



Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Monday 25 November 2013 at 10.00am in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

No. Item

Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)

- 1. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2013.** (Pages 1 - 6)
Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting of the Lancashire SACRE held on 7 October 2013.
- 4. Responding to the OfSTED report into RE (Realising the potential)** (Pages 7 - 8)
- 5. SACRE Annual Report 2012 - 2013** (Pages 9 - 16)
Members are asked to approve the SACRE Annual Report 2012 – 2013.
- 6. Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group** (Pages 17 - 20)
Members are asked to note the minutes of the last meeting of the QSS which took place on 21 October 2013.
- 7. National Update**
Update by the Lancashire RE Consultant.
- 8. Lancashire Youth Voice**
Verbal update by the Lancashire RE Consultant.
- 9. Observers' Contributions**
- 10. Members' News**
- 11. Correspondence**

12. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of the SACRE will be Monday 3 March 2014, to take place at 10am in Cabinet Room D (The Henry Bolingbroke Room), at County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 3

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7 October 2013 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present

Christian and other Religious Groups appropriately reflecting the Principal Traditions in the Area

Roman Catholic Church	Ms J Busby
	Mr B McMullen
The Free Churches Group	Mr P Baker
	Mr C Wills
Buddhism	Kelsang Pagpa
Islam	Mr H Mulla
	Mr I Nakhuda

Teachers Associations

Ms J Crabtree (NUT)
Ms S Greenhow (NASUWT)
Mr P Martin (ASCL)
Chair

Church of England

Mr L Ridings (ATL)
Miss L Fenton
Mrs J O'Rourke

Lancashire County Council

CC P Buckley
CC A Cheetham
CC K Ellard
CC Y Motala
Mr F Williams

Co-opted Members

Ms J Clarke
Mrs K Cooper
Mr F Farrell
Mrs K Murry

Observers

Mr A Brennand (Paganism)
Dr M Craig (Baha'i Faith)
Mrs H Shukla (Hinduism)
Ms Neetal Parekh (Hinduism)

RE Consultant

Mrs H Harrison

Officers in Attendance

Mr J Hewitt
Mr J Mynott
Mrs K Dale

Two students - Maisy Hardman and Charlie Laing - from the Hollins Technology College, Hyndburn, representing the Lancashire Youth Voice also attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Mr N Anwar, Rabbi D Braunold, Mr S Jogi, Mr C Pountain, Mrs H Sage and Mrs A Tidswell.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Lancashire SACRE held on 17 June 2013, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chair reported the recent death of former County Councillor and Chairman of the SACRE, Albert Thornton. The Vice-Chair spoke about the funeral which he had attended in Morecambe.

3. SACRE Membership

Members noted the new membership of the SACRE following its re-constitution in July 2013 for a further four year period until July 2017.

It was reported that the places for the two Hindu representatives on SACRE were due to be considered by a member/officer panel as applications had been received from three different Hindu organisations.

Nominations were still being sought for representatives from the RC Diocese of Salford, the Lancashire Methodist District and the Sikh community via United Sikhs. It was noted that Mr John Wilson had now been nominated by the Church of England as a representative of Bradford and Ripon & Leeds Diocese.

The Chair welcomed Mr Les Ridings representing the Association of Teachers and Lecturers to the SACRE. Mr Ridings replaced Mrs Alice Robinson who had stepped down from the SACRE in July.

Mr Francis Farrell, co-opted member representing Teacher/Trainers in the Higher Education Sector, was welcomed to his first meeting. Mr Farrell shared the co-opted place on an annual basis with Carrie Mercier.

It was suggested that members' details should now be updated on the RE and Lancashire SACRE website and that a revised proforma be circulated to all members for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That the new membership of the SACRE following its re-constitution in July 2013 until July 2015 be noted.

4. SACRE Development Plan 2013 - 2015

Members considered the draft SACRE Development Plan 2013 – 2015 which had been re-drafted with regard to the comments made by members at both the last meeting of the SACRE and the Quality and Standards Sub-group. Amongst the suggestions made had been one to add a fifth priority to 'raise awareness of the status and value of RE and Collective Worship amongst different faiths, beliefs and traditions and community organisations' but it was felt that this theme was integral to the plan as a whole and could therefore be treated as a subset running through all the priorities.

Priority 4: 'To ensure that the provision of RE is informed by the views of stakeholders' was considered particularly important since it was recognised that the formal monitoring of RE and CW in individual schools was not an option for SACRE. The SACRE would, however, continue to work on an exception basis when monitoring school provision and respond to any specific issues raised. It was, however, more realistic to gather views from stakeholders: parents, Youth Voice, SACRE members, the QCI Partnership Development Group and from teachers through the network meetings to help monitor the impact of the plan and to identify examples of best practice.

