

BROMLEY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BROMLEY SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018



*BROMLEY SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs*

## Introduction to the Annual Report 2017-18

### Bromley Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Every Local Authority is required to have a SACRE which is made up of four groups; (A) Faith representatives, (B) The Church of England, (C) Teachers and (D) Councillors. The committee should reflect the faiths within the community.

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on religious education and collective worship in its schools. SACREs have a duty to publish an 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.

This report covers the academic year 2017-2018 and the three meetings of SACRE that were held at Bromley Civic Centre once each term.

### Contacts

#### SACRE Chairman

Rev. Roger Bristow

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#### Clerk to SACRE

Mrs Jo Partridge, Bromley Council

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### Chair's Introduction

I am, as always, indebted to Joanne Partridge who, in her role of Clerk to SACRE, continues to give invaluable support to both the Committee and to me. This past year we have been without the services of an RE Adviser and this has, inevitably, impacted upon our ability to deliver the service we hope to offer to schools in Bromley. Not least, it has meant that there were no official SACRE visits to schools during the year although some members were delighted to accept an invitation to observe an RE day at one primary school. I am grateful to the officers of the London Borough of Bromley, and especially the Interim Director of Education – Gillian Palmer – for facilitating the appointment of an RE Adviser to assist us in our work going forwards. We look forward to working with Stacey to deliver a high level of support to Bromley's schools and especially those at the front line of delivering high quality RE and the experience of life enhancing collective worship for all.

As the world we live in becomes ever more complex and fragile, and ignorance and intolerance in respect of the place of religion in society continues to grow, I am convinced that our role is vital. Bromley SACRE seeks to encourage and support those who deliver RE and lead Collective Worship in Bromley's schools (whether maintained or not) in helping to ensure that the children in Bromley's schools are given every opportunity to discover for themselves the role of faith in everyday life for many people.

***Rev. Roger Bristow.***

## **Advice to Statutory Bodies**

### **Local Authority**

During the year the Bromley SACRE met at the Bromley Civic Centre three times: December 2017, March 2018 and July 2018. The topics under discussion at these meetings included:

- School visits, their value and impact
- Ramadan Guidance for schools
- Self-evaluation using the SACRE Reporting and Evaluation Toolkit (see Appendix)
- Training delivered to school Governors on role of SACRE and status of RE in schools
- The challenges of working within a largely local academised landscape and without a dedicated SACRE budget
- Networking meetings for teachers
- Procurement of an RE Advisor
- Collective Worship within schools

During the year the Chairman attended the NASACRE AGM. Members were provided with feedback from the event and information from the AGM has informed various discussions at meetings since.

### **Schools**

Members of Bromley SACRE accepted an invitation to visit one primary school to attend their RE Day alongside representatives from within the local faith community. Unfortunately, due to the lack of an RE Advisor, there were no other SACRE school visits during the year.

At the time of the Bromley SACRE self-evaluation exercise in July 2017, visits to local schools were identified as one of its main successes, helping to establish communications and stronger relationships with school leaders. Members were, therefore, quite disappointed that this had not been able to happen during this year.

The Chairman was given the opportunity to deliver a presentation to a number of school governors, at one of their regular training sessions, in order to explain the role and purpose of SACRE as well as reminding governors of their responsibility to ensure that schools comply with legislation in the areas of RE and Collective Worship. This was very well received and resulted in some enquiries about inviting members to visit schools when it was considered practicable to do so.

Following the appointment of a new RE Advisor (September 2018) Bromley Council will be supporting the setting up of RE Teacher networks in 2018- 2019, through which a wider spreading and more accurate knowledge of school provision can hopefully be attained.

### **Government**

The 2016-17 annual report was sent to the Secretary of State for Education and was acknowledged by the Ministerial and Public Communications Division at the Department for Education.

### **Attainment and Quality of RE**

Previously the main way of monitoring RE and CW was through individual school visits. Following the appointment of a new RE Advisor (September 2018) Bromley Council will be supporting the setting up of RE Teacher networks in 2018- 2019, through which a wider spreading and more accurate knowledge of school provision can hopefully be attained.

The Bromley SACRE page on Fronter has a number of resources and the syllabus can be found on it and on the Council website along with the Collective Worship guidance document. Fronter is also being further enhanced to allow easier and faster access for schools.

During the year there were no complaints about Religious Education referred to SACRE.

## Standards and Quality of Provision of RE 2018 - Public Examinations

The public examination results give SACRE information on standards and are provided for SACRE by the LA and include Academies.

