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



**Annual Report
2018 - 2019**

**Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education:
Annual Report 2018- 2019**

Contents

<u>Chair’s Introduction</u>	3
<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	4
<u>Management of SACRE</u>	4
<u>Secondary Schools</u>	6
• Monitoring Secondary RE Provision	6
- Subject Strengths and Weaknesses	6
- Areas for Development	7
<u>Primary Schools</u>	
• Monitoring Primary RE Provision	7
- Network meetings	7
- Training	7
<u>Special Schools</u>	7
<u>Support for Improving the Teaching of the Local Agreed Syllabus</u>	7
• Agreed Syllabus Conference	7
• NASACRE and AGM Conference	8
• RE newsletter	8
• Knowledge Hub	8
• Gold RE Quality Mark	8
• Development Plan 2016-2017	8
• Accord National Recognition Award	8
• Consultancies	8
• Formal complaints	8
• Relevant links	9
• Meeting dates 2018-2019	9
<u>Appendix1 : GCE AS, A Level and GCSE results for Religious Studies in Cambridgeshire schools (Summer 2017)</u>	
<u>Appendix 2: Continuous Professional Development Data</u>	
<u>Appendix 3: Cambridgeshire SACRE Membership (September 2015)</u>	

Chair's Introduction

It is a little strange to be writing this introduction to our annual report in January so many months into the following year. Cambridgeshire SACRE is always moving forward, and it is hard not to report on what we are doing now. However, 2018/19 sowed the seeds of some of our later success which gives me an excuse to cheat a little.

The new Agreed Syllabus came into effect in September 2018. You will read more about this elsewhere in this report.

In November 2018 we held a very busy and lively Faith Direct day for 100 primary school children from ten schools. Representatives of ten faiths and world views each set up a stall and talked with the children in rotation. The cost of the day might look low, hire of a hall, tea coffee biscuits and sandwiches. But add to this Amanda and Laura's time in contacting schools and faith representatives, school costs for teacher cover and minibus hire and the money cost is huge. We could not run these events without the generosity of the faith representatives who give their time to prepare, travel and present to the children for no fee or expenses.

An Interfaith Day for GCSE students in Ely Cathedral took place in November 2019 so you must wait a year to read about that. What I want to say here is that these large events take many months to organise. We began in the summer when Amanda and Laura could already be heard muttering about 'herding cats'. How they keep their cool when schools fail to respond to emails or promise to attend and drop out at the last minute or faith representatives are hard to find I do not know.

The problems of time and money got some of us thinking about other ways of enabling children to meet and engage with a wide range of other faiths. SACRE is aware that some schools in remoter areas may have had no interaction at all. This time last year we began to write a bid for a NASACRE/Westhill Award. Thanks to Amanda Fitton, Shirley Hall and Aga Cahn we were able to put together a winning bid. It is now called the Fenland Schools Project. Working with six primary schools in the Fens and some faith representatives we now have a plan. The funding is small but will pay for RE Adviser time and some travel costs.

Amanda and I attended the NASACRE Conference in Manchester in May. It is a great opportunity to meet members other SACREs. I was gratified to learn that our membership problems are small compared with many. This does not mean that we will not continue to nag about regular attendance and finding deputies. Many SACREs agree with us that funding is lacking and that SACREs generally are a neglected part of the education system.

My thanks for Amanda and Laura without whom SACRE would collapse, and to the representatives from the four committees who are SACRE.

Julia Ewans

Chair Cambridgeshire SACRE

The Purpose of the Report

Religious Education is an important curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and also makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality Religious Education.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

The work of SACRE includes:

- advising the Local Authority on Religious Education given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its Agreed Syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- providing advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus;
- providing advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its Local Authority, considering whether any changes need to be made in the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE;
- offering advice to the Local Authority, and through the Local Authority to schools, concerning how an existing Agreed Syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

Management of SACRE

Cambridgeshire County Council has continued to support the work of SACRE through funding that provides a clerk for the meetings, services of an RE Adviser to support SACRE, its work and teacher training for the teaching of Religious Education, and advice about Collective Worship. The Religious Education Adviser, Amanda Fitton, has continued to work with all the Cambridgeshire schools and SACRE.

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Cambridgeshire SACRE, which has met three times this year, comprises four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable however all committees are well represented.

