

Annual Report 2015-2016

Sutton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Sutton SACRE.



Sutton SACRE Annual report

The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how that was responded to; this includes advice on RE and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on its schools. For Religious Education (RE) SACRE advises community, voluntary controlled and Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation. For Collective Worship (CW) SACRE advises the LA on community, Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

This report will be available on the Sutton website: www.sutton.gov.uk

Three meetings were held during the 2015-16 Academic year;

3rd November 2015 at The Sutton Civic Centre, St Nicholas Way, Sutton Surrey

23rd February 2016 at The Sutton Civic Centre, St Nicholas Way, Sutton Surrey

14th June 2016 at Horizon Church, Assembly Walk, Carshalton, Surrey

Introduction from the Chair

As chair of Sutton SACRE, I would commend this Annual Report to your attention and interest.

This year has been a challenging year, not only in education, but generally in our national and international experience. With the surprise results of votes and elections in the UK and abroad, the rise of far-right groups throughout Europe, and the increasing numbers of hate crimes being reported, good Religious Education becomes invaluable. At its heart, it asks us to look both critically and empathetically at the world-views of others, and of ourselves. It encourages dialogue, and seeks understanding and tolerance.

Sutton SACRE supports and encourages good practice in the teaching of RE, and in Collective Worship. We value and applaud the good work, enthusiasm, imagination and professionalism of all teachers of RE – especially the significant number who are not subject specialists. This report illustrates how we have supported teachers over the past year.

I would particularly draw attention to the rolling out of the new Sutton Agreed RE Syllabus for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, and Key Stage 2. This section of the syllabus was completed in November 2015. Teachers have started using it this year, and have reported finding it thorough and user-friendly.

I would like to thank SACRE members for their commitment to and enthusiasm for this task. I would particularly like to thank those who have retired this year for their valued service: Ms Kate Evans represented the Sutton LA until leaving the service at the end of the spring term, and her support and advice has been invaluable; Ms Michaela Cucharo has been a member of SACRE for 11 years, and her experience as a teacher has also been invaluable to SACRE, especially in the Agreed Syllabus discussions. We welcome Mr Khawer Siddiqi, who has joined SACRE this year as a representative of the Muslim faith.

Finally, I would like to thank Cllr Richard Broadbent as Vice-Chair, Ms Penny Smith-Orr for her very effective support and input as Consultant, and Mrs Penny Garry for her immensely efficient clerking.

Chair of Sutton SACRE

Mark Williams

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority.

The new Sutton Agreed Syllabus 2015 was sent out in the Autumn term with a foreword by Colin Stewart, Head of Education in Sutton. The LA had paid for some secretarial support for typing but was unable to pay for printing hard copies or for a CD so the Sutton Agreed Syllabus 2015 was emailed to schools and can be found on the Sutton Council Website under Educational Resources.

The LA representative was asked to send the National Association of SACRES (NASACRE) leaflet which offers advice on using your SACRE to all schools. Cllr Broadbent, the Vice Chair of SACRE, sent information on the new Agreed Syllabus and a link to it to all Councillors in Sutton.

The LA provided funding for two members of SACRE to attend the NASACRE AGM in May and continues to pay for the subscription to the National organisation.

Currently there are changes within Sutton Council once these are completed there may be better opportunities for SACRE to link with their wider agenda.

Schools

There is an RE Coordinators network meeting each term at which there is a presentation of teaching ideas for religious education and discussion on various topics of interest to the Coordinators. Advice and guidance is also given to schools by email and telephone conversations throughout the year. A member of the SACRE committee came to one meeting to introduce the Ambassadors of Faith initiative that SACRE has been discussing.

The meetings have historically been open to both Sutton and Merton RE coordinators and the Chair of Merton SACRE came to the summer term meeting to give information on the new Merton Agreed Syllabus 2016. Now that both Sutton and Merton have distributed their new Agreed Syllabuses there will be separate RE Coordinator meetings for the two councils.

The RE Consultant to SACRE attended a Head teachers breakfast meeting in the Summer term and spoke about the new syllabus, the importance of RE and Collective Worship and gave some information on the work of Sutton SACRE. This was well received and good feedback was given on the detail of the new syllabus. SACRE decided that schools should also be informed that with the new syllabus in place they should not need to purchase material from commercial organisations.

Discussions at SACRE also took place on the merits of sending a questionnaire out to schools to advertise SACRE, to ensure that the new syllabus was being used and to see what support might be needed. This was sent out in the Autumn term 2016.

During this year, there was a morning workshop held in February for advice on planning with the new syllabus. There were also two courses for coordinators and teachers of RE on ideas and activities for teaching the 'Festivals of Light' and on teaching activities connected with 'Spring Festivals'.

The RE Coordinator at Victor Seymour Infant School has a selection of resource boxes that schools can borrow for free. At the summer term meeting, there was an opportunity for Coordinators to take some artefacts which came from the closure of the Croydon Resource centre and remaining items were sent to Victor Seymour.

It has not been possible to arrange a Governor's training session this year. The forum of Sutton Governors has been asked to have a link to SACRE information.

Government

SACRE discussed the high court ruling on Humanism and concluded that information on Humanism and other secular perspectives are provided in the new syllabus and that RE is not about promoting any one religion or faith position.

The major reports that came out this year on Religious Education and Collective Worship were discussed and comments noted for sending to the REC commission.

Standards and Quality of provision of RE

It is generally difficult for SACREs to ascertain the standards of religious education teaching in schools without the cooperation of the schools. It is hoped that once the KS3 part of the Agreed Syllabus is launched schools will use this.

From discussion at network meetings there is little withdrawal from RE lessons in Sutton Primary schools. Some of the Primary schools employ one person to teach all the religious education which ensures progression, other schools employ the Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to teach religious education but these are overseen by an RE Coordinator who is a class teacher.

