

CROYDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
For
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Croydon SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-2013



Croydon SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

The responsibilities of a SACRE

The legal responsibilities of the LEA are to:

- Ensure that there is a SACRE
- Ensure all four committees are represented on SACRE
- Ensure there is an Agreed Syllabus which is reviewed at least once every five years
- Ensure that support is in place for SACRE to enable it to discharge its responsibilities
- Take note and respond to any advice it receives from SACRE
- Reference to SACREs from the LEA may include advice methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training.

The 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
- Advise the LEA upon such matters as collective worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus.

The SACRE is also likely to

- Monitor the provision for both RE and Collective Worship
- Provide support and advice on RE and Collective Worship to schools

LIST OF CROYDON SACRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS –
As at July 2012

Committee A

Representatives of Principal Religious Traditions in Croydon -

Mrs Kathryn Kane (Non Conformist – Pentecostal)

Mrs Barbara Rosen (Judaism)

Lt Col Morag Rowlanes (Salvation Army)

Mrs Sarah Driver (Roman Catholic)

Mrs Ruth Tayler (Methodist)

Mr David Hemp (British Humanist Association)

Miss Mayura Patel (Hindu)

Mrs Sue Bolton (Buddhist)

Mr Javid Hamid (Muslim)

Committee B

Representatives of the Church of England -

Reverend Canon Colin Boswell

Mrs Jane Saville

Committee C

Representatives of Teacher Associations –

Mrs Anne Gledhill

Ms Sevim Hammit

Ms Lorna John

Committee D

Representatives of the LEA –

Councillor Richard Chatterjee **Chair**

Cllr Janet Marshall

Cllr Lynne Hale

Cllr Kathy Bee

Officers

Penny Smith-Orr (Consultant Adviser for RE)

Tel: 020 8653 8606 – penny.smith-orr@croydon.gov.uk

Ms Sheila Fenner CFER resources manager

Oasis Academy Shirley Park Shirley Road Croydon CR9 7AL

Tel: 020 8656 6535

(SACRE Clerk - administration)

Business support team leader

Department of Children, Families & Learning

Tel: 0208 726 7352 SACRE@croydon.gov.uk

Overview

Meetings:

In the academic year 2012 – 2013 Croydon SACRE met on the following occasions.

12TH NOVEMBER 2012 at Croydon Faith Education Resources library (CFER)

14th March 2013 at Croydon Faith Education Resources

20th June 2013 at Croydon Faith Education Resources

The clerk to SACRE, for administration was provided by Croydon council and changed three times during the year. The minute taker at meetings was Liz Parry from governor services. The RE consultant, employed by Croydon CYPL, for 50 days per year was Mrs Penny Smith-Orr.

The self-evaluation of Croydon SACRE on the 2011-12 work was undertaken at the Autumn meeting 2012 (Appendix A)

Section1. Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education

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. Visits have not been made to schools during the year to allow time to complete the new syllabus for Croydon.

Some schools have shown an interest in the RE Quality Mark process and during the year one school achieved the gold award. The RE Adviser held 3 meetings with Primary RE coordinators which were well attended by about a third of the coordinators and discussions at these meetings allow the RE adviser to gain some information on the provision of RE in their schools. Email communications throughout the year from coordinators and head teachers allows some insight into the provision of RE and CW.

Courses run by the adviser during the year also help SACRE to gain information on the state of RE in the schools in Croydon, although there have been less courses this year due to the revision of the Syllabus.

Standards of achievement and public examination entries

GCSE Results: Summer 2013

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 2013 is still provisional.

Nationally more pupils were entered for the Full course GCSE as the Government is phasing out the short course option. In Croydon twenty two schools entered pupils for the full course and fifteen for the short course.

In Croydon 70% of candidates achieved A*-C grades with Norbury manor and Coloma achieving the highest number of A* grades.

Although one more school than last year took the short course the results were better than 2012 for A*-C grades.

Fourteen schools, five more than last year, entered a total of 51 pupils for GCE AS religious studies. The results were not as good as in previous years, only two Harris schools achieved an A grade and only 80% of pupils achieved a grade at all.

Ten schools entered pupils for A level religious studies of whom 30% achieved an A-B grade.

