

Subject:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report		
Date of Meeting:	11.11.2019		
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Sam Beal	Tel: 01273 293533
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Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 Since 1988 local authorities have had a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).
- 1.2 The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year'. This report outlines the work of SACRE from March 2018 – September 2019.
- 1.3 SACRE also deal with complaints about religious education (RE). No formal complaints have been received this year

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the SACRE report and considers how Committee can support the work of SACRE.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The SACRE advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject. SACRE also advises on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.
- 3.2 In the 2011 census, 49% of the Brighton & Hove population stated they had a religion, with 8.8% not recorded and 42% stating they had no religion. (Appendix 1). We await the next census to see if this is increasing over time with the changing ethnic demographic of the city.
- 3.3 SACRE believes that all children and young people need to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and

worldviews which not only shape our shared history and culture but which guide their development. The modern world needs young people who are confident in their own beliefs and values so that they can respect the religious and cultural differences of others within their school community and wider. The effective teaching of a quality programme of RE is a key method for achieving these community cohesion outcomes and promoting spiritual, social and moral development.

- 3.4 The Brighton & Hove Council Agreed Syllabus for RE provides opportunities for pupils and students to reflect on a range of religious and secular worldviews.
- 3.5 Children and young people from faith and non-faith backgrounds have the right to go to schools where their community is represented and where they are safe from prejudice. RE, along with PSHE education and other whole school activities provides opportunities to develop understanding, empathy and acceptance in and between faith and non-faith communities.
- 3.6 *The Faith and Belief in Educational Settings Guidance* along with the *Advice for schools and colleges on supporting pupils and students during Ramadan* has continued to be promoted to schools over the last academic year. Increasing numbers of schools appear to be marking Eid al-Fitr, as evidenced through school Twitter accounts and invites to for example the annual Eid picnic at Carden Primary.
- 3.7 RE is also an important curriculum subject in its own right. 7 Brighton & Hove secondary schools entered students for GCSE RE. Numbers of students entered and results are contained in Appendix 2.
- 3.8 In March 2018, a conference was held which launched the revised RE Agreed Syllabus. This was attended by 41 schools, 35 primary schools, 4 secondary schools and 2 special schools and positively evaluated. Schools have been required to deliver the 2018 Agreed Syllabus from September 2019. Church of England and Catholic Schools are not required to follow the Agreed Syllabus – there are 15 of these schools.
- 3.9 SACRE organised a morning training session: “Religious Education Planning a High Quality Curriculum” on 22nd March 2019. The training was offered as a free event to all schools in Brighton & Hove. 23 teachers from 22 schools attended the training and feedback was positive. A similar event is planned for secondary schools in the Autumn Term 2019, co-ordinated by Hannah Kinchin-Frost from Patcham High School.
- 3.10 Effective SACREs should monitor the provision and quality of agreed syllabus RE and collective worship. Over the last year, SACRE has been developing methods to fulfil this monitoring function. For example; a self-evaluation questionnaire has been sent to all schools. Despite reminders, only 14 questionnaires have been returned. The results of this show that there are inconsistencies across the city in approaches to RE. There are differences in staff teaching RE from a school with one specialist who teaches all RE, to others where all classroom teachers are responsible or there are Higher Level Teaching Assistants teaching RE. Time allotted to teach RE was also very different with some schools having a clear amount of time and others who taught RE only in

topics and, or combined in time for PSHE, Monitoring of the subject was also very different; only 2 schools that responded had a governor specifically responsible for monitoring RE and while some schools had a clear monitoring programme looking at development of this subject other schools included this in general teaching observations with no specific focus. The overall impression across the city is that there are very different attitudes and importance placed by schools on this statutory subject and our assumption is that the experience for children and young people across the city would widely vary dependent on the setting. Support for subject knowledge and having enough time allocated to the subject were some of the requests received from teachers.

- 3.11 In the last academic year, SACRE has begun to review school websites for evidence of compliance in their statutory duties. SACRE aims to monitor five websites per term with schools chosen who are likely to shortly be having an Ofsted inspection. This monitoring has revealed that several schools are not sharing their RE curriculum on the website as they are required to do.

