



**HAVING
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 / 13



Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to write the foreword for SACRE's Annual Report.

The past year has not been as straightforward for SACRE as in former years. This was mainly due to government changes in the education system with more schools leaving the local authority's care to form independent academies. This has had a dramatic effect on the teaching of RE, particularly at secondary level, with the introduction of the English Baccalaureate which has led to a resulting decline in RE teaching across the country. Havering's SACRE decided to address its concerns by inviting Ofsted's subject specialist for RE, Alan Brine, to speak to it in early May. Mr Brine's lively and interesting presentation - while addressing all the issues, together with SACRE's concerns - also gave us cause for hope, which we found very encouraging.

Despite concerns that the current changes in the education of our country's children was leading to a decline in the teaching of RE, SACRE continues to believe that sound RE teaching is invaluable in setting both moral and spiritual parameters for today's children, to equip them to be our citizens of tomorrow. SACRE upholds its belief that teaching pupils respect for **all** faiths and providing them with information on what members of the different religions have contributed towards our nation can only help to combat faith-related bullying and work towards dispelling some of the myths surrounding the beliefs of some of the faith groups, which are all too frequently misrepresented in some of the media.

Havering SACRE members followed their usual practice of gathering away from the Council Chamber for their 2012 summer term meeting. We chose to visit Engayne Primary School, which had recently become a 'Teaching School', accredited by the National College for School Leadership. SACRE had also agreed to become one of the school's strategic partners. The school's Head of Humanities, Robin Field, offered members of SACRE a superb presentation, giving a beneficial insight into the teaching of RE at Engayne, which everyone enjoyed and appreciated. Although I have a background in education, many of the other SACRE members do not and it was encouraging for them to see evidence - not only of good practice in the teaching of RE, but also of the obvious enjoyment of those to whom it is delivered - which this presentation clearly illustrated. It was also valuable to us all to see proof of cross-curricular links and to see evidence from a school addressing issues in the light of the latest government thinking.

We were delighted to offer the annual Michael Edwards Award to Ravensbourne School for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. This was presented at their Harvest Assembly in October and was awarded for outstanding engagement in RE.



Finally, it is very satisfying for us to be able to welcome the first representative of the Buddhist faith that we have had in the twenty years that I have been a member of SACRE and we look forward to sharing his input.

It gives me pleasure to commend this report.

Pamela A. Coles

(Chair of SACRE)

Observations from the Secondary RE Advisor

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Religious Education recently published a report into the subject called "*RE: The Truth Unmasked*" (APPG on RE, 2013). This report highlighted the important contribution that RE makes to the lives of our young people. It stated:

- RE makes a positive contribution to key aspects of pupils' personal development, most notably in relation to the understanding and appreciation of the diverse nature of our society. (Ofsted 2010:6)

In his foreword to the report Stephen Lloyd (MP and Chair of the APPG on RE) says:

"Our hardworking teachers not only impart information, they also help shape the views of the next generation. The importance of mutual respect and understanding, for faiths and belief, is crucial in a society where there are now many different religions and cultures. This is why I believe religious education is so important."

Here in Havering, SACRE members, senior leaders, teachers, parents and young people recognise these and the many other positive effects of the Religious Education taught in our schools.

There are of course issues that face our subject as educational change moves at a rapid pace under the present Coalition Government. These are explored in more detail in the APPG report, and in the analysis of the yearly surveys conducted by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). These issues include:

- After 2014, short course GCSEs will not be recognised in the headline measures of a school's performance. •
- In 2011 RE was excluded from the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).
- From 2013 bursaries for RE trainee teachers have been withdrawn.
- The extension of the academies programme together with local authority cut backs have resulted in the loss of funding and of time for advisers and consultants who provided professional support to SACREs.

(APPG RE: The Truth Unmasked, 2013)

The APPG report states:

"In many of these cases RE has been the unintended victim of a combination of major policy changes rather than the subject of a deliberate attack. Nevertheless the combined impact of so many severe setbacks in such a short time has been to convey the message that even though it is a statutory subject, RE is of less value than other subjects."

