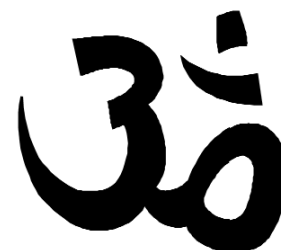
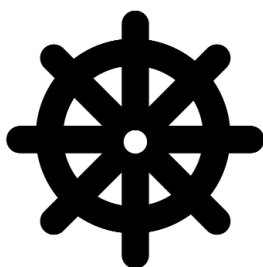
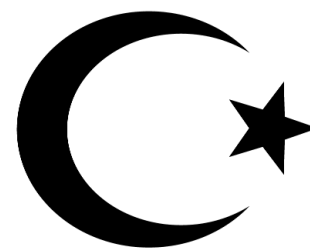
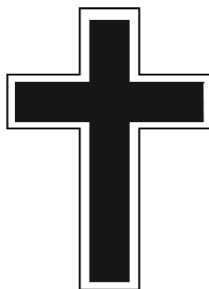




HEREFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/2007

Herefordshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

This is the ninth 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 2006 to July 2007, 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”

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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 initial constitution of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) was approved.
- 1.3 Since 1998 the constitution has been amended a number of times to include the broader faith community.

A copy of the constitution, incorporating the latest changes as at 3rd July 2006, is attached at Appendix A.

A list of the membership as at 31st July 2007, is attached at Appendix B.

- 1.4 Since the last Annual Report, SACRE have met on the following occasions:

8th December 2006
5th March 2007
2nd July 2007

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:

10th December 2007
3rd March 2008

The Herefordshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus was implemented in schools from September 2006 and therefore no meetings of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference have been held.

- 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. In terms of receipt of the government's Dedicated Schools Grant Herefordshire is only ranked 147 out of 149 in funding per pupil. The LA serves an area with a mixed urban and rural economy where small schools and geographical isolation are common features. There are 82 primary, 14 high, 4 special and 3 Pupil Referral Units (PRU) making a total of 103 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 Membership Update

SACRE has received regular updates on changes to its membership.

2.2 SACRE Annual Conference 2006

The Consultant for Religious Education was complimented on yet another enjoyable and very successful SACRE Annual Conference.

The 2006 Conference was held on 28th September 2006 at Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey, Herefordshire, and had been linked to the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Over fifty delegates attended the conference to hear national speakers on the themes of:

- From the Big Questions to Classroom: by Trevor Cooling;
- Looking for God in the Classroom with 6 – 10 year olds: by Lat Blaylock;
- RE in the foundation Stage – The Spiritual In Every Child Matters: by Sue Peasgood and Jonathan Rendal;
- Making Room for Pupils Questions in RE Lessons.

A study of the event's evaluation forms revealed that the conference had been a great success with many complimentary comments being made.

SACRE considered the format for the 2007 Conference and agreed that it would follow the now traditional format with the theme being linked to the proposed Multi-faith Festival (further detail at 2.9 and 2.11).

SACRE were pleased that the Conference contributed to the professional development of teachers and raised the profile of RE

in the County and mankind.

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

2.3 Collective Worship Guidance – Update – “Finding Treasure”

Mrs Angela Daniel, Kingsland CE Primary School and Chair of the Collective Worship Guidance Working Group, gave a presentation to SACRE on the work of the Group in formulating the guidance and the ethos behind the range of themes covered. While there were elements of commonality with ‘Values Education’ teaching there are distinct differences in the guidance to ensure that collective worship met the requirements to be ‘wholly, broadly or mainly Christian’. While principally for use in primary schools, secondary and special schools would benefit from receiving the guidance, thereby ensuring they were aware of the pupils’ experiences at primary level. It was hoped that a similar Working Group would now take up the challenge to produce comparable guidance for secondary schools.

SACRE have noted a number of slight problems in bringing the guidance to production but are confident that an Autumn 2007 distribution to schools will be achieved.

