

Blackpool Council

4 June 2019

To: All Members of the SACRE

The above members are requested to attend the:

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at 6.30 pm
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

A G E N D A

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

To consider the appointment of a Chairman for Municipal Year 2019/20.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

To consider the appointment of a Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Municipal Year 2019/20.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2018 (Pages 1 - 4)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 November 2018 as a true and correct record.

4 MEMBERS ITEMS

To receive any updates from Members of the SACRE.

5 REGIONAL AMBASSADORS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive information on the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education's appointment of Regional Ambassadors.

6 ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 11 - 32)

To consider and approve the 2017/2018 annual report for the SACRE.

7 FUNDING FOR THE SACRE (Pages 33 - 34)

To consider NASACRE's recommendation for funding of the SACRE and agree any steps on behalf of the SACRE.

8 AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE (Pages 35 - 44)

To consider arrangements for a possible Agreed Syllabus Conference.

9 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To consider the dates of future meetings.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager, Tel: 01253 477157 , e-mail: lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 3

MINUTES OF STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2018

Present:

Tim Cox, Blackburn Church of England Diocese, Church of England Group (Chairman)
Councillor Kirkland
Rabbi Robert Ash, Judaism Representative
Paul Harrison, Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School
Mr Chirag Khajuria, Hindu Representative
Iman Ashfaq Patel, Islamic Representative
Helen Sage and Jo Snape, Blackburn Church of England Diocese, Church of England Group
Margaret Wright, Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocese

In Attendance:

Chris Williams, Democratic Governance Adviser

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Singleton and Tammy Hackney, St George's Church of England Academy.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2018

The SACRE considered the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 March 2018.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 MEMBERS ITEMS

Helen Sage reported that she had been advised by former Judaism representative Dr Sheila Gewolb that following work in conjunction with the Education Board of Deputies, Judaism materials intended for use in schools had been completed and would be circulated in due course.

The Committee agreed it would be desirable to invite Sandra Teacher, United Synagogue, Senior Faith Advisor to Government, to speak at a future meeting.

5 AGE RELATED STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Committee considered the interim document approved for use in Catholic Schools by The Department of Catholic Education and Formation of The Catholic Bishops' Conference

**MINUTES OF STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2018**

of England and Wales on age related standards in Religious Education.

Margaret Wright explained the background to the report, namely that the new document entitled *Age-Related Standards (3-19) in Religious Education* was a response from the Catholic Education Service to identified needs from schools for a clear document that could be used as an assessment tool in the changing landscape of primary and secondary schools. The intention was to fully incorporate the guidance by 2020 nationally.

The Committee was informed that from a total of 85 schools within the diocese, 48 had been involved in the pilot scheme for age related standards. The system was similar to that used in mainstream subjects and allowed for more effective teaching, assessment and learning. It contained key language designed to improve learning such as, compare, understand, apply etc . However, no content recommendations were included within the document to allow greater flexibility for schools in terms of how they delivered the subject though glossaries of key religious language were included.

Members agreed that a reference in the document that referred to the use of levels in grading the quality of RE was unhelpful as it mainly applied to Secondary schools given that many Primary schools actually preferred levels as they offered clarity and consistency to teachers when grading pupils.

6 COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FINAL REPORT

The Committee considered the report on the Commission on Religious Education entitled 'Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward. A National Plan for RE'. Members discussed how they would compile a local response to the report through the Chairman.

The report contained 11 major recommendations, some of which were further broken down into sub-sections. On the whole the Committee acknowledged a gradual movement towards secularisation in society and therefore welcomed those recommendations which sought to raise the profile of Religious Education. However, they were less enthusiastic about any recommendations which sought to create a more nationalised curriculum and reduce local input into curriculum content. Also, the Committee felt that by adding worldviews, essentially the religious aspect could become less important and result in linkages to political views and debates, something that was deemed to be separate and undesirable. A focus on shared human experience was deemed to be preferable to a worldviews focus. Committee members also expressed concerns that some of the recommendations could lead to a reduced role for SACRE's nationwide.

Some of the key areas that were supported by the Committee related to proposals to increase recruitment and training opportunities for RE teachers and approval in principal for the statement of entitlement that would allow access to Religious Education for any school child if they so choose. The idea that the DfE could measure the impact of withdrawal of RE from the curriculum and review the right to withdraw were also welcomed given that figures contained within the report suggested that the uptake of RE at GCSE level had continued to decrease and on average, teachers only received three hours of subject based training for RE.

