



## **Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Tuesday, 29th September, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston**

### **Agenda**

#### **No. Item**

#### **Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting** (Pages 1 - 6)
- 3. Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group** (Pages 7 - 10)
- 4. Review of Agreed Syllabus for RE** (Pages 11 - 12)
- 5. Visit to Schools - Autumn 2015**
- 6. Draft Development Plan 2015/16** (Pages 13 - 18)
- 7. Annual Summary** (Pages 19 - 24)
- 8. Feedback on the Youth Voice Conference**  
Oral update.
- 9. National Update**
- 10. Members' News**
- 11. Correspondence**
- 12. Observers' Contributions**
- 13. Date of Next Meeting**  
The next scheduled meeting of the SACRE will be held at 10.00am on 23 November 2015 in Cabinet Room B – The Diamond Jubilee Room at County Hall, Preston.

County Hall  
Preston

Paul Bond  
Clerk to the SACRE

# Agenda Item 2

## **Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 15th June, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston**

<b>Islam</b>	Miss I Hussain
<b>Hinduism</b>	Mrs H Shukla
<b>The Roman Catholic Church</b>	Mr S Jones Ms J Busby
<b>The Free Churches Group</b>	Mr C Wills
<b>Teacher Associations</b>	Mr P Martin (ASCL) – Chair Mrs A Robinson (ATL) Mrs S Greenhow (NAS/UWT) Mr D Fann (NAHT)
<b>Church of England</b>	Mr J Wilson Mrs H Sage
<b>LCC</b>	County Councillor A Cheetham County Councillor K Ellard County Councillor P Buckley County Councillor Y Motala
<b>Observers</b>	Mr A Brennand (Pagan Federation) Dr M Craig (Bahá'i Faith)
<b>Co-Optees</b>	Mrs K Cooper (LASGB) Ms J Harris (Teachers in the Secondary Sector)

### **Officers in attendance**

Mr J Hewitt – Head of School Improvement, Lancashire County Council, Children and Young People Directorate

Mr H Patel – Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council, Office of the Chief Executive

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Ben McMullen, Anita Tidswell, Pete Baker, Rev. Phil Clarke, Vijayanti Chauhan, Joan O'Rourke, Lisa Fenton, Francis Williams and Kate Murry.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

The SACRE recognised that an MBE was recently mentioned in the Queen's Birthday Honours List to be given to Harsha Shukla for her services to interfaith relations. The board requested that the congratulations to her be recorded in the minutes.

## **3. Minutes of the Quality and Standards Sub-group**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Quality and Sub-Standards group held on 18 May 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

## **4. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Chairman agreed that this item be dealt with earlier in the agenda.

The board was advised that the following dates were to be considered for future meetings of the SACRE and Quality and Sub-Standards group:-

<b>MAIN</b>	<b>QSS</b>
21 September	6 July
23 November (AGM)	13 October
22 February	11 January
27 June	9 May

**Resolved:**

- i. That, with the exception of 21 September, all considered dates be confirmed as acceptable for future meetings by the board.
  - a. The exceptional date of 21 September be revised and a new date, or a selection of dates, bearing in mind dates of significant remembrance, interfaith traditions and school terms, be presented to the QSS on 6 July.

## **5. SACRE Member Visits to Schools**

The board noted that visits to schools had not yet occurred, but members of the board continued to express interest in visiting schools on behalf of the SACRE.

**Resolved:**

- i. That, following the meeting of the Quality and Sub-Standards group, a training session be offered to SACRE members. During the autumn term, some opportunities for trained members to carry out school visits on behalf of the SACRE would be offered.

## **6. Report from NASACRE conference**

The board was informed that a pamphlet entitled "A new settlement: Religion and Belief in schools" was soon to be published as part of the Westminster Faith Debates. Several key questions were mentioned, and these were discussed amongst members; the board agreed that, when deciding which direction the SACRE should take, the decision should be made by the SACRE rather than being led by an outside body; the SACRE's view was that Religious Education in schools should be required by law but not as part of the national curriculum; the board agreed that the name of the subject was not as significant as defining the subject but a number of possible names were highlighted.

