

Swindon SACRE Annual Report 2010 – 2011



Schools and Colleges in Swindon submitted work for an art exhibition in the Central Library and other locations about Jesus' journey to death and resurrection. This picture is by a student from New College



Reception children at Bridlewood Primary School learnt about Diwali from a parent



Pupils from Liden Primary School visit Gorse Hill Mosque



80 people attended the Launch of a New Update for the Swindon Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE



The Bishop of Swindon, Lee Rayfield, visited Swindon Academy to talk about Medical Ethics to KS4 students.



Pupils at Orchid Vale Primary School learned about Holi – the Hindu festival of colours – during a special religious education 'close encounter' day. Two Hindus – Dinesh Patel and Sagar Shah – visited Orchid Vale and Covingham Park Primary Schools to speak to the children about the festival, its meaning and how it is celebrated.



Pupils from Westrop Primary School visited the Sikh Temple in Gorse Hill

Chair's Introduction

It has been a most exciting, hard working and inspirational year for SACRE.

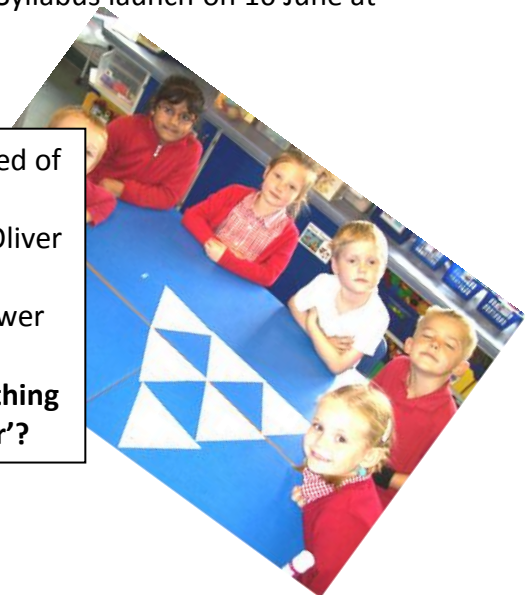
Swindon Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education is made up of an extremely committed, diverse and engaged group of people, who this year have shown their dedication in supporting the development of RE in schools by helping to launch the Update for the Locally Agreed Syllabus and by visiting and supporting activities during "Celebrating RE month".

Targeted and helpful support has been offered to all schools this year through network meetings and the training offered at the Update to the Agreed Syllabus launch on 16 June at Bridlewood School.



An EYFS workshop at the launch of the Update to the Agreed Syllabus

An example shared of Good Practice. Year 1 Pupils at Oliver Tomkins CofE VA School try to answer the question **"Is there such a thing as a 'good prayer'?"**



The Launch of the New Update to the Agreed Syllabus was a huge success and we hope this document will offer schools further guidance and models to be creative in delivering challenging and exciting RE to the children and young people in Swindon.

I am indebted to the working party, the Adviser to SACRE, the staff and pupils of Bridlewood School and the Bishop of Swindon for ensuring the launch was such a success.

As SACRE we are ardent believers in the value of RE within the curriculum and its positive impact on the academic understanding and spiritual development for future generations. In this last year SACRE members have lived out their commitment to RE by supporting schools with their time and experience during "Celebrating RE" month and I am most grateful to them.

The number of examination entries have fallen again this year for KS4 and this is a worrying statistic for SACRE. The entitlement of all pupils in Swindon to Religious Education is a legal requirement and we will seek to place as much influence over schools as is within our gift, to encourage pupils to receive good RE at all phases of their compulsory Education.

I commend this Annual Report to you.

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.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 2010 to - June 2011

- **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
Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community – Deputy
Mr Mark Cawte, United Reformed Church and Methodist Deputy
Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church
Mr Tony McAteer, Catholic Community

- **Committee B The Church of England**

Reverend Norma McKemey
Ms Steph Mordin
Mrs Janet French
Mrs Penny Summers
Reverend Arthur Woo

- **Committee C Teacher Association Representatives**

Mr David Easter
Mrs Janet French
Ms Jo Garton (Vice-Chair)
Mrs Tracy Mason
Ms Helen Miller
Mrs Mandy Sandleton
Miss Lottie Rowe

- **Committee D The Local Authority.**

Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair)
Councillor Junab Ali
Councillor Michael Bray
Councillor Raymond Fisher
Councillor Janet Heenan
Councillor Ellen Osa
Councillor Joe Tray

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

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, 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 2010-2011

All meetings were quorate.

