

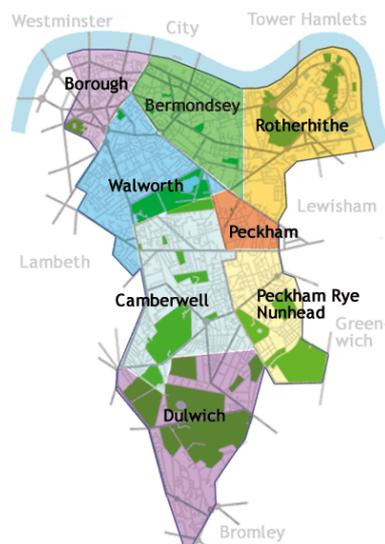


SOUTHWARK STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL
on
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Southwark SACRE)

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015



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 2014-15 Annual Report of the Southwark SACRE. The SACRE has met five times during this academic year and it would like to thank Beormund Primary School who kindly hosted our meetings.

The SACRE has had an interesting year which included a change of Chairperson. I would like to thank the RE advisor Penny Orr-Smith for all her contributions this year along with a big thank you for all the contributions of all those who serve on the Southwark SACRE. We are thankful for the on going support provided by the Local Authority and for the active involvement of senior officers and Members in our activities.

We have evaluated the work of the SACRE using the 'SACRE RE tool' and are in the process of developing a new development plan with clear priorities and specific actions to provide a focus and way forward. These priorities include, keeping SACRE members abreast of local and national issues; developing and monitoring Religious Education provision across the borough; improving our relationships with all schools in the Borough and developing training programmes for RE coordinators which they find useful.

The agreed syllabus for Southwark is used in many schools across the borough and is regularly reviewed to check not only the content, but the advice to schools on how they might approach the topics. We believe that the syllabus needs to reflect the diversity of faith traditions in Southwark, and the SACRE membership should also include all faith groups in order to contribute to the guidance given to schools coping with an ever diverse population.

The Southwark SACRE commends this Annual Report to all those in education and those who are interested in RE in Southwark. The report provides information and advice for schools and it is hoped that schools will find it a useful starting place to evaluate their own positions.

We now look forward to a positive future.

Best wishes

Linda Coplestone

Chair of Southwark SACRE

Meetings

In the academic year 2014-2015 Southwark SACRE meetings were arranged on the following occasions:

October 7th and November 24th 2014 and February 9th and March 24th and 24th June 2015

All the meetings took place in Beormund Primary school Southwark, it was agreed at the meeting in June that SACRE would only meet once per term from 2015.

For membership information see section 5

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority;

During the year the representative from the LA has changed. The RE Advisor has had meetings with both and arrangements were made for a course for new RE coordinators and for RE network meetings to be held at the Council Offices. SACRE was having difficulty getting a list of the different types of schools in Southwark, maintained, Academy and Free schools, and their addresses but some work was done on this and the committee now have this information.

Schools;

The RE Advisor was invited to the Head teachers conference and was able to do a presentation on the support that SACRE can give to schools. As a result a number of schools made contact with various requests, the RE advisor subsequently attended meetings with two RE coordinators to support them. A presentation was also made to one of the Head Teachers breakfast meetings which resulted in an invitation to make a SACRE visit to a school which was undertaken in March. Information on these visits was reported to SACRE.

Assessment guidance is comprehensively detailed within the syllabus and teachers are encouraged to use this guidance if required by their head teacher to carry out assessment of RE. The RE Quality mark recommends that schools use the assessment from their locally agreed syllabus. The RE Coordinators have been given this advice, with the proviso that there may be a national guidance for RE assessment in due course.

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 can only be done through the network meetings.

As part of the Governors training package a presentation on the aftermath of the Trojan horse and introduction of British values teaching was made.

Government

The letter from Lord Nash about SACREs was discussed at a meeting and a response was sent. SACRE also responded to the consultation document on religious education exams.

Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Southwark Agreed Syllabus has been in use since September 2005. It was reviewed in 2012 and it was decided that it was fit for purpose. It can be found on the Southwark Head teacher's website along with a number of resources for teaching

religious education. During the year further discussion took place with the LA and these documents are to also be placed on the Council website so that they are accessible to teachers. In the meantime the RE Advisor has responded directly to requests from schools for information.

It is generally recommended that 5% of time is spent on RE in schools either as weekly lessons or blocks of time during a term.

Section 3 Standards in Religious Education:

All results are Provisional at The time of Writing

This year 15 schools entered pupils for the full course GCSE and 4 schools entered pupils for the short course. Southwark pupils continue to achieve well compared to the national figures. Four schools entered pupils for the AS level exam and 7 schools entered pupils for A level RE.

Full Course GCSE summary for Southwark Schools and Academies

	2015	2014	2013	2012
% A*-C	68%	73%	72.4%	72.2%
National % A*-C		71%	73.5	74%
Number A*-C	727	1059	-	686
%A*-G	97%	98.5%	98.7%	98.3%
Number A*-G	1042	1424	-	929
Number entered	1071	1446	1455	945
National Number entered	269284	282,009	228824	210200

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

AS Level	2015	2014	A level	2015	2014
Number A*-C	17 (%94)	5 (27%)		63 (86%)	52 (87%)
%A*-E	100	94%		100	100%
%National A*-E		86%			99%
Number entered	18	18		77	60

No formal complaints about religious education were received this year.

Collective worship

Some schools use outside agencies, particularly Spinnaker, to provide some of their worship requirements and it is SACRE's hope that the schools are making use of the list of trained speakers and the advice and suggestions on collective worship on the head teachers website.

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.

Management of SACRE

At the beginning of the year the Chair of many years sadly passed away and Linda Coplestone a representative from the Church of England group was voted as the new Chair with Cllr Sandra Rhule as vice chair. The representative from Southwark council also changed during the year. In the spring the RE Advisor sent a letter to members who had not attended for some time, some of these responded and the Southwark SACRE committee now has the following members:

Committee A John Bonnici, Jane Harris, Mariano Marcigaglia, Mr Keith Alker, Mr Vidur Dindayal, Trevor Moore,

Committee B Rev Alden, Rev Iain McLaren (both retired during the year)
Linda Mannas, Mr Bruce Gill, Kate Penfold Attride, Mohammad Zakir

Committee C

Mr James Lewis, Ms Helen Simpson, Betty Joseph

Committee D

Cllr Sunny Lambe, Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall, Cllr Flemming, Councillor Sandra Ruhle,

Also in attendance at meetings;

RE Consultant; Mrs Penny Smith-Orr,

Southwark Council Representatives Peter Nathan and subsequently Ms Dany Thomas

Clerk to Southwark SACRE; Benjamin Washington

An analysis of the self-evaluation document undertaken in the autumn term had highlighted three areas of improvement which were;

- Improving attendance, commitment (of membership) and representation, Strengthening leadership of SACRE
- Improving SACRE's profile with schools.

These areas have been mainly addressed although improving the profile with schools is an on going activity.

The updating of the Constitution took up some time in the last two years but was completed at the second autumn meeting. A short training exercise on the challenges that face SACREs and discussions of the Trojan Horse, the introduction of British Values teaching and evidence of the impact of RE on pupils have also been part of the meetings.

The LA have a budget for the cost of the RE Advisor for 12 days per year and provide a clerk and refreshments to each meeting. There is not a budget for any other activities.

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. It is planned to invite an RE Coordinator to talk to the spring 2016 meeting to enable members to understand the needs of the teacher in school.

Consultant Adviser to SACRE

Penny Smith-Orr. (penny.smith-orr@southwark.gov.uk)

The Clerk to SACRE

Benjamin Washington (benjamin.washington@southwark.gov.uk)

