

# Westhill NASACRE

## Bridging Diversity

### SACRE Servicing Officers Report: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Suffolk SACRE

#### NASACRE Westhill Funded project: Suffolk SACRE Bridging Diversity Events: June 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

The commissioned project was completed ahead of the October 2018 deadline, with all aspects of the project criteria having been fulfilled (by Jan McGuire): website, project profiles, event sessions and written report (completed and submitted June 2018).

The 'Bridging Diversity' schools were carefully selected by SACRE members; using a list of criteria that focused on diverse and mono-cultural rural schools. 40 children from year 5 and 6 attended on day 1, and 49 children on day 2. Jan McGuire planned and led the two events supported by a team of SACRE and community volunteers.

The focus of the day was the 'Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit' Big Question: Why do some people respond with hate, when others respond with love and forgiveness? The real story of Manwar Ali and the fire that ravaged St Michael's Church in Ipswich was central to the event, and the evaluation letters received from the pupils reinforced that holding the event at the site had an impact on them. Key words and themes such as hate-crime, community, forgiveness, diversity, and faith were explored through-out the activities. The day was interactive, and activities had been designed to allow the pupils to mix, discuss different opinions and beliefs, and to allow them to have an enjoyable learning experience. The shared lunch was an opportunity to try foods, eat and socialise together.

Pupils explored what it means to live in a diverse society, using techniques that have been designed to help teachers and pupils explore the teaching of controversial issues in a safe and inclusive manner. The project aimed to 'promote respect and celebrate cultural diversity'. SACRE were able to use their award winning 'Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit', modelling the techniques to teachers and evaluating the impact of the day by asking questions throughout the event. I would like to personally thank all volunteers that helped to make the two events successful and worthwhile for all those attending.

Link to the 'Teaching Controversial Issues' Toolkit:

<http://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/11-19-learning-teaching/religious-education/sacre/prevent>

Link to the Westhill NASACRE Suffolk Bridging Diversity website pages:

<http://www.westhillendowment.org/suffolk-sacre-bridging-diversity/Home>

