

A G E N D A

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Kent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education will be held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 25th November, 2014 at 9.30 am

NB Group pre-meetings at 9.15am in the meeting room

Refreshments will be available from 9.15am

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Membership

To note the resignation of Mrs P Martin, Group 2 Canterbury Diocese and Mrs P Fairchild ATL and Miss S Lacon NAHT, Group 3

To note the appointment of Mr A Gillespie, Co-Opted to Group 3 - Teacher Associations and Mrs N Caisley - KAH, Headteacher, Otford Primary School

To note the renewed appointments of:- Ms K Burke and Mr S Platnauer, NUT Group 3, Mrs V Thornevell, Methodist, (resigning December 2014), Miss J Webb, Baptist, Mrs C Elapatha, Buddhism, Mr C Cohen, Judaism and Miss S Malone, RC Group 1

2. Apologies for Absence/Substitutes

3. Declarations of Interests

4. Minutes 25 June 2014 (Pages 3 - 6)

5. The Local Authority and Religious Education in Schools-Overview / Q and A Session -Mr R Gough (Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform)

6. Budget (Pages 7 - 8)

7. Annual Report (Pages 9 - 30)

8. Youth SACRE 18 November 2014

9. Development Plan (Pages 31 - 32)

10. Overview of National and Local Developments

1.NASACRE Conference -27 November 2014,Birmingham

Keynote speakers: Joyce Miller and Alan Brine

2.Ofsted Framework

3.Shaping the Spirit-appoint Working Group to meet January 2015.

4.HUB meetings(Minute 35.9 refers) Oral update - Mr Gillespie

11. Patterns of Attendance (Pages 33 - 34)

12. Dates of 2015 meetings

SACRE

Tues. 10 March 2015 _ County Hall, Maidstone

Wed. 17 June 2015 – Highworth Grammar school, Ashford

Mon. 23 Nov. 2015 – County Hall, Maidstone

SACRE Briefings at Oakwood House, Maidstone

Mon. 2 February 2015

Mon. 11 May 2015

Mon. 19 Oct. 2015

All meeting start at 9.30am

13. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Carol Wade

Clerk to SACRE

Business Strategy and Support

Sessions House

Maidstone

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Monday, 17 November 2014

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in the St. Martin's Church, Great Mongeham CT14 0HD on Wednesday, 25 June 2014.

PRESENT: Mr S C Manion (Chairman), Mrs N Younosi (Vice-Chairman), Ms K Burke, Mrs V Corbyn, Mr J Elenor, Miss J Harrison-substitute for Miss S Lacon Mr M J Northey, Mr M Papadopoulos, Mr Q Roper-substitute for Mrs P Martin Miss R Walters, Miss J Webb, Mrs J Wigg and Mr R Chakkedath

ALSO PRESENT: Prof R Norman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Foster (RE Consultant) and Mrs C Wade (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

33. Membership (Item 1)

- 33.1 To note the resignation of Mrs P Martin, Group 2 Canterbury Diocese
- 33.2 To note the Appointment of Mr A Gillespie-CCCU co-opted member to Group 3 (Teacher Associations)
- 33.3 The Clerk reported Pam Jones Chair of KAH (Kent Association of Headteachers) had been consulted in regard to the vacancies in Group 3 for a Secondary and Primary Headteacher. Mr Foster confirmed he had also spoken to her. The contact at Sessions House was Sharon Batchelor-Business support officer to KAH and Kent Primary Forum.

34. Minutes (Item 4)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2014 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

35. Budget (Item 5)

- 35.1 Mr Foster was pleased to report that there had been no cut in the SACRE Budget for the next financial year. After allowing for meeting expenses and funding of the Youth SACRE (Lat Blaylock Keynote speaker + refreshments) members needed to consider use of any surplus funds.
- 35.2 The following ideas were considered:-

- 35.3 Liz Pope had previously asked the Clerk to forward information to members about the launch of an RE "teach meet" for secondary and primary teachers. At the RE Hub meeting organised by Bob Bowie, Katie Clemmey, Virginia Corbyn and Liz Pope, ideas from the first meeting on 5 July at The Singleton Environment Centre, Ashford would enable further events and meets,. And SACRE could consider making a contribution.
- 35.4 The use of SACRE funds towards applying for the RE Quality Mark (REQM) (full cost of just under £500).
- 35.5 Mr Foster reported schools could be encouraged to sign up to RE Today and NATRE and SACRE could fund part/all of the subscription. The magazines cost £49.50 for 3 issues. Mrs Corbyn advised the Diocese facilitate subscription to RE Today for its Church schools and bought access to the password for the website. Subscription was for an academic year and could be back dated. She suggested SACRE could consider match funding ie 50%
- 35.6 Mr Foster suggested applications could be considered on a first come first basis up to the limit of surplus funds (approx. £1000).
- 35.7 Miss Walters emphasised CPD was important, to encourage people to make a difference to the quality of RE teaching and she emphasised both the primary and secondary sectors needed to be considered.
- 35.8 Mr Elenor considered SACRE members could raise their profile by attending away-day visits in schools. Mr Foster replied this was a valid suggestion and it was hoped the next outside venue meeting could be held in an Academy. The clerk agree to consult Highworth Grammar school, Ashford regarding June 2015.
- 35.9 Members agreed Mr Foster contact Miss Pope to establish how SACRE funds could best assist the Hub meetings, and invite schools to apply for assistance via the e-bulletin with regard to the REQM and contribution towards RE Today publications. The overall aim being the reduction of the Budget underspend in the most cost effective way.

