

AGENDA

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 21 November 2014**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Whitecross School, Three Elms Road, Hereford**

Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

David Penrose, Democratic Services Officer

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call David Penrose, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 383690 or e-mail dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Membership

Chairman

Councillor J Stone

Councillor CNH Attwood

Mrs. C. Ault

Mrs L Barker

Revd. P. Barlow

Mrs S Bryant

Councillor EMK Chave

Venerable Tsuiltrim Tenzin Choesang

Mrs A. Daniel

Miss Emilie James

Mrs Gurmit Jutle

Rev DT Meachem

Sr. D. O'Donnell

Mrs M Williams

Ms C Wolfe

Local Authority

Bahai faith

Secondary School Teachers

Church of England

Church of England

Local Authority

Buddhist

Primary School Teachers

Special School Teachers

Sikh Faith

Churches Together in Herefordshire

Roman Catholic Church

The Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School

Jewish Faith

Non Voting

Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins

Mrs K Mayglothling

Miss Allyson Taylor

Co-opted member

Co-opted Member

Co-opted Member

AGENDA

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2014.	5 - 8
4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
5. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2015 To review the feedback from the Primary School RE Conference 2014, the Secondary School Conference 2014 and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Annual SACRE Conference 2014 and to consider arrangements for the 2015 conferences and other training events.	9 - 22
6. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/14 To comment on the draft SACRE Annual report for the academic year September 2013 to July 2014.	23 - 30
7. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2014 To consider the Religious Studies examination results for 2014.	31 - 42
8. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW To give consideration to the Agreed Syllabus Review.	43 - 50
9. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE To consider a report on recent national reports and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.	51 - 54
10. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS To note that the next meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Friday 20th March 2015 at the Shire Hall, Hereford. Further dates have yet to be arranged.	

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Friday 21 March 2014 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor CNH Attwood, Mrs L Barker, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Councillor EMK Chave, Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang, Miss E James, Mrs K Mayglothling, Miss A Taylor and Ms C Wolfe

Officers: Mrs B Mabey, Lead Officer to SACRE, Mr I Sockett, Business Intelligence Officer Education Analysis Mr S Pett, RE Consultant – RE Today; D Penrose, Governance Services.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs S Bryant, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Ani-Li Choesang, Mrs A Daniels, and Ms K Mayglothling.

2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

None.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2013 were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

5. SACRE MEMBERSHIP

SACRE considered a report on its membership.

Resolved

That:

- a) The appointment of Ms M Williams as a Church of England representative in Group B be approved, subject to approval from the Diocese; and
- b) Ms A Taylor, St Mary's Primary School, Fownhope, be elected as a Church of England representative in Group B of the Constitution; and;
- c) Mrs Judith Tinsley, Head of Colwall CE Primary School as the co-opted primary school representative.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - 2014

SACRE received an updated report on plans for supporting teachers in 2014 through the Special School RE day on 29 April 2014, the Secondary School Conference on 19 June 2014 and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Annual SACRE Conference on the 23 June 2014.

The RE Advisory reported that an additional three schools were needed to sign up to the 29 April event otherwise it would not be viable, and asked members to pass the information on to other schools.

The Secondary RE Conference would be held at Puckrup Hall near Tewkesbury on the 19 June, and representatives from the three counties were expected. Eight teachers had signed up to date and only Woebley High School had so far signed up from Herefordshire.

The Annual Primary RE Conference would be held at Malvern St James' Girls School on the 23 June.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

8. UPDATE ON RE COMMUNITY NEWS

SACRE noted an update on RE Community news.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9. RE REVIEW

SACRE received a report on the RE Council's National Curriculum Framework for RE. It was noted that SACRE would have to consider reviewing its RE Agreed Syllabus in 2016. The development of a clear, well-structured agreed syllabus was an important function for SACRE. The Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus had been praised by Ofsted for meeting the criteria laid down in Ofsted reports in 2010 and 2013.

Councillor Chave volunteered to be involved in an Agreed Syllabus Review Strategy Group, and it was agreed that a meeting would be held in Whitecross School on the 24 June.

Resolved:

That:

a) The report be noted; and;

b) a core Strategy Group be set up to make recommendations concerning a review of the Agreed Syllabus for the SACRE meeting in November. Members would include Mrs K Mayglothling, Miss E James and Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins.

10. FUTURE SUPPORT FOR SACRE

It was noted that Bonnie Griffiths, Deputy Headteacher of the Queen Elizabeth Humanities College in Bromyard would be joining the Council as a School Improvement Officer and would provide support to SACRE.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was noted that the dates of the next meetings were Friday 21 November 2014 and Friday 20 March 2015.

The meeting ended at 15.30

CHAIRMAN



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	21 November 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - 2015
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

1. Classification

Open

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To review the feedback from the Primary School RE Conference 2014, the Secondary School Conference 2014 and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Annual SACRE Conference 2014 and to consider arrangements for the 2015 conferences and other training events.

3. Recommendation

THAT: The report be noted

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 - SACRE Primary School Conference Feedback
 Appendix 2 – SACRE Secondary School Conference Feedback
 Appendix 3 - SACRE Primary School Conference 2015 Leaflet
 Appendix 4 - SACRE Secondary School Conference 2015 Leaflet

4. Background Papers

- None identified.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire SACREs Primary RE Conference Evaluation 23 June 2014

37 delegates. 27 from Herefordshire. 30 evaluation forms received.

Thanks to Cllr Carl Attwood, Herefordshire Council, who secured Malvern St James' Girls' School (of which he is a governor) as the venue for the conference.

	excellent	good	satisfactory
Overall value of the conference	87%	13%	
<p>Further comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wonderful day. Everyone was extremely helpful and approachable. Inspiring speakers and workshops. Thank you! • Completely inspired, coming away with several ideas for a variety of religions and age groups. Made links to cross-curricular learning, which was great! • Whole day helped to re-focus the work I will be doing with my school to enhance the teaching and learning of RE and the Christian character of the school • As always a very thought-provoking and interesting day. Practical ideas which I can use in school. I would have liked to have done all 6 workshops. Lovely lunch too! • Brilliant ideas to take back to school as a teacher and co-ordinator. Nice that we were asked about curriculum review too. • Inspiring with many practical ideas As always inspirational, can't wait to try out all the ideas and suggestions; always good to be able to chat to other RE co-ordinators and compare practice • Lat Blaylock was a fantastic speaker, animated with lots of suggestions for creativity/deeper thinking in RE. I've come away with lots of ways to improve my RE (and other) lessons. • A super day which was exactly what I was looking for as an RE coordinator. Lots of ideas to rejuvenate RE • A fantastic day to share with other teachers. As always, Lat was very inspirational and I always return wanting to try things straight away • Great balance of theory and practical ideas. Also thank you for suggesting/demonstrating how initial stimulus can be developed • Great ideas from an inspirational and easy to listen to speaker • A really inspiring and thought-provoking day • I was very impressed! I have been really inspired and am walking away with lots of ideas and resources to try. 			
<p>Actions you will take to follow up from this conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop assessment in RE; run several staff meetings on developing better RE and deeper thinking • In Sept will use some of these ideas with my new class • Feed back to staff and inspire them to create better RE • Spread more creativity in RE teaching across the school; make sure children are given sufficient time to reflect on sessions; improve resources • Look at creative ways used across school, feedback to staff; highlight importance of spirituality • Lots of simple and practical ideas to try; importance of challenging children and making them <i>think</i>. • Ensure the stories I read have meaning; share ideas with others • Build in better assessment and tracking; cascade ideas to rest of staff • Feel more confident teaching RE next year • Use pictures as a starting point; focus more on the 'bigger meaning' of stories • Inset day to share all the wonderful ideas/strategies • Order some persona dolls for KS1; take a staff meeting on RE to share some of the things I have got today 			

- Look at RE planning for next year and look at activities to inspire children
- I have taken away many ideas to incorporate into my classroom practice
- Share resources/ideas with colleagues. Build into curriculum review.
- A much more creative approach in the classroom. Give children the time and space to explore religion no matter their own beliefs. Try to relate religion to their own lives to engage them

Suggestions/requests for future support:

- Thematic planning approach; organising themes/learning across the school; resources to support
- At least termly meetings of RE co-ordinators to share good practice
- List of places to visit. Contacts to come to school for workshops.
- More of these conferences!
- Longer course e.g. over 2 days to extend links between different religions and age appropriate activities

Three Counties Secondary RE Conference 2014 Evaluation

51 teachers present, plus 3 SACRE members and 2 speakers.

