

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)**

Venue:	Town Hall, Moorgate Street, ROTHERHAM. S60 2TH	Date:	Tuesday, 24th October, 2017
		Time:	4.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Election of Chair for the 2017/18 School Year
2. Election of Vice-Chair for the 2017/18 School Year
3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st March 2017 (Pages 1 - 6)
5. Matters arising from previous minutes
6. Rotherham SACRE - Future Resources (Funding and Staffing)
7. Rotherham SACRE - Constitution and Membership (Pages 7 - 8)
8. South Yorkshire Religious Education Conference - March 2018, at the Hub, Canklow
9. Religious Education GCSE and A Level - Examination Results in Rotherham Schools, 2017
10. Rotherham SACRE Annual Report 2015/2016
11. Rotherham SACRE Development Plan 2017/18 (Pages 9 - 11)
12. Any Other Business
13. Date and time of next meeting - to be confirmed.

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE) - 21/03/17****ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
TUESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 2017**

Present:-

Group A – other Christian denominations and faiths

Mrs. N. Goodwin (Pentecostal), Mr. D. Homer (Buddhist), Mr. I Jones (Evangelical Christian), Mr. S. Silnass (PAIS), Mr. C. Wells (Methodist Church), Mr. R. Dyson (Roman Catholic Church), Mrs. Z. Ahmed (Islamic), Mrs. G. Raha (Hindu) and Mrs. T. Williams (Baha'i).

Group B – the Church of England

Mrs. H. Lambert (Diocese of Sheffield).

Group C – Teachers' Professional Associations

Mrs. R. Turnbull.

Group D – the Local Authority

Councillor E. R. Keenan.

Also in attendance were Mrs. V. Gregory (Curriculum Consultant for RE).

Apologies for absence were received from : Mr. A. Griffin (Humanist), Mrs. C. Webster and from Councillors S. Alam, I. Jones and G. Watson.

(Mrs. N. Goodwin in the Chair)

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER, 2016

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st November, 2016 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

21. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The following items were updated:-

(1) Minute No. 12(2) (Election of Vice-Chair, 2016/17) – it was confirmed that Mrs. C. Webster did not wish to continue in the role of Vice-Chair.

(2) Minute No. 15 (Syllabus for Religious Education 2016) – it was noted that copies of the Rotherham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

2016 are to be provided free of charge; however, a fee will be charged for the provision of the units and schemes of work which accompany this Syllabus. Copies of the Syllabus are to be provided for all members of the SACRE (by electronic mail) and also to all schools in the Rotherham Borough area.

(3) Suggestion of a South Yorkshire Joint Committee for SACRE – the Rotherham SACRE noted the contents of a report explaining the legal background to the establishment of Joint Committees of local authorities.

22. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

The Chair informed everyone that the School representatives had been unable to attend this meeting and consequently consideration of this item was deferred until the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE, to be held on Monday, 19th June, 2017. It was also noted that representatives of the Newman Special School had also expressed interest in making a presentation at a meeting of the Rotherham SACRE.

23. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Rotherham SACRE meeting considered the draft document entitled “Rotherham Collective Worship Guidance 2017” which would eventually be distributed to all schools in the Rotherham Borough area. A number of amendments were discussed, including the need for a revised message from the Chair, the updating of the calendar of Religious festivals and the use of photographs (with the necessary permissions being obtained) to reflect accurately the diversity within the Rotherham school pupil population.

Discussion took place on the role of the SACRE to monitor the provision of Religious Education in Schools. It was suggested that appropriate information should be collected from all schools, although the limited resources available would serve to hinder that process.

It was also reported that some primary schools had recently benefitted from a workshop about the Hindu religion.

Agreed:- That the draft “Rotherham Collective Worship Guidance 2017” be amended and updated as now discussed and distributed to all members of the SACRE.

