

Annual Report 2014 to 2015

Introduction

The Royal Borough's **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities. This is its twenty-fifth report and it is divided into three parts.

Part one

Records the terms of reference of the Kensington and Chelsea SACRE and the occasions on which it met in 2014 to 2015.

Part two

Reports the matters dealt with by the SACRE during the year.

Part three

Notes the composition and membership of the SACRE.

Part one

The establishment, terms of reference and meetings of the SACRE

1. The Royal Borough's SACRE was established by the Education Committee (Shadow) on 14 June 1989. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: "to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit."
2. In particular the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:
 - It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on religious education.
 - It may determine, on application by the headteacher that the requirement for collective worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
 - With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers' in-service professional development.
3. In addition, the Education Committee (Shadow) decided to give a direct role to the SACRE in the consideration and disposal of complaints related to the curriculum or religious worship. The SACRE will be asked to advise where complaints relate to religious education given in accordance with an agreed syllabus or to religious worship in county schools.
4. The SACRE met on three occasions in 2014 to 2015:

20 November 2014;

12 March 2015;

25 June 2015.
5. The SACRE meets at the Royal Borough's Town Hall. Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of its duties is provided to SACRE by the Royal Borough. The SACRE is grateful to the Royal Borough for making this support available.

Part two

Matters dealt with by the SACRE in 2014 to 2015

Membership

6. This year the SACRE said farewell to some long-standing members including Rev Pat Alden and Miss Audrey Jones. Rev Alden had been involved with the Royal Borough's SACRE since September 1990. She was leaving to live and work in East Sussex. In February 2015 the SACRE noted with sadness the death of Mr Samuel Johnson-Paul who had been a representative of the Church of England on the SACRE since November 2006.
7. The SACRE welcomed two new members - Ms Judith Vandervelde and Mr Narif Sheikh.
8. Various topics were covered during the year and included updates from the SACRE RE consultant Ms Lesley Prior. Topics covered included –
 - British Values
 - 20+ ideas for SACREs
 - A new Settlement: Religion and Beliefs in Schools
9. **20+ ideas for SACREs** – one idea was that the SACRE meetings should be held at different venues. Thanks to the generous offer of Ms Darcy Biddulph the June 2015 meeting was hosted by the Buddhist Society at 58 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PH. Before the meeting commenced SACRE members were taken on a tour of the premises by Ms Biddulph
10. SACRE has a continued presence on the web, access is via the Royal Borough's website, the link is www.rbkc.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/sacre.aspx

The requirement for Collective Worship

11. The SACRE received no requests in 2014 to 2015 from headteachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their schools. The procedures for making such a request are set out in Appendix A of this report. Information about the procedures can also be obtained from the Clerk to the SACRE at the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX.

Complaints

12. The SACRE was not in 2014 to 2015 asked to deal with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools.

Part three

Composition and members of the Royal Borough's SACRE in 2014 to 2015

Chairman of the SACRE Mr J Djalili

Clerk to the SACRE Mrs Julie Farmer (*Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea*)

GROUP A – up to 10 members

Representing Christian and other religious denominations

- 3 Catholics
- 3 representatives of Christian Faiths outside the Church of England or Catholic Church
- 2 representatives of the Islamic Faith
- 2 representatives of other non –Christian faith

Ms K. Gilbert	Diocese of Westminster Education Service.
Miss A. Jones	Methodist Church (<i>left in June 2015</i>)
Ms S. Jaff	Islamic Faith (V-C)
Mr J. Djalili	Baha'i Faith (C)
Rev Ken Persaud	Notting Hill Community Church
Ms Cheryl Subban	Catholic Faith (<i>left March 2015</i>)
Ms Darcy Biddulph	Buddhist Faith
Ms Judith Vandervelde	Jewish Faith
Mr Narif Sheikh	Islamic Faith

Group B – up to 8 members

Representing the Church of England

Mr G. Marriner	(London Diocesan Board for Schools)
Mr S Johnson-Paul	

Up to six more members may be appointed.

Group C - up to 8 members

Representing teachers (including teachers of RE) and teachers' associations

Mr N Robson	(Holland Park School)
Ms Laura McManus	(Colville Primary School) (<i>left July 2015</i>)

Group D - up to 4 members

Representing the Royal Borough

Ms Lucy Nutt	Principal Lead Adviser
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Consultant to the SACRE

Ms Lesley Prior

Appendix A

The requirement for Collective Worship

Introduction

1. Section 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988 lays down that the collective worship required in community schools shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. DES circular 3/89 states that, in the Secretary of State's view, an act of worship which is 'broadly Christian' need not contain only Christian material provided, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character but within each school term the majority of acts must be so.
2. How collective worship is organised is for the headteacher to decide after consultation with the governing body, having regard to the following considerations:
 - any relevant circumstances relating to the pupils family backgrounds, for example the faith of the family;
 - their ages and aptitudes.
3. These considerations should inform:
 - the extent to which (if at all) any acts of collective worship in the school are not of a broadly Christian character;
 - the extent to which the broad traditions of Christian belief are reflected in those acts of worship of a broadly Christian character; and
 - the ways in which those traditions are reflected.

