

Wandsworth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual Report for the academic year September 2019- August 2020

1. This annual report of Wandsworth SACRE outlines the work of SACRE during the academic year 2019 to 2020. Unlike other years, it does not include GCSE or A-level statistics for Religious Studies for the past year as examinations were cancelled. No school level data on Religious Studies was shared by schools with the Wandsworth Research and Evaluation Unit, which usually provides the statistics for the SACRE report.

Religious Education

Wandsworth's Agreed Syllabus

2. The agreed syllabus was adopted in September 2017. As has been the case since its adoption, training relating to subject knowledge has been provided for primary RE subject leaders.
3. Monitoring standards and provision

Two Section S48 (denominational inspections) reports for Catholic schools were provided to SACRE for information/discussion. Both were judged outstanding, one primary and one secondary. Of the eight schools Ofsted inspected in 2019 - 20 before inspection ceased due to the Covid pandemic, two contained significant comments on RE or spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Complaints

4. No complaints concerning RE were received during the year.

Methods of Teaching and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

5. The primary RE subject leaders' network met once in each of the autumn and spring terms; the summer term meeting was cancelled. The subject leaders received high quality training by a professional RE consultant. The foci for meetings in the last year were
 - Ofsted - the new framework and RE (October 2019)
 - Judaism: context and change (February 2020)

The email network group set up by the LA SACRE Officer has continued to enable members to keep in touch with each other to seek advice and share good practice. It includes some co-ordinators from independent schools as well as LA community schools.

Collective Worship

6. No monitoring of collective worship, either of quality or compliance to statutory requirements, took place during the year. No requests for determinations were received during the year. No schools in Wandsworth have been given determinations in the past.

7. No complaints regarding collective worship in the community schools of Wandsworth were referred to SACRE during the year.

Composition of SACRE, Attendance and the focus of meetings

8. Representation is good from the local authority, faith communities and teachers. Both meetings were quorate. New members were welcomed. There was again no attendance by the Hindu community during the year however.

Meetings held in the reporting year

9. Wandsworth SACRE met on two occasions during the academic year 2019 – 2020; the planned meeting for the summer term was cancelled due to the pandemic. Meetings are held during the evening. The autumn meeting was held at the Town Hall but the spring meeting was held at the place of worship of one of the Group A members. This was the synagogue; the meeting was preceded by a tour of the building, an overview of the faith and an explanation relating to worship within the synagogue. This was so successful that it is intended to hold one meeting a year at different places of worship once circumstances allow.
10. The NASACRE briefing is a standing item at all SACRE meetings.

Autumn Term Meeting 2019

11. Joint meeting of SACRE with the Wandsworth Multi-faith Group, held on Monday 7th October 2019.
12. The health and safety implications and safeguarding considerations for visits of pupils to places of worship were discussed. This sought to ensure that hosts and schools were fully prepared for these valuable visits, and for them to be as smooth and problem free as possible.
13. The next major item focused on the new statutory guidance on relationships education and the formal introduction of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in Wandsworth schools. Presentations were given by two of the Group C Teacher Association members, explaining that most of the required content was already part of Wandsworth's schools' teaching in this area. They described how they presented the required curriculum in their schools. Some Faith Group members asked questions and were reassured during the ensuing discussion that the content was age appropriate. Wandsworth has a Steering Group which is supporting schools in their adoption of the guidance.
14. There was a brief presentation on mental health and wellbeing in schools through "mental health trailblazer projects" in which the LA had made some successful bids.
15. The Ofsted monitoring report for 2019-20 was noted.

Spring Term Meeting 2020

16. Meeting held on Monday, 2nd March, 2020.
17. The NATRE report of the first 101 Ofsted inspections under the new framework was discussed. This report had analysed inspection reports for references to RE and "deep dives" in RE. It was noted that RE could have greater prominence in this framework, particularly where a deep dive was carried out, and that it gave a great responsibility to the role of the

subject leader. It was agreed to share useful information from the report with RE subject leaders.

18. The SACRE Annual Report for 2018-19 was presented and discussed. Examination statistics were interrogated. It was noted that the numbers of students in Wandsworth entered for a Religious Studies qualification had increased.
19. An update on the work of the RSE steering Group was given.

Summer Term Meeting 2020 cancelled

Freedom of Information (FOI) requests

20. SACRE received one FOI during the 2019-20 year. This requested information on the number of determinations submitted to SACRE during the previous three years, which was zero.

Links with other bodies

21. Wandsworth SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

Professional and Administrative Support

22. SACRE meetings are clerked by a Democratic Services Officer from Wandsworth Council. An officer is provided to support the LA. Specialist RE professional support for SACRE is provided by an external consultant, Lesley Prior, who supports a number of London SACREs.

Finance

23. The annual budget for support for SACRE in 2019-20 was £6000, the same as in 2018-19. This funds the external consultant, LA SACRE Officer, NASACRE membership and other incidental expenses.