



TOWER HAMLETS EDUCATION

**Standing Advisory
Council on Religious
Education**

(S.A.C.R.E)

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

Foreword

SACRE Annual Report 2009-10

Foreword

It is with pleasure I present this annual report of Tower Hamlets' SACRE. You will see within it a summary of our activity over the last year, culminating in the results our young people achieve at school where their teachers have been dedicated to giving them a unique opportunity to reflect on faith and develop an understanding of the world of belief. As Tower Hamlets works over the next two years to welcome the world to its doorstep as an Olympic borough, how fitting it is that we in SACRE are constituted with a wealth of voluntary members who span the huge range of diversity in belief. The greater our appreciation of this diversity locally, the stronger will be our witness to the truth of religious experience as a transforming reality for the good of all.

Our Agreed Syllabus is about to be rewritten, a work which provides us with the challenge of making sure our schools have the latest and best resource with which to bring children to a better understanding of religion and life. I am grateful, as always, for the professionalism of our LA Officer, Parmjeet Sehmi who delivers an excellent support to schools through her thorough attention to detail. We would not be able to function nearly so effectively without the expertise of Deborah Weston, who is, rightly, highly respected locally and nationally within the world of religious education. I have been able to provide some input at a national level with an Agreed Syllabus Collaboration Network set up under the guidance of Dr Mark Chater of the QCDA. This has led to nationwide pooling of RE expertise to help the construction of locally agreed syllabi which maintain distinctive local characteristics and have a sharing of some common themes. We did not know when we embarked upon this collaboration in early 2009 that major political change was under way. The coalition government has now dissolved the QCDA, and the expertise it has provided in terms of curriculum design for RE, among other subjects, is no longer available to us. Through the goodwill of charitable organisations, which have the good of RE at heart, the collaborative work continues and our Agreed Syllabus is on track for renewal.

Without the voluntary support of many individuals who represent faith groups and RE teaching locally our work would not be possible. I place on record my thanks to them for their dedication and professionalism in sustaining our work of promoting and supporting excellent RE provision in Tower Hamlets.

Ronald M Keating
Chair of SACRE

The Functions of SACRE

The Education Reform Act 1988 places a duty on every Local Authority to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

In Tower Hamlets this body was constituted as the LA came into being and held its inaugural meeting in September 1990.

Tower Hamlets SACRE has four main functions:

1. To advise the LA upon matters connected with school worship in community schools and religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. These matters can be referred by the Authority or may be determined by the Tower Hamlets Council. Matters such as teaching methods, teaching materials and teacher training are mentioned in the Act. SACRE is an advisory council and advice offered carries no statutory force.
2. To receive and determine whether applications from Governors to vary the requirement for worship of a broadly Christian nature, for the whole school or for groups of pupils, are appropriate.
3. To publish an annual report on its work. This should outline advice given by SACRE to the LA
4. To require the LA to set up a statutory conference to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years and if, in the opinion of the SACRE, this becomes necessary, sooner.

LA Officers' Statement

This has been another successful year for Tower Hamlets SACRE during which it has supported Religious Education in the borough in a variety of ways.

SACRE has continued to promote its partnership with the Tower Hamlets Inter-faith forum and has begun to develop a tool to enable schools to identify places of worship in the authority that are suitable for school visits. This material will soon be published on the dedicated Religious Education section of the 'Faith in Tower Hamlets' website. www.faithintowerhamlets.com

SACRE has worked with the Out of School Hours Learning (Study Support) Team to develop a guide to support schools, mosques and madrassahs in working together which was launched on 14th October 2010. It is hoped that this guide will encourage a more holistic approach to the education of children in the authority which takes on board education that takes place in the home, in school and in supplementary schools on weekdays and weekends.

During the year, SACRE made plans to begin the review of its Agreed Syllabus. Tower Hamlets SACRE agreed to join some 40 others and take part in a collaborative exercise led by the QCDA. The agreed syllabus collaboration network aims to encourage Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education to work with each other on new agreed syllabuses that reflect the aims, opportunities and structure of the curriculum and good practice in planning and teaching RE.

Individual members made visits to schools to observe lessons and this helped SACRE to remain informed about the impact of religious education in the classroom. Other members were involved in supporting religious education by inviting schools to pay visits to places of worship or by speaking in the classroom and helping children to understand their religion or belief.

