

Annual Report 2015 to 2016

Introduction

The Borough's **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities.

Part one

Records the terms of reference of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham SACRE and the occasions on which it met in 2015 to 2016.

Part two

Reports the matters dealt with by the SACRE during the year.

Part three

Notes the composition and membership of the SACRE.

Part one

The establishment, terms of reference and meetings of the SACRE

1. The Borough's SACRE was established by the Education Committee in January 1990. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: "to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the Council or as the council may see fit."
2. In particular the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:
 - It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on religious education.
 - It may determine, on application by the headteacher that the requirement for collective worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
 - With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers' in-service professional development.
3. The SACRE met on three occasions in 2015 to 2016:
 - 18 November 2015;
 - 16 March 2016;
 - 22 June 2016.
4. The SACRE meets at the Lilla Huset Professional Development Centre, 191 Talgarth Road, W6 8BJ. Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of its duties is provided to SACRE by the Borough. The SACRE is grateful to the Borough for making this support available.

Part two

5. 5. **A new Settlement for Religion and Belief in Schools** - During the academic year Lesley Prior kept members up to date on RE matters. As SACRE members are aware parents are able to remove their children for part or all of RE lessons. Charles Clarke, co author of '[A New Settlement for Religion and Belief in schools](#)', proposes changes to RE, with an end to Collective Worship and the parental right to remove children from RE and the introduction of a national rather than a locally agreed syllabus. He proposed the continuation of the SACRE with a local role. Lesley Prior explained that the role of the SACRE isn't that of an inter-faith group, but to support high quality teaching in schools and this role may continue. It was noted that any changes in the role of the SACRE or an end to Collective Worship in maintained schools would require a change in the law.
1. An on-going issue for the SACRE has been membership numbers. However an on-going push to increase numbers means that meetings should be quorate in the future. Information on the SACRE is kept up to date on school zone, so that individuals interested in membership can make contact with the clerk to the SACRE. Regular contact is made with the appropriate appointing bodies to remind them when members are required.
2. As a result of an improvement in membership numbers, the SACRE's June 2016 meeting was quorate. At that meeting a new Chair, Mr Mark Newton was appointed. Eleanor Allen the out-going Chair was given a vote of thanks for all her work on taking forward the Hammersmith & Fulham SACRE.
3. Matters discussed during the year include –
- Ramadan guidance
 - A new Settlement for Religion and Belief in Schools
 - RE: Online CPD
4. **Ramadan Guidance** – Guidance was provided by Naif Sheikh (SACRE Muslim representative) – the guidelines were sent out to schools in the Borough. In future information to be sent earlier in the term since the month of fasting will be during the summer exam period.

The requirement for Collective Worship

7. The SACRE received no requests in 2015 to 2016 from headteachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their schools. The procedures for making such a request are set out in Appendix A of this report. Information about the procedures can also be obtained from the Clerk to the SACRE at the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX.

Complaints

8. The SACRE was not in 2015 to 2016 asked to deal with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools.

Part three

Composition and members of the SACRE in 2015 to 2016

Chairman of the SACRE Mark Newton
Eleanor Allen (until June 2015)

Clerk to the SACRE Julie Farmer (*Tri-borough Governors Support Team*)

GROUP A – up to 9 members

Representing Christian and other religious denominations and non-religious worldviews

Bhupinder Singh	Sikh representative
Graham Newman	Jewish representative
Naif Sheikh (V-C)	Muslim representative
Lalani Perera	Buddhist representative
Zelda Bailey	Humanist representative
Daniella Fetuga-Joensuu	Methodist representative

Group B – up to 6 members

Representing the Church of England

Eleanor Allen	
Liz Wolverson	(resigned November 2015)
David Broad	(June 2016)
Madeleine Miller	(June 2016)
Mark Newton (current Chair)	(March 2016)
Revd Mark Osborne	
Astrid Wilson	(June 2016)

Group C - up to 6 members

Representing teachers (including teachers of RE) and teachers' associations

Amira Hegazey - Langford Primary School	(resigned Summer term 2016)
Courtney Hosp - Fulham Cross Girls' School	(November 2015)

Group D - 6 places including 3 co-optees

Representing the Local Authority

Lucy Nutt	
Councillor Ali Hashem	(November 2015)

Consultant to the SACRE

Ms Lesley Prior

(Unless otherwise stated that date given in brackets is the first meeting attended by the new member.)

Appendix A

The requirement for Collective Worship

Introduction

1. Section 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988 lays down that the collective worship required in community schools shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. DES circular 3/89 states that, in the Secretary of State's view, an act of worship which is 'broadly Christian' need not contain only Christian material provided, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character but within each school term the majority of acts must be so.
2. How collective worship is organised is for the headteacher to decide after consultation with the governing body, having regard to the following considerations:
 - any relevant circumstances relating to the pupils family backgrounds, for example the faith of the family;
 - their ages and aptitudes.
3. These considerations should inform:
 - the extent to which (if at all) any acts of collective worship in the school are not of a broadly Christian character;
 - the extent to which the broad traditions of Christian belief are reflected in those acts of worship of a broadly Christian character; and

- the ways in which those traditions are reflected.

