

Introduction to the Annual Report 2012-13. Bromley Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (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

Every Local Authority is required to have a SACRE which is made up of four groups, Faith representatives, The Church of England, Teachers and Councillors. The committee should reflect the make up of the community.

A SACRE can also require the local authority to review its current agreed syllabus for RE (s.391(3)) and must consider applications made by a head teacher to alter the requirement for collective worship in his/her school to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character for some or all of the pupils in that school (a 'determination') (s.394(1)).

The content of a SACRE's annual report should, as a minimum, indicate how each of the functions has been discharged during the reporting year. Such a report can inform developments in RE and collective worship, both locally and nationally, and can be a highly effective engine for school improvement. The Bromley SACRE annual report includes a table of the self evaluation results of the SACRE, using the NASACRE self-evaluation tool and an account of the Islam competition prize giving event.

Contacts:

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SACRE Membership

Committee A

Christian and other religious denominations

Mr M Sweet	Free Church (Chair)
Mr S Gupta	Hindu
Mr S Mahmood	Muslim
Mr S Riat	Sikh
Mr Ray Hagley	Free Church
Mrs S Polydorou	Humanist Co-opted
Mrs Patricia Colling	Roman Catholic
Mrs Samantha Barnett	Jewish

Committee B

Church of England Representatives

Mr C Town
Revd. S Varney
Mrs Virginia Corbyn
Revd. R Bristow (from summer 2012)

Committee C

Teacher Representatives

Mr Jed Stone
Mrs Fiona Hawkes
Mrs Jackie Tranchina
Ms E Honey
Mrs Arlene Fane

Committee D

LEA Representatives as at July 2012

Cllr R Adams
Cllr S Carr
Cllr. R Charsley
Cllr D Jefferys
Cllr Mrs A Manning (Vice Chair)
Cllr G Norrie
Cllr K Lymer

Officers

Mrs P Smith-Orr - RE Consultant
Mrs Christine Reeks – Clerk

Overview

This report covers the academic year 2012-2013, three meetings of SACRE were held on the following occasions;

7th November 2012 at Bromley Civic Centre

6th March 2013 at Bromley Civic Centre

5th June 2013 at Bromley Civic Centre

All the work of Bromley SACRE is done with the aim of raising achievement in RE and improving the quality of teaching and learning, to improve the provision and quality of Collective Worship and to help promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

In addition to the normal work of SACRE this year, the priorities of Bromley SACRE have been;

- To further develop members understanding of religious education in schools
- To train speakers of faith to go into school
- To review and renew the Agreed syllabus

Section 1 Standards and Quality of Provision of Religious Education:

1a. RE provision across the LA.

A large number of schools in the Borough of Bromley have become academies and are no longer under control of the council. Many are still using the Bromley syllabus and it is hoped that they will continue to use the new syllabus which has just been launched.

1c Quality of learning and teaching

During the year some members of the committee and the Chair visited a number of schools to observe an RE lesson a collective worship and to discuss with the coordinator, and head teacher, how SACRE can support the school.

The RE Consultant held three network meetings with the Primary RE Co-ordinators. These meetings and many telephone and email discussions with coordinators allow some insight into the provision of RE in the borough.

1b. Public Examinations

The public examination results give information on standards and are provided for SACRE by the LA and include Academies. All results at this stage are still provisional.

Once again the results for Bromley schools are good and above the national average for full course GCSE. In A level Religious Studies the results were good for both AS and A2 level with more pupils being entered for the AS levels. It is good to see that most of the Academies are entering pupils for exams in religious education. All the results in Bromley are well above the National Average results which is a credit to the teachers in KS4 and KS5.

GCSE Full Course in Religious Studies 2010-2013

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	Bromley schools: % of students with A* - C	Schools nationally: % of students with A* - C
2010	15	1198	77.5	73.1
2011	12	1082	85.8	73.3
2012	15	1466	80.8	74
2013	13	1748	80.6	73.5

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils): Bishop Justus (161), Beaverwood (51) Bullers Wood (95) Darrick Wood (232), Harris Academy Beckenham (30) Harris Academy Bromley (128) Hayes (54), Kemnal technology College (168) Langley Park Boys (22), Langley Park Girls (72), Newstead Wood (133), Ravens Wood (120), The Priory (83), The Ravensbourne (151)

GCSE Short Course in Religious Education/Religious Studies 2010-2013

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	Bromley schools: % students A* - C grades	Schools nationally: % students A* - C grades
2010	11	1079	55.6	54.6
2011	8	660	70.2	
2012	8	700	70	56.3
2013	11	702	63.5	

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils): Bishop Justus (1), Bullers Wood (87), Coopers Technology College (159), Darrick Wood (2), Glebe (4), Harris Beckenham (42), Hayes (182), Kemnal Technology (38), Kingswood centre (1), Ravenswood (68), St Saviours and St Olave's (118).