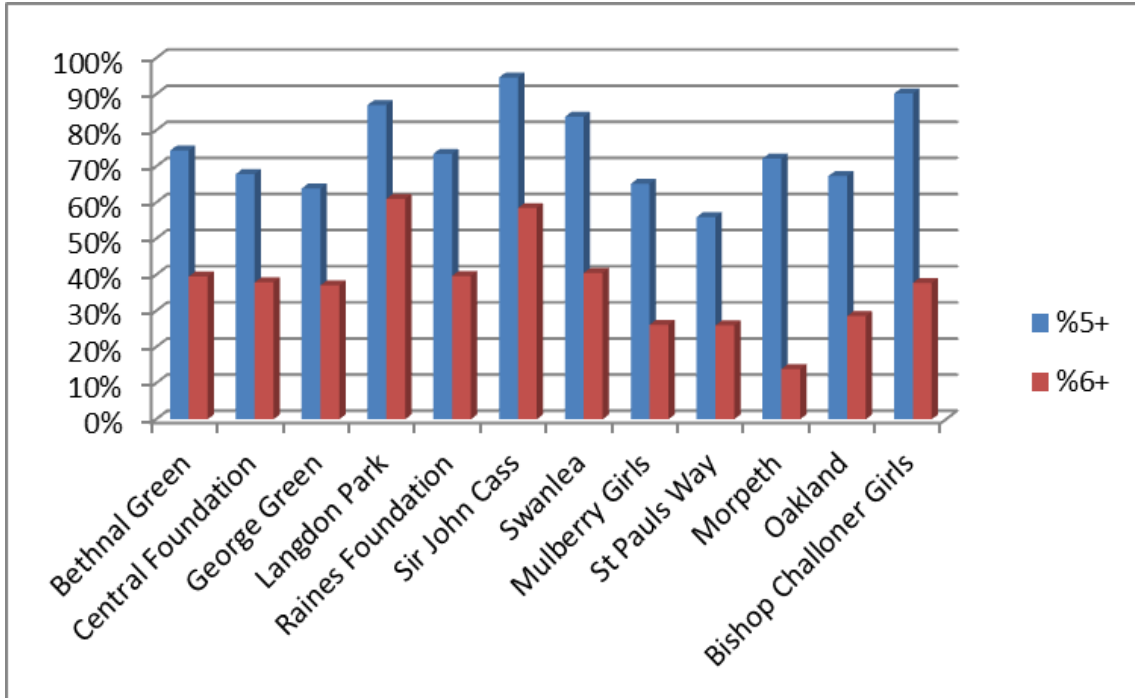
I am grateful to members of SACRE for so generously giving of their time to support the teachers and others involved in the delivery of Religious Education in Tower Hamlets. It is a testimony to their work that so many children show their interest in the subject by opting for public examination courses in RE. In addition, there are a number of teachers of religious education working in local schools who were educated in local schools.

