

Herefordshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006

This is the eighth Annual Report of the Herefordshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) which provides information about Herefordshire SACRE's current constitution, the membership and its deliberations during the academic year comprising the period September 2005 to July 2006, as required by Section 391 (6) of the Education Act 1996.

Function of SACRE

SACRE's main function, as set out in the Education Act 1996, is:

"To advise the local education authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit"

Contents:

Section.		Page
1	Overview.	2
2	Main Subjects Discussed.	3
3	Locally Agreed Syllabus.	8
4	Training.	10
5	Finance.	11
6	Examination Results.	12
7	Monitoring RE and Collective Worship.	13
8	Standards in RE.	14
9	Collective Worship.	14
10	Links with other Agencies.	15
11	SACRE arrangements.	15
12	Contact Details.	16
APPENDIX A	SACRE Constitution.	17
APPENDIX B	Current SACRE Membership.	21
APPENDIX C	RE Examination Results.	23
APPENDIX D	Attendance at SACRE.	25
APPENDIX E	Distribution of Annual Report.	27

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1 Under Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 The Herefordshire Local Education Authority (referred to in this report as the Local Authority (LA)) is required to set up a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Herefordshire Council's then Education Committee held on 7th April 1998, the constitution of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) was approved.
- 1.3 While statistically Herefordshire has a small number of 'Other Faiths', SACRE considered the wider-faith communities represented in the County as a whole. SACRE agreed that it should lead by example and encourage racial harmony and promote inter-faith dialogue. To reflect this wish, on 1st July 2003 the original constitution was amended to include Bahá'í and Muslim representatives. At its meeting on the 3rd July 2006 SACRE was pleased to request that the LA appoint a representative from the Sikh faith. The LA and SACRE continue to seek further representatives of religions, denominations or associations represented in the County to serve on SACRE.

A copy of the constitution, as amended and updated following the 3rd July 2006 meeting, is attached at Appendix A.

A list of the membership as at 31st July 2005, is attached at Appendix B.

- 1.4 Since the last Annual Report, SACRE have met on the following occasions:
 - 28th November, 2005
 - 20th March, 2006
 - 3rd July, 2006

Following a general principle agreed by SACRE, meetings are normally held approximately two weeks before the end of school term. Further meetings are therefore scheduled to take place at the Herefordshire Council's offices at Brockington, Hafod Road, Hereford on:

- 8th December 2006
- 5th March 2007

Meetings of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference are reported at Section 3.

- 1.5 Herefordshire is the 21st largest non-metropolitan unitary authority in England, in terms of population, out of 46. In terms of area Herefordshire is the 2nd largest non-metropolitan unitary authority in England. The LA serves an area with a mixed urban and rural economy where small schools and geographical isolation are a

common feature. There are 83 primary, 14 high, 4 special and 3 Pupil Referral Units (PRU) making a total of 104 school settings with a school population of approximately 22,596 (12,599 primary and 9,997 secondary). While the school population across all phases is declining there has been an increase in the number of transient and settled population from the European Union. On the Government's ranking of social deprivation Herefordshire is close to the average of all authorities. The County's economy has a limited industrial and technological base.

Data from the 2001 national census indicated that of those who completed the census form 79% declared that they were Christian. 'Religion Not stated' accounted for 7.7% with 'Other' accounting for 0.7%. This made Christianity the principal religion in the County. The next recognised religion was Buddhism with 0.2%.

2. MAIN SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

2.1 Guidance to Primary Schools on Collective Worship

SACRE has received updates on progress in producing the guidance and this is described in more detail in Section 9 on Collective Worship.

2.2 Talk by the Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism

At its November 2005 meeting Mr M. Rollnick reported that Rabbi Danny Rich, Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism, would be visiting Herefordshire to give an evening talk to the local Council of Christian Jews and that during that visit to the County he was willing to also give a talk to school children on Judaism. SACRE was pleased to accept the offer and having debated a number of possible options for his visit decided that Ms Mayglothling, Mr Rollnick and Mr Rendall liaise with the local Council of Christian Jews over the best itinerary for his visit.

At its July meeting SACRE received a report on Rabbi Danny Rich's busy programme of events for the weekend of the 9th to 12th June. While invited by the Herefordshire Jewish Community to lead the Sabbath service (Oneg Shabbat Service) Rabbi Rich also managed to include a series of educational visits to schools in the County. During the weekend he visited one primary school (Broadlands) and four high schools (Aylestone; Wigmore; Hereford Cathedral and Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat) where he gave talks to students, answering the big and ultimate questions, with particular emphasis on suffering and Jewish responses to the Holocaust. Audiences ranged from 25 to 200 students. Also reported were examples of the interesting and inspirational teaching methods adopted by him.

SACRE recorded its grateful thanks to Rabbi Rich for kindly giving up his time during his visit to the County to undertake the educational visits to schools. It has also recorded its thanks to Mr Rollnick for organising the educational programme.

2.3 **SACRE Annual Conference 2005**

The 2005 Conference was held on 29th September, 2005 at Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey, Herefordshire on the theme of 'Many religions, many beliefs – exploring religious diversity and respect'.

SACRE had again been fortunate to get nationally acclaimed speakers namely:

- Marion Agombar: School of Education, University of East Anglia. Chair of NASACRE (2000 – 2004);
- Jane Brooke: Senior Advisor Cheshire LEA, Chair of NASACRE. Sub-editor RE Today;
- Julia Ipgrave: Senior Lecturer in Education Oxford Brookes University;
- Marilyn Bowles: KS1 teacher from Leicester.

