

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KINGSTON UPON THAMES
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION [SACRE]
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-2008 (SEPTEMBER 2007 TO AUGUST 2008)**

INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE SACRE, MARIA JAMES

2007/08 has seemed to fly by, with new faces to welcome to the SACRE, such as the Venerable Phrakru Samu Lom of the Buddhapadipa Temple in Wimbledon, and Heather Henderson representing the Anglican Diocese of Guildford.

New challenges, too, with the requirement on schools to promote community cohesion and QCA recommendations for more detailed feedback by SACREs on RE standards in schools. We recognised that this year we would have to face challenges in meeting the QCA recommendations, as two of the officers advising us from the Directorate of Learning and Children's Services, Nick Whitfield and Annette Kelly, have departed to pastures new. Additionally, Jean Cousens' role has changed so she will no longer be able to clerk the SACRE; from November 2008 we welcome Penny Welsh who takes on the clerking role. For 2008/09 Keith Field, who has worked closely with our schools (particularly Primary co-ordinators) for a number of years now, will be the local authority adviser to SACRE, working with Tina Herring, Acting Directorate Head of Learning and School Effectiveness.

As always, I would like to thank the members of the SACRE who have voluntarily given of their time and expertise during the year to advise on the very busy agenda, reflecting the exciting developments nationally, as community development of faith communities takes a leading role in the Government's cohesion agenda.

It was therefore an appropriate time to welcome Dr Trevor Cooling to give our annual lecture, which explored the relationship between the secular and the religious in society. One of Trevor's roles is director of the 'Transforming Lives' project which promotes to churches the importance of the vocation of teaching as an important role for church members to play in the wider society. For our lecture, however, Trevor was attending in his broader role as an author and adviser on RE (and member of the RE Council for England and Wales), looking at the relationship between peoples' shared values, those things that hold us together as human beings in the community, and specific religious commitments. He commented that it is remarkable that when people, despite their differences, get together and start working at it, we find that there is a lot that we have in common, that many of our aspirations are, in fact, shared. (Trevor cited the interfaith scriptural discussions at St Ethelburga's Centre in London as an example.) Those shared aspirations may arise from very different beliefs, but, where there are shared values, there are lots of opportunities to cooperate together in 'shared space'. Trevor argues that it's important that teachers who might have a distinctive religious commitment are encouraged to explore and talk about how this relates to their work in the 'shared space' of education.

Interesting ideas, which prompted some lively questions at our event in June when it was as usual a delight and privilege to meet some of our RE practitioners from schools, whose professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment continually inspires our work on the SACRE.

Collective worship is one of the opportunities in schools to explore faith, belief and values. I would like to thank the SACRE working group who drafted guidance to help encourage schools' best practice in collective worship: Diana Brotherston (in the Chair), Cathy Davie, Annette Kelly, Marilyn Mason, Beryl Mooney and Ellen Zariat.

MARIA JAMES

SACRE WEBSITE

The Kingston SACRE web page provides access to a variety of our documents including:

- ❖ RE Syllabus
- ❖ Databank of Places of Worship
- ❖ Transcript of Annual Lectures
- ❖ Access to the agenda and Minutes of SACRE meetings
- ❖ SACRE information leaflet and Parents' Leaflet
- ❖ Annual Reports
- ❖ Collective Worship Determination Scheme
- ❖ RBK Self Evaluation guidance and AREIAC self evaluation toolkit
- ❖ Links to 10 key RE websites and 12 SMSC websites
- ❖ Inter Faith dialogue resources

View the website at: <http://www.kingston.gov.uk/education/sacre>

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

During 2007/08 the SACRE has met its statutory requirements and added value to the development of RE in Kingston.

In particular, I would congratulate the SACRE on drafting guidance this year for consultation with schools on collective worship. The guidance demonstrates how planning, monitoring and evaluating collective worship can contribute to ensuring a high quality educational experience for young people which respects students' own beliefs while celebrating what is best in the school and in the local community. Inclusion of examples of good practice from RBK schools contribute to making this a useful and practical source of ideas for colleagues to explore and develop. I hope schools will provide feedback to the SACRE on how they use it.

My Directorate continues to focus on coordination of children's services to deliver educational excellence within the Every Child Matters framework. We have developed our Children's Trust and Children's Network to consolidate our partnership working with other local statutory and voluntary agencies to promote the wellbeing of our children and young people. We recognise that our local faith communities can play an important role in our local communities in providing nurturing and development opportunities for young people within a variety of cultural traditions. Building connections with our local communities will help schools to meet the Government's new challenge to promote community cohesion, which I see will be a theme for the SACRE's annual lecture next year.