4. SACRE

- 4.1 SACRE is a statutory function of the local authority. SACRE has in place a clear constitution which sets out a programme of meetings and the membership.
- 4.2 The range of faith groups represented at SACRE meetings in the last year include: Church of England, Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Religious Society of Friends, Salvation Army, Catholic Church, Muslim and Jewish faiths. Meetings have been held in the Friends Meeting House, the Salvation Army, Patcham High School and Hove Junior School.
- 4.3 SACRE has a budget of £1000 to fund meetings, some training and to provide supply cover to support RE teachers to attend SACRE. The local authority also provides four days of time from a member of staff who clerks SACRE and five days of time from the Partnership Adviser: Health and Wellbeing who is the local authority representative on SACRE and develops resources for SACRE. SACRE would like to provide further training opportunities for RE teachers.
- 4.4 Councillors from Conservatives, Green and Labour Party have attended meetings over the last year.
- 4.5 Teacher representation on SACRE has improved, but it remains difficult to recruit via the teaching unions as described in the constitution.
- 4.6 In 2019-2020 SACRE plans to:
- Review and update the SACRE constitution and membership (for example to include Humanist Representative)
 - Continue to carry out website monitoring
 - Develop an RE curriculum audit tool and pilot this with three schools
 - Learn more about East Sussex SACRE
 - Continue to promote RE teacher training opportunities including those provided nationally and by the two diocese
 - Encourage sharing of resources on BEEM (website) and monitor teacher use

- If funds allow establish regular network meetings for RE teachers supported by specialists.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Current SACRE membership is:
Group A Faith Groups: Baha’I Faith, Baptist Union, Buddhist Community, Jewish Community, Muslim Community, Religious Society of Friends, Catholic Church, Salvation Army.
Group B Church of England – 3 representatives
Group C Councillors – 2 Labour Councillors (Les Hamilton and Gary Wilkinson), 1 Conservative Councillor (Alistair McNair), 1 Green Councillor (Siriol Hugh-Jones)
Teachers from two teaching unions
Representative from Brighton University.
We currently have vacancies for the following faiths/ beliefs: Coptic Orthodox Church, Methodist Church, New Churches, Russian Orthodox Church, Sikh Community, Hindu Faith

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 RE is an important part of a school’s broad and balanced curriculum and to the work in the city to improve community cohesion and prevent prejudice.
- 6.2 Resources to support training for RE teachers and to provide other support is limited. Most schools do not respond to the SACRE questionnaire leaving SACRE unable to monitor RE or identify needs.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 17/09/2019

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 As indicated in the report the Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will ‘publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 11/09/2019

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 SACRE seeks to ensure quality RE teaching to encourage knowledge of and respect for all religions and for people of no religion.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 There are no sustainability implications.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

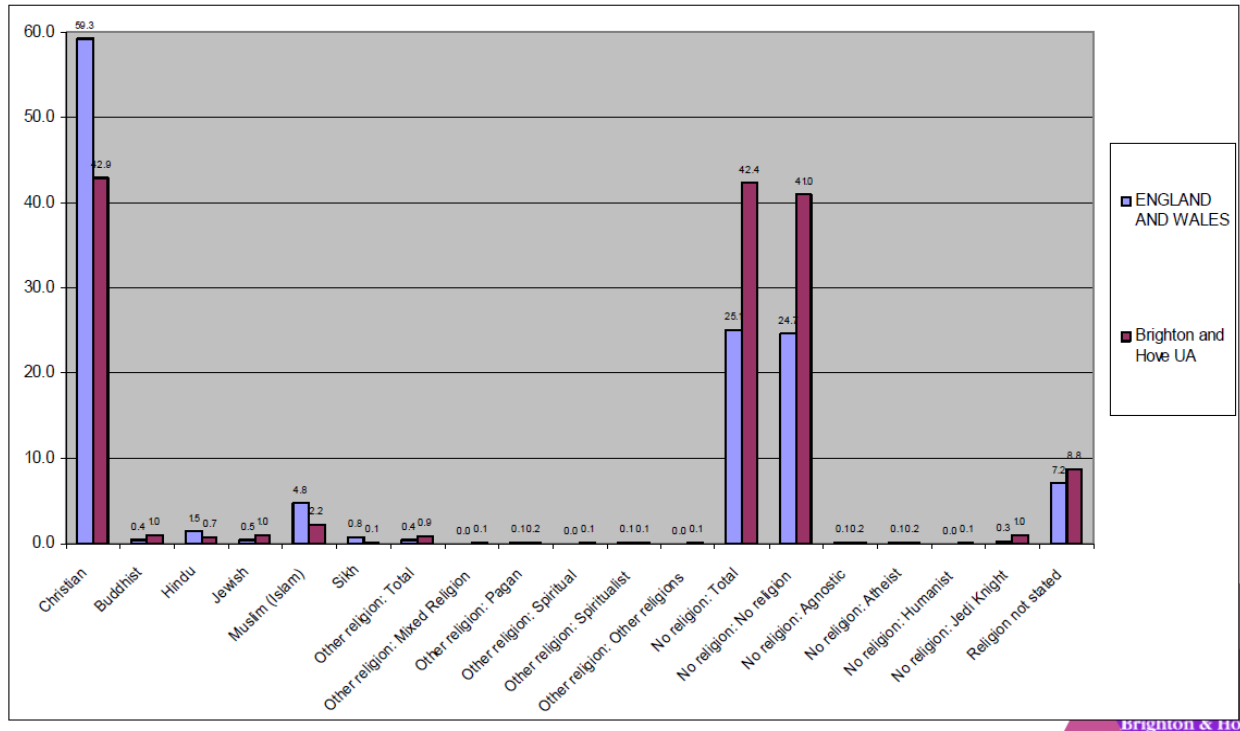
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Census 2011

