

CROYDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
For
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Croydon SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-12



Croydon SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

The responsibilities of a SACRE

The legal responsibilities of the LEA are to:

- Ensure that there is a SACRE
- Ensure all four committees are represented on SACRE
- Ensure there is an Agreed Syllabus which is reviewed at least once every five years
- Ensure that support is in place for SACRE to enable it to discharge its responsibilities
- Take note and respond to any advice it receives from SACRE
- Reference to SACREs from the LEA may include advice methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training.

The SACRE must:

- Publish an annual report of its work and send this to the DFE and NASACRE
- Consider requests for determinations on collective worship when required
- Advise the LEA upon such matters as collective worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus.

The SACRE is also likely to

- Monitor the provision for both RE and Collective Worship
- Provide support and advice on RE and Collective Worship to schools

LIST OF CROYDON SACRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS –

As at July 2012

Committee A

Representatives of Principal Religious Traditions in Croydon -

Mrs Kathryn Kane (Non Conformist – Pentecostal) Chair until February 2012

Mrs Barbara Rosen (Judaism)

Lt Col Morag Rowlanes (Salvation Army)

Mrs Sarah Driver (Roman Catholic)

Mrs Ruth Tayler (Methodist)

Mr David Hemp (British Humanist Association)

Miss Mayura Patel (Hindu)

Mrs Sue Bolton (Buddhist)

Mr Javid Hamid (Muslim)

Mr Jasmeet Singh (Sikh)

Mr Richard Daley (BME)

Committee B

Representatives of the Church of England -

Reverend Canon Colin Boswell

Mrs Jane Saville

Mrs Anne Rowland

Committee C

Representatives of Teacher Associations –

Mrs Anne Gledhill

Ms Sevim Hammit

Ms Lorna John

Committee D

Representatives of the LEA –

Councillor Richard Chatterjee Chair from February 2012

Cllr Janet Marshall

Cllr Lynne Hale

Cllr Kathy Bee

Cllr Ian Parker

Officers

Penny Smith-Orr (Consultant Adviser for RE)

Tel: 020 8653 8606 – penny.smith-orr@croydon.gov.uk

Mrs Fauzia Ali (Resources Officer, Croydon Faith Education Resources)

(Ms Sheila Fenner took over as resources manager in September 2012)

Oasis Academy Shirley Park Shirley Road Croydon CR9 7AL

Tel: 020 8656 6535

Ms Jacqueline Lowe (SACRE Clerk - administration)

Business support team leader

Department of Children, Families & Learning

Tel: 0208 726 7352 jacqueline.m.lowe@croydon.gov.uk

Mrs Lorna King took over as administrator in September 2012

Overview

Meetings:

In the academic year 2011 – 2012 Croydon SACRE met on the following occasions.

- ▶ 18th October 2011 at St Aiden's RC church, Coulsdon
- ▶ 28th February 2012 at Shirley High School
- ▶ 15th June 2012 at Croydon Faith Education Resources

The clerk to SACRE, for administration was Jacqueline Lowe and the minute taker at meetings was Liz Parry. The RE consultant, employed by Croydon CYPL, for 50 days per year was Mrs Penny Smith-Orr.

The section headings below refer to the new reporting and evaluating toolkit provided by NASACRE in October 2011. The self-evaluation of Croydon SACRE on the 2011-12 work was undertaken at the Autumn meeting 2012 (Appendix A)

Section 1. Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education

1a. RE provision across the LA.

It has become increasingly difficult for SACRE to collect information on the provision of RE across the borough's schools. Croydon SACRE members are provided with sections of the Ofsted reports of Croydon schools which mention RE, collective worship, and spiritual, moral, social and cultural education but even these are becoming scarcer to find. During the year members of SACRE visited two secondary schools and the RE Adviser was invited to visit two primary schools where an RE celebration week was being held. Also during the academic year the RE Adviser held 3 meetings with Primary RE coordinators which are usually well attended by about a third of the coordinators and discussions at these meetings allow the RE adviser to gain some information on the provision of RE.

A teachers' survey connected with the revision of the syllabus also brought forth some information as do email communications throughout the year from coordinators and head teachers.

