



# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

## Annual Report 2019/2020

This report covers the work of the Cumbria SACRE  
for the period September 2019 to August 2020

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## What are SACRE's Responsibilities?

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

### 1. Religious Education (RE) This year SACRE has:

- Sent out a Feedback form to schools to complete (to be repeated annually)
- Provided updated Units of Work for RE in KS1 and KS2 (including a Transition Unit 'Buried Treasure' for KS2/3)
- Produced a booklet on Visits and Visitors for RE for schools
- Produced a termly SACRE newsletter.

### 2. Collective Worship in community schools

SACRE has published Guidance to Schools on Collective Worship, to support schools in their statutory responsibility to deliver daily acts of 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 document is the annual report for the academic year 2019-2020.

Anyone wishing to receive the minutes of termly meetings can contact Sue McGaw by email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto: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 2019-2020

Chair: *Jane Yates*

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

*Karen O'Donoghue (Baha'i)*

*Gabrielle Murray (Catholic)*

*David Pitkeathly (Churches Together)*

*Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim)*

*Sheila Gewolb (Jewish)*

*Wendy Ridley (Buddhist)*

*Carol Graham (Society of Friends)*

### Committee B: Church of England

*Richard Cox*

*Penny Hollander*

*Katherine Kinsella*

*Deborah Smith (Resigned Sept 2019)*

*Vanessa O'Dea*

### Committee C: Teacher Associations

*James Douglas (NUT)*

*Irene Roberts-Green (Vice Chair) (NAHT)*

*Brian Eaton (VOICE)*

*Jane Yates (NASUWT)*

*Carolyn Reade (NATRE & AULRE)*

### Committee D: Local Authority

*Roger Bingham (Conservative)*

*David Southward (Labour)*

*Neil Hughes (Liberal Democrat)*

*Mark Wilson (Labour)*

*Liz Mallinson (Conservative)*

### Co-opted Members

*Georgia Prescott (University of Cumbria)*

*Katherine France (Queen Katherine School)*

*Vicky Bunter (Dowdales School)*

## When & where did SACRE meet?

SACRE usually meets once a term. In 2019-2020 the following meetings took place:

### 25 September 2019 at West Lakes Academy, Egremont

Attendance: 14 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 4; Committee D – 0; Co-opted – 1, LA Officers – 2) This meeting was not quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- SACRE Development Plan 2017-22
- Guidance for schools on visits to places of worship
- Buried Treasure update
- National Update

### 24 February 2020 at Cumbria House, Carlisle

Attendance: 16 members present (Committee A – 5; Committee B – 2; Committee C – 2; Committee D – 4; Co-opted – 1; LA Officers - 2). This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- RE/SACRE Conference 2020
- Guidance for schools on visits to places of worship update
- Freedom of Information request
- National Update
- SACRE Annual Feedback form
- SACRE Newsletter
- RE Ambassador
- National update

### 17 June 2020 – virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendance: 16 members present (Committee A – 4; Committee B - 2; Committee C – 4; Committee D – 2; Co-opted – 2; LA Officers – 2) This meeting was quorate.

The main agenda items were:

- Guidance for schools on visits to places of worship update
- Buried Treasure update
- National Update
- SACRE Newsletter

## When are future meetings?

20 October 2020 – virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

9 March 2021 - virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Summer meeting - TBC

**The SACRE Development plan identifies that the main areas of focus for 2020-2021 will be:**

- Dissemination of Buried Treasure Unit of Work: What can we learn from religious texts? and Visits and Visitors for RE.
- Continue to increase teacher awareness of SACRE through newsletter and social media.
- Provision of governor training in RE across the county.
- Provision of a needs based CPD programme for RE 2020-21.
- Continue to raise profile and involvement in National Association for SACRE and other national RE organisations.
- Development of online based resources for RE with Cumbria Development Education Centre, including virtual visits for religion and worldviews (subject to funding application with Culham St Gabriel's).
- Continue to increase teacher RE networks across Cumbria through virtual opportunities e.g. RE Teach Meets.

Non members are welcome to attend, to observe SACRE meetings. Please contact Sue McGaw (email [sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcgaw@cumbria.gov.uk)) for confirmation of times and venues.

### **What is the SACRE Budget?**

SACRE's budget covers the cost of meetings, venue expenses, supply cover 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 2019-2020 the total amount spent was £4,933.70 (Travel expenses £2103.70; Supply £675; Conference fees £1310; Update units of work £700; Subscriptions £205).

