

Bristol SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2018 -19



Pupils from Holymead Primary Schools in Brislington have visited the Hindu Temple and entered the Spirited Arts Competition. They were given The Wire Award for their work



CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Annual Report 2018-19.

Once again, Bristol SACRE has worked tirelessly to support outstanding RE across Bristol's schools via a number of initiatives:

CPD EVENTS

- Our Annual Conference, "**Telling Tales**", was held on 26th January 2019 at **Engineers House in Clifton**. The theme was storytelling in RE and the keynote talk was presented by **Lat Blaylock**.
- Katy Staples has continued her outstanding work as Advisor to SACRE, providing **individual bespoke support** to **9** schools. She was supported by Adam Robertson for six months when she was seconded to another role. The transition was seamless and Bristol SACRE is indebted to Adam for his excellent support of us during this period.

MEANINGFUL LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

We have worked hard to enhance our close working relationships with schools and civic organisations across Bristol to ensure that RE is recognised as an important component of contemporary life in our city.

- We provide an up-to-date directory on our website of speakers and places of worship for schools to visit.
- We liaise with faith communities across Bristol to ensure that teachers have access to faith speakers and community members and that visits to places of worship across the city run smoothly.
- We signpost to teachers the annual Diverse Open Doors Day, held in February each year.
- We maintain a close partnership with both universities in the city. Our relationship with Bristol University is facilitated by SACRE member Dr Teresa Griffiths, who organises the University's RE PGCE programme. We collaborate to ensure continued support for RE teachers as they move from their PGCE or ITT into their teaching career. Our relationship with the University of the West of England is facilitated by Katy Staples, who teaches on the Teach First Programme and the ITE. Katy also works with the Bristol Primary Teaching School Alliance by offering RE training to their Teach First students and to Bristol LA's NQTs. She has also provided training to school governors about RE, CW, SMSC and British Values through the Governor Services in Bristol programme.
- We continue our close links with local interfaith groups. This includes the Bristol Multi-Faith Forum, via SACRE member Duncan Struthers, and the Faith Manifesto Working Group, via SACRE Chair Tamar Hodos Lucas.

BRISTOL SACRE INITIATIVES

We have continued to develop accessible and inspiring support for RE across the city.

- We have widened our membership to better represent the religious diversity of Bristol residents.
- We have expanded our visibility with civic groups to better champion the role SACRE can play regarding national and local issues. On behalf of SACRE, Tamar Hodos Lucas signed up to Bristol's Equalities Charter and joined the Bristol Equality Network. Adam Robertson attended the Faith and Citizenship Conference, organised by Bristol City Council's Community Development Team.
- We have conducted an audit of RE curriculum information on school websites and reached out to all schools to commend or offer support.
- We have created specialist resources for schools in response to local cases of selective withdrawal from RE activities.
- We have presented 6 WIRE awards

DEVELOPMENTS AT BRISTOL SACRE

Bristol SACRE is well placed to navigate successfully the uncertainties that lie ahead in the coming year. Locally, Bristol holds mayoral elections in May 2020. Nationally, Brexit is likely to have impact on a number of communities in Bristol, including its faith groups. In preparation, we are developing a follow-on award to WIRE to enable schools to continue to reach beyond the faiths of their students, and we are increasing civic awareness of SACRE to ensure that RE is recognised more widely as a vital means to encourage mutual respect, understanding and tolerance.

Tamar Hodos Lucas

Dr Tamar Hodos Lucas
Chair of Bristol SACRE



What is SACRE?

SACRE is the abbreviation for the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**. Its composition is specifically multi-belief and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers. There is also representation from the British Humanist Association.

It is a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and to support its work. The purpose of SACRE is to advise on the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship.

Bristol SACRE understands the unique status of Religious Education as it is currently the only subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but is agreed locally. This means that we can ensure that the syllabus we offer children and young people gives examples of belief lived and practiced by people who have lived and currently live in their city.

SACRE takes an active part in the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus every five years. During this Academic year 2018-19 we continued to use our Agreed Syllabus; Awareness Mystery and Value: <http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org> .

This Agreed Syllabus is shared by Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and the London Borough of Haringey.