Summary for Croydon schools and academies GCSE Results

<i>Full Course GCSE</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>Short course GCSE</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>
<i>Croydon % A*-C</i>	70%	74.6%	<i>% A*-C</i>	62%	55.8%
<i>National % A*-C</i>	73.5	74%	<i>National %A*-C</i>		50.3%
<i>Croydon %A*-G</i>	98%	98.7%	<i>%A*-G</i>	96.4%	96.8%
<i>Number entered</i>	2566	2319	<i>Number entered</i>	356	407
<i>National Number entered</i>	228,824	210,200	<i>National Number entered</i>		176,187

Summary of the AS and A level results for Croydon schools and Academies

<i>AS Level</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>A2 level</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>
<i>Croydon % A*-C</i>	31%	33.4%	<i>% A*-C</i>	46%	71.2%
<i>National % A*-C</i>		64%	<i>National %A*-C</i>		80.6%
<i>Croydon %A*-E</i>	80%	76.5%	<i>%A*-E</i>	99%	100%
<i>Number entered</i>	51	51	<i>Number entered</i>	74	94
<i>National Number entered</i>		199,752	<i>National Number entered</i>		233,998

Quality of learning and teaching

Croydon SACRE has a page on the MLE Croydon Fronter system which has all the documents and guidance from SACRE on it for teachers to access.

Many of the Primary school RE Co-ordinators have been in post for a number of years and are very experienced and committed, while in some schools the coordinator changes regularly. Since holding the RE Coordinator meetings in the Resources library the number of teachers attending have risen. Some schools use teaching assistants to teach RE in planning and preparation time. In secondary schools the heads of department are usually specialists in RE.

Quality of leadership and management, including the provision and management of resources.

SACRE does not have an overview of the quality of leadership and management apart from information gained from OFSTED reports.

Croydon Council fund the Croydon Faith Education Resources library, which is a multi-faith library of approximately 18,000 resources. The centre continues to provide the schools with high quality resources as requested although in March 2013 the library became a subscription service rather than the free service it has been. Also the school bag system was stopped during the year and teachers now have to collect and return the

resources themselves. About half the schools have signed up to subscribe and a marketing programme is still in place. .

Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools

There is a teacher from an academy on the teacher group of SACRE who was also on the working group for the new syllabus. The RE adviser has had discussions with a number of the academies. Several of the Academies have requested a copy of the new Agreed Syllabus.

Section 2: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

During the year further time was spent working on the new agreed syllabus. The RE coordinators were able to make suggestions and requests and there was a strong sense of shared ownership of the prospective agreed syllabus, with clear targets for what needs to be achieved. Representatives of the different faiths with units in the proposed syllabus were able to discuss with their own communities the proposals and reported back to the ASC so that a wide range of local expertise was involved in its construction. The LA and the ASC in partnership ensured that strong direction is provided to design an agreed syllabus which is coherent, clear and accessible.

The new syllabus was put onto a CD by a designer working with the RE Adviser and a large number of pages of supporting resources were able to be added. The learning objectives are all posed as questions and each unit has information for the teacher, who may not be an RE specialist, and a series of questions for the teacher to pose to the pupils. New faiths were added to Key Stage 1 and 2 and the thematic units were reorganised with new ones on Pilgrimage, and Rites of passage added. In Key Stage 3 a unit on Sikhism was written and the thematic units here were also reorganised and added to make them more comprehensive. A section on assessment was included to be used until such time as work on updating the assessment documents nationally.

The launch of the syllabus was held in June at the Croydon Faith Education Resources centre with fifty schools sending representatives along with members of SACRE and of faiths Together in Croydon. The Mayor of Croydon attended and made an excellent speech about the importance of learning about each other's faith. Cheryl Hudson, a teacher from Parish Church Juniors, spoke about winning the Hockerill award for a unit on Christmas, which is included in the syllabus and about the process she had been through to apply for the Gold RE Quality Mark, which the school subsequently achieved.

The schools which had not sent representatives were sent a copy of the syllabus during the following week. A series of twilight course were planned for the Autumn term on suggestions for teaching the new syllabus.

Making best use of National Guidance

The syllabus is being devised so that RE fits appropriately with other curriculum areas at all key stages and guidance about how to make the best links is planned to be given to schools take full account of national documentation in the construction of the revised Agreed Syllabus, while ensuring their work reflects local circumstances. The adviser is a representative on the executive of the association of RE advisers and therefore was able to ensure that information from the forthcoming RE Review was included.

Section 3: Collective worship

Supporting pupil entitlement

SACRE information is gained through teacher members and the network meetings and there is a comprehensive guidance on the Croydon SACRE website regarding collective worship.

Determinations

There have been no applications for a determination this year. There have also been no complaints concerning Collective Worship referred to SACRE during this academic year.

