

Norfolk Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11



A selection of pictures showing SACRE members engaged with young people and the general public as part of 'Celebrating RE' and the 'Art of Faith' events

Introduction by the Chair of Norfolk SACRE

This annual report reflects a fruitful and effective year for Norfolk SACRE whose members have been diligent in their statutory responsibility to monitor and maintain high standards of Collective Worship and RE in Norfolk schools. We have assumed our duties in a proactive and positive manner, aware that our remit requires diplomacy and understanding.

This Council is extremely fortunate in the quality of its membership. They bring with them considerable breadth of experience and depth of knowledge and insight. We represent all major Faith Communities and have active involvement from our teaching representatives and County Councillors. All our deliberations are marked by a level of debate, co-operation and wisdom that many could consider exemplary. We have a shared vision and purpose that motivates us in all our undertakings.

Our focus over the last year has been to work closely with the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) in their revision of the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus. The ASC has assiduously examined the present syllabus to see where improvements and clarification can be made to produce a more 'user friendly' document that schools would be able to implement with the minimum of alteration to their present structures. SACRE fully supports the ethos and principles of the ASC's revision which seeks to develop a more enquiry based pedagogy. To that end, we have been delighted to have had input from experts in this area who have given us inspiration and advice. SACRE has received regular reports from the ASC as its deliberations progressed. It is hoped to launch the Revised Agreed Syllabus in Summer 2012.

A highlight of the past year was the exhibition and workshops that were held in The Forum next to Norwich Library for Celebrating RE. This was a hugely successful event and the result of many talents and much hard work coming together to ensure a stimulating day which included different faith traditions, school children from across the County and workshops to support teachers of RE at all levels.

Many members of SACRE were involved in the Art of Faith Exhibition and Educational Project which took place at Norwich Castle Museum. This exciting venture not only served an educational purpose but was a unique way to display social and racial harmony and to develop community cohesion. The Council views this as central to its mission and this is reflected in the diversity of its membership. We have sought to reinforce this work by nurturing our ties with the wider Inter Faith community and the East of England Faith Council.

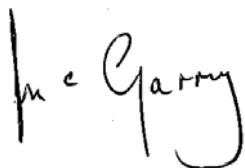
We have continued to acquire accurate statistical information to enable us to monitor the provision and quality of RE and Collective Worship and we have analysed Examination results. We have also made informed contributions to the debate concerning the EBacc and the place of RE in schools.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude the members of SACRE for their tireless dedication, insight and friendly co-operation. It is important to record the enormous debt of gratitude Norfolk SACRE owes to Kathryn Wright the RE Advisor for Norfolk whose advise support and guidance has been inestimable. Thanks must also go to Ali Ranson and Carol

Burgess for their commitment to the work of SACRE and who have now moved on to other positions and also to Alison Thompson for Chairing the ASC so effectively.

I am pleased to commend this report to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Garry'.

Chair of SACRE

1. Standards and Quality of provision of RE

SACRE has continued to explore ways in which it can carry out its statutory duty to monitor the provision and quality of RE in its schools. Examination results are analysed annually, and Ofsted reports have been looked at particularly in relation to community cohesion. The provision and quality of RE in Church of England VA schools is also monitored through section 48 inspections. The adviser to SACRE has made some school visits this year, particularly in the secondary phase.

a. Primary, secondary and special schools

The primary RE adviser supported schools in the Autumn term, before taking up a secondment from January 2011. The adviser to SACRE undertook secondary school visits as part of Agreed Syllabus review to consult with teachers about best practice and areas for development. Development work with one secondary school will lead to a substantial amount of guidance material to support the agreed syllabus using a proposed new enquiry framework. A number of secondary schools have reduced their Key Stage 3 programme to two years, which can make it hard for some schools to fully implement the agreed syllabus requirements.