As such, the Committee broadly agreed with recommendations 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 and

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were opposed or less supportive of recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8.

Both the Catholic and Church of England representatives additionally outlined their respective positions on the recommendations contained within the report.

Resolved:

1. That the Chairman liaise with Committee members via email and formulate a response statement on behalf of the SACRE to send to the relevant recipient in response to the recommendations outlined in the Commission on Religious Education report.
2. That the Clerk circulate the informal responses from the Catholic and Church of England representatives presented at the meeting related to the recommendations outlined in the report.

7 BLACKPOOL SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Following on from discussions at previous meetings, the Committee considered the next steps in order to create the 2017/2018 annual report for the SACRE.

Resolved:

1. Jo Snape to liaise with Jean Martin on the content of the Draft Annual Report 2017/2018 and forward to the Chairman to add his comments and introduction.
2. Paul Harrison to provide relevant photographs for use in the final report.
3. To finalise and submit the Blackpool SACRE Annual Report by 31 December 2018.

8 AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

Resolved:

1. To hold the Annual Syllabus Conference immediately prior to the next SACRE meeting on Tuesday 12 February 2018 in Committee Room B, Town Hall, Blackpool at 6:30pm.
2. To seek clarification from Helen Sage of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus representative and invite them to the Annual Conference.

9 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates were agreed for future meetings:

- Tuesday 12 February at 6:30pm in Committee Room B, Town Hall, Blackpool
- Wednesday 12 June at 6:30pm (Venue TBC)

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8:05pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager

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Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Lennox Beattie, Clerk to the SACRE
Date of Meeting:	12 June 2019

REGIONAL AMBASSADORS FOR RELEIGIOUS EDUCATION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To receive information on the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education's appointment of Regional Ambassadors.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To the information about the appointment of the Regional Ambassadors for Religious Education contained within paragraph 5.1 of this report and the profile of the North West Regional Ambassador attached at Appendix 5a.
- 2.2 To consider linkages between the SACRE's work and that of the Regional Ambassador and consider inviting the Regional Ambassador to a future meeting of the SACRE.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To assist in the further development of religious education

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None, the item is for discussion.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At the end of October 2018, Naomi Anstice was appointed ambassador for Religious Education Networks. She is an Assistant Head Teacher in Cheshire where she teaches RE to the whole school as part of the PPA provision. Naomi is also the RE Primary adviser for Cheshire West and a member of the NATRE Executive.

She will be working on this project a day a week. Here Naomi explains the project she will be leading for the next two years and introduces the regional ambassadors who have now been appointed:

'The aim of this project is to build a long-term sustainable structure to provide local support for RE teachers.'

Connecting teachers to other teachers, local groups, hubs, advisers, SACREs and to a range of available opportunities and RE initiatives.

Connecting teachers to both classroom-based and academic research

Connecting teachers to regional and national CPD opportunities as well as resources which will inspire their classroom practice.

This will be done through the creation of ten regional areas, each of which will have its own ambassador. These ambassadors will be developing, creating, co-ordinating local RE structures. Areas which already have strong support structures will be embraced and promoted whilst others may need creation and development according to local need.

These ambassadors bring a wealth of experience with them from a range of educational settings and will be working to network across their own areas, looking to support the creation of local groups where there are currently gaps. Each region will have web provision, so you can see what is happening in your area and to keep in touch with others in your area.

The regional ambassadors are allocated a day a month to support their region, so we will need to be realistic about what can be achieved in this time.

The areas and their ambassadors are as follows:

London – Claire Clinton

North – Katherine France

North East – Suzanne Tomlinson

North West – Joanne Harris

East Midlands – Julie Childs

West Midlands – Chris Giles

South Central – Sarah Payne

South East – Justine Ball
South West – Laura Harris
East Anglia – Katie Gooch

Central to the success of the project is increasing teacher involvement with a range of RE organisations (including AREIAC, NATRE, The REC, NASACRE and local SACREs) through both membership and engagement.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.3 List of Appendices:

Appendix 5a: Profile of Joanne Harris, North West Regional Ambassador

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

Appendix 5a Profile of Joanne Harris

North West Regional Ambassador

Joanne is Head of Humanities at Broughton High School (11-16 secondary school in Preston, Lancashire). She co-ordinates the Preston NATRE network group and is an examiner for OCR. Alongside this she has been co-opted onto the Lancashire SACRE, representing secondary teachers and delivering training on the Agreed Syllabus for local primary and secondary teachers. Her department was a pilot school for the RE Quality Mark (REQM) and has worked with the RE Council as part of the Young Ambassadors scheme.

