

Central Bedfordshire  
Council  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands,  
Shefford SG17 5TQ

**This meeting may  
be filmed.\***



**Central  
Bedfordshire**

**please ask for** Miss M Brooks  
**direct line** 0300 300 5783  
**date** 19 February 2019

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

### **SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)**

Date & Time

**Thursday, 28 February 2019 at 4.00 p.m.**

Venue

**Room 15 - Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford, SG17 5TQ**

Richard Carr  
**Chief Executive**

To: The Chairman and Members of the SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION):

<b>Group A</b>	Roman Catholic Church (2)	Sister Aidan Richards
	Free Church (3)	
	Baptist	
	Muslim (1)	
	Hindu (1)	Tulsi Seva Dasi
	Sikh (1)	Tirath Bhavra
	Jewish (1)	Nina Leigh
	Buddhist (1)	
<b>Group B</b>	Church of England (3)	Ryan Parker
		Father Diego Galanzino
		Carly Woodall
<b>Group C</b>	Lower School Rep	Lucy Chapman, Sutton Lower School
	Secondary RE Specialist	Kathleen Eldridge, Redborne Upper School
	Middle School Rep	Jacque Binks, Etonbury Middle

Special School Rep  
Lower School  
Representative

School  
Anita Whitehurst, St Swithuns  
School, Sandy

**Group D** Cllrs Mrs A Barker, F Firth, Mrs D B Gurney, N Warren and  
A Ryan

[Named Substitutes:

Cllrs: A Dodwell, T Swain, M A G Versallion]

Officers: Lat Blaylock - RE Today  
Maria Brooks - Committee Services Officer, CBC  
Paul Harpin - School Improvement Consultant, CBC  
Chris Kiernan - Interim Head of School Improvement,  
CBC

**\*Please note that phones and other equipment may be used to film, audio record, tweet or blog from this meeting. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming.**

**The use of arising images or recordings is not under the Council's control.**

# AGENDA

## 1. **Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.

## 2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 November 2018.

### **Reports**

## 3 **SACRE Updates Spring 2019** \* 15 - 18

To receive local and national updates from RE Today Services.

## 4 **Review of SACRE Development Plan** \* 19 - 22

To consider the SACRE Development Plan 2018-19.

## 5 **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Comments from Ofsted Reports** \* 23 - 24

To consider the spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments from Ofsted reports from September to December 2018.

## 6 **RE GCSE and A Level Results 2018** \* 25 - 30

To consider the RE GCSE And A Level Results from 2018.

## 7 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the SACRE will be held on Tuesday 2 July 2019 at 4:00pm, at Priory House, Shefford.

This page is intentionally left blank

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the **SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)** held at Room 15 - Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford, SG17 5TQ on Thursday, 8 November 2018.

**PRESENT**

Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman)

<b>Group A:</b>	Tulsi Seva Dasi	Hindu Representative
<b>Group B:</b>	Father Diego Galanzino Ryan Parker	Church of England Representative Church of England Representative
<b>Group C:</b>	Kathleen Eldridge	Secondary RE specialist, Redborne Upper School
<b>Group D:</b>	Cllrs Mrs D B Gurney, F Firth, A Ryan, and M A G Versallion	
<b>Officers in Attendance:</b>	Mr Lat Blaylock	– RE Today
	Miss Maria Brooks	- Committee Services Officer, CBC
	Mr Paul Harpin	- School Improvement Consultant, CBC
	Mr Chris Kiernan	- Interim Head of School Improvement, CBC

**SACRE/18/11.Apologies**

Apologise for absence were received from:

Group A	Sister Aiden Richards Tirath Bhavra Nina Leigh
Group B	Carly Woodall
Group C	Lucy Chapman Jacqui Binks Anita Whitehurst
Group D	Cllr Mrs A Barker Cllr N Warren

**SACRE/18/12.Introductions**

Members were invited by the Chairman of SACRE to introduce themselves to new members of SACRE.

**SACRE/18/13.Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**RESOLVED**

**that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.**

**SACRE/18/14.Election of Vice-Chairperson 2018/19**

Nominations for Vice-Chairman of the SACRE were sought. Lucy Chapman a Lower School Representative from Sutton Lower School was nominated, seconded and duly elected.

**RESOLVED**

**that Lucy Chapman be elected as Vice-Chairman of the SACRE for 2018/19.**

**SACRE/18/15.A Focus Upon Hinduism**

The SACRE received a presentation from the Hindu representative on 'A Focus Upon Hinduism'.

The presentation provided SACRE with an overview of the Hindu faith and offered members with the opportunity to gain further knowledge and experience of a different faith.

Points and comments included:

- Members acknowledged that one of the duties of SACRE is to promote opportunities for schools to increase the exposure of children to different faiths and religions,.
- The SACRE acknowledged that teachers have received push back from parents concerning visits to other places of worship.
- Members noted that the Agreed Syllabus does recognise a parents right of withdrawal.
- The Interim Head of School Improvement confirmed that Central Bedfordshire Council have not previously monitored RE withdrawal.
- The SACRE acknowledged obtaining intelligence on the nature and level of incidence of RE withdrawal would allow members to assess what might be done to improve religious intolerance.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. that the presentation on 'A Focus Upon Hinduism' be noted and;**
- 2. that data is collected by School Improvement Advisers within CBC and reported to SACRE on the incidence of parents refusing to allow their children to attend visits to mosques or temples or**

**withdrawing their child from all or part of the RE syllabus within Central Bedfordshire.**

**SACRE/18/16. Review of the Agreed Syllabus**

Members of SACRE agreed to discuss this item under Agenda item 7, see below for further information.