The board was asked to discuss, in small groups, whether there should be a national syllabus or whether it should remain local; the overall decision was mixed, as members concluded that nationalisation would be fair across the country, whilst localisation would continue to ensure that local needs informed the work of the SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus – there were many concerns that, in light of the good framework currently in place in Lancashire, the syllabus, if national, could potentially be written by another external body, and not meet the needs identified by the SACRE.

A presentation by Denise Cush was discussed with members. It was noted that support and training for teachers and head-teachers were important and required immediate action.

**Resolved:** That school staff be approached as part of a sense-check to validate the suitability of, and reactions towards, alternative names for the subject of Religious Education.

## **7. Reviewing the Agreed Syllabus**

The board was informed that a section of the development plan would be written to cover this issue - it was agreed that the syllabus must be developed to reflect the Lancashire context, and that a plan be worked on during the autumn term in preparation for Summer/Autumn 2016.

**Resolved:**

- i. That work with teachers and key parties to review the current Agreed Syllabus be continued, with a clear and concise approach for its future use.
- ii. That a detailed action plan be ready for the next meeting of the full SACRE in September.

## **8. Professional Development Support**

It was agreed by the board that the autumn term would be an ideal period to offer support to teachers and head teachers relating to the Agreed Syllabus, though

further discussion may be required if the board believes the syllabus should be amended to suit nationally-set standards. The importance of supporting head-teachers in implementing the Agreed Syllabus was highlighted, as well as aiding their understanding and support for Religious Education and teachers of RE.

**Resolved:** That the revision of the Agreed Syllabus be continued, taking into account the original 1990's guidance material discussed at the meeting of the Quality and Sub-Standards group.

## **9. Prevent Duty Guidance**

Members noted that the Prevent Duty Guidance document was to be put under thorough examination and now to be developed in line with the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015.

Members voiced concern where the role of the SACRE was to be considered amidst the guidance, but re-established the fact that one of the SACRE's main goals was to support teachers in areas where they felt they could not tackle certain, controversial issues. The Lancashire approach remains focussed on building resilience amongst young people and families. The board raised several valid points on the difficulty of tackling some issues as they originated outside of school (through media etc.), and whilst schools are expected to protect students from abuse it would not be possible for them to do so outside of their premises.

It was agreed that, akin to health and safety, the responsibility of protecting children in schools from abuse should be expanded to cover all members of staff as opposed to targeting teachers and head-teachers solely.

## **10. Membership (including HE Membership)**

The board discussed the possibility of approaching co-opted representatives from the higher education sector, following Carrier Mercier's retirement from her post at the University of Cumbria. The board agreed that the University of Lancaster would be a good place to start, with the possibility of Edge Hill University to be approached also.

**Resolved:** That the board contact the appropriate establishments to arrange a replacing representative for higher education.

## **11. Members' News**

There was no news reported by members.

## **12. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence reported.

## **13. Youth Voice**

It was reported that Joanne Harris would be leading the Youth Conference to be held on 8 July 2015.

#### **14. Observer's Contributions**

No contributions were reported from observers.

#### **15. National Update**

An update was received from Helen Harrison that the Rt Hon Nicky Morgan (Secretary of State for Education) recently gave her view that parents should consider schools which comply with the English Baccalaureate (EBac) performance measure.

The board discussed the implications, as Religious Education is not covered under this measure.

Paul Bond  
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall  
Preston





# Agenda Item 3

## **Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 6th July, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston**

**Teacher Associations** Mr P Martin (ASCL) – Chair

**Church of England** Mr J Wilson  
Mrs H Sage  
Mrs J O'Rourke

**LCC** County Councillor A Cheetham  
County Councillor Y Motala

### **Officers in attendance**

Mr J Hewitt – Head of School Improvement, Lancashire County Council, Children and Young People Directorate

Mr H Patel – Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council, Office of the Chief Executive

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Rev. Phil Clarke, Harsha Shukla, Lisa Fenton, CC Peter Buckley, CC Kevin Ellard, Francis Williams, Joanne Harris, Kath Cooper & Alice Robinson.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **3. Consideration of Dates in September for a Meeting of the Full SACRE**

**Resolved:** That the next full SACRE meeting be held on Tuesday 29 September 2015.

### **4. SACRE Development Plan Review**

The board was asked to consider future priorities for the SACRE development plan, and members felt the revision of the Agreed Syllabus would be one of the key priorities to focus on this year. Members also discussed the importance of updating the current SACRE's membership.