10 Worcestershire teachers; 7 Herefordshire; 25 Gloucestershire; 6 PGCE students; 3 extras

43 teacher evaluations received.

	excellent	good	satisfactory
Session 1 Assessment without levels Lat Blaylock	79%	21%	
Session 2 Growing your own assessment Stroud High School	63%	35%	2%
Session 3 Opening up art and texts Stephen Pett	93%	7%	
Session 3: Promoting deeper thinking Lat Blaylock	91%	9%	
Session 4: Developing enquiry Stephen Pett	79%	21%	
Venue: how do you rate it?	91%	9%	
Overall value of the conference	95%	5%	

Further comments

- Lots of great ideas and resources as always. Super value for money. A 'must-do' CPD.
- Session on art and texts was very useful with lots of interesting ideas I will implement in my teaching
- Thank you!! So much to take away and so many brain cells firing (even so close to the end of term!) Love the deeper thinking stuff especially.
- Practical, useful, thought provoking. Thank you.
- Great ideas to take away and use in lessons
- Lots of creative ideas, particularly use of frames, Job for suffering and use of imagery, very engaging! Great range of resource available for purchase.
- Really informative, variety of information, felt welcomed, useful to use within dept inset. Thank you for a great day.
- Varied and engaging.
- Great to re-new links with colleagues. Good resource which will be useful and make an impact in lessons.
- Great to have things to take away. Good interaction – tasks are quick for us and so no time wasted.
- I really liked the new ideas/strategies. Some thought-provoking challenges to approaches. Liked 'speculation' to trigger thinking. Pathway through life is something I want to use.
- Thank you – clear and practical.
- An excellent conference as ever. Lots of suggestions/ideas to take back to school.
- As always a very interesting and enjoyable day. Very practical ideas for use in class.
- Great conference!
- Fantastic ideas and resources. I particularly enjoyed the opening up art and texts!
- More, more, more!
- It has been many years since my last RE conference (Worcs) – the difference is amazing. All relevant information. The day has made me think and reassess ideas, which is great. Lots I want to try in the classroom.
- Excellent ideas and resources. Lovely lunch! Good ideas and good to have time to network with others and share experiences.

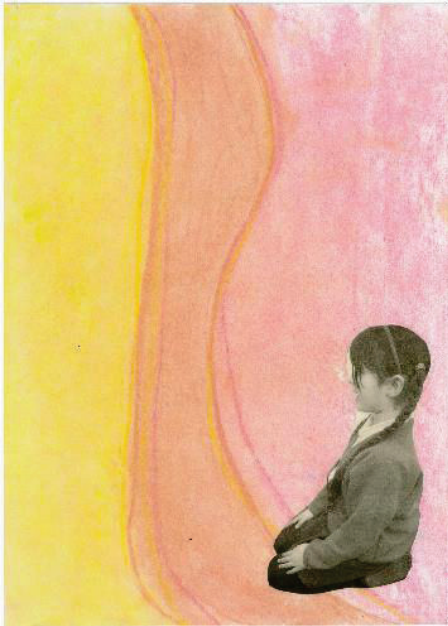
Actions you will take to follow up from this conference

- Possible inset on questioning/thinking; revisit some of my curriculum to update with today's ideas/resources
- We're re-working KS3 to focus on challenge – so this will help massively!

- Implement more opportunities for deeper thinking. Consideration of an alternative way of assessing away from levels.
- Definitely try out letter from God! Trial assessment, focusing on dialogue between teacher and student for them to identify areas of progress.
- Look into applying level pyramids in school
- Will include letter from God into scheme of work and will use ideas from art and texts session.
- Changes to assessments. Pyramids in classrooms.
- Currently evaluating assessment. Love the lesson activities – will use.
- Revising schemes and lessons to implement these alternatives to current lessons – very exciting!!
- Job and the problem of evil. Use of art and images.

Suggestions/requests for future support in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire or Worcestershire:

- How to help SEN pupils access a literacy subject.
- Role and efficacy of the mini-plenary in RE
- Teaching the skill of synopticity
- Interesting revision strategies for GCSE and A-level
- Sixth form stuff – tricky aspects of AS2
- More network meetings would be great.
- More conferences/visitors into school. List of contacts for key religious speakers who come into school.



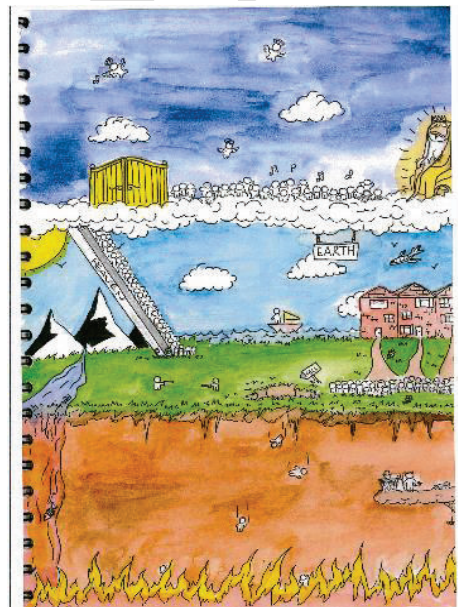
**20th May
2015**

*A balance of practical
ideas and inspiration*

*Promoting values
Thinking skills in RE
Creative arts and RE
Spiritual development
Great literacy, great RE
Confident subject
leadership*

***Making a difference:
RE, values & spiritual
development***

Gloucestershire
& Herefordshire SACREs
Primary RE conference



Venue

**Puckrup
Hall Hotel
GL20 6EL**

Fee
£95

**Speakers:
Lat Blaylock
Julia Diamond-
Conway
Mary Myatt
Fiona Moss
Shahne Vickery**

Making a difference: RE, values and spiritual development
20 May 2015
9.00am-3.30pm
(Registration and refreshments from 8.30am)

Keynote 1: Making a difference: RE, values and spiritual development: Mary Myatt

Choose two from A-D

Workshop 1 & 2 (repeat)

- A. **Thinking Skills for better RE 7-11s** Lat Blaylock
A practical and inspiring session exploring a range of classroom strategies for getting pupils to think deeply about religion and belief.
- B. **Keep calm and lead RE!** Julia Diamond-Conway
How can we support and empower colleagues in our schools to do great RE? Practical strategies and wise advice to develop your subject leader skills and win support for RE with your colleagues
- C. **Create, Talk, Sing: getting creative for inspiring RE, 5-11s** Fiona Moss
This session will look at ways of using the performing and visual arts to promote excellent RE and support pupils in deepening their understanding of religions and beliefs.
- D. **Planning, making and using quiet/spiritual gardens in the primary school** Shahne Vickery
Using some of the hundreds of pictures and 'garden stories' gathered by Shahne after publication of her popular book on spiritual gardens, this session will give lots of ideas for creating beautiful and interactive spiritual spaces and practical ways to help children make the most of them at different times in the school day and in every season of the year.

Choose one from E-H

Workshop 3:

- A. **RE outside with 4-7s.** Lat Blaylock
Ideas and resources for
- B. **Inspiring, interactive RE: building confidence in the classroom** Julia Diamond-Conway
This session will include ideas and resources to build teacher confidence and pupil enjoyment in 7-11 classrooms.
- C. **Great literacy through engaging RE** Fiona Moss
Develop excellent literacy skills whilst delivering engaging and creative RE lessons; practical ideas to try out and take away
- D. **What to expect if an inspector visits your classroom** Mary Myatt
An experienced Ofsted and SIAMS inspector gives you the low-down on making the most of your special visitors.

Keynote 2: Connecting values and spirituality in RE Lat Blaylock

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders, HLTAs and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to explore best practice in RE.

Aims

- To provide clear strategies and resources to support teachers in developing excellent RE and spiritual development
- To increase teacher confidence and creativity in teaching RE, developing values and promoting spiritual development
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, to challenge all pupils and promote deeper thinking
- To provide a range of creative and engaging classroom ideas to inspire, inform and empower teachers.

The 2013 SACRE conference was rated excellent by 82% of delegates and good by 18%.

In 2014, 89% rated the conference as excellent, and 11% good!

Typical comments from 2014 include:

- Another fantastic conference – loads of practical ideas from informative sessions.
- Good re range of workshops. All very stimulating.
- A great day to motivate further thinking and to better teaching and learning
- I thought the ideas to use in the class were superb. Thank you.
- A very enjoyable day – inspiring speakers. Thank you! Some brilliant creative ideas, particularly poetry/art etc
- Excellent approach and delivery. Lots of info/resource to take away and apply.
- Brilliant day as always. Lots to take back to school. Thank you.
- A really interesting and insightful conference, well done.
- Amazing as always! Extremely inspirational ideas to unlock children's creativity, spirituality, and deep thinking, delivered by highly enthusiastic speakers!
- Thank you very much – a great day as always and I leave inspired.
- Great day! Great ideas!
- A fantastic, informative, thoughtful day. Lovely lunch! The labyrinth was a surprise!
- If I could only bottle Lat Blaylock... More please. So inspiring and fun!
- Conference always inspirational and gives us more than enough ideas to teach better RE in the classroom. Resources excellent and so useful.
- An amazing day. I was fully engaged in every minute (even after fab lunch). The whole day.
- Superb, I'll be here next year.

Venue

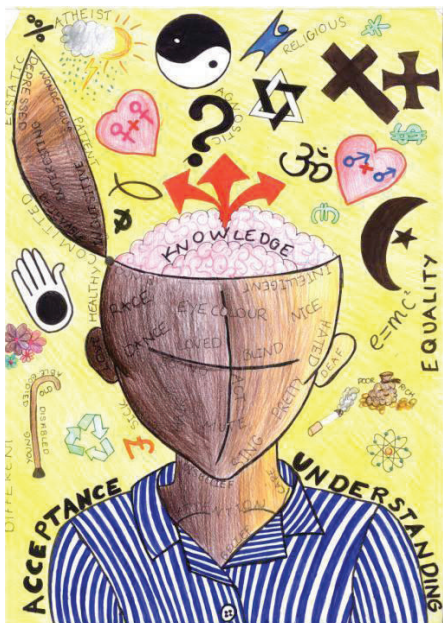
Puckrup Hall Hotel, GL20 6EL – easily accessible off the M5, M50 and A38

Fee

£95, including refreshments, lunch and resources.