Patrick Leeson,
Director of Learning and Children's Services.

COMPLAINTS

The SACRE has not received any complaints on either the agreed syllabus or collective worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

There have been no requests for determinations (that is, to lift the statutory requirement that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character).

RE EXAMINATION RESULTS

Details of results for each school can be found at **Appendix C**. Among the good news in these results is the 11% increase in the proportion of Year 11 students taking an RE course and the 144% increase in A* grades in the full RE GCSE course. Congratulations to our secondary school RE teachers! (We regret that one of our schools has not submitted any RE GCSE entries - we look forward to future development of RE at that school.)

ANNUAL SACRE LECTURE 2009

We are delighted that the Chair of the National Association of SACREs, Denise Chaplin, will deliver our annual lecture next year, on the theme of promoting community cohesion in schools. We hope to link this lecture with an event with the Inter Faith Forum when David Rayner from the Faith and Cohesion Department in the Department of Communities and Local Government will discuss with the Forum ways to develop community cohesion in the Royal Borough.

MEETINGS OF THE SACRE

The Kingston upon Thames SACRE met on three occasions between September 2007 and August 2008. We continued our tradition of meeting in different education and faith locations across the borough (as well as in the Guildhall, Kingston), enjoying the kind hospitality this year of the Kingston, Surbiton and District Synagogue (which last year celebrated its 50th anniversary) and Southborough School, Surbiton.

The following topics were discussed at our meetings:

- the Annual Report for 2006/7 including school examination results
- Ofsted report 'Making Sense of Religion'
- 'Strong SACREs, Good RE' QCA/NASACRE
- NASACRE's 'Proposed Plans for SACRE effectiveness'
- Collective Worship guidance
- report on the 2007 annual feedback from the schools' RE self evaluation
- QCA new recommended annual report format
- Members' reports on attending:
 - NASACRE/QCA conference 17/1/08 on RE and Community Cohesion
 - NASACRE AGM 8/5/08
- Key Stage 3 & 4 Curriculum changes
- multi faith panel visit to Coombe Sixth Form in March
- bursary to develop KS 1 & 2 Schemes of Work
- Self evaluation of SACRE development plan action area no 2 (RE in Schools) using the NASACRE/ QCA criteria for self evaluation
- progress against the Development Plan
- termly notes of Kingston Inter Faith Forum
- summaries of SMSC grades in 'Section 5' OFSTED reports
- Holocaust Memorial Day seminars in schools
- promoting community cohesion in schools
- the SW London Schools Effectiveness Partnership website (to deliver CPD for teachers)
- supporting levelled assessment.

Minutes and agendas of SACRE meetings can be found on the Kingston Council website at: www.kingston.gov.uk/committeeminutes

NATIONAL BODIES

We have joined the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and continue to be a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and have benefited from their

conferences, newsletters, website and advice. We have also maintained contact with the Qualifications & Curriculum Authority (QCA) and attended Chairs of London SACREs meetings.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE

A SACRE working group led by Diana Brotherston has drafted guidance to encourage schools to plan and evaluate how they provide for collective worship. The draft guidance was sent for consultation with schools during autumn term 2008. The Working Group looked at guidance provided in other authorities and considered examples of local good practice.

The draft guidance includes sections on: the legal requirements; definitions of SMSC (social, moral, spiritual and cultural development) which Ofsted use for their school inspections, creating a whole-school policy; planning successful collective worship including half termly planning sheets; reflection and prayer; the use of visitors; monitoring collective worship by gathering evidence from staff and pupils; whole school evaluation; suggested themes and ideas; dates, events and festivals through the school year; useful web resources; examples of local practice from the Hollyfield School, Fernhill School and Coombe Girls; and the RB Kingston Agreed Scheme for seeking a determination.

As the Chair, Maria James, says in her preface to the guidance "Collective worship is an important vehicle for pupils to explore and share beliefs, to consider the importance of prayer, meditation, and silence, and the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives..."

The QCA report that collective worship often allows for the clearest expression of a school's ethos, affirming the importance of relationships, and the sharing collectively of both joy and sadness. The QCA advise that best practice in collective worship is usually characterised by thorough planning and evaluation, the use of themes over a term or half term and the use of outside speakers who are able to bring insights directly from their own faith and cultural traditions.

