

**Slough Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**Responses to Questionnaire**

Copy of questionnaire as sent to all Slough schools attached.

To date, a total of 15 replies (approx. 30%) has been received from schools, 10 primary, 1 special primary and 5 secondary. The letter and questionnaire was originally sent to schools on 15<sup>th</sup> March. A reminder was sent to those not replying on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

In secondary schools all RE coordinators that responded are permanent. In primary schools all but one are permanent (RE coordinators have been in place from 1 to 15 years). The only temporary coordinator leaves the post at the end of this academic year.

All respondents have current copies of the 2006 syllabus. The catholic secondary schools noted they follow the syllabus suggested by the Diocese of Northampton.

Contact with other RE coordinators was seen as not particularly important by secondary school coordinators. The response from primary school coordinators was mixed, with half thinking it very useful.

Most coordinators would be prepared to attend regular meetings with other RE coordinators, with a termly basis seen as most appropriate. Others would attend depending on the agenda; two coordinators said they would definitely not attend.

Coordinators particularly felt that training on different faiths would be important, as would visits to religious sites. Many primary school coordinators also felt training on the role of the coordinator would be useful. One wanted training on target setting, one on creative ideas for the classroom and one on long term planning.

All primary coordinators and some secondary coordinators would welcome some support on collective worship. One Catholic school noted that this would need to be specific to Catholicism.

All coordinators except the one special school would be prepared to travel out of Slough, although some noted this was depended upon the content of training and the time.

Many respondents felt SACRE could help deliver better RE by having contacts for local religious believers and places of worship (perhaps provided over the internet), some would like recommended resources, teaching and learning on specific topics and lesson plans. One coordinator felt that more resources for delivering teaching on Christianity would be useful as current resource assumed a Christian basis.

All coordinators are aware of the Slough RE Resource Centre. The secondary coordinators rarely use it. Many primary coordinators have used it, generally on a termly basis.

#### Additional Comments from Secondary School Coordinators

'In your GCE results at AS level over the past couple of years you have documented only the number of students who do not continue to A2. We have at present 34 A2 candidates & 40 AS candidates.'

#### Additional Comments from Primary School Coordinators

'I enjoy being RE coordinator but teachers are often encouraged to take on responsibility for other subjects and the danger is that a lot of training/resources are invested in one person as RE coordinator and then that person moves on to a new job or to a different area of responsibility, so the training could then be wasted.'

'The new syllabus is obviously top priority at the moment, and the staff are trying hard to adapt to it

Further information and suggested useful resources/books/websites to support these would be gratefully received.'

'It would have been extremely useful if there could have been a way in which the resources from the Resource Centre could be delivered to schools if they book it out in advance.'

'A programme regarding issues RE coordinators may need help with, that could be delivered to staff at schools (INSET days or staff meetings).

- Rationale behind switch to new syllabus (for any disillusioned teachers or those not motivated to embrace change).
- Resources – people, artefacts, interactive whiteboard, etc.
- Staff visits to places of worship to preview/assess delivery of syllabus.
- Practical sessions with looking at tasks set that lead to different levels/sampling children's work.'

'I think as a SACRE we have benefited greatly from the input of Jo Fageant and Ruth Dearnley with their broad overall view of RE. Jo Fageant gave James Elliman 2 hours in service to introduce the new syllabus to us. Staff were very appreciative of her services.'

## **APPENDIX**

15<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

**Department:** Law and Corporate Governance  
**Contact Name:** Mr K Barrett  
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**Our Ref:** KB/PMK

**TO: RE Co-ordinators - All Slough Schools**

Dear RE Co-ordinator,

**Slough Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education –  
Questionnaire**

Slough SACRE has been reviewing its role and relevance to RE teaching in Slough and has agreed that it would be extremely useful to get first hand from RE practitioners in Slough schools more information on how it could better assist you in carrying out your role more effectively. To this end, I am enclosing a short questionnaire which you can either e-mail or post back to me seeking some basic information which will I hope help the SACRE to provide a better service to RE teachers in the town.

For those of you who are not familiar with the SACRE and its role, I am also attaching a copy of the last Annual Report for the 2005/06 school year.

I look forward to receiving the questionnaire back from you but if there are any other issues you wish to raise, please do not hesitate to contact me (contact details above).

Yours sincerely

**Kevin Barrett**  
**Democratic and Member Services**

**SLOUGH SACRE**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RE CO-ORDINATORS**

**Name of School**

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I should be extremely grateful if you could complete the following questions and return this questionnaire to the address given below.

1. Please state the name of the school's current RE Co-ordinator and a telephone number/e-mail if different from the school's.

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2. How long have you been the RE Co-ordinator at the school?

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3. Are you the permanent Co-ordinator?

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4. If you are holding this position in a temporary capacity, how long is this likely to be for and does the school have plans to appoint a permanent RE Co-ordinator?

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5. Do you have your current copy of the new RE syllabus published in 2006 (paper copy and CD)?

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6. How important for you is contact with other RE teachers in Slough?

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7. Would you be prepared to attend a regular meeting with other RE Co-ordinators/ teachers in Slough and, if so, would a termly meeting be about right? If not, please state how often you think this would be useful.

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8. If the Slough SACRE were to provide in-service training for Slough RE teaching staff, what aspects would be most important to you? (e.g. the role of the RE Co-ordinator/training on particular faith traditions, etc.)?

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9. Would you welcome some professional advice and support (or possibly training) on collective worship?

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10. Would you be prepared to travel out of Slough (e.g. to South Bucks or to other authorities in Berkshire to take advantage of training opportunities?

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10. Are there any other ways in which you feel the Slough SACRE could help you to better deliver RE in your school?

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11. Are you aware of the Slough RE Resource Centre at Lea Junior School? If so, how often do you/your staff make use of it?

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Please feel free to add below any further comments that you wish to concerning the matters raised above which could be helpful in the SACRE's consideration of its future role.

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*Please complete and return this questionnaire to [kevin.barrett@slough.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.barrett@slough.gov.uk) or by post to Kevin Barrett, Clerk to the SACRE, Democratic Services, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough SL1 3UQ. (Telephone No: Slough 875014)*