The role of the SACRE

4. If the headteacher of a community school considers that the requirements for collective worship described in paragraph two could conflict with what is required by paragraph three, he or she can apply to **the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to lift or modify the requirements**. Before doing so the headteacher must consult the school's governing body who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. **The headteacher's application does not need to apply to the whole school**. It can be limited to any class or description of pupils at the school, and might relate, for example, to a particular group or year group(s) in the school in which there were many pupils of a particular faith or religion.
5. The purpose of this procedure is to allow for acts of collective worship according to a faith or religion other than Christianity where, for some or all of the pupils in a school, the requirement that worship should be of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate. One factor which may inform a headteacher's decision to make an application to the SACRE is the extent of withdrawals from Christian collective worship.
6. In considering whether to grant a headteacher's request, the SACRE must take account of any relevant circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils concerned. When it has made a **determination** on the request – which can only take the form of acceptance or rejection without modification – it must communicate this in writing to the headteacher and state

the date from which it will take effect. It is for the headteacher to decide what form the alternative worship will take, although the SACRE should be informed of the proposed arrangements.

7. The headteacher will wish to take appropriate steps to notify the governing body and parents of the new arrangements. Where such a determination is made in respect of all or some of the pupils in the school, daily collective worship must still be provided for them. Where a determination has been granted in respect of a class or description of pupils of a particular faith or religion, the alternative collective worship may be provided for those pupils as a whole. It may not be distinctive of any particular **denomination** of any faith or religion, but may be distinctive of a particular faith or religion. Parents continue to have a right to withdraw their children from this collective worship.
8. Any determination made under these arrangements ends after five years, unless renewed by the SACRE. There must be a review by the SACRE no later than five years after any determination was introduced; and subsequently within five years of each review. The headteacher can request an earlier review at any time, after consulting with the governing body. The headteacher must be given an

opportunity to take part in any review and, in turn, is required to consult the governing body who may wish to seek the view of parents.

9. It has been a legal requirement since 1944 that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship. Section 6 of the Education Reform Act provides for flexibility in timing and organisation of daily collective worship. It need now no longer be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups. For this purpose, a 'school group' means any group or combination of groups in which pupils are taught or take place in other school activities; it does **not** mean a group reflecting particular religious beliefs.
- 10 If a headteacher considers that changes of the sort described in paragraphs four and five of this appendix are justified, he or she should:
 - consult with the governing body,
 - after that, make application to SACRE on the attached form.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Application for a variation in the requirement of the Education Act 1988 that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

1. **Name of school**.....
2. **Address of school**.....
3. **Name of headteacher**.....
4. **Pupils for whom the application is made**
(Is the application being made on behalf of the whole school or part of it? If a part, state which group and their numbers.)
5. **On what grounds is the application made?**
(State why you consider the requirement that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' to be inappropriate for pupils. Give any relevant information, including numbers, on the family background and faith of all pupils who would be affected.)
6. **Has the Governing Body been consulted?**
(By law it must be. Please state the view the Governing Body gave. Did the Governing Body consult parents? What was their view?)
7. **Have Parents been consulted?**
(What were their views?)
8. **What form would the proposed alternative form of collective worship take?**
(Give as much information as possible.)

Religious Studies GCSEs - 2016

School	GCSE Grade									TOTAL	2016		2015		2014	
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U		A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G
West London Free School										57	94.7%	100.0%				
The Hurlingham Academy										79	46.8%	98.7%	65.1%	94.3%	50.8%	90.7%
Fulham College Boys' School										38	60.5%	97.4%	NE	NE	NE	NE
Phoenix High School										37	56.8%	97.3%	58.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Fulham Cross Girls'										120	87.5%	100.0%	92.8%	100.0%	92.2%	100.0%
Sacred Heart High School										164	90.9%	100.0%	96.9%	100.0%	97.4%	100.0%
Lady Margaret School										117	86.3%	99.1%	90.1%	100.0%	79.3%	100.0%
London Oratory School										182	91.2%	100.0%	92.9%	99.5%	93.6%	99.4%
Burlington Danes Academy										166	65.7%	97.6%	78.9%	100.0%	86.3%	100.0%
Hammersmith Academy																
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM LA	208	240	213	104	88	49	29	21	8	960	79.7%	99.2%	85.7%	99.2%	84.9%	98.5%

n/a = not available

NE = Not Entered

Religious Studies A-Levels - 2016

School	A-Level Grade							TOTAL	2016		2015		2014		
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U		A-C	A-E	A-C	A-E	A-C	A-E	
West London Free School															
The Hurlingham Academy															
Fulham College Boys' School											NE	NE	NE	NE	
Phoenix High School											NE	NE	NE	NE	
Fulham Cross Girls'											NE	NE	NE	NE	
Sacred Heart High School											100.0%	100.0%	NE	NE	
Lady Margaret School											100.0%	100.0%	87.0%	100.0%	
London Oratory School											91.3%	100.0%	93.1%	100.0%	
Burlington Danes Academy											90.9%	100.0%	75.0%	100.0%	
Hammersmith Academy											NE	NE	NE	NE	
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM LA	6	1	1					8	87.5%	100.0%	95.5%	100.0%	86.9%	100.0%	

