



Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Date **Wednesday 2 March 2011**
Time **1.30 pm**
Venue **Committee Room 1B - County Hall, Durham**

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. Who Are We? Presentation by Wendy Gray
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 November 2010 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Publication of Papers
5. Chairs Comments
6. Matters Arising
7. Agreed Syllabus Conference
8. Interfaith Week
9. Collective Worship
10. SACRE Annual Report - Report of the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education and Citizenship (Pages 7 - 28)
11. SACRE Updates - Report of the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education and Citizenship (Pages 29 - 36)
12. Date of Next Meeting

13. Any Other Business
14. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
22 February 2011

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

1. Church of England (5)

Canon L Burton, Revd. J Jewsbury, Mrs J Katsambis and
Mrs D Mowbray-Pape

2. Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

J Bainbridge	- Methodist Church
I Derrache-Thompson	- Islam
S Baker	- NUT
W Gray	- Buddhism
B Guymer	- Baptist Church
J Kidd	- Methodist Church
I Osborne	- Roman Catholic
J Pallister	- Roman Catholic
S Purba	- Sikhism
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	- Hinduism
D Sadlik	- Judaism
S Brown	- Assemblies of God
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith
M Stephenson	- United Reform Church

3. Teachers Associations

Mrs C Callaghan	- NUT
Mrs A Carter	- R E Curriculum Group
Ms A Hartley	- NAS/UWT
Mr P Lamb	- SHA
Mrs J Pearce	- R E Curriculum Group
Mr P Welch	- NUT

4. County Council Representatives

Councillors J Blakey, M Dixon, S Iveson and M Simmons

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education and Citizenship)

Isobel Short

**Educational Development Advisor (Religious Education and
Citizenship)**

Catherine Robson

Contact: Jo March

**Email: joanne.march@durham.gov.uk
Tel: 0191 383 3481**

This page is intentionally left blank

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at the County Hall, Durham on Thursday 4 November 2010.

Present:

CANON L BURTON in the Chair

1. Church of England

Canon L Burton

2. Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

Roman Catholic

J Pallister

Methodist Church

J G Kidd and J Bainbridge

Assemblies of God

S Brown

Islam

Ijou Derrache – Thompson

Buddhism

W Gray

Bahá'í Faith

C Spencer

3. Teachers Associations

NUT

S Baker and P Welch

NAS / UWT

A Hartley

4. County Council Representatives

Councillors M Dixon

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education and Citizenship)

Isobel Short

Educational Development Advisor (Religious Education and Citizenship)

Catherine Robson

Engagement and Third Sector Officer

Ian Hunter Smart

1. Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from C Callaghan, A Carter, J Katsambis, I Osborne, Bhakti Rasa, C Reynolds, D Sadlik, Councillor J Blakey, Councillor S Iveson and Councillor M Simmons.

Linda Burton welcomed back Judith Bainbridge and was delighted she will be returning as Chair of SACRE. Judith thanked SACRE for their good wishes.

Isobel informed SACRE that Diane Mowbray is back to work after a long illness and she hopes to return to SACRE in the spring.

Bhakti Rasa emailed his apologies for the next 3 meetings as he is in India studying.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10 June 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 June 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Chairs Comments

Linda Burton commented on the Ofsted report stating that we need to focus on specific parts of the report and look at the exam data comparing year on year.

Linda received a letter of resignation from Charlotte Reynolds who has had to resign from SACRE as she is finding it difficult to attend during school time.

4. Matters Arising

Referring to item No. 3 of Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 June 2010, Isobel had no further information on the legal position for Religious Education and Collective Worship within Secure Units.

Isobel contacted Bill Moore, Chair of NASACRE who was unable to clarify the legal position at this time. Isobel also stated that there will no longer be a DCSF or QCDA Advisor for RE. Isobel will continue to talk to other RE Inspector and Advisors across the Country.

Guidance suggests that SACRE can choose whether to have a Humanist as a representative or co-opted member on SACRE.

Councillor Mike Dixon informed SACRE that Durham has lost an Academy and that the Consett Academy is under threat.

Isobel informed members that Academies in Durham have indicated that they wish to buy the support and monitoring that Durham Education Service provides. It is unclear how much involvement SACRE would have with Academies. Linda asked if Isobel could find out nationally to try and get a collective response.

5. SACRE Updates

Isobel Short presented the Durham SACRE Updates (for copy see file of minutes).

The Local Authority's budget is having some impact on SACRE. We will still have funding for identified work such as Audits, Inter Faith Conferences and Celebrating RE Month. Unfortunately we have been unsuccessful in securing funding for Bursary Awards.

Isobel has received several requests under the Freedom of Information Act for copies of Durham's Agreed Syllabus, funding for SACRE over the last 5 years, including professional and admin support. In the past we have had requests for our Agreed Syllabus, but have been reluctant to send without payment. Hartlepool paid £16,000 for Isobel to write their syllabus demonstrating that the cost for the production of an agreed syllabus is high. Durham cannot therefore provide the agreed syllabus for nothing.

Paul Welch read from the FOI Act 2000 which states in section 13.1 that a charge can be made for the Information supplied.

Isobel had been asked to comment on a request that had been received by a local MP who had received a letter from one of his constituents. The parent expressed concerns about the number of times children were being asked to pray throughout the day and the nature of the prayers. Isobel provided a detailed response on the law and the position of SACRE regarding collective worship and the use of prayer. Isobel has met with the head teacher to clarify the position and offer some advice and guidance.

Several schools are unclear about collective worship and the role of prayer in community schools. Isobel suggested that we reissue our guidance with additional advice about the use of prayer in schools and adapt our development plan.

Councillor Mike Dixon asked if collective worship training can be included in the teacher training days already set aside. Isobel responded only a few teachers may be interested as few have attended in the past. However this can be considered and offered.

Isobel has arranged collective worship training for SACRE members which is being held at County Hall on Thursday 13 January 2011 at 2.00pm.

6. Interfaith Week

Catherine Robson circulated details of the Inter Faith Week conferences which are to be held on 16 and 18 November 2010 at Spennymoor Development Centre.

Last year the Inter Faith conference was very successful with 115 students attending from 9 different schools. This year there are 16 schools attending over the 2 days with 6 schools on the reserve list.

Catherine thanked members for their invaluable support and invited members who are not already taking part to come along and observe.

Ian Hunter-Smart circulated details of an exhibition 'Building Bridges of Understanding' in celebration of Inter Faith Week which is being held in County Hall from Monday 22 to Thursday 25 November 2010. In addition there will be two awareness raising sessions 'Living as a Buddhist in County Durham' and 'Living as a Muslim in County Durham' which are taking place on 22 November and 24 November 2010.

