



**HAVING
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 12



Chair's Foreword

Once again it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report from SACRE for 2012.

SACRE members decided to take on the great task of constructing a Constitution, setting down terms of reference for Havering's SACRE, as it was agreed by the group that such a document was long overdue. This has involved researching the Terms of Reference of other SACREs and a great deal of discussion. We thank Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson, a co-opted member of SACRE, for arranging our thoughts coherently on paper. In addition, SACRE members gave serious thought to the manner in which its Chair and Vice-Chairs are selected and to the length of their terms of office in these roles.

During the past year a new Advisor for the teaching of RE at secondary-age level was appointed. He is Daniel Hugill of the Coopers' Company and Coborn School in Upminster who has already represented our SACRE at a conference in Warwick. Through his work with NATRE he is very actively engaged in addressing several important issues which have arisen following the introduction of the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) measure in secondary school league tables which is aimed at increasing the uptake of Geography, History and Modern Foreign Languages at GCSE level. Many within the RE community feel that the Ebacc will have unforeseen negative consequences on the delivery of RE at Key Stage Four. This is something that we have agreed to monitor as the local and national picture develops.

For its summer term meeting SACRE was welcomed by the staff and pupils of St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Hornchurch, where the Year 6 pupils gave us a very polished and moving performance of their Easter Assembly before proudly showing us round their school. It was extremely interesting to see the evidence of good RE teaching on display in classrooms and in the pupils' books. After this, SACRE member Kevin Walsh took us on a tour of the adjoining St Mary's Church before we received splendid hospitality in the presbytery, prior to getting down to our business meeting. It is always good to maintain our practice of continuing to learn more about each other and this annual tradition serves to foster this.

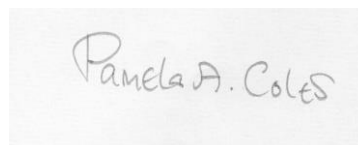
Hacton Primary School, which prides itself "on being a "Sharing and Caring" school, was honoured with the Michael Edwards Award for 2011. The children there learn about tolerance and acceptance of others' similarities and differences but actively engage in putting these qualities into practice. During the Academic Year 2010 - 11 Hacton pupils successfully raised over £2,300 for various appeals, including the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Red Nose Day and charities such as Help the Heroes, Little Havens Children's Hospice and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, all chosen by the school council. In addition, the choir visits residential homes each Christmas to sing carols to the people there and harvest produce is distributed to the elderly in Hornchurch. Following our Agreed Syllabus, which continues to be much-acclaimed, has enabled the pupils to study the lives of famous people and learn about key figures and stories from the Christian, Islamic, Sikh and Hindu Faiths, which, in turn, has encouraged the children to consider how such examples can be applied to their own lives.

SACRE continues to believe that sound RE teaching is invaluable in setting both moral and theological parameters for today's children, our citizens of tomorrow.

Teaching pupils respect for all faiths and providing them with information on what members of the different religions have contributed towards our nation can only help to combat faith-related bullying and work towards dispelling some of the myths surrounding the beliefs of some of the faith groups.

As you will see in the tables contained within the following pages, Havering pupils continue to do well academically and RE remains an important element. All in all, I think that 2011 has been another productive and successful year. My thanks go to all members of SACRE who continue to give their time so generously and to the teaching staff of the borough's schools who continue to deliver such high quality education to Havering's children.

I commend this report.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela A. Coles".

(Chair of SACRE)

House-team Leaders at Hacton Primary School with their Michael Edwards Award



Observations from the Secondary RE Advisor

Recently the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) compiled some quotes from pupils that give a flavour of their perceptions of Religious Education, this is what some of them said:

“I think in RE it is always very interesting to learn about different beliefs while still believing in my religion”

“I have found out that many people live in ways that to you are unthinkable but to them are normal”

“I like RE because we can ask questions and talk about what we think”

“We discuss issues that make me look inside myself and think very deeply about the world, behaviour, my personality, my beliefs”

“In RE I like it that there is not just one right answer. I like the debates. I like getting people to respond and I like to understand other peoples’ decisions”

(from NATRE: www.natre.org)

It is important that we come back to the experience of Havering’s young people when we consider the Religious Education taught here. Across Havering there is a great deal of excellent RE being taught. The lessons themselves would amaze many adults. The discussions and topics covered are varied and of huge contemporary importance and as the above comments aim to illustrate: it is a subject that is highly valued by our young people.