You will receive copies of materials used during the day, including access to downloadable copies after the event. Further classroom resources on sale at discounted prices.

Booking details attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LB



**What really matters in RE?
Better teaching better learning**

A balance of practical ideas and inspiration

**Secondary RE Conference:
Gloucestershire Herefordshire SACREs**



18th June 2015

**Tewkesbury Park Hotel
GL20 7DN**

**Lat Blaylock
Kate Christopher
Stephen Pett
RE Today Services**

**What really matters in RE?
Better teaching, better learning
18 June 2015**

Balancing **inspiration and practicality**, the conference offers a chance to **think through current issues** in RE, try out a host of **ready-to-use classroom resources**, meet other RE teachers and share ideas.

Programme:

8.45 Arrivals, sign-in and refreshments (including bacon sandwiches...)
9.15 RE, SMSC and British values: ... <i>Lat Blaylock</i> RE can be blown around by the whims of education policy. This session examines varied practical ways in which excellent RE promotes SMSC and explores British values.
10.15 Addressing Islamophobia <i>Kate Christopher</i> Practical ideas and resources to challenge prejudice and open up diversity in Islam in the classroom.
11.15 Break
11.45 Developing coherent understanding of religion <i>Stephen Pett</i> Are there ways of helping pupils to connect their learning, so that they can make sense of religion and belief? Some theoretical suggestions and practical implications.
12.45 Lunch
1.45 TeachMeet A chance for each school to share one excellent, practical idea for the RE classroom, from Y7 to Y13, any religion, any theme – just something that always works! 3 minutes each! Sign up on the booking form.
2.45 Future RE: diverse, critical, political? <i>Kate Christopher</i>
3.30 Evaluations and end of conference.

Venue: Tewkesbury Park Hotel, Lincoln Green Lane, GL20 7DN - easily accessible off the M5, M50 and A38

Fee: £100, including refreshments, lunch and resources.

You will receive copies of materials used during the day, including access to downloadable copies after the event.

Further classroom resources on sale at discounted prices.

Booking details attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LB

Speakers:

We are delighted to have **Lat Blaylock** to lead some of today's sessions. Editor of REtoday magazine, Lat is an inspirational trainer of thousands of RE teachers each year, and member of the REC Review Expert Panel and development writing group. He's led sessions in this locality for years, so he always has to create something new for this conference. Cutting edge material.

We are joined for the first time by **Kate Christopher**, the new secondary adviser at RE Today, formerly head of RE at a large comprehensive in Holland Park, at a Pupil Referral Unit and a boys' grammar. She brings fresh ideas and inspiration from her diverse experience and insight, as well as her PhD studies in RE and philosophy of religion.

Stephen Pett, writer and editor of RE Today's series of secondary resources, a former Head of RE and AST, is currently adviser to Gloucestershire and Herefordshire SACREs. His long-standing interest in neuroscience and learning has contributed to his current research into the relationship between RE and happiness. He is happy to talk about this to anyone who will listen.

Some feedback from 2013 conference:

- *Excellent! Practical strategies as ever. Useful to meet people and network.*
- *AM: fantastic morning – thought-provoking and insightful for how to develop/foster spirituality amongst the staff and students of a faith school. PM: Interesting/engaging activities that can be used, applied, adapted to different KS needs.*
- *Lots of good ideas as ever, that are practical and can be used off the peg in many instances*
- *A great day as usual. Wonderful to take time out to get back to focusing on RE and learning, rather than admin/school issues.*
- *Really interesting, practical and relevant ideas and methods*
- *So many good ideas to put into practice/adapt and lovely to network with like-minded people.*
- *Really enjoyed the day.*

Some feedback from 2014 conference:

- *Lots of great ideas and resources as always. Super value for money. A 'must-do' CPD.*
- *Thank you!! So much to take away and so many brain cells firing (even so close to the end of term!) Love the deeper thinking stuff especially.*
- *Practical, useful, thought provoking. Thank you.*
- *Great ideas to take away and use in lessons*
- *Lots of creative ideas, particularly use of frames, Job for suffering and use of imagery, very engaging! Great range of resource available for purchase.*
- *Really informative, variety of information, felt welcomed, useful to use within dept inset. Thank you for a great day.*
- *Great to re-new links with colleagues. Good resource which will be useful and make an impact in lessons.*
- *Great to have things to take away. Good interaction – tasks are quick for us and so no time wasted.*
- *An excellent conference as ever. Lots of suggestions/ideas to take back to school.*
- *Great conference!*
- *Fantastic ideas and resources. I particularly enjoyed the opening up art and texts!*
- *More, more, more!*
- *Excellent ideas and resources. Lovely lunch! Good ideas and good to have time to network with others and share experiences.*



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	21 November 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/14
REPORT BY:	SACRE Lead Officer

1. Classification

Open

2. Purpose

2.1 To receive the SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2013 to July 2014.

3. Recommendation(s)

THAT: Subject to any comments by SACRE the Annual Report 2013/14 be approved and a copy be forwarded to NASACRE

4. Background Papers

4.1 None identified.

Herefordshire
Standing Advisory Council on
Religious Education
(SACRE)

Draft SACRE Annual Report for the Academic
Year 2013/14

1 Herefordshire SACRE Annual Report 2013-2014

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body set up to advise the Local Authority on matters related to religious education and collective worship. Its members are drawn from teachers, Local Authority representatives including Councillors, faith representatives from the Church of England and a range of Christian denominations, and representatives from other religious groups represented in the region.

SACRE's key functions include monitoring the provision and quality of RE, and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training. This is primarily done through the review and implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, a process which is required every five years. This is followed by on-going monitoring of its effectiveness in the light of changing national education policy.

SACRE is grateful to Herefordshire County Council for its continuing support, but notes that in the current reduction in funding across the Council, SACRE has not been spared. SACRE endeavours to offer maximum support to schools through its use of conferences and network meetings. However, it has had to reduce the number of SACRE meetings from three to two, replacing one with a meeting of a 'strategy group', who undertake to prepare reports or undertake research to move the business of SACRE forward.

Herefordshire SACRE met twice in 2013-2014. The minutes of these meetings are available from David Penrose, Clerk to SACRE (dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk). The strategy group met once, and their report will be presented in the Autumn meeting, 2014.

2 Supporting RE in Herefordshire

The key activities of SACRE over the period 2013-14 have focused on maintaining support for teachers as they embed and build on the revised Agreed Syllabus from 2011.

3 Joint SACRE Primary RE Conference: Herefordshire and Worcestershire SACREs , 23 June 2014

In light of the reduction in financial resources for Herefordshire SACRE, the LA has made links with Worcestershire SACRE and they put on a joint conference. With the venue provided through one of the Herefordshire Councillor's contacts as Governor, thirty seven delegates attended the day conference held at Malvern St James' Girls School. The focus was on good practice, exploring the features of good practice in RE, trying out some resources to use in the classroom and ways of assessing pupils. Workshops included meaningful assessment, ways of enabling pupils to think more deeply in RE, opening key concepts about God and life after death, using stories with 4-7s. Speakers were Lat Blaylock, Fiona Moss and Stephen Pett from RE Today.

Feedback was very encouraging: 87% rated the day as excellent and 13% as good.

The following are a typical sample of teachers' comments:

- *A wonderful day. Everyone was extremely helpful and approachable. Inspiring speakers and workshops. Thank you!*
- *Completely inspired, coming away with several ideas for a variety of religions and age groups. Made links to cross-curricular learning, which was great!*
- *Whole day helped to re-focus the work I will be doing with my school to enhance the teaching and learning of RE and the Christian character of the school*
- *As always a very thought-provoking and interesting day. Practical ideas which I can use in school. I would have liked to have done all 6 workshops. Lovely lunch too!*
- *Brilliant ideas to take back to school as a teacher and co-ordinator. Nice that we were asked about curriculum review too.*

4 Three Counties Secondary Conference: Gloucestershire Herefordshire Worcestershire SACREs, 19 June 2014

This was the first joint secondary conference between the three counties, building on the common support from Stephen Pett of RE Today to each of the SACREs. This enabled the day to be viable, and also led to some excellent and on-going contacts between teachers and schools.