'I love the fact that teaching RE is never boring, even after 20 years of teaching. One thing that excites me about RE at the moment is the sense that the RE community are really beginning to think about the nature and purpose of RE and working together to ensure that the subject is understood and valued.'

You can follow her on Twitter on [@JoanneH_RE](#)

You can also join her Regional Facebook Group here: [North West RE Regional Network](#)

You can also email her: joanne@natre.org.uk

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Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Lennox Beattie, Clerk to the SACRE
Date of Meeting:	12 June 2018

BLACKPOOL SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider and approve the 2017/2018 annual report for the SACRE.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the annual report for 2017/2018, as attached at Appendix 6a.

2.2 To ask the Clerk to submit the annual report.

2.3 To consider reappointing a small sub-group to continue developing the next annual report which would report back to future meetings.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To further progress the annual report of the SACRE.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 It is a requirement of best practice that SACRE's produce an annual report. In view of the lack of meetings and business of the SACRE over the last few years- this has not taken place. The annual reports for 2015/16 and 2016/17 were completed and submitted in a very basic manner by the clerk and it is considered to be quite out of date.

5.2 Following the meeting on the 7 November 2018, a small sub-group was appointed by the SACRE to draft an annual report. That report has been the first one completed with a full range of information for some time. The SACRE should now approved this report for publication and forwarding onto the National Association of SACREs.

5.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.4 List of Appendices:

Appendix 6a: Annual Report 2017/2018

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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The Annual Report of the Blackpool Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

2017-2018



Blackpool: A fair place where aspiration and ambition are encouraged

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Chair's Foreword

This year has brought challenges and changes for Blackpool's SACRE – we have seen the addition of a number of new members and held discussions around the role and influence of the SACRE. We have endorsed the Lancashire Syllabus and, with schools receiving free training around it, have seen that new syllabus now in place. We welcomed Dr Sheila Gewolb on behalf of the Jewish Education Board of Deputies, and considered Commission on Religious Education's report entitled 'Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward. A National Plan for RE' which would dramatically change not just the syllabus, but the nature of the whole subject and the role and name of SACREs.



My thanks go to members for their commitment to SACRE, especially the newly minted lay Canon Jo Snape for her work on this report and to whom I extend warmest congratulations on this deserved honour. My thanks also for the support we have received from Blackpool Council's Democratic services, and to our teacher, headteacher and adviser members who keep us in touch with schools, and to all the schools who have taught Blackpool students the values and beliefs of our various Religions, and to those students who have completed and attained qualifications during this last academic year.

The next year will doubtless bring more challenges, and we continue to pray for the country as it continues in a period of uncertainty.

Tim Cox
Chairman of Blackpool SACRE, December 2018

Tim is a licensed Reader in the Church of England, a former Blackpool Councillor and a Director of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education amongst other commitments

Background Information

The last few years have seen a period of immense change, both for Blackpool as a Local Authority (LA) and for Blackpool SACRE.

Global and national events continue to influence our work, along with the pressures which central government apply to education, not least the position of the teaching of Religious Education within the school curriculum. We believe the SACRE is vital in supporting our schools and LA to help all children make 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.

In 2017-18 the meetings were infrequent as Blackpool SACRE took time to reflect a little on how to proceed. With a number of loyal and active members retiring, limited support from a small LA, small budget and a large number of academies it was appropriate to step back and reflect on how we can ensure we meet our statutory responsibilities as we move forward. As the year progressed new members joined so we were able to continue to be representative of the faith groups, we had the active support of local councillors and were able to access information and support from our larger neighbour, Lancashire SACRE. Blackpool SACRE is now in a stronger place to move forward.

