

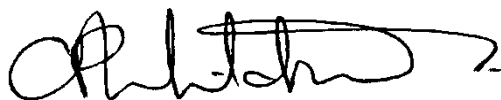
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Agenda

**4.00 pm Monday, 5 July 2021
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington**

**Members of the Public are welcome to attend this
Meeting.**

1. Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of SACRE held on 8 February 2021
(Pages 3 - 4)
4. Schools Questionnaire - Updated Survey Results –
Verbal update by Anne Davison, SENCO Partnership Link Officer
(Pages 5 - 28)
5. Appointment to Vacant Positions –
Report of the Group Director of Operations
(Pages 29 - 30)
6. SACRE Annual Report for the Academic Year 2019/20 –
Report of the Group Director of People
(Pages 31 - 36)
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting. –
Monday 22 November; and
Monday 21 March, 2022 (both commencing at 4.00 pm)
8. 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

9. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Friday, 25 June 2021

**Town Hall,
Darlington.**

Membership

Jenny Uzzell, Group A Paganism
Martin 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
Morvyn 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
Dr Kumari, Group A Hinduism
Rev Paul Baker, Group B Church of England
Beth Miller, Group B Church of England
Councillor C L B Hughes
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Crudass
Councillor Curry
Fiona Rankin, Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Stuart Rawle, Group C National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

Co-opted Members:

M Fryer, Co-opted Member of SACRE
Jan Mole, 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

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
MONDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2021**

PRESENT –

J Uzzell (Group A Paganism)(Chair), Martin Stand (Group B Church of England)(Vice Chair), Kelsang Dragden (Group A Buddhism), Helen Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), Morvyn Sanderson (Group A The Methodist Church), Rev Thompson (Group A Darlington Baptist Church), Meg Thomson (Group A Darlington United Reformed Church), Rev Paul Baker (Group B Church of England), Beth Miller (Group B Church of England), Councillor C L B Hughes, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Curry, Councillor Heslop, Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)) and Hannah Fay (Democratic Officer)

Co-opted Members – Jan Mole (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

Officers – Anne Davison (SENCO Partnership Link Officer)

APOLOGIES – Bess Robertson (Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)), M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE) and Stuart Rawle (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

107 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SACRE HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2020

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this SACRE held on 9 November 2020.

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

108 REVIEW OF LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS - CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a school consultation exercise to form part of the agreed review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Darlington (Minute 102/Nov/20 refers).

It was reported that as part of the review process it was advisable to include Primary and Secondary Schools, including special Schools in Darlington in a consultation exercise; and Anne Davison, SEND and Inclusion Advisor, who was to assist the Members with the consultation exercise, provided for consideration a list of suggested questions to include in the questionnaire to schools.

Discussion ensued on the suggested questions additional questions were proposed

by Members.

IT WAS AGREED – That the consultation exercise with schools be commenced.

109 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to confirm the re-appointment of two Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education in Group A (representatives of Other Religious Faiths).

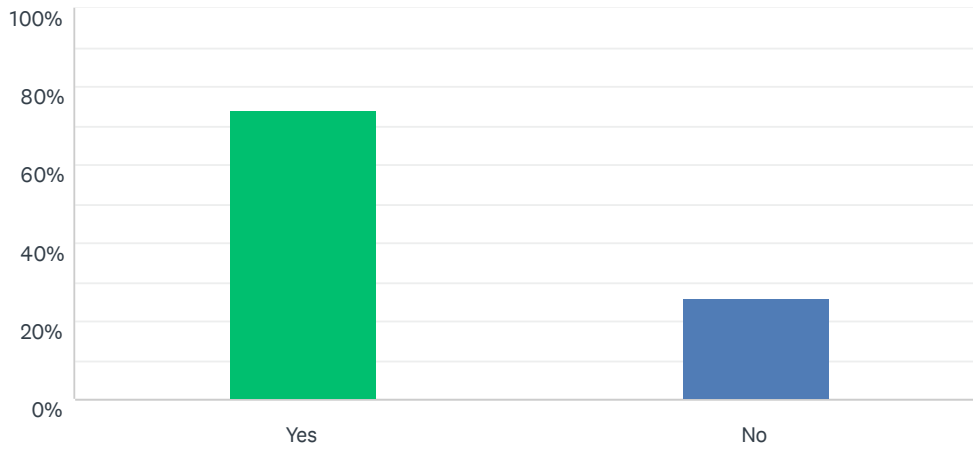
IT WAS AGREED – That the membership of Morvyn Sanderson, representing the Methodist Church and Kelsang Dragden, representing Buddhism be for a further period of four years from 13 March 2021.

110 DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

IT WAS AGREED – That future meetings of this SACRE be held on Mondays 5 July and 15 November 2021 commencing at 4.00 pm

Q1 Do you currently use the Darlington Locally Agreed Syllabus?

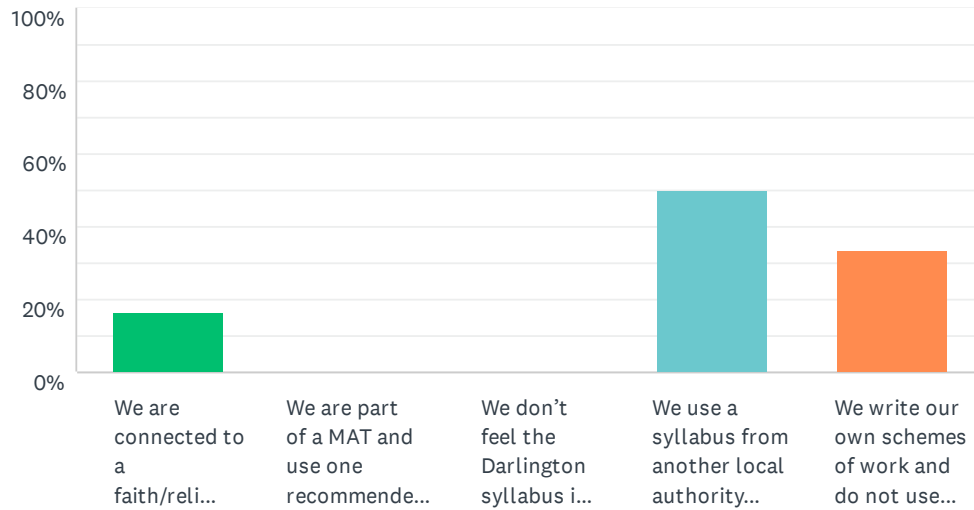
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	73.91%	17
No	26.09%	6
TOTAL		23

Q2 If you answered no to Q1, why not?

