



Standing Advisory Council

on

Religious

Education

ANNUAL REPORT

2014/2015

This report covers the work of the Cumbria SACRE
for the period September 2014 to August 2015

What are SACRE's Responsibilities?

To advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with:

1. Religious Education (RE)

This year SACRE has

- Updated a seventh unit of work from Lat Blaylock (RE Today) and made it available to schools.
- Ran a joint SACRE/RE Conference for teachers.
- Began to draft a Constitution for SACRE.

2. Collective Worship in community schools

This year SACRE considered what constitutes Collective Worship with a view to advising schools on ways they might improve their statutory responsibility to deliver it. SACRE rewrote and published its Guidance to Schools on Collective Worship.

3. Determinations - To allow any exception to the law that Collective Worship be broadly or mainly Christian

SACRE has received no requests for a determination for exemption from the law.

4. To hear any complaints about RE or Collective Worship

SACRE hears any complaints brought to the LA about RE and collective worship. No complaints from parents were received this year.

5. To publish an annual report on its work

This paper is the annual report for the academic year 2014-2015.

Anyone wishing to receive the minutes of termly meetings can contact Sue McGaw by email sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk or visit Cumbria SACRE's website:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

Who was on Cumbria SACRE in 2014-2015

Chair: *Wendy Ridley*

Committee A: Christian denominations (other than Church of England) & other faiths

Dai Cowles (Free churches)

David Pitkeathly (Churches Together)

Jacqueline Hampson (Catholic)

Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)

Rob Martin (Methodist)

Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)

Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)

Committee B: Church of England

Bert Thomas

Rachel Cowper

Susan Davies

Deborah Smith

Penny Hollander

Committee C: Teacher Associations

Brian Eaton (VOICE)

Carolyn Reade (NATRE & AULRE)

Irene Roberts-Green (Vice Chair) (NAHT)

James Douglas (NUT)

Jane Yates (NASUWT)

Mandy Turner (ATL)

Committee D: Local Authority

Brenda Gray (Liberal Democrat)

Roger Bingham (Conservative)

Eileen Weir (Labour)

Liz Mallinson (Conservative)

Mark Wilson (Labour)

Co-opted Members

Georgia Prescott (University of Cumbria)

Karen Shankland (Primary Academy Rep)

Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)

LA Support Officers

Richard Cox

David Salmon - Clerk to SACRE

Sue McGaw – Admin for SACRE

When & where did SACRE meet?

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2014-2015 the following meetings took place:

1 December 2014 at Church House, Carlisle

Attendance: 17 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 1; Committee C – 3; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 3, LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Mark Chater challenging SACREs
- RE Conference – Summer Term
- Pupil Feedback Questionnaire (Working Group)
- SACRE Development Plan
- SACRE Annual Report
- SACRE Constitution (Working Group)
- National Update

25 February 2015 at Penrith Fire Station

Attendance: 18 members present (Committee A – 7; Committee B – 3; Committee C – 2; Committee D – 3; Co-opted – 3; LA Officers - 0). This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- New Members
- RE Conference
- Pupil Feedback Questionnaire – Pilot
- What Religions Are Found in our Communities (7th RE Unit)
- National Update
- SACRE Constitution - Draft
- Mark Chater challenging SACREs

16 June 2015 at Dowdales School, Dalton-In-Furness

Attendance: 15 members present (Committee A – 3; Committee B - 2; Committee C – 5; Committee D – 2; Co-opted – 2 LA Officers – 1) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Pupil Feedback Questionnaire
- National Update
- Guidance for School Visits to Places of Worship
- Secondary Schools – Position of RE/SMSC
- SACRE Conference - Feedback
- Performance of RE - Data

When are future meetings?

SACRE meetings have been arranged for 2015 – 2016 as follows:

15 October 2015 – Penrith Fire Station

3 February 2016 – County Offices, Kendal

7 June 2016, venue to be advised

The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2015-2016 will be: Establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference and Working Group

Non members are welcome to attend, to observe SACRE meetings. Please contact Sue McGaw (email sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk) to receive advance information about the meetings and confirmation of times and venues.

What is the SACRE Budget?

SACRE's budget covers the cost of meetings, venue expenses, supply cover costs for teacher members, postage, photocopying, travel expenses, and subscription costs for membership of national organisations for RE. Additional resources are obtained from the County Council when necessary for the review, development and publication of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

In the year 2014-2015 the total amount spent was £4039.65: Supply cover £1025; Travel expenses £1435.15; Venues/Catering £64.50; Conference fees £1320; Publications and Subscriptions £195.