The Development Plan was looked at in detail; it was suggested for Priority 1 (Effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship) that Objective A be replaced by an objective focused on membership. Members discussed the importance of working with schools to try to raise achievement in RE with regards to Priority 2 (Raising achievement in RE).

There were concerns that Priority 3 (Improving the provision of Collective Worship) had little to show its impact with little interest in this area from schools. Suggestions were

presented by members for the use of hubs and Youth Voice, as well as working closely with head-teachers. Regarding Priority 5 (Community Cohesion), it was reported that training would be offered in September on the Prevent Duty Guidance, and the sub -group discussed the possibility of producing guidance for schools on this issue. The board was also asked to consider inviting the Community Faith Coordinator to the SACRE as an observer, to provide their knowledge and ideas with regards to community cohesion.

**Resolved:** That:

- i. The Development Plan be reviewed, in preparation for September and according to the agreed timescale of the plan.
  - i. Further to the review of the Plan, where a Priority was specifically mentioned:
    - a. **Priority 1** – That objective A, 'Providing an appropriate Agreed Syllabus', be removed as an objective and replaced as a separate priority, and that membership for future meetings of the SACRE be looked into.
    - b. **Priority 2** – That, through use of the quality mark framework, members continue to work with schools.
    - c. **Priority 3** – That conferences such as Youth Voice and the use of the NW Hub be considered for the successful progression of this Priority.
    - d. **Priority 5** – That the inclusion of Afrasiab Anwar (Community Faith Coordinator) to the SACRE as an observer be agreed.
  - ii. A conference to look at the reviewed Agreed Syllabus be added onto the back of a future meeting of the full SACRE, and that the November Annual General meeting be considered as the date for this.

## **5. NNW Hub Meeting Report**

Members attended the Hub alongside several other local authorities– it was reported that, whilst there was much interest in SACREs working together and sharing ideas, there was a concern that some boards were unsure of their own constitutional procedures.

It was recommended that the Hub be continued in order to help continue to develop SACREs in the Northern part of the North West region, with the possibility of Youth Voice holding sessions in areas such as North Lancashire and South Cumbria.

## **6. Feedback from SACRE on Key Questions**

The board agreed, following the meeting of the full SACRE in June, that there were different views from members when asked to consider the possibility of a national syllabus over a local syllabus.

The board noted that this item was a preface for item 6, the Agreed Syllabus Review.

## **7. Agreed Syllabus Review**

The board discussed the 'review' and it was the agreed view of members that most elements of Section 1 in the Agreed Syllabus document would not require changing. It was also agreed that evidence from schools in Lancashire, from other local authorities and the Lancashire SACRE's own evaluation of the syllabus following the publication of the HMI report, "Realising the Potential", indicated that the current syllabus was fit for purpose. It was also noted that there was no requirement to change the Syllabus.

**Resolved:** That members monitor and review the Agreed Syllabus as necessary, with the view to avoid making any major changes should the information presented in the document be fit for purpose and acceptable at this time.

## **8. National Update**

It was reported to the board that some other SACREs and Dioceses within Lancashire were not intent on making many changes to their current syllabuses. The board was also informed that the Church of England had been given a grant to develop character education through 'What If' learning – the board felt that community schools could benefit from this information.

## **9. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Sub-Group will be held at 10am on 13 October, in Cabinet Room B – The Diamond Jubilee Room at County Hall, Preston.

