and The Radcliffe School. This was not funded by SACRE.

The development of planning materials and teaching support

SACRE members are very welcome to attend the next Youth SACRE meeting, details of which were recirculated at the meeting.

### **Religious Education Resources**

During the year progress was made in the development of the SACRE website. A wide range of resources to support the teaching of RE were purchased by the SACRE for inclusion in the EMA Network resource collection held at the Rivers Centre, Bletchley. All Milton Keynes' schools have been made aware of this collection. All schools receive information about the EMA library and there continues to be an increase in the number of schools using the materials.

## **The Milton Keynes Agreed RE Syllabus Conference**

The SACRE has set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). Tina Virdee Basra has been elected as Chair. Members of the SACRE have been co-opted onto the ASC. There have been two meetings, which followed the SACRE meetings. Huw Humphreys, Headteacher of Christ the Sower, was elected to lead the working party to consult with schools and write the draft syllabus for presentation to the SACRE. The introduction and key principles have been updated in draft. Assessment criteria will be updated in 2016-2017. The date for the new syllabus will be September 2017.

## **Collective Worship**

Collective worship sessions were advertised in February, June and September 2016, but had to be cancelled due to lack of delegates, despite full advertisement through Educate, RE networks and personal recommendation. Advice and guidance has been updated and is available for schools.

No applications for a determination have been received by the SACRE either this year or in previous years. Any school wishing to explore the relevance of a determination (daily collective worship which is other than 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character) in their context should contact the local authority officer, Linda Bartlett. Church schools are not eligible for a determination. For an academy wishing to apply for a determination the correct process is for the Trust to apply through the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to the Secretary of State.

## **Schools and the SACRE**

The SACRE has upheld its responsibility to monitor the provision and quality of RE and collective worship in Milton Keynes' schools by surveying all schools through an online survey via Educate. 51 schools responded. This informs the SACRE of the needs of schools and helps members to identify ways in which they might best support schools in the provision of RE and collective worship. The SACRE invited schools to share what is going well in both areas and what support they would like SACRE to provide, to be shared across the LA.

All schools were teaching the different faiths required in the Locally Agreed RE Syllabus. 71% of respondents said that their schools were confident in teaching RE, with 10% (5) who were not confident. Schools were least confident teaching about the Bahai faith and Humanism. 48% felt that the syllabus gives teachers the knowledge they need to teach RE, with 42% feeling that it meets some needs. This should be expected as the syllabus requires teachers to further develop their knowledge and skills. The same 10% (5) did not feel that it meets their needs. The same 10% find the current syllabus does not enable teachers to teach RE accurately, broadly with a deep understanding of pupils' learning. The vast majority of respondents think that the faiths covered in the syllabus are appropriate. Comments were particularly linked to schools' evaluation that the faiths are not fully relevant to pupils' lives and that schools would like to teach the

faiths represented on their own school. 24% of schools are not confident in assessing pupils in RE, with only 43% stating that they are. 55% consider that RE should be assessed using age-related expectations.

### **Attainment in Religious Studies at GCSE in 2016**

Total Students: 1230, which is an increase of 200 additional students from the previous year.

Percentage Achieving:

<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>U</b>
7%	17%	26%	20%	11%	9%	5%	4%	3%

Percentage achieving at least C: 70%

### **Attainment in Religious Studies at A-Level in 2016**

Total Students: 82

Percentage Achieving:

<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>
1.2%	14.6%	26.8%	29.3%	14.6%	11.0%	2.4%

Percentage achieving at least C: 71.9%

### **Attainment in Religious Studies at AS-Level in 2015**

Total Students: 89

Percentage Achieving:

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>
14.6%	20.2%	27%	22.5%	10.1%	5.6%

Percentage achieving at least C: 61.8%

## Membership of Milton Keynes Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
<b>Group A:</b>	<b>Christian denominations and other religions</b>	
Free Churches	Rachel Foster (MK Bridgebuilder Trust)	3/3
Free Churches	Richard Wightman	2/3
Roman Catholic Church	Vacancy	
Baha'i	Latifeh Rowlands	3/3
Buddhism	Vacancy	0/3
Hinduism	Manjula Koria	0/3
Islam	Arif Master	1/3
Judaism	Vacancy	0/3
Sikhism	Talvinder Kaur Virdee-Basra	3/3
<b>Group B:</b>	<b>The Church of England</b>	
	Rev Paul Smith (Chair)	2/3
	Rev Michael Morris	0/3
	Vacancy	0/3
	Vacancy	0/3
<b>Group C:</b>	<b>Associations representing teachers</b>	
NUT	Doris Evans	2/3
Primary	Vacancy	0/3
Secondary	Zoe Terry	2/3
Academies	Matt Bonnett	2/3
	Shami Rahman	1/3
<b>Group D:</b>	<b>The Local Authority</b>	
	Cllr Edith Bald	1/3
	Cllr Alan Webb	1/3
<b>Additional attendees</b>		
Co-opted Humanist	Elaine Lever (Humanist)	2/3
Observers	Sharon Marland	2/3
	Huw Humphries	2/3
	Lou Tribus	1/3
	Sophia Kibrige	1/3
	Hasan Karei	1/3
<b>Professional Adviser</b>	Jo Fageant	1/3
	Anne Andrews	1/3
<b>Local Authority Officer</b>	Linda Bartlett	2/3
	Pauline Lyseight-jones	1/3
<b>Clerk</b>	Janet Gleghorn	3/3

Next report due in February 2018