24. COMMUNITY COHESION

The Rotherham SACRE received information from Mr. Shokat Lal (RMBC Assistant Chief Executive) and Mrs. Zaida Ahmed (RMBC Corporate Equalities and Diversity Officer) concerning the Borough Council’s strategy and practice in respect of community cohesion. The following matters were discussed:-

ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 21/03/17

: the Assistant Chief Executive is the Borough Council's lead officer in terms of community cohesion strategy and policy;

: the Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene is the Borough Council's lead officer in terms of community safety, which includes dealing with specific issues such as hate crime (other officers within the Neighbourhoods Directorate have similar responsibilities in respect of this matter);

: the specific post of Corporate Community Cohesion Officer currently remains unfilled and vacant;

: the investigations and reports of the recent past (specifically the ones by Professor Alexis Jay (2014) and by Dame Louise Casey (2015)) had been critical of the Borough Council's approach to community cohesion;

: in response to these critical reports, the Borough Council is currently drafting a strategy and statement, which will be entitled "Building Stronger Communities"; this strategy will draw upon the contents of the more recent report by Dame Louise Casey (published on 5 December 2016) into social integration in Great Britain;

: this strategy has to address issues of concern which have affected Rotherham's recent past (eg: right-wing demonstrations in the Rotherham town centre; the vulnerability of children and young people; the media's perception of Rotherham; hate crime occurring in the community and in schools; religious differences); the strategy will focus upon the local authorities' "prevent duty" (the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015), as well as neighbourhoods and enabling people from different ethnic backgrounds to live and work together; it was emphasised that the strategy is most certainly not an attempt at social engineering;

: the strategy's focus upon the Borough Council's community leadership role will include consultation and discussion with faith leaders throughout the Rotherham Borough area; the Rotherham Faith Leaders' Council intends to undertake its own process of internal review;

: the Borough Council strategy will include an action plan and a means of measuring the success of the implementation of the various actions; it was acknowledged that there are practical difficulties in measuring the successes of a cohesive community; in that vein, the Borough Council has sought advice about best practice from the Home Office and from the Government Department for Communities and Local Government, although replies from both are still awaited;

: various grant funding sources are available in respect of community cohesion, which would include funding for the currently vacant officer post; the Borough Council's intention is to make application to these funding sources (two examples are the Home Office grants in respect of Radicalisation and there is also the Controlling Migration Fund);

: the draft “Building Stronger Communities” strategy will be considered at a meeting of the Borough Council’s Cabinet and the Government-appointed Commissioners to the Borough Council during May, 2017;

: the Borough Council had recently begun a new initiative entitled the Child-Centred Borough (which places the wellbeing of children and young people at the centre of Borough Council policy-making) and had obtained details of good practice from a number of other local authorities including Leeds City Council; some members of the SACRE meeting volunteered to contribute to this Child-Centred Borough initiative;

: as an individual school initiative, the Wingfield Academy had recently undertaken a project about the United Nations.

The Rotherham SACRE meeting acknowledged the progress being made by the Borough Council with its community cohesion responsibilities and that matters would further progress after approval of the strategy. The eventual appointment of an officer to the specific community cohesion post was considered to be essential in implementing the strategy’s action plan, as well as re-commencing the work with schools in respect of community cohesion.

Agreed:- That the information about the Borough Council’s draft “Building Stronger Communities” strategy be noted and the approved strategy be submitted to a future meeting of the Rotherham SACRE.

25. SOUTH YORKSHIRE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2017

The Rotherham SACRE meeting was informed that the South Yorkshire Religious Education Conference 2017 had taken place on Tuesday, 14th March, 2017 at the Hub, 103 Canklow Road, Rotherham. The event had been very well-received, although there had been a marked reduction in the number of schools represented at this year’s event, when compared to the 2016 event.

It was noted that next year’s South Yorkshire Religious Education Conference was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 13th March, 2018 again at the Hub, 103 Canklow Road, Rotherham.

Members of the Rotherham SACRE asked to be provided with copies of the Conference materials and information.

Agreed:- That the information about the South Yorkshire Religious Education Conference 2017 be noted and every endeavour be made to ensure early notification of the 2018 Conference.

26. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - SOUTH YORKSHIRE HUB - UPDATE

The Rotherham SACRE meeting was informed of the development and

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use of the social media Facebook page in respect of the Religious Education curriculum. Teachers of all primary and secondary schools were being invited to a South Yorkshire Hub meeting to be held on Thursday, 30th March, 2017, at the 'Costa' café, Meadowhall Way, adjacent to the Meadowhall shopping centre, Sheffield. Teachers will be asked to bring and share one tried and tested idea with other Religious Education teachers present.

The intention was also to hold a similar event in the Doncaster area. It was also noted that the Sheffield Hallam University was supportive of the South Yorkshire Hub initiative.

It was suggested that an Internet web-site link to the information be provided for those persons who did not use Facebook.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

27. ROTHERHAM SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Further to Minute No. 16 of the meeting of the Rotherham SACRE held on 21st November, 2016, the Rotherham SACRE meeting considered the contents of the draft Annual Report for Religious Education, which covered the period September 2015 to September 2016. A number of textual corrections were highlighted.

Agreed:- That the draft Rotherham SACRE Annual Report for Religious Education 2015/16 be approved, subject to the inclusion of the amendments as now discussed.

28. ROTHERHAM SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016/17

Further to Minute No. 17 of the meeting of the Rotherham SACRE held on 21st November, 2016, consideration was given to the draft Rotherham SACRE development plan for 2016/17.

A suggestion was made that the development should highlight the need for the Rotherham SACRE to maintain a list of guest speakers who would be available to visit schools and talk with pupils and staff about aspects of faith and religion.

It was agreed that a working group be established to consider the detail of the development plan and report to the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE, to be held on Monday, 19th June, 2016. The members of the working group are Mrs. Z. Ahmed, Mrs. N. Goodwin, Mrs. H. Lambert, Mrs. R. Turnbull, Mrs. T. Williams and Mr. D. Homer.

29. ROTHERHAM SACRE - CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP

Discussion took place on the Constitution and membership of the SACRE and the following details were highlighted:-

(a) representation is still required in respect of a number of faiths (eg: Muslim, Sikh, Black Pentecostal, Jewish, Salvation Army, Jehovah's Witness);

(b) Group D – the Local Authority membership – it was agreed that the Clerk to the Rotherham SACRE meetings, as an employee of the Local Authority, should substitute as necessary for the Elected Member representatives in order to ensure a quorum at the Rotherham SACRE meetings (this appointment would be subject to formal approval by the Borough Council).

30. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were discussed:-

(1) Visit to Cambodia and Vietnam – Mr. D. Homer briefly informed the meeting of his recent visit to these two countries when he had been able to continue his study of the Buddhist faith.

(2) REwards ceremony – it was noted that both the Doncaster and Sheffield local authorities had expressed interest in the annual REwards ceremony, celebrating good practice in Religious Education, which would take place on Monday, 19th June, 2017.

(3) The Rotherham SACRE thanked Mrs. V. Gregory for her continuing hard work in the advisory role in respect of the Religious Education curriculum and syllabus, a role she is undertaking alongside her family commitments.

31. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE take place on Monday, 19th June, 2017, at the Magna Centre, Templeborough, Rotherham, in order to coincide with the Childrens' Festival (with the annual REwards ceremony, celebrating good practice in Religious Education, to follow the SACRE meeting on this same date).

