

Annual Report 2018-2019

Sutton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Sutton SACRE.



Foreword by the Chair

I believe that Religious Education has an increasingly important role in our Schools, in the context of the multicultural society in which we live.

Where there is a lack of knowledge and understanding about the faiths and beliefs of those who differ from us, is where prejudice and discrimination can breed.

Honour and respect for others is vital to a peaceful and stable society and people with different opinions should be able to “disagree well.”

For this to happen, misunderstandings and ignorance needs to be addressed, hence the value of Religious Education for our young people in our schools.

I therefore commend this report and the work of SACRE to you.

Rev Dave Smith. Chair of 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 2018-19 Academic year;

6th November 2018 at **Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton**

26th February 2019 at **Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton**

4th June 2019 at **Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton**

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority.

The Sutton Agreed Syllabus 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. The RE Consultant is employed for 15 days per year

The priorities for this year were to continue monitor the websites of schools in Sutton, to make a collective worship guidance document and form a group of pupil Faith Ambassadors.

Government

Discussion of the RE commission report took place and members hoped that some of the recommendations would be taken up

Schools

Religious Education

Three meetings of the RE network were held during the year at the Cognus Offices.

Subjects covered were assessment ideas, visits and visitors, the new OFSTED orders and how to make sure that RE is part of the broad and balanced curriculum. Faith Ambassadors in Sutton and, in the Summer term discussions were held on the introduction of The Wire an award for schools to highlight their religious education teaching and activities.

Advice and guidance are given to schools by email and telephone conversations throughout the year. Teachers can access a website that has information for Sutton RE Coordinators and the Sutton Syllabus is on the Sutton Council website.

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

There have been no complaints to Sutton SACRE regarding religious education.

Standards and Quality of provision of RE

It is difficult to ascertain the standards and quality of provision of religious education in Sutton. The Sutton Schools work charity has a member on the SACRE and is able to give some indication. Also, the RE Coordinators that attend the network meetings or write in for advice are another way of finding out about standards.

Over the year members have looked at schools' websites to see if RE and CW are mentioned, whether the Sutton Syllabus is mentioned and if any timings are on the website. This has been an interesting exercise and a quarter of the schools mention religious education and a fifth mention collective worship.

Examination Results for Sutton Schools

It was not possible to get the Sutton schools examination results at the time of writing.

Collective worship

A document of Guidance on Collective Worship was sent out at the beginning of the Academic year 2018. This has ideas for making collective worship meaningful and have impact on the pupils, and lots of ideas for including pupils and ways to hold collective worship in a number of different formats.

This document was discussed at the Autumn Coordinators meeting as some of the RE coordinators are also in charge of Collective Worship.

Members decided that they are happy that if a determination should ever be applied for in Sutton the RE consultant would know what to do.

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

Management of SACRE

The agenda is set by the RE Consultant and the Chair and papers and minutes sent by email by the clerk who is an independent clerk paid for by Sutton.

The Revd Mark Williams had been a very good Chairman for several years but at the end of the year moved away from Sutton to take up a post elsewhere.

Discussions at the Summer meeting nominated Rev D Smith to probably take his place.

There are still some gaps in Committee A of the SACRE, but these are being addressed through links with the newly reformed Faith and Belief Forum.

The constitution of Sutton SACRE was discussed and updated at the Spring meeting. The development plan for Sutton SACRE is updated at every meeting.

Other Discussions at Meetings

In the previous year it was decided that SACRE should follow the good practice of other SACREs and look at the websites of Sutton schools as a way of monitoring religious education and collective worship. Members volunteered to do this, and this was finished during this year.

The NASACRE RE self-evaluation toolkit was completed in the Spring meeting, the results of which are shown below.

A project that has been on our agenda for some time was progressed this year, with the help of a teacher from Sutton High school who joined SACRE this year. A number of pupils were given a little training on how to be Faith Ambassadors and to date have made one presentation in a Primary school. They are able to talk about their own faith to the pupils and bring alive the faith community they belong to.

Sutton Schools work are helping with this and have suggested to another couple of Secondary schools that they might join in.

Alongside this initiative a subcommittee of SACRE also met and worked on a document from South Gloucestershire and Bristol SACRE called The WIRE. This will be a free award for schools who fulfil four criteria during a twelve-month period and is designed to widen inclusivity in religious education. The edited document has now been sent out to schools. It is hoped that this will advertise the work of SACRE and encourage schools to practise excellent religious education.

Contribution to the wider LA agenda

SACRE does not have much of a contributory role to the LA agenda. The recently reformed Faith and Belief Forum has been contacted. One of the Councillors from committee D has given us information about the education bulletin that goes out and which we have used.

Self-evaluation of Sutton SACRE March 2019

| 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 | | 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 | 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 | x |
| 5d | SACRE role within LA initiatives on CC | | x | x |

Membership of Sutton SACRE for 2018-19 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 L Bracken | C | 3 | Miss V M Stone |
| A | 3 | Rev D Smith | C | 3 | Mrs M Cockram |
| A | 2 | Mrs R Johnson | C | 3 | Ms J Speck |
| A | 2 | Mr M Rao | C | 3 | Mr S Ellingham |
| A | 2 | Mr P Solomon | | | |
| | | | | | |
| B | 0 | Mrs C Smythe | D | 1 | Cllr M Saquib |
| B | 3 | Revd M Williams Chair | D | 3 | Cllr A Huneke |
| B | 3 | Mrs M Horlock | D | 2 | Cllr N Patel |
| | | | D | 3 | Cllr C Williams |
| | | | | | |
| | 3 | Mrs P Garry | | | Clerk |
| | 3 | Ms P Smith-Orr | | | RE Consultant |