

**London Borough of Sutton**  
**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2012/13**

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## **Letter from the chair of SACRE**

### **To all interested in Religious Education in Sutton**

This year has seen further developments in the national RE scene and awaits the publication of the final version of a non-statutory programmes of study for RE is awaited from the Religious Education Council in November 2013.

The Sutton SACRE annual questionnaire was made available to schools at the beginning of the summer term 2012. Schools were also able to access the form online on the SACRE web-site and at the termly meeting subject leaders were able to complete a copy of the questionnaire. The response was still not very high and in total 12 schools responded. 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 4 more schools in the academic year and reports were given to SACRE and copies to each school. The consultant also gave SACRE a report on all the visits that have taken place since 2008 and the issues that have arisen. It was decided that visits to schools should continue and that the focus will be on pupils' views and opinions of RE. It was also noted that in a number of schools RE was being taught by unqualified teachers and used as a way of giving class teachers their PPA time.

Support from the LA is still there despite budget cuts 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 discussions between SACRE members and the subject leaders and a presentation from Naomi Voice on the way she has developed her role at Cheam Common Junior School and how the school monitors and evaluates RE teaching and learning.

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 meetings 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](http://www.sutton.org.uk)

**Lal Hussain MBE**  
**Chair of Sutton SACRE November 2013**

## **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:

- 12 schools out of a possible 46 LA schools responded. This is about 26% of schools and is better than in previous years.
- Schools reported that good use is still made of local places of worship for visits and also that visitors from those places come into schools. A number of schools have RE and multi-cultural days when pupils explore themes in an intensive way. Visits to schools are made by Sutton Schoolwork and many others.
- In the schools that responded budgets are set aside for RE but the sums of money are variable. A number of subject leaders reported that they are given time to monitor. These monitoring times are reported back to Senior Management. Some of this monitoring takes place in PPA time and teachers are not happy about that.
- 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. Teachers are showing concerns about the way RE will fit into the "new" curriculum in 2014 and that some teachers see RE as a "filler" subject.
- Subject leaders miss any centrally organised courses but value the termly network meetings and would like more opportunities to meet together informally - maybe in cluster groups.

## **Religious Studies Examinations 2013:**

This section is not yet completed as the results have not been made available.

## **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 they 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). It also has links, via the consultant, to other organisations that promote and develop Religious Education such as the Association of RE Inspectors Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) and the Religious Education Council (REC).

## **NASACRE National & Regional Meetings**

For various reasons it has not been possible for members to attend the NASACRE meetings.

**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.

## **Finance**

Funds for the administration and work of SACRE are secured from the LA. These amounted to £7,800 for the financial year 2012/13.

## **Web Site**

SACRE has a number of web-pages accessed via the Sutton website. These contain up to date information about the Agreed Syllabus and support documents.

<http://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1683>

## **SACRE Membership at August 2013**

Lal Hussain MBE (Chair)

Kate Evans, Inspector for Inclusion LBS (Executive Head's Rep)

Julia Ayres, Clerk to SACRE

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

COMMITTEE A (9 places, 4 vacancies)	Representatives of Christian and other religious groups
COMMITTEE B (6 places, 2 vacancies)	Representatives of the Church of England
COMMITTEE C (6 places, 2 vacancies)	Representatives of teacher's organisations
COMMITTEE D (5 places, 1 vacancy)	Representatives of Sutton Council
1 British Humanist Rep Co-opted (sits with Committee A)	

## **Record of Meetings held 2012/2013**

Three meetings of SACRE are held each year (one per term). This year they were held at St John's, Belmont, a local Anglican/Methodist Church and at Cheam 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 following list gives a sample of some of the matters discussed and acted upon over the past year:

- Constitutional matters
- Membership matters
- 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
- Reports from subject leaders meetings led by consultant on behalf of the LA