Ian also circulated details of a 'Having Faith in the Big Society' workshop which is being held at Durham County Cricket Club, Chester le Street on Thursday 25 November 2010.

7. Ofsted Report

Isobel Short circulated her findings of the Ofsted Report (for copy see file of minutes).

Every 3 years Ofsted publish a report on each curriculum area based on subject scrutiny visits undertaken by HMI and RE specialist inspectors. 90 primary and 90 secondary schools are inspected over a 3 year period and judgements are made on teaching, learning, assessment, curriculum and leadership and management of the subject.

Isobel suggested that SACRE revisit the report at the next meeting to work in groups and discuss the report.

8. Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT) Questionnaire Analysis

Catherine Robson circulated the responses from 64 Newly Qualified Teachers (for copy see file on minutes).

Religious Education was the main subject for only 3% of NQTs which reflects the trend of Initial Teaching Training programmes moving away from main subjects.

The NQTs identified training needs in knowledge and understanding of different religions, creative and challenging RE, resources for RE, understanding the Durham Agreed Syllabus and future updates and RE Networks.

9. Key Stage 4 Data Analysis 2010

Isobel Short circulated the Key Stage 4 Data Analysis for 2010 (for copy see file of minutes).

Isobel informed SACRE of the difficulty in achieving good grades in short courses but schools have seen huge improvement with 5 A* to C GCSE grades with English and Maths. Linda Burton commented that this rise may be having a consequence for RE as core subjects are concentrated to the detriment of RE.

Members asked if Isobel had previous years results to compare. She responded that when the SACRE task group meet to write letters to schools they can analyse progress over the last 3 years.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

Wednesday 2 March 2011.

11. Any Other Business

Isobel asked the SACRE Task Group members to stay behind to arrange a date for the next Task Group meeting to discuss result letters.

Wendy Gray and Paul Welch volunteered for the task group.

This page is intentionally left blank

DURHAM SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2010

CONTENTS

1. Monitoring of RE

2. Support for RE

3. The Management of SACRE and partnership with Local Authority and other key stakeholders

4. Agreed Syllabus

5. Collective Worship

Appendix A Standards at Key Stage 4

Appendix B Interfaith Conference report

Appendix C Membership of SACRE

Appendix D Attendance

1. MONITORING OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- SACRE has a statutory duty to advise the Local Authority on matters relating to agreed syllabus religious education. In order to do this, SACRE monitors provision, standards, teaching and learning in religious education so it they can discuss current strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations to the Local Authority on how they can best support and challenge schools. SACRE monitor by requesting information from the local authority (e.g. standards, information about monitoring visits), carrying out their own survey work (e.g. through questionnaires) and by asking for funding for specific monitoring activities (primary audit visits). They also analyse any Ofsted subject scrutiny visits in religious education visits that may have taken place in County Durham.
- The Inspector for RE has continued to visit secondary religious education departments in order to monitor provision, standards, teaching and learning, leadership and management of RE. All secondary schools are visited approximately every two years. These visits aid schools in their own internal review systems and inform the Local Authority about standards and provision within their schools.
- The Inspector completed her first cycle of visits to the thirty two secondary schools in County Durham* (January 2008 – March 2010) in 2010 and produced a detailed report on her findings. This has been used to recommend ways in which religious education departments can be supported, both in school, by SACRE and by the Local Authority.
- SACRE has continued to analyse entry and standards in religious education at Key Stage 4; this is an annual agenda item in the November meeting. SACRE uses the Local Authority data analysis (provided by the Inspector) in order to evaluate the number of entries, attainment and achievement. Please see Appendix A for a summary of findings.
- As well as evaluating the percentage number of students achieving A* - C and A*/A in each school against national and Local Authority averages, SACRE continues to analyse results for each school against Fischer Family Trust data. This gives the percentage of pupils gaining A* - C against expectations and is therefore a more accurate indication of success and achievement than Local Authority or national averages. It is possible to evaluate whether individual pupils have added value to their estimated grade or have not achieved expectations and see whether there are any emerging patterns in particular schools and across the Authority. This gives a clearer picture of the success of pupils and individual RE Departments.
- SACRE has continued to use this analysis to advise the Local Authority about the need for training or individual support in schools.
- SACRE sends a letter each year to each secondary school in order to comment on exam entries or standards, offer congratulations or support through the Education Development Service. SACRE now uses this opportunity to comment on any other information received

about the religious education department e.g. participation in the Inter Faith Conferences, changes in staffing, monitoring visits.

- SACRE audit visits to a small sample of primary schools have continued this year. These have been undertaken by Marilyn Longstaff, independent Consultant in RE (formerly Adviser for RE and professional support to SACRE). These visits do not include any Ofsted judgements; their purpose is to inform SACRE about RE in schools, help schools identify best practice and consider ways in which they may develop further. The schools receive a written report on main findings and recommendations and can have a follow up visit from the Education Development Adviser (EDA). This has been well received with several schools requesting further contracted support.
- A summary of findings from primary audit visits will be made available to SACRE in 2011.
- A questionnaire for SACRE was completed by all primary newly qualified teachers (NQTs) at the training sessions held in March 2010. This was analysed by the Education Development Adviser who produced a summary report for the SACRE meeting in November 2010.
- One Ofsted subject scrutiny visit has taken place in Durham this year. The HMI visited a primary school and the report is on the Ofsted website. SACRE did not receive this report from Ofsted (this is the recommended practice).
- Ofsted produced its long report on religious education visits undertaken across the country between 2006 and 2009 (a report is published every three years). It is entitled, "Transforming Religious Education". The report contains information on visits to primary and secondary schools, outlines some of the challenges facing religious education in England today and makes recommendations. The Inspector prepared a report which compared the findings of Ofsted in secondary schools with the findings in secondary religious education departments in Durham schools (through the Inspector monitoring visits). This was discussed by SACRE at the November meeting.

** The Local Authority Inspector for RE does not monitor provision of RE in Roman Catholic Aided schools as this is the responsibility of the Diocese. Roman Catholic schools provide RE according to Diocesan guidelines and do not use the locally Agreed Syllabus.*

2. SUPPORT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SACRE uses information received through monitoring procedures to identify ways in which SACRE and the Education Development Service can support schools. It notes the following advice and support for schools provided through the Local Authority Education Development Service and SACRE.