Tuesday 28th September 2010

Civic Offices Swindon

- Feedback from the Agreed Syllabus Collaboration Group
- Exemplification materials on the QCDA website
- Locally Agreed Syllabus review – ASC feedback
- Primary and Secondary best Practice meetings

Tuesday 7th December 2010

St Michael and All Angels Church - Highworth

- Implementing the SACRE Development Plan
- Celebrating RE Month
- Update on Network Meetings
- Agreed Syllabus Conference

Tuesday 15th March 2011

Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Swindon, SN2 1 AA

- Annual Report
- Development Plan
- Celebrating RE Month – feedback
- Feedback from Network meetings

Tuesday 7th June 2011

Civic Offices Swindon

- Reaching Out for Change – short films made with Create studios “Same Difference” made by Ridgeway School was watched
- Celebrating RE – further feedback
- National Developments for RE – a paper by John Keast
- SACRE and Academies
- Feedback from Network meetings

Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead

Challenges for SACRE include:

- Offering continuing support for the Agreed Syllabus Update within a limited budget.
- Keeping alive a local community of shared best practice and enthusiasm amongst a changing landscape of Academies and less income available to the local authority.
- Ongoing 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 Network meetings and the launch of the Update to the Agreed Syllabus.



Pupils from St Francis CofE VA Primary School explore Easter in a “New Life Day”



A'Level Religious Studies Students from Ridgeway School revise on weekend residential course



One pupil's answer to the question – “Why do we have RE in school?”
Bridlewood School

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 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 2011.

1b. Public Examination entries in RE

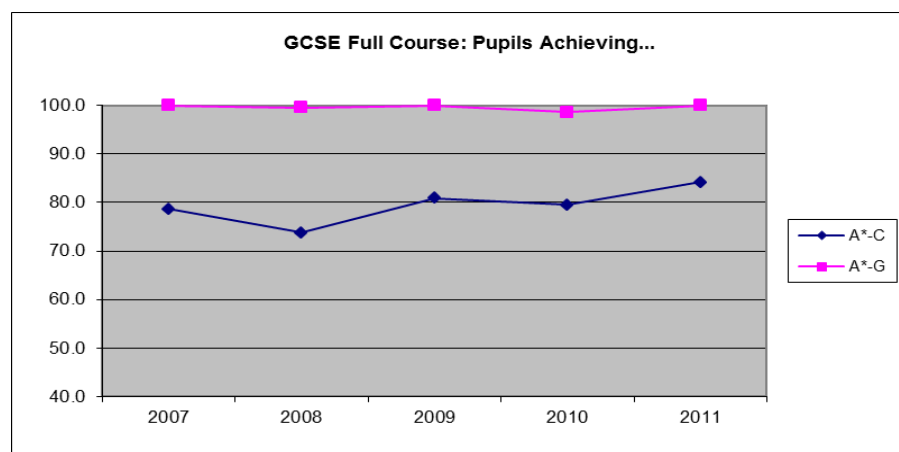
Results for the **2011 GCE and GCSE**.

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 was 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 5 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