Parmjeet Sehmi
Link Adviser with responsibility for SACRE

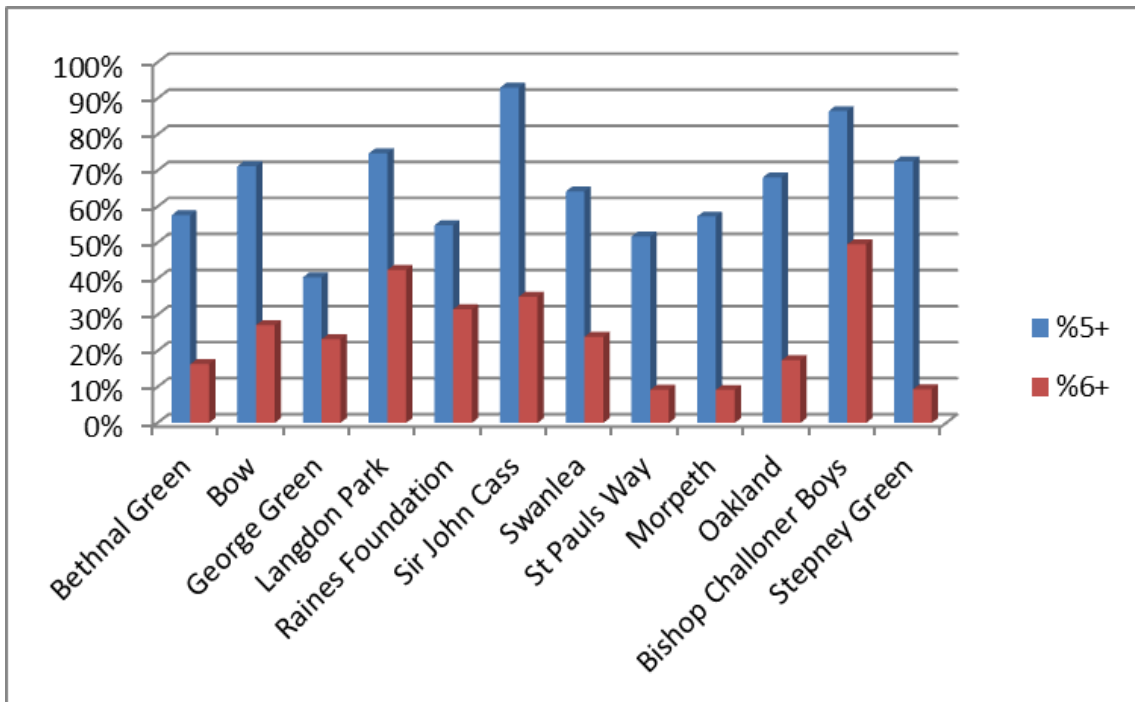
Achievement and Standards

1. Key Stage 3

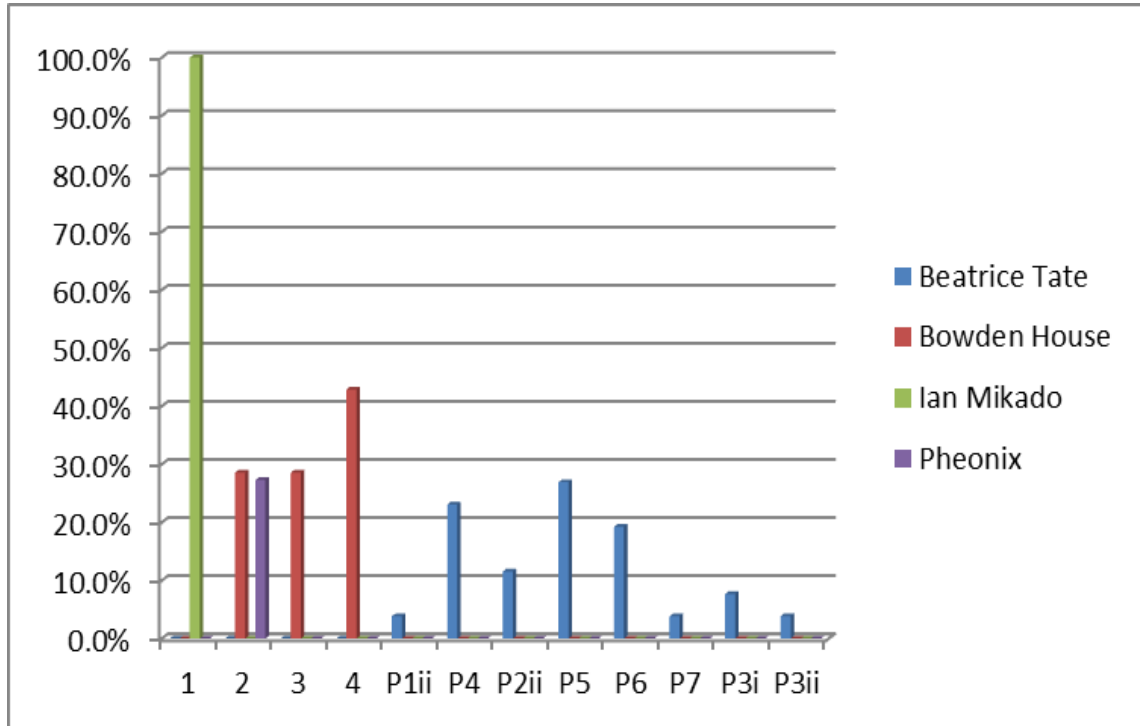
2010 Results for Girls



2010 Results for Boys



2010 Results for Special Schools



Key Stage 4

The statistics examined for this report are the latest available, i.e. for the examination season summer 2010 and are compared to those for the previous two years.