### GCSE Full Course in Religious Studies 2013-2018

Year	No. Bromley schools	No. Bromley Entries	Bromley % A* - C	National % A* - C		
2013	13	1,484	80%	72%		
2014	16	1,987	74%	70%		
2015	15	1,537	78%	71%		
2016	16	1,588	78%	70%		
2017	17	1,718	75%	70%		
2018	16	1,526	Bromley % 9-5	National % 9-5	Bromley % 9-4	National % 9-4
			59%	59%	69%	71%

School	No. entries: 2017	No. entries: 2018
Bishop Justus	175	172
Bullers Wood	35	32
Charles Darwin	1	1
Chislehurst School for Girls	180	149
Coopers	5	47
Darrick Wood	237	232
Harris Academy Beckenham	88	53
Harris Girls' Academy Bromley	106	0
Harris Academy Orpington	163	145
Hayes School	215	205
Kemnal Technology College	12	0
Langley Park School for Boys	62	30
Langley Park School for Girls	79	44
Newstead Wood	135	157
Ravenswood	22	47
St Olave's & St Saviour's	9	1
The Ravensbourne	194	210

Please Note: The new GCSE specifications and new marking schemes came on line for the 2018 examinations with a new marking structure to replace the grading system. Grade 4 is now considered a 'standard pass', whilst Grade 5, which is intended to be the equivalent to the previous high C or low B Grades, will now be considered a 'strong pass'.

Although comparisons of attainment with previous years is more complicated due to these changes, Bromley schools appear to be performing in line with the national picture.

The number of pupils being entered for the GCSE Full Course examination has reduced by approximately 200 pupils. Several Bromley schools have remained consistent in the proportion of pupils in a cohort (year group) being entered, but Harris Academy Bromley entered only 1 pupil where in the previous year they entered 100. More optimistically, Ravenswood more than doubled the number of entrants.

## A Level in Religious Studies 2013-2018

Exam Year	No. Bromley schools	No. of Bromley entrants	Bromley % A*-A grades	National % A*-A grades	Bromley % A*-B grades	National % A*-B grades	Bromley % A-E grades	National % A-E grades
2013	13	138	30%	22%	62%	51%	99%	99%
2014	13	137	30%	21%	57%	49%	100%	98%
2015	14	156	27%	21%	56%	50%	98%	99%
2016	13	177	26%	20%	64%	51%	100%	100%
2017	13	142	31%	24%	59%	51%	100%	99%
2018	13	149	25%	20%	54%	49%	99%	98%

School	No. entries: 2017	No. entries: 2018
Bishop Justus	12	22
Bullers Wood	16	10
Chislehurst School for Girls	11	7
Darrick Wood	4	6
Harris Academy Beckenham	-	2
Harris Girls' Academy Bromley	5	12
Harris Academy Orpington	4	0
Hayes School	16	12
Langley Park School for Boys	10	11
Langley Park School for Girls	12	13
Newstead Wood	11	11
Ravenswood	10	11
St Olave's & St Saviour's	15	11
The Ravensbourne	16	21

The number of entrants for A Level examinations remains consistent across the Borough with most schools entering similar numbers to the previous year. There was a positive and substantial increase in the number of entrants at Bishop Justus School, but it appears that there were no entrants from the Harris Academy Orpington.

Attainment in the A Level examinations remains consistent across Bromley, continuing to exceed the national percentages of pupils achieving the highest grades. This year there were 5% more students obtaining the highest A Level grades than nationally.

### Agreed Syllabus

Bromley's Agreed Syllabus was launched in the autumn term of 2013, and is now due for revision with the process starting in the new academic year. Previous visits to schools indicated that it is being used in the majority of Bromley schools, although some schools have either supplemented it or are using a different syllabus (i.e. the CofE schools use the Rochester Diocesan Syllabus). Some provisional consultation work has commenced (Summer 2018) following the appointment of an RE Advisor to the Council.

### Collective Worship

During their visits to schools members are able to view how Collective Worship is conducted. Bromley guidance on Collective Worship with ideas and suggestions for quality collective worship is on the Fronter system accessed by some schools and is available as a hard copy for schools who request this.

There have been no determinations regarding Collective Worship this year.

## Management of SACRE

The Chair of Bromley SACRE is Rev. Roger Bristow from the Church of England representative Group B. The Vice Chair was Councillor Keith Onslow until the end of July 2018, and is currently Councillor Brooks, both from Group D.

