

KINGSTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

29 APRIL 2008

DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

REPORT BY THE CLERK OF THE SACRE

INTRODUCTION

1. At its last meeting in November, the SACRE agreed a new Development Plan (for September 2007-September 2010). The Plan was based on the previous 3 year plan with some consolidation of the action areas for a clearer focus on key action area 2 - strengthening links with schools and partners (for example, items on training and best practice are now included in that key action area).
2. In preparing this Plan, the SACRE has considered a number of national guidance documents:
 - QCA/OFSTED ‘SACREs’ Self Evaluation Guide’ (2005/06)
 - ‘Strong SACREs, Good RE’ (findings of the QCA / NASACRE /RE Council conference on 1/11/06)
 - ‘Proposed Plans for SACRE effectiveness’ (NASACRE contribution for the National RE Strategy)
 - ‘Making Sense of Religion’ (Ofsted report published June 2007)
 - 6 points for SACREs further development identified by the QCA as reported to the SACRE in March 2006 and November 2007.

UPDATES

3. The Update which is attached as **ANNEX 1** to this report logs actions undertaken during the period of the Plan to meet its 5 key action areas. More detailed discussion is set out below on some specific action areas.

UPDATE ON ‘STRONG SACRES, GOOD RE’ ACTION – ref. Development Area no.2

4. At its meeting in July 2007, the SACRE chose some of the ‘practical solutions’ for future action in relation to ‘Standards and quality of provision in RE’ from the ‘Strong SACREs, Good RE’ guidance. These have been added to the Development Plan, or otherwise taken forward (in as far as they can be undertaken within existing limited resources), as follows:

Strong SACREs, Good RE	Action update
a) Use pupil/student voice procedures to discuss quality and to review and revise agreed syllabuses; or have a student representative on the SACRE or have a youth SACRE or links to a local youth parliament;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Devpt Plan area 2.4 added • Invitation sent to secondary schools to seek any nominations. Coombe Girls School has expressed interest (Ellen Zariat can report back 29/4) • A member of the Kingston Youth Council (KYC), Darius Baird, has been invited to the 29/4 meeting to report on a KYC visit to Romania which will include investigation of the beliefs of that country . Darius will also answer questions on his experience of RE in RBK to date.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant Adviser has confirmed he will develop a pupil RE feedback form with Primary RE colleagues at the 24/6 Coordinators' Session. He has asked for clarification whether this is something pupils will fill out during lesson-time or will it be on a website. When the SACRE discussed this, it was suggested it was for a website such as the Young Livin' website, but that website is designed for older pupils; the SACRE is therefore RECOMMENDED to confirm that the Primary Coordinators' survey would be for Primary age pupils to complete during lesson time.
b) Collaborate with advisers / inspectors for PSHE and Citizenship.	RBK does not have any specific advisers for RE, PSHE or Citizenship so it has been added as a regular agenda item for the Senior Inspector for CPD to report back to SACRE on these issues (ref. agenda item 10.2)
c) Collaborate with the local authority to ensure that any available data is shared with the SACRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added at Devpt Plan area 3.1 Report on this agenda suggests asking DLCS to provide more information for new RE Annual Report (ref Appendix H)
d) Establish a specialist review / support group to visit to schools or have a link SACRE member for each school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SACRE on 22/11 agreed to focus efforts in 2008 in making contact s with those schools which had not returned the annual feedback form for 2007 The SACRE agreed on 22/11 as Devpt Plan area 2.3.2 to consider how to make the Annual Lecture a hospitable get-together for RBK RE teachers – some suggestions are set out in para. 10 below.
e) Establish a quality and standards sub-committee to make this a central, strong function of the SACRE	<p>A working group was established at the last meeting to assist with the practicalities of: a) developing the annual feedback form, possibly to incorporate some of the 'advanced' features for monitoring and improvement of standards, quality and provision of RE in schools, set out on pages F10/F11 of the report to 22/11/07 SACRE b) distributing the forum and chasing up schools to reply and c) developing the presentation of the annual analysis for feedback to the SACRE and schools.</p> <p>In order to complete this work on the feedback form in time to send it to schools during summer term, the working group should report back to the 18/6 mtg, and its first meeting has therefore been scheduled for 4 June.</p> <p>However, if the DLCS will be providing more RE information for the new Annual Report format, the annual feedback form might no longer be relevant (ref. Appendix H on the agenda) and therefore the Working Group might not be needed.</p>

