

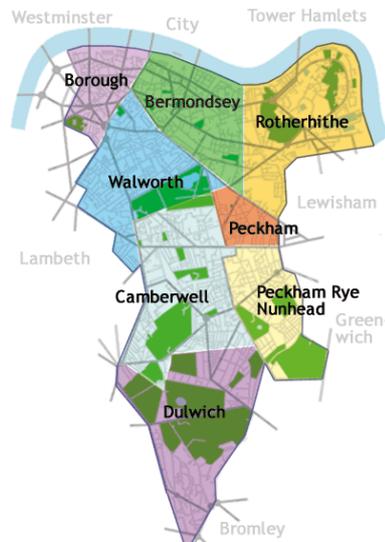
SOUTHWARK STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL

on RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Southwark SACRE)

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017



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 2016-2017 Annual Report of the Southwark SACRE. We have had a very positive and productive year and I would like to start by thanking the RE advisor Penny Orr-Smith for her contribution and advice this year. I should also like to thank all the members of the SACRE who have regularly attended meetings and voiced their concerns and opinions on a vast range of topics within the RE subject field. This has led to some incredibly good discussions and decision making along the way. We were sorry to lose Dany Thomas, our local authority representative who had been a stalwart member of the committee for two years and who we thank for all her support and encouragement during her time with us. We were however happy to welcome our new local authority representative Lee Souter who has already made some valuable contributions and we look forward to continuing to work with him.

Much of our work this year has been as a result of reviewing the Agreed Syllabus and deciding that it was impossible just to give it a few tweaks and make it relevant and current to today's pupils and their teachers. We therefore embarked on looking at a variety of versions already in current use by other SACREs and alongside the serving RE teachers of the borough who attended coordinator meetings came to a mutually agreeable decision. We look forward to perfecting and personalising our syllabus for Southwark during the coming year.

At our next meeting we will be discussing the examination results for the year and how we can improve upon them as a borough. We are continually looking at and reviewing the RE content available on the school websites of the borough and advising schools how standards can be improved.

The Southwark SACRE commends this Annual Report to all those in education and those who are interested in religious education in Southwark. This report provides information and advice for school and signposts where more information can be found. It is hoped that schools will find it a useful starting place to evaluate their own practice.

We look forward to an exciting future.

Best wishes

Linda Coplestone

Chair of Southwark SACRE

Meetings

In the academic year 2016-2017 Southwark SACRE meetings were arranged on the following occasions:

16th November 2016 at Southwark Council London SE1 2QH

21st March 2017 at Southwark Council London SE1 2QH

15th June 2017 at Southwark Council London SE1 2QH

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority;

Southwark SACRE advised the Council that the Current Agreed Syllabus needed to be renewed and requested a budget for this process to begin.

The Southwark school's website was revamped during the year and the Council link member, Mr Lee Souter was asked to put SACRE documents onto the new website at www.schools.southwark.gov.uk.

SACRE decided to run a competition for schools and give an award for excellent religious education. They requested that this award could be part of the Southwark school's awards for excellence evening. This was declined because the evening had a very full programme. The competition was run and the Chair and RE consultant went to the winning school to present the award. The previous Council link member went to the Head Teachers breakfast meetings and spoke about SACRE and the competition.

Schools;

Throughout the year advice is given by telephone and email to teachers and head teachers who request this. Several requests for the Southwark Agreed syllabus units of work were made.

At the beginning of each term a news sheet is sent out to the Coordinators with information on the RE meetings and any other bits of news and information that will be useful to them.

Three RE network meetings were held at the Council Offices and these included discussions on ways to teach about God, various Festival ideas, the Understanding Christianity project and sharing information on useful websites for schools to use. A questionnaire to teachers to ascertain how the current syllabus is being used and what teachers would like to see in a new syllabus was sent out in September 2016 and much time was taken up during the year discussing what the teachers would like to see in a new Syllabus.

The RE Consultant informed teachers of a website www.reconsultant.co.uk which has information for Southwark teachers on it as well as the Southwark schools website.

