

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KINGSTON UPON THAMES
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION [SACRE]
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2008-2009 (SEPTEMBER 2008 TO AUGUST 2009)**

INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE SACRE, MARIA JAMES

Once again it has been my pleasure and privilege to Chair Kingston's SACRE throughout the year. We realise, as a Committee, the huge amount of work that is done by the teachers and support staff in this Borough. The day to day outworking and implementation of the Locally Agreed Syllabus with its accompanying materials is no mean feat and we applaud and thank those involved in work that keeps Religious Education and Collective Worship in such a central place in the basic curriculum. As a senior lecturer in teacher education at university with specific responsibility for RE I realise only too well that the quality of the Borough's RE cannot exceed the quality of its teachers and we have teachers of quality.

This year has brought its challenges. We have benefited hugely from the arrival of Keith Field as Consultant RE Adviser who has run valuable and popular sessions for Primary RE co-ordinators on a range of subjects and has been working with teachers to develop effective levelling and assessment of achievement in RE. We have welcomed a new Clerk to SACRE, namely Penny Welsh who is managing to inform and support both SACRE and me. Gratefully, we have continued contact with Jean Cousens who is Clerk to the Inter Faith Forum and we look forward to working closely as two organisations in future. The subject of Community Cohesion was wonderfully explored by Denise Chaplin and much insight was given into how schools might contribute towards a cohesive society where the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued. It has been great to work with so many consummate professionals, to *learn about* RE with them and to *learn from* them through dialogue characterised by respect.

We assume that the coming months and years will continue to present more challenges mostly in response to the reviews that will be specifically dictating what the Primary curriculum might look like in 2011 onwards. The challenge of how to bring RE meaningfully and vibrantly into cross curricular work will be a focus for the next review of our own Locally Agreed Syllabus alongside seeing quality RE as being at the centre of such a process rather than marginalised by it.

As ever, some members of our Committee have left the group and we wish them well in their new ventures whilst some have joined us and we continue to be representative and supported. Forgive me if I single out and mention one founding member of SACRE who has given such support in such a graceful way, Gerald Cohen. And Cathy Davie for her wise and supportive presence.

For a number of reasons our meetings this year have been held at the Guildhall. We plan this coming year to hold our meetings in a place of worship, a school setting and the Guildhall. This seems to encapsulate what a good SACRE is about in some way as the triangulated, interested partners meet together to forward and envision each other about what the subject taught with integrity can achieve. I look forward to working with SACRE colleagues and the teachers of this borough through the coming year.

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
- ❖ Transcripts of Annual Lectures
- ❖ Access to the agenda and Minutes of SACRE meetings
- ❖ SACRE information leaflet and Parents' Leaflet
- ❖ Annual Reports
- ❖ Collective Worship Guidance Document
- ❖ 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 SERVICE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS

Kingston SACRE has once again provided excellent support for the work of the learning and Children's Services directorate during 2008/09 academic year. The SACRE has met its statutory requirements and continues to add value and rigour to the development of RE in Kingston. I am very grateful for the commitment and time its members give to this work.

The new Secondary Curriculum for Key Stage 3 was launched in September 2008 and SACRE has remained abreast of the implications of these changes. They received an informative address by Mr John James who is a Regional Subject Advisor for NATRE. As a result the SACRE is well positioned to review the QCA non statutory programmes for RE during the next review of the Agreed Syllabus.

I wish to thank Maria James for chairing SACRE for another year but also for updating the Schemes of Work for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and writing a new unit for Foundation Stage and Bridging Units for

Year 6 pupils preparing for the move to Secondary schools.

These have now been made available to schools.

I would also like to thank Penny Welsh for taking over from Jean Cousens as Clerk to SACRE. Since the Spring Term 2009, Keith Field, the Consultant RE Advisor to schools, has represented the Directorate at the SACRE meetings on behalf of the Council. Keith's contribution is especially helpful as he has good knowledge of the needs of schools.

The Annual Lecture was well attended in June and Denise Chaplin gave very topical talk on 'Promoting Community Cohesion in Schools'. SACRE are to be congratulated for responding in this very public way to the Government's concern to build a cohesive community and in considering the role of schools.

With further changes in the pipe-line for the Primary Curriculum, next year looks set to be another busy one for SACRE and I wish them every success.

Tina Herring

Service Director, Learning and School Effectiveness

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).

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR RE

Details of results for each school can be found at **Appendix C**.

NATIONAL BODIES

We are members of both the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and 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 meetings of London SACREs.