Over the coming year SACRE will attempt to minimise the effects of these challenges on RE in Havering schools. These issues, along with the important curriculum reforms and the RE Council Review of the Curriculum will be at the forefront of our minds as we seek to ensure that teachers of RE in Havering are supported to deliver the best possible religious education for their pupils.

REPORT ON RE IN EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 2012/13:**1. Religious Education (RE)****1.1. Standards in Religious Education**

Examination results at GCSE are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring of standards.

The results for 2012 GCSE courses:

GCSE full course

The proportion of Havering students achieving an A*- C and A*- G grade in the full GCSE dropped in 2012 (see table below), taking the LA's figure to below the national average for A*- C

GCSE short course

In the short course GCSE, the proportion of students achieving an A*- C and A*- G grade also dropped slightly in 2012. However, the drop in the national figure was even greater, leaving Havering's position relatively improved (see table below).

Both locally and nationally, there was an increase in the number of students taking the full course and fewer taking the short course.

		Full Course		Short Course	
		A*-C %	A*-G %	A*-C %	A*-G %
LA	2012	74.10%	99.00%	49.10%	95.90%
	2011	70.30%	98.70%	61.30%	97.40%
	Diff	3.80%	0.30%	-12.20%	-1.50%
National	2012	72.60%	98.50%	50.40%	94.70%
	2011	72.10%	98.40%	50.70%	94.90%
	Diff	0.50%	0.10%	-0.30%	-0.20%
LA vs. NA	2012	1.50%	0.50%	-1.30%	1.20%
	2011	-1.80%	0.30%	10.60%	2.50%

1.2. Agreed Syllabus

Schools implemented the Havering Agreed Syllabus 'Pathways', (published in November 2007) in September 2008. The vast majority of Primary schools are using the new schemes of work as the basis for delivering the Agreed Syllabus. These were updated and shared with schools in September 2010. Most Secondary schools have developed their own schemes of work.

1.3. Teacher Training

Advice is provided to Primary schools through the Havering School Improvement Service (HSIS) and there are regular, well-attended meetings for Primary RE co-ordinators. In 2012/2013 this consisted of:

- An experienced trainer from The Scripture Union and members of his team, explored the teaching of Christianity with specific reference to the Havering Schemes of work.
- Daniel Hugill, secondary adviser to SACRE, shared recommendations and advice on good practice in the Primary phase using practical examples from the Annual NATRE conference.
- An experienced national trainer from RE Today Services Team, explored the teaching of Islam and Judaism with reference to the Havering Schemes of Work. Recommended activities were creative, visual, active and involved enquiry based learning.

Attendance at the RE Co-ordinators conferences remains high, varying between 25 and 30 schools represented. Where RE co-ordinators are unable to attend, all materials are electronically forwarded to those schools along with explanatory letters. This includes Independent and Special schools.

1.4. Complaints concerning RE

No formal complaints were made about religious education under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2012.

2. Collective Worship

2.1. Monitoring

Monitoring from Hsis during the academic year has taken the form of spiritual, moral, social and cultural health checks which include formal written reports to Primary School head-teachers and chairs of governors. This is a traded service and therefore is only offered to those schools who buy into the service.

2.2. Training

There has been no training on collective worship during the year.

2.3. Determinations

There were no applications for determinations (to alter the character of collective worship for all or some pupils in a particular school) during 2012. There were a number of Freedom of Information requests throughout the year which were a nil return on applications to change the character of schools in Havering.

2.4. Complaints concerning collective worship

No formal complaints were made about collective worship under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2012.

3. Links with other agencies

3.1. National

Havering SACRE belongs to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Members attend conferences and other events and report to full SACRE meetings.

3.2. Local

SACRE has links with a range of faith and secular groups in the borough. The practice of holding some SACRE meetings in schools and different places of worship continues.

4. SACRE arrangements

4.1. Meetings

SACRE holds regular meetings during the year. The meetings are usually well attended with good representation from the faith groups and the local Humanist Association. There tends to be one meeting each term. SACRE sets its own agenda and commissions reports and updates from the Local Authority Advisers. Since the last Annual Report, SACRE has met three times during 2012/2013.

