

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

Annual Report for 2010

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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 waiver 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 has collaborated with North Somerset and Somerset SACREs to produce a revised e-version of the locally agreed syllabus "Awareness, Mystery and Value". This will be adopted by the three authorities from September 2011.
 - 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 2010
(Data provided by DfE 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
A very popular workshop on Buddhist and Jewish Religion Resources led by faith representative was held in March 2010. This will be repeated focussing on other world religions next year if funds permit.
5. Complaints concerning religious education
No complaints were received.
6. Collective worship
 - 6.1 Advice
No advice was sought and none given.
 - 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:
Southwest Conference for SACREs
QCDA Conference London
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.

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
The website had 6,791 visits during the year, overwhelmingly from the UK but there were a significant number from the USA and China.

 - 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 The Westhill/NASACRE Award
A successful bid for £3,100 enabled SACRE to jointly organise with Bath Spa University a series of workshops for all VI form students in the authority. (See 'RE Today' Autumn 2010).

 - 10.4 Freedom of information request
A request was received to provide to a member of the public the cost of SACRE and publishing the locally agreed syllabus from 2005 to 2010.

11. SACRE arrangements
 - 11.1 Professional, administrative support and finance
(See Appendix 2)

