

Annual Report 2017-2018

Sutton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Sutton SACRE.



Foreword by the Chair

In the 2018 Advent Lecture at Trinity Church, Sutton, Professor Grace Davie spoke on the subject *London's Religion: an exceptional case or a sign of things to come*. In her talk, she argued that the secularised society that we consider the norm in Western Europe is in fact the exception in global terms; and that London is the exception in this country, being a melting-pot of so many cultures and their religious beliefs and practices. Prof. Davie stated that we have a paradox. On the one hand, the process of secularization continues, and on the other, there is a continuing and growing prominence of religion in public discussion. We were challenged that, at the very moment when our society needs them most, we are losing the vocabulary, tools and concepts required to have a constructive conversation about faith. One result of this is the frightening growth of religious-based hate crime, and violence associated with it.

RE has never been more needed – both in its wider brief of understanding people's world views, but also in understanding particularly religious world-views, and their consequences in life choices and actions. The role of SACRE in supporting and encouraging the teaching of good RE in the borough is a crucial part of this.

This is reflected in a very important report from the Commission on RE, which can be viewed here: <https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/final-report-religion-and-worldviews-the-way-forward-a-national-plan-for-re/> It argues that Religious Education in England's schools needs to be strengthened to ensure all pupils receive adequate preparation for life in modern Britain, and must adapt to reflect social changes.

I would like to thank all members of SACRE for their hard work and commitment. I would particularly like to thank those who have left SACRE after many years between them – Cllr Richard Broadbent (Vice-chair), Cllr Mary Burstow, Cllr S Gordon, Cllr H Ramsey, Mr K Siddiqi, Mrs S Webb and Mr P Henry. We are also very grateful for the knowledge and expertise of our consultant Penny Smith-Orr, and our clerk Penny Garry.

I commend this report to your attention.

Mark Williams

Chair of Sutton SACRE

Sutton SACRE 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.

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on its schools. For Religious Education (RE) SACRE advises community, voluntary controlled and Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation. For Collective Worship (CW) SACRE advises the LA on community, Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

This report will be available on the Sutton website: www.sutton.gov.uk

Three meetings were held during the 2017-18 Academic year;

7th November 2017 at The Sutton Civic Centre, St Nicholas Way, Sutton Surrey

27th February 2018 at The Sutton Civic Centre, St Nicholas Way, Sutton Surrey

15th May 2018 at The Sutton Civic Centre, St Nicholas Way, Sutton Surrey

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority.

The Sutton Agreed Syllabus can be found on the Sutton Council Website under Educational Resources and on the website www.reconsultant.co.uk .

The LA provided funding for one member of SACRE to attend the NASACRE AGM in May and continues to pay for the subscription to the National organisation. The RE Consultant is employed for 15 days per year

Priorities for 2017-18 were devised from the self-evaluation of SACREs document which was discussed at the summer meeting 2017.

The priorities for this year were to make a collective worship guidance document and monitor the websites of schools in Sutton

Government

At the Autumn meeting the RE Consultant outlined the interim report on the RE Commission. Members agreed to send in individual responses.

Schools Religious Education

Advice and guidance are given to schools by email and telephone conversations throughout the year. Teachers can access a website that has information for Sutton RE Coordinators and the Sutton Syllabus is on the Sutton Council website.

Each term there is an RE Coordinators network meeting at which there is a presentation of teaching ideas for religious education and discussion on various topics of interest to the Coordinators. The Spring Term meeting was held in the Sutton and District Synagogue with a very excellent and comprehensive presentation by Rabbi Shmuli Sagal who explained many facets of the Jewish religion and took questions from the teachers.

The RE Consultant ran a twilight course for HTLA's who teach RE at one school in Sutton.

Victor Seymour Infant School has a selection of resource boxes that schools can borrow for free.

There have been no complaints to Sutton SACRE regarding religious education.

Other Discussions at Meetings

There was a continuing discussion about the budget for SACRE which is still not completely resolved. Membership of SACRE, particularly the need for more group A members, was discussed and ideas put forward.

Much time was spent on discussing the guidance for collective worship.

In the Spring it was decided that SACRE should follow the good practice of other SACREs and look at the websites of Sutton schools as a way of monitoring religious education and collective worship. Members volunteered to do this and about half the schools were covered during the year.

The development plan for SACRE is updated at every meeting.

Collective worship

A survey sent out in the previous year resulted in SACRE agreeing to make a Guidance document on good practice for Collective worship, with ways to include all pupils and suggestions of topics to cover. This was discussed at several meetings with input from members and sent out to all schools in Sutton at the end of July.

There have been no determinations received during this year and no complaints regarding Collective Worship

The agenda is set by the RE Consultant and the Chair and papers and minutes sent by email by the clerk who is an independent clerk paid for by Sutton.

Standards and Quality of provision of RE

The members of SACRE are conducting a website check to see if RE and CW are mentioned on schools websites.

There have been no complaints regarding religious education during the year.

Examination Results for Sutton Schools

It was not possible to get the Sutton schools examination results at the time of writing.

Management of SACRE

The Revd Mark Williams from Group B was voted in as Chair and Cllr Richard Broadbent from Group D as Vice-chair, unfortunately Cllr Broadbent was not re-elected in the May elections, thanks for his hard work were sent. Two meetings were quorate and the third was ratified at the following meeting.

The agenda is set by the RE Consultant and the Chair and papers and minutes sent by email by the clerk who is an independent clerk paid for by Sutton.

Membership of Sutton SACRE for 2017-18 and attendance can be seen in the table below:

- A- Christian denominations and other faith representatives,
- B- Church of England,
- C- Teachers
- D- Councillors

Group	No. of meetings	Name	Group	No. of meetings	Name
A	0	Mr K Siddiqi	C	3	Miss V M Stone
A	3	Mr L Bracken	C	3	Mrs M Cockram
A	1	Rev D Smith	C	1 (of 1)	Mr P Henry (left 01/18)
A	3	Mrs R Johnson	C		
A	1	Mrs S Webb			
A	1 (of 1)	Rabbi Shmuli Sagal			
B	0	Mrs C Smythe	D	1 (of 2)	Cllr R Broadbent (left 05/18)
B	3	Revd M Williams Chair	D	1 (of 2)	Cllr M Burstow
			D	0 (of 2)	Cllr S Gordon
			D	0	Cllr N Patel
			D	1 (of 2)	Cllr H Ramsey
	3	Mrs P Garry			Clerk
	3	Ms P Smith-Orr			RE Consultant