The Conference also benefited from the experiences of Kate Mayglothling (Wigmore High School) and Jonathan Rendall (Diocese of Hereford), both SACRE members, who facilitated one of the afternoon workshops.

Attendees also appreciated the open forum session chaired by Tristram Jenkins, member of NASACRE and former member of Herefordshire SACRE.

The Conference is seen by RE teachers, headteachers and governors as an excellent opportunity to hear national speakers, to discuss current issues and provide practical ideas to take back to school.

SACRE noted that an excellent report with photographs on the Conference had been published by James Perfect, a Marches Consortium RE Trainee Teacher, on the RE Teacher web site.

In view of the organisation involved and the need to make the event cost neutral, SACRE have debated the merits of hosting an Annual Conference and have again decided that it is a valuable element in the co-ordination and profile of Religious Education in the County. They have recommended that the Local Authority continue the SACRE Annual Conference.

SACRE gratefully acknowledges the time and effort of Mrs Joyce Mackley, Consultant for RE, in organising yet another highly successful event.

2.4 **SACRE Involvement in the JARS Inspection**

During the Herefordshire Joint Area Review of Services (JARS) for Children and Young People Mr M. Rollnick (SACRE Committee A) and Mrs J. Mackley (RE Consultant) had been interviewed as part of the

inspection process. The theme of the interviews had been based on the Council's policy towards diversity in the County.

2.5 Presentation on the Sikh Faith

Continuing SACRE's wish to understand the wider religious view, particularly from faiths not directly represented, and to appreciate the teacher's point of view, SACRE continues to receive occasional presentations from a range of speakers representing different faiths or aspects of RE teaching in schools.

As mentioned earlier in this report Herefordshire does not have the broad spectrum of faith communities that other areas have and therefore SACRE members have always sought to broaden their understanding of other communities and widen its membership by including representatives of other faiths who can make a positive contribution to the work of SACRE.

At its March meeting SACRE received a very informative presentation from Mr H. Singh and Mr P. Matharu on the Sikh faith. Their presentation explained the basis of the Sikh faith, its customs and method of worship and some of the work they had been doing in schools. While Sikhism is Britain's third largest religion few Sikhs live in Herefordshire and they explained the ethos of the small Sikh community in the County.

SACRE have requested that the Local Authority invite Mr Singh to be the Sikh representative on SACRE and they currently await a response.

2.6 Examination Results

SACRE has debated the subject of examination results in RE on three occasions and this is further described in Section 6.

2.7 2006 SACRE Annual Conference

Following on from discussion on the 2005 Annual Conference, SACRE debated whether to change the format of the conference for 2006. While a number of options were considered, SACRE was concerned that many of the more desirable options incurred higher costs and created organisational problems, particularly as initial planning work had been started. SACRE therefore decided that the LA should continue with the existing successful format.

With the introduction of the new Agreed Syllabus in September 2006 the theme for the 2006 conference will be 'Exploring the Big Questions'. The keynote address entitled: 'The Importance of the Big Questions' will be given by Dr. Trevor Cooling. SACRE has also considered the full programme for the conference, which will include four workshop events.

Further details of the 2006 event will be reported in the next annual report.

2.8 Department for Education and Skills (DfES) & Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) Roadshow on the National Framework for RE

SACRE received reports from the RE Consultant who attended the roadshow on behalf of SACRE and gave a presentation on how Herefordshire's Agreed Syllabus had been reviewed in line with the National Framework for RE. Rev I. Terry also attended on behalf of the Church of England Diocese.

2.9 Mr Jonathan Rendall

Due to his retirement Mr Jonathan Rendall attended his last SACRE meeting on 20th March 2006 as representative of the Church of England Dioceses. The Chairman thanked Mr Rendall for his valuable contribution to the work of the Diocese and for his passionate commitment to Religious Education in the County. Mr Rendall served as the Diocese representative on SACRE since its inception in Herefordshire in June 1998.

SACRE wished Mr Rendall a long and happy retirement and presented him with a card signed by members.

2.10 Mr Ted St. George – Head of School Effectiveness

March also saw the retirement of Mr Ted St. George. Mr St. George who served Herefordshire Council since its inception in 1998 having previously served for many years with the former Hereford and Worcester County Council. Mr St. George had acted as the Lead Officer from the Education Directorate and had been instrumental in setting up and developing both the Herefordshire SACRE and the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference.

SACRE thanked Mr St. George for his valued advice and support over the years and for his efforts to improve education in the County. SACRE wished Mr St. George a long and happy retirement and presented him with a retirement present and a card signed by members.

2.11 Other Changes to SACRE

In July SACRE welcomed Mr Peter Bowen to Committee B to replace Mr Rendall. While serving as the Church of England representative Mr Bowen also brings his experience as Head of RE at the Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School. SACRE also welcomed Reverend C. Marrison OSB as the Roman Catholic Church representative on Committee A.

SACRE also recommended to the Local Authority that the membership be extended to include a representative of the Sikh faith as reported earlier.

SACRE also welcomed Bridget Knight, Lead Primary Inspector. Bridget replaced Ted St. George as lead officer from the Children's Services Directorate.

The end of July also saw the resignation of Mr Kevin Scot, Secondary school teacher representative, who leaves Aylestone high school for a teaching position in Cardiff. SACRE wish him well in his new appointment.

2.12 Progress in Implementing the 2006 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

Following the Agreed Syllabus Conference's unanimous decision in March 2006 to recommend the new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to the Local Authority, SACRE has considered progress on its introduction. The new Syllabus has been adopted and will be implemented from September 2006.

