



**EAST RIDING**  

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**OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**REPORT**

**September 2006 to July 2007**

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## 1. Letter from the Chair of SACRE

David to provide

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Thacker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail.

D. Thacker (Chair of SACRE)

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act, every local authority (LA) has a responsibility to establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The main function of this body is:

*To advise the LA 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.*

(391 (1) (a))

- 2.2 The Department for Education and Skills *Circular 1/94* gives guidance on the composition of SACREs. The East Riding of Yorkshire SACRE consists of four main groups, listed in Appendix A. The SACRE has met on three occasions during the year. Members have discussed national and local issues concerning Collective Worship and Religious Education (RE). Major aspects of the SACRE's work have included taking a lead in the planning and provision for Holocaust Memorial Day, working jointly with the other three Humber area SACREs to implement the published schemes of work (2006), based upon the joint local Agreed Syllabus for RE (2005). An East Riding teachers' working group continues to develop online assessment materials.
- 2.3 The SACRE has continued to explore the integration of its work with the wider work of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. In addition it continues to make use of the Self-Evaluation Toolkit provided by National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) to review its effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.
- 2.4 The East Riding SACRE has joint meetings with Hull City Council's SACRE. Joint working arrangements include shared training and support for teachers in the two local authorities. An exciting development for both SACREs is their involvement with *faith2faith*, a project about interfaith dialogue for young people (14-19). The project held its first conference in November 2006 in Hull City Hall; the conference was well attended and hailed as a great success. The project was supported by a grant awarded by the sponsors, NASACRE and Westhill College.

## **3. Religious Education**

- 3.1 Raising standards in RE is one of the SACRE's main objectives. The revised school inspection arrangements leave little or no opportunity for SACRE members to use Ofsted reports as a continuing source of evidence. Consequently, the SACRE successfully piloted an online RE Self-Evaluation Survey in order to fulfil its monitoring obligations, encouraging schools to use the toolkit promoted by the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) to inform their school audit. The SACRE continues to receive and evaluate Section 48 (SIAS) reports.

- 3.2 The SACRE has funded developmental work on assessment in RE. Following earlier work on guidelines for assessment by a cross-phase teacher group, the SACRE now offers level-by-level exemplification of standards in RE linked to the LA's Schemes of Work. We hope to have moderated student work online that can be used for Curriculum and Professional Development (CPD) purposes very soon.
- 3.3 The LA website is being extensively used to support learning and teaching in RE. Development is ongoing. This resource may be accessed through the eRiding website or directly at [www.reweb.org.uk](http://www.reweb.org.uk). This website is being accessed by teachers from both within and outside the LA. The Agreed Syllabus (2005) and Schemes of Work (2006) are available on this site.
- 3.4 The LA's Religious Education Newsletter entitled *REsource* is sent to schools twice yearly and the LA maintains an up-to-date resources base to support the teaching of RE. Resources available for loan are identified on the website.
- 3.5 *REaction* days, promoting creativity in the RE curriculum, have become increasingly popular and successful. Workshops on the theme of *Wilberforce - Belief in Action* that ran in the summer term, in conjunction with local parishes, attracted around 2,300 Key Stage 2/Key Stage 3 transition pupils and their teachers. This reflected participation by about two thirds of East Riding schools.

