

Annual Report 2019-2020

Sutton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Sutton SACRE.



Foreword by the Chair

The past few months have been some of the most challenging we have ever experienced due to the difficulties caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and our schools have been in the forefront of this.

We are very grateful to all concerned for their work and commitment in dealing with this unprecedented and unexpected situation.

This has also affected the work of SACRE as we have continued to hold our meetings virtually.

This report contains the actions done during the past year, but as we look ahead and make future plans, we do so with some uncertainty, being unsure of what the future holds for us.

I would like to express thanks to the members of SACRE for their service and commitment. Religious education is a vital subject in creating greater understanding in our community, which is of huge importance during these particularly difficult times.

It has also been encouraging to welcome new members during this year.

We look forward to better times ahead.

Rev Dave Smith. Chair of Sutton SACRE

Sutton SACRE Annual report

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.

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on its schools. For Religious Education (RE) SACRE advises community, voluntary controlled and Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

For Collective Worship (CW) SACRE advises the LA on community, Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

This report will be available on the Sutton website: www.sutton.gov.uk

Three meetings were held during the 2019-20 Academic year;

12th November 2019 at **Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton**

March 2020 a Virtual Meeting

16th June 2020 a Virtual meeting

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Management of SACRE

The agenda is set by the RE Consultant and the Chair and papers and minutes sent by email by the clerk who is an independent clerk paid for by Sutton.

The development plan for Sutton SACRE is updated at every meeting.

Local Authority.

The Sutton Agreed Syllabus can be found on the Sutton Council Website under Educational Resources and on the website www.reconsultant.co.uk .

The LA provided funding for one member of SACRE to attend the NASACRE AGM in May and continues to pay for the subscription to the National organisation. The RE Consultant is employed for 15 days per year

The priorities for this year were to convene an Agreed Syllabus conference, check with teachers what they would like and produce an updated syllabus in the Spring Term 2021. To continue with the pupil Faith Ambassadors project and to promote the new SACRE award to schools.

Schools

Religious Education

The RE Coordinators network meeting in the Autumn Term took place in the Sutton Cognus offices and discussions about the Faith Ambassador scheme and ideas for Diwali took place. A new initiative, first produced by South Gloucestershire and Bristol SACRE and with thanks to Suffolk SACRE, The WIRE (Widening Inclusivity in RE) was launched and the coordinators expressed interest in applying for this free to enter Sutton SACRE award. Four elements have to be completed and schools that apply will have a year to complete them – these include going on visits to places of worship and having faith visitors into school. Attending a network meeting or RE course and having an RE exhibition in school or entering an RE competition.

The Spring Term meeting was held at the Wentworth Hall Mosque in Carshalton. The couple that lead the school visits greeted us and we had a talk about Islam followed by a tour of the Mosque which culminated in watching the afternoon prayers. This was followed up by a question and answer session.

There was no network meeting during the summer term however as usual, advice and guidance were given to schools by email and telephone conversation throughout the year. During the summer term two newsletters were sent out to coordinators with ideas for websites and remote learning platforms and questions on The WIRE were answered. Teachers can access a website that has information for Sutton RE Coordinators and the Sutton Syllabus is on the Sutton Council website.

Victor Seymour Infant School has a selection of resource boxes that schools can borrow for free.

There have been no complaints to Sutton SACRE regarding religious education.

Sutton Agreed Syllabus 2015

This year was five years since the new syllabus was launched for Sutton schools, so an Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened. Teachers and RE Coordinators were also asked what they might like to see in respect of a new syllabus or some updates for the current one. It was decided that we did not want to produce a completely new syllabus. The section on assessment is not very comprehensive and many teachers have asked about assessment criteria so a section of guidance on assessment will be produced.

Standards and Quality of provision of RE

Examination Results for Sutton Schools

The DFE did not publish results of the public examinations this year. The Sutton Schools work charity has a member on the SACRE who is able to give some indication of the quality of RE in schools. The RE Coordinators that attend the network meetings or write in for advice are another way of finding out about standards and quality of religious education.

Over the year members finished looking at Sutton schools' websites to see if RE and CW are mentioned and whether the Sutton Syllabus is mentioned and if any timings for either are on the website.

Collective worship

There is document of Guidance on Collective Worship on the Sutton Council website for schools to use.

Members decided that they are happy that if a determination should ever be applied for in Sutton the RE consultant would know what to do and would inform them of their responsibility.

There have been no determinations received during this year and no complaints regarding Collective Worship

Other Discussions at Meetings

Speakers from the Council came and gave a presentation on the definitions of hate crime and talked about the partnership work being done in Sutton to highlight issues of hate Crime.

The Faith Ambassador scheme was going well, and Secondary pupils had visited Primary schools to present at collective worship and in class. This stopped at the end of the Spring term.

Each meeting involves an updating of the annual development plan for SACRE. The results of the Spring 2019 self-evaluation of SACRE can be seen below.

Contribution to the wider LA agenda

SACRE does not have much of a contributory role to the LA agenda. The re-formed Faith and Belief Forum invited the RE Adviser and the Chair of SACRE to a meeting in the Spring Term and this would have continued but the National Lockdown has had an adverse effect. The meeting did have a good outcome in that three new faith representatives volunteered to join Sutton SACRE. One of the Councillors from Committee D has given us information about the education bulletin that goes out and which we have used.

Membership of Sutton SACRE for 2019-20 and attendance can be seen in the table below. The Spring 2020 meeting was virtual and only involved the Clerk, the Adviser and the Chair of SACRE.

- A- Christian denominations and other faith representatives,
- B- Church of England,
- C- Teachers
- D- Councillors

Group	No. of meetings	Name	Group	No. of meetings	Name
A	2	Mr L Bracken	C	2	Miss V M Stone
A	3	Rev D Smith (Chair)	C	2	Mrs M Cockram
A	2	Mrs R Johnson	C	1	Ms J Speck
A	0	Mr M Rao	C	2	Mr S Ellingham
A	0	Mr P Solomon			
B	0	Mrs C Smythe	D	1	Cllr M Gonzalez
B			D	2	A Huneke
B	0	Mrs M Horlock	D	1	Cllr N Patel
			D	2	Cllr C Williams
	3	Mrs P Garry			Clerk
	3	Ms P Smith-Orr			RE Consultant

During this year new Buddhist and Muslim reps were found and two new teacher reps all of whom attended the summer meeting as spectators.

Self-evaluation of Sutton SACRE March 2019

Key Area	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1a	RE provision across the LA		x	
1b	Standards of achievement	x		
1c	Quality of teaching and learning		x	
1d	Quality of leadership and management and resourcing	x		
1e	Recruitment and retention	x		
1f	Relations with academies and free schools		x	
2a	Review process of syllabus			x
2b	Quality of the syllabus			x
2c	Launching and implementing			N/A
2d	membership of ASC			N/A
2e	Developing revised syllabus			N/A
2f	Use of national Guidance		x	
3a	Support entitlement to CW		x	
3b	Enhance quality of provision of CW		x	
3c	Respond to determinations		x	
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	Partnership with key stakeholders		x	
4g	Relations with academies		x	
5a	SACRE membership		x	
5b	SACRE understanding of the local area		x	
5c	SACRE engagement with community cohesion		x	x
5d	SACRE role within LA initiatives on CC		x	x