An effective curriculum includes a planned and coherent approach to pupils' personal development and to the 'Every Child Matters' framework, which will be reflected in the ethos and values of the school. In addition, each school also now has a duty to promote community cohesion.

We hope that school governors, headteachers, and staff with pastoral responsibilities will ask themselves how the daily act of collective worship can be integrated as a core element within the school's planning to fulfil these responsibilities."

EVALUATING ACHIEVEMENT IN R.E.

In 2005 schools were given new responsibilities for self evaluation following the reduction in the detailed inspection of schools by Ofsted. RE and other subject leaders now have a responsibility to make judgements about the quality of their provision, keep detailed notes of evidence to support those judgements and provide evidence to senior managers in the school to contribute to the school's self-evaluation form (SEF).

RBK provided 'Self Evaluation for Subject Leaders' toolkits and informed schools about the specialist toolkit for evaluating RE produced by the Association of RE Inspectors and Advisors (AREIAC). Schools have been requested in 2006 and 2007 to send the SACRE the findings of their RE self evaluation, for example by completing the SACRE's annual RE feedback form.

The findings of the 2007 feedback were reported to the SACRE in November 2007. 22 (68%) of a possible 32 community or foundation schools sent in RE self evaluation information (compared with 14 last year).

One of the comments sent in by primary teachers was a request for guidance on how to assess the levels of pupils' achievement in RE at different key stages. Some assistance with this has been provided in the Revised RE Agreed Syllabus with the 'I Can' statements describing pupil achievement. At the SACRE's request, Keith Field, Consultant RE Adviser, has provided sessions on assessment for Primary RE coordinators in June 2006, June 2007 and October 2007, and fed back findings from the sessions to SACRE meetings.

Keith has recommended that a bank of sample assessment tasks be produced with exemplar material at different levels for teachers to use or adapt. The SACRE has no resources to progress this currently and the School Improvement Team has offered to support this work.

One of the key action areas in the SACRE's Development Plan is to investigate how to collate boroughwide statistics on RE achievement, staffing and other resource issues. This was discussed in April 2008 when the SACRE considered the QCA's new recommended format for annual reports.

The new reporting format uses the section headings of the Ofsted self-evaluation guidance and would require a more rigorous collection and analysis of RE information than is currently undertaken in the borough, with 43 questions about standards of and

provision for RE in schools. It was recognised by the SACRE that there would not be the resources to undertake this detailed level of qualitative information-gathering for the 2007-08 annual report, and this will need to be revisited next year.

Nevertheless, the SACRE considered that the first two feedback exercises had been valuable in raising the profile of RE self evaluation in schools and in future years the SACRE hopes to focus on those schools which did not respond, to ensure that these schools are both self-evaluating RE achievement and providing sufficient continuing professional development opportunities in RE, particularly where the subject is taught by non specialists.

UPDATING OUR SCHEMES OF WORK

A big thank you to NATRE for awarding us a bursary to enhance our KS1&2 Schemes of Work to reflect the revisions to the Syllabus, and provide new modules for the Foundation Stage; RE guidance for cross-curricular 'themed days'; and additional lesson plans for the Year 6 bridging unit. Maria James has created some excellent new resources on discs which have been sent out to all Primary Schools.

INTER FAITH AND COMMUNITY LINKS

We have maintained our links with the Kingston Inter Faith Forum and with local faith communities to whom we send our annual report and an invitation to the annual lecture, together with a form to update contact details for our databank of places of worship.

We were delighted that Kingston Inter Faith Forum extended its outreach to different faith communities in the borough by producing the first guide for the public to places of worship in the Royal Borough. This booklet has been sent to schools and information outlets across the borough.

We also congratulate Ellen Zariat and Revd Bruce Stuart on organising a very successful question and answer session for students at Coombe Sixth Form with a multi faith panel of local faith community leaders answering some fascinating theological questions.