**SACRE/18/17. Evaluation of the Launch of the Agreed Syllabus.**

The representative from RE Today provided an evaluation of the launch of the Agreed Syllabus, an update on the training programme to come and consideration of the budget and work for the coming year.

Key issues noted were:

1. 127 people attended the September launch day and 105 attended the October launch day at Putteridge Bury Conference centre.
2. At the launch day Teachers received a day of training on how to implement the new Agreed Syllabus.
3. These events were rated good, or very good by 98% of attendees.
4. The first two teacher network sessions took place on the 8 November with 9 teachers from Secondary schools and 22 teachers from Primary schools attending. Initial feedback again was positive.
5. There are currently 9 teaching plans written for the Agreed Syllabus, over the coming months there could be a focus to finish the remaining plans.
6. There are a number of articles on the NATRE website which relate to the business of SACRE in particular the guidance for Headteachers on the right of parents to withdraw their child from RE education.
7. The Agreed Syllabus is being shared with Central Bedfordshire Teachers via Perspective Lite which is an IT system that allows confidential information to be shared with schools.
8. Training events to assist with the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus have been organised, including 'Understanding Christianity' and training on 'Three Religions' providing support on subject knowledge in relation to Jewish, Hindu and Islamic life.

[Note: Mr Ryan Parker joined the meeting]

Points and comments included:

- The SACRE acknowledged that the Teacher network meetings were a fantastic provision of INSET training on the Agreed Syllabus for Central Bedfordshire Teachers and should be replicated for February and July 2019.
- The SACRE noted that money had been made available to cover the calculated expenditure of SACRE over the coming months.
- The Interim Head of School Improvement confirmed that a budget of £12,000 would be made available to SACRE to utilise over the coming financial years.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. that the National News for SACRE, Autumn 2018 be noted and;**
- 2. that the training dates for implementing the Agreed Syllabus be provided to SACRE members.**  
**[Note:- Subsequent to the meeting the following training dates were provided.**  
**27 February: Learning three religions: Hindu, Muslim and Jewish**  
**15 January, 3 April and ½ day 4 July: Understanding Christianity in Bedford / Luton.**  
**Both are expected to take place at Marston Moretaine]**
- 3. that Officers provide SACRE with an annual budget report for analysis.**

**SACRE/18/18.SACRE Development Plan 2018-19**

The SACRE considered a Draft Development Plan setting out areas for development between April 2018 – March 2019 and noted the following:

1. The roll out and training for the Agreed Syllabus is the next phase and more detailed plans on the way in which the schools will be engaged in implementing the new Agreed Syllabus will emerge.
2. The annual review of the final GCSE and A Level results will be available at the February 2019 meeting of the SACRE.
3. That Mr Ryan Parker is still the link for the Professional Studies Group and will be able to provide updates to SACRE at subsequent meetings.
4. There are currently 12 schools with the RE Quality mark and work continues on supporting schools who choose to engage in the pursuit of REQM.
5. The Annual SACRE report will be compiled next term.

Points and comments included:

- Members of SACRE expressed a wish to visit schools in Central Bedfordshire to observe RE lessons.
- The SACRE noted that the supporting holocaust day will be taking place on the 27 January 2019 and the theme will be reflecting on the trauma of families losing a safe place to call home.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. that the development plan be noted; and**
- 2. that the School Improvement Consultant investigate opportunities for the SACRE to visit schools in Central Bedfordshire to observe RE lessons.**
- 3. that a representative from SACRE attends the NASACRE AGM due to take place in the summer term 2019.**

### SACRE/18/19. **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC)**

The SACRE considered the Ofsted Spiritual, Moral and Cultural comments (SMSC) for April – July 2018 and noted the following:

1. There have been 5 inspections of schools during this period.
2. Ardley Hill, Dunstable school's report highlighted that the pupils have developed their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding well through the curriculum.
3. Brooklands, Middle school's report highlighted that pupils are encouraged to consider issues such as moral guidance, racism in society and tolerance which prepares them well for modern Britain.

Points and comments included:

- The SACRE Council noted that Stratton Upper School has been recognised for its work in Holocaust education.

#### **NOTED**

**the report**

### SACRE/18/20. **The SACRE Constitution**

The SACRE reviewed the 2010 version of the SACRE constitution.

Points and comments included:

- The SACRE acknowledged that the Council were fulfilling their duty to advise on matters concerned with school worship through the provision of teacher network meetings, INSET.
- The SACRE noted that if a member is absent for 3 or more consecutive meetings for any reason not acceptable to the Council there shall be deemed to be a vacated place to be filled.
- The Council agreed that the appointment of teacher association representatives should be looked at when a vacancy emerges.
- The SACRE noted that the Teacher Network meetings for Primary and Secondary Teachers would take place prior to the SACRE meetings.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. that the SACRE Constitution be noted and;**
- 2. that the School Improvement Consultant place a notice in Central Essentials for the appointment to the vacant place on the SACRE for the Teachers' association representatives.**
- 3. that the School Improvement Consultant contact the teacher representatives to identify if there any issues with attendance due to the revised start time of the SACRE.**

**SACRE/18/21.Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 28 February 2019, 4:00pm,  
Priory House, Chicksands.

**SACRE/18/22.Future Meeting Dates**

Future meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 July 2019, 4:00pm at Priory House.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 4.05 p.m. and concluded at 5.20 p.m.)

Chairman .....

Dated .....

