

Annual Report 2012 to 2013

Introduction

The Royal Borough's **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities. This is its twenty-first report and it is divided into three parts.

Part one

Records the terms of reference of the Kensington and Chelsea SACRE and the occasions on which it met in 2012 to 2013.

Part two

Reports the matters dealt with by the SACRE during the year.

Part three

Notes the composition and membership of the SACRE.

Part one

The establishment, terms of reference and meetings of the SACRE

1. The Royal Borough's SACRE was established by the Education Committee (Shadow) on 14 June 1989. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: "to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit."
2. In particular the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:
 - It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on religious education.
 - It may determine, on application by the headteacher that the requirement for collective worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
 - With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers' in-service professional development.
3. In addition, the Education Committee (Shadow) decided to give a direct role to the SACRE in the consideration and disposal of complaints related to the curriculum or religious worship. The SACRE will be asked to advise where complaints relate to religious education

given in accordance with an agreed syllabus or to religious worship in county schools.

4. The SACRE met on three occasions in 2012 to 2013:

6 February 2013;

20 March 2013;

20 June 2013.
5. The SACRE meets in the Royal Borough's Isaac Newton Centre for Professional Development. Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of its duties is provided to SACRE by the Royal Borough. The SACRE is grateful to the Royal Borough for making this support available.

Part two

Matters dealt with by the SACRE in 2012 to 2013

6. The SACRE's activities in 2012-13 were dominated by the revision of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The work on the Agreed Syllabus was undertaken by an external consultant, Lat Blaylock. The Conference, which carried out the revision, completed its work and reported to the February meeting of the SACRE.
7. The year has also seen many changes to the membership of the SACRE. In Rev Alden's absence, Ms Lesley Prior has taken on the role of consultant to the SACRE in both the Royal Borough and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The summer term saw the departure of Mr Dario Atkinson and the appointment of a new Chair and Vice-Chair which took place at the June meeting.
8. Discussions in the summer term covered the matter of Tri-borough SACRE collaboration. It was noted that statutory functions lay with the individual Borough's and that each SACRE has a statutory role in determining the Agreed Syllabus, which has to be determined at a local level. However, there are decisions that can be made collectively and these items and information can be given on a Tri-borough basis at a Tri-borough SACRE meeting. However it was agreed that collaboration offers a wider and richer pool from which to draw on for resources, good practise and expertise.
9. Another topic under discussion was the Religious Education Council's draft programmes of study for RE. Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation – the deadline for comments being Friday 5th July 2013. There would be a further report to the SACRE in the Autumn term.

10. In September 2013 Holland Park School became an Academy – this meant that there are no longer any secondary schools who are obliged to use the Borough's Agreed Syllabus. It was noted that an Academy School is not obliged to use the Agreed Syllabus, however, Ms Prior explained to SACRE members that an Academy School is obliged to offer RE, it is a free market and a local Academy might still choose to buy in their local Agreed Syllabus.

11. SACRE has a continued presence on the web, access is via the Royal Borough's website, the link is www.rbkc.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/sacre.aspx

The requirement for Collective Worship

12. The SACRE received no requests in 2012 to 2013 from headteachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their schools. The procedures for making such a request are set out in Appendix A of this report. Information about the procedures can also be obtained from the Clerk to the SACRE at the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX.

Complaints

13.. The SACRE was not in 2012 to 2013 asked to deal with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools.

Part three

Composition and members of the Royal Borough's SACRE in 2012 to 2013

Chairman of the SACRE Mr Dario Atkinson was replaced by Mr J Djalili in June 2013

Clerk to the SACRE Mrs Julie Farmer (*Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea*)

GROUP A – up to 10 members

Representing Christian and other religious denominations

- 3 Roman Catholics (2 vacancies)
- 3 representatives of Christian Faiths outside the Church of England or Roman Catholic Church (1 vacancy)
- 2 representatives of the Islamic Faith (1 vacancy)
- 2 representatives of other non –Christian faith (no vacancies)

Ms K. Gilbert	Diocese of Westminster Education Service.
Miss A. Jones	Methodist Church
Ms S. Jaff	Islamic Faith (V-C)
Mr J. Djalili	Baha'i Faith (C)
Rev Ken Persaud	Notting Hill Community Church
Mrs F. Richards	Jewish Faith

Group B – up to 8 members

Representing the Church of England

Mr G. Marriner	(London Diocesan Board for Schools)
Mr S Johnson-Paul	

Up to six more members may be appointed.