How SACRE is funded and administered

SACRE receives funding of £10,000 per annum from Bristol City Council. As a statutory board SACRE is clerked through the council's services.

All SACRE's members are volunteers who give up their time freely and enthusiastically to help SACRE with its work.

SACRE Adviser

The SACRE Adviser advises SACRE and enacts the decisions made at meetings.. Since 2009 Katy Staples (Bristol Diocese) has provided the advice and support for Bristol SACRE. She invoices the local authority three times a year and keeps within the budget set. This has provided SACRE with a dedicated and experienced resource. Katy also advises Swindon SACRE and has extensive expertise in education and working in schools. She also line manages Adam Robertson, the adviser to South Glos SACRE, which means that there is a joined up service for SACRE support across the region. During this period, Bristol City Council has been represented by Jenny Brookes Teaching and Learning Consultant, who has worked tirelessly and offers an important link between SACRE and the Local Authority.

SACRE works to the non-statutory guidance in the 1994 document: Circular 1/94.

Parts of that document have been replaced with the guidance: 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non- statutory guidance 2010'.

Bristol City Council has approved a constitution for SACRE. A copy of the constitution may be obtained from the Bristol SACRE website

<https://bristolsacre.org.uk/site/about/public-documents/>

Priorities for 2018 - 19

SACRE created a development plan which focusses on the following key priorities:

- Improving Religious Education in Bristol Schools
- Ensuring the effectiveness of SACRE's partnership with the Local Authority and assessing the impact of the locally agreed syllabus
- Developing and enhancing the possibilities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development offered through Collective Worship (Assemblies)
- Encouraging Schools, Academies and Colleges to celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in Bristol and work with other local agencies to ensure this.

This development plan ensures that the funding we receive is used well and targeted to support teachers in schools deliver high quality RE.

Support for schools

In line with its key priority to raise attainment in RE through advising and training teachers, SACRE undertook the following work in 2017-18:

Annual RE Conference

Teachers in Bristol were offered the opportunity to attend the Bristol and South Glos SACRE Annual RE conference. 35 teachers from Bristol Schools attended this conference. This year the Key Note speaker was Lat Blaylock from RE Today Services. He spoke about "Telling Tales" in RE and helped teachers to gain confidence in their subject knowledge by inspiring them with new ideas to explore stories and texts in RE. There were excellent workshops including one led by Katy Staples entitled "Talk to the Animals" exploring religious stories which feature animals in KS1. Mary Read led a workshop about how to manage a safe space in RE, and Katherine Taylor led a workshop about How to tell Wondering stories. The day was extremely well evaluated and the Bristol teachers who attended spoke of being able to use the ideas and strategies immediately in their teaching and of communicating them to other teachers in their school.

Best Practice Forums and Learn, Teach, Lead RE Conference

A very exciting development in RE has been the *Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)* project. This is a project that has run successfully in Devon and Cornwall, and has been extended to include Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Swindon. It has secured funding from the Jerusalem Trust and the St Matthias Trust with the aim of creating a network of RE 'hubs'. The 'hub leaders' are trained by the Project Manager Ed Pawson and so they are able to offer support and training to other teachers, both primary and secondary, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE in the city.

Bristol RE Hubs meet 3 times per year and are free for all primary and secondary Bristol teachers and teaching assistants. Bristol SACRE has used some of its budget to support these hubs. Adam Robertson is the primary RE Hub leader and Alice Sarbicki the secondary. The hub met three times in 2018-19 with an average of 8-19 attendees per session. The variety of the Hub meetings ensured that RE leaders and teachers in Bristol were able to receive the support that they needed. This year's

meetings centred on Humanism, Exploring stories and text, and Creative Islam. Thanks go to both hub leaders for their drive and organisation.

Teachers in Bristol were also invited to attend the Learn Teach Lead RE Conference which was held at Bath Spa University. It was held on June 28th and the theme was:

“Don’t fence me in” Religion and Worldviews: beyond stereotypes towards lived experiences.

The keynote speakers were **Helen Johns, Chris Hewer and Juliet Lyal.**

Workshops included:

Handling your own beliefs in the classroom as a teacher.

What sex is God?

Creating spaces so minority belief children feel free to share.

Islam for Secondary Schools.

RE and the New Ofsted Framework.

Once again the conference was extremely well evaluated.