What is the RE and Collective Worship support for Cumbrian schools?

For Secondary and Primary Schools:

Richard Cox, Senior Adviser

Tel: 01964 505538, email: richard.cox@cumbria.gov.uk

What Continuing Professional Development Opportunities have there been?

Cumbria Continuous Professional Development Courses (CCPD)

The following one day courses for RE ran:

Outstanding Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in Your School

provider Wendy Ridley

24 February 2015 - A total of 18 delegates attended.

Active, Engaging and Creative Ideas for Primary RE - provider Wendy Ridley

10 March 2015 - A total of 13 delegates attended.

Cumbria SACRE/RE Conference 2015 - provider Lat Blaylock/SACRE

1 June 2015 - A total of 59 delegates attended.

Planning RE for a Cross-curricular approach in KS1 and KS2 - provider Wendy Ridley

15 June 2015 - A total of 16 delegates attended.

All these CCPD events received excellent evaluations.

Useful Websites

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

Religious Education Quality Mark - REQM

Schools can apply for three levels of the REQM award. A school's evidence and provision are assessed by an external assessor, against nationally recognised criteria. Cumbria SACRE encourages all schools to access the REQM assessment materials to use as an audit tool, even if they feel the time and cost of full accreditation is not an immediate priority. See <http://www.reqm.org/>

Congratulations from SACRE to the following Cumbrian schools who have achieved awards:

The Bishop Harvey Goodwin, Carlisle - Silver, 2013

The Queen Katherine School, Kendal - Gold, 2014

Dowdales School, Dalton-in-Furness - Gold, 2014

Jewish Living Exhibition comes to Carlisle

Sheila Gewolb, the Jewish member on Cumbria SACRE, kindly organised for The Jewish Living Exhibition (JLE), an educational facility presented by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, to visit Tullie House in Carlisle from 1-12 December 2014. This interactive touring exhibition, which has been updated with new posters, banners and other artefacts, is aimed at Key Stage 2 children aged 8-10 years. However, visitors of all ages were fascinated by the profusion of information and abundance of detail about Jewish customs and practices.

Over 700 school children aged 5-11 years from 17 schools across Cumbria visited the JLE. As well as learning about Jewish festivals, the laws of keeping kosher (kashrut) and Shabbat, the children were able to try on skull caps (kipot) and prayer shawls (tallitim); spin the Chanukah dreidel; dress up and act out the Purim story; and sample fresh challah (bread). The feedback from teachers was very positive and all voiced the hope that the JLE would return to Cumbria in the near future.

SACRE would like to thank Sheila, her small team of Jewish volunteers and the staff of Tullie House who all their hard work making it possible to host this exhibition in Cumbria.

Following the SACRE RE conference on June 1, requests have been received from RE teachers for the JLE to visit their schools, or for Mrs Gewolb to give a presentation. The first one of these took place at Wiggonby School in November.

North North West (NNW) SACRE hub

SACRE Clerk David Salmon and Sheila Gewolb, Jewish SACRE member, represented Cumbria on the newly-formed NNW SACRE hub at meetings in September 2013, February and June 2014. The meetings were held in Chorley, Lancs. This group, which comprises SACREs from Lancashire, Rochdale, Bolton, Burnley, Blackpool, Wigan and Warrington, meets on a regular basis to discuss RE and Collective Worship issues and activities in their respective regions and to share best practice. For instance, there was an interesting presentation by a group of Young Ambassadors, who spoke about their Youth SACRE. At a time when the provision of RE in school is coming increasingly under threat, it is helpful to be part of a larger SACRE community for reciprocal support and action to be taken to combat these threats to RE.

Cumbria SACRE RE Conference

It was a very well attended and greatly motivating conference. Lat Blaylock, Editor of RE Today, was the main speaker and as usual, his contributions were entertaining, thought-provoking and very valuable. He managed to inspire for both primary and secondary teachers equally.

