

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