

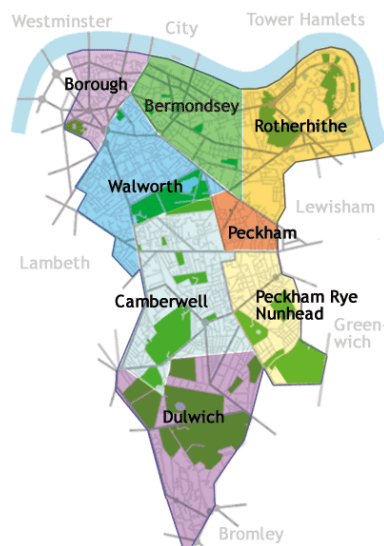


**SOUTHWARK STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**  
on  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

(Southwark SACRE)

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018**



SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on religious education and collective worship in its schools.

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.

From NASACRE website information

## **Introduction to the Report by the Chair of SACRE**

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Southwark SACRE. The SACRE met three times this year and the Chair met Penny Smith-Orr prior to each meeting to set the agenda.

The main business of the year was making decisions with regard to the Southwark Agreed Syllabus. We reviewed the old syllabus and although it contained a great deal of content, it was very prescriptive and outdated. We considered our options of writing a new one ourselves or buying a commercial version versus a version that could be tailored to our needs. After much discussion we decided that writing our own was not an option. Therefore, we put the two possible options to the Southwark teachers who attend the RE coordinators meetings and who were going to be teaching it to get their views. The result was that we purchased the Newham syllabus. At the end of the summer term we launched the syllabus to teachers. This was a great success and the feedback from teachers who are using this syllabus during the Autumn Term, after a few hiccups at the start of the term, is very positive.

We have also reviewed the SACRE development plan so that all members of the SACRE are aware what the expectations are for the coming year and what we have achieved over the past year.

I would like to thank Penny Smith-Orr the RE advisor for all her contributions this year along with a tremendous thank you for all the contributions of all those who serve on the Southwark SACRE.

The Southwark SACRE commends this Annual Report to all those in Education and those who are interested in RE in Southwark. The report provides information and advice for schools and it is hoped that schools will find it a useful starting place to evaluate their own positions.

We now look forward to a positive future.

Best wishes

Linda Coplestone

Chair of Southwark SACRE

## **Meetings**

In the academic year 2017-2018 Southwark SACRE meetings were arranged on the following occasions:

21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at Southwark Council London SE1 2QH

8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Southwark Council London SE1 2QH

21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 at Southwark Council London SE1 2QH

The SACRE worked through the self-evaluation tool kit at the Spring 2017 meeting. Priorities for the 2017-18 year, which were achieved in full, were;

- a) Working on the new Newham syllabus to make it suitable for Southwark schools.
  - b) Producing some guidelines on Respect for Pupils of Faith
- A development plan is agreed at the November meeting of each year.

## **Advice to Statutory Bodies**

### **Local Authority;**

Southwark SACRE had previously advised the Council that the Current Agreed Syllabus needed to be renewed and requested a budget for this process to begin. In the summer meeting of 2017 SACRE members had a presentation from RE Today and Newham in order to decide whether to purchase one of these syllabuses. In November 2017, after consultation with teachers, the SACRE chose to purchase the Newham syllabus.

During this year SACRE also worked on a guidance document for schools on including pupils of faith in the life of the school.

The Council link member, Mr Lee Souter was asked to put SACRE documents onto the new website at [www.schools.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.schools.southwark.gov.uk).

SACRE also decided that there would be another competition this year as a means of advertising the work of SACREs to schools and encouraging good RE practice.

### **Schools;**

Three RE Coordinator network meetings were held at the Council Offices, much of the discussion was about the choice of a new syllabus and what teachers would like to see in their syllabus. The choice was to buy the Newham syllabus which came with a support document for each unit of work and many suggested activities and resources and an assessment idea for the end of each unit. The meetings also covered the interim RE Council report and discussions on visits to places of worship, teaching about festivals, and discussion on the new SACRE guidance document. Throughout the year advice is given by telephone and email to teachers and head teachers who request this. At the beginning of each term a news sheet is sent out to the Coordinators with information on the RE meetings and any other bits of news and information that will be useful to them.

The second Award for Excellent RE was launched at the January meeting with the theme of 'Respect for All' The award was given to two schools who had both sent in pictures of pupil's work and short films, both schools had made up a respect song. They received a prize of a certificate and a set of Muslim artefacts. The winning

schools were Beormund special needs school and Redriff primary and were given their prizes at the launch of the RE syllabus event and the material they had sent in was displayed for other teachers to see.

Southwark Schools websites checking continued to be carried out and discussed during the year. It is a useful way to monitor the level of RE in schools and a letter will be sent to schools as a result of our findings.

## **Government**

SACRE discussed the RE Commission interim report and sent in a response to it.

