

CROYDON ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CROYDON SACRE
ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016



Croydon SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

A SACRE must publish an annual report of its work and send this to the DFE and NASACRE
Consider requests for determinations on collective worship when required and advise the LEA upon such matters as collective worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus.

Overview

Meetings:

In the academic year 2015– 2016 Croydon SACRE met on the following occasions;

4th November 2015 at Croydon Faith Education Resources library (CFER)

2nd March 2016 at Croydon Faith Education Resources

22nd June 2016 at Shirley High School Croydon

The clerk to SACRE, for administration and minute taking was provided by Croydon Council. The RE consultant was Mrs Penny Smith-Orr.

Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to the 2015-16 Annual Report of the Croydon SACRE.

The SACRE has met three times during the academic year and has worked towards the priorities outlined in the current Development Plan. The SACRE has also responded to the Religious Education Council's review of Religious Education and has written to the Secretary of State (through the Local Authority) as a way of contributing to the direction and health of Religious Education in the future.

Croydon is a richly diverse community and the need for strengthening every means of increasing tolerance and understanding of each other especially in the realm of religion has never been greater, in every decade of life. The syllabus produced periodically by SACRE refers to a selection of the array of materials available from Croydon Faith Education Resources (CFER).

Sadly, despite representations from the Chair of CFER to the full council and a petition presented to the council from SACRE member Cllr Joy Prince, funding from the council to the resources centre CFER was not renewed and CFER has closed, resulting in redundancy for its staff and the disposal of its assets.

SACRE is relieved and grateful to St James the Great Primary School and Coloma Covent Girls School for their willingness to accept and enable access to RE materials for primary and secondary schools, respectively.

A high proportion of schools in Croydon have converted to Academies and the SACRE has made ongoing efforts to engage with schools to ensure their continued compliance with requirements to provide high quality Religious Education and opportunities for Collective Worship. Some opportunities have been taken to engage with governors during training to enhance awareness of RE in schools.

Keeping its place of RE in the school curriculum has been a challenge which the SACRE has sought to rise to. This, combined with the impact of the absence of RE from the English Baccalaureate in secondary schools, causes the SACRE great concern that Religious Education may not be apportioned the same importance as other subjects in the school curriculum. The SACRE is grateful to Mrs Penny

Smith-Orr, SACRE Officer for Croydon, for driving our work forward and keeping us abreast of developments in Religious Education nationally.

As Chairman, I would like to thank all those who serve on Croydon SACRE, teachers, faith group representatives, Cllrs, and the vice chairman, Mrs Cheryl Hudson. We would also like to thank CFER led by Dr Jagdish Sharma and his team for allowing SACRE to meet in the CFER library and for the use of the materials from and on such a wide variety of religions, as is the professional and friendly help by CFER's manager Miss Sheila Fenner, until the closure of CFER.

The professional support of our consultant /adviser and the Education Department are also gratefully acknowledged. Croydon SACRE is able to face the challenges ahead as we continue to ensure that Religious Education and Collective Worship retain their rightful place at the heart of our schools.

Cllr Richard Chatterjee
Chairman, Croydon SACRE

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority

Croydon SACRE members are provided with sections of the Ofsted reports of Croydon schools which mention RE, collective worship (CW), and spiritual, moral, social and cultural education at each meeting and can note these reports and act upon them when necessary advising the local authority of any problems.

During the previous year SACRE was asked to locate the supplementary schools being run in Croydon and this information was passed to the Director of Children's Services. During this year through negotiation with the RE Adviser a member of the Education department and a member of the Safeguarding team were able to make a presentation to the Croydon Interfaith group committee and subsequently invite members of faith communities and teachers of supplementary schools to a training day on safeguarding.

The Adviser is part of the Council's planning group on the Holocaust Memorial Day event and advises the Council on schools taking part or marking the day in school.

Schools

Three network meetings were held with Primary RE coordinators, two of these took place at the Croydon Faith Education Resources library and one in a Hindu Temple. Discussions at the networks included aspects of the Hindu religion, ideas for teaching using Sacred writings and Eid, what to do about assessment, a continuous discussion at the meetings, good RE Displays and the value of filling in the teacher survey that went out in the Autumn Term. RE Coordinators that have achieved the RE Quality Mark are always asked to speak about their experience.