The role of SACRE

The role of the SACRE is:

- To provide advice to the Local Authority (LA) on all aspects of its provision for Religious Education in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided Schools);
- To monitor the effectiveness and appropriateness of the LA's Agreed Syllabus for RE, deciding when it needs to be reviewed and requiring the LA to carry 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 Headteachers to hold Collective Worship that is not of a broadly Christian character (determinations);
- To advise on matters relating to continuing professional development (training) for teachers in RE and Collective Worship;
- To provide advice on methods of teaching R.E, and the choice of teaching materials;
- To monitor the effectiveness of RE Collective Worship and SMSC in Community Schools;
- To monitor schools' approaches to assessing pupil progress, the uptake of accredited examinations and the standards achieved;
- To consider any complaints about the provision and delivery of RE or Collective Worship.

Advice to statutory bodies

SACRE has not provided advice to the Local Authority on RE during the 2017/18 academic year. – [what about new agreed syllabus?](#)

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. Individual members of SACRE have offered advice and support to schools regarding their particular faith. Schools have responded well to the advice provided.

SACRE has not given any advice to HM Government or any other statutory body during the past academic year.

Support for Schools

SACRE members support and enrich the RE and wider curriculum in Blackpool schools.



Jo Snape, SACRE member representing the Church of England, led workshops in a



Imam Ashfaq Patel, SACRE member representing



Rabbi Ash SACRE member representing Judaism visits



Paul Harrison, SACRE member representing the Church of England



All these experiences not only enrich the curriculum, they bring faith to life and help children to explore

Standards and quality of provision in Religious Education

Public examinations

Attainment in RE not covered by public examinations

Quality of RE provision in school

Withdrawal from RE.

As a response to this the reviewed Agreed Syllabus contains two attainment targets based on those found in non-statutory guidance on RE (QCA 2000). This takes the format of:

Attainment target 1 - Learning about Religion and Human Experience

Attainment target 2 - Learning from Religion and Human Experience.

Each attainment target has been sub-divided into the key areas of the Field of Enquiry identified within the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. These are then given exemplification from Christianity and one other faith required to be studied by the Agreed Syllabus.

GCSE results for Blackpool Schools 2018

Religious Studies Full Course

QAN: 60184000	Number on roll	Number entered	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
National (all schools)	584340	100010	61.6%	72.4%	98.3%	5.2
National (state funded)	523760	93770	59.7%	71.0%	98.2%	5.0
LA (state funded incl. PRU)	1233	239	22.6%	36.0%	92.9%	3.3
Blackpool Aspire Academy	90	13	46.2%	46.2%	100%	4.5
Highfield Leadership Academy	180	118	26.3%	38.1%	93.2%	3.4
South Shore Academy	127	49	22.4%	44.9%	93.9%	3.3
St George's Church of England Academy	170	1	0	0	100%	1.0
Unity Academy	86	58	10.3%	22.4%	89.7%	2.7
QAN: 60188790	Number on roll	Number entered	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
National (all schools)	584340	42450	57.0%	69.8%	97.2%	4.9
National (state funded)	523760	41090	56.1%	69.1%	97.1%	4.8
LA (state funded incl. PRU)	1233	195	55.4%	67.2%	95.4%	4.6
St Mary's Catholic Academy	197	195	55.4%	67.2%	95.4%	4.6
QAN: 60300632	Number on roll	Number entered	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
National (all schools)	584340	29430	59.3%	70.5%	98.0%	5.0
National (state funded)	523760	27840	57.7%	69.2%	97.9%	4.9
LA (state funded incl. PRU)	1233	167	22.8%	36.5%	87.4%	3.0
St George's Church of England Academy	170	167	22.8%	36.5%	87.4%	3.0

Commentary:

- Nationally GCSE RE results have improved in the number of entries and the improvement in performance (% A – C) over the last two years (71.5% 2014). In Blackpool the figure is below the national average.

- In 2015 – 16 the total number of Year 10 students taking GCSE RE locally amounted to 841 out of a possible 1237 students (68%). The main exam board is Welsh Board with one academy using AQA and another using Edexcel.
- Some academies offer a short course in RE when appropriate.

A Level RE

RE Quality Mark

Schools can apply for three levels of the REQM award. A school's evidence and provision are assessed by an external assessor against nationally recognised criteria. Blackpool SACRE encourages all schools to access the REQM assessment materials to use as an audit tool, even if they feel the time and cost of full accreditation are not immediate priorities. No school achieved this award in 2017/18.

Agreed Syllabus

If there was a review of syllabus under this report how was that conducted.
When the next review will take place.

