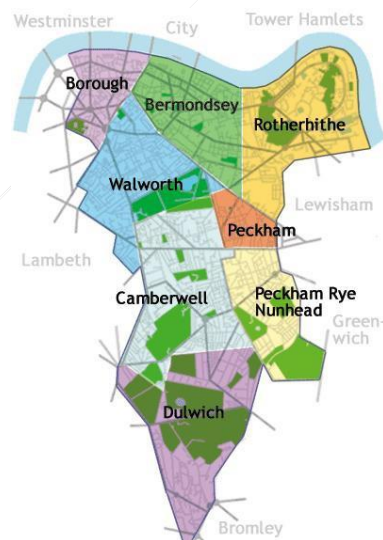




SOUTHWARK STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL
on
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Southwark SACRE)

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021



Southwark SACRE is proud to be a member of nasacre

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Foreword by the Chair of SACRE

As a SACRE we want to ensure that the Local Authority is able to meet its statutory duties in the oversight of RE provision across the Borough. Our aim continues to ensure that the learning offer from Southwark is vibrant, relevant, and inspiring for all the young people in our schools. Part of this is the initiation of an ongoing process of reviewing the membership of SACRE to ensure that all major local religious communities (and secular alternatives) are represented. SACRE meetings continue to be engaging, and productive. All members feel that their views are considered and respected.

It is important to note that Southwark has faced immense COVID related challenges, which have not been particularly unique to inner-city London. Factors such as intergenerational living, range of housing stock, multiple community languages and digital literacy and access have all contributed to Southwark presenting with high infection rates and consequently tough restrictions. In the words of a famous writer, we have been ‘afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair.’ Here we are again, almost two thirds of the way through another academic year and the restrictions, seemingly, almost a thing of the past. Throughout these challenging times, SACRE has continued to meet successfully once a term, digitally, via Zoom, to ensure that the planned work continues.

In Southwark, we are faced by new challenges to school funding combined with falling school roles. Primary schools have been particularly vulnerable in this respect and SACRE seeks to support all schools, whatever their circumstances, to develop high quality RE for the pupils. There is still work to be done in this area. To this end we have been trying to identify schools that may require additional support which is available through the Borough and our SACRE Advisor.

As Chair I am incredibly grateful to all who have positively embraced the new ways of meeting and demonstrated their commitment to support SACRE through these most challenging of times. We look forward, to be able to report further progress of our work in our report next year.

James Lewis

Chair of Southwark SACRE

1. Introduction

Since 1988, each Local Authority (LA) has been required by law to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

The remit of a SACRE is principally to oversee the Religious Education (RE) and collective worship within the authority principally to:

- require Southwark Council to review the locally agreed syllabus for RE at least every five years. RE in community schools and foundation schools which do not have a religious character is to be delivered in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- advise Southwark Council on teaching methods, choice of materials and teacher training in religious education and collective worship;
- advise Southwark Council upon matters connected with religious worship in community schools and in foundation schools which do not have a religious character.

It is also a requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work. This report must be published and is to be sent to the LA, local schools and other interested parties.

The reporting period of the 2020-2021 report starts from September 1st 2020 and runs to August 31st 2021.

2. Meetings

In the academic year 2020-2021 Southwark SACRE held 3 meetings:

26th November 2020 (quorate)

18th March 2021 (quorate)

17th June 2021 (inquorate)

All meetings were held via Zoom during the reporting period.

3. Religious Education

Agreed Syllabus

3.1 RE is not part of the national curriculum. Each LA is required to produce and Agreed Syllabus for RE. Each LA is required to begin reviewing the current Agreed Syllabus within 5 years of its production.

3.2 Southwark's Agreed Syllabus was launched on 9th July 2018 and is now being fully followed by community schools and foundation schools that do not have a religious character.

3.3 No formal complaints about religious education were received this year.

3.4 A survey has been prepared on the teaching of the Southwark Agreed Syllabus, to be sent to schools at the start of the next academic year.

3.5 The resources for teachers have been refreshed on the website. Each unit for Years 1-6 now has:

1 x unit plan with a front page putting the unit into context of the long-term plan

1 x knowledge organiser

1 x pre/post learning task.

Teacher Training

3.4 Three RE Coordinators' meetings were held throughout the 2020/21 academic year. As far as possible, meetings of Subject Coordinators are planned in response to their requests and areas for development that have been identified by the adviser. The main focus of each Coordinators' meeting was as follows:

26th November 2020 – Planning for progression from the Southwark Agreed Syllabus.

18th March 2021 – Lesson ideas for RE. Focusing on those which would meet the needs of the current Agreed Syllabus.

17th June – Assessment in RE, in line with the new Agreed Syllabus.

3.5 During meetings, Subject Coordinators were introduced to a range of local and national initiatives and CPD, including Spirited Arts, Strictly RE and Southwark SACRE's RE competition.

3.6 Dog Kennell Hill and Rotherhithe Primary Schools had an online training session with the adviser on creative lesson ideas for RE.

3.7 Throughout the year, advice is given by telephone and email to teachers, including RE leaders and head teachers who request this.

3.8 Due to the increased difficulty in taking trips for RE and inviting visitors into schools, a webinar on virtual visits and visitors in RE was recorded and made available to teachers in all schools and SACRE members. It will remain online until December 2021.

4. Standards in Religious Education

Introduction

4.1 With the increased number of Academies, it is difficult to ascertain the level of specialist RE teachers in Southwark schools and monitor the quality of RE. Therefore, monitoring of quality and standards of education has been done through the RE

Coordinators at the network meetings. It is also done through scrutinising the websites of schools, with SACRE members currently working to develop expertise in this area.