I Young  
Director of Governance,  
Finance and Public Services

County Hall  
Preston



# Agenda Item 4

## **Key questions to help review the Agreed Syllabus**

- Are the aims of RE appropriate and clearly set out in the Syllabus?
- Does the Syllabus provide opportunities for deeper learning in RE?
- Does the Syllabus promote the skills of enquiry into religion?
- Does the Syllabus promote learning from religion as well as learning about religion?
- Is the model for the assessment of RE promoted by the Syllabus effective in informing teaching and learning?
- Does the Syllabus provide progression, continuity, coherence, breadth and balance in learning about religion?



## DRAFT Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2015/16

Priority 1 To fulfil SACRE's statutory role by providing effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship [CW]			
Objectives	Activities	Lead	Date
a) Review the membership of SACRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review membership of SACRE</li> <li>Develop role of SACRE members including visits to schools</li> </ul>	JHe/PM	July 2016
b) Effective communication with schools about the work of SACRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and update SACRE web site</li> <li>Share information with schools through the LA advisory service</li> <li>Provide marketed network meetings for primary schools</li> <li>Provide marketed training for schools on the Agreed Syllabus</li> <li>Work with Governor services to update governors on the work of SACRE</li> </ul>	JHe JHe JC JH/Km JHe	Ongoing Sept 16 Ongoing Ongoing July 16 Ongoing July 16
c) Monitoring the quality of provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and respond to complaints re RE/CW</li> <li>Monitor OfSTED Section 5 inspection reports</li> <li>Monitor OfSTED subject inspection reports for RE and identify strengths / weaknesses in Lancashire's provision</li> <li>Gather feedback from schools via network meetings and conference</li> <li>Gather feedback from pupils using the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire</li> <li>Gather feedback from pupils through the Youth Voice</li> <li>To monitor the implementation of the SACRE development plan and report to SACRE</li> <li>Create an annual report including feedback from Youth Voice</li> </ul>	JHe JHe JHe  JC/JH/KM JHe JH/KM JHe  JHe JHe	Ongoing July 16 July 16  Ongoing March 16 July 16 March 16 & Nov 16 Nov 16
d) Monitoring achievements in RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse GCSE results</li> <li>Analyse Teacher Assessments at KS1,2 and 3</li> </ul>	P D/K JHe	Nov 16 Nov 16
Success criteria			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of SACRE play an important role in promoting and developing RE</li> <li>Feedback from schools indicates that the RE syllabus supports the teaching and learning of RE</li> </ul>			

- OfSTED reports identify spiritual development as an area of strength
- The trends in achievement are monitored and both strengths and weakness are identified
- There is an improving trend in achievement in RE at all Key Stages
- Positive feedback from Pupil Attitude Questionnaire on the provision of RE

#### Progress

### Priority 2 : To raise achievement in RE

Objectives	Activities		
a) Ensuring that the Agreed Syllabus is easily accessible and navigable for teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the structure of the RE website to make it more easily accessible to and navigable by teachers</li> </ul>	JH/JC/TM	Dec 16
b) Reviewing and augmenting the exemplification materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updating exemplification through sharing good practice</li> <li>• Use the expertise of SACRE members to enhance/update the materials to support the Agreed Syllabus</li> </ul>	JC/JH/ SACRE members JC/JH/NATRE	Mar16 Jul 16
c) Providing opportunities to share and develop good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a course / conference programme for RE/CW</li> <li>• Provide marketed networks for RE/CW</li> <li>• Promote school self-evaluation through the RE Quality Mark materials</li> <li>• Develop the work of the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre in supporting RE</li> <li>• Maintain the support for NW RE hub</li> </ul>	JC/JH/ JH/JC JH/JC/TM JH/AAnwar PM/JHe	Ongoing Ongoing July 16 July 16 Sept 16
d) Providing opportunities to connect with different living religious traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Lancashire Inter Faith partners, SACRE members and the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre to promote opportunities to share</li> </ul>	Lancs FF/ SACRE members/YV/	Jul 16



