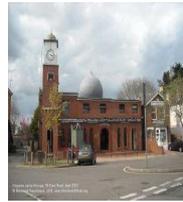
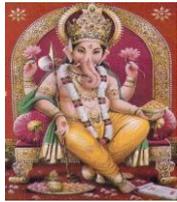


Royal Borough of Kingston

**Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education**



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KINGSTON UPON THAMES
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION [SACRE]
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012- 2013
(SEPTEMBER 2012 TO AUGUST 2013)**



INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE SACRE, MARIA JAMES

Once again it has been the privilege of Kingston's SACRE to guide and oversee schools with regard to Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship. We continue to work with Keith Field, our Advisor, who continues to do some excellent work with the Primary teachers. Throughout the year, RE has been the subject of BBC news, so that the current wave of reports on aspects of RE and the place of religious faith has gained national interest.

Earlier this year, Ofsted published **Religious Education: realising the potential** (October 2013), reporting that many, both in education and faith communities, believe that RE is not in a good place. It asserts that changes in education policy, such as the introduction in 2010 of the English Baccalaureate, have led to a decline in RE provision in some if not many schools. The Ofsted report spells out key issues found during visits to 90 primary and secondary schools. One pertinent finding was that the teaching of RE in primary schools was not good enough, because access to high quality RE training for teachers was poor. As a teacher-educator at University, this causes me great concern and I am resolved to do all I can to combat this. This, plus a weakness in teachers' understanding of RE, resulting in achievement and teaching being less than good in 60% of schools visited. It appears the subject has become marginalised and isolated from the rest of the primary curriculum. However, those many teachers within the Borough who realise the importance and value of the subject, have continued to teach the subject with enthusiasm, relevance and rigour and SACRE is pleased and privileged to support their work.

The report also maintained that the quality of RE in secondary schools was equally worrying. The quality of teaching was rarely outstanding and less than good in around half the lessons they observed. There is also a weakness in examination provision at KS4. The Religious Education Council (REC) launched their Review of RE on 23 October at the House of Commons, hosted by Stephan Lloyd MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE. The report contains a new **Curriculum Framework for RE**, parallel to the new National Curriculum subject frameworks, which schools are preparing to teach from September 2014. A downloadable copy of the Review report is available on the REC website, in both the full version and a short version which contains the RE curriculum framework on its own. An encouraging feature of the report is that its Foreword has been signed by Michael Gove, who admitted in July that he had perhaps been guilty of 'neglecting' RE. The REC are hopeful that his willingness to endorse their Review implies that he perhaps may do more to support the subject. This is certainly the hope of Kingston's SACRE.

The RE Curriculum Framework outlines the purpose of RE, its aims and breadth. It contains programmes of study for three Key Stages as well as guidance on RE in the Early Years and beyond 14. In addition, a second part of the report covers current issues that shape RE's context and makes recommendations for taking these forward, including improving training and resourcing. The report, which was fully agreed by the REC Board, also has the support of the major faith communities, RE professional groups, as well as the Department for Education – in itself a first and seen as a major step forward. The REC believes that the Review will provide an agency for working with the Department and others on curriculum development, assessment, qualifications reform and training.

The new framework has some key areas of study which have been written to encourage the students' own enquiries as they look at subjects such as ancient wisdom and scripture, community, encountering people and places of faith. Following the launch, there are to be five regional dissemination meetings: these are free and open to all on a first come first served basis. Details are on their website.

As Chair of Kingston's SACRE, I know how dedicated and careful the various members and local government officers are about supporting the RE of this borough. Throughout the year we are glad to welcome new members but sad to say farewell to others and this year we lost Sam Mitchell and Heather Henderson – their service to SACRE and their wisdom will be sorely missed. As ever, we applaud the excellent practice in our schools. At a time of continual change and perception, SACRE members look forward to another year of serving the hard-working teachers of our Borough, counting it a privilege to be involved in this ongoing service.

Maria James
SACRE Chair

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

During the academic year 2012/13 the SACRE has met its statutory requirements on behalf of the borough and has continued to support the development of quality Religious Education across the borough. I am extremely grateful for the time and commitment its members and co-opted members give to this work and wish to thank Mrs Ruth Freedman, representative of the Jewish community, and Mrs Marilyn Mason, co-opted representative of the British Humanist Association, for giving up their time to contribute to the Primary RE Support meetings, bringing further richness to our teachers' understanding of the place of religious and non-religious belief in our lives and community.

I am pleased that a significant number of schools responded to SACRE's annual monitoring of the effectiveness of RE in our schools through completing the redesigned Feedback Questionnaire. I was also encouraged to read of the positive way in which those schools view their delivery of RE. We must continue to work together to explore creative ways of supporting our schools in a climate where, according to the recently published OFSTED Report on RE *"Recent changes in education policy are having a negative impact on the provision for RE in some schools and on the capacity of local authorities and SACRE's to carry out their statutory responsibilities to monitor and support it"*.

My particular thanks again go to Mrs Maria James for chairing SACRE throughout the year. I also wish to offer her my congratulations on the successful completion of her doctorate, the writing of which will no doubt add to the already considerable knowledge and experience she brings to her role as Chair.

I am glad to see that our SACRE was represented at the National Association of SACRE's AGM and through the work of our Consultant RE Advisor, Mr Keith Field, SACRE is kept abreast of current developments in the RE world.

My Directorate continues to coordinate the work of statutory and voluntary agencies in the borough to promote the education and welfare of all our children and young people. 2012 has been an interesting year for RE with the first major investigation by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on RE and the Religious Education Council's subject review, running in parallel with the DfE review of the National Curriculum and I remain very aware of the crucial role that SACRE, the Inter-Faith Forum and our local faith communities play in both nurturing and providing development opportunities for our young people within a variety of cultural traditions.

I wish the members of SACRE every success in their ongoing work at this challenging time, as we seek to work together for the well-being of our children and young people.

Nick Whitfield
Director of Learning and Children's Services

COMPLAINTS

The SACRE has not received any complaints on either the agreed syllabus or collective worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

There have been no requests for determinations (that is, to lift the statutory requirement that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character).

NATIONAL BODIES

We are members of both the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and the National Associations of SACREs (NASACRE) and have benefitted from their conferences, newsletters, website and advice.

MEETINGS OF THE SACRE

The Kingston upon Thames SACRE met on three occasions between September 2012 and August 2013. We continued our tradition of meeting in different education and faith locations across the borough (as well as in the Guildhall, Kingston).

The first meeting was hosted by Tolworth Girls School and SACRE members met the staff of the RE Department and the pupils gave presentations on their work. We also enjoyed the kind hospitality of the Kings Centre who hosted our second meetings.

The following topics were discussed at our meetings:

- Collective worship
- All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education
- RE Quality Mark
- RE Toolkit
- Open the Book
- Orinson in School
- The Annual Report for 2012-2013 including school examination results.
- Inter Faith Forum
- Summaries of SMSC grades in Ofsted report.
- SIAMS Reports
- National Association of SACRE's newsletters
- RE Council newsletters

SACRE'S ANNUAL MEETING

This year the SACRE decided not to invite a speaker to their annual meeting but to have short presentations on current subjects which included:

APPG
RE Quality Mark
Spirited Arts
REOnline
Questionnaire to Schools.

There were also two excellent presentations from Malden Manor Primary School and St Andrew's and St Mark's Junior School.

Cllr Doe also responded to the article in the Summer NASCRE on Michael Gove and Religious Education.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR RE

Details of results for each school can be found at Appendix B

OFSTED REPORTS

At every meeting SACRE members review the grading schools have received from Ofsted. SACRE Members recognise that it is now extremely difficult for schools to achieve outstanding.

If any school would like support from SACRE in respect of their SMSC provision please contact the SACRE Clerk.

SIAS REPORTS

SACRE Members also reviewed the excellent SIAS Reports received by Christ Church C of E Primary School, New Malden and St Andrew's and St Mark's C of E Junior School. Both the schools received outstanding reports and were excellent examples of how RE is taught.

RE QUALITY MARK

The RE Quality Mark has three levels – gold, silver and bronze. Schools have to decide what level they want to apply for. The Quality Mark lasts for three years. It costs £400 to apply for the Quality Mark and schools can apply to SACRE for help with funding to subsidise their application. SACRE is currently reviewing the criteria to agree to support a school. Please contact the SACRE Clerk if you wish to make an application for funding for the Quality Mark.

QUESTIONNAIRE TO SCHOOLS

SACRE members would like to thank every school that completed the questionnaire. 24 schools responded to the questionnaire which showed that RE is well resourced in Kingston schools. The majority of schools also felt that their RE teaching and pupils' achievement in RE was good or outstanding.

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG) ON RE

An All Party Parliamentary Group was established to look at RE teaching due to the concerns that RE was being taught by Teaching Assistants. 300 primary schools participated in this review of RE teaching and it was found that in 25% of primary schools RE is taught by a Teaching Assistant. There is also a lack of confidence in primary school teachers about teaching RE and teachers have inadequate access to training.

The APPG is recommending that local authorities ensure sufficient resources are made available to enable SACRE's to provide high quality RE support for schools and the monitor the quality of provision and staffing in schools.

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Under the present coalition government, an extensive review of the National Curriculum is taking place. As changes in curriculum and assessment arrangements for other subjects have implications for Religious Education, this provides an opportunity to clarify RE's distinctive place within the wider school curriculum. As part of its Strategic Plan, the RE Council (REC) has undertaken to carry out a review of RE, following a similar pattern to that adopted by the National Curriculum Review.