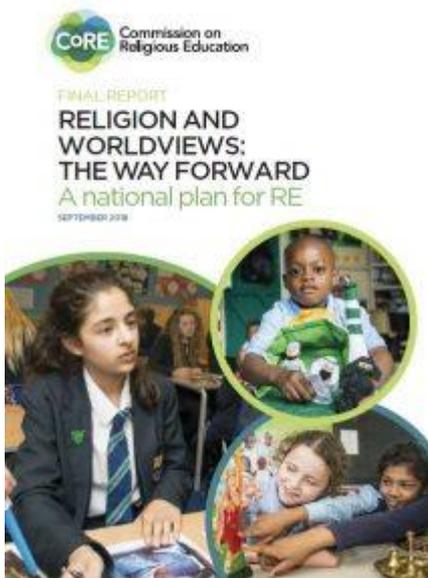
## National News for SACRE, Autumn 2018

**The New RE Syllabus for Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton has been successfully launched.**

We ran two very popular launch events for the new syllabus in September (attendance 127) and October (attendance 105) at Putteridgebury Conference Centre. These events were rated good or very good by 98% of attendees. They enabled us to explain in depth and detail the requirements, resources and opportunities of the new syllabus and to provide inspiration and enthuse teachers, mostly subject leaders but many senior school leaders too, to pursue the task of implementing the syllabus.

We announced a further training programme for schools including the training for 'Understanding Christianity' and a day of training on 'Three Religions' enabling us to support the need for subject knowledge in relation to Jewish, Hindu and Islamic life.

**The Commission on RE: final report, launched September 18.**



This independent report, funded and supported by the RE Council, has spent over a year developing its perspective and recommendations, and has been observed (keenly?) by DfE and government. SACREs are very interested in its conclusions, not least because it has considered questions about local determination of RE and Agreed Syllabuses, recommending a new national entitlement for RE, and the removal of the responsibility on SACREs to make Agreed Syllabuses, the renaming of SACREs and the reduction of their responsibilities. There are 11 recommendations to consider and the thrust of the report is to move control of the RE curriculum from SACREs to a new national body, appointed and paid for by the DfE, supported by the RE Council. Reception of the report has varied from enthusiasm to more cautious voices, e.g. from NASACRE, the BDBJ and the CES.

### **Funding from Government for SACRE**

SACREs will be funded through the central school services block (CSSB) from 2018-19, which is one of the blocks of funding in the national funding formula. For further information, see the [NFF Policy Document](#) and the [2018-19 Operational Guidance](#) (specifically paragraph 133).

### **'A new settlement revised: Religion and Belief in schools'**

A recent report by Professor Linda Woodhead and former Education Secretary Charles Clarke suggests that our more diverse society makes reform to current legislation even more overdue. At the launch Stephen Timms MP welcomed everyone and reflected that we are all shaped by our experience of religion at school, legislation that was set in this place, Parliament, in 1944. Professor Woodhead introduced the report she noted that when the 1944 act was first read in 1943 the country was at war but education was still considered to be important. She explained the morphing of the subject from RI to the official renaming in 1988 of Religious Education. She characterised RE as learning about others and suggested in 2018 it is time to learn about us in the diverse context we live in. She said, '...change is overdue RE like any other academic subject needs no longer to be exceptionalised and parents should no longer be allowed to withdraw pupils from RE. Other recommendations in the report are around collective worship and 'faith schools'.

## RE Teacher recruitment

This has been a particularly challenging year for teacher recruitment and especially so for RE. After missing the target for recruitment for training of teachers of RE to begin in 2017, the DfE failed to take an action to incentivise recruitment for 2018. In contrast, bursaries were increased or maintained at a higher level for those choosing to train in other subjects. These higher level bursaries are offered for many subjects including subjects who had been more successful in recruiting 2017. We should not be surprised therefore, that at the time of writing, of all secondary subjects, RE the fourth worst level of recruitment at just over 50% of the target. This picture will – we hope – change after the recent announcement from DfE that new entrants will, this year, attract a £9 000 bursary as they become RE Teachers. A little, and rather late, but something to be pleased about.

## Youth Debate: England's young people challenge MPs at Westminster

On Monday 9th July 2018, 80 Year 10-12 students from schools across England came to Parliament to debate some of the key issues around the teaching of Religious Education (RE). The students discussed some of the fundamental issues facing the subject, such as whether, in an increasingly secular society, RE is still a vital component of balanced, modern curriculum, and whether pupils learn more by studying other people's belief than your one.

Numerous MPs, Parliamentary researchers, policy advisers and other interested parties witnessed the debate, which showcased the students' engagement with the subject through their range and depth of thinking around these complex questions.

Students were welcomed to Westminster by William Wragg MP, Liz Twist MP, and historian of religion and broadcaster, Professor Francesca Stavrakopoulou.

In a wide-ranging discussion – covering topics as diverse as the role of religious literacy in combatting extremism, the need for RE in an increasingly secular society, and whether or not students learn more by studying their own religion and belief than they do by studying their own – United Nations debating rules were firmly applied in the chamber by the co-chairs, students from Mulberry School for Girls in Hackney, London. Both young women were clearly and expertly trained in handling opinionated peers... and politicians!

Professor Francesca said, "The level of debate was extremely impressive - the pupils were bright, passionate and rigorous in their arguments'.

## NATRE's Strictly RE: bigger and even better for 2019: should SACRE sponsor some local delegates?

Bookings are open now for the national annual NATRE conference in London on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Subscribers to RE Today may be eligible for discounts on their fees to Strictly – check the website for details. The conference brings together about 250 people in the largest gathering of RE professionals in the year. If you have never been, or if you've come each year, then plan to join us for an inspirational and exciting day of lectures, seminars, exhibits, connections and opportunities: all the exam awarding bodies and major publishers will be there too.

