

BROMLEY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BROMLEY SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016



BROMLEY SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

Introduction to the Annual Report 2015-16

Bromley Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Every Local Authority is required to have a SACRE which is made up of four groups; (A) Faith representatives, (B) The Church of England, (C) Teachers and (D) Councillors. The committee should reflect the faiths within the community.

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on religious education and collective worship in its schools. SACREs have a duty to publish an annual report. 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.

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Overview

This report covers the academic year 2015-2016. Three meetings of SACRE were held at Bromley Civic Centre on the following occasions;

17th November 2015

9th March 2016

29th June 2016

Chair's Introduction

I am indebted to Joanne Partridge who has taken on the role of Clerk to SACRE, and is proving a worthy replacement for Christine Reeks. We are very sorry to lose the services of Penny Smith-Orr who has been our RE Advisor for several years. Her counsel and advice, coupled with her enthusiasm for the work of SACRE, will definitely be missed. We are, however, delighted to welcome Kieran Osborne as LA advisor to Bromley SACRE and look forward to working with him to ensure that our work continues to achieve its purpose.

In an increasingly pluralistic world, with an alarming increase in religious extremism, nationalism, prejudice and general ignorance about religious beliefs as held and lived by the majority of people of faith, it has never been more important that our children and young people are given the opportunity to both learn about and engage with those same beliefs and practices. Bromley SACRE seeks to encourage and support those who deliver RE and lead Collective Worship in Bromley's schools (whether maintained or not) and I commend this report of the past year's activity in pursuit of this aim.

Rev. Roger Bristow

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority

Discussions at SACRE meetings included the fact that SACRE has no authority to insist on visiting a school to monitor the religious education and collective worship. Councillors have been asked to look at these issues on their Councillor visits to schools. During the year the Chair and the RE Consultant attended the NASACRE AGM together with the Borough's linked officer. Information from this was discussed at the meetings and with education services representatives. The minutes of meetings are also sent to the Portfolio Holder for Education.

Schools

All bar one of the Secondary and the majority of Primary schools in Bromley are now academies. The RE Consultant has run a termly RE Coordinator network meeting attended by up to 20 coordinators. It is unfortunate that some of the academy RE coordinators are not able to attend the coordinators network meetings as they have their own cluster meetings, and have said that they are not able to access new information and national updates. During this year discussions were on

- the local agreed syllabus and the results of a survey of RE teachers as to its use in Bromley's schools
- teaching and learning of British Values
- the challenges facing SACREs nationally in the light of the changing educational landscape
- a review of the specific situation facing Bromley SACRE in light of budget constraints and the small remaining number of LA schools.

Members of Bromley SACRE went on visits to just two schools during the year; a CofE primary and a school for children with diverse special needs, and observed religious education lessons and collective worship and offered support to the heads of RE. The RE Consultant had provided a guidance document for members to use which would help when making SACRE school visits. The guidelines which had been prepared were not inspection forms and were not intended to be taken into the classroom. Each of these visits were reported on and discussed at the SACRE meetings. The RE Consultant also made visits to schools to give individual support to new coordinators.

Government

The 2014-15 annual report was sent to the Secretary of State for Education and was acknowledged by the Ministerial and Public Communications Division at the Department of Education.

Standards and Quality of Provision of RE

Public Examinations

The public examination results give SACRE information on standards and are provided for SACRE by the LA and include Academies.

The full course GCSE results for Bromley schools are very good and well above the national average. The number of pupils entered compared to the previous year increased and the overall percentage of pupils getting A*-C remained at 78% whilst the national average fell by 1 percentage point.

For A level Religious Studies the results were good for both AS and A level. The number of entries at A-level increased for the second consecutive year with the percentage of pupils achieving A*-B grade being significantly higher than the national average.

All the results in Bromley are in line with or above the National Average results which is a credit to the teachers in KS4 and KS5.