UPDATE ON KEY STAGE 1 & 2 SCHEME OF WORK DISCS (Devpt Plan action 1.1)

5. Development Plan Action 1.1.1 requested that the discs for KS 1&2 Schemes of Work be updated to reflect the latest Syllabus revisions and guidance on assessment.
6. As resources in RBK are limited, a grant of £1,500 has been obtained from the National Association for RE Teachers (NATRE) to take forward this work. The DLCS has been requested to appoint a consultant to undertake this work.
7. The DLCS intends to ask Maria James to undertake this work because Maria a) worked on the original Agreed Syllabus with Lynne Broadbent so knows its content fully. b) has chaired the Working Group which undertook the Syllabus revisions so knows in detail all the changes to the Syllabus at KS 1 & 2 which will need to be reflected in the revised KS 1&2 Schemes of Work discs. c) is a lecturer in RE for Primary School teachers at St Mary's College so has a deep and current knowledge of the practical delivery of RE in the classroom.
8. The grant has been allocated to provide £1200 to the consultant to revise the discs and £300 to the King Charles Resource Centre to produce 50 discs and despatch these to all Primary Schools in the borough. The consultant will be asked to review all the material on the CD to delete what is no longer relevant and to add material arising from the Syllabus review changes which included:
 - a focus on assessing learning and evaluation
 - deferring study of Sikhism and Buddhism at KS 1 & 2 (to be studied at KS3)
 - new sections on Themed Days (2nd half of summer term Year 5) and Bridging Units (Summer term Year 6).
 - revised guidance on the Foundation Stage (for which exemplification material could be produced).

The consultancy will also include a short evaluation for NATRE to summarise what have been the benefits of undertaking this work, what might have been done differently next time (which can be fed into our next Syllabus Review) and what will be the process for seeking feedback from schools on how useful they found the revised disc.

9. Maria James would be available to work on this project from 12 May with a deadline for distribution by the Resource Centre of the revised CDs to Primary schools during the week 23-27 June.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WELCOMING GUESTS TO THE ANNUAL LECTURE (Devpt Plan action 2.3.2)

10. The SACRE agreed at its meeting on 22 November (re. Development Plan area 2.3.2) to consider how to make the SACRE Annual Lecture a welcoming occasion for RE teachers. Most non-teacher SACRE members have little opportunity to meet RE teachers in the borough (other than the SACRE's own teacher representatives). The SACRE is **RECOMMENDED** to agree the following approach to welcoming guests to the Annual Lecture on 18 June:
 - i) try to ensure all visitors sign the attendance list with their contact details

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- ii) indicate that any email addresses on the attendance list will be added to the SACRE elist (unless requested not to)
- iii) each SACRE member to try to welcome at least 2 guests and if either guest is an RE teacher to try to seek feedback about how the Syllabus and its revisions are working in the classroom and any other comments on RE in RBK, and then to report back to the SACRE meeting after the Lecture any appropriate feedback .
- iv) SACRE members to wear badges to help the welcoming approach
- v) try to find some extra funding to enhance the refreshments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the SACRE:

1. **agree any new actions set out in the Action for the Future column of the Plan at ANNEX 1.**
2. **confirm that the pupil feedback survey which the Primary Coordinators' will be requested to devise in a Coordinators' session would be for Primary age pupils to complete during lesson time (ref para 4 (a) above) rather than online.**
3. **agree the suggestions in paras. 5-9 above for updating the KS 1&2 Scheme of Work discs.**
4. **agree the suggestions in para. 10 (i-v) above for the Annual Lecture.**