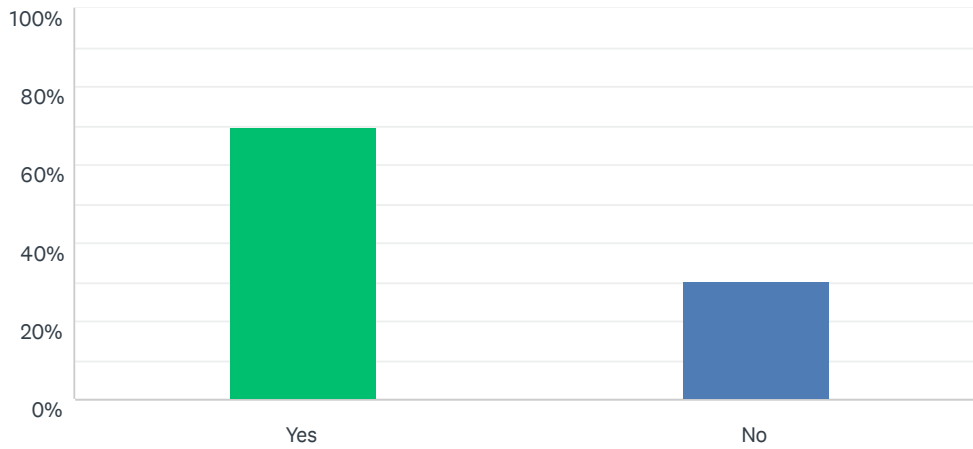
Answered: 6 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
We are connected to a faith/religious community and so use one from the diocese.	16.67%	1
We are part of a MAT and use one recommended by them.	0.00%	0
We don't feel the Darlington syllabus is appropriate.	0.00%	0
We use a syllabus from another local authority area.	50.00%	3
We write our own schemes of work and do not use a syllabus?	33.33%	2
TOTAL		6

Q3 Do you think that the current syllabus needs to be changed?

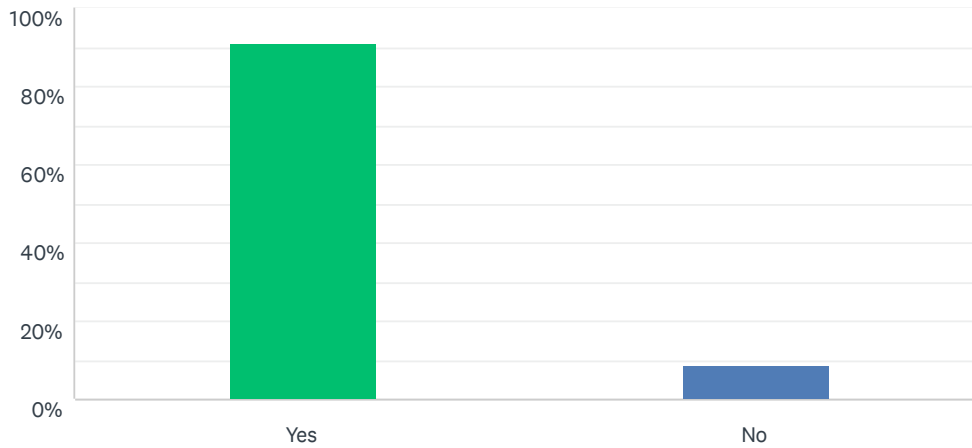
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	69.57%	16
No	30.43%	7
TOTAL		23

Q4 Would you like the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to provide training on the Locally agreed syllabus if it does change?

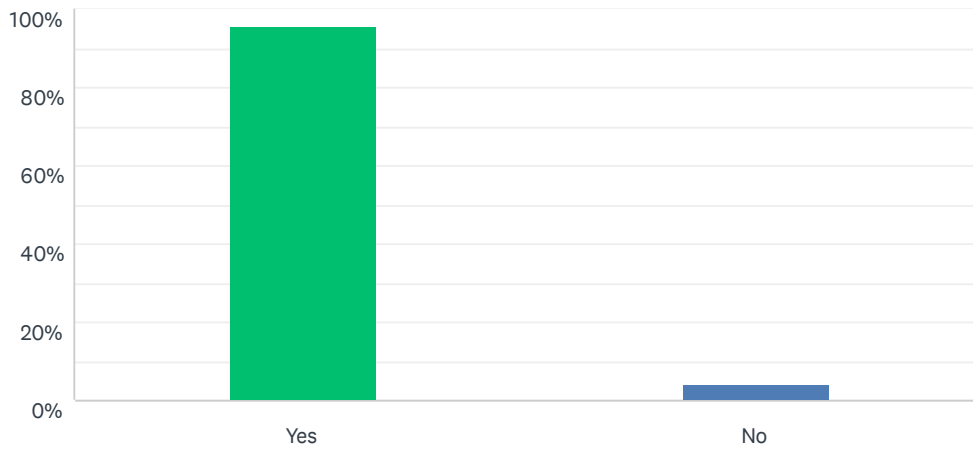
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.30%	21
No	8.70%	2
TOTAL		23

Q5 Would you consider using a Darlington Locally Agreed syllabus if it were updated?

