

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Agenda

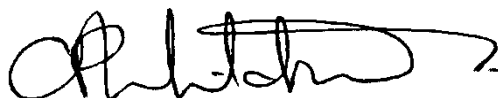
**4.00 pm Monday, 9 November 2020
Via Microsoft Teams**

In accordance with Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held on a virtual basis. Members of the Public can view a live stream of the meeting at:

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/livemeetings> Members of the public wanting to raise issues/make representations at the meeting can do so by emailing Allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk 24 hours before the meeting begins.

1. Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of SACRE held on 12 November 2019
(Pages 1 - 4)
5. Appointment to Vacant Position/New appointment and Resignations –
Report of the Managing Director
(Pages 5 - 6)
6. Membership of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - Re
Appointments –
Report of the Managing Director
(Pages 7 - 8)
7. Proposal to Recommend to the Local Authority the Need to Review the Locally
Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education –
Report of the Director of Children and Adult Services
(Pages 9 - 10)

8. SACRE Annual Report for the Academic Year 2018/19 –
Report of the Director of Children and Adult Services
(Pages 11 - 18)
9. Schools Questionnaire 2019 - Analysis –
Report of the Director of Children and Adults Services
(Pages 19 - 28)
10. Date and Time of Next Meeting. –
Monday 8 February 2021 commencing at 4.00 p.m
11. Supplementary Items(s) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this
Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
12. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Friday, 30 October 2020

**Town Hall,
Darlington.**

Membership

J Uzzell, Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
M Stand, Group B Church of England
Kelsang Dragden, Group A Buddhism
Dr MA Quader, Group A The Islamic Society of Darlington
Helen Ellis, Group A The Roman Catholic Church
M Calderon, Group A The Religious Society of Friends
M Sanderson, Group A The Methodist Church
Rev Thompson, Group A Darlington Baptist Church
B Singh, Group A Sikhism
Bess Robertson, Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)
Meg Thomson, Group A Darlington United Reformed Church
Rev Paul Baker, Group B Church of England
B Miller, Group B Church of England
Councillor C L B Hughes
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Curry
Councillor Heslop
Nick Blackburn, Group C The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

Co-opted Members:

M Fryer, Co-opted Member of SACRE

Stuart Rawle, Co-opted Member of SACRE

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Allison Hill, Democratic Officer, Resources Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays email: Allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk or Tel 01325 405997

This page is intentionally left blank

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1, TOWN HALL, DARLINGTON. DL1 5QT
TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

PRESENT –

J Uzzell (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)), M Stand (Group B Church of England), Dr MA Quader (Group A The Islamic Society of Darlington), Rev Paul Baker (Group B Church of England), Councillor Crudass, Councillor Curry and Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Union of Teachers (NUT))

Co-opted Members – P Andre (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

Officers – Anne Astbury (SENO Partnership Link Officer) (SENCO Partnership Link Officer) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

APOLOGIES – Helen Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), Councillor Heslop and M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

90 MINUTES

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this SACRE held on 5 July 2019.

IT WAS AGREED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

91 COMMISSION ON RE (CORE) REPORT 2018 'RELIGION AND WORLD VIEWS: THE WAY FORWARD'

Members received a presentation from Joyce Miller on the Commission on Religious Education (CoRe) 2018 Report 'Religion and World Views: The Way Forward'.

Joyce Miller gave some background to the role of the Commission on Religious Education and their vision to change the way in which religious education is perceived and enacted and referred in particular to the two year project which was carried out during 2016 and 2018 which worked towards that goal of transforming religious education in England.

The presentation outlined the policy and the underlying principles of the project to teach about religion and worldviews and included the current educational and national challenges; highlighted the four key policy recommendations which related to a subject name change to 'Religion and Worldviews', National Entitlement for all, changes to the law in relation to SACRE'S and removal of the requirement in Law for a Locally Agreed Syllabus and a legal clarification to be sought on selective withdrawal from collective worship, provision of alternative curriculum and access to

other curriculum areas.

Joyce Miller also outlined the uncontested areas of study by the Commission in relation to the National Entitlement and also highlighted some of the key changes that the Commission wished to see including the key concepts to include religion, secularity, spirituality and worldview.

The presentation also outlined three key practice recommendations which included a National body of RE experts to prepare programmes of study; changes to Initial Teacher Education (ITE) to improve training and support for teachers; and funding for resources and provision for continuing professional development (CPD).