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
1st Year of the 3-Year Development Plan (covering the period Sept. 2007 to Sept. 2010)

DEVELOPMENT AREA no 1: Review the Agreed RE Syllabus to ensure its effectiveness

KEY ACTION AREAS		ACTION UNDERTAKEN TO DATE	ACTION FOR THE FUTURE
1.1	Respond to (or record for 2009 review) feedback comments from teachers, advisers, parents and faith communities about the implementation of the 2007-12 Agreed Syllabus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATRE grant of £1500 obtained for consultant to revise disc and Resources Centre to copy onto 50 discs to despatch to schools by 27 June 2008. • consultant RE Adviser requested to explore ideas for 'themed days' at the RE Coordinators' session on 13/2/08 • request on 26/3 to consultant RE Adviser to plan a Coordinators' session to seek feedback on revised Syllabus and revised discs • The NATRE Regional Subject Adviser, John James, who teaches RE in Westminster has been invited to the 18/6/08 meeting to explain the changes to the KS3 curriculum. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DLCS to respond on the updating of the discs for KS 1&2 Schemes of Work to reflect Syllabus revisions & guidance on assessment (Action DLCS) 2. Seek feedback by Oct 2008 on new elements of the Syllabus e.g. Themed Days – through coordinators sessions & 2008 annual feedback form 3. Request at 22/11/07 mtg for discussion of QCA KS3 Programmes of Study. (Also concern expressed about the amalgamation of RE at key stage 3 with other subjects.)
1.2	From Oct 2009 start review process for revision of Syllabus for 2012-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new timetable agreed by SACRE at meeting 22/11/07 • confirmation that £3k put in the pot in the 2008/09 budget so that the Syllabus Review pot will reach £9k in March 2009 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check in January each year that £3k funding has been included for the next financial year to contribute to cumulative 5 year funding for 2009-11 Syllabus review 2. agree and implement review timetable as set out in Annex 4 from October 2009

DEVELOPMENT AREA no.2: Strengthen links with schools to contribute to the monitoring and improvement of standards, quality and provision of RE in schools.

	KEY ACTION AREAS	ACTION UNDERTAKEN TO DATE	ACTION FOR THE FUTURE
2.1	Regular liaison with Headteachers and Governing Bodies to encourage compliance with RE provision requirements, including time allocation, provision of sufficient resourcing for RE (including training) and the embedding of RE in School Development Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> report on annual feedback forms letter sent to HTs & Chairs of Govs of community schools in Aug 07 for 15/10 response - reported to 22/11/07 SACRE a Working Group was established on 22/11/07 to review the annual feedback form before July 2008. report submitted to Nov 2008 meeting about new QCA annual report format 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> analyse findings from annual feedback and discuss how to feedback to schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE agreed on 22/11/07 to target non responding schools for 2008/9 feedback monitor QCA /NASACRE guidance on how SACREs are to obtain and annually report information on RE provision
2.2	Regular liaison with Heads of RE / RE coordinators for a)boroughwide sharing of information about best practice, b) feedback about the effectiveness of the implementation of the Syllabus to feed into the next Syllabus review and c) sharing of statistics on RE achievement at key stages 1,2 and 3 through levelled assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elist of IFF, SACRE and Borough Deans (church leaders) now used to exchange information eg emails from 09/07 have included: Holocaust Memorial Day resources, Art & Spirituality workshop, Bishop Richard lecture on the teaching of RE in plural culture, Festival of Faiths calendar, Theatre and Religion seminar, atheism and religion debate, NATRE newsletters with free resources information, Consultant Adviser's feedback on levelled assessment reported at Appendix C Suggestions for Annual Lecture set out in para 10 above 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> continue to increase the number of schools contacted by SACRE elist Snr Adviser for CPD to consider how to strengthen links with those schools currently not on SACRE elist or who have not returned annual feedback forms eg... Use the Annual Lecture as a social occasion to strengthen links with RE teachers A request to be made to RE colleagues to report on any innovative RE developments (e.g. request to book Tiffin Boys School venue for the 19/11/08 SACRE meeting to find out about an innovative ICT RE project at the school.)

