

Somerset SACRE

Report from the Diocese of Bath & Wells

June 2023

Context

The Diocese of Bath & Wells has 183 schools in three local authorities. In B&NES and North Somerset all church schools are in strong multi-academy trusts. In Somerset the diocese works with nine different trusts but there are still around 60 church schools in Somerset yet to academise.

SIAMS (Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

SIAMS reports all contain a specific comment and grade for collective worship. They all comment on the effectiveness of the RE provision and its priority in the school. In a voluntary aided (or former VA in an academy) there is an additional comment on the teaching, learning and progress in RE.

Of the Somerset schools and academies 73 were currently graded Good at their last SIAMS inspection, 34 graded Excellent (previously outstanding), 9 graded Requires Improvement (previously Satisfactory). 2 inspection outcomes are pending publication of the report.

We monitor Ofsted reports for comments specifically on RE and/or collective worship.

There is a new SIAMS Framework from September 2023. We are offering regular training online for teachers, school and MAT leaders and governors.

Training and support for RE in our CPD brochure (mainly for primary/middle schools)

An annual training event for new RE subject leaders/coordinators (either in early September or late summer in preparation for September, 'Help! I've been given RE' - always popular.

Annual RE conference – held this year in Flourish house, Wells on 28th March. About 50 attendees. Speaker Katie Freeman on 'A worldviews approach to RE in your curriculum'. She also led a session on assessment. Planning is going ahead for next year (possibly with Adam Robertson from RE Today, also the RE adviser to B&NES and North Somerset SACREs).

Annual 'Understanding Christianity' training in person and a refresher webinar online.

Also bespoke support and staff meeting training as requested.

Learn, Teach Lead RE

Trained hub leaders have led termly online hubs in Taunton and South Somerset. There may be a move to one online hub, but we hope for a mid-Somerset 'in person' hub in due course.

Conference on 30th June. All teachers of RE in primary and secondary schools are welcome. Details from Pauline Dodds or Shell Sullivan.

It is a pleasure to work with Shell Sullivan and I look forward to working alongside the new primary adviser when appointed.

Pauline Dodds
School Effectiveness Adviser
Diocese of Bath & Wells.