51 delegates attended the conference, from three counties. There were seven delegates from Herefordshire. The focus was on making good progress in RE, balancing inspiration and practicality. The conference offered the opportunity to think through current issues in RE and to try out a host of ready-to-use classroom resources. Sessions included looking at assessment without levels, opening up art and texts in the classroom, balancing knowledge and skills through promoting enquiry, in the light of the latest research in neuroscience, psychology and education. Keynote speakers and workshop leaders were Lat Blaylock and Stephen Pett, from RE Today, with Julie Haigh and Laura Arstall, RE teachers at Stroud High School

As usual, feedback was very encouraging: 95% rated the day as excellent and 5% as good. Typical comments include:

- *Lots of great ideas and resources as always. Super value for money. A 'must-do' CPD.*
- *Session on art and texts was very useful with lots of interesting ideas I will implement in my teaching*
- *Thank you!! So much to take away and so many brain cells firing (even so close to the end of term!) Love the deeper thinking stuff especially.*
- *Practical, useful, thought provoking. Thank you.*
- *Lots of creative ideas, particularly use of frames, Job for suffering and use of imagery, very engaging! Great range of resource available for purchase.*
- *Really informative, variety of information, felt welcomed, useful to use within dept inset. Thank you for a great day.*
- *Varied and engaging.*
- *Great to re-new links with colleagues. Good resource which will be useful and make an impact in lessons.*
- *Very inspirational as always – so many super resources. Can't wait to use them and inspire others back in school with ideas.*

5 Three Counties Special School RE Day: Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire SACREs, 29 April 2014

This was the second of our RE day conferences for special schools. Following the successful day with Anne Krisman in October 2010, this day followed up on planning creative RE for special pupils with a wide range of needs. The programme included a session on responding to Ofsted's demands for RE with purpose; one session on expressing concepts creatively, using a range of examples, and one on promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development across the special school. Worcestershire SACRE's Tibetan Buddhist member, Ani-la Choesang, introduced a session on movement in meditation – for those pupils who cannot sit still; and demonstrated ways of creating Buddhist prayer flags.

The day was led by Anne Krisman, subject leader of RE at Little Heath School, Romford, Essex, an experienced teacher in a variety of special schools, writer on RE and special needs, and winner of the 2011 Hockerill/National Association of Teachers of RE Award for Innovation in RE.

This was a well-received day, albeit with disappointingly low numbers. Teachers were enthusiastic about the practical focus of the day as well as the specialist expertise offered by Anne.

6 Commentary on exam results summer 2014

The number of entries for full course GCSE RE was 734 compared to 706 in 2013. Herefordshire consistently enters more learners for full course GCSE RE than the national average.

Of this year's full course GCSE entries, 76.0% achieved grade C or above, compared to 69.5% nationally. In Herefordshire 99.0% of learners gained grade G or above, compared to 97.8 nationally.

The short course saw a reduction from 445 entries in 2013 to 260 in 2014. This is the lowest number of entries Herefordshire has seen in the past 5 years. Of these, 48.5% achieved grade C or better, slightly lower than the previous year's attainment of 51.2%. However, the A* to G indicator rose to 98.5%.

Whitecross High School and Sixth Form College was the only mainstream secondary school to enter learners for the Entry Level Qualification Band C in 2014. 100% of learners achieved level 1 or 2 qualifications.

7 Quality of teaching in Herefordshire.

All schools are committed to developing the spiritual moral, social and cultural (SMSC) aspects of learners' education. Whilst this may not be a measurable aspect of school life, Ofsted's inspection teams are required to consider the impact of a school's SMSC provision as part of the judgement of a school's leadership and management.

To date, Herefordshire has been judged as having 80.0% of its schools to be Good or better by Ofsted. Due to the interrelationship between leadership and management and the judgement for overall effectiveness, it can be assumed that the quality of SMSC is good or better.

8 Future support for RE

On-going support for teachers, developing their ability to plan, using the agreed syllabus planning steps, and for improving teaching and learning in RE, is planned for 2014-2015, including:

- Annual SACRE conference for primary teachers, focusing on planning and assessment, in partnership with Gloucestershire SACRE.
- Annual SACRE secondary conference, in partnership with Herefordshire SACRE, focusing on assessment in the light of Government policy to remove the use of levels.
- Network meetings

9 Other matters:

SACRE considered several pertinent issues over the year, including:

- The impact of wide-ranging cuts to the Council and the implications for how much support SACRE can realistically offer to schools
- The National Curriculum Framework for Religious Education (NCFRE) October 2013 and its implications for Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus.
- The exam results for GCSE (full and short course), AS and A-level Religious Studies in Herefordshire, in relation to continuing discussion on the impact of Government policy on the provision of RE, including the English Baccalaureate and Mr Gove's comments on not doing enough to protect RE.
- The Strategy Group met on 7 July 2014 and focused on the possibilities for reviewing the agreed syllabus for 2016 – 2021, in the light of the current financial strictures. It examined the extent to which the current syllabus meets the requirements of the NCFRE, where new work would need to be done (for example, on assessment without levels), and made recommendations for SACRE to consider in its Autumn 2014 meeting about ways forward.

Cllr John Stone
Chair of SACRE
November 2014



Religious Studies –
performance in Heref



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	21 November 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2014
REPORT BY:	SACRE Lead Officer

1. Classification

Open

2. Purpose

2.1 To consider the Religious Studies examination results for 2014.

3. Recommendation

THAT: the Religious Studies examination results for 2014 be noted.

4. Key Considerations

4.1 Performance

- The number of entries for full course GCSE RE was 734 compared to 706 in 2013. Herefordshire consistently enters more learners for full course GCSE RE than the national average.
- Of this year's full course GCSE entries, 76.0% achieved grade C or above, compared to 69.5% nationally. In Herefordshire 99.0% of learners gained grade G or above, compared to 97.8 nationally.
- The short course saw a reduction from 445 entries in 2013 to 260 in 2014. This is the lowest number of entries Herefordshire has seen in the past 5 years. Of these, 48.5% achieved grade C or better, slightly lower than the previous year's attainment of 51.2%. However, the A* to G indicator rose to 98.5%.
- Whitecross High School and Sixth Form College was the only mainstream secondary school to enter learners for the Entry Level Qualification Band C in 2014. 100% of learners achieved level 1 or 2 qualifications.

4.2 Quality of teaching in Herefordshire.

- All schools are committed to developing the spiritual moral, social and cultural (SMSC) aspects of learners' education. Whilst this may not be a measurable aspect of school life, Ofsted's inspection teams are required to consider the impact of a school's SMSC provision as part of the judgement of a school's leadership and management.
- To date, Herefordshire has been judged as having 80.0% of its schools to be Good or better by Ofsted. Due to the interrelationship between leadership and management and the judgement for overall effectiveness, it can be assumed that the quality of SMSC is good or better.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 **Appendix A - Religious Studies examination results for 2014**
Appendix B – Ofsted’s letter to schools, July 2014

6. Background Papers

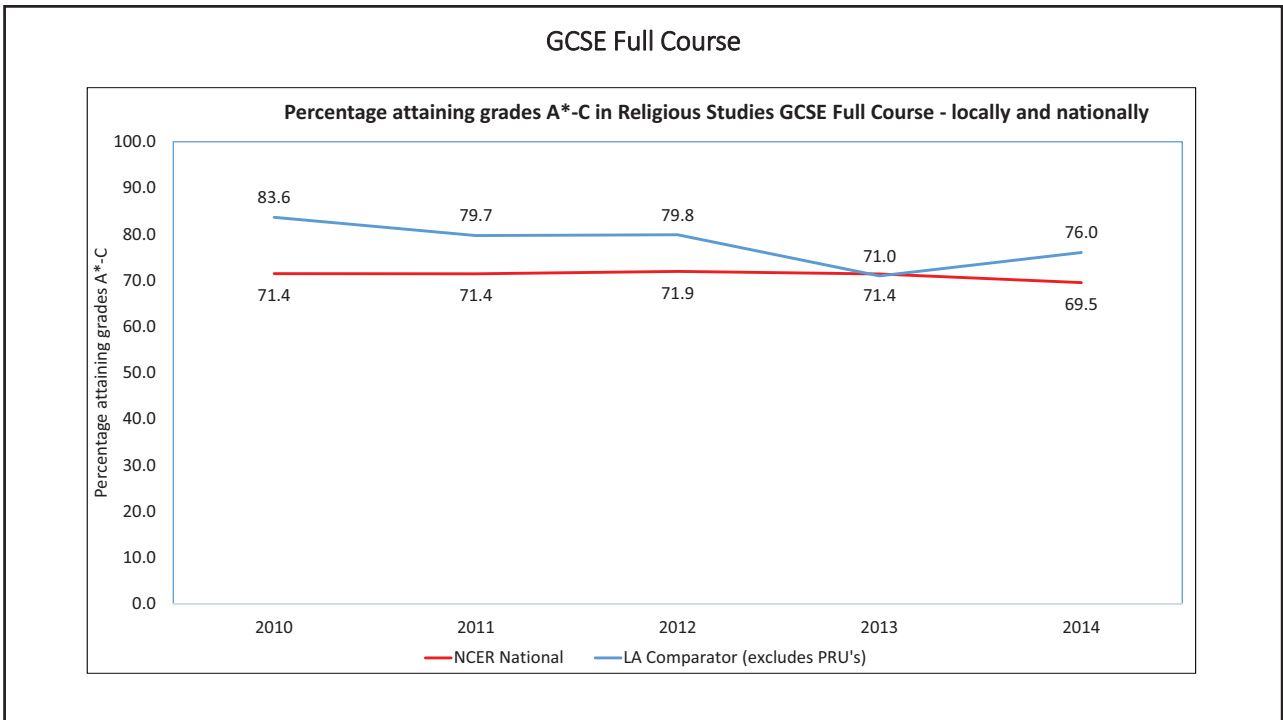
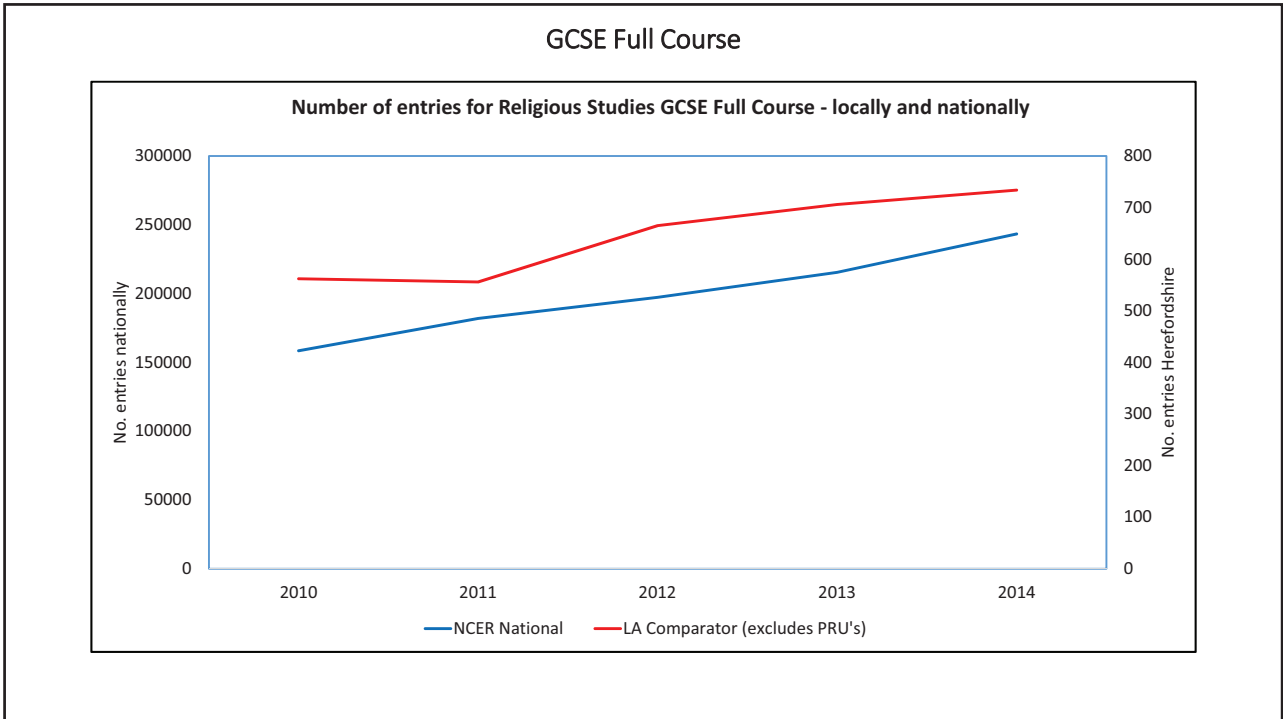
- 6.1 None identified.

