

Barnet SACRE report September 2011-August 2012

Introduction by Kevin McSharry Chair of SACRE

There have been a number of positive events this year, nationally these have included the establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to support Religious Education and to encourage the subject being regarded as a priority. Stephen Lloyd, MP, the Chair of the group, has a long history of support for RE. The vision & role of the APPG is to: provide a medium for MPs & Peers and other organisations with an interest in religious education to discuss the current provision of religious education in schools, colleges, universities and academies; act as a forum for all who share matters of common concern in promoting the highest possible standards of RE; press for continuous improvement in RE; advocate that every young person experiences a personally inspiring & academically rigorous education in religious & non-religious worldviews. The RE Quality Mark (REQM) is a new accreditation system which will recognise good practice in religious education. It is designed to be a mechanism for whole school improvement beyond RE since its principle focus is enhanced pedagogy. The REQM will be available to all community schools and, in consultation with the National Society there will be additional requirements for Church of England schools to enable them to achieve the REQM. The REQM will work at the three levels of Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Schools will apply for the REQM through a website and trained assessors will visit their school to validate the Quality Mark. A pilot took place in 30 schools by the end of the summer 2012. It is planned that the REQM will be available from September 2013. The REQM is currently supported and generously funded by St Gabriel's Trust and is managed by Jane Brooke and Mary Myatt with the backing and support of the REC. Locally, we have begun to forge closer links with other SACREs & this has resulted in collaboration with Enfield SACRE on the production & launch of packs for schools & faith groups on visiting local places of worship. The launch in June was a very successful event where faith groups & teachers were able to network & establish closer contacts. It also provided the opportunity to develop links with faith groups not represented on either SACREs. Faith groups were invited to display their resources & a number gave presentations on their material for schools these they generously shared with other groups.

It has been five years since we last reviewed the Barnet Agreed Syllabus for RE & so an Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened & it was decided to retain the current syllabus but to review the guidelines with an increased emphasis on enquiry based learning. Barnet has a strong SACRE with members from all the local groups, attendance is good & so is participation, we continue to be grateful for the time that members dedicate to this work. Thanks to Janet Robinson, clerk to SACRE for her support.

The series of presentations has continued & has increased understanding between the various groups represented on SACRE. This year the presentations were on the Baptist Movement, Hinduism & the History of Christianity. Training of SACRE members has been provided before each of the sessions & has included 'What is good RE?' preparation for visits to places of worship & KS1 & 2 RE.

Thanks to those members who have resigned this year. Rev Bernd Koschland, who represented the Jewish community & for many years was the chair. He set a high standard for SACRE with his great integrity & commitment. Marilyn Pinkus & Diane Smith who represented the teachers' groups gave of their expertise & experience. This year we have also welcomed Mrs Mary Karaolis, a former headteacher as a Greek Orthodox representative, Revd Levine for the Jewish community & Mr Surinder Singh Attariwala from Sikhism.

MONITORING THE SYLLABUS

We have been invited into a number of schools & will be organising a series of visits in the next academic year 2012- 2013. We will also be sending information about the REQM to all schools & encouraging them to participate in the scheme & evaluate their religious education against the criteria as a basis for their continued development.

INSET

Anna Sallnow, the RE consultant has continued her work in the Borough. After discussion with the Chairman, a programme of support for schools was planned and delivered. This included once a term network meetings and newsletters for all primary, secondary and special schools.

INSET on the new syllabus has been provided and a series of materials sent to schools this included a power point presentation for use by coordinators in school staff meetings. Guidelines were written and the syllabus has been loaded onto the RE web page.

A Holocaust Pack was written & distributed to all schools with a series of suggested readings & resources.

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2012

National RE Results

A level

There were 20,640 entries for 'A' level a decrease on the numbers for 2011 when 22,325 pupils were entered. In both England & Wales there were twice as many female entrants as male, with the latter outperformed by females in grades A* A & B. Thirty years ago RS entries were 6 in every 1000 now they are 25 in every 1000. **GCSE results** The combined number of students taking the full and short course examinations in Religious Studies was 457,227 a decrease on last year's numbers of 479767. For the GCSE full course there were 226,776 entries an increase from last year when there were 221974 entries for the short course there were 230,451 entries a drop in numbers from 257793 in 2011 continuing the trend of schools moving towards the full course.

Barnet's 'A' level Results

The following schools entered pupils for the A level examination: Ashmole Bishop Douglas, Copthall, East Barnet, Finchley Catholic High, Hasmorean High, Hendon, London Academy, Queen Elizabeth Girls, Mill Hill High, St

James', St Mary's, & St Michael's. 194 students were entered with 104 obtaining A*-B results. 194 students were entered for the examination.

Barnet A/S Results 2012

At A/S level Ashmole, Bishop Douglas, Copthall, Finchley Catholic High, East Barnet, Hasmorean High, Hendon, London Academy, Mill Hill High, Queen Elizabeth Girls, Queen Elizabeth's School, St James', & St Mary's entered 93 students. Two schools Queen Elizabeth's School & London Academy entered some students at KS4 with 33% obtaining an A-B grade & 70% A-E pass.

GCSE Full course 2012 The following schools entered pupils for GCSE full course: Ashmole, Bishop Douglas, Christ College, Copthall, East Barnet, Finchley Catholic High, Friern Barnet, Hasmorean High, Hendon, London Academy, Mill Hill High, Queen Elizabeth's Girls, Queen Elizabeth's School, St James', St Mary's, St Michael's, The Compton, The Henrietta Barnet, Totteridge Academy, & Whitefield. All three boards were studied AQA, Ed Excel and OCR.

The total number of entries for the full course was 1560 compared with 2010 results where 1155 entries. This is an increase but the effects of the EBacc will not be evident until next year.

Short course 2012

The following schools entered pupils for the short course: Ashmole, Bishop Douglas, Copthall, Finchley Catholic High, Friern Barnet, Hendon, London academy, Mill Hill High, The Pavilion Study Centre, Queen Elizabeth's Girls, Queen Elizabeth's School, St Mary's, The Henrietta Barnet, Totteridge Academy & Whitefield.

The total numbers of entries for short course was 791 compared with 1160 in 2010. This is a national trend with some schools entering all their students for the full course.

In 2011 the short and full course entries were 1790 (but we did not have all the data) 2010 when there were 2315 entries. So this year the figures have gone back to the 2010 figures but it is a real improvement as more students are studying the full course. The figures from Barnet mirror those nationally with increases for full course & decreases for short course & in line with data received from schools that since the introduction of the EBacc many schools have taken RE short course out of the KS4 curriculum. We will need to monitor next years figures as they will indicate the impact of RE's exclusion from the EBacc.

Resources

The calendar of religious festivals for 2013 & 2014 have been produced and can found on the Barnet website.

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