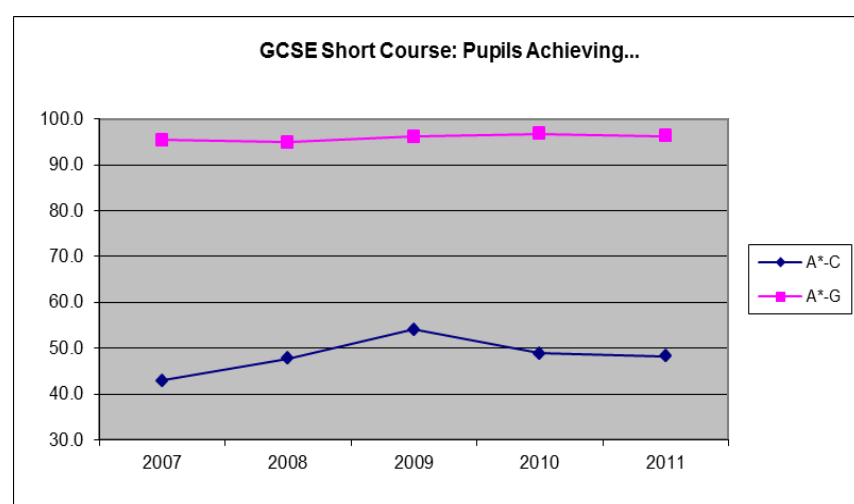


764 students from 7 schools (including 2 special schools) out of a cohort of 2293 were entered for short course RE which is the lowest number for 4 years. This represents a 5% decrease in entrants since last year.

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%

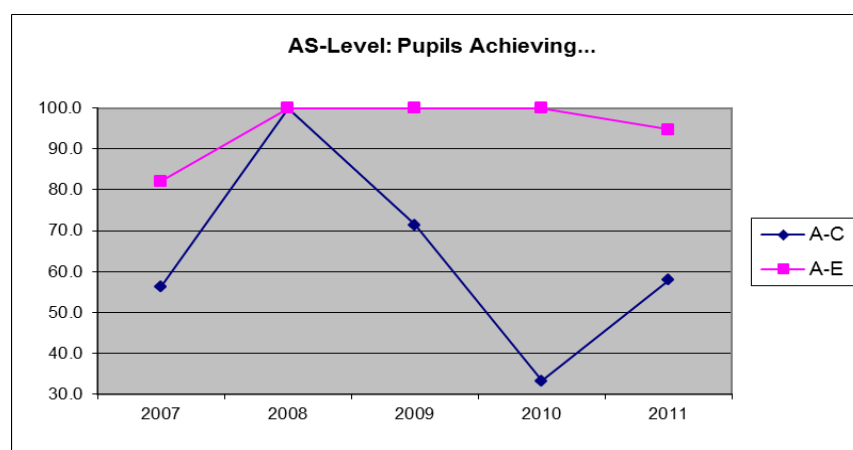
GCSE Short Course: Pupils Achieving...					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
A*-C	42.9	47.7	54.0	48.9	48.2
A*-G	95.4	94.9	96.1	96.8	96.2



GCE A and AS Level Religious Studies

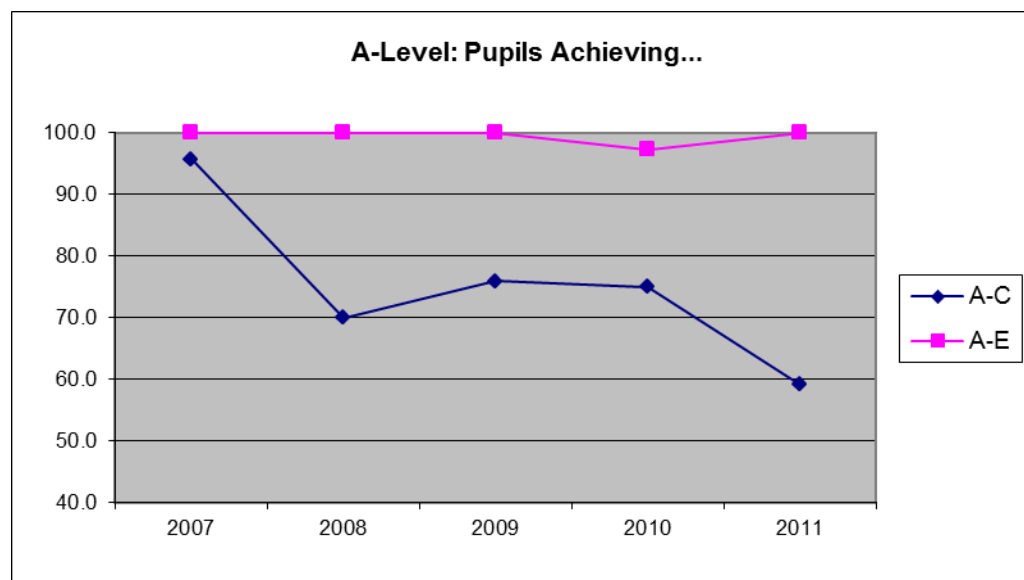
The numbers taking AS level increased to 19 from 14 in 2010. The largest number of examination entries came from New College, with Ridgeway School also entering students. There was an increase in standards from 33% A-C grades in 2010 to 57.9% A-C grades in 2011.

