

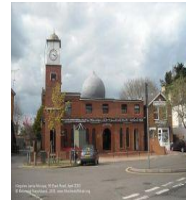
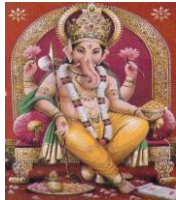


**achieving
for children**

Providing children's services for
the **Royal Borough of Kingston** and
the **London Borough of Richmond**

Royal Borough of Kingston

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KINGSTON UPON THAMES
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION [SACRE]
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013- 2014
(SEPTEMBER 2013 TO AUGUST 2014)**



INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE SACRE, MARIA JAMES

Once again it has been my pleasure and privilege to Chair Kingston's SACRE throughout the year. Each meeting for SACRE is held at a different venue and this year we have been able to meet in a school, a place of worship and the Guildhall in Kingston. This seems to encapsulate what a good SACRE is about in some way as the triangulated, interested partners are involved. I would like to thank St Andrews and St Mark's Junior School and St Mark's Church for their wonderful hospitality. Meeting in these different but related, as far as SACRE is concerned, reminds us of the awesome responsibility we have to serve the Borough's RE as best we can.

We are fortunate in Kingston that there are many teachers who realise the importance and value of the subject and have continued to teach Religious Education with enthusiasm, relevance and rigour. SACRE is privileged to support their work and particularly values their contribution from our Teacher Members at SACRE Meetings.

As Chair of Kingston's SACRE, I know how dedicated and careful the various members and local government officers are about supporting the RE of this borough. Throughout the year we are glad to welcome new members but sad to say farewell to others and this year we lost Tim Neale and Ruth Freedman – their service to SACRE and their wisdom will be sorely missed.

As ever, we applaud the excellent practice in our schools. We are fortunate in Kingston that there are many teachers who realise the importance and value of the subject and have continued to teach Religious Education with enthusiasm, relevance and rigour. SACRE is privileged to support their work and particularly values their contribution from our Teacher Members at SACRE Meetings.

The SACRE Members give of their time freely and graciously and I am aware of the expertise and working knowledge that each serving member brings to the meetings.

Thank you

Maria James
SACRE Chair

STATEMENT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

During the academic year 2013/14 the SACRE has met its statutory requirements on behalf of the borough and has continued to support the development of quality Religious Education across the borough. I am extremely grateful for the time and commitment its members and co-opted members give to this work and am particularly grateful to Mrs Maria James for continuing to chair our SACRE throughout the year and to Mrs Karen Bridgman for her work as Clerk to SACRE.

I wish to thank the staff of St Andrew's and St Mark's Church of England Junior School for hosting the Autumn Term meeting of SACRE and also St Mark's Church and our Primary teacher representatives for kindly organising and hosting the Spring Term meeting. It is good to have a fuller complement of enthusiastic Primary teachers representing our schools on SACRE and it would be good to see this mirrored by the secondary sector.

I am pleased to see that our SACRE was represented at the National Association of SACREs' AGM in May by both Mrs Maria James and our Consultant RE Advisor, Mr Keith Field, enabling SACRE to be kept aware of developments in the RE world and benefit from hearing about the work of other SACREs.

Autumn Term 2013 saw the publication of two significant reports pertaining to the future development of Religious Education in England: The OFSTED Report 'Religious Education: Realising the Potential' and the Religious Education Council's 'A Curriculum Framework for Religious Education in England'. I am glad that our Consultant RE Advisor has informed SACRE about both these publications and the recommendations they make for developing a rigorous model of Religious Education in our schools.

The past year has also been one of new developments for both the Royal Borough of Kingston and the London Borough of Richmond with the creation of 'Achieving for Children'. The impact of these changes is still being worked through but my Directorate will continue to co-ordinate the work of statutory and voluntary agencies in order to promote the education and welfare of all our children and young people, and am aware of the significant role that SACRE plays in this.

I wish the members of SACRE every success in their ongoing work at this challenging time, as we seek to work together for the well-being of our children and young people.

Nick Whitfield
Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services

COMPLAINTS

The SACRE has not received any complaints on either the agreed syllabus or collective worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

There have been no requests for determinations (that is, to lift the statutory requirement that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character).

NATIONAL BODIES

We are members of both the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and the National Associations of SACREs (NASACRE) and have benefitted from their conferences, newsletters, website and advice.

MEETINGS OF THE SACRE

The Kingston upon Thames SACRE met on three occasions between September 2013 and August 2014. We continued our tradition of meeting in different education and faith locations across the borough (as well as in the Guildhall, Kingston).

The first meeting was hosted by St Andrew's and St Mark's C of E Junior School. SACRE Members watched a video on the pupils' experiences of the joint project run by St Andrew's and St Mark's School and Maple Infant School on Prayer Spaces which is run by Orison Schools. SACRE members also received a presentation from Malden Manor Primary School on 'Open the Book' assemblies.

SACRE Members want to continue to develop links with schools and appreciate the hospitality shown to them.

The second meeting was hosted at St Mark's Church, Surbiton and the third meeting was at the Guildhall.

The following topics were discussed at our meetings:

- RE Council Review
- Ofsted Report 'Realising the Potential'
- Development of the SACRE Website
- SACRE Business Plan
- The Annual Report for 2013-2014 including school examination results.
- Developing links with Secondary Schools and Academies.
- Summaries of SMSC grades in Ofsted report.
- SIAMS Reports
- National Association of SACRE's newsletters
- RE Council newsletters

If you would like to host a SACRE Meeting please contact the SACRE Clerk.

OFSTED REPORTS

At every meeting SACRE members review the grading schools have received from Ofsted. SACRE Members recognise that it is now extremely difficult for schools to achieve outstanding.

If any school would like support from SACRE in respect of their SMSC provision please contact the SACRE Clerk.

SIAMS REPORTS

SACRE Members also reviewed the excellent SIAMS Reports received by St Luke's C of E Primary School, Malden Parochial School. Both the schools received outstanding reports and were excellent examples of how RE is taught.

RE QUALITY MARK

The RE Quality Mark has three levels – gold, silver and bronze. Schools have to decide what level they want to apply for. The Quality Mark lasts for three years. It costs £400 to apply for the Quality Mark and schools can apply to SACRE for help with funding to subsidise their application. SACRE is currently reviewing the criteria to agree to support a school. Please contact the SACRE Clerk if you wish to make an application for funding for the Quality Mark.

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In October 2013 the RE council published their non-statutory Curriculum Framework for Religious Education in England and Wales. It is intended to be a parallel document to the new DfE National Curriculum and to offer guidance to SACREs when they are reviewing their agreed Syllabuses.

It provides:

- A fresh statement of RE's purpose
- Three clear aims for RE
- Some fresh emphases on:
 - integrated teaching (no longer 2ATs)
 - RE as 'find out', explore, discover, enquire
 - RE as being reasonable about religion (ideas not feelings)
 - sources of wisdom and authority
 - religious community and traditions
 - non-religious worldviews, including humanism and others
- Balanced examples of practice which will flow from the aims
- A progression picture for 5-14s
- EYFS and 14-19 curriculum descriptions

Michael Gove, the former Secretary of State for Education, said *"RE in England compares favourably with equivalent curricula in high performing jurisdictions around the world, but this reputation can only be maintained with a rigorous model of RE. This RE curriculum framework and the RE Review of which it is part provides for such a model. It has the endorsement of a very wide range of professional organisations and bodies representing faiths and other worldviews. I hope the document will be useful to all those seeking to provide RE of the highest quality for young people in our schools."*

OFSTED REPORT 'REALISING THE POTENTIAL'

OFSTED also released a major report on Religious Education in October 2013. Its explanatory introduction states:

“Religious education (RE) makes a significant contribution to pupils’ academic and personal development. It also plays a key role in promoting social cohesion and the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. However, the potential of RE was not being realised fully in the majority of the schools surveyed for this report.

The report identifies barriers to better RE and suggests ways in which the subject might be improved. The report is written for all those who teach RE, for those who lead the subject, and for headteachers of primary and secondary schools.”

Based on inspections and telephone conversations with over 200 schools it sets out eight key challenges for the teaching of Religious Education in our schools.

1. Too many pupils leave school with scant knowledge and understanding of religion and belief
2. Too much RE teaching lacks challenge and does not extend pupils’ thinking sufficiently
3. Weakness in the curriculum limited the effectiveness of RE
4. Confusion about the purpose and aims of RE had a negative impact on the quality of teaching, curriculum planning and the effectiveness of assessment
5. The leadership and management of RE are not strong enough to secure the improvements that are needed
6. Most GCSE teaching in RE failed to achieve the core aim of the examination specifications, that is, to enable pupils to ‘adopt’ an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion’.
7. The quality of specialist expertise and access to training to support teachers’ professional development in RE are often weak
8. Recent changes in education policy have significant negative implications for the provision and support of RE

The report then gave examples of good practice they had seen in four key areas:

1. Placing enquiry at the heart of learning
 - Using ‘Big Questions’ to give a context for enquiry
 - Using reflection and creativity
 - Using digital technology
2. High-quality leadership and management in primary schools
 - Effective subject leadership
 - Effective monitoring, self-evaluation and improvement planning
 - Effective professional development
 - Effective curriculum planning
 - Effective assessment
3. Forward thinking leadership and management in secondary schools
 - Creating a coherent approach to RE
 - Developing new models of curriculum provision
 - Rejuvenating RE
 - Creating effective examination provision at KS4
 - Developing positive attitudes towards RE

4. Effective RE in special schools

- Five Keys to help teachers focus their planning:
 - Connection
 - Knowledge
 - Senses
 - Symbols
 - Values

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SACRE

The list of SACRE members for September 2012 to August 2013 is attached as Appendix A.

If you are interested in joining the SACRE please contact Karen Bridgman, SACRE Clerk.

APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SACRE (September 2013 – August 2014)

Christian and Other Religious Denominations

Mrs Maria James (Chair)	-	The local Evangelical Churches
Mr Gurmeet Singh Nurula	-	The local Sikh Community
Mrs Ruth Freedman	-	The local Jewish Community
Mrs Beryl Mooney	-	Kingston and District Free Churches
Mr Raju Pandya	-	The local Hindu Community
Mr Mahendra Thaker	-	The local Hindu Community
Mrs Lynn Parry	-	The Buddahist Community
Mrs Hamida Syed	-	The local Muslim Community

The Church of England

Mrs Jane Whittinton	-	Diocese of Guildford
Mrs Joy Sanderson	-	Diocese of Southwark

Teachers' Associations

Ms Jennifer Rickards	-	Malden Manor Primary & Nursery School
Ms Charmaine Lee (Vice Chair)	-	St Andrew's and St Marks's Junior School
Ms Sophie Orchard	-	Maple Infant School

Local Authority

Councillor Dennis Doe (Vice Chair) – retired in March 2014
Councillor Chris Hayes
Councillor Raju Pandya
Councillor Margaret Thompson

Co-opted Members

Mr Simon Birch	-	the local Baha'i Community
Mr Tim Neale	-	Insight in Kingston
Mrs Marilyn Mason	-	British Humanist Association

Officers supporting the SACRE

During this academic year, the SACRE received professional support from Keith Field, Consultant RE Adviser, Barbara Chevis, RBK and Karen Bridgman, Clerk