

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

**LB RICHMOND UPON THAMES STANDING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

**May 2025**

This LB Richmond upon Thames SACRE Annual Report is presented in the new format developed by NASACRE in conjunction with the DfE for use from September 2021.

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**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Foreword from the Chair of SACRE 2023-24**

As I look back at the past academic year, I am reminded of the great loss to our SACRE which we have all felt from the death of our much-loved consultant Lesley Prior. Lesley is irreplaceable, but we have benefited greatly from the input we have received from all the members of our SACRE team, both those established over many years, and our more recent members who have brought new insights and energies to our work. Each year I record my thanks to the team for their commitment to the delivery of RE and values education in our schools. The blend of friendship, understanding and honest sharing of faith perspectives within the team, which makes our work so distinctive, is a pleasure to chair. I would also like to give particular thanks for the support we receive from Achieving for Children, which has helped us to manage our work following the loss of our consultant.

Our skilled and knowledgeable Democratic Services clerk, Joanne Tutt, continues to bring her attention to detail and thoughtful between-meetings follow up, which has enabled our SACRE to move forward with new projects, such as the RE Award for primary schools which we now offer jointly with the Royal Borough of Kingston. It was a great pleasure to attend the first award ceremony at Heathfield Junior School, in the presence of the Mayor of Richmond, and to enjoy such a vibrant school RE assembly.

The Annual Report includes an account of our third Faith Direct Day, held on 2nd July, splendidly hosted by the Head of Orleans Park School in Twickenham and with help from Year 10 students who had participated the previous year. Once again, our Faith leaders led workshops for the young people attending and then joined a panel to answer questions from the students attending. A further Faith Day is being considered for the summer of 2025 with a focus on young people attending our local schools for children with special learning needs.

In this academic year, a small group of members began the process of reviewing the delivery of RE in our secondary schools and academies, so that we are able to reflect back to Headteachers the context of their RE teaching. I am grateful for the work that has been put into this project, which will be a useful guide for secondary Heads.

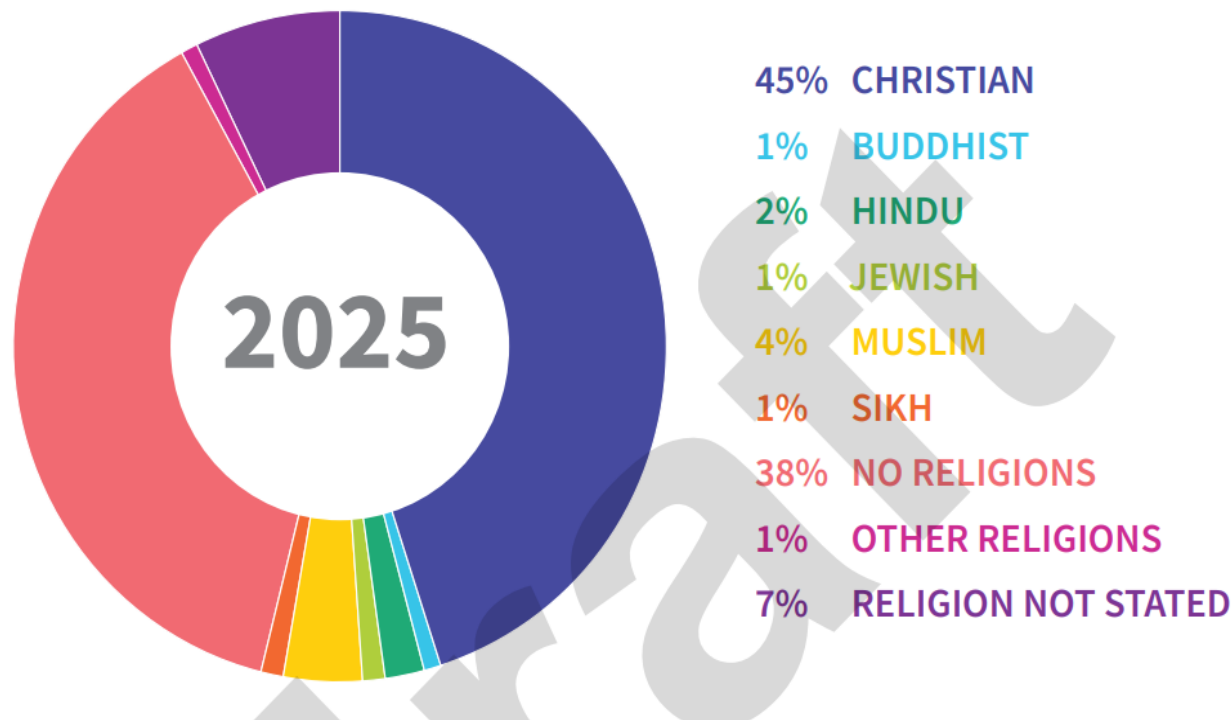
The number of members of our SACRE continues to grow, and the commitment and friendship of our group is undiminished. The Annual Report gives a flavour of our approach to the important SACRE role of maintaining standards in RE, and next academic year will see the Agreed Syllabus revised and finalised once more to enable our schools to continue to flourish in their delivery of RE.

