



## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Date**        **Thursday 1 November 2018**  
**Time**        **1.30 pm**  
**Venue**       **Committee Room 1B - County Hall, Durham**

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### **Business**

#### **Part A**

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.  
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's  
agreement.**

1. Introductions, Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2018 (Pages 3 - 6)
3. Declarations of interest, if any
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairs Comments
6. Presentation from a SACRE Member
7. Secondary Curriculum Group - Key Stage 4 RE
8. CoRE Report: The Way Forward (Pages 7 - 12)
9. RE Adviser Report (Pages 13 - 14)
10. Date of the next meeting
11. Any other business
12. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

**Helen Lynch**

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall  
Durham

24 October 2018

To: **The Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**1. Church of England**

N Chapman, K Passmore, R Sansom, H Tait and C Weir

**2. Other Religious Denominations and Faiths**

J Bainbridge	- Methodist Church
V Gallant	- Judaism
W Gray	- Buddhism
F Johnson	- Methodist Church
J Nicholls	- Society of Friends (Quaker)
I Osborne	- Roman Catholic
J Pallister	- Roman Catholic
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	- Hinduism
C Singh	- Sikhism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith
M Turner	- Islam

**3. Teachers Associations**

V Bain	- NEU
S Baker	- NEU
B Dunn	- RE Curriculum Group
A Hartley	- NASUWT
S Lupton	- RE Curriculum Group
P Welch	- NEU

**4. County Council Representatives**

Councillors P Brookes, C Martin, W Stelling and F Tinsley

**5. Co-opted Members**

M Dixon  
S Walker - Humanist

**Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)**

Isobel Short

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Contact: Paula Nicholson

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**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 2 - County Hall, Durham on Thursday 7 June 2018 at 1.30 pm**

**Present:**

**P Welch (Chairman) In the Chair**

**Church of England**

N Chapman, K Passmore, R Sansom and C Weir

**Other Religious Denominations and Faiths**

J Bainbridge	- Methodist Church
W Gray	- Buddhism
J Pallister	- Roman Catholic
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	- Hinduism
C Singh	- Sikhism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith

**Teachers Associations**

V Bain	- NEU
S Baker	- NEU
B Dunn	- RE Curriculum Group

**County Council Representatives**

Councillors P Brookes, C Martin and F Tinsley

**Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)**

Isobel Short

**Co-opted Member**

M Dixon

**Also in Attendance**

S Walker (Humanist)

**1 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from G Chaundy, V Gallant, A Hartley, F Johnson, S Lupton and H Tait.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular B Dunn who had recently been appointed as a representative for the RE Curriculum Group. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief introduction of their background.

## **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

## **4 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **5 Chair's Comments**

The Chairman referred to the Interim Report: Religious Education for All and advised Members that the final report was due to be published mid-September 2018. Himself and the RE Subject Adviser would look closely at the report.

The Chairman also raised concerns with the recruitment of RE teachers and in response to a question advised Members that in Durham there were SCITTs for Religious Education located at Shotton Hall Academy, Hermitage Academy and St. Bede's, Lanchester, there was also a SCITT located at Carmel College in Darlington.

He then went on to explain how Durham University used to offer a PGCE course for Religious Education but this was no longer offered and was replaced with SCITTs.

## **6 Presentation from a SACRE Member**

That the item be deferred to the next meeting of SACRE.

## **7 Key Stage 4 Provision for RE**

The RE Subject Adviser had circulated a report that gave 6 options for RE provision at Key Stage 4 and sought Members thoughts on the report.

The RE Subject Adviser then delivered a presentation that looked at Religious Education at Key Stage 4 and asked Members how SACRE could support schools.

Following the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to discuss the presentation and ask questions.

## **8 Co-option of Humanist Member**

The Chairman sought Members thoughts on the co-option of a Humanist representative onto Durham SACRE.

S Walker, who is a member of the North East Humanists had observed a number of SACRE meetings and recently made a presentation to SACRE on Humanism.

Members discussed the co-option and agreed to Co-opt a Humanist Representative to Durham SACRE.

S Walker was welcomed to the meeting as the Co-opted Member for Humanism.

## **9 RE and Controlled Schools**

The RE Subject Adviser advised Members that RE in aided schools would follow the Diocesan Syllabus and that controlled schools follow the locally agreed syllabus. She would shortly be meeting with the Diocese advisers to talk through various issues.

## **10 Update from RE Adviser**

The RE Subject Adviser advised Members that she had been asked to contribute an item on Religious Education for a booklet that Durham County Council were producing on literacy.

She also advised Members that she has started to visit some schools in relation to KS4 provision of Religious Education.