	KEY ACTION AREAS	ACTION TAKEN TO DATE	ACTION FOR THE FUTURE
2.3	Through the Annual Lecture, training and other events, stimulate and encourage interest, excitement and excellence in RE in schools and promote the value of the subject.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for 2008 annual lecture confirmed with Dr Trevor Cooling and venue booked – fliers sent out with Annual Report distribution • demonstration to SACRE on 22/11/ 08 on how teachers will access information on RE training via SWLSEP website • 11/10/07 email to Primary RE coordinators with reminder of dates of the RBK training sessions: 18/10/7, 13/2/08 & 24/6/08 • email to Consultant RE adviser to request report on 2007/8 training stats for the 19/11 SACRE meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In agenda for June 08 meeting – SACRE to decide next annual lecturer for June 2009. 2. consider how to make the Annual Lecture an event to which all RE teachers in the borough will wish to come as a hospitable annual get-together with colleagues 3. Oct 2008 seek annual report from DL&CS on nos attending and evaluation results of 2007/08 RBK training courses, based on feedback forms from RE Coordinators.
2.4	Seek young peoples' feedback on RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darius Baird, a member of Kingston Youth Council has been invited to the 29/4 SACRE meeting • An email was sent to secondary schools to nominate a youth member for the SACRE – expression of interest received from Coombe Girls 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary RE Coordinators' session on 24/6 to compile an online survey for students feedback on RE

DEVELOPMENT AREA no. 3: Develop links with other partners (other key partners being: the local authority, local faith communities, relevant associations and local parents).

	KEY ACTION AREAS	ACTION TAKEN TO DATE	ACTION FOR THE FUTURE
3.1	Report to the Director of Learning & Children's Services any issues concerning professional and financial support and seek: a) updates at each meeting on key developments in RE, collective worship and PSHE locally and nationally b) sharing of available relevant data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLCS update item added to the SACRE agenda • report for 29/4 suggests asking DLCS for provision of more information for new RE Annual Report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SACRE agreed on 8/11/06 to review the Every Child Matters framework in the light of one year's experience of the extended schools initiative (Action: DLCS)
3.2	Develop our links with local faith communities and with the Kingston Inter Faith Forum (IFF) (eg by annual update of databank and recommended speakers list) to increase understanding of diverse communities and build inter faith harmony.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting for April 2008 to be held in Kingston synagogue • latest notes of IFF meeting included in the agenda • The IFF has produced a draft leaflet of places of worship in the borough including service times and will participate in Open House Day for places of worship during w/c 21 May. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold one SACRE meeting per year at a faith community venue 2. SACRE to consider notes of IFF meetings for any issues of interest for RE in schools 3. Annually consult faith community venues to update the databank of places of worship
3.3	Develop the membership and working of the SACRE through working groups, conference attendance, self evaluation and feedback slots in SACRE meetings to ensure a representative, active, well-informed and assertive SACRE which clearly articulates the perspectives of its members within the context of RE best practice locally and nationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diana Brotherston attended the 17/1/08 Community Cohesion conference – Diana's report for 29/4 attached at Appendix F • Standard agenda item added for Member updates • SACRE members have contributed to resources for collective worship guidance – draft Guidance to be considered at April meeting for consultation with schools in summer term 2008 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send agreed attendance letter to reps who have not attended for more than 3 meetings 2. SACRE members to be encouraged to attend a conference, join a working group or lead on a project to feedback to the SACRE 3. SACRE members are requested to report at SACRE meetings any new developments in RE or in their faith communities which can be fed into the Syllabus Review or sent out as information to local RE teachers 4. SACRE members requested to keep up to date with national SACRE news by visiting the website www.nasacre.org.uk 5. regular SACRE self evaluation

