



Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Standing Advisory Council on Religious

Education

(S.A.C.R.E.)

Annual Report 2014

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INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR OF SACRE

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report on the work of the SACRE. This is a particularly interesting time to be involved in Religious Education both locally and nationally. The appointment of RE specialist Shareena Pradhan to provide support for schools is a very positive development this year. There are now primary and secondary RE networking groups meeting at least termly. Teachers receive up to date training on *Learning for Life*, the Barking and Dagenham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, and schools are being encouraged to apply for the RE Quality Mark. The purpose of the Quality Mark is to celebrate the good and outstanding work that is taking place in RE across the Borough and to promote the importance of RE amongst schools. In addition, an excellent guide for teachers in preparing for RE visits and visitors within the local community is being published shortly. The guide includes a list of venues and speakers in the area and will enhance links and promote understanding between schools and the religious groups in our community.

Another exciting development is the establishment of a Junior SACRE. The first meeting will take place in the Spring term, 2015. SACRE members were privileged to have a presentation from the Chairs of the Junior SACRE (pictured below) who outlined their vision for the SACRE. Ihtisham Mehboob said: "We are hoping that the Junior SACRE will result in the standard of RE improving in all schools and for pupils to achieve a greater understanding of different religions and cultures." Priya Kaur Singh added: "We would also like to establish a voice for students to have a say in their learning and the lessons they attend. This would hopefully lead to students acquiring higher levels of understanding for the future."

SACRE has a responsibility to support and monitor the provision of RE in the Borough's schools. The analysis of GCSE results presented in this report highlights some considerable achievements but also evidence of underachievement and inadequate provision. Governors are reminded of their responsibility to ensure that RE is delivered in accordance with statutory requirements. SACRE also encourages a strong Spiritual Moral Social Cultural ethos to be evident within all our schools.

Members were saddened to hear of the death of Miss Vera Reynolds who represented the other Christian Denominations on SACRE for 25 years.

This report provides an overview of RE in the Borough's schools and the work of SACRE. I commend it to you.

Rev. Roger Gayler, Chair, Barking & Dagenham SACRE



1. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

1.1. Standards in Religious Education

The SACRE continues to fulfil its responsibility to monitor standards and quality in RE, collective worship and spiritual development. Examination results at GCSE, A/S and A level are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring and evaluation of standards.

Analysis of Religious Studies examination results 2014

School entry policies for GCSE RE differ, depending on the arrangements for statutory RE within the Key Stage 4 curriculum and the availability of RE within the school's Key Stage 4 option choices. It should be noted that the short course no longer counts towards the school performance tables and data relating to the short course is no longer available. The comments that follow on achievement will clearly be affected by the overall patterns of entry.

Achievement at GSCE Religious Studies

40% of Barking and Dagenham students sat the full GCSE which is broadly in line with national figures at 41.6%. Overall achievement for the full course GCSE RE is a little above national figures with about three-quarters of those entered achieving a grade A*-C. Five schools exceed or match this national picture, (notably Barking Abbey – 93.9% and All Saints – 82.8%). At Eastbury the whole cohort was entered with 70% achieving A*-C grades. Achievement at the higher grades (A*/A) for full course GCSE RE in Barking and Dagenham is in line with achievement at this level nationally, though it is exceeded at Barking Abbey with 60.5%. Three schools (Eastbrook, Sydney Russell and Jo Richardson) did not enter any pupils for full course GCSE RE.

Governors will generally want to satisfy themselves that:

- the statutory requirements for the provision of RE are being met at Key Stage 4;
- the overall proportion of pupils being entered for any accreditation in RE at GCSE (full or short course) are appropriate;
- the arrangements the school has made are suitable, now that the short course RE no longer 'counts' in the school performance tables;
- the achievement of pupils in RE at A*-C and A*/A is sufficiently good.

