

Annual Report 2021-2022

Sutton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Sutton SACRE.



Introduction from the Chair of Sutton SACRE, Veronica Stone

Once again I have the privilege of being Chair at an exciting time.

We have now gone from virtual to full in person meetings which helps us deal with the business of the meeting. Our last meeting was small, but all groups were represented. We could function fully for the first time in 2 years.

We continue to fully appreciate the work of RE co-ordinators in our schools. Plans pre-Covid were stalled but we are now moving forward. To put RE in the spotlight, we have relaunched the WIRE Award (Widening Inclusivity In RE). We also have a co-ordinator who is preparing Faith Ambassadors Video films (Secondary School pupils) to talk about their Faith. This will create an additional RE resource for all Sutton schools.

My sincere and grateful thanks to all our new, continuing and retiring members who are moving on. Your service and commitment encourage me.

Meetings

Sutton SACRE met on three occasions during the year.

A virtual meeting was held on 9th November 2021 and on 8th March 2022.

On June 7th the meeting was face to face and held at Sutton High School, Cheam Rd, Sutton.

Overview of meetings

The meeting in the Autumn Term was not quorate due to a continuing lack of members from the Diocese of Southwark. During the year the new Chair has undertaken an update of membership and two new members from the Diocese have been found. For membership attendance see appendix A.

Standing items at Sutton SACRE meetings; At each meeting the development plan is checked (see appendix C), and progress updated. Monitoring is discussed and the RE Adviser updates on the work done with schools. There is also an update on the Faith and Belief forum in Sutton.

The Self-evaluation Tool was discussed at the Autumn meeting and completed at home by some members. The results were discussed in the Spring Term, and it was decided to look again in the Autumn term 2022. However, the discussions led to some training on Determinations taking place in the summer.

Religious Education RE

Most schools in Sutton use or have the Sutton Syllabus- the Revised version, finished in 2021, is on the Council website, SACRE pages.

SACRE discussed the school data on 'Hours of RE taught in schools' sent by Deborah Weston. This was a very interesting set of figures, and we look forward to receiving the next set of data to compare.

RE Ambassadors- this initiative is from pupils at Sutton High School and during the lockdowns and school closures the pupils have led discussions and collective worship in their own school. It is hoped that they will be able to go to primary schools and present in the coming year.

The RE adviser has not received any complaints or withdrawals during the year. Teachers can email for help and support on RE and questions regarding the Agreed Syllabus. There were three virtual meetings of the RE Network which were attended by 18-20 teachers each time. Teachers can discuss within break out rooms and share their questions and concerns. Each meeting generally comprises of an activity for teachers to use and information on festivals each term, something for their own CPD and news of national or local initiatives.

During the year topics were- taking pupils on a virtual visit, 'Understanding Faith and Belief', Skills of RE and how to highlight these, Pilgrimage and questions asked by OFSTED.

In the Autumn term a course was run online for the 'New RE Coordinator'.

Our Advice to the local authority has been over the SACRE budget which stands at £8000pa. The SACRE committee discussed the funding information from NASACRE and then had discussions with the Council Officers. Finally, we were informed of the budget which covers the RE Consultant for 14 days, clerking and the subscription and the cost of sending someone to the NASACRE conference.

A SACRE award on widening inclusivity in RE, The WIRE, was launched in Autumn 2019 and so it was difficult for schools to achieve this free award once the schools closed during lockdowns. A couple of schools did achieve this award during the years 2020-22 and received certificates through the post. The award has been re-advertised to schools and encouragement given to schools to help them achieve it.

The exam results for Sutton schools had not arrived and been evaluated by the time of writing.

CPD for schools

Invitation to join a Religion and World Beliefs online discussion with Prof Trevor Cooling
New RE coordinator Training Autumn Term 2021 RE network meetings – one per term

CPD for SACRE training on the determination process

Collective Worship CW

There is a Guidance document on the Sutton Council Website for schools on Collective worship in Sutton. At the RE network meetings Collective worship is sometimes discussed by the group but as the RE Coordinators are rarely the CW coordinators this is not very useful.

During the website checks of schools done during 2019, it was noted that not many schools mentioned it on their websites. During the school lockdowns it was reported by teachers that CW online had kept the school community together and connected.

No Determinations have been requested. The SACRE committee had a training on Determinations in the Summer term meeting and there are papers in place if a school does ever request one.

