

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2018 – 2019

September 2018 – August 31st 2019

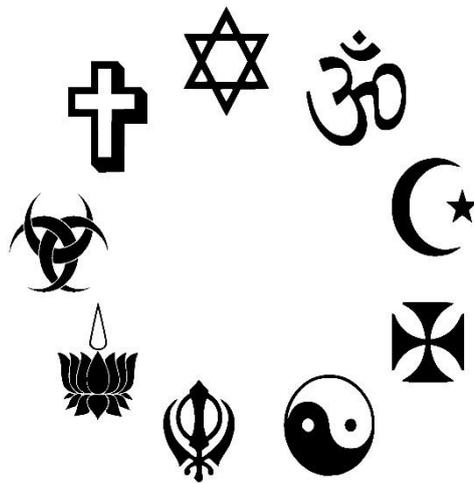


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**Northamptonshire Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education:
Annual Report 2018-2019**

Foreword by Morcea Walker - Chair of the Northamptonshire SACRE 2018-2019

2018-2019 has been a year of many changes within the County of Northamptonshire and this has had an impact on the work of Northamptonshire SACRE whose aim has continued to be to promote a high standard of RE in our schools and similar establishments. This is achieved through the Local Agreed Syllabus and by giving the Local Authority advice regarding collective worship and religious education.

Although the part-time SACRE Advisor had a planned programme of work, including the sharing of good practice between Northamptonshire, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Rutland, she left before this could be completed. With the foundation set we look forward to continuing this work.

The dedication of the members of SACRE goes from strength to strength. The team is made up members of faith and non-faith organisations, teachers, councillors and officers. Together they have contributed much to SACRE and I have appreciated all their hard work.

The Agreed Syllabus continues to be a very useful resource for the teaching of RE with updates being made when necessary.

The meetings of Northamptonshire SACRE are held 4 times year and are open to the public. Agendas are published on the County Council Website in advance of the meetings. We welcome anyone wishing to attend.

Morcea Walker MBE, DL
Chair Northamptonshire SACRE

THE PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Religious Education is an important curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and also makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality Religious Education.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

This entails:

- advising the Local Authority on Religious Education given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its Agreed Syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- providing advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus;
- providing advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its Local Authority, considering whether any changes need to be made in the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE;
- offering advice to the Local Authority, and through the Local Authority to schools, concerning how an existing Agreed Syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

MANAGEMENT OF SACRE

The Local Authority has continued to support the work of SACRE through funding that provides a clerk for the meetings, services of an RE Adviser to support SACRE, its work and teacher training for the teaching of Religious Education, and advice about Collective Worship.

During the past year SACRE members have spent time discussing the teacher membership and representation of the organisation. It was felt by the membership that SACRE needed to reflect the modern structure of Northamptonshire educational establishments for young people. It was unanimously agreed at the January meeting 2019 to open up the membership of SACRE to a wider catchment of education in order to give the opportunity to more people to input into the RE Curriculum within Northamptonshire.

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Northamptonshire SACRE, which has met four times this year, comprises four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been good. SACRE continues to ensure the membership reflects the demographic.

The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A - representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions, and world-view communities;
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;

- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations; Teachers, Teaching Assistants and High Level Teaching Assistants
- Committee D – representatives of the Local Authority.

SACRE said farewell to Amanda Fitton and many thanks were extended to her for her contribution to SACRE and RE in Northamptonshire.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Northamptonshire County Council SACRE website at <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/information-for-school-staff/curriculum-and-resources/Pages/religious-education.aspx>

NASACRE Conference

This was held on Wednesday 22 May 2019 in Manchester and was attended by Amanda Fitton (RE Adviser), Morcea Walker (Chair of SACRE) and Justine Davies (Secondary School Representative NASUWT). The Keynote Address was given by Peter Bull, Head of RE in Alsop High School, Walton, Liverpool on “How can SACRE transform schools to become Beacons of Hope. The Delegates were put into Groups and Amanda Fitton reported to the SACRE meeting held on 25 June 2019 that the one thing that came out of the Conference from the group that she joined was about the SACRE constitution and the right to be able to ask people to join the SACRE and add them to the constitution. .

Network Meeting

A Primary RE Network meeting was held on 12 March 2019 at Lumbertubs Primary School which was very successful.

Formal Complaints

There have been no formal complaints made to the Local Authority.

Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

The SACRE has not received any complaints about Collective Worship.

Determinations

There have been no determination requests in regard to Collective worship made to SACRE.

Secondary Schools Data

Please find attached the GCSE Results for 2018 – 2019 and the A level results for 2018 – 2019 for information. An analysis of these results will be published later on in the year.

APPENDIX

Membership 1 September 2018 – 31 August 2019

Name	Organisation
Mr Farnush Tanhai	Bahai Faith
Mr William Duncan	Buddhism
Mr Arthur Newbury	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints
Mr Chris Paddock	Humanist
Mr Bhupesh Parekh	Hinduism
Mr Saifullah Nassir	Islam
Mr Daniel Tabor	Judaism
Sister Aidan Richards	Catholic Diocese
Mr Harkirat Singh	Sikh Faith
Mrs Morcea Walker	United Reform Church
Mr John Flory	Religious Society of Friends

Group B – Representative of the Church of England

Mrs Val Griffiths	Church of England
Mrs Julie Barke	Church of England

Group C – Representatives of the Teacher Associations

Mrs Jenny Dixon	Primary Teacher Representative (NEU)
Mrs Justine Davies	Secondary School Representative (NASUWT)
Mrs Elaine Coe	Head Teacher Representative (NEU)

Group D – Representatives of the Local Authority

Cllr Dudley Hughes	LA
Cllr Wendy Brackenbury	LA

Clerk to SACRE

Mrs Jane Hall