Thirteen schools entered 1505 pupils for the GCSE full course exam. Wilson's school pupils gained 100% A* and over 50% of pupils in Wallington High school for Girls and Nonsuch High school also gained A*. Five schools entered 277 pupils altogether for the short course GCSE exam which is encouraging as many schools nationally have stopped entering pupils for the short course. Eight schools entered pupils for the AS level exam and ten schools entered pupils for the A level course.

There have been no complaints on religious education received by SACRE.

Results of exams taken in Sutton in 2016

2016	Full Course GCSE		AS Level		A2 level
Sutton % A*-C	84%	Sutton % A*-B	62.3%	Sutton % A*-B	68.5%
National % A*-C	70.2%	National % A*-B	45%	National % A*-B	54.4%
Sutton %A*G	99.4%	Sutton % A*-E	94.8%	Sutton %A*-E	99.3%
Number entered Sutton	1505	Number entered Sutton	191	Number entered Sutton	143
National Number entered	252022	Number entered National	32913	Number entered National	22079

Agreed Syllabus

The new Sutton Agreed Syllabus 2015, for Foundation, KS1 and KS2, was sent to schools in Autumn 2015. The feedback from schools and RE coordinators has been very good and the layout and suggested teaching strategies have been appreciated.

During this year, some work has been done on a new syllabus for KS3 and KS4. The feeling of the Secondary teacher representative on SACRE was that we should wait for the new GCSE exam orders and then work on KS3 with these in mind. As the orders were held up in their publication it was not possible to launch the new section during the 2015-2016 academic year but work on this continues. The RE Consultant is employed for 15 days per year and the work on the syllabus must come out of this time.

Collective worship

Members of SACRE discussed whether there was a need to send out a new guidance document on Collective Worship and it was decided that the answers from the teacher's survey will be used to help with the decision.

There have been no determinations received during this year and no complaints regarding Collective Worship

Management of SACRE

The Chair continues to be Revd Mark Williams from Group B and Vice-chair Cllr Richard Broadbent from Group D. During the year discussions on representative membership have taken place. We have welcomed a new Muslim representative and actively looked for a Hindu representative. The meetings have been quorate and taken place in the Sutton civic centre and a church.

The agenda is set by the RE Consultant and the Chair and papers and minutes sent by email very promptly by the clerk supplied by the LA.

The three priorities for the academic year 2015-16 were as follows;

- To build a good relationship with secondary schools, RE Heads of Department and promote the Ambassadors for Faith & Belief idea.
- Review and revise the RE Syllabus
- Get better representation on SACRE from other faiths and beliefs.

These have either been fully achieved or are being acted upon continually.

The Meeting the Challenge paper from the NASACRE AGM in 2015 was used as a basis for discussions on how we can more effective as a SACRE. Ideas have been included in the development plan for this academic year and this is used as a working document and referred to at each meeting.

Other discussions were on the information from the useful NASACRE briefing papers, changes to exam orders, how to increase the number of RE Coordinators attending meetings and collective worship.

Membership of Sutton SACRE for 2015-16 and attendance can be seen in the table below:

- A- Non C of E Christian denominations and other faith representatives,
- B- Church of England,
- C- Teachers
- D- Councillors

Apologies for absence are indicated by *

Group	No. of meetings	Name	Group	No. of meetings	Name
A	1	Mr K Siddiqi (new)	C	1*	Miss V M Stone
A	2	Mr L Bracken	C	3	Mrs M Cockram
A	3	Rev D Smith	C	3	Mr P Henry
A	3	Mrs R Johnson	C	1**	Ms M Cucharo
B	3	Revd M Williams			
B			D	3	Cllr R Broadbent
B	1	Mrs P Teasdale	D	2*	Cllr M Burstow
B	3	Mrs C Smythe	D	1*	Cllr T Crowley
			D	1*	Cllr S Gordon
			D	1**	Cllr N Patel
			D	1	Cllr H Ramsey(from May)
	2	Ms K Evans Observer/LA Representative		*	LA School Improvements team
	3	Mrs P Garry			Clerk
	3	Ms P Smith-Orr			Consultant/Observer

Two meetings were attended by the Lead Inspector for Primary school improvement and support services, however she left the Council in the Spring and has not been replaced on the SACRE committee so the link with the Education Department has been lost.

At the June meeting it was reported that there would be no change in the annual budget for SACRE when the responsibility for SACRE is transferred to the Council's new education services company in November 2016. The budget for SACRE pays for the services of an RE Consultant for 15 days per year and a clerk is funded by the LA by the Education Department.

Self-evaluation of Sutton SACRE (Summer 2016)

Key Area	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1A	Compliance and time allocation for RE		x	
1B	Public examination entries RE Standards and achievement		x	
1C	Quality of teaching, leadership and management		x	
1D	Recruitment and retention issues		x	
1E	Resources		x	
2A	SACRE meetings			x
2B	Membership and training		x	
2C	Improvement and development planning		x	
2D	Professional and financial support		x	
2E	Information and advice	x		
2F	Partnership with our key stakeholders	x		
3A	Review of Agreed Syllabus			x
3B	Using the non statutory National Framework for RE		x	
3C	Developing the revised Agreed Syllabus		x	
3D	Consultation/launch/implementation of the Agreed syllabus		x	
3E	Additional guidance/ monitoring and evaluating the Agreed syllabus			x
4A	Practice and provision for collective worship	x		
4B	Monitoring collective worship/ tackling issues of non compliance	x		

5A	Representative nature of SACRE		x	
5B	Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural, ethnic community		x	
5C	Understanding the intrinsic contribution RE can make to social and racial harmony		x	
5D	Links to the LA initiatives promoting social and racial harmony	x		