**Cllr Penny Frost**

1.2 Religion and Belief in LB Richmond upon Thames

Religion and Belief in Richmond

This is the most recent data available, based on the 2021 census.



Religion	2011	2021	% Change
People stating religion as Christian	55.4%	45.3%	-10%
People stating religion as No Religion	28.5%	37.9%	9.5%
People not stating Religion	8.5%	7.1%	-1.4%
People stating religion as Muslim	3.3%	4.3%	1.0%
People stating religion as Sikh	1.6%	2.1%	0.5%
People stating religion as Buddhist	0.8%	0.8%	N/A
People stating religion as Jewish	0.8%	0.6%	-0.2%
People stating religion as Other Religions	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%

2. Religious Education Statutory Responsibilities

2.1 Background

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames’ Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities. This report summarises its activities during the academic year 2023-24. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: “to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in

county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.”

In particular, the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:

- It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on Religious Education.
- It may determine, on application by the Headteacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the Collective Worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
- With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers’ in-service professional development.

In addition, the SACRE has a direct role in the consideration and disposal of complaints related to the RE curriculum or Collective Worship. The SACRE will be asked to advise where complaints relate to Religious Education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus or to Collective Worship in county – now called community – schools maintained by the LA.

Details of the work of the LB Richmond upon Thames SACRE can be found here:

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=463>

Agendas, minutes and associated papers can be found via this link:

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=463>

## 2.2 Locally Agreed Syllabus

By statute, every local authority is required to adopt a Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) for Religious Education and to review it every five years. The current LB Richmond upon Thames LAS has been in place since February 2020 after undergoing a rigorous process of review and revision. In line with the requirement to review the Agreed Syllabus every 5 years, a refreshed Agreed Syllabus will be available in 2025.

The LB Richmond upon Thames Agreed Syllabus is available via this link:

[https://richmond.gov.uk/media/18564/sacre\\_agreed\\_syllabus.pdf](https://richmond.gov.uk/media/18564/sacre_agreed_syllabus.pdf)

## 2.3 Standards in RE

SACRE members give close consideration to the various national and local developments concerning the provision of RE. Their discussions are prompted by the information provided to the SACRE through the regular updates from teacher members, the RE Consultant and SACRE Adviser and NASACRE Briefings. During 2022-24, SACRE gave particular attention to:

- the introduction of the joint RE award for Kingston and Richmond schools, the first award from which was given to Heathfield Junior School on 10 July 2024.
- planning and holding a third Faith Direct Day for 2 July 2024, which would follow on from the success of the previous ‘Faith Direct’ events in 2022 and 2023. The event

offered Key Stage 3 pupils opportunities to meet and talk with representatives of the religions and worldviews included in the syllabus and involving SACRE members. It had been hoped to include Special Schools in the day but it had been decided the format would be more meaningful if separate events were held for mainstream and special schools. It was therefore decided to move the Faith Direct day for special schools to the next year.

- examining the information provided by schools in response to a survey issued by the SACRE in the Autumn and Spring terms of 2023/24, to assess the level of R.E provision in the borough's secondary schools and what the barriers were to provision. This was followed by an audit, conducted by SACRE members, of the information available on secondary school websites about the provision of R.E in their school.
- consideration of Sentientism as part of the non religious worldviews represented on SACRE and in the agreed syllabus.
- consideration and discussion of the Ofsted report on provision of R.E. – 'Deep and Meaningful? The Religious Education Subject Report'

## 2.4 Teacher Training

A Good Practice Network for Subject Leaders for RE in community primary schools (in both LB Richmond upon Thames and RB Kingston upon Thames) continued to run in 2023-24. These sessions were led by Ian Nicholson, RE Consultant for RE Today. Occasionally SACRE members are able to be present too and play a key role in building effective links between SACRE and the members of this group.

The RE Subject Leaders in community primary schools have met three times this year.

The Primary RE Network continues to grow in size and many members maintain constant and mutually supportive contact with one another between sessions using a WhatsApp Group. This initiative has been warmly welcomed, with questions being raised, materials recommended and documentation shared.

