

# Annual Report 2013-2014

## Sutton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Sutton SACRE.



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This year has seen some changes to SACRE with our consultant David Crispin retiring and a new RE Consultant, Penny Smith-Orr taking his place from the Summer term onwards. Penny also works as RE consultant to three other boroughs and is very experienced. We also had two changes of SACRE clerk during the year.

The new RE review was published and debated by Sutton SACRE at the beginning of the year. The SACRE committee reviewed the syllabus and work is being undertaken to update the syllabus and add some extra material which will be of help to teachers in Sutton. We also had a change of venue for the resources available from SACRE for teaching purposes. SACRE has been encouraged that a large number of subject leaders attend the termly meetings led by the RE Consultant. These meetings are also attended by Subject leaders from Merton schools.

Support from the LA is still being given despite budget cuts and for this SACRE is grateful. The role of SACREs has been supported by the National Association of SACREs (NASCRE) and Sutton SACRE was able to fund two members to attend the national conference.

SACRE welcomes the view of schools on its work and invites any who wish to attend its meetings as observers, or with a view to joining, to do so. Dates can be obtained from the SACRE Administrator.

This report will be available on the Sutton website: [www.sutton.org.uk](http://www.sutton.org.uk)

LAL HUSSAIN MBE  
CHAIR OF SUTTON SACRE.

### **Reflections on SACRE and RE work in Sutton by David Crispin**

Little did I realize that when I first came to Sutton LA as an advisory teacher in 1991 I would be writing this reflection in 2014 on my time and experiences.

Looking back at those early days the world of education was an exciting place and to join a team of around 25 people was something I had never experienced before in my time as a primary teacher and a higher education lecturer.

I was involved with SACRE then and when this year I made the decision to finally retire from this type of work I realize how much has changed over those years. Some of the changes to education have been for the better whilst many, I feel, for the worse.

RE has remained a constant throughout. Sutton's Agreed Syllabus for RE created in 1996 and has seen several changes, revisions and additions but remains a popular and practical document used by schools. It has been a real pleasure to advise and guide RE subject leaders over the years. The termly meetings of that group were always lively and a joy to facilitate.

SACRE itself has seen many changes of personnel over the years some staying for a very short time others surviving many years of commitment to the group. I think the chair's position has seen about five different people over those years but Cllr Lal Hussain has steered the group over many years and I have been particularly grateful to him for his support.

There are times of change ahead for the world of RE and education generally some of them related to policy, some financial and hopefully some practical inspiration.

I was so glad that the LA was able to employ Penny Smith-Orr and I know she will be a breath of fresh air to SACRE and RE in Sutton.

Thanks again to all those who have served Sutton RE in so many ways now I must go off to finish a couple of watercolour's I am working on!!

## **Sutton SACRE Annual report**

Three meetings were held during the year on;

19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Wentworth Hall Mosque

12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at The Horizon Church

19<sup>th</sup> June 2014 The Wentworth Hall Mosque

During the year the RE consultant Mr David Crispin retired and was replaced by Mrs Penny Smith-Orr at the summer meeting. The SACRE was sad to learn that Mr Crispin was retiring and wished him well in his retirement and gave him a token to spend. The SACRE clerk also left during the year and a temporary clerk took the summer meeting.

## **Standards in Religious education**

The previous Consultant undertook a series of visits to schools to talk with the RE Coordinator and this will be continued by the new Consultant in the New Year 2015. The RE Coordinator meetings are attended by approximately 25 Primary teachers and are held three times a year the discussions at these meetings help to build a picture of the way RE is taught in Sutton. The secondary heads of Departments have a group gathering to discuss aspects of RE and the Consultant is hoping to be involved in these. It is generally difficult for SACREs to ascertain the standards of religious education teaching in schools without the cooperation of the schools.

## Examination Results

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.

### GCSE Full Course in Religious Studies 2014

Year of examination	Number of Sutton schools	Number of Sutton Candidates	Sutton schools: % of students with A* - C	Schools nationally: % of students with A* - C	Sutton Schools % of students with A* -G
2014	16	1338	79.5%	71%	99.7%

**SCHOOLS** (no. of pupils): CARSHALTON BOYS 26 CARSHALTON GIRLS 103 CHEAM HIGH 23 GLENTHORNE 107 GREENSHAW 209 NONSUCH 60 OVERTON GRANGE 194 ST PHILOMENA'S 188 STANLEY PARK 170 SUTTON GRAMMAR 118 STARS 1 THE JOHN FISHER 148 THE LIMES 1 WALLINGTON COUNTY 129 WALLINGTON GIRLS 9 WILSON'S 1

### AS Level in Religious Studies 2014

Year of examination	Number of Sutton schools	Number of Sutton Candidates	% Sutton students with grades A-B	% Sutton Students with grade A-E	% students nationally with grades A-E
2014	7	28	30%	95%	86%