The RE Subject Adviser advised Members that she receives a number of queries from schools who are wanting to obtain contact details and recommendations for places of worship that schools could visit as part of their RE provision. The RE Subject Adviser stated that she did not keep such a list and this was in fact kept by the North East Religious Resources Centre. She suggested that SACRE recommended to the authority that an e mail be sent to schools to promote this service and provide contact details.

Members discussed the proposal and agreed to recommend to the authority that an e mail be sent to schools promoting the service offered by the North East Religious Resources Centre.

## **11 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of Durham SACRE would be held on 1 November 2018.

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## Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward CoRE Report September 2018

This is the final report from the Commission on Religious Education. It is based on two years of consultation and consideration. The full report is available on the Religious Education Council (REC) website.

The report gives some evidence for the current landscape in Religious Education, proposes a new vision for the subject and makes eleven recommendations for the future of Religious Education in England. These include recommendations to change legislation and guidance for RE.

This detailed report does give some very interesting insights into the religious and non-religious landscape in Britain today and describes it as 'complex, diverse and plural'. The report will prove useful in helping us as we revise our Agreed Syllabus and think about the purpose, nature and breadth of Religious Education over the next few years.

It is too early to tell yet whether all the recommendations will be acted upon and what these may mean for RE, SACREs and schools. NASACRE have already responded to the report with the NASACRE Executive issuing a statement in the SACRE Briefing Issue 20:

*“PLEASE NOTE: the CoRE report is NOT statutory and therefore all SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences should continue to operate as before. All Agreed Syllabi must still be implemented and reviewed in line with current legislation”.*

I will keep SACRE updated of any developments based on the CoRE report.

On the next page are the 11 recommendations which I have categorised. The numbers in brackets refer to the number of the recommendation in the CoRE report.

Proposed statutory changes	Teaching support	Curriculum and Monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the title of the subject from Religious Education to Religion and Worldviews (1)</li> <li>• Make the proposed National Entitlement in RE statutory for all publicly funded schools (2)</li> <li>• Remove the requirement on local authorities to convene Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASC) and produce an Agreed Syllabus as this will no longer be necessary (4)</li> <li>• Amend legislation on SACREs, changing name to Local Advisory Network for Religion and Worldviews, changing membership groups, ringfencing funding (8)</li> <li>• Review the right of withdrawal from Religious Education (11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce national non-statutory Programmes of Study KS1 – 4 similar to National Curriculum subjects (3)</li> <li>• Increase support and training at Initial Teacher Education (6)</li> <li>• Strengthen CPD for teaching the national Programmes of Study with government funding for 5 years (7)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review external accreditation in RE (GCSE, A Level, vocational) against National Entitlement when there is a general review of these specifications (5)</li> <li>• Strengthen monitoring of the subject e.g. Ofsted to monitor school compliance against National Entitlement, DfE to publish data on hours taught for all subjects (9)</li> <li>• DfE to review the impact of school performance measures (e.g EBacc., Progress 8) on the provision and quality of the subject. (10)</li> </ul>

SACRE = Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

CPD = Continuing Professional Development

DfE = Department for Education

EBacc = English Baccalaureate

## Recommendation 8

This is the proposed change to legislation regarding the establishment of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) by local authorities. The full details of this can be found on pages 56/57 of the CoRE full report, Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward

This recommendation has several points but the key ones are that:

- legislation regarding SACREs would be amended so that SACREs would be renamed from Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to Local Advisory Network on Religion and Worldviews (the recommended new title for Religious Education)
- the Local Advisory Network would remain the statutory responsibility of the Local Authority (LA)
- statutory funding for the Local Advisory Network will be provided within centralised School Funding which all local authorities receive. This will be ring-fenced
- the Local Advisory Network would have responsibility for all schools within the local authority boundary including academies and aided schools
- membership would change from the current 4 committees to 5 groups: teachers of RE; ITE/CPD providers, school providers including LAs, academy trusts, dioceses; school leaders and governors; religious and non-religious communities and groups that support RE (including local galleries and museums as well as faith communities).
- the main function of the Local Advisory Networks would be to facilitate the implementation of the statutory National Entitlement and to provide information on sources of support and local communities for the teaching of the subject.
- the Local Advisory Network could provide CPD, develop local programmes of study (there is an expectation that they will apply for national funding to do this), provide resource material and support for engagement with local communities, provide advice to schools on matters relating to religion.

