

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames  
Directorate of Education

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
(SACRE)

ANNUAL REPORT  
1996 - 1997



## **KINGSTON UPON THAMES LEA**

### **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SACRE AND THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report details a period following the issue of the new Kingston upon Thames LEA syllabus for Religious Education with support materials for schools. During this time, a period of "bedding in" has been allowed for.

#### **2. THE ROLE OF THE SACRE**

2.1 Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988 requires every Local Education Authority (LEA) to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). This is the seventh Annual Report of the Kingston Upon Thames SACRE, the membership of which is shown at Annex 1.

2.2 The SACRE has a duty to advise the LEA on matters connected with Collective Worship in county maintained schools and on the religious education to be given.

#### **3. MEETINGS**

3.1 Only one meeting was held in the 12 months ending 31 March 1997 and that was inquorate.

3.2 The following matters were discussed:

- the appointment of a Vice-Chair;
- the analysis of OFSTED reports from Inspections in the Borough
- the success of a sixth form conference;
- the draft Annual Report for 1996;
- the analysis of SACRE reports;
- NASACRE business;

- other support for RE (funding from the St Gabriel's programme, Stapleford project, Millennium awards);
- a date for the official launch of the Revised Agreed Syllabus {7 July 1997}.

#### **4. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

- 4.1 It was reported in the previous SACRE Annual Report that the Kingston Agreed Syllabus Conference had recommended that the RE for Key Stages 1 and 3 be implemented in 1996 and Key Stages 2 and 4 in 1997. The syllabus was not printed in its final form until 1 March 1997. SACRE is unable to comment on progress of the Agreed Syllabus at present.
- 4.2 During the course of the year, the LEA Inspectorate was reorganised and the responsibility for the oversight of religious education was given to the Chief Inspector, who also represented the Director of Education & Leisure on the SACRE. It was suggested that, in order to enhance the role of the SACRE, some consideration should be given to the production of a SACRE Development Plan. It was further suggested that every school Governing Body should nominate one member as a 'watchdog' to ensure that the school's legal responsibilities for religious education and collective worship were being met. All schools were to be approached with this request.

#### **5. OFSTED REPORTS ON KINGSTON SCHOOLS**

- 5.1 The OFSTED inspections of Kingston primary schools in 1995/96 indicated that the state of religious education is at least sound in the majority of schools and strong in the voluntary sector. There was no concern expressed about collective worship.
- 5.2 In the secondary sector, reports from the small number of schools inspected seem to indicate that religious education is sound at Key Stage 3 but not holding its own at Key Stage 4. The two main concerns are time pressures faced by schools because of the demands of the National Curriculum subjects and secondary schools' inability to meet some statutory requirements - in particular, for collective worship.

#### **6. SIXTH FORM CONFERENCE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

6.1 The Conference was organised by the LEA and the Kingston Schools' Christian Worker, in partnership with Kingston University. The theme was 'Medical Ethics'. The main speaker was Dr. David Cook, a Fellow and Chaplain of Green College, Oxford and University Lecturer in Medical Ethics. Sessions dealt with Medicine and Morality, The Beginning of Life, Death and Dying, Allocation of Resources. There was much positive feedback and further conferences are planned.

## **7. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STANDING ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Kingston upon Thames SACRE is a member of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education and our representative attends meetings of the National Association and reports back, as appropriate.

***NB : As well as the Development Plan, the membership of the SACRE], the constitution and the Distribution List for agendas, are attached.***

# Development Plan for the Royal Borough of Kingston

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. To seek to improve the quality and effectiveness of the SACRE by improving the quality of the information circulated to members. This will be achieved by setting out the level of support that members can expect to receive.
2. To make SACRE more understanding to the diverse community. This will be achieved by seeking venues at the places of worship of the constituent members of the SACRE and including an introductory opportunity for members to be introduced to the building and customs.
3. Improve the fixing of SACRE dates, by including them in published council diaries and planning cards. SACRE members should also have an early indication of a date for receiving the main agenda.
4. To seek mutual support with neighbouring SACREs by at least a joint annual meeting between Chairs, vice Chairs and supporting officers. To this end an invitation will be sent out to the London Boroughs of Sutton, Merton, Richmond upon Thames and Surrey County Council.
5. To prepare a short A5 information leaflet about the work of SACRE, which will be to primarily inform those interested in Religious Education such as school governors, teachers and members of the local community. As part of this work funding will be sought.
6. To undertake a school survey to try and identify if there is any way SACRE may help to assist schools within its sphere of influence and capability. This may, for example and subject to survey results, lead in the long term to such items as:
  - A compilation of a list of suitable local resources such as places of worship which are open to receiving educational visits. In addition to sources of advice and an indication of associated costs.
  - The possibility of a resource exhibition, to which neighbouring authorities could be invited so as to create a South West London exhibition. This could possibly be funded through sponsorship.
  - Perhaps playing a wider role in an annual Religious Education festival. Subject to adequate funding or sponsorship.
7. To ask local places of worship with SACRE representatives to act as host venues for future SACRE meetings, with a view to increasing attendance and giving more opportunity for representatives to take a more active role while also improving cultural awareness.