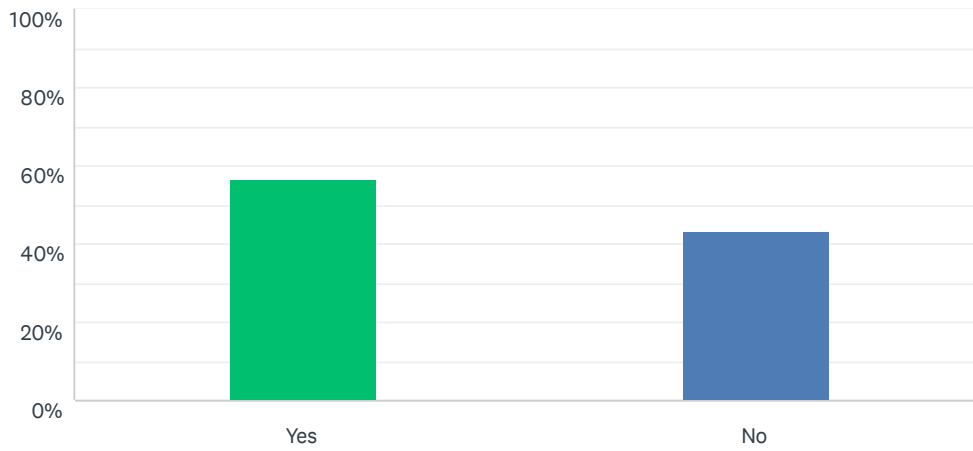
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.65%	22
No	4.35%	1
TOTAL		23

Q6 Do you think that the Locally agreed Syllabus reflects the history of faith in our local community?

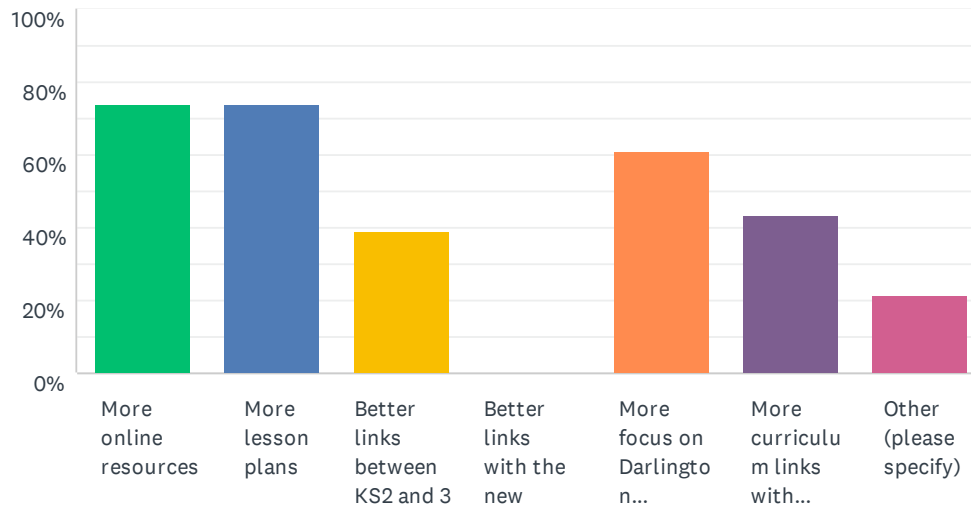
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.52%	13
No	43.48%	10
TOTAL		23

Q7 What changes would you like to see in the Locally Agreed Syllabus? (tick all that apply)

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0

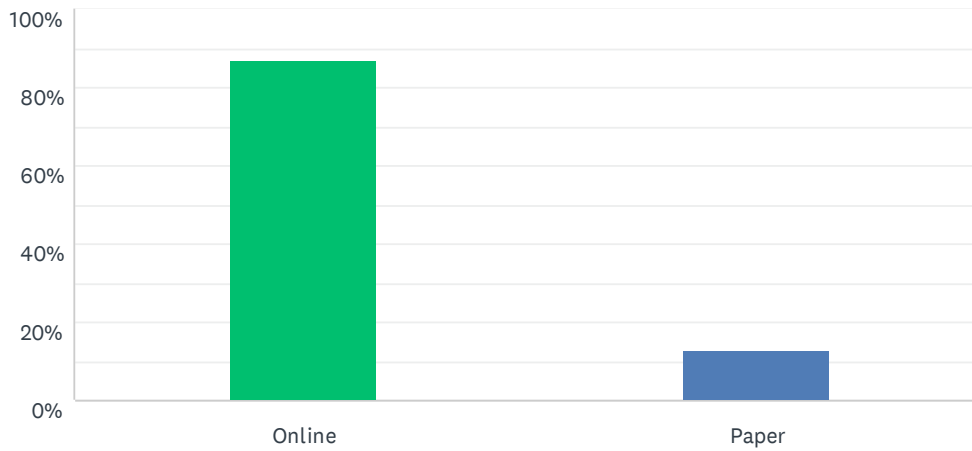


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
More online resources	73.91% 17
More lesson plans	73.91% 17
Better links between KS2 and 3	39.13% 9
Better links with the new GCSEs	0.00% 0
More focus on Darlington communities such as the Quakers	60.87% 14
More curriculum links with other subjects	43.48% 10
Other (please specify)	21.74% 5
Total Respondents: 23	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	It needs to reflect the religious communities in Darlington at this present time as well as taking account of the wider world. The current syllabus reflects Darlington religious communities at the time when it was written - at least 5 years ago. We need assessment built into the syllabus that is easy to use, individual schools shouldn't have to devise their own system.	3/25/2021 9:05 AM
2	Units of work for all year groups for all terms. Also more resources to be provided as in many cases they are considerably lacking. Many of the units need to be supplemented or written by teachers themselves.	3/19/2021 2:27 PM
3	More SMSC and British Values links	3/18/2021 4:12 PM
4	A more balanced range of religions e.g. 1 1/2 terms on one religion is quite a lot to consider planning for without overlap to different year groups. More questions that can be used as examples to plan lessons from.	3/18/2021 2:22 PM
5	When we have used guest speakers from different faiths they have said that the syllabus doesn't reflect modern day practises and tends to represent a one-size fits all	3/18/2021 12:30 PM

Q8 Would you prefer a physical copy of the syllabus, or would you prefer online access?

