

CROYDON ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CROYDON SACRE
ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019



Croydon SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

A SACRE must publish an annual report of its work and send this to the DFE and NASACRE.

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on religious education and collective worship in its schools. Consider requests for determinations on collective worship when required and advise the LEA upon such matters as collective worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus.

The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how that was responded to; this includes advice on RE and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

From NASACRE website information

Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to the 2018-19 Annual Report of the Croydon SACRE.

The SACRE has met three times during the academic year and has worked towards the priorities outlined in the current Development Plan and has contributed to the national discussions on direction and health of Religious Education in the future. Croydon SACRE has also continued to input to wider surveys and sought to promote the inclusion of RE in the English Baccalaureate.

Croydon is a richly diverse community and the need for strengthening every means of increasing tolerance and understanding of each other especially in the realm of religion has never been greater, in every decade of life.

SACRE is relieved and grateful to St James the Great Primary School and Coloma Covent Girls' School for their willingness to accept and enable access to RE materials for primary and secondary schools, respectively. The SACRE has also sought to strengthen its representation of faith groups.

A high proportion of schools in Croydon have converted to Academies and the SACRE has made ongoing efforts to engage with schools to ensure their continued compliance with requirements to provide high quality Religious Education and opportunities for Collective Worship. Some opportunities have been taken to engage with governors during training to enhance awareness of RE in schools.

Keeping the place of RE in the school curriculum has been a challenge which the SACRE has sought to rise to. This, combined with the impact of the absence of RE from the English Baccalaureate in secondary schools, causes the SACRE great concern that Religious Education might not be apportioned the same importance as other subjects in the school curriculum. However, a renewed appetite in many schools for an improved RE profile has been detected, which is very welcome to SACRE.

One innovation this year was the introduction of a short essay competition for Holocaust Memorial Day, and the WIRE award for schools (see below for more).

As Chairman, I would like to thank all those who serve on Croydon SACRE, teachers, faith group representatives, Cllrs, visitors and visiting presenters, and the vice chairman, Mrs Cheryl Hudson, and to Rev Alison Brunt for, once again, attending and representing us at the NASACRE AGM and reporting back, and especially grateful to Mrs Penny Smith-Orr, SACRE Officer for Croydon, as professional support as our consultant /adviser and for driving our work forward and keeping us abreast of developments in Religious Education nationally, and Mrs Judy Bennett, committee Clerk. The help of the Education Department is also gratefully acknowledged.

Croydon SACRE is able to face the challenges ahead as we continue to ensure that Religious Education and Collective Worship retain their rightful place at the heart of our schools.

Cllr Richard Chatterjee

Chairman, Croydon SACRE

Overview

Meetings:

In the academic year 2018– 2019 Croydon SACRE met on the following occasions;

19th November 2018 at Shirley High School Croydon

11th March 2019 at The Norbury Muslim Centre, Norbury

20th June 2019 St. Oswald's Church, green Lane Norbury

The clerk to SACRE, for administration and minute taking is provided by Croydon Council. The SACRE Officer was Mrs Penny Smith-Orr.

A development plan is made each year and looked at during meetings. The priorities this year were to help schools to embed the Croydon Agreed Syllabus 2018 and create a guidance on Visits and Visitors.

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority

The reviewed and updated Croydon Agreed Syllabus 2018 was launched at the beginning of the Academic year with an event held at St James the Great Primary school. This is the school which holds the resource library and the attendees were given a pen with the link to the Council website pages and the syllabus. Also on these pages are documents on Respect for pupils of faith, Collective Worship and special needs.

At each meeting the latest OFSTED reports for Croydon schools are provided to members for them to note and act upon when necessary advising the local authority of any problems. The RE Advisor was asked by the Education department to go to some schools as a result of these reports and advise on ways to teach religious education. Also during the summer term, she was asked to go and do a presentation to the new head teacher group on where to find the syllabus and how to access support.

In the Autumn term 2018 a Governors training session was held to inform them of the new syllabus requirements and the forthcoming OFSTED changes.

