



The London Borough
of Richmond upon
Thames
Standing Advisory
Council for Religious
Education
Annual Report

2014-15

Foreword and Summary

By the Chair of SACRE

“As I watch global events unfold around us, it continually reinforces with me the need to equip our children with an understanding of the world’s religions and faiths. It’s in this context that I view the essential work that our SACRE undertakes.

The major event this year, within SACRE’s remit, was, without doubt, the launch of our revised syllabus to all Richmond schools and subsequent support to ensure that this new syllabus was *bedded in* well. After a great deal of work in the previous year, 2013-14, I’m delighted that this syllabus reflects the six major world religions as well as Humanism.

Of course, 2014 also marked the centenary of the start of the First World War, an opportunity for everyone to reflect on the huge sacrifices and massive loss of life one hundred years ago. For SACRE, it was also an opportunity to explore, in a practical way, issues of peace, remembrance and conflict resolution. Funded by a Civic Pride grant from Richmond Council, the programme (full details of which are contained within this Annual Report) brought together groups from across the community, and indeed the Channel, to deliver a project that I believe will be held up as a shining example of how SACREs can innovate and operate in the future.

Finally, I’m glad that SACRE has undertaken a project to improve the resources available to teachers across the borough. First by creating a full directory of places of worship, which are open for school visits and once this is completed, moving on to building up a resource of religious and other artefacts that can be used by the schools to bring lessons to life.

All that remains is for me to thank everyone involved in SACRE over the year for their continued hard work and dedication, particularly Lesley Prior, our SACRE consultant. The success of SACRE over this year in launching the new syllabus and creating an innovative programme of remembrance for World War One is a result of their efforts and determination.”

Councillor Gareth Evans
Chair of SACRE

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

ANNUAL REPORT OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2014 - 2015

1.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1.1 Agreed Syllabus

On 12th February 2013, SACRE took the decision to revise the existing Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE).

1.2 Agreed Syllabus Revision

At the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) Meeting on 6th November 2013, it was explained that there were three possible ways to proceed:

- 1) to make minor adjustments to the current syllabus
- 2) to 'buy in' another syllabus and make adjustments so that it is suitable for schools in Richmond.
- 3) to change as much of the current syllabus as might be deemed necessary

Members of the ASC asked the SACRE/ASC Consultant, Lesley Prior, whether, in her opinion, the current syllabus missed anything vital or was in need of redaction.

Members also noted the key points emerging from a questionnaire completed by teachers which highlighted their concern about the lack of ethical issues and non religious views represented in the current syllabus.

Lesley Prior advised that the ASC should make minor revisions to the current syllabus or buy into a similar document. It was agreed to revise the current syllabus.

The revised syllabus was agreed on 17th July 2014. It was approved by the Council on 16th September 2014.

A link to the syllabus can be found here:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/sacre_syllabus_2014.pdf

1.3 Standards in RE

SACRE used to monitor standards in RE by carrying out an annual analysis of OFSTED reports. In 2014-2015, SACRE members continued to regret the fact that current OFSTED arrangements make it extremely difficult for them to carry out this statutory duty, as the necessary evidence is no longer available. SACRE members therefore seek other ways in which to monitor standards in RE, such as inviting RE teachers in LA schools to share with them examples of their work.

2.0 IN-SERVICE TRAINING: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

2.1 Short Courses

The Authority offers a basic programme of in-service training.

SACRE members were pleased to note that there continue to be termly meetings for Subject Leaders for RE in primary and special schools. These have been delivered by Lesley Prior, LDBS Adviser for RE in Community Schools. Lesley also supports the Richmond upon Thames SACRE. During 2014– 2015, these meetings took place on:

- **3rd November 2014**
- **29th January 2015**
- **29th June 2015**

The meetings were held either at York House and or the LA's Professional Development Centre.

Participants were given opportunities to:

- engage with the key features of the new agreed syllabus
- devise ways of planning effective RE that complies with the statutory requirements of the new syllabus
- consider their understanding of the role, nature and purpose of teaching and learning in RE, with particular reference to Humanism

2.2 Newly Qualified Teachers

All Newly Qualified Teachers in RE Departments in Secondary Schools are also offered advice, help and support through a mentoring visit conducted by Lesley Prior and funded by the LA. During 2014-2015, a Newly Qualified Teachers of RE at Orleans Park School was observed as part of her induction programme.

2.3 Additional Training Events

During 2013-2014, SACRE considered ways in which it could be involved in helping teachers of RE to mark the forthcoming centenary of World War One. It was recognised that this could be a huge opportunity for SACRE to support schools in a practical way.

In collaboration with a local interfaith group, SACRE secured funding from 'Civic Pride' (www.richmond.gov.uk/civic_pride_fund) to organise a training day for teachers for RE in 2014-2015 within this context, not least because the Local Authority is placing a significant emphasis on commemorative events relating to the conflict. Richmond is well known as the site of the Poppy Factory and there are

other direct links between the town and different aspects of the war, such as the community of Belgian refugees who lived and worked in the area from 1914 onwards.