General Support to Schools

- As part of their service level agreement with Durham Education Development Service, a number of primary and secondary schools have requested contracts to support RE. These have mainly been carried out by the Education Development Adviser (EDA) and have included staff meetings and support of individual teachers and groups of teachers. The EDA provides a report on her work to SACRE regularly.
- Following on from the success of the inaugural Durham SACRE school Inter Faith conference in 2009, SACRE funded two Inter Faith days (primary and secondary) in November 2010 to coincide with national Inter Faith Week. Schools were invited to bring students to a morning or afternoon session to meet people of faith and beliefs, hear about their lives and beliefs and ask them questions. The primary conference was on the theme of worship with the secondary conference focusing on beliefs about life and death. The days were organised by Catherine Robson, EDA and involved several SACRE members and members of local faith communities. Evaluations from students, teachers and faith members rated the days highly. A more detailed report can be found in Appendix B.
- The RE section of the Durham Learning Gateway (DLG) has been developed. This includes updates and guidance, links to national documentation and a discussion forum for teachers to ask questions and raise issues. Further development will take place in 2011.

Support for Secondary Schools

- Lat Blaylock from RE Today Services returned to Durham to lead the annual secondary RE Conference in March. Lat had led the day last year and many teachers had requested that he be invited back. Lat provided teachers with a wide range of challenging classroom activities, all of which were appropriately pitched for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students.
- Catherine Robson, Education Development Adviser (EDA) ran a one day course, 'Raising Achievement in RE at Key Stage 4' in September this year. Twelve delegates attended. Evaluations were excellent. One delegate stated, " If you want to engage and motivate students, share collaboratively with colleagues and come away inspired and with practical strategies to raise KS4 attainment you must attend this course".
- Secondary RE networks have continued to be held termly. The Inspector provides local and national updates and explores current issues with colleagues. Various papers and reports have been

presented and discussed, e.g. Ofsted's 'Transforming Religious Education', Ofsted guidance for RE subject scrutiny visits, the Inspector's long report on Cycle One of monitoring in Durham secondary schools, 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010'. The EDA has provided various practical activities and resources. An example of a new technology which can be used within RE is being showcased at each network e.g. in the November network, secondary colleagues were able to talk to Dorothy Sadlik, Jewish representative through skype.

- Two networks have been held for newly qualified teachers or non-specialist teachers of RE. These have not been very well attended but colleagues found them useful and supportive.
- Two EDAs (Catherine Robson, Trish Benson) worked with a small number of individual RE departments to focus on raising attainment at Key Stage 4. This included tutoring small numbers of students and providing revision days over the Easter holiday.
- The EDAs continued in the first part of 2010 to work with a small number of schools who had been involved with the RE and ICT project.
- The Inspector has been involved in offering support and guidance on pedagogy and the use of new technologies to schools in the building Schools for the Future initiative. Whilst this initiative has ceased for several schools in Durham, support for all schools in the use of emerging technologies has continued. The EDA began work on guidance of specific strategies that can be used to enhance learning in RE. These are being trialled in early 2011 and will be made available to all Durham schools.

Support for Primary Schools

- As well as the secondary RE conference in March, Lat Blaylock also ran the annual primary RE conference the following day. He focused on practical teaching and learning activities. Approximately 25 delegates attended the day. Again, evaluations rated the course highly. SACRE is grateful to Lat for the friendly support he has offered and the excellent strategies he has shared with Durham teachers.
- The Education Development Adviser led a one day course for primary RE Co-ordinators in October. Nine delegates attended.
- Four half day sessions were run for primary NQTs (Newly Qualified Teachers) led by the Inspector for RE and the EDA. These sessions focused on the requirements of Durham Agreed Syllabus and some examples of good teaching and learning methodology.
- Some primary networks have been held across the region at the end of the school day (Leadgate in the north, St Margaret's for central schools). One meeting was also held at Carter House in Durham, the resource centre for NERLRC. One network has been held at the Durham Leadership Centre during the school day. Numbers remain small at these networks and schools will be consulted about whether they would prefer to meet centrally or continue with current provision.

External and Specific Support and Monitoring

- The Inspector has continued to receive requests to support some Durham schools in their selection process for teachers and leaders in RE. She has been involved in lesson observations and interviews and offered advice and guidance where appropriate.
- The Education Development Service has been asked to provide support to teachers in South Tyneside through a termly network; the first meeting was held in October.
- The Inspector has been asked to provide some advice and guidance to schools outside the local authority. She has undertaken RE monitoring visits in schools, been part of selection panels and offered advice to a local SACRE on the procedure for revising the locally Agreed Syllabus. The EDA has also offered follow up support to one school after a monitoring visit.

3. THE MANAGEMENT OF SACRE AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- SACRE membership in each Committee remains strong and all meetings have been quorate this year.
- SACRE has met three times this year: March, June, November 2010. All meetings were held in one of the committee rooms at County Hall. SACRE continues to hold the view that SACRE meetings should take place in the public council meeting rooms where they are visible to all.
- The SACRE Task Group has met throughout the year; to review and revise SACRE's self-evaluation and Development Plan and to write to secondary schools following the analysis of Key Stage 4 examination results.
- SACRE continues to receive professional advice through the Inspector for RE who also provides SACRE with a national and local update at each meeting; this is used as a basis for discussion and evaluation.
- Support is also provided by an Education Development Adviser (EDA) who specialises in RE. It is she who organised the highly successful school Inter Faith conferences this year.
- SACRE has been well supported this year by the clerk to SACRE Jill Parker. Jill has now moved to another position during the year and has been replaced by Jo March.
- Durham SACRE continues to enjoy a constructive and supportive relationship with the Local Authority and continues to receive funding for running costs and projects identified. SACRE are aware of budget constraints within Local Authorities. Whilst SACRE were no longer supported in their bid for bursary funding they are grateful to the Local Authority for funding for the Inter Faith Conferences and project work around Celebrating RE Month, March 2011.
- SACRE members have continued to give short presentations at full SACRE meetings about themselves, their work or faith. This year Councillor Mike Dixon talked about his work as a County Councillor and his work as a priest in the Church of England. Dorothy Sadlik talked about being Jewish and the impact this has on her life and family. These remain valuable experiences as members learn more about each other and the faiths and beliefs represented around County Durham.
- Several SACRE members visited the Orthodox Jewish Synagogue, Gosforth in April. Rabbi Dovid Lewis and Dorothy Sadlik, our Jewish representative on SACRE showed us around the synagogue and spoke about Jewish life. Deanna Van Delde joined us as together we discussed some of the issues that face people of faith and no faith today.
- SACRE continues to work with local partners and stakeholders. The RE Inspector is a member of The North East Religious Learning Resources Centre (NERLRC). The Director of NERLRC attended the primary RE conference in March 2010. There is a close partnership with the Education Service at Durham Cathedral and many Durham schools visit the Cathedral and undertake the specifically designed tours to support agreed syllabus work on pilgrimage, northern saints, sacraments and worship.

