

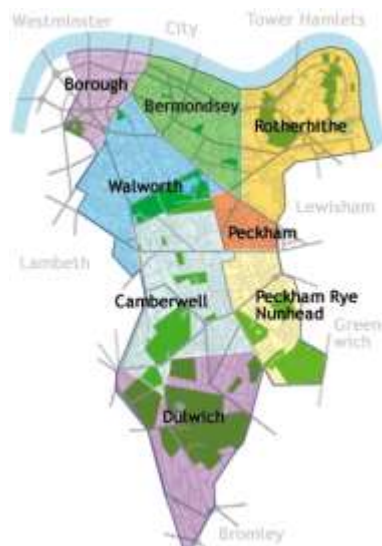


SOUTHWARK STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL  
for  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Southwark SACRE)

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-2013



## **2. Foreword by the Chair of SACRE**

From the record of our meetings which follows this introduction, Southwark SACRE has had a very busy year. Our deliberations with respect to the Agreed Syllabus must be seen as to how they are translated by our teaching colleagues in the classroom. I have been fortunate to visit some of our schools and I have nothing but admiration for the tireless work of classroom practitioners in the imaginative way they have interpreted this Agreed Syllabus. We have had tremendous assistance from our Educational Officer who has given unstintingly of her time and energy in providing consistent and excellent advice. This Committee is a microcosm of what we are all striving to attain in the wider multiracial community. I am privileged to work alongside such committed and motivated colleagues and I am deeply honoured to be SACRE's Chair.

Sonny Sharma

**Dr Sonny Sharma**  
**CHAIR OF SOUTHWARK SACRE**

## Overview

### Meetings

In the academic year 2012-2013 Southwark SACRE meetings were arranged for the following occasions.

- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> December at Caribbean Hindu centre (cancelled)
- ▶ 15<sup>th</sup> January at The Learning & Business Centre, Cator Street, Peckham
- ▶ 19<sup>th</sup> March at The Learning & Business Centre, Cator Street, Peckham
- ▶ 27<sup>th</sup> June at The Learning & Business Centre, Cator Street, Peckham

### Membership

This year two out of three meetings have been quorate. Appendix A shows a breakdown of membership.

A new Clerk to SACRE was appointed in the spring term, Mr Benjamin Washington

### **Section 1: Standards and Quality of Provision of Religious Education:**

***How effectively does the SACRE gain information about RE provision in schools and put in place strategies to support the delivery of pupil entitlement?***

### Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Southwark Agreed Syllabus has been in use since September 2005. It may be found on the Southwark SACRE Fronter pages. All Agreed syllabuses must be reviewed every 5 years.

The RE Review sponsored by the RE Council was in process during the year and SACRE spent some time reviewing the Southwark syllabus, including getting the view of teachers, and decided that it was a substantial document that had stood the test of time since its inception. The teachers are happy using it and it was agreed that it would not be changed until after the publication of the RE Review in October 2013. It was decided that the RE Consultant would try to update some of the resources and websites for teachers.

It is generally recommended that 5% of time is spent on RE in schools either as weekly lessons or blocks of time during a term.

### Standards in Religious Education:

#### Assessment Guidance

Assessment guidance is comprehensively detailed in the current syllabus and stands until such time as there are national changes to the assessment of RE and other curriculum subjects.

## Monitoring Standards

### GCSE Results: Summer 2013

At the time of writing this report all local and national data for 2013 is still provisional. This year the numbers entered for the full course were higher because of the gradual deletion of the short course RE exam. Southwark pupils continue to achieve well compared to the national figures. Those that entered the short course also achieved well. It is also good to see that 100% of students in KS4 achieved the first part of the A level.

### Full Course summary for Southwark schools and academies over 4 years

	2013	2012	2011	2010
% A*-C	72.4%	72.2%	69	73
National % A*-C	73.5	74%	73.2	73.1
Number A*-C	-	686	671	732
%A*-G	98.7%	98.3%	98	90
Number A*-G	-	929	954	994
Number entered	1455	945	968	1004
National Number entered	228824	210200	199752	188704

### Short Course summary for Southwark schools and academies over 4 years

	2013	2012	2011	2010
% A*-C	28.1%	56	53	61
Number A*-C	-	328	325	365
%A*-G	92,9%	97.8	94	96
Number A*-G	-	573	573	539
Number entered	310	586	600	601
National Number entered	-	176187	233998	293756

### Summary of the AS and A level results for Southwark schools and Academies

<i>AS Level</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>A2 level</i>	<i>2013</i>
% A*-E KS4	100%	% A*-E	100%
National % A*-C		National %A*-C	
%A*-E KS5	92.3%		
Number entered		Number entered	
National Number entered		National Number entered	

### **Recruitment and Retention**

With the increased number of, mainly Secondary, Academies it is difficult to ascertain the level of specialist RE teachers in Southwark schools.

Some Primary co-ordinators have been in post for some time and are very experienced and committed. Most of the Primary co-ordinators are not RE specialists. More and more Primary schools are using classroom assistants to teach RE during PPA time. The only way of monitoring this is through the coordinator meetings.

### **Methods of teaching, the choice of teaching materials and teacher training:**

#### **Courses for subject leaders**

The RE Consultant continues to put on a meeting for RE Coordinators to meet each other and to discuss aspects of RE and the local and National picture. These were held in Primary schools in the Autumn and Spring terms.

