

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

2019 -2020

September 2019 – August 31st 2020

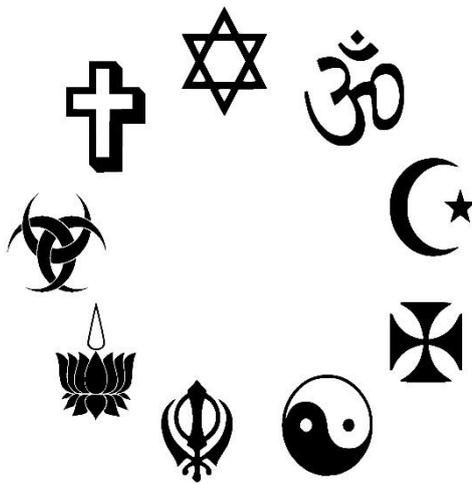


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**Northamptonshire Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education:
Annual Report 2019 - 2020**

Foreword by Morcea Walker - Chair of the Northamptonshire SACRE 2019-2020

I hope this Annual Report finds that you are safe and well during these very dark days.

Never before have I been in such awe of the education profession as I am now. Teachers up and down the country have responded to this national crisis in a selfless fashion, putting the needs and wellbeing of children and young people above their own in many cases. Determined to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society still receive an education whilst supporting many others remotely. Working tirelessly to keep all in their school community safe, easing their fears and providing a sense of continuity in a world that must have felt so alien to anything they have experienced before.

We have witnessed the very best of humanity as school staff delivered much needed food packages to families to ensure that children and families did not go hungry, some school leaders even spent their own money to help those in need. Thankfully the government heard the cries of the nation and finally put in place a system that provides support to these vulnerable families, even during the school holidays.

Covid has affected every aspect of our lives but we must not forget that we are strong and have the resolve to recover. It will take time, however the nation will heal, all of our children will return to school and we will laugh and cry with our friends and family again. This pandemic certainly has taught me to treasure each and every moment, activities which I viewed as a chore before are sorely missed now.

SACRE members have followed the government advice and have stayed at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives. Initially this meant that our meetings did not take place however we have moved with the times and have embraced modern technology. Our meetings now take place electronically and like many others, we have learned all about zoom and turning off our mics when not speaking. Additionally, we have not been exempt to having to remind our members “you are on mute” too. It is hard to believe that even a year ago, very few of us would have even uttered those words but now supposedly that phrase was one of the most commonly said phrases of the last year.

Sadly, SACRE only met once during the academic year 2019-20, therefore I have very little to report. GCSE and A levels exams were rightly cancelled in July 2020 and although students were awarded teacher assessed grades, these were not made available to local authorities. Therefore, sadly, I am not able to share the local successes with you. Exams in the summer 2021 have also been rightly cancelled due to the level of disruption our young people have experienced and they will again get teacher assessed grades. I am currently unsure if we will be without results next year too.

On brighter news, the future of SACRE as part of the creation of two new unitary councils has been clarified. From April 2021, Northamptonshire SACRE will work across both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Unitary Authorities. This is excellent news as we have worked so hard to develop and grow our SACRE to reflect the diverse and multi-cultured nature of Northamptonshire. Therefore, our good work supporting you all will continue.

I will be writing to you all again shortly, as we have now entered into a period of reflection, looking at what has been achieved and what we would like to achieve in the financial year ahead. However, in the meantime, I would very much welcome your thoughts and opinions on what you think we should be focusing on and what SACRE could do in order to support your good work in schools. If you have any comments or ideas, please do send them to us via our email address below.

All that is left is to say, I wish you all the very best in the months ahead and I look forward to the days when we can all meet again whether that be through training, a school visit or a special event.

Morcea Walker MBE, DL
Chair Northamptonshire SACRE

MANAGEMENT OF SACRE

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.

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>

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.

APPENDIX

Membership 1 September 2019 – 31 August 2020

Name	Organisation
Mr Farnush Tanhai	Bahai Faith
Mr Arthur Newbury	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints
Mr Chris Paddock	Humanist
Mr Bhupesh Parekh	Hinduism
Mr Saifullah Nassir	Islam
Avnish Thackrar	Hinduism
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
Oliver Coss	Church of England

Group C – Representatives of the Teacher Associations

Mrs Jenny Dixon	Primary Teacher Representative	(NEU)
Sylvia Erskine	Primary Supply Teacher	(NEU)

Group D – Representatives of the Local Authority

Cllr Dudley Hughes	LA
Cllr Wendy Brackenbury	LA

Clerk to SACRE

Mrs Jane Hall