

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2023-24



Contents

1. Introduction	
a. Table of contents	2
b. Words from the Chair of SACRE	3
c. Overview of meetings and attendance	4
2. RE statutory responsibilities	
a. Local agreed syllabus and RE in schools	4
b. Standards and monitoring of RE	4-7
c. Teacher training and RE advice for schools	7
d. Other information	7
e. Advice to the LA	7
3. Collective worship	
a. Monitoring of collective worship	
b. Determinations	
c. Teacher training provided	7-8
d. Other information	
e. Complaints about collective worship	
4. Links with other bodies	
a. NASACRE	8
b. Local bodies	
5. Local work of SACRE	
a. Governor training	8
b. Advice provided	
6. SACRE Arrangements	
a. Professional and administrative support	
b. Membership, representation and quoracy	9
c. Training	
d. Finance	
8. Appendices	
Appendix A: SACRE Membership	
Appendix B: Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE 3-year meeting cycle	
Appendix C: Circulation details for this Annual Report	10-13



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

Words from the Chair of SACRE

It has been an honour and a privilege to have been re-elected as Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the Royal Borough of Greenwich during the 2023/2024 academic year.

All our meetings were held at the Woolwich Centre which enabled members of the Council to join the meeting either in person or virtually. While this has allowed more members to attend, it has meant that we have not been meeting in schools or places of worship. During the 2024-2025 academic year, we will explore holding meetings at other venues once again.

We had some changes to our membership, this year. We said goodbye to Cllr Dominic Mbang and welcomed Cllr Leo Fletcher in his place. We thank Cllr Mbang for his contributions to SACRE and wish him well for the future. We also very pleased to welcome Ms. Rahima Choudhury as a member of group C, representing secondary RE leaders and Mrs Yinka Oyebade (African Churches); Mr Olinoor Mia (Islam) and Mrs Michelle Fante (Baha'i) as members of Group A.

It is now 7 years since the launch of our Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, which was launched in the 2018-2019 academic year. Much of our focus in the 2023/2024 academic year has been on updating the syllabus. In June 2024, the Council agreed to request the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC).

An exciting new development means that the Borough now has an RE Network for teachers. It is hoped that the RE Network will be able to provide feedback to the ASC as it reviews and prepares the RE Syllabus.

Part of our role is to monitor inspection reports by Ofsted, SIAMS and CSI. We were very pleased to note that three of the 25 schools inspected by Ofsted had a deep dive in RE and received either a good or an outstanding. Two other schools had Collective Worship in their inspection reports. Four Roman Catholic schools were inspected under Section 48. All were judged good and two had outstanding features. We congratulate these schools on the effort they make to provide high quality RE and Collective Worship for their pupils and students.

We continue to be grateful to Greenwich Children's Services for the support we receive from them.

Matthew West's calm, positive and helpful advice and guidance is greatly appreciated. We also value highly the help and support that our Clerk, Lucy Davies, gives us. We would not be able to do what we do without their help.

I would like to express my thanks to each and every member of our SACRE and for the contribution that they make to the work we do in supporting the young people in our schools.

In presenting this report I commend the work of our SACRE, its members, those who support us, our schools and most importantly the young people in the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the positive contributions they make to their schools, neighbourhoods, and the wider community.

Ariadne van den Hof (Chair 2023-2024)

March 2025

Chair of the SACRE: Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	Vice-Chair of the SACRE: Ms. Sharon Docherty
Clerk for SACRE & ASC: Lucy Davies	Contact from Royal Greenwich Local Authority: Mr. Matthew West

Ic Overview of meetings and attendance

Term	Date	Quoracy	Venue
Autumn Term	9 th October 2023	Quorate	The Woolwich Centre & via Zoom
Spring Term	15 th April 2024	Quorate	The Woolwich Centre & via Zoom
Summer Term	26 th June 2024	Quorate	The Woolwich Centre & via Zoom

We had some changes in membership this year. Ms. Rahima Choudhury became a member of group C, representing secondary RE leaders. Mrs. Yinka Oyebade joined Group A representing African Churches. Mr. Olinoor Mia joined Group A representing Islam. Mrs. Michelle Fante joined Group A representing Baha'i. Cllr. Leo Fletcher was welcomed to group D to replace Cllr. Dominic Mbang.

The Chair, the LA Officer, and Clerk discuss, review actions, and plan the agenda for each meeting. SACRE operates a 3-year rolling 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 of February 2020 (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.

In the 2023-24 academic year, SACRE members continued their discussion about updating the curriculum. It was agreed that RBG SACRE would begin to collect the views of teachers through the newly set up RE leaders' network, as to whether they feel the current curriculum needs amending, or whether they would like an entirely new curriculum. This request for feedback from the RE leaders' network will take place in the 2024-25 academic year, once the membership of the network has been expanded. In June 2024 SACRE agreed to request the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to consider the feedback from the RE leaders network, when this is available.

