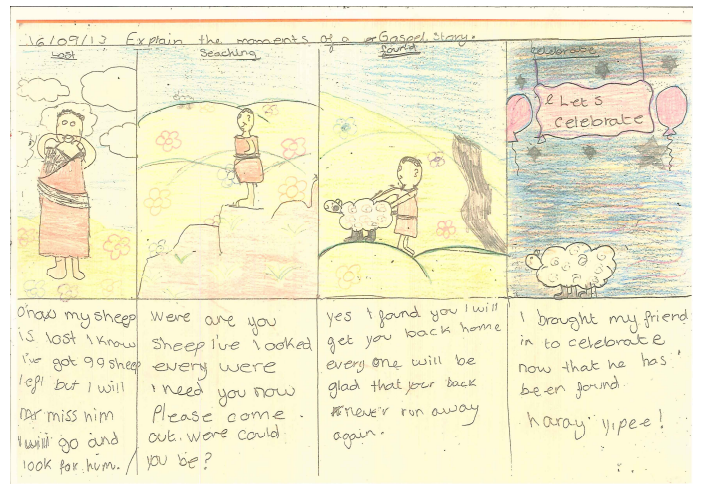


Swindon SACRE Annual Report 2012 -13



Year 7 Students from Dorcan Academy explore the Symbolism used in Indian dance

Year 3 work from St Francis VA Church of England School
"Explain the meaning of a Gospel Story"



Year 3 Children from Bridlewood Primary School visit a church to find out how Christians worship God

Chair's Introduction

It has been an exhaustive year for Swindon SACRE in responding to some conflicting messages from the coalition Government about the place of Religious Education in English Schools.

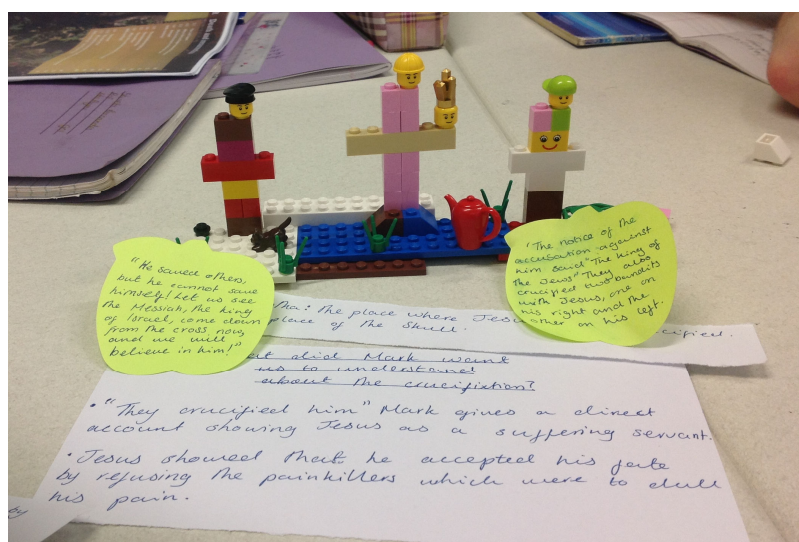
Some schools in Swindon have struggled to find the curriculum time to ensure full entitlement to Religious Education and in KS4 a few schools are prioritising other Humanities subjects over RE. Whereas in Primary schools, anecdotal evidence, reveals the pressure to deliver appropriate English and Maths progression has also been detrimental to the appropriate time to be offered to Religious Education.

Despite that some exciting and innovative RE is happening in Swindon Schools and we have been able to continue to support teachers through network meetings and access to an informed and committed adviser.

Swindon SACRE is a hard working group of people from all faiths and non committed to seeing children and young people in the area equipped to live in a religiously diverse world. They should be appreciated for the service they have offered by sitting on this council this year 2012- 13 .

Mark Cawte

Year 10 students explain the significance of the crucifixion for Christians by using Lego.



Executive Summary

The report meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Act, which states that:

- 'The council shall in each year publish a report of their functions and any action taken by representative groups on the council during the preceding year.'
- The report is required to specify any matters in respect of which the council has given advice to the authority, and the nature of that advice.

The key function of SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus.¹

The composition of SACRE is set out in legislation.

The four groups or committees represent the following interests within the local community. These are the people that have served for the year September 2012 to - June 2013 or for a part of that period.

