

Slough Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual report

2012/13

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Foreword

During my time as Chair of the Slough SACRE we have been fortunate enough to retain long-standing members who provide continuity and experience and also add new ones. This combination has resulted this year in increased levels of vitality, enthusiasm and direction. I am grateful to all my colleagues for their commitment and also for the support they give me as we work together to plan ways in which we can positively assist teachers of religious education throughout the borough to bring the subject alive and ensure pupils make good progress.

We have worked in partnership with the SACRE in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to provide three after-school meetings for teachers of religious education in primary schools. These have been well attended and enabled a good exchange of ideas amongst people with a wide range of experience.

We have vacancies for teachers and faith community representatives and are optimistic that next year we will have a full membership to help enrich and advise our future work.

We are interested to hear from schools about exciting work that has been covered in religious education and are always keen to know what pupils across the borough think. We would also like teachers to tell us how best we can support them. I am happy for any of them to contact me by email: jo.fageant@oxford.anglican.org



Jo Fageant
Chair of the SACRE

Introduction

Slough Borough Council became a Unitary Authority with responsibility for education on 1st April 1998. The Slough Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) was established from that date. This report covers the period 1st September, 2012 to 31st August, 2013 and represents the twelfth full year of SACRE's work.

Meetings and Membership

SACRE met three times during the 2012/13 academic year on 22nd October, 6th February and 17th June.

In May 2012 the Authority appointed the following Councillors to serve as its representatives for the 2012/13 municipal year:

- Aujla
- Bains
- Brooker
- MS Mann
- Wright

During the 2012/13 academic year one new Member was appointed to Slough SACRE as a representative of the Sikh faith. At the time of preparation of this report there remained vacancies for representatives of the Black Free Churches, the Roman Catholic Church and Judaism.

Due to the departure of Councillor Wright in March 2013, there are now two vacancies for representatives from the Local Authority.

Vacancies remain for representatives from teacher associations.

A full list of Members and representations can be found in Appendix 3.

The Slough context

The Slough Unitary Authority area comprises 140,200 persons (SBC latest statistics). The total school population of Slough, excluding independent schools, was 24,676 as published by the Department for Education (DFE). The following schools are situated within the Slough area:-

Primary

Free School	1
Community	7
Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided	5
Sikh Voluntary Aided	1
Islamic Voluntary Aided	1
Church of England Voluntary Controlled Foundation	1
Academy	2
Total Primary	11

Secondary

Community	2
Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided - Selective	1
Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided	1
Academy	7
Total Secondary	11

Special

Primary	1
Primary and Secondary	1
Secondary	1
Total Special	3

It is noted that the education system in Slough is somewhat unusual when compared nationally due to a sharp increase in school's becoming Academies (11 primary and 7 secondary) and the presence of selective secondary education. Furthermore the demographic in Slough continues to challenge the Education system throughout the town due to a diverse ethnic origin and a high percentage of children whose English is a second language.

The table below includes the latest information on Slough pupils as published by the DFE in 2012:

Ethnic Background		Number
Asian or Asian British	Asian Heritage – Any other	880
	Asian Heritage - Bangladeshi	98
	Asian Heritage – Indian	3,610
	Asian Heritage – Pakistani	4,603
Black or Black British	Black Heritage – African	1,384
	Black Heritage – Any other	107
	Black Heritage – Caribbean	353
Mixed Heritage	Mixed Heritage – Any other	611
	Mixed Heritage – White & Asian	429
	Mixed Heritage – White & Black African	158
	Mixed Heritage – White & Black Caribbean	370
Other	Chinese Heritage	65
	Other Heritage	605
	Unclassified Heritage	176
White	White Heritage – Any other	1,892
	White Heritage – British	4,685
	White Heritage – Gypsy/Roma	109
	White Heritage – Irish	146
	White Heritage – Traveller of Irish Heritage	24
Total Surveyed		20,305

Also of interest is the religious make up of the pupils within Slough, with % of those recently surveyed describing themselves as Christian. When Slough SACRE was first established in 1998, the proportion describing themselves as Christian was just over half.

Religion	Number	Percentage
Roman Catholic	2,187	10.3%
Other Christian	5,308	25%
Total Christian	7,495	35.3%
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%
Total Surveyed	21,262	

Religious Education

SACRE has come on in leaps and bounds this municipal year with an increase in budget and a renewed commitment from all Members of the Committee. SACRE has been receiving regular support recently from the Commissioner for Children and Education who has been acting as a sounding board for SACRE on behalf of the Local Authority bringing with it a new focus.

Members of the Committee are currently working towards establishing new initiatives of how to raise the awareness of SACRE within Slough schools and it is felt that moving forward this could be achieved by holding competitions for Slough students as well as producing a termly newsletter that helps teachers form a better understanding of the work of SACRE and how this could benefit them.

On a less positive note due to the developments in the UK government education policy and school curriculum there has been a reduced focus on Religious Education. This can often prove frustrating for Members of SACRE however with increased support from new Members and officers it is an exciting time to be a part of the Slough SACRE as it pushes forward and takes on new challenges and responsibilities.

Collective Worship

During the 2012/13, the SACRE was asked to renew a determination on collective worship for Godolphin Junior School which is currently in the process of being reviewed. A list of those schools granted a determination by Slough SACRE is given below:

School	Date of Determination
Montem Primary School	10.02.2010
James Elliman School	10.02.2010
Baylis Court Secondary School	13.10.2010
Godolphin Infant School	09.06.2010
Godolphin Junior School	15.10.2008

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 Slough SACRE serves on the executive of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) as its Secretary. This enables the Chair to be well informed about national initiatives within the RE community and bring them to the Slough SACRE. The Chair is also the RE advisor for the Anglican Diocese of Oxford and is about to bring the developmental work from that role in order to support the tasks undertaken by the SACRE of Slough.

