

Annual Report 2015 to 2016

Introduction

The Royal Borough's **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities. This is its twenty-fifth report and it is divided into three parts.

Part one

Records the terms of reference of the Kensington and Chelsea SACRE and the occasions on which it met in 2015 to 2016.

Part two

Reports the matters dealt with by the SACRE during the year.

Part three

Notes the composition and membership of the SACRE.

Part one

The establishment, terms of reference and meetings of the SACRE

1. The Royal Borough's SACRE was established by the Education Committee (Shadow) on 14 June 1989. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: "to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit."
2. In particular the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:
 - It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on religious education.
 - It may determine, on application by the headteacher that the requirement for collective worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
 - With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers' in-service professional development.
3. In addition, the Education Committee (Shadow) decided to give a direct role to the SACRE in the consideration and disposal of complaints related to the curriculum or religious worship. The SACRE will be asked to advise where complaints relate to religious education

given in accordance with an agreed syllabus or to religious worship in county schools.

4. The SACRE met on three occasions in 2015 to 2016:
 - 19 November 2015;
 - 17 March 2016;
 - 16 June 2016.
5. The SACRE meets at the Royal Borough's Town Hall. Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of its duties is provided to SACRE by the Royal Borough. The SACRE is grateful to the Royal Borough for making this support available.

Part two

Matters dealt with by the SACRE in 2015 to 2016

Membership

6. This year the SACRE bade farewell to Nicholas Robson a teacher at Holland Park School who had been a SACRE member for 6 years. The SACRE welcomed 5 new members. Mr Laurence Julius a member of the Holland Park Synagogue, Ms Karen Wyatt – Headteacher at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Cadogan Street, Cllr Robert Thompson who is a Church of England Vicar and Chaplain at the Royal Brompton Hospital, Katrina Quinton a Church of England member and Olufunmilayo Dairo a teacher from Colville School.
7. Regular contact is made with the appropriate appointing bodies to remind them that there are vacancies on the SACRE but it is always difficult to attract members to Group C (teacher representatives) although regular requests are made. Membership in each category needs to be maintained to ensure that meetings of the SACRE remain quorate.
8. Matters discussed during the year include –
 - A new Settlement for Religion and Belief in Schools
 - RE: Online CPD
 - NASACRE AGM
9. **A new Settlement for Religion and Belief in Schools** - During the academic year Lesley Prior kept members up to date on RE matters. As SACRE members are aware parents are able to remove their children for part of or all of RE lessons. Charles Clarke,

co author of '[A New Settlement for Religion and Belief in schools](#)', proposes changes to RE, with an end to Collective Worship and the parental right to remove children from RE and the introduction of a national rather than a locally agreed syllabus. Charles Clarke proposed the continuation of the SACRE with a local role. Lesley Prior explained that the role of the SACRE isn't that of an inter-faith group, but to support high quality teaching in schools and this role may continue. It was noted that any changes in the role of the SACRE or an end to Collective Worship in maintained schools would require a change in the law.

10. **RE:Online CPD** – Lesley Prior reported on the successful event which had been held at the Lilla Huset professional development centre. The presentation had been given by Mr Dave Francis <http://www.reonline.org.uk/> It is a one-stop shop for RE guidance/ information and sections specifically designed for teachers. It includes information on activities for children. The training even was attended by both teachers and SACRE members. Attendees found the session useful and it was hoped that it would lead to other network meetings in the future.
11. **NASACRE AGM** the Chair of the SACRE had attended the meeting which had taken place on Tuesday May 17th 2016 at the Central Hall Westminster, London. The keynote speakers were the Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE, formerly President of the Family Division of the High Court. Baroness Butler-Sloss served as Chair for the recently published Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life. The other main speaker had been Professor Adam Dinham who is Professor of Faith and Public Policy at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is also Chair of the British Sociological

Association Sociology of Religion Study Group (Socrel). The Chairman referred SACRE members to the sound cloud which had the key note speeches on the NASACRE (Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life (2015) <http://www.corab.org.uk/>)

12. SACRE has a continued presence on the web, access is via the Royal Borough's website, the link is www.rbkc.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/sacre.aspx
13. SACRE meetings usually take place at Kensington Town Hall, however often SACRE members will offer a venue. The June 2016 meeting took place at the Holland Park Synagogue, 8 St James's Gardens, London W11 4RB. This was following the kind offer of Mr Laurence Julius and the meeting commence with a tour of the synagogue.

The requirement for Collective Worship

14. The SACRE received no requests in 2015 to 2016 from headteachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their schools. The procedures for making such a request are set out in Appendix A of this report. Information about the procedures can also be obtained from the Clerk to the SACRE at the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX.

Complaints

15. The SACRE was not in 2015 to 2016 asked to deal with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools.

Part three

Composition and members of the Royal Borough's SACRE in 2015 to 2016

Chairman of the SACRE Mr J Djalili

Clerk to the SACRE Mrs Julie Farmer (*Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea*)

GROUP A – up to 10 members

Representing Christian and other religious denominations

Ms K. Gilbert	Diocese of Westminster Education Service.
Ms S. Jaff	Islamic Faith (V-C)
Mr J. Djalili	Baha'i Faith (C)
Rev Ken Persaud	Notting Hill Community Church
Ms Darcy Biddulph	Buddhist Faith
Mr Narif Sheikh	Islamic Faith
Ms Karen Wyatt	Headteacher St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Mr Laurence Julius	Jewish Faith

Group B – up to 8 members

Representing the Church of England

Mr G. Marriner (London Diocesan Board for Schools)

Mrs Katrina Quinton

Revd Prebendary Gillean Craig

Up to six more members may be appointed.