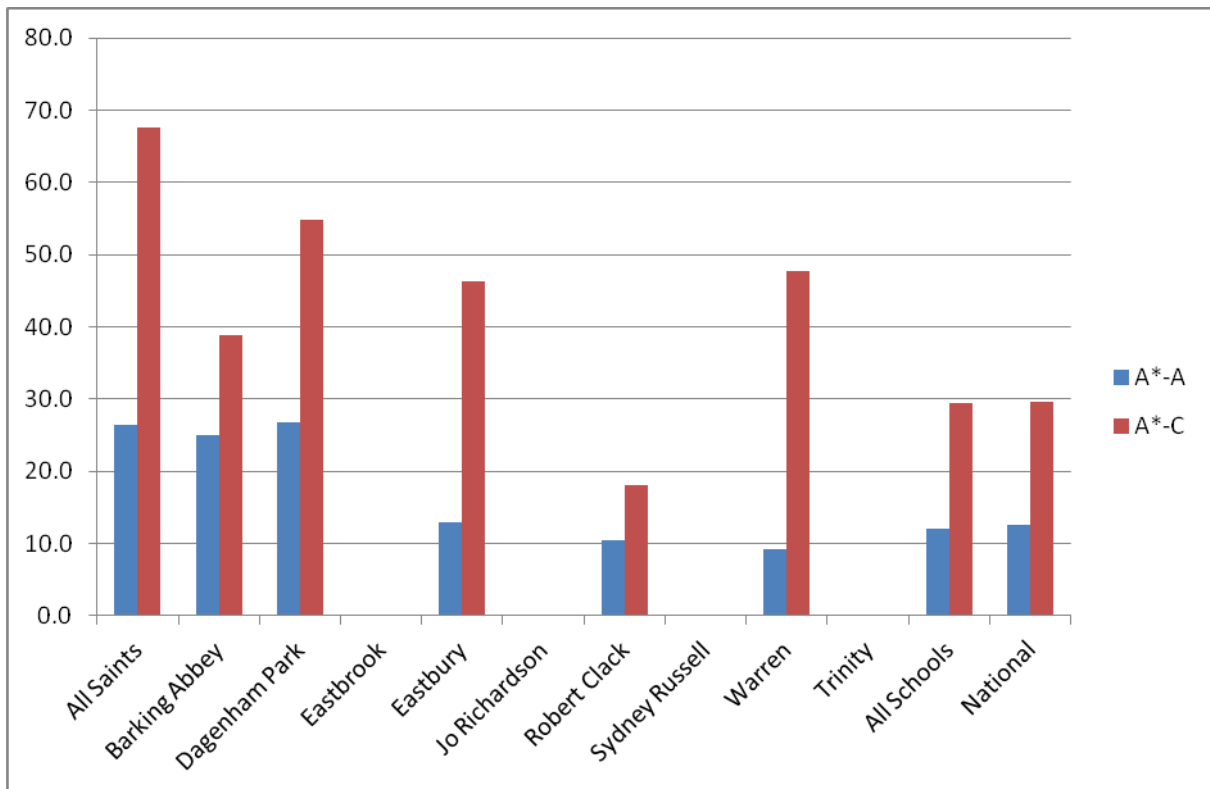
Achievement at Advanced Level in Religious Studies

Seven schools entered students for A level RS, a total of 75 students. Barking Abbey entered 36 students, Robert Clack 14 and All Saints 15. Others range from 1-4. A*-A All Saints achieved 33% (national 25.5%). In 6 of the 7 schools 100% achieved A*-E.

