

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel	
MEETING	Monday 13th May 2024 at 9.30am, Council Chamber – Guildhall, Bath.	
TITLE:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual report	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1: Bath and North East Somerset SACRE -Annual Report - September 2022-August 2023		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 A Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is legally constituted by the Local Authority with the responsibility for overseeing religious education and collective worship in the community, voluntary controlled foundation schools without a religious character and trust schools.

The annual report (appendix 1) contains key actions and findings throughout the year.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to review the SACRE Annual Report for information.

3 THE REPORT

The full SACRE Annual Report is attached, and the SACRE Clerk has provided the following summary:

Each year SACRE monitors school websites to examine the RE curriculum and to ensure schools are meeting their legal obligations. Due to the number of schools this is done over a 3-year cycle. In 2022-23 SACRE members reviewed a total of 19 websites. SACRE continued to develop its links nationally (NASACRE), regionally (South West) and locally (including 'Learn, Teach, Lead RE'). Alongside this, SACRE continued to have membership and links with various local faith groups and the inter-faith network as well as seeking to appoint members where there are vacancies.

Aiming to improve the working of SACRE, time for discussion was instituted within the SACRE meetings, considering questions such as the characteristics of a successful SACRE. Three schools in the area, which did extremely well in GCSE exams, were congratulated. It was noted that B&NES is fifth from bottom in terms of numbers of students entered nationally (only 17.5% entered, compared to 34% nationally). Three schools were also awarded the WIRE (Widening Inclusivity in Religious Education) Award.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

The law says that religious education (RE) must be taught in all schools and academies and a SACRE's role is to advise its LA on what needs to be done to improve RE and collective worship for schools in its area. This is because RE is not part of the National Curriculum; it is a local responsibility. Through the SACRE, local communities and teachers have the opportunity to influence and support what pupils learn in RE.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

None

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

An EIA has been carried out and submitted to the Equalities Team

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

Approving the online Syllabus minimises climate implications by minimising the need to use paper resources. SACRE meetings are only held face to face once a year to reduce travel.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

10 CONSULTATION

Members of the SACRE Committees were consulted on the Annual Report (these included Cllrs Jackson as a nominated LA representative)

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Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	