Support for schools through Governor training

As part of its role to offer advice on effective RE, SMSC and Collective Worship SACRE runs training for Governors who serve Bristol schools on an annual basis. In March 2019 Katy Staples led a Governor training evening, 9 delegates from 7 schools attended, the feedback was 100% Good or Outstanding.

Monitoring of RE provision in Bristol

A key task for SACRE is to monitor the overall provision of RE in Bristol schools. This is quite a difficult task, as it is some years since individual school Ofsted reports specifically commented on RE. We have undertaken a website scrutiny of all schools in the city and offered feedback on the evidence about provision that we could see there.

The main evidence base that SACRE has to work from, for secondary provision and outcomes, is the data from public examinations. The data is presented and analysed below.

Public Examination Results 2019

GCSE:

A total of 1428 students were entered for a full course public examination in RE which is an increase since last year of 190 students. (However two school’s examination data - Bristol Free School and St Bede’s Catholic College was missing from last year’s data and is included this year - 213 entrants) There is no record for those schools who entered students for the short course examination which although it does not count as part of the “performance 8” accountability measure is still a significant contribution to students understanding of religions and worldviews and preparing them to live in modern Britain. Again more students who were entered were girls, and girls outperformed the boys.

Results from the 2019 GCSE showed that 70% of students received a grade between 9 - 4 which is a decline from last year where students achieved 74 % 9-4, The national average for Religious Studies is 71.0% (9-4), so pupils in Bristol entered for Religious Studies are achieving just below the national average.

Grade	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
A*-C/ 9 - 4	68.6%	71.0%	67%	70%	74.0%	70%

Count of Candidate number	Column Labels											Grand Total
Row Labels	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U		
Ashton Park School	20	25	33	16	24	27	10	8	1	7		171
Bedminster Down Secondary School	1											1
Bristol Brunel Academy	1	1	3		4	5	1					15
Bristol Cathedral Choir School		2	6	3	9	9	7	8	16			60
Bristol Free School	1	1	3	6	5	9	6	3	5			39
Bristol Metropolitan Academy	1	4	3	1	2	1	2					14
Colston's Girls School			2	1	4	6	6	2	1	1		23
Fairfield High School	13	11	27	21	28	21	13	6	1	4		145
Henbury Secondary School	15	21	18	4	8	8		3		8		85
Oasis Academy Brightstowe	2	1	1	2	3	7	1			1		18
Oasis Academy Brislington	1		4	1	4	2	7		2			21
Oasis Academy John Williams	4	6	9	5	7	3	3	2	3	3		45
Orchard School Bristol			1	1	1	6	3	1	1			14
Redland Green School	3	4	24	14	37	41	20	20	15	2		180
St Bede's RC VA Secondary School	2	11	10	20	16	30	28	33	27			177
St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School - Bristol	8	14	20	13	26	22	10	6	4	4		127
St Mary Redcliffe & Temple CE VA Secondary	5	8	16	22	34	52	33	25	12	2		209
The City Academy Bristol	6	14	10	12	13	11	8	4	3	3		84
Grand Total	83	123	190	142	225	260	158	121	91	35		1428

Six schools entered the whole cohort for full course GCSE. Those schools were Ashton Park, Fairfield High, Redland Green, St Bernadette's, St Mary Redcliffe and Temple (SMRT) and St Bede's Catholic College.

Merchant's Academy appears to be offering no public examination in Religious Studies, Bedminster Down Secondary School has entered only one student and several other schools have only entered a small minority of students for a public exam. We have no evidence as to how these schools are fulfilling their KS4 pupil's entitlement for RE. The lack of entries for a public examination in RE at a centre is not an indicator that there is an absence of RE at KS4. It may be that they are fulfilling their statutory duty through a course of non-examined RE.

A'Level results 2019

GCE AS Religious Studies (AS)		(blank)							
Count of Candidate number	Column Labels	A	B	C	D	E	U	Grand Total	
Row Labels	*								
Bristol Cathedral Choir School		2	6	6	5	3	1	23	
Bristol Free School		3	1	2				6	
Colston's Girls School			1	1	2	1		5	
Cotham School			1		1		1	3	
Redland Green School		1	4	2	3	2	1	13	
St Bede's RC VA Secondary School					6	2		8	
St Mary Redcliffe & Temple CE VA Secondary			4	6	3	3	1	1	18
Grand Total		6	17	17	20	9	4	3	76

There were 76 students entered for A 'Level Religious studies this is a decline from last year when 84 students were entrants, however these details not verified and for those centres well known to SACRE these figures seem inaccurately low. We also have no data from FE Colleges that also enter students.