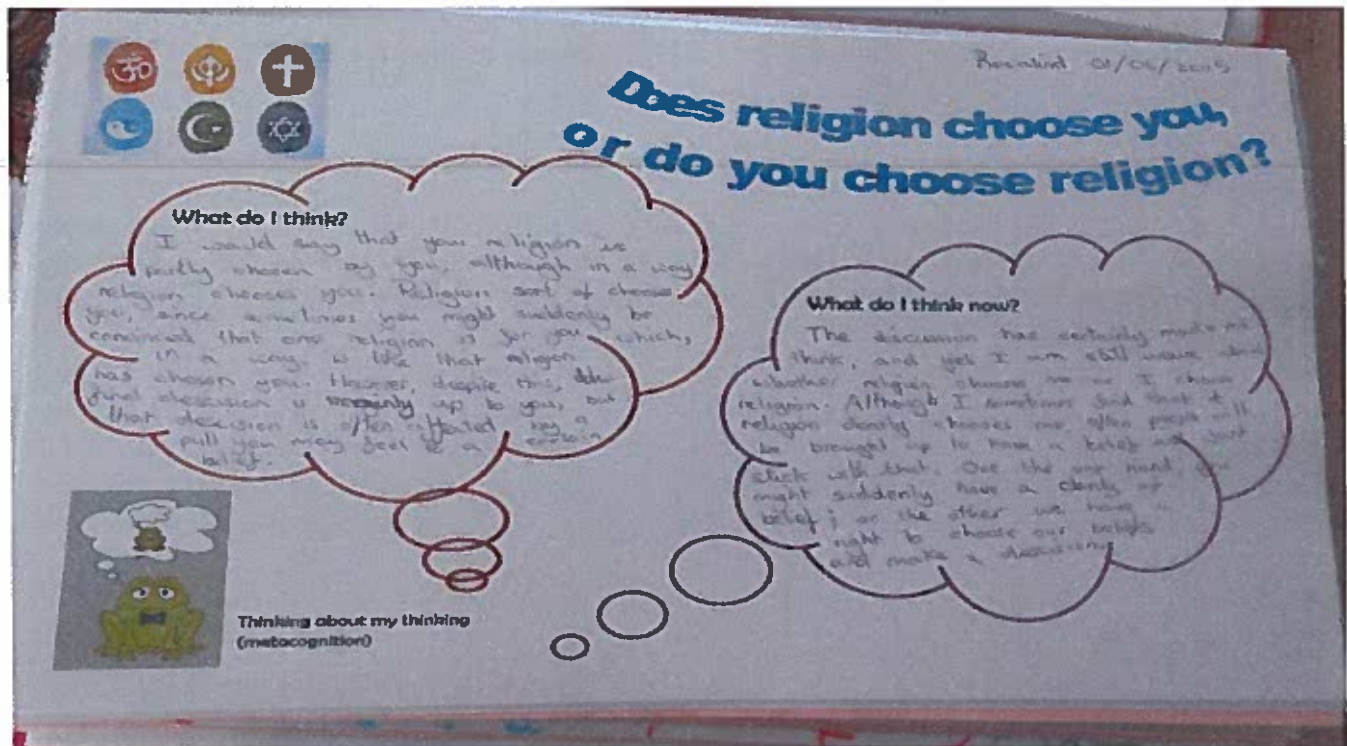
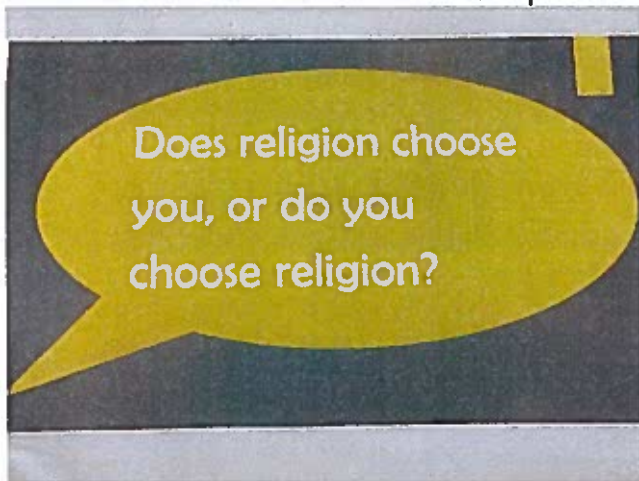
An update on the role and work of SACRE was given by Wendy Ridley and the availability of all the guidance SACRE has produced was highlighted.

SACRE was also delighted to host staff and pupils from Armathwaite School, who demonstrated how Philosophy for Children (P4C) can be used as a very effective methodology in RE. The question which a stimulus provoked the children to discuss was "Does your religion choose you or do you choose your religion?" Armathwaite teacher Jane Yates conducted the enquiry with great skill and the Yr 5-6 children were a credit to their school. The children participated in the demonstration enquiry in a deeply thoughtful and considerate manner.

