

East Riding of Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report – 2016/17

This report provides a summary of the actions and impact of the East Riding of Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017.

The role of the SACRE is to

- Advise the local authority on matters connected with religious education and collective worship
- Monitor provision and standards in religious education
- Advise on methods of teaching, choice of materials and provision of teacher training
- Support schools in reviewing and self-evaluating their provision for RE and collective worship
- Consider complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship referred to it by the local authority
- Publish an annual report of its work
- Make a determination on collective worship when requested
- Establish an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the agreed syllabus for RE adopted by the LA every five years

Advice to statutory bodies

Local authority:

- A report was presented at the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 February 2017. This addressed the corporate priority 'Maximising our Potential'. Members were advised of the benefits of REaction days which aim to 'bring RE to life' and asked to provide funding for these so more children could benefit from accessing them. In partnership with Label of Love, a local Christian team that works with schools, the days enable children to explore the East Riding RE syllabus in a creative and enjoyable way through interactive workshops, working with children from other schools.
- Councillors were advised that leaders of RE report they are feeling increasingly isolated and beleaguered. At primary school, the focus on improving outcomes in English and Maths limits the capacity available to support RE. At secondary, the failure to include RE in the EBacc suite of subjects has led to a fall in 'status' for the subject, reductions in curriculum time, budget and training. However, attendance at RE Teachers termly Network meetings is strong and growing - evidence of the commitment of subject leaders and their willingness to seek imaginative and innovative solutions to their problems.

Schools:

- SACRE members have continued to visit schools to advise and support teachers of RE. 16 meetings over the year provided advice to 109 teachers and school leaders across the LA on
 - i. Updates on the Government-stated position on RE and collective worship
 - ii. The implications of national curriculum changes on RE
 - iii. Working towards the RE Quality Mark
 - iv. New resources
 - v. Consulting and looking at working drafts towards the next 2016 locally agreed syllabus
- SACRE revised its leaflet "What is SACRE?", which was distributed to all schools. A more detailed reminder of the role and function of SACRE was issued via the weekly Headteachers' Bulletin.

Standards and quality of provision of RE

The LA no longer has the capacity to directly monitor the quality of teaching of RE. Ofsted inspectors are required to evaluate how schools promote pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural development (SMSC), but inspection reports rarely refer directly to the quality of teaching of RE.

Public Examination results

In 2016, 54.1 % of East Riding pupils took a GCSE in Religious Studies compared to 42.7 % nationally

Full GCSE

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	1503 students from 13 schools (National results in brackets)	1850 students from 13 schools (National results in brackets)	2039 students from 13 schools (National results in brackets)	1836 students from 13 schools (National results in brackets)	1516 students from 13 schools (National results in brackets)
A* - A	23% (27%)	22% (28%)	23.6% (27.9%)	22.3% (28.8%)	23.8% (29.1%)
A* - C	69% (70%)	67.4 (71%)	67.4% (70%)	69.7% (72.1%)	66.8% (72.1%)
A* - G	99% (98%)	99% (98%)	98.6% (97.9%)	98.6% (98.4%)	98.8% (98.4%)
Average points score	52 (52)	41 (41)	40.6 (41.2)	40.9 (41.7)	40.8 (41.8)

Although percentages are reasonably static over the three years, RS results are slightly below national norms.

A level

A - Religious Studies

Provider	LA	2013/14 ⁺			2014/15 ⁺			2015/16 ⁺			3 year average		
		Entries	Score	Grade	Entries	Score	Grade	Entries	Score	Grade	Entries	Score	Grade
Longcroft School and Sixth Form	East Riding o..	-	-	-	8	0.96	5	10	1.23	1	9	1.11	2
South Hunsley School	East Riding o..	5	0.96	5	7	1.00	5	-	-	-	6	0.99	5
Cottingham High School & SFC	East Riding o..	5	0.74	8	6	1.07	3	7	1.07	3	6	0.98	5
Bridlington School Sports Colle...	East Riding o..	-	-	-	2	1.07	3	1	0.77	8	2	0.97	5
Beverley Grammar & High Jo...	East Riding o..	12	0.98	5	10	0.96	5	15	0.95	6	12	0.96	5
South Holderness Technology ...	East Riding o..	-	-	-	20	0.95	6	21	0.98	5	21	0.96	5
Hessle High Sixth Form College	East Riding o..	10	0.92	6	6	0.95	6	3	0.96	5	6	0.94	6
Woldgate College	East Riding o..	4	0.85	7	5	1.01	4	4	0.84	8	4	0.91	7
Driffield School and Sixth Form	East Riding o..	10	0.87	7	7	0.85	7	9	0.95	6	9	0.89	7
Wolfeaton School	East Riding o..	1	0.88	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.88	7
Headlands School and Commu...	East Riding o..	-	-	-	4	0.83	8	2	0.82	8	3	0.83	8
Total entries		47			75			72					