The four groups that make up SACRE are as follows:

- Committee A - representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions, and world-view communities;
- Committee B - representatives of the Church of England;
- Committee C - representatives of the teachers' associations;
- Committee D – representatives of the Local Authority.

SACRE welcomed several new members:

Committee B – Caroline Vinall

Committee C – Kirsten Stevenson and Gill Davies

Committee D – Councillor Amanda Taylor

We said farewell to Cathy Mitchell, Becky Smith and Taradasa.

We thank them all for their contributions to SACRE.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council SACRE website at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/working-together-children-families-and-adults/working-with-partners/cambridgeshire-standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education/>

Secondary Schools

Monitoring Secondary RE Provision

- **A-Level Entries:**

The number of centres entering candidates for A level was 6 but there was a slight increase in the number of candidates being entered from 45 to 52. The pass rate in 2018 did not stay at 100%. See appendix A for the county break down of results.

Areas of development

Schools need to be made aware of the benefits to students in studying RE to A level and the correlation with entries to Oxford and Cambridge universities and the Russell group of Universities.

- **GCSE Full-Course Entries:**

The number of schools entering candidates for the full GCSE has risen again from 1941 in 2017 to 2041 in 2018 but the number of candidates per centre does not represent all pupils having the opportunity to study RE to GCSE. See Appendix B for the county break down of results.

Areas of development

To continue to support schools with RE and to make schools aware of the benefits of RE. Also to continue to make schools aware of their statutory requirements of RE to be part of the school curriculum until the end of year 11

Primary Schools

Monitoring Primary RE Provision

Network Meetings

The primary network meetings for the academic year have been led Amanda Fitton (RE Adviser). Only two sets of meetings were held in the Spring and Summer terms of 2019. This was due to changes in provision for the meetings. Those who attended the meetings were able to take away copies of PowerPoints and other resources. The meetings covered a variety of different topics to support RE in primary schools. These have ranged were; Challenge in RE and the Broader Curriculum and subject Knowledge. These will continue into the next academic year. SACRE would like to thank the following schools for hosting the meetings, Houghton Primary School, William De Yaxley Academy and Mayfield Primary School.

Agreed Syllabus

From September 2018 the agreed Syllabus 2018 – 2023 for Cambridgeshire superseded the previous syllabus.

Special Schools

Special schools have engaged in a number of training events in the academic year. These ranged from consultancies to training on creative ideas in RE. Castle school in Cambridge attended the Faith Direct Event.

Support for Improving the Teaching of the Local Agreed Syllabus

Training

Training continued to be popular with a range of training being held over the year and has continued to support schools with the new syllabus. Themes for the year have ranged from; Planning and the New Syllabus, Creative Ideas in RE, Assessment in RE and Leading RE. The courses were well attended from a variety of schools across the county.

NASACRE Conference

The RE adviser and Chair of SACRE attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of Cambridgeshire SACRE on 22nd May 2019 in Manchester. There were two key note speakers at the conference. Peter Bull head teacher at Alsop High School in Liverpool speaking about how SACRE can help schools become beacons of hope. The second speaker was Julian Stern from St Johns University York speaking on Uncertainty and Morality in reference to Community Cohesion.

Westhill Bid

SACRE put in a bid to Westhill for £3,558 and were awarded this amount at the NASACRE conference in May 2018. SACRE identified that schools in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire often have difficulties in accessing people of different faiths and world views and where relevant their places of worship. This partly due to the distances and expense of traveling to places such as Cambridge or Peterborough or the monoculture nature of these areas of

Cambridgeshire where visitors other than those of a Christian faith are hard to find. The bid would train, fund and resource members of different faiths and beliefs to go out to schools into Fenland and East Cambridgeshire. It is envisaged that the project will be carried out in different stages to make sure what is delivered meets the needs of the schools in these areas and a legacy is left for the future.

RE Newsletter

The newsletter has been sent out every term over the academic year. The newsletter has been a mixture of news from the RE world, advice, notifications and links to resources.

Faith Direct Event

Faith Direct event was held on the 14th November at Buckden Village Hall, Buckden. It was attended by 10 Primary schools across Cambridgeshire. Pupils for years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to question a number of different people from a range of faiths and beliefs.