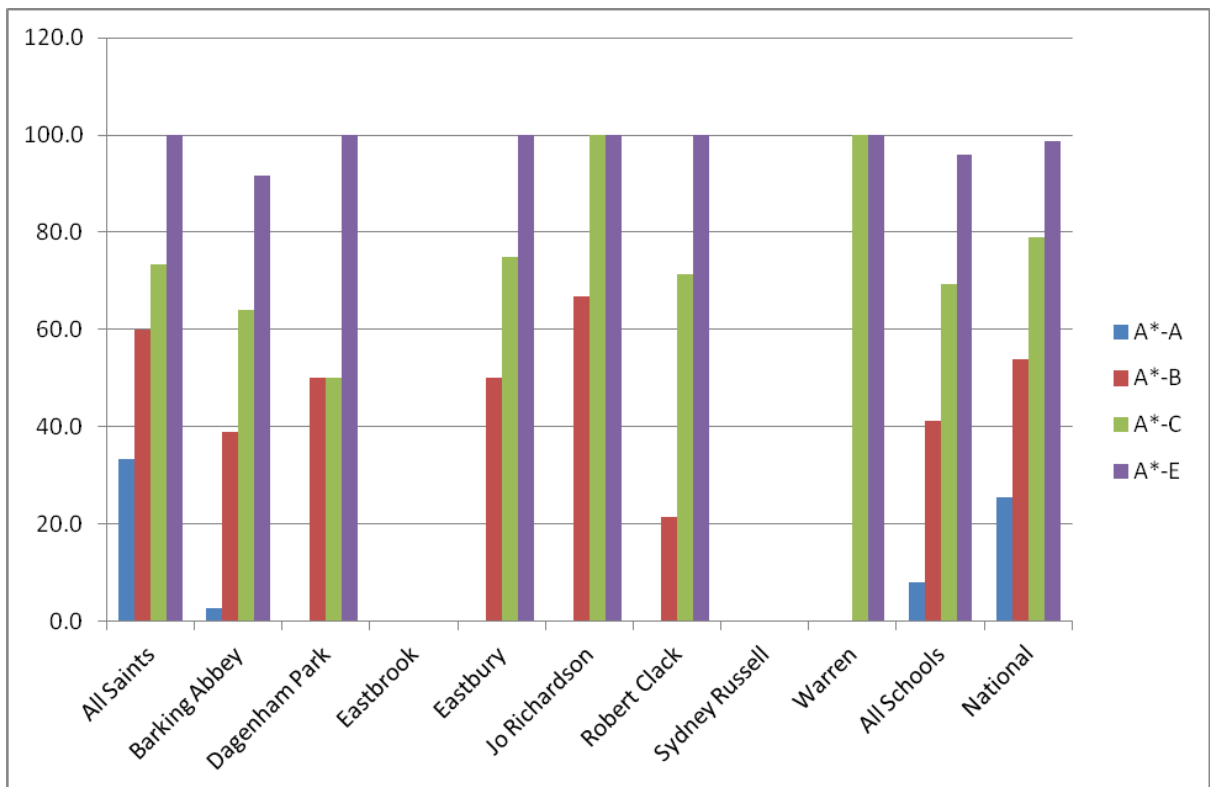
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**Summary of Barking and Dagenham Secondary Schools Religious Education
 GCSE Results 2014 (Provisional)**



