

Slough Standing
Advisory Council on
Religious Education

Annual Report

2011/12

Foreword

It has been a busy year for the Slough SACRE. Members also served as the Agreed Syllabus Conference to work with members of five other Agreed Syllabus Conferences from neighbouring local authorities to review and revise the locally agreed syllabus for religious education. Sharing a review was not new – we did the same six years ago. However, what was new this time was how the members of groups A and B across all six Agreed Syllabus Conferences worked together to ensure all of them were happy with the way in which their faiths were represented in the new syllabus. I commend this new syllabus to Slough schools and academies because it has grown naturally from the last syllabus to have an even stronger focus on enquiry-focused learning centred around provocative key questions which are specifically designed to promote deep thinking and debate. There is increased flexibility to enable schools to ensure their RE programmes are relevant to their own contexts and a new section on planning guidance.

I am grateful to all members of the SACRE for their interest and commitment. It is with sadness that we have said goodbye to some long serving members but we look forward to our partnership with new people who are joining us for the next projects we hope to undertake.

Jo Fageant

Chair of Slough SACRE

2011/12

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, 2011 to 31st August, 2012 and represents the eleventh full year of SACRE's work.

Meetings

SACRE met three times during the 2011/12 academic year on 12th October, 8th February and 16th June. These meetings took place at Slough Town Hall; The Centre, Farnham Road and Chalvey Community Centre. Each meeting was followed by a meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, which was convened by the Local Authority to review the Locally Agreed Syllabus for the year.

Membership

Jo Fageant was elected Chair for the 2011/12 academic year. Prior to its June meeting, Maggie Stacey, Headteacher of St Anthony's RC Primary School was appointed by the Local Authority to provide specialist support the SACRE.

In May 2011 the Authority appointed the Councillors Bains, Basharat, M S Mann and Munawer to serve as its representatives for the 2011/12 municipal year. In May 2012, the Authority reappointed Councillor M S Mann and appointed Councillors Aujla, Bains, Brooker Mann and Wright for the 2012/13 municipal year.

The SACRE made efforts to fill a number of vacancies on the SACRE during the year with the aim of broadening its representation of the different faith groups in Slough. As a result, a number of new members were appointed to the Slough SACRE:

- Mr Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan (Islam)
- Ms Zara Choudhary (Islam)
- Mr Moulana Saeed Ziaee (Islam)
- Mrs Julie Siddiqui (Islam)
- Mr Hardip Singh Sohal (Sikhism)

Reverend Alan Bignell retired from the SACRE prior to the June meeting, leaving one vacancy for a representative of the Church of England. Vacancies also remain for representatives of Sikhism, the Black Free Churches and a number of teachers' bodies. A full list of members together with their attendance records is attached as Appendix 3.

Demographics of Slough

The Slough Unitary Authority area comprises 140,200 persons (2011 Census). The total school population of Slough, excluding independent schools, was 25,676 as counted in the 2012 School Census. The following schools are situated within the Slough area:-

Primary	
Community	9
Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided	5
Sikh Voluntary Aided	1
Islamic Voluntary Aided	1
CofE Voluntary Controlled	2
Foundation	2
Academy	8
Free School	1
Total Primary	29
Secondary	
Community - Non-Selective Roman Catholic	2
Voluntary Aided - Selective	1
Roman Catholic Special Agreement - Non-Selective	1
Academy	7
Total Secondary	11
Special	
Primary	1
Primary and Secondary	1
Secondary	1
Total Special	3

Slough has four selective Grammar schools and fifteen academy schools (eight primary and seven secondary). Slough also has one free school, The Langley Hall Primary Academy.