	different religious traditions	Afrasiab Anwar	
e) Develop the use of assessment in RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop models of assessment in RE</li> <li>Establish a working group to create assessment framework</li> <li>Share assessment guidance with schools</li> </ul>	JH JH JH	March 16
Success criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive feedback on the RE website and increased usage</li> <li>Positive feedback on the development of the Agreed Syllabus from teachers</li> <li>Positive feedback from networks on impact of RE on pupil achievement</li> <li>Positive feedback from subject leaders on their confidence in leading RE</li> <li>Positive feedback from Pupil Attitude Questionnaire (PAQ) on the provision of RE</li> <li>Positive feedback from Youth Voice conference / meetings on the impact of RE</li> <li>OfSTED reports identify spiritual development as an area of strength</li> <li>Positive feedback from OfSTED subject inspections</li> </ul>			
Progress			

### 3. To improve the provision of Collective Worship:

Objectives	Activities		
a) Ensuring that schools are aware of the support materials and guidance (Mirrors and Doors 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share information with schools through network meetings</li> <li>Work with Governor services to update governors on the provision of CW</li> </ul>	JC/JH/KM  JHe	Ongoing  Mar 16
b) Augment exemplification materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop resources through linking to wider available resources</li> </ul>	JC/JH/KM	Jul 16
c) Providing opportunities to share and develop good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case studies gathered from SACRE members visits to schools</li> <li>Share good practice through networks/Hubs</li> </ul>	SACRE members YV schools	Jul 16 Jul 16

**Success criteria**

- Positive feedback from OfSTED Section 5 inspections on the provision for CW
- Increased usage of the CW support materials including Mirrors and Doors 2
- Positive feedback from SACRE members' visits to schools on CW

**Progress****4. To ensure that the provision of RE is informed by the views of stakeholders by:**

Objectives	Activities		
a) Providing opportunities for Children and Young People to participate in the development of RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the role of Youth Voice and plan for 11<sup>th</sup> SACRE Youth Conference to address the development plan priorities</li> </ul>	JH/KM	Jul 16
b) Further developing links with people of different faiths, beliefs and traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and establish effective and appropriate faith/ belief contacts for visits and visitor resourcing for schools</li> <li>• Develop the role of the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre in supporting RE across Lancashire</li> <li>• Share the work of SACRE with faith and community groups through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing the work of SACRE and the principles of the Agreed Syllabus with faith leaders</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	SACRE members + nominated bodies/A Anwar/Lancs Forum of Faiths	Jul 16
c) Maintaining links with national bodies who lead on RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain active membership of NASACRE</li> <li>• Access regular information from The RE Council [REC], Ofsted, AREIAC, NATRE</li> </ul>	JHe/PM/JC [NATRE rep]	Ongoing

**Success criteria**

- The development plan is informed by stakeholders including:
  - SACRE members
  - Youth Voice
  - QCI Partnership Development Group
- The provision for RE is enriched through links with people of different faiths, beliefs and traditions
- SACRE's work informs and is informed by national developments in RE

**Progress**

## 5. To develop the contribution of RE to Community Cohesion:

Objectives	Activities		
a) Develop training and resources to support teachers to tackle controversial issues such as inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide / signpost training and resources through the networks and/or course provision</li> <li>Consider provision of guidance on the role of RE in promoting Community Cohesion</li> <li>Develop the role of Community faith Coordinator to promote community cohesion across Lancashire</li> </ul>	JHe/JC/JH/KM  SACRE QSS  JHe/Afrasiab Anwar	Jul 16  Jul 16  Dec 15
b) Ensure that SACRE promotes Community Cohesion through its work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on steps taken to promote Community Cohesion through RE</li> <li>Include in the SACRE Annual Report a section on how the Lancashire syllabus can help to tackle issues around community cohesion and socio economic inequality</li> </ul>	JHe	Nov 16
Success criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies to promote Community Cohesion through RE are identified on the website</li> <li>Support is provided for schools in relation to RE and its role in promoting Community Cohesion</li> <li>Positive feedback from teachers on support for developing Community Cohesion through RE</li> <li>Increased confidence amongst teachers in tackling inequalities/controversial topics</li> <li>Increased confidence amongst pupils in discussing inequalities/controversial topics</li> </ul>			
Progress			