AS Level in Religious Studies 2010-2013

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	% Bromley students with grades A-E	% students nationally with grades A-E
2010	10	50	80	
2011	10	31	90.3	
2012	13	52	96.2	64.5
2013	13	54	87.3	

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils): Beaverwood (2) Bishop Justus (10) Bromley College (1) Bullers Wood (3) Darrick Wood (4), Harris Academy Bromley (4) Hayes (4), Langley Park Boys (8) Langley Park Girls (1), Newstead wood (10) Ravens Wood (1) St Olaves & St Saviours (2) The Ravensbourne (4)

A level in Religious Studies 2010-2013

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	% Bromley students grades A-E	% students nationally grades A-E
2010	11	138	98.6	
2011	10	142	100	80.4
2012	13	120	100	80.6
2013	14	141	100	

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils): Beaverwood (6) Bishop Justus (14), Bromley College (3) Bullers Wood (16), Darrick Wood (7), Harris Academy Bromley (6) Hayes (19), Langley Park Boys (13), Langley Park Girls (7), Newstead Wood (34), Ravens Wood (4), St Saviours and St Olave's (3), The Ravensbourne (5)

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

Discussions with head teachers at Schools that are visited by SACRE have shown that there is mostly strong support for RE in the borough and most coordinators report that they are well supported in schools although there are some coordinators who need support. It is envisaged that when the new syllabus is launched, further support will be needed as new religions have been introduced to the Key Stages.

Some Bromley schools have signed up to the Croydon Faith Education Resources library and many schools have purchased resources and use the internet to good effect.

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

SACRE has little knowledge of this aspect. Many more RE coordinators are reporting that RE is carried out by teaching assistants or cover teachers during planning time. Most of the primary RE coordinators have been in place for some years and are experienced but are not RE specialists. Within the Secondary schools there are usually more than one RE specialist.

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

Secondary schools in Bromley which are academies have mainly retained the same RE staff. Members of the teacher group on SACRE include teachers from academies. It is unfortunate that many of the academy RE coordinators are not able to attend the coordinators network meetings.

Section 2: The Effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

2a – The review process. 2b – The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus

2c – Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus

2e - Developing the revised agreed syllabus; 2f - Making best use of National Guidance

The agreement to renew the Agreed Syllabus was obtained and the main work of this year by the RE Consultant was to write the new document using the suggestions from the Primary coordinators and the answers to the

questionnaires sent in the previous year to the schools and pupils. At each SACRE meeting time was spent on reviewing the work and comments from the members were incorporated. The draft units on the different faiths were sent to the reps on SACRE who gave very positive feedback and suggestions. The introduction section, Early Years, Key Stage 1 and 2 were approved and it was then pointed out by a Secondary teacher member of SACRE that the Key Stage 3 units would after all have to be updated because the Key Stage 1 and 2 faiths had been added to and are to be taught more comprehensively than in the previous syllabus.

The new syllabus now has units for the six main religions and also thematic units. There are also a large number of resource sheets incorporated into the finished CD. Due to changes in Bromley Council and the need to do extra work on Key Stage 3 there was a hold up and the launch of the Syllabus was postponed until November 2013. The drafts of the National RE Review (launched in October 2013) were seen by the RE Consultant who made sure that national guidance was incorporated into the new syllabus.

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

The Agreed Syllabus conference was made up of the members of the SACRE committee who had had the process explained to them.

Section 3: Collective worship

3a – Supporting pupil entitlement; 3b – Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship; 3c – Responding to requests for determinations

On visits to schools members are able to view Collective worship and this gives information as to how it is conducted in schools. Bromley guidance with ideas and suggestions for quality collective worship is still on the Fronter system accessed by schools and is available as a hard copy for schools who request this.

There have been no determinations regarding collective worship this year.

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

4a – SACRE meetings; 4b – Membership and training; 4c – Improvement/development planning; 4d – Professional and financial support; 4e - Information and advice

Three meetings per year are held and this year all meetings have been quorate. The clerk to SACRE, both for administration and minute taker at meetings, was Mrs Christine Reeks. The RE consultant was Mrs Penny Smith-Orr employed for 35 days per year, 6 of which are to administer the Youth SACRE. A development plan is produced for SACRE each year and is now aligned with the financial year of the council.

Youth SACRE; During the year meetings were held at Coopers Technology College and in June a group went to St Nicholas Church in Chislehurst and made an information film for schools on what can be seen and found in a Church.

The Bromley SACRE members took part in consultations on the RE review and the consultant reported on meetings of the RE Council. Teachers in Bromley also took part in consultations regarding RE teaching and training.

The RE Consultant spent time updating the Bromley SACRE page on the Fronter system for teachers to access resources and information on Bromley

SACRE. Teachers and head teachers also frequently email with questions or asking for advice. The majority of work done this year by the Consultant involved writing a new RE syllabus for Bromley schools.

