



## Meetings in 2012-2013

Reflecting established practice three meetings were held during the reporting year:

23 October 2012,  
25 February 2013 and  
10 June 2013

## Religious Education (RE)

### A new syllabus

The year began with a significant event for the development of RE in the borough. Although the new syllabus was completed in the last report year, it was launched with a well attended conference in October of 2012 at Moor Hall Centre. Councillor Quick opened the proceedings and the remainder of the morning focused on an introduction to the new document explained by Jo Fageant. After a very pleasant lunch, delegates worked hard all afternoon in groups using the document to develop some planning ideas which were later disseminated through the borough's website. Teachers said they found the opportunity to use the syllabus and to network with one another during the day a valuable experience.

### RE Courses

Teachers in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead have had opportunities to attend three twilight RE meetings sponsored by the SACRE, one in each term. These focused on a sharing of teachers' experience of implementing the new RE syllabus and also developed further the links between RE and global citizenship. In the summer term meeting Louise Robinson from RISC addressed the group and teachers had a chance not only to look at the materials available from their collection of resources but also to consider how similar ideas could be applied to the development of RE resources.

Some also accepted an invitation to attend courses provided by the Diocese of Oxford: three attended a day for new RE subject leaders and another three joined a day entitled *Using digital technologies to give RE the HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)*. The delegates on the latter course ranged in expertise with their use of computers from almost novices to very experienced but the trainer provided a day that offered something for everyone. Each person tried out something which was new to them and many were highly enthused about applying their learning to classroom contexts. The course ran in three additional locations within the diocese and all delegates had access, and continue to do so, to a shared online 'Padlet' which recorded all the ideas they had for the application of their learning. Feedback after the course suggested that teachers shared what they had learned with colleagues in their schools and there was impact on teachers other than those who attended the course and also on subjects and areas of school life beyond RE.



### Places of worship initiative

Last year the SACRE undertook to produce an up to date list of places of worship within the Borough and surrounding areas with contact details for each. Whilst this basic work was easy to complete, it was decided to add to it further information about how each place and their communities could support schools. Gathering and collating this information will run into next year.

## **Membership Update:**

Absence of members from meetings meant that the role of Chair was allocated for individual meetings during the year. Details of the membership of the SACRE and the attendance of its members at meetings are recorded on the next page.

At the end of the year some vacancies remained unfilled but the SACRE was pleased to welcome new members: one from the Free Churches, two from the Church of England and a Hindu representative.

Clerking of the SACRE has been undertaken by three different people during the year of this report.

## **Thanks**

The SACRE owes a significant debt of gratitude to Karen Butler who was the local authority officer supporting the SACRE during the last few years. She came to the role with enthusiasm, energy and commitment. It was her vision and effort that established the regular meetings for RE subject leaders and enabled the very successful syllabus launch conference. It was with sadness that members learned that Karen was leaving the borough but they were extremely pleased to hear that her relationship with the SACRE would continue as she accepted an invitation to be a Church of England representative in group B. Karen had worked in a very positive partnership with Elaine Norstrom who has provided very efficient administrative support for all RE courses and liaison with subject leaders. The SACRE also recorded its gratitude to Mary Christie for many years of committed and valuable service as the representative of the Roman Catholic Church.

## **Keeping up to date**

Members of the SACRE are able to keep up to date with national initiatives in relation to RE and collective worship with the help of their professional adviser, Jo Fageant. She currently serves as the secretary of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and is that organisation's representative on the RE Council of England and Wales.

Councillor Airey attended a conference shared with five other local SACREs. The evening was addressed by Alan Brine (Ofsted) who outlined the challenges facing RE at the present time. Members of all the SACREs joined together for productive discussions in response to the information he shared. They expressed an interest in exploring the idea of youth SACREs and also young ambassadors from the upper years of secondary schools who might speak about issues of faith and belief to pupils in primary schools.

The SACRE is aware that it has found its responsibility to monitor the provision and quality of RE and collective worship in the Borough's schools virtually impossible to fulfil. One of the main benefits of such monitoring is to inform the SACRE of the needs of schools and help members to identify ways in which they might best support schools in the provision of RE and collective worship. The SACRE, therefore, invites and would welcome news from schools about what is going well in both areas so this news can be shared with others and it would very much like to hear teachers' suggestions about the support they would most like the SACRE to provide.

## Membership of RBWM Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

**2012-2013**

Representing	Member	Meetings attended
<b>Group A:</b>	<b>Christian denominations and other religions</b>	
Free Churches	Mr Nick Lowe	2/3
	Melody Erasmus	1/1
	Vacancy	
Roman Catholic Church	Mrs Mary Christie	1/1
Hinduism	Ila Gangotra	1/1
Islam	Mr Saghir Ahmed	1/3
Judaism	Mrs Hilary Harris	2/3
Sikhism	Mr Jasvinder Bhogal	2/3
<b>Group B:</b>	<b>The Church of England</b>	
	Felicity Gunn	0/1
	Rev Joan Hicks	1/3
	Karen Butler	0/1
<b>Group C:</b>	<b>Associations representing teachers</b>	
NASUWT	Vacancy	
NAHT	Mr Dalwyn Attwell	1/3
ATL	Vacancy	
VOICE	Vacancy	
BASH	Mrs Louise Ceska	3/3
NUT	Mrs Fiona Smith	2/3
<b>Group D:</b>	<b>The Local Authority</b>	
	Cllr Dee Quick	2/3
	Cllr Natasha Airey	3/3
	Cllr Sayonara Luxton	0/3
<b>Co-opted members:</b>	Mr Michael Gammage	2/3
<b>Local Authority Officer:</b>	Ms Karen Butler	2/2
	Mr Simon Evry	1/1
<b>Professional Adviser:</b>	Ms Jo Fageant	3/3
<b>Clerk:</b>	Karen Williams	1/1
	Simon Wright	1/1
	Liz Hornby	1/1