6. To review the Agreed Syllabus:			
Objectives	Activities		
a) Review the Agreed Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the aims of the Syllabus</li> <li>Evaluate the approach to learning promoted by the Syllabus</li> <li>Evaluate the structure and content of the Syllabus</li> <li>Evaluate the effectiveness of the approach to assessment underpinning the Syllabus</li> </ul>	JHe/JC/JH	Dec 15
b) Identify areas for development in the Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present findings from the evaluation to the Agreed Syllabus Conference</li> <li>Agree areas for development with the Agreed Syllabus Conference</li> </ul>	JHe/JC/JH/KM	March 16
c) Implement the recommendations of the Agreed syllabus Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make revisions to Agreed Syllabus</li> </ul>	JHe	May 16
d) Publish revised Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish revised Syllabus for schools</li> <li>Provide training opportunities for schools on the Revised Syllabus</li> </ul>	JHe/JC/JH	July 16
Success Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised Agreed Syllabus is effective in supporting the effective teaching and learning of RE</li> </ul>			
Progress			

Key

JH Joanne Harris  
 JHe Jonathan Hewitt  
 KM Kate Murry

PM Peter Martin  
 PD-K Paul Dyson-Knight  
 HH Helen Harrison

JC Joanne Crabtree  
 TM Tracy Matheson  
 YV Youth Voice

## DfE audit of SACRE Annual Reports

As members will know it is a **statutory requirement for SACREs to publish an annual report and to send this to the Secretary of State, ideally by the 31st December each calendar year**. Since the abolition of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency in 2011 there has been no analysis of SACRE annual reports.

In light of this, the DfE has approached the RE Council to work with NASACRE to produce an analysis of reports. In order to do this, a template is to be produced which will allow easier analysis, although this is not compulsory. Currently, the **template for Annual Reports** on the NASACRE website is recommended and any new template for use will not be in place for this year due to time-scales.

As part of this process **SACREs will be asked by the DfE to send copies of their Annual Report to NASACRE** electronically, which many do already. It is important though that SACREs continue to send a copy of their report to the Secretary of State as required, as a result of the changes brought in by the Education Act 2011.

SACRE reports should be e-mailed as **one** document in **PDF format** with a **maximum size** of approx **3Mb** to: **memsec@nasacre.org**



# SACRE Annual Reports – what is necessary and what is desirable?

*SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on its schools.*

*For Religious Education (RE), SACRE advises community, voluntary controlled and Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.*

*For Collective Worship SACRE advises the LA on community, Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.*

SACREs have a duty to publish an annual report, ideally by the 31st December each calendar year but if necessary in the following calendar year. This report has to be sent to the Secretary of State for Education as well as to key partners, including schools, teacher training institutions, libraries and councillors. The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how that was responded to; this includes advice on RE and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

Suggested structure to the annual report:

1. Chair's introduction and context
2. Advice to statutory bodies
  - a) Local Authority
  - b) Schools
  - c) Government or other statutory bodies
  - d) Response to the advice given, where appropriate
3. Standards and quality of provision of RE (with examples of good practice if appropriate)
  - a) Public examinations
  - b) Attainment in RE not covered by public examination
  - c) The quality of RE provision in schools
  - d) Withdrawal from RE
  - e) Complaints about RE
4. Agreed Syllabus
  - a) If there was a review of the syllabus under report
  - b) When the next review will take place

5. Collective Worship (with examples of good practice if appropriate)
  - a) Compliance with the statutory requirement
  - b) Quality of Collective Worship
  - c) Determinations
  - d) Complaints about collective worship
6. Management of SACRE
  - a) Attendance at SACRE, by Committee
  - b) Membership and training
  - c) Complaints about RE and Collective Worship
7. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda
  - a) Identify what SACRE has contributed to other agendas
  - b) SACRE's contribution to the LA's public sector equality duty
  - c) What SACRE has done to support schools through events and training
  - d) Links to broader community initiatives
8. Summary
9. Membership of SACRE, local authority officers who attend, clerk and professional advice.