We greatly enjoyed our visit to Kingston, Surbiton and District Synagogue and would like to thank Gerald Cohen for organising this visit. We look forward to our visit to Our Lady Immaculate Roman Catholic Church Tolworth for our meeting on Thursday 30 April 2009.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SACRE (September 2007 – August 2008)**Christian and Other Religious Denominations**

Mrs Maria James (Chair)	the local evangelical churches
Mrs Amarjit Kaur Channi (to June 2008)	the local Sikh community
Mr Gerald Cohen	the local Jewish community
Mr Neil D'Aguiar	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark
Venerable Phrakru Samu Lom (from April 2008)	the local Buddhist community
Mrs Beryl Mooney	Kingston and District Free Churches
Mr. Dayasharan Patel (to June 2008)	the local Hindu community
Mr Raju Pandya (from July 2008)) jointly representing the local Hindu
Mr Mahendra Thakar (from July 2008)) community
Mrs Hamida Syed	the local Muslim community

The Church of England

Ms Rachel Boxer (to April 2008)	consultant for the Diocese of Guildford
Ms Heather Henderson (from April 2008)	Diocese of Guildford
Mrs Cathy Davie	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Miss Jenny Titterton	Diocese of Southwark

Teachers' Associations

Miss Diana Brotherston	Fern Hill Primary School
Ms Jennifer Rickards	Malden Manor Primary & Nursery School
Mr Bob Shaw	St Philip's School
Ms Ellen Ziriati	Coombe Girls' School

Local Education Authority

Councillor Dennis Doe (Vice Chair)
 Councillor Ian Reid
 Councillor Yogan Yoganathan

Co-opted Members

Mr Simon Birch	the local Baha'i community
Ms E Jayne (to June 2008)	Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Ms H Stephens	Schools Christian Worker / Insight in Kingston
Mrs M Mason	British Humanist Association

OFFICERS SUPPORTING THE SACRE

During this academic year, the SACRE received professional advice (to November 2007) from Nick Whitfield, Assistant Director of Learning and Children's Services, from Annette Kelly, Senior Advisor for Continuing Professional Development, (to July 2008), Keith Field, Consultant RE Adviser, and Jean Cousens, Democratic Support Officer (clerk to the SACRE to June 2008).

DISTRIBUTION**APPENDIX B**

- SACRE Members
 - RBK Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services and copies in political Group Offices at RB Kingston and Members' Room
 - Heads of RE / RE Subject Leaders in the borough
 - Governing Bodies & Headteachers
 - Director and Assistant Director of Learning & Children's Services
 - King Charles Resource Centre
 - Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
 - NASACRE
 - Local places of worship on databank
 - Kingston Racial Equality Council
 - Kingston Inter Faith Forum
 - Archdiocese of Southwark
 - Richard, Bishop of Kingston
 - Board of Deputies of British Jews
 - Union of Muslim Organisations of UK
 - British Evangelical Council
 - Free Church Education Unit
 - Institute of Tamil Culture
 - Network of Sikh Organisations
 - Culham Institute
 - St Mary's University School of Education
 - National Association for RE Teachers
 - Dean of Education, Kingston University
 - Roehampton Institute of HE
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**ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES (RBK)
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION ACHIEVEMENTS**

Post 16 studies completed in 2008 (2007 figures in brackets)

End of Post 16 Studies 2008: achievements at GCE A Level (2007 Post 16 Students in brackets)							
School	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	A-E
Coombe Boys							
Coombe Girls	9(8)	0(3)	0(1)	5(1)	2(3)	2(0)	9(8)
Chessington CC							
Hollyfield							
Holy Cross	2(7)	0(4)	0(2)	2(1)	(0)		2(7)
Richard Challoner	17(4)	0(3)	2(1)	6(0)	7(0)	2(0)	17(4)
Southborough	1(0)		1(0)				1(0)
Tiffin	19(21)	8(12)	11(9)				19(21)
Tiffin Girls							
Tolworth Girls	3(7)	0(2)	0(4)	1(0)	2(1)	(0)	3(7)
Total RBK	51(47)	8(24)	14(17)	14(2)	11(4)	4(0)	51(47)

End of Post 16 Studies 2008: achievements at GCE AS Level (2007 Post 16 Students in brackets)							
School	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	A-E
Coombe Boys							
Coombe Girls	8(7)	2(2)	(0)	1(3)	3(1)	2(1)	8(7)
Chessington CC							
Hollyfield	1(0)					1(0)	1(0)
Holy Cross	4(2)		2(0)		1(0)	0(1)	3(1)
Richard Challoner	1(0)					1(0)	1(0)
Southborough	1(0)				1(0)		1(0)
Tiffin	6(15)	3(0)	1(8)	0(3)		1(0)	5(14)
Tiffin Girls							
Tolworth Girls	3(7)	1(0)	0(5)	1(0)	0(2)	1(0)	3(7)
Total RBK	24(31)	6(5)	3(13)	2(6)	5(3)	6(2)	22(29)