2.13 Facilitation of a Multi-faith Event.

Arising out of discussion on the various themes debated at the NASACRE Conference, SACRE considered the issue of ensuring there were sufficient links in place between the various activities of the Council, through its work in equality and diversity, and that of the work of schools, for example as part of PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education), citizenship. As a consequence of this SACRE has recommended that the Local Authority arrange a meeting of the relevant sections within the Council, together with representatives of SACRE, to investigate the feasibility of the Council facilitating a multi-faith event for schools. Such an event would not only ensure that the Council has a cohesive approach to the issue but, by buying into such an event, schools would be assisted in meeting elements of their Ofsted inspection requirements in relation to multi-cultural development.

2.14 Review of the SACRE Development Plan

While the current SACRE Development Plan, 2004-7 has guided the working of SACRE it was considered an opportune time to start the process of revising the Plan. SACRE has therefore set up a Working Group to draft a new Plan for the period 2007 to 2010. The Working Group will be drawing on information from many sources but it is anticipated that the SACRE self-evaluation template and themes contained in 'Every Child Matters' will be the main features in guiding their drafting work.

2.15 Support, Develop and Mentor Provision, Teaching and Learning in RE in County and VC Schools and VA Schools in Partnership

with Diocesan Authorities

SACRE considered the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and the monitoring of RE provision and standards through the further development of the practice of school visits. This is described in more detail in Section 7.

2.16 Policy Governing the use of External Funding

SACRE have questioned the Local Authority concerning any policy guidance to schools concerning the use of external funding e.g. from Parent Teacher Associations, to support the activities of the school. Concern had been raised that some areas of expenditure e.g. the supply of sports equipment or paying for visiting artists, were being supported while requests for support towards Religious Education expenses were not. SACRE is concerned about this alleged situation and has requested that the Local Authority make investigations and report to the next meeting.

2.17 Response to written public questions.

No written questions from members of the public were received during the reporting period.

3. LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS

3.1 Formal recognition

While the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) is a separately constituted body and not required to be reported upon in the SACRE Annual report, SACRE considered it only right that the work of the Conference, and in particular the working parties and teachers, is formally recognised.

3.2 How we got there

There is a requirement that every LA institute a review of its locally agreed syllabus within five years of the last review and subsequently every five years. As part of its statutory function, SACRE can require the LA to review its current agreed syllabus.

While the current syllabus covers the period September 2001 to July 2007 SACRE decided that sufficient time would be needed to undertake the review. While a major review of the syllabus was not envisaged, time would be needed to undertake appropriate consultation and redrafting, particularly following the publication of the non-statutory national framework. Therefore at its meeting in November 2004 SACRE decided to request that LA initiate a review.

The Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference was duly established by the LA and at its first meeting in March 2005 agreed that the review be linked to a number of key principles to provide a foundation for the review and give direction to the task. It was also agreed that three working parties involving teachers would undertake initial redrafting

work and their work would be based on the stages: Reception and Key Stage 1; Key Stage 2; Secondary and 14 to 19.

The excellent work that resulted was given preliminary consideration on 2nd November 2005 by a specially convened Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) Working Group, comprised of various members of the Conference. The resultant first draft was formally considered by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 28th November 2005. At that meeting the Syllabus Conference considered and approved a number of minor amendments and approved the resultant document for issue to all schools for consultation and comment (the consultation version).

On 8th February 2006 the ASC Working Group met again to consider the detailed responses received from schools arising from the consultation version of the Syllabus. In light of the responses the ASC Working Group compiled a second draft for consideration by the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference on 20th March 2006 considered a summary of the responses received from schools, comments and suggestions by the ASC Working Group together with a copy of the proposed second draft.

Having considered the reports before it the ASC decided that subject to a minor textual change and final proof reading the resultant document be approved. At that meeting the ASC agreed unanimously that the revised Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education be recommended to the Local Authority for implementation in September 2006.

3.3 **The format**

The Syllabus has been structured around key questions. This approach was considered consistent with both the needs of quality RE and the concerns central to religion. The exploration of fundamental questions will encourage learners to develop and use skills of reflection, interpretation, analysis and application, as well as developing their knowledge and understanding of religion and belief. The Syllabus sets standards expected for learners' work in religious education. It does this by:

- a) Identifying two attainment targets: AT1 Learning about religion
AT2 Learning from religion;
- b) Identifying the knowledge, skills and understanding expected in each key stage; and
- c) Use of level descriptions to describe the types and range of performance that learners working at each level should characteristically demonstrate. There are eight level descriptors plus P Levels.

The Syllabus is supported by non-statutory guidance and produced by a collaborative effort involving a number of local people.

3.4 **Other issues**

The Syllabus Conference also considered a number of issues associated with the implementation of the new agreed syllabus and accordingly have advised the Local Authority in relation to: proposals for the layout; printing; production; distribution; follow-up training and the provision of non-statutory guidance.

3.5 **A big thank you**

The Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference is extremely grateful for the considerable work and commitment by members of the Working Parties and the Working Group during the drafting stages and the schools for responding during the consultation. Particular thanks goes to Mrs Joyce Mackley, RE Consultant, for all her research and administrative work including reviewing and preparing the draft for consideration by the Agreed Syllabus Conference. She also liaised with the printers to produce the final document.

3.6 Now that the terms of reference have been completed the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference has been wound-up until the next review.

4 TRAINING

4.1 As reported at Section 2.3 the SACRE Annual Conference 2005 was held on 29th September at Hedley Lodge, Hereford and is seen as an important part of local RE training, not only for teachers but headteachers and governors. The 2005 Conference was attended by approximately 50 delegates.

