

London Borough of Sutton

**Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education**

ANNUAL REPORT

2011/12

**Annual Report of Sutton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
(SACRE) 2011/12**

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Letter from the chair of SACRE

To all interested in Religious Education in Sutton

This year has seen a number of developments in the RE world. The government have commissioned the RE Council to produce a new National Guidance document on RE. That work is currently being undertaken and will last into the summer of 2013. The RE Council is also providing the secretariat for the new All Party Parliamentary Group on RE. This has met once in the Summer 2012 and due to meet again in the Autumn 2012. These developments are welcomed by SACRE and are helping to keep RE on the national agenda even though it does not feature in the National Curriculum Review or the Bacallaureate,

The annual questionnaire to schools was sent out at the beginning of the summer term 2012. Schools were also able to access the form online on the SACRE Web-site. The response was the most disappointing so far with returns received from 5 schools all in the primary sector. The responses have been analysed and will be used alongside the reports from school visits to help SACRE determine its work for the year ahead.

The SACRE Consultant completed visits to 6 more schools in the academic year and reports were given to SACRE and copies to each school. The consultant also gave SACRE an annual summary of the reports and suggested specific issues that could be addressed. This programme is continuing and from time to time a member of SACRE is able to join one of the visits.

Local government budget cuts have affected the scope of SACRE's work. With less funding available this means that the consultant's time has been reduced. Support from the LA is still there and for this SACRE is grateful.

SACRE has been encouraged that a reasonable number of Subject Leaders attend the Termly meetings organised by the AIS of Sutton and led by the Consultant David Crispin. These meetings are also attended by RE Subject leaders from Merton schools. The summer meeting took the form of a "Question Time" panel of SACRE members and included a number of members from both SACRES.

At its summer meeting the SACRE said "good-bye" to Dr Peter Simpson who was taking retirement from the LA. His support has been always appreciated over the years.

The role of SACREs has been supported by the National Association of SACREs (NASCARE) and Sutton SACRE regularly sends a member to the National meetings and conferences.

SACRE welcomes the views of schools on its work and invites any who wish to attend its meeting as observers to do so. Dates can be obtained from the SACRE Administrator.

This report is available on the Sutton website: www.sutton.org.uk



Lal Hussain MBE

Chair of Sutton SACRE November 2012

Standards in Religious Education

The annual questionnaire was sent out to schools and made available on the internet in May. The questionnaire alongside the exam results and school visits made by the consultant provide the main evidence about standards in religious Education in Sutton

The returns have now been analysed and the general findings are as follows:

- 5 schools out of a possible 46 LA schools responded. This is about 10% of schools and is lower than in previous years so the findings are somewhat limited.
- Schools reported that creative ways of teaching and learning are being used in RE lessons and use is being made of the Outside environment. Cross curricular links are used and also ways in which philosophy for children can be incorporated into RE. Visits to schools are made by SSW and many others. Visits to places of worship still continue.
- In the schools that responded budgets are set aside for RE and Subject Leaders are given time to monitor. These monitoring times are reported back to Senior Management.
- RE is still generally taught in discrete lessons but often linked to other topics and subjects as part of the creative approach to the curriculum. Some are looking closer at the SMSC element of RE as well as the “Learning From” aspects.
- Subject leaders would like to see more support on effective implementation of Agreed Syllabus Learning Objectives.

Religious Studies Examinations 2012:

GCSE Religious Studies (Short and Full), AS and A levels, ELQ (Entry level qualification), VRQ (Vocationally Related Qualification) (A vocational exam that has RE content) level 3

Once again pupils were entered for the GCSE Religious Studies Full Course, the GCSE RS Short Course, The GCE "A" and "AS" level exams, Entry Level Certificate at GCSE. Entry level is designed to give pupils who may not succeed at the short or full courses an opportunity to achieve at their level. Grades are based on National Curriculum levels. Some schools have also entered students for VRQ exams (see above) Schools use a variety of examination boards. The breakdown of the results is fully shown below. A comparison with the National results is also shown for GCSE Full & Short exams and A and AS level exams.

GCSE Full Course

Schools entered 1985 pupils of which 82.5% gained A* to C and 98.5% gained A* to G.