Collective Worship

The SACRE continues to emphasise its commitment to high quality Collective Worship. Guidance and advice with regard to Collective Worship is given in line with Circular 1/94.

No issues surrounding worship have been submitted to SACRE this year. 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.

Section 394 (1) of the 1996 Education Act empowers a SACRE to grant the request of a Headteacher for alternative Collective Worship, where it is considered that the nature of a pupil population makes it inappropriate to be wholly or mainly Christian. Currently Blackpool has no schools with an active determination.

Support for SACRE

NNW SACRE and NA SACRE continue to provide support to the Blackpool SACRE when requested and has provided valuable information back to SACRE meetings via the chair or other members.

The Local Authority has provided support for SACRE through the provision of clerking and limited officer support.

Blackpool SACRE have liaised with Lancashire SACRE regarding the agreed syllabus. During the year, Lancashire SACRE continued to host support and training to raise issues

of common concern and share good practice and ways of working together. Blackpool schools are encouraged to access this training as we have adopted the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.

Management of SACRE

The SACRE is advised and supported by professional and administrative staff of the Local Authority and its business is administered centrally through the Clerk to the SACRE.

Membership of Blackpool SACRE – 2017-18

GROUP A – Christian and other religions not including Church of England	
Roman Catholic	Mrs M Wright
Islam	Imam Ashraq Patel
Judaism	Rabbi Robert Ash
Buddhism	Kelsang Pagma
Hinduism	Mr. Chirag Khajuria
Salvation Army	Major Harris
Methodist	Mrs E Savage
GROUP B - Church of England	
	Mrs H Sage
	Mr P Harrison
	Mr T Cox
	Miss J Snape
GROUP C – Teacher Representations 2 vacancies	
NUT	Tammy Hackney
ASCL	TBC
NAHT	TBC
RE Network	Rebecca Binns
GROUP D – Members of the Authority	
	Cllr Blackburn
	Cllr Kirkland
	Cllr O’Hara
	Cllr Singleton
	Cllr Mrs Henderson MBE

Other:

Jean Martin – Blackpool School Improvement Team

Lennox Beattie/Chris Williams - Executive and Regulatory Manager

The SACRE had a modest budget which is used to fund the following areas:

- Attendance at the NASACRE Annual Conference
- Annual subscription payment to NASACRE
- Advice and expertise from Consultants for RE

This needs to be considered in the light of local spending review and a small dedicated budget identified.

Training received by members

Other key stakeholders

NASACRE

The SACRE is affiliated to NASACRE. NASACRE support documents are circulated to new members and are used as the basis for training for members. Blackpool attends the NASACRE Annual Conference and the newsletter is circulated to SACRE members.

Lancashire LA

Blackpool have enjoyed a good working relationship with Lancashire, sharing best practice and most recently acting as partners to develop the new Agreed Syllabus.

AREIAC

The RE Consultant's membership of the AREIAC Trans Pennine Group provides good networking and practice sharing opportunities.

Complaints

SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE and Collective Worship.

The LA has received no formal complaints about Religious Education, under the local statutory complaints procedure, during the reporting year.

The LA has received no formal complaints about the content or organisation of Collective Worship during the period of this report

Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda.

Contribution to the LA's public sector equality duty

Wider diversity agenda

Prevent agenda incorporated in report.

SRE and D & A are delivered through an Scheme of Work W organised by public health. Schools/academies interpret the moral arguments to these through SMSC, RE and tutor sessions.

Community Cohesion

British Values is supported in schools through SMSC.

Links to broader community initiatives

DRAFT

APPENDIX 1 - SACRE Frequently Asked Questions*

What is SACRE?

The acronym SACRE stands for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Why is there a SACRE?

Every local authority has to have a SACRE by law. In 1944, local education authorities (LEAs) were given the chance to set up a SACRE, if they so wished. In 1988, all LEAs were required to have a SACRE.

What does a SACRE do?

There is no other group anywhere else like the SACRE; it is unique. The law says that RE must be taught in all schools and a SACRE's role is to advise its local authority on what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area.

Who attends the SACRE meeting?

A SACRE is set up to represent a balance of all the interests of the local community. Blackpool's SACRE has elected councillors, representatives of local faith communities, teachers and head teachers, at its SACRE meetings.

What are a SACRE's duties?

The SACRE's main function is to advise the local authority on matters related to the religious education, which follows the locally agreed syllabus, and on collective worship in schools.