Blue denotes relatively poor performance against national

Red denotes top class performance against national

Withdrawal from RE

SACRE provided advice to schools who receive requests for withdrawal of their child from RE. Information is available on the SACRE website to support school leaders in this respect.

Complaints about RE

There was one request for advice. A parent had expressed concerns to a primary school on the content of RE lessons for very young children. SACRE advised school on how to respond.

Agreed Syllabus

As a result of the work done through the Agreed Syllabus Conference between 2015 and 2016, a new joint RE syllabus was produced and launched in 2016 in partnership with three other local authorities: Kingston upon Hull, North Lincs and North East Lincs. This is the fourth such regional RE syllabus since the authorities came into being in 1996.

The new RE Syllabus, published online by the four participating authorities through East Riding of Yorkshire Council IT services, was launched on the 17 March 2016. ERYC contributed an addition £8,000 towards this venture.

Collective worship

- SACRE distributed a leaflet advising schools on approaches to collective worship. Due to the reduction in school improvement personnel as a direct consequence of budget reduction by central government, it is not possible for audits to confirm that all East Riding schools are fulfilling their statutory requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship.
- A training session on collective worship was delivered to Governors by the independent RE Consultant to SACRE; it was identified that Governors are often not aware of the legislation surrounding RE and collective worship and their statutory responsibility to ensure its delivery in their school.

Management of SACRE

SACRE MEMBERSHIP – EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Committee A: Christian and other Religions / Denominations	
Mrs Tina Grant	Beverley Community Church
Mr Michael Westerman	Jewish Orthodox
Mr Dennis Young	Yorkshire Baptist Association
Dr Sholeh Misaghi	Baha'i Faith
5 Vacancies	
Committee B: Church of England	
Diocese of York	Mrs S Steel
Diocese of York	Vacancy
Diocese of York	Vacancy
Sheffield Diocese	Vacancy
3 Vacancies	

Committee C: Teacher Associations	
Mr Howard Nind	NASUWT (Headlands School)
Mrs Wendy Butler	ATL (Beverley High School)
Mrs Lucy Jordan	NAHT (St Marys CE Primary, Beverley)
Mrs Caroline Swift	NUT (South Hunsley Academy)
2 Vacancies	
Committee D: Local Authority Members	
Councillor Philip Davison (Chairman)	Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Victoria Aitken	Conservative Group
Councillor Geraldine Mathieson	Independent group
Chad Chadwick (Vice Chairman)	
Co-options	
Mr Mike May	School Improvement
Mr Tim Stephenson	Humanist Representative
Mrs Sue Holmes	RE Consultant

CLERK – Iain Edmiston, Senior Committee Manager, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Attendance at SACRE meetings during the period of this report was as follows:

24th September 15 (Attendance 50%)
 10th December 15 (Attendance 68%)
 25th February 16 (Attendance 73%)
 30th June 16 (Attendance 73%)
 2nd March 17 (Attendance 69%)
 22nd June 17 (Attendance 46%)

Contribution of SACRE to the wider LA agenda

The 'Living Faith' event at an East Riding Primary School had been very good. Other 'Living Faith' events were held at Bridlington Spa on 25 February 2015 with 5 schools taking part and at Tickton where 7 schools attended. Some SACRE members were also involved in this.

A SACRE member is involved with Living Faith work at East Riding College on two campuses.

A SACRE member had visited Burlington and Hilderthorpe Primary schools, who were trying to set up links with Emmanuel Church.

A SACRE member attended the Big RE Day at St Marys CE Primary, Beverley, which had been a good event and well organised.

Hornsea School hosted Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Hull and East Riding SACREs meet separately once a term and informally jointly in between times. There was a significant joint meeting for Prevent training undertaken by a local Police Constable. SACREs' individual consultants meet more frequently and train together with East Yorkshire schools.