

HSACRE

HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The current HSACRE was inaugurated on 22 February 1989 and this is its nineteenth Annual Report in accordance with its constitution and statutory obligations.

A copy of this Annual Report can be found on the Hillingdon Grid for Learning/Fronter.

CONTENTS

1. Forward by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
2. Membership
3. Chairman's report
4. Meetings in 2010
5. Financial statement
6. Advice given to the Authority by SACRE
7. Publications and events
8. Advanced skills teacher
9. Monitoring and review
10. Other activities

1. FORWARD BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES



It gives me great pleasure to introduce this nineteenth Annual Report of Hillingdon's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education [SACRE].

I am pleased to note that most meetings of Hillingdon SACRE are well attended and this year has seen a number of important developments including the re-introduction of meetings of Heads of RE in secondary schools and plans for a similar model for Primary RE co-ordinators. The new Agreed Syllabus was launched in 2010 and the exciting project work with Brunel University entitled: 'Youth on Religion' is coming to fruition.

Religious Education has a profound contribution to make to the Authority's commitment to developing community cohesion. Hillingdon's SACRE works hard to support every teacher of RE in order to give our young people active and engaging learning experiences of living religious tradition in order to achieve both attainment targets of learning about and from others' faith views. SACRE members believe that a flourishing SACRE is vital to the promotion of mutual understanding of the different communities in Hillingdon.

Hillingdon SACRE promotes open-mindedness, respect for all, self awareness and appreciation and a sense of wonder, all of which have much to contribute to young peoples' development. Contacts with faith organisations throughout Hillingdon have enriched this. For children of the 21st century multicultural Britain, to learn about the plurality of religions and the beliefs that inform them is essential for them to become responsible citizens.

I would like to conclude by thanking the whole membership of the SACRE for being so active over the year. Thanks also to those who serve the SACRE, Natasha Dogra, and now Nadia Williams for clerking meetings and Eric Blaire, the Professional Adviser to SACRE, but particular thanks must go to Duncan Struthers who continues to chair SACRE and drives forward most of the SACRE's work.

Cllr David Simmonds

2. MEMBERSHIP

HSACRE members are from four distinct groups and the committee is only quorate when representatives from every group are present:

GROUP A – Representatives of all faith groups in Hillingdon, including representatives from the Christian community not members of the Church of England. HSACRE works at ensuring that along with representatives from all the major world faiths, it works with all communities within the borough and welcomes their representation so long as they recognise the emphasis placed on inclusion by HSACRE.

GROUP B - Representatives from the Christian Church of England.

GROUP C - Representatives from each of the teachers' professional associations.

GROUP D - Hillingdon Councillors.

A list of members of each group is included in Appendix 1, attached to this report.

Nadia Williams (Democratic Services) replaced Natasha Dogra (Democratic Services) as Clerk to SACRE in May 2010.

Eric Blaire continues as the professional adviser to SACRE, as an independent consultant, working on behalf of the authority's Children's Services and the relevant director. SACRE remains delighted with this support but is anxious as to the level that will be available in the future.

Duncan Struthers has continued as Chairman and Mike Gettleson as Vice-Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The main business for the year has been the launch of the Agreed Syllabus in the summer (9 July 2010), particularly consideration of the development of the new 'Faith Strand' and the intra-faith co-operation in the completion of the individual sections for the main faiths.

As part of the work of the Hillingdon Inter-Faith Network (HIFN) there has been the initiation of a Faith Visitors to schools project that has received national funding and it is hoped to be further developed in 2011 along with the increased use of the Places of Worship Data Base thanks to the extensive work of Alison Fothergill, HIFN administrator.

The Harefield Academy was presented with a cheque for the RE department along with a framed certificate, celebrating the school being the 'most improved' for its RE GCSE

results for 2010. It would be good to explore other ways for SACRE to engage and encourage pupils and staff.

There was a well-attended Inter-Faith discussion of the proposed revisions to the advice on Ramadan in early June at Townfield Community Centre, so that it was ready for approval at the following SACRE meeting.

The lead specialist school, Swakelys continues to be an enthusiastic partner and has been instrumental in running the High school Inter Faith events which now attract most of the schools in the borough. Similar informal leadership is shown by Yeading Junior School. It continues to run cross-phase Inter Faith meetings of the schools in the Yeading cluster.

The Government has initiated a review of the work of SACREs under the Department for Education Circular 1/94 Act published in 1994, with the exception of those parts which cover 'Acts of Collective Worship'. Hillingdon remains unique across London in not having any school seeking a 'determination' to be exempt. The Coalition Government has introduced an English Baccalaureate with no reference to RE and Hillingdon SACRE will be expressing its concern about this along with other SACREs nationally.

There have been ongoing discussions with the research team at Brunel University on both the YOR study and possible future studies. All High schools in the borough were invited to participate in this 'Youth and Religion' study and a few schools have had sixth formers personally interviewed about their views.

Notification and some planning was initiated for the CelebratingRE Month in March 2011.

It was a particular pleasure to hear from the newly appointed Deputy Director for Education and Children's Services, Anna Crispin, at the June 2010 meeting and that she came and spoke at the Agreed Syllabus launch in July 2010.

SACRE wishes to thank Mildred Atubo for her involvement in SACRE for many years. Mildred retired from the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service in summer 2010 and Elenor Paul from the Traveller Service joined SACRE in her place.

