

**Slough**  
**Sstanding**  
**Adsvisory**  
**Council on**  
**Religious**  
**Education**

**Annual report**

**2010/11**

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## Foreword

This has been an eventful year with some successes and some considerable sadnesses.

Our exhibition of artwork on a range of themes relating to religion and spirituality generously held at St Mary's Church was a great success. It was seen by a great number of people who were impressed with children's ideas. Media coverage drew attention to this event and the work and value of the SACRE.

In contrast, the necessary closure of the Religious Studies Resources Centre was a disappointment. It is, in part, evidence of the increased resources available in individual schools and the changing nature of the materials used with the expansion of what is easily available on the internet.

The great sadness of the year, however, was the death of our Vice Chair, Jo Osborne. For many years Jo served the SACRE with enthusiasm and commitment. She always had the interests of teachers of RE at heart and did great work to support them, especially through her role running the RS Resources Centre. She will be greatly missed.

The SACRE is aware that next year, as members also serve on the Agreed Syllabus Conference, that it has much to do with the review of the Slough RE syllabus on the horizon. Members welcome the involvement and comments of teachers in this and all its endeavours.

Jo Fageant

Chair of Slough SACRE

2010/11

## Introduction

Slough Borough Council became a Unitary Authority with responsibility for education on 1st April, 1998. The Slough Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) was established from that date. This report covers the period 1st September, 2010 to 31st August, 2011 and represents the tenth full year of SACRE's work.

## Meetings and membership

SACRE met three times during the 2010/11 academic year on 13th October, 9th February and 14th June. Two meetings took place at the Town Hall and one at the St. Anthony's RC Primary School.

Dennis Kitchener (Senior Adviser, Standards and Achievement) provided officer support to SACRE throughout the year. Jo Fageant was elected Chair for the 2010/11 academic year.

In May 2010 the Authority appointed the following Councillors to serve as its representatives for the 2010/11 municipal year:

- Bains
- Maclsaac
- Mann
- Munawer

During the 2010/11 academic year no new members were appointed to Slough SACRE. At the time of preparation of this report there remained vacancies for representatives of the Black Free Churches, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Efforts were made during the year to appoint members of local religious groups and progress was made, particularly in appointing representatives from the local Islamic and Sikh community.

Due to the departure of Councillor Maclsaac in May 2011, there is one vacancy for a representative from the Local Authority. Vacancies remain for representatives from teacher associations .

A full list of members together with their attendance records is attached as Appendix 3.

## **Jo Osborne**

Jo Osborne who for many years ran the Religious Studies Resource Centre, most recently hosted by the Iqra School, and was an enthusiastic member of the SACRE serving as vice chair for several years died during the year of this report. Members were deeply saddened by her loss and expressed their great appreciation for all her commitment and the work she did on behalf of the SACRE.

## The Slough context

The Slough Unitary Authority area comprises 119,070 persons (2001 Census). The total school population of Slough, excluding independent schools, was 24,591 as counted in the 2011 School Census. The following schools are situated within the Slough area:-

### Primary

Community	13
Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided	5
Sikh Voluntary Aided	1
Islamic Voluntary Aided	1
Church of England Voluntary Controlled	2
Foundation	5
Academy	1
<b>Total Primary</b>	<b>28</b>

### Secondary

Community - Non-Selective Roman Catholic	2
Voluntary Aided - Selective	1
Roman Catholic Special Agreement - Non-Selective	1
Foundation - Selective	1
Foundation - Non-Selective	1
Academy	5
<b>Total Secondary</b>	<b>11</b>

### Special

Primary	1
Primary and Secondary	1
Secondary	1
<b>Total Special</b>	<b>3</b>

It will be noted that the secondary education system in Slough is somewhat unusual in the national context in that it still has selective education with four selective schools in the town. Slough now has six academy schools, one primary and five secondary.