Discussion in SACRE meetings focused on the impact of the EBacc on RE in schools. In several meetings, the adviser reported that RE was being cut in Key Stage 4, and in some cases in Key Stage 3 as well. Members actively wrote to MPs and also used the local media to support the position of RE. The adviser spoke on local radio about the importance of religious education in schools, and the role of SACRE. One result of these discussions was the production of a draft paper by members about the importance of religious education in schools which will form part of the guidance in the revised syllabus.

b. Examination Results

GCSE Short Course

Based on entries	Size of cohort	Norfolk A/A*	National A/A*	Norfolk A*-C	National A*-C	Norfolk A*-E	National A*-E
2011	4355	12.9	16.9	48.2	51.8	76.8	79.6
2010	4787	15.0	15.6	51.8	52.3	80.4	80.7
2009	4438	13.2	15.0	49.8	54.3	82.1	81.8
2008	4265	13.4	15.0	48.6	53.7	78	80
2007	3957	11.6	14.6	48.3	53.4	80	80
2006	3984	13.7	15.1	50	54.1	82	81

GCSE Full Course

Based on cohort	Size of cohort	Norfolk A/A*	National A/A*	Norfolk A*-C	National A*-C	Norfolk A*-E	National A*-E
2011	1725	28.8	31.8	73.1	73.2	92.2	91.5
2010	1261	28.7	29.0	72.4	72.1	90.5	91.3
2009	1319	25.9	29.4	69.7	71.9	91.8	91.4
2008	1422	23.5	29.0	66.5	72.5	91	91
2007	1314	24.1	27.9	67.9	71.5	89	90
2006	933	29.9	26.3	77	70.6	95	90

Whilst there is 432 candidate decrease in entries for the short course, the full course entries rose by 464 candidates, so overall there was a slight increase in entries.

Schools are increasingly entering the more able students for the full course, and the steady rise in the numbers achieving A*-C is to be welcomed. Over 1000 students in Norfolk gained an A* or A in either the GCSE Short or Full Course. The local authority target set for the full course was met.

AS and A2 results

AS	Norfolk				National			
	Entries	% A - B	% A - E	UCAS mean points	Entries	% A - B	% A - E	UCAS mean points
2011	68	27.9	91.2	92.9	29387	43.2	91.6	
2010	57	38.6	91.2	98.4	4660	30.1	87.9	90.9
2009	26	34.6	96.2	98.7	4627	30.8	88.9	91.9

A2	Norfolk				National			
	Entries	% A - B	% A - E	UCAS mean points	Entries	% A - B	% A - E	UCAS mean points
2011	171	56.1	98.8	230.0	18463	54.6	98.5	
2010	176	50.6	98.9	223.6	11447	50.2	99.4	222.8
2009	171	64.9	99.4	231.6	11492	52.7	99.5	223.4

c. Complaints

There were no complaints received this year. The adviser to SACRE has supported schools in relation to the withdrawal clause on two occasions. In both these instances the issues were resolved satisfactorily.

d. Initial Teacher training

The adviser to SACRE leads the subject knowledge days for the Secondary GTP programme which was graded 'good' in its last Ofsted. In addition, the course leader for the primary and secondary PGCE programmes at the University of East Anglia is a co-opted member on SACRE.

e. RE Champions Project

In June 2010, the eastern region advisers association (AREIAC) applied for funds from Keswick Hall Trust to promote teachers in the Eastern Counties as champions of RE and promote the Celebrating RE event in March 2011. During September to January this group of teachers met, including three from Norfolk. This provided excellent opportunities for teachers to engage with like-minded colleagues and to dedicate their time to innovative and creative practice in the subject. Some of the outcomes from this project were shared nationally.



f. Celebrating RE

Norfolk SACRE organised a public celebration of the subject in 'The Forum' in Norwich during March. The event was supported by a number of partners including UEA, EEFA, dioceses and local charities. The day included workshops for teachers, presentation of academic papers, practical craft activities for children, school performances as well as an opportunity for the public to engage with SACRE members and displays by schools.