The Chair represented SACRE at the NASACRE AGM in May this year entitled 'Challenging SACREs' which looked at the challenges that SACREs have had to face in

the 20 years that NASACRE has been established. Feedback received from attendees of the conference noted that the key-note speakers inspired those in attendance and gave a lot of insight into how SACREs can move forward in attempting to tackle the problems faced by the teaching of RE today.

Budget and Professional Support

The cost of administering SACRE in 2012/13 was minimal. Administrative support costs were absorbed within the Council's own budgets. The SACRE has been supported during the year by Hannah Hughes (Clerk).

Moving forward SACRE has recently been awarded with an increase in budget to £5,000 for the 2013/14 municipal year. This increase will go towards raising the profile of the Slough SACRE in local School's as well as helping to fund three twilight sessions for Primary and Secondary school teachers of Religious Education. Furthermore, SACRE has recently gained the support of the Commissioner for Children and Education which will help to forge links with the Local Authority and help to develop the SACRE into a proactive advisory board for Slough.

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 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 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 England 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, paragraph 4).

Appendix 2 – Constitution

Slough 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 2012/13 and Attendance Record

Name	Representing	Possible	Actual
		Attendances	
Mrs S Elbrow	The Free Churches	3	3
Kevin Walker	Roman Catholic Church	2	0
Julie Siddiqi	Islam	3	3
Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan	Islam	3	1
Zara Choudhary	Islam	2	0
Moulana Saeed Ziaee	Islam	3	0
Naresh Saraswat	Hinduism	3	0
Hardip Singh Sohal	Sikhism	3	3
Ashpreet Singh Nainu	Sikhism	1	1
Christine Isles	Church of England	3	3
Reverend Andrew Allen	Church of England	3	1
Jo Fageant	Church of England	3	3
Igan Hayati	Baha'is	2	0
Lynda Bussley	National Union of Teachers	3	3
Maggie Stacey	National Union of Head Teachers	1	0
Cllr H Aujla	Local Authority	2	0
Cllr B Bains	Local Authority	2	1
Cllr P Brooker	Local Authority	3	3
Cllr M S Mann	Local Authority	3	3
Cllr A Wright	Local Authority	2	0
Cllr S Chaudhry	Local Authority	1	1

Appendix 4 – GCSE & GCE Religious Studies results 2013

GCSE Full Course: Religious Studies 2012/13

Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C	A*G	QCA Av Pts
Baylis Court, Slough	154	152	7	31	54	38	10	5	6	1		130	152	43.75
Herschel Grammar, Slough	144	144	27	55	31	20	9	2				133	144	48.71
Langley Grammar, Slough	148	148	35	57	42	9	5					143	148	50.38
Slough & Eton C E, Slough	164	152	2	22	39	29	16	21	11	9	3	92	149	37.71
Slough Grammar, Slough	177	177	74	56	30	13	3	1				173	177	52.17
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	130	130	22	62	30	11	4	1				125	130	49.88
St. Joseph's Catholic High, Slough	122	100	1	7	15	37	16	14	7	2	1	60	99	37.14
The Westgate, Slough	148	145	2	7	22	43	32	22	12	3	2	74	143	36.06
Wexham, Slough	147	45		7	12	14	7	5				33	45	41.20
Beechwood School, Slough	137	1		1								1	1	52.00
Slough LA		1194	170	305	275	214	102	71	36	15	6	964	1188	44.72

GCSE Short Course: Religious Studies 2012/13

Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C	A*G	QCA Av Pts
Langley Academy, Slough	175	158	3	12	27	40	33	18	17	7	4	82	154	17.99
Slough & Eton C E, Slough	164	7								4	3		4	4.57
St. Joseph's Catholic High, Slough	122	22					2	5	7	5	3		19	10.5
The Westgate, Slough	148	1						1					1	14.00
Beechwood School, Slough	137	96		3	12	6	13	16	26	18	2	21	94	14.05
Slough LA		284	3	15	39	46	48	40	47	34	12	103	272	15.70

GCE A Level: Religious Studies 2012/13

Centre	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A*-A	A*-B	A*E	QCA Av Pts
Baylis Court, Slough	12		5	4	2		1	5	9	12	240.0
Herschel Grammar, Slough	1			1					1	1	240.0
Langley Grammar, Slough	5		2	3				2	5	5	252.0
Slough Grammar, Slough	3	1				2		1	1	3	220.0
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	27		11	6	4	5	1	11	17	27	233.3
Langley Academy, Slough	3	1		1		1		1	7	11	229.1
The Westgate, Slough	11		1	6	3	1		1	7	11	229.1
Wexham, Slough	7			4	1	1	1		4	7	214.3
Slough LA	69	2	19	25	10	10	3	21	46	69	233.0

GCE AS Level: Religious Studies 2012/13

Centre	NOE	A	B	C	D	E	A-B	A-E	QCA Av Pts
Langley Grammar, Slough	1		1				1	1	120
Slough Grammar, Slough	3	2				1	2	3	115
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar, Slough	4	2		1		1	2	4	112.5
The Westgate, Slough	2					2		2	75
Wexham, Slough	1				1			1	90
Slough LA	11	4	1	1	1	4	5	11	105