

CROYDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
For  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Croydon SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014



**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

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**SACRE Clerk – administration Mrs Judith Bennett**

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**LIST OF CROYDON SACRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – As at July 2014**

**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)

Vacancy (Roman Catholic)

Mrs Ruth Tayler (Methodist)

Mr Lesley Bracken (British Humanist Association)

Miss Mayura Patel (Hindu)

Vacancy (Buddhist)

Vacancy (Muslim)

Cllr Jeet Bains (Sikh)

**Committee B**

**Representatives of the Church of England -**

Reverend Canon Colin Boswell

Mrs Jane Saville

Rev Alison Brunt

Mrs Cheryl Hudson

**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**

Councillor Joy Prince



**The Launch of the new Syllabus**

## **Overview**

### **Meetings:**

In the academic year 2013 – 2014 Croydon SACRE met on the following occasions.

13<sup>TH</sup> November 2013 at Croydon Faith Education Resources library (CFER)

27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Croydon Faith Education Resources

5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at Croydon Faith Education Resources

The clerk to SACRE, for administration was provided by Croydon council. 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.

## **Section1. Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education**

Monitoring of Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship (CW) in schools continues to rely on the goodwill between SACRE and the schools. The SACRE Officer for Croydon uses the email communications throughout the year from coordinators and head teachers to gain some insight into the provision of RE and CW.

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 and are able to note these reports and act upon them when necessary. The RE Advisor 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 advisor to gain some information on the provision of RE in their schools.

Courses run by the advisor during the year also help SACRE to gain information on the state of RE in the schools in Croydon, liaison with the manager of the RE centre in Croydon is also a source of information. There have been courses on the RE quality mark and how to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which is now back in the OFSTED inspection and which is supported in schools by religious education and collective worship. A course was also run, attended by 16 Governors, to update them on the actions that Governors can take to raise the profile of RE in schools. Some SACRE members visited a school which had recently achieved the Gold RE Quality mark.

### **Standards of achievement and public examination entries**

#### **GCSE Results: Summer 2014**

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 2014 is still provisional.

Figures for the short course GCSE religious studies are no longer available as the government has decided that these do not go towards the school standards measure. Pupils in schools in Croydon did in fact take the exam but the figures are not published. Twenty three

schools entered students for the GCSE full course with some schools entering all pupils. 71% of candidates achieved A\*-C grades with Lanfranc and Coloma achieving particularly well as did the pru's with Woodcote, Coloma and Norbury achieving a high number of A\* grades.

Two schools entered a total of 23 pupils for GCE AS religious studies, as opposed to fourteen schools last year. Three pupil's achieved A and nineteen pupils achieved a pass. This also reflects the changes in government policy on the AS level exam. However eleven schools entered a total of ninety four pupils for A level religious studies of whom 20% achieved an A grade and 52% achieving an A-B grade which is up by 32% on last years results.

### Summary for Croydon schools and Academies GCSE, AS and A Level Results

<i>Full Course GCSE</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>AS Level</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>A2 level</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
<i>Croydon % A*-C</i>	70%	71%	<i>Croydon % A*-C</i>	31%	43%	<i>% A*-C</i>	46%	80%
<i>National % A*-C</i>	73.5	71%	<i>National % A*-C</i>		64%	<i>National %A*-C</i>		80.6%
<i>Croydon %A*-G</i>	98%	98.%	<i>Croydon %A*-E</i>	80%	82%	<i>%A*-E</i>	99%	100%
<i>Number entered</i>	2566	2511	<i>Number entered</i>	51	23	<i>Number entered</i>	74	94
<i>National Number entered</i>	228,824	282,099	<i>National Number entered</i>		199,752	<i>National Number entered</i>	23,354	24,213

### 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. The New Agreed Syllabus was launched in July 2013 and has been well received by RE Coordinators.

There are a number of new RE Coordinators as several of the very experienced teachers retired during this year. Since holding the RE Coordinator meetings in the Resources library the number of teachers attending have risen. More and more schools use teaching assistants to teach RE in planning and preparation time. In secondary schools the heads of department continue to usually be 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 has continued to fund the Croydon Faith Education Resources library, which is a multi-faith library of approximately 18,000 resources. The introduction of a joining fee does not seem to have a detrimental effect and there are a number of schools from outside the borough that are now members. The Fronter page of SACRE has a section with extra resources for teaching the new syllabus which is only accessible by subscribing schools. New resources are regularly bought in and the RE Centre has begun to run courses on aspects of faith and RE which have proved popular.

### **Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools**

Teachers on the SACRE committee come from Academies and some of the Academies are using the new syllabus, it is hoped that more teachers can be brought onto the SACRE committee in the coming year. The RE centre is based in an Academy.

## **Section 2: Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders**

The Croydon SACRE meetings this year were all held at the RE centre and were quorate. The Diocesan advisor had worked to fill all the Church of England places although there are still vacancies on the teacher group, a message has been sent to all schools encouraging teachers to join. 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 advisor 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 had worked hard on the new syllabus and were pleased with the result. The self-evaluation of SACRE for this year can be seen at Appendix A.

The Consultant represented the Association of RE inspectors, advisors and consultants at the meetings regarding new orders for the GCSE and A level religious Studies and was able to discuss these with the LA and SACRE.

