

DRAFT SACRE Annual Report

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

We have taken our calling to serve on SACRE very seriously and this year we have undertaken work to clarify our roles and responsibilities in an endeavour to support schools in the teaching and learning of RE and the delivery of Collective Worship.

I was pleased to be elected as Chair for SACRE and take this opportunity to thank Cllr Sharman for the many years he served as chair for SACRE.

Vanessa Gregory, Local Authority RE Advisor has ably led the team of members of SACRE, inspiring us all to be effective and encouraging us to use our strengths and individual knowledge to best serve the group as a whole.

To enable us to understand our part in the bigger national picture we worked with NASACRE (National Association of SACRE). This enabled us to collate a SACRE Constitution and Code of Conduct.

We also worked on a Development plan which could give us both short and longer term goals.

Working parties have been established to share the work load and there is a real enthusiasm to celebrate all that is good in RE in Rotherham and strengthen the areas identified for development.

The implementation of the Rotherham Agreed Syllabus has been exciting. The support of Lat Blaylock has given the teaching and learning of RE a terrific boost and we already have plans to further develop this.

Schools have addressed SACRE to inform members how they have adopted the revised syllabus. Comments we heard included ..."its good, its really working; ... it enhances what we usually did...." Forty Primary schools have signed up for support programmes for the LA Agreed Syllabus Primary units.

In service has been fundamental in supporting our aims and our conference day was so well supported a second day was implemented to enable all to study the new units. Feedback was positive and enabled us to plan another training day for this October. Teachers asked for support in learning about different places of worship and so we have joined forces

with Hallam University and Lat Blaylock to visit a Mosque, Synagogue and Buddhist place of worship.

In order to help us celebrate good practice in the teaching and learning of RE in all our Rotherham schools we are working on introducing a SACRE Awards Ceremony each year. We plan to introduce this in September 2012 for an event in summer 2013.

Vanessa has been working hard in looking for funds to support our work and we are waiting for a response to her bid from NASACRE (early May 2012)

A working party is to look at Collective Worship in the hopes that we can offer supportive guidelines to schools. The work of the RE team has greatly enhanced the teaching and learning of RE and the quality of Collective Worship in the schools it is working with. They have received outstanding grades from OFSTED for their worship !! (See the report by N Goodwin)

Our links with Zaidah Ahmed and her work on Community Cohesion within the LA is greatly valued and continues to play an important part within our school's curriculum. We acknowledge the possible change of emphasis with the national revised SMSC curriculum but advise our schools to continue with the amazing work being undertaken under the umbrella of Community Cohesion.

We play a small but vital role within the LA and are actively seeking representation from the various religions and groups who are eligible to serve on SACRE. It is our hope that we can build on the enthusiasm of the existing members in encouraging others to give of their time and experience .

Gail Atkin

TRAINING

Better Planning/Better RE

Conference 17th January 2012

Lat Blaylock

I was extremely privileged to be invited to represent Sacre at this latest RE Conference.

The conference was well attended with schools present from across the borough

The day was engaging, inspiring, challenging and fun. Lat varied his style of delivery ensuring all learning styles were considered.

A huge amount of material and resources were shared in a simple and helpful way, enabling those present to return to their workplaces and pass on good practise to their colleagues.

It was a conference that fulfilled its purpose in everyway and equipped those present with further skills and resources to ensure that better planning takes place so that we do see better RE across our schools!

Nicki Goodwin
The RE Team

Review and Writing of a New SACRE Constitution

During the past year a new constitution was produced and agreed.

The SACRE Committee felt that it would be appropriate to review what documents were held by the LEA and whether they were up to date and to compare these with documents used by other SACRE Committees to encourage best practice.

Following the visit of Michael Metcalf, (Awards Panel Convenor, NASACRE) on 22nd June 2011 a working party was set up to explore this issue. Vanessa Gregory, David Homer and Ian Jones met to discuss this initially on 16th September 2011.

This working party looked at three very different documents suggested by Michael Metcalf.

These were a Code of Conduct from Brent SACRE, some Terms of Reference from Staffordshire and a Constitution from Southwark. The working party also considered a number of other documents on-line.

Building on the original Rotherham LEA SACRE Terms of Reference, the working party drew up a draft document that was effectively a new constitution detailing the purpose and rules of the SACRE Committee but

which also included some helpful Code of Conduct guidance for SACRE members.

This draft was submitted to the SACRE meeting in October 2011 and explained and discussed. It was then approved at the following meeting in February 2012 and adopted as a new constitution.

One of the benefits of this new document has been to bring some much needed clarity to the current SACRE committee and given the number of relatively new members, it has subsequently been possible to plan induction type training that is largely based on this new constitution.

Ian Jones
(Vice Chair)