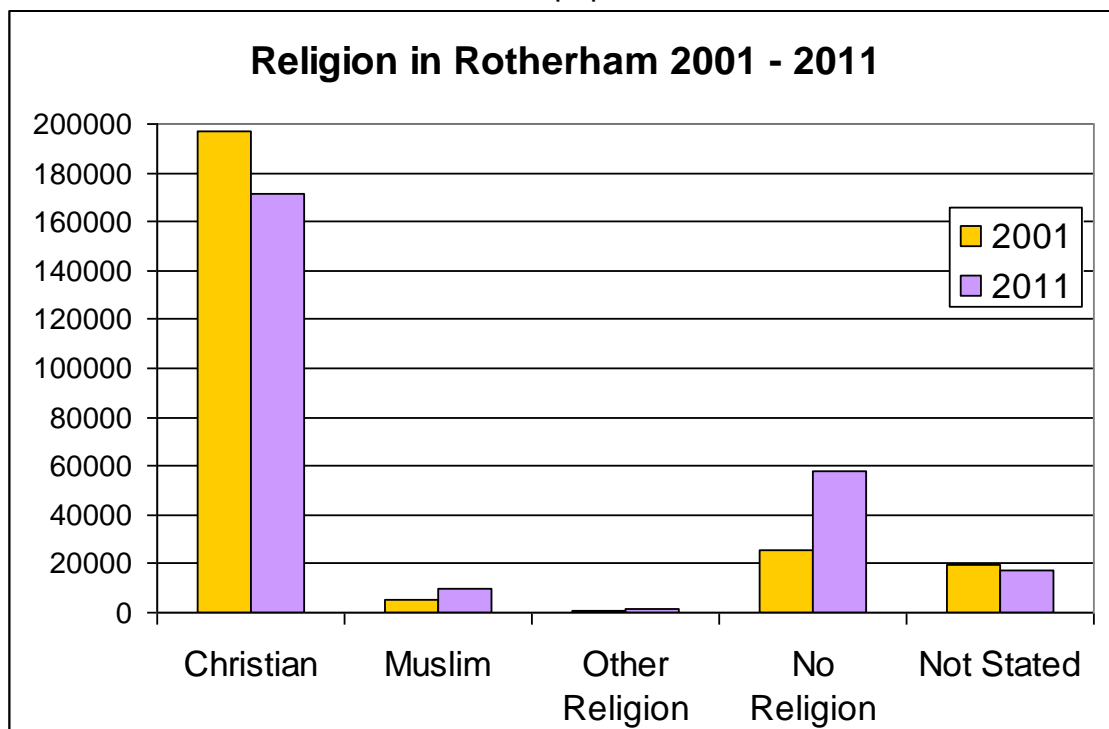
Key statics for Rotherham 2011 CENSUS

Main Religions in Rotherham

In the 2011 Census, Christianity remained the main religion in Rotherham, as it was in 2001. However, the number of Christians has fallen by 13.2% (26,034) since 2001 from 197,102 (79.4% of the population) to 171,068 (66.5%). Despite this reduction, Rotherham still has a higher proportion of Christians than the national average of 59.4%. The figures for other religions are as follows:

	2001	2011	Change
Muslim	5,407 (2.2%)	9,614 (3.7%)	+ 4,207 (+ 78%)
Buddhist	133 (0.1%)	401 (0.2%)	+ 268 (+ 202%)
Hindu	260 (0.1%)	433 (0.2%)	+ 173 (+ 67%)
Jewish	41 (0.01%)	63 (0.02%)	+ 22 (+ 54%)
Sikh	192 (0.1%)	293 (0.1%)	+101 (+ 53%)
Other religion	365 (0.1%)	595 (0.2%)	+ 230 (+ 63%)
No religion	25,360 (10.2%)	57,783 (22.5%)	+ 32,423 (+ 128%)
Religion not stated	19,315 (7.8%)	17,030 (6.6%)	- 2,285 (- 12%)

The number of Muslims in Rotherham has increased significantly from 2.2% of the population in Rotherham to 3.7% although this is still below the national average of 5%. There have also been increases in other religions, notably Buddhists although none amount to more than 0.2% of the population.



The biggest change since 2001 is for people stating that they have no religion which has more than doubled since 2001 to reach 22.5% of the population, below the national average of 24.7%. The parallel reduction in Christians suggests a shift from Christianity to no religion.

The number of people not stating their religion has decreased since the 2001 Census which suggests that people are now getting used to being asked about their religion and are beginning to feel more comfortable answering.

Other Religions in Rotherham

For 'Other Religions' recorded in the Census, those of note in Rotherham (more than 100 people) are Spiritualists (191 people) and Pagans (180 people), although both of these count for only 0.1% of the population of Rotherham.

