

BROMLEY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BROMLEY SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014



BROMLEY SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

Introduction to the Annual Report 2013-14. 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 on the 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:

Clerk to SACRE

Mrs Christine Reeks
Bromley Council
020 8461 7638
christine.reeks@bromley.gov.

Religious Education Consultant

Mrs Penny Smith-Orr
020 8653 8606
penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

SACRE Membership

Committee A

Christian and other religious denominations

Mrs Edlene Whitman	Free Church
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	(Chair from Summer Term 2014)

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 2013

Cllr R Adams
Cllr S Carr
Cllr. R Charsley
Cllr D Jefferys
Cllr Mrs A Manning (Chair until May 2014)
Cllr G Norrie
Cllr K Lymer

Officers

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

Overview

This report covers the academic year 2013-2014, three meetings of SACRE were held on the following occasions;

6th November 2013 at Bromley Civic Centre

12th March 2014 at Bromley Civic Centre

1st July 2014 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 finish and launch the new Agreed syllabus

Section 1

Standards and Quality of Provision of Religious Education:

Religious Education (RE) provision across the LA and Quality of learning and teaching.

Almost all the schools in Bromley are now Academies but the Council has a good relationship with these and teacher members of SACRE come from Academies. It is difficult to completely ensure that RE is being taught as although the SACRE has a remit to monitor the provision of religious education it has no actual powers to demand the right to monitor. The RE Consultant is available to answer questions by email and telephone and the coordinator meetings and requests for information help to build up a picture of RE and Collective worship (CW) in Bromley schools. It is the practice of Bromley SACRE to conduct two visits each term to schools to offer support to the RE Coordinator and to allow members to see religious education being taught and to see Collective Worship in the school. During this year members and the RE Consultant visited ;Darrick Wood Secondary, Bishop Justus C of E Secondary, Cudham C of E Primary, Valley Primary, Clare House, Keston C of E Primary. An aide memoire was devised for members to better understand and comment on what they see on the school visits.

During the year the RE Consultant held three RE coordinator meetings allowing Coordinators to share good practice and ideas and a course on 'teaching other faiths' was held in June. During one SACRE meeting there was a presentation on TrueTube and information on this resource was sent to schools. Members also spent time at the Church Schools Festival, held in Bromley Town this year, and were impressed by all the activities on offer.

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. All schools except for the Priory entered many more pupils than in past years sometimes up by more than one hundred pupils, this is probably because the GCSE short course is now not being used as a measure of a schools performance and the results are not available nationally.

In A level Religious Studies the results were good for both AS and A2 level with more pupils being entered for the AS levels. 26% of pupils taking the AS level exam gained an A8-B grade and 56% of pupils entered in Bromley for the A2 level RS gained A*-B grades. 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 2011-2014

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
2011	12	1082	85.8	73.3
2012	15	1466	80.8	74
2013	13	1748	80.6	73.5
2014	16	1975	75%	71%

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils): Bishop Justus (162), Beaverwood (108) Bullers Wood (158) Coopers (48) Darrick Wood (241), Harris Academy Beckenham (27) Harris Academy Bromley (168) Hayes (217), Kemnal technology College (143) Langley Park Boys (34), Langley Park Girls (69), Newstead Wood (136), Ravens Wood (192), St Olaves and St Saviours (2) The Priory (79), The Ravensbourne (191)

AS Level in Religious Studies 2011-2014

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	% Bromley students with grades A-E	% students nationally with grades A-E
2011	10	31	90.3	
2012	13	52	96.2	64.5
2013	13	54	87.3	
2014	12	58	95	86

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils): Beaverwood (2) Bishop Justus (7) Bromley College (12) Bullers Wood (8) Darrick Wood (5), Kemnal (1) Hayes (4), Langley Park Boys (9) Langley Park Girls (1), Newstead wood (3) Ravens Wood (4) St Olaves & St Saviours (2)

A level in Religious Studies 2011-2014

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	% Bromley students grades A-E	% students nationally grades A-E
2011	10	142	100	80.4
2012	13	120	100	80.6
2013	14	141	100	
2014	13	136	100	99

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)

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

There is mostly strong support for RE in schools in the borough and SACRE is well respected. Most coordinators report that they are well supported in schools and new coordinators often request a visit from the Consultant to help them get started in their role. Some Bromley schools have recently signed up to the Croydon Faith Education Resources library and many schools have purchased resources and use the internet to good effect. The new syllabus cd has a number of pages of resources to assist in teaching the suggested activities. The Bromley SACRE page on Fronter also has a number of resources and the syllabus can be found on it and on the Council website along with the Collective Worship guidance document.

Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff.

SACRE has little knowledge of this aspect. Many more Primary RE coordinators are reporting that RE is carried out by teaching assistants or cover teachers during planning time. Within the Secondary schools there is usually more than one RE specialist, with a number of schools having all RE taught by specialists.

Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools

All the Secondary schools in Bromley are now academies which have mainly retained the same RE staff and 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 as they have their own cluster meetings, this means that they are not able to access new information and national updates.

Section 2: Management of SACRE and Partnership with the LA and other stakeholders

Three meetings per year are held at the Civic Centre, this year one meeting was inquorate, the meeting took place and the discussion was ratified at the following quorate meeting. The clerk to SACRE, both for administration and minute taker at meetings, was Mrs Christine Reeks. Due to reorganisation and new systems within Bromley Council the RE consultant went through a process of reemployment and the number of days for SACRE work was reduced from 35 to 20 during this year. A development plan is produced for SACRE each year aligned with the financial year of the council, this year a small working party met to discuss which parts of the work would be removed and regrettably this has necessitated the disbanding of the Youth SACRE. The Head of Schools and Early Years Commissioning and Quality Assurance from the Councils Education Department has attend the pre meeting of SACRE and also attends the main meeting when there is an item that requires this. 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.

Bromley SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs.

The Chair and the RE Consultant attended the AGM of NASACRE in London in May, the Muslim representative also attended and made a presentation on the value of the annual competition in Bromley on the true meaning of Islam which was very well received. The presentation was shown at the next meeting of SACRE and a report on the results of this year's competition can be found at the end of this report. 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, The Bromley SACRE members heard about the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE and work on the value of SACRE and the importance to community of religious education.

Section 3: The Effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

The new syllabus now has units for the six main religions and also thematic units for each key stage. There are also a large number of resources 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. Almost all of the schools in the Borough of Bromley are now academies, the aim is that all will be so by September 2015, and no longer under control of the council. The new Bromley syllabus was launched at an event in the Civic Centre in November 2013 attended by the Mayor of Bromley, our retired Chair, Martin Sweet who spoke about The Importance of RE in the 21st Century, and three quarters of Bromley schools were represented. The CD of the syllabus was subsequently sent to all the remaining schools including Academies and Independent schools. The new syllabus introduced more religions into KS1 and KS2 and included some new Theme units. The KS3 part was also updated to accommodate the fact that

pupils will have been introduced to all the major religions by the time they leave Primary School. From feedback received the new syllabus is now being used by most schools whether academy or maintained, this will be a priority to investigate usage during the next year once it is embedded in schools.

This new syllabus has been praised by teachers as being more inclusive and comprehensive than the previous syllabus. A priority for the coming year will be to make sure that the syllabus is embedded in schools and being used effectively.

Section 4: Collective worship

On visits to schools members are able to view Collective worship and this gives information as to how it is conducted in schools. It has to be said that more often than not the pupils are given a thought to reflect on rather than a prayer. 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 5:

Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the Community

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

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

Members of the committee are involved in interfaith activities in Bromley. The Consultant works with other SACREs which supports the information available to the committee. Members of SACRE were invited to a morning conference with an interfaith agenda during the spring. The subject was 'A multifaith partnership approach to major incidents in Bromley' and this was subsequently discussed at our meeting.

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



The True Meaning of Islam Competition Summary of Projects **2013**

As a member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), I am proud to be part of a team working within the Borough of Bromley to help and support religious education in schools. I am very thankful to Mufti Mustafa, the Principal of Darul Uloom, for sponsoring this competition

to encourage interest in RE and, in particular, an understanding of the true meaning of Islam. This competition was organised with the support of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and the generous help of teachers from participating schools.

The title of the project set was "The True Meaning of Islam". Pupils have been asked to explain what they consider to be the essential teachings of Islam, to discuss their implications for important issues of today and to finish with a statement about what they have gained from their work.

This year 41 students aged 11 and 12 years from Farringtons, Coopers Technology, Harris Academy, Bullers Wood and Langley Park Boys have submitted projects. Most of the students have understood the basic foundations of Islam correctly and presented the key aspects of religion clearly. Almost all have documented that Islam means 'submission to Allah' and also means 'peace'. For a Muslim, obedience to Allah's commands, as embodied by the last Messenger of Allah, is the path to inner peace. They also understood that Muslims believe that the Holy Qur'an is the word of Allah in its entirety, not a single word of which has been changed since its revelation, and that it will always remain so, protected forever by Allah.

Some students have discussed terrorism and clearly documented that it has nothing to do with Islam. A few of them, mostly girls, described detailed information about Hijab.

Overall, the quality of projects submitted is very impressive and their presentation often innovative. The majority of the students have understood Islam and Muslims. They have presented well-researched information and have documented their findings beautifully. The snapshots, the art and decorative style of presentation are admirable.

Marking was carried out relative to the best performer who was awarded first prize for outstanding work. 75% of marks were for content including breadth of scope, accuracy and clarity of explanation and 25% of marks were for presentation and organisation of information. Marks were deducted for mistakes and inaccuracies; which includes sensitive pictures. Please note that pictures of the prophets are strictly forbidden in Islam and also that the Zakat is 2.5% of wealth not income.

This year, in addition to two first and a second prize, four third prizes, 16 consolation prizes and 18 commendations were awarded. Each participant is acknowledged by a prize of a book about Muhammad written by the late Afzalur Rahman, who was both a London school teacher and an Islamic scholar. Also, a small booklet on 'Islam' by Dr Manazir Ahsan, Director of the Islamic Foundation is to be presented. A certificate from Darul Uloom London is also provided to each student.

Mahmood, 7 November 2013

Bromley SACRE Self Evaluation May 2014 results
Undertaken by RE Consultant

Key Area	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		