



Annual SACRE Report 2014-5

The SACRE has several aspects to its role. It:

- ❖ Advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship and religious education
- ❖ Advises on methods of teaching and resources for religious education
- ❖ Decides whether or not to grant determinations to those schools which apply to have daily worship which is other than of a broadly Christian character
- ❖ Identifies the need for a revised religious education syllabus

In principle, every pupil is entitled to RE of the highest quality... A core duty of the SACRE is to gain an overview of the quality of the RE provision in LA Maintained schools and to develop effective strategies to promote the highest standards." - National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

To help with this endeavour the Bracknell Forest Borough SACRE works with NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs) and The Diocese of Oxford and the other Berkshire SACREs.

This report sets out a brief summary of the work of the Bracknell Forest SACRE over the academic year 2014-2015.

The minutes of the meetings which give more detail can be found at

<http://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=157>

For more information about the role and business of the SACRE please contact:

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1. Introduction

This year has seen a change of personnel in the two advisers to SACRE. After several years as an excellent adviser, Jo Fageant decided to limit her activities and retired from the role.

Anne Andrews a former teacher and already a member of SACRE stepped into the role and has made a very good start by writing termly newsletters for schools. Anne also runs the termly training sessions for RE coordinators and provides SACRE with insights into the help schools require.

Chris Salt has taken over as the LA adviser to SACRE and has offered telling observations on the continued development of RE and collective worship in schools. Chris has also arranged for teachers to address SACRE on how collective worship is implemented in LA schools.

SACRE itself has had concerns about how it can effectively monitor the delivery of RE and collective worship and is seeking ways to aid schools in the delivery of collective worship whilst having some misgivings over the terms under which collective worship is supposed to be delivered.

The SACRE is concerned about its low profile and the council and schools lack of understanding of its role.

Bracknell Forest SACRE is one of the smaller SACREs in terms of the number of schools in its remit, so it is working with the other Berkshire Unitary Authorities on projects to enhance the teachers and pupils RE experience

The focus of SACRE this year has been that of informing itself better of the current situation in Bracknell Forest regarding RE and CW. Following on from the RE survey of last academic year, a survey into CW was undertaken and the results reported to the SACRE and the LA. Teachers from two schools, a primary and a secondary, were invited to take part in the final meeting of the year and give presentations on the way that collective worship is delivered in their schools.

Reports are now regularly received into the training offered to RE subject leaders.

SACRE has also begun to engage in self-evaluation using the NASACRE recommended Toolkit. This will have a higher priority next year and will inform the updating of the SACRE development plan, also scheduled for the autumn term.

David Fawcett

Chair to SACRE

2. Standards, quality & provision of RE

- Data has been gathered about GCSE results and A level results. The data showed that standards at GCSE have continued to rise across the borough, with Edgbarrow School gaining 60% at A or A*, but concern was expressed about the difficulties of comparing data from different establishments where some enter all pupils for full course RE and others allow pupils to select. The LA has agreed to try to break the data down more for next year's analysis.
- Data is not available from primary schools, but teachers are continuing to engage with the training on offer and sharing good practice at the meetings. One school was undertaking a comparison between two of the town centre churches with a whole year group, each half spending an hour in the two venues. The outcomes of this activity will be shared at the next meeting. With a move away from levels for the recording of pupil achievement and progress the issue of assessment in RE is likely to remain a challenge for some time.
- SACRE is aware that its members need greater access to schools in order to carry out more efficient monitoring of standards and the Local Authority has agreed to provide a list of schools that would be ready to welcome SACRE members in a supportive role.
- There is also an awareness of the difficulty to communicating directly with RE subject leaders and the LA will seek to address this by requesting information from schools early each term
- The newsletter containing important information about training and developments in RE continues to be sent to all schools in the borough each term. Materials for RE and CW are recommended.
- No complaints have been received about RE, but support was given to one school where parents were requesting withdrawal from lessons on Islam. The head teacher was provided with materials to help her write to the parents concerned and the issue has largely been resolved. The RE subject leader at the school has started to attend the termly training.

3. Agreed Syllabus

The RE questionnaire showed that the Agreed syllabus (2012) has been welcomed. It is not due for revision until 2017 so there has been no discussion about it.

