

HSACRE

HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

The current HSACRE was inaugurated on 22 February 1989 and this is its twenty-second Annual Report in accordance with its constitution and statutory obligations.

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1. FOREWORD BY THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, CLLR. DAVID SIMMONDS CBE



It gives me great pleasure to introduce this twenty second Annual Report of Hillingdon's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education [SACRE].

It was pleasing to see the variety of joint working undertaken by SACRE during the year, in particular, the conference hosted in partnership with Brunel University. This facilitated a lively discussion between teachers, parents and other RE experts about the future of RE in schools.

A further important work area for Hillingdon SACRE was the review of its aims and objectives, with members agreeing that there needed to be a focus on how to provide support and development opportunities for teachers. This need was further evidenced by the results of a survey that was sent to all schools in the Borough. Consequently, a 'Walk Through the Bible' course was developed to support teachers in the teaching of children about the Bible. I am pleased that this was both well received and well attended.

Hillingdon SACRE has a clear commitment to encouraging children to explore issues of faith, and the interfaith conferences arranged in schools, which always lead to informed debate, are well supported by SACRE members.

I would like to thank SACRE's members, and those who support it, for their work during the year and encourage them to continue this in the future.

2. MEMBERSHIP

HSACRE members are from four distinct groups and the committee is only quorate when at least one representative from each group is present:

GROUP A – Representatives of all faith groups in Hillingdon, including representatives from the Christian community who are not members of the Church of England. HSACRE works at ensuring that along with representatives from all the major world faiths, it works with all communities within the Borough and welcomes their representation so long as they recognise the emphasis placed on inclusion by HSACRE.

GROUP B - Representatives from the Christian Church of England.

GROUP C - Representatives from each of the teachers' professional associations.

GROUP D -Hillingdon Councillors.

A list of members of each committee is included as an appendix.

Clerk - Nadia Williams (Democratic Services) served as clerk for the first two meetings of 2013 after which Steven Maiden took over.

Eric Blaire retired as HSACRE consultant at the end of 2012. Duncan Struthers was appointed as HSACRE advisor.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Members of the SACRE joined in thanking Dr Eric Blaire for his work as advisor to SACRE and were pleased to appoint Duncan Struthers to this post, following his many years of dedicated service as Chairman. As the Chairman of SACRE, I am indebted to Duncan and also to the Vice Chair, Carole Jones for their support and encouragement. During the year, we also thanked Nadia Williams for her service as clerk and welcomed Steven Maiden.

The Hillingdon SACRE reviewed its aims and objectives during the year, with members unanimously agreeing that the most effective way to ensure that RE was promoted and taught well in the Borough was to focus on providing high quality support and development for teachers. A questionnaire sent to all schools provided the evidence that training was an area that schools felt they needed support with and enabled us to prioritise developing teacher subject knowledge in RE as the focus. An action plan was drawn up, alongside a budget plan proposal to seek to ensure that this vision became reality. The plan began this year by providing a course called 'Walk Through the Bible' to help teachers to teach children about the Bible. The course was very well attended and there were requests from schools for the course to be repeated.

During the year, there was significant media coverage of issues relating to school food. This included the horsemeat scare and a number of issues where schools in different parts of England had received complaints or concerns about food in school for religious reasons. Hillingdon SACRE worked to produce guidance for school leaders and governors to ensure that they were well appraised of any potential issues that they may wish to consider or raise with their caterers. The input from different faith communities was invaluable and feedback received from schools indicated that they found the guidance informative and helpful.

The annual award for excellence in secondary RE was awarded to Ruislip High School.

Hillingdon SACRE was pleased to host a conference in partnership with Brunel University, in which a range of leaders of RE were able to engage with members of the public in a debate on the future of RE in schools. This conference was prompted by the publication of a number of national reviews of RE.

I would like to thank all members of the Hillingdon SACRE for the commitment they have shown to supporting RE in our schools and for the contribution they make to promoting mutual respect and understanding among our young people.

4. MEETINGS OF HSACRE IN 2013

Full meetings of HSACRE were held on:

20 March	2013	Civic Centre
18 June	2013	Civic Centre
6 November	2013	Civic Centre

All meetings were quorate.

In addition to the full meeting of SACRE, there were a number of subgroup meetings and the continuing progress of the Inter-Faith Forum and of Youth Events.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SACRE was not informed of any delegated budget for the year. NASACRE fees were paid and Democratic Services continued to provide secretarial support.

6. ADVICE GIVEN TO THE AUTHORITY BY SACRE

- i. Advice is given annually to the authority on Religious Education and Worship paragraphs in its information booklets for families entering a particular phase of education.
- ii. Responses to Freedom of Information requests re the nature and responsibilities of SACRE.

7. PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

The Guidelines for Food and Faith were updated and circulated to schools.

Over 20 teachers attended the Inset day facilitated by Walk Through the Bible presenters. Feedback was excellent, suggesting a re-run next year.

SACRE undertook a survey of Collective Worship.

The advice for schools and Muslim leaders, based upon joint discussions was revised and circulated to all schools and Muslim communities. Comments received suggested that this was a helpful document.

8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

GCSE AND GCE RESULTS FOR 2013

SACRE received the published results of public examinations in RE for all schools.

SACRE monitored the requirements from examination boards by looking at GCSE papers. Members noted the quality of the exam process. Members reported that some schools were not delivering RE in each year.

Comments on the value of this report are welcome. These should be sent to Jon Pitt – Democratic Services, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1UW, or by emailing jpitt@hillingdon.gov.uk

APPENDIX**APPENDIX 1 - Members during 2013****GROUP A**

Baptist	Vacant
Hindu	Vacant
Methodist	Angela Lount
Church of England	Elenor Paul
Muslim	Amir Ahmed
Hillingdon Assembly of Muslim Youth	Naseem Bint Amir
Quaker	Carolyn Appleby
Jewish	Mike Gattleson
Roman Catholic	Vacant
Hillingdon Area Salvation Army	Heather Steady
Sikh	Jasvir Singh Rayat
Buddhist	Connie Dusek
United Reform Church	Vacant
Bahai	Lil Osborn
British Humanist Association	Richard Thomas

GROUP B

Church of England	Hilary Stone
	Mary Coulthurst
	Elenor Paul
	Alison Fothergill
	Daniel Norris

GROUP C

National Union of Teachers	Ian Harper
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	Jean Nunnery
National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers	
VOICE (formerly PAT)	
National Association of Headteachers	
Headteacher – Yeading Junior School	Carol Jones
Association of Secondary School and College Leaders	

GROUP D

Local Authority	Councillor Mike Bull Councillor Keith Burrows Councillor Carol Melvin Councillor Avtar Sandhu
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CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Graham Sumbler	Ruislip Baptist Church
Dharmini Shah	Bishop Ramsey School
Albie Huyser	Harefield Academy
Farina Jussab	Swakeleys School

OFFICER SUPPORT DURING 2013

London Borough of Hillingdon Committee Services	Steven Maiden Democratic Services 3E/05 Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge Middlesex UB8 1UW
Consultant for Hillingdon SACRE	Duncan Struthers