In Havering’s RE classrooms you will find innovative teaching methods, interactive lessons and a real passion for the study of religion and beliefs. Many of the borough’s schools embark on regular trips to places of worship, and other relevant places to put in context the classroom learning and to expose their students to other views and ways of living. Attendance at our local inter-faith forum is strong and attracts people old and young from a range of religious traditions. The Michael Edwards Award was this year awarded to Hacton Primary School for the excellent work that they are doing and which reinforces the claim that RE is still a significant factor in children’s lives.

Havering has a thriving network meeting for primary RE colleagues and a recently revived network meeting for secondary RE teachers. Recent meetings have covered such topics as assessment, auditing of department plans, use of art in Religious Education and a session looking at examples of outstanding RE.

All RE teachers and their students know the value of good quality Religious Education, and SACRE members agree with them. SACRE has spent a great deal of time this year thinking about the national developments within education that are having an impact on Religious Education across the nation. Many of these developments have been recognized by the RE community as having potentially negative effects on our subject.

SACRE has been paying particular attention to the National Curriculum Review that is being conducted and which decided **not** to include RE (which is part of the Basic Curriculum) within it. The Minister of State for Schools invited the RE Council to conduct its own review, and SACREs across the country wait with interest to the launch of this review and hope to make a contribution to the review.

The exclusion of RE GCSE from the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) led to a national campaign for its inclusion. While the Minister of State for Education did not reverse the decision, the campaign can be seen as successfully raising the profile of RE nationally. The RE community, including our own SACRE, is closely monitoring the effect of the EBacc performance measure on RE teaching. We have also written to all secondary Headteachers to remind them of their legal responsibility to provide RE to their students. We know that students value the subject and they deserve the chance to study it. One of the national impacts of the EBacc campaign was the establishing of an All Party Parliamentary Group for RE within Westminster and we hope that this group will continue to promote the importance of RE within the curriculum.

Havering SACRE has agreed to monitor the many developments happening within education, and particularly those that effect the teaching of RE and the work currently done by SACRE. The members of SACRE are committed to ensuring that the young people in the Borough experience outstanding RE throughout their time in our schools.

1. Religious Education (RE)

1.1. Standards in Religious Education

Examination results at GCSE are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring of standards.

The results for 2011 GCSE courses:

GCSE full course

The proportion of Havering students achieving an A*- C and A*- G grade in the full GCSE dropped in 2011 (see table below), taking the Local Authority's figure to below the national average for A*- C

GCSE short course

In the short course GCSE, the proportion of students achieving an A*- C and A*- G grade also dropped slightly in 2011. However, the drop in the national figure was even greater, leaving Havering's position relatively improved (see table below).

Both locally and nationally, there was an increase in the number of students taking the full course and fewer taking the short course.

		Full Course		Short Course	
		A*-C %	A*-G %	A*-C %	A*-G %
LA	2011	70.3%	98.7%	61.3%	97.4%
	2010	80.0%	99.5%	62.3%	97.9%
	Diff	-9.6%	-0.8%	-1.1%	-0.5%
National	2011	72.1%	98.4%	50.6%	94.9%
	2010	72.1%	98.7%	52.3%	96.1%
	Diff	0.0%	-0.3%	-1.7%	-1.2%
LA vs. NA	2011	-1.8%	0.3%	10.7%	2.5%
	2010	7.9%	0.8%	10.0%	1.8%

1.2. Agreed Syllabus

Schools implemented the Havering Agreed Syllabus 'Pathways', (published in November 2007) in September 2008. The vast majority of Primary schools are using the new schemes of work as the basis for delivering the Agreed Syllabus. These were updated and shared with schools in September 2010. Most Secondary schools have developed their own schemes of work.

1.3. Teacher Training

Advice is provided to Primary schools through the Havering School Improvement Service (HSIS) and there are regular, well-attended meetings for Primary RE co-ordinators. In 2010/2011 this consisted of:

- Teaching and learning about and from Judaism: creation, revelation and redemption
- Teaching of Christianity with specific reference to the Havering schemes of work
- Good practice in Primary RE

The subject of the Summer Term session was updating the Schemes of Work and adding cross-curricular links. All RE co-ordinators were able to contribute their comments via fax back or email template. The updated Schemes of Work were shared with all schools and the independent sector through CDs in September 2010

Attendance at the RE Co-ordinators conferences remains high, varying between 25 and 35 schools represented. Where RE co-ordinators are unable to attend, all materials are electronically forwarded to those schools along with explanatory letters. This includes Independent and Special schools.

The secondary RE teachers' network has recently been revived and it is hoped that it will develop into a forum where secondary RE teachers can

support one another and learn from the best practice happening within the borough,

1.4. Complaints concerning RE

No formal complaints were made about religious education under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2011.

