



**The Merton
Standing Advisory Council
on
Religious Education**

**Annual Report
for 2011 - 2012**

December 2012

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to send you Merton SACRE's Annual Report for the academic year 2011-2012. Every SACRE is required to publish a report and make it available to schools and the wider public

The main focus for SACRE over the last year has been:

- Getting the Directory of Places of Worship in Merton up and running and online. www.merton.gov.uk/learning/directoryplacesworship.pdf Please let us know if you notice changes and we will update our copy.
- Trying to find ways to fully help schools with their RE whilst not getting any relevant information now from OFSTED reports about the quality of RE in our schools. Also, academies are not required to follow the Agreed Syllabus but their funding body's recommendations so SACRE has even less potential input into these schools if they choose not to follow the Agreed Syllabus.

We have continued to experience uncertainties about Religious Education due to the Coalition Government having not included RE in either the English Baccalaureate or the Primary Review as was expected. However, there is now an all party committee that meets at Parliament to discuss matters of RE.

We do hope this report helps in presenting what we have achieved as a SACRE this year. The Merton SACRE wishes to say thank you to all the many members of schools' staff and in particular their teachers for their continued support and dedication to raising the status of Religious Education within Merton Schools

Peter Kendrick Chair of Merton September 2012

SACRE MEETINGS

Peter Kendrick was re-elected chair at the autumn meeting of SACRE. Three meetings were held during the academic year and minutes are available from the LA. At the May meeting an Agreed syllabus Conference (ASC) was set up to look at the syllabus as its 5yearly review is due in 2013. Representatives from each SACRE group were appointed to serve on a working group and its first meeting was held in July. The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) has recommended that Agreed Syllabuses are not reviewed until the national picture is clear. The ASC noted this and will be making a minimalist review and helping schools develop their RE work in a more flexible way. Copies of the SACRE agendas and minutes can be found at:

www.merton.gov.uk/learning/schools/standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education.htm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Merton Schools

http://www.merton.gov.uk/learning/merton_revised_agreed_syllabus_2008a.doc

Standards

OFSTED has begun to put a greater emphasis on its reporting of the Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and how schools promote these elements. This directly relates to the teaching of RE. SACRE has heard one report from a school but little was said about the role of RE in the promotion of SMSC development. At the present time there is little evidence nationally that the SMSC development elements are showing a link to RE in OFSTED reports.

Religious Studies Examinations 2012:

Merton's six secondary schools entered 772 pupils for R.S. GCSE (full course) of which 77.7% gained A* to C and 99% gained A* to G. Schools also entered 644 pupils for the RS GCSE (short course). 59.8% of pupils gained A* to C and 95.7% attained A* to G.

35 pupils were entered for GCE A level. 100% gained an A* to E. 74.3% gained A* to B and 37.1% gained A*-A. 13 pupils were entered for AS level 100% gained A to E and 23.1 % gained A to B grades.

This represents another increase in the overall numbers of pupils taking RS exams. The National average for the % of A*-C for GCSE Full course is 73.7% and for the short course is 53.8%. The National average for the % of A*-B for A level is 55.9% and for AS %A*-B is 44.8%. Merton results are comfortably above the national average at GCSE full and short and A level but not in AS level results.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers

Regular meetings for RE Subject leaders in primary schools are held every term at the Chaucer Centre. These meetings are a joint venture with Merton and Sutton RE subject leaders and are led by David Crispin the Independent Education Advisor. Any information regarding conferences, resources and training, which is received by the LA is forwarded to the appropriate schools.

Complaints concerning RE

No complaints were received under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988 regarding Religious Education in Merton schools.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Determinations

There are no Determinations in Merton

COMPLAINTS

No complaints were received under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988 regarding Collective Worship in Merton schools.

GENERAL

Links with other agencies

Merton SACRE is a member of NASACRE and a representative attends national meetings. Full reports are given at the SACRE meetings so that all members are aware of current topics and issues. Members of SACRE are also representatives on the Merton Inter-Faith group and this facilitates communication between the two committees.

A member of SACRE did attend the NASACRE AGM meeting in London and reported on that meeting at the May meeting of SACRE

List of organisations to which SACRE report has been sent

A copy of this report will be placed on the SACRE section of the Merton LA website and relevant officers will be informed.

www.merton.gov.uk/learning/schools/standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education.htm where possible schools will be alerted to this new report.

The National Association of SACREs) NASACRE will also receive a copy.

Contacts

If you have any issues that you would like to raise with the Merton SACRE, please contact the, LA clerk to SACRE penny.garry@merton.gov.uk or the Chair, Peter Kendrick scrc@lineone.net

What it means to be a member of Merton SACRE

Appendix 1: SACRE Membership

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Group A: Christian, Other Faiths and Beliefs

Buddhism	Mr P Lom
Free Churches	Mr P Kendrick (Deputy Mrs S Rogers)
Hinduism	Mrs G Maheshwaran
Humanism	Ms A King
Islam	Mr S Sheikh (Deputy Mr M Irfan)
Judaism	Mr M Freedman
Roman Catholic Church	Mr W Doris
Sikhism	Mr B Singh

Group B: Church of England

Ms H Fahey

Mr Colin Powell

Reverend R Skinner

Group C Teacher Associations

ATL	Mr N McManus
NASUWT	Vacancy
Voice	Vacancy
NUT	Mr R Kay-Kreizman
NAHT/SHA	Ms K Seamer

Group D: Local Authority

Councillor Laxmi Attawar Councillor Nick Draper Councillor Miles Windsor

Co-opted Members

Baiha'i Faith Ms Tahiri Danesh
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Mr Nasseem Ahmad Bajwa

David Crispin Consultant (Independent Advisor) attends SACRE meetings.