Group C - up to 8 members

Representing teachers (including teachers of RE) and teachers' associations

Mr N Robson (Holland Park School) (resigned June 2016)

Ms Olufunmilayo (Funmi) Dario (Colville Primary School)

Group D - up to 4 members

Representing the Royal Borough

Cllr Robert Thompson

Ms Lucy Nutt Principal Lead Adviser

Consultant to the SACRE

Ms Lesley Prior

Appendix A

The requirement for Collective Worship

Introduction

1. Section 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988 lays down that the collective worship required in community schools shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. DES circular 3/89 states that, in the Secretary of State's view, an act of worship which is 'broadly Christian' need not contain only Christian material provided, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character but within each school term the majority of acts must be so.
2. How collective worship is organised is for the headteacher to decide after consultation with the governing body, having regard to the following considerations:
 - any relevant circumstances relating to the pupils family backgrounds, for example the faith of the family;
 - their ages and aptitudes.
3. These considerations should inform:
 - the extent to which (if at all) any acts of collective worship in the school are not of a broadly Christian character;
 - the extent to which the broad traditions of Christian belief are reflected in those acts of worship of a broadly Christian character; and
 - the ways in which those traditions are reflected.

The role of the SACRE

4. If the headteacher of a community school considers that the requirements for collective worship described in paragraph two could conflict with what is required by paragraph three, he or she can apply to **the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** to lift or modify the requirements. Before doing so the headteacher must consult the school's governing body who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. **The headteacher's application does not need to apply to the whole school.** It can be limited to any class or description of pupils at the school, and might relate, for example, to a particular group or year group(s) in the school in which there were many pupils of a particular faith or religion.
5. The purpose of this procedure is to allow for acts of collective worship according to a faith or religion other than Christianity where, for some or all of the pupils in a school, the requirement that worship should be of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate. One factor which may inform a headteacher's decision to make an application to the SACRE is the extent of withdrawals from Christian collective worship.
6. In considering whether to grant a headteacher's request, the SACRE must take account of any relevant circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils concerned. When it has made a **determination** on the request – which can only take the form of acceptance or rejection without modification – it must communicate this in writing to the headteacher and state the date from which it will take effect. It is for the headteacher to decide what

form the alternative worship will take, although the SACRE should be informed of the proposed arrangements.

7. The headteacher will wish to take appropriate steps to notify the governing body and parents of the new arrangements. Where such a determination is made in respect of all or some of the pupils in the school, daily collective worship must still be provided for them. Where a determination has been granted in respect of a class or description of pupils of a particular faith or religion, the alternative collective worship may be provided for those pupils as a whole. It may not be distinctive of any particular **denomination** of any faith or religion, but may be distinctive of a particular faith or religion. Parents continue to have a right to withdraw their children from this collective worship.
8. Any determination made under these arrangements ends after five years, unless renewed by the SACRE. There must be a review by the SACRE no later than five years after any determination was introduced; and subsequently within five years of each review. The headteacher can request an earlier review at any time, after consulting with the governing body. The headteacher must be given an opportunity to take part in any review

and, in turn, is required to consult the governing body who may wish to seek the view of parents.

9. It has been a legal requirement since 1944 that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship. Section 6 of the Education Reform Act provides for flexibility in timing and organisation of daily collective worship. It need now no longer be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups. For this purpose, a 'school group' means any group or combination of groups in which pupils are taught or take place in other school activities; it does **not** mean a group reflecting particular religious beliefs.
- 10 If a headteacher considers that changes of the sort described in paragraphs four and five of this appendix are justified, he or she should:
 - consult with the governing body,
 - after that, make application to SACRE on the attached form.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education



Application for a variation in the requirement of the Education Act 1988 that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

- 1. Name of school**.....
- 2. Address of school**.....
- 3. Name of headteacher**.....
- 4. Pupils for whom the application is made**
(Is the application being made on behalf of the whole school or part of it? If a part, state which group and their numbers.)
- 5. On what grounds is the application made?**
(State why you consider the requirement that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' to be inappropriate for pupils. Give any relevant information, including numbers, on the family background and faith of all pupils who would be affected.)
- 6. Has the Governing Body been consulted?**
(By law it must be. Please state the view the Governing Body gave. Did the Governing Body consult parents? What was their view?)
- 7. Have Parents been consulted?**
(What were their views?)
- 8. What form would the proposed alternative form of collective worship take?**
(Give as much information as possible.)

Religious Studies GCSEs - 2016

School	GCSE Grade									TOTAL	2016		2015		2014	
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U		A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G
Holland Park School										205	83.9%	99.5%	77.7%	99.0%	70.0%	100.0%
Saint Thomas More										119	80.7%	100.0%	80.2%	100.0%	85.3%	99.1%
Sion-Manning RC Girls'										97	84.5%	99.0%	75.8%	100.0%	59.0%	99.1%
Cardinal Vaughan										119	83.2%	99.2%	83.2%	96.8%	87.2%	100.0%
Chelsea Academy										169	62.7%	97.6%	53.9%	96.1%	42.2%	93.2%
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA LA	102	152	180	121	65	43	28	11	7	709	78.3%	99.0%	73.7%	98.3%	67.7%	98.3%

n/a = not available

NE = Not Entered

Religious Studies A-Levels - 2016

School	A-Level Grade							TOTAL	2016		2015		2014	
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U		A-C	A-E	A-C	A-E	A-C	A-E
Holland Park School								22	90.9%	100.0%	85.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Saint Thomas More								3	66.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Sion-Manning RC Girls'								11	100.0%	100.0%	75.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Cardinal Vaughan														
Chelsea Academy														
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA LA	3	11	10	9	3			36	91.7%	100.0%	83.3%	100.0%	80.0%	100.0%