

**Annual Report of the
Lancashire Standing Advisory
Council
on Religious Education
2013 - 2014**



CHAIRMAN OF LANCASHIRE SACRE

SACRE chairman's report 2013-14



Foreword from Peter Martin, Chairman of Lancashire SACRE & representative on the SACRE of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL).

The SACRE has had to find new ways of working as the climate of change affects all aspects of education in the county and the country. This year we have been able to count more on the expertise of some of the very able teachers from our schools - now willing to lead network meetings, which help to disseminate best practice, and complementing the work of our consultant. This development makes excellent use of teachers' talents.

From meeting with other SACRE leaders at the national conference, we have also tried to learn from the best, and recognise that we also need to maintain pressure on politicians to recognise the importance of our subject, both for the development of young minds, and for its effect on a wider community. SACRE does not campaign, but it seeks to uphold the principles established in statute for the place of Religious Education, locally determined, as a vital element of the curriculum.

Lancashire SACRE has embarked on a series of meetings with members of other SACREs in the north-west of England, and our invitation has been warmly accepted. It is clear that we can all learn something from other contexts, which may not mirror our own exactly. After initial discussions, we have been proud to include a presentation by members of the Youth Voice from one of our High Schools, who have also been working as Young Ambassadors for RE.

My personal thanks are due to the officer to the SACRE, the clerking service, and to our consultant for their very focussed and professional contribution to our work.

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

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

A list of members and their attendance at these meetings can be found at is

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgOutsideBodyDetails.aspx?ID=385>

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

Jo Crabtree, Primary teacher of 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-Committee

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 national policy, is closely involved in producing the SACRE development plan 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 rose by about 2% in 2014 with around 84% of pupils reaching the expected levels of attainment. At the end of KS2 attainment improved further with about 83% 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 84% of pupils reaching the expected level of attainment, a rise of 2% on the previous year.

In 2014 Key Stage 4 entries for the full Religious Studies GCSE course remained very similar to 2013 at around 41% in Community Schools. This is just below the national average for all schools. The proportion of pupils entered for the full course in all Lancashire schools rose by over 7% to 60% in 2014. Levels of attainment in Community Schools were 3% above the national average for all schools, with over 73% of pupils gaining a GCSE at grade A*-C. There was a 4% rise in the proportion of pupils gaining a grade A*-A in

RE in Community Schools and attainment is now in line with the national average for all schools.

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
- Support through network meetings for teachers of RE

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 that a number of schools in Lancashire have gained the REQM in the last year including:

Gold Award

The Hollins Technology College, Accrington

All Hallows Catholic High School, Penwortham

St Michael's Church of England High School, Chorley

St Christopher's Church of England Academy , Accrington

Silver Award

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, Preston

Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy, Croston

This takes the total number of schools in Lancashire gaining the RE Quality Mark to ten. If you are interested in gaining this award, details of how to apply are available on <http://reqm.org/>

YOUTH VOICE



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 Community Sports College and 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 and contributed to the development of the agreed syllabus for RE 2011
- Considered the SACRE development plan focusing on aspects of the plan. A particular focus has been involving parents in RE.
- Planned and delivered the 9th Lancashire SACRE Youth conference- working with SACRE faith members and the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre
- Attended meetings of the full SACRE to showcase best practice
- Worked with members of different faith communities across Lancashire – meeting in a variety of faith venues.

Lancashire Youth Conference

'Joining together to make RE the best it can be'



'Being able to run a workshop was a privilege' [Student workshop leader]

'A big thank you as the day was so enjoyable and it was fun. I learnt a lot from today' [Pupil delegate]

'Thank you for allowing our children to have this worthwhile learning experience. 'A thoroughly enjoyable day. Workshops well run by confident and positive students.' [Teachers]

The 9th Annual Youth Conference was planned and delivered by Lancashire SACRE Youth Voice schools, Broughton BBEC, the Hollins TC and Fearn's CSC in conjunction with Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim SACRE members, Afrasiab Anwar and the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre . Students created workshops that empowered students to be able to work with peers to contribute questions and planning for KS2 and KS3 sections of the syllabus.

The legacy of this conference was to address issues in the Lancashire SACRE's development plan, especially in creating a relevant and engaging syllabus. The RE Council of England and Wales [REC] and other interested groups were informed of the outcomes of this youth voice exercise. A student reporter from Broughton Business and Enterprise College created a BBC Schools Report to share thoughts and processes from the day.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship has continued to be an area of importance for Lancashire SACRE.

The Lancashire guidance of 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. Support can be accessed by contacting Tracy Matheson on 01772 531904 or email tracy.matheson@lancashire.gov.uk

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 QSS sub committee to ensure that membership serves the needs of Lancashire Schools and supports the Lancashire Agreed RE Syllabus.

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/urriculum/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.

A development session was held with faith leaders in Burnley to outline the aims, objectives and philosophy of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE. This was well attended and was highly valued by the participants.

Community Cohesion

During the year SACRE considered the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report on Community Cohesion and discussed ways in which it could contribute towards this agenda. As a result it was agreed that a section of the 2014-15 development plan should be dedicated to promoting Community Cohesion.

RE Hub

Following attendance at the National Association of SACRE's (NASACRE) annual conference in May 2014 it was decided that Lancashire would contact a number of local authorities in the northern part of the North West region to explore the value of working together to raise issues of common concern and share good practice and ways of working together. The meeting was attended by representatives of SACREs in Bolton, Bury, Cumbria, Lancashire and Wigan and was well received. This initiative will be taken forward in the coming year.