The Conference was also reported on the internet by a Marches Consortium trainee attending as part of their training course.

The SACRE Annual Conference also furthered the development of inter-personal networks that bring RE teachers together for subject development.

4.2 Termly teachers meetings (Swap-Shops) – these continue to be held and have been very positive events.

4.3 SACRE hopes that a multi-faith event, on the lines reported at Section 2.13, will assist both schools and the Council in progressing multi-faith understanding in the County.

4.4 The LA's Religious Education Consultant, Mrs Joyce. Mackley, from RE Today Professional Service Team, has continued to take a role in delivering the limited In-service Education Training (INSET) within the LA and has acted as advisor to many schools on a range of RE issues.

- 4.5 Members of SACRE have received information produced by a number of organisations including QCA, NASACRE and have received reports on national RE conferences. As part of the ongoing programme of Member development, SACRE Members have received presentations on religious issues. (previously reported at Section 2.5).

5 FINANCE

- 5.1 The LA has a base budget of £10,300 to fund the work of SACRE which included administration i.e. postage and printing, within the Children's Services Directorate. This figure also included supply cover for teachers attending SACRE meetings and supporting SACRE related issues.

- 5.2 An illustration of spend for SACRE for the academic year 2005-2006:

	£
Supply costs (for teachers to attend meetings)	3,418
Meeting costs (venues, catering etc)	471
Printing (including RE Syllabus)	7,386 *
Conference expenses	2,028
Total cost	13,303

*RE Agreed Syllabus cost £5,796

- 5.3 The original SACRE budget for 2005/6 (financial year) was £10,300 therefore an overspend was incurred. The published budget for SACRE for 2006/07 (financial year) was £30,595. However, the increased budget for 2006/07 is due to the inclusion of consultancy costs and the production the Agreed Syllabus being charged directly to SACRE.

It is understood that the cost of agenda printing and refreshments for SACRE or Syllabus Conference meetings are not included in the above figures. It is assumed that the printing element of this budget has been used to support the cost of printing any supplementary in year guidance. However, this will be further investigated.

- 5.4 In 2005/06 separate funding from the School Improvement Services budget was used to meet the cost of the work of the Religious Education Consultant (the Local Authority does not employ an RE advisor). The RE Consultant, Mrs Joyce Mackley, is contracted for as many days as is considered necessary per year on a daily basis. During 2005/06 she was contracted for approximately 30 days, however, in view of her key role in the revision of the Agreed Syllabus a further 10 days were added. It is anticipated that during 2006/07 she will be contracted for up to 40 days.

- 5.5 No accumulate is set aside for the printing of the Agreed Syllabus. Every 5 years SACRE has to request an additional amount to pay for its production.
- 5.6 The Council's budgetary system does not identify the additional cost incurred by officers of the Council who advise, administer or clerk SACRE.

6 EXAMINATION RESULTS

- 6.1 SACRE has considered a report on the 2005 examination results for Religious Education. Statistics and a graph are reproduced at Appendix C. The report indicated that in the GCSE Religious Studies Full Course (A*-C full course) Herefordshire (78.9%) had exceeded the national results (68.6%) with boys at 71.9% (61.7% nationally) and Girls 83.6% (73.6% nationally). When it came to GCSE Religious Studies Short Course (A*-C short course) Herefordshire (44%) had not performed as well compared to the national results (53.7%) with boys at 34.4% (46.2% nationally) and girls 53.2% (60.9% nationally).
- 6.2 In relation to any discernible trend SACRE was informed that the percentage of those achieving A*-C on the Religious Studies Full Course was slightly lower than in 2004 but higher than 2003. The percentage of those achieving A*-C on the short course was around 13.6% lower than 2004 and 14.5% lower than in 2003 which would indicate a steady downward trend for this course.
- 6.3 The percentage of those achieving A*-C on the A Level Religious Studies short course was 75%, which indicated a fairly steady picture at this level. Results obtained from the Hereford Sixth Form College indicated A2 Level Theology A-B (58.2%) A-C (83.6%). AS Level Theology A-B (64.5%) A-C (82.9%).
- 6.4 SACRE debated the report and questioned issues regarding the percentage of pupils entered for examination; whether pupils and teachers were more committed to achieving the full course; whether any overall trend could be established from the statistics and how the local results for RE compared to those achieved for other subjects.
- 6.5 SACRE appreciated that there were many ways to use statistics and that the statistical evidence needed to be backed up by evidence of local circumstances. To enable SACRE to form an opinion on the effectiveness of provision, the Local Authority have been requested to establish a small set of key indicators that, over time, should indicate any trend in performance. The results from the key indicators can then be linked to the other methods of monitoring RE provision and standards discussed later in this report to give a more rounded view of RE in the County.