During the 2012 Summer Term SACRE visited at Engayne Primary and National teaching school where SACRE members had a presentation from Robin Field, the RE leader on how Engayne Primary approached teaching and learning in RE with practical examples of the use of technology, artefacts and the pupils' work. Mr. Field generously gave permission for materials to be shared with all Primary schools. In the Autumn Term SACRE met in the Town Hall but the Spring Term meeting was deferred until May in order that SACRE could receive a presentation from Mr Brine an OfSTED HMI specialising in Religious Education.

SACRE continues to receive regular reports on local and national developments in RE. Topics discussed include: the National Curriculum Review currently underway, the relationship between autonomous academies and the Local Agreed Syllabus, and the effect of the English Baccalaureate on the teaching of Religious Education in secondary schools.

4.2. Budget

SACRE has a small annual budget to cover the cost of its work which is administered by the Education Service.

4.3. Professional and administrative support

SACRE has the services of a Committee Officer from Committee Administration at each of its meetings, both to minute the meeting and to give procedural advice. The Secondary and Primary Advisers attend SACRE meetings to report on work with schools, to offer advice and to assist SACRE in carrying out its role.

4.4. Monitoring

SACRE continues to monitor standards and quality in RE, the quality of provision for collective worship and for pupils' spiritual development from any information included in the most recent OfSTED reports for primary, secondary and special schools. In addition, examination results at GCSE and A/S and A level are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring and evaluation of standards.

5. The Michael Edwards Award

This annual award is presented in commemoration of the life and work of Michael Edwards, Adviser/Inspector for Religious Education in Havering, who died in 2004.

The award is made to schools which demonstrate good practice in multi-faith RE. The award alternates between primary and secondary schools and this year was open to Primary, Special and PRU schools. The successful school was Ravensbourne School for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. The ME Award has been opened to other schools such as the borough's pupil referral units and other Faith Schools to broaden its scope and be more inclusive – the way Michael Edwards would have wanted it. The move from maintained to academy status of the borough's secondary schools means that, for the time being they are not engaging in the way they used to, however, SACRE is considering ways in which to address this situation and proposes to initiate what it hopes will be a positive dialogue with those schools.

MEMBERS OF SACRE

The following is a list of SACRE members and officers in attendance for the period covered by this report.

Name	Group	Representing	Joined	Left
Mr Kevin Walsh	A	Roman Catholic	22/02/2007	
Revd. Lee Sunderland	A	Jewish Community	05/03/2009	
Mrs Pamela Coles	A	Methodist	Pre 2004	
Mr Sansar Narwal	A	Sikh Community	Pre 2004	
Miss Joan Watson	A	Religious Society of Friends	26/11/2009	27/03/13
Mr Kamal Siddiqui	A	Muslim Community	05/03/2008	
Mr M Saleem	A	Muslim Community	21/10/2010	
Mr Om Dhir	A	Hindu Community	06/06/2007	
Dr John Lester	A	Baha'i Faith	10/11/2004	
Mrs Christine Seymour	A	Havering and District Humanist Society	26/11/2009	
Mrs Susan Freeman	B	Church of England	05/03/2009	
Mrs Alison Seaman	B	Church of England	07/11/2007	
Mrs Anne Masters	C	ATL	28/01/2009	
Mr Nick Hills	C	NUT - Seniors	26/11/2009	
Ms Linda Munday	C	NUT - Primary	11/01/2010	
Mr Chris Pearson	C	NASUWT	30/06/2004	
Mr Keith Shurlock	C	ASCL	05/03/2009	
Cllr Paul Rochford	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Pam Light	D	Local Authority	25/05/2011	
Cllr Paul McGeary	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Damian White	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Gillian Ford	D	Local Authority	11/07/2004	
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson		Co-opted	07/06/2010	

Advisors:

Judith Payne, Primary and Daniel Hugill, Secondary