Religious Studies – performance in Herefordshire schools and academies

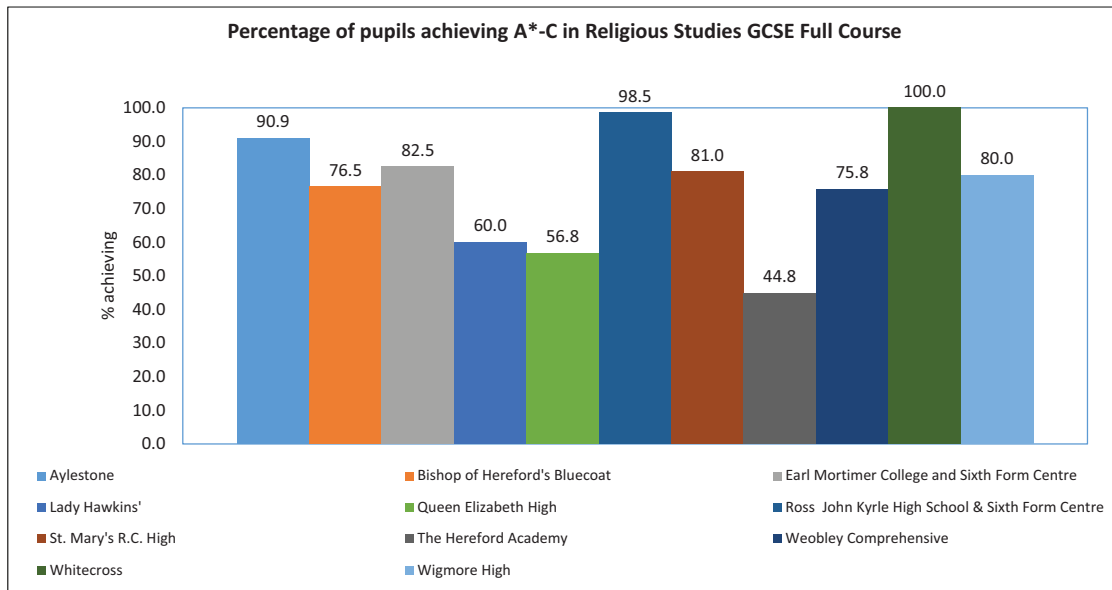
Compiled for SACRE based on provisional KS4 data issued by NCER (National Consortium of Exam Results)

Religious Studies GCSE Full Course – entries and attainment 2010-14

Centre	Entries					%A* - C					%A* - G				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NCER National	158469	181992	197252	215391	243430	71.4	71.4	71.9	71.4	69.5	98.6	98.2	98.3	98.3	97.8
LA Comparator (excludes PRU's)	562	556	665	706	734	83.6	79.7	79.8	71.0	76.0	98.9	99.3	99.5	98.3	99.0
Aylestone	66	53	44	46	11	89.4	94.3	86.4	54.3	90.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat	167	208	221	215	221	94.0	78.8	77.8	60.5	76.5	100.0	98.1	98.6	96.3	99.5
Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre	28	0	49	52	57	92.9		65.3	76.9	82.5	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0
Kingstone High	24	5	0	0	0	62.5	80.0				100.0	100.0			
Lady Hawkins'	0	0	0	0	50					60.0					100.0
Queen Elizabeth High	52	32	44	69	74	28.8	96.9	77.3	50.7	56.8	96.2	100.0	100.0	94.2	93.2
Ross John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre	29	45	105	71	67	96.6	97.8	97.1	94.4	98.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
St. Mary's R.C. High	124	129	132	125	121	83.9	69.0	67.4	75.2	81.0	96.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.2
The Hereford Academy	9	22	0	51	29	100.0	40.9		74.5	44.8	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0
The Priory P.R.U.	0	0	1	0	0			0.0					100.0		
Weobley Comprehensive	23	29	40	39	66	95.7	89.7	97.5	97.4	75.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Whitecross	14	13	10	14	13	100.0	53.8	90.0	92.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wigmore High	26	20	20	24	25	80.8	95.0	80.0	87.5	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