SACRE greatly appreciated the work undertaken by Mrs Daniel and members of the Collective Worship Guidance Working Group in bringing together the guidance material.

2.4 Conference – Strong SACRES, Good RE

The Chairman, Councillor J Stone, reported on his attendance at the national development workshop for SACRE Chairs sponsored by QCA, RE Council and NASACRE.

The Chairman reported that it had been a very informative event which had included time to network with other SACRE Chairs. He briefed SACRE on a number of issues namely: a proposal for a national strategy for RE; Implications around the 14 to 19 agenda; proposals for a ‘commission on RE teacher training’ and proposals to standardise the SACRE annual report to QCA. SACRE have also received the Winter 2006 edition of SACRE News, which contained an informative article on the conference.

The information produced by Lat Blaylock ‘30+ things a good SACRE can do’ has been circulated to members and was referred to when the SACRE Development Plan was reviewed.

2.5 Monitoring of Religious Education – Findings from School Monitoring Visits

SACRE have considered reports by the Consultant for RE arising from her visits to a number of schools in the County. This is further detailed in the Monitoring of RE at section 7.

2.6 Draft Herefordshire SACRE Annual Report – Academic Year 2005/2006

SACRE commented on the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2005 to July 2006 and agreed, subject to final proof reading, that the report be submitted to QCA.

SACRE noted that a new format for the Annual report was being piloted by QCA. In view of the range and number of questions contained in the pilot template SACRE were warned that to provide answers to the many questions contained in the new format would necessitate greater resources being devoted to preparing the report to QCA. At a subsequent meeting SACRE were informed that QCA were re-evaluating the format of the report and that the new format may not be implemented for the 2006/7 report.

2.7 SACRE Development Plan 2007 - 2010

While the SACRE Development Plan is a living document and gives guidance and structure to the work of SACRE, at its meeting in July 2006 SACRE established a working group to review the Plan. The new Plan would guide the work of SACRE through to 2010 and therefore the review took into account a number of sources of information but primarily focused on the SACRE self-evaluation tool published by QCA in May 2005. The tool focuses on a range of aspects of SACRE's work including: the monitoring and improvement of the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE; the partnership between the SACRE, the LA and other key stakeholders; the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus; the monitoring and improvement of the provision and quality of collective worship, and the contribution of SACRE to the promotion of social and racial harmony.

A further contributory document was the work undertaken in producing the draft 'Finding Treasure' Collective Worship guidance for primary schools.

2.8 Schemes of Work to Support the 2006 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

In compiling the new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, implemented in schools from September 2006, various schemes of work were also produced by the Working Group to support the

Syllabus. Since then the Working Group has completed the series by producing a further three schemes for Key Stage 3; four for Key Stage 2 and one scheme specifically for the Bahá'í faith. These schemes of work have been produced in both hard copy and on the internet via the Herefordshire Children and Young People's Services site. The schemes of work will also be issued to schools on Compact Disk which will also contain PowerPoint presentations on the themes of 'Insights into three local faith families' and 'Visits and visitors for Religious Education'.

The Chairman has written to members of the Working Groups to acknowledge their work in compiling the Schemes of Work to support the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus.

2.9 **Multi-Faith Festival**

In the 2005-06 SACRE Annual Report we reported that arising out of discussions concerning equality and diversity SACRE asked the Local Authority to investigate the feasibility of the Council facilitating a multi-faith event for schools. The thinking being that such an event would not only ensure that the Council had 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. Unfortunately at that time the Council was unable to facilitate such an event.

On hearing about the proposal the Herefordshire based Multi-faith Development Group took up the challenge and worked up and submitted a detailed bid for funding to the Herefordshire Local Network Fund. The first bid was rejected but having undertaken further work a second bid was submitted and was successful.

Work on the festival was therefore able to continue and the Group issued invitations for schools to take part. This resulted in a significant oversubscription. Schools have therefore been chosen to attend on a first come first served basis. The event to be held at Holmer Primary School, Hereford, on 25th and 26th September 2007, would comprise of 8 workshops per day for the two days. Teachers from the schools attending will attend a pre-event training day to enable them to prepare the pupils for the day and to organise the questions for the sessions. 160 pupils from 16 primary schools and 38 adults (RE co-ordinators + one further adult per school) will attend the event.