## **A perspective from the RE Adviser: some issues to consider**

- In some respect this is no different to the activities of current SACREs. The main difference, however, is that Local Authority Networks would have no power or need to require the Local Authority to revise their Agreed Syllabus or form into an Agreed Syllabus Conference. They would not be providing guidance and support on their own Agreed Syllabus (as this has been abolished) but would instead be providing information and support on the statutory National Entitlement. Does this reduce the remit and power of SACREs and does this matter?
- There is a change in language from a 'standing council' to an 'advisory network'. NASACRE are concerned about this and state that 'standing' implies permanence and gravitas within the local democratic structure as opposed to something which sounds more transient and could be confused with local interfaith organisations which meet to share and discuss but not to pass resolutions or give clear advice. How much does the place of SACRE within the Council structure matter?
- I can see that the change of name does partially come about because of the proposed change in name of the subject from Religious Education to Religion and Worldviews. Whilst the name of the subject may be a matter for debate it does not follow that the change of SACRE name needs to be so radical especially as much of the work that SACRE and a new LAN would do is the same. Why can't it change to Standing Advisory Council on Religion and Worldviews? This would surely keep it more in line with current role and status whilst still allowing for a change in the committee structure. Does the proposed name change matter?
- The change to the committee structure does reflect the changing landscape within schools and with religious affiliation (as shown in the last census) and does seem necessary if SACRE is to be relevant for all children within the local authority. What are the implications for us as SACRE and what opportunities and challenges would this change present?
- The requirement for local authorities to convene and host these Local Advisory Networks is encouraging and does show that the Commission on RE regards local authorities as central in providing good RE locally. This is good as evidence is that many local authorities have struggled to convene and keep their SACRE functioning effectively and having any impact on RE in schools. The widening of the remit to include all schools does help to address confusion about the responsibility of SACREs – is it just for maintained schools or for all children who live within the local authority boundary? CoRE make their position clear.
- The clarity about funding is also welcome. Local authorities do receive centralised ring-fenced funding for many aspects of school work but

SACRE is not covered by this. This can lead to some real confusion as to who in the Local Authority is responsible for providing funding for the effective working of SACRE. Again, CoRE are making their position clear.

- NASACRE do point out that the CoRE report only covers Religious Education and not Collective Worship. It is not clear what would happen about Collective Worship if the proposals became statutory and whether CW would also be part of the remit of the newly constituted Local Advisory Networks? This lack of clarity is rather unhelpful.
- NASACRE again: "Given that any legislative change is highly unlikely, we are disappointed that the Commission did not make recommendations which strengthen the existing statutory framework."

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# RE MATTERS

## The RE Adviser Report

### *Autumn Term 2018*

#### RE Networks

##### PRIMARY NETWORK

This took place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at Durham Leadership Centre between 1.00 and 4.00 pm. 45 primary RE leaders attended. The programme included:

- practical activities to engage pupils in deep learning in RE e.g. Map from Memory
- Agreed Syllabus update and consultation
- Big Picture planning for units at KS1 and KS2

##### SECONDARY NETWORK

This will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Durham Leadership Centre from 1.15 until 4.30 pm approximately. This network is for leaders of RE in secondary schools and will include presentations about the new GCSE in Religious Studies.

##### RE SPECIAL FOCUS NETWORK

A new network is being held this year across all subjects. This RE network is for any teachers of RE in secondary schools. Three meetings will be held across the year (one each term) and the focus will be on the use of literacy within RE. Reference will be made to the handbook 'The Literacy Journey' produced by Education Durham last year. We will focus on the guidance and advice given in this publication on embedding oracy, writing and reading in RE. It is anticipated that this will lead to some practical classroom-based research, which can be shared widely between schools. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November from 4.15 until 6.00 pm.

#### NASACRE

NASACRE has requested information from all SACREs about the funding they receive. They are trying to build up a picture of funding across the country and inconsistencies in how different SACREs are supported and are able to fulfil their functions effectively. Data will be published anonymously.

#### Agreed Syllabus Revision

Durham now has contracts to work with three other local authorities to revise their Agreed Syllabus for RE: Hartlepool, North Tyneside, South Tyneside. These Local Authorities will adopt and adopt the newly revised Durham Agreed Syllabus. The contract includes professional advice (from myself as the RE Adviser in Durham), support at the Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings, editing and revising the Syllabus and holding launch/training events for schools.

The latest NASACRE newsletter (Issue 20) requests information from SACREs who may wish to help other Local Authorities revise their Agreed Syllabus for RE – "NASACRE is aware that many Agreed Syllabus Conferences may wish to adopt and adapt to local contexts an Agreed Syllabus from another SACRE area, rather than write their own. Other SACREs may have a syllabus that they are eager to share either for a payment or for free. In order to facilitate this, we are planning on including a list of available Agreed Syllabuses in future SACRE briefings.

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