

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2020-21



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The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs
<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

Ib. Words from the Chair of SACRE

In presenting this report I commend the work the SACRE, its members and those who supported us in our endeavours to ensure that high quality Religious Education is provided in Greenwich Schools

The Covid19 Pandemic caused many problems for schools, teachers and pupils and new many methods of teaching and learning were tried, some being more successful than others. SACRE also had to resort to new methods of carrying out its duties and Virtual meetings were held, but even one of these had to be cancelled due to a national lockdown

Some subjects proved easier to teach using the new methods, but other did not lend themselves quite so well, For example it was difficult to teach practical subjects such as Art and science via a virtual conferencing platform. Just how successful the teaching of Religious Education was remains to be seen but I am sure the teachers serving on SACRE and their colleagues in all schools did the best they could in very difficult circumstance.

The curtailment of the inspection regime and the cancellation of Public Examinations reduced the amount of evidence SACRE had to assess the quality of Religious Education in Greenwich Schools

The new Agreed Syllabus launched in March the year before had very little time to have an impact before the Pandemic struck but anecdotal evidence suggests that it is a very useful tool for the teachers.

Throughout the year SACRE enjoyed the support of the Local Authority's Children's Services Department, principally in the person of Mathew West and our thanks are due to him for this support and guidance.

We also own a great debt of gratitude to Lucy Davis our unflappable and efficient Clerk for facilitating and documenting our meetings, disseminating information, and doing a hundred and one other things to enable SACRE to function.

I personally would like to place on record my thanks to each member of SACRE for their continued commitment the work we do in supporting the young people in our schools. This has been a difficult year for all concerned but and although the means of delivering it have been disrupted the need for high quality Religious Education in our schools has not diminished.

Let us go forward in hope that when the Pandemic is over and "normality", whatever that is returns SACRE can make further contributions to the quality of Religious Education in our schools, so that pupils can in their turn make positive contributions to creating and maintaining peaceful and tolerant societies both locally, nationally and globally

Bob Love MBE
Chair

Chair of the SACRE: Bob Love (now retired)	Vice-Chair of the SACRE: Rachel Taggart-Ryan
Clerk for SACRE & ASC: Lucy Davies	Contact from Royal Greenwich Local Authority: Matthew West

Ic Overview of meetings and attendance

Term	Date	Quoracy	Venue
Autumn Term	15 th January 2020	Quorate	Virtual
Spring Term	Cancelled as new national lockdown announced and schools were very stretched		
Summer Term	6 th July 2021	Quorate	Virtual

The 2020-21 academic year was a year of success and sadness for the RBG SACRE. We successfully held two virtual meetings and welcomed three new members: Cllr Ivis Williams joined group D, and David Osborne Assistant Head of Religious Studies at St Mary Magdalene School and Matthew Harris Headteacher at Bishop John Robinson School joined group C. The suggested amendments to the constitution were agreed which will have a positive impact on quoracy at meetings. Sadly, Cllr Christine Grice passed away during this year. SACRE also acknowledged the huge burden the pandemic has placed on school leaders as well as the community. At the beginning of the academic year, Mike Cullinane explained that he would be moving away at some point during the year so wouldn't be standing as chair. SACRE members thanked him for his thoughtful contributions as chair of SACRE. At the end of the academic year Bob Love retired from SACRE. He was a founding member of Greenwich SACRE and his years of commitment to supporting religious education in our schools is greatly appreciated.

The Chair, the LA Officer, and Clerk discuss, review actions and plan the agenda for each meeting. We are in the second year of a 3-year meeting cycle developed by the clerk to ensure SACRE business is allocated in a timely manner to meetings over an extended period (see appendix 2).

2. Religious Education (RE)

2a The Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus for religious Education was launched in the 2018-19 academic year. By the 18th February 2020 (halfway through the last academic year and less than a year after the launch), it had been viewed 852 times, not including views from members of local authority staff. The agreed syllabus has been adopted by both maintained schools and academies. SACRE has not carried out an analysis of which academies have adopted the agreed syllabus

2b Standards and monitoring of RE

SACRE members continue to monitor inspection reports by Ofsted, SIAMS and Catholic Section 48 inspections, to gain an insight into the teaching of RE in schools in RBG.

Outcomes at GCSE and A level in religious studies are also reported to SACRE. In the summer of 2021, national examinations in Religious Studies at both GCSE and A level were cancelled and replaced with Teacher Assessed Grades. This is now the second year for which a data set for results and comparative data was not produced for this academic year by the Standards and Testing Agency, because 2020 examinations had been replaced by Centre Assessed grades.

