

CROYDON ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
CROYDON SACRE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2016-2017



Croydon SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

A SACRE must publish an annual report of its work and send this to the DFE and NASACRE.

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on religious education and collective worship in its schools. Consider requests for determinations on collective worship when required and advise the LEA upon such matters as collective worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus.

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

## **Overview**

### **Meetings:**

In the academic year 2016– 2017 Croydon SACRE met on the following occasions;

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 at The Minster Nursery and infants School Warrington Road Croydon

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 at Shirley High School Croydon

27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Shirley High School Croydon

The clerk to SACRE, for administration and minute taking was provided by Croydon Council. The SACRE Officer was Mrs Penny Smith-Orr.

## **Introduction from the Chair**

Welcome to the 2016-17 Annual Report of the Croydon SACRE.

The SACRE has met three times during the academic year and has worked towards the priorities outlined in the current Development Plan. The SACRE has also responded to the Religious Education Council's review of Religious Education and has written to the Secretary of State (through the Local Authority) as a way of contributing to the direction and health of Religious Education in the future.

Croydon is a richly diverse community and the need for strengthening every means of increasing tolerance and understanding of each other especially in the realm of religion has never been greater, in every decade of life.

Further information on activities are mentioned below but it should be mentioned that Croydon SACRE is now at the 5-year point of the cycle of the local SACRE syllabus, which involves a certain amount of review of the syllabus. When the current SCARE syllabus was drafted in 2013, there were many references to the tremendous and very welcome resources that were available via the resources centre CFER; however, council funding was later discontinued resulting in the closure of CFER despite representations from the Chair of CFER to the full council, Dr Jagdish Sharma, and a petition presented to the council by

SACRE member Cllr Joy Prince. The 5-year review now being undertaken of SACRE syllabus includes adapting to take into account the closure of CFER.

SACRE is relieved and grateful to St James the Great Primary School and Coloma Covent Girls School for their willingness to accept and enable access to RE materials for primary and secondary schools, respectively.

Croydon SACRE has continued to input to wider surveys and sought to promote the inclusion of RE in the English Baccalaureate. The SACRE has also sought to strengthen its representation of faith groups.

A high proportion of schools in Croydon have converted to Academies and the SACRE has made ongoing efforts to engage with schools to ensure their continued compliance with requirements to provide high quality Religious Education and opportunities for Collective Worship. Some opportunities have been taken to engage with governors during training to enhance awareness of RE in schools.

Keeping its place of RE in the school curriculum has been a challenge which the SACRE has sought to rise to. This, combined with the impact of the absence of RE from the English Baccalaureate in secondary schools, causes the SACRE great concern that Religious Education may not be apportioned the same importance as other subjects in the school curriculum. The SACRE is grateful to Mrs Penny Smith-Orr, SACRE Officer for Croydon, for driving our work forward and keeping us abreast of developments in Religious Education nationally, and Mrs Judy Bennett, committee Clerk.

As Chairman, I would like to thank all those who serve on Croydon SACRE, teachers, faith group representatives, Cllrs, visitors and visiting presenters, and the vice chairman, Mrs Cheryl Hudson.

The professional support of our consultant /adviser and the Education Department is also gratefully acknowledged. Croydon SACRE is able to face the challenges ahead as we continue to ensure that Religious Education and Collective Worship retain their rightful place at the heart of our schools.

Cllr Richard Chatterjee  
Chairman, Croydon SACRE

## **Advice to Statutory Bodies**

### **Local Authority**

Croydon SACRE members are provided with sections of the Ofsted reports of Croydon schools at each meeting which mention RE, collective worship (CW), and spiritual, moral, social and cultural education at each meeting and can note these reports and act upon them when necessary advising the local authority of any problems.

The SACRE Officer and the Chair of SACRE are part of the planning group on the Holocaust Memorial Day event put on by the Council. Three schools took part in the event on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and many schools reported marking the day in school.