Section 4: Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

The Croydon SACRE meetings this year were quorate and had good attendance where all four committees are represented although there are vacancies on the teacher group. Some of the faith representatives are teachers by profession which helps with their understanding on issues. A pre agenda meeting takes place at the council offices with the RE adviser and the Chair and the agenda and papers are distributed well in advance ensuring all members have time to consider them carefully. Meetings generally have contributions from a wide range of members and discussions have considered wider issues about the quality of RE and collective worship.

Members undertook some training sessions to improve their understanding of the issues that arise and to help them understand the agreed syllabus conference process.

The development plan is referred to during the year. The main item on the development plan during this academic year was the revision and writing of the syllabus and therefore some of the advisers other work was put on hold.

The Croydon SACRE development plan review of 2011-12 can be seen in Appendix B.

There is an annual budget for SACRE and the RE consultant is employed by the Council for 50 days per year. The consultant is a member of the School Improvement team and the chair of Faiths Together in Croydon and attends a number of strategic partnerships within the council, including the Children's Partnership Board, items from which are then reported back to SACRE.

The LA also provides information on public examination grades for this report.

Section 5; Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community

SACRE's membership broadly reflects the considerable religious diversity of the local community and this is regularly reviewed by the SACRE. The committee has good contacts with Faiths Together in Croydon and the South London Interfaith group and the Adviser is also a member of the management of the multi faith resources library, Croydon Faith Education Resources library. This library holds all the resources for the Agreed Syllabus for schools plus much else for the faith communities.

SACRE is aware of some LA initiatives promoting community cohesion in the very multi faith community which is Croydon and through the adviser's links and the links that individual members have with different communities has the opportunity to discuss and contribute to this work.

The Consultant has good links with the Equalities & Cohesion Department and again worked with them and several schools to produce an annual event for Holocaust Memorial Day. The Resource Officer of the Croydon Faith Education Resources library changed

during the year and is now Sheila Fenner who is a member of the SACRE committee and is also able to inform SACRE regarding schools and issues of community cohesion. She was able to attend the London SACREs annual event and report on this and the adviser went to the NASACRE AGM in May and reported back to SACRE. Issues of the future of RE, the All Party Parliamentary Group for RE and the new RE Quality Mark were also debated.

Appendix A
Croydon SACRE Self Evaluation results 2012-13

Key Area Number	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1a	RE provision across the LA.		x	
1b	Standards of achievement and public examination entries			x
1c	Quality of learning and teaching		x	
1d	Quality of leadership and management, including the provision and management of resources		x	
1e	Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff.	x		
1f	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools		x	
2a	The review process			x
2b	The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus			x
2c	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus			x
2d	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)			x
2e	Developing the revised agreed syllabus		x	
2f	Making best use of National Guidance		x	
3a	Supporting pupil entitlement		x	
3b	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		x	
3c	Responding to requests for determinations N/A			
4a	SACRE meetings		x	
4b	Membership and training			x
4c	Improvement/development planning			x
4d	Professional and financial support			x
4e	Information and advice		x	
4f	Partnerships with key stakeholders		x	
5a	SACRE's membership		x	
5b	SACRE's understanding of the local area		x	
5c	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda		x	
5d	SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion		x	

Draft Development Plan 2012-2013

Official Adviser time 50 days.

Excluding time for team meetings/ whole team meetings and time spent on PDCS with line manager.

Objective	Key Tasks	Who	Success criteria Monitoring Time	Deadline /	Resources	
<p>To revise finish the revision of the Croydon Agreed Syllabus 2001</p> <p>Launch the syllabus</p>	<p>Writing the preamble to the syllabus and the appendices. Meet printer and discuss. Check the proofs.</p> <p>Prepare a launch event with speaker etc</p>	<p>PSO</p> <p>Members to check.</p> <p>PSO</p>	<p>Agreed Syllabus revised and updated to reflect new ideas in RE and curriculum,</p> <p>SACRE members and School reps to attend launch</p> <p>Coordinators/teachers to attend launch</p>	<p>Unknown amount of Adviser time (approx. 5)</p> <p>Launch Summer term 2013</p> <p>2 days adviser time</p>	<p>Adviser time</p> <p>£5300 budget agreed by Croydon Council</p> <p>Class Movies</p>	<p>Achieved and launched in June 2013</p>
<p>To prepare agenda, respond to any action from previous meetings and plan on going programme for SACRE committee meetings.</p>	<p>Arrange and attend 3 pre agenda meetings per year</p> <p>Write papers and reports for the meeting to LA timetable</p> <p>Attend 3 SACRE meetings per year</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>RE Adviser</p> <p>RE Adviser</p> <p>All members of committee</p>	<p>3 pre agenda meetings</p> <p>3 Termly meetings</p> <p>Effective meetings with Action points carried out by Members between meetings</p>	<p>10 days Adviser time</p>	<p>Meeting venues</p> <p>Clerk at pre agenda</p> <p>Clerk at Meetings</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>The admin clerk changed 3 times during the year.</p>
<p>SACRE consider reports and initiatives</p>	<p>Consider relevant material from</p>	<p>RE Adviser/ Chairman</p>	<p>Following NASACRE meetings summer term</p>	<p>3 days adviser time to attend</p>	<p>Adviser</p>	<p>Adviser attended in</p>