There were four areas of focus for Phase 1 of the review:

- Focus 1 The Aims of RE
- Focus 2 The RE Curriculum
- Focus 3 Exemplification of Good RE
- Focus 4 Assessment (including Qualifications)

Phase 1 of the review took place between May and December 2012. Phase 2 built on this and produced a draft programme of study for RE, which was sent out for public consultation during July and August 2013. In Phase 2 Lat Blaylock and Barbara Wintersgill have been working since the summer on drawing together all the review's recommendations along with the 2013 OFSTED RE Report and the outcomes on the APPG Inquiry on RE. Phase 4 will be the launch of the final report documentation which will be through a series of events around the country during October and November, starting in London on 23 October 2013.

Whilst this will not be a statutory document, its recommendations are likely to be highly influential in the direction RE takes over the coming years.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SACRE

The list of SACRE members for September 2012 to August 2013 is attached as Appendix A.

If you are interested in joining the SACRE please contact Karen Bridgman, SACRE Clerk.

APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SACRE (September 2012 – August 2013)

Christian and Other Religious Denominations

Mrs Maria James (Chair)	-	The local Evangelical Churches
Mr Gurmeet Singh Nurula	-	The local Sikh Community
Mrs Ruth Freedman	-	The local Jewish Community
Mrs Anna King	-	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark
Mrs Beryl Mooney	-	Kingston and District Free Churches
Mr Raju Pandya	-	The local Hindu Community
Mr Mahendra Thaker	-	The local Hindu Community
Mrs Beryl Mooney	-	The Buddahist Community
Mrs Hamida Syed	-	The local Muslim Community

The Church of England

Miss Sam Mitchell	-	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Ms Heather Henderson	-	Diocese of Guildford

Teachers' Associations

Ms Jennifer Rickards	-	Malden Manor Primary & Nursery School
Ms Charmaine Lee	-	St Andrew's and St Marks's Junior School

Local Authority

Councillor Dennis Doe (Vice Chair)
Councillor Tricia Bamford
Councillor John Ayles

Co-opted Members

Mr Simon Birch	-	the local Baha'i Community
Mr Tim Neale	-	Insight in Kingston
Mrs Marilyn Mason	-	British Humanist Association

Officers supporting the SACRE

During this academic year, the SACRE received professional support from Keith Field, Consultant RE Adviser, Barbara Chevis, RBK and Karen Bridgman, Clerk.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Post 16 studies completed in 2013

End of Post 16 Studies 2013: achievements at GCE A Level								
School	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A-E%
Coombe Boys								
Coombe Girls	9		1	2		1	3	80%
Chessington CC	0							
Hollyfield	0							
Holy Cross	12	1		4	5	2		100%
Richard Challoner	23			10	9	4		100%
Southborough								
Tiffin Boys	15	3	6	4	2			100%
Tiffin Girls	0							
Tolworth Girls	15		1	8	2	2	2	100%
Total 2013	74	4	8	28	18	9	5	97%

Students in first year of Post 16 Studies: Achievement at GCE AS Level in 2013

GCE AS Level : First Year of Post 16 Studies 2013							
School	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	A-E%
Coombe Boys							
Coombe Girls	17	2	4	4	3	1	82%
Chessington CC	0						
Hollyfield	0						
Holy Cross	0						
Richard Challoner	25	3	6	5	5	1	75%
Southborough							
Tiffin Boys	17	11	2	3	1		100%
Tiffin Girls	0						
Tolworth Girls	26	1	3	8	7	5	92%
Total 2013	85	17	15	20	16	7	88%

Key Stage 4 studies completed in 2013

<i>GCSE full course</i>												
School	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C%	A*-G%
Coombe Boys												
Coombe Girls	11	4	4	1	1			1			90%	100%
Chessington CC	0											
Hollyfield	0											
Holy Cross	136	11	39	37	25	17	5	1	1		82%	100%
Richard Challoner	122	17	19	35	34	16		1			86%	100%
Southborough												
Tiffin Boys	143	36	75	27	4	1					99%	100%
Tiffin Girls	57	51	5	1							100%	100%
Tolworth Girls	0											
Total 2013	469	119	142	101	64	34	5	3	1		91%	100%

<i>GCSE short course</i>												
School	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A*-C	A*-G	
Coombe Boys												
Coombe Girls	189	28	49	36	38	23	6	4	3	80%	98%	
Chessington CC	0											
Hollyfield	170	15	26	48	36	24	10	3	3	74%	97%	
Holy Cross	0											
Richard Challoner	0											
Southborough												
Tiffin	0											
Tiffin Girls	0											
Tolworth Girls	195	31	47	39	35	20	13	6	4	78%	100%	
Total 2013	554	74	122	123	97	67	29	13	10			