Statutory matters

SACRE has a statutory role to decide on any determinations. These are requests by schools to move away from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly, broadly or mainly of a Christian character. During the period of this report, there have been no requests for determinations.

Where a complaint has been made about the RE curriculum in a Bristol school, it should be referred to Bristol Council for it to deal with. Bristol City Council has undertaken to seek SACRE's advice on any such complaint. There have been no formal complaints within this reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

The four groups or committees that have served for the year 2018-19

Committee A

Tamar Hodos Lucas
 Mohammad-Nassir Miah
 Rachel Noyce
 Peter Cook
 Balbir Nirwan

Christian Denominations and other faith

Jewish
 Muslim
 Free Church
 Baptist
 Sikh

Committee B

Jill Dickinson
 Duncan Struthers
 Frances Taylor

The Church of England

Committee C

Esther Deans
 Jackie Walsh
 Vicky Wiltshire
 Alice Sarbicki
 Sue Lange

Associations representing teachers

Malmesbury Secondary School
 Easton CE Academy
 Holymead Primary School, Brislington
 Redland Green School
 Stoke Bishop CE Academy

Committee D

Liz Radford
 Ruth Pickersgill
 Carole Johnson
 Lesley Alexander

The local authority

Conservative
 Labour
 Labour

Co-opted members:

Michael Gower
 Teresa Griffiths
 Reissa Perring

Humanist
 Bristol University
 Bahai

Support Officers:

Katy Staples
katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

SACRE Adviser
 Telephone: 0117 906 0100

Jenny Brookes

Local Authority Link Officer

Clerk: during this reporting period we had two different clerks and one meeting with no clerk

Olubodunrin Tokosi
 Sam Wilcock

2019-20 the clerk is Steve Gregory
steve.gregory@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol City Council

Members may be nominated by appropriate organisations but are appointed by the council. Other members may be co-opted. (Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996)

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2019 -20

8th November 2018

Redfield Educate Together Primary Academy

2:00pm – 3:30pm

The main agenda items were:

1. A talk about the RE and Ethos at the school
2. Presentation about the Bahai faith

3. New SACRE website presentation from Rachel Noyce
- 4, Website scrutiny
5. Selective withdrawal from Mosque visits

7th March 2019

Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Bristol

301-307 Church Rd, Bristol BS5 8AA

6:00pm – 7:30pm

The main agenda items were:

1. A talk about the Gurdwara
2. The Annual Report and the necessary actions coming from that.
3. Report from the withdrawal from Mosque visits working group
4. The Annual Report and actions and development plan
5. Website letters

20th June 2019

43 Woodland Road, University of Bristol

9:00am – 12:00pm

The main agenda items were:

1. Membership
2. Support for schools coming from the “Selective Withdrawal” working group
3. Website Review
4. KS4 RE what’s happening - how can SACRE respond
5. Conference feedback and Hub meeting feedback

Action Plan for 2019 - 2021

SACRE created a development plan, as outlined above.

Key areas of work for 2019 - 2021 include:

- **Goal 1 Improving standards in RE** - KS4 Report and Development of non-exam offer , Wire Gold, Faith Sensitive RSHE, Following up from Website Scrutiny , CPD through Conferences (SACRE and LTLRE) and Hub meetings
- **Goal 2 Ensure the effective management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders** - Securing and maintaining good clerking. Continue excellent partnership with LA through Jenny Brookes who is line manager of SACRE adviser for Bristol City Council, Ensure realistic funding for SACRE and ASC (2021) Chair to maintain a Civic role with city wide inclusion initiatives
- **Goal 3 Monitoring schools provision for RE and Collective Worship**
Through liaising with the local authority School Improvement Officer the adviser to be informed about schools for whom a comment about RE or diversity has been made so targeted support is offered. Website Scrutiny and letters offered of support. Training to Governors and NQTs
- **Goal 4 Encourage schools, academies and colleges to celebrate the religious and cultural diversity in the city**