	Full Course % A* - C 2008	Full Course % A* - C 2009	Full Course % A* - C 2010	Short Course % A* - C 2008	Short Course % A* - C 2009	Short Course % A* - C 2010
Bethnal Green Tech.College				38%	29%	
Bishop Challoner Boys	58%	31%	43%	9%	10%	14%
Bishop Challoner Girls	67%	55%	61%	29%		40%
Bow School	73%	61%	85%		33%	33%
Central Foundation	62%	93%	89%		35%	75%
George Green's School	60%	100%	85%	38%	54%	54%
Langdon Park School	48%	49%	52%			
Morpeth School	51%	48%	48%	33%		25%
Mulberry School	67%	39%	68%	84%	71%	73%
Oaklands School	68%	63%	66%	37%		
Pupil Referral Unit			100%			
Raines Foundation	89%	84%	81%	43%	30%	47%
Sir John Cass	61%	59%	71%	17%	9%	
St Pauls' Way School	29%	75%	100%	30%	26%	28%
Stepney Green School	73%	74%	69%	5%		13%
Swanlea School	46%	61%	70%	33%		16%
	61%	64%	72%	33%	41%	38%

The local authority average result for the short course was 41% A*-C in 2009 which represents a rise in standards from last year's results which were 33% A*-C. The full course results for A*-C were 72% which represents the third successive rise in the average results. Short course results have fallen slightly from 38% to 41% A*-C

SACRE wishes to congratulate Central Foundation and Raines Foundation schools on their exceptional GCSE full course results and Mulberry School on their excellent short course results which exceed the national average for A* - C, especially as these results were achieved with more than 60% the year 11 cohort in each case. It is also worth noting that the one student attending a pupil referral unit who was entered for GCSE RS achieved an A*-C. The teachers working with this students as well as the student themselves should be congratulated for this success.

Entries

	Full % roll entered 2008	Full % roll entered 2009	Full % roll entered 2010	Short % roll entered 2008	Short % roll entered 2009	Short % roll entered 2010	% roll entered 2008 (Total)	% roll entered 2009 (Total)	% roll entered 2010 (Total)
Bethnal Green Tech.College				68%	69%		68%	69%	
Bishop Challoner Boys	52%	85%	61%	39%	11%	25%	90%	97%	86%
Bishop Challoner Girls	80%	83%	83%	14%	2%	7%	94%	85%	90%
Bow School	34%	18%	12%		5%	30%	34%	23%	42%
Central Foundation	82%	52%	62%		34%	11%	82%	86%	73%
George Green's School	6%	2%	8%	83%	89%	78%	89%	92%	85%
Langdon Park School	17%	24%	13%				17%	24%	13%
Morpeth School	92%	87%	93%	1%	2%	2%	93%	89%	94%
Mulberry School	36%	21%	21%	63%	74%	65%	98%	96%	87%
Oaklands School	35%	39%	32%	63%			98%	39%	32%
Pupil Referral Unit			1%						1%
Raines Foundation	64%	57%	67%	30%	38%	25%	94%	95%	92%
Sir John Cass	76%	78%	83%	14%	14%	1%	90%	92%	84%
St Pauls' Way School	3%	2%	1%	68%	75%	63%	71%	77%	63%
Stepney Green School	86%	77%	81%	12%	21%	17%	98%	98%	99%
Swanlea School	97%	87%	59%	1%		36%	98%	87%	94%
							81%	77%	69%

The table above shows the percentage of the year 11 cohort that were entered for GCSE short or full course. It is noted that the Agreed Syllabus requires that students study one of these two courses or another nationally accredited course that meets the aims of the syllabus.

It was interesting to see that two of the 11 community schools in the authority had entered the majority of their year 11 cohort for the full course RS. One of the schools with a religious character had also entered 83% or more for the full course. These decisions reflects the fact that students in the authority continue to perform well in GCSE RS and the results often contributes significantly to students' chances of achieving 5 A*-C grades.

Langdon Park and Bow schools have now introduced GCSE for all students at key stage 4 so although there are only small numbers of entries this year; results for 2011 should show full compliance with the Agreed Syllabus. It is not clear why Bethnal Green Technology College has no entries for either of the GCSE options. SACRE will need to ask the LA to investigate the reasons for this non-compliance with the Agreed Syllabus. It is also of concern that Oaklands and St Paul's Way; appear to be offering RS as an option rather than a compulsory subject for all students. SACRE will need to ask the LA to investigate the reasons for this apparent non-compliance.

Deborah Weston
Consultant to Tower Hamlets SACRE.

SACRE Advice

As in previous years, SACRE has provided advice to the Local Authority and to our schools. The number of schools requesting advice and support on Religious Education has continued to increase this year. Some of this advice relates to questions about the provision of places for prayer in school, resources for the classroom, schemes of work in relation to the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and when it is permissible for children to opt out of religious education. It appears that parents and carers are becoming better informed about religious education in schools and are seeking more information about the provision.