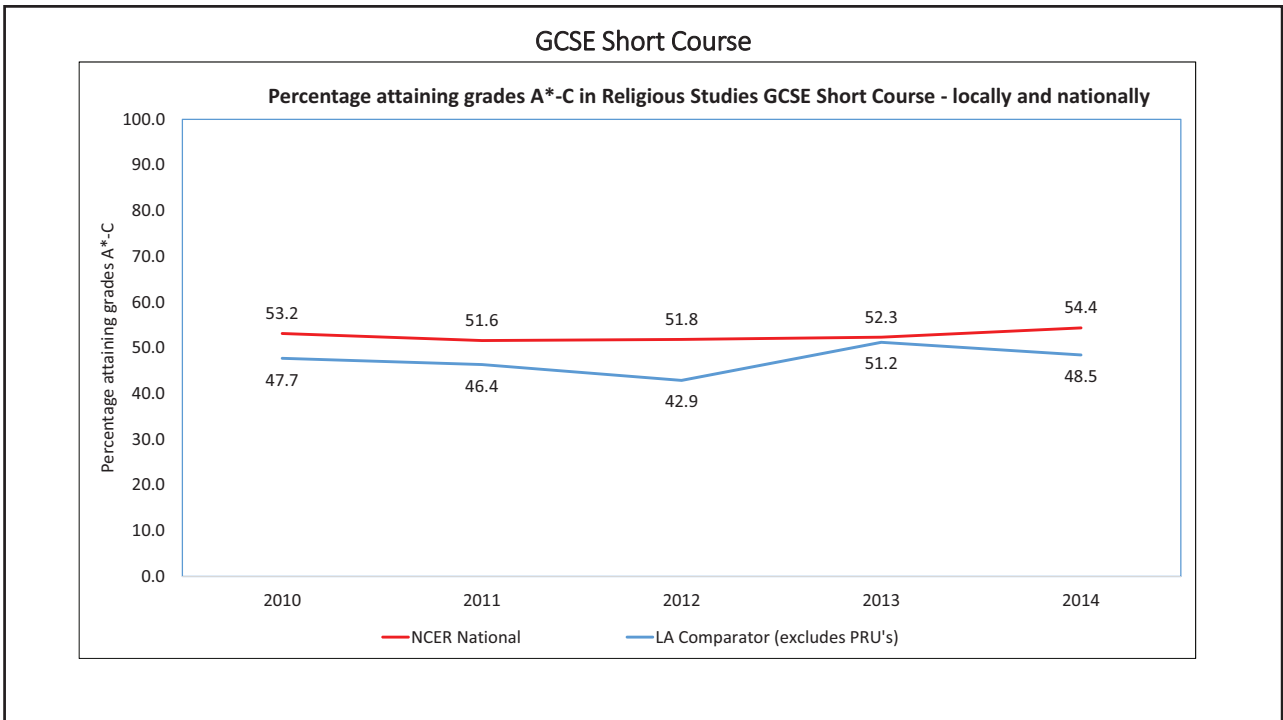
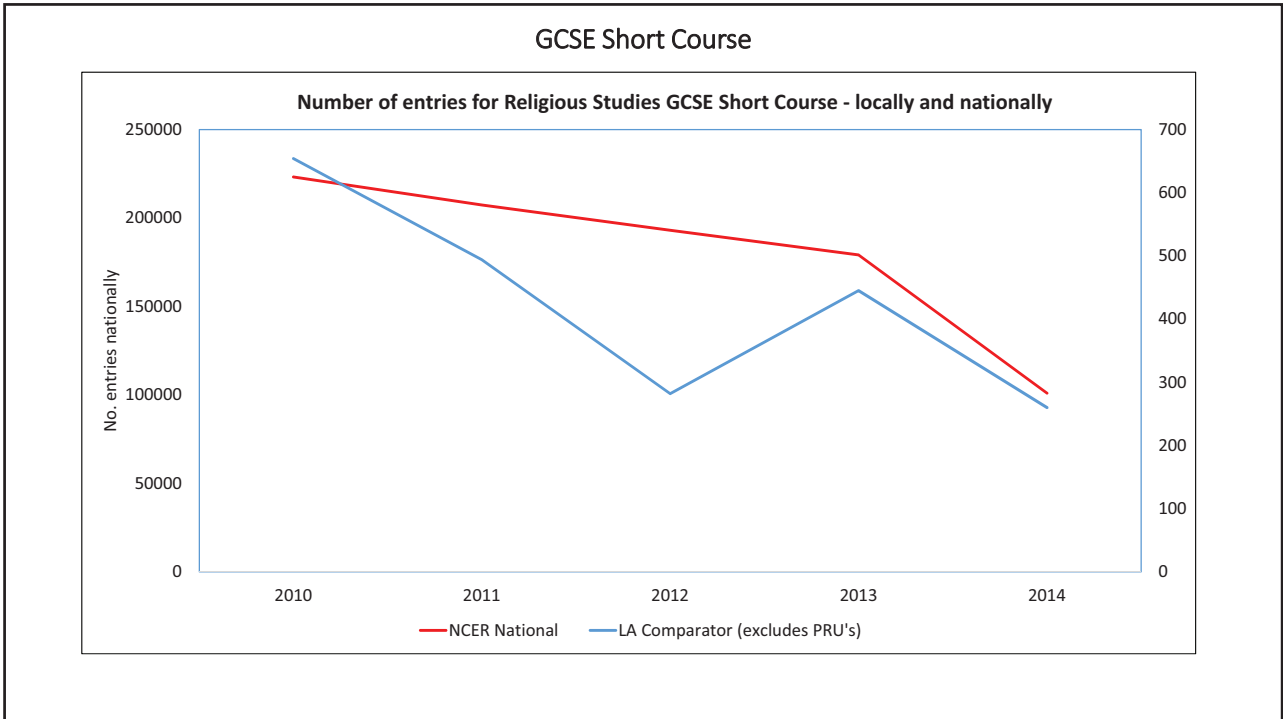


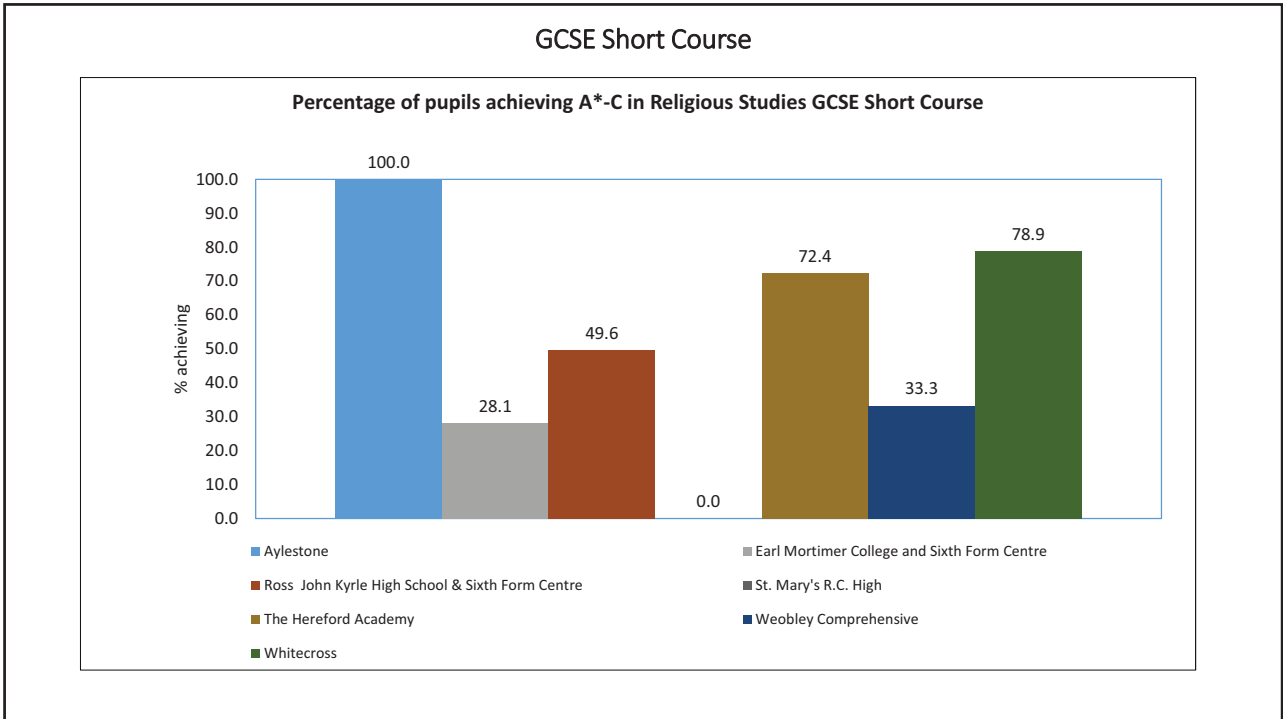
GCSE Full Course



Religious Studies GCSE Short Course – entries and attainment 2010-14

Centre	Entries					%A* - C					%A* - G				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NCER National	223156	207341	193110	179160	100945	53.2	51.6	51.8	52.3	54.4	96.3	95.1	95.0	95.1	95.4
LA Comparator (excludes PRU's)	654	494	282	445	260	47.7	46.4	42.9	51.2	48.5	96.3	95.7	95.0	95.7	98.5
Aylestone	120	117	97	52	3	27.5	21.4	27.8	5.8	100.0	95.0	89.7	89.7	71.2	100.0
Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat	47	1	0	0	0	14.9	100.0				100.0	100.0			
Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre	90	53	3	92	32	47.8	67.9	66.7	68.5	28.1	95.6	98.1	100.0	98.9	100.0
John Masefield High	67	6	1	0	0	53.7	33.3	0.0			97.0	100.0	100.0		
Kingstone High	1	1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0				100.0	100.0			
Lady Hawkins'	80	88	4	10	0	58.8	44.3	75.0	100.0		91.3	93.2	100.0	100.0	
Queen Elizabeth High	1	11	0	0	0	0.0	100.0				100.0	100.0			
Ross John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre	131	108	85	111	139	57.3	53.7	32.9	46.8	49.6	99.2	99.1	95.3	98.2	98.6
St. Mary's R.C. High	0	8	0	17	11		50.0		0.0	0.0		100.0		94.1	90.9
The Hereford Academy	0	2	0	60	29		50.0		90.0	72.4		100.0		100.0	100.0
Weobley Comprehensive	60	51	43	57	27	61.7	49.0	46.5	40.4	33.3	93.3	98.0	100.0	100.0	96.3
Whitecross	57	48	49	46	19	59.6	56.3	83.7	50.0	78.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