The main training day took place on 24th April 2015 at Orleans House Gallery. Four schools were represented:

- Archdeacon Cambridge CE Primary School
- Darrell Primary School
- Queen's Primary School
- Trafalgar Junior School

The training was led by Lesley Prior, Consultant to Richmond SACRE and Hugo Verkest of Vives Teacher Training College in West Flanders, Belgium. Hugo is an RE specialist and an expert in remembrance education and issues relating to war, peace and conflict resolution.

Two additional twilight training sessions were also held at the Gallery and on 3rd June 2015, Lesley and Hugo also contributed to an associated training event for staff at Queen's Primary School.

SACRE is hugely grateful to 'Civic Pride' for the funding award which enabled this project to take place and to Bessie White from Hounslow Friends of Faith and colleagues at Orleans House Gallery who worked tirelessly to make the necessary arrangements, In addition, this project would not have been possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of SACRE members Christine Cannon and Charanjit Singh (both from Group A) who not only helped to plan it, but also participated fully in all the sessions.

An exhibition of children's work from some of the schools involved will be displayed in early November 2015 at Orleans House Gallery to mark Remembrance Day.

3.0 COMPLAINTS

No complaints on either Religious Education or Collective Worship were referred to SACRE for investigation in the year 2014 – 2015.

4.0 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

4.1 Determinations

No schools in Richmond upon Thames have been given a determination in relation to Collective Worship.

5.0 MATTERS REFERRED TO SACRE

No matters were referred to SACRE for consideration in the year 2014 – 2015.

6.0 LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

The Richmond upon Thames SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Lesley Prior, LDBS Adviser for RE in Community Schools and SACRE Consultant is currently Chair of NASACRE. Carol Fletcher (Group A) represented the SACRE at the NASACRE AGM and Conference in Birmingham on 21st May 2015. Full details and copies of the relevant presentations can be found at:

Full details and copies of the relevant presentations can be found at:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2015/materials>

Login details (see above) are required to access these presentations. These are available from the Democratic Services team – democratic.services@richmond.gov.uk

The Rt Hon Charles Clarke, former Secretary of State for Education was the keynote speaker. Charles is currently Visiting Professor in Politics at the University of East Anglia and also a Visiting Professor in Politics and Faith at the University of Lancaster. The University has established a department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, within which he is doing some teaching and lecturing. With Professor Linda Woodhead, also at the University of Lancaster, he has worked on a paper on the future of religion in schools and this was the main subject of his address. The full paper can be found at:

<http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>

If SACRE members would like to hear Charles Clarke's speech from the NASACRE AGM/Conference, then they will need to login to the NASACRE website to gain access to a podcast. The link is available here:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2015/materials>

Other speakers at the AGM/Conference included Professor Denise Cush of the University of Bath Spa and Mary Myatt, Senior Ofsted Inspector and RE Adviser. Their presentations are also available on the NASACRE website.

Lesley Prior, SACRE Consultant for RE, is also a member of many other RE professional bodies.

In 2014-15, Lesley's role as RE Adviser to Community Schools for the London Diocesan Board for Schools has also enabled her to work with teachers and other staff within Richmond upon Thames, as well as in other areas of the country.

7.0 SACRE SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

At the SACRE Meeting on the 24th November, members used resources provided by NASACRE to identify three cohesive priorities to enable the committee to make a positive impact on teaching and learning in RE in schools.

SACRE members discussed various possibilities but agreed to:

- seek funding to promote peace and remembrance education in RE to coincide with the centenary of the First World War, particularly using the local dimension
- create a directory of places of worship in the LA open for school visits
- begin to build up a small resource collection of religious and other artefacts to support teaching and learning in RE.

8.0 CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

In 2014-2015 SACRE bade farewell to several members. Their contributions to the work of SACRE are much appreciated. Duncan Macpherson, Fran Martin, Councillor Chappell, all have played vital roles in promoting the work of SACRE and enhancing the quality of RE and CW in schools across Richmond.

11.0 SACRE CONTACT OFFICERS 2014 - 2015

Fionnuala Crean Clerk to SACRE
Murphy
Thomas Scholes-
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13.0 MEETINGS

Meetings of SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference were held on:

- Monday, 24th November 2014
- Thursday, 5th February 2015
- Monday, 29th June 2015

The Chair, the Clerk and the SACRE Consultant Executive Committee also met between meetings where and when necessary.

14.0 SACRE MANAGEMENT

Cllr Susan Chappell (Group D) continued as Chairman until 17 July 2014, when Councillor Gareth Evans (Group D) was elected chairman.

The following Convenors were in post at the end of the academic year 2014 - 2015.

Group A (Faith Communities)

Corinne Rosenberg, Rashid Ali Laher, Elizabeth Rowley, Charanjit Singh, Christine Cannon, Sandhya Mohindra, and David Foll.

Group B (The Church of England)

Lesley Mortimer, Carol Fletcher

Group C (Teachers)

Anne Farren, Helene Beavan, Suzanne Tucker

Group D (Local Education Authority)

Councillor Gareth Evans, Councillor Sarah Tippett, Councillor Penelope Frost and Councillor Gemma Curran

**LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2014-2015**

MEMBERSHIP

Group A: Christian and other religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions in the area.

Group B: Church of England

Group C: Teachers

Group D: Local Authority representatives