- **Committee A Christian Denominations, Other Religions or Religious Denominations**

Reverend David Howell, Swindon Evangelical Alliance
Mr M S Khan, Muslim Community
Mr Dinesh Patel, Hindu Community,
Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community – Deputy
Mr Mark Cawte, Methodist Church (Chair from December 2012)
Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church
Mr Tony McAteer, Catholic Community
Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte, United Reformed Church

- **Committee B The Church of England**

Reverend Norma McKemey
Ms Steph Mordin
Miss Janet French
Mrs Penny Summers
Reverend Beth Brown

- **Committee C Teacher Association Representatives**

Mrs Tracy Mason
Mrs Mandy Sandleton
Miss Lottie Rowe
Mr Paul Sunners
Ms Mel Shepherd
Ms Catherine Lomax
Mrs Victoria Misselbrook

- **Committee D The Local Authority.**
Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair)

¹ Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996

Councillor Russell Holland
Councillor James Robbins
Councillor Fay Howard
Councillor Claire Ellis
Councillor Alan Bishop
Councillor Fionuala Foley

Support Officers:

Ms Katy Staples, SACRE Adviser, 0117 9175583, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org
Ms Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser
Mr Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning
Miss Sarah Lawrence Committee Officer

Members are nominated by appropriate organisations and appointments confirmed by the Local Authority. Other members may be co-opted.

SACRE met on four occasions during the Academic year 2012 - 13

All meetings were quorate.

Tuesday 25th September 2012

At St Francis Church of England VA Primary School, Aitken Road, Taw Hill, SN25 1UH

Agenda items were:

- Religious Education at St Francis School and the role of the Community Link support worker in supporting RE
- National Updates on RE
- A SACRE self Assessment activity to make the next Development Plan
- Update on RE Network meetings

Tuesday 4th December 2012

Committee Room 3, Civic Offices

Agenda items were:

- A Tribute and memorial for Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair of SACRE)
- The election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair
- REC Draft Review
- National Developments
- Feedback from Network Meetings
- SACRE Development Plan

Tuesday 19th March 2013

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

Agenda items were

- SACRE Annual Report and Development Plan
- National Developments in RE
- Feedback from Network meetings

Tuesday 25th June 2013

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

- Membership Update
- Examples of the Activities that happen in RE Teacher Network meetings

- National Developments including the final comments on the Draft RE Review sent to the REC
- SACRE Development Plan - and setting up sub groups
- Feedback from network meetings
- A fond farewell was offered to Sarah Lawrence who had acted as Clerk to SACRE for 10 years

Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead

Challenges for SACRE include

- Offering continuing support for RE within a limited budget.
- Keeping alive a local community of shared best practice and enthusiasm amongst a changing landscape of school providers
- On going need to monitor achievements in RE effectively
- To ensure that the work of SACRE is understood by different stakeholders in Swindon.

Opportunities include

- The enthusiasm and professionalism of SACRE members. This is exemplified by members who have volunteered and worked hard on sub-committees.
- Continued commitment and dedication of teachers as shown by attendance at Network meetings and other CPD opportunities offered by SACRE

1. Standards and quality of Religious Education (RE) Provision

1a. Compliance and time allocation for RE

The Locally Agreed Syllabus sets out the required number of hours for each pupil in relation to the delivery of RE, which is 36 hours in Key Stage 1 and is 45 hours per year for Key Stage 2, 3 and 4.

With the lack of information available through Ofsted reporting, it is very difficult to determine whether community schools and academies are fully compliant with the statutory requirements for RE.

This next yellow highlighted section will need updating when the 2013 examination results are presented

It is recognised in the examination entry statistics at Key Stage 4, that there has been a decline of 79 students being entered for a public examination in RE in the last year.

Only 47.4 % of students in Swindon are entered for a public examination in RE

Within over half of Swindon Schools the majority of students are not following a public examination course.

Churchfields, and Dorcan School as well as Swindon Academy schools appear to have not entered any students for a public examination in RE at KS4 ,for 2 of those schools this is a new phenomenon in