The role of the SACRE

4. If the headteacher of a community school considers that the requirements for collective worship described in paragraph two could conflict with what is required by paragraph three, he or she can apply to **the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to lift or modify the requirements**. Before doing so the headteacher must consult the school's governing body who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. **The headteacher's application does not need to apply to the whole school**. It can be limited to any class or description of pupils at the school, and might relate, for example, to a particular group or year group(s) in the school in which there were many pupils of a particular faith or religion.
5. The purpose of this procedure is to allow for acts of collective worship according to a faith or religion other than Christianity where, for some or all of the pupils in a school, the requirement that worship should be of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate. One factor which may inform a headteacher's decision to make an application to the SACRE is the extent of withdrawals from Christian collective worship.
6. In considering whether to grant a headteacher's request, the SACRE must take account of any relevant circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils concerned. When it has made a **determination** on the request – which can only take the form of acceptance or rejection without modification – it must communicate this in writing to the headteacher and state the date from which it will take effect. It is for the headteacher to decide what

form the alternative worship will take, although the SACRE should be informed of the proposed arrangements.

7. The headteacher will wish to take appropriate steps to notify the governing body and parents of the new arrangements. Where such a determination is made in respect of all or some of the pupils in the school, daily collective worship must still be provided for them. Where a determination has been granted in respect of a class or description of pupils of a particular faith or religion, the alternative collective worship may be provided for those pupils as a whole. It may not be distinctive of any particular **denomination** of any faith or religion, but may be distinctive of a particular faith or religion. Parents continue to have a right to withdraw their children from this collective worship.
8. Any determination made under these arrangements ends after five years, unless renewed by the SACRE. There must be a review by the SACRE no later than five years after any determination was introduced; and subsequently within five years of each review. The headteacher can request an earlier review at any time, after consulting with the governing body. The headteacher must be given an opportunity to take part in any review

and, in turn, is required to consult the governing body who may wish to seek the view of parents.

9. It has been a legal requirement since 1944 that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship. Section 6 of the Education Reform Act provides for flexibility in timing and organisation of daily collective worship. It need now no longer be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups. For this purpose, a 'school group' means any group or combination of groups in which pupils are taught or take place in other school activities; it does **not** mean a group reflecting particular religious beliefs.

10 If a headteacher considers that changes of the sort described in paragraphs four and five of this appendix are justified, he or she should:

- consult with the governing body,
- after that, make application to SACRE on the attached form.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education



Application for a variation in the requirement of the Education Act 1988 that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

1. **Name of school**.....
2. **Address of school**.....
3. **Name of headteacher**.....
4. **Pupils for whom the application is made**
(Is the application being made on behalf of the whole school or part of it? If a part, state which group and their numbers.)
5. **On what grounds is the application made?**
(State why you consider the requirement that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' to be inappropriate for pupils. Give any relevant information, including numbers, on the family background and faith of all pupils who would be affected.)
6. **Has the Governing Body been consulted?**
(By law it must be. Please state the view the Governing Body gave. Did the Governing Body consult parents? What was their view?)
7. **Have Parents been consulted?**
(What were their views?)
8. **What form would the proposed alternative form of collective worship take?**
(Give as much information as possible.)

Religious Studies GCSEs - 2015

GCSE Full courses	GCSE Grade:											2015		2014	
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Abs	Total	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G
Holland Park	18	57	52	30	21	10	8	4	2		202	78%	99%	70%	100%
St Thomas More	17	20	36	24	15	4	5				121	80%	100%	85%	99%
Sion Manning	3	24	23	19	11	7	3	1			91	76%	100%	59%	99%
Cardinal Vaughan	9	34	29	32	10	4	3		4		125	83%	97%	87%	100%
Chelsea Academy	7	22	21	32	24	14	14	12	6		152	54%	96%	42%	93%
Total	54	157	161	137	81	39	33	17	12		691	74%	98%	68%	98%

GCSE Short courses	GCSE Grade:											2014		2014	
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U		Total	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G
Holland Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Religious Studies A Levels - 2015

A Levels	A Level Grade:							Total	2015		2014	
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U		A-C	A-E	A-C	A-E
Holland Park		1	3	2	1			7	86%	100%	100%	100%
Cardinal Vaughan		1						1	100%	100%	100%	100%
Chelsea Academy			1	2	1			4	75%	100%	100%	100%
St Charles	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	65%	100%
Total		2	4	4	2			12	83%	100%	80%	100%

n/a = not available
NE = Not Entered