#### **4. Standards Attained and the Quality of Teaching**

- 4.1 Evidence from SIAS reports continued to indicate that standards in primary RE are good or better with some examples of outstanding practice. In the secondary sector the LA has no church schools.
- 4.2 All secondary schools offered either a full or short GCSE course in Religious Studies (or both), with all schools offering the short GCSE course to all pupils. Provision for A-level RE, or related subjects, remains at a low level across the East Riding (42 pupils in 9 schools sat the full A-level paper).
- 4.3 Schools entered pupils for examinations set by a variety of examining boards (OCR, AQA, and EDEXCEL).
- 4.4 The results for the GCSE and A-levels are attached in appendix B. In 2007 all schools, with one exception, exceeded the national average for the full course and just over half the schools attained in excess of the national A\*-C average for the short course. As regards A-level, all students who took the course attained at least a grade D with 76% of the candidature attaining grades A-C.
- 4.5 Twelve Church of England (VC) primary schools in the East Riding of Yorkshire received a Diocesan (SIAS) Inspection. Their distinctiveness and effectiveness as Church Schools was judged to be: outstanding in 8% of cases; good in 75% of cases; and satisfactory in 17% of cases. The impact of collective worship on the school community was judged to be: outstanding in 17% of cases; good in 50% of cases and satisfactory in 33% of cases.

- 4.6 No school was judged to be unsatisfactory.
- 4.7 Three secondary sector schools received a 'subject specific' Ofsted inspection. The overall effectiveness of Religious Education was judged to be: satisfactory with some good features in one school; good in another school; and good with many outstanding features in another school. The quality of teaching and learning was good in two schools and satisfactory with some good features in another. The quality of the curriculum was judged to be: satisfactory in one school; good particularly from Year 9 onwards in a second school; and outstanding in many ways in the third school. The quality of leadership and management was satisfactory in one school, good in the second and outstanding in the third.
- 4.8 Ofsted also found that while provision in RE meets the basic statutory requirements, the Agreed Syllabus has not always been used directly as the basis for planning the curriculum at Key Stage 3. However, the Agreed Syllabus Assessment Scale is used successfully.
- 4.9 Two primary sector schools received a 'subject specific' Ofsted inspection. The overall effectiveness of Religious Education was judged to be: satisfactory in one school and outstanding in the other. This was also the case when judgements were returned on the quality of teaching and learning, the quality of the curriculum, and the quality of Leadership and Management of RE.
- 4.10 No unsatisfactory judgements were returned.

## **5. Methods of Teaching, Choice of Materials and Teacher Training**

- 5.1 The LA's School Improvement Service has a nominated School Improvement Adviser who acts as the contact for issues pertaining to RE. He supports the SACRE by acting as the servicing officer for the Council. In addition, highly effective support is provided by a Curriculum Project Manager (CPM) for RE, appointed to support teaching, curriculum planning, Collective Worship, the implementation of the agreed syllabus and to help the SACRE monitor RE provision. This is a joint appointment arrangement between the East Riding of Yorkshire LA and the Anglican Diocese of York. The CPM has worked for 80% of her time for the LA and for 20% of her time on denominational aspects of RE and Collective Worship in Church Schools across the diocese.
- 5.2 Schools continue to make good use of the RE support available through the School Improvement Service and many visits to schools have been made and advice offered on issues pertaining to RE. Newly Qualified Teachers and Teaching Assistants working in primary and special schools have been offered training to support the teaching of the Agreed Syllabus. RE courses have focused on assessment, strategies for effective teaching in KS3 and KS4, and using Information, Communication Technology (ICT) in RE as a teaching resource. Subject Leaders in primary schools met termly and there were cross-unitary network gatherings of secondary RE teachers. The Hull and East Riding Inter-Faith Forum meets bi-monthly and is proving to be a useful vehicle for networking between the different faith groups. It has also enabled RE teachers to

engage with members of other faiths and cultures and address a range of faith and cultural issues. Links with the Hull Development Education Centre (DEC) continue to provide additional resources and support for RE. The Hull DEC is facilitating the *faith2faith* project (see para 2.4 above).

- 5.3 A number of very able young RE teachers have recently taken up posts in East Riding schools. The SACRE liaises with staff leading PGCE courses in RE at Hull University and offers access to the RE CPD programme provided by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's School Improvement Service. The active support of senior staff at Hull University's Centre for Educational Studies is greatly appreciated.