1b. Standards of achievement and public examination entries

GCSE Results: Summer 2012

Data on the public exam results for Croydon schools are provided by Croydon Council, at the time of writing this report all local and national data for 2012 is still provisional.

Nationally more pupils were entered for the Full course GCSE as the Government is phasing out the short course option. In Croydon this was also true with twenty two schools entering pupils for the full course and fourteen for the short course.

There was a 5% rise in the number of candidates awarded A*-C grades for full course in Croydon and this was slightly above the national average. Norbury manor and Lanfranc achieved the highest number of A* grades. Schools achieving more than 90% A*-C grades were St Andrews, Coloma, Norbury Manor and Woodcote with Harris Crystal Palace achieving 100% A*-C grades.

Results in the short course GCSE were 5.5% above the national average so although less pupils took this option Croydon pupils are still performing well. Lanfranc and Archbishop Tenison schools had more than 75% of pupils achieving A*-C grades.

Nine schools entered a total of 51 pupils for GCE AS religious studies, which was a higher number of pupils than previously. While 76.5% of candidates scored one of the A-E pass grades the 33.4% of Croydon pupils gaining A*-C passes was well below the national average. Eight schools entered a total of 94 pupils for the full GCE Advanced level examination and 100% of pupils achieved one of the pass grades, with 71.2% achieving A*-C.

Summary for Croydon schools and academies GCSE Results

<i>Full Course GCSE</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>Short course GCSE</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>
<i>Croydon % A*-C</i>	74.6%	69.6%	<i>% A*-C</i>	55.8%	58.3%
<i>National % A*-C</i>	74%	73.2%	<i>National %A*-C</i>	50.3%	
<i>Croydon %A*-G</i>	98.7%	98.2%	<i>%A*-G</i>	96.8%	98.7%
<i>Number entered</i>	2319	2131	<i>Number entered</i>	407	768
<i>National Number entered</i>	210,200	221,974	<i>National Number entered</i>	176,187	257,793

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

<i>AS Level</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>A2 level</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>
<i>Croydon % A*-C</i>	33.4%	48.9%	<i>% A*-C</i>	71.2%	73.8%
<i>National % A*-C</i>	64%	73.2%	<i>National %A*-C</i>	80.6%	
<i>Croydon %A*-E</i>	76.5%	82.2%	<i>%A*-E</i>	100%	100 %
<i>Number entered</i>	51	45	<i>Number entered</i>	94	99
<i>National Number entered</i>	199,752	33,915	<i>National Number entered</i>	233,998	18,463.

1c Quality of learning and teaching

During the year the RE Consultant responds to questions from teachers and head teachers by telephone and email. Visits to schools and information from co-ordinators and the teacher members of SACRE inform the meetings. Croydon SACRE has a page on the MLE Croydon Frontier system which has all the documents and guidance from SACRE on it for teachers to access.

Many of the Primary school RE Co-ordinators have been in post for a number of years and are very experienced and committed, while in some schools the coordinator changes regularly. Some schools use teaching assistants to teach RE in planning and preparation time. In secondary schools the heads of department are usually specialists in RE.

1d Quality of leadership and management, including the provision and management of resources.

Croydon Council fund the Croydon Faith Education Resources library, which is a multi-faith library of approximately 18,000 resources which are free for schools in Croydon to borrow for half a term at a time although this will become a traded service in 2013. The centre continues to provide the schools with high quality resources as requested.

The RE adviser has supported a number of head teachers during the year as a result of direct request or by referral from the LA but SACRE does not really have an overview of the quality of leadership and management.

1e. Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff.

Many of the Primary school RE Co-ordinators have been in post for a number of years and are very experienced and committed, while in some schools the coordinator changes regularly. Some schools use teaching assistants to teach RE in planning and preparation time. In secondary schools the heads of department are usually specialists in RE. Due to the upheaval of the resource centre during 2010-12 and changes with funding in the LA there was only one course for RE teachers during the year apart from the termly coordinators network meetings.