The RE Consultant is a member, and on the executive, of the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants, and is the secretary of the London and South East Region. Information from this body informs the SACRE's work. Bromley SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACRES. The Chair and the RE Consultant attended the AGM of NASACRE in Birmingham and the London SACREs annual meeting in Autumn 2012 and reported to the committee on these. During meetings issues of the future of RE, taking RE forward in Bromley, the All Party Parliamentary Group for RE and the new RE Quality Mark were also debated. Members of the committee are involved in interfaith activities in Bromley. The Chair and Consultant are members of other SACREs which supports the information available to the committee. At the summer term meeting the Chair of fifteen years retired and thanks were extended to him for his many years of work and support of Bromley SACRE.

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;

The Borough of Bromley continues to be less religiously diverse than other London boroughs; however the SACRE committee is representative of the groups found in Bromley.

During the Spring term a number of people from the Hindu, Christian, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish communities came to an evening training session on how to be a visitor in schools. A list of these trained speakers was put onto the Fronter system for schools to access along with information on places of worship that schools could visit. Evaluation forms were also put there for schools to use.

The Muslim representative once again organised the annual competition for schools on the 'True Meaning of Islam' and this year four schools entered. A report on the prize giving event in Darul Uloom School in Chislehurst is to be found in appendix 2.

Members of the committee are involved in interfaith activities in Bromley. The chair and consultant are members of other SACREs which supports the information available to the committee.

5d – SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion

SACRE is given little information about, or contact with, wider LA initiatives linked to the promotion of community cohesion

Appendix 1

Bromley SACRE Self Evaluation May2012 results (using QCDA categories)

Undertaken by RE Consultant

Please note these categories do not match the categories of the NASACRE Toolkit used in this report

Key Area Number	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1A	Compliance and time allocation for RE		x	
1B	Standards and achievement		x	
1C	Quality of teaching and leadership and management		x	
1D	Recruitment and retention issues. Level of specialist provision	x		
1E	Resources		x	
2A	SACRE meetings		x	
2B	Membership and training			x
2C	Improvement and development planning			x
2D	Professional and financial support			x
2E	Information and advice		x	
2F	Partnership with our key stakeholders		x	
3A	Review of Agreed Syllabus			x
3B	Using the non-statutory National Framework for RE			x
3C	Developing the revised Agreed Syllabus			x
3D	Consultation/launch/implementation of the Agreed syllabus		x	
3E	Additional guidance/ monitoring and evaluating the Agreed syllabus	x		
4A	Practice and provision for collective worship		x	
4B	Monitoring collective worship/ tackling issues of non-compliance	x		
5A	Representative nature of SACRE		x	
5B	Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural, ethnic community	x		
5C	Understanding the intrinsic contribution RE can make to social and racial harmony		x	
5D	Links to the LA initiatives promoting social and racial harmony	x		

Appendix 2

Prize Giving Day at Darul Uloom London: 15 November 2012

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) of London Borough of Bromley (LBB) organised a competition for all the schools in the Borough.

Sponsored by Darul Uloom London, Foxbury Avenue, off Perry Street, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6SD

Purpose

- To encourage an accurate knowledge and understanding of Islam, in keeping with the expectations of the National Framework for RE.
- To enthuse pupils in their study of this religion.

Project

Title: The True Meaning of Islam

- Explain what you consider to be the essential teachings of Islam and its implications on important issues of today.
- Finish with a statement summarising what you have gained from this work.

Criteria

- 75% of marks are for content: coverage, accuracy and clarity of explanation
- 25% of marks are for presentation: organisation, interest, relevance and clarity

Prize Giving

On Thursday, 15 November 2012, the participating schools were invited. 120 students, their parents/guardians and their RE teachers attended the event. This year, 38 students aged 11 and 12 years old, from the following schools entered the competition: Bishop Justus, Coopers Technology Bullers Wood and Langley Park for Boys School

The prizes awarded were as follows:

- 19 students were awarded 'Commendation',
- 12 students were awarded 'Consolation Prizes'
- Four students were awarded 'Third Prizes'
- Two students were awarded 'Second Prizes' and
- One student for an outstanding project from Langley Park was awarded 'First Prize'.

All of this year's projects and outstanding projects of previous years were on display at Darul Uloom London. Each prize winner read an extract from their project before receiving their prize.

Each participant received the following:

1. A book on 'Muhammad' written by the late Afzalur Rahman, who was both a London school teacher and an Islamic scholar.
2. A small booklet on 'Islam' by Dr Manazir Ahsan, Director of Islamic Foundation.
3. A certificate from Darul Uloom London, and
4. The prize winners also received cash prizes.

The guest speaker was David Brister, Chairman of an international company, who made a revealing speech about his personal 'Reflections on Hajj'. He performed the Hajj in Mecca just three weeks before attending this event.

More than 120 guests from four schools, and 155 students and staff from Darul Uloom, then shared an evening meal together. As a truly educational, multicultural and social evening, the event was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all attendees - mothers, fathers, teachers, SACRE members and children alike.