2b Standards and monitoring of RE

SACRE members continue to monitor inspection reports by Ofsted, SIAMS and Catholic Section 48 (CSI) inspections, to gain an insight into the teaching of RE in schools in RBG. Twenty-five schools received an Ofsted inspection during the academic year. Three schools had deep dives into religious education (all three are academies), two were judged as good and one outstanding. Two other schools did not have deep dives into religious education, but collective worship was mentioned.

Mentions of religion, belief, values, collective worship, and assemblies can be seen in table 1 below.

Table 1

School name	Mention of R.E. beliefs, values, assembly, or collective worship	Inspection outcome
St Thomas More primary	The 'Lighthouse Team' helps to lead collective worship.	Good
Bishop John Robinson	Collective worship supports pupils to reflect on how to 'be the best they can be'. Pupils can join the 'Leading Lights' programme and assist with acts of collective worship, prayer and reflection.	Good
Woodhill	Starting in the early years, pupils learn about different religions and traditions. They visit places of worship and have many opportunities to discuss different views and beliefs. This helps them to develop a careful consideration of what it means to show respect and tolerance.	Good
Brooklands	R.E. deep dive, no specific comments about R.E. but positive comments about curriculum in general	Good
Windrush	'Pupils also learn about a wide range of faiths and religions and have many opportunities to visit places of worship and meet faith leaders from different religions'	Outstanding

Four faith schools had section 48 religious character inspections. St Joseph's and St Peter's Schools achieved good in their CSI inspections. St Margaret Clitherow achieved good with outstanding for collective worship. St Paul's achieved good with outstanding for catholic life and mission

Outcomes at GCSE and A level in religious studies are also reported to SACRE. The outcomes are summarised in tables 2 and 4, with table 3 showing the schools that have not entered pupils in GCSE religious studies. During the summer term SACRE meeting in 2023, SACRE members checked the information published on RBG's secondary school websites for the curriculum followed for pupils not taking Religious Studies. The Local Authority representative then contacted The Halley Academy, The John Roan, and Woolwich Poly Boys. Following this work by RBG SACRE, The Halley Academy and The John Roan updated their websites and the lead of the RE network got in contact with the Headteacher at Woolwich Poly Boys to offer support.

Table 2

KS4 2024 GCSE Religious Studies Results	N. Pupils	N. RS Entries	Entries %	5+	4+	1+
Ark Greenwich Free School	107	44	41%	86%	95%	100%
Kings Oak	9	3	33%	0%	0%	100%
Leigh Stationers Academy	261	4	2%	75%	75%	100%
Plumstead Manor School	226	197	87%	35%	46%	93%
Royal Greenwich Trust School	144	18	13%	72%	89%	100%
St Mary Magdalene	175	172	98%	51%	61%	98%
St Paul's Academy	234	228	97%	57%	65%	98%
St. Thomas More Catholic Comprehensive School	127	127	100%	86%	90%	100%
St. Ursula's Convent	128	123	96%	60%	74%	100%
Thomas Tallis	262	45	17%	73%	84%	98%
Woolwich Poly Boys	237	1	<1%	0%	0%	0%
RBG	2853	922	32%	58%	67%	98%
England	650155	209670	32%	60%	71%	97%

Table 2 shows that the numbers of pupils that were entered for GCSE religious studies is the same as nationally at 32%. This figure decreased from the pre-pandemic figure of 50%, in 2022 it was 43% in 2023 both RBG and national percentages dropped to 32%. In 2024, both the percentage in RBG and nationally remained 32%.

In 2024, the percentage of pupils achieving a pass (4+) and a good pass (5+) dropped below the national average, but is still significantly stronger than in 2022, when 45% of students in RBG secured 5+.

Table 3 shows schools in which no pupils sat GCSE religious studies. It should be noted that Charlton Park Academy and Willow Dene are both special schools and pupils have high levels of need and require an alternative curriculum offer. It is positive to note that both Royal Greenwich Trust School and Woolwich Poly Boys offered GCSE religious studies in 2024, as they did not in 2023. Leigh Academy Blackheath did have offered a GCSE course in previous years.

Table 3

No RS Entries
Harris Academy Greenwich
Leigh Academy Blackheath
Leigh Academy Halley
The John Roan School
Eltham Hill School
Woolwich Polytechnic Girls
Charlton Park Academy
Willow Dene School

Table 4

KS5 2024 A Level Religious Studies Results	N. Pupils	N. RS Entries	Entries %	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
Harris Academy Greenwich	113	3	3%	67%	67%	100%
Leigh Stationers Academy	114	6	5%	50%	67%	83%
St Mary Magdalene	66	5	8%	20%	40%	100%
Thomas Tallis	271	10	4%	10%	20%	100%
Plumstead Manor (Philosophy)	281	15	5%	40%	60%	93%
RBG	1091	39	4%	29%	42%	96%
England	269182	14447	5%	26%	55%	98%

Table 4 shows that the number of schools entering students for A level religious studies was low, as was the number of students taking the subject in each school. This figure dropped from 34 pupils in 2023 to 24 in 2024. When including philosophy at Plumstead Manor, the number of pupils is slightly higher at 39. The percentage of students getting the highest grades (A*-A) was higher than the national figure but A*-B grades was below national.