**Students in first year of Post 16 Studies: Achievement at GCE AS Level in 2008
(2007 Post 16 Students in brackets)**

GCE AS Level : First Year of Post 16 Studies 2008							
School	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	A-E
Coombe Boys							
Coombe Girls	14(17)	1(0)	3(1)	3(2)	3(1)	3(4)	13(8)
Chessington CC							
Hollyfield							
Holy Cross	17(6)	2(0)	6(0)	2(1)	5(3)	1(1)	16(5)
Richard Challoner	9(19)	2(0)	0(4)	5(8)	2(4)	0(3)	9(19)
Southborough	1(0)		1(0)				1(0)
Tiffin	22(27)	8(0)	12(0)	1(0)	1(0)	0(2)	22(25)
Tiffin Girls							
Tolworth Girls	12(4)	7(1)	2(2)	0(1)	1(0)	1(0)	11(4)
Total RBK	75(73)	20(14)	24(16)	11(12)	12(9)	5(10)	72(61)

**Key Stage 4 studies completed in 2008
(provisional) (2007 figures shown in brackets).**

GCSE full course												
School	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C	A*-G
Coombe Boys												
Coombe Girls	32 (0)	11 (0)	6 (0)	7 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)	2(0)				27(0)	32 (0)
Chessington CC	41 (41)	0 (1)	4 (4)	10(13)	17(18)	4 (3)	4(0)	2(1)	0(1)		31(36)	41 (41)
Hollyfield	1 (22)		(1)	(8)	(8)	(4)	1(0)		0(1)		(17)	1 (22)
Holy Cross	121(128)	29(13)	23(24)	32(39)	23(28)	9(17)	5(5)	0(2)			107(104)	121(128)
Richard Challoner	114(113)	3(2)	9(15)	37(37)	36(38)	20(17)	7(3)	2(0)		0(1)	85 (92)	114(112)
Southborough												
Tiffin	147(25)	67(10)	54 (5)	22(9)	4(1)						147 (25)	147 (25)
Tiffin Girls	32(44)	28(30)	4(14)								32 (44)	32 (44)
Tolworth Girls	18 (24)	4(2)	6(11)	4 (4)	2(2)	2(4)	0(1)				16(19)	18(24)
Total RBK	506 (397)	142 (58)	106 (74)	112 (110)	85 (95)	38 (45)	19 (9)	4 (3)	0 (2)	0 (1)	445 (337)	506 (396)

GCSE short course												
School	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A*-C	A*-G	
Coombe Boys	73(0)	5(0)	8(0)	18(0)	18(0)	8(0)	5(0)	6(0)	3(0)	49(0)	71(0)	
Coombe Girls	145 (67)	11(24)	34(20)	49(8)	29(10)	11(2)	8(1)	1(1)	1(0)	123(62)	144(66)	
Chessington CC	15(4)			1(1)	5(1)	3(0)	3(1)	1(1)		6(2)	13 (4)	
Hollyfield	153 (134)	4(5)	29(22)	46(39)	26(27)	17(13)	12(12)	7(8)	10(5)	105(93)	151(131)	
Holy Cross												
Richard Challoner												
Southborough												
Tiffin	0(115)	0(10)	0(25)	0(54)	0(21)	0(3)	0(2)			0(110)	0(115)	
Tiffin Girls												
Tolworth Girls												
Total RBK	386 (320)	20 (39)	71 (67)	114 (102)	78 (59)	39 (18)	28 (15)	15 (10)	14 (6)	283 (267)	379 (316)	

Pre GCSE Course: Entry Level Qualification Band C (a pre GCSE course)

School	Entries	3	2	1
Holy Cross	20(10)	16(0)	2(4)	2(6)
Richard Challoner	16(10)	10(10)	6(0)	
Total	36(20)	26(10)	8(4)	2(6)

Total Yr 11	(1547)	(1512)
Total taking RE Course	928	(737)
% taking RE course	60%	(48.7%)

For Key Stage 4 studies, examinations are mostly taken at the end of Year 11, but some pupils take a short course in Year 10 and these results are held over for reporting until the end of the Year 11.

For Post 16 Studies, examinations are reported at the end of the time of study.

If a student who has taken an RE AS level in Year 12 does not continue with the subject for a further year to complete the full A level course in RE (but does stay on to complete A levels in other subjects), the results of the student's RE AS level taken in Year 12 will be held over and reported at the end of the student's Post 16 Studies.