Shelley Davies the Head of Standards, Safeguarding and Youth Engagement for Croydon attended the Autumn meeting as an Observer.

During the summer meeting discussions were held regarding the forthcoming review of the Croydon Agreed Syllabus 2012.

## **Schools**

Information and advice is given to schools throughout the year through the school's bulletin and through email or telephone calls to the Adviser. The SACRE Officer attended the Head teachers breakfast in the Spring Term and launched a website [www.reconsultant.co.uk](http://www.reconsultant.co.uk) where teachers can find information on the Croydon Syllabus, related documents and general RE advice.

Three meetings were held for RE Coordinators during the year. The first one in the Autumn term was held at the Minster Nursey and Infants school and a speaker came to talk about Bible Explorers, also discussed were some suggestions for classroom activities for the term, Interfaith Week and website resources. In the Spring term the meeting was at St James the Great RC Primary school. Members of South Norwood Mosque, the Hindu Council of Croydon and a Buddhist representative came to speak about aspects of their faith and the new resource centre which is now housed at the school was launched. The Secondary resources are now housed at Coloma High School.

Three Secondary schools, Oasis Coulsdon, Meridian High School and Riddlesdown High School, gave presentations at the Croydon Holocaust Memorial event and advice on marking the day in other schools was given by the SACRE officer.

Six teachers spent a morning visiting a Mosque and finding out about Islam which led to several of their schools visiting the mosque. The SACRE Officer went to several schools to assist the new RE coordinators with planning and managing their role.

The RE Consultant worked with a Hindu temple to get speakers into schools to talk about Diwali.

The SACRE Officer met the Head of the Virtual school, which refugee children attend while waiting for a permanent school place and home. Discussions on the legal status of religious education led to a teacher being appointed for humanities and a visit from a member of a local Mosque was arranged to help pupils understand that they still needed to come to school during Ramadan in this country. Further links with places of worship have been arranged.

Croydon SACRE members agreed to do a website check of school's websites to monitor whether the RE curriculum is on the websites. They also look for mention of Collective worship and SMSC, schools which do not mention these are contacted.

## Standard and Quality of Provision of RE and Attainment in RE

It is difficult for a SACRE to gain verifiable information on the Standard and Quality of Provision of RE, particularly in the secondary schools. Network meetings held with Primary RE coordinators and discussions at these meetings allow the Officer to gain some information on the provision of RE in their schools.

Two schools contacted the SACRE Officer regarding withdrawal of pupils from RE during the year and were given advice on how to deal with this.

There have been no complaints about religious education during the year.

### Standards of achievement and public examination entries GCSE Results: Summer 2017

We are pleased to see that twenty schools entered pupils for an RE GCSE and that the majority of these schools entered almost all their cohort. At Norbury manor and Oasis Coulsdon just over 20% of pupils received an A\* grade. Very few pupils were entered into the short course which is no longer used as a performance measure of schools, nationally the numbers have also dropped significantly.

At A level, eleven schools entered 109 pupils altogether and ten schools entered pupils into the As level exams.

| 2016                           | Full Course GCSE | Short Course GCSE |                                | AS Level |                                | A2 level |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Croydon% A*-C</b>           | 68.8%            | 7.5%              | <b>Croydon% A*-B</b>           | 30%      | <b>Croydon % A*-B</b>          | 32%      |
| <b>National % A*-C</b>         | 70.2%            | 58.8%             | <b>National % A*-B</b>         | 47%      | <b>National % A*-B</b>         | 55%      |
| <b>Croydon %A*G</b>            | 98%              | 80%               | <b>Croydon% A*-E</b>           |          | <b>Croydon %A*-E</b>           | 100%     |
| <b>Number entered Croydon</b>  | 2577             | 10                | <b>Number entered Croydon</b>  | 109      | <b>Number entered Croydon</b>  | 111      |
| <b>National Number entered</b> | 248210           | 12489             | <b>Number entered National</b> | 13910    | <b>Number entered National</b> | 21289    |

## **Collective Worship**

It is understood from discussion with RE Coordinators that collective worship is carried out within schools. An updated document on Guidance for Collective Worship, produced by the Church of England group on SACRE and the SACRE Officer, was sent to all schools in January 2017 and was well received by schools.