7. MONITORING RE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- 7.1 It appears that in common with a number of other SACREs (as reported in QCA 'An analysis of 2004 SACRE reports') changes to Ofsted inspection reporting has caused SACRE to question how it obtains evidence of the state of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools. While Ofsted school inspection reports may not have always given SACRE the full range of information it required on RE in schools they did provide an authoritative snap-shot into the working of a percentage of schools.
- 7.2 It is against this background and with limited funding that SACRE is trying to fulfil its obligation to 'advise the LEA on matters concerned with the provision of RE and collective worship' (DFE Circ 1/94 para. 89).
- 7.3 While scrutinising examination results is one method of monitoring the state of RE, this only indicates what has been achieved by one cohort, which for many will be at the end of their school life. The 2005 examination results are reported at Section 6.
- 7.4 SACRE therefore decided to request that the LA continue to visit a sample of primary and secondary schools to provide support to the school as well as to provide feed back to SACRE on standards and provision in RE. These visits would be undertaken by the RE Consultant.
- 7.5 Within the limited SACRE budget it is anticipated that 4 schools each term (12 per year in total) could be involved (11.5% of school settings). In previous years the issues explored largely followed the Ofsted framework of the time and integrated some of SACRE's agenda issues. It is anticipated that similar areas will be the focus of the 2006/07 visits but adapted to be in line with the school Self-Evaluation criteria. SACRE have no right to enter or inspect schools and therefore visits would be by invitation and would not be an inspection. It is hoped that such visits will provide a good opportunity for schools to discuss issues with the RE Consultant and for her to provide support to the school and feed back issues to SACRE. Her report will also provided a degree of information against which the examination results could be assessed. SACRE also hopes that the visits will provide a degree of information on Collective Worship.
- 7.6 During the reporting period no information on Section 48 (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) reports have been received from the Diocese.

8. STANDARDS IN RE

- 8.1 A number of matters have been commented upon by SACRE arising from debate on a range of issues. These comments have been noted by the LA for consideration when future resource planning or funding is considered. However, no specific policy advice has been issued to the Local Authority on raising standards in RE. However, the Agreed Syllabus 2006 places new focus on standards in RE by giving clear indications of what children should be able to do as a result of their learning – linked to intended learning outcomes developed in line with an 8 level scale.
- 8.2 No formal complaint has been made about standards in RE in Herefordshire schools under the local statutory complaints procedure during the reporting period.

9. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- 9.1 SACRE acknowledges that schools already undertake a great deal of good practice in the area of Collective Worship. While the majority of primary schools are meeting the statutory requirements for Collective Worship this still remains problematical at some high schools due to issues of accommodation and timetabling.
- 9.2 As mentioned at Section 2.1, SACRE are pleased that the Collective Worship Policy and Guidelines for primary schools entitled 'Finding Treasure' is progressing. The lead in producing the guidance has been undertaken by the Church of England and a great amount of time and effort has been put in by the Working Party, Chaired by Angela Daniels, formerly of St Paul's C.E. Primary School, to research, collate and draft the guidance which has been seen in draft form by SACRE on two occasions. Unfortunately due to various circumstances a July launch date was not met and SACRE has since requested that the Church of England Diocese and the Local Authority progress the production and launch of the Collective Worship Guidance at the earliest appropriate opportunity.
- 9.3 Consideration of the developing relationship between the areas of SACRE concerning RE and Collective Worship, with other whole school related subjects and aspects of school life, with particular reference to Citizenship, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Values Development will be monitored where possible through Ofsted reports, visits by the RE Consultant and LA review in accordance with the SACRE Development Plan.
- 9.4 No application for a Collective Worship determination under the Education Act 1996 has been made during this reporting period.
- 9.5 No formal complaint has been made about Collective Worship in Herefordshire schools under the local statutory complaints procedure during the reporting period.

10. LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

- 10.1 SACRE continues to develop its links with other agencies such as RE Today, through its membership of The National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE), and other local organisations.
- 10.2 The RE Adviser, Mrs Joyce Mackley, provides advice on a consultancy basis to SACRE. SACRE is able to benefit from her experience as a national RE advisor working for RE Today and as a subject inspector for RE under the previous Ofsted framework.
- 10.3 Valuable links are being established through the appointment of further 'Other Faith' members to SACRE, as indicated by the appointment of a Sikh faith representative to Committee A.
- 10.4 Representatives have attended the QCA SACRE Conference and the NASACRE Annual Conference and reports have been made on the proceedings.
- 10.5 Important links continue to be established via the local Herefordshire SACRE Annual Conference.
- 10.6 SACRE meetings have been attended on an ad-hoc basis by trainees from the Marches Consortium. SACRE members were pleased to hear that the trainees had found it extremely interesting to hear debate on the broader issues of RE in schools and the wider strategic aims of SACRE, the Diocesan Authorities and the LA.

11. SACRE ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1 Until his retirement in March 2006 Mr Ted St. George, Head of School Effectiveness attended SACRE meetings as Lead Officer in an advisory capacity on behalf of the Director of Children's Services. Bridget Knight, Lead Primary Inspector, has now been appointed Lead Officer from the Children's Services Directorate. Mrs Joyce Mackley, Religious Education Consultant, also attends in an advisory capacity for the LA. Meetings have been clerked and professionally serviced by representatives of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services for Herefordshire Council.
- 11.2 No members of the public have attended meetings. This is disappointing given the availability of agendas at Council offices and public libraries and the notification of meetings via the Council's public notice of meetings and the Council's web site. Trainee teachers from the Marches Consortium attended a number of meetings as described earlier.
- 11.3 Attendance at meetings by members and co-opted members has, on the whole, been good, particularly considering the distance and other commitments many of the members and co-opted members have.

Attendance statistics are provided at Appendix D. During the reporting period Members have also been involved in meetings of the Agreed Syllabus Conference and associated ASC Working Groups.

- 11.4 Agendas for SACRE meetings and a copy of this annual report are available on the Internet by visiting the Herefordshire Council web site home page at www.herefordshire.gov.uk. Clicking on the quick link 'Committee Meetings' will enable you to browse the published agendas and minutes for Herefordshire Council committee meetings dating back to June 2003. By selecting SACRE from the committee list you will be offered a selection of meeting dates to choose from. This is where you will find the agenda, reports and minutes of meetings. Meetings of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference can also be viewed in a similar way. The distribution of this report is indicated at Appendix E.