4.2 In general, SACRE is able to monitor standards in RE by scrutinising GCSE and A Level results. However, this year students were awarded Teacher Assessed Grades instead and SACRE has been unable to monitor these.

4.3 School workforce data

Compass School Southwark	None	Free schools	Southwark
Ark All Saints Academy	Church of England	Academy sponsored	Southwark	2.8	9.6	0.0	6.6	10.4	.	7.2	6.3	Increase						
University Academy of Engineering South Bank	None	Academy sponsored	Southwark	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
The Charter School East Dulwich	None	Free schools	Southwark	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	.	0.3	0.5	Decrease						
Haberdashers' Aske's Borough Academy		Free schools	Southwark	3.5	3.5	.	.	.	.	3.5	3.6	Decrease		
The Charter School North Dulwich	None	Academy converter	Southwark	6.9	6.3	8.8	7.1	1.6	.	5.1	4.9	Increase						
St Saviour's and St Olave's Church of England School	Church of England	Voluntary aided school	Southwark	7.4	4.6	4.6	7.7	5.2	.	6.0	5.6	Increase						
The St Thomas the Apostle College	Roman Catholic	Voluntary aided school	Southwark	7.3	8.1	15.6	15.9	0.0	.	7.1	7.5	Decrease	RE and Philosophy reported					
St Michael's Catholic College	Roman Catholic	Academy converter	Southwark	11.9	11.9	11.5	11.5	10.4	.	8.2	8.3	Decrease	RE and Philosophy reported					
Notre Dame Roman Catholic Girls' School	Roman Catholic	Voluntary aided school	Southwark	10.2	9.3	9.6	12.2	9.7	.	10.2	9.3	Increase						
Sacred Heart Catholic School	Roman Catholic	Academy converter	Southwark	6.2	5.8	8.5	11.4	0.0	.	6.3	6.2	Increase						
City of London Academy (Southwark)	Does not apply	Academy sponsored	Southwark	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	.	0.9	0.5	Increase						
Harris Academy Peckham	Does not apply	Academy sponsored	Southwark	1.3	0.0	4.8	0.0	2.1	.	1.6	2.5	Decrease						
Harris Academy Bermondsey	Does not apply	Academy sponsored	Southwark	2.1	4.1	7.8	6.7	6.5	.	4.9	5.2	Decrease	RE and Philosophy reported					
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	Does not apply	Academy sponsored	Southwark	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	1.8	.	0.9	0.4	Increase						
Ark Walworth Academy	Does not apply	Academy sponsored	Southwark	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ark Globe Academy	Does not apply	Academy sponsored	Southwark	3.4	3.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	.	1.9	1.6	Increase						

Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich	Does not apply	Academy sponsor led	Southwark	5.1	3.9	2.9	0.8	0.8	.	2.0	2.4	Decrease
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The data here shows that whilst some schools teach RE throughout Years 7-11, others that would be expected to do so may not be teaching this subject.

5. Collective Worship

5.1 A guidance document on making Collective Worship interesting and relevant is on the Southwark Schools website along with a list of trained speakers.

5.2 Southwark SACRE's Determinations procedure is available on request. There have been no applications for a determination (to alter the character of collective worship for some or all pupils in a school) in the reporting period.

5.3 There have also been no complaints concerning Collective Worship referred to SACRE during this academic year.

6. Other work of Southwark SACRE

6.1 SACRE's annual competition had the theme of 'Living Together in Harmony?'. The winner was Galleywall Primary, with Heber Primary in the 'Highly Commended' category for the musical entry from an entire Year 5 class.

6.2 Two members of SACRE attended this year's NASACRE conference.

6.3 SACRE has had a presentation on and discussed the Research Review on Religious Education, published by Ofsted.

7. Management of SACRE

The Council pay for 10 days for an RE Consultant to attend meetings, run a network once per term and give advice to schools. There is a representative from the Council's Education Department at every meeting and a clerk to SACRE.

Meetings have been quorate this year. SACRE has a number of vacancies and will need to increase membership.

Southwark SACRE does not have an opportunity to contribute to other agendas within the Council.

8. Membership of Southwark SACRE and attendance

SACRE Attendance

Y = Attended, N = Apologies Accepted, NA = Apologies not Accepted, NS = No Apologies sent, ? = Attendance Not Marked, Blank = Not Required

Governor	Governor Type	Sacre 26 Nov 2020	Sacre 18 Mar 2021	SACRE meeting 17 Jun 2021
Ms Karen Bates	Christian or Other Religious Representative	?	?	?
Revd. Lisa Bewick	Christian or Other Religious Representative	N	N	Y
Mr John Bonnici	Christian or Other Religious Representative	Y	Y	N
Maggie Browning	Authority Representative	N	Y	N
Ms Linda Coplestone	Church of England Representative	N	N	Y
Ms Julia Diamond-Conway	Other	Y	Y	Y
Simon Ecketts	Other	?	?	Y
Ms Fiona Foreman	Church of England Representative	?	?	Y
Mr Bruce Gill	Church of England Representative	Y	Y	Y
Mrs Jane Harris	Christian or Other Religious Representative	?	?	?
Miss Betty Joseph	Teacher Association Representative	N	Y	N
Mr James Lewis	Teacher Association Representative	Y	Y	Y
Mr Mariano Marcigaglia	Christian or Other Religious Representative	Y	Y	Y
James McAsh	Authority Representative	?	?	N
Mr Trevor Moore	Christian or Other Religious Representative	Y	N	Y
Graham Neale	Authority Representative	Y	Y	Y
Margy Newens	Authority Representative	?	?	?
Mr Dipesh Panchal	Other	Y	Y	Y
Mr Lee Souter	Other	Y	Y	Y