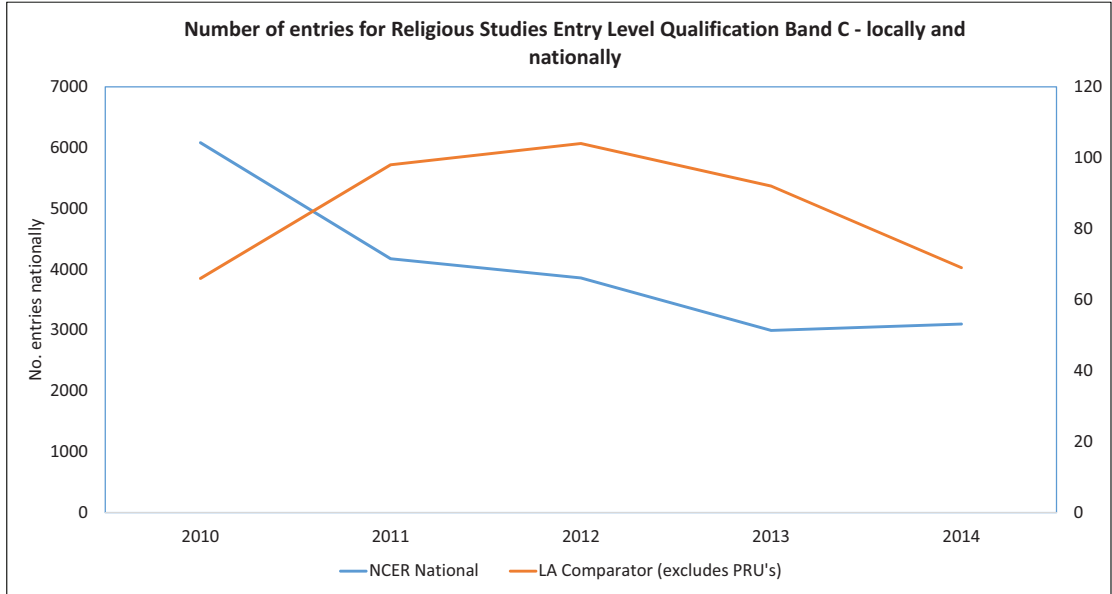




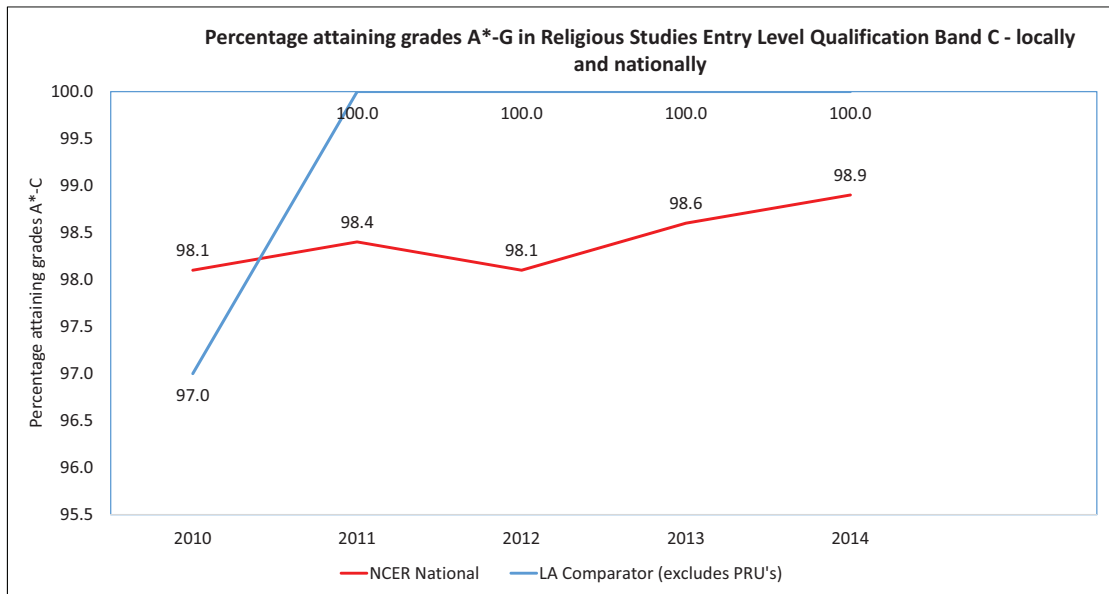
Entry Level Qualification Band C

Centre	Entries					%A* - C					%A* - G				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NCER National	6081	4174	3856	2993	3100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.1	98.4	98.1	98.6	98.9
LA Comparator (excludes PRU's)	66	98	104	92	69	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre	0	33	46	0	0		0.0	0.0				100	100		
St David's Pupil Referral Unit	0	0	1	0	0			0.0					100		
St. Mary's R.C. High	8	0	0	0	0	0.0					100				
Whitecross	58	65	58	92	69	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.6	100	100	100	100

Entry Level Qualification Band C



Entry Level Qualification Band C



July 2014

Name
Address

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Colleague

As we near the end of the academic year, I am writing to bring to your attention the changes to inspection that will commence from 1 September 2014.

Consultation on early school years and the sixth form

As you may be aware, Ofsted consulted recently on plans to introduce separate graded judgements on the quality of schools' work in the early years and sixth form. We consulted on this because of the vital importance of both of these stages.

These proposals received strong support. I intend, therefore, to introduce separate graded judgements for the early years and the sixth form, where these apply, from 1 September 2014. These grades may influence the judgement on a school's overall effectiveness.

Inspection following the removal of National Curriculum levels

Many of you want to know about how inspection in 2014/15 and beyond will take account of the removal of National Curriculum levels.

As happens now, inspectors will use a range of evidence to judge learning and progress. In particular, they will take account of test/examination results, other assessment information and the standard of pupils' work.

Inspectors will:

- spend more time looking at a range of pupils' work in order to consider what progress they are making in different areas of the curriculum
- talk to leaders about the school's use of formative and summative assessment

and how this improves teaching and raises achievement

- evaluate how well pupils are doing against age-related expectations, as set out by the school and the National Curriculum (where this applies)
- consider how the school uses assessment information to identify pupils who are falling behind in their learning or who need additional support to reach their full potential, including the most able
- evaluate the way the school reports to parents on pupils' progress and attainment. Inspectors will assess whether reports help parents to understand how their children are doing in relation to the standards expected.

Further information can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140131.

Behaviour and safety of pupils

In my last Annual Report,¹ I wrote about the critical importance of good behaviour in schools. I will be publishing a short report on this in September. This will summarise the findings of focused inspections as well as the views of parents, teachers and pupils.

It is essential that all schools have the highest expectations of pupils' behaviour. From 1 September 2014, inspectors will pay greater attention to how well school leaders tackle low-level disruption and make sure that pupils' conduct and attitudes to learning are good.

Achieving a broad and balanced curriculum

Inspectors see a range of curricula across maintained schools and academies (including free schools). It is right that schools develop their own curriculum to respond to the particular needs of their pupils and ensure they receive a broad and balanced education.

A school's curriculum must comply with the legislation to give pupils the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects. In addition, provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development should promote tolerance of and respect for people of other faiths, cultures and lifestyles. Good teaching in a broad and balanced curriculum, underpinned by an effective approach to the SMSC development of children and young people, will help to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Therefore, from 1 September 2014, inspectors will pay even greater attention to the curriculum and comment in more detail on its effectiveness in the leadership and management section of the inspection report.

¹ <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/annualreport1213/schools-report>

Notice period for school inspections

The Secretary of State has asked me to examine the feasibility of moving to routinely inspecting schools without notice. I am considering this. In the meantime, I intend to broaden, in the coming year, the criteria Ofsted uses to judge whether unannounced inspection is required for particular schools.

The determining criteria will include:

- rapidly declining standards
- concerns about safeguarding, including a decline in the standards of pupils' behaviour and the ability of staff to maintain discipline
- serious complaints from parents or staff
- concerns about standards of leadership or governance
- concerns about the breadth and balance of the curriculum (including where the statutory requirement to publish information to parents is not met).

Future of school inspection

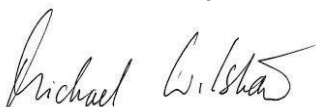
Ofsted's inspections have done much to raise standards in schools since its inception in 1992. However, now is the right time to review how Ofsted inspects so that all children in England have the opportunity to receive a good or outstanding education.

As I set out in my speech to the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) in March this year, I propose to alter the way that we inspect good schools. I also announced my intention to revise the section 5 school inspection framework. I look forward to consulting you on all my proposals in due course. I intend that, subject to consultation, these further and fundamental changes will take effect from 1 September 2015.

I would like to thank you for all your hard work this year and wish you and your staff a very enjoyable and restful summer holiday.

I would be grateful if you could share this letter with your Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wilshaw".

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	21 November 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

Classification

Open

Purpose

To consider the review of the RE Agreed Syllabus.

Recommendation

THAT:

- a) the report be noted; and;
- b) an option for a Review of the RE Agreed Syllabus Review be recommended to the Cabinet Member (Young People and Children's Wellbeing).

Reasons for Recommendations

- 1 To enable SACRE to comment and make comments on the attached options and recommend a way forward to the Cabinet Member (Young People and Children's Wellbeing).

Alternative Options

- 2 There are no alternative options as this is a statutory requirement for SACRE.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3 SACRE must consider reviewing its RE Agreed Syllabus after five years. An Agreed Syllabus Conference can be set up to conduct the review. An agreed 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.'*

Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3)) / School Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para.5.

Key Considerations

- 4 The development of a clear, well-structured agreed syllabus is probably the single most important function of SACRE. Combined with on-going implementation training and resources, a new syllabus offers the possibility of raising achievement in RE in all local schools.
- 5 The RE Council (REC) Review of RE produced the National Curriculum Framework for RE (NCFRE) in October 2013, to run in parallel with National Curriculum changes. The links will enable RE programmes of study to be easily understood and implemented alongside the new orders for National Curriculum subjects such as Science or History. To this end, the NCFRE should be taken into account when revising the agreed syllabus, as well as building on what is good in the current Herefordshire agreed syllabus.