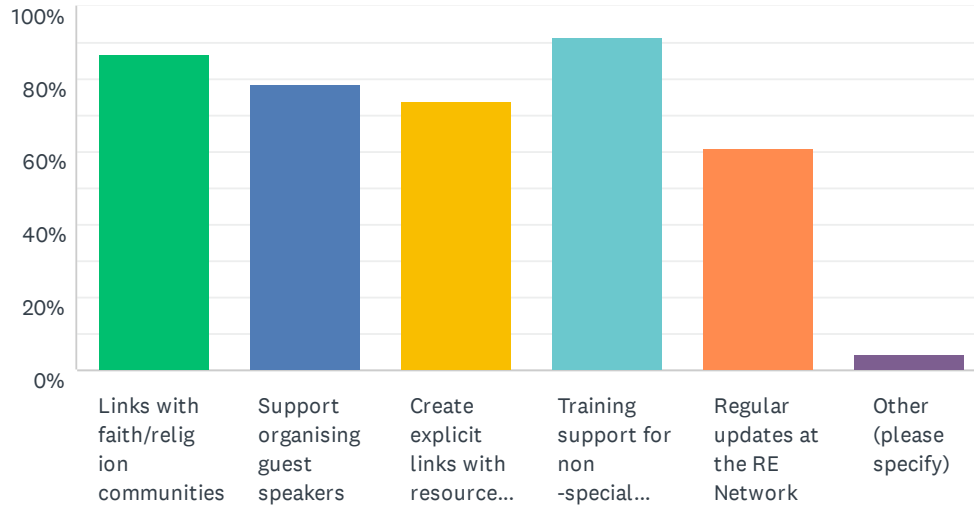
Answered: 23 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Online	86.96%	20
Paper	13.04%	3
TOTAL		23

Q9 In what other ways could the SACRE support the RE community in Darlington better? (tick all that apply)

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0

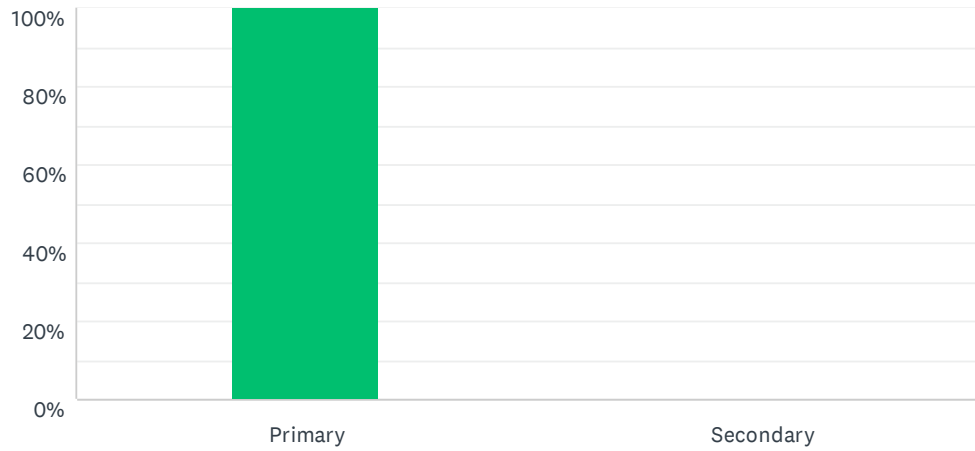


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Links with faith/religion communities	86.96%	20
Support organising guest speakers	78.26%	18
Create explicit links with resources for our local community	73.91%	17
Training support for non-specialist teachers of RE	91.30%	21
Regular updates at the RE Network	60.87%	14
Other (please specify)	4.35%	1
Total Respondents: 23		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	An RE network would be very useful. In Darlington you always feel like you are on your own in your individual school doing what you think is right. There is no sharing of good practice or collaborative work and no support from anywhere. Visits and speakers are difficult due to the sensitive nature of the subject so to have LA approved links would be very reassuring for my SLT.	3/25/2021 9:05 AM

Q10 Which age phase do you work in?

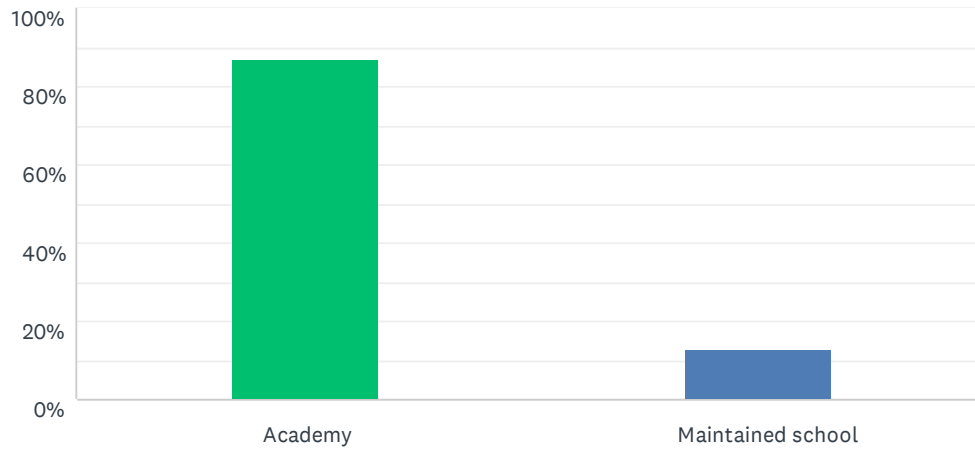
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Primary	100.00%	23
Secondary	0.00%	0
TOTAL		23

Q11 Do you work in an Academy or a Maintained school?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Academy	86.96%	20
Maintained school	13.04%	3
TOTAL		23