What is a locally agreed syllabus?

The locally agreed syllabus is the statutory document for RE in the local authority. It sets out what should be taught to pupils in all key stages and the standards expected of them at the end of each key stage. It was reviewed in 2011 and produced in partnership with Lancashire SACRE. It is presently being reviewed for 2016 for the next five years.

What else can a SACRE do?

A SACRE's broad role is to support good RE and collective worship within Blackpool's community schools.

How is this report compiled?

During the four full SACRE meetings held annually the SACRE receives reports regarding support and monitoring of RE and Collective Worship in Community and some Voluntary Controlled schools. The information from these reports, and exam and end of key stage data, is then used to create this report.

Can this report help support my CPD?

This report highlights the support available for training, individual school consultancies, Staff INSETs and the links to the faith communities in the area.

How can this report help my school move forward with SMSC?

Blackpool SACRE is committed to working with local faith groups to support local school as they help their children understand all members of our diverse community. SACRE Blackpool also upholds the attitudes found in their locally agreed syllabus of being open minded and having respect for all. At the heart of the New agreed Syllabus for RE is the quest for understanding; "What it is to be human". The work of the SACRE supports the Field of enquiry model which allows children to consider what is of worth and who they really are.

*with thanks to NASACRE for the FAQs

APPENDIX 2 - Terms of Reference

The functions of a SACRE are detailed in the Education Act 1996 (Section 391). They are as follows:

- To advise the local education authority upon such matters connected with religious worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit.

The matters referred to above include, in particular, methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

- To require the authority (on a vote of the representative groups of the Church of England, other denominations and teachers' associations) to review any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by the authority by the convening of a statutory conference in accordance with the provision of Schedule 5 to the Education Act 1944 and subsequent amendments in the Education Acts 1993 and 1996.
- In each year, to publish a report as to the exercise of their functions and any action taken by representative groups during the preceding year. The report shall in particular:
 - Specify any matters in respect of which the SACRE has given advice to the Authority,
 - Broadly describe the nature of the advice given, and
 - Where any such matter was not referred to the SACRE by the Authority, give the SACRE's reasons for offering advice on that matter.
- In accordance with Section 394 of the Education Act 1996, to consider applications made by headteachers of county schools (subsequently, community schools without a religious character; (School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Schedule 20) whether it is appropriate for the requirements for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of a particular school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils.

APPENDIX 3 - Constitution of the Blackpool SACRE 2012 (is this the most recent??)

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Construction

In this document, unless the context otherwise requires:-

“The Act” means the Education Act 1996;

“The Authority” means Blackpool Borough Council;

“SACRE” means the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education required to be established in accordance with Section 390 of the Education Act 1996;

“Representative Group” means one of the four statutory representatives groups required to be included on the SACRE by Section 390 of the Education Act 1996.

2. Composition of SACRE

The SACRE shall include representatives of the following groups:-

A. Representative Groups

As required by Section 390 of the Act SACRE is to include four representative groups as follows:-

(i) Christian and other religious denominations which appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area

(ii) The Church of England 5 representatives

(iii) Associations representing teachers 5 representatives

(iv) The Authority 5 representatives

B. Academy School Representative

Where the Authority’s agreed syllabus is in use in one or more Academy schools, the SACRE shall include a person appointed by the governing body/bodies of the schools concerned.

C. Co-opted Members

The representative groups on the SACRE may appoint a further four co-opted members.

The SACRE may make recommendations to the Authority in respect of its composition.

3. Terms of Reference

The SACRE shall have the following functions:-

- a. To advise the Authority upon such matters connected with the religious worship in Community Schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit.
- b. The matters referred to in 'a' above include in particular, methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- c. The SACRE shall each year publish a report with respect to the exercise of their functions. The report shall in particular:-
 - (i) Specify any matters in respect of which the SACRE have given advice to the Authority;
 - (ii) Broadly describe the nature of the advice given; and
 - (iii) Where any such matter was not referred to the SACRE by the Authority, give the SACRE's reasons for offering advice on the matter.
- d. To require the Authority (on a vote of representative groups representing Christian denominations and other religions, the Church of England and teachers' associations) to review the agreed syllabus by convening a statutory conference in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 31 to the Education Act 1996.
- e. In accordance with Section 387 of the Act to consider applications made by the Headteachers of Community Schools after consultation with the governing body, whether it would be appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of a particular school, or in case of any class or description of pupils at the school.