The Croydon Faith Education Resources library had to be closed in May 2016 due to the Council withdrawing funding in 2015. After exploring several possible options the Charity was transferred to St James the Great RC Primary school along with the Primary School

resources, the Secondary resources were housed at Coloma RC High School and the Church resources were given to Christchurch Purley and the Croydon churches forum offices. Schools were informed that they would not be able to borrow resources during the summer term but that the libraries would be open for them to borrow resources for free from September 2016. An open day was held at the old premises and schools were offered several remaining books and artefacts for a charitable donation of their choice. We raised £550 and sent this to the British Red cross for Syria and the Save The Children

The RE Adviser and two members of SACRE went to one school to give advice prior to an OFSTED and SIAMS inspection and the school subsequently also achieved the Gold REQM award. Three visits were made to the RE Coordinators of schools for advice on managing the syllabus and teaching and learning in RE. A visit was also made by the RE Adviser to a school holding an afternoon of Easter activities for Year 1 pupils.

Information is given to schools throughout the year through the school's bulletin and through email or telephone calls to the Adviser. Some schools can access 'Fronter' and use the resources and information there.

Government

Two members of SACRE attended a conference in summer 2015 at which the future of SACREs was discussed and Croydon SACRE discussed this and the reports that came out during the year regarding the value of SACREs, RE and the need for a National syllabus these discussions formed a response to Government on the future of SACREs.

Standard and Quality of Provision of RE and Attainment in RE

It is difficult for a SACRE to gain verifiable information on the Standard and Quality of Provision of RE, particularly in the secondary schools. In the Spring term a meeting was held for Heads of RE Departments in Croydon Secondary schools and seven schools were represented. The discussion was on which exam board each school was using and which religions they would be concentrating on with a view to schools doing the same boards planning together.

Three network meetings were held with Primary RE coordinators and discussions at these meetings allow the RE Adviser to gain some information on the provision of RE in their schools. A further two schools have received the Gold REQM award.

SACRE still relies on the goodwill of the schools to invite the committee or inform them about RE and collective worship. At each SACRE meeting the members have a copy of the latest OFSTED reports and any SIAMS reports from the Diocese, and can discuss these and comment to the Education department as necessary. Members noted with concern in the autumn term that one inspection report made no mention of the school's contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

There have been no complaints about religious education.

Standards of achievement and public examination entries GCSE Results: Summer 2016

Data on the public exam results for Croydon schools are provided by Croydon Council, at the time of writing this report all local and national data for 2016 is still provisional. Because of a delay in receiving the results from the DFE this year, some of the schools in Croydon sent in their own results, these were; Riddlesdown, Virgo Fidelis, Oasis Coulsdon, Archbishop Tennison and Woodcote High and grateful thanks are extended to the heads of department in these schools.

This year there are results published for the short course for which eleven schools entered fifty-three students. Twenty-three schools entered students for the GCSE full course with some schools entering all pupils. 7% of candidates achieved A* grades and 18% of pupils achieved an A. Coloma Convent achieved excellent results, while at Edenham, Harris Academy Upper Norwood, Harris Academy Crystal Palace, Norbury Manor, Riddlesdown, Shirley High, Archbishop Lanfranc, Virgo Fidelis and Woodcote High more than a quarter of the pupils achieved A*-A grades.

Eleven schools entered pupils for GCE AS religious studies. Eleven schools also entered a total of 108 pupils for the A2 level religious studies.

Summary for Croydon schools and Academies GCSE Short and Full course,

2016	Full Course GCSE	Short Course GCSE		AS Level		A2 level
Croydon% A*-C	70.8%	7.5%	Croydon% A*-B	44.8%	Croydon % A*-B	52.8%
National % A*-C	70.2%	58.8%	National % A*-B	45%	National % A*-B	54.4%
Croydon %A*G	97.9%	80%	Croydon% A*-E	95.6%	Croydon %A*-E	99.1%
Number entered Croydon	2720	53	Number entered Croydon	183	Number entered Croydon	108
National Number entered	252022	40,788	Number entered National	32913	Number entered National	22079

AS and A Level Results For 2016

Agreed Syllabus

The Croydon Agreed Syllabus 2013 is now embedded in schools and a survey of teachers asking how they felt about it, and what support they may need was sent out in September 2015. Twenty replies were received and the results discussed at a meeting of SACRE and acted upon by the Adviser. The questions and results can be seen below.

Collective Worship

It is understood from discussion with RE Coordinators that collective worship is carried out within schools. The SACRE committee decided to review the Collective Worship guidance during 2014 and a working party was formed to do this. The working party decided that the guidance was mostly still sound advice, the introduction was changed and information on why collective worship is important and how to make it an educational part of the day was updated. A new list of resources for teachers to use and an evaluation sheet were added.

There were no determinations or complaints referred to SACRE during the year.

Management of SACRE

The Chair is a Councillor from group D and the Vice chair is a teacher from a local church school who is a representative from group B. There is an annual budget for SACRE and the RE consultant is employed by the Council as SACRE Officer for 50 days per year. The LA also provides a clerk for the minutes at meetings.