Croydon Council continues to mark Holocaust Memorial Day with a civic event and the RE Advisor chairs the planning committee of which the Chair of SACRE is a member. Two or three schools take part in the event each year and in 2019 Croydon SACRE ran an essay competition on the National Theme which was won by Oasis Coulsdon who received some Jewish Artefacts at the ceremony.

Government

Discussion of the RE commission report took place and members hoped that some of the recommendations would be taken up

Schools

Three meetings were held for RE Coordinators during the year, the first in the Autumn term was the launch of the newly updated Croydon Agreed Syllabus 2018. This included an explanation of the changes and discussions on assessment and early Years. It was held at the school where the RE resources are now kept so that the RE Coordinators could see the resources and find out how to borrow them.

The Spring meeting was held at Monks orchard Primary and the new assessment section of the syllabus was unpacked and discussed. The coordinators were given a template for recording assessments and suggestions for suitable ways to assess. A presentation on Visits and Visitors was followed by discussions so that a new guidance from SACRE on this can be produced for schools.

The Summer meeting, held at Elmwood Junior School, had a presentation on the new OFSTED orders and discussions about the NASACRE conference and the monitoring that SACRE has been doing. A new award for schools called The WIRE, which stands for widening inclusivity in RE, was discussed and teachers ideas and

suggestions were sought prior to the launch of this free award for schools in the Autumn term 2019.

Information and advice are given to schools throughout the year through the school's bulletin, a news sheet sent out at the beginning of each term and through email or telephone calls to the SACRE Officer. As well as the Croydon Council website there is also a website (www.reconsultant.co.uk) where teachers can find information on the Croydon Syllabus, related documents and general RE advice. During the year there were a number of new RE Coordinators who were sent information on their role, monitoring, planning and general advice

During the year, the SACRE Officer went to several schools to lead staff meetings, on teaching RE and making sure that it was part of the broad and balanced curriculum, or to give advice to the RE coordinator. Members of SACRE were invited to the Easter Activities afternoon at Winterbourne school.

The members of Croydon SACRE had spent the year doing a website check of school's websites to monitor whether the RE curriculum is on the websites. They also looked for mention of Collective worship and SMSC. In May the Chair of SACRE sent a letter to all Croydon schools telling them about the website check and some of the results. About 75% mentioned RE while 50% don't mention which syllabus is being used, only one third mentioned provision for collective worship. The time allotted to teaching religious education is only mentioned by 3 schools. This letter suggested to Head Teachers that they look at their website and update it if necessary. The committee decided that we would recheck all the websites in the Autumn/ Spring and write again to schools next Easter.

Standard and Quality of Provision of RE and Attainment in RE

For SACRE to gain verifiable information on the Standard and Quality of Provision of RE, particularly in the secondary schools is very difficult. Network meetings held with Primary RE coordinators and discussions at these meetings allow the Officer to gain some information on the provision of RE in Croydon Primary schools. The exam results provided by the Council from the Department of Education usually show some information about the subject at the Secondary level. This year they have not been released on time to form part of this report. A check of school's websites has indicated whether RE and CW are mentioned, and the importance given to the subject.

During this year the SACRE officer has attended schools to lead staff meetings on teaching RE in an interesting and memorable way and to sometimes address comments in OFSTED reports. Also with support from the SACRE Officer, Bensham Manor School was awarded a Silver RE Quality Mark, previously the school had received the Bronze Quality Mark.

There have been no complaints about religious education during the year.

Standards of achievement and public examination entries GCSE Results:

The results for summer 2019 have not been released at the time of writing.

Collective Worship

It is understood from discussion with RE Coordinators that collective worship is carried out within schools and a document on Guidance for Collective Worship, can be found on the Council website.

The monitoring of school websites by SACRE members includes looking for mention of Collective Worship.

There were no determinations or complaints referred to SACRE during the year.

Management of SACRE

The Chair of Croydon SACRE is Councillor Chatterjee from group D and the Vice Chair is Cheryl Hudson, a teacher from a local church school who is a representative from group B. During the year she became a Head teacher of a school outside Croydon but continued in her role on Croydon SACRE.

There continues to be an annual budget for SACRE and the SACRE Officer is employed by the Council for 50 days per year. The LA also provides a clerk for the minutes at meetings.

