

# Swindon SACRE Annual Report 2009-10



Children from KS1 at Westrop Primary School have interviewed their local vicar Rev Arthur Woo about his work and as a response have made a caring hands tree



King William Street CofE Primary School Celebrate the Nativity Story at Christchurch



Ridgeway School students' display about "Where was God in the Holocaust?"



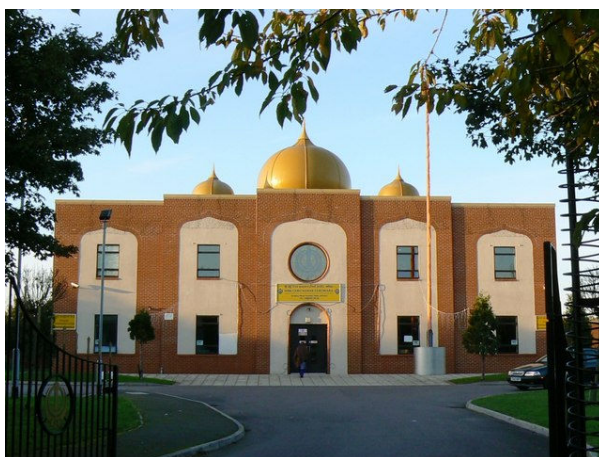
Sixth formers and teachers from Ridgeway School visit Auschwitz

## Chair's Introduction

It has been another effective and focussed year for Swindon SACRE.

Swindon Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education is made up of a very committed and engaged group of people who represent the breadth and balance of the faith and non religious beliefs held in Swindon.

Targeted and helpful support has been offered to all schools this year through network meetings and a highly successful Secondary RE conference was held jointly with Wiltshire local authority. One network meeting for Primary and one for Secondary Colleagues was held at the Sikh Gurdwara in Kembrey St. Swindon.



The continued impact of the "Face to Faith" DVD made in 2008/9 in four Swindon Secondary Schools and funded by NASACRE was supported in November 2009 by a letter sent to all schools suggesting how the DVD might be used in RE lessons in KS2 and KS3.

In 2010 SACRE requested that the Local Authority convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference. The work of the conference has been progressing and members have been working through drafts of an update which is to be introduced in the Summer of 2011. I am personally very grateful to the working group and SACRE adviser who have been working on this update.

As SACRE we are ardent believers in the value of RE within the curriculum and its impact on the spiritual and moral development of children and young people. We are hopeful that the clarifications and extra guidance that the new update to our existing Agreed Syllabus offers will maintain the rightful place of RE as a significant part of the curriculum.

Councillor Doreen Dart  
Chair of SACRE



## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 2009 to- June 2010

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

Mrs Helen Hancox, United Reformed Church  
 Reverend David Howell, Swindon Evangelical Alliance  
 Mr M S Khan, Muslim Community  
 Mr Dinesh Patel, Hindu Community,  
 Mr Malkit Singh Virk, Sikh Community  
 Mrs Wendy Tucker, Methodist Church  
 Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community – Deputy  
 Mr Mark Cawte, United Reformed Church and Methodist Deputy

- **Committee B The Church of England**

Ms Norma McKemey  
 Ms Steph Mundin  
 Mr Paul Noble  
 Mrs Penny Summers  
 Reverend Arthur Woo

- **Committee C Teacher Association Representatives**

David Easter  
 Janet French  
 Jo Garton (Vice Chair)  
 Mrs Tracy Mason  
 Mrs Emma McCarthy  
 Mrs Helen Miller  
 Miss Anne Wang  
 Mrs Mandy Sandleton

- **Committee D The Local Authority.**

Councillor Doreen Dart ( Chair)

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<sup>1</sup> Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996

Councillor Fay Howard (replaced by Councillor Junab Ali in May 2010)  
Councillor Michael Bray  
Councillor Raymond Fisher  
Councillor Mavis Childs (replaced by Councillor Janet Heenan in May 2010)

**Support Officers :**

Ms Katy Staples, SACRE Adviser (Telephone 0117 9175583)  
katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org  
Ms Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser  
Miss Sarah Lawrence , Committee Officer (Telephone 01793 463603)  
slawrence@swindon.gov.uk

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 2009-2010**

All meetings were quorate.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009

Civic Offices Swindon

- Final Report from the Face to Face (NASACRE funded) Project

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009

Civic offices Swindon

- Feedback from schools Survey
- Reviewing the vision of SACRE
- Suggested Code of Conduct for Teachers of RE

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Civic Offices Swindon

- Annual Report
- Development Plan
- Training update

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Civic Offices Swindon

- Implementing the Development plan
- RE in English Schools –responding to guidance
- Effective SACREs carrying on evaluating our role
- Request for Local Authority to set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference & for Advisor to survey local schools on the current Locally Agreed Syllabus.

**Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead**

**Challenges for SACRE include**

- Develop and implement an Update of the existing Agreed Syllabus with a limited budget.
- Supporting effective RE within any new curriculum models developed or introduced by the government
- On going need to monitor achievements in RE effectively

**Opportunities include**

- Ongoing enthusiasm and professionalism of SACRE members
- Ongoing commitment and dedication of teachers as shown by attendance at the Secondary Annual Conference and at Network meetings

## 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.

It is recognised in the examination entry statistics at Key Stage 4, that there has been a decline of 152 students being entered for a public examination in RE in the last year. For example, within half of Swindon Schools the majority of students are not following a public examination course.

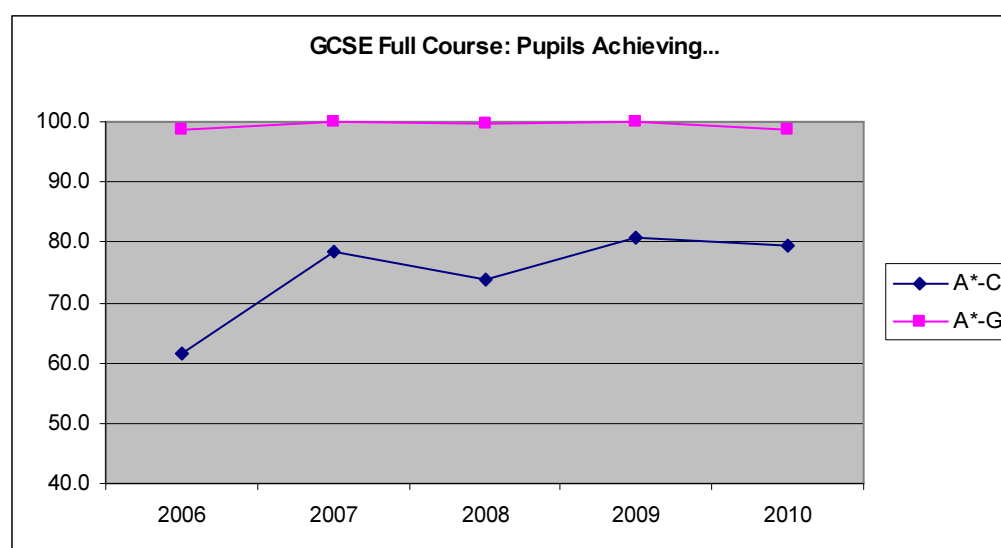
### 1b Public Examination entries in RE

Results for the **2010 GCE and GCSE**.

288 students were entered for full course which is the highest number in three years.

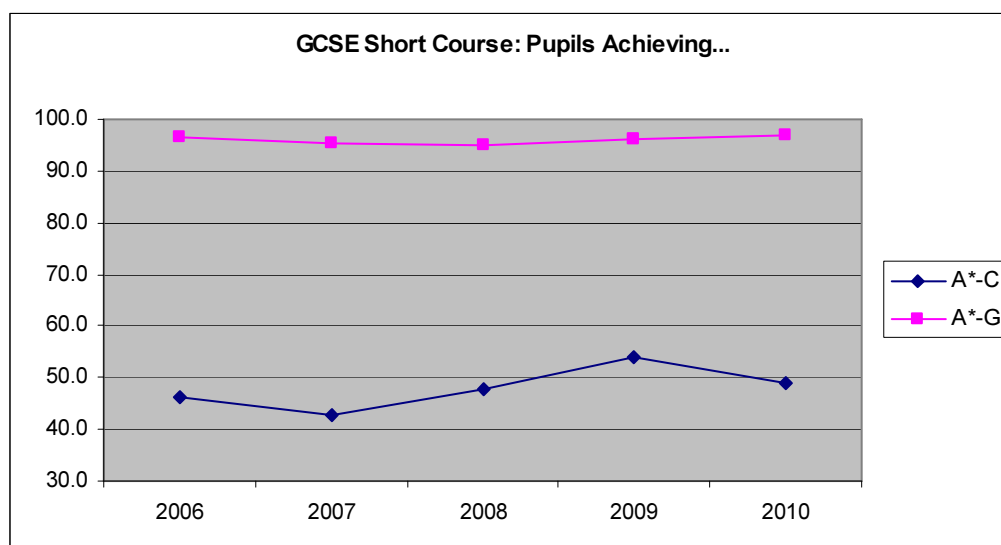
Results from the 2010 full GCSE were 79.5% A\* - C which was above the national average of 73.1% and below the Swindon 2009 results 80.9% but was higher than the three preceding years.

