

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

Annual Report for 2007

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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

A Locally Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened in October 2007 and met for one session. There was unanimous agreement that the current religious education syllabus should be retained for a further two years. This syllabus has been updated by North Somerset and Somerset, and is due for another review within the next two years. It was agreed that Bath and North East Somerset will join the other two authorities in order to produce a locally agreed syllabus to serve schools across the three areas. In this way, professional and curriculum development and resources can be shared.
 - 2.2 Monitoring

As OFSTED inspection reports continue to give insufficient information about standards and the quality of teaching and learning in religious education, a pilot monitoring programme is being initiated by SACRE to help schools celebrate and report on pupils' achievements in religious education and collective worship. Schools are being offered a half-day visit by a competent, experienced and trained monitor to observe a religious education lesson and act of collective worship and discuss with the religious education co-ordinator their own evaluation of the subject. A short report will be produced that comments on the standards of achievement in religious education, the quality of provision, including the act of collective worship and, the effectiveness of the management of developments. In addition, recommendations, where appropriate, will be made to the school, SACRE and the local authority. With the permission of the school, the report will be illustrated with photographs (taken during the visit or supplied by the school) and published on the SACRE website. The school will be free to produce copies for wider circulation.
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 Secondary Schools

Public examination results (see Appendix 1) Summer 2007 (Data provided by DCFS may not be accurate)
4. Methods of teaching, materials and training
 - 4.1 Teaching

Teachers replying to a questionnaire identified several areas of concern:
Primary: Teaching religions other than Christianity; Support for non-specialists; Using the Locally Agreed Syllabus; Visiting places of worship.
Secondary: Developing effective assessment; Support for non-specialists; Using new technologies; Developing vocational qualifications.
Special: Developing appropriate study units; Support for non-specialists; Assessment.
 - 4.2 Teaching materials

SACRE has established a resource centre for teachers to borrow teaching and learning materials, based at a primary school in Saltford. SACRE continues to fund a teacher to support this service.
 - 4.3 Teacher training

As a result of a grant from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, SACRE has joined with the Bath Interfaith Group to run a project putting RE teachers in touch with representatives of faith communities. The project ends in Spring 2008. It is hoped to produce

resources which can be used in our schools, as well as guidance pamphlets to be used by schools visiting different places of worship. An element of the project may also be training of RE Teachers in the use of the resources.

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. It is intended to circulate the SACRE monitoring reports to the advisers to inform them further of the quality of Acts of Collective Worship in the schools visited.
 - 6.3 Training
No training on collective worship was organised but information from other local providers was circulated 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 conferences:
NASCRE AGM – April 2007
QCA Conference – January 2008
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 were provided with a grant from SACRE to run a VIth Form conference 'Science, Freedom and Responsibility' a repeat of the successful venture held in 2006, but attended by different schools.
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 continues to fund 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
A working group is putting together a development plan based on the findings of the teachers' questionnaire and national developments.
11. SACRE arrangements
 - 11.1 Professional, administrative support and finance
(See Appendix 2)

APPENDIX 2

SACRE Financial Statement 2006/07

Allocation	£12,294
Expenditure	
NASACRE subscription	£75
Service contracts	
- Teaching and curriculum development	
- Web site development	
- Resources centre	£6600
Refreshments for meetings	£34.80
Storage cupboard Salford CE School	£350.40
Supply cover QCA conference	£120
Members travel exps	£150
Photocopies	£00.15
Hire of rooms for SACRE meetings	£17.40
Web site management	£300
SACRE annual report colour supplement	£500
Legal, professional and administrative Support (12 days officer support)	£4,000
	Total
	£12,147.75
Under-spend	£146.25