

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

2017-2018



Blackpool: A fair place where aspiration and ambition are encouraged

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Foreword	3
Background information	3
Role of SACRE	4
Advice to statutory bodies	4
Support for schools	5
Standards and quality of provision in Religious Education	6-7
Agreed Syllabus	7
Collective Worship	7
Support for SACRE	7
Management of SACRE	8
Complaints concerning Religious Education	9
Complaints concerning Collective Worship	9
Contribution to the wider Local Authority agenda	9
Appendix 1 – Frequently Asked Questions	11
Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference	12
Appendix 3 – Constitution of Blackpool SACRE	13-15
Appendix 4 - Attendance at meetings	16
Appendix 5 - Glossary	17

## **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**

<b>GROUP A – Christian and other religions not including Church of England</b>	
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
<b>GROUP B - Church of England</b>	
	Mrs H Sage
	Mr P Harrison
	Mr T Cox
	Miss J Snape
<b>GROUP C – Teacher Representations 2 vacancies</b>	
NUT	Tammy Hackney
ASCL	TBC
NAHT	TBC
RE Network	Rebecca Binns
<b>GROUP D – Members of the Authority</b>	
	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**

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