

The Poole

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Annual report 2017/8

Comments from the SACRE Chair

Poole SACRE is in a period of change in all sorts of ways. Not least among these has been the handing on of the baton of Chairmanship from Lynda to Michael. For Lynda it has been a joy and privilege to Chair the SACRE and she is pleased to be continuing to be part of its work. Michael looks forward to sharing that privilege in the future and, without wishing to embarrass Lynda too much says "I am very grateful indeed to Lynda for all that she has done. Her contribution has been simply enormous and it's good to know that her wisdom and experience are still available to us."

The other big change of course is the beginning of working together with Bournemouth SACRE. We have been used to sharing the Agreed Syllabus and also the services of our advisor David Rees, to whom we express our gratitude. The support of an RE professional of his calibre is indispensable to the work of a SACRE. Now the two SACRES are meeting together and are enjoying getting to know each other in preparation for unification next year.

Among other things we have reflected together upon the interim report of the 'Commission on RE' and, at the time of writing, are looking forward to getting to grips with the final report. We have also given some attention to Collective Worship and are preparing some guidance for schools which are not of religious character. Last year's new syllabus seems to be bedding in well, though we have noted a decline in the numbers of students being entered for examinations.

Finally, two more 'thank you's, firstly to our clerk Michelle Cutler who has diligently helped us with matters of procedure and our special thanks to Luana Girling who has been our LA officer. Luana has helped us achieve a good deal and we are really thankful for her help.

Poole SACRE is a skilled and committed group of people and it looks forward keenly to supporting RE and Collective Worship into the future.

Lynda Ford-Horne, retiring Chair and Revd Michael Camp. Chair

Composition of SACRE –

SACRE shall consist of representative members, being 21 in total, appointed to the 4 committees A-D of the SACRE by Poole Borough Council as Local Authority (LA) for Poole as follows:

Committee A (9 members in total)

The members of Committee A shall be representatives of such Christian and other religious denominations which reflect the principal traditions in the Borough of Poole not including the Church of England and shall consist of:

- one person of the Baha'i Faith
- one person of the Buddhist Faith
- one person of the Free Church Federal Council

- one person of the Hindu Faith
- one person of the Islamic Faith
- one person of the Jewish Faith
- one person of the Quaker Faith
- one person of the Roman Catholic Church
- one person of the Sikh Faith

Committee B (3 members in total)

The members of Committee B shall be representatives of the Church of England and shall consist of:

- 3 persons from the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education

Committee C (6 members in total)

The members of Committee C shall be representatives of such Teachers' Associations as the LA think fit and shall consist of:

- at least one Headteacher from each of the primary and secondary phases nominated by Poole Headteachers via Poole Schools Association
- one teacher from Special Education

NB – In Poole the recognised teacher associations are NASUWT, NUT, ATL, ASCL, NAHT and VOICE.

Committee D (3 members in total)

The members of Committee D shall be representatives of the elected membership of the LA and shall consist of:

- 3 elected members appointed by the LA's nominated Committee

Co-opted Representatives

- SACRE shall have the power to co-opt up to 6 representatives to the Committees
- the term of office for co-opted members is usually 4 years
- SACRE must take reasonable steps to ensure that a co-opted member is a genuine representative of the organisation they pertain to represent.

Introduction

At the end of the previous academic year the new joint Bournemouth and Poole agreed RE syllabus completed its embedding year. The Autumn Term 2017 marked the beginning of its use in schools. The previous syllabus had been popular as it encouraged an enquiry model whilst allowing schools to teach a reduced content which allowed a deeper study. The new syllabus built on this with enquiry embedded throughout and also offered a greater choice for schools to decide which religions to teach across the primary phase.

The embedding of the new syllabus coincided with a time of renewed discussion in the academic world about Religious Education, how it is delivered, how content is decided, how it is assessed and indeed the very purpose of it. With the Commission on RE delivering its final report it is important that Poole SACRE is fully aware of the developments and takes opportunities to be

heard and to encourage and facilitate high quality RE in the current and future educational landscape.

The Poole SACRE continues to keep in touch with schools and teachers and tailors its yearly plans to meet and support their needs to keep pushing RE learning forward. The SACRE listens to teachers whenever possible through the teacher representatives and presentations to SACREs about issues like Farmington fellowships. Poole SACRE aspires to have greater contact in future if the budget would facilitate network meetings and training events

The SACRE has continued to appreciate the support of the Borough of Poole, the funding offered enabling some support for teachers and schools to continue.

The SACRE has met once each term (on Tuesday November 21st, 2017, Thursday 8th March 2018 and Monday 11th June 2018).

its membership was well-served by some experienced members. The Chair position was passed from Lynda Ford-Horne to Rev Michael Camp (previously Vice Chair) during the year. Membership of some of the committees has changed and there are some vacancies to fill. Attempting to fill these vacancies will be a priority for SACRE this year.

The Poole SACRE continues to be committed to progressing RE across the Borough, believing this subject to have major significance to children and young people's development, both personal and academic. The SACRE has worked hard this year to ensure schools understand its roles and to build strong bridges between itself and the schools it serves on behalf of the Borough.

Agreed Syllabus aftermath

The process of reviewing the joint Poole and Bournemouth RE syllabus brought the two authorities closer together and it became clear that a real opportunity to serve the local RE communities more efficiently would be for the SACREs to meet together and pursue supporting RE in Poole and Bournemouth jointly. During the 2017-18 academic year the SACREs met together sharing ideas and continue to explore further ways of improving RE in our areas. The collaboration that was present in the agreed syllabus conference has continued and as both authorities face similar issues concerning recruitment, consistency of RE leaders and the need to support schools in delivering high quality RE, the benefits have outweighed reservations.

Teacher network meetings

Termly network meetings have unfortunately not been supported by the budget this year – it is hoped that these may be re-instated next year as they are a vital lifeline for primary teachers in particular, offering an opportunity to share ideas and resources, discuss local and national issues and seek support and continuing professional development (CPD). Some other networks have been run out of the Portsmouth diocese, but these have been independent of SACRE and links to SACRE have not been sought. It is hoped that SACRE linked network meetings may be made available again, but it is dependent on numbers and available funding.

Exam results (2018)

The Key Stage 4 (GCSE) results and Key Stage 5 (A/S and A level results for 2018 are unvalidated and have not been made available to me at time of writing – I have been promised these by the beginning of December

David Rees

RE Adviser to Poole

19/10/18

SACRE 2017/18 – As of May 2018

Membership

Group A:

Lynda Ford-Horne – Judaism (Chair)
Rita El-Gazali - Islam
Mrs Bharati Joshi - Hindu
Robert Lawton - Baha'i Faith
Rev. Nigel Ford – Free Church

Vacancy – Roman Catholic Representative
Vacancy – Sikh
Vacancy – Buddhist
Vacancy - Quaker

Group B:

Rev'd Michael Camp – Church of England (Vice Chair)
Neil Revell – Church of England
Vacancy – Church of England

Group C:

Chris Farrow – Secondary School
Cheryl Smith – Primary School
Vacancy x 3 - Teachers' Representatives

Group D:

Cllr Judy Butt;
Cllr Michael Wilkins
Co-opted Members

Church of the Latter Day Saints – Tracy Au
Humanist – Sally Hawksworth
Special Schools Representative - Angela Muir

Education Consultant

David Rees
For Information – Local Authority link
Luana Girling