3.4	Ongoing development and maintenance of the SACRE website to share information widely with 'partners'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixth form inter faith dialogue conference resources added to website 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collective worship resources to be added to the website 2. leaflet for parents on the Agreed Syllabus is to be updated to be added to the website after Sept 07 to reflect the implementation of the new Syllabus 3. lecture transcript and annual report to be added each year
3.5	Maintain contact with NASACRE and NATRE and monitor guidance from QCA and Ofsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATRE autumn 2007 and spring 2008 bulletin forwarded to schools on elist • consideration of NATRE affiliation forwarded to DLCS. • won £1500 grant from NATRE to develop KS 1&2 schemes of work discs for schools • Chair to attend NASACRE AGM on 8/5/08 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. agenda slot at each meeting to discuss items in NASACRE newsletter (from NASACRE website) as source for guidance from QCA and Ofsted.

4. Development Area no. 4: Collective Worship: contribute to monitoring and improvement of quality and provision of collective worship			
	KEY ACTION AREAS	ACTION TAKEN TO DATE	ACTION FOR THE FUTURE
4.1	Monitor the provision of collective worship and address issues of non-compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working group meetings held on 2/11/07 (to report back to 22/11/07 SACRE) and 4/2/08 9(report back to this meeting) • Draft Guidance document on Collective Worship to 29/4/08 SACRE meeting including recent legal provisions, Ofsted position and examples from schools. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. monitor and report annually to Oct/Nov SACRE mtg on responses on collective worship from feedback forms
4.2	Identify the future needs of schools and to offer guidance in good practice in collective worship		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. progress through working group the development of guidance on best practice for collective worship 2. disseminate the guidance, when agreed, to schools and on website 3. be alert to any revised guidance which might be provided by the DfES in order to provide appropriate guidance to schools (e.g. new provisions for sixth formers).

Development Area no. 5: Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development: encourage best practice in schools, including promotion of inter faith harmony			
KEY ACTION AREAS		ACTION TAKEN TO DATE	ACTION FOR THE FUTURE
5.1	SMSC – monitor that schools have an agreed definition and approach to SMSC.	In the 2007 annual feedback forms, of the 18 schools which responded to this question 16 confirmed that their school had an agreed definition and approach to SMSC, and 14 confirmed that this approach was included in their School Development Plan	1. report annually to Oct/ Nov SACRE mtg on responses on SMSC from feedback forms
5.2	SMSC - encourage and share best practice in the local authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of recent Ofsted grades for SMSC included in this agenda • letters sent to schools with excellent SMSC grading after 22/11/07 meeting. • Executive Summary from Ofsted SEBS July 2007 report attached as ANNEX to this Plan pages J12-J17. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. consider Ofsted reports on SMSC and write to schools if appropriate 2. SACRE members to recommend any new items for SMSC webpage on SACRE website 3. consider at the April meeting the new Ofsted report on the Secondary National Strategy's pilot programme for developing social, emotional and behavioural skills (SEBS)
5.3	Support schools in their new responsibilities to promote community cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFF working group meeting held in Oct 07 to progress multifaith panel visits to schools - letter to and liaison with Southborough School for Rabbi David Mason's visit. • first multi faith panel meeting to Coombe Girls School organised by Reverend Bruce Stuart and Ellen Zariat on 4 /3/08 – report to 29/4 mtg • DLCS report to 29/4 mtg on new community cohesion responsibilities for schools • SACRE clerk and 4 faith community reps attended the RBK community cohesion strategy conference on 4/4/08 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Inter Faith Forum panel visits to secondary schools • SACRE to feedback any views on the RBK Community Cohesion Action Plan • Monitor Ofsted reports on how RBK schools are promoting community cohesion.

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