36. Youth SACRE - Tuesday 18 November 2014, Council Chamber, County Hall, Maidstone
(Item 6)

Mrs Corbyn agreed to contact Lat Blaylock regarding the theme of the Youth SACRE event and the Clerk would then circulate the information in an invitation letter (signed by the Chairman) to all secondary schools and SACRE members via email.

37. SACRE Development Plan
(Item 7)

Mr Foster had agreed to take on responsibility/overview of the plan following Mrs Martins resignation. The Steering Group had considered the plan for use in 2014/15 and it was agreed reference to high quality CPD would be included, which might be supported through the regional Hub. Members noted this was not currently on offer.

38. Survey of RE Provision in Kent Schools

(Item)

- 38.1 Mr Foster had circulated a draft version of the simple 2-sided survey to be undertaken across a sample of schools in each area of the County as part of its responsibilities for monitoring of the provision and quality of RE and Collective Worship. He intended to target specific schools by post as the previous online approach had been hopeless. He would look at the demographics of each area and attempt to balance urban/rural, Academy, VC, Community etc.to get the balance right and obtain the most helpful answers.
- 38.2 Members debated the most effective way of obtaining meaningful information and Mr Foster agreed to move the Collective Worship questions to the end of the survey and not sandwich them in the middle. It was also agreed to separate and target some specific questions to either primary or secondary schools, as it was recognised that the teaching of RE and CW throughout the different phases of education varied greatly and would therefore effect the responses to the questions.
- 38.3 The Chairman concluded that SACRE looked forward to receiving the results which he hoped would be accurate and honest, to inform members without being judgemental.

39. Patterns of Attendance

(Item 8)

Mrs Younosi requested Mrs Deepinder Kaur-Gill be added to the list.

40. Overview of National and Local Developments

(Item 9)

NASACRE

- 40.1 Mr Manion and Mrs Younosi had attended the NASACRE AGM on 22 May 2014 and reported they were disappointed with the Key Note speakers address on Rising to the Challenge -Stephen Lloyd MP, Chair - All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on RE.
- 40.2 They were pleased to confirm that KCC treated Kent SACRE very well, financed their work and provided an RE Advisor and Clerk, which did not seem to reflect other SACRE's experiences.

REC Expert Advisory Group for RE

- 40.3 The Clerk read an email from Liz Pope informing members that she had applied and been selected for the Group .She was currently working on the content of the RE Review and requested that if any members could recommend some good RE resources by emailing her it would be much appreciated. She was also on the REC Qualifications group advising on the new GCSE and A level criteria.

Birmingham

- 40.4 Mr Platnauer raised the issue of recent press coverage regarding the alleged inappropriate Muslim involvement in some Birmingham schools. Members agreed no action was required from SACRE as Kent schools were aware they could ask for advice if required. Mr Foster would remind all schools via the e-bulletin of the

Spring Headteacher and Governor briefings which outlined the status of RE in schools and that SACRE was responsible for determining the locally agreed syllabus.

Royal Society of the Arts (RSA)

- 40.5 Mr Foster would provide the link to a very interesting report: [Schools with Soul](#) which offers a very powerful and original analysis of school-based provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

<http://www.thersa.org/action-research-centre/learning,-cognition-and-creativity/education/reports-and-events/reports/schools-with-soul>

NASACRE briefing -SMSC.

- 40.6 Following the AGM, Mr Foster reported NASACRE had published 20 ideas for SACRE's to think about. He was pleased to report that Kent had either tried or accomplished many of the points.

41. Dates of meetings

(Item 10)

SACRE

Tues 25 November 2014 - Darent, County Hall, Maidstone-Mr Gough attend

Tuesday 10 March 2015 - County Hall

Wednesday 17 June 2015 - outside Venue - Academy?

Monday 23 November 2015 – County Hall

Briefings at Oakwood House, Maidstone

Monday 13 October 2014

Monday 2 February 2015

Monday 11 May 2015

Monday 19 October 2015

All meetings start at 9.30am

42. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

(Item 11)

43. Guest Speaker - Mr S Manion, St.Martins Church,Great Mongeham

(Item 12)

Mr Manion welcomed members to the 13th century church where he had been a lay preacher until the previous year. The church was part of the benefice of Upper Deal and members were intrigued to climb the steps of the Bell Tower and admire the magnificent view. The meeting concluded with a light lunch and members agreed to make a donation of £100 towards church funds in appreciation for hosting the meeting.

COST CENTRE SUMMARY / MONITORING RETURN 2014/15

E 1RN 19069 SACRE

Month Reconciled:

Sep-14

Oracle Code	Description	Ordered	Invoiced	Reconciled (should agree to Oracle)	Total	Cash limit	Left to spend	% spent
TOTAL EMPLOYEES		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50	50	0%
122000	Internal - Room Hire	540.00	0.00	190.00	730.00	1,000	270	73%
TOTAL PREMISES		540.00	0.00	190.00	730.00	1,000	270	73%
230000	Public Transport (Officers & Members)	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	600	450	25%
242000	Casual User	600.00	0.00	274.40	874.40	600	-274	146%
TOTAL TRANSPORT		750.00	0.00	274.40	1,024.40	1,200	176	85%
342000	Refreshments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100	100	0%
350000	Printing	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	550	450	18%
440000	Conference Expenses	270.00	0.00	0.00	270.00	1,200	930	23%
451000	Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	95.00	95.00	200	105	48%
310000	Postage	100.00	0.00	127.15	227.15	200	-27	114%
340000	Catering Provisions & Catering Equip	275.00	0.00	0.00	275.00	0	-275	0%
401000	Specialists Fees	450.00	0.00	0.00	450.00	0	-450	0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & SERVICES		1,195.00	0.00	222.15	1,417.15	2,250.00	832.85	63%
646000	Corporate Property, Kent Estate Mngmt	114.40	0.00	16.80	131.20	500	369	26%
671000	Reallocation of overheads and internal charge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0%
TOTAL OTHER		114.40	0.00	16.80	131.20	500	369	26%
GROSS EXPENDITURE		2,599.40	0.00	703.35	3,302.75	5,000	1,697	66%
NET EXPENDITURE		2,599.40	0.00	703.35	3,302.75	5,000	1,697	66%