GCSE Full Course in Religious Studies 2013-2016

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
2013	13	1,484	80%	72%
2014	16	1,987	74%	70%
2015	15	1,537	78%	71%
2016	16	1,588	78%	70%

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils 2016):

Bishop Justus CE School (169), Bullers Wood School (48), Chislehurst School for Girls (65), Coopers School (21), Darrick Wood School (239), Harris Academy Beckenham (55), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (142), Hayes School (221), Kemnal Technology College (113), Langley Park Boys (29), Langley Park Girls (62), Newstead Wood School (134), Ravens Wood School (43), St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar School (10), The Priory (27), The Ravensbourne School (210)

AS Level in Religious Studies 2013-2016

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	% of Bromley students gaining A-B grades	Schools nationally: % of students A-B grades	% of Bromley students with A-E grades	Schools nationally: % of students A-E grades
2013	13	185	49%	42%	97%	92%
2014	15	239	39%	42%	90%	91%
2015	14	270	46%	43%	96%	92%
2016	13	239	48%	45%	93%	93%

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils 2016):

Bishop Justus CE School (27), Bullers Wood School (21), Chislehurst School for Girls (13), Darrick Wood School (11), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (14), Hayes School (23), Langley Park Boys (14), Langley Park Girls (12), Newstead Wood School (24), Ravens Wood School (17), St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar School (21), The Priory (9), The Ravensbourne School (33)

A level in Religious Studies 2013-2016

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	% of Bromley students gaining A*-B grades	Schools nationally: % of students A*-B grades	% of Bromley students with A-E grades	Schools nationally: % of students A-E grades
2013	13	138	62%	55%	99%	99%
2014	13	137	56%	54%	100%	99%
2015	14	156	56%	55%	98%	99%
2016	13	177	64%	54%	100%	99%

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils 2016):

Bishop Justus CE School (21), Bullers Wood School (9), Chislehurst School for Girls (8), Darrick Wood School (9), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (9), Hayes School (16), Langley Park Boys (16), Langley Park Girls (13), Newstead Wood School (18), Ravens Wood School (12), St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar School (11), The Priory (4), The Ravensbourne School (31)

Attainment and Quality of RE

Currently the main way of monitoring RE and CW is through visiting schools. Schools visited during this academic year displayed very good religious education with a good number of RE specialists teaching in the secondary schools. In the primary schools some RE teaching is carried out by teaching assistants during teachers planning time. A letter was sent from SACRE to Bromley schools, many of which are Academies, suggesting that they use the Bromley Agreed Syllabus rather than purchasing another one. A survey was sent to teachers on the use of the local Agreed Syllabus during the academic year.

The Bromley SACRE page on Fronter 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.

During the year there were no complaints about religious education referred to SACRE.

Agreed Syllabus

Bromley's Agreed Syllabus was launched in the Autumn term of 2013. The teacher survey has shown that it is being used in the majority of Bromley schools although some schools have either supplemented it or are using a different syllabus (i.e. the CofE schools use the Rochester Diocesan Syllabus).

Collective worship

During their visits to schools members are able to view how Collective worship is conducted. Bromley guidance on Collective Worship with ideas and suggestions for quality collective worship is on the Fronter system accessed by some schools and is available as a hard copy for schools who request this.

There have been no determinations regarding collective worship this year.

Management of SACRE

The Chair of Bromley SACRE is Rev. Roger Bristow from the Church of England representative Group B and the Vice Chair is Councillor Keith Onslow from the Councillor representative Group D. During this year the Council representative changed. The local authority has not reappointed the RE consultant.

A development plan is produced for SACRE each year aligned with the financial year of the council and during the year the committee updated the self-evaluation of SACRE document, (Appendix 1) and also looked at and discussed the challenges for SACREs nationally.

One of the priorities has continued to be to involve more teachers in the SACRE. A number of teachers from both primary and secondary and Academy and maintained schools have responded to an invitation to explore joining the committee. All new members are given a copy of the NASACRE SACRE handbook when they join.

Membership of Bromley SACRE during 2015-16

A – Other Faith representatives		
A	Mrs Samantha Barnett	Jewish
A	Mrs Patricia Colling	Roman Catholic
A	Mr Sanjay Gupta	Hindu
A	Mr Ray Hagley	Free Church
A	Mr Saiyed Mahmood	Muslim
A	Mr Swarm Riat (until March 2016)	Sikh
A	Mr Arvinder Nandra (from March 2016)	
A	Mrs Edlene Whitman	Free Church
A	Mrs Sue Polydorou	Humanist Co-opted