g. Professional Development

The Adviser to SACRE provided CPD for secondary schools in the form of network meetings. These focused on assessment, spirituality and the revision of the agreed syllabus. Attendance at these meetings has dropped significantly in the last two years. In conversation with teachers it appears this is largely due to increased commitments at school or the lack of cover available, rather than an unwillingness to attend. An RE CPD day was held for the primary phase for those in their first three years of teaching focusing on planning, assessment and enquiry based learning. In addition, two subject

leader meetings for primary colleagues were held, as well as specific courses for teachers of RE in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. Training on promoting community cohesion through RE and collective worship was also provided by the primary adviser which was well attended. The University of East Anglia invited HMI, Alan Brine, National Adviser for Religious Education, to speak on 'The Future of RE in a Spirit of Optimism', at a Secondary Schools Event on the 18th May 2011, and this provided a flavour of the national picture, together with an idea of what was happening from the HMI/Ofsted perspective. A number of SACRE members attended this event, as well as teachers. The two Anglican Diocese (Norwich and Ely) provide CPD on both RE and collective worship. Through the year these included network meetings, creative approaches to teaching Christmas and Easter, Eco RE and 'Touching Holy Ground'. Both Diocese provided training on using the bible in schools, as part of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible. An increasing number of publications and on line resources are being produced across the region by 'Church Schools East' including support for collective worship, The Lord's Prayer Project and a Values Workbook.

h. Art of Faith Exhibition and Education Project

The exhibition was housed in Norwich Castle in Autumn/Winter 2010 as an exploration of religious art and history from Norfolk's many diverse faiths. There were objects and works of art on display from many faiths and it was a true celebration of diversity in Norfolk. This is particularly poignant given the demographic profile of Norfolk. The adviser to SACRE and Head of Learning at the castle applied to two trusts for funding to support an education programme. In addition, many SACRE members were involved with the exhibition e.g. in lending objects of faith, organizing and leading workshops, supporting education events. The education project was funded by Westhill Endowment and the Sir Halley Stewart Trusts and aimed to engage young people with both faith, and the art of faith. The exhibition generated a great deal of interest from teachers and 41 attended the special teachers preview. The project was enhanced by interaction between different communities- secondary education teachers, pupils, UEA academics, UEA students, faith communities, website development team and museum staff. The interface of these different groups created a vibrant and dynamic way of working which will lead to a lasting legacy.

i. 14-19 Education

SACRE received an interesting presentation from Trish Judson (14-19 Education) highlighting the development and possible changes taking place in provision. Trish spoke of the Local Operational Partnerships and the county-wide plan 'Stepping Ahead' which focuses on 5 areas for development. The proposed introduction of the EBacc was discussed.

2. Management of SACRE

SACRE met four times during 2010-11 on the following dates:

19th October 2010 Norwich PDC

3rd February 2011 Norwich PDC

11th May 2011 County Hall

12th July 2011 Norwich PDC

During this year changes took place to the administration of SACRE, and SACRE wishes to thank Carol Burgess for her support during the year, particularly during the month of March.

Attendance at SACRE meetings has continued to be static and two new members were appointed in the July meeting.

A Task and Finish Group devoted time to the development of a leaflet explaining the role and function of SACRE to all stakeholders. The leaflet was sent to all headteachers, governors and local councilors. In addition, the leaflets were made available to those attending the Celebrating RE event and is now available on the website.

In the October meeting, discussion took place relating to how committee members represented their sending bodies. The importance of ensuring feedback and consultation with sending bodies was highlighted, especially in relation to the revision of the syllabus.

Norfolk SACRE was represented at both the NASACRE Conference 'Whose RE is it anyway?' in Birmingham during the Celebrating RE month, and at the NASCRE AGM in May. One member also attended a conference organized by the EEFA, Essex County Council and Parliamentary Outreach and chaired by the Bishop of Chelmsford, on 'The Big Questions: Faith in Public Life'.