Durham SACRE will be working with NERLRC and the Cathedral on a joint project for Celebrating RE Month March 2011.

- SACRE is kept informed of any issues affecting RE and Collective worship in Initial Teacher Training provision through the Head of Programme at Durham University (Vice- Chair of SACRE).
- SACRE is kept informed of local faith issues by Ian Hunter Smart, Community Development Officer (with responsibility for faiths and beliefs) through his attendance at SACRE meetings. Durham Faiths Network have been very supportive of the SACRE Inter Faith conferences this year with members of the network offering to lead workshops.
- The RE Inspector represents Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) on the Local Authority Racist Incidents Panel and meets regularly with staff from EMTAS (Ethnic Minority Traveller Achievement Services). Whilst specific information remains confidential, the Inspector can keep SACRE informed of any generic issues or patterns relating to faith and beliefs that may be discussed at this panel.
- The Inspector is also one of the representatives of CYPS on the Local Authority Counter Terrorism Panel. She has kept SACRE informed of issues that relate to local faith communities, particularly towards the Muslim community.
- The Inspector for RE and the Education Development Adviser are members of AREIAC (Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education). They use this membership to keep SACRE and teacher groups informed of developments and good practice.
- Durham SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). They received a CD of training materials which is being used as a basis for induction and training on specific areas of responsibility.
- The Inspector attended the NASACRE AGM in May 2010 and provided a summary and report for SACRE members at the June meeting.
- SACRE received a Freedom of Information request this year for details of all costs for SACRE over the last five years including professional and clerical support, revision of Agreed Syllabus. SACRE understands that this request was made to several Local Authorities.
- SACRE received a request this year to advise the Local Authority about parental right of withdrawal from religious education after the local authority received a query from a member of the public. The Inspector advised the local authority on behalf of SACRE.

4. AGREED SYLLABUS

- The revision of the Agreed Syllabus was due to begin in 2010. Due to the number of new initiatives within education (e.g. new curriculum at secondary, proposed new curriculum at primary, Building Schools for the Future and its impact on pedagogical understanding) and an imminent general election, SACRE decided to delay revision until 2011.
- The new Coalition Government are making changes to educational practice and policy (e.g. introduction of English Baccalaureate, revision of curriculum with increased emphasis on subject knowledge) which will have impact on schools. These will be considered as part of the Agreed Syllabus review process.
- Consultation and revision will take place in 2011 and 2012 with launch and implementation in the summer and autumn of 2012.
- The Inspector has contributed to national collaboration meetings for Agreed Syllabus revision. This has included presentations from several Religious Education Advisers and discussions about developments. This will be used within the revision process.

5. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- SACRE were asked this year to provide the Local Authority with the number of schools who provided alternative acts of collective worship (determinations) for groups of students in their schools. This was a Freedom of Information request.
- No such applications for determinations have been made and no schools currently have been issued with a determination.
- SACRE were asked to provide advice to a Member of Parliament about the use of prayer in a community school. This followed a query to the MP from a member of the public. SACRE, through the Inspector for RE, provided detailed advice both on statutory requirements of collective worship and good practice.
- SACRE members requested an extra training session on collective worship so that they could fully understand legal requirements and the ways in which schools can provide good quality acts of collective worship. This is taking place on January 6th 2011 and will be led by the Inspector.
- SACRE has requested that the Local Authority provides inservice training for schools on collective worship in 2011.
- The Inspector will be providing some training for School Improvement Partners (SIPs) on collective worship early in 2011.
- One school requested support and training for collective worship through the Local Authority Service Level Agreement with schools. The Inspector met with the Headteacher to discuss the school Development Plan and clarify legal requirements. The Inspector then led a training session for all staff to outline how quality collective worship can be provided for all children each day.

Appendix A

Standards at Key Stage 4

Entry

- There has been a small decline in overall numbers of entries for some form of external accreditation in Key Stage 4 religious education (GCSE Full Course, Short Course, Entry level) in 2010. 3498 students were entered in 2010 compared to 3762 in 2008 and 3823 in 2009.
- 21 schools entered some of their pupils for Full Course GCSE Religious Studies (1154 entries.) This compares to 22 schools with 1215 entries in 2009.
- 31 schools entered some of their pupils for Short Course Religious Education (2076 entries). This compares to 32 schools and 2398 entries in 2009.
- 9 schools entered some pupils for Entry Level (268 entries). This compares to 9 schools and 210 entries in 2009.
- 8 schools enter over 90% of their cohort for Full, Short Course or Entry Level RE.
- 12 schools enter between 70 and 89% of their cohort for Full, Short Course or Entry Level RE.
- 10 schools enter between 40 and 69% of their cohort for Full, Short Course or Entry Level RE.
- 3 schools enter between 30 and 39% of their cohort for Full, Short Course or Entry Level RE.
- 2 schools enter less than 1% of their cohort with one school entering no students for external accreditation.
- Durham Agreed Syllabus 2006 (following national guidance) requires schools to follow an externally accredited course for RE at Key Stage 4. It is not statutory for pupils to be entered for final examination. SACRE continues to inform schools and the Local Authority on issues of compliance and ways in which pupils can receive high quality learning and external accreditation in RE at KS4. The Inspector for RE informs schools of non-compliance at KS4 through the subject monitoring visits. SACRE sends letters to all schools after exam data and entries have been analysed and will advise about non-compliance where appropriate.

GCSE Full Course

- The percentage of pupils in 2010 gaining A* - C in Durham schools is 76%. This shows an upward trend in recent years (an increase from 74% in 2009) and is above the national average of 73%.
- In line with the local authority analysis of data, Fischer Family Trust D Key Stage 2 – 4 has been used to analyse pupil achievement.
- 12 schools were above expectations with pupils at or above their predicted grade.

- 6 schools were generally in line with predictions (in some schools, some pupils achieved above expectations and some below and so the general pattern was 'flat').
- 3 schools were below expectations with students on average achieving a grade or more than a grade below their predicted grade.
- There is no clear pattern across the Authority in relation to achievement at particular grade boundaries or with boys or girls but SACRE will continue to analyse any emerging patterns each year.