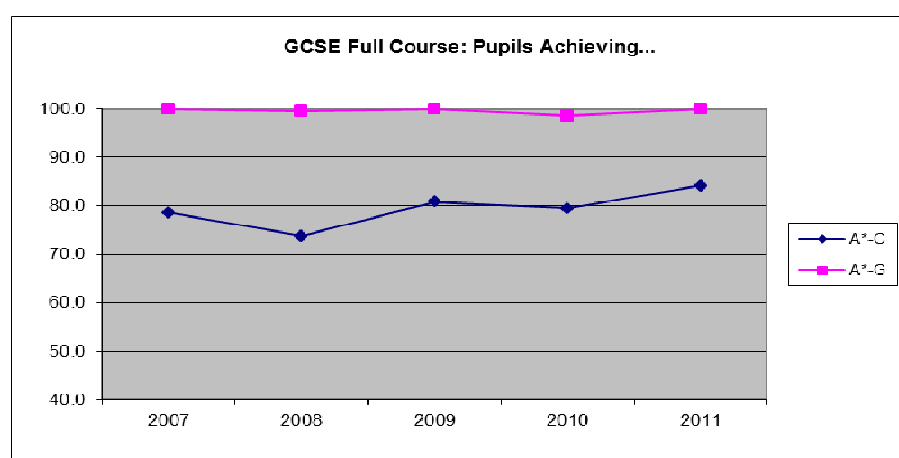
1b Public Examination entries in RE

Results for the **GCE and GCSE.**

323 students out of cohort of 2293 were entered for full course which is the highest number in three years. This represents a 1.5 % increase in the numbers of entrants since last year. The largest number of examination entries were from St Joseph's Catholic College. However Greendown, Kingsdown Ridgeway, and Warneford Schools, also had pupils taking full course RE examinations.

Results from the 2011 full GCSE were 84.2 % A* - C which was considerably above the national average of 71.1% and represents the best results for full course RE in Swindon in five years.

GCSE Full Course: Pupils Achieving...					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
A*-C	78.6	73.8	80.9	79.5	84.2
A*-G	100.0	99.6	100.0	98.6	100.0

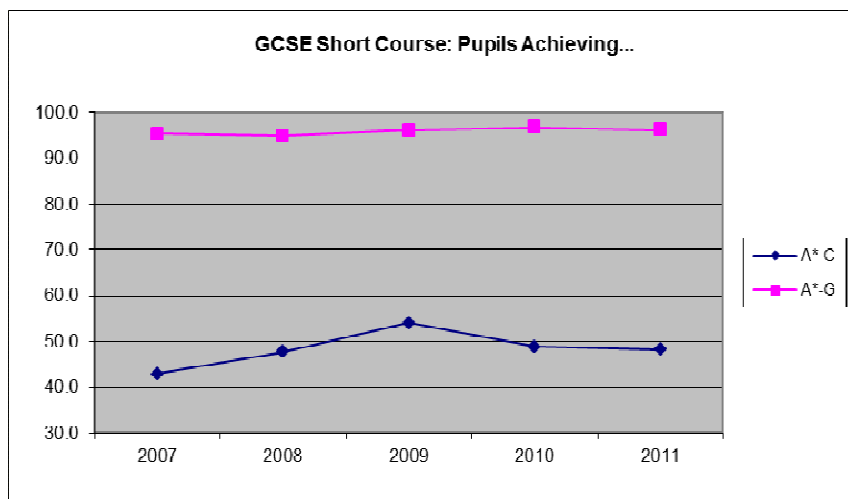


764 students from 7 schools (including 2 special schools) out of a cohort of 2293 were entered for short course RE which is the lowest number for 4 years. This represents a 5% decrease in entrants since last year.

Nova Hreod, Greendown, Commonweal Schools and Warneford School all entered the majority of their cohort for RE short course examination entries.

Results from the short course were 48.2 % A* - C which is below the national average of 50.4% and just below the Swindon 2010 results 48.9%

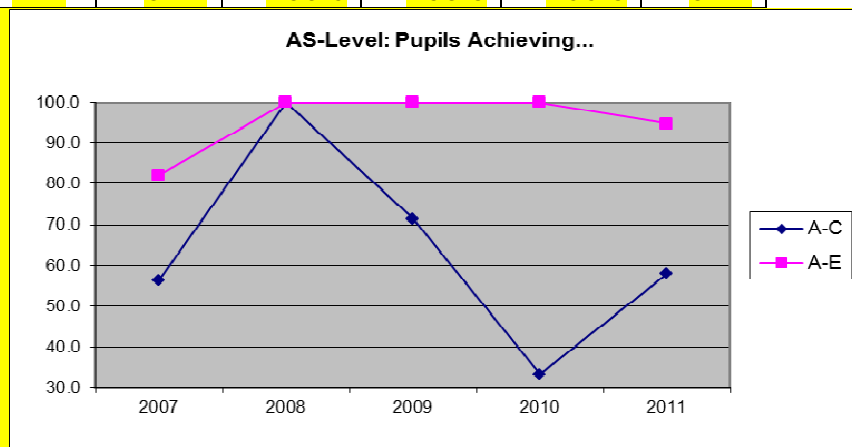
GCSE Short Course: Pupils Achieving...					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
A*-C	42.9	47.7	54.0	48.9	48.2
A*-G	95.4	94.9	96.1	96.8	96.2