4. Standard, quality & provision of Collective worship

- The decision was taken to ask schools to send in a snapshot of their collective worship and a week was chosen just after Christmas. Schools were asked to supply an overview of the week's worship. It was decided to include church schools in the request as that would give SACRE a comparison. Responses were received from 13 schools and the analysis revealed that many schools were not complying fully with the requirement to provide a daily act of collective worship. The Local authority were informed, but as has become clear since then with the publication of the pamphlet "A New Settlement: Religion & Belief in Schools" this is not an unusual

state of affairs and currently no action has been taken. This will undoubtedly form the basis of future discussions.

- It was clear however that many schools are planning collective worship carefully and ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity for worship and reflection on a daily basis. In many of the schools a clearly broadly Christian ethos underpinned the process, even in some of the non-church schools.
- A reminder of the statutory guidelines for collective worship was included in the summer edition of the SACRE newsletter.
- Two teachers were invited to attend the summer meeting and present the rationale and procedures for collective worship in their schools. The difficulties of providing whole school worship in large community schools was highlighted, but pupils are given an opportunity to lead and the worship in both the primary and the secondary schools were planned for their content and learning opportunities for SMSC.
- No complaints have been received about Collective Worship in Bracknell Forest schools.
- No requests for determinations have been received

5. Advice and training offered to LA, schools & governors

- The LA has been advised that RE data needs to be broken down more clearly to indicate which schools are entering all pupils for GCSE and which are allowing pupils to select. This will enable SACRE to better evaluate the impact of recent changes to examination requirements. This will be evident in the next set of data issued.
- The LA has been advised that information about school RE leaders needs to be made available to SACRE and that has been agreed to.
- Training and advice has been offered to teachers and to schools on using “Big Questions” in planning RE and anecdotally this is being implemented with positive results for pupil engagement.
- SACRE continues to have the support of the LA in scheduling, advertising and taking bookings for RE subject leader meetings. Attendance at these meetings is currently not large – the £30 cost and timing is probably the biggest issue – but fairly consistent. Some teachers who find themselves unable to attend send apologies and request notes from the meetings. At the request of SACRE each session has encouraged teachers to engage with the wide range of artefacts on offer in the resources centre and the content of sessions has reflected the requests of teachers: visiting places of worship, big questions and curriculum planning and British Values and RE.
- The issue of training in RE for NQTs has been raised with the LA and will hopefully be addressed next academic year.

6. Management of SACRE

- BFBC SACRE has continued to meet three times per year.
 - 13th November 2014
 - 19th March 2015
 - 9th July 2015

- All meetings have been quorate and attendance has been fairly stable. There have however continued to be changes of personnel this year and SACRE has welcomed new members, some of whom have yet to assume their places. Teacher groups are still under represented and there has been an interim clerk (maternity cover), change of professional adviser and Local Authority Officer. Following the elections in May, Group D has had an almost complete change of personnel, with only two members of the Local Authority remaining in role. The roles of chair and vice-chair have been consistent.
- NASACRE logon on details have been issued to all SACRE members and they have been asked to look at the information contained on the website. This will be looked at properly at the next meeting as part of SACRE member training.
- SACRE has begun the task of self-evaluation using the NASACRE toolkit and this will further highlight training needs and challenges.
- A member of SACRE attended the NASACRE AGM in May in Birmingham and reported back to SACRE with a summary of the questions raised by Charles Clarke which have since been elaborated in the publication available on the NASACRE website: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/file/a-new-settlement-for-religion-and-belief-in-schools.pdf> . This document was discussed at length, but no conclusions were reached on how to respond. The NASACRE briefing was not available at the time but will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Members of SACRE were also involved in the Pan-Berkshire SACRE joint conference in June. The focus of this conference was the launch of the Culham St Gabriel's Project with the title "Crossing Bridges". This project links with the SACRE aim of raising awareness of different faith communities and reaching out to teachers as for the first time, teachers were encouraged to attend the meeting and share their experiences of visits. Bracknell forest teachers and SACRE members were well represented and contributed to the discussions. The project is still ongoing and several churches in the borough are being asked to participate. This will raise the profile of SACRE further with churches and teachers.

7. Contribution to Local Authority Wider Agenda

- Members of SACRE were invited to and participated in the Faith and Belief Forum
- The plan to invite SACRE to report to the Overview and Scrutiny panel was postponed by the local elections but the social cohesion issue will be a mainstay of the next SACRE development plan

8. Conclusion

The information gathering exercises this year have helped SACRE to assess the size of the task that remains if the standards of RE teaching are to be raised in the current climate. SACRE is aware that the profile of SACRE also needs to be raised and the development plan will address this. The new members of Group D have agreed to meet together and come up with some suggestions for additional support, in terms of time and if possible, finances.