MEETINGS OF THE SACRE

The Kingston upon Thames SACRE met on three occasions between September 2008 and August 2009. This year all the meetings were held at the Guildhall, but it is our intention to return to our tradition of meeting in

different education and faith locations across the borough next year.

The following topics were discussed at our meetings:

- the Annual Report for 2007/8 including school examination results
- Collective Worship guidance
- Members' reports on attending:
 - Meeting of London SACREs
 - NASACRE AGM 8/5/08
- termly notes of Kingston Inter Faith Forum
- summaries of SMSC grades in 'Section 5' OFSTED reports
- promoting community cohesion in schools
- supporting levelled assessment.

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

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE

A SACRE working group led by Diana Brotherston has produced guidance to encourage schools to plan and evaluate how they provide for collective worship.

The 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...”

“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.”

We very much hope that the guidance will be found useful by schools as they engage with these issues.

EVALUATING ACHIEVEMENT IN R.E.

One of the comments mentioned in last year’s annual report was a request for guidance on how to assess the levels of pupils’ achievement in RE at different key stages.

At the SACRE’s request, Keith Field, Consultant RE Adviser, has provided sessions on assessment for Primary RE coordinators in November 2008 and February 2009, and fed back findings from the sessions to SACRE meetings.

Keith is working to produce a bank of sample assessment tasks with exemplar material at different levels for teachers

to use or adapt. These are based on the QCA assessment and ‘I can’ statements

Also at the request of the SACRE, Keith has been working with the Primary RE co-ordinators on designing a ‘Pupil Feedback Questionnaire’. This is currently being trialled in several Primary Schools and the results of the trial will be fed back to SACRE and discussed at forth-coming meetings.

Keith currently has three invitations to provide INSET on RE in schools over the coming months and has recently delivered the first of three RE courses this year, on ‘Creative Ideas for Making RE Interesting, Exciting and Challenging’, at which there were 11 teachers present.

INTER FAITH AND COMMUNITY LINKS

We have maintained our links with the Kingston Inter Faith Forum, holding a joint event with them on 24 June 2009, which began with a seminar on *Faith Communities and Community Cohesion*, with a key note speech from the Bishop of Kingston, followed by a vegetarian buffet and concluding with the SACRE Annual Lecture on the theme of *Promoting Community Cohesion in Schools*, by Denise Chaplin, Chair of the National Association of SACREs, 2007-9. A PowerPoint presentation of the lecture can be found on the SACRE website.

APPENDIX A**MEMBERSHIP OF THE SACRE (September 2008 – August 2009)****Christian and Other Religious Denominations**

Mr Gerald Cohen	the local Jewish community
Mr Neil D'Aguiar	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark
Mrs Maria James (Chair)	the local evangelical churches
Mrs Amarjit Kaur Channi (to June 2008)	the local Sikh community
Venerable Phrakru Samu Lom	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) jointly representing the local Hindu
Mr Mahendra Thakar) community
Mrs Hamida Syed	the local Muslim community

The Church of England

Mrs Cathy Davie	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Ms Heather Henderson	Diocese of Guildford
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 Heather Stephens	Insight in Kingston
Mrs Marilyn Mason	British Humanist Association

OFFICERS SUPPORTING THE SACRE

During this academic year, the SACRE received professional support from Keith Field, Consultant RE Adviser, Jean Cousens, Democratic Support Officer (clerk to the SACRE to June 2008) and Penny Welsh, clerk to the SACRE from October 2008.

DISTRIBUTION**APPENDIX B**

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Post 16 studies completed in 2009 (2008 figures in brackets)

End of Post 16 Studies 2009: achievements at GCE A Level (2008 Post 16 Students in brackets)							
School	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	A-E
Coombe Boys							
Coombe Girls	4 (9)	(0)	(0)	2 (5)	1 (2)	1 (2)	4 (9)
Chessington CC							
Hollyfield							
Holy Cross	15 (2)	2 (0)	8 (0)	1 (2)	4 (0)		15 (2)
Richard Challoner	8 (17)	1 (0)	2 (2)	2 (6)	2 (7)	1 (2)	8 (17)
Southborough	(1)		(1)				(1)
Tiffin	16 (19)	1 (8)	13 (11)	1		1	16 (19)
Tiffin Girls							
Tolworth Girls	12 (3)	5 (0)	5 (0)	1 (1)	1 (2)	(0)	12 (3)
Total LEA	55 (51)	9 (8)	28 (14)	7 (14)	8 (11)	3 (4)	55 (51)