GCE A and AS Level Religious Studies

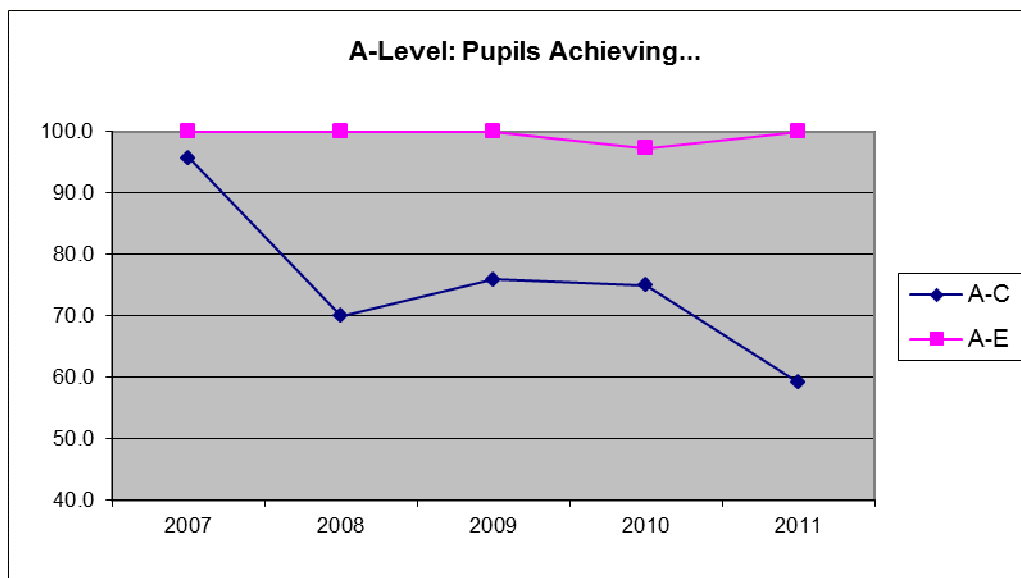
The numbers taking AS level increased to 19 from 14 in 2010. The largest number of examination entries came from New College. With Ridgeway School also entering students. There was an increase in standards from 33% A-C grades in 2010 to 57.9% A-C grades in 2011.

AS-Level: Pupils Achieving...					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
A-C	56.4	100.0	71.4	33.3	57.9
A-E	82.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	94.7



49 pupils took A level in 2011 (13 more than in 2009). The highest number of examination entries came from St Joseph's Roman Catholic College and New College. The average percentage gaining A*-C was 59.2% which was the lowest for 5 years and quite considerably lower than last year's 75%. Those gaining A*-E was 94.7%.

A-Level: Pupils Achieving...					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
A-C	95.7	70.0	75.9	75.0	59.2
A-E	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.2	100.0



1c Standards and achievement quality of teaching and quality of leadership and management of RE

There are no methods for collecting verifiable evidence of levels of achievement in RE, other than through public examination results. There are no opportunities to access sufficient information to make a well-substantiated judgement on the quality of RE teaching or leadership and management of RE in Swindon schools.

Support has been offered to both Primary and Secondary RE teachers about the management of RE and key National documents have been shared, modelled and discussed during network meetings.

2. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

SACRE members have been offered training at the SW SACRE conference in Dillington House but unfortunately no members except the adviser were able to attend.

The LA officers Sarah Foulkes and Paddy Bradley have attended SACRE meetings and have been kept informed of national and local developments in RE.

Local councillors play an informed and supportive role in all SACRE meetings.

The diverse constituents of SACRE ensure that the breadths of beliefs held in Swindon are represented and links to those key stakeholders are sustained.

2a SACRE development

CPD offered.

All Secondary Schools in Swindon are now Academies, network meetings are financially supported by SACRE and attendance at these meetings by RE colleagues has remained at a level constant to the time prior to these schools becoming academies.

Three of these meetings were held in the academic year 2011 – 12 .

Three network meetings were also held for primary colleagues.