GCSE Short Course

- The average percentage of pupils gaining A* - C at Short Course in Durham schools is 45%. This is an increase from 42% in 2009 but has not yet reached attainment in 2005 of 45%.
- The average % of A* - C in Durham remains below the national average of 54%. It is worth noting that national figures include all schools including independent schools; Durham data refers to comprehensive schools.
- In line with the Local Authority data analysis, SACRE Fischer Family Trust D Key Stage 2 – 4 has been used to analyse pupil achievement in Short Course RE. This is the second year that FFTD has been used rather than Fischer Family Trust B. FFTD is more challenging than FFTB and schools requested that this more aspirational measure was used to analyse data in all subjects.
- One school with 21 students achieved above expectation with pupils achieving on average half a grade above expectation.
- 8 schools achieved just below expectation by half a grade.
- 8 schools achieved below expectation by between half and a full grade.
- 14 schools achieved below expectation with students on average achieving more than one grade below expectation (2 schools by more than 2 grades).
- SACRE recognises the complexity of statistical data and the interpretation put on it, as well as the many and varied factors that can influence entry numbers and results e.g. specialist teaching, adequate curriculum time, early entry (Y10) before pupils are fully prepared for examination, resources, quality of teaching, support from Senior leadership. They are aware, however, that poor teaching can also contribute to poor results in some instances.
- SACRE remains concerned that in some schools pupils are withdrawn from many of their RE lessons in order to receive extra tuition and support for other subjects, particularly English and Maths. Whilst SACRE are sympathetic to the pressure schools are under to ensure pupils attain well in English, Maths and other curriculum areas and recognise the importance of these subjects for pupil progression and life chances, they are concerned that pupils do not always receive their

statutory entitlement to quality RE and external accreditation for their RE learning. They would continue to ask schools to use curriculum time creatively to ensure pupils needs and entitlements can be met fully and that students can achieve well in religious education.

Entry Level

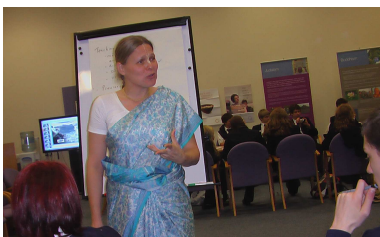
Nine schools entered pupils for Entry Level. This qualification is designed for pupils who are not expected to gain a grade at GCSE. Some schools choose to enter pupils for this rather than Full or Short Course. However, no school only used Entry Level as a form of accreditation.

Different Faith, Shared Values

What is Inter Faith Week?

national inter-faith week
21–27 november 2010

Inter Faith Week ran across England and Wales for a second year from Sunday 21 to Saturday 27 November. Just over two years ago in July 2008, the Department for Communities and Local Government published 'Face to Face and Side by Side – a Framework for Partnership in our Multi Faith Society', that outlined the then Government's strategy for encouraging the further development of inter faith activity in England. The report promoted the value and importance of inter faith dialogue and suggested a framework of how faith communities, Government and wider society could work together, at all levels, to bring people with different religions and beliefs together.



Following this report, the Executive Committee of the Inter Faith Network for the UK

proposed that there be an Inter Faith Week drawing on experience of a successful Week of this kind held in Scotland. The aims of Inter Faith Week are to: strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels; increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, and, in particular, celebrate and build on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society; and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious belief. We designed the conferences around these aims.



Why the development of Inter Faith Week school Conferences?

The key aims of religious education in schools are to help students develop knowledge and understanding of religions represented in Great Britain, use this to explore questions of meaning and truth and reflect on their own beliefs and values. Good RE promotes open-mindedness, respect and

empathy for others. Engaging with a variety of people from diverse beliefs and faiths can help students learn about faiths and develop these attitudes. Through this approach RE makes a significant contribution to the development of community cohesion both locally, nationally and globally.



SACRE wanted to support this particular work in RE by giving students in Durham the opportunity to encounter people of different faiths and values from across the North East, their local community. They felt Interfaith conferences in Durham would provide an enriching and memorable learning experience for young people.



SACRE are also aware of how daunting it is for teachers to organise such events themselves. SACRE wanted to

support colleagues by modelling a conference, giving teachers the opportunity to make contact with people of faith and providing them with practical advice on how to organise a conference in the future in their schools.

The Conference



Following on from the success of the Secondary Inter Faith Week Conference in 2009 and the SACRE bursaries given to schools, we decided to organise two conferences in November 2010 so that children and young people from our primary and secondary school across Durham could benefit.



Both of the conferences were split into two sessions, a morning and an afternoon,

allowing for capacity and ensuring costs were kept within budget. The theme of the Primary Conference on the 16th of November was 'encountering expressions of faith - how do people worship?' 81 Years 3-6 KS2 children from 8 different primary schools met people of different faiths in two different workshops that hinged around how faith members worship.



There was a selection of interactive and creative workshops: Dorothy Sadlik from SACRE led a workshop on Jewish prayer and worship and focussed on Hanukah; Sharon Pritchard's and Andy Hawkins' (from Durham Diocese Board of Education) workshop explored the different and diverse ways Christians can worship; Curt Gardener shared his experience of worship for the Quaker tradition that hinged around 'being still'; Kirtida Richardson ran a workshop that focussed on Hindu shrines and music in Hindu worship; John Roxborough from the Durham

Oriental Museum explored the meaning and purpose of Islamic art.



After the carousel of workshops, all the children joined together in the panel session to ask the representatives questions that had been provoked during the workshops. The children asked a spectrum of insightful questions such as: *What do you do when you pray? Have you ever cried during worship or prayer? Why do you want to be in your religion? Is it difficult belonging to your religion? What is the most important part of your faith?*

The theme of the Secondary Conference on the 18th of November was 'A matter of life and death'.



94 Year 9 and Year 10 students met people of different faiths and values in workshops that focused on life and death issues. The workshops took the form of a philosophical discussion that explored personal beliefs about life after death and some incorporated ethical considerations around the sanctity of life and such issues as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and medical ethics.



The young people experienced two different workshops from a selection that were led by Wendy Gray our Buddhist SACRE member; Kirtida Richardson representing Hinduism; Rabbi Lewis; Roger McAdam representing Humanism and Paul Southgate from the Roman Catholic tradition. After the two workshops, just as in the primary conference, all the young people met together once more and asked the panel questions.



