

**Annual Report of the  
Lancashire Standing Advisory  
Council  
on Religious Education  
2014 - 2015**



## CHAIRMAN OF LANCASHIRE SACRE

### SACRE chairman's report 2013-14



SACRE Annual Report - 2014-5

#### **Chairman's Report**

The confluence of energy from our members who continue to attend meetings in good numbers has maintained the momentum for the Lancashire SACRE this year. As we approach the time for quinquennial review of the syllabus, we are also being asked to re-examine the strengths of local determination and the potential for collaboration at a national level. The debate will not be resolved quickly, but I feel confident that, with the style in which our proceedings have been conducted up to now, we can make constructive and collaborative progress in the coming months.

Inevitably, global and national events continue to influence our work, and the pressures which central government apply to state education. Never have we felt more strongly the importance of our role in making sense of what it is to be human, and sharing what it is we have in common rather than what promotes division in Britain today.

The regular meetings programme with representatives from other SACREs in the northwest has proved a valuable exercise, which we hope to continue.

Our professional support from Jonathan Hewitt as officer to the SACRE has been peerless. The work of our teacher and headteacher members keeps us grounded in what actually works in the classroom, and in this regard Joanne Harris, Kate Murry and Jo Crabtree have striven hard to spread best practice. We acknowledge with thanks the valuable contribution made by Josh Mynott, now succeeded by Habib Patel and the clerking of Kieran Doherty.

Peter Martin  
Chairman, Lancashire SACRE

## **Role of SACRE**

The role of the SACRE is:

- To provide advice to the LA on all aspects of its provision for R.E. in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided Schools);
- To monitor the effectiveness and appropriateness of the LA's Agreed Syllabus for R.E, decide when it needs to be reviewed and require that the LA carries out such a review, at least every five years;
- To provide advice to the LA on Collective Worship in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled Schools);
- To consider any requests from Head teachers to hold Collective Worship that is not of a broadly Christian character.
- To advise on matters relating to continuing professional development (training) for teachers in R.E. and Collective Worship;
- To provide advice on methods of teaching in R.E;
- To provide advice on the choice of teaching materials for R.E;
- To monitor the effectiveness of R.E. and Collective Worship in community schools

## **Advice**

SACRE has not provided advice to the local authority on RE during the 2014/15 academic year.

SACRE has provided advice to schools through the officer to SACRE on a number of issues relating to the use of the Agreed Syllabus and their statutory duties in the teaching of RE. Schools have responded well to the advice provided.

SACRE has not given any advice to HM Government on RE during the past academic year.

## **Determinations**

Determinations are made where a school, on behalf of a number of parents, requests Collective Worship other than that set down by statute. No such requests have been received by SACRE during the past year.

## **Complaints**

SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE and Collective Worship. No such complaints were received in the past year.

## **Support for SACRE**

The Lancashire SACRE is supported the following officers of the County Council:

Mr J Hewitt - Head of School Improvement

Mr H Patel - Democratic Services Officer,

Mr K O'Doherty - Democratic Services Officer

## **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](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

Joanne Harris, Secondary teacher of RE and

Youth Voice – update on their work and future planning

## **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 2015 with around 86% of pupils reaching the expected levels of attainment. At the end of KS2 attainment improved further with about 85% 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 86% of pupils reaching the expected level of attainment, a rise of 3% on the previous year.

The proportion of pupils entered for the full course in all Lancashire schools rose by just over 1% to 61% in 2015. Levels of attainment in Lancashire's Schools remained above the national average for all schools, with over 75% of pupils gaining a GCSE at grade A\*-C compared with 72% nationally. Just under 30% of pupils gained a grade A\*-A in RE.

In March 2015 a report was presented to SACRE on the quality of provision in RE in Lancashire's community and voluntary controlled schools. This report reviewed attainment in schools and also used OfSTED inspection reports to monitor the quality of provision. The main findings of this report were as follows:

- Over 80% of pupils reached or exceeded the expected level in RE at the end of Key Stage 1 and/or 2 in 70% of the primary schools reporting their results.
- Over 80% of pupils reached or exceeded the expected level in RE at the end of Key Stage 3 in around 55% of the secondary schools reporting their results.
- Over 70% of pupils reached or exceeded the expected level at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 and 3 in the great majority of schools reporting their results.
- Feedback from OfSTED inspections indicates that provision for pupils' personal development, including their awareness of cultural issues, is effective. It also suggests that schools place a high priority on pupils' personal (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) development.

### **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

During the year a range of courses has been offered to schools with over 50 teachers attending sessions to help them make best use of the Agreed Syllabus. 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](http://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

Springfield Primary School, Burnley

Silver Award

Newburgh Church of England primary School

Bronze Award

Green Haworth Church of England Primary School

Trumacar Primary School

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

### **Youth Voice**

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 schools from across Lancashire took part in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Lancashire SACRE Youth Conference held at the Gujarat Hindu Society Centre in Preston.

The focus for this year's conference was *'Making RE the best it can be' How does good RE contribute to preparing young people for life in modern Britain?*

As part of its responsibility to support Religious Education, Lancashire SACRE is committed to providing engaging opportunities for young people to explore and consider the development of the Lancashire RE syllabus 2011, and this conference has been acknowledged nationally as an example of excellent practice in youth voice.

The conference was attended by 54 pupils from 8 different schools across the area consisting of 1 Primary, 1 Special and 6 Secondary schools.

### **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/](http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/) and is password protected. All eligible schools can access this resource 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](mailto:tracy.matheson@lancashire.gov.uk)

### **Contribution 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 Conference took place in July 2015. A website [http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/urriculum/re/index.php?category\\_id=62](http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/urriculum/re/index.php?category_id=62) is available to support linking schools with faith groups 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 its role in promoting fundamental British Values and carried out a number of actions to support Community Cohesion. These actions included providing support and advice to schools on the value of RE in promoting British Values and the work of the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre. A letter from Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, was also considered in some detail and it was agreed that a section of the 2015-16 development plan should be dedicated to promoting Community Cohesion.

### **RE Hub**

During the year Lancashire SACRE continued to host a network meeting of a number of SACREs in the northern part of the North West region to raise issues of common concern and share good practice and ways of working together. The meeting was attended by representatives of SACREs in Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, Cumbria, Lancashire, Warrington and Wigan and was well received.

Areas discussed included:

- Response to the letter from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools
- The Young Ambassadors for RE scheme
- Constitution of SACREs
- Strategies to support one another in developing professional development in RE

This initiative will be taken forward in the coming year.