The SACRE has a new development plan each year and regularly uses the NASACRE Tool Kit to check the progress and effectiveness of SACRE.

Other Work of Croydon SACRE

The SACRE committee decided to run an essay competition with the title 'Torn From home' the national theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2019. Three schools sent in entries and the winning essay came from a pupil at Oasis Academy Coulsdon. This, and an entry from Whitgift School, was read out at the annual civic event and a box of Jewish artefacts was given to the winning school. Oasis Academy has taken part in the Memorial Day events several times and were also congratulated on achieving the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Bronze Award.

Revd. Brunt from committee B volunteered to attend the NASACRE AGM on the topic of 'Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships: RE near and far (local, national, global)', in Manchester and reported to members in the summer meeting.

During the year the committee received training on what is a determination? And a presentation on the new OFSTED orders which have a wider remit than before and are looking for a broad and balanced curriculum which includes the teaching of religious education. The committee welcomed this change.

Discussion was held on the new guidance for schools on visits and visitors particularly including the members from Committee A.

A discussion was held on a document called the WIRE Award which was initiated by Bristol and South Gloucestershire SACREs. It was agreed that with some changes this is to be adopted by Croydon SACRE. The award will encourage schools to make visits to places of worship and be more proactive in RE. Unlike other subject awards for schools, such as the RE Quality Mark which costs £485, the WIRE Award is free.

All schools will be encouraged to take part, it had been shared with RE co-ordinators in the summer and they were generally enthusiastic about it.

Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority Agenda

The SACRE Officer is also involved in the local interfaith group and as a member of this and in the role of SACRE officer attends the CYPL partnership meetings and the Croydon Congress and can give advice on faith matters and religious education in schools to these bodies and to report on these meetings to SACRE. Information from the local Interfaith group is also given to members and invitations to events extended.

Self-Evaluation of Croydon SACRE – June 2018

Key Area Number	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
Section 1 Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education				
1a	RE Provision across the LA		X	
1b	Standards of achievement and public examination entries		X	
1c	Quality of learning and teaching			X
1d	Quality of leadership and management, including the provision and management of resources		X	
1e	Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff	X		
1ff	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools			X
Section 2 The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus				
2a	The review process			X
2b	The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus			X
2c	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus		X	
2d	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)		X	
2e	Developing the revised agreed syllabus			x
2f	Making best use of National Guidance			x
Section 3 Collective Worship				
3a	Supporting pupil entitlement		X	
3b	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		X	
3c	Responding to requests for determinations		X	
Section 4 Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders				
4a	SACRE meetings		X	
4b	Membership and training		x	
4c	Improvement/development planning		X	
4d	Professional and financial support			X
4e	Information and advice		x	
4f	Partnerships with key stakeholders		X	
4g	Relations with the Academies sector		X	
Section 5 Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community				
5a	SACRE's membership		X	
5b	SACRE's understanding of the local area		X	
5c	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda			X
5d	SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion			X

Membership of Croydon SACRE 2018-2019

A-Other Faiths B-Church of England C- Teachers D -Councillors. Numbers indicate meetings attended

A			C	Ms Sevim Hamit	1
A	Lt Col Morag Rowlanes (Salvation Army)	3	C	Ms Lorna John	3
A	Rabbi Nathan Anoushka (Judaism)	0	C	Mrs Sara Bonnick	2
A	Kamil Sheikh	3	C	Mrs Sonia Clarke	2
A	Harvinder Singh	0	C	Mrs Jo O'Reilly	2
A	Fr. Michael Scanlon/ Rev G Kinnane	0	D	Cllr Richard Chatterjee (Chair)	3
A	Miss Mayura Patel (Hindu)	0	D	Cllr Patricia Hay-Justice	1
B	Ms Cheryl Hudson Vice Chair	2	D	Cllr Lynne Hale	1
B	Mike McKeveny (Autumn)	0	D	Cllr Shafi Khan	2
B	Shaun Burns (From Spring)	2			
B	Rev Alison Brunt	3		Penny Smith-Orr SACRE Officer	3
B	Rev Alan Bayes	1		Judith Bennett (Clerk)	3

The Rabbi for the Croydon Synagogue receives the minutes.