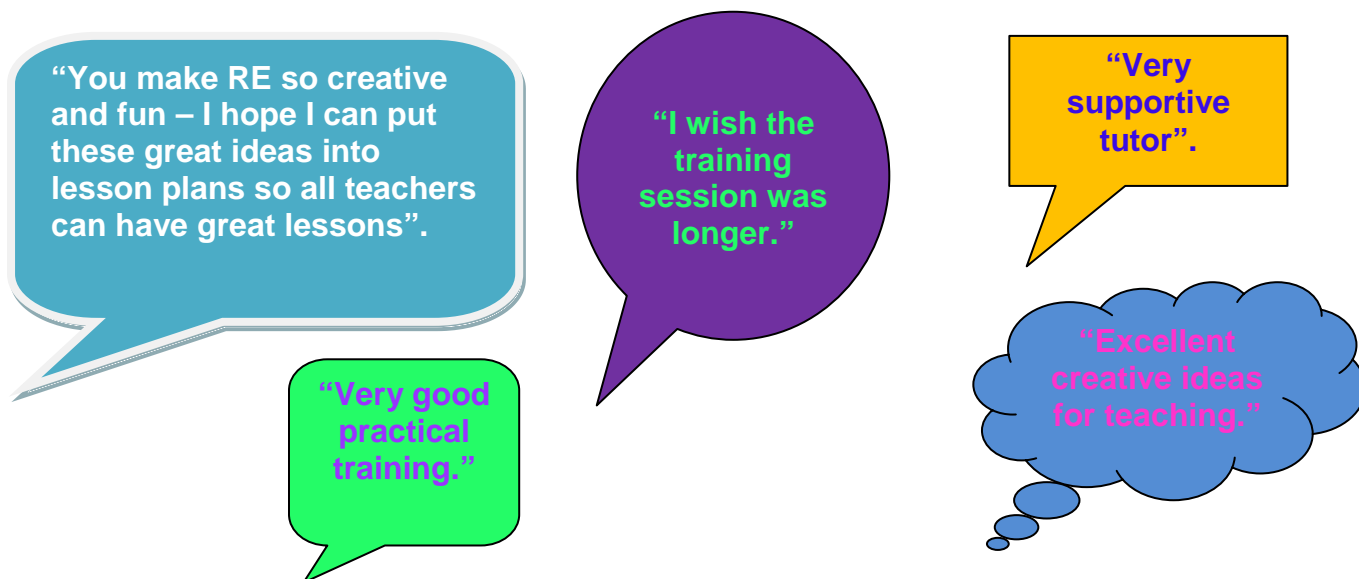
**Summary of Barking and Dagenham Secondary Schools Religious Education
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1.2. Teacher training and support

An experienced RE specialist provides support for primary and secondary schools. During the year networking opportunities have been established for primary and secondary RE subject leaders and heads of department. There are network groups for primary and secondary teachers which meet regularly on a voluntary basis. Training sessions on implementing the Learning for life the Barking and Dagenham Agreed Syllabus and developing schemes of work have been held for primary teachers. Schools are being supported in applying for the RE Quality Mark and a training session has been held.

Feedback from teachers has been extremely positive:



1.3. Information Provided for SACRE

During the year SACRE has discussed a range of national and local developments in RE including:

- Ofsted Report: RE: realising the potential:
- The Religious Education Council for England and Wales: A Review of Religious Education in England:
- All Party Parliamentary Report on RE: The Truth Unmasked – The supply of and support for RE teachers

The implications of these reports for the work of SACRE have been noted.

1.4. Governor Training

No governor training on RE or collective worship was held during the year.

1.5. Teacher Training

Specialist advice and support is available for schools from Shareena Pradhan who is based at Eastbury School, and through the Primary and Secondary termly network meetings.

1.6. Complaints Concerning RE

No formal complaints were made about religious education under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2014.

2 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

2.1. Training

There has been no training for schools on collective worship during the year.

2.2. Determinations

There were no applications for determinations to alter the character of collective worship for all or some pupils in a particular school during 2014.

2.3. Complaints concerning collective worship

No formal complaints were made about collective worship under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2014.

3. LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

3.1. National

Barking & Dagenham SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Members attend conferences and other events and report to full SACRE meetings.

3.2. Local

During the year SACRE meetings have been held at local schools and places of worship, including a visit to the Al Madina Mosque in Barking. Meetings in schools have included contributions from the Headteachers and teaching staff followed by opportunities for members of SACRE to discuss their provision for RE and collective worship.

Illustration by Bethany Newton – Eastbury Comprehensive



4. OTHER ISSUES

4.1. Budget

The Local Authority has delegated a reasonable sum of money to SACRE to enable the group to function independently and effectively. The funds are allocated carefully. Expenditure includes national association affiliation fees and incidental expenses, for example, travel and venue costs. Funding has been allocated to cover the costs of producing and disseminating the new agreed syllabus and to fund the services of a RE subject specialist to support schools.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference and Constitution

Mission Statement

To act as a forum bringing people together from a variety of communities to discuss and debate the issues RE raises in the modern world in order to support the teaching and resourcing of RE in the area. To strive, in its own working and style, to be a model of co-operation between people of varying religious, political and educational backgrounds. The SACRE is a broadly based community consultative organisation and should be representative of the diverse community of Barking and Dagenham.