from NASACRE and the RE Council	National SACRE Conference and NASACRE AGM	and any other rep		meetings and write reports		Birmingham and reported.
To work towards being an advanced SACRE	Each committee to meet and monitor one section of the SACRE self evaluation document annually	Members of all 4 committees plus Adviser	A series of proposals to be put into action to ensure that SACRE moves forward	1.5 days adviser time Monitoring of the proposals to be looked at each termly meeting	Time of members Time at meetings	This was undertaken by the adviser and discussed at the meeting with member's comments being incorporated.
A) Training for SACRE members on quality RE/ B) Members to try to visit at least one school per year.	A) Time during Meetings for a short training session B) Termly visits to school	Adviser to prepare training members to try and complete a visit	SACRE committee to understand RE and CW in schools more comprehensively Members to have completed a visit. Reports to be presented at meetings	1.5 days adviser time By end of summer term 2013 3 days adviser time	Meeting time Fronter transport	Training on the process of the ASC undertaken. School visits not achieved as time needed for writing the syllabus
To report annually on the work of SACRE.	Collect information on exam data and SACRE work RE Adviser to write an annual report by December on the previous academic year.	RE Adviser to write, Chairman to read, Clerk to circulate.	Completed on time and copies provided for SACRE members, Directors libraries, schools etc	Deadline end December 2013 RE Adviser time 4 days	Adviser	Achieved

Highlight work of SACRE SACRE annual event	Organise an event to highlight the value of good RE – Possibly the launch of the syllabus	Members and Adviser	More people aware of work of SACRE	Event to be held during 2013 (as above if syllabus launch or 2 days adviser time extra))	Budget for venue/speaker refreshments	The event was the launch of the syllabus with 50 schools, the Mayor and dignitaries from the faith communities and members of SACRE.
On behalf of SACRE and education department disseminate information to teachers and members of the public	Upkeep of the SACRE Fronter pages. Answering telephone and email requests from public and education dept. Writing reports as necessary	Adviser	Information/help on religious education and collective worship queries given as necessary	Approx 4 days	Telephone/broadband	Achieved; subscribing members of CFER now have access to a private space with further resources for the syllabus and there is a link between SACRE and CFER pages.
Council Holocaust Memorial Day event schools involvement	Attend monthly meetings x4 with Equalities dept of Council to plan event. Discuss themes with schools and encourage participation. Send out information and reminders. Attend event, with selection of resources. Report to SACRE.	Adviser Teacher reps	Schools participation in Council event. Schools marking the day within their cw, using CFER resources A successful event	Adviser time. 2 days	Adviser CFER Schools Members	Achieved

To support the work of Croydon Faith Education Resources	Adviser to work with resource officer to ensure quality resources and efficient running of the centre and liaise between education dept and RE centre	Adviser	Adviser to attend management meetings plus 2 visits per term SACRE to be given higher profile	8 days adviser time	Adviser time Adviser to write reports. Members time	Induction of a new resource officer undertaken and implementation of the Traded services.
Teacher network meetings for RE Coordinators	Termly meetings for RE coordinators to update them on current practice, resources etc and discuss questions /problems arising	Adviser	3 network meeting held and attended by at least 10 coordinators. Continual improvement in teaching and learning in RE	3 days adviser time	Adviser time	Achieved: now being held at CFER once more for teacher to access the resources.
To run courses for RE teachers/ coordinators	Course/ workshop on applying for the RE Quality mark Training course on using the new syllabus x 2 Course on SMSC and OFSTED	Adviser Teachers and coordinators	Courses well attended and leading to schools achieving the quality mark, using the new syllabus and teaching and learning in RE improved.	6 days	Adviser	2x courses on SMSC. Courses on new syllabus put forward to 2013-14.