Mrs J Cecil, Head of Holmer Primary School, will be recording the event by involving her Yr 6 pupils as film crew. Activities from the day will be shared with other schools by means of video conferencing and dissemination of materials through a website specially set up for the event by Herefordshire Council ICT support staff.

While disappointed that such an event had had to rely on an external group obtaining grant funding, SACRE were delighted that the event was able to proceed. In view of the obvious interest by schools, evidenced by the significant oversubscription, SACRE hope that the local authority will consider supporting such an event in the future as it supported schools in their RE and multi-cultural development targets and contributed to the Council's community cohesion agenda.

A report on the event will be included in next year's annual report.

2.10 Policy on the use of External Funding to Support School Activities

Responding to a concern raised regarding external funding being used to support school sport and arts activity apparently to the detriment of RE, SACRE questioned the Local Authority on any guidance given to schools concerning the use of external funding e.g. from Parent Teacher Associations. SACRE have been informed that this type of funding, which was usually from a charitable organisation, was often donated to the school for a specific purpose and therefore the school was obliged to comply with that wish.

2.11 SACRE Annual Conference 2007 – Update

SACRE have been kept up to date with plans for the 2007 SACRE Annual Conference to be held Thursday 27th September 2007 at Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey, Herefordshire.

Having considered a draft conference programme SACRE agreed to depart from the customary key note speaker and instead showcase work undertaken at Stoke Prior Primary School and Wigmore High School. The Conference would also include a number of workshop events.

Stoke Prior Primary School

SACRE were delighted to receive a preview of the presentation to be given by Stoke Prior. Three pupils and two teachers gave a brief overview of the intended presentation that explained how the school had taken part in an RE/ICT intervention activity lead by RE Today in conjunction with BECTa. The activity had funded the purchase of ICT equipment (5 video cameras, 2 tripods and relevant software) to enable the pupils to interview and video members of faith communities in their local area.

SACRE heard how the whole class had contributed to the project by compiling the questions, undertaking interviews, shooting and editing the video footage and selecting the accompanying music for the resultant video – excerpts of which were shown at the meeting. SACRE also heard that the pupils had taken a more proactive interest in the place or people they were to video e.g. the church, and had shown a greater respect and courtesy for the people or places they had been in contact with. The completed video would be shown at the 2007 SACRE Annual Conference.

SACRE appreciated how this multi-faceted approach to RE contributed to the many aspects of learning e.g. RE, ICT, planning and communication skills.

Wigmore High School

Four students from Wigmore High School presented to SACRE an excerpt from the presentation they had compiled for the SACRE Annual Conference.

A number of Year 10 students from Bordesley Green Girls School, Birmingham, (an urban, all girls, predominantly Muslim school) had visited Wigmore High School (a rural, mixed, predominantly Christian school) in March 2007 for a one-day conference when Muslim and Christian speakers had shared their views with students on the theme of 'what it means to be human'.

Following the presentation the students discussed with SACRE the change in preconceptions and attitude and their wider understanding arising from the opportunity to openly discuss varied issues with students of a different faith background.

An outcome from the day had been the wish to have videoconferencing links with other schools to further their development of understanding and contact with other school/faith communities.

While appreciating that a great deal of work had been involved in organising such an event SACRE would commend this type of exchange of views to other schools.

2.12 **Consultation on the QCA KS3 Review**

SACRE have received a report on the online consultation on proposed changes to the national curriculum at Key Stage 3 (KS3) through the Secondary Curriculum review.

The online review, co-ordinated by QCA, was initially of KS3 but had been widened to include KS4. Vicky Ward, General Inspector with the Council, came to a SACRE meeting to explain the elements of the review. She reported that the content and core values of the National Curriculum introduced in the 1980s

remained and the review aimed to build on its achievements and modernise the curriculum to meet the needs of the 21st century. The intention was to: give teachers a more flexible framework for planning teaching; create more scope for teachers to tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of each individual student; make learning an active rather than passive event, and encourage schools to be innovative in the way they planned the school timetable.