## **Religious Education**

### **Locally Agreed Syllabus**

The Council purchased the Newham syllabus at the beginning of the year. The RE Consultant discussed this with teachers and spent time during the Spring and Summer term sorting out the very comprehensive amount of material that came with it. It was decided that the schemes of work would be put onto the Southwark teacher's website with relevant resources and that there would be a soft back book of the actual syllabus given out at the launch, which took place at Snowfields Primary school on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. The syllabus has inbuilt assessment in each of the units and the assessment process is clearly outlined in the syllabus booklet. The launch was in the morning with the Mayor and the Director of Education of Southwark in attendance followed by three hours training which was led by Claire Clinton, adviser for Newham, and Penny Smith-Orr, the RE Consultant for Southwark SACRE. The working of the syllabus was explained, and assessment discussed along with a number of activities from the schemes tried out by teachers. Schools were told that they should have the new syllabus in place by January 2019. Some members of SACRE attended the launch and were able to answer teacher questions on their faiths. Members of SACRE have been sent a digital version of the syllabus and some of the units of work.

No formal complaints about religious education were received this year.

### **Standards in Religious Education:**

Monitoring of quality and standards of education has been done through the RE Coordinators at the network meetings. Monitoring is also done through the websites of schools with each member of SACRE taking 4 or 5 schools to look at.

Out of twenty-one schools thirteen schools entered pupils into the full course GCSE and seven of these entered almost the entire cohort. Eight Southwark schools did not enter any pupils into the GCSE exam which is a bit concerning to SACRE. Due to the law that RE should be taught to all pupils registered in schools the subject is not part of the ebacc or the school progress 8 measures and this is having a detrimental effect on the subject.

The number of entries for the AS level were much reduced nationally and seven out of sixteen eligible Southwark schools entered seventeen pupils, while seven schools, with fifty-seven pupils altogether, entered for the A Level.

## Full Course GCSE summary for Southwark Schools and Academies

	2018	2017	2016	2015
% grades 9-7	64%	78%	76%	68%
% grades 9-1	78%	98%	98%	97%
Number entered	1059	1298	1423	1071
National Number entered	100010	258436	252022	

## Summary of the AS and A level results for Southwark schools and Academies

AS Level	2018	2017	2016	A level	2018	2017	2016
Number A*-B	4	34	74		24	74	59
Number A*-E	14	66	117		56	96	87
Number entered	17	66	124		57	96	88
National number	4060	13910	32913		16280	21289	22079

\*The above figures are based on provisional data contained in the DfE September 2018 (performance) tables checking exercise dataset

### Collective worship

A guidance document on making Collective Worship interesting and relevant is on the Southwark Schools website along with a list of trained speakers.

The school's website checking by SACRE members is also looking for mention of Collective Worship as a way of monitoring.

The SACRE's Determinations procedure is available on request. There have been no applications for a determination this year. There have also been no complaints concerning Collective Worship referred to SACRE during this academic year.

### Other work of Southwark SACRE

The SACRE action plans were discussed at each meeting and updated as appropriate.

A training activity was carried out in the Spring term to help members understand what religious education in schools looked like and what would be necessary in the new syllabus.

The Chair attended the NASACRE AGM in London in May and reported on the proceedings at the summer meeting.

### Management of SACRE

The Chair continued to be Linda Coplestone and the Vice Chair for the year was Cllr Sunny Lambe.

The Council pay for 12 days for a Religious Education Consultant to attend meetings and give advice to schools and run a network once per term. This year there were extra days paid for to enable the schemes of work and syllabus to be turned into a document relevant to Southwark schools.

There is a representative from the Council's Education Department at every meeting and a clerk to SACRE and refreshments are also provided. The meetings have been held in the Council offices this year, there is not a budget for any other activities.

Two meetings were quorate this year and the Summer meeting discussions were ratified by a quorate meeting in November 2018.

We are still looking for a Hindu and a Sikh representative.

Southwark SACRE does not have an opportunity to contribute to other agendas within the Council.

The RE Consultant attends the Southwark Cathedral Education management committee meetings and is a member of the Diocesan Board of Education.

### **Membership of Southwark SACRE and attendance (indicated by numbers)**

Group		Meetings	Group		Meetings
A	John Bonnici,	2	C	Mr James Lewis,	2
A	Jane Harris	2	C	Betty Joseph	0
A	Mariano Marcigaglia,	3	C	K Bates (Maternity leave)	0
	Trevor Moore, substitute	2 1	C	K Engman	3
A	Mohammad Zakhir	1	D	Cllr Sunny Lambe <b>Vice Chair</b>	1
A	Rev Iain McLaren	2	D	Cllr E Akoto	0
A	J Nicol-Dundas	1	D	Cllr Flemming	0
A			D	Cllr Sandra Rhule	1
B	Linda Coplestone, Chair	3	D		
B	Mr Bruce Gill	1		Lee Souter Council Rep	3
B	L Berwick	2		Penny Smith-Orr RE Consultant	3
				Clerk to SACRE	3

