



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2017 - 2018**

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Chair person's Introduction

It is important to understand that Religious Education (RE) makes a distinctive contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils of all ages and enhances in building bridges within the wider community. All pupils are entitled to receive high-quality RE and the Government is keen to ensure this is delivered effectively. There are many challenges that are faced by people of Religious background and it is important to recognise and understand these through the delivery of Religious Education. People of all backgrounds and faiths come together on common issues and use their values to be active participants within the wider society. When young people examine and understand this through their RE work they can appreciate and understand how religious views play an important part in shaping a person's life.

Peterborough SACRE is always very keen to support the development of our young citizens in the city. Peterborough SACRE plays an active part in supporting schools with their teaching as well as providing a locally agreed syllabus for use within various key stages. During the year we completed the review of our syllabus and a new one was produced in conjunction with other SACRE's (Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland). I extend my thanks to all who took active part in supporting the development and delivery of the new agreed local syllabus. The Locally Agreed Syllabus has been received well and used in schools to deliver effective RE for our young people in the city.

Another year has successfully passed with members once again giving up their time and effort voluntarily for the meetings. Every member plays an important part within the SACRE and this and their efforts are recognised. I would like to thank them all for their efforts and to also remind them to keep up with the commitment for Peterborough SACRE as it helps to shape the locally agreed syllabus and support the work of Religious Education within the city.

Amanda Fitton our SACRE Adviser for Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland continues to give her services to Peterborough SACRE. The report gives an outline of all the training and support she has given to further the teaching and learning of RE. I would like to thank her for all her support with the work of SACRE.

Peterborough SACRE is always supported by the Local Authority and we are proud to say that during the year we allocated a budget to support schools for transport in visiting places of worship. All schools that applied were successful and as a result the students were able to first hand experience different places of worship. This project is a great achievement for SACRE and has been appreciated by both teachers and students. Feedback has shown that this project will benefit even further and so schools will have another opportunity to apply for the funding in the next academic year.

On the 24th of May the SACRE adviser and clerk attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of our SACRE. A termly RE newsletter is sent out every term to all schools to give news from the RE world as well as any updates to support the teaching and address any challenges of RE in schools. The efficiency of our clerk, Lucia Hawes, in ensuring all the communications are kept in order is excellent and I take this opportunity to thank her for all her services to SACRE.

Peterborough SACRE will continue to meet the challenges and changes outlined below in the forthcoming year:

1. Work to support teachers and leaders to provide meaningful and challenging RE;

2. Continuously involve wider representation (Faith / Belief / Universities / Academies);
3. Ensure engagement and benefit to pupil / student in gaining and shaping an excellent 'RE within the city;
4. Meeting the challenges of the changes to the curriculum at GCSE and A level and provide appropriate support.
5. Actively contribute towards the development of our young Peterborough citizens through high quality RE provisions.

Sukaina Manji
Chair of SACRE

Purpose of the report:

Religious Education (RE) is an important curriculum subject and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural 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 for Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority (LA) publishes 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:

- advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the agreed syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus;
- provide advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its LA, consider 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 teaching and learning of RE;
- offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

Management of SACRE

SACRE is very pleased to report that the LA has continued to support the work of SACRE by providing a named officer from the LA responsible for SACRE and a clerk for the administration, and has secured the services of a RE Adviser to support SACRE's work to schools. Despite significant cutbacks in many local authorities, Peterborough City Council has continued to support SACRE and its work.

Peterborough SACRE, which has met once a term, comprises of four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable. The four groups are as follows:-

- Group A -representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions and religious denominations;

- Group B -representatives of the Church of England;
- Group C - representatives of the teachers' association;
- Group D – representatives of the LA.

SACRE welcomed several new members:

Committee A -

Committee B

Committee C –

We said farewell to We thank them all for their contributions to SACRE.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Peterborough County Council SACRE website at <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/religious-education/>

During the past year the joint Agreed Syllabus Conference (working jointly with Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland SACREs) continued the process compiling a new agreed syllabus. This culminated in a new syllabus being agreed by the local authority and was launched in May 2018 with implementation for schools in September 2018. SACRE continues its work to encourage schools and share practices at the network meetings and through CPD training.