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To: All SACRE Members
Members, Kent County Council
Corporate Director, Education and Young People Services
Head Teacher / Chair of Governors all schools in Kent
NASACRE



**KENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

2013 – 2014

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Opening remarks from the Chair of SACRE

Welcome to the 2013-14 Annual Report of the Kent SACRE. The SACRE has met three times during the academic year. We have continued our commitment to hold at least one meeting each year in a Kent place of worship. This year's visit was to the St Martin's church in Great Mongeham. We try to ensure that member presentations are a continuing feature of our meetings.

The SACRE has had a full year working towards the priorities outlined in the current Development Plan. The SACRE has also responded to the Religious Education Council's review of Religious Education and has written to the Secretary of State (through the Local Authority) as a way of contributing to the direction and health of Religious Education in the future. Our focus has been on developing a Youth SACRE. During this year we held a very successful inaugural event that was well supported by secondary schools. SACRE is now planning to make the Youth SACRE an annual event on the calendar.

As an increasing number of schools in Kent have converted to Academies, SACRE has made ongoing efforts to engage with all schools to ensure their continued compliance with requirements to provide high quality Religious Education and opportunities for Collective Worship. SACRE has worked with the Kent Association of Head teachers in order to seek membership of representatives of Primary and Secondary head teachers. Through communications with national appointing bodies, SACRE has tried to quickly fill vacancies that arise in Group 1. We believe it is important that we have a membership drawn from the Faith Groups and the range of schools found locally as they help to ensure that the SACRE is reflective of the diversity found in Kent.

SACRE continues to benefit from its partnership with the different faith groups, the Anglican diocesan education boards of Canterbury and Rochester and with Canterbury Christ Church University. We are also thankful for the support that is provided by our former AST colleagues. Not only are they each members or co-opted to SACRE, but they do provide a valuable link between Secondary Schools / Academies and ourselves.

SACRE would like to remind schools that Kent does not currently offer professional development for Religious Education. This, combined with the impact of the absence of RE from the English Baccalaureate in secondary schools, causes the SACRE great concern that Religious Education may not be apportioned the same importance as other subjects in the school curriculum. If, as a part of their monitoring cycle, schools identify RE or Collective Worship as an area that needs development, they need to look for their own bespoke training. The SACRE is grateful to Allan Foster, Consultant Adviser, who was funded by the Local Authority to support SACRE for the period covered by this report, for driving our work forward and keeping us abreast of developments in Religious Education nationally.

As Chairman, I would like to thank all those who serve on Kent SACRE, teachers, faith group representatives, and the vice chairman. The professional support of our consultant / adviser and the democratic support are also gratefully acknowledged. This team has worked very hard this year to provide support so that we are able achieve our aims despite challenges in a time of ongoing austerity. We are grateful for the ongoing support and interest of the Local Authority and for the active involvement of senior officers and Members in our activities. I believe that Kent SACRE is very well placed to face the challenges ahead as we continue to ensure that Religious Education and Collective Worship retain their rightful place at the heart of our schools.

Steven Manion

Chairman, Kent SACRE

September 2014

INTRODUCTION

The 1988 Education Reform Act established the statutory requirement for all Local Authorities (LA) to establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The Kent SACRE is an independent body which advises the LA on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship.

The Statutory Duties of a SACRE

All LAs are required to establish a SACRE.

A SACRE's main function, as set out in the 1996 Education Act is:

“To advise the Local Education Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in County schools and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus as the Authority may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit”. (s.391 (1) (a))

Such matters include:-

“Methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers”.

A SACRE also:

- Can require the LA to review its current Agreed Syllabus (s.391(3))
- Must consider applications made by a head teacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in County schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the Collective Worship provided for some or all of the pupils in a particular school - “determinations”. (s.394(1))

It is a legal requirement that the SACRE publish an Annual Report to inform relevant parties, including schools, of the advice that SACRE has given to the Local Authority and of the actions taken to support RE and Collective Worship in schools using the Agreed Syllabus, that have resulted from this advice.

The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools through:

- Giving advice on methods of teaching using the Agreed Syllabus Religious Education;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to by the LA;
- Asking the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.

This report covers the work of the Kent SACRE during the academic year from September 2013 to August 2014.

Three full SACRE meetings were held during the period covered by this report. Details of SACRE Membership and attendance at meetings can be found in Appendix 3 and agendas and minutes of meetings can be found on the KCC website - www.Kent.gov.uk/SACRE.

The report is sent to the Head teachers/Chair of Governors of all schools in the county, The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), and the Local Authority. The report is also available on the SACRE pages of the Kent website.

THE SACRE'S MISSION STATEMENT

Kent SACRE seeks to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally, as well as socially, culturally and physically, so that they are able to understand themselves and others and cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing world.

Kent SACRE aspires to:

- Enhance the quality of religious education and collective worship in Kent schools, and
- Celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in Kent

Our vision is:

For schools to be able to:

- provide challenging learning through the RE Curriculum;
- promote an inspirational and aspirational ethos through meaningful and engaging Collective Worship; and
- contribute to community cohesion by engaging the whole school community in an exploration of identity and community in the local, national and global context.