GCSE Full Course: Pupils Achieving...					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A*-C	61.7	78.6	73.8	80.9	79.5
A*-G	98.7	100.0	99.6	100.0	98.6



878 students were entered for short course RE which is the lowest number for 3 years. Results from the short course were 48.9 % A\* - C which is below the national average of 54.6% and below the Swindon 2009 results 54.0%

GCSE Short Course: Pupils Achieving...					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A*-C	46.2	42.9	47.7	54.0	48.9
A*-G	96.5	95.4	94.9	96.1	96.8



### ELQ Band C Religious Studies

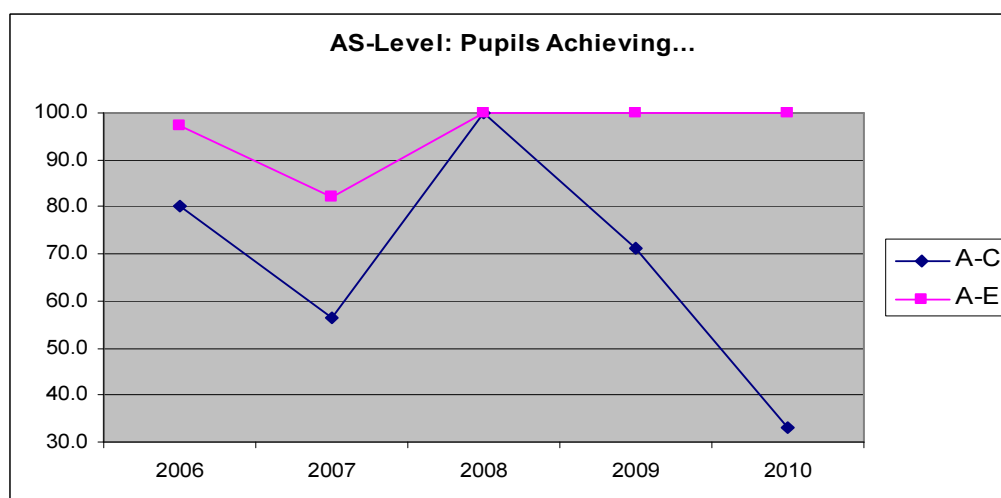
10 students were entered for this examination. 100% gained levels 3-1

### GCE A and AS Level Religious Studies

The numbers taking AS level decreased from 14 in 2009 to 12 in 2010.

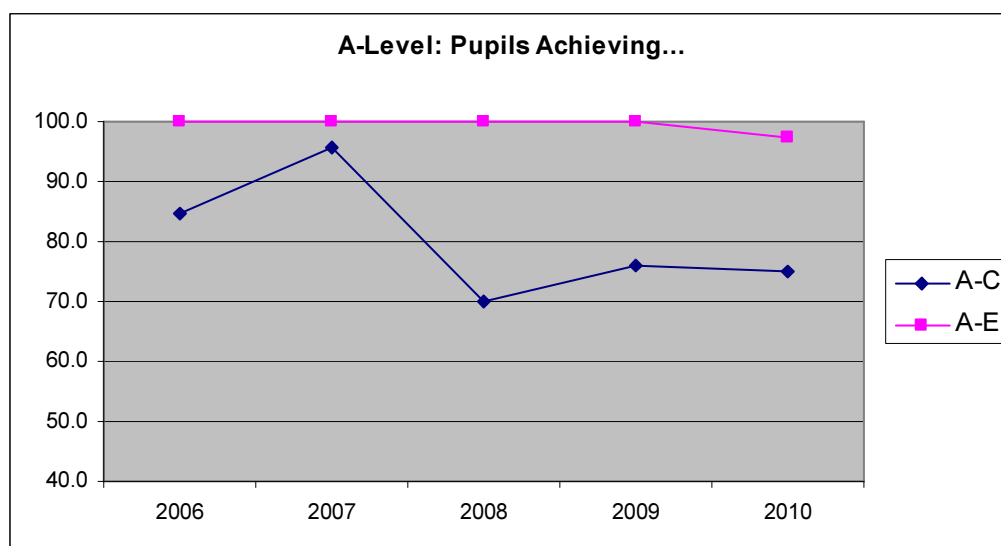
There was a large drop in standards from 71.4% A-C grades in 2009 to 33% A-C grades in 2010