12 CONTACT DETAILS

- 12.1 The Lead Officer for the Local Authority (LA) is Bridget Knight who is contactable at the following address:

Bridget Knight
Primary Schools Improvement Manager,
Children's Services Directorate,
Herefordshire Council,
Education and Conference Centre,
4 Blackfriars Street,
Hereford.
HR4 9HS
Tel: (01432) 383044
or
e-mail bknight@herefordshire.gov.uk

- 12.2 Mrs Joyce Mackley, RE Consultant, attends in an advisory capacity for the Local Authority and is contactable via Bridget Knight as above.

- 12.3 The Clerk to SACRE is the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. His representative at meetings is Mr Paul James who advises on constitutional matters and minutes the meetings. Mr James is contactable at the following address:

Mr Paul James,
Democratic Services Officer,
Herefordshire Council,
Brockington,
35 Hafod Road,
Hereford.
HR1 1ZT

Tel: (01432) 260460
or
e-mail: pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk

THE HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONSTITUTION (as amended following the meeting on 3rd July 2006)

Introduction

1. Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires The Herefordshire LEA (referred to in this constitution as the Local Authority (LA)) to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), **to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.** This constitution sets out the main functions of the SACRE membership, the voting arrangements and the rules for the conduct of business.
2. SACRE's main function is to advise the LA upon matters connected with religious worship in County Schools and with the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the LA may refer to the SACRE or as the LA may see fit.
3. SACRE can also require the LA to review its current agreed syllabus, and must consider applications made by a headteacher that the requirement for collective worship in County Schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils at that particular school.
4. The broad role of SACRE, therefore, is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools.

Membership

5. Under Section 390(4) of the Education Act 1996, the SACRE must include persons appointed by the LA to represent respectively -
 - A. such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area (not including persons to represent the Church of England);
 - B. the Church of England;
 - C. such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought, having regard to the circumstances of the area, to be represented;
 - D. the Local Education Authority (LA).
6. The SACRE may also include co-opted members.
7. In accordance with the requirements of Section 390(4), the membership of the SACRE for Herefordshire comprises -

Group (A)	One Roman Catholic representative (nominated by the Roman Catholic hierarchy); One Free Church representative (nominated by Churches together in Herefordshire); One representative of other faiths as a whole; One representative of the Bahá'í faith; One representative of the Muslim faith; One representative of the Sikh faith.
-----------	--

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Group (B) | Three Church of England representatives (nominated in consultation with the Diocesan Education Authority). |
| Group (C) | Three Teachers' representatives, with one drawn from each of the primary, secondary and special education sectors (nominated through recommendation of recognised Teacher Associations) and one Co-opted Member. |
| Group (D) | Three Herefordshire Council members as Local Education Authority representatives. |

8. The number of members appointed to any representative group to represent each denomination or religion required to be represented shall, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's function, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the County.
9. The members of SACRE, who have not been co-opted themselves, may co-opt a person, and a person so co-opted shall hold office on such terms as may be determined by the members co-opting them. When considering using their powers of co-option, the members of SACRE should bear in mind the range of Christian denominations and world faiths in the County.
10. Any member of SACRE may at any time resign his/her office.
11. Any member of SACRE unable to attend a meeting may appoint a named substitute to attend in his/her place.

Voting Arrangements

12. On any question to be decided by SACRE, only the representative groups on SACRE shall be entitled to vote, and each such group shall have a single vote.

Conduct of Business

13. Subject to the requirement of the voting arrangements above, SACRE and, in relation to any question falling to be decided by members of SACRE of any particular category, the members of that category may regulate their own proceedings.
14. The validity of proceedings of SACRE or of the members of SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected:
 - (a) by a vacancy in the office of any member of SACRE required by Section 390(4); or
 - (b) on the ground that a member of SACRE appointed to represent any religion, denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the denomination or associations in question.
15. The representative groups on SACRE, other than that consisting of persons appointed to represent the LEA, may at any time require a review of any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by The Herefordshire Council.
16. Meetings of SACRE may be convened at the request of the Chairman or any one of the Groups.
17. No business shall be transacted at the meeting unless all representative groups are represented at that meeting.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman

18. The Chairman of SACRE is appointed by The Herefordshire Council. In the absence of the Chairman from a meeting, a Chairman pro tem shall be appointed from amongst the LA representatives there present.

Clerk

19. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services of The Herefordshire Council shall be the Clerk of SACRE.

Rights of Press and Public to attend meetings

20. In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education Act 1996 and associated regulations, the press and public will be entitled to attend meetings of the Council, but may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of items containing information capable of being treated as exempt information if meetings of SACRE were meetings of a local Authority. At the beginning of each meeting, for up to half an hour, members of the public will have an opportunity to receive answers to any pre-received written questions they have submitted to the Clerk.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The constitution of SACRE was formally approved by the Education Committee in April 1998. To reflect the wishes of SACRE at its meeting held 1st July 2003 and 3rd July 2006, the Constitution has been amended to provide for further representatives to be appointed to Committee A (Other Faiths). The composition of SACRE is as follows:

In accordance with the requirements of Section 390(4), the membership of the SACRE for Herefordshire comprises -