The Award for Excellent RE was launched at the January meeting with the theme of 'What is Peace?' The award was won by Dulwich Wood Primary school who sent in various pieces of poetry and prose and put on a special collective worship for the Chair and RE Consultant. They received a prize of a certificate, some Jewish artefacts and a book on using artefacts to enhance RE lessons.

The school website checking, which started in Autumn 2015 continued during the year and is a useful way to monitor the level of RE in schools.

Government

SACRE discussed the RE Commission and were encouraged to write in with evidence

Religious Education

Locally Agreed Syllabus

At the Summer meeting SACRE had two presentations, from Newham and RE Today Services, regarding their syllabus. The committee discussed the presentations and what was on offer and decided to allow the teachers to choose which they liked at the Autumn RE coordinators meeting. (The teachers chose the Newham Syllabus, and this will be worked on and reported in the next Annual Report)

No formal complaints about religious education were received this year.

Standards in Religious Education:

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 the RE Coordinators at the network meetings. Monitoring is also done through the websites of schools with each member of SACRE taking 4 or 5 schools to look at. Thirteen schools entered pupils into the full course GCSE and eight of these entered almost the entire cohort. Two pupils from one school entered the short course. Entries for the full course which attained an A*-C pass were again slightly up on the year before.

The number of entries for the AS level were much reduced nationally and about half the usual number in Southwark schools, while a higher number of pupils entered for the A Level.

Full Course GCSE summary for Southwark Schools and Academies

	2017	2016	2015	2014
%A*-C	78%	76%	68%	73%
Number A*-C	983	1088	727	1059
%A*-G	98%	98%	97%	98.5%
Number A*-G	1282	1400	1042	1424
Number entered	1298	1423	1071	1446
National Number entered	258436	252022		282,009

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

AS Level	2017	2016	A level	2017	2016
Number A*-B	34	74		74	59
Number A*-E	66	117		96	87
Number entered	66	124		96	88
National number	13910	32913		21289	22079

Collective worship

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.

Other work of Southwark SACRE

At the Autumn meeting there was a presentation from the Prevent officer for Southwark.

The Vice Chair obtained a document which listed the Faith Communities of Southwark. The committee discussed and approved the NASACRE constitution changes. The Chair went to the NASACRE annual general meeting in York and reported to the committee. She was also able to talk to the committee about three schools in Southwark that she had visited.

The Vice Chair volunteered to find out more about the Southwark Interfaith group so that we can fill some vacancies on SACRE and see if we can link with them in other ways.

The SACRE action plans were discussed at each meeting and updated as appropriate.

The updated Collective Worship guidance was produced and put onto the website. Some discussions were held regarding a document on Respecting pupils of Faith in Schools which will be produced next year.

Assistance was given to the Buddhist representative regarding a Buddhist Society training day for teachers.

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.

Meetings have been quorate this year, and two new teacher members have been attending. We are still looking for a Hindu and a Sikh representative.

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.

The SACRE worked through the self-evaluation tool kit at the Spring 2017 meeting.

Priorities for the 2017-18 year;

- a) will be working on the new Newham syllabus to make it suitable for Southwark schools.
- b) Producing some guidelines on Respect for Pupils of Faith

Membership of Southwark SACRE and attendance (indicated by numbers)

Group		Meetings	Group		Meetings
A	John Bonnici,	2	C	Mr James Lewis,	3
A	Jane Harris	1	C	Betty Joseph	0
A	Mariano Marcigaglia,	2	C	K Bates	2
	Trevor Moore,	3	C	K Engman	2
A	Mohammad Zakhir	2	D	Cllr Sunny Lambe	1
A			D	Cllr E Akoto	1
A			D	Cllr Flemming	0
A			D	Cllr Sandra Rhule Vice Chair	2
B	Linda Copleston, Chair	3	D	J Nicol-Dundas	1
B	Mr Bruce Gill	2		Dany Thomas Council Rep	2
B	Kate Penfold Attride	1		Lee Souter Council Rep	1
B	Rev Ian McLaren	2		Benjamin Washington Clerk	1
	Penny Smith-Orr RE Consultant	3		Margaret Roper Clerk	2