Armathwaite School later went through a rigorous external assessment process, and was awarded a well-deserved Gold School Award for P4C. They are the first school in the North West to receive this accreditation, and one of only five in the country – so Very Well Done to them! The staff and pupils welcome the opportunity to share their expertise in this area, so

please get in touch with them if you are interested in learning more about how to use P4C to deliver quality RE.

See the photos on the following page.



Jane Yates of Armathwaite school reports:

"It was a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate a Philosophy for Children enquiry at the SACRE RE conference. At Armathwaite School we pride ourselves on enabling an environment where our children feel confident to share their different beliefs and opinions in a way that is caring and collaborative. In this way, we are modelling the values and attitudes that truly prepare children for life in modern Britain."

In July, Armathwaite School were awarded their SAPERE Gold P4C School Award. They are the first school in the North West and only the fifth school in the country to achieve this award. The assessor, who visited for the day, said: "Enquiry and reflection comes naturally to all members of the school community and is a golden thread running through all that takes place." The assessor talked with teachers, pupils and parents. In particular, the parents "identified skills and attitudes in their children which they directly attributed to P4C," and they commented on how P4C has enabled them to deepen their own religious or secular beliefs.

To see the full report go to www.armathwaite.cumbria.sch.uk

For information about P4C courses in Cumbria, please contact claire@cdec.org.uk

Thanks to Vicky Bunter of Dowdales School for these pictures showing evidence of good quality work in Religious Studies.

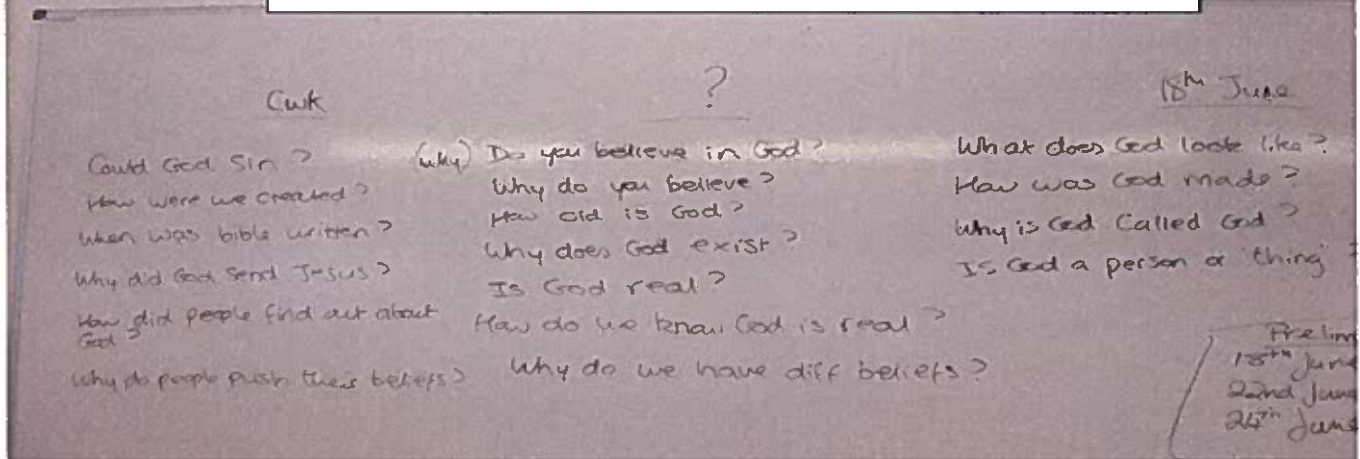


Projects produced by YR 7 to illustrate the concept of the Golden Rule which is shared by many faiths and beliefs – treat others how you would like to be treated.



Year 8 work on the concepts involved in celebrating religious festivals.

Philosophy for Children (P4C) questions leading to an enquiry about the concept of God.



Huge Rangoli pattern making and Indian cooking as part of a British Values day exploring concepts of respect for and acceptance of a range of faiths and traditions.

SACRE is pleased to receive photographic, written or anecdotal evidence of good work in RE and Collective Worship in Cumbria's schools. If you have things you wish to share please contact Sue McGaw on 01228 226805, email sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk

Do you have any comments on this SACRE Report?

Responses to this Annual Report from school governors, elected members, head teachers, teachers or members of the public are welcomed by SACRE. Please write to: David Salmon, Clerk to SACRE, Lower Goal Yard, The Courts, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8NA - david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk