

CROYDON ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
CROYDON SACRE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
**2019-2020**



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 2019-20 Annual Report of the Croydon SACRE.

The SACRE has met three times during the academic year in varied venues (the latter, virtually) 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 (EBacc).

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.

This year produced a winner in the Primary School category and the Secondary School category of the SACRE short essay competition for Holocaust Memorial Day,

and the introduction of the WIRE (Widening Inclusivity in RE) award for schools (see below for more) developed by Bristol and South Gloucestershire RE.

As Chairman, I would like to thank all those who serve on Croydon SACRE, teachers, Church of England representative, faith group representatives, Cllrs, visitors and visiting presenters, and the vice chairman, Mrs Cheryl Hudson, and to Rev Alison Brunt who was willing to attend and represent us at the NASACRE AGM (but this was postponed so was not held during 2019-20), and especially grateful to Mrs Penny Smith-Orr, SACRE Officer for Croydon, as professional support in her capacity as our consultant /adviser and for driving our work forward and keeping us abreast of developments in Religious Education nationally and locally, 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 2019– 2020 Croydon SACRE met on the following occasions;

6th November 2019 At The Croydon Synagogue

5th March 2020 At The Croydon Salvation Army Citadel

9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 A virtual meeting using zoom

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

A development plan is made each year and looked at during meetings.

The priorities this year were to hold SACRE meeting in different places of worship, to create a guidance on Visits and Visitors and launch The WIRE award to Croydon Schools.

## **Advice to Statutory Bodies**

### **Local Authority**

The Croydon Agreed Syllabus 2018 is available on the Croydon Council website along with other guidance documents and information.

The SACRE officer did a presentation to new Head Teachers on where to find the syllabus and the laws pertaining to Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship (CW). A presentation was also made to the head Teachers of Croydon at one of their breakfast meetings. 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.

Croydon Council continues to mark Holocaust Memorial Day with an annual civic event and the SACRE Officer chaired the planning committee of which the Chair of SACRE is a member.

Council officers from the community's department also use the SACRE officer to contact the many faith communities of Croydon. This year there has been a lot of contact with the Public Health team.

### **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.

During the Autumn Term and early Spring the SACRE Officer went to several schools and led staff meetings on RE and CW and also met with RE Coordinators to help with planning and other advice. Information and advice are given to schools throughout the year through the schools' bulletin, through email or telephone calls to the SACRE Officer. During the lockdown of schools, teachers were sent more news sheets than usual with useful resources for teaching online as well as other information. As well as the Croydon Council website there is also a website ([www.reconsultant.co.uk](http://www.reconsultant.co.uk)) where teachers can find information on the Croydon

Syllabus, related documents and general RE advice. During the year new RE Coordinators were sent information on their role, monitoring, planning and general advice

The members of SACRE continue to monitor the websites of schools in Croydon for mention of RE and CW.

### **Standard and Quality of Provision of RE and Attainment in RE**

As a result of the Covid 19 virus and lockdown of schools there were no exam results released for this year. The members of SACRE continue to monitor the websites of schools in Croydon for mention of RE.

Other monitoring is done through the network meetings and the requests for help from schools. The committee look at the latest OFSTED and SIAMS reports on Croydon schools at every meeting and then offer support to schools according to the grades.

The monitoring of school websites was undertaken again and it was noted that the percentage of schools mentioning RE had increased since the last check was made two years ago which may be as a result of SACRE's action on this.

There have been no complaints about Religious Education during the year.

### **Collective Worship**

A document on Guidance for Collective Worship, can be found on the Croydon 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 church school who is a representative from group B.

There continues to be an annual budget for SACRE to employ the SACRE Officer for 50 days per year and the LA also provides a clerk for the minutes at meetings. There is money for the NASACRE subscription each year and one representative at the NASACRE AGM.

The SACRE has a new development plan each year and members are able to discuss the progress of this through the year. SACRE regularly uses the NASACRE Tool Kit to check the progress and effectiveness of Croydon SACRE.

### **Other Work of Croydon SACRE**

It was decided that SACRE meetings should take place in different places of worship and had a very interesting talk on Judaism and tour of the Synagogue at the Autumn meeting and in Spring went to the Salvation Army Citadel and had a talk and a tour there before the meeting. In the summer term the meeting was held virtually by

Zoom but we hope to be able to complete our tour of the different faiths of Croydon eventually.

In the Autumn Term we launched the WIRE award for schools, widening inclusivity in RE, with thanks to Bristol and South Gloucestershire SACREs for this very good idea. Throughout the year schools signed up to do the award and with advice and guidance on an extension due to the virus have been working on the award. By the end of the summer term two schools had managed to complete the tasks.

The Holocaust Memorial Day event in Croydon went very well with presentations and music from schools and a speaker from Bosnia. SACRE ran their essay writing competition again and pupils from St Peter's Primary school and Oasis Coulsdon read their winning essays and received their prizes. Nine leaders of different faiths in Croydon followed the theme of 'Stand Together' and pledged to work together for good. Members expressed disappointment that the Croydon Advertiser had not reported the event properly.

OFSTED reports are looked at during each meeting if there are any. Members had a little training in what Inspectors would be looking for in religious education and what happens if a school has a 'deep dive' in RE.

In the first part of the year members worked on a new Guidance document on Visits and Visitors. This will go alongside a leaflet for places of worship on hosting school visits. The guidance was finished and sent out to all schools in the Spring. The document for the places of worship has been held back for the time being but was completed.

Some time in the Spring meeting was spent doing the self-evaluation of Croydon SACRE as per NASACREs self- evaluation Tool kit. The results are in Appendix 2.

As a result of the Black Lives matter protests the SACRE officer and Faiths Together in Croydon put on two virtual discussions with school pupils and faith representatives during the Summer and a teacher member of SACRE provided material to send to schools to use when discussing the situation.

### **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 ( Children and Young People) partnership meetings and can give advice on faith matters and religious education in schools to these bodies and to report on these meetings to SACRE. The Council also ask the officer for information on faiths and faith issues in Croydon. Information from the local Interfaith group is also given to members and invitations to events extended.

## Appendix 1

### Membership of Croydon SACRE 2019-2020

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

A			C	Ms Sevim Hamit	0
A	Lt Col Morag Rowlanes (Salvation Army)	3	C	Ms Lorna John	2
A	Judaism Rabbi Nathan Asmoucha John Kerbel	0 2	C	Mrs Sara Bonnick	2
A	Kamil Sheikh	2	C	Mrs Sonia Clarke	3
A	Harvinder Singh	0	C	Mrs Jo O'Reilly	3
A	Fr G Kinnane	2	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	Rev Alan Bayes	1	D	Cllr Shafi Khan	2
B	Shaun Burns	3			
B	Rev Alison Brunt	2		Penny Smith-Orr SACRE Officer	3
				Judith Bennett (Clerk)	3

The Rabbi for the Croydon Synagogue receives the minutes.

## Appendix 2 Self-Evaluation of Croydon SACRE – March 2020

Key Area	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
<b>Section 1 Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education</b>				
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	
1f	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools			X
<b>Section 2 The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus</b>				
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			
<b>Section 3 Collective Worship</b>				
3a	Supporting pupil entitlement		X ((E/A)	
3b	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		X (E/A)	
3c	Responding to requests for determinations			X
<b>Section 4 Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders</b>				
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	X	
4f	Partnerships with key stakeholders		X	
4g	Relations with the Academies sector		X	
<b>Section 5 Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community</b>				
5a	SACRE's membership		X	
5b	SACRE's understanding of the local area		X (E/A)	
5c	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda			X
5d	SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion			X