In January 2013 a workshop on festivals and making artefacts was held at Comber Grove Primary with coordinators attending along with members of staff from the primary school. Subsequently the RE Consultant did a presentation on festivals through the year at Alfred Salter primary. A course on the RE Quality mark was postponed from the summer term to autumn 2013.

In March a presentation on SACRE and RE/CW was made to the Head Teacher's executive which led to an invitation to make a presentation at the Southwark Head teachers conference.

No formal complaints about religious education were received this year.

### **Section 3. Collective worship**

#### **How effectively does the SACRE fulfil its responsibilities for the provision and practice of collective worship?**

It is almost impossible to monitor the provision of collective worship in Southwark schools. Again the coordinator meetings give some information although the RE coordinators are not usually also the organisers of collective worship. It is known that some schools use outside agencies to provide some of their worship requirements and it is SACRE's hope that the schools are making use of the trained speakers that are listed on the Fronter pages, and the advice and suggestions on collective worship also in these pages.

The SACRE's Determinations procedure is available on the SACRE website. 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 SACRE and Partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders.**

The meetings are usually quorate, if not then the meeting agrees to continue with business which can be ratified at the following meeting. This year the meetings were held at the education centre, this is closing for refurbishment next year and the committee will possibly meet in places of worship once more. The constitution was discussed and updated during the year.

During this year a new vice chair was appointed, and is the humanist rep, the Chair remained the same. It was discussed during the summer meeting that it would be useful to have a representative of each group and the RE Consultant as a sub group who could assist the Chair if there are matters that need to be addressed between meetings. This came up due to the short consultation period allowed for on the RE Review.

The local authority was only represented at one meeting during the year although SACRE is assured that the RE consultant will continue in place for 12 days per year and that there will be suitable clerking service provided by them. The development plan for SACRE has therefore had to be reduced to fit the days and this is agreed during the autumn term meeting. Members were informed about the RE review and the All Party parliamentary Group on RE and the report on the teaching of RE entitled RE; The truth unmasked, and the progress of the RE Review. SACRE responded to these consultations as a group and individually. We also had reports from the NASACRE AGM which had addressed some ideas for the future of SACREs.

During one meeting we had an introduction to Humanism via the vice chair which was very interesting to members. A visit to a school was planned but had to be postponed due to the teacher's illness. Two members reported on their attendance at the South London SACRE meeting. A SACRE event was discussed and it was agreed that this would take the form of a 'Question Time' event for GCSE and A level students during the next academic year and faith representative members volunteered to sit on the panel.

The Buddhist member produced a comprehensive document on SACRE and social media which the committee agreed that the RE Consultant should pursue by meeting with the RE advisers for Lewisham and Bexley.

#### **Section 5: Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community**

The SACRE committee is widely representative of the many faith groups in the local community. We had a talk on gang violence last year and were sent a report called Safer Southwark Partnership, Ending Gang and Youth Violence Peer Review", in June 2012 which we discussed at the postponed Autumn meeting. It is hoped that the planned event (above) will encourage further understanding of people of different faiths.

The RE consultant is a member of the Southwark Diocese Interfaith group and also continues to attend the Southwark Cathedral Education Committee meetings and has obtained a comprehensive document outlining the links between the Cathedral trails and the Southwark syllabus from the education centre manager which will be useful to schools.

## **Appendix A MEMBERSHIP OF SOUTHWARK SACRE: as per the constitution**

### **Committee A Other Christian denominations and other faiths represented in the LA**

African-Caribbean Churches	1 Representative
Baptist Churches	1 Representative
Baha'i	1 Representative
Buddhism	1 Representative
Hinduism	1 Representative
Islam	2 Representatives
Judaism	1 Representative
Methodist Church	1 Representative
Roman Catholicism	1 Representative
Sikhism	1 Representative vacancy
United Reformed Church	1 Representative
Salvation Army	1 Representative
British Humanist Association	1 Co-opted
Rastafarian	1 Co-opted (non-voting)
Greek orthodox	1 Representative vacancy

### **Committee B The Church of England**

Southwark Diocese	3 representatives, 1 vacancy
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### **Committee C Teachers' Professional Associations**

NAHT	1 representative
NASUWT	1 representative,
NUT	2 representatives
SHA	1 representative

### **Committee D Local Authority Councillors**

Elected Members	4 representatives
LA	2 representatives

### **Co-opted Members**

British Humanist Association	1 Co-opted (non-voting)
Rastafarian	1 Co-opted (non-voting)

### **Consultant Adviser to SACRE (non-voting)**

Penny Smith-Orr. ([penny.smith-orr@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:penny.smith-orr@southwark.gov.uk))

### **The Clerk to SACRE**

Benjamin Washington E-mail [Benjamin.washington@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Benjamin.washington@southwark.gov.uk)

## **Appendix B    Circulation List**

SACRE members

Diocesan authorities

Board of Deputies of British Jews

Free Church Education Committee

Jamyang Buddhist Centre

Strategic Director of Children's Services

Deputy Director of Children's Services

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

Libraries

Southwark Schools

Councillors

National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Southwark Multi Faith Forum