Function and purpose

The SACRE provides an opportunity for people from the educational and faith communities to work together in an imaginative and creative way to help develop the religious education of young people in Barking and Dagenham. It can provide an interfaith forum focused on the educational needs of the area. To this end SACRE will:

- Encourage the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and in this regard to monitor the production of teaching resources and support material.
- Review the provision for RE and Collective Worship in community schools within the Borough.
- Give advice on methods of teaching Agreed Syllabus RE including the choice of teaching materials.
- Advise the LA on the provision for training for teachers.
- Monitor inspection reports on RE, Collective Worship and SMSC.
- Consider complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective Worship referred to it by the LA.
- Sponsor or support any activity or project which it deems to be consistent with the other terms of reference mentioned in this document.
- Produce a three-year development plan to guide the work and set objectives for future development.

Legal Duties

Its main function is to advise the LA on matters related to Collective Worship in community schools and some other schools and on the Religious Education given with the Agreed Syllabus. The SACRE can:

- Keep under review the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Agreed Syllabus until such time (and no later than five years after the publication of the last Agreed Syllabus) it decides to require the LA to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to institute a formal review.
- Advise on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and the provision of training for teachers.
- To advise on the effective and creative implementation of the collective worship requirements of the Education Act 1996 and consider requests by schools for determinations.
- The SACRE must publish an annual report of its work and this to be sent to the Chief Executive's Office and QCA.
- Demonstrate to OFSTED or any other Government body how SACRE supports RE as well as general policies of religious inclusion.
- Meet at least 3 times each year.

Membership of SACRE

Membership of SACRE is at the discretion of the LA following national guidance. The pattern is that which is laid down for membership of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). This makes it possible for the SACRE to become an ASC as and when needed. Nominating bodies 'approval' for new members will be sought for membership of the ASC when an ASC is set up to review and develop a new Agreed Syllabus. The total number of SACRE members could be *up to 30* (see below)

Membership Bodies and Numbers of Representatives possible on SACRE

Church of England - up to 6 Representatives forming Committee A of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) see next section.

All other religious communities and belief systems – up to 14 representatives forming Committee B of the ASC.

Teachers Professional Associations – up to 4 representatives forming Committee C of the ASC.

Local Authority – up to 4 representatives forming Committee D of the ASC

Additional nominated members on the advice of the LA through the Education Division - 2 representatives who would not have any voting rights during an ASC.

Bodies and Organisations Responsible for Nomination of Members

The overall purpose of this is to ensure that all key religious groups are represented on the SACRE:

- Church of England
- Diocesan Director of Education based at Chelmsford
- Barking Council of Churches
- BRES Roman Catholic Education Service
- Barking Mosque
- Barking Gurdwara
- Muslim, Sikh, Bahai, Hindu, and Jewish Communities plus any other which becomes known
- The local secretaries of all teachers unions
- The local council
- Other local authority organisations which have links with religious communities in Barking and Dagenham

If it is difficult to gain formal nomination then the SACRE, at its discretion can appoint individuals to represent religious communities.

SACRE Meetings

There will be at least three meetings each year chaired by a Council Member. The minutes and agenda will be decided by SACRE and sent out by the council to all SACRE members. For a meeting to be quorate it will need to have present at least one representative from the four committees that would form an ASC.

The Agenda will be agreed by the SACRE and the Chair ensuring that all relevant items are being addressed throughout the year. Notice of meetings, minutes and agenda will be sent out by the LA to representatives. Items on the agenda may include examination of OFSTED reports on the teaching of RE and on matters of Moral, Cultural and Spiritual Development that are raised in reports. It may also consider determinations if a local school requests that its worship provision should not be 'broadly Christian' but represent a dominant religious group within that school.

It will meet in a variety of venues to increase awareness of SACRE and its work.

In addition to the above the SACRE may set up a small subcommittee to advise the whole SACRE on matters of policy and development.

Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) is convened in order to produce an Agreed Syllabus for RE. IT should take into account any guidelines provided by the QCA or any other statutory or non-statutory guidance. It is a separate legal entity from a SACRE. It contains the same four committees as a SACRE. Also it can be made up from SACRE members but need not do so. There is no provision for co-opted members.

The LA can appoint the Chair of the ASC or the LA may allow the ASC to choose its own Chair. The LA's responsibility to convene an ASC implies a duty to provide funds for its work. This is laid down in Education Act 1 '996 Chapter 111 Schedule 31'.

Our SACRE is so constructed as to enable it to form an ASC however nominated members will not have a vote.

Role of SACRE Members Representing Faith Communities

- Should present a positive image of the religion they represent.
- Ensure that other members of their communities including parents with children at school are aware of the work and role of SACRE.
- Represent any issues of concern to parents and other community members.
- Create opportunities within SACRE meetings to raise awareness of issues of sensitivity in the teaching of RE to the children of their faith community.
- Advise on issues relating to the teaching and content of RE supporting schools in their best endeavours to develop their teaching.
- Support schools by helping to provide names of people suitable to resource teachers in the classroom or school assembly.
- Form Committee A and B during an Agreed Syllabus conference.

Role of SACRE Members Representing Teachers Associations

- Ensure that the needs of the schools and teachers are considered by SACRE in their discussions.
- Provide information about the context in which RE is taught.
- Ensure that the associations they represent are informed about the work of SACRE.
- Create opportunities for other teachers to learn about the work of SACRE and give them the opportunity to have their views expressed at SACRE meetings.
- Consult other teachers on matters of particular importance to the work of SACRE.
- Form Committee C during an ASC.

Role of SACRE Members Representing the LA

- Bring to the meeting the breadth of education issues and concerns that elected members have and place the role of RE within it.
- Support RE in the various committee and structures of the LA.
- Give political support to the teaching and resourcing of RE.
- Appreciate the issues raised by a multi faith, multicultural society and reflect these concerns within the LA.

- Bringing the public dimension to debates about RE provision and support.
- Form Committee D during and ASC.

Publicising the work of SACRE

- Publish an annual report of its work specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting out the reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LA.
- Ensure proceedings are reported to all appropriate committees of the LA and the office of the Chief Executive.
- Make an annual presentation to the Assembly of the council on the work of SACRE before presentation of annual Report to Chief Executive.
- To offer a presentation to the Youth Forum as a basis for initiating discussion on RE from the young people involved. This will provide an element of feedback which the Schools wish to consider through the work of the School Improvement Service.
- Disseminate an understanding of the educational role of RE and Collective Worship and to encourage the active involvement of local religious groups and organisations.
- Annual reports to be sent to faith communities represented on the SACRE.
- Summary of annual report on the work of SACRE to be sent to schools for informing teachers and parents and to be published in the News and other appropriate organs of communication.
- Meetings are open to the public and notice of SACRE meetings should be published.

Appendix 2



Members of SACRE 2014

SACRE MEMBERS:

The Church of England Representatives:

Group A - Representing The Church of England:

Reverend Roger Gayler
Reverend Lyn Hillier
Mrs Janet Hoepelman

Group B - Representing other Christian denominations and other religions/belief systems:

Dr B Beheshti/Mrs Barbara Stanley-Hunt	(Baha'i faith)
Mr P N Fing	(Hindu Community)
Shaheena Khan	(Muslim Community)
Reverend Stewart Myers	(Jewish Community)
Randip Kaur Sahota	(Sikh Community)

Group C - Representing teachers

Mr David Dickson	(Secondary Headteachers)
Mr Martin Nicholson	(Primary Headteachers)
Mr Joseph Sowerby	(Professional Associations, ATL)

Group D - Representing the Local Authority

Alderman Frederick C Jones
Councillor Amardeep S Jamu
Councillor John R White
Councillor Saima Ashraf

Local Authority Representatives:

Janet Dyson – Director's Representative
Shareena Pradhan – RE Consultant

Clerical support:

Joanne Atkinson
Jackie Day