## **New teachers of RE getting together: NATRE's regional 'Welcome to RE' conferences. Can SACRE support new RE teachers this year?**

NATRE's Inter-University conferences for new teachers ran last year in Belfast, Exeter, Swansea, York, Ormskirk and London. We love to bring together the new entrants to secondary RE teaching from different universities, Teach First, SCITT and other routes: we have over twenty ITE partners who send their graduates along to these events. Over 200 new teachers of RE attended one of the events, which are generously sponsored by the Jerusalem Trust, and their continuing support means that a similar set of conferences can be run next year. Already, these are planned for Leeds (7<sup>th</sup> December), Edge Hill (14<sup>th</sup> December) and London (8<sup>th</sup> February 2019). The program will enable new RE teachers to learn about the national politics of RE but also to engage with some of NATRE's lesson and learning ideas in highly practical ways. For more details email the conference organiser Lat Blaylock: [lat@retoday.org.uk](mailto:lat@retoday.org.uk).

## **Free copies of Christian scripture for your pupils?**

The Gideons, the Christian charity famous for giving Bibles away to hotels – and pretty much anyone who wants one – are happy to come to any secondary school in the UK, and volunteers, who are professional and business people, can take an assembly or an RE lesson to make the offer of a free copy of the New Testament and Psalms. They have 7 new assemblies and seven new lessons to share, and about 1000 volunteers have taken part in a day's training recently to enable them to deliver the assemblies and lessons. For further information, contact Tony Lovering on [HQ@gideons.org.uk](mailto:HQ@gideons.org.uk)

## **NATRE's New2RE project: mentoring, support and conferences for those starting teaching secondary RE**

NATRE runs a funded programme called 'new2RE' for those who are secondary NQTs, over the first three years of their careers. A small number of places may still be available: does SACRE know any new teachers in secondary RE who it could refer to this programme, rated excellent by a big majority of its participants every year.

## **BBC's recent and new RE programming: can SACRE draw attention to these programmes for schools?**

The well-loved BBC Bitesize site has a major review and renewal underway, with 10 new KS4 programmes nearly ready to use, and major innovations around the new GCSE for 14-16s. These 'A day in the faith of...' clips will present the lives of young members of the 6 principal religions, as they talk about some of the key ideas and concepts of GCSE and Scottish RE

Now broadcast and available free via BBC Teach (all these have notes written by RE Today to accompany them):

- For 5-7s, 10 animated short films of key stories of faith from 6 different religions, series title: 'Religions of the World'.
- My Life, My Religion 5 x 30 minute programmes. Featuring lots of original filming from across Britain using child presenters with diariycams, one each on being Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh in today's Britain. Online as clips in segments of 2-4 minutes.
- For 11-14s, 'An A-Z of Religion' with notes for students to use the 26 programmes from RE Today (written as supported self study materials for homework).

- For 14-16s, A Question of Faith 5 x 12 minute programmes for GCSE and Standard Grade in 2014 on sexuality, marriage, death, revelation and suffering, with notes on RE Today and clips on BBC Bitesize.

A new series of ten further GCSE / 14-16 programmes and a complete revision of the Bitesize offer to schools is in process, using the idea of 'a day in the life' of people from different religions as a hook. I'm enjoying working as series consultant for this.

Lat Blaylock, National RE Adviser, Autumn 2018

### **Additional material from NATRE:**

#### **Relevant documents on our NATRE website relating to SACREs**

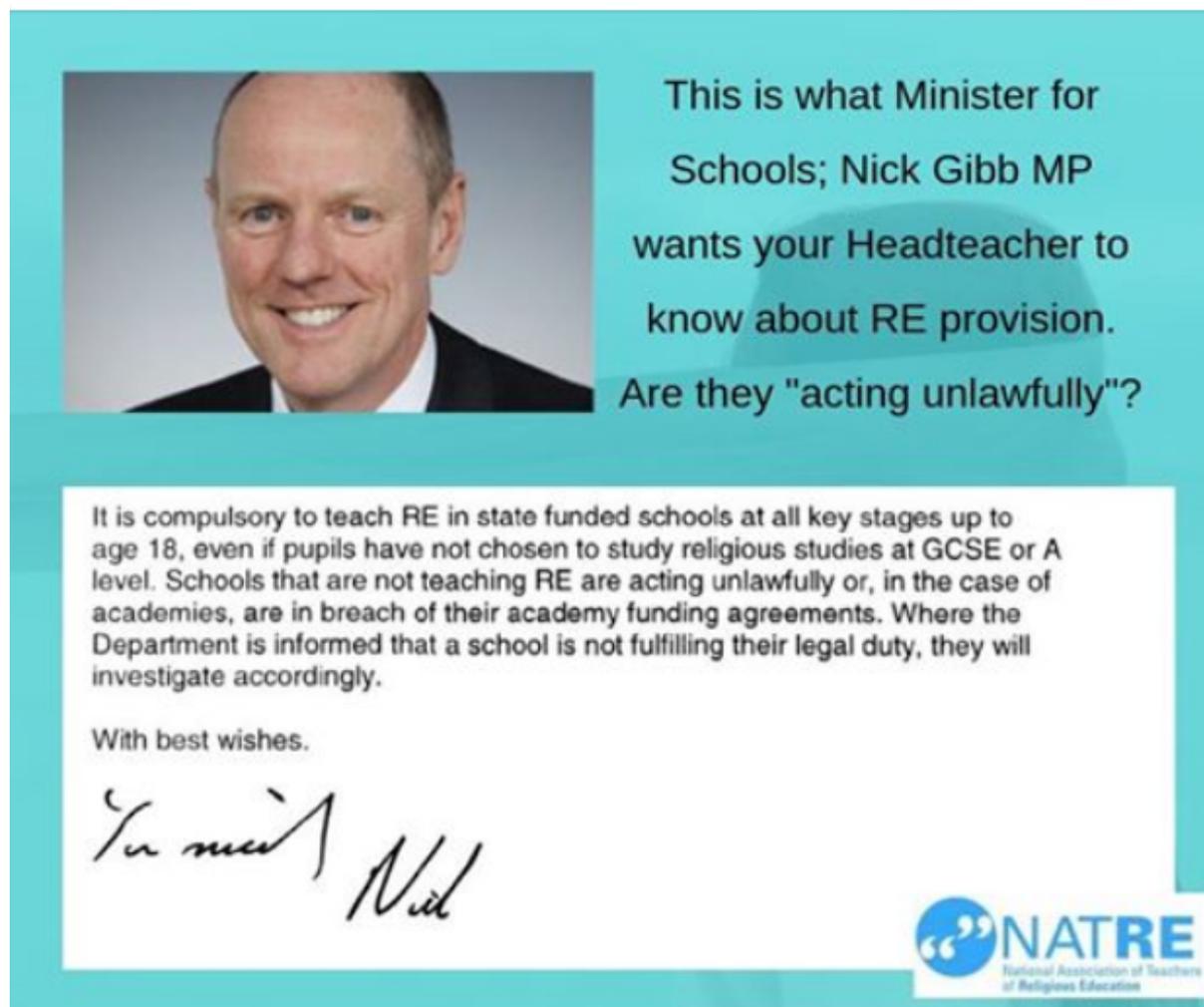
1. [30+ things a SACRE can do](#)
2. [Exemplar SACRE letter RE provision in LA maintained schools](#)
3. [Exemplar SACRE letter RE provision in academies](#)
4. [Funding for SACREs 2017-18](#)
5. [Exemplar SACRE follow up letter about RE provision](#)
6. [How to make a complaint about the RE curriculum in a local authority maintained school](#)