Group C - up to 8 members

Representing teachers (including teachers of RE) and teachers' associations

Mr N Robson	(Holland Park School)
Mr Andy Yarrow	(Chelsea Academy) – <i>until June 2013</i>
Ms Sarah Jones	(Bevington School) - <i>until June 2013</i>

Group D - up to 4 members

Representing the Royal Borough

Mr D. Atkinson	School Improvement Adviser – <i>until March 2013</i>
Mr Peter Jezewski	Governor Support Adviser – <i>until June 2013</i>
Ms Lucy Nutt	Principal Lead Adviser

Consultant to the SACRE

Ms Lesley Prior

Appendix A

The requirement for Collective Worship

Introduction

1. Section 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988 lays down that the collective worship required in community schools shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. DES circular 3/89 states that, in the Secretary of State's view, an act of worship which is 'broadly Christian' need not contain only Christian material provided, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character but within each school term the majority of acts must be so.
2. How collective worship is organised is for the headteacher to decide after consultation with the governing body, having regard to the following considerations:
 - any relevant circumstances relating to the pupils family backgrounds, for example the faith of the family;
 - their ages and aptitudes.
3. These considerations should inform:
 - the extent to which (if at all) any acts of collective worship in the school are not of a broadly Christian character;
 - the extent to which the broad traditions of Christian belief are reflected in those acts of worship of a broadly Christian character; and
 - the ways in which those traditions are reflected.

The role of the SACRE

4. If the headteacher of a community school considers that the requirements for collective worship described in paragraph two could conflict with what is required by paragraph three, he or she can apply to **the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to lift or modify the requirements**. Before doing so the headteacher must consult the school's governing body who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. **The headteacher's application does not need to apply to the whole school**. It can be limited to any class or description of pupils at the school, and might relate, for example, to a particular group or year group(s) in the school in which there were many pupils of a particular faith or religion.
5. The purpose of this procedure is to allow for acts of collective worship according to a faith or religion other than Christianity where, for some or all of the pupils in a school, the requirement that worship should be of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate. One factor which may inform a headteacher's decision to make an application to the SACRE is the extent of withdrawals from Christian collective worship.
6. In considering whether to grant a headteacher's request, the SACRE must take account of any relevant circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils concerned. When it has made a **determination** on the request – which can only take the form of acceptance or rejection without modification – it must communicate this in writing to the headteacher and state the date from which it will take effect. It is for the headteacher to decide what

form the alternative worship will take, although the SACRE should be informed of the proposed arrangements.

7. The headteacher will wish to take appropriate steps to notify the governing body and parents of the new arrangements. Where such a determination is made in respect of all or some of the pupils in the school, daily collective worship must still be provided for them. Where a determination has been granted in respect of a class or description of pupils of a particular faith or religion, the alternative collective worship may be provided for those pupils as a whole. It may not be distinctive of any particular **denomination** of any faith or religion, but may be distinctive of a particular faith or religion. Parents continue to have a right to withdraw their children from this collective worship.
8. Any determination made under these arrangements ends after five years, unless renewed by the SACRE. There must be a review by the SACRE no later than five years after any determination was introduced; and subsequently within five years of each review. The headteacher can request an earlier review at any time, after consulting with the governing body. The headteacher must be given an opportunity to take part in any review

and, in turn, is required to consult the governing body who may wish to seek the view of parents.

9. It has been a legal requirement since 1944 that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship. Section 6 of the Education Reform Act provides for flexibility in timing and organisation of daily collective worship. It need now no longer be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups. For this purpose, a 'school group' means any group or combination of groups in which pupils are taught or take place in other school activities; it does **not** mean a group reflecting particular religious beliefs.

10 If a headteacher considers that changes of the sort described in paragraphs four and five of this appendix are justified, he or she should:

- consult with the governing body,
- after that, make application to SACRE on the attached form.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education



Application for a variation in the requirement of the Education Act 1988 that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

1. **Name of school**.....
2. **Address of school**.....
3. **Name of headteacher**.....
4. **Pupils for whom the application is made**
(Is the application being made on behalf of the whole school or part of it? If a part, state which group and their numbers.)
5. **On what grounds is the application made?**
(State why you consider the requirement that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' to be inappropriate for pupils. Give any relevant information, including numbers, on the family background and faith of all pupils who would be affected.)
6. **Has the Governing Body been consulted?**
(By law it must be. Please state the view the Governing Body gave. Did the Governing Body consult parents? What was their view?)
7. **Have Parents been consulted?**
(What were their views?)
8. **What form would the proposed alternative form of collective worship take?**
(Give as much information as possible.)

Religious Studies GCSEs - 2013

GCSE Full courses	GCSE Grade:											2013		2012	
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Abs	Total	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G
Holland Park	7	17	14	16	3						57	95%	100%	96%	100%
St Thomas More	26	34	34	21	4	2	1	2	2		126	91%	98%	88%	100%
Sion Manning	9	27	17	26	17	5	4	5	2		112	71%	98%	64%	94%
Cardinal Vaughan	22	46	33	10	6	3	1				121	92%	100%	91%	100%
Total	64	124	98	73	30	10	6	7	4		416	86%	99%	82%	98%

GCSE Short courses	GCSE Grade:										2013		2012		
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G	
Holland Park	3	8	21	6							38	100%	100%	100%	100%

Religious Studies A Levels - 2013

A Levels	A Level Grade:							2013		2012		
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total	A-C	A-E	A-C	A-E
Holland Park		2	2	2				6	100%	100%	100%	100%
Cardinal Vaughan		1	1					2	100%	100%	100%	100%
Chelsea Academy	1	1	2	1	2	1		8	63%	100%	n/a	n/a