For the Local Authority to:

- place a high priority on the role of RE and Collective Worship in schools;
- aim to provide sufficient resource to support schools in the above;
- work in partnership with SACRE to build links between schools and local faith communities.

For SACRE members to:

- represent their constituents in the spirit of promoting educational RE and Collective Worship within statutory regulations;
- represent fairly the views of their constituents as far as this is possible;
- work with other members of SACRE to model and promote respect for and understanding of different beliefs and lifestyles and a universal search for what it means to be human.

Our Aims:

To work with the Local Authority to:

- place a high priority on the role of RE and Collective Worship in schools;
- aim to provide sufficient resources
- work in partnership with SACRE to build links between schools and local faith communities.

To support schools in:

- raising standards of pupil attainment in RE to equate to national expectations of performance levels in other core subjects
- developing the spiritual dimension of the school
- improving the quality of collective worship
- making appropriate provision to meet the needs of all pupils represented within their school community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Advice to the Local Authority (LA)

The SACRE advises the LA to bring this report to the attention of schools and governing bodies and, in particular, to highlight the following points:

- Schools need to be aware that **no CPD programme for RE is currently being initiated by the LA**; instead schools are expected to identify and access their own training needs through local and national organisations;
- In all maintained schools other than Voluntary Aided schools or schools of a religious character, but including Voluntary Controlled Schools, **Religious Education has to be taught according to the Kent Agreed Syllabus. However, the Dioceses of Canterbury continues to recommend that all Church of England schools also follow the Agreed Syllabus and the Diocese of Rochester recommends that its Voluntary Controlled schools use the Agreed Syllabus**;
- Kent SACRE continues to work with KCC to ensure that essential and appropriate supporting materials and resources are made available on the Kent Education Learning and Skills Information (KELSI) web pages. Currently the Agreed Syllabus and Non-Statutory Guidance can be accessed here:
http://www.kelsi.org.uk/curriculum_and_pupil_learning/curriculum/re.aspx
- **All schools are reminded of their responsibilities to provide opportunities for daily Collective Worship.** The place of collective worship in schools is upheld by statute and has been so since 1944. The basic requirement is that all registered pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day. There are only two exceptions to this: parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and pupils in school sixth forms are permitted to decide for themselves whether to attend or not. The Education Reform Act (ERA) 1988 stipulates collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'; it is deemed to be fulfilling this description if it 'reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief, without being distinctive of any Christian denomination'.
- **SACRE guidance on Collective Worship** "Gathering Together – Policy & Practice for Collective Worship" is currently being updated and will be linked to the KELSI web page for RE.
- **Secondary schools are reminded that Religious Education is a statutory subject and that all KS4 students should follow an accredited course as is required in the Agreed Syllabus.** Whilst RE is not being included in the English Baccalaureate it will count as part of 'Performance in Best 8 GCSE subjects' and is still a requirement by law;
- **Academies are reminded of their statutory requirement to teach Religious Education in accordance with their Funding Agreement.** Academies in Kent are recommended to use the Kent Agreed Syllabus to ensure that they fulfil their statutory requirements;
- Senior Leaders and Governing Bodies are urged to ensure that **RE Subject Leaders/RE Co-ordinators are adequately supported** in terms of professional development, opportunities to monitor and evaluate the subject, opportunities to train

and support colleagues and in having an adequate budget in order to help raise standards in Religious Education;

- Schools are recommended to **subscribe to “RE Today”** in order to access regular publications which provide teaching and learning resources, subject knowledge, access to CPD opportunities, and access to the RE Today web based resources.
- Schools are encouraged to **apply for the RE Quality Mark (REQM)**. Three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold can be achieved and schools will be able to demonstrate their good practice in RE and have hard work recognised and rewarded (www.reqm.org);
- Schools are reminded that the Teachers’ Standards (Part One:3) require all **teachers to demonstrate a good subject and curriculum knowledge** and this is crucial within RE in order that pupils develop clear and accurate understanding of different faith communities and world views. Schools are urged to access appropriate CPD to meet the needs of the staff teaching RE;
- All teachers are urged to ensure that **tasks set for all pupils are appropriately challenging** and meet the needs of the learners. Again, this is a requirement of the Teachers’ Standards (Part One:1, 2 & 5);
- Schools are also urged to look at the range of activities provided for pupils. At all Key Stages there continues to be a difference in boys’ and girls’ attainment. **Teachers are asked to use strategies that are known to be more effective with boys** to try to narrow this gap;
- Schools are reminded of the **expectation to assess pupils’ progress in Religious Education**. The Agreed Syllabus Non-Statutory Guidance provides a lot of guidance on assessment and how to use the Level Descriptions for RE;
- The SACRE encourages secondary teachers to look at **ways in which they might challenge pupils earlier on in Key Stage 3, especially in the development of reasoning and evaluative skills and in developing extended writing skills**. Evidence shows that where schools do this it impacts significantly on performance in GCSE examinations. (The Agreed Syllabus has guidance on skill development and on Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills as well as other advice on Teaching and Learning processes);
- **The SACRE will continue to send e-bulletin communications to schools** as it is felt to be important and useful to keep schools as up to date as possible with new resources, developments in RE etc.;

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SACRE’S WORK:

Meetings

The full SACRE has met on three occasions over the academic year. Group pre-meetings are held from 9:15a.m. The full meeting beginning at 9:30a.m. Meetings end at 12:30p.m.