1f. Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools

The majority of academies in Croydon are continuing to use the Agreed Syllabus. There is a teacher from an academy on the teacher group of SACRE and also on the working group for the new syllabus. The RE adviser has had discussions with a number of the academies.

Section 2: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

2a – The review process

Continuing from the previous academic year an application was made to revise the agreed syllabus of 2001 SACRE as part of the development plan. The review of the agreed syllabus has included full consultation with schools and other key stakeholders, including faith communities. Issues that have arisen have been discussed and addressed in planning for a Review. An ASC budget has been planned and allocated in partnership with the LA to include consultation meetings, administrative support and printing/ distribution costs. There is a strong sense of shared ownership of the prospective agreed syllabus review, with clear targets for what needs to be achieved.

The RE consultant had attended national group meetings in order to prepare for the revision. See **2d**

2b The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus

The current syllabus is well liked by teachers and has clear expectations. There is comprehensive assessment guidance linked to the non-statutory national framework attainment levels. The current syllabus and a number of guidance and support documents can be accessed by teachers and SACRE members on the Croydon MLE Fronter system on the Croydon SACRE page. However due to the fact that most of the syllabus is ten years old it was decided that it needed to be updated in light of new methods and pedagogy.

2c – Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus

There will be a launch in the next academic year.

2d – Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

Members of SACRE had undergone some training on how to be an effective SACRE in the previous year and at the October meeting discussed 'what quality RE might look like'. The ASC was made up of a membership that was well informed and highly representative of the diversity of the local community. There was also a teachers working party that met separately four times and all schools were invited to take part in a survey of what they would like in a new syllabus and discussions were held at the coordinators forums.

2e - Developing the revised agreed syllabus

There was a teachers working party that met separately four times and all schools were invited to take part in a survey of what they would like in a new syllabus and discussions were held at the coordinator's forums. Representatives of the different faiths with units in the proposed syllabus were able to discuss with their own communities what was proposed and reported back to the ASC. There have been clear objectives for the revision a wide range of local expertise has been involved in its construction. The LA and the ASC in partnership ensure that strong direction is provided to design an agreed syllabus which is coherent, clear and accessible.

2f - Making best use of National Guidance

The syllabus is being devised so that RE fits appropriately with other curriculum areas at all key stages and guidance about how to make the best links is planned to be given to schools take full account of national documentation in the construction of the revised Agreed Syllabus, while ensuring their work reflects local circumstances.

Section 3: Collective worship

3a – Supporting pupil entitlement

SACRE has not been able to monitor the provision of Collective worship during the year in a formal way, however information is gained through teacher members and the network meetings

3b – Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship

There is a comprehensive guidance on the Croydon SACRE website regarding collective worship.

3c – Responding to requests for determinations

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.

Section 4: Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

4a – SACRE meetings

The Croydon SACRE meetings this year were quorate and had good attendance where all four committees are represented. A pre agenda meeting takes place with the RE adviser and the Chair and the agenda and papers are distributed well in advance ensuring all members have time to consider them carefully. Meetings generally have contributions from a wide range of members and discussions have considered wider issues about the quality of RE and collective worship.

4b – Membership and training

There are some vacancies in the teacher group and the Church of England group. The 'other faiths' group is usually well represented and there is a co-opted Humanist representative. Members have undertaken some training sessions to improve their understanding of the issues that arise.

4c – Improvement/development planning

A development plan is drawn up each year and referred to during the year. The main item on the development plan during this academic year was the revision of the syllabus and therefore some of the advisers other work was put on hold.

The Croydon SACRE development plan is reviewed throughout the year by the consultant and can be seen in Appendix B.

4d – Professional and financial support/4e - Information and advice/

4f - Partnerships with key stakeholders

There is an annual budget for SACRE and the RE consultant is employed by the Council for 50 days per year. There has been no replacement of the Principal School Improvement & Partnership Manager on the committee but the consultant is now a member of the School Improvement team and a representative of Faiths Together in Croydon and attends a number of strategic partnerships within the council including the Children's Board which are then reported back to SACRE.