It was reported that, whilst the SACRE had no formal links with diocesan schools, there were positive relationships, including through RE Quality Mark accreditation, attendance at training and development events and shared conferences. The SACRE Annual Report was also taken to the Diocesan Liaison Group for consideration

RESOLVED: That the SACRE Development Plan 2013 – 2015 be approved.

5. SACRE Annual Report 2012 -2013

Members considered a draft version of the SACRE Annual Report 2012 – 2013 produced as a statutory requirement and, as in recent years, only to be available electronically. The final draft version of the report including analysis of the GCSE examination results provided by Paul Dyson-Knight, Directorate for Children and Young People, would be considered further by the QSS at its next meeting on 21 October 2013, before being presented to the SACRE in its final version for approval at the November meeting prior to submission to NASACRE in December 2013.

6. Lancashire Youth Voice

Two Year 9 students representing Lancashire Youth Voice, Maisy Hardman and Charlie Laing, from the Hollins Technology College gave a presentation on why they enjoyed RE and on being part of Lancashire Youth Voice (formerly the Youth SACRE). Year 9 pupils were now involved in the Youth Voice to ensure a certain amount of continuity.

At the last Youth Voice meeting, held at St Annes synagogue, students had discussed how to support the SACRE Development Plan, reporting on their activities to involve parents as stakeholders. It appeared that RE had come out as the top subject with parents in terms of results and teaching, coming second to PE with students. They had also discussed how to inform more schools about the SACRE and Youth Voice. Holding the meeting at the synagogue had enabled students to engage practically with a different faith.

During a question and answer session the following comments were made that:

- Educating parents on the merits of RE was beneficial
- Parents needed to be encouraged to understand more about the nature of RE
- Visiting places of worship opened up discussion on different religions and cultures and broadened the mind
- RE helped students understand other peoples' religions and points of view making integration in the classroom much easier

RESOLVED: That the Lancashire Youth Voice students, Maisy Hardman and Charlie Laing, from the Hollins Technology College, be thanked for their most informative and interesting presentation.

7. Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Quality and Standards Sub-group which took place on 17 July 2013 be noted.

8. National Update

Helen Harrison, Lancashire Consultant for RE, presented a report on the current state of RE nationally, highlighting the following points:

- There had been much national coverage in the media on the state of RE following the publication of the Ofsted report: 'RE: Realising the potential' <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/religious-educationrealising-potential> The report recognised the importance of RE as a subject, but contained strong criticism of the approach currently taken by the government and many schools.
- Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, was reported as now accepting that it had been a mistake not to include RE as one of the humanities options as part of the EBacc. It was reported that it had been his view that RE would be protected by existing statute. It was widely felt in the RE community that there were issues with RE at present, but that this was a structural and systemic problem, to do with government and inspection priorities and performance measures imposed on schools and not an issue with individual teachers of RE.
- High quality RE training was available in Higher Education but was dependent on investment in it by schools
- Local Authorities needed to ensure that sufficient resources were available to carry out a review of the syllabus via Agreed Syllabus Conferences.
- Whether the right structures were in place to support RE. SACREs were expected to monitor but there currently existed a difference between their duties and powers.
- The Religious Education Council was due to publish its Review of the subject on 23 October 2013. The full report would include the curriculum framework, a discussion of the wider context for RE and a series of

questions to inform future work and development, as well as the recommendations of the Expert Panel report and the evaluation of the Review.

Members commented on Helen's report as follows:

- SACREs needed to stress to school governing bodies their obligation to RE
- The QSS should review the SACRE Development Plan against key issues in the Ofsted report.
- The Officer to the SACRE could discuss with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools and the Lead Member for Schools the value of promoting support for RE further
- That RE contributed massively to the whole school environment and could contribute to good results if treated equally with other subjects

RESOLVED: That:

- i) The Quality and Standards Sub-group review the SACRE Development Plan against key issues in the Ofsted report.
- ii) The Officer to the SACRE discuss with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools and the Lead Member for Schools the value of promoting support for RE further.