Primary /Secondary/Venue	Date/Topic
Lydiard Park Academy	26/9/12 Sharing Good Practice - examples from colleagues best units of work
Lydiard Park Academy	16/1/13 Assessment and progression in RE : Providing the right challenge?
Lydiard Park Academy	17/4/13 Ethics and RE : using the Media – making lessons relevant and rigorous
Primary Goddard Park Primary School	4/10/12 How to be an effective RE Subject leader
Primary Orchid Vale Primary School	31/1/13 Assessment and Challenge in RE: Providing the right challenge?
Primary Liden Primary School	7/5/13 Compelling and Creative ideas in RE

Further Training signposted for teachers

3 Secondary Colleagues attended the Wiltshire Secondary RE Conference

5 Colleagues both Primary and Secondary accessed the Bristol and South Glos. Annual RE conference for RE teachers

3. The Effectiveness of the local Agreed Syllabus

3a

The update for the Locally Agreed Syllabus was launched in June 2011 and so this has been a year of further consolidation. With limited capacity to observe teaching and learning it is hard to effectively evaluate the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

4. Collective Worship

Last year a central focus for SACRE was Collective worship when the guidance document "A Time to Breathe" was written and circulated.

This continues to be an important inspirational resource for Swindon Schools.

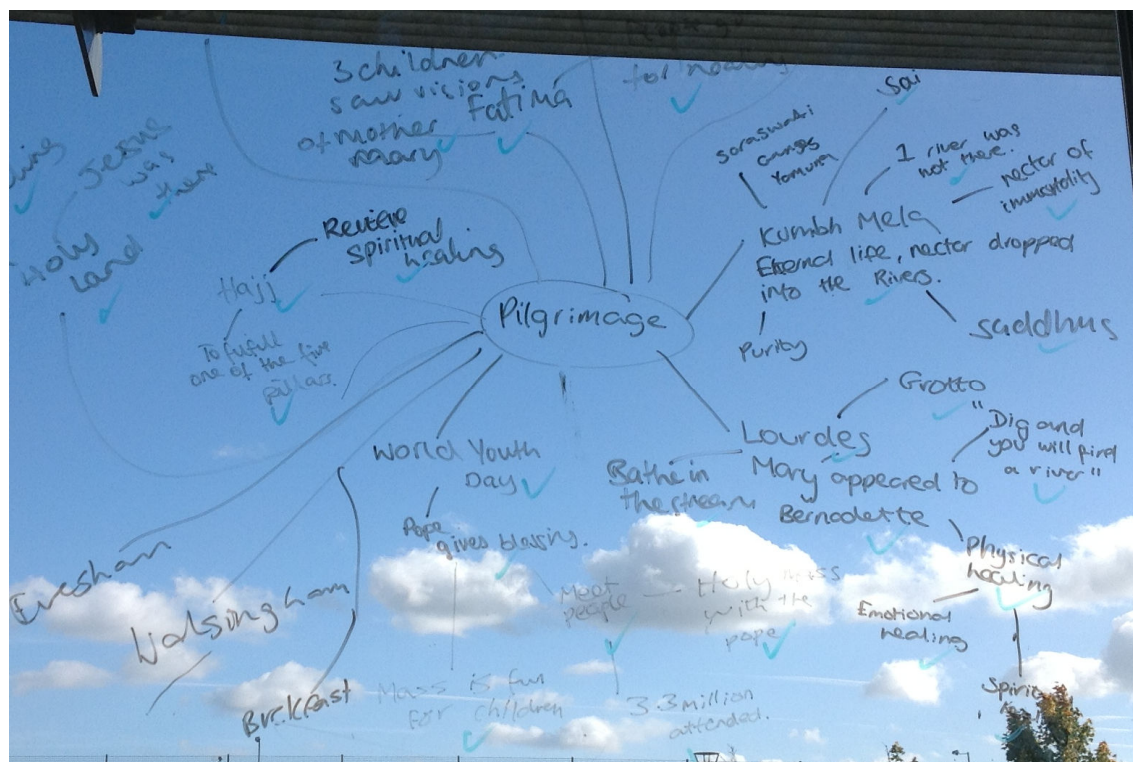
There were no determinations in force during the reporting year.

No formal complaints or other matters were referred to SACRE this year.

5. SACRE as a representative effective diverse community

There is an active and participatory ethos and sense of community within Swindon SACRE, the quality of debate, spiritual insight and meticulous attention to detail has been observed throughout full committee meetings and in working parties.

2012 -13 has been a sustained year of faithful commitment for Swindon SACRE in the face of movement and flux. The end of the year saw us lose an incredibly thorough diligent and informed clerk in the person of Sarah Lawrence. The academic year started with a time of huge sadness and at the loss of our well respected Chair. SACRE has with resilience continued to serve Swindon conscientiously, making reasoned decisions to support the children of Swindon in their understanding and appreciation of the place of belief in our world.



Year 9 students at St Joseph's make revision mind maps by writing on classroom windows with whiteboard pens