

Developing the role of SACRE – for discussion

In addition to those outlined in the Draft 1 SACRE Development Plan, I'd like to propose an additional priority area: 'Developing the role of SACRE' with three distinct actions:

1. Strengthen professional relationships between SACRE members
2. Establish systems to enable SACRE to support teaching and learning in RE in RBWM schools
3. Hold a 'Worldviews Exhibition'

I don't quite know if they are worded correctly but this is the thinking behind them:

1. Strengthen professional relationships between SACRE members

To take opportunities for members to meet together, at regular intervals, so that we can talk and get to know one another much better, learn to trust and to share. This might happen after a SACRE meeting, for example, if we went for an informal meal at a local pub or restaurant. There may be other opportunities that we can think of that would bring us together as a group of individuals, a chance to build positive, well informed and respectful professional relationships and friendships. All ideas welcome!

2. Establish systems to enable SACRE to support teaching and learning in RE in RBWM schools

To agree a modus operandi to offer to *all* RBWM schools, that will enable them to request and find appropriate local speakers/visitors from a wide range of faiths - and none - so that they have a ready resource of faith representatives to invite into school to support teaching and learning in RE.

This will require an element of training so that the faith visitor is clearly briefed before each visit and that what is offered by them is what is needed. Anthony, our Humanist rep, has already been through a training programme that enables him to make school visits in a way which does just that. I see the SACRE faith representative as the lynch pin in this process.

3. Hold a 'Worldviews Exhibition'

Find a time of the year and a day and a suitable venue - guided by the teachers and headteachers serving on SACRE - in which to hold a 'Worldviews Exhibition', where all of our SACRE faith representatives front a stall with artefacts and information for schools representing their different faiths, and none. RE leads in schools would be invited to come and meet us all, and, ideally, others representing our faiths and perhaps additional faiths, and would gain first-hand information to take back to school.

It seems to me that SACRE is, by and large, an organisation unknown to many and virtually invisible in most Borough schools, despite Anne's best efforts to give it a profile via the Termly Newsletter. And that's because its role, to date, has been passive. For too many years it has operated solely as a decision-making committee when it might have been so much more. Together we have something to offer our schools which is really valuable. I would like it to be seen – and used - as a conduit through which the RE curriculum is enriched. The new Agreed Syllabus provides us with an opportunity to do something differently – to really work in partnership with our schools for the benefit of all their pupils.