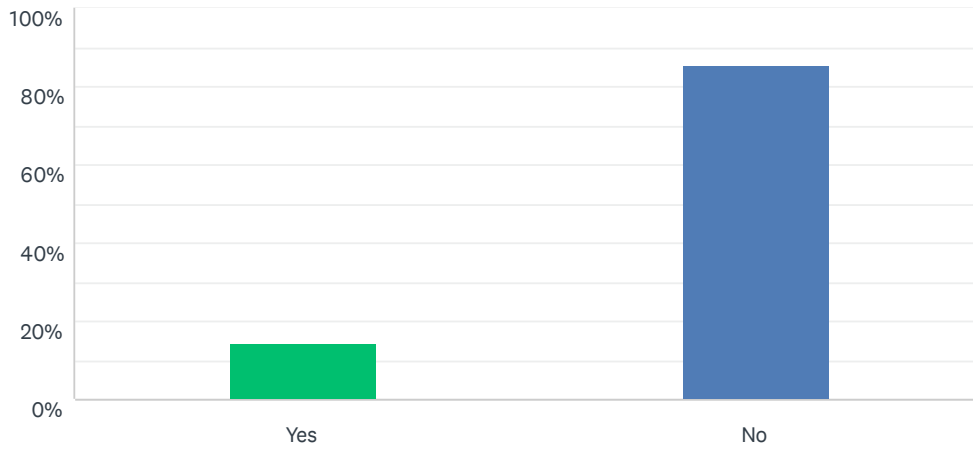
Q12 Comments

Answered: 5 Skipped: 18

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	As a Primary School we would benefit greatly from training and support to organise religious visits and speakers to come into school.	4/13/2021 4:13 PM
2	I have said an online version is best but it is always good to have at least one paper copy per school as well.	3/25/2021 9:05 AM
3	More specific guidance would be beneficial, other than just key question. It would be of helpful to include key vocabulary that needs to be covered for each religion, key objectives broken down into steps and into the correct order for teaching and significant religions festivals/ celebrations important to cover across school.	3/22/2021 3:45 PM
4	I would like to see the whole RE scheme focus on how religion is relevant to our lives today and how religious views influence actions. Linking RE to topics would be more beneficial to teaching RE in the primary school.	3/19/2021 3:37 PM
5	We have designed our own RE curriculum using elements of the Darlington Syllabus. We felt our pupils were not retaining the knowledge about each religion as they were not revisiting them frequently enough. Our new curriculum allows pupils to build on what they have learnt in previous units/years.	3/18/2021 4:16 PM

Q1 Do you currently use the Darlington Locally Agreed Syllabus?

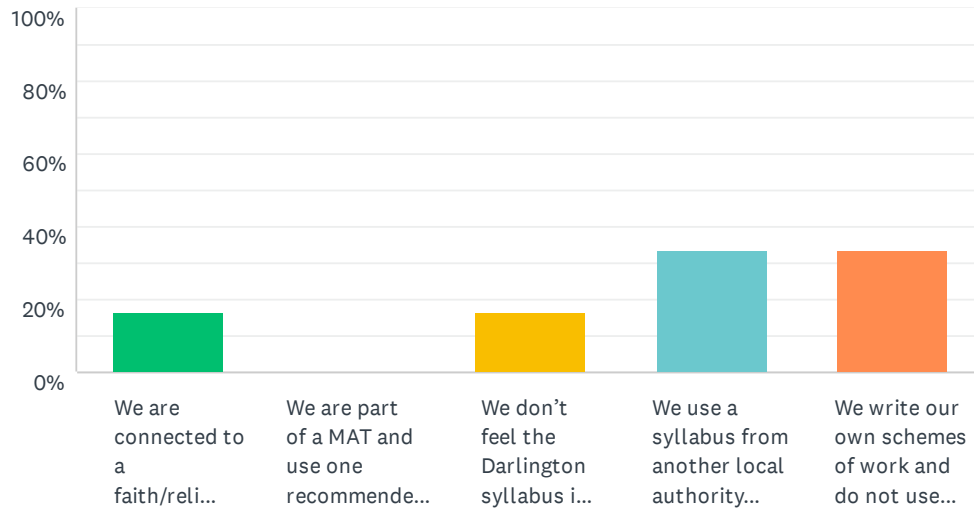
Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	14.29%	1
No	85.71%	6
TOTAL		7

Q2 If you answered no to Q1, why not?

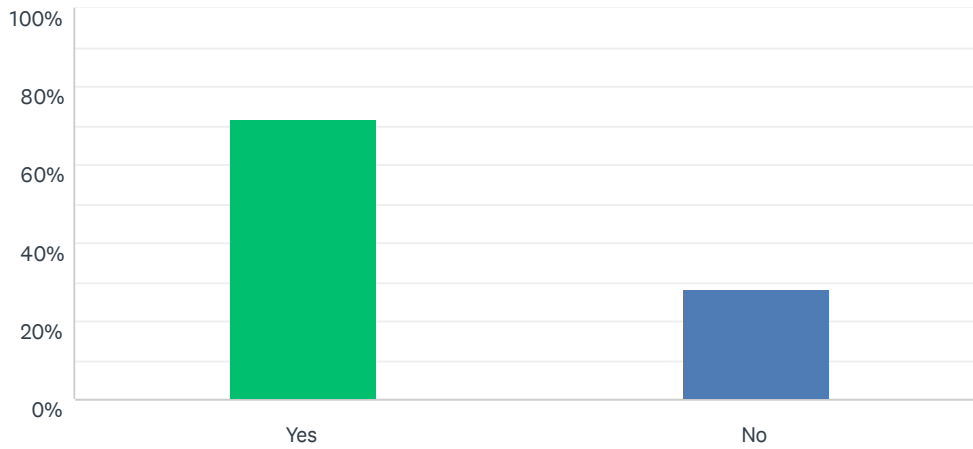
Answered: 6 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
We are connected to a faith/religious community and so use one from the diocese.	16.67%	1
We are part of a MAT and use one recommended by them.	0.00%	0
We don't feel the Darlington syllabus is appropriate.	16.67%	1
We use a syllabus from another local authority area.	33.33%	2
We write our own schemes of work and do not use a syllabus?	33.33%	2
TOTAL		6

Q3 Do you think that the current syllabus needs to be changed?

