

# HSACRE

**HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

The current HSACRE was inaugurated on 22 February 1989 and this is its twentieth 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 2011
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 CHILDREN'S SERVICES



It gives me great pleasure to introduce this twentieth 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 embedded including the meetings of Heads of RE in secondary schools and the continuing Interfaith work with its own innovations. The new Agreed Syllabus launched in 2010, was being implemented and the exciting project work with Brunel University entitled: 'Youth on Religion' continues. The HSACRE Constitution was reviewed and formally approved by myself on 3 April 2012.

Religious Education continues to make a profound contribution 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, even in a period of significant educational change nationally.

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, 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.

## **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 committee is included as an appendix.

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 Chief Education Officer, Anna Crispin. SACRE remains delighted with this support but is ever more anxious as to the level that will be available in the future, particularly as Dr Blaire will be retiring at the end of 2012.

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, 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 embedding this year of a Faith Visitors to schools project that has received funding from the Hillingdon Community Trust. This has been extended with the involvement of sixth formers going to speak about their faith in primary schools.

The Rosedale College was presented with a framed certificate backed by a financial reward for the RE department, celebrating the school being the 'most improved' for its RE GCSE results for 2011. This was the second time that Rosedale College had received this award. Consideration continues to be given to other ways for SACRE to engage and encourage pupils and staff.

The lead specialist school, Swakelys continues to be an enthusiastic partner and continues to be instrumental in running the High school Inter Faith events, including a Conference with a theme of 'Prejudice'. These events 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.

Hillingdon remains unique across London in not having any school seeking a 'determination' to be exempt from the locally Agreed Syllabus and furthermore, the movement of all but to secondary schools to Academy status has not changed this situation.

Working with the research team at Brunel University has resulted in interviews with two groups of sixth formers as a follow up to the YOR study and it is hoped to produce a DVD to be used as source materials in schools. All High schools in the borough were invited to participate in this 'Youth and Religion' study.

SACRE wishes to thank Lucy Russell, the Quaker representative, for her involvement in SACRE for many years. Carolyn Appleby joined SACRE in her place. Daniel Norris, Headteacher of Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, replaced Graham Mariner as the Church of England representative on Hillingdon SACRE in the autumn 2011.

#### **4. MEETINGS OF HSACRE IN 2011**

Full meetings of HSACRE were held on:

23 March 2011	Ruislip Synagogue
22 June 2011	Civic Centre
9 November 2011	Civic Centre

All meetings but one was quorate.

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

#### **5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

HSACRE was delegated a budget of £2500 for the year.

Major items of expenditure to date (December 2011) are:

	£
Subject development	1575
Conference attendance	70
NASACRE	85
Catering for meetings	120
Successful School Award	250
YOR developments	400

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. 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.
- ii. Responses to Freedom of Information requests re the nature and responsibilities of SACRE.

## **7. PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS**

Extensive detailed work was carried out revising the Constitution and the final version was submitted for approval in 2012. An article on the new syllabus appeared in the autumn newsletter for governors and a presentation to governors was carried out in 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**

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 worked with SACRE in the re-writing of the Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus. This involved checking the content of the syllabus and thinking about ways in which some can be delivered.

Another part of her AST work involved 'outreach' whereby she could be deployed by the local authority to help RE Departments across Hillingdon. This latter situation is likely to end with her school becoming an Academy.

## **9. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

### **GCSE AND GCE RESULTS FOR 2010**

SACRE has received the published results of public examinations in RE for all schools. It is pleased to note that all schools continue to offer 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 has remained concerned that the Ofsted inspection reports in respect of collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development do not give information for monitoring standards.

Members of the SACRE have continued to consider ways of obtaining good information about collective worship but to little effect.

## **10. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR 2012**

In collaboration with Brunel University Hillingdon SACRE has played a major role in delivery of the Youth on Religion Project in Hillingdon through interviews with groups of sixth form students.

SACRE intends to revise its previous advice on Ramadan and take cognisance of the holy month coming to coincide with public examinations in the coming years. 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 2011 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.

SACRE continues to seek Humanist involvement in its work through representation.

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 by emailing [nwilliams@hilligdon.gov.uk](mailto:nwilliams@hilligdon.gov.uk).

## APPENDIX

### GROUP A

Baptist	Duncan Struthers
Hindu	Kamal Persaud
Methodist	Angela Lount
Church of England	Elenor Paul
Muslim	Amir Ahmed
Hillingdon Assembly of Muslim Youth	Naseem Bint Amir
Quaker	Carolyn Appleby
Jewish	Mike Gettleson
Roman Catholic	Vacant
Hillingdon Area Salvation Army	Heather Steady
Sikh	Jasvir Singh Rayat
Buddhist	Connie Dusek
United Reform Church	
Bahai	Lil Osborn
British Humanist Association	Richard Thomas

### GROUP B

Church of England	Hilary Stone
	Mary Coulthurst
	Elenor Paul
	Alison Fothergill
	Daniel Norris

### GROUP C

National Union of Teachers	Ian Harper
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	Jean Nunnery
National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers	
VOICE (formerly PAT)	
National Association of Headteachers	
Headteacher – Yeading Junior School	Carol Jones
Association of Secondary School and College Leaders	Vacant

### GROUP D

Local Authority	Councillor Mike Bull Councillor Keith Burrows Councillor Carol Melvin Councillor David Routledge Councillor Avtar Sandhu
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### **CURRENT CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Graham Sumbler	Ruislip Baptist Church
Dharmini Shah	Bishop Ramsey School
Albie Huyser	Harefield Academy
Farina Jussab	Swakeleys School

### **OFFICER SUPPORT**

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