

BROMLEY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BROMLEY SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015



BROMLEY SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

Introduction to the Annual Report 2014-15. 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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SACRE Chair

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Overview

This report covers the academic year 2014-2015. Three meetings of SACRE were held at Bromley Civic Centre on the following occasions;

2nd December 2014

17th March 2015

1st July 2015

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.

Chair's Introduction

This is now my second year as Chair of Bromley SACRE. I have been indebted to Christine Reeks who, as Clerk to SACRE, has been an invaluable source of knowledge and advice. We wish her every blessing in her retirement.

In an increasingly pluralistic world, with an alarming rise of both religious extremism 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.

Revd. 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 and a conference on the 'Aftermath of the Trojan Horse'. Information on both of these were discussed at the meetings and with education services representatives. The minutes of meetings are also sent to the Portfolio holder for Education. The Chair requested that the "RE Today" booklet entitled 'Religious Education and British Values', giving up to date guidance and practical suggestions to help teachers of RE in UK schools to respond to government requirements to promote British Values should be purchased by the Council and sent to all Bromley maintained schools and this was agreed to.

Schools

All the Secondary and the majority of Primary schools in Bromley are now academies.. The RE Consultant runs 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 new syllabus and how to manage the change from the old one, assessment of RE,
- a speaker from the Hindu community gave a talk
- ideas for teaching Easter, Ascension and Pentecost were shared.
- Two twilight courses were also given to coordinators from the Church of England Primary schools on teaching the other faiths.

Members of Bromley SACRE went on visits to four secondary and one Primary school during the year and observed religious education lessons and collective worship and offered support to the heads of RE. The RE Consultant 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. All of these visits were reported on and discussed at the SACRE meetings. The RE Consultant also made two visits to Primary schools to give individual support to new coordinators.

Government

The 2013-14 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. Lord Nash, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Schools, had sent a letter to all local authorities outlining the workings of SACRE and discussing a number of items regarding Religious Education. The Bromley SACRE discussed this and sent a response to some of the points raised in the letter.

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.

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. Less pupils were entered for the GCSE than in previous years but the number of pupils getting A*-C was higher. In ten schools 99% of pupils achieved A*-G grades and 35% of pupils achieved A*-A in their exams.

For A level Religious Studies the results were good for both AS and A level, with more A level entries than last year. 17% of pupils taking the AS level exam gained an A-B grade; slightly less than last year. 56% of students got A*-B grades in the A level exam.

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 2012-2015

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
2012	15	1466	80.8	74
2013	13	1748	80.6	73.5
2014	16	1975	75%	71
2015	15	1518	79%	72

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils): Bishop Justus (161), Bullers Wood (23) Chislehurst School for Girls (114) Coopers (36) Darrick Wood (234), Harris Academy Beckenham (23) Harris Academy Bromley (127) Hayes (213), Kemnal technology College (118) Langley Park Boys (22), Langley Park Girls (54), Newstead Wood (131), Ravens Wood (21), The Priory (43), The Ravensbourne (198)

AS Level in Religious Studies 2012-2015

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	% Bromley students with grades A-E
2012	13	52	96.2
2013	13	54	87.3
2014	12	58	95
2015	13	46	85

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils):

Bullers Wood (3), Chislehurst School for Girls (3), Darrick Wood (2), Harris Academy Beckenham (1), Harris Academy Bromley (2), Kemnal (7) Hayes (11), Langley Park Boys (4) Langley Park Girls (2), Newstead wood (3) Ravens Wood (2) St Olaves & St Saviours (2) The Priory (3)

A level in Religious Studies 2012-2014

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	% Bromley students grades A-E	% students nationally grades A-E
2012	13	120	100	80.6
2013	14	141	100	
2014	13	136	100	99
2015	14	150	98	98