**SCHOOLS** (no. of pupils): CHEAM HIGH 1 GLENTHORNE 3 GREENSHAW 2 NONSUCH 10 OVERTON GRANGE 7 ST. PHILOMENA'S 3 WALLINGTON GIRLS 4

### A level in Religious Studies 2014 This data is unknown at time of writing

Year of examination	Number of Sutton schools	Number of Sutton Candidates	% Sutton students grades A-E	% students nationally grades A-E
2014				99%

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

There appears to be good support for RE in Sutton from the schools as evidenced from the number of attendees at the Coordinator meetings and discussion with the teacher reps on SACRE. One school has expressed an interest in the RE Quality Mark. The RE Coordinator at Victor Seymour Primary has photographed and catalogued resources for RE which were located elsewhere and this document has been sent to all schools for the purpose of borrowing these. SACRE has a number of web-pages accessed via the Sutton website: <http://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1683>. These contain up to date information about the Agreed Syllabus and support document. Little is known about the recruitment and retention of specialist teachers at present. There have been no complaints about religious education in the borough this year.

## **Management of SACRE and Partnership with the LA and other stakeholders**

The SACRE committee is quite representative of the local community and a priority for the future is to ensure that all faith groups are represented. The members have been very welcoming and enthusiastic. The local authority is represented at the meetings by the Inspector for Inclusion Improvement and Support services and the head of Improvement and Support has been very helpful regarding the change of RE Consultants. The meetings this year have been held at places of worship in the borough and have been quorate. Much of the time at meetings was spent on the changes within the authority and the change of RE consultant. Also the question on how to review the syllabus and update it with a lack of funding took time at meetings. Other discussions were held on the RE Review and the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE particularly the summary advice to Governors on teaching and learning in RE and information on the local Faith and Belief group in Sutton. Sutton SACRE is a member of NASACRE and two members of the committee went to the NASACRE AGM in May and reported on presentations they had seen, particularly the Ambassadors of faith ideas which the committee is keen to try in Sutton.

The committee spent some time looking at the self-evaluation of SACREs document and the results can be seen at the end of this report. It was decided that priorities were to get in touch with, and encourage to join, members of other faith groups, revise the syllabus and make better contact with the secondary schools in Sutton.

## **The Effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus**

It was agreed by SACRE that the syllabus should be reviewed. At the spring meeting of Coordinators a questionnaire was given out regarding the current syllabus for Sutton. As a result of this a small working party of teachers and the RE Consultant have met to look at adding some material to the syllabus. It was suggested that Sutton should buy a readymade syllabus but there is no budget for this so the working party have looked for gaps in the current syllabus and plan to suggest further coverage within each theme i.e. looking at people who live the Christian life in KS2. It is also

planned to give more guidance on examples of attainment target 2 and guidance on Re in the Foundation stage. It is anticipated that this will be completed and sent to schools electronically by July 2015 at the latest.

### Collective worship

Information on compliance with collective worship is unknown although there have been no determinations applied for this year.

### Contribution of SACRE to the promotion of Social and Racial Harmony

Members of the committee are involved in the faith and Belief forum in Sutton and having closer links with other faiths will be a priority next year. Sutton is not a particularly multi faith area and has not got a place of worship for each of the faiths. Some suggestions on visits to places of worship and speakers in schools will be worked on next year. In the meantime a new Muslim community centre/ Mosque is offering a visit to the centre and offering lessons on Islam to all Sutton Schools at Muslim community centre (Wentworth Hall) 80 Ruskin Road Carshalton ZM5 3DH. The services of an experienced tutor who is a GP Dr.Sadia Mohiuddin are also available.

### Self-evaluation of Sutton SACRE (Autumn 2014)

Key Area	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1A	Compliance and time allocation for RE		x	
1B	Public examination entries RE Standards and achievement		x	
1C	Quality of teaching, leadership and management		x	
1D	Recruitment and retention issues		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		<b>x</b>
3E	Additional guidance/ monitoring and evaluating the Agreed syllabus			<b>x</b>
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		<b>x</b>	
5C	Understanding the intrinsic contribution RE can make to social and racial harmony		<b>x</b>	
5D	Links to the LA initiatives promoting social and racial harmony	<b>x</b>		

### **SACRE Membership at September 2014**

Lal Hussain MBE (Chair)

Kate Evans, Inspector for Inclusion LBS (Executive Head's Rep)

Penny Garry Clerk to SACRE provided by Sutton LA

Penny smith-Orr, RE Consultant/Independent Adviser for RE, collective worship and SMSC

COMMITTEE A (9 places, 4 vacancies) Representatives of Christian and other religious groups

COMMITTEE B (6 places, 1 vacancies) Representatives of the Church of England

COMMITTEEC (6 places,2 vacancies) Representatives of teacher's organisations

COMMITTEE D (5places) Representatives of Sutton Council

British Humanist Rep Co-opted (sits with Committee A)