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 on the next page shows the latest information on Slough pupils collected by the 2012 January School Census:

	Ethnic Background	Number
Asian or Asian British	Asian Heritage - Other	1,052
	Asian Heritage - Bangladeshi	137
	Asian Heritage - Indian	4,304
	Asian Heritage - Pakistani	5,828
Black or Black British	Black Heritage - African	1,732
	Black Heritage - Caribbean	409
	Black Heritage - Other	140
Mixed Heritage	Mixed Heritage - Other	776
	Mixed Heritage - White & Asian	572
	Mixed Heritage - White & Black African	224
	Mixed Heritage - White & Black Caribbean	466
Other	Chinese Heritage	67
	Other Heritage	809
	Unclassified Heritage	1,025
White Heritage	White Heritage - Other	2,377
	White Heritage - British	5,428
	White Heritage - Gypsy/Roma	126
	White Heritage - Irish	167
	White Heritage - Traveller of Irish Heritage	37
	Total Surveyed	25,676

Also of interest is the home religion of Slough school pupils, with some 30% of those surveyed describing themselves as Christian as based on the January 2012 School Census. When Slough SACRE was established in 1998, the proportion describing themselves as Christian was just over half.

Religion	Number	Percentage
Roman Catholic	2,860	11.1%
Other Christian	4,834	18.8%
Total Christian	7,694	30.0%
Hindu	1,635	6.4%
Muslim	7,666	29.9%
No Religion	2,061	8.0%
Other	445	1.7%
Sikh	2,435	9.5%
Unclassified	3,740	14.6%
Total	25,676	

Religious Education

Developments in RE in Slough have mainly focused on the review and revision of the locally agreed syllabus. The review was shared with five other local authorities and invited the engagement of teachers and people of faith from all six authorities. Debate was lively and extremely positive and productive. The final document grew from the last syllabus and its links with the Non-statutory Framework for Religious Education (2004) remain clear. The religions required to be studied at each key stage remain unchanged. The key questions that make up the heart of the syllabus have strengthened the emphasis on enquiry-focused learning and the essential balance of 'learning about' and 'learning from' religion. The document will be printed and distributed to schools at the start of the new school year.

Teachers in Slough schools have had opportunities to attend a variety of RE related training. They were invited to join colleagues from Windsor and Maidenhead in three twilight sessions which introduced them to how the new syllabus was developing, how art might be used to enrich RE, and how issues of global citizenship, as exemplified in the materials published by RISC, could be investigated in the context of RE. They also had the opportunity to attend courses provided by the Diocese of Oxford: 'A philosophy for children approach to RE'; 'Identifying and providing for able, gifted and talented pupils in RE'; 'Ideas for assessment in RE'.

The SACRE has received regular updates on national developments and concerns relating to religious education. It discussed the concerns raised about the absence of RE from the subjects of the English Baccalaureate and the omission of the subject from the government's review of the curriculum.

The SACRE has expressed its concern that with the reduction of staff in the local authority it now receives almost no support other than the excellent contribution of the clerk. Members are very grateful for the partnership provision offered by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and the Diocese of Oxford.

Collective Worship

During 2011/12, the SACRE was not asked to approve or renew any request for a determination on collective worship. A list of those schools granted a determination by Slough SACRE is given below:

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

Renewals of determinations on collective worship are due every five years.

Links with Other Bodies

SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). The current Chair of the SACRE serves on the executive of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) being its secretary and also one of its representatives on the RE Council of England and Wales. This enables her to be well informed about national initiatives within the RE community and bring them to the Slough SACRE. She is also the RE Adviser for the Anglican Diocese of Oxford and is able to bring the developmental work she does in that role to inform discussions and plans to support Slough schools.

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 Simon Fullwood (Clerk).

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 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 2011/12 and Attendance Record

Name	Representing	Possible Attendances	Actual
Mrs S Elbrow	The Free Churches	3	2
Mr Kevin Walker	Roman Catholic Church	3	0
Mr M L Khan	Islam	1	0
Mr Z Abbas-Bowkan	Islam	2	0
Mr Z Choudhary	Islam	2	2
Mr M S Ziaee	Islam	2	0
Mrs Julie Siddiqui	Islam	2	1
Mr N Saraswat	Hinduism	3	0
Ms J Osborne	Judaism	1	0
Mr H S Sohal	Sikhism	2	2
Dr I Hayati	Baha'is	3	0
Ms J Fageant	Church of England	3	3
Rev. A Bignell	Church of England	2	2
Mrs Christine Isles	Church of England	3	3
Rev A Allen	Church of England	3	1
Ms L Bussley	National Union of Teachers	3	3
Ms M Stacey*	National Association of Head Teachers	2	0
Cllr H Aujla	Local Authority	1	0
Cllr B Bains	Local Authority	2	2
Cllr M Basharat	Local Authority	2	1
Cllr P Brooker	Local Authority	1	1
Cllr M S Mann	Local Authority	3	3
Cllr S Munawer	Local Authority	2	1
Cllr A Wright	Local Authority	1	1

* Ms Stacey attended 18th June meeting in a support role for the Local Authority. This appointment disqualified her as a voting member of the SACRE.

GCSE Full Course: Religious Studies 2011/12

Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Q	U	X	A*-C	A*-G	QCA Av Pts
Baylis Court, Slough	154	151	24	41	35	18	10	9	7	7				118	151	44.45
Herschel Grammar, Slough	121	120	6	23	37	26	19	6	3					92	120	43.05
Langley Grammar, Slough	149	150	19	68	45	14	3	1						146	150	49.32
Slough And Eton C E, Slough	165	102	11	18	28	21	9	11	3	1				78	102	43.12
Slough Grammar	143	143	51	33	35	13	8	3						132	143	50.07
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	126	126	25	46	36	11	8							118	126	49.29
St.Joseph's Catholic High, Slough	127	121	2	17	24	27	16	18	9	4		4	[1]	70	117	37.14
The Westgate, Slough	144	136	5	21	31	20	27	21	7	4				77	136	39.21
Wexham, Slough	134	41		2	9	9	11	4	4	2				20	41	36.20
Slough LA		1090	143	269	280	159	111	73	33	18		4	[1]	851	1086	44.36

GCSE Short Course: Religious Studies 2011/12

Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Q	U	X	A*-C	A*-G	QCA Av Pts
Beechwood, Slough	133	90		2	7	12	15	17	12	17		8	[3]	21	82	13.49
Haybrook College PRU	63	4								2		2	[8]		2	4.00
Herschel Grammar, Slough	121	1					1								1	17.00
Slough And Eton C E, Slough	165	41			3	7	7	7	5	7		5	[5]	10	36	13.10
The Langley Academy	171	130	2	6	15	28	27	21	22	5		4	[9]	51	126	16.57
Slough LA		266	2	8	25	47	50	45	39	31		19	[25]	82	247	14.80

[] 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 2011/12

Centre	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	N	Q	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	QCA Av Pts
Baylis Court, Slough	12	1	1	5	2	3						2	7	12	227.50
Langley Grammar, Slough	11		4	6		1						4	10	11	245.45
Slough Grammar	7	1	1	2	3							2	4	7	240.00
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	21	3	2	9	4	2	1					5	14	21	235.71
The Westgate, Slough	7			5	2								5	7	231.43
Wexham, Slough	12			1	1	8	2						1	12	182.50
Slough LA	70	5	8	28	12	14	3					13	41	70	226.71

GCE AS Level: Religious Studies 2011/12

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	120.00
Langley Grammar, Slough	8		3	2	1	1			1		3	7	91.88
Slough Grammar	3	2		1							2	3	125.00
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	9	4	4		1						8	9	123.33
The Langley Academy	2					2						2	75.00
The Westgate, Slough	1	1									1	1	135.00
Wexham, Slough	5			1		3			1			4	66.00
Slough LA	29	7	8	4	2	6			2		15	27	101.90

[] 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.