(1) 19th November 2013 - County Hall, Maidstone

The Draft Annual Report 2012-13 was debated by members. Key points highlighted included: GCSE and GCE examination results 2013 – showing a significant decline in short course entries; concerns about the fact that Ofsted school inspections did not report on non-

compliance with statutory requirements for RE and Collective Worship; the status of RE in schools at a time when schools are focused on developing the new National Curriculum.

The Inaugural Youth SACRE meeting had recently taken place. Members welcomed some very positive feedback and thanked Richard Tyson for leading on this activity.

The meeting also discussed the need to review and restructure the SACRE Development Plan to reflect its statutory responsibilities and additional achievable objectives.

Co-opted Member, Jackie Grant provided a very interesting and informative illustrated talk on the Baha'i view of developing spirituality in young people. This was very well received by members who actively took part in a question and answer session.

(2) 5th March 2014 – County Hall, Maidstone

A second Youth SACRE event was agreed for November 2014, with Mrs Younosi and Mrs Grant agreeing to lead. It was agreed that an outside speaker be invited to this event. Members discussed the revised Development Plan that Mrs Martin had prepared. Issues raised included marketing CPD to schools, raising the profile of SACRE, the loss of SACRE documents from the new KELSI website

Mr Foster reported to members of a meeting with Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education. Points discussed included: SACRE Annual Report 2012-13, Youth SACRE, SACRE involvement with Cabinet Committee for Education. Mr Gough agreed to attend a future SACRE meeting, and asked to be kept informed of developments and issues.

RE Curriculum Review and recent Ofsted Report on RE were also discussed. SACRE decided to note the contents of the suggested Programmes of Study, and to consider how these might be useful when the Agreed Syllabus is next reviewed. In the meantime SACRE anticipated that NASACRE and perhaps the Department for Education may clarify the status of this Curriculum Review and the Programmes of Study.

Members were invited to read the REC Review of RE document and to discuss the implications at a future meeting.

(3) 25th June 2014 – St. Martin's Church, Great Mongeham, DEAL

SACRE was pleased to learn that the Budget for 2014 -15 had been maintained at the same level as the previous year. Discussions about proposals for the spending of funding led to agreement that a visiting speaker from RE Today could be funded to attend the Youth SACRE meeting. In addition, it was agreed that SACRE would encourage schools to subscribe to "RE Today" and to apply for the REQM by offering matched funding up to 50% of total costs on a first come first served basis.

SACRE Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended NASACRE AGM. Both provided positive feedback from the event.

It was agreed to undertake a survey of a representative sample of schools across the four administrative areas of the county. Mr Foster presented a draft questionnaire for consideration.

Mr Manion welcomed members to the 13th century church where he had been a lay preacher until the previous year. The church was part of the benefice of Upper Deal and members were intrigued to climb the steps of the Bell Tower and admire the magnificent view. The meeting concluded with a light lunch and members agreed to make a donation towards church funds in appreciation for hosting the meeting.

Kent Youth SACRE, October 16th 2013

The first meeting of the Kent Youth SACRE took place on October 16th in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Maidstone.

Sixteen secondary schools participated. There were 31 students and 17 teachers as well as nine members of SACRE in attendance.

Group Discussions:

After an initial introduction students split into three different committees to discuss a key question:

- i) Why RE is important
- ii) What RE has helped me to understand and achieve
- iii) What helps students learn and make progress

After discussion in committee each committee gave feedback to the other members of the Youth SACRE. The specific feedback can be read in the minutes from the meeting. There then followed a wider debate amongst all Youth SACRE members about the importance and value of RE. A good range of students were able to participate in this and did so with insight and understanding. It was clear that a number of students were passionate about the importance and relevance of RE in the school curriculum. This was inspiring to hear. The quality of discussion and feedback from students was high. Throughout proceedings students were engaged, motivated and keen to be able to contribute to the shaping of the future of RE in Kent Schools.

Evaluation:

Both the evaluation survey and discussion with students, teachers and SACRE members present indicated that there would be strong support for another Youth SACRE. Evaluation feedback, and my own view, would suggest that potentially fruitful areas for discussion in future SACRE include discussion of:

- i) The specific content of the Kent RE syllabus
- ii) Ways forward to safeguard the future of RE in Kent schools. Indeed, the latter could be a powerful vehicle to help school leaders, members of KCC and national government recognise the importance of RE within school.

The basic format of introduction, committee work, refreshment break, feedback and Youth SACRE debate worked well. This all fitted into the allotted time, 2-5.00pm very effectively.

SACRE Development Plan

In 2013 SACRE reviewed its development plan to set out some areas of achievable activities over the coming years. The focus for this plan is to ensure that statutory requirements are met. The 2013 – 2014 Development Plan can be found as Appendix 2, attached to this report.

Professional Administrative Support

The Local Authority provides support in the following ways:

- a dedicated clerk to support the Committee
- funding for a dedicated Consultant Adviser to support and advise SACRE
- an annual budget to support the running costs of Committee meetings and for the SACRE to perform its statutory functions
- space on KELS I web pages for RE and Collective Worship resources

ADDITIONAL SACRE ACTIVITIES**National Links**

Kent SACRE is a member of NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) and representatives attend national meetings. A representative also attends the regional meetings for SACRE.

Kent SACRE submitted a response to the REC Review of RE as part of a consultation on its draft recommendations. SACRE expressed concerns that the timeframe for this consultation process was inadequate, and that the structure and contents of the Programmes of Study required detailed examination and consideration.