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 2010). 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 and have supported the launch of the Update for the Agreed Syllabus and other SACRE initiatives such as Celebrating RE month.

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 well voiced and links to those key stakeholders are sustained.

During the year Sarah Lane Cawte has joined Swindon SACRE who also sits on the Religious Education Council – a National Body for RE and that partnership has enriched our capacity.

2a. SACRE development CPD offered.

During the year 2 Secondary network meetings were held and 3 Primary network meetings. The third Secondary network meeting was cancelled as it was the same day as the launch and training for the Update to the Agreed Syllabus.

Primary/Secondary/Venue	Date/Topic
Secondary Ridgeway School	14/10/2010 Sharing: "What's the best scheme of work that you teach?"
Primary Liden School	23/9/2010 How to be a good Subject leader.
Secondary Churchfield School	26/1/11 How do we get better GCSE grades for our students? What works?
Primary Oliver Tomkins CofE VA Infants School	20/1/11 EYFS – a review of Good Practice
Primary St Francis CofE VA Primary	12/5/11 Enquiry based Compelling learning – Ideas for Exciting RE.



**Training offered at the launch of the Update to the Agreed Syllabus
Bridlewood Primary School
16 June 2011**

This included:

- Explanation of what is new and what is the same in the Update
- An EYFS workshop
- KS1, KS2 and KS3 workshops
- Enquiry Based Approach workshop

In the later afternoon, the Bishop of Bristol gave a talk about **The Importance of RE** and gave prizes to pupils who had entered a competition to produce a piece of work that answered the same question.

The initial presentation about the Update was made again to Headteachers, Governors and members of Faith Communities.

Of the evaluation forms returned 98% recorded that the presentation and training was at least good.



3. The Effectiveness of the local Agreed Syllabus

SACRE set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference at its meeting in June 2010 and, throughout the Academic year 2010/11, the Agreed Syllabus Working Party worked tirelessly at adding extra guidance, models of delivery and strategies for planning and refining schemes of work and modernising materials offered to schools. Much of this incorporated the advice given through the QCDA collaboration project and included some of the curriculum changes made since 2006 when the last Agreed Syllabus was written in conjunction with Wiltshire LA.

The new update and the agreed syllabus and all support materials can be found on Merlin.

4. Collective Worship

As the focus for 2010/11 has been to concentrate on supporting the effective delivery of compelling Religious Education and writing appropriate materials for the Update to the Agreed Syllabus no development work has been undertaken about Collective Worship in Swindon schools. This is a priority for 2011/12.

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 was demonstrated in the Agreed Syllabus Working party and at the launch of the Update to the Agreed Syllabus.

However the extensive commitment and support offered to schools by SACRE during Celebrating RE Month was inspiring.

Ten Swindon Schools arranged special RE events for **Celebrating RE Month**.

Every school had a member of SACRE visit the school on that day to celebrate and witness the good practice.

When Liden Primary School went to visit Gorse Hill Mosque Rev Norma McKemey went with them.



Rev Arthur Woo accompanied children from Liden School to their local Church and children from Westrop School to the Sikh Gurdwara.

Jo Garston visited South Marston CofE VC Primary School when they had a Story Teller telling stories from the Bible for the day.

David Burbidge visited St Francis CofE VA School when pupils were exploring the journey of Easter for a “New Life Day”.



Mark Cawte visited Swindon Academy to witness years 10 and 11 students quizzing the Bishop of Swindon about Medical Ethics and a videoconference with a School in New Delhi was overseen by Lottie Rowe as part of the Face to Faith international project.

Dinesh Patel visited Orchid vale and Covingham Primary Schools to talk to them about the Hindu Faith.

Although 2010-2011 has seen a year where the Government’s commitment for RE has been questioned due to the non-inclusion of RE in the new EBacc measurement for Schools, Swindon SACRE’s commitment, support and passion for excellent RE has been vibrant, practical and hard working.