GCSE Short Course

Schools entered 2476 pupils of which 72.5% of pupils gained A* to C and 98.9% attained A* to G.

GCE A Level

120 pupils were entered of which 100% gained an A* to E. 63.3% gained A* to B and 30.8% gained A*-A.

GCE AS Level

In Y10 & 11 110 pupils were entered for AS level 100% gained A to E and 70 % gained A to B grades.

In Y12, 13 &14 153 students were entered for AS level 60.8% gained A-B and 93.5% gained A-E.

ELQ Band C RS

3 schools entered 51 students and 52.9% gained level 3, 37.3% level 2 and 9.8 level 1.

VRQ RE Level3

2 schools entered 3 students and achieved 100% passes

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%. Sutton's results are comfortably above the national average at GCSE full and short and A & AS levels

Teacher Training Primary

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Primary RE Subject Leaders takes the form of 3 meetings per academic year. These meetings are open to all Sutton and Merton RE Subject Leaders

Collective Worship

No further development has taken place but the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Association of RE Inspectors Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) have issued guidance on the law on Collective Worship and the status of circular 1/94. Neither of these documents change the law but do offer flexible advice on the now, old, Circular.

Monitoring

SACRE continues to monitor RE through visits to schools by the Consultant, David Crispin. These visits are reported to SACRE each term. The annual questionnaire provides useful additional information and the feedback from RE subject leaders and termly meetings help provide an extensive picture of RE in schools

Links to Other Organisations

The SACRE remains a member of The National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE).

NASACRE National & Regional Meetings

The consultant attended the London and SE meeting in Autumn 2011
The consultant and Rosey Johnson (SACRE group B) attended the annual meeting in May 2012

No complaints have been received this year

Support

Professional and administrative support is provided by an LA Administrator and a Director's Rep (Executive Head of School Improvement). The services of David Crispin Independent Consultant were bought in for the year.
The SACRE acknowledge and thank Dr Peter Simpson LA Directors rep for the valuable

support given to them. Dr Simpson retired in the summer of 2012.

Finance

Funds for the administration and work of SACRE are secured from the LA. These amounted to £7,800 for the financial year 2011/2012

Web Site SACRE has a number of web-pages accessed via the Sutton website:
<http://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1683>

These contain up to date information about the Agreed Syllabus and support document

SACRE Memebership at August 2012

In attendance:

Lal Hussain MBE (Chair)

Dr. Peter Simpson, Executive Head of Education, Learning and Intervention.

Julia Ayres, Clerk to SACRE

David Crispin, Consultant/Independent Adviser for RE, SMSC and Visual Arts

COMMITTEE A (9 places)

Representatives of Christian and other religious groups

2 vacancies

COMMITTEE B (6 places)

Representatives of the Church of England

1 vacancy

COMMITTEE C (6 places)

Representatives of teacher's organisations

1 vacancy

COMMITTEE D (5 places)

Representatives of Sutton Council

0 vacancy

1 British Humanist Rep Co-opted (sits with Committee A

Record of Meetings held 2011/2012

Three meetings of the SACRE are held each year. This is one meeting per term. The meetings this year have been held at St John's, Belmont, a local Anglican/Methodist Church.

The meetings cover a wide range of issues many of which are matters directly related to SACRE and some of which are matters that are of interest to SACRE members. All the meetings are held in public and can be attended at any time by observers. SACRE advises the Local Authority (LA) on matters related to RE and Collective Worship and will also receive advice from the LA.

The Sutton Agreed Syllabus was due for review in the summer term 2012. This was done and SACRE have decided not to make any changes until national decisions about RE and the new National Curriculum have been completed.

The SACRE also welcomed Julia Ayres as its new Clerk and thanked the previous Clerk, Bridget Foley, for her work

The following list gives a sample of some of the matters discussed and acted upon over the past year:

- Constitutional matters
- Membership matters
- NASACRE issues/RE Toolkit/training session
- RE Council matters/RE Review/APPG on RE
- OFSTED guidance to Schools
- Issues from other reports from government and the DfE
- Annual Questionnaire to schools
- Local Monitoring visits to schools reports from SACRE Consultant
- Funding of SACRE
- Reports from national and local NASACRE and other meetings attended
- Links to Academy schools
- Reports from Subject Leaders meetings led by consultant on behalf of the LA