Joyce Miller also outlined the support that had been received from NATRE, NAHT, the Church of England and the Religious Education Council; the criticism from the Roman Catholic Church and the Board of Deputies of British Jews; and the Government response to the Commission's report and recommendations which had been less than favourable.

Following discussion thereon, the Chair, on behalf of the Members of this SACRE welcomed the CoRE recommendations and acknowledged the challenges faced ahead to change the way religious education is delivered and perceived.

IT WAS AGREED – That the thanks of this SACRE be extended to Joyce Miller for her interesting and informative presentation.

92 HUMANIST REPRESENTATIVE

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a request received from the Luke Donnellan, Director of Understanding Humanism, Humanists UK to appoint a representative from the local Humanist community to sit on this SACRE.

It was reported that currently this SACRE does not have a humanist representative and the Humanists UK are keen to assist Members in finding a representative in the local area to sit on this authority's SACRE. There are also a number of free resources that the organisations can offer including free education resources to teachers through the 'Understanding Humanism' website.

IT WAS AGREED – That Members approve the appointment of a humanist representative as a Co-opted Member of this SACRE.

93 REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members of this SACRE to give consideration to reviewing the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

It was highlighted that every five years a local authority has to review its agreed syllabus and the current Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was approved by this local authority at its meeting of Cabinet held on 7 April 2015.

As part of any review process it is advisable to include Primary and Secondary Schools, including special Schools in a consultation exercise and Anne Astbury, the SENCO Partnership Link Officer advised Members that following the last meeting of SACRE, she had circulated a questionnaire to all schools to collate information in relation to the teaching of religious education within their schools; use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus; and information on withdrawal from collective worship. Anne advised the Members that unfortunately to-date she had had a poor response but did intend to re-circulate the questionnaire.

Following discussion on a potential review, Members agreed that it would be beneficial to receive a higher percentage of returned questionnaires before any such review discussions could take place.

IT WAS AGREED – That a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus be discussed further at the next meeting.

94 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/18

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members to give consideration to the proposed Annual Report of this SACRE for the academic year 2017/2018 prior to its submission to the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the Department for Education.

Discussion ensued on draft Annual Report and all Groups were in agreement with the Annual report presented for approval.

IT WAS AGREED – That the SACRE Annual Report for 2017/18 be agreed and forwarded to NASACRE and the Department for Education.

95 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

IT WAS AGREED – That future meetings of this SACRE be held on 10 March, 14 July and 10 November 2020 all commencing at 4.00 pm.

This page is intentionally left blank

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

9 NOVEMBER 2020

ITEM NO.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION (SACRE) – APPOINTMENT TO VACANT POSITION/NEW
APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATIONS**

Matter for Consideration

1. To advise Members of the appointment of a representative for the Darlington Baptist Church (Group A), to give consideration to a new appointment to Group A (other Religious Faiths) and to note resignations.

Vacant positions on SACRE

2. There are currently a number of vacant positions in Group A - Representatives of the Other Religious Faiths.
3. A Nomination has been received from the Darlington Baptist Church to fill the current vacancy.
4. The local authority has taken all reasonable steps to assure themselves that Rev Vicky Thompson is representative of the religion.
5. A Co-opted Member has also been sought to representative the Humanists and Janet Mole has volunteered.

New Appointment

6. Jenny Uzzell, the Chair of this SACRE has proposed that she be considered as a Member of Group A, representatives of the Other Religious Faiths representing Paganism.
7. Jenny is the National Education and Youth Manager for the Pagan Federation and is a Member of the Druid Network which has charitable status as a religion.
8. The local authority has taken all reasonable steps to assure themselves that Jenny Uzzell is a representative of the religion and can confirm that Paganism is represented on other SACRE's.

Resignations

9. Members to note that Mrs Fiona Rankin can no longer be a representative of the National Education Union (NEU) on this SACRE as she has now joined the National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT); and Phil Andre, Co-opted Member has also offered his resignation as he has moved away from the area.
10. If Members are minded to approve Jenny Uzell as a representative in Group A, there becomes a vacancy in Group C, representatives of Trade Unions for a NASUWT Member, which Mrs Fiona Rankin would be agreeable to filling.
11. Members also to note the removal of Dr I Thakur, in accordance with the Constitution, from the membership of this SACRE as a representative of Hinduism. Dr Thakur is no longer at the address supplied to us and has not notified the authority of a change of address and has also not attended a meeting of SACRE for a number of years.