- Group (A) One Roman Catholic representative (nominated by the Roman Catholic hierarchy)
- One Free Church representative (nominated by Churches together in Herefordshire)
- Other faith representatives - one Bahá'í, one Muslim, one Sikh and one representative of other faiths as a whole.
- Group (B) Three Church of England representatives (nominated in consultation with the Diocesan Education Authority)
- Group (C) Three Teachers' representatives, with one drawn from each of the primary, secondary and special education sectors (nominated through recommendation of recognised Teacher Associations) and one Co-opted Member
- Group (D) Three Herefordshire Council members as Local Authority representatives

THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE (as at 31st July 2005)

- Group (A): Mrs C. Ault, Rev C. Marrison, Mrs A. Mundy, Mr Z. Pandor, Mr M. Rollnick, (1 Vacancy).
 - Group (B): Rev. P. Barlow, Mr P. Bowen, Rev I. Terry.
 - Group (C): Mrs J. Brown, Mrs S. McCamley, Mr K. Scot,
 - Group (D): Cllr Mrs W.U. Attfield, Cllr P.E. Harling, Cllr J. Stone
 - Co-opted member: Ms K. Mayglothling (AST)
 - Co-opted member for the Academic Community: Mrs G. Morris.
- ❖ It is intended that further representatives will be appointed to serve on Group A "Other Faiths". Representatives from other belief systems may be considered for co-option.

APPENDIX C RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS

GCSE 2005 Results for Religious Studies

Religious Studies

	Full Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	365	288	78.9%	364	99.7%
Boys	146	105	71.9%	145	99.3%
Girls	219	183	83.6%	219	100.0%

Religious Studies

	Short Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	1002	441	44.0%	933	93.1%
Boys	491	169	34.4%	453	92.3%
Girls	511	272	53.2%	480	93.9%

Religious Studies

	ELQ Band C				
	Entered	No. Grds 1-3	% Grade 1	% Grade 2	% Grade 3
Boys & Girls	20	17	45.0%	35.0%	5.0%
Boys	17	14	47.1%	29.4%	5.9%
Girls	3	3	33.3%	66.7%	

GCE A' Level 2005

Religious Studies

	A2				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
Boys & Girls	8	6	75.0%	8	100.0%
Boys	3	1	33.3%	3	100.0%
Girls	5	5	100.0%	5	100.0%

Short Total	1002	441	44.0%	933	93.1%
--------------------	-------------	------------	--------------	------------	--------------

Results from Hereford Sixthform College:

A2 Level (2005)

Subject	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	58.2%	83.6%

GCSE 2004 Results for Religious Education & Studies

Religious Studies

	Full Course				
	Entered	No. A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	290	231	79.7%	284	97.9%
Boys	139	109	78.4%	135	97.1%
Girls	151	122	80.8%	149	98.7%

Religious Studies

	Short Course				
	Entered	No. A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	687	396	57.6%	672	97.8%
Boys	333	156	46.8%	324	97.3%
Girls	354	240	67.8%	348	98.3%

Religious Education

	Short Course				
	Entered	No. A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	85	76	89.4%	81	95.3%
Boys	45	43	95.6%	44	97.8%
Girls	40	33	82.5%	37	92.5%

GCE A' Level 2004

Religious Studies

	A2				
	Entered	No. A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
Boys & Girls	4	2	50.0%	4	100.0%
Boys	1	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Girls	3	2	75.0%	3	100.0%

Short Total	772	472	61.1%	753	97.5%
--------------------	------------	------------	--------------	------------	--------------

AS Level (2005)

Subject	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	64.5%	82.9%

GCSE 2003 Results for Religious Education & Studies

Religious Studies

	Full Course				
	Entered	No. A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	337	230	68.2%	306	90.8%
Boys	121	76	62.8%	114	94.2%
Girls	216	154	71.3%	192	88.9%

Religious Studies

	Short Course				
	Entered	No. A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	241	141	58.5%	227	94.2%
Boys	134	73	54.5%	125	93.3%
Girls	107	68	63.6%	102	95.3%

Religious Education

	Short Course				
	Entered	No. A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	476	206	43.3%	440	92.4%
Boys	238	84	35.3%	214	89.9%
Girls	238	122	51.3%	226	95.0%