The LA also provides information on public examination grades

4f – Relations with the Academies sector

See 1f

Section 5; Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community

5a – SACRE’s membership/5b SACRE’s understanding of the local area/ 5c SACRE’s engagement with the community cohesion agenda/ 5d – SACRE’s role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion

SACRE’s membership broadly reflects the religious diversity of the local community. This is regularly reviewed by the SACRE. The committee has good contacts with Faiths Together in Croydon and the South London Interfaith group and the Adviser is also a member of the management of the multi faith resources library, Croydon Faith Education resources library.

SACRE is aware of some LA initiatives promoting community cohesion in the very multi faith community which is Croydon and through the adviser’s links and the links that individual members have with different communities has the opportunity to discuss and contribute to this work.

The Consultant has good links with the Equalities & Cohesion Department and again worked with them and several schools to produce an annual event for Holocaust Memorial Day. The Resource Officer of the Croydon Faith Education Resources library, Fauzia Ali, is a member of the committee and is also able to inform SACRE regarding schools and issues of community cohesion.

Members were invited to take part in the South London Interfaith walk through Croydon visiting 6 different places of worship, join in with an Interfaith big lunch event in the park and during, the 2011 Interfaith week, take part in a discussion on the film ‘The African Answer’ at Croydon College.

Representatives for Croydon also attended the London SACREs annual event at a Hindu Temple and the NASACRE AGM in May and reported back to SACRE.

Issues of the future of RE, the All Party Parliamentary Group for RE and the new RE Quality Mark were also debated and the committee were very pleased that a Croydon teacher had won the Hockerill prize this year.

Appendix A
Croydon SACRE Self Evaluation results 2011-12

Key Area Number	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1a	RE provision across the LA.		x	
1b	Standards of achievement and public examination entries		x	
1c	Quality of learning and teaching		x	
1d	Quality of leadership and management, including the provision and management of resources		x	
1e	Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff.	x		
1f	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools		x	
2a	The review process		x	
2b	The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus	x		
2c	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus	x		
2d	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)			x
2e	Developing the revised agreed syllabus		x	
2f	Making best use of National Guidance		x	
3a	Supporting pupil entitlement	x		
3b	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		x	
3c	Responding to requests for 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	Partnerships with key stakeholders		x	
5a	SACRE's membership		x	
5b	SACRE's understanding of the local area		x	
5c	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda		x	
5d	SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion		x	

SACRE Development Plan 2011-2012

Objective	Key Tasks	Who	Success criteria Monitoring/Deadline		Resources	Actions
To revise the Croydon Agreed Syllabus 2001	Set up Agreed Syllabus Conference and teacher working parties	P50 and Members/ teachers	Agreed Syllabus revised and updated to reflect new ideas in RE and curriculum,	Launch by Autumn term 2012	£5300 budget agreed by Croydon Council Class Movies	Some filming achieved. Teachers surveyed, working groups met, ASC met and agreed content which was checked by individuals. Most of the work finished. Launch to be in Spring term
To work towards being an advanced SACRE	Each committee to meet and monitor one section of the SACRE self-evaluation document annually	Members of all 4 committees plus PSO	A series of proposals to be put into action to ensure that SACRE moves forward	Monitoring of the proposals to be looked at each termly meeting	Time of members Time at meetings	Some monitoring done.
A) Training for SACRE members / B) Members to try to visit at least one school per year.	A) Looking at the 2001 syllabus and assessment in preparation for new syllabus B) Termly visits to school	PSO members	A very comprehensive and useful new syllabus Members to have completed a visit	Launched in September 2012 By end of summer term 2012	Fronter	Training session on quality RE. Launch to be in Spring term Two schools visited but some members still not visited a school.
Highlight work of SACRE SACRE annual event	Organise an event to highlight the value of good RE –	Members and PSO	More people aware of work of SACRE	Event to be held during 2012	Budget for venue/speaker refreshments	Due to budget restraints unable to have an annual event but members invited

	Possibly the launch of the syllabus					to Faiths Together events. Launch event to be planned
To support the work of Croydon Faith Education Resources	Members to attend the launch of the new venue at Ashburton library	All members	Members aware of the resources available and work of CFER	January 24 th 2012	Members time	Achieved and time given at meeting for members to see new premises and resources.