Recommendation

That Members of this SACRE:

12. note the appointment of Rev Vicky Thompson as the named representative for the Darlington Baptist Church and that membership be for a period of four years;
13. note the resignation of Mr Phil Andre and the resignation of Mrs Fiona Rankin from the NEU, and that the thanks of this SACRE be extended to them for their valued contribution to this SACRE over the years;
14. note the removal of Dr Thakur from the Membership of this SACRE with immediate effect;
15. note the change of Union represented by Mrs Fiona Rankin from the NEU to NASUWT; and
16. approve the appointment of Ms Jenny Uzzell as the named representative for the Pagan Federation and that membership be for a period of four years.

**Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director**

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.
Allison Hill : Extension 5997

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
9 NOVEMBER 2020**

ITEM NO.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION (SACRE)**

Matter for Consideration

1. To confirm the re-appointment of a number of Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in Groups A and C.

Current Membership

2. Members of the SACRE shall hold office for four years and any outgoing Member may be re-appointed in accordance with its constitution.
3. There are a number of Members whose appointments came to the end of their four years on 10 October 2020 and required re-appointment and these are listed in the attached **Appendix**.
4. Due to the restrictions that the Covid-19 pandemic created, a meeting of SACRE was unable to take place during the Summer to make the re-appointments sooner and existing memberships continued.

Recommendation

5. Members are requested to note the re-appointment of the members listed from Groups A and C of this SACRE and that membership be for a further period of four years from the date of this meeting.

**Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director**

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.

Allison Hill : Extension 5997

APPENDIX

<p>GROUP A Representatives of Other Religious Faiths</p>	<p>Rev. D. Gibson (Assembly of God)</p>	<p>Re-appointed 10 October 2020</p>
	<p>Ms. M. Calderon (The Religious Society of Friends)</p>	<p>Re-appointed 10 October 2020</p>
	<p>Dr. M.A. Quader (Islamic Society of Darlington)</p>	<p>Re-appointed 10 October 2020</p>
<p>GROUP C Representatives of Teaching Unions</p>	<p>Nick Blackburn (National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT))</p>	<p>Appointed 10 October 2020</p>

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
9 NOVEMBER 2020**

**PROPOSAL TO RECOMMEND TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY THE NEED TO
REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2015**

Matter for Consideration

1. To give consideration to a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Background

2. Every five years a local authority has to review its agreed syllabus for religious education and in order to do this it must establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC).
3. An ASC is a separate legal entity from the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and its role is to produce and recommend an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which meets fully the present legislative requirements and is educationally sound.
4. The ASC is made up of the same four groups as the SACRE and may therefore have the same membership as SACRE, but it is a separate legal entity and must therefore be separately convened ie separate agenda and minutes.
5. It is not usual for the ASC members to be given the task of writing the Agreed Syllabus but of working with an Adviser in RE throughout the review process.
6. Only an Agreed Syllabus Conference may recommend an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and its recommendations must be unanimously agreed by the representative committees constituting the Agreed Syllabus Conference.
7. The ASC will finally vote approval of the Agreed Syllabus and then recommend it to the Local Authority for legal adoption as the statutory Agreed Syllabus for use in LA community schools.
8. The current Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was approved by this local authority at a meeting of Cabinet held on 7 April 2015.
9. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic meetings of SACRE were unable to take place during Spring/Summer 2020 to commence the process of review any sooner.

Consultation with Schools

10. As part of the review process it is advisable to include Primary and Secondary Schools, including special Schools in Darlington in a consultation exercise.
11. As Members will be aware this local authority has a large number of academies which in law have the same requirement to provide RE and collective worship, and a good proportion of these academies currently adopt the Locally Agreed Syllabus.
12. Anne Astbury, the SENCO Partnership Link Officer has recently circulated a questionnaire to all schools to collate information in relation to the teaching of religious education within their schools; use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus; and information on the daily Act of Collective Worship and withdrawal from collective worship.
13. Data analysis of the returned questionnaires will be presented in a separate report to Members at this meeting.

Recommendation

14. Members are requested to recommend that the local authority commence the review process and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to progress.

James Stroyan
Director of Children and Adult Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.
Allison Hill: Extension 5997

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
9 NOVEMBER 2020**

SACRE ANNUAL REPORT ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

Matter for Consideration

1. To allow Members to consider the proposed Annual Report for the academic year 2018-2019 and make any agreed amendments prior to its submission to the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the Department for Education.

