

**BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL**  
**Standing Advisory Council**  
**for**  
**Religious Education**

**Annual Report for 2006**

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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

Following a survey of all schools, it was agreed to retain the current syllabus but to call an agreed syllabus conference in 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 currently considering the specific requirements of the different stages of schooling in regard to religious education. The Local Authority has earmarked appropriate funds to enable discussions to take place during the academic year 2007/08 and production, training and introduction of a new locally agreed syllabus from September 2009.

2.2 Monitoring

Since September 2005, there has been little reference to religious education in the new style OFSTED reports. 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 Primary and special schools

There is no data available by which to make valid judgements about standards. SACRE has not been informed by the Local Authority of any concerns about standards of religious education in primary and special schools.

3.2 Public examination results (attached) Summer 2006

(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. However, SACRE working parties have met to consider the needs of teachers and a questionnaire is currently being circulated to schools to map provision of training and to establish requirements.

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 has established a resource centre for teachers to borrow teaching and learning materials based at a primary school in Saltford. SACRE has funded a teacher to support this service.

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. SACRE has recently appointed an experienced teacher to develop teaching and the curriculum for religious education.

**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. However, their priority is to challenge schools on raising standards in Literacy, numeracy, science and Information and Communication Technology. As a consequence, there have been no reports received on the quality of teaching and learning in religious education.

## 6.3 Training

No training on collective worship was organised but the newly appointed teacher will review the situation in the light of feedback from the questionnaire to schools.

## 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:

NASCRE AGM – April 2006

QCA Conference – December 2006

In addition, a co-opted SACRE member serves on the National Religious Education Council and regularly feeds back on developments.

### 9.2 Local

Contact is maintained and found helpful with North Somerset SACRE, the Secondary Heads of Religious Education and the Bath Interfaith group. The Secondary Heads of Religious Education are provided with a grant from SACRE to run an annual Vith Form conference; this year on 'Science, Freedom and Responsibility'.

## 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

SACRE now funds a post for managing and updating the website. Recent developments have improved the news pages and information on the new resource centre service.

### 10.3 SACRE self-evaluation

The new annual report format will be used next year and the programme of review and evaluation introduced over the coming year.

## 11. SACRE arrangements

### 11.1 Professional, administrative support and finance

The Local Authority funds a clerk and professional officer for 10 days a year, covers members travelling expenses and administration costs. The additional budget of £12, 294 was allocated to cover the running of the website, the resource services and training and development.