4. MEETINGS OF HSACRE IN 2010

Full meetings of HSACRE were held on:

24 th March 2010	Civic Centre
16 th June 2010	Civic Centre
9 th November 2010	Grange Park Junior School

All meetings were quorate.

There was a Special Meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference to approve the new syllabus on 21st January 2010 at the Civic Centre.

In addition to the full meeting of SACRE, there were a number of sub-group meetings and the continuing progress of the Inter-Faith Forum and of Youth Events.

The new Syllabus was launched by the Mayor, Councillor David Yarrow at the Civic Centre on 9th July 2010.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

HSACRE was delegated a budget of £2200 for the year.
Major items of expenditure to date (December 2010) are:

Syllabus development	1700
Conference attendance	70
NASACRE	85
Catering for meetings	120
Successful School Award	250

HSACRE is grateful for the financial support it receives and its development plan is guided by comments received from schools and faith communities.

6. ADVICE GIVEN TO THE AUTHORITY BY SACRE

- i. SACRE revised its previous advice on Ramadan and extended its coverage in advance of the month of Ramadan which ended in 2010 in the first weeks of September.
- ii. Advice is given annually to the authority on Religious Education and Worship paragraphs in its information booklets for families entering a particular phase of education.
- iii. Responses to Freedom of Information requests re the nature and responsibilities of SACRE.

7. PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

Extensive detailed work was carried out on the new syllabus with final consultation taking place with all groups and faiths and it was finally approved and published in July 2010. An article on the new syllabus appeared in the autumn newsletter for governors and a presentation to governors was planned for spring 2011.

Continuing support is given to both Inter-Faith Events locally and nationally and similarly to the Week of Peace.

8. ADVANCED SKILLS TEACHER (AST)

Dharmini Shah is an RE teacher at Bishop Ramsey CE school and SACRE is fortunate to have some of her dedicated time for support.

As part of her AST work Dharmini has been closely working with SACRE in the re-writing of the Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus. This has involved checking the content of the syllabus and thinking about ways in which some of this can be delivered.

Another part of her AST work has involved 'outreach' whereby she has been deployed by the Local Authority to help RE Departments across Hillingdon. She has been actively involved in training and providing strategies for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) and Graduate Teacher Programmes (GTPs) to improve their teaching. She has also been involved in writing and updating several schemes of work in some of Hillingdon's secondary schools.

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW

GCSE and GCE Results for 2009

SACRE has received the results of public examinations in RE for all schools. It is pleased to note that all schools now appears to be offering RE as a compulsory subject at KS4 as required.

Part of SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of Collective Worship in Hillingdon schools. During the year, the SACRE have remained concerned that the Ofsted inspection reports in respect of collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development do not give them information for monitoring standards.

Members of the SACRE have continued to consider ways of obtaining good information about collective worship but to little effect. It is hoped that once the Agreed Syllabus Review is complete, SACRE can refocus its efforts on this topic.

10. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR 2011

In collaboration with Brunel University Hillingdon SACRE has played a major role in delivery of the Youth on Religion Project in Hillingdon. This project has involved students in Years 8, 10 and 12 in both maintained and independent schools plus Uxbridge College. Similar research with young people has gone on in Newham, Bradford and Keighley. There has been a focus on young people with additional needs and Year 13 students in Phase 2 of the project in Autumn 2010.

Further issues around prayer and dress for physical education were expected to arise in 2011, covering primary age as well as secondary students.

No school had sought a determination in 2010 but the issue is likely to arise again in future years as consideration of the ever shrinking numbers of practising Christians in some schools occurs. There is also the expected development of further faith schools as community, academy or free schools.

Comments on the value of this report are welcomed. These should be sent to Nadia Williams – Democratic Services, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1UW or emailed to nwilliams@hillingdon.gov.uk.

GROUP A

Baptist	Duncan Struthers
Hindu	Kamal Persaud
Methodist	Angela Lount
Muslim	Amir Ahmed
Quaker	Lucy Russell
Jewish	Mike Gettleson
Roman Catholic	Vacant
Salvation Army	Heather Steady
Sikh	Jasvir Rayat Singh
United Reform Church	
Buddhist	Connie Dusek
Bahai	

GROUP B

Church of England	Hilary Stone
	Mary Coulhurst
	Graham Marriner
	Vacant
	Vacant

GROUP C

National Union of Teachers	
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	Jean Nunnery
National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers	
Professional Association of Teachers	
National Association of Headteachers	Kevin Guest
Association of Secondary School and College Leaders	

GROUP D

Local Education Authority	Councillor Mike Bull Councillor Keith Burrows Councillor Shirley Harper-O'Neill – to March 2010 Councillor Carol Melvin – from May 2010 Councillor David Routledge Councillor Avtar Sandhu
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Hillingdon Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 9 November 2011– Annual Report 2010

CO-OPTED MEMBERS/OBSERVERS

Mildred Atubo	
Graham Sumbler	
Laura McNamee	
Dharmini Shah	
Jazz Virdee	
Malcolm Britton	
Lil Osborn	
Albie Huyser	
Naseem Bint Amir	
Jamal Pasha	
Farina Jussab	

OFFICER SUPPORT

London Borough of Hillingdon Democratic Services	Natasha Dogra then Nadia Williams, Democratic Services 3E/05 Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge Middlesex UB8 1UW
SACRE Consultant for Hillingdon	Dr Eric Blaire