

# BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Standing Advisory Council

for

Religious Education

## Annual Report for 2005

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Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005**

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## **1. Overview**

### **1.1 Requirements as under the Education Act 1996**

In accordance with requirements of section 391 (7) of the above act, the SACRE has had no reason during the year to give the Bath and North East Somerset Council any advice with regard to religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus. There have been no applications from Head Teachers in county schools to waive the requirements that collective worship shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

## **2. Religious Education**

### **2.1 Locally agreed syllabus**

Bath and North East Somerset Council adopted Somerset's locally agreed syllabus from 01 April 1999 for implementation from September 2000. An agreed syllabus conference was convened in the autumn and met on 5 October and 7 November 2005. Following a survey of all schools, it was agreed to retain the current syllabus but to call an agreed syllabus conference by September 2007 to review the national situation in relation to Bath and North East Somerset with regard to the teaching of religious education in schools. Working parties are to be set up to consider the specific requirements of the different stages of schooling in regard to religious education.

### **2.2 Monitoring**

Bath and North East Somerset SACRE received summaries of the relevant sections of reports following inspection of schools under the School Inspection Act 1996 Sec 10 (OFSTED reports), showing coverage of curriculum requirements, the act of collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural provision. Generally, provision for primary and Key Stage 3 in secondary schools is good and never less than satisfactory. The picture for Key Stage 4 and Sixth forms is far more variable, ranging from unsatisfactory to good, as it was in previous years. However, since September 2005, it has not been possible to use this approach of monitoring as the new style OFSTED reports do not give sufficient information. Under the current legislation, it is impossible for other bodies, such as SACRE, to carry out reviews without the consent of schools unless the local authority has concerns. This makes it difficult for SACRE to collect independent reliable and valid evidence on the quality of teaching and learning in religious education and provision for the act of collective worship.

## **3. Standards in religious education**

### **3.1 OFSTED Reports**

As described above, these are no longer useful to assess standards in primary schools and in Key Stage 3 in secondary schools..

### **3.2 Public examination results (attached) Summer 2005 (Data provided by DfES may not be accurate)**

Religious studies full GCSE  
Religious studies short GCSE  
Religious studies A S levels  
Religious Studies A Level

#### **4. Methods of teaching, material and training**

##### 4.1 Teaching

No advice has been given to the Local Education Authority on teaching.

##### 4.2 Teaching materials

Teaching materials received from Bath and North East Somerset schools, Somerset and North Somerset LEAs and national organisations are being promoted on the SACRE website. In addition, SACRE is establishing a resource centre for teachers to borrow teaching and learning materials.

##### 4.3 Teacher training

No training was organised this year but schools have been circulated with courses being run nationally and especially locally by Somerset SACRE, who have the benefit of an experienced Religious Education consultant.

#### **5. Complaints concerning religious education**

There were no complaints received.

#### **6. Collective worship**

##### 6.1 Advice

No advice was asked for and none was given.

##### 6.2 Monitoring

The Local Authority advisers undertake this role as part of their link role with schools. No action was required.

##### 6.3 Training

No training on collective worship was organised.

#### **7. Determinations**

No determinations were sought.

#### **8. Complaints about collective worship**

No complaints were received.

#### **9. Links with other agencies**

##### 9.1 National

SACRE members attended the following conference:

NASCRES AGM – April 2005  
QCA Conference – December 2005

## 9.2 Local

Contact is maintained and found helpful with North Somerset SACRE and the Secondary Heads of Religious Education group.

## 10. Other issues

### 10.1 Governor training

Governor training is given, as part of a LEA induction programme, to explain the position of and requirements for religious education and collective worship.

### 10.2 SACRE Website

Financial help from the LEA and the ongoing support of a small working party of SACRE members ensured that a website dedicated to SACRE was maintained and developed.

### 10.3 SACRE self-evaluation

The OFSTED guidance is being used to identify issues and draw up a development plan. The evaluation concluded that the SACRE is developing, with some established areas. The main requirements are to have greater involvement of teachers in SACRE activities and increase the professional support available.

## 11. SACRE arrangements

### 11.1 Professional, administrative support and finance

The Local Authority funds a clerk for 10 days a year, covers members travelling expenses and administration costs. The additional budget of £11,052 was allocated to cover the running of the website, newsletter, training for SACRE members and developments items.