The development plan is referred to during the year. The Croydon SACRE development plan for 2013-14 can be seen in Appendix B.

There is an annual budget for SACRE and the RE consultant is employed by the Council as SACRE Officer 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 and the Croydon congress, items from which are then reported back to SACRE. She is also a Director of the RE Centre and works closely with the manager of the centre to ensure that the correct resources are available.

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

### **Section 3: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus**

The new agreed syllabus for Croydon was launched in June 2013 and Coordinators were asked to implement the new syllabus by Easter 2014. The new syllabus comes in the form of a cd and is also available on the council website and the Fronter page of SACRE. There are 100 pages of guidance and activity suggestions, stories and information for teachers. During the year a number of teachers have commented favourably on the new syllabus. During the autumn term a series of courses were run on teaching points for the different faiths and on the challenge units some of which were completely new.

#### **Making best use of National Guidance**

The syllabus was 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 advisor is a representative on the executive of the association of RE advisors and therefore was able to ensure that information from the RE Council's Review was included.

### **Section 4: 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. During the year some calls from schools have been about withdrawal of children, mainly Jehovah's Witness, from collective worship. A future priority will be to look at monitoring this area and reissuing the CW guidance.

**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 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 Advisor 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 advisor'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. There are also community events celebrating different faith festivals throughout the year which SACRE members are invited to and resources from the centre are on show at all these events.

The advisor attended the NASACRE AGM in May and the All Party Parliamentary group meetings on RE and the community and reported back to SACRE.



## Self-evaluation of Croydon SACRE Autumn 2014

Key Area Number	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1A	Compliance and time allocation for RE		x	
1B	Public examination entries RE Standards and achievement		x	
1C	Quality of teaching, leadership and management		x	
1D	Recruitment and retention issues	x		
1E	Resources			x
2A	SACRE meetings		x	
2B	Membership and training		x	
2C	Improvement and development planning		<b>X Priority</b>	
2D	Professional and financial support			x
2E	Information and advice	x		
2F	Partnership with our key stakeholders	x		
3A	Review of Agreed Syllabus			x
3B	Using the non statutory National Framework for RE			x
3C	Developing the revised Agreed Syllabus			x
3D	Consultation/launch/implementation of the Agreed syllabus			x
3E	Additional guidance/ monitoring and evaluating the Agreed syllabus		<b>X Priority</b>	
4A	Practice and provision for collective worship	x		
4B	Monitoring collective worship/ tackling issues of non compliance	<b>X Priority</b>		
5A	Representative nature of SACRE		x	
5B	Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural, ethnic community			x
5C	Understanding the intrinsic contribution RE can make to social and racial harmony		x	
5D	Links to the LA initiatives promoting social and racial harmony			x

**Appendix B Development Plan 2013-2014** Official Advisor 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
To prepare agenda, respond to any action from previous meetings and plan on going programme for SACRE committee meetings.	Arrange and attend 3 pre agenda meetings per year Write papers and reports for the meeting to LA timetable Attend 3 SACRE meetings per year	Clerk Chairman RE Advisor RE Advisor  All members of committee	3 pre agenda meetings 3 Termly meetings  Effective meetings with Action points carried out by Members between meetings	10 days Advisor time	Meeting venues  Clerk at pre agenda  Clerk at Meetings
SACRE consider reports and initiatives from NASACRE and the RE Council	Consider relevant material from National SACRE Conference and NASACRE AGM	RE Advisor/ Chairman and any other rep	Following NASACRE meetings summer term	3 days advisor time to attend meetings and write reports	Advisor
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	Advisor 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 advisor time  3 days advisor time	Meeting time  Fronter  Transport
To report annually on the work of SACRE.	Collect information on exam data and SACRE work  RE Advisor to write an annual report by December on the previous academic year.	RE Advisor to write, Chairman to read, Clerk to circulate.	Completed on time and copies provided for SACRE members, Directors libraries, schools etc	Deadline end December 2014  RE Advisor time 4 days	Advisor

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	Advisor	Information/help on religious education and collective worship queries given as necessary	Approx 4 days	Telephone/broadband
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 Report to SACRE.	Advisor Teacher reps	Schools participation in Council event. Schools marking the day within their Collective Worship, using CFER resources A successful event	Advisor time. 2 days	Advisor CFER Schools Members
To attend Meetings and training	Advisor to attend meetings regarding issues of RE and CW as required by the Education department	Advisor	Advisor to report to SACRE on the content of meetings and training undertaken	As required	Advisor time
To support the work of Croydon Faith Education Resources	Advisor to work with resource officer to ensure quality resources and efficient running of the centre and liaise between education dept and RE centre	Advisor	Advisor to attend management meetings plus 2 visits per term SACRE to be given higher profile	8 days advisor time	Advisor time Advisor to write reports. Members time
Teacher network meetings for RE Coordinators	Termly meetings for RE coordinators to update them on current practice, resources etc and discuss questions /problems arising	Advisor	3 network meeting held and attended by at least 10 coordinators. Continual improvement in teaching and learning in RE	3 days advisor time	Advisor time
To run courses for RE teachers/ coordinators	Run courses for the new Coordinator, Governors, discussions with teachers on the REQM	Advisor 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	Advisor