B – Church of England representatives	
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman)
B	Mrs Virginia Corbyn
B	Mr Christopher Town
B	Rev. Steve Varney
C – Teachers representatives	
C	Mrs Denise Angell
C	Ms Hannah Arnold
C	Ms Catherine Shelley
C	Mr Jed Stone
C	Ms Anna Winson

D – Councillor representatives	
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks
D	Councillor Mary Cooke (until May 2016)
D	Councillor Robert Evans
D	Councillor David Jefferys

D	Councillor Russell Mellor (from May 2016)
D	Councillor Keith Onslow
D	Councillor Sarah Phillips

Officers

Mrs Penny Smith-Orr – RE Consultant

Mrs Julia Waldman – Interim Head of Schools and Early Years Quality Assurance and Commissioning

Mrs Jo Partridge – Clerk

Attendance of Bromley SACRE during 2015-16

Wednesday 17th November 2015	
A	Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Saiyed Mahmood
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mrs Virginia Corbyn Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney
C	Mrs Denise Angell Ms Catherine Shelley Mr Jed Stone
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Mary Cooke Councillor Robert Evans Councillor Sarah Phillips
Apologies	Mrs Patricia Colling Mr Sanjay Gupta Mr Ray Hagley Mr Swarm Riat Mrs Edlene Whitman Mrs Sue Polydorou Ms Hannah Arnold Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Keith Onslow

Wednesday 9th March 2016	
A	Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Saiyed Mahmood Mr Arvinder Nandra
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney
C	Mrs Denise Angell
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Mary Cooke Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Keith Onslow

Apologies	Mr Swarm Riat Mrs Edlene Whitman Mrs Sue Polydorou Mrs Virginia Corbyn Ms Hannah Arnold Mr Jed Stone Councillor Robert Evans Councillor Sarah Phillips
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Wednesday 29th June 2016	
A	Mr Arvinder Nandra Mrs Edlene Whitman Mrs Sue Polydorou
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mrs Virginia Corbyn
C	Mrs Denise Angell Ms Hannah Arnold Ms Catherine Shelley Mr Jed Stone
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Robert Evans Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Sarah Phillips
Apologies	Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Saiyed Mahmood Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney Councillor Russell Mellor Councillor Keith Onslow

Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority Agenda

Bromley SACRE does not have the opportunity to contribute to the wider agenda of the local authority.

The Muslim representative once again organised the annual competition for schools on the 'True Meaning of Islam'. This competition involves students in years 7 & 8 producing a project on the topic. A report on the prize giving event in Darul Uloom School in Chislehurst, can be found in Appendix 2.

Key Area		Developing	Established	Advanced
Standards and Quality of Provision of RE				
1A	RE provision across the LA		x	
1B	Standards and achievement		x	
1C	Quality of learning and teaching			x
1D	Quality of leadership and management		x	
1E	Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff			x
1F	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools		x	
The effectiveness of the locally Agreed Syllabus				
2A	Review of the Agreed Syllabus		x	
2B	The quality of the Agreed Syllabus			x
2C	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus		x	
2D	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference			x
2E	Developing the revised agreed syllabus		x	
2F	Making best use of National Guidance		x	
Collective Worship				
3A	Supporting pupil entitlement in LA's schools		x	
3B	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		x	
3C	Responding to requests for determinations		x	
Management of SACRE				
4A	How purposeful, inclusive, representative and effective are SACRE meetings?)		x	
4B	Membership and Training		x	
4C	Improvement/development planning		x	
4D	Professional and financial support		x	
4E	How well informed is SACRE to be able to advise the LA appropriately?		x	
4F	Partnerships with key stakeholders		x	
4G	Relations with the Academies sector		x	
Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community				
5A	Representative nature of SACRE in the local community			x
5B	SACRE's understanding of the local community in its religious, cultural and ethnic dimensions		x	
5C	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda		x	
5D	SACRE's Links to LA initiatives promoting community cohesion	x		

The True Meaning of Islam – Summary of Projects 2015

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 London, 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 SACRE and the generous help of teachers.

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 40 students aged 11 and 12 years from five schools; Farringtons, Hayes, Priory, Bullers Wood and Bishop Justus 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’ which leads to ‘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.

Overall, the quality of projects submitted was 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. I am pleased to say that everyone has understood 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 first, second and three third prizes, 13 consolation prizes and 22 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, 12th November 2015