Most people with no religion ticked the appropriate box but those who said their religion was Jedi Knight (552 in Rotherham) were also classed as No Religion.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

- Christianity remains the largest religion in Rotherham with 171,068 followers (66.5% of the population) but the number of Christians has decreased by 13.2%
- The largest increase is in the number of people with no religion which has more than doubled to 57,783 or 22.5% of the population
- The number of Muslims in Rotherham has nearly doubled to 9,614 or 3.7% of the population, below the national average of 5%
- Other religions account for 1,785 people or 0.7% of the population
- Figures exclude the 6.6% who did not state their religion

Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education – Development Plan 2016

Objective (bold text = main objective, plain text = sub-objectives)	Action	Responsibility	Costing	Success	Completed /On-going/ RAG status
To monitor RE provision across primary and secondary phases	Invite one primary and one secondary representative to attend each SACRE meeting.	VGR/Chair	Curriculum Consultant Time	Minutes of SACRE meetings will show that either/or primary or secondary colleagues regularly attend and share good practise with SACRE members.	Ongoing
	Analyse GCSE and A Level results each year.	Curriculum Consultant	Curriculum Consultant Time	Liasion with Karen Hopkins.	R (Results have not been made available due to a blip in the system this year)
	Engagement with Academy Schools and HE providers.	SACRE members	N/A	SACRE are aware of what academies and HE providers are providing in terms of RE provision.	Ongoing
Organisation of training sessions and conferences – provision of CPD activities	To run an annual student and South Yorkshire RE Hub Conference for teachers across South Yorkshire to generate income for the LA.	VGR	Cost of venues, key notes speakers, photocopying of resources and buffet lunch for delegates. Courses chargeable to	Evaluations from delegates show that feedback is positive and they feel well supported and confident in delivering RE, even as non-specialists.	Ongoing/ Twice Yearly

			delegates where they have not invested in LA resources.		
The development of SACRE's role and work: -					
To produce an annual report of the work of the RSACRE for submission to NASACRE	Draft report to be written on February 16 th and e mailed to all SACRE members for approval along with minutes.	SACRE Chair/ Curriculum Consultant/ SACRE Clerk	Curriculum Consultant Time. Clerk Support.	Both 2013/14 and 2015/16 annual reports to be sent to NASACRE.	Annually
To develop the website	Website up and running for use.	VGR	Ongoing	Enquiries will be made through the website. User friendly website for Rotherham to share resources. This will eventually support with the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus.	R (in it's early stages. Progress slow as it is not a priority for this year)
The development and publication of the Local Agreed Syllabus	A number of schools and all SACRE members to be consulted on draft Agreed Syllabus via e mail.	VGR/Lat Blaylock	Curriculum Consultant/National Advisor time.	Functional Agreed syllabus launched in September/October 2016	Ongoing
	Production of Agreed Syllabus	VGR	Cost of printing/producing copies for schools to follow.	All schools receive a hard copy of the new Local Agreed Syllabus at the launch.	July/August (Production)
	Arrange an Agreed Syllabus Conference – July	VGR/SACRE members	Cost of meeting room/Refreshments/Curriculum Consultant Time	Agreed Syllabus finalised and agreed.	July
	Arrange an Agreed Syllabus	VGR/Lat	Cost of	Successful Launch well	September

	launch – September	Blaylock	venue/Curriculum Consultant Time/ Cost of buffet/Entertainment/Guest Speaker	attended.	/October
	Ongoing training and support to ensure new Agreed Syllabus implemented/embedded.	VGR/Lat Blaylock	Cost of venues/photocopying of resources, key note speaker and buffet for delegates. Courses chargeable to delegates where they have not invested in LA resources.	Schools increase their confidence in embedding the Agreed Syllabus.	Ongoing
REwards ceremony	Good practise in RE is highlighted/celebrated.	VGR	Venue, Buffet, Trophies, Certificates	REwards ceremony continues to grow.	Annual