

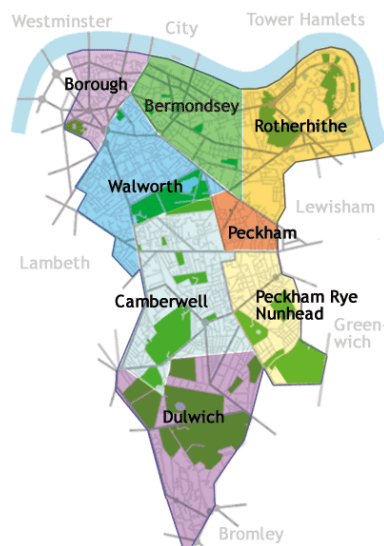


SOUTHWARK STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL
on
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Southwark SACRE)

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016



SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on religious education and collective worship in its schools.

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 to the Report by the Chair of SACRE

Welcome to the 2015-16 Annual Report of the Southwark SACRE. The SACRE has met three times during this academic year.

We have had a positive and focussed year during which we have had some input from Southwark teachers and coordinators as well as regular support from the Local Authority and contributions from Members, which have all been very much appreciated. I would like to thank the RE advisor Penny Orr-Smith for all her contributions this year along with a big thank you for all the contributions of all those who serve on the Southwark SACRE.

We recently had a representative from the Prevent Team who came to speak to the SACRE about issues which often permeate our schools and need to be discussed through the curriculum and in particular during RE sessions which touch on the moral issues of our times and how faith communities can help and support our young people. We had a very interesting and helpful discussion and I hope that SACRE will have more of these types of discussions in the future.

We have evaluated the work of the SACRE using the 'SACRE RE tool' and developed a new plan with clear priorities and specific actions to provide a focus and way forward. These priorities include, keeping SACRE members abreast of local and national issues; developing and monitoring Religious Education provision across the borough; improving our relationships with all schools in the Borough and developing training programmes for RE coordinators which they find useful.

The agreed syllabus for Southwark is used in many schools across the borough and is in the process of being reviewed in order that the syllabus reflects the diversity of faith traditions in Southwark and is an honest and accurate reflection of the faiths in our communities. The SACRE membership also includes all faith groups so that their contribution is a fair representation of the diversity in Southwark.

The Southwark SACRE commends this Annual Report to all those in education and those who are interested in RE in Southwark. The report provides information and advice for schools and it is hoped that schools will find it a useful starting place to evaluate their own positions.

We now look forward to a positive future.

Best wishes

Linda Coplestone

Chair of Southwark SACRE

Meetings

In the academic year 2015-2016 Southwark SACRE meetings were arranged on the following occasions:

24th November 2015 at Beormund Primary School London SE1 3PS

8th March 2016 at Southwark Council London SE1 2QH

19th July 2016 at Southwark Council London SE1 2QH

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority;

One of the actions of Southwark SACRE this year was to ask the Council for a list of places of worship that could be put onto the school's website and enable teachers to plan for visits to places of worship. A Places of Worship directory was provided for SACRE during the year and, with some additions by the faith members of SACRE, is now available for schools to use.

Members reflected on the difficulties of accessing the Southwark Agreed syllabus as it was on the Head teacher's website but not on the main council website.

Discussions on this resulted in the syllabus and other useful documents for RE teachers being put onto the new school's resources website for Southwark teachers. SACRE also advised the Council that it was time to review the Agreed Syllabus and it was agreed that this could be started but that funding would have to be looked into. After a discussion on 'Prevent' and the impact this initiative might be having in terms of community Cohesion the Council representative agreed to ask the new Prevent Officer to come to the Autumn term 2016 meeting to do a presentation.

Schools;

Three RE Coordinator network meetings were held during the year at the Council offices. At these meetings, Coordinators are updated with local and national news, there is a session on teaching activities and ideas and an opportunity for teachers to ask questions or discuss best practice teaching and learning. The themes for the three meetings were; Making the most of the RE Syllabus, an opportunity to question the faith representatives on SACRE and teaching ideas for festivals.

In spring the faith representatives on SACRE attended and spoke about the main concepts of their faith and answered questions and then worked with teachers on an activity using Sacred Writings.

Discussions also took place on what would be needed in a new syllabus.

A meeting was held for Secondary Heads Of department to discuss which exam boards they would be using in future, this led to an invitation to the RE Consultant to visit Harris Peckham where there is a strong commitment to religious education.

The Consultant and the representative for Buddhism went on a visit to Comber Grove Primary and observed a Religious Education lesson and a Collective Worship.

Government

SACRE discussed the reports that came out on Religious education and Collective Worship during the year and wrote to NASACRE to clarify their position and response in relation to any consultation process.

Locally Agreed Syllabus

It was decided during this year to review the current Agreed Syllabus as it has been in place since 2005. It is a very comprehensive document with lessons laid out for teachers and resource ideas. SACRE discussed sending out a questionnaire to teachers to ascertain how the syllabus is being used and what teachers would like to see in a new syllabus. This was sent out in September 2016.

The new school's website for Southwark has now got the syllabus on it and a number of guidance documents and resources.

It is currently recommended that 5% of time is spent on RE in schools either as weekly lessons or blocks of time during a term.

Section 3 Standards in Religious Education:

All results are Provisional at the time of writing

With the increased number of Academies, it is difficult to ascertain the level of specialist RE teachers in Southwark schools and monitoring of the quality of religious education. Monitoring of quality and standards of education has been done through occasional visits to schools and from the RE Coordinators at the network meetings. It was decided at the beginning of this year that another way of monitoring could be done through the websites of schools and each member of SACRE took 4 schools to look at. This was an interesting exercise and has highlighted the schools who see RE as important.

Full Course GCSE summary for Southwark Schools and Academies

	2016	2015	2014	2013
%A*-C	76%	68%	73%	72.4%
Number A*-C	1088	727	1059	-
%A*-G	98%	97%	98.5%	98.7%
Number A*-G	1400	1042	1424	-
Number entered	1423	1071	1446	1455
National Number entered	252022		282,009	228824

Summary of the AS and A level results for Southwark schools and Academies

AS Level	2016	A level	2016
Number A*-B	74		59
Number A*-E	117		87
Number entered	124		88
National number	32913		22079

No formal complaints about religious education were received this year.

Collective worship

The monitoring of website exercise carried out during the year has shown that some schools may not be adhering to the law on the daily act of collective worship while other schools clearly take this part of the school day very seriously.

A guidance document on making collective Worship interesting and relevant is on the Southwark Schools website along with a list of trained speakers. Some schools use outside agencies, particularly Spinnaker, to provide some of their worship requirements.

The SACRE's Determinations procedure is available on request. 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.

Management of SACRE

The Council pay for 12 days for an RE Consultant to attend meetings and give advice to schools and run a network once per term. There is a representative from the Council's education department at every meeting and a clerk to SACRE and refreshments are also provided. The meetings have been held in the Council offices this year, there is not a budget for any other activities.

Southwark SACRE does not have an opportunity to contribute to other agendas within the Council. The RE Consultant attends the Southwark Cathedral Education management committee meetings and is a member of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Meetings are usually quorate and efforts have been made to encourage more teachers to attend. The members have discussed the major reports that have been published during the year on the need for a National syllabus and whether the law should be changed on Collective worship. The RE Consultant attended the NASACRE AGM and reported back to the meeting. The High Court ruling on Humanism in schools was discussed with the result that the Humanist Society's curriculum was put onto the additional resources section of the school's website for schools to use as required.

The SACRE discussed and decided upon criteria and a theme for an award for excellence in RE for Southwark schools which will be launched at the beginning of 2017.

The SACRE worked through the self evaluation tool kit at the autumn term meeting and the summary of results is shown below. The meeting the challenge document from the NASACRE AGM 2015 was also used as a tool for discussion and ideas generated by that have been incorporated into actions for the SACRE. In the Spring meeting, there was a report from an RE Coordinator on the work that they do.

Membership of Southwark SACRE and attendance (indicated by numbers)

A3	John Bonnici,	C1	Mr James Lewis,
A3	Jane Harris	C1	Betty Joseph
A2	Mariano Marcigaglia,	C0	Ms Helen Simpson,
A0	Mr Keith Alker,	D1	Cllr Sunny Lambe
A0	Mr Vidur Dindayal	D0	Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall
A2	Trevor Moore,	D0	Cllr Flemming
A2	Mohammad Zakir	D3	Cllr Sandra Rhule Vice Chair
B3	Linda Mannas Chair	D1	J Nicol-Dundas
B2	Mr Bruce Gill	3	Dany Thomas Council Rep
B1	Kate Penfold Attride	3	Penny Smith-Orr RE Consultant
B2	Rev Ian McLaren	3	Benjamin Washington Clerk

Summary of Southwark SACRE self evaluation from November 2015

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	n/a		
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	
5d	SACRE role within LA initiatives on CC	x		