Another factor which differentiates Slough from many other areas is its high ethnic minority population. This is vividly demonstrated by the ethnic origin of school pupils in Slough. The table below

includes the latest information on Slough pupils collected by the 2011 January School Census:

	<b>Ethnic Background</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	Asian Heritage - Any Other	1,009
	Asian Heritage - Bangladeshi	115
	Asian Heritage - Indian	4,119
	Asian Heritage - Pakistani	5,478
<b>Black or Black British</b>	Black Heritage - African	1,642
	Black Heritage - Any Other	129
	Black Heritage - Caribbean	412
<b>Mixed Heritage</b>	Mixed Heritage - Any Other	731
	Mixed Heritage - White & Asian	525
	Mixed Heritage - White & Black African	189
	Mixed Heritage - White & Black Caribbean	443
<b>Other</b>	Chinese Heritage	69
	Other Heritage	718
	Unclassified Heritage	220
<b>White</b>	White Heritage - Any Other	2,281
	White Heritage - British	5,456
	White Heritage - Gypsy/Roma	129
	White Heritage - Irish	165
	White Heritage - Traveller of Irish Heritage	30
	<b>Total Surveyed</b>	<b>23,860</b>

Also of interest is the home religion of Slough school pupils, with some 35.3% of those surveyed describing themselves as Christian as based on the January 2011 School Census. When Slough SACRE was established in 1998, the proportion describing themselves as Christian was just over half.

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Roman Catholic	2,187	10.3%
Other Christian	5,308	25.0%
<b>Total Christian</b>	<b>7,495</b>	<b>35.3%</b>
Hindu	1,535	7.2%
Muslim	7,106	33.4%
No Religion	2,143	10.1%
Other	502	2.4%
Sikh	2,395	11.3%
Unclassified	86	0.4%
<b>Total Surveyed</b>	<b>21,262</b>	

## Religious Education

Early in the year the SACRE was pleased with the success of an RE and Art Exhibition organised in St Mary's Church. Children from local schools had been invited to submit artwork on a number of spiritual themes. The response to the project was excellent and several schools had contributed entries.

Due to a large number of services which took place in the church whilst the artwork was on display it was estimated that the exhibition was probably seen by up to 3000 people in total and a number expressed delight at the children's work. A large number of the children who contributed received certificates for their work.

Less positive news in relation to religious education was the closure of the RE Resource Centre located in the Iqra School. Reduction in its use and a consultation with schools revealed the centre was no longer viable and the trustees took the decision to close it. Some of the stock went to resource centres elsewhere in the country and some was moved to St Mary's Church of England Primary School from where it can be borrowed by other schools.

Funds that remained were donated for the development of an RE Trail. This initiative was inspired by a conference held in the previous year for members of the six Berkshire SACREs when they received a presentation from Paul Hopkins and were introduced to a website about RE trails: [www.retrails.org.uk](http://www.retrails.org.uk)

The SACRE recognised that the time for a review of the locally agreed syllabus for RE was close. As a consequence, in partnership with the five other SACREs of the former Berkshire, it distributed a questionnaire to schools within the authority to canvass teachers' views about the existing syllabus and their thoughts on possible amendments and revisions. Few responses were received but all of them were analysed and went forward to inform decisions about the review.



## Collective Worship

During 2010/11 SACRE approved one request for a renewal of a determination on collective worship for Baylis Court Girl's Secondary School.

The Senior Advisor of Standards and Achievement visited the school and provided a report to SACRE which provided detail on the current practice at the school which recommended that the determination be extended. A list of those schools granted a determination by Slough SACRE is given below:

School	Date Determination Granted
Montem Primary School	10.02.10
James Elliman School	10.02.10
Baylis Court Girls' Secondary School	13.10.10
Godolphin Infant School	09.06.10
Godolphin Junior School	15.10.08

## Links with other bodies

SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs. The Chair represented the SACRE at two NASACRE conferences during the year: one in March entitled, 'Whose RE is it anyway' when members from all the different groups on SACREs from all over the country came together to discuss the value of SACREs.

The second conference was the AGM in May at which there was a focus on young people's involvement in SACREs through clearly defined projects and youth SACREs.

## Budget and professional support

The cost of administering SACRE in 2010/11 was minimal. Administrative support costs were absorbed within the Council's own budgets.