School representatives on SACRE informed SACRE members that their teachers ensured that Religious Education and Religious Studies lessons remained high priority. These lessons took place online through the lockdowns alongside the rest of the curriculum. National reports from the DfE identified that it was practical lessons, such as physical education, science, art and design and technology Art that suffered most during lockdowns.

2c Teacher training and RE advice for schools

No teacher training took place during this academic year. School representatives on SACRE spoke about the challenges faced by schools both in supporting the needs of vulnerable children through lockdown, but also in staff well-being.

During the year SACRE members and the teaching community have been kept informed of RE initiatives, events and resources. Information has been made available to schools though, for example, the Children's Services Schools Bulletin and has included Holocaust Memorial Day and CPD opportunities.

2d Other information

No schools contacted SACRE requesting a withdrawal from their statutory duties relating to RE during the 2020-21 academic year.

2e Advice to the LA

Relationship and Sex Education. Following a visit from the PHSE lead for RBG in the last academic year and a discussion about Relationships and Sex Education, SACRE members agreed a statement on RSE to be shared with RBG schools. The statement shared with schools can be seen below:

Royal Borough of Greenwich Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education agreed statement on the Sex and Relationships Education policy 2020

The Royal Borough of Greenwich Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) represents the faiths and beliefs of the community in the borough. We wish for all young people in the Royal Borough of Greenwich to feel proud and confident of their faith or belief, have positive relationships with their families, community and peers. We wish for them to have positive self-esteem and body image and the knowledge to make safe choices about their bodies. We understand and endorse the importance of teaching Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in schools in an age-appropriate way. We believe that it is vital for children and young people to learn about positive relationships and that schools need to safe, faith and belief sensitive and inclusive places where all feel respected and valued. We believe that this ethos and approach complements learning wholly and in a balanced way about faith and belief.

3 Collective Worship

3a Monitoring of collective worship

SACRE continues to monitor the reports produced from inspections by Ofsted, SIAMS and Catholic Section 48 inspections to monitor collective worship in schools. Ofsted and religious inspections were halted for much of the 2020-21 academic year. No schools in the Royal Borough of Greenwich received a full inspection during this period. One secondary school received a monitoring visit, which did not include any comment on collective worship.

3b Determinations

No determinations have been received from schools in Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2020-21

3c Teacher training provided

The work of the RE Council of England and Wales, REC, has been disseminated throughout the year to inform SACRE, faith communities and local schools

3d Other information

School representatives on SACRE reported that collective worship saw a resurgence through lockdowns. Collective worship took place virtually and it was the one time when different parts of the school community could come together. School leaders reported that this had an integral role in ensuring cohesion within the community.

3e Complaints about collective worship

There have been no complaints about collective worship in RBG schools brought to SACRE this year.

4. Links with other bodies

4a NASACRE

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE): The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of NASACRE. All SACRE members are encouraged to access the NASACRE website and have had the login details shared with them. Relevant information received from NASACRE is distributed to schools via the schools' bulletin.

RBG SACRE members are invited to attend the NASACRE conference each year.

4b Local bodies

The clerk and local authority representative are in contact with the organisers of the RBG Faith Leaders Network. Information is shared between both organisations in both directions. Relevant information from the Faith Leaders Network is also shared with schools through the schools' bulletin. Holocaust Memorial Day information is also shared with schools through the schools' bulletin.

Several Greenwich SACRE members attend other SACREs and local Inter Faith Forums and therefore SACRE is informed by their ability to bring to the group information from other areas. SACRE is well served by RE teachers who attend and contribute a great deal to meetings as well as members of other teams within the LA such as SEND, PREVENT and other community groups and schools. SACRE members have attended RE events at local schools during the year.

5 Local work of SACRE

5a Governor Training

No governor training took place during the 2020-21 academic year.

5b Advice provided

Ramadan advice was updated for the 2020-21 academic year and agreed by SACRE. This was shared with schools in a timely manner.

6 SACRE Arrangements

6a Professional and administrative support

A clerk, who is a central contact for SACRE business, distributing papers for meetings and servicing the meetings, provides SACRE's business support. Additional support was provided by the Royal Borough of Greenwich School Improvement Team.

6b Membership, representation and quoracy

RBG SACRE welcomed three new members. Cllr Williams has joined group D and Matthew Harris (Headteacher of Bishop John Robinson school) and David Osborne (Assistant Head of Religious Studies at St Mary Magdalene School) joined group C.