9. Observers' Contributions

Harsha Shukla, representing Hinduism informed members that:

- she was working on a youth mela to be held next year in Ashton Hall, Lancaster, in conjunction with the Police
- on 26 October 2013, there was to be Diwali celebration raising money for breast care at Lancaster Royal Infirmary
- from 5 – 13 October 2013, 9 nights of celebrations of the festival of the mother goddess were taking place at Preston Temple to which any children were invited to attend

Andrew Brennand, representing Pagans, voiced strong concern about remarks made about Paganism by a SACRE member at the last meeting on 17 June 2013 under Item 3 - SACRE membership. Mr Brennand had not been present at the meeting but the remarks had been reported to him by another member. The Chair stated that the remarks made were in no way the view of the SACRE and that counter remarks had been put forward during discussion. The remarks made had no bearing on the criteria upon which the decision for Item 3 was made.

10. Members' News

Mr Ismaeel Nakhuda reported that the Lancashire Council of Mosques now had a new Chairman, Mr Abdul Hamid Quereshi.

11. Correspondence

Correspondence had been received from Accord Coalition asking for nominations of schools for the 2014 Accord Inclusivity Award. The award was for a school that had most promoted inclusion, cohesion, and the growth of mutual understanding, particularly on the grounds of religion and belief.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Lancashire SACRE, also to be the AGM, was noted as Monday 25 November 2013 to take place at 10am in Cabinet Room D, County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire SACRE Meeting to be held on 25 November 2013

Responding to the OfSTED report into RE (Realising the potential)

The Report highlighted the following areas of concern in the national survey of RE:

- **Low standards and weak teaching**

These issues were highlighted in both primary and secondary schools but teaching was a particular concern in primary schools and at Key Stage 3 in secondary schools. Assessment is a particular area of concern and the situation is exacerbated by the gaps in training opportunities.

Response

The Development Plan identifies strategies to support teaching and learning in both primary and secondary schools through the provision of support networks, sharing of good practice and training opportunities. The development of assessment in RE is a key area for development.

- **Problems in developing a curriculum for RE and confusion about the purpose of RE**

This section of the report highlights concerns about the curriculum in primary schools and at Key Stage 3 and the overemphasis on knowledge rather than developing an enquiry based approach to RE. It also suggests that many teachers are unclear about the key elements of RE as against more general spiritual, moral social and cultural development.

Response

The Lancashire Agreed Syllabus has been praised for the focus placed on enquiry based learning and provides exemplification materials to support teachers and schools in developing the curriculum to meet their school needs. It is also clearly linked to exploring the key features of religions and what it means to follow a particular faith or set of beliefs. Through the Development Plan we are looking to develop the idea of "Hub" schools where good practice in using the Agreed Syllabus can be shared.

- **Concerns about the leadership and management of RE**

This section of the report indicates that there are a number of concerns about leadership in RE both in primary and secondary schools. These included the low priority given to RE in many schools, where the subject leader did not have sufficient time (and sometimes the skills) to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and achievement and provide training/support for staff.

Response

The professional development of teachers in RE is a key area of concern for SACRE and is highlighted in the development plan. The value of networks, good practice schools and the use of self evaluation frameworks such as the RE Quality Mark to support subject leaders is recognised. Again the development of effective assessment is a key issue for development.

- **Weaknesses in examination provision at Key Stage 4**

The report outlines concerns about the quality of some teaching at Key Stage 4 where there is not sufficient focus on enquiry based learning and extending pupils' learning about religion and belief.

Response

The sharing of good practice amongst secondary schools provides an opportunity to further strengthen the quality of teaching in Key Stage 4 but this remains a very difficult issue to resolve and one which is worth further consideration.

- **The impact of recent changes in education policy**

This section of the report highlights the negative impact of changes to the accountability framework of schools and the reducing effectiveness of many SACREs on RE provision.

Response

Whilst it is recognised that, in Lancashire as in the rest of England, RE is a subject which has come under increasing pressure as a result of the current accountability framework, it is evident that the Lancashire SACRE remains strong and vibrant and is working closely with schools to support and promote RE.

**Annual Report of the
Lancashire Standing Advisory
Council
on Religious Education
2012 - 2013**



This summary informs schools of the main points of the SACRE Annual Report 2012-2013

CHAIRMAN OF LANCASHIRE SACRE

SACRE chairman's report 2012-13



Foreword by Peter Martin, Chairman of SACRE during the period covered by this report, and representative on the SACRE of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)

The past year has brought its challenges and its successes. As Lancashire's schools have adopted the Revised Syllabus from September, the maintenance of support through the primary school networks has been vital, and Jo Crabtree's last two terms working as an AST have an invaluable asset. For this we also have to thank the Local Authority for their additional year's funding. In the secondary sector, the loss of some schools from the LA family to Academy status poses questions for the future – will they wish to buy into the SACRE's syllabus, or will they seek support for the statutory RE requirement elsewhere?