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

For Secondary and Primary Schools: David Salmon, General Adviser

Tel: 07900 146836, email: [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)

### **What Professional Development Opportunities have there been?**

The following courses for RE ran:

**Philosophy for Children (P4C) for Governors – 6 November 2019 – Provider Jane Yates – 10 delegates.**

**Delivering SMSC through Global Learning – Addressing the new Ofsted Framework – 19 November 2019 – Provider Laura Goad c/o Cumbria Development Education Centre - 8 delegates.**

**Fun RE for the Foundation Stage, Exploring EYFS, British Values SMSC and RE – 25 November 2019 – Provider Gill Vaisey (attended by Jane Yates) – 11 delegates.**

**Fun RE for the Foundation Stage, Exploring EYFS, British Values SMSC and RE – 26 November 2019 – Provider Gill Vaisey (attended by Jane Yates) – 12 delegates.**

**5 June, 16 July, RE Teach Meets (Primary) Monthly virtual network meetings for RE teachers from across Cumbria. Providers: Katherine France and Jane Yates with Cumbria SACRE members (Wendy Ridley, Karen O'Donoghue).**

**19 June, 17 July, RE Teach Meets (Secondary) Monthly virtual network meetings for RE teachers from across Cumbria. Providers: Katherine France and Jane Yates with Cumbria SACRE members (Carolyn Reade, Karen O'Donoghue).**

**Five courses had to be cancelled due to Covid 19 including the Cumbria SACRE RE Conference.**

**Cumbria SACRE members joined in with developing/attending the Compassionate and Restorative Education (CARE) approach for Covid-19 during the summer term with Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC).**

## Useful Websites

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

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

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

Twitter: @CumbriaSACRE. We welcome all schools in Cumbria to share photographic evidence of RE and Collective Worship using the hashtag #CumbriaSharingRE. The Twitter account also follows the key local and national organisations for RE and will re-tweet relevant updates.



Facebook: RE Teachers in Cumbria. This is a closed group for primary and secondary teachers in Cumbria to enable an information exchange for RE and CW, training, events and new resources. Cumbria SACRE members will also use this as a forum to keep teachers updated.

## 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/>. Gold Award holders in Cumbria are: Dowdales School, The Queen Katherine School and Bridekirk Dovenby CofE School. Please note that due to Covid-19, there are different measures in place for assessments.

## Westhill Bid

Summer 2020 saw the completion of the final phase of the Buried Treasure Project with a day at Newbarns School with pupils from Year 6, and Year 7 students from Furness Academy. This also involved a wider reach of faith representatives beyond Cumbria SACRE. A project report has been written by Project Leader Karen O'Donoghue and has been sent to the Westhill Trust. A further outcome of the project has been to produce a unit of work in line with existing Units available for Cumbrian Schools. Written by Jane Yates, this unit is called: What can we learn from religious texts? Karen O'Donoghue and Jane Yates were invited to speak about the project at the NASACRE conference in May (which has now been deferred to November 2020). Building on the success of this project, an application has been made to Culham St Gabriel for a joint project with Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC) to involve faith representatives in providing an online platform for schools.

Cumbria SACRE RE Agreed Syllabus Support for Teachers through Planned Enquiry		
Unit title: What can we learn from religious texts? Age Group: 9 - 13		
		
		June 2020

Cumbria SACRE Religious Education Support/RE Units of Work 2020

With thanks to the following schools for taking part in the Cumbria SACRE Buried Treasure Project: St Oswald's, The Queen Katherine School, St Cuthbert's, Castle Park, Milnthorpe, Seaside, Dean Gibson, Newbarnes, Furness Academy and Robert Ferguson.

	HONESTY		JUSTICE
		UNITY	
LOVE			TRUTHFULNESS

This Unit of Work was written by Jane Yates (Chair of Cumbria SACRE) building on the work of Karen O'Donoghue, Baha'i representative and Project Lead for the Westhill NASACRE Buried Treasure Project.  
With thanks to the Cumbria SACRE Working Group members, faith representatives and Cumbria DEC.

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## Visits and Visitors for Religious Education

Wendy Ridley (Buddhist faith member) collated a comprehensive 35 page document during 2019-2020 to update a directory for RE visits and visitors across Cumbria and beyond. This was a significant piece of work undertaken by the Cumbria SACRE Working Group members and has been well received by schools, and has attracted national attention. Several members of the working group (Shelia Gewolb, Karen O'Donoghue and David Pitkeathly) were guests on BBC Radio Cumbria to talk about the document.

### Cumbria Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) **Visits and Visitors for Religious Education**



## **North North West Hub**

David Salmon, (LA Officer), and Dr Sheila Gewolb DL, (Jewish faith member), represented Cumbria SACRE at the North North West (NNW) SACRE hub meetings in November 2019, and March 2020 which took place at The Exchange, County Hall Preston.

The hub, formed in 2014, brings together smaller SACREs in the north-west region to provide reciprocal support on topical issues and share information and best practice. Other hub members in the group come from Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Cheshire West/Chester, Halton/Widnes, Lancashire, Rochdale, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan. Cumbria SACRE continues to be amongst the most active and well-supported in this group, hosting the only annual SACRE conference for RE teachers in this region.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions, the group did not meet in the summer term, and it is hoped we can reconvene when it is appropriate to do so.

Topics discussed over the past year included the introduction of the Cumbria Directory for Places of Worship, which was very well received by hub members. Other SACREs offer similar resources: faith trails for schools which include visiting churches, synagogues and mosques, and the Building Bridges service in Lancashire. It was agreed that the message and quality of interfaith speakers should be controlled.

Hub members also reported that teachers appeared to be enthusiastic to improve their subject knowledge in RE as a result of the new Ofsted Inspection Framework. Training has now been better attended.

Cumbria shared the new monitoring proforma which was modelled on a previous example provided by Halton.

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](mailto: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 email David Salmon, Clerk to SACRE, [david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:david.salmon@cumbria.gov.uk)