Data for the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 in 2017 -18 was not collected and was postponed until July 2019 to coincide with the launch of the new agreed syllabus and new assessment criteria.

Support for Improving the Teaching of the Local Agreed Syllabus Agreed Syllabus Conference

SACRE began the process of reviewing the Agreed Syllabus for Cambridgeshire in conjunction with Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland SACREs. Four joint Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) meetings were held from December 2016 to July 2017, with sub-committees looking initially at the Framework, Assessment and Progression with the aim of a number of schools by September 2017 piloting the syllabus. Expert advice was also sought from different schools, different faiths and teachers. Thanks is extended to all these persons.

Network Meetings

The primary network meetings for the academic year have been led by Amanda Fitton (RE Adviser). Those who attended the meetings were able to take away copies of PowerPoints and other resources. The meetings have been used to collect schools' views on the current and new agreed syllabus as well as covering a variety of different topics to support RE in primary schools. These have ranged from; Assessment and the use of art in RE. Greater efforts need to be made in engaging with secondary schools across the county to help share good practice and support schools in the GCSE and A level exams. These will continue into the next academic year.

Agreed Syllabus Road Shows

The agreed syllabus was further launched at two road show events held in the Peterborough Library Education Centre in July 2018. The events were attended by 23 schools from across the city and supported the schools in looking at RE curriculums and what the schools needed to do in the coming terms.

Training

Training continued to be popular with a range of training being held over the year. Themes for the year have ranged from; Enquiry Based Approaches to RE, Assessment in RE and SMSC and Collective Worship. The courses were well attended from a variety of schools across the county.

Determinations

SACRE had no new requests for determinations.

Complaints

There have been no complaints made to SACRE.

SACRE and Academies

Peterborough SACRE continues to enjoy a positive relationship with some of the academies in the city. There are members from academies on SACRE. Teachers from academies attend network meetings to share and exchange ideas and materials.

NASACRE Conference

The RE adviser and clerk attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of Cambridgeshire SACRE on 24th May 2018 London. The key note speaker at the conference was Dr Vanessa Ogden who talked about 'Celebrating the Power of Community'

RE Newsletter

The newsletter has been sent out every term over the academic year. The newsletter has been a mixture of news from the RE world, advice, notifications and links to resources.

Faith Direct Event

Faith Direct event was held on the 9th November 2017 at the Marriott Hotel Huntingdon. It was attended by 10 secondary schools across Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. Pupils for years 9 and 10 had the opportunity to question a number of different people from a range of faiths and beliefs.

Prevent

The Prevent team from Peterborough and Cambridgeshire talked to SACRE regarding the work of Prevent. They explained how it worked and the role of channel and the issues Peterborough faced with radicalisation.

Working Parties

SACRE used extra funding to support school visits to religious buildings across the city. The project was initiated as a result of feedback from schools where the costs of transport was seen a hindrance in taking pupils to visit places of worship. The aim of the bursary is to promote a wide range of children and young people (from a range of backgrounds and demographics) visiting places of worship as a meaningful part of their structured

learning. Schools were invited to bid for a £250 bursary towards a school trip. A subcommittee was set up to look at all the bids and decide who the money was allocated to. Part of the bid was for feedback on the impact of the visit for the pupils. SACRE are hoping to carry on with the grants into 2018 -2019academic year.

See Appendix A for the feedback.

SACRE visits

Over the year members of SACRE visited the Husaini Islamic Centre and other mosques as part of their open days.

Exam results

A Level results

2018 is the first year to have A' level results since 2014. Numbers of entries in 2014 were 97 and 2018 are 98 which is encouraging that this figure is not showing a decline. Since 2014 there have been changes to the A level courses a comparison on data is not appropriate until 2019.

GCSE results

Numbers being entered for the GCSE are showing only a small decline with 850 in 2017 and 838 in 2018. Due to changes in how GCSE's are graded all analysis will begin in 2019.