## SACRE updates Spring 2019 from RE Today Services

### Commission on RE: A response from Damian Hinds

The secretary of state for Education recently replied to the commission on RE report. The letter can be seen [here](#), along with the RE Council response. The response is disappointing however the door is not closed to change. Further meetings are going on with members of NATRE and the REC which may result in some of the recommendations being met in the medium term. It is clear that there will be no legislative change in the current parliament but that does not mean there will not be further smaller scale support for instance on training or withdrawal. NATRE continues to push in these areas.

A recent meeting of the APPG for RE heard from teachers about the view from the classroom and the need for change. There have been a whole host of questions in the Commons and Lords. There have also been a series of letters to MPS. One letter from sixth form students to Nick Gibb, Schools minister elicited this reply



This is what Minister for Schools; Nick Gibb MP wants your Headteacher to know about RE provision. Are they "acting unlawfully"?

It is compulsory to teach RE in state funded schools at all key stages up to age 18, even if pupils have not chosen to study religious studies at GCSE or A level. Schools that are not teaching RE are acting unlawfully or, in the case of academies, are in breach of their academy funding agreements. Where the Department is informed that a school is not fulfilling their legal duty, they will investigate accordingly.

With best wishes.

*Yours minister Nick*

 NATRE  
National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

### NATRE Primary Survey results: what would be the response from your schools?

Nearly half of trainee primary teachers have had between zero and three hours of RE training, new research by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) has revealed.

NATRE has launched the results of its national **NATRE Primary Survey 2018**. The survey of over 500 primary teachers from across the country has revealed some worrying truths about the provision for RE in primary schools.

A quarter of teachers report that colleagues within their schools have a lack of confidence in teaching RE, both in terms of what to teach, but also how to teach RE.

NATRE's research found:

- Nearly half of trainee primary teachers have had between zero and three hours of RE training
- 30% of primary RE teachers have had no subject specific training in the last year, not even in a staff meeting
- 1/3 of teachers who started teaching in the last 5 years have no qualification at all in RE, not even a GCSE.
- Over 50% of schools have a HLTA taking some of their RE lessons
- Many primary schools do not give adequate time for RE

This demonstrates the need for teacher training in line with recommendation six and seven of the Commission on Religions Education report '*Religion and worldviews: The way Forward – A national plan for RE*'.

Furthermore, though many teachers report no instances of withdrawal from RE, too many are reporting that selective withdrawal is being used, either to withdraw students from learning about Islam, or so that students only learn about Christianity.

**Ben Wood, NATRE Chair, has commented:**

'It is undoubtedly disheartening to hear such news, but not surprising. We know there are wonderful examples of high quality RE going on in primary schools, with excellent teachers who use the subject to help their students grow up with a broad understanding of and open-minded attitude to the world and the people who inhabit it. But we also know that there are too many students who don't get the quality of RE they deserve and are entitled to receive. This not only risks students' own futures but also the future cohesion of our wonderfully diverse country.

And these concerns are not limited to primary education. A similar account emerges about secondary schools. It angers me that young people are being denied an important part of their education, that colleagues are losing their jobs, that the superb examples of high quality RE in some schools are not replicated in the school down the road and that government that speaks warm words about the value and importance of RE, but then does little to correct the situation.'

To read the survey results go to

[www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Free%20Resources/NATRE%20Primary%20Survey%202018%20final.pdf](http://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Free%20Resources/NATRE%20Primary%20Survey%202018%20final.pdf)

What would our schools say?

**OFSTED Draft inspection framework**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/772065/Schools\\_draft\\_handbook\\_180119.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772065/Schools_draft_handbook_180119.pdf)

At first sight the new framework could be good news for RE with a clear focus on a broad and balanced curriculum. Page 13 will be of interest to schools and SACREs as it refers to RE and Collective Worship. Curriculum narrowing is warned against on page 42, this is good news for RE. Perhaps the most interesting part is p41, para 159 which asserts

NATRE are meeting with the deputy director of OFSTED and RE HMI to discuss this in detail in February.