Information

2. The proposed Annual Report if attached as an **Appendix** to this report.

Recommendation

3. That Members of this SACRE consider the attached report and approve the attached report, with any amendments, prior to submission to NASACRE and the Department for Education.

**James Stroyan
Director of Children and Adult Services**

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.

Allison Hill : Extension 5997

This page is intentionally left blank

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
ANNUAL SACRE REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19**

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Legal Requirement for Religious Education

1. Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
2. Academies have to provide RE for all their pupils, except for those whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal, under the terms of their funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.
3. Free Schools are academies in law and have the same requirement to provide RE.
4. The funding agreement for an academy without a religious designation states that it must arrange for RE to be given to all pupils in accordance with the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirements are that a syllabus must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
5. The key document in determining the teaching of RE is the locally agreed syllabus within the Local Authority (LA), although schools designated as having a religious character are free to make their own decisions in preparing their syllabuses

Background to Schools/Academies in Darlington

6. Darlington has only three Maintained primary schools, the remaining primary and secondary schools are either standalone Academies or Academies within a Multi Academy Trust.
7. An exercise carried out by this SACRE in February 2018 ascertained that there was a good proportion of the Borough's schools and academies using the Locally Agreed Syllabus and we were particularly interested to know the two religions that were being taught at secondary level as part of the GCSE examination.

8. The Chair acknowledged that the questionnaire had been a useful exercise in determining the use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus across the Borough and especially that it was being used by the academies.

The Duties of SACRE

9. There is a legal requirement on all Local Authorities to establish a 'Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education' (SACRE). A SACRE's main duty is to advise the Local Authority on matters connected with the teaching of Religious Education and Collective Worship.
10. SACRE can advise the Authority to review its Agreed Syllabus and can recommend that particular teaching methods, materials and resources are considered for use in Religious Education.
11. A SACRE may also consider any application from Head Teachers that the requirement for Christian collective worship should not apply to a particular school or class of pupils within that school.

Membership of SACRE

12. The membership of SACRE consists of four representative groups (or committees) and co-opted members. The membership below is the current Membership of SACRE.

Representing Darlington Borough Council

- Councillor Crudass (Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio).
- Councillor Bartch (Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee)
- Councillor Heslop (Labour Group Member)
- Councillor Curry (Liberal Democrat Group Member)

Representing Church of England

- Reverend P. Baker
- Martin Stand
- Beth Miller

Representing Other Faith Groups

- Christopher Reeves, Grange Road Baptist Church
- Morvyn Sanderson, Methodist Church
- Helen Ellis, Roman Catholic
- Bhopinder Singh, Sikhism
- Dr. M.A. Quader, Muslim Community/Islamic Society of Darlington
- Dr. N. Thakur, Hindu Community

- Kelsang Dragden, The Atisha Kadampa Buddhist Centre
- Mrs. M. Calderon, Religious Society of Friends
- Meg Thomson, United Reformed Church
- Bess Robertson, Darlington Hebrew Congregation

Representing Teaching Associations

- Fiona Rankin, National Education Union (NUT and ATL)
- Nick Blackburn, National Association of Head Teachers
- Association of School and College Lecturers (current vacancy)
- Jenny Uzzell, National Association of School Teachers/Union of Women Teachers

Co-opted Members

- Phil Andre
- Mike Fryer
- Stuart Rawle

Meetings of SACRE

13. SACRE Members have met during the Academic Year 2018/19 on 12 November 2018, 19 March and 5 July.
14. The SACRE was guided and advised by Paul Richardson, Head of 11-19 Learning and Skills (up to July) and Anne Astbury, SENCO Partnership Link Officer from Children and Adults Services and supported by Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.

Chair and Vice Chair of SACRE

15. At the meeting held on 13 March 2017, Jenny Uzzell, National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers was appointed as Chair and Martin Stand, Church of England was appointed Vice-Chair for a period of three years from the date of appointment.

Synopsis of Meeting Content and Events:

Commission on RE (CoRE) Report – Religious Education for All

16. At our meeting on 12 November 2018 we discussed the final report published by the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) in September 2018 entitled 'Religious Education for All'.
17. The final report proposed that a new National Plan for RE is enacted to ensure that learning in this area remains academically rigorous and knowledge rich.