Occasionally a school contacts the consultant about withdrawal of pupils from CW but this is very rare in Sutton.

Links with other bodies and SACRE involvement locally

Sutton SACRE is a member of NASACRE and at least one person always attends the AGM. This year a few of the NASACRE training events have been attended by members. There is a standing item on the Faith and Belief Forum of Sutton although this is not a very active group. We have members from the Diocese of Southwark on the committee and the annual report is reported on at the Southwark Board of Education.

This year a Guidance for schools on Ramadan was sent out, the Muslim members and the RE Consultant liaised to make sure this was correct for Sutton schools. SACRE collaborates with a Christian charity organisation called Sutton Schoolwork, who work with schools, and this is a good way to advertise SACRE and find out if schools need any support.

Sutton SACRE Details

Sutton Council pays for a clerk to attend meetings and contact members between meetings.

There is an RE consultant who is employed for up to 14 days per year. Recently the Councillor members of SACRE have been very proactive in linking with the Council and we hope that this will continue to be the case.

The new Chair from September 2021 has tried to recruit members and checked on people who should be at meetings and organisations that should be represented. Two out of the three

meetings were quorate, we have returned to face-to-face meetings which hopefully will improve membership and activity.

The Development plan for the work of Sutton SACRE is regularly referred to and will be added to when the self-evaluation document is updated.

Sutton Council provide pages on the Council website for the Agreed Syllabus and other documents from SACRE. They pay for clerking and the RE Consultant and a small amount of finance is left for subscriptions or courses for teachers. Cognus, who run the CPD for Sutton schools are extremely accommodating and helpful to the RE Consultant and run the booking scheme for courses.

Appendix A Attendance during the Academic year 2021-2022

GROUP A: Faiths and other beliefs other than C of E	Attendance	GROUP B: Church of England	Attendance
		Marcus Cooper	0 of 3
Mrs R Johnson Baptist	2 of 3	Ms M Morgan	2 of 2
Mr L Bracken Humanist	1 of 3	Mr L Owens	1 of 2
Mr P Solomon Jewish	1 of 3		
Mrs U Hussein Muslim	2 of 3	GROUP D: LA	Attendance
Mr M Rao Hindu	0 of 3	Mrs A Huneke	2 of 3
Mr V Burke Catholic	1 of 2	Cllr N Patel	0 of 3
Mr S Uddin Ahmadiyya Muslim	0 of 2	Cllr C Williams	1 of 1
		Cllr M Gonzales	0 of 2
		Cllr P Ogbonna	1 of 1
		Cllr C Woolmer	0 of 1
GROUP C: Teachers	Attendance	Others	
Miss V Stone Chair	3 of 3	Mrs P Smith-Orr RE consultant	3 of 3
Mrs M Cockram	3 of 3	Mrs P Garry Clerk	3 of 3
Mrs J Speck	2 of 3		
Mr S Ellingham	0 of 3		
Mrs U Mobin	1 of 3		

Appendix B Self-Evaluation of Sutton SACRE – December 2021

Number	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
Section 1 Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education				
1a	Funding: Professional and financial support		x	
1b	SACRE meetings	x	x	
1c	Membership and training		x	
1d	Improvement/development planning		x	
1e	Information and advice	x		
1f	Partnerships with key stakeholders		x	
1G	Relations with the Academies sector		x	
Section 2 Standards and Quality of Provision of RE				
2a	RE provision across the LA.		x	
2b	Standards of achievement and public examination entries	x		
2c	Quality of learning and teaching.		x	
2d	Quality of interaction and communication with leadership and management of RE			x
2e	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools.		x	
Section 3 The effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus				
3a	The review process		x	
3b	The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus			x
3c	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus		x	
3d	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)		x	

3e	Developing the revised agreed syllabus		x	
3f	Making best use of National Guidance			x
Section 4 Provision and practice of Collective Worship			x	
4a	Supporting pupil entitlement		x	
4b	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		x	
4c	Responding to requests for determinations		x	
Section 5 Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community				
5a	SACRE's membership		x	
5b	SACRE's understanding of the local area			x
5c	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda		x	
5d	SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion		x	