Community Impact

- 6 RE is a crucial contributor to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. It also makes a significant contribution to social cohesion within and outside school. The Department for Education and Ofsted have both highlighted the importance of promoting understanding and tolerance of, and respect for, different religious traditions. RE is the key opportunity for this in schools. The involvement of faith communities on SACRE also demonstrates good community relations

Financial Implications

- 7 The cost of the options is included in the Appendix.

Legal Implications

- 8 SACREs must, every five years, review an agreed syllabus for the area. The Agreed Syllabus outlines the statutory requirements for schools in Herefordshire. It is a unique document as RE is the only subject where the local community determines the curriculum.
- 9 Local Authorities are required to provide a clear structure which highlights the contribution of RE, particularly taking into account local circumstances and characteristics. They must also ensure that there is continuity and progression, a clear statement about expected standards and appropriate pedagogy and levels of challenge for pupils of different ages and abilities. The syllabus must reflect curriculum developments to ensure RE is part of a coherent curriculum for all its pupils.

Risk Management

- 10 Failure to devise and publish a suitable Agreed Syllabus for RE would leave the Council in breach of its statutory obligation. Failure to devise an Agreed Syllabus that builds on the latest national guidance also risks limiting the achievement of Herefordshire pupils in RE.

Consultees

11 All members of SACRE.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Agreed Syllabus Options

Background Papers

None identified.

Herefordshire SACRE options for Agreed Syllabus Review

Requirements:

SACRE must consider reviewing its RE Agreed Syllabus after five years. An Agreed Syllabus Conference can be set up to conduct the review.

An agreed 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'*.

Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3)) / School Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para.5)

The development of a clear, well-structured agreed syllabus is probably the single most important function of SACRE. Combined with on-going implementation training and resources, a new syllabus offers the possibility of raising achievement in RE in all local schools.

Ofsted reports 2010 and 2013 highlight the need for syllabuses to:

- be clear about expected knowledge and understanding about religion(s) and belief(s)
- support and empower teachers to plan effectively
- offer coherent progression across the ages and key stages
- support clear and focused assessment
- encourage enquiry-based RE

Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2011-2016 has been praised by Ofsted for its high quality in meeting these requirements.

The RE Council (REC) Review of RE produced the National Curriculum Framework for RE (NCFRE) in October 2013, to run in parallel with National Curriculum changes. The links will enable RE programmes of study to be easily understood and implemented alongside the new orders for National Curriculum subjects such as Science or History. To this end, the NCFRE should be taken into account when revising the agreed syllabus, as well as building on what is good in the current Herefordshire agreed syllabus.

Feedback from Strategy Group meeting 7th July 2014

SACRE strategy group had a long discussion about the value of the current syllabus, the changes to national education policy and their implications for a review. The detailed discussion is available, but here are the options set out by the Group:

The options for SACRE include:

- a) **Complete re-write**, based on new Framework. This is probably unfeasible due to cost, unless the LA finds substantial extra funding
- b) **Keep the current syllabus and offer a supplement** to update it a little. This is a possibility – Stephen will offer a costed model for this to SACRE in November, although there will be costs for producing the new supplement. One advantage of this is the continuity it will bring. The disadvantage is that it does not reflect the new Framework directly. However, there is no statutory reason for following the Framework, which does have its detractors as well as supporters.
- c) **Buy into the RE Today 'model' syllabus**. By November, there will be some draft material on this, although that will be commercially sensitive as far as RE Today are concerned. Certainly we will know more about what it is likely to look like. Stephen will be involved in writing it, and is keen for it to represent continuity from syllabuses like Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. Worcestershire are buying into this process.

Note: our Syllabus runs until 2016. Middlesbrough purchased HAS, relabelled it – and paid the LEA over £2,000 for it (which should be in the SACRE budget!)

Option B: Herefordshire supplement

In 2011, Gloucestershire added a 24-page supplement updating its 2006-2011 syllabus. This model could be applied to Herefordshire's syllabus.

This process would be the same as for the full re-write but would take less time, and cost less in terms of development and production, and involve the Strategy Group rather than teacher groups.

This would need to be launched with either a county conference day or a series of regional CPD sessions, to provide training and resources to enable teachers to implement the syllabus in their schools.

Advantages:

- This builds on the strengths of the current syllabus, and allows for continuity at a time of great change.
- The syllabus can reflect the local area closely.
- It is a cheaper option than a full review.

Disadvantages:

- The current syllabus does not easily allow for an insert, so it would be a separate document, leading to some confusion about the syllabus, perhaps.
- It won't be possible to reflect the new Framework fully.
- Some changes (e.g. use of levels for assessment) are significant changes with implications throughout the 2011-2016 syllabus, so a supplement may not be feasible.
- Duplication of work with other local SACREs.

Likely cost:

£4,800 (as with full review, just fewer words and less time: establishing, managing and supporting the review process, writing time, draft and redraft services and production supervision; run teacher consultations: setting the parameters for writing review materials, and developing local applications of national materials; teachers to represent different phases/key stages) plus cost of strategy group days c£1200 plus cost of production c£1800

Total: c£7,800

Option C: Purchase an RE Today Syllabus plus schemes of work.

RE Today is currently writing a model agreed syllabus, based on the NCFRE and NSNF, and building on all of the experience in syllabus writing that the charity has developed over the last 26 years.

A syllabus would provide the minimum for a SACRE /LA to fulfil its legal requirement.

To make a positive impact on raising standards in RE in the county, additional resources will be available for purchase.

Costs are set out below.

Advantages:

- Full syllabus available with minimal effort from LA/SACRE
- Up to date
- Flexibility built in to allow schools to adapt to their particular situation
- Support materials available
- On-going support from RE Today with potential upgrades within the 5-year review period if necessary.
- Worcestershire is buying into this syllabus, which would make cross-county support and co-operation much easier for future savings.

Disadvantages:

- Little involvement from local teachers or SACRE on the content and style.

Details and likely costs

Syllabus licensed for adoption by SACREs.

Syllabus includes:

- Aim/purpose of RE
- Legal requirements
- Contribution of RE to whole-school: SMSC, well-being, literacy, PSHE, citizenship
- Breadth of study: which religions/beliefs and when
- Programmes of study EYFS-KS5
- Core knowledge outline
- Assessment processes
- Planning processes
- Inclusion
- Creative curriculum and cross-curriculum outlines
- Application of syllabus requirements to special school contexts

Flexibility and freedom will be built in to requirements, to encourage creative development and adaptation within a school.



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	21 November 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	UPDATE ON RE COMMUNITY NEWS
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

1. Classification

Open

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To receive an update on recent national reports and RE initiatives and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.

3. Recommendation

THAT: The report be noted

National RE news and initiatives

National A-level results 2014

- 20,196 RS A level entries were recorded; nearly double (96%) the number in 2002/03 (10,313 entries were recorded in 2002/03)
- RS A level entries increased more than any arts, humanity or social science subject this year (up 5.3% on 2012/13)
- RS A level entries have increased more than any arts, humanity or social science subject over the past 10 years (the nearest is Economics with an increase of 57%)
- In line with other subjects the results are generally lower, but the percentage of students achieving A* at RS A level has increased from 5.4% to 6.8%

NATRE and RE Council report that RS A-level is highly valued as preparation for university, despite some government briefing in favour of so-called 'facilitating subjects'. <http://bit.ly/1vDY1CT>

GCSE Results 2014

Increase in full course, but decrease overall, and dramatic fall in short course:

- 387,915 RS GCSE entries (combined short and full course) were recorded; a decrease of 8% from 2013 (420,151 entries)
Full course entries increased by 7% from 251,063 in 2013 to 269,494 in 2014
- Short course entries fell dramatically by 30% from 169,088 in 2013 to 118,421 in 2014

<http://bit.ly/1Dshadb>

GCSE and A-level reform:

After some detailed negotiations between the DfE, Ofqual and representatives of the RE community, the draft criteria for new GCSE and A-level examination specifications were published on 7 November. Public consultation is now open until 5th January:

<http://surveys.ofqual.gov.uk/s3/developing-new-qualifications-for-first-teaching-in-2016-part-3>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/religious-studies-gcses-as-and-a-levels-new-qualifications-for-2016>

<http://comment.ofqual.gov.uk/developing-new-qualifications-for-2016-part-2/>

Once amended and approved, these criteria will be sent to exam boards, from which they will develop a range of specifications for teaching from September 2016.

New Ofsted Guidance

The new handbook for Ofsted inspectors has mention of RE on p.8. Definitions of spiritual, moral, social and cultural have been updated to include additional references to awareness of pupils' own and others' faiths and beliefs, respect for different beliefs and traditions, British values etc. E.g.

Pupils' spiritual development is shown by *their ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values.*

Handbook available here: <http://bit.ly/1mVewTz>

Culham St Gabriel's Trust is supporting the pilot of **regional RE hubs**.

<http://bit.ly/1sUGPCU>

Holocaust Memorial Day: 27 January 2015

<http://bit.ly/1B1mhgA>

Stephen Pett, RE Today

Herefordshire SACRE November 2014