SACRE noted that the approach to Religious Education in the review was to build on the non-statutory framework for RE in 2008-09, the year in which the new school curriculum will be implemented. The relevance of RE to the Every Child Matters agenda and the findings of the Ajegbo Review had encouraged QCA to offer an alternative form for the RE framework in a form consistent with that of other subjects.

The review proposed that the content and text of the non-statutory programmes of study for RE remain the same. In the revised form the information would be re-organised under headings that were the same as for other subjects. The revised form would then contain explanations, examples, additional information and clarification.

SACRE were generally content with the approach being taken by the review, however, they wished to ensure that RE was properly represented in the curriculum and therefore, due to the time constraints on responding, established a small working group to respond on behalf of SACRE.

2.13 Diversity and Citizenship report by Sir Keith Ajegbo

Following the publication of Sir Keith Ajegbo's report into diversity and citizenship SACRE considered that the report was very welcome in that it clearly identified the contribution RE was already making through the non-statutory national framework (NSNF) to exploring and valuing diversity, and particularly welcomed the definition of diversity which included mention of religion (page 15 of the report).

2.14 Website Developments

SACRE have noted that the Herefordshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus; non-statutory guidance and associated information for teachers was now available under the curriculum section on the Herefordshire Children and Young People's Services website at <http://www.education.herefordshire.gov.uk>. and then follow 'Curriculum & Resources' and 'RE'.

2.15 Participation in the Development of the Herefordshire

Children and Young People's Plan

The Herefordshire Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is a broad strategic document, which gives strategic guidance to many other plans and strategy documents and therefore by its nature elements of citizenship, RE, PSHE were included in the broader sense. The Plan covers a 3 year period and is reviewed annually for submission to Ofsted in early June. Through its Development Plan SACRE expressed a wish to be involved in the review of the CYPP. At the time that year's review of the CYPP was nearing completion and therefore SACRE requested that: the Primary School Improvement Manager review the CYPP on behalf of SACRE; that a report on the CYPP be presented to SACRE, and the opportunity for SACRE to contribute to the CYPP be recorded in the SACRE work programme.

2.16 Ofsted Report: Making Sense of Religion

SACRE have considered the findings contained in the Ofsted report "Making Sense of Religion: a report on religious education in schools and the impact of locally agreed syllabi".

The Ofsted report found that "some progress had been made in enhancing the provision for religious education in recent years. Pupils' achievement had improved. Developments nationally have contributed substantially to this improvement, but the overall quality of RE is still not consistently high enough". A number of recommendations for consideration by the DFES, QCA, and schools were included in the report. Recommendations for local authorities and SACREs related to: how local authorities need to consider ways in which SACREs could be better supported to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities effectively; use the national framework rigorously in reviewing their agreed syllabus, and consider how the work of SACREs might support further promotion of community cohesion and educating for diversity.

SACRE have noted the report and the recommendations will be further considered as part of the ongoing review of the SACRE Development Plan.

2.17 Inspection of Religious Education in Church of England Schools

The Director, Hereford Diocesan Board of Education, was delighted to share with SACRE the results of Statutory Inspection of Anglican School (SIAS) inspections September 2005 – April 2007. The report gave the school inspection rating against 5 key questions. The Director was pleased to report that overall the 28 diocesan schools listed generally performed to high standards.

While a number of schools had encountered issues concerning the use of the self evaluation form (SEF) he reported that these

had been addressed and schools were now focusing on any identified areas of weakness.

SACRE thanked The Director, Hereford Diocesan Board of Education for supplying the information and appreciated the contribution that church schools make to education in the County.

2.18 **The “Secondary Curriculum Review 2007”**

SACRE have considered and responded to the consultation on the national “Secondary Curriculum Review 2007”.