There was an engaging debate around questions such as: *In certain situations throughout your life, have you ever questioned your religion in any way? In your opinion and also in your religion are women equal to men? Do any of you believe in the big bang? If religions believe in a greater being where did that "God" come from and what happened before its existence? Does what you do in this life determine what happens when you die? Do you truly believe that there is life after death or do you want to believe that there is something after death as the human mind can't cope knowing there is nothing?*



*Different Faith,
Shared Values*

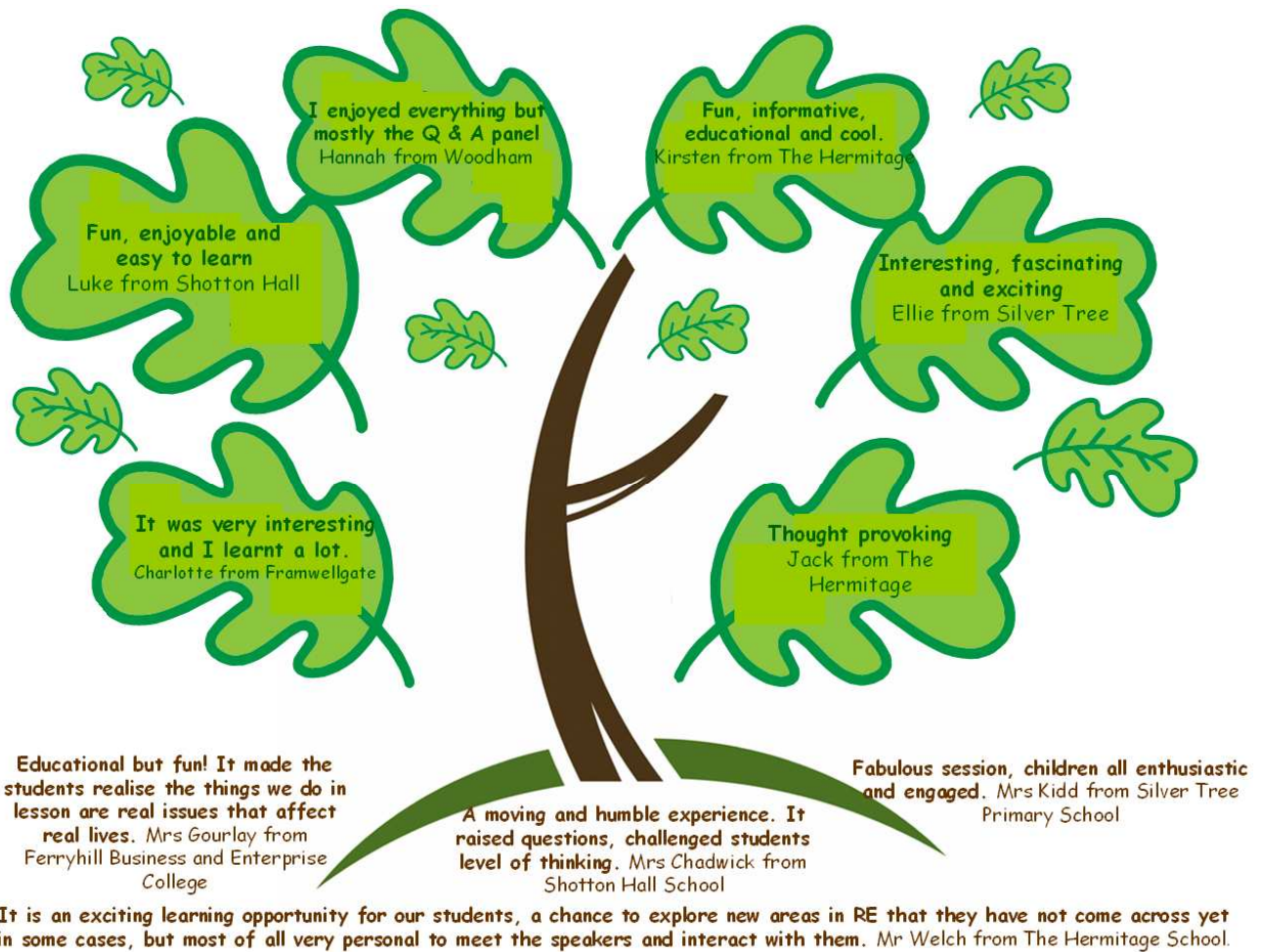
In summary:

We were delighted by the responses from the children and young people and from the quality of the workshops delivered by the different representatives.



The support from SACRE and Durham Faith Network members who attended was invaluable. The conferences were engaging and thought provoking for all those involved, they increased awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the North East of England, they increased understanding between people of religious and non-religious belief and strengthened good inter faith relations.

This can be seen in the following comments:



Appendix C

SACRE Membership:

1. Church of England (5)

Canon L Burton, Revd. J Jewsbury, Mrs J Katsambis,
Mrs D Mowbray-Pape *plus 1 vacancy*

2. Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

Roman Catholic (2)

Mrs I Osborne, Mrs J Pallister

Methodist Church (2)

Mr J G Kidd, Miss J Bainbridge

United Reformed Church (2)

Mrs M Stephenson *plus 1 vacancy*

Baptist Church (1)

Mr W S Guymer

Assemblies of God (1)

Mr S Brown

Sikhism (1)

Mr Purba

Judaism (1)

D Sadlik

Islam (1)

Ijou Derrache – Thompson

Hinduism (1)

Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara

Buddhism (1)

Wendy Gray

Bahá'í Faith (1)

Miss C Spencer

Salvation Army (1)

1 vacancy

Society of Friends (1)

1 vacancy

3. Teachers Associations

R E Curriculum Group (2)

Mrs A Carter and Ms J Pearce

NUT (3)

Mrs S M Baker, Mrs C Callaghan and Mr P Welch

NAS / UWT (2)

Ms A Hartley *plus 1 vacancy*

ATL (1)

1 vacancy

SHA (1)

Mr P Lamb

NAHT (1)

1 vacancy

4. County Council Representatives (4)

Councillors Blakey, Dixon, Iveson and Simmons

Officer Representatives:

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education and Citizenship)

Isobel Short

Educational Development Advisor (Religious Education and Citizenship)

Catherine Robson

Representative from Community Development

Mr I Hunter Smart

Appendix D

Date of Meeting	Committee A (Other Religions)	Committee B (Church of England)	Committee C (Associations representing Teachers)	Committee D (Elected Members)
March 2010	W Gray J Kidd I Osborne D Sadlik C Spencer Ijou Derrache-Thompson	L Burton J Jewsbury J Katsambis	S Baker A Carter A Hartley P Welch	Cllr M Dixon
June 2010	Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara S Brown W Gray J Kidd I Osborne J Pallister D Sadlik C Spencer M Stephenson	L Burton J Katsambis	S Baker A Hartley P Welch	Cllr M Dixon Cllr S Iveson
Nov 2010	J Bainbridge S Brown W Gray J Kidd J Pallister C Spencer Ijou Derrache-Thompson	L Burton	S Baker A Hartley P Welch	Cllr M Dixon

This page is intentionally left blank

DURHAM SACRE Updates March 2011

National Updates

English Baccalaureate

You will have received a briefing paper on the impact for RE of the Government introduction of an English Baccalaureate which does not include RE. (please see Appendix A). I have received a standard reply to my letter (Appendix B) and intend to respond. Whilst it appeared at one point that The Secretary of State for Education was taking concerns seriously, (The Department are certainly impressed by the number of correspondence received), the picture remains bleak for the inclusion of RE. Below is Hansard from the Commons debate of February 7th.