Attendance at SACRE meetings – and especially at meetings of our “working” Quality and Standards group – has been very good. Issues of membership have been debated at length, and I hope, set aside for the near future. Towards the end of the year the Local Authority membership saw some changes and we welcome new and interested Elected Members. We should also note the death of our previous chairman and Elected Member Albert Thornton, whose signal contribution to the work of the SACRE over many years was mentioned at his funeral.

With a very able Consultant, and a very focussed and positive Officer to the SACRE, Lancashire is truly blessed. Their attention to detail over issues of national curriculum development, and their willingness to fight the corner for Lancashire's schools draws us all into the tide, to continue to provide the very best RE for our young people.

My thanks for the outstanding administrative support delivered by Katrina Dale and Josh Mynott, for the Clerk to the SACRE.

Peter Martin
Chairman, Lancashire SACRE

STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF PROVISION

Meetings of Lancashire SACRE

Lancashire SACRE met four times over the year. Minutes of the meetings can be accessed on the SACRE web site together with details of members' attendance:

http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category_id=19

A list of members can be found at:

http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category_id=142

The SACRE was pleased to welcome reports and information related to their work from:

Afrasiab Anwar, Community Faith Co-ordinator at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre – the work of the BPFC

Carrie Mercier, University of Cumbria - developments in Initial Teacher Training and the impact on RE

Jo Crabtree, Lancashire AST for Primary RE and Executive Member for NATRE

Youth Voice – update on their work and future planning

RE Consultant Helen Harrison in relation to her service on the executive bodies of the RE Council and the National Association of SACREs

Quality and Standards Sub-group

The QSS meets between meetings of the full SACRE to drive forward the SACRE's business.

Through active consultation with members of the SACRE and Lancashire Youth Voice students, the QSS monitors and develops the Lancashire SACRE Development Plan. This body receives and responds to post Ofsted reports and considers end of key stage data. Reports of QSS meetings are available on the RE web site [as above].

Standards and Quality of Provision

SACRE recognises the high quality of religious education in Lancashire schools and appreciates schools' support in gathering end of key stage data.

At the end of KS1 performance fell slightly (by about 1%) in 2013 with around 82% of pupils reaching the expected levels of attainment. At the end of KS2 attainment improved slightly with about 80% of pupils reaching the level expected of 11 year olds. A review of attainment at the end of Key Stage 3 also indicates that pupils continue to build on their prior attainment with around 82% of pupils reaching the expected level of attainment.

Key Stage 4 entries for the full Religious Studies GCSE course rose in 2013 and the proportion of short course entries fell. This pattern reflects the national trend but in Lancashire 41% of pupils in community schools took the full course compared with around 37% for all schools nationally. Around 30% of pupils in Lancashire's community schools took the short course compared with about 26% in all schools nationally. Levels of attainment in both the short and full course were broadly in line with the national average with 49% and 73% of pupils gaining a GCSE at grade A*-C in the short and full courses respectively. The attainment of pupils undertaking the full course remained very similar to 2012 and performance in the short course rose compared with previous years.

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

The county continues to offer a highly regarded support programme for teachers of RE. This includes:

- Consultancy and Support
- A marketed course programme
- An annual conference for Primary Teachers
- Support from the Primary Advanced Skills Teacher, Jo Crabtree, for network meetings for teachers of RE and visits to schools

Details of professional development opportunities for teachers including the implementation of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2011 can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/cpd

All network groups are affiliated to the National Association of Teachers of RE.

RE Quality Mark

Lancashire SACRE has been pleased to support the pilot REQM pilot project in conjunction with the RE Council. As part of this process Broughton Business and Enterprise College gained a Gold award and Brunshaw, Clifton and Hapton Primaries Silver awards. The SACRE is working with these schools to develop support for Lancashire's RE.

Good Practice – Ofsted

Broughton Business and Enterprise College was visited by Ofsted as an example of good practice in RE. The Head of RE, Joanne Harris, is a Co-opted member of the SACRE and has welcomed Secondary colleagues to BBEC to share ideas and practice.