This is not meant as an exhaustive framework, but a useful guide.

## **The necessary**

Firstly, it is important to recognise that SACREs are bodies that give advice (see 2 above). Hence, the annual report needs to state what advice was given and how that advice was acted upon in the year under review. It is important that the report makes clear to whom the advice was given.

The three main audiences, in order of priority, are:

- The Local Authority, this includes the portfolio holder for children's services, the director of children's services and any official of the LA (2a).
- The schools within the LA for which the SACRE is responsible and other schools within the SACRE's geographical area (2b).
- The government, including the Secretary of State, Ministers or civil servants (2c).

The annual report should answer the following questions (reported on in section 2):

- How did they respond to the advice?
- Was it acted upon? Or ignored?
- Did those being advised do something different and, if so, to what effect?



If SACRE cannot do this, it will be important to state why.

Here are some questions to consider (this could be included in sections 1 or 8, or both):

- Is SACRE taken seriously enough?
- Is SACRE adequately supported by professional staff, such as a clerk and adviser?
- Is SACRE adequately funded to perform its duties?

If the answer to any, some or all of these questions is no, then that needs to be acknowledged in the report.

Secondly, the report needs to include data about SACRE attendance by Committee, as well as any monies that it receives from the LA to carry out its responsibilities, including the time of an adviser and a clerk (see 5 above). As SACREs are statutory bodies that meet in public, they need to be properly clerked by the LA as their meetings are part of the public record.

SACRE should also report on any monitoring of RE (3) and Collective Worship (5) it has carried out and the results of such monitoring. Indeed, such monitoring should be the basis of at least some of the advice given. Similarly, a SACRE is required to advise on the appropriate materials used in classrooms to support teaching and learning in RE. SACRE should report on any such materials that it has looked at and advised upon (2 above). SACREs also need to report on the work of any Agreed Syllabus Conference within that calendar year, or indicate when another Conference is due (see 4 above).

SACRE has a statutory role in considering and granting determinations (see 5c above). Determinations are made where a school, on behalf of a number of parents, requests Collective Worship other than that set down by statute. If a SACRE grants or refuses a determination it should be noted in the annual report (5c). There is no reason for a full explanation of why SACRE made that decision, as that information will be available from the report presented to SACRE and the minutes of that meeting. Likewise, SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE (3e) and Collective Worship (5d) and the number of such complaints dealt with should be noted in the report, with an indication as to whether the complaints were upheld or not. In terms of complaints investigated, it would be rare to mention the schools or individuals involved, as these matters would usually be discussed with the exclusion of press and public.

SACREs should have a clear picture of the number of schools their advice applies to, and the number of pupils those schools educate. This would include a breakdown of schools by phase (see 2b) above).

### **The desirable**

SACRE may have achieved a host of things that it should celebrate. It may have provided evenings for teachers to meet members of faith communities of significance in the Local Authority (see 7 above). It might be that SACRE has hosted lectures. It could be supporting other LA agendas, such as Prevent. Whatever SACRE has done can be celebrated in the report.

It might also be possible to highlight good practice, so that schools can see examples of what they might do to improve RE (see 3 above) and Collective Worship (see 5 above) in their school. It is also desirable that the Chair of SACRE writes a short introduction (see 1 above) to the Annual Report – maybe in the form of a ‘state of the nation’ address - setting out key issues for RE, Collective Worship and SACRE in the coming twelve months.

## **Conclusion**

SACRE’s annual report is SACRE’s opportunity to hold the Local Authority to account. As a statutory body, it has this duty and responsibility. If RE and Collective Worship are of low priority in the LA’s schools and it does nothing to correct that, then the Secretary of State needs to know, as do key partners. If the LA is promoting RE and Collective Worship and the status of RE is high, then it should be celebrated.

SACRE also needs to celebrate what it and others have done to promote high quality RE and Collective Worship.