2.19 **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 The locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education was implemented in Herefordshire schools from September 2006.

3.2 To aid teachers in implementing the new Agreed Syllabus for RE a number of schemes of work were included as part of the Syllabus launch. As reported earlier the Working Group have now completed the series by producing a further three schemes of work for Key Stage 3; four for Key Stage 2 and one scheme specifically for the Bahá’í faith.

4 TRAINING

4.1 As reported at Section 2.11 the SACRE Annual Conference 2006 was held on 28th 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 2006 Conference was attended by approximately 56 delegates.

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

4.2 SACRE hope that the multi-faith event, reported at section 2.9 will also provide a valuable opportunity for teachers to discuss issues and to network with colleagues and workshop facilitators.

4.3 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.

- 4.4 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. (QCA Key Stage 3 Review previously reported at 2.12).

5 FINANCE

- 5.1 The Local Authority has a base budget of £10,000 to fund the work of SACRE which included administration i.e. postage and printing within the Children and Young People's 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 academic year 2006-2007 the following costs were incurred (excluding consultancy fees which are met from other budgets):

Supply costs (for teachers to attend meetings)	1,510.54
Meeting costs (venues, catering etc) (excluding SACRE meetings)	1,100.52
Printing (including copyright) (excluding agenda printing costs)	3,207.17
Total spend	5,818.23

- 5.3 In 2006/07 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 is contracted for as many days as is considered necessary per year on a daily basis. During 2006/07 she was contracted for up to 40 days. It is anticipated that during 2007/08 she will be contracted for up to 35 days.
- 5.4 The cost of printing agenda and refreshments for SACRE meetings is supported by the Democratic Services budgets.
- 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 have considered the Religious Education examination results for pupils in Herefordshire.

In response to the Religious Studies 2005-2007 statistics set out at Appendix C, the Primary School Improvement Manager presented the following comments:

1. Over the last 3 years there had been a significant shift in exam entry patterns with schools moving away from short course GCSE entry to full course GCSE entry.
2. The number of entries for the full GCSE course continued to rise significantly. There were 631 candidates in 2007 compared to 413 in 2006 and 365 in 2005. In 2007, two schools entered almost all their students for the full course rather than the short course exam.
3. The number of entries for the short GCSE course continued to drop. There were 677 candidates in 2007, compared to 855 in 2006 and 1002 in 2005.
4. There were three schools that entered relatively few candidates for a GCSE examination.
5. The percentage of students gaining grades in A* - C in the full course GCSE exam in 2007 was 60%, a significant drop from 79% in 2006 and 2005, and significantly below the national % (69%) for the first time.
6. The percentage of students gaining Grades A* - C on the short course GCSE exam in 2007 dropped to 44% from the 51% in 2006 and in line with the 44% in 2005. Standards attained on the short course are below the national average (52%).
7. The percentage of students gaining grades A* - G in the full course GCSE exam in 2007 was 97% a dip from the 100% of 2006 and 2005.

8. The percentage of students gaining grades A* - G in the short course GCSE exam had risen slightly to 95% in 2007 from 94% in 2006 and 93% in 2005.
 9. In 2007 the results were variable across Herefordshire schools. Eight schools had a percentage A* - C pass rates significantly above the national average; three schools had a significant drop in the percentage A* - C pass rate and also in their percentage A* - G pass rate. In one of the three schools the results in Religious Studies were significantly below other subjects.
 10. In two of the three schools where the percentage A* - C pass and the percentage A* - G pass for the full course GCSE was below average and appeared to have dropped significantly, the change in entry numbers from short to full GCSE exam was also significant. Both schools switched from entering the majority of their students to the full GCSE course exam for the first time. The difference in number was 263 additional candidates from the previous year (2006).
 11. One of the three schools had a large entry for the short course and the percentage of A* - C passes dropped significantly in 2007.
- 6.2 In relation to (9) above SACRE noted that while 8 high schools had performed above average unfortunately 3 had performed significantly below the average and had therefore reduced the overall Herefordshire average. The Children and Young People's Directorate were already working with 2 of the schools concerned to raise their attainment levels. However, this work only related to general attainment and not specifically to RE.
- 6.3 SACRE congratulated the Hereford Sixth Form, and particularly John Kyrle High School, on their A Level (A2 and AS levels) attainment. However, SACRE questioned what course provision was offered at other 6th form settings in view of the curriculum requirement for accredited courses to be offered.
- 6.4 It was noted that for the first time in a number of years Whitecross High School would be offering a GCSE course in Religious Studies and therefore course provision was rapidly being put in place.