**Appendix C Reduced Sutton SACRE Development Plan
SACRE Adviser 14 days**

Objective	Action	By Date	Success criteria	Progress against Action
1. Evaluate SACRE work and establish priorities.	Continuous self-evaluation process using the NASACRE self-evaluation document and Development Plan		Further areas for development towards an advanced SACRE are identified and incorporated as appropriate into future development plans. Results to be incorporated into the annual report.	Members were asked to Fill in and send results in December. Many didn't, results to be discussed at Spring meeting
1a Attend NASACRE AGM	A member to attend and feedback to Sutton SACRE	May 23 rd 2022	SACRE knowledge of national initiatives	Meeting held virtually with members attending
1b SACRE members to attend training and be aware of responsibilities	From self evaluation work out what would be useful training for members	During academic year	SACRE members feeling confident about their role	
2. Effective SACRE Meetings are held three times a year	To prepare agendas for each SACRE Meeting, respond to any actions from previous meetings and plan ongoing programme for SACRE committee meetings. Write papers and reports for the meeting to LA timetable	Termly	Effective meetings with action points carried out by Members between meetings. Members have a working knowledge of, and an understanding of, the responsibilities of SACRE	.3 meetings
2a Training for SACRE members	Training session on Determinations	Summer term meeting	Members to understand their responsibilities re a determination	Training re determination
3. To report annually on the work of SACRE.	Collect information on exam data if available and SACRE work RE Consultant to write an annual report by December on the previous academic year.	Deadline end December 2022	Completed on time and copies provided for SACRE members, Director Assistant Director, schools and governing bodies. NASACRE and the secretary of State for Education	In hand
3a Ensure that updated syllabus has been received by schools	Get updated syllabus onto Council website and old one removed	End 2021	Teachers aware of and Using information in Reviewed syllabus	Syllabus on council website

<p>4. To monitor standards of RE and CW in Sutton Schools.</p> <p>See also item 9</p>	<p>Write to schools regarding the website check results</p> <p>Consider other ways of monitoring</p> <p>Provide data for members on RE examination results in Secondary Schools.</p>	<p>RE Consultant – to try to visit if invited</p> <p>Councillor members could report on schools visited</p>	<p>Visits and/ or reports Completed and discussed at SACRE meetings</p>	<p>Sutton Schoolswork reports</p>
<p>5. To run a course for New RE coordinators in Sutton</p>	<p>Advertise course and run in the Autumn Term</p> <p>Give support to teachers and ensure they understand their role</p>	<p>Cost of Trainer</p>	<p>Teachers confident about Their role</p>	<p>Course carried out virtually.</p>
<p>5. To reply to queries from schools regarding the syllabus and general support</p> <p>To inform Sutton teachers of resources website</p> <p>To run an RE Coordinators network</p>	<p>Replying to telephone and email requests for resources and advice.</p> <p>Send information to all schools on link to website www.reconsultant.org.uk and consider provision of other guidance documents e.g. teaching and learning, subject leader guidance, inclusivity and equalities</p> <p>Either virtually or in person</p>	<p>As required</p> <p>Termly</p>	<p>RE Coordinators able to access resources</p> <p>RE Coordinators confident to deliver excellent RE</p> <p>RE Coordinators joining and the activities</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>3 meetings taken place</p>

6 Faith Ambassadors to go into Sutton Primary schools (or virtually)	Further meetings with HoD in KS3/4 schools. Selection by teachers and training of pupils once by RE Consultant. Discuss at SACRE Advertise to all schools also through Sutton Schools work	RE Consultant 2 days Teacher input Faith Members of SACRE	System of Faith Ambassadors in place and used by schools.	on hold due to Covid. Possible use of films/ virtual visits also suggested
7 Consider a guidance document for teachers in Sutton on aspect of RE	SACRE members to decide on what guidance they would like to send schools during Spring meeting	RE Consultant days	A useful guidance document being used by schools	
8. Identify key stakeholders from the faith communities	Continue to partner with Sutton Interfaith Forum. Invite members of 'missing faiths' to join SACRE	Meeting time	Sutton SACRE to have full complement of faiths represented as per the constitution	Chair requesting members to attend or send a rep
9. To encourage schools to enter THE WIRE award to schools in Sutton	Talk to teachers at Coordinator meetings send out emails to teachers Put THE WIRE on the Sutton Council website Sutton Schools work to advertise	Judging to be done at SACRE meetings	Schools doing more obvious RE and celebrating the subject	Reminder sent to schools which showed intention