Religious Education

9. **Caroline Nokes** (Romsey and Southampton North) (Con): Whether he plans to include religious education in the humanities section of the English baccalaureate. [38226]

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Religious education did not count towards the humanities element of the English baccalaureate in the 2010 performance tables, because it is already a compulsory subject. One intention of the English baccalaureate is to encourage wider take-up of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory RE.

Caroline Nokes: I thank the Secretary of State for that response, but does he think that the exclusion of religious education from the English baccalaureate might dramatically reduce the number of students studying the RE full course at GCSE and have a knock-on and detrimental effect on the number of candidates for religious education teacher training?

Michael Gove: I am very grateful to my hon. Friend for making her point. We all recognise that high-quality religious education is a characteristic of the very best schools—faith schools and non-faith schools. But the decision to include geography and history in the humanities section of the English baccalaureate will mean that those subjects, which have seen a decline in the number of students pursuing them, will at last see an increase, alongside modern foreign languages. As the Minister of State, Department for Education, my hon. Friend the Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr Gibb) pointed out, the English baccalaureate is intended to be a suite of core academic qualifications, which every child can be expected to follow alongside other qualifications, whether vocational, RE or others.

Andy Burnham (Leigh) (Lab): Can the Secretary of State tell the House on what research or evidence he has based his selection of subjects in the new English baccalaureate?

Michael Gove: Yes. The research and evidence that I undertook was to look at what the highest performing education jurisdictions do. When the OECD published its table on how our country had been doing in education over the past 10 years, I was struck to see that under Labour's stewardship we had slipped in the international league tables for English, for mathematics and for science. I was also struck by the fact that the numbers of students studying modern foreign languages, history and geography were declining. I was particularly struck by the fact that only last week the Russell group said that these are the subjects which the best universities expect of students if they are to go on and prosper and achieve the level of social mobility that sadly eluded us when the right hon. Gentleman was in government.

Andy Burnham: The Secretary of State mentions the OECD, so let me quote from last year's PISA—programme for international student assessment—report, which says: "Most successful school systems grant greater autonomy to individual schools to design curricula and assessment policies".

That is in direct contradiction to what he has just said. I support the right of every child to take these five GCSEs, but it is a narrow selection, and not right for everybody, and the way in which he has introduced it is restricting student choice right now. Many feel that it is not a fair way to judge all children and all schools, suggesting that some are second best. So is he really saying to young people and employers today that dead

languages are more important than business studies, engineering, information and communications technology, music and RE? Will he not listen to the call from the Chair of the Select Committee, made just a few moments ago, to allow a broader and more flexible English baccalaureate?

Mr Speaker: Order. I am sorry, but these questions are becoming excessively long. I hope that we can have a pithy response, and I am sure we will, from the Secretary of State.

Michael Gove: I am surprised that the right hon. Gentleman has the brass neck to quote the PISA figures when they show that on his watch the standard of education which was offered to young people in this country declined relative to our international competitors. Literacy, down; numeracy, down; science, down: fail, fail, fail. I am surprised that he has the brass neck to stand here and to say that working-class children should not study modern foreign languages, should not study science, should not study history and should not study geography. If it is good enough for the likes of him, why should it not be good enough for working-class children elsewhere? Why is he pulling up the drawbridge on social mobility? Why is he saying that they are only fit to be hewers of wood and drawers of water rather than university graduates like you and me, Mr Speaker? Rank hypocrisy!

Paul Maynard (Blackpool North and Cleveleys) (Con): While I entirely accept the Secretary of State's point that RE is compulsory, it is not obligatory to sit the GCSE. Does he agree that the very many faith schools where RE is compulsory are thereby penalised in the calculation of their English baccalaureate achievement?

Michael Gove: I appreciate the care with which my hon. Friend puts his question. I also appreciate the fact that he has been a very strong advocate for faith schools in his own constituency, including St Mary's, whose cause he has championed with particular eloquence. I do appreciate that many schools will want to offer RE as a GCSE, and indeed we would encourage them to do so, but the core element of the English baccalaureate relates to five subjects which we believe are the essential academic knowledge that students should be able to master. The news from the Russell group of universities last week that the subjects that we have chosen for the English baccalaureate are the subjects that they expect students to have if they are to go on to leading universities ensures that there is an appropriate match between schools and universities in advancing social mobility rather than seeing it decline, as happened in the past 13 years.

Revision of the National Curriculum

The Government have announced (January 2011) a review of the National Curriculum in two phases with implementation of core subjects in September 2013 and non-core subjects (whatever these may be) by September 2014. The main thrust of the review is to slim down the curriculum and put greater emphasis on essential subject knowledge. There will be less prescription on teaching methodology. The National Curriculum will remain statutory as do current requirements.

As you will be aware, RE is statutory but locally determined. It is not a National Curriculum subject and so will be directly unaffected by this review. The government have announced that they have no intention to change the statutory order surrounding RE.

" It is essential to distinguish between the National Curriculum and the wider school curriculum. There are a number of important components of a broad and balanced school curriculum which, as is currently the case, it would be inappropriate to prescribe national programmes of study. This applies, for example, in the case of religious education (RE), where what is taught reflects local circumstances. RE will not, therefore, be considered as part of the review of the National Curriculum. The Government does not intend to make any changes to the statutory basis of religious education."

The Agreed Syllabus Conference should, however, take note of developments over the coming months in order to ensure that RE aligns with some of the developments in other subjects.

Academies and Free Schools

The Government are encouraging schools to apply for Academy or free school status. One County Durham school has become an Academy and two other sets of schools will merge and become Academies from September. I do not know figures for primary schools but know that some have shown interest in Academy status.

Academy and free schools are no longer Local Authority schools. As a consequence SACRE would no longer have a role in these schools.

The position of RE in Academies is rather unclear. Guidance 2010 states that non-faith Academies should teach RE according to the Agreed Syllabus but that is not the case under the Academies Act 2010 (where RE may no longer be statutory). There is some confusion about this nationally but we may want to monitor the situation in Durham over the next few months.

John Keast

Many of you will remember John Keast as former Adviser for RE both at Qualification and Curriculum Council (QCA) and the Department for Education (DfES). John visited Durham on several occasions and did speak to SACRE. If you have not already heard I am pleased to tell you that John has been awarded the OBE for his services to education.

Local Updates

Collective Worship

Several SACRE members were able to attend collective worship training in January. I am happy to provide opportunities for training and / or discussing any SACRE issues and responsibilities.

Celebrating RE March 2011

This is a national promotion campaign designed to showcase good RE and promote its importance within schools and to a wider audience. There are many activities taking place across the country with some national conferences and projects involving faith communities and organisations.

