



**The Merton
Standing Advisory Council
on
Religious Education**

**Annual Report
for 2010 - 2011**

December 2011

INTRODUCTION

I am please to send you Merton SACRE's Annual Report for the academic year 20010-2011. Every SACRE is required to publish a report and make it available to schools and the wider public

The main focus for SACRE over the last year has been:

- The revision of our Directory of Places of Worship which we hope to put online as soon as possible

It's been a strange year, having said goodbye to Elaine Joyce our LA rep and experienced all the uncertainties about Religious Education due to the Coalition Government not including RE in either the English Baccalaureate or the Primary Review as expected.

We have welcomed David Crispin an independent education advisor who is helping with Merton SACRE. David has many years of experience in Religious Education so we look forward to his input into SACRE.

This year we agreed as a SACRE to vote the Humanist Representative onto Committee A, along with the Denominations of Christianity and representatives from different faith groups. We've also revised our Directory of Places of worship.

We do hope this report helps in presenting what we have achieved as a SACRE this year. The Merton SACRE wishes to say thank you to all the many members of schools' staff and in particular their teachers for their continued support and dedication to raising the status of Religious Education within Merton Schools.

Peter Kendrick

(Acting) Chairman of Merton SACRE November 2011

SACRE MEETINGS

Peter Kendrick was chair throughout most of the year but the June meeting of SACRE was inquorate and as a consequence was unable to elect a chair for the coming year. Peter agreed to continue as acting chair until the autumn meeting.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Merton Schools

http://www.merton.gov.uk/learning/merton_revised_agreed_syllabus_2008a.doc

The SACRE will continue to use information gathered from the previous years questionnaire to schools

Standards

It has become increasingly more difficult for SACREs to fulfill their major role of monitoring RE and Collective Worship. This is due in part to the fact the OFSTED no longer reports specifically on these area and the loss of a professional officer from the LA. The questionnaire that was sent to schools in the last academic year helps in some way but is only a small measure of the standards in schools.

Religious Studies Examinations 2011:

Merton's six secondary schools entered 748 pupils for R.S. GCSE (full course) of which 80.2% gained A* to C and 99.2% gained A* to G. Schools also entered 583 pupils for the RS GCSE (short course). 47.3% of pupils gained A* to C and 97.3% attained A* to G.

The two Catholic secondary schools (as they have 6th forms) entered 18 pupils for A level. 100% gained an A* to E. 61.1% gained A* to B and 22.2% gained A*-A. 14 pupils were entered for AS level 100% gained A to E and 71.4 % gained A to B grades.

This represents another increase in the overall numbers of pupils taking RS exams. Results were above the national average in the GCSE full course and the AS level course

CPD for teachers

Regular meetings for RE Subject leaders in primary schools are held every term at the Chaucer Centre. These meetings are a joint venture for Merton and Sutton RE subject leaders and are led by David Crispin the Independent education Advisor.

Any information regarding conferences, resources and training, which is received by the LA is forwarded to the appropriate schools.

Places of worship

The Places of Worship list is available on the Merton website. There is also another very comprehensive guide, Faiths in Merton, published by MVSC, which SACRE are looking at to see if, in the future, it is possible to share one resource rather than duplicating time and money to produce two

similar documents.

Complaints concerning RE

No complaints were received under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988 regarding Religious Education in Merton schools.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Determinations

There are no Determinations in Merton

COMPLAINTS

No complaints were received under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988 regarding Collective Worship in Merton schools.

GENERAL

Links with other agencies

Merton SACRE is a member of NASACRE and a representative attends national meetings. Full reports are given at the SACRE meetings so that all members are aware of current topics and issues. Members of SACRE are also representatives on the Merton Inter-Faith group and this facilitates communication between the two committees.

List of organisations to which SACRE report has been sent

Copies of the SACRE Annual Report were distributed to all maintained schools in the local Authority with a request that governing bodies consider the report and take any appropriate action. QCDA will also receive a copy.

Contacts

If you have any issues that you would like to raise with the Merton SACRE, please contact the, LA Adviser to SACRE or the Chair, Peter Kendrick (scrc@lineone.net)

What it means to be a member of Merton SACRE

From: Cllr. Nick Draper

I've been a Councillor, on and off, for the past 18 years and for the past 10 years I've represented the part of Merton I live in, Colliers Wood.

I've always wanted to sit on SACRE, partly because of my interest in education, more because of my interest in comparative religion. I am also an unconfirmed Methodist myself and while I have always had a faith I've looked on established religion as a bit of an outsider. I was however lucky enough to fall in love with Sheila, my late wife, a woman of tremendous moral strength and a staunch Catholic. In turn my three children are all Catholics and the younger two were educated in Church schools (my eldest has severe learning difficulties).

As a comparative outsider and someone who has friends and acquaintances from many faiths, I'm struck first by the basic similarities between all religions and second (of course) by the emphasis all religions place on their perceived differences with each other. The resultant intolerance is-and has always been all around us. In a world shrunk by instant communication the question as to how good, well meaning people feel able to condemn their fellow humans because they were born in a different part of the world and therefore into a different religion must be answered for all our sakes. Religious Education and in particular comparative religions including the study of humanism is essential to our children finding a way to live together in peace.

That, in a nutshell is why I genuinely wanted to sit on SACRE. It may all look a bit highfalutin, given that we are a small borough with a limited ability to change the world, but it is essential that Merton does what it can.

Appendix 1: SACRE Membership

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Group A: Christian and Other Denominations

Buddhism	Mr P Lom
Free Churches	Mr P Kendrick (Deputy Mrs S Rogers)
Hinduism	Mrs G Maheshwaran
Humanism	Ms A King
Islam	Mr S Sheikh (Deputy Mr M Irfan)
Judaism	Mr M Freedman
Roman Catholic Church	Mr W Doris
Sikhism	Mr B Singh

Group B: Church of England

Ms H Fahey Mr C
Powell Reverend R
Skinner

Group C: Teacher Associations

ATL	Mr N McManus
NASUWT	Vacancy
Voice	Vacancy
NUT	Mr R Kay-Kreizman
NAHT/SHA	Ms K Seamer

Group D: Local Authority

Councillor Laxmi Attawar
Councillor Nick Draper
Councillor Miles Windsor

Co-opted Members

Baiha'i Faith Mrs K Torr
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Mr Nasseem Ahmad Bajwa

Officers in attendance Elaine Joyce, School Improvement Adviser
September 2011-April 2011

David Crispin June 2011 onwards