SACRE Membership and Attendance 2014-5

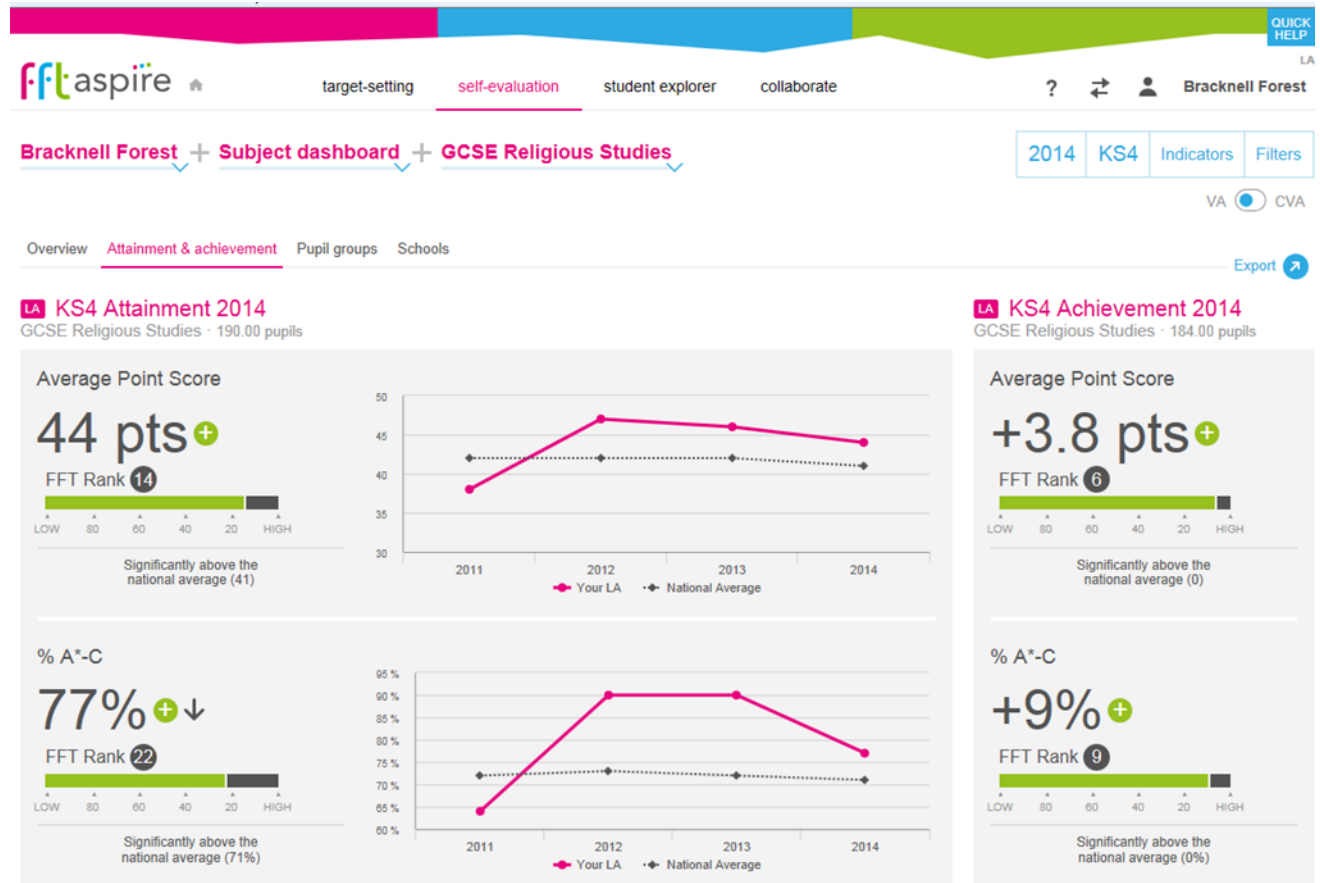
Group Represented	Name	13 November 2014	19 March 2015	9 July 2015
Free church	Jackie Case			Present
Free Church	Manfred Lemke			x apologies
Free churches	Ken Blanton	X apologies	x	x
Free Churches	Chris Smith	X apologies		
Free Churches	John Baildam	X apologies	Present	
Catholic	Carol Nicholls	Present	Present	Present
Catholic	Chris Cooper			Observer
Muslim	Arfan Rashid	Present	Present	Present
Hindu	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Buddhist	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Sikh	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Jewish community	Zvi Solomons	x apologies	x apologies	x apologies
C of E	David Fawcett	present	present	present
C of E	Mark Olney	x apologies	present	present
C of E	Anne Andrews	present	present	
C of E	Paul Collins			Present
C of E	Carol Logan		Observer	X apologies
NAS/UWT	Ben Britton	Present	x apologies	present
VOICE	Madeleine Diver	Present	Present	Present
NUT	<i>Vacancy</i>			
ATL	<i>Vacancy</i>			
NAHT	<i>Vacancy</i>			
SHA	<i>Vacancy</i>			
Councillor	Gareth Barnard	x apologies	x	Present
Councillor	Andy Blatchford	Present	Present	
Councillor	Dorothy Hayes	Present	Present	x apologies
Councillor	Will Davison	Present	Present	
Councillor	Cliff Thompson	x apologies	Present	
Councillor	Moira Gaw			present
Councilor	Isabel Mattick			Present
Councillor	Ash Merry			Present
Co-opted member	Kathy Hadfield	Present	Present	present
School Adviser	Chris Salt	Present	Present	present
Professional Adviser	Jo Fageant	x apologies	x apologies	
Professional Adviser	Anne Andrews			Present