Development plan for 2018-19

The main aim of the development plan for 2018-19 was working towards a successful bid from Westhill to enable schools in the Fens and East Cambridgeshire access to people of different faiths and world views.

Consultancies

There were 2 consultancies in the academic year.

Formal Complaints

There have been no formal complaints made to the Local Authority.

Relevant Links

- Learn Together Cambridgeshire: Religious Education Advisory Service
(Services & Charges and Courses & Training)

<https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/religious-education/>

- Cambridgeshire County Council:

Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/working-together-children-families-and-adults/working-with-partners/cambridgeshire-standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education/>

Meeting dates 2018-2019

- ❖ Tuesday 2nd October 2018, 13:30 – 15:30
- ❖ Wednesday 6th February 2019, 13:30 – 15:30
- ❖ Thursday 20th June 2019, 13:30 – 15:30

Cambridgeshire SACRE Membership

Committee A (Faiths)

Aga Cahn	Jewish
Vacancy	Methodist
Ged McHale	Roman Catholic
Jagjit Srail	Sikh
Julia Ewans	Humanist
Moira Middleton	Baptist
Rajnikant Shah	Hindu (Indian Community & Culture Association (ICCA))
Dr Imam Sejad Mekic	Muslim
Dr Suzanne Culshaw	Buddhist
Virginia Barnes	Baha'i
Vacancy	Orthodox
Becky Palmer	Quaker

Committee B (Church of England)

Isobel Rawlinson	Church Schools of Cambridge
Reverend Robert Mackley	Ely Diocese
Caroline Vinall	Ely Diocese (School Performance Officer)
Catherine Watts	Ely Diocese (LLM)

Committee C (Teachers' Associations)

Elizabeth Bassett	National Association of Headteachers
Raymond Mitchell	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Tony Reynolds	VOICE
Dennis Johnson	National Union of Teachers
Kirsten Stevenson	Soham Village College
Gill Davies	Barrington Junior School

Committee D (Local Authority)

Cllr Samantha Hoy	Conservative
Cllr Claire Richards	Labour
Cllr Amanda Taylor	Liberal Democrat

Co-opted

Dr Shirley Hall	Ely Diocese
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If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Cambridgeshire SACRE Clerk via e-mail at laura.corcoran@peterborough.gov.uk

Appendix A – A Level results

key

NOE = number of entries

	2018	2019
	NOE	NOE
Thomas Clarkson Academy	0	5
Impington Village College	3	3
The Netherhall School	7	4
Cromwell Community College	12	14
Sir Harry Smith Community College	11	11
St Ivo Academy	10	10
Abbey College, Ramsey	0	5
Comberton Village College	9	10
Longsands Academy	0	5
Total NOE	52	67

Appendix B – GCSE results

Key

NOR = Number on role in exam year

NOE = Number of exam entries

	2018		2019	
	NOE	NOR	NOE	NOR
Thomas Clarkson Academy	0	204	9	223
Bottisham Village College	23	200	34	236
Neale-Wade Academy	23	205	47	239
Impington Village College	58	201	26	216
North Cambridge Academy	4	54	10	70
Cambourne Village College	52	152	51	195
Swavesey Village College	242	251	264	272
The Netherhall School	16	162	18	159
Ely College	68	218	185	197
Ernulf Academy	1	103	12	114
Parkside Community College	10	118	12	122
Chesterton Community College	139	175	142	180
Coleridge Community College	2	81	6	112
Cottenham Village College	143	143	136	146
Cromwell Community College	197	198	163	184
Sir Harry Smith Community College	10	162	17	172
Witchford Village College	11	143	1	174
St Ivo Academy	69	245	50	283
Hinchingbrooke School	280	294	283	295
St Bede's Inter-Church School	148	153	153	157
Abbey College, Ramsey	158	168	154	165

Bassingbourn Village College	10	112	33	113
Comberton Village College	90	242	57	254
Sawston Village College	53	209	28	210
Longsands Academy	60	288	79	286
Soham Village College	15	256	13	268
Linton Village College	44	155	49	170
Melbourn Village College	3	89	0	98
Castle School	8	9	0	17
Sawtry Village Academy	0	163	0	134
Cambridge Academy for Science and technology	0	42	0	49
St Peter's School	0	157	0	165
Total NOE	1937	4949	2,032	5675
Linton Village Short course	104	155	0	0

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