Regular meetings for Primary RE coordinators are scheduled and listed in the PDC brochure and a secondary network group has met on several occasions this year facilitated by the strategy team and a secondary advanced skills teacher. The meetings have focuses on such matters as the new secondary curriculum, assessment in religious education and the relationship between RE and community cohesion. Teachers are kept well informed about national developments that relate to Religious Education through regular news letters. Details of both groups are listed on the local groups section of the website of the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education. (www.natre.org.uk)

Collective worship

No schools applied for a determination to waive the requirement for Acts of Worship to be wholly or mainly of a broader Christian character.

Governors interested in determination should follow the procedures outlined in the SACRE constitution. A copy of the constitution is available from Parmjeet Sehmi, LA officer for SACRE

Membership of SACRE

Name & Address	Representative Group
Mr. A. Ahmed 39 Greenstead Avenue Woodford Green Essex, IG8 7HE	Group A Muslim
Mr. Abu Sayeed 84 Halesden Road London NW10 2BE	Group A Muslim
M. Zaki Ahmed C/o Council of Mosques 159 Wager Street London E3 4JR	Group A Muslim
Shamsul Hoque Esha Atul Islam Mosque Culture Centre & Islamic School 16 Ford Square Damien Court, London E1 2HS	Group A Muslim
Sajjad Miah London Jamme Masjid 59 Bricklane London E1 6QL	Group A Muslim
Mrs Andrey Francis 19 The Woodlands London SE13 6T2	Group A Christian/ Black Majority
Ehsan Hannan East London Mosque 82-92 Whitechapel Road London E1 1JQ	Group A Muslim
Faruk Ahmed Mazahirul Uloom London 241-243 Mile End Road London E1 4AA	Group A Muslim
Hussain Ali Co-Coordinator Council of Mosques 46 Whitechapel Road London E1 1JX	Group A Muslim
Rev Thomas O'Brien Our Lady of the Assumption Victoria Park Square London E2 9PB	Group A Roman Catholic
Mr Premnath Fing 147 Dersingham Avenue Manor Park London E12 5QQ	Group A Hindu

Name & Address	Representative Group
Leon Silver 32B Albert Gardens Commercial Road London E1 OLH	<u>Group A</u> Jewish
Mr. John Shannon LDBS 30 Causton Street London SW1P 4AU	<u>Group B</u> Church of England
Dr. Alan Mair Bishop Challoner Collegiate School 1 Harding Street London E1 0AB	<u>Group A</u> Roman Catholic
Ms. Alyson Brewer Stebon Primary School Burdett Estate Wallwood Street London E14 7AD	<u>Group C</u> <u>Teacher Associations</u> <u>Primary</u>
<u>Mr. Gurparshad Singh Bance</u> 17 Woodford Road London E18 2EL	<u>Group A</u> <u>Sikh Representative</u>
<u>Ms. Deborah Weston</u> 26 Highfield Road Hornchurch Essex RM12 6PT	<u>Group C</u> Teacher Association Secondary
Mgr Vladimir Felzmann Director All Saints Pastoral Centre <u>London Colney</u> Hertfordshire AL2 1AF	Group A Roman Catholic
<u>Mr. Ian Timpany (NASUWT Officer)</u> Central Foundation School 31 – 33 Bow Road London E3 2AE	<u>Group C</u> Teacher Association Representative
Srivati 29 Maryland Road Stratford E15 1JJ Please use this address for all mail	<u>Group A</u> <u>Buddhist</u>
Mr. Ron Keating 4-G1 Kempton Court 2 Durward Street London E1 5BB	Professional Association Representative
Revd. Diane Webb St. Bartholomews Vicarage 35 Buckhurst Street Bethnal Green E.1 5QT	Tower Hamlets Deanery Church of England
Councillor A. A. Sardar Members' Support (Labour) Mulberry Place	LA
Councillor Shamim A. Choudhury Members' Support (Respect Group) Mulberry Place	LA
Ms. Parmjeet Sehmi 3 rd Floor (Annexe) Mulberry Place	For Corporate Director, Children Services

Name & Address	Representative Group
Mrs. Carole Martin 8 Woodstock Terrace London E14 0AD	Group B Church of England
Ms. Peggy Lynch Flat A 92 Grantley Street London E1 4BT	Group B Church of England
Dr. Amanda Claremont 20 Wellington Buildings, Wellington Way London E3 4NA	Group B Church of England
Mrs Sherry Loveday-Davis 2 Glenkerry House Burcham Street London E14 0SL	Group B Church of England
Sharon Bailey (Clerk) 2 nd Floor, MP	