A development plan is produced for SACRE each year aligned with the financial year of the council and during the year the committee updated the self-evaluation of SACRE document (Appendix 1), and also looked at and discussed the challenges for SACREs nationally.

One of the priorities has continued to be to involve more teachers in the SACRE. A number of teachers from both primary and secondary and Academy and maintained schools have responded to an invitation to explore joining the committee. All new members are given a copy of the NASACRE handbook when they join.

## Membership of Bromley SACRE during 2017-18

A - Other Faith representatives			
Mrs Samantha Barnett	<i>Jewish</i>	Mr Saiyed Mahmood	<i>Muslim</i>
Mrs Patricia Colling	<i>Roman Catholic</i>	Mr Arvinder Nandra	<i>Sikh</i>
Mr Sanjay Gupta	<i>Hindu</i>	Mrs Edlene Whitman	<i>Free Church</i>
Mr Ray Hagley	<i>Free Church</i>		

B – Church of England representatives	
Rev. Roger Bristow	<i>(Chair)</i>
Mrs Virginia Corbyn	

C – Teachers representatives	
Mrs Denise Angell	<i>(Primary)</i>
Ms Hannah Arnold	<i>(Primary)</i>
Ms Stella Odusola	<i>(Secondary)</i>

D – Councillor representatives	
Councillor Robert Evans	Councillor Keith Onslow
Councillor Kevin Brooks	Councillor Sarah Phillips (until May 2018)
Councillor David Jefferys	Councillor Chris Pierce (from May 2018)

## Officers

Mrs Carol Arnfield Head of Service - Early Years, School Standards and Adult Education  
 Mrs Julia Andrew Head of School Standards  
 Mrs Jo Partridge Clerk

## Attendance of Bromley SACRE during 2017-18

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2017				
A	B	C	D	Apologies
Samantha Barnett	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chair)	Denise Angell	Cllr Robert Evans	Patricia Colling
Saiyed Mahmood	Virginia Corbyn	Hannah Arnold	Cllr Keith Onslow	Sanjay Gupta
Arvinder Nandra	Christopher Town	Jed Stone	Cllr Sarah Phillips	Ray Hagley
Edlene Whitman	Rev. Steve Varney			Cllr David Jefferys

<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>				
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Saiyed Mahmood Arvinder Nandra Ray Hagley	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chair) Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney	Denise Angell Hannah Arnold	Cllr Kevin Brooks Cllr Robert Evans Cllr David Jefferys Cllr Sarah Phillips	Samantha Barnett Patricia Colling Edlene Whitman Virginia Corbyn Sanjay Gupta Cllr Keith Onslow

<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018</b>				
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Ray Hagley Arvinder Nandra Saiyed Mahmood	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chair) Virginia Corbyn Rev. Steve Varney	Denise Angell	Cllr Kevin Brooks Cllr Robert Evans Cllr David Jefferys	Samantha Barnett Edlene Whitman Christopher Town Cllr Keith Onslow Cllr Chris Pierce

Key Area		Developing	Established	Advanced
<b>Standards and Quality of Provision of RE</b>				
1A	RE provision across the LA		x	
1B	Standards and achievement		x	
1C	Quality of learning and teaching		x	
1D	Quality of leadership and management	x		
1E	Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff	x		
1F	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools		x	
<b>The effectiveness of the locally Agreed Syllabus</b>				
2A	Review of the Agreed Syllabus	x		
2B	The quality of the Agreed Syllabus		x	
2C	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus	x		
2D	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference		x	
2E	Developing the revised agreed syllabus		x	
2F	Making best use of National Guidance		x	
<b>Collective Worship</b>				
3A	Supporting pupil entitlement in LA's schools		x	
3B	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		x	
3C	Responding to requests for determinations		x	
<b>Management of SACRE</b>				
4A	How purposeful, inclusive, representative and effective are SACRE meetings?		x	
4B	Membership and Training	x		
4C	Improvement/development planning		x	
4D	Professional and financial support		x	
4E	How well informed is SACRE to be able to advise the LA appropriately?	x		
4F	Partnerships with key stakeholders		x	
4G	Relations with the Academies sector		x	
<b>Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community</b>				
5A	Representative nature of SACRE in the local community			x
5B	SACRE's understanding of the local community in its religious, cultural and ethnic dimensions		x	
5C	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda		x	
5D	SACRE's Links to LA initiatives promoting community cohesion	x		