WIRE and WIRE Gold

Induction of new teachers to Bristol (jointly with Better Bilingual and Building Bridges)

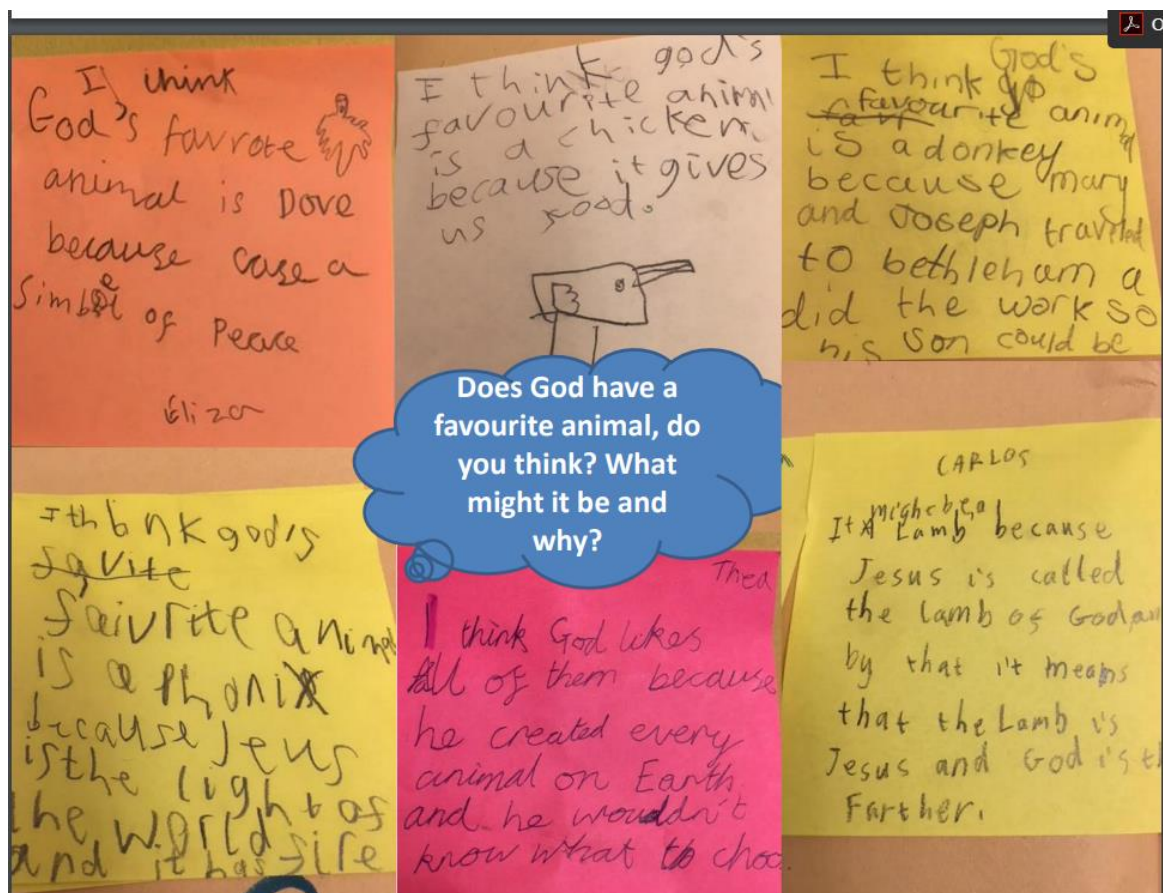
Faith sensitive guidance for schools re Ramadan/ RSHE / trips/ Clothing etc

SACRE meetings in 2018-19 were held at various locations in Bristol and we are very grateful to all the people who hosted us so generously.

The meetings were, on the whole well attended by members, one was not quorate (due to a lack of councillors attending).

All SACRE meetings are open to members of the public who should contact the Clerk for details of forthcoming meetings.

SACRE's clerk 2019 -20 is Steve Gregory steve.gregory@bristol.gov.uk



Idea offered by Lat Blaylock
at the Annual RE Conference
2019 "Telling Tales"