

BROMLEY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BROMLEY SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017



BROMLEY SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

Introduction to the Annual Report 2016-17

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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Clerk to SACRE

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Bromley Council

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Overview

This report covers the academic year 2016-2017. Three meetings of SACRE were held at Bromley Civic Centre on the following occasions;

7th December 2016

8th March 2017

12th July 2017

Chair's Introduction

I continue to be indebted to Joanne Partridge who, in her role of Clerk to SACRE, is providing invaluable support to both the Committee and to me. We are grateful to Kieran Osborne for his input to the work of SACRE as LA advisor during the course of the academic year, and were very sorry that his commitments elsewhere meant that his time with us was all too short-lived.

The world which we inhabit seems to become increasingly complex and fragile, especially with the apparently inexorable rise in religious ignorance and intolerance in our society. I am convinced that our role as SACRE is a vital one in helping to ensure that the children in Bromley's schools are given every opportunity to discover for themselves the role of faith in everyday life for many people. In pursuit of this aim 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 this respect.

Rev. Roger Bristow

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority

During the year the Bromley SACRE met three times, in December 2016, March 2017 and July 2017. All meetings were held at the Bromley Civic Centre. The topics under discussion at these meetings included:

- School visits, their value and impact.
- Networking meetings for teachers.
- The challenges of working within a largely local academised landscape and without a dedicated SACRE budget.
- Collective Worship within schools.
- Findings from the Committee self-evaluation process using the SACRE Reporting and Evaluation Toolkit.

During the year the Chairman attended the NASACRE AGM. Members were provided with feedback from the event and information from the AGM has informed various discussions at meetings since.

Schools

Members of Bromley SACRE went on visits to four schools during the year, two secondary academies and two primary schools, one of which was a member of an Academy Trust, the other was Local Authority maintained. One of the primary school visits was in response to an invitation from the school to attend their RE Day alongside representatives from within the local faith community.

At the time of the Bromley SACRE self-evaluation exercise in July 2017, visits to local schools were identified as one of its main successes, helping to establish communications and stronger relationships with school leaders. The Chairman and Educational Advisor also attended meetings of the Primary and Secondary Headteachers, and both indicated that this resulted in invitations to visit some of the schools as well as raise the profile of SACRE.

Government

The 2015-16 annual report was sent to the Secretary of State for Education and was acknowledged by the Ministerial and Public Communications Division at the Department for Education.

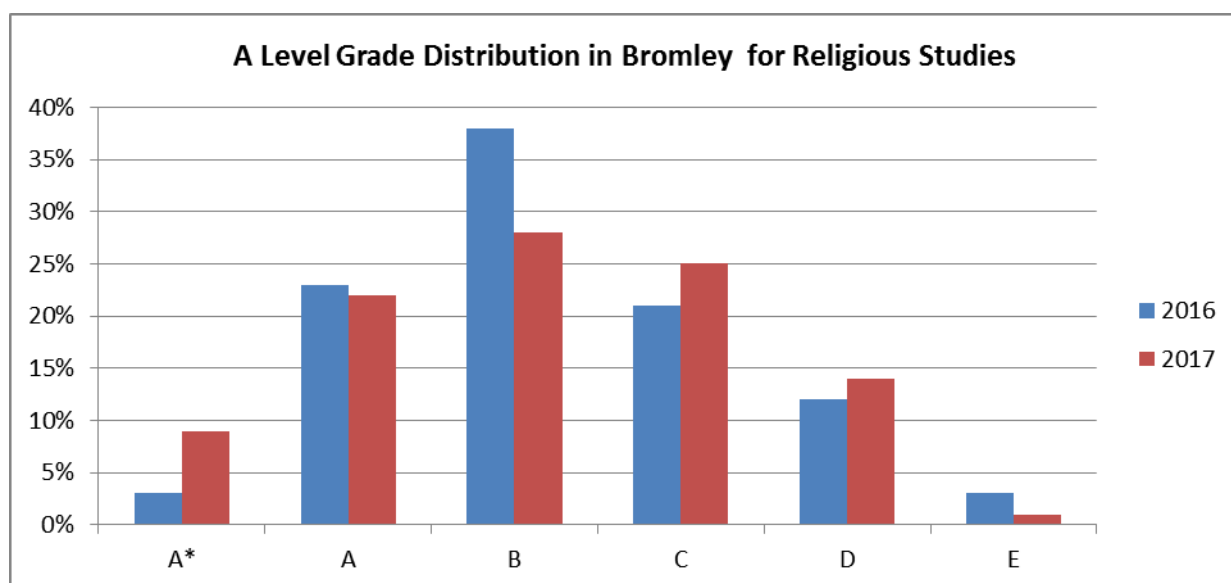
Standards and Quality of Provision of RE 2017 - Public Examinations

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 by 130 but the overall percentage of pupils gaining A*-C grades fell by 3 percentage points to 75%. The national average remained at 70%.