In March 2013, the RE All Party Parliamentary Group, chaired by MP Stephen Lloyd, published a significant report 'RE: The Truth Unmasked', focussing on standards in RE, support for the subject and the supply of RE teachers nationally. The main findings show that:

- Over fifty per cent of those teaching RE in secondary schools have no qualification or relevant expertise in the subject
- In more than half of the 300 primary schools participating in the inquiry, some or all of the pupils were taught RE by someone other than their class teacher
- A quarter of all primary schools that responded said the lesson was given by a teaching assistant
- Primary and primary trainee teachers lack confidence and expertise in teaching RE, especially in diverse and multi-cultural classrooms
- Support for RE teachers at a local level has been dramatically reduced by local authority funding cuts and the academies programme
- Bursaries for RE trainees have been removed and there has been a radical reduction in applicant numbers for 2013/14
- Because of this lack of training and support many of those teaching RE are unable to meet the Department for Education's Teaching Standards, selling young people short in their schools.

Following a meeting with Roger Gough (KCC Cabinet Member for Education) SACRE wrote a letter to Michael Gove (the then Secretary of State for Education). The purpose of this letter was to highlight Kent SACRE's concerns about the low status of RE in schools, and how the situation in Kent reflected the same issues and concerns that had been identified in recent reports from the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) on the impact of the E-Bacc on RE, and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report: "RE – The Truth Unmasked". SACRE requested Mr Gove to:

- Ask Ofsted to indicate in their school inspection reports whether schools are compliant or not with statutory or contractual requirements in their provision of RE and Collective Worship
- Restore Initial Teacher Training bursaries for RE trainees
- Include RE examination results in the data used to measure school performance
- Ask Ofqual to include RE in the next phase of GCSE and A Level examination reforms for first teaching in 2016.
- Ensure SACREs have the resources to carry out their statutory responsibilities effectively
- Request all schools to ensure that all teachers all staff responsible for teaching subjects are regularly able to undertake continuing professional development in all subjects they teach
- Require all academies and free schools without a religious character implement the local agreed syllabus for RE.

At the time of writing this report no response has been received from Mr Gove, nor from the new Secretary of State, Nicky Morgan.

Local Developments

During the period of this report, three Freedom of Information requests have been received. One of these concerned the accessibility of the Kent Agreed Syllabus, the other two were requests for information regarding Collective Worship determinations.

Mr Foster, Consultant Adviser, took part in a BBC Radio Kent Interview on the Future of RE in Kent schools. Issues raised included Academies programme, changes to GCSE & 'A' Level exams, introduction of new National Curriculum & RE's position, plight of lack of RE specialist teachers in schools.

Following publication of a NASACRE pamphlet for Academies, SACRE decided to modify this and send a copy to all Academies and Free Schools in Kent, with the intention of reminding these schools of their responsibilities to provide RE and Collective Worship in line with their Funding Agreement, and also to offer Academies the opportunity to engage with Kent SACRE.

In September 2013, SACRE published an article in Kent's "The Governor". The purpose of this was to bring to the attention of Governors the current issues concerning RE and Collective Worship, and to remind them of their statutory responsibilities. This also provided an opportunity for SACRE to make itself known to school governors across the county.

SACRE, in partnership with the Local Authority, continues to work behind the scenes to support schools as they fight to keep an exciting and stimulating, broad and balanced curriculum at the heart of what they offer to pupils of all ages. RE should be a significant part of that curriculum, because it creates opportunities for pupils to grapple with those deep and challenging questions about who they are, and what their place is in the rapidly-changing world around them. Kent pupils deserve the best RE that we can give them, because they are our future

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Locally Agreed Syllabus 2012

Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Local Authorities to institute a review of the locally Agreed Syllabus five years after the completion of its last review. The last review process took place in 2011. The new syllabus, 'REact 2012', was required to be implemented in county schools from September 2012 and is being used successfully in many county schools. Feedback about the syllabus has been extremely positive. Academies, Independent and Free Schools in the County are invited to use the locally Agreed Syllabus.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

During this year, with the support of KCC, a series of CPD opportunities were offered to schools. Unfortunately, due to lack of schools buying – in, the secondary events were cancelled. Similarly, only one of three primary Subject Leader events took place. This was very well received by over 20 primary subject leaders. A similar picture emerged with CPD events offered by Liz Pope (former AST) to new RE teachers. A free event for Early Years teachers which was funded by SACRE and led by colleagues from Canterbury and Rochester Diocese was over subscribed and very well received.

SACRE does have concerns that schools do not seem willing to support CPD opportunities that involve costs. If schools are expected to support their staff with CPD opportunities

provided by national bodies, e.g. NATRE, RE Today etc. then additional costs will be incurred.

MONITORING STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ofsted Reports

SACRE has been considering, and analysing, OFSTED reports for Kent schools over the past year where there are references to RE and SMSC. This has helped in monitoring standards of RE.

SACRE discussed the most recent RE Subject Report from Ofsted – “Realising the Potential” (Ofsted 2013). The key issues which this report raised, and which were of concern to members included:

- low standards
- weak teaching
- problems in developing a curriculum for RE
- confusion about the purpose of RE
- weak leadership and management
- weaknesses in examination provision at Key Stage 4
- gaps in training
- the impact of recent changes in education policy.

