

Annual Report 2016-2017

Sutton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

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 2016-17 Academic year;

4th October 2016 at The Sutton Civic Centre, St Nicholas Way, Sutton Surrey

28th February 2017 at The Sutton Civic Centre, St Nicholas Way, Sutton Surrey

19th June 2017 at St John's Church, Northdown Road, Belmont SM2 6DY.

Forward by the Chair

As chair of Sutton SACRE, I would commend this Annual Report to your attention and interest.

This year has brought home to us again and again, both in this country and abroad, how important it is to have some degree of religious literacy, and an appreciation of the ethical issues that face us. Good Religious Education is uniquely placed to offer such a foundation.

During the year, the Commission on Religious Education (established by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales) published a significant interim report entitled *Religious Education for All*. It states that

RE remains a vital academic subject for education in the 21st century. Studying RE gives young people the knowledge, understanding and motivation they need to understand important aspects of human experience, including the religious, spiritual, and moral. It gives insights into the arts, literature, history, and contemporary local and global social and political issues. It provides them with a space in the curriculum to reflect on their own worldview and to engage with others whose worldview may be different.

The report highlighted the role of SACREs in supporting and resourcing RE, and emphasised the importance of appropriate funding for them. It also referred to the difficulties of monitoring and accountability in practice.

Sutton SACRE supports and encourages good practice in the teaching of RE, and in Collective Worship. We value and applaud the good work, enthusiasm, imagination and professionalism of all teachers of RE – especially the significant number who are not subject specialists. This report illustrates how we have supported teachers and schools over the past year.

I would particularly draw attention to the rolling out of the new RE Curriculum for Secondary Schools, following on from the publication of Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, and Key Stage 2 last year.

I would like to thank SACRE members for their commitment to and enthusiasm for this task. I would particularly like to thank those who have retired this year for their valued service: Mr Paul Henry, representing secondary school teachers, and Mr Khawer Siddiqi, a representative of the Muslim faith. I would also like to welcome Ms Sarah Webb who has joined Group A, and brings excellent experience and knowledge in her role with Sutton Schoolswork, who support RE and assemblies in most primary and some secondary schools in the Borough.

Finally, I would like to thank Cllr Richard Broadbent as Vice-Chair, Ms Penny Smith-Orr for her very effective support and input as Consultant, and Mrs Penny Garry for her immensely efficient clerking.

Mark Williams

Chair of Sutton SACRE

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority.

The Primary and main syllabus sections of the Sutton Agreed Syllabus 2015 was sent out in the Autumn term 2015, the Secondary units of work were sent to schools in the Summer term 2017 again by email.

It 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.

Schools

There is an RE Coordinators network meeting each term at which there is a presentation of teaching ideas for religious education and discussion on various topics of interest to the Coordinators. Advice and guidance is also given to schools by email and telephone conversations throughout the year.

In November the RE Consultant ran a course for New RE Coordinators which was attended by 16 schools.

Discussions at SACRE also took place on the merits of sending a questionnaire out to schools to advertise SACRE, to ensure that the new syllabus was being used and to see what support might be needed. This was sent out in the Autumn term 2016. This led to some schools agreeing to a visit and some schools asking for specific support which was provided by the RE Consultant.

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

A leaflet produced by NASACRE encouraging Academies to join SACRE was sent out.

Other Discussions at Meetings

At the three SACRE meetings during the year items such as the budget for SACRE and membership of SACRE according to the constitution were discussed. The committee discussed constitutional changes to NASACRE and approved them. The Chair thought it would be a good idea to meet with some of the Chairs of SACREs in nearby local authorities. A set of questions from the University of Cardiff were responded to by the RE Consultant and discussions were held on the ongoing RE Council's commission on RE.

Membership of SACRE, particularly the need for more group A members, was discussed and ideas put forward.

The annual discussions on the self-evaluation tool kit, took place in the Summer term and the table of answers can be seen below. This self-evaluation informs the committee on its effectiveness as a SACRE and shapes the plan for the forthcoming year. One decision due to this activity and to some answers from the teacher's survey indicate that some guidance on Collective Worship should be worked on in the coming year.

Standards and Quality of provision of RE

The monitoring role of SACRE is becoming more difficult but information from the RE Coordinator meetings is helpful. The teachers were given a survey, and this was also sent out to schools not attending. The replies gave useful information as to the embedding of the Primary Stage of the Sutton Syllabus and the requirements of teachers.

There have been no complaints regarding religious education during the year.

Examination Results for Sutton Schools

Thirteen schools entered a total of 1607 pupil into the full course GCSE RE exam. The average grade was B- 80% of pupils gained an A*-C grade and 99% of pupils achieved a pass A*-G

The short course exam is not recognised in a schools data now and is therefore not being used as much as in previous years. Only four schools entered a total of 270 pupils this year.

In Key Stage 5, 3 schools entered pupils for the AS level. Nine schools entered pupils for the A level RE exam, a total of 142 pupils altogether.

Collective worship

Members of SACRE discussed whether there was a need to send out a new guidance document on Collective Worship and it was decided that the answers from the teacher's survey will be used to help with the decision.

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

Management of SACRE

The Revd Mark Williams from Group B was voted in as Chair and Cllr Richard Broadbent from Group D as Vice-chair. The meetings have been quorate and taken place in the Sutton civic centre and St John's church.

The agenda is set by the RE Consultant and the Chair and papers and minutes sent by email by the clerk. The clerk no longer works for Sutton Council but is paid for by them to clerk for SACRE.

The Sutton LA Education services including overseeing SACRE have been outsourced to a company called Cognus during this year, but in June 2016 the Vice Chair was assured that this would not affect the funding for Sutton SACRE for this year.

The three priorities for the academic year 2016-17 were as follows;

- To build a good relationship with secondary schools, RE Heads of Department and promote the Ambassadors for Faith & Belief idea.
- Finish the KS3/4/5 RE Syllabus units and send out
- Contact Sutton Interfaith Forum.

These have either been fully achieved or are being acted upon continually.

Membership of Sutton SACRE for 2016-17 and attendance can be seen in the table below:

- 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 K Siddiqi (new)	C	1	Miss V M Stone
A	3	Mr L Bracken	C	3	Mrs M Cockram
A	1	Rev D Smith	C	1	Mr P Henry
A	2	Mrs R Johnson	C		
A	1	Mrs S Webb			
B					
B	2	Mrs C Smythe	D	3	Cllr R Broadbent
B	3	Revd M Williams	D	1	Cllr M Burstow
			D	1	Cllr S Gordon
			D	1	Cllr N Patel
			D	0	Cllr H Ramsey(from May)
	3	Mrs P Garry			Clerk
	1	Mrs S Roberts			LA School Improvement team
	3	Ms P Smith-Orr			Consultant/Observer

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		x	
2d	membership of ASC		x	
2e	Developing revised syllabus			x
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	
5d	SACRE role within LA initiatives on CC	x		

Self-evaluation of Sutton SACRE June 2017