For AS Level Religious Studies, 2017 is the first year reporting the reformed AS Level qualifications. An AS Level in Religious Studies no longer counts towards the A Level qualification and as such is a standalone qualification. This is reflected in the drop in the number of entries in 2017 by 98 to 141 entries, reflecting the drop in number of entries nationally. The results also show a drop in the percentage of students gaining A-B and A-E grades, both in Bromley and nationally, although the drop in A-B grades in Bromley is significantly greater than nationally.

The results at A Level show an increase in the overall percentage gaining A* and A grades, but a decrease in the percentage gaining A*-B Grades. 100% of students gained an A*-E. The table below shows how the distribution of grades changed between 2016 and 2017 leading to this change in results. The number of entries at A Level decreased from last year, but the results remain significantly higher than the national averages.



GCSE Full Course in Religious Studies 2013-2017

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	Bromley % of students with A* - C	National % 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%
2017	17	1,718	75%	70%

SCHOOLS (no. of entries 2017):

Bishop Justus (175), Bullers Wood (35), Charles Darwin (1), Chislehurst School for Girls (180), Coopers (5), Darrick Wood (237), Harris Academy Beckenham (88), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (106), Harris Academy Orpington (163), Hayes (215), Kemnal Technology College (12), Langley Park Boys (62), Langley Park Girls (79), Newstead Wood (135), Ravens Wood (22), St Olave's & St Saviour's (9), The Ravensbourne (194)

AS Level in Religious Studies 2013-2017

Exam Year	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	Bromley % A-B grades	National % A-B grades	Bromley % A-E grades	National % 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%
2017	11	141	35%	40%	89%	91%

SCHOOLS (no. of entries for 2017):

Bishop Justus (27), Chislehurst School for Girls (1), Darrick Wood (13), Harris Academy Beckenham (2), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (19), Hayes (4), Langley Park Boys (17), Newstead Wood (8), Ravens Wood (2), St Olave's & St Saviour's (9), The Ravensbourne (39)

A level in Religious Studies 2013-2017

Exam Year	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	Bromley % A*-A grades	National % A*-A grades	Bromley % A*-B grades	National % A*-B grades	Bromley % A-E grades	National % A-E grades
2013	13	138	30%	22%	62%	51%	99%	99%
2014	13	137	30%	21%	57%	49%	100%	98%
2015	14	156	27%	21%	56%	50%	98%	99%
2016	13	177	26%	20%	64%	51%	100%	100%
2017	13	142	31%	24%	59%	51%	100%	99%

SCHOOLS (no. of entries for 2017):

Bishop Justus (12), Bullers Wood (16), Chislehurst School for Girls (11), Darrick Wood (4), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (5), Harris Academy Orpington (4), Hayes (16), Langley Park Boys (10), Langley Park Girls (12), Newstead Wood (11), Ravens Wood (10), St Olave's & St Saviour's (15), The Ravensbourne (16)

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.

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, and is now due for revision with the process starting in the new academic year. Visits to schools indicated 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 appointed Kieran Osborne as the RE Advisor.

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 2016-17

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 Arvinder Nandra	Sikh
A	Mrs Edlene Whitman	Free Church
A	Mrs Sue Polydorou (until March 2017)	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 Stella Odusola
C	Mr Jed Stone
C	Ms Anna Winson

D – Councillor representatives	
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks
D	Councillor Robert Evans
D	Councillor David Jefferys
D	Councillor Russell Mellor (until May 2017)
D	Councillor Keith Onslow
D	Councillor Sarah Phillips

Officers

Mrs Carol Arnfield – Head of Service, Education

Mr Kieran Osborne – Educational Advisor

Mrs Jo Partridge – Clerk

Attendance of Bromley SACRE during 2016-17

Wednesday 7th December 2016	
A	Mr Sanjay Gupta Mr Arvinder Nandra Mrs Edlene Whitman
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mrs Virginia Corbyn Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney
C	Mrs Denise Angell Ms Hannah Arnold
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Robert Evans Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Russell Mellor Councillor Keith Onslow Councillor Sarah Phillips
Apologies	Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Ray Hagley Mr Saiyed Mahmood Mrs Sue Polydorou

Wednesday 8th March 2017	
A	Mr Saiyed Mahmood Mr Arvinder Nandra
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mrs Virginia Corbyn Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney
C	Ms Hannah Arnold Mr Jed Stone
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Russell Mellor Councillor Keith Onslow
Apologies	Mrs Denise Angell Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Ray Hagley Mrs Edlene Whitman Councillor Robert Evans Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Sarah Phillips

Wednesday 12th July 2017	
A	Mr Saiyed Mahmood Mrs Edlene Whitman
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney
C	Ms Hannah Arnold
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Robert Evans Councillor Keith Onslow
Apologies	Mrs Virginia Corbyn Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Ray Hagley Mr Arvinder Nandra Mrs Denise Angell Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Sarah Phillips

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 and 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 2016

As a member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), I am honoured 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 31 students aged 11 and 12 years from four schools; Hayes, Harris Academy Orpington, 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. Several students understood the purpose of Zakat but not how it is calculated. In Islam, Zakat is 2.5% of wealth not income.

This year, in addition to first, second and three third prizes, 15 consolation prizes and 11 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.