The Chairman cautioned regarding the interpretation of statistics preferring to consider any trends covering a number of years.

7. MONITORING RE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- 7.1 SACRE have continued to consider how it can evaluate the work of the Local Authority in monitoring and inspecting Religious Education in Schools.
- 7.2 Herefordshire Council does not have a designated RE inspector and therefore has to rely on 'buying in' the services of the Consultant for RE to undertake visits to schools. Due to time and resource implications the Consultant is limited in the number of schools she is able to visit.
- 7.3 During the Autumn term 2006 she visited 5 primary schools (2 small rural; 2 Voluntary Controlled and 1 large county primary) and reported to local authority and SACRE.

From those visits a number of common issues had been identified namely: problems with undertaking assessment and monitoring; lesson planning and the allocation of subject time particularly at KS1. Also highlighted was emerging anecdotal evidence of adverse parental attitudes towards some religious groups beginning to impact on organising visits to places of worship as required by the Agreed Syllabus.

The visits had been very productive for both the schools and to enable her to gauge the state of RE.

- 7.4 During January/February 2007 she had visited a further 4 primary and 1 high school. All schools visited had been sent a religious education self-evaluation form in advance of the visit, which acted as a starting point for discussion. Schools had also been invited to provide examples of pupils' RE work, together with any RE planning documents. In summary her key findings were:

7.4.1 Report on Primary Schools visit:

Ofsted recognise the subject co-ordinator as the pivotal factor in developing good RE in a school. All 4 primary schools visited had new subject co-ordinators. Supporting and developing the confidence of the co-ordinator became a key issue. All were committed to improving the teaching and learning of RE; most had a clear vision for the subject; however, all felt at least somewhat inadequate for the task facing them. Most wanted guidance and reassurance about what they should be doing.

- 7.4.2 **Agreed Syllabus implementation:** Implementation was found to be mixed. One school had only partially introduced it; one had not started it and was still using the previous syllabus, others had made more progress. In one school the planners had been redeveloped in line with the 2006 syllabus, documents were available both as hard copy and in folders on the school network. The issues identified related more to helping teachers be clear about what they were trying to achieve within the units – to select appropriate learning strategies, which achieved these ends.
- 7.4.3 **Standards:** most of those interviewed had little idea about the standards of achievement of children in RE and several were not aware of the levels. One was keen to use 'I can' approach and had tried linking RE objectives to the whole school approach (MUST SHOULD COULD) – but needed more help and reassurance with this.
- 7.4.4 **Teaching and learning:** the schools seemed adequately resourced in terms of pupil resources with frequent reference made to the use of interactive white boards and software such as Espresso. Issues arising related to how resources were used to enable children to achieve the outcomes expected by the syllabus. Teachers were still largely focusing on AT1 – learning about religion – and were much less confident about AT2 learning from religion.
- 7.4.5 **Time:** adequate time was given 'on paper' to the teaching of RE, although it was not always possible to verify how much was actually in place. Concerns about time in a pressurised curriculum were raised several times. In one school RE was only just being implemented because planning time was prioritised for the new maths and literacy training ready for September 2007.
- 7.4.6 **Planning** to ensure implementation of the syllabus: This was found to be underway and ongoing. Issues were identified concerning the use of: the key questions; the use of the levels, and making sure teachers customised planners to show what they were actually doing.
- 7.4.7 **Non statutory guidance:** had been found to be very welcome and helpful.