YOUTH VOICE [FORMERLY LANCASHIRE YOUTH SACRE]

Lancashire SACRE Youth Voice

Young people are key partners to Lancashire SACRE. Currently Broughton Business and Enterprise College, Ashton Community Science College, All Hallows High, Penwortham Girls, Fearn's Community Sports College, The Rhyddings The Hollins Technology College are our active schools. We always welcome schools who wish to participate in this work. During the last year Lancashire SACRE Youth Voice has:

- Advised on the development of the agreed syllabus for RE 2011
- Considered the SACRE Development Plan and each school focused on an aspect of the plan.
- Planned and delivered the 8th Lancashire SACRE Youth conference
- Attended meetings of the full SACRE to showcase best practice
- Worked with members of different faith communities across Lancashire

Lancashire Youth Conference

'We've got spirit - re matters'



'RE matters because... It helps us to question and challenge and connect and understand our own and other's beliefs. It challenges you and helps you explore and question your religion. It challenges you because it keeps you thinking deep and questioning and challenging your own beliefs.'

'[The Conference] was very peaceful, it gave me time to think about life situations that were important to myself and the world and it got me thinking. It was very relaxing and informative, I learned quite a lot'

The 8th Annual Youth Conference was planned and delivered by Lancashire SACRE Youth Voice in conjunction with SACRE members and the Gujarat Hindu Society. Students from Youth Voice [see above] ran workshops that looked into the nature of the concept of Spiritual and the importance of RE in the curriculum. Findings have been shared with various RE groups and individuals. A report of the conference from Broughton is available on the Lancashire SACRE web site.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship has continued to be an area of importance for Lancashire SACRE. This year, protocols for SACRE members visiting schools to develop SACRE's understanding of Collective Worship have been drawn up and schools approached.

The Lancashire guidance for Collective Worship, Mirrors and Doors 2, gives support as well as guidance to Lancashire schools, providing proformas and ideas to create meaningful acts of Collective Worship. This is available on line to eligible schools www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/ and is password protected. All eligible schools have been sent the password via the Lancashire Portal. They can also access this through the 'Contact Details' part of the Lancashire SACRE web site. Marketed training is available from the Lancashire Professional Development Team who can be contacted either via email, cpd@lancashire.gov.uk or via telephone 01257 516100. Alternatively please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/cpd.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE SACRE TO THE WIDER DIVERSITY AGENDAS

Lancashire SACRE reflects the religious and ethnic diversity of the local/regional community. This year time has been spent by the full SACRE and its Quality and Standards Sub-group to ensure that membership serves the needs of Lancashire Schools and supports the Lancashire Agreed RE Syllabus.

Network groups and Lancashire SACRE Youth Voice have met over the year in places of worship in order to forge links and consider effective ways to develop learning with living faith communities.

A website http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category_id=62

Is available to support linking schools with faith groups and the Learning Outside The Classroom [LOTC] agenda in the Lancashire area.

The Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre, in celebration of its 10th year, hosted the SACRE's AGM and a meeting of Lancashire Youth Voice – both groups were welcomed by the Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Burnley. Afrasiab

Anwar, BPFCC's Community Faith Co-ordinator has addressed the SACRE regarding ways of working together.

Agenda Item 6

Lancashire SACRE Meeting to be held 25 November 2013

Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21 October 2013 at 2.00pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present

Mr P Martin
County Councillor P Buckley
Ms J Clarke
Mrs K Cooper
County Councillor Y Motala
Dr M Craig
Ms J Harris
Mr I Nakhuda
Mr L Ridings

Representing

ASCL (Chair)
Lancashire County Council
NATRE
LASGB
Lancashire County Council
Bahai Observer
Teachers in the Secondary Sector
Islam
ATL

Officers in Attendance

Mr J Hewitt
Mr J Mynott
Mrs K Dale

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from CC A Cheetham, Rabbi Katanka, Ms L Fenton, Mr F Farrell, Mrs H Sage, Mr F Williams and RE Consultant Mrs H Harrison.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2013, be agreed as a true record.

3. The OfSTED Report: RE : Realising the potential and Reviewing the SACRE Development Plan in light of the Ofsted report

Item 3, The Ofsted Report: RE: Realising the potential and Item 4: Reviewing the SACRE Development Plan in light of the Ofsted report, were considered together at the meeting.

Members considered in detail the key findings and recommendations of the Ofsted report which had been based on evidence drawn from a national sample of 185 schools visited. They then compared the national findings with the very different situation in Lancashire. The sample of schools did not include voluntary aided schools and since in Lancashire over half of primary and a substantial

number of secondary schools are voluntary aided, this report did not refer to them.

It was noted that Part A of the Ofsted report highlighted eight areas of concern and that Part B provided examples of effective practice using enquiry as a basis for improving pupils' learning. The report found that RE was too often taught with a focus on knowledge, was unrelated to the rest of the curriculum and was not assessed effectively.

