

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2012 / 2013



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1 SUMMARY

Philippa Darley, RE Adviser for the LA was appointed as HMI for Ofsted. As a result, Cllr Nicole Meardon was appointed as Chair of SACRE and Jane Brook became the RE Adviser for Cheshire West and Chester. The role of Jane Brooke was to complete the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE and offer support through RE Hubs and email contact. She also planned some INSET for 2013-2014 to support the new Agreed Syllabus.

The Agreed Syllabus was reviewed and rewritten for schools to use from September 2013.

SACRE meetings have been held in local schools where members have heard about RE from those who teach there.

2 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN
CESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER SCHOOLS

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

The newly revised Cheshire Agreed Syllabus is now available for all schools from September 2013. The working party representing primary, secondary schools and SACRE members, used the questionnaire outcomes from schools and planned revision of the syllabus. The syllabus builds upon the strengths of former syllabus and is called 'Encountering and Responding'. There is a CD to offer support for teachers as they plan RE in their schools.

The competition entries from the competition set last year for schools were used in the syllabus.

The launch of the syllabus was attended by 110 teachers. Mark Parkinson, Head of Service, Achievement & Wellbeing, opened the morning and Cllr Nicole Meardon, Chair of SACRE spoke about the importance of RE. Jane Brooke explained the changes in the syllabus.

The changes are:

- allocated time for each religion
- introduction of concepts for each religion
- end of key stage statements for assessment
- introduction of Sikhism at KS2 and optional unit on Bahai for Y9

2.2 Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus

Due to capacity issues, the impact of the Agreed Syllabus will be monitored through email requests from schools and through the RE Hubs. SurveyMonkey may be used in 2013-14

2.3 Standards in Religious Education

2.3.1 Examinations in Religious Studies

RS GCSE Full course

	2013	2012	2011
CWAC Number of entries	1203	1226	1125
% A*-C (national)	73.2	72.3 (72.6)	79.8 (72.0)
% A*-G (national)	99.3	98.4 (98.5)	99.5 (98.4)
Average points (national)	42.4	41.9 (41.9)	44.1 (41.7)

RS GCSE Short Course

	2013	2012	2011
CWAC Number of entries	887	1063	1374
% A*-C (national)	51.1	50.6 (50.4)	46.8 (50.6)
% A*-G (national)	92.8	94.0 (94.7)	92.9 (94.9)
Average points (national)	17.6	17.8 (17.7)	16.9 (17.7)

RS A level

	2013	2012	2011
CWAC Number of entries	123	119	126
% A*-A (national)	24.4 (22.2)	27.7 (22.1)	26.2 (22.8)
% A*-B (national)	51.2 (51.4)	58.8 (52.1)	52.4 (52.5)
% A*-E (national)	100 (99.8)	100 (99.9)	100 (99.5)
Average points (national)	223.7 (224.7)	229.4 (225.0)	225.5 (224.9)

RS AS level

	2013	2012	2011
CWAC Number of entries	41	56	41
% A -B (national)	22.0 (28.7)	20.1 (29.8)	39 (30.1)
% A -E (national)	75.6 (85.2)	94.6 (86.5)	92.5 (88.8)
Average points (national)	76.5 (87.7)	101.3 (89.4)	98.8 (91.8)

2.3.2 Analysis of Ofsted Reports

Ofsted reports were reviewed and if comments on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development were evident then letters of congratulation were sent to schools.

2.4 The RE Quality Mark is a way of recognising and celebrating good practice in RE. The school undergoes a process of self evaluation and an assessor visits to validate the level of award.

10 schools were supported by the SACRE to apply for the RE Quality Mark. They all achieved the award:

Gold Awards

- Helsby High School
- Frodsham Manor House Primary School (Pupils spoke at the Launch of REQM at House of Lords)
- Frodsham Cof E Primary
- Farndon Primary School (teacher is assessor there)
- Lower Peover Primary School (pupils spoke at the House of Parliament at the All Party Parliamentary Group launch)
- The Russett School

Silver Awards

- Witton Church Walk Primary School
- Ellesmere Port Christ Church Primary School

Bronze Awards

- Bishops Church of England High School (students spoke at House of Lords Launch or REQM)
- St Oswald's CoE Aided Primary School

Frodsham Manor House Primary School, Helsby High School and Bishop's High School are taking part during the next academic year in a pilot for classroom based research in RE in partnership with Chester University

2.4.1 A SACRE web page was set up, as part of the Council's website, giving information on the council about the SACRE and syllabus.

2.5 Complaints

There have been no complaints to the LA during the past year in respect of RE, requiring the LA's Special Appeals Committee to be convened.

3 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 Supporting Collective Worship

Queries have been answered through email concerning collective worship and the law.

3.2 Determinations

The SACRE has not been called upon during the past year to make any determinations concerning collective worship.

3.3 Complaints

There have been no complaints to the LA during the past year in respect of collective worship requiring the LA's special Appeals Committee to be convened.

4 LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

4.1 National and International

NASACRE newsletters are circulated and the Chair of SACRE plus two members of SACRE attended the NASACRE AGM.

Jane Brooke is a sub editor of RE Today, mailing and reviews editor.

4.2 Local and Regional

Jane Brooke supports Chester Diocesan schools and Rochdale SACRE.

She is also one of the Project Managers for the RE Quality Mark.

There will be RE Hubs next year for schools, led by two RE teachers with one school hosting the meeting. Currently 3 RE Hubs will run.

Appendix 1 Membership of SACRE

Appendix 2 – SACRE Meeting Dates

**SACRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
(as at 09/10/2013)**

NAME	REPRESENTING
Sue Glover	Chester Diocese
Helen Longmuir	Baha'is
Jo Richards	NUT
Nicole Meardon	CWAC – SACRE Chair
Peter Lee	Mormons/Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church
Rachel McCarthy	Church of England
Heather Staniland	Methodists
Jane Brooke	CWAC & Chester Diocese
Joan Boyle	Shrewsbury Diocese
Jackie Rippon	NUT Rep
Jay Vaja	Hinduism
Alison Boulton	Baptist Denomination
James Holt	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Amy Mercer-Bailey	CWAC
Catriona Stewart	Humanist
Rahima Ahmed	Muslim Community

**SACRE MEETING DATES for
Academic Year 2012 – 2013**

15th October 2012 – Upton-by-Chester High School
 25th February 2013 – Tarvin Centre
 14th May 2012 – Queen's Park High School