School Self-Evaluation

The SACRE recommends that all subject leaders for RE in all schools should regularly evaluate the quality of provision in the subject to identify strengths and areas for development.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Details of Kent schools’ results are yet to be included in this report

GCSE

The key outcomes of the 2014 GCSE results in England and Wales for Religious Education are as follows:

- 387,915 RS GCSE entries (combined short and full course) were recorded; a decrease of 8% from 2013 (420,151 entries)
- Full course entries increased by 7% from 251,063 in 2013 to 269,494 in 2014
- Short course entries fell dramatically by 30% from 169,088 in 2013 to 118,421 in 2014

When RS GCSE entries in England over the past three years are compared to those in Wales (where the EBacc and the average point score at GCSE have not been adopted as school performance measures), the following patterns emerge:

England

- Take up of the GCSE RS short course has fallen from 211,269 in 2012 to 99,601 in 2014 (-53%)
- GCSE RS full course entries in England have increased from 216,182 in 2012 to 258,067 in 2014 (19%)

Wales

- Short course GCSE RS entries have remained stable over the past three years (19,182 in 2012 compared with 18,820 in 2014)
- RS GCSE full course entries have increased from 10,409 in 2012 to 11,427 in 2014 (10%)

Overall this means that compared with 2012 nearly 70,000 fewer 16 year olds in England will complete key stage 4 this year having not gaining a qualification in Religious Studies (a drop of 15%).

This echoes research by the National Association of Teachers of RE (published in November 2013) that found that a third of community schools and over a third of academies without a religious character are still failing to meet their legal or contractual agreements to provide religious education for this key age group.

GCE 'A' LEVEL

The key outcomes of the 2014 A level results in England for Religious Education are as follows:

- 20,196 RS A level entries were recorded; nearly double (96%) the number in 2002/03 (10,313 entries were recorded in 2002/03)
- RS A level entries increased more than any arts, humanity or social science subject this year (up 5.3% on 2012/13)
- RS A level entries have increased more than any arts, humanity or social science subject over the past 10 years (the nearest is Economics with an increase of 57%)
- In line with other subjects the results are generally lower, but the percentage of students achieving A* at RS A level has increased from 5.4% to 6.8%

A summary of the GCSE full and short course and of the GCE AS and A level results for 2014 (with comparisons with previous years) is in Appendix 1.

Complaints about Religious Education

No formal complaints were received under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988 regarding Religious Education in Kent schools.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Schools are reminded that the publication, "Gathering Together – Policy and Practice for Collective Worship" produced by the Kent SACRE in 2008, gives support as well as guidance on Collective Worship for Kent Schools. This is currently being updated, and will be linked to the KELSI web page for RE in the near future.

Determinations

The 1996 Education Act (section 394 – 1) empowers a SACRE to grant the request of a head teacher for alternative Collective Worship, where it is considered that the nature of a pupil population makes it inappropriate to be wholly or mainly Christian.

In the year of this report, the SACRE has not received any requests from schools for a determination.

Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

No complaints were received under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988 regarding Collective Worship in Kent schools.

Appendix 1

Examination Results 2014

Year	Exam type	Boys entries	Girls entries	Total entries	Kent % A*-G	Nat % A*-G	Kent % A*-C	Nat % A*-C
2010	GCSE Full Course	1653	1960	3613	99.2	98.6	77.4	73.1
2011	GCSE Full Course	1703	2160	3863	98.4	98.4	77.7	73.2
2012	GCSE Full Course	1760	2181	3941	98.7	98.5	77.6	73.6
2013	GCSE Full Course	2128	2351	4479	98.7	98.3	74.5	72.4
2014	GCSE Full Course					98.0		71.3
2010	GCSE Short Course	3538	3782	7320	96.2	96.0	53.8	54.6
2011	GCSE Short Course	2907	3018	5925	94.8	94.9	50.9	51.8
2012	GCSE Short Course	2688	2876	5564	94.2	95.6	51.2	52.8
2013	GCSE Short Course	1796	2661	4457	95.5	95.0	59.2	53.9
2014	GCSE Short Course					95.8		56.7
					Kent % A*-E	Nat % A*-E	Kent % A*-B	Nat % A*-B
2010	GCE AS	176	290	466	88.5	90.5	50.0	46.7
2011	GCE AS	76	129	205	89.3	92	35.1	45
2012	GCE AS	80	132	212	94.2	92.5	44.6	44.8
2013	GCE AS	78	114	192	94.3	92.2	40.1	44.6
2014	GCE AS					92.0		44.0
2010	GCE A	196	331	527	99.2	98.3	58.0	56.0
2011	GCE A	192	349	541	99.6	98	59.5	56.9
2012	GCE A	182	309	491	99.8	98.6	56.4	55.9
2013	GCE A	189	302	491	99.6	98.8	54.2	55.3
2014	GCE A					98.5		53.4

Appendix 2

SACRE Development Plan 2013 - 2015

SACRE Development Plan March 2014

What	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements
Implementation of the Agreed Syllabus for RE	Contacting a sample of 5% of schools encompassing a) primary b) secondary) across 4 geographical areas	Interim verbal reports to SACRE consolidated into an annual written report to SACRE which may or may not be included in the Annual Report	Consultant - 6 days	Advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus, and CW
Analysis of exam results	Compilation of local and national data	Written Draft report to SACRE Annual Report to NASACRE Annual Report to LA Education Cabinet Committee	Consultant – 2 days Chair	Publish an Annual Report which is sent to NASACRE
Quality and provision of RE	Short Annual questionnaire to Chairs of Governors	Written summary to SACRE annually	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support	Monitor the provision and quality of RE
Provision and Compliance of Collective Worship	Short Annual questionnaire to Chairs of Governors	Written annual summary to SACRE	Consultant – included above Admin. support	Reporting to LA on CW in schools

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: Advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus

OBJECTIVE: Management of SACRE

What	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements
Hold 3 meetings of SACRE p.a. plus 3 meetings of Chair's pre-briefing meeting	Booked in County Hall and Oakwood House Calendars	Agendas and Minutes Financial Budget Annual Report	Consultant – 6 days Admin. support Chair Membership	Hold meetings in public. Make Agendas and Minutes available to the public
Advise LA on RE and CW matters relating its functions	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Annual Report Verbal/written reports/briefings	Consultant – 4 days Admin. support Chair	Produce and Annual Report to advise LA

SACRE PRIORITIES

What	and How	Reporting	Resources	
1. Youth SACRE	Working group Half-day conference	Evaluation and Feedback to SACRE	Consultant – 1 day Working group Admin. support Financial support	
2. Raise profile and status of RE and CW in Kent	Youth SACRE Communications with LA and schools Communications with Governors Attendance at local and national events SACRE members visits to schools Relationship with LA	Evaluation and feedback to SACRE Annual Report	SACRE Chair Membership Consultant Admin. support	
3. Deliver high quality CPD	LA to be advised to commission CPD Collaboration with Dioceses Collaboration with CCCU	Evaluation and feedback to SACRE	Consultant SACRE members SACRE budget	

Appendix 3

KENT SACRE Membership and Attendance at meetings 2013 – 2014

GROUP 1: CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS REFLECTING THE PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE AREA (13)

MEMBERSHIP	19/11/2013	5/3/2014	26/6/2014
Free Church (4)			
Miss J Webb – (Baptist)	NO	YES	YES
Mrs V Thornewell (Methodist)	YES	YES	NO
Vacancy – (United Reformed Church)			
Mrs J Wigg (Salvation Army)	NO	NO	SICK
Roman Catholic (3)			
Mrs A Donnelly	YES	NO	NO
Vacancy -			
Miss S Malone	YES	YES	NO
Buddhism (1)			
Mrs C Elapatha	YES	NO	NO
The Greek Orthodox Church (1)			
Mr M Papadopoulos	YES	YES	YES
Hinduism (1)			
Mr R Chakkedath	N/A	N/A	YES
Islam (1)			
Mrs N Younosi (<i>Group Convenor/SACRE Vice-Chair</i>)	YES	YES	YES
Judaism (1)			
Rabbi C Cohen	NO	YES	NO
Sikhism (1)			
Mrs Deepinder Kaur Gill	NO	NO	NO
Co-opted Members			
Mrs J Grant (Baha'i)			

GROUP 2: CHURCH OF ENGLAND (6)

MEMBERSHIP	19/11/2013	5/3/2014	26/6/2014
Rochester Diocesan Board of Education (3)			
Mrs V Corbyn (<i>Group Convenor</i>)	YES	YES	YES
Mr R Tyson	YES	NO	NO
Miss K Anderson	YES	NO	NO
Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education (3)			
Mrs T Martin	NO	YES	YES
Vacancy			
Miss R Walters	YES	YES	YES

GROUP 3: TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (6) (Having regard to local circumstances)

MEMBERSHIP	19/11/2013	5/3/2014	26/6/2014
National Union of Teachers Mr S Platnauer	NO	YES	YES
National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers Ms K Burke (<i>Group Convenor</i>)	YES	YES	YES
Association of Teachers and Lecturers Mrs P Fairchild / Vacancy 1.4.2014	NO	YES	N/A
Kent Association of Head Teachers Primary Vacancy			
Kent Association of Head Teachers Secondary Vacancy			
National Association of Head Teachers Kent Branch Miss S Lacon	NO	YES	SUB
Co-opted Members Miss T Kelvie Miss E Pope			

GROUP 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY (4)

MEMBERSHIP	19/11/2013	5/3/2014	26/6/2014
Nominees of Conservative Group (2)			
Mr S Manion (<i>SACRE Chairman and Group Convenor</i>)	YES	YES	YES
Mr M J Northey	YES	YES	YES
Nominee of the Labour Group (1)			
Mr T Maddison	NO	YES	SICK
Nominee of UKIP Group (1)			
Mr J Elenor	YES	YES	YES

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SACRE Development Plan March 2014

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: Advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus

What	and How?	Reporting	Resources	Legal Requirements
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3. Deliver high quality CPD	LA to be advised to commission CPD Collaboration with Dioceses Collaboration with CCCU	Evaluation and feedback to SACRE	Consultant SACRE members SACRE budget	

Patterns of Attendance

MEMBER				
GROUP 1	5/3/2014	25/6/2014	25/11/2014	
Miss J Webb	YES	YES		
Mrs V Thornewell	YES	NO	Last meeting	
Vacancy-URC				
Mrs J Wigg	NO	SICK		
Mrs A Donnelly	NO	NO		
Miss S Malone	YES	NO		
Vacancy-RC				
Mrs C Elapatha	NO	NO		
Mr M Papadopoulos	YES	YES		
Rabbi C Cohen	YES	NO		
Mr R Chakkedath	N/A	YES		
Mrs N Younosi	YES	YES		
Mrs D Kaur Gill	NO	NO		
GROUP 2				
Miss K Anderson	NO	NO		
Mrs V Corbyn	YES	YES		
Mr R Tyson	NO	NO		
Miss R Walters	YES	YES		
Vacancy C of E- Cant				
Vacancy C of E- Cant				
GROUP 3				
Mr S Platnauer	YES	YES		
Ms K Burke	YES	YES		
Vacancy-ATL				

Vacancy KAH-Secondary				
Mrs N Caisley	N/A	N/A		
Vacancy-NAHT				
GROUP 4				
Mr S Manion	YES	YES		
Mr M Northey	YES	YES		
Mr T Maddison	YES	SICK		
Mr J Elenor	YES	YES		