The areas of concern set out in the report were as follows:

- Low standards
- Weak teaching
- Problems in developing a curriculum for RE
- Confusion about the purpose of RE
- Weak leadership and management
- Weaknesses in examination provision at Key Stage 4
- Gaps in training
- The impact of recent changes in education policy

Members of the QSS expressed the opinion that the report did not reflect the position of RE in Lancashire but that the areas of concern listed should be used to help evaluate the situation in Lancashire. The Lancashire SACRE provided valuable support in developing and promoting RE and there existed many examples of good practice which it was very important to share with other schools. It was noted by the group that the Officer to the SACRE and the Consultant for RE provided outstanding support.

It was suggested that changes in policy nationally had contributed to the findings of the report. RE was not routinely subject to inspection by Ofsted and might not therefore be a priority in School Improvement Plans. It was felt that the report provided the opportunity for the national situation to be redressed.

In order to gather evidence on the current situation of RE in Lancashire, the following strategies were suggested:

- Looking at the responses in the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire (PAQ)
- Feedback from network groups of schools
- Feedback from parents (the Lancashire Youth Voice was already gathering information)

Themes that emerged could be checked against the report findings and then investigations could be considered in areas where further information was required.

With regard to the report recommendations for local authorities, in partnership with SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences, it was felt that the three recommendations made were already in place and working in Lancashire but that they could be built on by:

- Building the network groups further and sharing good practice
- Focussing training on teaching – a priority for primaries as most teaching is undertaken by a class teacher
- Supporting secondary heads of department
- Assessment – possibly by the Local Authority providing a model for schools to consider
- Using parents more effectively (via the Youth Voice) –the Development Plan would be strengthened to reflect this
- Monitoring what pupils thought of RE via the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire
- Ensuring good progression from primary to secondary – possibly by joint primary/secondary networking
- Asking primary children to give SACRE their views

It was suggested that this information, when gathered, be presented as a report to SACRE, highlighting strong and weak areas, at the Spring 2014 meeting.

Resolved: That the monitoring information be presented to the SACRE for consideration at its Spring 2014 meeting.

4. Update on the SACRE Annual Report 2012 - 2013

Members considered the draft SACRE Annual Report 2012 - 2013 and noted that the GCSE data (proportion of students in Lancashire gaining Grade C or above as against the national average) was yet to be added. The Annual Report would be published on the web site in December and also submitted to NASACRE for information.

5. Future Support for RE

The QSS was informed that Helen Harrison planned to step down from her role as RE Consultant at the end of March 2014.

Members considered a report which set out some key support functions which were important if Lancashire was to continue to provide effective support for RE and Collective Worship in the future. It also suggested a number of approaches to providing support for schools in Lancashire.

Support functions included:

- Providing direct, face to face, support for teaching the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus
- Sharing good practice across Lancashire schools
- Promoting excellence in RE – for example by linking into school governing bodies
- Developing 'Values-led' education – making an explicit link between RE and values-led education to ensure that RE is not just about fact but

focuses on notions and values and recognises and celebrates diversity through SMSC

- Supporting the further development of the Agreed Syllabus – by finding and sharing more examples of good practice
- Maintaining and developing the Youth Voice
- Supporting schools in developing and assessing learning in RE
- Ensuring that teaching in RE in Lancashire is informed by regional and national developments

There were a number of models of delivery which provided support for RE and Collective Worship in community schools in different local authority areas. Lancashire had already run the leading teacher model but the take up had been minimal and so it was unlikely that this would be funded again.

Currently the RE Consultant was commissioned for 29 days per year and it was suggested that 2 or 3 people could be commissioned to carry out work on RE in the future. More use could be made of existing resources such as the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre and having a hub school in every District as a first point of contact. New ways of working would need to be developed. A meeting was to be held with teachers on 26 November at the Faith Centre to discuss the way forward, which all SACRE members would be welcome to attend if they wished.

The Officer to the SACRE paid tribute to the teachers – Joanne Harris, Kate Murray and Jo Crabtree who had pledged support for this new way of working and who were prepared to build on it.

It was suggested that a report on new ways of working in light of the RE Consultant stepping down be brought to the Spring meeting of the SACRE.

Resolved: That a report on new ways of working be brought for consideration to the Spring meeting of the SACRE.

6. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group was noted as Monday 20 January 2014 to be held at 2.00pm in Cabinet Room C, County Hall, Preston

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston