

BRIGHTON & HOVE
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
ANNUAL REPORT
2012

The purpose and role of SACRE

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a body that every Local Authority is required to set up as a requirement of the 1988 Education Act. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the 1998 Education Reform Act are: 'to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in community 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.'

In particular, the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Ensuring that the Local Authority creates and keeps under review an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
- It may determine on application by the headteacher that the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided by some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
- To deal as required with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools
- With the Local Authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching including professional development opportunities for staff

The SACRE meets three times a year and also holds an annual lecture which is open for teachers to attend as well as SACRE members.

Membership of SACRE is determined by statute and consists of four groups:

- Council Members
- Teachers' Associations
- The Church of England
- Christian and other principal religious traditions

Should a vote be required to make any decision of the SACRE, each of these four groups has a single vote.

Membership of SACRE 2011/12

Group A (Faith Groups)

Baha'i Assembly	Michael Alcorn
Methodist Church	Michael Hickman
Buddhist Community	Dharmacharini Amoghavajri
Sikh Community	Surinder Singh Parmar
Hindu Community	Vacant
Jain Community	Vacant
Jewish Community	Rabbi V Silverman
Coptic Orthodox Church	Fr John Habib
Roman Catholic Church	Peter Ward
New Churches	Vacant
Russian Orthodox	Father David Smith
Sussex Muslim Society Trust	Imam Dr Sajid
Baptist Union	Michael Bray
Salvation Army	Rachel Sheppard
Religious Society of Friends	Harvey Gillman
United Reformed Church	Vacant

Group B (Church of England)

Church of England	Revd Derek Bastide
Church of England	Linda Dupret
Church of England	Rosie Black
Church of England	Clare Phelan

Group C (Teachers' Associations)

SHA	Vacant
NAHT	Vacant
NASUWT	Vacant
NUT	Laura Wells
PAT (now VOICE)	Vacant
ATL	Toni Lavelle

Group D (Council Members)

Cllr Leslie Hamilton
Cllr Ania Kitcat
Cllr Stephanie Powell
Cllr Andrew Whealls

Co-opted members

Tess Gill – clerk
Michael Nix – LA representative
Tom Newland
Susan Thompson RE consultant

Brighton & Hove Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

A key event for SACRE this year was the approval and adoption by the City Council of the Brighton & Hove Agreed Syllabus 2011 – 2015, at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 10 January 2012. Each local authority has a statutory duty to adopt an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for use by maintained schools in its area, and to arrange for it to be reviewed through an Agreed Syllabus Conference at least every five years.

The Agreed Syllabus 2011 – 15 was prepared by a working party consisting of primary and secondary school teachers and the RE Adviser for the Diocese of Chichester, and advised by SACRE. It had been discussed in detail and unanimously approved by an Agreed Syllabus Conference, drawn from the membership of SACRE, on 1 February 2011.

The Agreed Syllabus 2011 – 15 reflects the current focus in Religious Education on progression of both skills and content as identified in Transforming Religious Education (Ofsted 2010). This report emphasised the need for creative activities to enhance learning in RE and the Brighton & Hove Agreed Syllabus gives the structures for this to take place in a coherent way through effective planning and assessment.

The Agreed Syllabus was formally launched on 13 March 2012, at a highly successful workshop attended by around 50 primary, secondary and special school teachers, City Councillors and members of SACRE, at Hove Town Hall. The workshop was led by Lat Blaylock, who is Editor and Teacher Adviser for RE Today and a leading national figure in RE and teacher training. Lat led an insightful and entertaining session, in which he identified the key strands in teaching and learning for RE and how these were effectively supported by the new Agreed Syllabus. He also provided a wealth of practical and original ideas for teaching RE.

Lat is to lead a follow up workshop for primary teachers on 17 October 2012. A workshop for secondary teachers is to be planned with the RE teachers network (part of the Secondary Schools Partnership) in 2013.

SACRE meetings

Three meetings were held in the course of the 2011/12 school year. Major items discussed have included:

- RE in Brighton & Hove secondary schools: Amy Jones, Head of RE at Dorothy Stringer School, informed SACRE of current issues for RE in secondary schools, and of the work of the RE teachers network, which provides RE teachers in the city, many of whom work in single person departments, with an opportunity to participate in professional development and share ideas
- RE in Brighton & Hove primary schools: SACRE member Linda Dupret, Head of St Paul's CE Primary School invited SACRE to the school, where staff and pupils in KS1 talked about RE in the school and showed examples of their work. The three pupils, from Y1 and Y2, were very impressive!
- Changes in education: SACRE has discussed changes in education policy and practice, in particular as they impact upon RE and collective worship
- Self evaluation and action plan: SACRE members used a template to assess within the four Groups how well SACRE is fulfilling its role, and what were their development needs. Conclusions from this were the need for training in the role of SACRE, not just for new members, and for an action plan
- Faith presentations: members of SACRE have given brief presentations on aspects of their faith. This year we have heard about the central place of the hymn book in the history of the Methodist Church, and of liturgy in the Russian Orthodox Church

Requirement for Collective Worship

SACRE received no requests in 2011/12 from head teachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their school. The Collective Worship guidelines have been updated and have been placed on the Wave, the local authority's intranet, to which all schools have access.

Complaints

SACRE was not in 2011/12 asked to deal with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools

The Annual SACRE Lecture, 10 October 2011

The Annual SACRE Lecture was given by Professor Neil Spurway on Science and Religion in the Third Millennium. Professor Spurway was Professor of

Exercise Physiology at the University of Glasgow, retiring in 2001. He is a leading international figure in the field of science and theology, and continues to write extensively on the implications of evolutionary thought for theology.

Professor Spurway's lecture looked at the different ways that science and religion have interlinked over the years and particularly about the debates that have caused division between scientists and theologians. A document was provided with quotes from scientists and their thoughts about religion.

Although the number attending the lecture was disappointing, there followed a lively and interesting debate on the issues raised by Professor Spurway.

The REsource Bank

The REsource Bank has been set up as a partnership between the City of Brighton and Hove and the Diocese of Chichester. Its main purpose is to provide additional resources to enhance and improve the quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education. It is open to all Church of England Schools in the Diocese of Chichester and to all maintained primary and secondary schools in the City of Brighton and Hove. This project was initially funded by grants from the City of Brighton and Hove, the Diocese of Chichester and the Letitia Tilbury Turner Trust.

The resources boxes cover the principal religions found in Britain today. Currently, the majority of resources are aimed at primary schools, but it is intended that more resources will be made available in the future for secondary schools. Boxes of resources covering Collective Worship in school, assemblies in community schools, bereavement, divorce and global dimensions are included in the REsource Bank.

Teachers are invited to attend road shows which take place each half term at which they can borrow and return resources. Each road show also has a short training input on one of the main world religions. The road shows are free and there is no borrowing fee to borrow resources. A list of all resources is available at www.diochi.org.uk/schools

The REsource Bank is located at Church House, Church Road, Hove.

Examination results at GCSE and A Level, Summer 2012

At the time of writing, provisional data for Year 11 GCSE and AS level examinations have been received. A summary of this information is contained in Appendix 1.

This provisional information shows that in four schools and Academies, the majority of students are entered for an examination in RE (Blatchington Mill,

Cardinal Newman, Dorothy Stringer and Varndean). In three schools, few or no students are entered for an examination in RE (BACA, Patcham and PACA). Pass rates were high across all schools, with generally high proportions of higher grades.

Two schools, Blatchington Mill and Dorothy Stringer, entered some Y11 students for AS Level in RE – this is an examination that would normally be taken at the end of Y12. Pass rates were 100% at Blatchington Mill and 93% at Dorothy Stringer, and at Dorothy Stringer 50% of the 41 Y11 students entered achieved A or B grades.

Section 48 inspections

In addition to inspections within the Ofsted framework, church schools are also inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. The principal objective of a Section 48 inspection is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a *church school*. The Dioceses are responsible for arranging Section 48 inspections.

Two Church of England schools in Brighton and Hove had Section 48 inspections in 2011/12 – Aldrington and St Martin's, Brighton. Both schools achieved a Grade 1 (outstanding) for leadership and management of a church school and for overall effectiveness. Both schools were judged to be 'good' in Religious Education.

Two Catholic schools received Section 48 inspections in 2011/12, Cardinal Newman Catholic School and St John the Baptist RC Primary School. Both schools achieved a Grade 1 (outstanding) for leadership and management of a Catholic school and Grade 2 (good) for overall effectiveness as a church school. Both schools were judged to be 'good' in Religious Education.

THE YEAR AHEAD FOR THE BRIGHTON & HOVE SACRE

An initial key task for SACRE in 2012/13 will be to use the self evaluation exercise carried out in the Summer Term 2012 to formulate an action plan to support its work. This action plan may include, among other actions:

- Training to ensure that all SACRE members understand the purpose and role of SACRE and their place within these
- Keeping under review the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus
- Learning more about RE in special schools
- Considering the effect of curriculum policy change on the place of RE in the curriculum, especially in the secondary sector across Brighton & Hove
- Reviewing Summer 2012 examination results in RE in the city

In addition, with some members leaving SACRE there will be an opportunity to review membership and recruit new members, ensuring that the membership represents the various denominational and faith groups present in the city.

SACRE Budget 2011/12

The budget for SACRE for 2011/12 was £7900. Below is a summary of expenditure:

Description	Cost £
Staff costs	1000
SACRE Meetings (meeting rooms, refreshments, speakers etc)	335
RE Agreed Syllabus launch (printing costs, speaker, venue, refreshments and supply cover)	4370
Contributions to RE Resource Centre	1000
School Self Evaluation	1100
Subscription to NASACRE	95
Total	7900