18. We were advised that this was an independent report and there was no obligation currently for SACRE Members to respond to the report or to make any changes to their statutory obligations as a SACRE.
19. Members discussed the initial recommendations within the report alongside the range of issues that the CoRE were seeking to consult further on before drawing their conclusions.
20. We discussed in particular the recommendations to renew and expand the role of SACRE's; how the academisation of many schools within the borough has reduced the contact with SACRE and the ability for SACREs to support all schools in the area; the composition of SACREs; the statutory requirements of SACRE's; and how this SACRE can provide information and resources and provide advice to schools and RE leads on matters of religion and belief in schools.

Appointment to Vacant Positions

21. Following any resignations from our SACRE Members we continue to appoint to any vacancies as soon as possible to ensure that our attendance at meetings is maximised.

Durham Big Spring Clean 2019

22. At our meeting in March 2019 SACRE Members discussed the Durham and Darlington Big Spring Clean which was being held between 9 February and 9 April.
23. This event gives communities the opportunity to work in partnership with Darlington Borough Council to help improve and make a difference to where they live and previous Big Spring Clean campaigns had been successful with thousands of bags of litter being collected by hundreds of local volunteers.
24. The Chair of Litter Free Durham attended the meeting and confirmed that if communities do a litter pick they were advised to notify the Borough Council as they were keen to monitoring the help that was being received.
25. SACRE Members were encouraged to help support the campaign and were provided with relevant contacts.

Holocaust Ceremony 2019

26. At the March meeting we were provided with an update on the 2019 Holocaust Ceremony which was held at the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. The theme of the 2019 Service was 'Torn from Home' and had been hosted by Celebrating Communities.
27. All schools and colleges had been notified of the Ceremony and the Ceremony had been well supported with over 120 attendees. During the service candles

had been lit to commemorate other genocides and atrocities that had occurred since the end of the Second World War.

Ofsted Inspection Framework Consultation

28. The Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills gave a verbal update to advise Members of the Ofsted Inspection Framework Consultation and that the consultation had been encouraging in relation to value added and the broader curriculum and suggested that Members of this SACRE may want to consider monitoring the new inspection reports at a future date to identify specific feedback on RE.
29. Phil Andre, Co-opted Member advised SACRE that he had recently attended a conference in Northumberland for RE teachers and Mark Evans, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) responsible for religious education insisted that inspection teams would also be looking at the delivery of RE and insuring that statutory requirements are being met in schools.
30. He also advised that a questionnaire had been circulated to schools in Northumberland to collate data on religious education being delivered within their schools and it was agreed that the results of this survey be circulated to our SACRE Members at a future date.

National Recommendations on SACRE funding

31. At our meeting in July 2019 we considered the results of a recent survey on how the Central Services School Block (CSSB) was being used by Local Authorities on SACRE business and that many SACRE's are allocated far less than 1 per cent.
32. The Lead Officer advised SACRE Members that the national recommendation is that a Local Authority should allocate at least two per cent of the CSSB to SACRE in order that SACRE can carry out its statutory duties and that Darlington's CCSB allocation was £1,454.00. It was also reported that there was no a dedicated SACRE budget and any spending on SACRE was absorbed within the main Council budget.

Religious Education and Collective Worship Survey in Schools

33. At the July meeting we also discussed a Religious Education and Collective Worship survey which had been undertaken by Northumberland County Council and distributed to all RE teachers within their schools.
34. We noted that a survey had also been undertaken by Newcastle City Council and Members considered the questions that were contained within that survey to RE teachers and agreed that a similar exercise could be carried out in this authorities schools and to share its summary results with Newcastle and Northumberland SACRE's.
35. We also discussed the possibility of a joint report with Newcastle and Northumberland SACRE's.

36. The survey was circulated to RE teachers within our schools on 4 September 2019.

Visits to Schools /Information Sharing

37. SACRE continue to receive requests via SACRE from our religious organisations to ascertain if they would be willing to host visits from school children at our Schools and the Democratic Officer makes every effort to co-ordinate these visits and forward contact details.
38. The Democratic Officer had also contacted all RE Leads within our schools with the offer of sharing resources and knowledge across all schools and to circulate any information or events among RE Leads to strengthen the role of this SACRE.

Special Thanks

39. In presenting this report Darlington Borough Council, local School Teachers and Members of Faith Groups be warmly thanked for their collective and individual contributions.

Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
9 NOVEMBER 2020**

SCHOOLS QUESTIONNAIRE 2019 - ANALYSIS

Matter for Consideration

1. To provide feedback and analysis of the survey that was carried out with all schools aimed at collating information in relation to the teaching of religious education within their schools; use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus; and information on the daily Act of Collective Worship and withdrawal from collective worship.

Background

2. At the meeting of SACRE held on 5 July 2019 Members discussed a survey that had been carried out by Northumberland County Council and Newcastle City Council on Religious Education and Collective Worship and agreed to carry out a similar exercise within this authorities schools.
3. The SENCO Partnerships Link Officer sent each primary and secondary school within the borough a questionnaire for completion and return and after several reminders, 12 completed questionnaires were returned.
4. Analysis of the returned questionnaire is at **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation

5. Members are requested to note the feedback from the survey undertaken.

**James Storyan
Director of Children and Adult Services**

Background Papers

Returned school questionnaires.

Allison Hill: Extension 5997

This page is intentionally left blank

Analysis of questionnaires

Question	Analysis
1. What type of school do you work in?	9 Primary Schools- 75% and 3 Secondary Schools-25%
2. What role do you fulfil in school?	11 out of 12 responses were the RE Lead- 92%
3. How much time is spent teaching non-examined RE in each year group?	Up to 30 minutes per week- 1 school (Polam Hall School)- 8.3% 31-60 minutes per week- 10 schools- 83.3% 61-90 minutes per week- 1 school (Carmel College)-8.3%
4. Is RE taught separately or as part of another subject/course?	All schools stated that RE was taught separately.
5. How many teachers teach RE in your school?	5 schools answered-All 1 school said 14 2 schools answered 8 1 school said 9 1 school said 7 1 school said 4 1 school said 1
6. How many teachers teaching RE are RE specialists?	
7. Overall, how confident are RE teachers when teaching the subject?	3 schools indicated the teachers were very confident (Faith schools)- 25% 2 schools stated the teachers were only slightly confident (Hurworth and West Park Academy)- 17% The remaining 7 schools said their teachers were mostly confident- 58%
8. How many TA's /HLTA's teach RE in your school?	7 schools have 1 or no TA's teaching RE- 58.3% In 2 schools, all TA's teach RE- 16.7% 1 school had 8 TA's teaching RE- 8.3% 1 school had 6 TA's teaching RE- 8.3% 1 school stated it varied- 8.3%
9. Overall, how confident are TA's / HLTA's when teaching the subject?	Out of the 7 schools that use TA's to teach RE: 3 are very confident- 43% 1 is confident- 14% 2 are mostly confident- 29% 1 is slightly confident- 14% 1 is not confident- 14%
10. Who plans the RE syllabus?	
11. How well resourced is RE compared to other Humanities subjects?	Half of the schools said that RE was averagely resourced- 50% 5 of the schools stated that RE was well resourced- 42%

Analysis of questionnaires

	1 school said it was poorly resourced (Hurworth)- 8%
12. What provision, if any, has been made by the school for your professional development in RE?	4/12 schools said there was no provision or that they didn't need it- 33.3% 4/12 schools have attended CPD- 33.3% (3 of those schools attended Diocesan training, 1 attended the RE sub leader course) 1 school said professional development in RE is equal to that of other subjects, but did not give an example- 8.3% 1 school were not aware of any CPD- 8.3% 1 school said they purchased the Durham scheme of work 3 years ago- 8.3% 1 school stated that CPD was available but did not specify- 8.3%
13. How effective is the role of governors in relation to RE?	2 schools did not answer the question-16.7% <u>Out of the 10 schools that answered</u> 6 schools said they felt supported by the governors- 50% 4 schools were unsure how effective the role of governors in relation to RE is- 33.3%
14. How often do you access resources to support planning and assessment from the locally agreed RE syllabus?	Half of the schools (6/12) said that they never or rarely accessed resources from the locally agreed syllabus- 50% <u>Of the remaining 6:</u> 2 schools stated they accessed the resources continuously- 16.7% 2 said often- 16.7% 1 said termly- 8.3% 1 uses a North Yorkshire scheme-8.3%
15. Do you access resources to support planning and assessment from a locally agreed RE syllabus other than Darlington's?	5 of the schools said that they did not- 42% 7 of the schools said they accessed other resources- 58% Other resources named were Durham, Hexham & Newcastle, North Yorkshire and Hodder Education Planning tools.
16. Do you access resources to support planning and assessment from your diocesan or faith community syllabus?	6 schools confirmed they did access resources from their diocesan or faith community syllabus- 50% 5 schools confirmed they did not- 42% One school left the question unanswered- 8%
17. Do you access resources to support planning and assessment from different diocesan or faith community syllabus?	7/12 schools stated they did not access these resources- 58% 5/12 confirmed they did access these resources- 42%