SCHOOLS (no. of pupils): Bishop Justus (8), Bullers Wood (21), Chislehurst School for Girls (16) Darrick Wood (10), Harris Academy Bromley (8) Hayes (19), Kemnal technology (6), Langley Park Boys (11), Langley Park Girls (10), Newstead Wood (17), Ravens Wood (6), St Saviours and St Olave's (6), The Priory (3) The Ravensbourne (9)

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 during teachers planning time. During discussions in school and at the Coordinator network meetings the new syllabus with its numerous resources is reported as making this easier to manage and is proving popular. A letter was sent to Bromley schools, many of which are Academies, from SACRE suggesting that they use the Bromley Agreed syllabus rather than purchasing another one. It was decided that a survey would be sent to teachers on the use of the new syllabus during the next 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

As discussed elsewhere in this report a new Agreed Syllabus was launched in the Autumn term of 2013. A survey will be sent out in the next academic year to ensure that it is now embedded within schools.

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 Revd. Roger Bristow from the Church of England, group B and the Vice Chair is Cllr Keith Onslow from the Councillor group D. During this year the Council representative changed and at the end of the year the very efficient clerk, provided by Bromley Council, retired. The local authority reappointed the RE consultant to work for 20 days per year.

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, (see below) and also looked at and discussed the top 8 challenges for SACREs nationally..

One of the priorities was to involve more teachers in the SACRE. An invitation was sent out and a number of teachers responded from both primary and secondary and Academy and maintained schools. All new members are given a copy of the NASACRE SACRE handbook when they join.

Training of members has included a summary of presentations by pupils at Bullers Wood school on the impact of RE on pupils. Comments from the pupils included, *"We have learnt invaluable information that we believe will stay with us for the rest of our lives"* and *"We have a lifelong passion and we don't just do it because it looks good on a CV, but because we really enjoy learning about religions and philosophy"*. A speaker from the company which runs Truetube was invited to one meeting.

Membership of Bromley SACRE during 2014-14 is as follows;

A- Other faiths B- Church of England C –Teachers D-Councillors

A	Patricia Colling	C	Jed Stone
A	Sanjay Gupta	C	Anna Winson
A	Ray Hagley	C	Catherine Shelley
A	Swarn Riat	C	Jackie Tranchina
A	Saiyed Mahmood	C	Hannah Arnold.
A	Samantha Barnett	C	Denise Angell
A	Edlene Whitman	D	Councillor Keith Onslow
A	Sue Polydorou.		Councillor Sarah Phillips
B	Virginia Corbyn	D	Councillor David Jefferys
B	Christopher Town,	D	Councillors Kevin Brooks,
B	Revd. Steve Varney	D	Councillors Mary Cooke
B	Revd. Roger Bristow	D	Councillor Robert Evans,
	Mrs P Smith-Orr – RE Consultant		Julia Waldman - Interim Consultant, Schools and Early Years, Commissioning & Quality Assurance
	Mrs Christine Reeks – Clerk		

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 SACRE committee is largely representative of the groups found in Bromley. It was decided to send a letter to the Archdeacon of Bromley to find out about meetings of other faith communities in the individual Parishes.

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

The Jewish representative attended and reported on a meeting of Jewish representatives on SACRE committees organised by the British Board of Deputies.

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. It was decided that the Chairs of Bromley and Croydon SACREs would meet during the next year.

Bromley SACRE Self Evaluation March 2015 results

Appendix 1

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	Considered not to be applicable – will put procedures in place if and when required.		
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	

Appendix 2

Summary of Projects 2014 **The True Meaning of Islam**

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 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 47 students aged 11 and 12 years from six schools; Farringtons, Hayes, Priory, Bullers Wood, Bishop Justus 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' 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.

Some students have mentioned that in Islam 'everything is the fault of the woman'. This is a complete misunderstanding about Islam. Allah has given a great deal of respect to and an important role for women in Islam, and Allah judges all equally and fairly according to their faith and their deeds regardless of their race, colour and gender.

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. 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 first, second and third prizes, 17 consolation prizes and 27 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, 13 November 2014