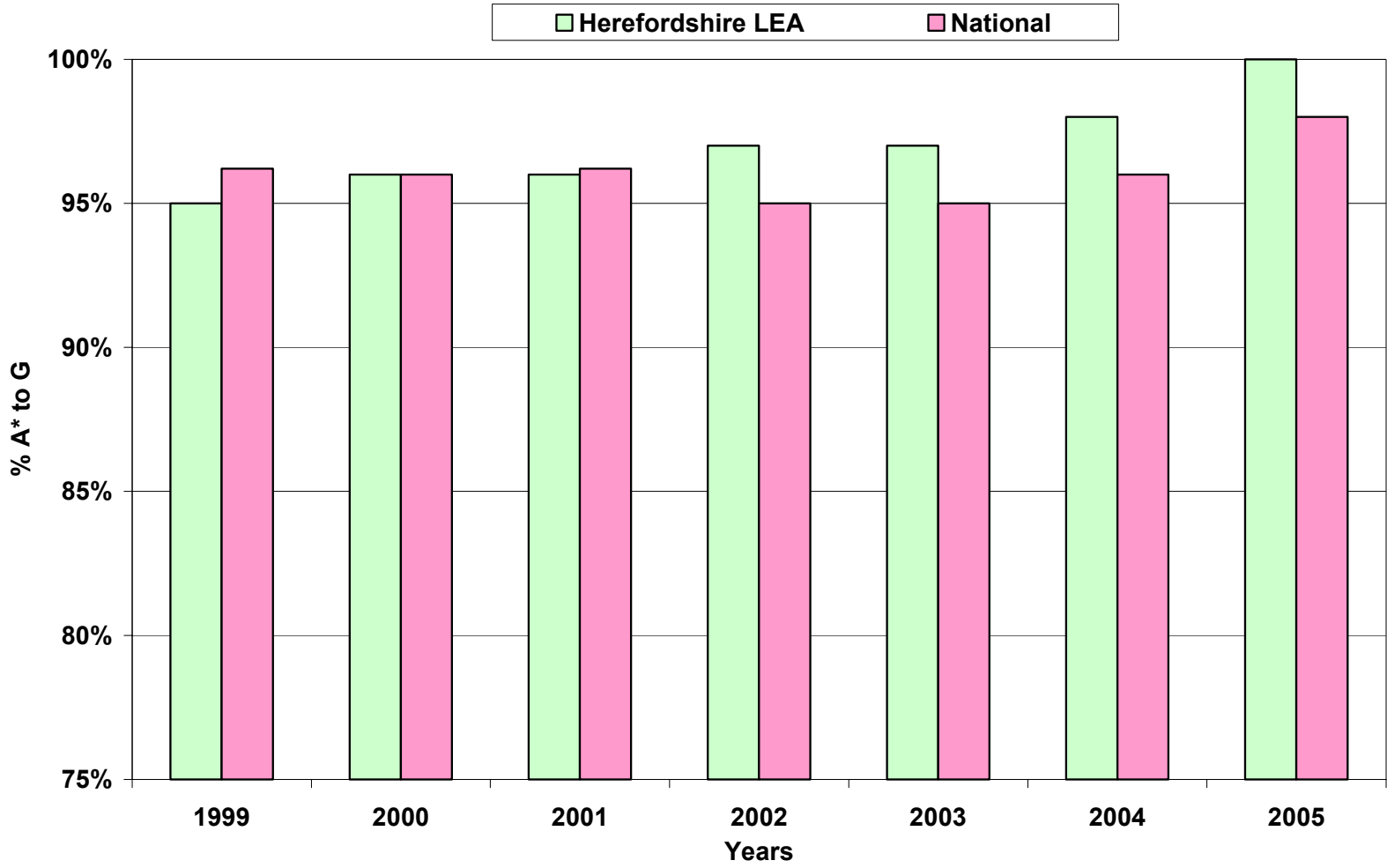
GCE A' Level 2003

Religious Studies

	A2				
	Entered	No. A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
Boys & Girls	10	4	40.0%	10	100.0%
Boys	4	2	50.0%	4	100.0%
Girls	6	3	50.0%	6	100.0%

Short Total	717	347	48.4%	667	93.0%
--------------------	------------	------------	--------------	------------	--------------

Religious Studies 1999 - 2005



APPENDIX D

Attendance at SACRE (March 2005 to July 2006)

Meetings were held on 28th November 2005, 20th March and 3rd July 2006. Members also attended meetings of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, which were held following the November 2005 and March 2006 meetings of SACRE.

Committee		Total possible attendance	Attended	Apologies	Note
A	Mrs C Ault	3	3	-	
A	Father M Donnelly	1	0	-	(1)
A	Rev. C. Marrison	1	1	-	(2)
A	Mrs A Mundy	3	3	-	
A	Mr Z. Pandor	3	2	2	
A	Mr. M. Rollnick	3	2	1	
B	The Revd. P Barlow	3	2	1	
B	Mr P. Bowen	1	1	-	(3)
B	Mr J Rendall	2	2	-	(4)
B	Revd. I. Terry	3	1	2	
C	Mrs J. Brown	3	3	-	
C	Dr M. Goodman	1	-	-	(5)
C	Mrs S. McCamley	3	2	1	
C	Mr K. Scot	2	-	1	(6)
D	Councillor Mrs W. U. Attfield	3	1	2	
D	Councillor P. E. Harling	3	0	3	
D	Councillor J. Stone (Chairman)	3	3	-	
Co-opted	Ms K. Mayglothing	3	2	1	
Co-opted	Mrs G. Morris	3	-	-	

Notes

- (1 Father Donnelly resigned following the November 2005 meeting having taken up an appointment in Cardiff.)
- (2 Rev C. Marrison was appointed by the Roman Catholic Dioceses to replace Father Donnelly.)
- (3 Mr P. Bowen was appointed by the Church of England Dioceses to replace Mr Rendall.)
- (4 Mr J. Rendall retired from the Dioceses and was replaced by Mr P Bowen.)

- (5 Due to work commitments Dr M. Goodman resigned following the November meeting.
)
- (6 Mr K. Scot replaced Dr M. Goodman.

Copies of this Annual Report have been sent to:

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)

RE teachers and Heads of Department in Herefordshire Schools

Councillor D.W. Rule Cabinet Member - Children's Services, (Formerly Cabinet Member - Education).

Councillor B.F. Ashton – Chairman, Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. (Formerly Education Scrutiny Committee)

Local press / media.

Local Libraries for public inspection.

Council Area Offices for public inspection.

Local representatives of the teaching unions.

Herefordshire County Records Office.

The Director of Children's Services and key officers in the Children's Services Directorate. (Formerly the Education Directorate).

Members and Co-opted Members of SACRE.

Copies are also available on the Herefordshire Council Web page.

If you require further information please contact Mr. P. R. James, Democratic Services Officer,
on (01432) 260460 or pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk
Published by Legal & Democratic Services, Herefordshire Council, Brockington,
35 Hafod Road, Hereford. HR1 1ZT