Analysis of questionnaires

18. Do you access QCA/QCDA resources to support planning and assessment?	Only one school confirmed they accessed these resources (Hummersknott)- 8%
19. Do you use resources devised by NATRE or RE Today to support planning and assessment?	Half of the schools used resources devised by NATRE or RE Today- 50% <u>Out of the 3 Secondary schools:</u> 2 schools stated they used these resources- 67% 1 answered no (Polam)- 33% <u>Out of the Primary schools:</u> 4 schools used these resources (2 of which are faith schools)- 44% 5 answered no- 56%
20. Do you use web-based resources to support planning and assessment?	10/12 schools stated they used web-based resources 83.3% Out of that 12, one said they only accessed web-based resources occasionally. Two schools said they did not access web-based resources- 16.7%
21. Do you use a scheme of work devised by the school itself to support planning and assessment?	7/12 -yes- 58% 5/12- no- 42%
22. During RE lessons, how does the school meet the needs of individual pupils who subscribe to a religion or world view not often or ever studied in the school, e.g. the Bahai Faith?	4/12 schools have not encountered this need in school- 33.3% 4/12 schools indicated that all faiths are either taught or there would be planned work should the need arise- 33.3% 4/12 schools said that should any need arise, that discussions and information would be available (1 school said a broad curriculum) 33.3%
23. Do pupils get the chance to study expressions of religion and belief NOT described as world religions?	7/12 yes- 58% 5/12 no * 1 answered only if it was in the syllabus- 42%
24. How many pupils are withdrawn from RE always or occasionally?	10/12 – none – 83.3% 1/12- indicated 1 or 2 – 8.3% 1/12 – unsure very few- 8.3%
25. When parents exercise their right to withdraw their children from RE, is a reason given?	10/12- N/A – 83.3% 1/12 confirmed parent gave a reason but did not give the reason on the form- 8.3% 1/12 – gave reason(s)- Not compatible with own faith- 8.3%
26. How effective is RE in enabling pupils to think spiritually, ethically and theologically?	9/12 schools said RE was very effective- 75% 1 school said it was fairly effective- 8.3% 1 school stated it was hard to measure the effectiveness- 8.3% 1 school left this question unanswered – 8.3%
27. How could RE be improved in your school?	Responses were varied and included:

Analysis of questionnaires

	<p>2 schools mentioned more resources and easily accessible sources- 16.7%</p> <p>2 schools mentioned requiring more 1st hand experience- 16.7%</p> <p>1 school said more full time RE staff- 8.3%</p> <p>2 schools said more quality teaching and increased time spent teaching RE and time for assessment & monitoring- 16.7%</p> <p>3 schools suggested more funding and frequency of RE related visits- 25%</p> <p>1 school said more professional development would improve RE- 8.3%</p> <p>1 school suggested the EBACC recognise RE as a Humanity Subject- 8.3%</p>
28. At Key Stage 4, which exam board syllabus do you teach?	<p>Only the 3 Secondary schools were eligible to answer this question.</p> <p>1 school answered – EDUQAS- Route B</p> <p>1 School answered- AQA</p> <p>Polam Hall do not offer RE as a GCSE option.</p>
29. At Key Stage 4, how much time is given to examined RE lessons per week?	<p>Only 2 schools were eligible to answer this question.</p> <p>Carmel College- 2.5 hours per week</p> <p>Hummersknott- 3 hours per week.</p>
30. At Key Stage 4, does your school provide RE to all pupils?	<p>Only 2 schools were eligible to answer this question.</p> <p>Both schools confirmed that they do provide RE to all KS4 pupils.</p>
31. At Key Stage 5, which exam board syllabus do you teach?	<p>Only 1 of the 2 schools eligible answered this and the response was OCR.</p>
32. At Key Stage 5, how much time is given to examined RE lessons per week?	<p>Only 1 of the 2 schools eligible answered and the response as 2.5 hours per week.</p>
33. At Key Stage 5, does your school provide RE to all pupils?	<p>Only 1 school answered and confirmed that it does provide RE to all pupils at KS5.</p>
34. What could the SACRE do to support the work of RE teachers across the Darlington area?	<p>3/12 schools did not answer this question – 25%</p> <p><i>Out of the 9 schools that answered:</i></p> <p>4 schools mentioned resources-wider selection and easier access- 33.3%</p> <p>2 schools suggested having a point of contact for faith community leaders- 16.7%</p> <p>2 schools said arranging teacher network meetings- 16.7%</p> <p>1 school suggested organising faith events- 8.3%</p>
35. Is the school familiar with the distinction between an act of collective worship and an assembly?	<p>9/12 schools answered yes- 75%</p> <p>3/12 schools did not answer- 25%</p>