**Curriculum flexibility**

158. The curriculum sets out the aims of a programme of education. It also sets out the structure for those aims to be implemented, including the knowledge, skills and understanding to be gained at each stage. It enables the evaluation of pupils' knowledge and understanding against those expectations.

159. All pupils in maintained schools are expected to study the national curriculum subjects, **religious education** and age-appropriate sex education.<sup>58</sup> Academies are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar in breadth and ambition to the national curriculum, including the requirements to teach English, mathematics, science, and religious education.<sup>59</sup>

160. Schools taking radically different approaches to the curriculum will be judged fairly. The inspectorate recognises the importance of schools' autonomy to choose their own curriculum approaches. If leaders are able to show that they have thought carefully, that they have built a curriculum with appropriate coverage, content, structure and sequencing and are able to show that it has been implemented effectively, then inspectors will assess a school's curriculum favourably.

## **Withdrawal from RE: Information**

In all NATRE surveys, through conversations and in conversation with schools, places of worship and teacher unions we know that withdrawal from RE has become a more frequent and tricky issue for schools to deal with.

NATRE have written guidance and have made this available, jointly with the NAHT, to all schools. We can also send you the full document for free if you fill in the boxes with your details

<https://www.natre.org.uk/membership/guidance-on-withdrawal/>

This guidance has been endorsed and shared by the DFE.

Do you know what parents can and can't withdraw pupils from? Do you know how many schools in your area have pupils withdrawn?

## **New secondary survey**

NATRE is conducting this secondary survey (its seventh) to obtain information about the current state of RE in all types of schools so that it can continue to support the teacher in the classroom by raising awareness of the impact of government policy on RE.

Please invite schools in your area to take a few minutes to answer as many of the questions on the survey as they can. It could make all the difference. As our thank you to you for taking the time to complete this survey, schools will receive a £5 voucher code to use on all RE Today publications at the end of the survey.

NATRE will treat the responses with complete and absolute confidentiality; no schools or teachers will be identified in any use NATRE makes of the information provided.

Information from previous surveys has been used with the DFE, OFSTED, MPs, quoted in parliament and by unions. This is the best opportunity to show what the picture is in schools to decision makers.

**Closing date: Friday, 12th April 2019**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JY9WMWW>

## **Year of Belief and values BBC**

This year the BBC has set out to produce a whole series of programming across its platforms on religion and belief that may prove supportive to RE teachers. There will also be new animations on a series of religions for Primary schools on BBC Bitesize. For secondary schools there will be new programmes for KS3 RE and extensive information for students studying GCSE on BBC bitesize.

## **Primary 1000 Support for schools**

NATRE has a new project to help schools who recognise the need to improve their RE provision. This innovative project responds to a very significant need in RE: that thousands of primary schools struggle to provide good RE for all pupils. The project will enable 1000 primary schools to offer 'Better RE' – which means: RE for thinking, creativity, standards and challenge.

The project has been designed to challenge, support and inspire primary schools where RE provision needs to change and improve the RE opportunities they give to pupils.

The three-year project has two phases. We have already raised funds for and commenced phase one.

Schools who get involved will be able to register as project members with the support of their senior leaders and a named teacher who will champion RE in the school.

**Better RE will give schools targeted help and practical support**, an online RE resource pack which includes a plethora of high-quality resources including the best online materials, great practical lesson ideas, planning guidance and support with subject knowledge, a sample policy statement, an audit tool and numerous ready to use learning ideas. We will aim to connect schools involved to their local NATRE teacher group and years two and three will see regional RE conferences for the teachers involved as well.

NATRE has wide and long experience in supporting schools and responds to research and inspection findings about the low quality of RE in too many schools. We want all pupils to have access to good RE. A strength of this project is that it has been developed from the ideas of primary NATRE executive members, serving teachers of RE, local group leaders and grassroots activists.

Which schools could we nominate? We need to know a named RE subject leader?

### **Regional Ambassadors**

At the end of October 2018, Naomi Anstice was appointed the National Ambassador for Religious Education Networks. She is an Assistant Head Teacher in Cheshire where she teaches RE to the whole school as part of the PPA provision. Naomi is also the RE Primary adviser for Cheshire West and a member of the NATRE Executive. She will be working on this project a day a week. Here Naomi explains the project she will be leading for the next two years and introduces the regional ambassadors who have now been appointed:

**'The aim of this project is to build a long-term sustainable structure to provide local support for RE teachers.'**

- Connecting teachers to other teachers, local groups, hubs, advisers, SACREs and to a range of available opportunities and RE initiatives.
- Connecting teachers to both classroom-based and academic research
- Connecting teachers to regional and national CPD opportunities as well as resources which will inspire their classroom practice

This will be done through the creation of ten regional areas, each of which will have its own ambassador. These ambassadors will be developing, creating, co-ordinating local RE structures. Areas which already have strong support structures will be embraced and promoted whilst others may need creation and development according to local need. These ambassadors bring a wealth of experience with them from a range of educational settings and will be working to network across their own areas, looking to support the creation of local groups where there are currently gaps. Each region will have web provision, so you can see what is happening in your area and to keep in touch with others in your area.

The regional ambassadors are allocated a day a month to support their region, so we will need to be realistic about what can be achieved in this time! The areas and their ambassadors are as follows:

**London** – Claire Clinton  
**North** – Katherine France  
**North East** – Suzanne Tomlinson

**North West** – Joanne Harris  
**East Midlands** – Julie Childs  
**West Midlands** – Chris Giles  
**South Central** – Sarah Payne

**South East** – Justine Ball  
**South West** – Laura Harris  
**East Anglia** – Revd. Kate Moore

**Read more about the Regional Ambassadors [here](#)** Central to the success of the project is increasing teacher involvement with a range of RE organisations (including AREIAC, NATRE, The REC, NASACRE and local SACREs) through both membership and engagement. You can follow and contact Naomi through twitter [@naomianstice](#) or email [naomi.anstice@natre.org.uk](mailto:naomi.anstice@natre.org.uk) who will pass on emails to the regional ambassadors.