End of Post 16 Studies 2009: achievements at GCE AS Level (2008 Post 16 Students in brackets)							
School	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	A-E
Coombe Boys							
Coombe Girls	9 (8)	2 (2)	1 (0)	1 (1)	3 (3)	2 (2)	9 (8)
Chessington CC							
Hollyfield	(1)					(1)	(1)
Holy Cross	5 (4)		(2)		2 (1)	(0)	2 (3)
Richard Challoner	3 (1)			1	1	(1)	2 (1)
Southborough	(1)				(1)		(1)
Tiffin	6 (6)	2 (3)	3 (1)	(0)	1	(1)	6 (5)
Tiffin Girls							
Tolworth Girls	6 (3)	1 (1)	2 (0)	1 (1)	(0)	(1)	4 (3)
Total LEA	29 (24)	5 (6)	6 (3)	3 (2)	7 (5)	2 (6)	23 (22)

Students in first year of Post 16 Studies: Achievement at GCE AS Level in 2009
(2008 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	20 (14)	1 (1)	2 (3)	4 (3)	2 (3)	1 (3)	10 (13)
Chessington CC							
Hollyfield							
Holy Cross	26(17)	4 (2)	6 (6)	7 (2)	5 (5)	4 (1)	26 (16)
Richard Challoner	7 (9)	1 (2)	3 (0)	2 (5)	1 (2)	(0)	7 (9)
Southborough	(1)		(1)				(1)
Tiffin	25 (22)	18 (8)	5 (12)	2 (1)	(1)	(0)	25 (22)
Tiffin Girls							
Tolworth Girls	13 (12)	(7)	3 (2)	1 (0)	2 (1)	6 (1)	12 (11)
Total LEA	91 (75)	24 (20)	19 (24)	16 (11)	10 (12)	11 (5)	80 (72)

**Key Stage 4 studies completed in 2009 (provisional)
(2008 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	17 (32)	6 (11)	4 (6)	3 (7)	3 (3)	1 (3)	(2)				16 (27)	17 (32)
Chessington CC	33 (41)	(0)	2 (4)	4(10)	11(17)	9 (4)	2 (4)	4(2)	1(0)		17 (31)	33 (41)
Hollyfield	19 (1)	2(0)	7 (0)	8 (0)	1 (0)	(0)	1(1)		(0)		18 (0)	19 (1)
Holy Cross	144(121)	10(29)	38(23)	45(32)	26(23)	21(9)	4(5)	(0)			119(107)	144(121)
Richard Challoner	123(114)	5(3)	18(9)	33(37)	39(36)	25(20)	2(7)	(2)	1	(0)	95(85)	123(114)
Southborough												
Tiffin	143(147)	95(67)	34(54)	9(22)	5(4)						143(147)	143(147)
Tiffin Girls	34(32)	31(28)	3(4)								34(32)	34(32)
Tolworth Girls	4(18)	1(4)	2(6)	(4)	1(2)	(2)	(0)				4(16)	4(18)
Total LEA	517(506)	150(142)	108(106)	102(112)	86(85)	56(38)	9(19)	4(4)	2(0)	(0)	446(445)	517(506)

GCSE short course											
School	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A*-C	A*-G
Coombe Boys	57(73)	1(5)	4(8)	9(18)	13(18)	8(8)	9(5)	5(6)	4(3)	27(49)	53(71)
Coombe Girls	166(145)	18(11)	24(34)	47(49)	36(29)	20(11)	12(8)	5(1)	2(1)	125(123)	164(144)
Chessington CC	41(15)			1(1)	14(5)	6(3)	5(3)	7(1)	7	15(6)	40(13)
Hollyfield	147(153)	1(4)	17(29)	39(46)	38(26)	21(17)	8(12)	13(7)	8(10)	95(105)	145(151)
Holy Cross											
Richard Challoner											
Southborough											
Tiffin											
Tiffin Girls											
Tolworth Girls	192	40	44	55	23	14	7	8	1	162	192
Total LEA	603(386)	60(20)	89(71)	151(114)	124(78)	69(39)	41(28)	38(15)	22(14)	424(283)	594(379)

Pre GCSE Course: Entry Level Qualification Band C (a pre GCSE course)				
School	Entries	3	2	1
Holy Cross		3(20)	3(16)	(2)
Richard Challoner		8(16)	8(10)	(6)
Total		11(36)	11(26)	(8)

Total Yr 11	1514 (provisional)	(1547)
Total taking RE Course	1131	(928)
% taking RE course	75%	(60%)

- 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.