2. Collective Worship

2.1. Monitoring

Collective worship is a major focus for the work of SACRE in 2010/2011 pending the review of Circular 1/94. New guidance will be produced for schools as soon as possible.

2.2. Training

There has been no training on collective worship during the year.

2.3. Determinations

There were no applications for determinations (to alter the character of collective worship for all or some pupils in a particular school) during 2011.

2.4. Complaints concerning collective worship

No formal complaints were made about collective worship under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2011.

3. Links with other agencies

3.1. National

Havering SACRE belongs to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Members attend conferences and other events and report to full SACRE meetings.

3.2. Local

SACRE has links with a range of faith and secular groups in the borough. The practice of holding some SACRE meetings in schools and different places of worship continues.

4. SACRE arrangements

4.1. Meetings

SACRE holds regular meetings during the year. The meetings are well attended with good representation from the faith groups and the local

Humanist Association. There is usually one meeting each term. SACRE sets its own agenda and commissions reports and updates from the Local Authority Adviser and Consultant. SACRE has met three times during 2010/2011. In the spring and autumn terms the meeting was held at the Town Hall. The Summer Term meeting was held at St Mary's RC Church Hornchurch Road after SACRE members were given to a tour of the Church and an exposition of Roman Catholic worship practice, which was followed by a visit to St Mary's Primary School next door where they were shown a presentation of the Easter story by children and had then been shown around the school by those children.

SACRE has received regular reports on local and national developments in RE. Topics discussed include: the National Curriculum Review currently underway, the relationship between autonomous academies and the Local Agreed Syllabus, and the effect of the English Baccalaureate on the teaching of Religious Education in secondary schools..

4.2. Budget

SACRE has a small annual budget to cover the cost of its work which is administered by the Education Service.

4.3. Professional and administrative support

SACRE has the services of a Committee Officer from Committee Administration at each of its meetings, both to minute the meeting and to give procedural advice. The Secondary and Primary Advisers attend SACRE meetings to report on work with schools, to offer advice and to assist SACRE in carrying out its role.

4.4. Monitoring

SACRE continues to monitor standards and quality in RE, the quality of provision for collective worship and for pupils' spiritual development from any information included in the most recent OfSTED reports for primary, secondary and special schools. In addition, examination results at GCSE and A/S and A level are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring and evaluation of standards.

5. The Michael Edwards Award

This annual award is presented in commemoration of the life and work of Michael Edwards, Adviser/Inspector for Religious Education in Havering, who died in 2004.

The award is made to schools which demonstrate good practice in multi-faith RE. The award alternates between primary and secondary schools and this year was open to Primary schools. The successful school was Hacton Primary and was awarded for its pupils' excellent fundraising for charity, which was clearly linked to RE teaching.

MEMBERS OF SACRE

The following is a list of SACRE members and officers in attendance for the period covered by this report.

Name	Group	Representing	Joined	Left
Mr Kevin Walsh	A	Roman Catholic	22/02/2007	
Revd. Lee Sunderland	A	Jewish Community	05/03/2009	
Mrs Pamela Coles	A	Methodist	Pre 2004	
Mr Sansar Narwal	A	Sikh Community	Pre 2004	
Miss Joan Watson	A	Religious Society of Friends	26/11/2009	
Mr Kamal Siddiqui	A	Muslim Community	05/03/2008	
Mr M Saleem	A	Muslim Community	21/10/2010	
Mr Om Dhir	A	Hindu Community	06/06/2007	
Mrs Brenda Mole	A	United Reformed Church	10/11/2004	22/02/12
Dr John Lester	A	Baha'i Faith	10/11/2004	
Mrs Christine Seymour	A	Havering and District Humanist Society	26/11/2009	
VACANT	A	New Church Movement		
VACANT	A	Baptist		
VACANT	A	Pentecostal Churches		
VACANT	A	Salvation Army		
Mrs Susan Freeman	B	Church of England	05/03/2009	
Mrs Alison Seaman	B	Church of England	07/11/2007	
VACANT	B	Church of England		
VACANT	B	Church of England		
Mrs Anne Masters	C	ATL	28/01/2009	
Mr Nick Hills	C	NUT - Seniors	26/11/2009	
Ms Linda Munday	C	NUT - Primary	11/01/2010	
Mr Chris Pearson	C	NASUWT	30/06/2004	
Mr Keith Shurlock	C	ASCL	05/03/2009	
VACANT	C	PAT		
Cllr Paul Rochford	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Paul McGeary	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Linda Trew	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Damian White	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Gillian Ford	D	Local Authority	11/07/2004	
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson		Co-opted	07/06/2010	

Advisors:

Judith Payne, Primary and Daniel Hugill, Secondary