Membership of Croydon SACRE 2015-2016

A-Other Faiths B-Church of England C- Teachers D -Councillors

Numbers indicate meetings attended

A 0	Javid Hamid (Muslim)	C2	Ms Sevim Hamit
A 3	Lt Col Morag Rowlanes (Salvation Army)	C2	Ms Lorna John
A0	Rabbi Nathan Anoushka (Judaism)	C3	Mrs Sara Bonnick
A0	Barbara Rosen (Judaism)	C3	Mrs Sonia Clarke
A0	Mrs Ruth Tayler (Methodist)	C2	Mrs Jo O'Reily (from Spring term)
A0	Ms Isabel Russo (British Humanist Association)	D3	Cllr Richard Chatterjee (Chair)
A2	Miss Mayura Patel (Hindu)	D3	Cllr Joy Prince
A2	Mr Jeet Bains (Sikh)	D1	Cllr David Wood
B2	Ms Cheryl Hudson	D0	Cllr Lynne Hale (from Summer term)
B2	Mrs Jane Saville	D1	Cllr Shafi Khan (from Summer term)
B3	Rev Alison Brunt	3	Penny Smith-Orr SACRE Officer
B0	Rev Colin Boswell	2	Sheila Fenner Resource officer CFER (until summer term)

SACRE continued to address the membership and with the retirement of a member of Committee B in Summer a new representative has been secured. The interim Sikh rep is still looking for a replacement and the Jewish representatives discuss the items on the minutes with the Adviser but do not attend the meetings. A new Muslim rep has been invited for Autumn 2016.

The self-evaluation toolkit is used each year by Croydon SACRE and the committee looked at the top challenges to SACREs produced by the NASACRE AGM and discussed these in relation to Croydon. The development plan for the year is a working document and is updated at each meeting.

Discussions also included the future of the Resource centre and the NASACRE AGM and the future of SACREs. There was also a discussion regarding the high court ruling on Humanism being taught in schools and through the syllabus concluding that the 'syllabus meets the requirement to cover all faiths and none'.

Information from the local Interfaith group is given at each meeting so that members of SACRE can attend events if they wish to.

Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority Agenda

The Adviser is also involved in the local interfaith group and as a member of this and in the role of SACRE officer attends the CYPL partnership meetings and the Croydon Congress and can give advice on faith matters and religious education in schools and to report on these meetings to SACRE. Information from the local Interfaith group is given at each meeting so that members of SACRE can attend events if they wish to.

Results of The Croydon Teachers Survey, Autumn 2015

Does your school use the Croydon Agreed Syllabus for RE 2013?

(if no, what RE syllabus are you using?)

Do you find the Croydon Syllabus easy to use?

Is there any part of the syllabus that you find difficult?

Do you have enough resources to teach the syllabus?

Would you like free help from the RE Adviser?

Are you able to access the Croydon SACRE page on Fronter?

Does your school subscribe to the Croydon Faith Education Resources library?

Could host a school visit from SACRE members?

Would you like to be a teacher representative on Croydon SACRE?

The results of the survey were shown to the SACRE members in the form of pie charts at the Autumn 2015 meeting but there had not been time to write a report.

The survey monkey link was sent to all schools and 20 schools responded. Of these 6 were secondary schools and 1 special school with 13 primary schools. These were a mixture of academies and maintained schools and 5 of them were faith schools, both Catholic and church of England.

Eleven schools are using the Croydon Agreed syllabus and a couple of others are using the Southwark Diocesan syllabus with ideas from the Croydon one. Those that use the syllabus mainly said it was easy to use and that there was nothing that they found difficult. One school said that not enough detail was included and that it was not broken down into terms. The working party did not want to break it down too much as this would be prescriptive and I have subsequently given the co-ordinators who ask for it a breakdown of how the syllabus could be divided up. The teacher who made this comment has never attended a coordinators meeting. One school said that there was sometimes too much to cover but that there were good ideas.

On the questions about resources many said they were using CFER or had just subscribed. One school said they were going to do an audit of resources. Half the schools that responded have got access to Fronter, so it is worth putting resources there and from the RE Coordinator meetings several teachers have seen the dates of meetings from Fronter.

Two teachers asked for help from the Adviser, which will be arranged soon. Five of the schools answered the question about a SACRE visit, one said probably yes and four said they would like to know what it would entail, these schools have been contacted with the information and hopefully a visit can be arranged for the Summer term. One teacher from a Catholic school thought that belonging to SACRE would be a good idea, which would help SACRE as we don't have a Catholic representative at the moment. The results of the survey were shown to the SACRE members in the form of pie charts at the Autumn 2015 meeting.