There were no determinations or complaints referred to SACRE during the year.

## **Management of SACRE**

Once again, the Chair is a Councillor from group D and the Vice chair is a teacher from a local church school who is a representative from group B.

There is an annual budget for SACRE and the SACRE Officer is employed by the Council as SACRE Officer for 50 days per year. The LA also provides a clerk for the minutes at meetings. The clerk retired at the end of the summer term but has been engaged by the Council to continue to work as the Croydon SACRE clerk.

## **Other Work of Croydon SACRE**

In the Autumn Term we had a speaker, the primary Adviser from the Board of Education, Shaun Burns, who took us through the Understanding Christianity materials that have been introduced.

In the Spring the SACRE Officer went to a training on FGM, put on by the Council, and presented a short training activity on this issue at the March meeting. At the Summer meeting there was a presentation from MEND (Muslim Engagement and Development) and it was agreed that the Officer and the PSHE officer of Croydon would invite them to a joint coordinator's meeting in the coming year.

The self-evaluation toolkit is used each year by Croydon SACRE and informs the development /action plan document. The development plan for the year is a working document and is updated at each meeting.

The NASCARE constitution changes were discussed and agreed upon. Rev Alison Brunt went to York for the NASACRE AGM and reported back in the Summer term. A response was sent to Cardiff University regarding their study of Religion and Diversity.

Discussions took place as to whether the Guidelines for Respect of Pupils of Other Faiths should be updated, and it was decided that this would happen in the year 2017-18.

### **Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority Agenda**

The SACRE Officer is also involved in the local interfaith group and as a member of this and in the role of SACRE officer attends the CYPL partnership meetings and the Croydon Congress and can give advice on faith matters and religious education in schools to these bodies and to report on these meetings to SACRE. Information from the local Interfaith group is given at each meeting so that members of SACRE can attend events if they wish to.

### **Membership of Croydon SACRE 2016-2017**

**A-Other Faiths B-Church of England C- Teachers D -Councillors. Numbers indicate meetings attended**

|   |   |   |   |                                    |   |
|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| A |   |   | C | Ms Sevim Hamit                     | 2 |
| A | Lt Col Morag Rowlanes<br>(Salvation Army) | 1 | C | Ms Lorna John                      | 2 |
| A | Rabbi Nathan Anoushka<br>(Judaism)        | 0 | C | Mrs Sara Bonnick                   | 2 |
| A | Kamil Sheikh                              | 2 | C | Mrs Sonia Clarke                   | 3 |
| A | Harvinder Singh                           | 2 | C | Mrs Jo O'Reily                     | 3 |
| A |   |   | D | Cllr Richard Chatterjee<br>(Chair) | 3 |
| A | Miss Mayura Patel (Hindu)                 | 0 | D | Cllr Joy Prince                    | 2 |
| A |   |   | D | Cllr David Wood                    | 1 |
| B | Ms Cheryl Hudson<br>Vice Chair            | 2 | D | Cllr Lynne Hale                    | 1 |
| B | Jane Saville                              | 1 | D | Cllr Shafi Khan                    | 1 |
| B | Rev Alison Brunt                          | 3 |   | Penny Smith-Orr<br>SACRE Officer   | 3 |
| B | Rev Alan Bayes                            | 1 |   | Judith Bennett (Clerk)             | 3 |

A new Group B member to replace Jane Saville, a valued member of the committee, was engaged to start in Autumn 2017. A Buddhist member is still being sought. The Rabbi for the Croydon Synagogue receives the minutes.