Religion	Number of Residents	% of the Brighton & Hove population
Christian	117276	42.90%
Muslim	6095	2.23%
Buddhist	2742	1%
Jewish	2670	0.98%
Hindu	1792	0.66%
Pagan	577	0.21%
Sikh	342	0.13%
Mixed Religion	323	0.12%
Spiritualists	328	0.12%
Taoist	87	0.03%
Spiritual	268	0.10%
Wicca	84	0.03%
Rastafarian	79	0.03%
Baha'i	78	0.03%
No Religion	115,954	42%
Religion not stated	24,089	8.8%
Religion not listed	143	0.05%

2011 Census: Religion



2. Religious Studies GCSE results 2019

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE AS level (121)

QAN: 60187669

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-B	A-E	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583370	30	46.2	-	-	-	-	-	61.5	92.3	8.1
-	National (State Funded)	523630	30	46.2	-	-	-	-	-	61.5	92.3	8.1
-	LA (State Funded)	2169	26	46.2	15.4	15.4	7.7	7.7	7.7	61.5	92.3	8.1
4016	Dorothy Stringer School	325	26	46.2	15.4	15.4	7.7	7.7	7.7	61.5	92.3	8.1

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)

QAN: 60184000

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583370	100020	7.8	10.4	12.9	16.1	14.4	10.9	13.8	8.0	3.9	1.4	0.3	61.7	72.6	98.3	5.2
-	National (State Funded)	523630	93780	6.4	9.5	12.6	16.3	14.9	11.4	14.5	8.5	4.1	1.4	0.3	59.8	71.2	98.3	5.1
-	LA (State Funded)	2169	427	6.6	7.5	16.2	20.6	15.2	9.4	11.2	6.3	4.0	2.3	0.7	66.0	75.4	97.0	5.2
4067	Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College	288	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	100.0	1.0
4016	Dorothy Stringer School	325	315	7.0	6.7	17.1	19.4	14.3	9.5	12.4	6.3	3.5	3.2	0.6	64.4	74.0	96.2	5.2
4068	Hove Park School and Sixth Form Centre	265	11	-	9.1	9.1	18.2	18.2	18.2	18.2	-	-	-	9.1	54.5	72.7	90.9	4.6
4002	King's School	81	74	8.1	10.8	12.2	24.3	20.3	8.1	5.4	8.1	2.7	-	-	75.7	83.8	100.0	5.6
4018	Longhill High School	176	8	-	12.5	-	37.5	-	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	-	-	50.0	62.5	100.0	4.5
4012	Varndean School	255	18	-	5.6	27.8	22.2	16.7	5.6	11.1	-	11.1	-	-	72.2	77.8	100.0	5.2

QAN: 60184012

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583370	15130	7.2	10.5	12.0	16.3	13.7	12.0	13.3	8.7	4.7	1.4	0.2	59.7	71.8	98.5	5.1
-	National (State Funded)	523630	14320	6.6	10.1	11.8	16.2	13.8	12.3	13.7	9.0	5.0	1.4	0.2	58.5	70.7	98.4	5.0
-	LA (State Funded)	2169	348	4.9	4.3	10.3	15.5	11.8	13.8	17.8	14.1	6.6	0.9	-	46.8	60.6	99.1	4.5
4605	Cardinal Newman Catholic School	361	348	4.9	4.3	10.3	15.5	11.8	13.8	17.8	14.1	6.6	0.9	-	46.8	60.6	99.1	4.5

Documents in Members' Rooms

- 1.
- 2.

Background Documents

1. Brighton & Hove Agreed RE Syllabus, 2018
- 2.