3. The Effectiveness of the Local Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus is under review, with proposed implementation of the new syllabus from September 2012. A significant period of consultation took place with questionnaires being sent to all schools, and also an on line questionnaire for learners. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has met on four occasions this year, and additional meetings have taken place concerning particular aspects of the syllabus. The proposed changes to the syllabus include:

- a. An enquiry based learning approach. This is rooted in recent research, and is influenced by the Ofsted Report 'Transforming Religious Education' (2010)
- b. Placing enquiry at the heart of learning, and recommending a framework for effective enquiry which is outlined in the statutory part of the syllabus
- c. Recognition of a range of pedagogies and approaches teachers may use to establish effective enquiry based learning.
- d. The importance of establishing the principles for a climate for effective learning in RE.
- e. Supporting teachers in giving adequate time and space for reflection within the context of the children's learning.
- f. Advocating the broadening of the field of enquiry to include more specifically Humanism and other non-religious views. This is reflected in the terminology proposed for the two attainment targets:
- g. Attainment Target 1: Learning about religion and belief
- h. Attainment Target 2: Learning from religion and belief

- i. Revising the level descriptors better reflect the ethos of this syllabus.

It is currently proposed, that the religions and beliefs to be studied at each key stage remain largely the same as the 2005 syllabus, and that the areas of study remain the same as the 2005 syllabus, with some minor changes in phraseology. A full programme of support for schools is planned for 2011-12.

4. Collective Worship

Having focused on the quality and provision in the previous year and having provided substantial CPD for schools, SACRE has continued to monitor provision through inspection reports and through anecdotal evidence. Following some concerns in one school, a management information sheet (MI) was sent to all schools explaining the nature of collective worship which is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. This was received well by schools. Two high schools have been developing best practice in the last two years, and it is hoped that this may be shared more widely in the future.

5. Contribution of SACRE to social and racial harmony, and community cohesion

There are representatives of all the major faiths and Christian denominations on SACRE. It was agreed in the October meeting that SIPs would be asked to notify SACRE of any issues, both positive and negative, concerning RE, collective worship, SMSC and community cohesion.

At our May meeting, we heard from Jenny Kartupleis, Director, East of England Faith Council (EEFC) about the wider Inter Faith work which was taking place in the region. She provided members with a detailed history leading to the formation of EEFC about ten years ago, and how it had been funded at that time, up to the current situation which had been affected by recent Government cuts.

One of the key aims for the Art of Faith project was promoting community cohesion, by enabling young people to engage with members of faith and talk about the significance of art and faith for them. This was achieved through 'face to face' encounter, and through web based film resources.

Appendix: SACRE Membership 2010-11

Committee A:

Shan Barclay -Muslim representative
Alan Berry- Society of Friends representative
Alpkadara Haworth- Buddhist representative
Ujjal Sing Kular- Sikh representative
James McGarry (Chair)- Roman Catholic representative
Robert Ogden- United Reformed Church representative
Shelagh Phillips- Jewish representative
Masha Smith- Christian Orthodox representative
Mark Taylor- Baptist representative
Alison Thompson (Chair of ASC)- Methodist representative
Gayatri Verma- Hindu representative
Natasha Willkinson- Baha'i representative
Michelle Woodhouse- Salvation Army representative

Committee B:

Shirley Buxton- Diocese of Norwich
Juliet Corbett- Diocese of Norwich
Gill Hipwell- Diocese of Norwich
Shirley Hall- Diocese of Ely

Committee C:

Melinda Derry -NASH representative
Clive Foden – special schools representative
Pat George- SNAPP representative
Gemma Greengrass- NATRE representative
Russell Hammond- JCC representative
Sue Paice- JCC representative

Committee D:

Cllr Bert Bremner
Cllr Michael Chenery
Cllr Paul Rice
Cllr Tony Wright

Co-opted:

Jackie Watson- Humanist representative
Linda Rudge- Higher Education representative

Officers:

David Orsborne: Clerk to SACRE
Ali Ranson (until January 2011)
Kevin Blogg (from January 2011)
Kathryn Wright: Adviser to SACRE