4. Terms of Office

- a. Subject to sub-paragraph 'c' below, each member of the SACRE shall hold office for a term of four years.
- b. A member of SACRE shall be eligible to be re-appointed for a further term.
- c. The Authority may from time to time review the constitution and composition of the SACRE and any person appointed to the representative groups may be removed by the Authority.
- d. A person appointed to represent Academy Schools may be removed by the governing body or bodies which appointed that person.
- e. A person appointed as a co-opted member may be removed by the SACRE.
- f. A member of the SACRE may at any time resign his/her office.
- g. On resignation or removal by the Authority or Academy School(s), an appointed person shall be replaced by the Authority or Academy School(s) for the remainder of the term of office by another member.

5. Chairmanship

The representative groups on the SACRE shall each year, normally at their annual meeting, elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from amongst the membership of the representative groups. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman will take the chair and in the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman a Chairman will be elected for the meeting from amongst the members of the representative groups. The Chairman of the meeting shall not be entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.

6. Meetings

The SACRE shall hold at least one meeting per year at which the annual report shall be agreed.

7. Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the SACRE shall be six members.

8. Voting

- a. Subject to paragraph 'b' below, on any question to be decided by the SACRE, only the representative groups shall have a single vote.
- b. For the purpose of voting, each representative group will elect a spokesperson at each meeting.
- c. In the event of a formal vote being taken, votes will be cast by the nominated spokesperson for each group to consider how its vote should be cast. The meeting shall, if necessary, agree a time limit for this purpose.
- d. The single vote of each representative group shall be cast on the basis of the simple majority view within each group. A tied vote shall be treated as an abstention by that group.

9. Officers

- a. The Clerk to the SACRE shall be provided by the Chief Executive.
- b. The Director of Education shall be entitled to attend, or be represented by members of his staff at any meetings of the SACRE or any meeting of sub-groups or working parties established by the SACRE.

APPENDIX 4 - Attendance at meetings

Blackpool SACRE 2017-18	Autumn Term 2017	Spring Term 2018	Summer Term 2018
GROUP A – Christian and other religions not including Church of England			
Mrs M Wright			
Imam Ashfaq Patel			
Rabbi Robert Ash			
Kelsang Pagma			
Mr Chirag Khajuria			
Major Harris			
Mrs E Savage			
GROUP B - Church of England			
Mrs H Sage			
Mr P Harrison			
Mr T Cox			
Miss J Snape			
GROUP C – Teacher Representations 2 vacancies			
NUT – Tammy Hackney			
ASCL - Vacancy			
NAHT - Vacancy			
RE Network – Rebecca Binns			
GROUP D – Members of the Authority			
Cllr Blackburn			
Cllr Collett			
Cllr Jackson			
Cllr Cross			
Cllr Henderson			
OTHER			
Jean Martin – Blackpool School Improvement Team			
Lennox Beattie/Chris Williams (Clerk)			

APPENDIX 5 - Glossary Blackpool SACRE Acronyms

AfL	Assessment for Learning
AREIAC	Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants
B & V	Beliefs and Values [Lancashire Field of Enquiry]
CfSA	Council for Subject Associations
CW	Collective Worship
D & A	Drug and Alcohol
DFE	Department for Education
EOKS	End of Key Stage
HMI	Her Majesty's Inspectorate
ITT	Initial Teacher Training
KS	Key Stage
LAS	Local Agreed Syllabus
LRT	Living Religious Tradition [Lancashire Field of Enquiry]
NASACRE	National Association of SACREs
NATRE	National Association of Teachers of RE
[NS]NFWKRE	Non statutory National Framework for RE
NSSWk	Non Statutory Scheme of Work
OFQUAL	Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
RE	Religious Education
REC	Religious Education Council
RS	Religious Studies
SACRE	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
SHE	Shared Human Experience [Lancashire Field of Enquiry]
SRE	Sex & Relationships Education
SMSC	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development
SOW	Scheme of work
SPM	Search for Personal Meaning [Lancashire Field of Enquiry]

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Agenda Item 7

The government's guidance is clear: An LA should fund and support a SACRE and an ASC satisfactorily in line with the duty to constitute or convene each of these bodies and to enable them effectively to carry out their functions (Religious Education in English schools: Non - statutory guidance 2010, page 11).