**Central Bedfordshire  
SACRE Development Plan  
April 2018 – March 2019**



**Aims:-** To ensure that high quality RE and Collective Worship opportunities are delivered in Central Bedfordshire schools  
 To use the expertise of SACRE Members to support the Agreed Syllabus  
 To signpost school RE Subject Leaders to publications and personnel to enhance the RE curriculum within schools

**Areas for development**

Focus	Frequency/ Time Scale	Key Impact Measure(s)/Outcomes	Update
To complete the statutory review of the Agreed Syllabus and its launch (More detailed plans will emerge relating to the ways in which schools will be engaged in implementing the new Agreed Syllabus)	At each termly meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To plan for the review of the Agreed Syllabus to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of LA schools</li> </ul>	Autumn Term 2018/ Spring Tem 2019
To monitor comments re. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) in Central Bedfordshire schools through information gleaned from Ofsted reports.	At each termly SACRE Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SACRE members will have a more informed understanding of the quality of provision currently in place within the inspected schools</li> </ul>	Specific school information shared at each termly meeting.
To review final GCSE and A level results in Religious Education from the summer of 2018	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review results, celebrate achievements and consider any implications for the future.</li> </ul>	Spring Term 2019
To support the Professional Studies Group in RE, especially concentrating on primary planning.	Termly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RE Subject Leaders will benefit from networking opportunities to share ideas and practice</li> <li>Subject specialists involvement will raise awareness of what good practice in RE teaching looks like</li> </ul>	Autumn Term 2018 and at subsequent meetings

**Central Bedfordshire  
SACRE Development Plan  
April 2018 – March 2019**

To provide opportunities for SACRE Council Members to gain knowledge and experience of different faiths through presentations at meetings. Presentations will reflect different age groups and types of schools.	At least once during the year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SACRE Council members will be better informed about a wide spectrum of faiths</li> </ul>	At one meeting during the year
To provide opportunities for SACRE Council Members to visit schools in Central Bedfordshire to observe RE lessons.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SACRE Council members will be better informed as to how RE is being taught in Central Bedfordshire schools</li> </ul>	Autumn Term 2018+
To further promote the RE Quality Mark and support schools choosing to engage in the pursuit of REQM	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate support for schools wishing to gain the RE Quality Mark during the year</li> </ul>	Summer Term 2018 onwards

Areas of ongoing activity

Focus	Frequency/ Time Scale	Key Impact Measure(s)/Outcomes	Update
To ensure that SACRE meetings are organised efficiently on a termly basis	April 2018 – March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best value for money will be secured through careful budgeting and administrative support</li> <li>SACRE will be effective in fulfilling its statutory duties</li> </ul>	Dates circulated for 2018 / 19 to fit members' requests.
To arrange for an Annual SACRE report to be compiled and sent out to interested parties, including all Central Bedfordshire schools	Spring Term 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SACRE will have fulfilled its statutory duty to publish an account of its work</li> <li>Schools in Central Bedfordshire will be well informed about the work of SACRE</li> </ul>	Spring Term 2019

**Central Bedfordshire  
SACRE Development Plan  
April 2018 – March 2019**



To ensure a representative attends the NASACRE AGM	Summer Term 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through good quality feedback from representatives SACRE members will understand key points on the national agenda and be made aware of good practice emerging from other SACREs across the country</li> </ul>	Feedback from representative of SACRE June 2019
To support the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Event	Spring Term 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lessons of holocaust experiences will be a valuable one for both students and other adults</li> </ul>	Spring Term 2019

In the 2019 Summer Term Meetings there will be time to evaluate the impact of the latest development plan and use this information to inform subsequent developments.

This page is intentionally left blank



### Ofsted Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) comments September – December 2018

(Grade 1= Outstanding    Grade 2 = Good    Grade 3 = Requires Improvement    4= Serious Weaknesses / Special Measures)

#### Lower Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments
Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard	8/10/18	2	No comments
Clipstone Brook, Leighton Buzzard	31/10/18	2	No comments
Raynsford Academy, Henlow	31/10/18	2	No comments
Sundon Lower	30/10/18	2	Pupils have a strong spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness, respecting those who are different and deepening in their knowledge of faiths and cultures. For example, pupils took a 'faith tour' in Bedford that included visits on the same day to a church, a gurdwara and a mosque.

#### Primary Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments
Moggerhanger	26/9//18	1	No comments

All five inspections were short inspections

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: ELQ Band C (342)

QAN: 60007126

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	3	2	1	U	X	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583360	120	50.8	32.3	-	4.8	8.1	0.0
-	National (State Funded)	523620	110	53.6	33.0	-	-	7.1	0.0
-	LA (State Funded)	2579	1	-	-	-	100.0	-	0.0
4001	Houghton Regis Academy	52	1	-	-	-	100.0	-	0.0