Bracknell Forest

GCSE: Religious Education Results 2012 – 2014

The following data shows a breakdown of GCSE performance in Religious Education over the last 4 years. Data for 2015 will become available during the Autumn term.

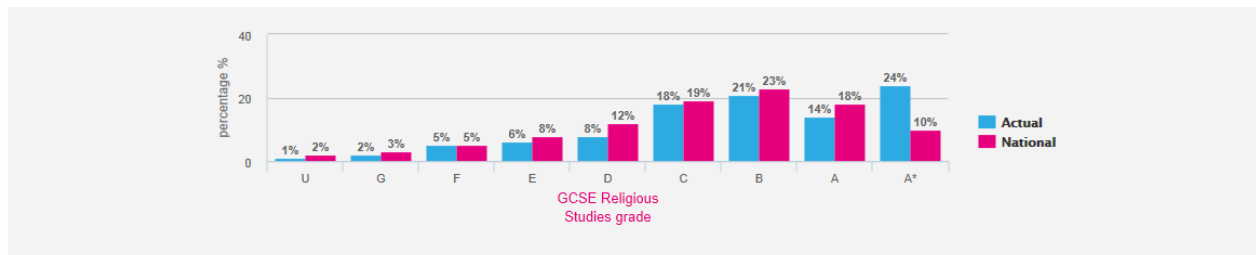
From 2011, where GCSE results and Pupil Average Point Scores for RE in Bracknell Forest were below the National Average, there has been significant progress rising to a peak in 2013. The figure in 2014 has dipped slightly but this represents the fact that the former GCSE short courses were no longer being reported nationally. All Year 11 students at Ranelagh School had taken the GCSE Short Course in RE and these did not appear in the national results.



LA KS4 performance summary GCSE Religious Studies

	Actual results			Pupil progress		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Number of pupils / % matched	181	171	190	98%	99%	97%
Average Point Score	47 + ↑	46 +	44 +	+4.2 + ↑	+2.6 +	+3.8 +
Average Grade	B + ↑	B +	B - +	+0.7 + ↑	+0.4 +	+0.6 +
% A*-A	39% + ↑	37% +	38% +	+9% + ↑	+4%	+13% +
% A*-C	90% + ↑	90% +	77% + ↓	+15% + ↑	+13% +	+9% +
% A*-G	100% ↑	99%	99%	+1%	+0%	+2%
% 3 Levels Progress	88% + ↑	87% +	79% + ↓	+16% + ↑	+14% +	+11% +
% 4 Levels Progress	62% + ↑	57% +	58% +	+16% + ↑	+9% +	+14% +

LA Grade distribution 2014 · actual results · 190 pupils



KS4 school performance summary 2014

GCSE Religious Studies

	Pupils	Actual results		Pupil progress	
		Average Point Score	% A*-C	Average Point Score	% A*-C
LA Bracknell Forest	190	44 +	77% + ↓	+3.8 +	+9% +
College Hall	5	22 -	40%	+1.6	+31%
Easthampstead Park Community	30	31 - ↓	33% - ↓	-3.1	-15% ↓
Edgbarrow	52	54 + ↑	98% +	+13.0 + ↑	+30% +
Garth Hill College	15	45	73%	+1.3	-2%
Ranelagh	2	49	100%	-1.9	+3%
Sandhurst	61	44	79%	+2.7 +	+8%
The Brakenhale	30	42	83%	-1.1	+10%