The following can be reasonably expected to be funded from CSSB: • a clerk • a professional officer who has expertise in RE curriculum design • a publicly accessible place to meet • the reasonable expenses of members • publishing the agreed syllabus and other SACRE materials (including agendas and minutes), most usually on the LA website • NASACRE subscription and AGM attendance.

The National Recommendation is that an LA should allocate at least 2% of the CSSB to SACRE in order that SACRE can carry out its statutory duties. We advise each SACRE to look up what your LA's CSSB is, work out whether your LA is allocating 2% to SACRE and if they are not, write to the LA, explaining what the National Recommendation is and asking when the LA is likely to fund SACRE adequately. Note that a year in which an Agreed Syllabus review is carried out is likely to require much more than 2% CSSB if it is to be done properly. Please keep the NASACRE Exec informed of your progress

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Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Jean Martin, School Improvement Advisor
Date of Meeting:	12 June 2019

AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider arrangements for a possible Agreed Syllabus Conference.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to hold an Agreed Syllabus Conference and to appoint members of SACRE to sit on that meeting.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 Blackpool Council has had previously an Agreed Syllabus produced in conjunction with Lancashire County Council and at its meeting on 25 July 2016 was supportive of continuing this arrangement after the renewal of that document in 2016. The use of a common syllabus across the wider area has benefits for consistency and children and staff moving across the boundary. It has therefore received support from the local RE Network.
- 5.2 Section 375 of the Education Act 1996 requires local authorities to have an agreed syllabus of religious education. Paragraph 2 of Schedule 31 to the Education Act 1996 requires the Authority from time to time to cause further Conferences to be convened for the purpose of reconsidering any agreed syllabus adopted by them. The agreement of that conference is only binding on the Community sector i.e does not apply to Voluntary Aided or Academy schools.
- 5.3 This has not happened for many years in Blackpool due to both the sharing of a syllabus across the Lancashire and very small numbers of schools involved- none of Blackpool's secondary schools and only five primary schools. Previously advice has been sought from Department for Education but none has been forthcoming as to whether such a meeting was necessary. The Committee is asked first to ask officers to write again seeking confirmation that such a conference is necessary.
- 5.4 If it is confirmed that such a conference is necessary. It is considered advisable to hold such a meeting urgently and undertaken on a light touch basis. Guidance notes from the NASACRE as to the holding of such a meeting are attached for information at Appendix 8a. It is suggested that members propose a date for the conference.

5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.6 List of Appendices:

Appendix 8(a): Guidance on Agreed Syllabus Conferences from NASACRE

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 See paragraph 5.2 above.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

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nasacre



National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

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- **supporting**
- **strengthening**
- **promoting**



Agreed Syllabus Conference

What is an Agreed Syllabus Conference?

An agreed syllabus conference (ASC) is a statutory body brought together in order to produce an agreed syllabus for RE. It is a separate legal body from a SACRE.

Statutory Requirements

Every LA is required to establish and support an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference which must:

- produce and recommend to the LA an agreed syllabus for RE;
- meet in public;
- unanimously recommend a syllabus for adoption by the LA;
- include on any sub-committee at least one member of each of its constituent committees.

An Agreed Syllabus Conference:

- has the same group structure as the SACRE but these are called committees;
- is made up of representatives from the same interest groups as the SACRE, who may or may not be the same people;
- has no provision for co-opted members;
- may be chaired by an appointee of the local authority or may be permitted to choose its own Chair
- must specify what will be taught through the agreed syllabus;
- may not specify the amount of curriculum time that must be allocated to RE, but may provide an estimate of how much time their syllabus would require to help schools to plan their timetable.

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The LA's responsibility to convene the ASC implies a duty to provide funds and support for its work.

Agreed Syllabus Conference

Questions which should concern an ASC include:

- How is the agreed syllabus best delivered to each age group?
- What mixture should there be of formal content, thematic work, group work, personal discovery, visits to specified buildings or events, and visitors?
- What is the relationship of RE to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and other whole-school priorities?
- What is the impact on RE of new curricular developments?
- How will local faith and belief be reflected in the locally agreed syllabus?
- What should pupils learn at each key stage?
- What should be statutory within the agreed syllabus, and what should be non-statutory guidance, to be placed in appendices?

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