SACRE have some funding for developing a project for Celebrating RE Month. This will be an art competition for secondary pupils based. We are working in partnership with Durham Cathedral and the North East RE Centre and hope to organise an exciting trip around the region as the prize! Details still being worked out.

Some Development Work in Schools

Gayle Hackett, Head of RE at Sunnysdale is our lead Teacher in RE this year. Gayle has expertise in developing vodcasts. She is going to produce a vodcast on the importance and value of RE. She is currently interviewing teachers, students and faith members. She would very much like to interview SACRE members and is doing some filming at the Durham Leadership Centre, Spennymoor on March 4th. Please let me know if you could pop in and would be willing to be filmed. If you would be available another day, please let Isobel know.

Sharon Lupton is a new colleague in County Durham who is the Head of RE at Sedgefield School. She is going to develop a piece of work on diversity of faiths in the North East. She hopes to engage students in enquiry based learning. We would be grateful if SACRE members could provide any information about numbers of faith members in the region and other ways in which students could find out about faith groups in the North East. (e.g. recommended websites etc). Please contact Isobel.

Rabbi Dovid Lewis

I am both sad and pleased (sad he is going, pleased for him) to tell you that Rabbi Dovid has a new job in Manchester and will be leaving Gosforth Synagogue. Rabbi Dovid has been a great support of this SACRE both in the interfaith lecture he gave to SACRE a few years ago, in his hospitality when he helped host our SACRE visit to the synagogue in April and with his participation in our Interfaith conferences.

Appendix A (sent as email and in post to SACRE members, January 2010)

SACRE Briefing on Government Proposals for Key Stage 4 January 2011

- The Government are going to introduce a new English Baccalaureate (Bacc) at GCSE Levels which will require students to achieve at least a Grade C GCSE in English, Maths, Science, a language and humanities.
- Humanities subjects have been identified as History or Geography. **Religious Studies is not included.**
- This is likely to have severe consequences for RE provision at Key Stage 4 e.g. the loss of full GCSE as an option (several schools still do this) as students choice will be restricted by the requirement to take History / Geography and a language.
- Responses from Government so far to concerns raised at the lack of RE inclusion in the Bacc is that RE is already a compulsory subject and so does not need to be included in the Bacc. The DfES (Department for Education) state that they are “trying to encourage the wider uptake of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory religious education”.
- Whilst RE would remain a statutory subject (there is no change to the Law requiring the teaching of RE), and should therefore still be taught to all Key Stage 4 students, schools will be under increasing pressure to perform well in the English Bacc subjects. Priority is likely to be given to these subjects and this may be at the detriment of other subjects, including RE e.g. removal of some students for some RE lessons for extra learning in the Bacc subjects. We know this has already happened in some schools when extra support is needed for English and Maths. It is also possible that some Headteachers will choose to ignore statutory requirements and no longer include RE for all students at Key Stage 4.
- The value of RE as an important challenging and academic subject may be lost for students with the resulting fall in take up for AS / A Level and Higher Education courses.
- A Government review of qualifications is also taking place and the future of Short Course GCSEs is uncertain. This again would have consequences for our RE departments and Key Stage 4 students as significant numbers are entered each year in order for them to receive accreditation for their compulsory study.
- Changes to the Ofsted inspection framework are likely to lead to no regular inspection of outstanding schools and less focus generally on the monitoring of statutory compliance. This could lead to some schools ignoring the compulsory nature of RE at Key Stage 4 with the resulting disappearance of RE as an academic or curriculum subject.
- Many members of the wider national RE community (RE organisations, RE Advisers and teachers) are writing to express their concerns about RE not being included in the English Bacc. There have also been protests from other quarters e.g. independent schools who state that English Bacc has too narrow a selection of subjects and that there are other academically rigorous subjects.
- Possibly as a response to concerns raised about RE, the Education Secretary Michael Gove has said that he will ‘take on board’ concerns about GCSE

subjects excluded from the English Bacc measure. BBC newsonline (14.1.11) quotes him as saying,

“There are one or two points being made about perhaps one or two qualifications that might count within the five pillars and I will look at that.... That’s not to say that I’m going to change my mind but any fair point made, in a constructive spirit about how you can improve league tables, I will always take on board.”

Action in Durham

- An e-mail from the Chair of AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) has already been forwarded to the RE secondary teachers network, asking them to consider writing to their MPs, Michael Gove. I do not know how many teachers have written (I know of some) but we will be discussing the matter further at our network meeting on February 2nd.
- After checking that I have permission to write to Government as the Inspector for RE in Durham, I have just written to Michael Gove and Nick Gibb (Schools Minister). I will also write to my own MP and would hope that SACRE could also write to the MP in Durham. I am initially writing to express my concern about RE not being included in the Bacc. When I receive a response I intend to follow up by raising point about compliancy and the role of Ofsted in monitoring statutory requirements.
- Judith Bainbridge and I have met to discuss the matter and consider what response SACRE could make.
- I am more than happy to talk to any SACRE member who wants to discuss further or would like more clarification. I am also happy to organise a discussion forum meeting of SACRE members if you would like to discuss further and consider actions before the next SACRE meeting.

Appendix B

Dear Ms Short,

Thank you for your recent email.

We have introduced the English Baccalaureate because we are concerned that the number of pupils who currently receive a broad education in core academic subjects is far too small. This is particularly the case for pupils in disadvantaged areas. The English Baccalaureate is designed to recognise the success of those students who attain GCSEs or iGCSEs at grade A*-C across a core of academic subjects. We want to encourage more pupils to study these core subjects and to open up opportunities for all students to have the chance to study them regardless of the school they attend. We will give special recognition in the performance tables to those schools which are helping their pupils attain this breadth and we will mark individual pupils' achievements through a certificate.

Whilst the English Baccalaureate will give pupils the opportunity to study a core of academic subjects, it does not mean that we wish to restrict their choices or opportunities for wider study which is why the number of core subjects is small enough to allow for that. Study in other subjects will be just as valuable to pupils and we will encourage all pupils to study non-English Baccalaureate subjects alongside the core English Baccalaureate in order to benefit from a well rounded education.

We recognise, as many schools do, the benefits that religious education (RE) can bring to pupils. This is why the teaching of RE remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling. Success in all subjects studied at GCSE will also continue to be recognised by other performance table measures, as it has in the past.

We have not included RE as fulfilling the humanity requirement of the English Baccalaureate because it is already a compulsory subject. One of the intentions of the English Baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory RE.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Orme
Public Communications Unit
www.education.gov.uk

Department for
Education

Your correspondence has been allocated the reference number 2011/0011028. To contact the Department for Education, please visit www.education.gov.uk/contactus

This page is intentionally left blank