7.5 Report on the High School visit

Further to the Consultant's report on her visit to the one high school the following comments were noted:

- a. Excellent achievement in GCSE had been identified with pupils voluntarily undertaking the full course in a very limited time slot and achieving excellent results.
- b. Examples of creative and imaginative work in RE – focus of the department was on making RE 'relevant and engaging'.
- c. The requirement to provide RE for all in the 6th form was taken seriously. Some provision was made but it was hoped that more development might follow. She had suggested the possibility of linking with another high school with 6th form for day conference.
- d. The School had particularly valued the visit from Zack Pandor to talk about the Muslim faith.
- e. The opportunities for working together with other High schools had been valued in the past – especially the school closure day meeting of RE departments across the county – the school would value more of these.
- f. Contact with feeder primaries was largely limited to one local primary but the school had excellent primaries in the area with good RE. It was suggested that the school could be more pro-active about establishing RE links with other schools.

7.6 SACRE noted that the monitoring visits had been found to be very useful by all those taking part. The use of the self-evaluation tool (part of the self-evaluation framework) had helped the school to think about what they should be doing and gave some criteria against which they could judge themselves.

7.7 SACRE have also debated how to involve those schools, which for whatever reason, may be reluctant to invite a visit.

7.8 From the limited evidence available namely the examination results of a cohort that has probably left school (see Section 6) and the monitoring visits described above, SACRE are content that the level of RE teaching in the County is good. They are, however, aware that there may be schools in the County that may benefit from further assistance or reassurance and would therefore urge those schools to contact the Consultant for RE to arrange for a visit.

7.9 SACRE have recommended to the local authority that the monitoring visits be continued and efforts be made to encourage those schools who may be reluctant to invite a monitoring visit to do so.

- 7.10 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. 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 has received very limited evidence to be able to monitor Collective Worship. However, from anecdotal evidence from its members and the Consultant for RE, SACRE is aware that a great deal of good practice goes on in the area of Collective Worship. SACRE believe that the majority of primary schools are meeting the statutory requirements for Collective Worship, however, this still remains problematical at some high schools due to issues of accommodation and timetabling.
- 9.2 As mentioned at Section 2.3 SACRE are pleased that the Collective Worship Policy and Guidelines for primary schools entitled 'Finding Treasure' is to be distributed to school during Autumn 2007. This publication will provide valuable assistance to schools in fulfilling its collective worship role.
- 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.
- 10.4 Whenever possible representatives attend 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.

11. SACRE ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1 The Lead Officer for SACRE is Bridget Knight, Lead Primary Inspector, who attends on behalf of the Director of Children's Services. Mrs Joyce Mackley, Religious Education Consultant, also attends in an advisory capacity for the Local Authority. Meetings have been clerked and professionally serviced on behalf of the Clerk to SACRE by Paul James, Democratic Services Officer, 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.
- 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.
- 11.4 Agenda 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 Chairman of Herefordshire SACRE is Councillor John Stone. The Chairman is contactable via e-mail at jstone@herefordshire.gov.uk or through the Clerk's representative Mr Paul James detailed below.

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 and Young People's Directorate,
Herefordshire Council,
Blackfriars,
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 or by e-mail at joyce@retoday.org.uk

- 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.
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| 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 2007)

- Group (A): Mrs C. Ault, Mr Z. Pandor, Rev L Rickards, Mr M. Rollnick, (Roman Catholic and Sikh vacancies)
- Group (B): Rev. P. Barlow, Mr P. Bowen, Rev I. Terry.
- Group (C): Mrs J. Brown, Miss L Langstaff, Mrs S. McCamley,
- Group (D): Cllr Mrs W.U. Attfield, Cllr Brig P Jones CBE, Cllr J. Stone

Co-opted members: Mrs A Daniel, Ms K. Mayglothling (AST), Mrs G. Morris (Academic Community)

- ❖ 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.