Analysis of questionnaires

<p>36. Although legislation requires that schools provide ALL pupils with a daily Act of Collective Worship, it is not always possible to do so. In a typical week, how often are ACW's provided?</p>	<p>5/12 of the school responses stated that daily worship occurred daily- 42% 4 schools did not answer- 33.3% 1 school answered between 4-5 a week- 8.3% 1 school answered 3 per week- 8.3% 1 school answered 0 per week (Polam Hall)- 8.3%</p>
<p>37. For what reason or reasons is it not possible to provide a daily ACW?</p>	<p>4 schools did not answer this question – 33.3%</p> <p><u>Out of the 8 schools that answered:</u> 4 schools said that this question was not applicable- 33.3% 3 schools answered things such as school trips could mean daily ACW were not possible- 25% 1 school stated they were unsure – 8.3%</p>
<p>38. Are ACW's provided to pupils in year groups, key stages, class groups or for the whole school?</p>	<p>3 schools did not answer this question- 25%</p> <p><u>Out of the 9 schools that answered</u> 3 schools indicated ACW's were provided to all groups- 25% 1 school said they do not have ACW- 8.3% 1 school said the curriculum does not allow this- 8.3% 2 schools said ACW provided in year groups and whole school- 16.7% 1 school said ACW are provided in key stages and classes- 8.3% 1 school stated ACW are held for Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter which are delivered by Martin Stand from DAYCM-8.3%</p>
<p>39. Legislation requires that an ACW must be “wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character”. Can you describe ways in which the school meets this requirement?</p>	<p>6 schools indicated they use prayer- 50% 2 schools read from The Bible-16.7% 1 school answered provided by DAYCM- 8.3% 1 school answered by utilising school reflection- 8.3% 2 schools did not answer the question- 16.7%</p>
<p>40. What allowance/arrangements are made during ACWs to meet the needs and aspirations of pupils who are not Christian?</p>	<p>3 schools did not answer the question- 25% Answers were varied and included: invitation to prayer, time to reflect on their own beliefs, option to withdraw and alternative activities</p>

Analysis of questionnaires

<p>41. While parents have the right to withdraw their children from an ACW, they cannot withdraw them from an assembly. How many pupils are withdrawn from ACWs?</p>	<p>9/12 schools answered that no pupils are withdrawn from ACW- 75% 3/12 schools did not answer this question- 25%</p>
<p>42. When parents exercise their right to withdraw their children from ACWs, is a reason given? If yes, what reason /s are given?</p>	<p>7/12 schools said this question was not applicable- 58.3% 4/12 schools left this question unanswered 33.3% 1 school answered yes and gave reason (Jehovah’s Witness)- 8.3%</p>
<p>43. When was the last time the school referred to NCC’s ‘Policy and Guidelines for Acts of Collective Worship in Community Schools’ to find out how the content of ACWs can be made so inclusive that there is little or no need for parents to withdraw their children from collective worship?</p>	<p>3 schools answered N/A- 25% 5 schools did not answer the question- 41.6% 4 schools were unsure when the last time the school referred to NCC’s Policy- 33.3%</p>
<p>44. When was the last time the school updated its policy and guidelines on collective worship?</p>	<p>4/12 schools did not answer this question- 33.3%</p>
<p>45. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about the opportunities and challenges of providing RE and collective worship at the present time?</p>	<p>4/12 schools did not answer the question- 33.3%</p> <p><i>Out of the 8 school answers:</i> 4/8 schools said that there was nothing to add- 50% 2/8 schools commented that they were well supported by the Diocese- 25% 2/8 schools expressed challenges which were (25%): RE is not a priority as it is not tested Meeting suggested to discuss the ‘place of RE’</p>