2c Teacher training and RE advice for schools

The PTI (formally the Prince's Trust Initiative) ran RE CPD for teachers in a hub of schools in RBG in the 2023-24 academic year which included both primary and secondary schools. The RE network for RE leaders in schools has been opened to all RE leaders in schools in RBG.

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 2023-24 academic year.

2e Advice to the LA

No advice was given to the local authority this year.

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

continued during the 2023-24 academic year and the Catholic Schools Inspectorate announced a new format for their religious inspections of Catholic Schools. Twenty-five schools received an Ofsted inspection during the academic year. Two reports mention collective worship and both schools were inspected as good. One other mentioned that assemblies are used to reach democracy and managing emotions. All three schools got a good outcome.

3b Determinations

No determinations have been received from schools in Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2023-24.

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

None.

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

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 2023-24 academic year.

5b Advice provided

Ramadan advice was updated for the 2023-24 academic year and agreed by SACRE. This was shared with schools in a timely manner through the schools' bulletin.

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

All meetings were quorate.

We had some changes to membership of groups A, C and D during the 2023-24 academic year. Dr Yinka Oyebade became a member of group A representing African Churches and Mrs Michelle Fante was appointed representing Baha'i. Mr Olinoor Mia was welcomed representing Islam.

Ms. Rahima Choudhury became a member of group C, representing secondary RE leaders.

Cllr Leo Fletcher was welcomed to group D to replace Cllr Dominic Mbang.

There are now some vacancies in RBG SACRE membership, and the local authority representative is working with the Performance Analysis Service in RBG to obtain the most up to date census data to help determine whether the membership correctly represents the community.

6c Training

All RBG SACRE members are provided with the login details for the NASACRE website so that they can access the training opportunities that are provided. The clerk also offers the opportunity to attend the NASACRE annual conference to members and Mtr Ariadne van den Hof and Ms. Kristensen attended the conference virtually. They fed back to RBG SACRE at our meeting on 26th June 2024.

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 2023-24

Group A	Representing	Name	Number of SACRE meetings attended (or arranged a substitute)	Apologies received
	African Churches	Dr. Yinka Oyebade	2 out of 3	Yes
	African Churches	Vacant		
	Baha'i	Mrs. Michelle Fante	0 out of 3	Yes
	Baptist Churches	Vacant		
	Buddhism	Mr. Mariano Marcigaglia	2 out of 3	Yes
	Evangelical Churches	Mr. Jeff Laws	3 out of 3	
	Hinduism	Ms. Lakshmi Vyas	1 out of 3	Yes
	Hinduism	Vacant		
	Humanists	Ms. Helen Warner	3 out of 3	
	Islam	Vacant		
	Islam	Mr. Olinoor Mia	1 out of 3	Yes
	Judaism	Rev. David Rome	2 out of 3	Yes
	Methodist Church	Vacant		
	Roman Catholic Church	Mrs. Sharon Docherty	3 out of 3	
	Roman Catholic Church	Vacant		
	Sikhism	Vacant		
	United Reformed Church	Vacant		
Group B	The Church of England	Mrs. Collette Christianson	3 out of 3	
	The Church of England	Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	3 out of 3	
	The Church of England	Mr. Shaun Burns	2 out of 3	Yes
	The Church of England	Two vacancies		
Group C	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Claire Harrison	3 out of 3	
	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Rahima Choudhury (appointed Oct 2023)	3 out of 3	
	Teachers in the LA	Mr. Matthew Harris	0 out of 3	
	Teachers in the LA	Seven vacancies		
Group D	The Local Authority	Cllr. Christine St Matthew Daniel (until May 2024)	1 out of 2	Yes
	The Local Authority	Cllr. Pat Greenwell	2 out of 3	Yes
	The Local Authority	Cllr. Leo Fletcher (Until May 2024)	1 out of 2	Yes
	The Local Authority	Mr. Matthew West	3 out of 3	

Appendix B

THREE YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA PLAN 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26

This document is the three-year agenda plan for Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE. The three-year agenda plan is reviewed and updated on an annual 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 and RE inspection reports.

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
2023-24	Autumn Term 9 th October 2023	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Adoption of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve Planning for RBG Agreed Syllabus 2025-2029
	Spring Term 15 th April 2024	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2022/23 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance RE Results for 22.23
	Summer Term 26 th June 2024	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference Agreed Syllabus Conference – vote School Websites review Three-year rolling SACRE agenda plan – review and update
2024-25	Autumn Term 11 th November 2024	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Adoption of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve
	Spring Term 17 th March 2025	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance RE Results for 23.24 ASC Planning
	Summer Term 9 th July 2025	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
		Feedback from NASACRE Conference RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2023/2024 – approval ASC Planning School Websites review
2025-26	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Adoption of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve Planning for Agreed Syllabus
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2024/25 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance RE Results for 24.25
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference School Websites review Three-year rolling SACRE agenda plan – review and update

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.