## **6. Collective Worship**

- 6.1 Members of the SACRE continue to express concern that the current Ofsted inspection process prevents them from gaining objective information on provision for Collective Worship in the County's schools.
- 6.2 No complaints about the provision of Collective Worship were received by the SACRE last year and there were no determinations.
- 6.3 Schools continue to make use of the East Riding guidance for Collective Worship as outlined in *Worship Works* (April 2002), now complemented by a Diocese of York publication *Worship Works in Church of England Schools* (2005). In 2007, the SACREs of the Humber area, working together, began to review *Worship Works* (2002). In order to start the review process a survey questionnaire was sent to schools seeking their views about the effectiveness of their Collective Worship. The results of the questionnaire will inform the review. There was a 20% return of questionnaires and schools who participated report that their School Councils engaged positively with the survey.
- 6.4 In partnership with the York Diocese, schools and parish teams have been offered access to training in spiritual development through '*Godly Play*'. Joint working between the Diocese and the LA in the '*Church-School Links*' project has promoted the engagement of parishes with their schools, both church schools and community schools. Primary sector church schools make good use of pupils to lead short acts of worship for their peers and there is a wide variety of Collective Worship activities at whole school level and in a range of other smaller groupings.

## **7. SACRE Meetings**

- 7.1 The SACRE meetings are held termly.
- 7.2 SACRE members receive denominational Section 48 reports. Each report is reviewed and, where appropriate, the SACRE's comments on selected reports are followed up by sending individual letters to schools. Further follow-up may take place through contact with members of the School Improvement Service.

- 7.3 The SACRE has begun a process of self-evaluating its effectiveness in its relationship to East Riding Council, using the NASACRE toolkit; at each meeting a different aspect is considered.

## **8. Other Issues**

- 8.1 The SACRE remains busy promoting, supporting and maintaining partnerships between schools and faith communities.
- 8.2 A Joint SACRE Development Plan continues to inform the work of the East Riding of Yorkshire and Hull City Council SACREs. Two joint meetings are scheduled each year between the two SACREs and the Development Plan has focused upon: the implementation of the schemes of work associated with the new joint Agreed Syllabus; a professional development programme for RE teachers; support for *faith2faith* and the associated conference; developing self-evaluation of the SACREs and the monitoring of RE and Collective Worship in schools.
- 8.3 On behalf of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, SACRE members take the lead in promoting the *Holocaust Memorial Day* (HMD) in the East Riding. All secondary schools are provided with the HMD Trust materials. In January 2007 East Riding Council held a commemorative event at Headlands School and Community Science College, Bridlington. Many pupils in the school participated in the preparations for the event, leading to a cross-curricular display in the school hall and culminating in a Saturday afternoon presentation to an audience invited by the Chair of East Riding Council. Plans are well advanced for a presentation by Howden School and Technology College in January 2008. The SACRE is very grateful for the hard work and support of all the teachers and pupils involved, and their moving personal contributions to HMD.

## Appendix A

### Membership of East Riding Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 2006-2007

- Committee A: Christian and other Religious Denominations

Mrs L Holmes (Free Church Council) until February 2007; Mr C Mulligan (Roman Catholic); Mr D Thacker (Free Church Council); Mr M Westerman (Jewish Orthodox)

- Committee B: Church of England

Rev J. Artley (Diocese of York); Rev J.A Evans (Diocese of York)

- Committee C: Teacher Associations

Mrs C. Ryan (Westfield Primary School); Mr H Nind (Headlands School);  
Dr J Bennett (Headteacher: Anlaby Acre Heads Primary School)

- Committee D: Local Authority

Councillor R Blake-James (Conservative Group) until May 2007; Councillor A Kay (Liberal Democrat Group) until May 2007; Councillor D. Rudd (Conservative Group); Councillor J. Cox (Independent Group) until May 2007

- Co-opted

Mrs S Holmes (Curriculum Project Manager: Religious Education)

- Servicing Officer

Mr N Jones (Adviser: School Improvement Service)

- Clerk to SACRE

Ms Catherine Train

## **Appendix B**

Results –to be included