The constitution was amended to reduce the required number of members from each group for a meeting to be quorate. It is anticipated that this will mean that most meetings are quorate so that voting can take place. The constitution now requires two members from Group A (one of which must be from a faith or belief other than Christianity) and one member from groups B, C and D in order to be quorate.

6c Training

All RBG SACRE members are provided with the login details for the NASACRE website so that they can access training opportunities that are provided. The clerk also offers the opportunity to attend the NASACRE annual conference to members.

6d Finance

RBG SACRE continues to be funded through the School Improvement budget. This includes funding for clerking services, and the Local Authority Officers time, membership of NASACRE, attendance of the annual conference and refreshments for meetings.

**Appendix A:
Membership in 2020-21**

Group A	Representing	Name	Number of SACRE meetings attended (or arranged a substitute)	Apologies received
	African Churches	Vacant		
	African Churches	Vacant		
	Baha'i	Mr. Allen Duncan	1 out of 2	
	Baptist Churches	Vacant		
	Buddhism	Mr. Mariano Marcigaglia	2 out of 2	
	Evangelical Churches	Mr. Jeff Laws	1 out of 2	Yes
	Hinduism	Ms. Lakshmi Vyas	1 out of 2	Yes
	Hinduism	Mrs. Renu Partap	1 out of 2	
	Humanists	Ms. Rachel Taggart- Ryan	2 out of 2	
	Islam	Mr. Kalid M. Ahmed	0 out of 2	
	Islam	Imam Swaleh Kabocho	1 out of 2	
	Judaism	Rev. David Rome	2 out of 2	
	Methodist Church	Vacant		
	Roman Catholic Church	Mr. Mike Cullinane	1 out of 1	
	Roman Catholic Church			
	Sikhism	Mr. Balbir Singh Bakhshi	0 out of 2	Yes
	United Reformed Church	Vacant		
Group B	The Church of England	Mr. Bob Love	2 out of 2	
	The Church of England	Mr. Jeremy Lunnon	2 out of 2	
	The Church of England	Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	2 out of 2	
	The Church of England	Mr. Shaun Burns	1 out of 2	Yes
	The Church of England	Vacancy		
Group C	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Claire Harrison	2 out of 2	
		Sarah Osborne	0 out of 2	Yes
		Ms. Ruth Handyside	0 out of 2	Yes
		Mr. Robert Morgan	1 out of 1	

		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
Group D	The Local Authority	Cllr. Ann Marie Cousins	2 out of 2	
		Cllr. Pat Greenwell	2 out of 2	
		Cllr. Ivis Williams	1 out of 1	
		Mr. Matthew West	2 out of 2	

Appendix B

THREE YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA PLAN 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

This document is the three-year agenda plan for Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE. The document is drafted by the Local Authority Representative and approved and owned by RBG SACRE. The agenda plan is agreed annually at the first meeting of the academic year and is reviewed annually on a three-year rolling basis.

The plan gives a framework to ensure that SACRE fulfills its duties. SACRE agendas are not limited to these items, and SACRE will consider items as appropriate in order to fulfill its duties. These could include: consideration of applications to vary requirements for collective worship; requesting the Local Authority to set up a Statutory Agreed Syllabus Conference; monitoring delivery of the Agreed Syllabus; reviewing provision for in-service training and development and receiving Ofsted RE inspection reports.

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
2018-19	24 th September 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan)
	11 th October 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Agreement of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve Gender Identification and Faith (briefing from Michele Holmes)
	6 th November 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RE Results for 2017/2018
	25 th April 2019	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange Feedback from ASC Launch RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	12 th June 2019	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
2019-20	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan) Annual Approval of Code of Conduct RE Results for 18.19 Ramadan Guidance - approve Monitor implementation of the latest Agreed Syllabus <i>(Note: may move, depending on launch date)</i>
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference Multi-Faith Guidelines Review
2020-21	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan) Annual Approval of Code of Conduct RE Results for 19.20 Ramadan Guidance - approve
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference
<i>Note</i>	<i>ASC</i>	<i>Requirement to review Agreed Syllabus content – every 5 years</i>

Appendix C

Circulation details for this annual report

Once agreed by SACRE and any final amendments are made, this annual report will be published on the RBG website in the SACRE section, and the clerk will send a copy of the report to the Secretary of State for Education and NASACRE for their records.