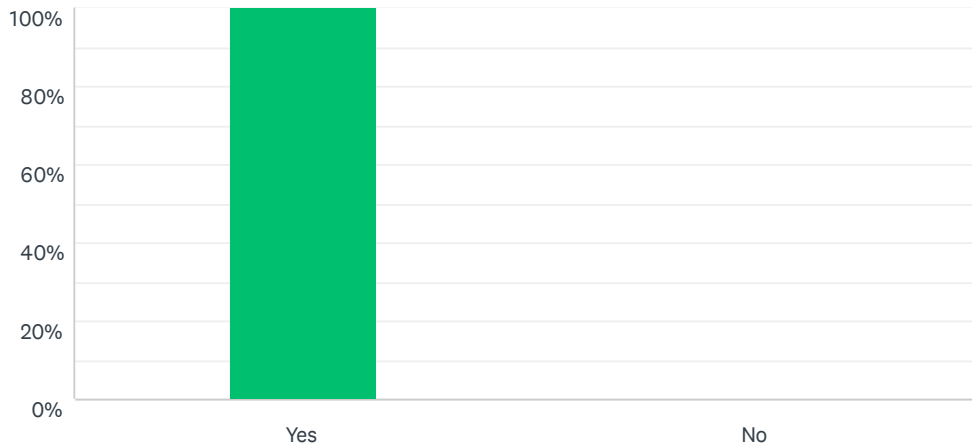
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.43%	5
No	28.57%	2
TOTAL		7

Q4 Would you like the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to provide training on the Locally agreed syllabus if it does change?

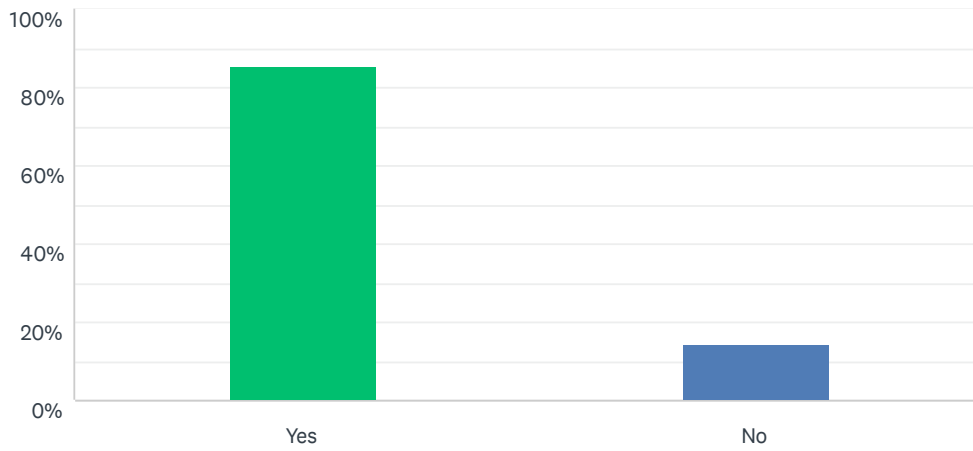
Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	7
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		7

Q5 Would you consider using a Darlington Locally Agreed syllabus if it were updated?

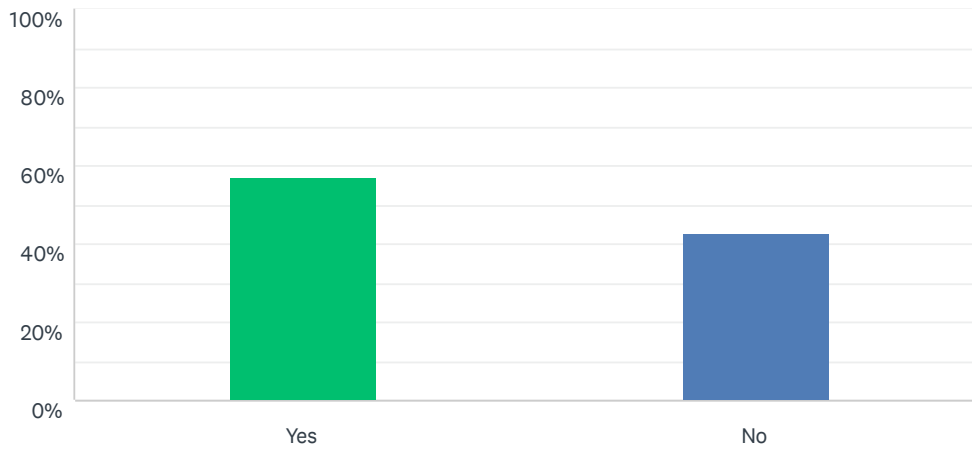
Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	85.71%	6
No	14.29%	1
TOTAL		7

Q6 Do you think that the Locally agreed Syllabus reflects the history of faith in our local community?

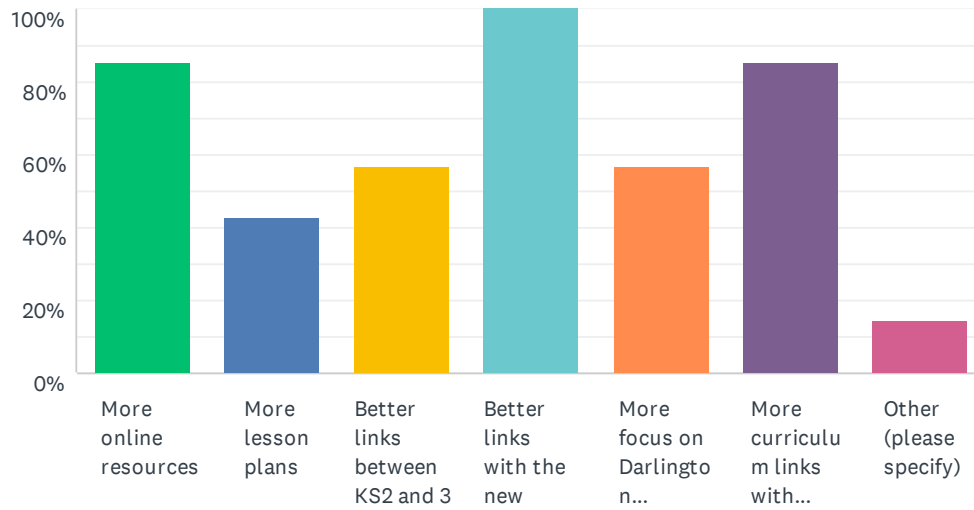
Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.14%	4
No	42.86%	3
TOTAL		7

Q7 What changes would you like to see in the Locally Agreed Syllabus? (tick all that apply)