AS-Level: Pupils Achieving...					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A-C	80.0	56.4	100.0	71.4	33.3
A-E	97.1	82.1	100.0	100.0	100.0



36 pupils took A level in 2010 (7 more than in 2009 ). The average percentage gaining A\*- C was 75.0%-and gaining A\*-E was 97.2%

A-Level: Pupils Achieving...					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A-C	84.6	95.7	70.0	75.9	75.0
A-E	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.2



### **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 self-evaluation through network meetings and colleagues have been recommended to use the self evaluation toolkit on the Better RE website.

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

During the year Mr Mark Cawte and Mr Arun Bedi from Swindon SACRE accessed NASACRE training for members in group A and Rev. Arthur Woo and Mr MS Khan have accessed training from NASACRE for those who are new to SACRE. They benefitted greatly from that training which they all reported as being most useful. SACRE as a whole has used some elements of the NASACRE "Effective SACREs" DVD on the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

**2a SACRE development****CPD offered.**

During the year 3 Secondary network meetings were held and 3 Primary network meetings:

<b>Primary /Secondary/Venue</b>	<b>Date/Topic</b>
Secondary –Churchfield School	4/11/2009 Face to faith DVD/NATRE films for RE and ideas for teaching Sanctity of Life issues
Primary -St. Francis CofE VA School	19/11/2009 Using Philosophy 4 Children strategies to develop questioning and reasoning in RE
Secondary – Commonweal School	03/02/2010 KS3 and 4 resources review – what works for you? How to plan RE when it is in a more integrated model
Primary – Sikh Gurdwara Kembrey Rd	18/3/2010 How to arrange a trip to the Temple Enhancing teaching about Sikhism and supporting Community Cohesion and Learning outside the classroom
Secondary Sikh Gurdwara Kembrey Rd	16/6/2010 How to arrange a trip to the Temple Enhancing teaching about Sikhism Supporting Community Cohesion and Learning outside the classroom
Primary Liden School	17/6/2010 Self Evaluation - getting ready for an Inspection Assessment , Evidence and Management of the subject

**Secondary RE Conference**

“RE at the heart of a changing Curriculum”

10<sup>th</sup> June 2010

This was held jointly with Wiltshire County

8 teachers from Swindon attended.

Workshops included topics such as:

- Compelling learning in RE,
- Linking RE with Personal , Learning and Thinking Skills
- Spiritual Development and RE
- Enquiry based learning at KS3
- Learning outside the classroom
- Around the World in 80 Faiths.

Feedback was very good with 95% Excellent or Very Good ratings.



### **3. The Effectiveness of the local Agreed Syllabus**

**3a** The Swindon Agreed Syllabus was adopted in 2006 and is due to renewal in 2011. A consultation with teachers in Swindon about the current Agreed Syllabus has taken place.

SACRE set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference at its meeting in June 2010, and this has carefully considered the options open to schools and has since decided to **continue with the current agreed syllabus but issue an update to be launched in June 2011 and be in use by September 2011** that will serve to respond to some of the changes in curriculum and advice that has been issued concerning RE since the last Agreed Syllabus was written.

The adviser to SACRE has been participating in a collaboration project with QCDA on how to develop a balance between local and national input for agreed syllabuses. This has enabled Swindon SACRE to be kept up to date and contribute to national developments.

#### **3b Developing the New update to the Agreed Syllabus**

The revision of the Swindon Agreed Syllabus has followed a pattern of setting up an Agreed Syllabus Conference; consultation with schools; a discussion of the strengths and weakness of three possible options and a decision to continue with the current agreed syllabus but offer an update

This Update should offer a structure to support the teaching of RE through a variety of curriculum models and will provide clear planning guidance to support existing programmes of study.

### **4. Collective Worship**

As the focus this year has been concentrating on supporting the effective delivery of compelling Religious Education and setting up for reviewing the Agreed Syllabus little time has been given to focus on Collective Worship.

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 excellent ethos and sense of community within Swindon SACRE the quality of debate and engagement has been very high as has been demonstrated in the discussions concerning the agreed syllabus review. The contributions of different faith groups that represent the communities of Swindon is further evidence of the breadth of engagement within this SACRE community.