The SACRE has been supported during the year by Dennis Kitchener (Senior Adviser, Standards and Achievement), Peter Quinn (Workforce Development Adviser) and Claire Gray (Clerk to the SACRE)

## Appendix 1 – The Legal Context

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

Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988 (as amended by Section 255 of the Education Act 1993) places a duty on Local Authorities to establish a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in accordance with requirements laid down in that Section. The constitution of the SACRE is approved by the Education Committee (or equivalent).

An Authority must also establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) under the provisions of Schedule 5 to the Education Act 1944 for the purpose of reviewing the agreed syllabus for religious education every five years. The two bodies are legally separate. The Authority must convene the Conference to produce and recommend an agreed local syllabus for RE.

Sections 255(2) and 254(3) of the Education Act 1993 respectively require authorities to review the membership of group A (Christian denominations and other religions) of their SACRE and the corresponding Committee of their Conference, so that the representation of each denomination or religion shall “so far as is consistent with efficient discharge of the group’s (Committee’s) functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area.”

Members of SACRE are appointed by the Local Authority.

The Annual Report of the SACRE must be presented to the Local Authority each year.

SACRE’s main function is “to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in its schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the Council or as the Council may see fit”.

It can also:-

- Require the LA to review its current agreed syllabus;
- Consider applications made by a headteacher for a determination of exemption from the broadly Christian character of collective worship.

(Education Reform Act 1988 S11(1)(a), S11(7), S12(1).)

# The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires that:

- Religious Education should be taught to all pupils in full time education except for those withdrawn at the request of their parents (details to be found in Religious Education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010, pages 17 and 27)
- Religious Education in county and voluntary controlled schools should be taught in accordance with an agreed syllabus
- As part of the curriculum, Religious Education should promote the “spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils”
- An agreed syllabus should “reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain” (Education Reform Act, Section 8(3))
- The Education Act 1996 states agreed syllabuses in any community school and any foundation, voluntary-aided or voluntary-controlled school without a religious character cannot require RE to be provided by means of any catechism or formulary which is distinctive of a particular religious denomination (Schedule 31, para 4)

## Appendix 2 - Constitution

### **SLOUGH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The SACRE is established in accordance with Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988 (as amended by Section 255 of the Education Act 1993) by Slough Borough Council acting as Local Education Authority.

#### **Membership**

1. The Members of the SACRE shall be appointed by the Authority so that they shall represent the following groups.

Committee 1 – Christian denominations and other religions (12)

- The Free Churches (1)
- The Black Free Churches (1)
- The Roman Catholic Church (1)
- Hinduism (1)
- Islam (4)
- Judaism (1)
- Sikhism (2)
- Baha'is (1)

Committee 2 – The Church of England (4)

Committee 3 – Associations representing teachers (6)

- National Union of Teachers
- VOICE
- National Association of Head Teachers
- Association of School and College Leaders
- NASUWT
- Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Committee 4 – The Authority (5)

2. Committee 4 shall be subject to the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
3. No Member appointed to the Cabinet shall be appointed to the SACRE.
4. The SACRE shall be appointed by the Council.

5. Where a nominated representative fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the SACRE and fails to give their apologies s/he, shall cease to be a member of the SACRE and the nominating body shall be invited to nominate another representative provided that:
  - (a) the Clerk to the SACRE has advised the member in writing of the provision of this clause following the second missed meeting and at least a 10 working days before the third meeting.
  - (b) SACRE does not decide to disapply this rule for reasons of extenuating circumstances.

## Terms of Reference

1. In accordance with Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988 (as amended by Section 255 of the Education Act 1993) to advise the Council on such matters connected with religious worship in schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to it or as it may see fit. To advise, in particular, on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
2. On application made by a Head Teacher of any Slough school after consultation with the governing body to consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school. The SACRE shall arrive at its decision and communicate it to the Head Teacher in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Education Reform Act 1988.
3. The representative groups on the SACRE other than that representing the authority may at any time require a review of any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by the authority.
4. The SACRE shall each year publish a report on its proceedings and those of its representative groups, the report to specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the authority and the reasons for offering that advice.
5. The SACRE shall take any action assigned to it by the authority in relation to the consideration and disposal of any complaint concerning worship or religious education in compliance with Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988.