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

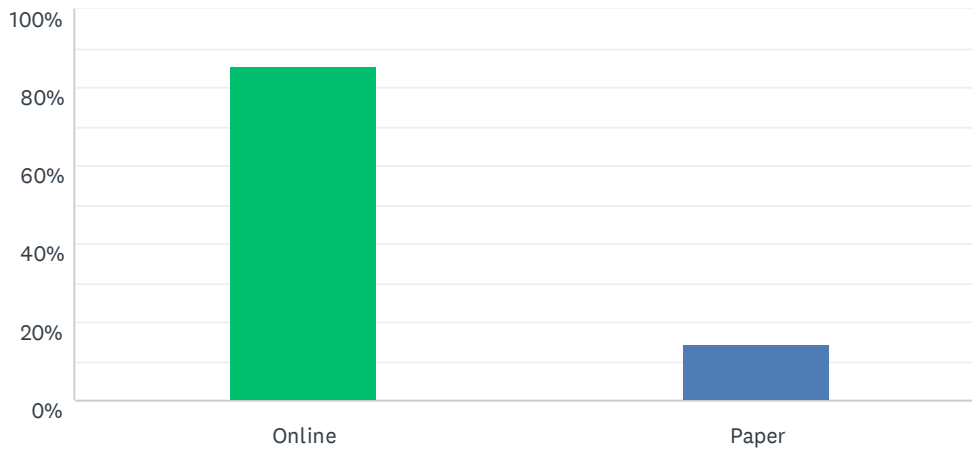


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
More online resources	85.71% 6
More lesson plans	42.86% 3
Better links between KS2 and 3	57.14% 4
Better links with the new GCSEs	100.00% 7
More focus on Darlington communities such as the Quakers	57.14% 4
More curriculum links with other subjects	85.71% 6
Other (please specify)	14.29% 1
Total Respondents: 7	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	At secondary level all that is required is a list of outcomes to meet- similar to the National Curriculum in other subjects. All Heads of RS in Darlington secondary schools are subject specialists- we need the autonomy to plan curriculums which meet the needs of our students.	3/18/2021 3:49 PM

Q8 Would you prefer a physical copy of the syllabus, or would you prefer online access?

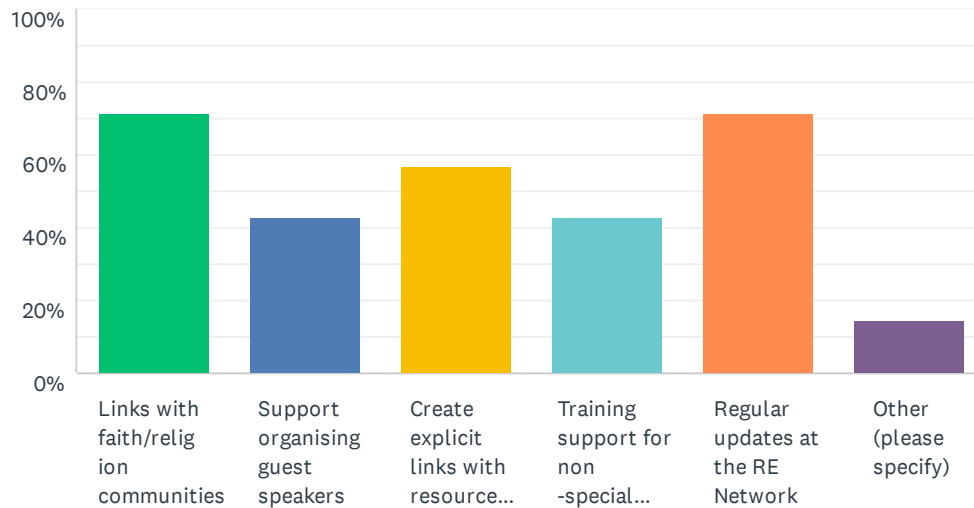
Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Online	85.71%	6
Paper	14.29%	1
TOTAL		7

Q9 In what other ways could the SACRE support the RE community in Darlington better? (tick all that apply)

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

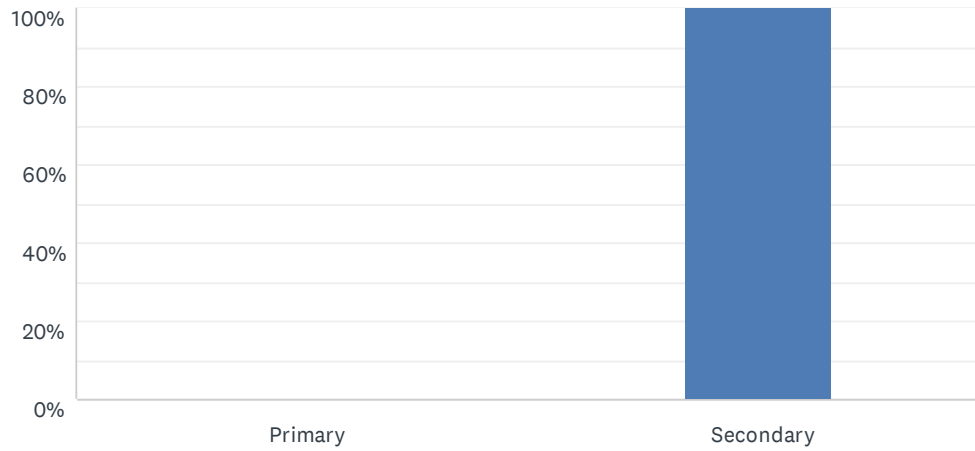


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Links with faith/religion communities	71.43%	5
Support organising guest speakers	42.86%	3
Create explicit links with resources for our local community	57.14%	4
Training support for non-specialist teachers of RE	42.86%	3
Regular updates at the RE Network	71.43%	5
Other (please specify)	14.29%	1
Total Respondents: 7		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Focus on transition and fluidity from KS2 to KS3. more network meetings for KS2-3 teachers to liaise	3/19/2021 9:21 AM

Q10 Which age phase do you work in?

