

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

2015 - 2016



Blackpool: A fair place where aspiration and ambition are encouraged

'To support pupils'
personal search for meaning by engaging enquiry
into the question

'What is it to be human?'

- exploring answers offered by religion and belief.'

Joint Lancashire and Blackpool Agreed Syllabus 2015 - 2016

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Foreword

The last years has been a period of immense change, both for Education and the Blackpool SACRE.

As we approach the time for review of the syllabus, we are also being asked to re-examine the strengths of local determination and the potential for collaboration with Lancashire SACRE.

Global and national events continue to influence our work, along with the pressures which central government apply to state education. It is therefore important that control to our role is 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.

Over the years SACRE Blackpool has been represented at the meetings with members from other SACREs in the northwest – this has proved to be a valuable exercise, which we hope can continue - providing ongoing support in enabling SACRE Blackpool to continue to function.

The liaison with Lancashire SACRE has meant that information and support is available to Blackpool schools and academies. The work of our teacher and headteacher members keeps us grounded in what actually works in the classroom. We acknowledge with grateful thanks also, the valuable contribution made by Helen Sage, who as chair, has stepped down after a number years on SACRE.

Whilst the meetings have been infrequent and a number of loyal and active members have retired, Blackpool SACRE continues to be representative of faith groups, schools and the local authority.

However, as we re-convene for a new academic year in 2016 – 17, with a new agreed syllabus, that we welcome new members. It is also only right that the work of the group as a whole is recognised. They continue to work hard to keep the work of SACRE visible and to spread best practice.

Role of SACRE

The role of the SACRE is:

To consider any requests from Head teachers to hold Collective Worship that is not of a broadly Christian character.

Advice

SACRE has not provided advice to the local authority on RE during the 2015/16 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

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.

Support for schools

The SACRE officer has linked with schools/academies through the local RE network and its chair.

RE network report as incorporated into this report.

RE Quality Mark

No school achieved this award in 2015/16.

Collective Worship

No issues surrounding Collective Worship have been submitted to SACRE.

Contribution to the wider diversity agendas

Prevent agenda incorporated in report.

SRE and D & A are delivered through an SOW 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.

LANCS SACRE

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.

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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

Management of the SACRE and Partnership with the LA

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

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.

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.

School Report

“I hear, I know. I see, I remember. I do, I understand”

Confucius

Helping children not only to know a little about different faiths but to understand is a big challenge and we very much work on the principle above. So bearing that in mind, our Year 5 children learned a little more about Judaism – they heard the stories, they saw the photographs but they understood the significance of the Seder Meal when they experienced it for themselves.



Standards in Religious Education

The need for exemplification of attainment in Religious Education specific to the local Agreed Syllabus has been raised by both the Lancashire and Blackpool SACREs.

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 2015

Religious Studies Full Course

Centre	Entries 2015	%A*-C of entry
National	295,730	72.7
Blackpool (all schools)		
Blackpool (non-church schools)		
Aspire Academy		
Highfield Academy	116	46
Montgomery Academy	7	14
South Shore Academy	54	59
Unity Academy	9	55
St.George's Church of England Academy	179	61
St.Mary's Catholic Academy	209	64

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

There have been no results for A Level reported to SACRE

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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

Section 394 (1) of the Education Act

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.

Determinations

In the year of this report, the SACRE has not received any request for any determinations.

Complaints concerning Collective Worship

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

Complaints concerning Religious Education

Blackpool Council had received no formal complaints about Religious Education, under the local statutory complaints procedure, during the reporting year.

Appendix 1

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 2 Constitution of the Blackpool SACRE 2012

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 3 Summary

Blackpool SACRE – 2015-17

GROUP A – Christian and other religions not including Church of England	
Roman Catholic	Mrs M Wright
Islam	Imam Ashraq Patel
Judaism	Rabbi Guttenberg
Buddhism	Kelsang Pagma
Hinduism	Dr Vasudev
Salvation Army	Major Harris
Methodist	Mrs E Savage
GROUP B - Church of England	
	Mrs H Sage
	Mr P Harrison
	Mr T Cox
	Mrs H Wilby
	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 Collett
	Cllr Jackson
	Cllr Cross
	Cllr Henderson

Other

Dave Brennand – Blackpool School Improvement Team
Lennox Beattie - Executive and Regulatory Manager

Appendix 4 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]