

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

Annual Report for 2009

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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 SACRE is in discussions with the neighbouring SACREs in North Somerset and Somerset to decide whether to join with other SACREs to produce a "collaborative Agreed Syllabus". The main purpose is to identify those areas of curriculum content that can be agreed nationally whilst identifying and maintaining content that is particular to specific localities. Bath and NES SACRE is minded to follow this route.
 - 2.2 Monitoring
This is continuing to remain difficult to undertake now that the new OFSTED inspections are even less informative about standards of achievement in religious education. Any other ways of undertaking a rigorous and valid monitoring exercise would be costly. To rely on school self-evaluation would at best be an imposition and at worst not produce any reliable evidence of quality and shortcomings.
3. Standards in religious education
 - 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 2009
(Data provided by DCFS may not be accurate)
4. Methods of teaching, material and training
 - 4.1 Teaching
The Chair produces and circulates a newsletter to schools three times a year giving updates on local and national developments.
 - 4.2 Teaching materials
Publicity leaflets and displays at teacher courses are being used to publicise the local authority resource materials. SACRE continues to fund a teacher to support this service.
 - 4.3 Teacher training
Once again very popular and well received two-day workshops were run by Lat Blaylock in November 2009 on achievement, progression and success in religious education focussing on the different age groups and stages of schooling.
5. Complaints concerning religious education
One complaint from parents of a child at a primary school was received by the local authority but because of the complexity of the issues, this was referred to an independent investigator.
6. Collective worship
 - 6.1 Advice
One query was received from the headteacher of a primary school on how to respond to a parent who wished to withdraw their child from collective worship.
 - 6.2 Monitoring
The Local Authority advisers undertake this role as part of their link role with schools.
 - 6.3 Training
No training on collective worship was organised but information from other locally 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 conference:
QCDA consultation, Birmingham
NASACRE recruitment and training project briefing, Bristol
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 and Somerset SACREs, the Secondary Heads of Religious Education and the Bath Interfaith Group.
SACRE also works closely with Bath Spa University to fund and provide speakers for the annual VIth Form workshops, held this year in July and attended by 650 students.
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
The SACRE development plan is proving a useful management tool to ensure finance is directed at priorities based on feedback from schools and national initiatives.
 - 10.4 Annual Public Lecture
In March 2009, Dr Marion Bowman of the Open University gave a public talk, sponsored by SACRE in Kingswood School Theatre, Bath on "Spiritually Shopping Around"
11. SACRE arrangements
 - 11.1 Professional, administrative support and finance
(See Appendix 2)