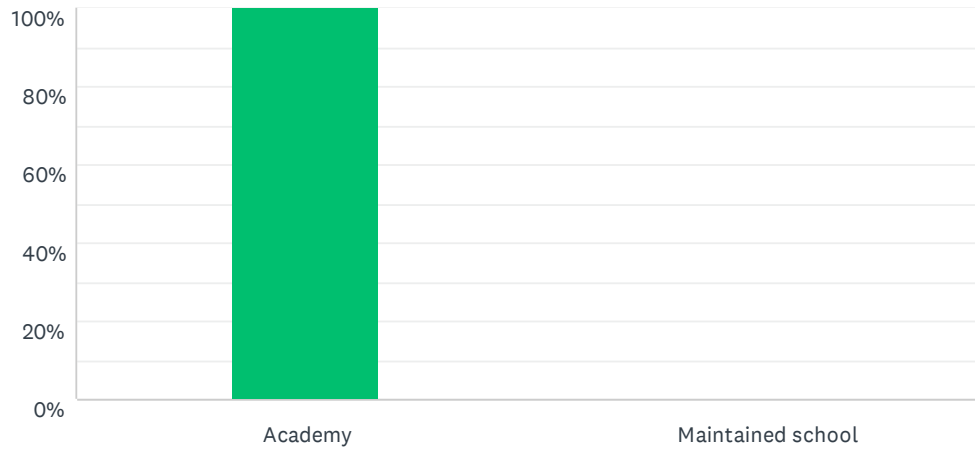
Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Primary	0.00%	0
Secondary	100.00%	7
TOTAL		7

Q11 Do you work in an Academy or a Maintained school?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Academy	100.00%	7
Maintained school	0.00%	0
TOTAL		7

Q12 Comments

Answered: 1 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	<p>I think that the needs of primary schools and secondary schools are very different. At the Secondary Network meeting we all agreed that we would prefer to write our own contributions for the secondary curriculum and not have it prescribed to us. There is a lot of work in secondaries about planning our curriculum and we are all subject specialists- we would like to have control over what we teach. Primary schools certainly expressed that they needed more support and may benefit from lesson plans etc. Secondary schools do not require this- instead something in line with what other subjects have as part of the National Curriculum would be more appropriate.</p>	3/18/2021 3:49 PM

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
5 JULY 2020**

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

Matter for Consideration

1. To advise Members of the appointment of a representative for the National Union of Teachers (Group D) and a representative of Hinduism (Group A)

Vacant positions on SACRE

2. There was a vacancy in Group D, Trade Unions for a representative of the National Union of Teachers following the move from its previous representative to another Union; and Group A, Other Religious Faiths for a representative of Hinduism.
3. Stuart Rawle, Assistant Head of Longfield Academy currently sits on this SACRE as a Co-opted Member and is a Member of the National Union of Head Teachers and willing to fill the Group D vacancy on this SACRE.
4. There was also a vacancy in Group A, representatives of Other Religious Faiths and Dr Chitra Kumari is willing to fill the Group A vacancy for a representative of Hinduism and sit on this SACRE.
5. The local authority has taken all reasonable steps to assure themselves that Stuart Rawle is a representative of the Union and also that Dr Kumari is representative of Hinduism.

Recommendation

That Members of this SACRE note the appointment of Stuart Rawle as the named representative of the National Union of Head Teachers and Dr Chitra Kumari as the named representative of the Hindu faith and that membership be for a period of four years.

**Elizabeth Davison
Group Director of Operations**

Background Papers

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

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
5 JULY 2021**

SACRE ANNUAL REPORT ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-20

Matter for Consideration

1. To allow Members to consider the proposed Annual Report for the academic year 2019-2020 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
Group Director of People**

Background Papers

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

Allison Hill : Extension 5997

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
ANNUAL SACRE REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20**

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 Religious Education (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

The Duties of SACRE

6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. Darlington has only three Maintained primary schools, the remaining primary and secondary schools are either standalone Academies or Academies within a Multi Academy Trust; however there is a good proportion of the Borough's schools and academies using the Locally Agreed Syllabus.
10. The current Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was approved in April 2015 and was due for review 2020; at the SACRE Meeting in March 2020 it was recommended that the local authority commence the review process and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to progress, however due to the Covid-19 pandemic meetings of SACRE or an ASC were unable to take place during Spring/Summer 2020 to commence the process.
11. SACRE commenced a consultation exercise with 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 in readiness for a review of the Syllabus when possible. This was carried out on their behalf by Anne Davison – SEND and Inclusion Advisor.

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 Clarke (Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio).
- Councillor (Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee)
- Councillor C Hughes (Labour Group Member)
- Councillor Curry (Liberal Democrat Group Member)

Representing Church of England

- Reverend P. Baker
- Martin Stand
- Beth Miller

Representing Other Faith Groups

- Rev Vicky Thompson, Darlington Baptist Church
- Morvyn Sanderson, Methodist Church
- Helen Ellis, Roman Catholic
- Bhopinder Singh, Sikhism

- Dr. Chitra Kumari, Hindu Community
- Dr Quader, Islamic Society of Darlington
- Kelsang Dragden, The Atisha Kadampa Buddhist Centre
- Mrs. M. Calderon, Religious Society of Friends
- Margaret Thomson, United Reformed Church
- Bess Robertson, Darlington Hebrew Congregation
- Jenny Uzzell, Paganism

Representing Teaching Associations

- Stuart Rawle, National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
- Fiona Rankin, National Association of School Teachers/Union of Women Teachers

Co-opted Members

- Mike Fryer
- Janet Mole, Humanist Society

Meetings of SACRE

13. SACRE Members have met during the Academic Year 2019/20 on 12 November 2019, 10 March 2020 and 13 July 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions).
14. The SACRE was advised by Anne Davison, SEND Inclusion Advisor from Children and Adult 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 2018 'Religion and World Views: The Way Forward'

16. At the meeting held on 12 November 2019, Members received a presentation from Joyce Miller on the Commission on Religious Education (CoRe) 2018 Report 'Religion and World Views: The Way Forward'.
17. Joyce 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.

18. 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.
19. 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) which Members discussed and welcomed, acknowledging the challenges faced ahead to change the way religious education is delivered and perceived.

Appointment to Vacant Positions

20. 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.

Special Thanks

21. 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