**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)**

**QAN: 60184000**

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583360	100020	7.8	10.4	12.9	16.1	14.4	10.9	13.8	8.0	3.9	1.4	0.3	61.7	72.6	98.3	5.2
-	National (State Funded)	523620	93780	6.4	9.5	12.6	16.3	14.9	11.4	14.5	8.5	4.1	1.4	0.3	59.8	71.2	98.3	5.1
-	LA (State Funded)	2579	453	7.7	9.9	12.4	17.4	14.6	11.9	12.4	8.6	2.9	1.5	0.7	62.0	74.0	97.8	5.2
6905	All Saints Academy Dunstable	113	44	4.5	15.9	13.6	15.9	18.2	13.6	13.6	4.5	-	-	-	68.2	81.8	100.0	5.5
4083	Harlington Upper School	289	51	5.9	9.8	15.7	29.4	15.7	19.6	3.9	-	-	-	-	76.5	96.1	100.0	5.9
4010	Manshead CofE Academy	161	158	3.2	3.8	7.0	13.3	12.0	13.9	20.9	15.2	7.6	3.2	-	39.2	53.2	96.8	4.0
5401	Manshead School	3	2	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.0	-	-	-	50.0	50.0	100.0	5.5
7018	Oak Bank School	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	4.0
4007	Priory Academy	84	45	13.3	17.8	17.8	17.8	13.3	6.7	8.9	4.4	-	-	-	80.0	86.7	100.0	6.2
4002	Queensbury Academy	153	30	20.0	6.7	13.3	13.3	26.7	3.3	6.7	10.0	-	-	-	80.0	83.3	100.0	5.9
4003	Redborne Upper School and Community College	374	92	6.5	13.0	16.3	19.6	15.2	10.9	8.7	6.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	70.7	81.5	97.8	5.5
4078	Sandy Secondary School	126	9	-	-	-	33.3	22.2	11.1	11.1	11.1	-	11.1	-	55.6	66.7	88.9	4.1
4005	Stratton Upper School	241	23	30.4	21.7	17.4	13.0	4.3	-	-	4.3	-	-	8.7	87.0	87.0	91.3	6.8

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)**

**QAN: 60185946**

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583360	9670	11.1	12.5	14.0	14.8	13.9	11.2	11.3	6.7	3.2	1.0	0.4	66.2	77.4	98.6	5.5
-	National (State Funded)	523620	8120	8.0	11.0	13.1	15.0	14.7	12.3	12.7	7.8	3.8	1.2	0.4	61.7	74.0	98.4	5.2
-	LA (State Funded)	2579	23	4.3	13.0	17.4	8.7	26.1	8.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	8.7	-	69.6	78.3	91.3	5.1
4011	Cedars Upper School	271	23	4.3	13.0	17.4	8.7	26.1	8.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	8.7	-	69.6	78.3	91.3	5.1

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)**



# KS4 Grade Summary by Subject

**QAN: 60188790**

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583360	42440	6.1	9.0	12.4	15.0	14.6	12.8	12.7	8.9	5.7	2.5	0.3	57.1	69.9	97.2	4.9
-	National (State Funded)	523620	41090	5.5	8.7	12.1	15.0	14.7	13.0	13.0	9.1	5.8	2.5	0.3	56.2	69.2	97.1	4.8
-	LA (State Funded)	2579	9	11.1	-	22.2	11.1	22.2	22.2	11.1	-	-	-	-	66.7	88.9	100.0	5.6
4079	Samuel Whitbread Academy	419	9	11.1	-	22.2	11.1	22.2	22.2	11.1	-	-	-	-	66.7	88.9	100.0	5.6



Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Short Course (394)

QAN: 60183998

Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	Avg Pts
-	National (All Schools)	583360	9730	3.8	7.3	9.1	13.0	11.4	10.9	18.8	12.1	8.4	3.9	1.2	0.0
-	National (State Funded)	523620	8780	2.6	6.4	8.8	13.1	11.8	11.2	19.7	12.7	8.6	3.9	1.1	0.0
-	LA (State Funded)	2579	67	-	-	1.5	3.0	4.5	9.0	29.9	26.9	13.4	10.4	1.5	0.0
6905	All Saints Academy Dunstable	113	66	-	-	1.5	3.0	4.5	9.1	30.3	27.3	13.6	9.1	1.5	0.0
4010	Manshead CofE Academy	161	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	0.0



**Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE A level (111)**

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	Avg Pts
-	National (all entries)	16490	4.7	18.3	29.2	25.8	14.3	5.6	1.7	0.3	23.0	52.3	98.0	34.8
4011	Cedars Upper School	12	8.3	-	16.7	58.3	16.7	-	-	-	8.3	25.0	100.0	32.5
4083	Harlington Upper School	18	-	5.6	33.3	33.3	16.7	11.1	-	-	5.6	38.9	100.0	30.6
4010	Manshead CofE Academy	5	-	-	80.0	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	80.0	100.0	38.0
5401	Manshead School	1	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	30.0
4002	Queensbury Academy	12	-	8.3	25.0	16.7	33.3	8.3	8.3	-	8.3	33.3	91.7	26.7
4003	Redborne Upper School and Community College	13	-	30.8	46.2	23.1	-	-	-	-	30.8	76.9	100.0	40.8
4079	Samuel Whitbread Academy	2	-	-	50.0	-	50.0	-	-	-	-	50.0	100.0	30.0
4078	Sandy Secondary School	2	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	100.0	10.0



Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCE AS level (121)

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	A	B	C	D	E	U	X	A-B	A-E	Avg Pts
-	National (all entries)	15590	16.6	19.2	21.4	17.4	12.2	12.3	1.0	35.8	86.7	13.5
4011	Cedars Upper School	5	-	-	60.0	-	40.0	-	-	-	100.0	11.0
4083	Harlington Upper School	32	15.6	15.6	21.9	12.5	15.6	18.8	-	31.3	81.3	12.3
5401	Manshead School	17	-	5.9	29.4	29.4	17.6	11.8	5.9	5.9	82.4	9.4
4003	Redborne Upper School and Community College	4	-	-	-	25.0	50.0	25.0	-	-	75.0	5.0
4079	Samuel Whitbread Academy	4	25.0	-	25.0	25.0	-	25.0	-	25.0	75.0	12.5
4078	Sandy Secondary School	2	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	0.0