Councillor Ian R. McDonald Chair of the Royal Borough of Kingston SACRE

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE SACRE  
1997/98**

**1. Christian and Other Religious Denominations**

Mr Gerald COHEN	Kingston, Surbiton & District Synagogue
Mrs Janet CROGGON	Archdiocese of Southwark (Roman Catholic)
Mrs Maria JAMES	The local Evangelical Churches
Mr Makan Singh ROY	The Sikh Community
Mr Lalitbhai PANDYA	The Hindu Community
Mrs Hamida SYED	The Muslim Community
Miss Gillian WOOD	Kingston and District Free Church Federal Council

**2. The Church of England**

Mrs Margaret DEAN	Diocese of Guildford
Mrs Audrey TANK	Diocese of Southwark
Miss Mary WILLIAMS ( <b>Vice-Chair</b> )	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education

**3. Representatives of Teachers' Associations**

Ms Mary COWLAND	Headteacher, Burlington Infant School
Mrs Joy MIDDLETON	Coombe Girls' School
One Vacancy	

**4. Representatives of the Local Education Authority**

Councillor Dennis DOE
Councillor Ian McDONALD ( <b>Chair</b> )
Councillor Steve MAMA

**Co-opted Members**

Sally PEART	Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Mr Ian FRY	Schools Christian Worker for Kingston

**Grant Maintained Schools' Representative**

Mrs Jane NEILD	The Tiffin School
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## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) CONSTITUTION

### 1. **Membership**

The SACRE shall, in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, comprise representative members appointed by the LEA to represent respectively:

- a) such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.

(in Kingston, these are:

- i) the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark
  - ii) the Local Evangelical Churches
  - iii) the Kingston and District Free Church Federal Council
  - iv) the Jewish Community
  - v) the Sikh Community
  - vi) the Hindu Community
  - vii) the Muslim Community);
- b) the Church of England;
  - c) such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought, having regard to the circumstances of the area, to be represented;
  - d) the Authority
  - e) representatives of Grant Maintained Schools.

### 2. **Substitute Members**

Named substitute members are permitted for full members of the SACRE.

### 3. **Co-opted Members**

The SACRE can appoint co-opted members without voting rights, and it has been agreed that such members be appointed, initially, for a period covering three meetings, thereafter, subject to review.

### 4. **Quorum**

The quorum of the SACRE is one quarter of the total membership, excluding any co-opted members, subject to at least one member of each representative group being present.

5. **Chairman/Vice-Chairman**

The Chairman of the SACRE shall be appointed by the Local Education Authority, with the Vice-Chairman being appointed by the SACRE.

6. **Term of Office**

The LEA members of the SACRE, and any LEA named substitute members, shall be appointed for a municipal year, with all other members being appointed indefinitely. Any member may resign from the SACRE on giving notice to the Clerk, who will request the appropriate body or community to nominate a successor. (The above provisions do not override the supplementary provisions to Section 13 of the Education Reform Act 1988).

7. **Voting**

Each representative group on the SACRE shall have one vote (Section 11(6) of the Education Reform Act). As a consensus on all decisions should be sought, there is no second or casting vote for the Chairman.

8. **Meetings of the SACRE**

A meeting of the SACRE shall be called by the Chairman or, in the case of his/her refusal or non-action to call such a meeting within five working days when requested by five representative members, those five members may requisition a meeting of the SACRE on giving written notice to the Clerk.

Any representative member of the SACRE shall have the right to request items to be placed on the agenda of SACRE meetings on giving at least ten working days notice of any item to the Clerk.

9. **Clerk to the SACRE**

The Head of Secretariat, or his representative, is appointed Clerk to the SACRE

**SACRE ANNUAL REPORT  
DISTRIBUTION LIST**

All members of SACRE  
All members of the Education and Leisure Services Committee of the Kingston LEA  
Archdiocese of Southwark Commission for Schools and Colleges  
Chairmen of Governing Bodies and Headteachers  
Board of Deputies of British Jews  
British Evangelical Council  
Chessington Evangelical Church  
Christian Education Centre  
Christian Education Movement  
Churches Together (Kingston, Surbiton and New Malden)  
Dean of Education, Kingston University  
European Institute of Sikh Studies  
Evangelical Alliance  
Hook Evangelical Church  
Institute of Tamil Culture  
Kingston Race Equality Council  
Malden Council of Churches  
Muslim Education Co-ordinating Council UK  
Muslim Educational Trust  
Religious Education Centre, West London Institute of Higher Education  
Roehampton Institute of Higher Education  
Rural Dean of Kingston  
St Mary's College, Twickenham  
Salvation Army, Kingston upon Thames  
School Curriculum and Assessment Authority  
Secretary of State for Education and Employment  
Surbiton Christian Response  
Surbiton Council of Churches