Religious Studies 2005 – 2007 Examination Results

GCSE

2007 GCSE Results	Attempted GCSE	Achieved A*-C	Achieved A*-G
Religious Studies	Total Pupils	Total	Total
National			
Short & Full Courses	140,073	69%	98%
Herefordshire LEA			
Full Courses	631	60%	97%
Short Courses	677	44%	95%

2006 GCSE Results	Attempted GCSE	Achieved A*-C	Achieved A*-G
Religious Studies	Total Pupils	Total	Total
National			
Short & Full Courses	130,587	68%	98%
Herefordshire LEA			
Full Courses	413	79%	100%
Short Courses	855	51%	94%

2005 GCSE Results	Attempted GCSE	Achieved A*-C	Achieved A*-G
Religious Studies	Total Pupils	Total	Total
National			
Short & Full Courses	131,400	68%	98%
Herefordshire LEA			
Full Courses	365	79%	100%
Short Courses	1002	44%	93%

A Level

Year	Religious Studies Establishment	A2 Level				AS Level			
		% A-B	% A-C	Passes	Candidates	% A-B	% A-C	Passes	Candidates
2007	Hereford Sith Form College	67.3%	95.9%	100.0%	49	40.7%	74.1%	85.2%	27
2007	John Kyrle	50.0%	66.7%	100.0%	6	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	1
2006	Hereford Sith Form College	83.0%	94.3%	100.0%	53	47.5%	80.0%	97.5%	80
2006	John Kyrle	60.0%	100.0%	100.0%	5	40.0%	100.0%	100.0%	5
2006	Lady Hawkins					100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	1
2005	Hereford Sith Form College	58.2%	83.6%	100.0%	49	64.5%	82.9%	100.0%	76
2005	John Kyrle	50.0%	75.0%	100.0%	8				

Attendance at SACRE (September 2006 to July 2007)

Meeting were held on 8th December 2006, 5th March 2007 and 2nd July 2007.

Committee		Total possible attendance	Attended	Apologies	Note
A	Mrs C Ault	3	2	1	
A	Revd. C. Marrison	2	1		(1)
A	Mr Z. Pandor	3	2	1	
A	Revd L. Rickards	3	3		(2)
A	Mr. M. Rollnick	3	0	3	(3)
B	Revd. P Barlow	3	3		
B	Mr. P. Bowen	3	3		
B	Revd. I. Terry	3	2	1	
C	Mrs. J. Brown	3	2	1	
C	Miss L Langstaff	2	2		(4)
C	Mrs. S. McCamley	3	2	1	
D	Councillor Mrs. W. U. Attfield	3	2	1	
D	Councillor P. E. Harling	2	0	1	(5)
D	Councillor Brig P Jones CBE	1	1		(6)
D	Councillor J. Stone (Chairman)	3	3		
Co-opted	Mrs A. Daniel	1	0	1	(7)
Co-opted	Ms. K. Mayglothling	3	1	2	
Co-opted	Mrs. G. Morris	3	0	0	

Notes:

- (1) Revd C. Marrison resigned on 11th May 2007 as he was unable to continue.
- (2) Revd Rickards' first meeting was on 8th December 2006.
- (3) Due to a major illness Mr M Rollnick has not been well enough to attend during this period.
- (4) Miss Langstaff's first meeting was on 5th March 2007.
- (5) Cllr PE Harling did not seek re-election in the local elections in May 2007.
- (6) Cllr Brig P Jones CBE was appointed to SACRE following the May local elections.
- (7) Local Authority agreed the co-option, however, Mrs Daniel was unable to attend her first meeting on 2nd July 2007.

Copies of this Annual Report have been issued to:

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)

RE teachers and Heads of Department in Herefordshire

Councillor J A Hyde Cabinet Member – Children’s Services

Councillor S J Robertson – Chairman, Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee

Local Press / media

Local Libraries for public inspection.

Council Area Offices for public inspection

Local representatives of teaching unions.

Herefordshire County Records Office

The Director of Children’s Services and key officers in the Children and Young People’s Directorate

Members and Co-opted Members of SACRE

The report is also available on the Herefordshire Council Web site.

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