## Appendix 3 – Membership 2010/11 and Attendance Record

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Possible Attendances</b>	<b>Actual Attendances</b>
Mrs S Elbrow	The Free Churches	3	3
Mr Kevin Walker	Roman Catholic Church	3	0
Mr S S Shah	Islam	2	0
Mr S M Afzal	Islam	2	0
Mr Z H Raja	Islam	2	0
Mr M L Khan	Islam	2	0
Mr N Saraswat	Hinduism	3	0
Mr Vijay Gupta	Hinduism	2	0
Ms J Osborne	Judaism	1	0
Mr J S Chahal	Sikhism	2	0
Dr I Hayati	Baha'is	3	0
Ms J Fageant	Church of England	3	3
Rev. A Bignell	Church of England	3	2
Mrs Christine Isles	Church of England	3	3
Rev A Allen	Church of England	3	2
Ms L Bussley	National Union of Teachers	3	3
Ms M Stacy	National Association of Head Teachers	3	2
Cllr B Bains	Local Authority	3	2
Cllr D Maclsaac	Local Authority	2	1
Cllr M S Mann	Local Authority	3	3
Cllr M Rasib	Local Authority	2	1
Cllr M Basharat	Local Authority	3	3
Cllr S Munawer	Local Authority	1	1

## Appendix 4 - Exam Results 2010/11

### GCSE Full Course: Religious Studies 2010/11

Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Q	U	X	A*-C	A*-G	QCA Av Pts
Baylis Court, Slough	153	49		6	5	14	7	6	5	4		2	[1]	25	47	34.3
Herschel Grammar, Slough	121	121	14	43	47	12	4	1						116	121	48.4
Langley Grammar, Slough	147	146	31	61	38	14	2							144	146	50.3
Slough And Eton C E, Slough	149	92	2	10	24	34	14	7	1					70	92	41.2
Slough Grammar	158	157	18	65	45	23	2	1	1	1		1		151	156	48.1
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	121	121	54	43	15	6	2					1		118	120	52.6
St.Joseph's Catholic High, Slough	118	91	1	13	19	31	6	6	7	6		2		64	89	38.1
The Westgate, Slough	143	141	5	20	27	39	22	17	5	6				91	141	39.4
Wexham, Slough	140	36	2	6	13	4	5	1	3	2				25	36	41.2
<b>Slough LA</b>		<b>954</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>[1]</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>45.2</b>

[ ] denotes actual figures due to a divisor of zero or Grade X entries

< denotes data which is protected due to a small cohort size. Protected values are not included in total.

## GCE A Level: Religious Studies 2010/11

Centre	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	N	Q	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	QCA Av Pts
Baylis Court, Slough	3		1			1	1					1	1	3	200.0
Langley Grammar, Slough	23		4	9	7	2				1		4	13	22	220.4
Slough Grammar	13	2	4	5	2							6	11	13	253.8
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	14		6	5	2	1						6	11	14	244.3
The Westgate, Slough	5			3	1		1						3	5	216.0
Wexham, Slough	6			1	1	3	1						1	6	190.0
<b>Slough LA</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>228.3</b>

## GCE AS Level: Religious Studies 2010/11

Centre	NOE	A	B	C	D	E	N	Q	U	X	A-B	A-E	QCA Av Pts
Baylis Court, Slough	1		1								1	1	120.0
Langley Grammar, Slough	1				1							1	90.0
Slough Grammar	8	3	3	2							6	8	121.9
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	6	4	2								6	6	130.0
The Langley Academy	1					1						1	75.0
The Westgate, Slough	2		1		1						1	2	105.0
Wexham, Slough	5					3			2			3	45.0
<b>Slough LA</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>2</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>103.1</b>

[ ] denotes actual figures due to a divisor of zero or Grade X entries

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