



**Peterborough Standing Advisory Council for
Religious Education**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015 – 2016**

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**Peterborough Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education
Annual Report 2015-2016**

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Chairman's Introduction From Reverend Ian Forsyth

This year, current changes to GCSE and A level present schools with an enormous challenge. It was agreed to redefine the development plan for the next year 2016-2017.

Concerns have been raised about members and councillors that have been absent at a number of meetings which means we have not been quorate and this has an impact on actions which have not been able to be agreed.

Transport to places of worship can be problematic for schools. Therefore, a sub group are looking at the viability of offering funding to schools to enable students to visit the places of worship

It was agreed that Peterborough SACRE would join with Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland for the purpose of reviewing the next Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE continues to send a representative to the NASACRE AGM. Rev Philip Davies attended the NASACRE AGM in London 17th May 2016.

The Teach RE course was attended by two members of SACRE. Both fed back to SACRE having completed the course saying how much it had benefited them.

Amanda Fitton started working as the SACRE Adviser for Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland.

SACRE will continue to meet the challenges and changes outlined below in the forthcoming year:

1. Work to support teachers to provide meaningful and challenging RE;
2. Involve wider representation (Faith / Belief / Universities / Academies);
3. Pupil / student involvement with SACRE;
4. Meeting the challenges of the changes to the curriculum at GCSE and A level.

Rev Ian J Forsyth
Chair of SACRE

The purpose of the report

Religious Education (RE) is an important curriculum subject and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality RE.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority (LA) publishes a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

This entails:

- advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the agreed syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus;
- provide advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its LA, consider whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the agreed syllabus to improve the quality teaching and learning of RE;
- offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

Management of SACRE

With the changing face of education both nationally and locally in the past year, SACRE has had to grapple with its role and function in the LA and nationally. The 'Non Statutory Framework for Religious Education' was produced in October 2013 and is being encouraged by the Religious Education Council for England and Wales to be a significant document to inform a locally Agreed Syllabus Conference when determining its future syllabus for RE. This will be taken into account when the review of Peterborough's Agreed Syllabus happens in 2017.

SACRE is very pleased to report that the LA has continued to support the work of SACRE by providing a named officer from the LA responsible for SACRE, a clerk for the administration and has secured the services of an RE Adviser to support SACRE's work to schools. Despite significant cutbacks in many local authorities, Peterborough City Council has continued to support SACRE and its work.

Peterborough SACRE, which has met once a term, comprises of four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings has been variable. The four groups are as follows:-

- Group A -representatives of non-Anglican Christian denominations, other religions and religious denominations;
- Group B -representatives of the Church of England;
- Group C - representatives of the teachers' association;
- Group D – representatives of the LA.

Membership has continued to change. Long serving members, Vivienne Fleet, James Groombridge and Nick Senior have all resigned from SACRE. SACRE thanks them all for their time and contributions over the years. In collaboration with Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire SACREs, Peterborough intended to have a SACRE Adviser in post by September 2016 and this was achieved with the appointment of Amanda Fitton in July 2016. Reverend Ian Forsyth continued as chairman and Sukaina Manji was voted as Vice Chair.

Efforts have been made to secure Hindu, Buddhist and Roman Catholic representatives but to no avail. There are fewer members attending the meetings regularly and on one occasion SACRE was not quorate and had to postpone ratifying decisions.

Determinations

SACRE had no new requests for determinations.

Details of the agenda items, attendance at the meetings and minutes of the meetings can be found on the Peterborough City Council website:

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/religious-education/>

SACRE and Academies

Peterborough SACRE continues to enjoy a positive relationship with some of the academies in the city. There are members from academies on SACRE. Teachers from academies attend network meetings to share and exchange ideas and materials. Despite the retirement of the RE adviser, the Academies were still supported through network meetings.

NASACRE Conference

Reverend Philip Davis attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on behalf of Peterborough SACRE on 17 May 2016. There were two key note speakers at the conference, The Rt Honourable Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss and Professor Adam Dinham.

School visits

Over the last year, SACRE has looked into providing support for schools to visit different places of worship and this will be on going for 2016-17.

School data:

A and AS level RE The results in Peterborough compared to national results are disappointing but it needs to be recognised that across the city, A level RE is still being successfully taught. SACRE needs to continue supporting schools and encourage more take up in this academic subject.

GCSE RE: The percentage A*- C pass rate has fallen this year from 65% to 62.5% which is a little concerning but could be due to the increase in entries for 2016. Peterborough's pass rate is still lower than the national percentage A*- C pass rate (England) (70.5% this year). SACRE needs to continue supporting schools with the GCSE for 2017.

KS1 - 3 RE This year there has been considerable confusion in schools over how to assess and report on progress in RE. Schools have often assumed that the removal of levels from National Curriculum subjects would also apply to RE and have therefore in many cases been using the Agreed Syllabus but not the assessment part of it. The data that SACRE has usually been able to gather was not asked for and therefore no conclusions with regard to progress at KS1, KS2 and KS3 can be drawn. SACRE needs to continue supporting teachers with assessment and look to introduce new assessment criteria in line with other subjects from the National Curriculum. This continues to be a development area for SACRE for the coming year.

Appendix 1

	2016 Pboro	2016 National	2015 Pboro	2015 National	2014 Pboro	2014 National	2013 Pboro	2013 National	2012 Pboro	2012 National
Number of candidates' entries	1139 (49.7% of cohort)		1012 (44% of cohort)		1140 (51.1% of cohort)		1097 (48.8% of cohort)		1048 (47% of cohort)	
% of candidates obtaining A*- C grades	62.5%	70.5%	65%	72.2%	62.6%	71.5%	61.5%	69.2%	66.1%	73.7%

Appendix 2

A Level data extract from NOVA, 01/06/2017

A Level – 2016 – Data in Percentage



KS5 Grade Summary by Subject

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE A level (111)

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	Avg Pts
-	National (all entries)	21900	5.6	18.7	30.3	25.5	13.5	4.9	1.4	<0.1	24.4	54.7	98.6	35.7
-	LA (State-funded Schools/Colleges)	122	2.5	14.8	30.3	23.0	20.5	8.2	0.8		17.2	47.5	99.2	32.8

AS Level – 2016 – Data in Percentage



KS5 Grade Summary by Subject

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE AS level (121)

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	A	B	C	D	E	U	X	A-B	A-E	Avg Pts
-	National (all entries)	32515	20.5	24.6	23.5	15.5	8.6	6.9	0.4	45.1	92.7	15.5
-	LA (State-funded Schools/Colleges)	187	15.0	19.3	26.2	24.6	7.5	7.5		34.2	92.5	14.4