



December 2019

## The Annual Report of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

**Note: From 2020 the Annual Report will reflect the academic year; this will be the last calendar year report.**

### Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2019.

#### 1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

In September 2018 SACRE published revised versions of its constitution, roles and responsibilities of SACRE members and a guide to York SACRE. These are all available on [www.york.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.york.gov.uk/sacre)

#### 2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

##### **Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-**

Keith Duffy (Catholic)

Ben Rich (Jewish)

Keith Albans (Methodist)

Vacant (Muslim)

Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)

Vacant (Salvation Army)

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Vacant (Sikh)  
Daryoush Mazloun (York Baha'i Community)  
Penny Coppin-Siddall (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)  
Ian Hodgson (Humanist)

## **Representing the Church of England:-**

Olivia Seymour (Diocese of York)  
Vacant (Diocese of York)  
Katherine Harper (Archbishop Holgate's CE Academy)

## **Representing Teachers:-**

Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)  
Jenny Mooney (Westfield)  
Vacant (co-opted)

## **Representing the City of York Council are Councillors:-**

Martin Rowley (Con)  
Chris Cullwick (Lib Dem)  
Fiona Fitzpatrick (Lab)

## **In attendance:-**

Mike Jory (Education Adviser)  
Naomi Watson (Clerk)

Long standing and valued member Janet Dunn (Diocese of York) stepped down this year and we would like to thank her for her valuable input.

### **3. Religious Education**

During the period January 2019 to December 2019 Ofsted inspection reports indicate that all schools appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE.

There has been 1 SIAMS inspection in York since last December:  
Wheldrake with Thorganby VA Primary School. Graded Good

All the reports are public documents and are available on  
<http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/your-schools/our-schools/>

There was a welcome rise in the number of pupils taking accreditation at the end of KS4.

As part of SACRE's work in 2020 it is proposed that monitoring visits are introduced to quality assure the provision of RE. Details of the Primary and Secondary monitoring proformas will be sent to all schools in January 2020.

### **4. Collective Worship**

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the

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Ofsted framework and in the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE published new guidance in 2017 to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance has been published on the City of York SACRE website ([www.york.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.york.gov.uk/sacre)) and has also been made available to all schools through the Heads' newsletter.

## 5. Update on the work of SACRE

- The following priorities for the development of SACRE have been discussed and agreed as part of the annual SACRE plan for 2018-20:
  - (1) Continue to raise the profile of SACRE and develop RE
  - (2) Contribute to the development of a professional CPD programme to develop the quality of RE teaching
- York SACRE is a member of the Learn Teach Lead RE regional hub
- In the past twelve months three SACRE meetings have been held and attendance has been maintained. SACRE is working to recruit new members especially current teachers and to fill the faith group vacancies. There are ongoing issues with members who have never or rarely attended meetings.
- SACRE continues to identify best practice models that promote flexible and creative approaches to teaching and learning in RE. This will be a growing focus for SACRE's work following the publication of the RE Review.
- SACRE has not undertaken formal monitoring in 2019 of RE provision but there are plans in place for 2020 (see below)

## 6. Support for Schools

Members of SACRE are keen to support staff in schools to raise standards in RE and have been kept up to date with the strategies to achieve this through who is supporting RE and Collective Worship, on behalf of the LA and also by:-

- The continued promotion of the new Agreed Syllabus (2016-2021)
- Membership of the LTLRE Hub
- Support for RE subject leaders through Network Learning Groups as they work together to implement the Agreed Syllabus.
- Funding York SACRE Agreed Syllabus conference for Primary schools in Autumn 2019.
- Funding a York SACRE Secondary Conference on Islam in Autumn 2019
- School visits to monitor the RE provision (to start in Spring 2020)
- Members of SACRE's continued active involvement in planning the City of York Council's commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2020.

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## 7. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2019

### A2 Level

4 out of the 5 11-18 secondary schools in the City plus York College entered students for the A2 level examinations in Religious Studies and the although number of entries has dropped, success rates remain high. All Saints had 20 entries; Fulford had 10, Huntington 10, and Archbishop Holgate's 8. York College entered 24.

Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
<b>72</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72</b>

### Full Course GCSE

	Entries	Grade 4+%	Grade 1-9%
<b>2019</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>98.6</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>98.3</b>

	Entries	A*-C %	A*-G%
<b>2017</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>98.9</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>98.2</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>98.9</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>98.7</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>98.7</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>98.5</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>96.5</b>

### *Commentary*

Entries for the Full Course GCSE have increased to then highest level since 2016. The Grade 4+ measure is still above the national average and has risen since 2018.

## 8. Methods of Teaching

The Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions. The Agreed Syllabus will be reviewed in 2021.

## 9. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

## 10. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination"; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship to be 'wholly or mainly Christian'. The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

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## **11. Complaints regarding Collective Worship**

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship.

**Report produced by Mike Jory, Effectiveness and Achievement Adviser and Olivia Seymour, Interim Chair**