Anyone wishing to join this group should contact Joanne Tutt, Clerk to the SACRE.

## 2.5 Faith Direct Day

SACRE hosted its third 'Faith Direct Day' on 2 July 2024 at Orleans Park with representatives from nine major religions and worldviews including Buddhism, Roman Catholic and Anglican Christianity, Hinduism, Humanism, Sunni Islam, Orthodox and Liberal Judaism and Sikhism. Students attended from 7 schools: Christ's School, Grey Court School, Hampton High School, Orleans Park School, Turing House School, Twickenham School and Waldegrave School.

The day was split into five parts; a welcome, a session where the school groups each rotated to meet the seven Faith representatives in turn, lunch, question and answers with the panel and a plenary where students feedback via an online form. Feedback from students, teachers and representatives was positive and indicated that the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue had enhanced understanding of different beliefs.

## 2.6 Audit of RE Provision in Richmond Secondary Schools

During the year Richmond SACRE conducted an exercise with Richmond’s secondary schools to monitor the provision of RE, and to assess the material provided on school websites about RE. We undertook this piece of work in relation to the statutory duty of SACREs to monitor the provision of RE within their local authority.

Our main objectives in conducting the survey were to

- seek to raise the status and profile of RE teaching
- seek to bring more consistency in RE teaching
- seek to help to raise standards

We prepared a report outlining our main findings, containing what we hope are helpful recommendations for schools. We also made suggestions for RE policy development within schools. The link to the report can found [here](#).

**2.7 Complaints and Withdrawals**

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2023-24 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2023-24.

**3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities**

**3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship**

During 2023-24 the Richmond SACRE was advised by Ian Nicholson from R.E Today Services.

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 202-24 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2023-24.

**3.2 Determinations**

A determination lifts the requirement for the majority of the statutory daily Acts of Collective Worship in the school to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”.

No LA maintained schools in LB Richmond upon Thames have ever applied to SACRE for a determination.

**3.3 Other Information**

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) has provided Richmond with the Teaching hours analysis for schools in in the Richmond borough from the school workforce census that took place in November 2023 and which was published in June 2024. Also provided was the provisional GCSE data from summer 2024.

School name	Religious character	School type	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% year 12 hours - RE	% year 13 hours - RE	% hours - RE	KS4FCEntriesPerc	KS4SCEntries	KS4AllEntriesPerc	NoEntriesPerc	OfstedRating	Percentage9-4FC	Percentage9-4SC	SecondaryPremium
Christ's Church of England Comprehensive Secondary School	Church of England	Local authority maintained schools	5.07	4.94	4.9	6.6	6.7	3.62	2.97	5.13	96	0	95.6	4.4	Good	82.6		Low
Grey Court	None	Academies	3.33	3.33	3.3	1.1	1.11	0	0	1.74%	11	0	10.5	90	Outstanding	69.23	N/A	Very Low
Hampton High	None	Academies	3.66	2.5	3.6	3.3	4.92			3.8	33	0.6	33.1	67	Good	73.7	0	Low
Orleans Park School	N/A	Academies	0	0	1.8	1.4	1.26	0	0	0.73	12	0	11.6	88	Outstanding	88		
Richmond Park Academy	N/A	Academies	4.68	5.65	4.6	2.9	3.34	0	0	3.39	21	0	20.5	80	Good	84.8		Low
St Richard Reynolds Catholic High School	Roman Catholic	Academies	9.47	9.47	9.5	9.6	9.53	5.55	7.9	9.07	97	0	97.3	2.7	Outstanding	86.2		Very Low
Teddington School	N/A	Academies	0	0	0	0	1.14	0	0	0.21	17	0	16.8	83	Good	80		Very Low
The Richmond upon Thames School	N/A	Free Schools	4.39	4.94	4.5	1.6	0			2.95	0	0	0	100	Good			Low
Turing House	None	Academies	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	drop down days years 11-13				0	165	100	100		0	83.6	
Twickenham School	None	Academies	2.01	4.07	4.1	1.7	1.89			2.66	20	0	19.7	80	Good	85.2		Low
Waldegrave School	N/A	Academies	8.38	8.25	8.5	5.4	12.5	10.5	9.57	8.91	98	0	98.1	1.9	Outstanding	87.6		Very Low

4. Links with other Bodies

LB Richmond upon Thames SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and notes and discusses key points from its regular briefings.

See this link for more details: [www.nasacre.org](http://www.nasacre.org). Login details for the NASACRE website can be obtained from the SACRE Clerk.

During 2023-24, the Richmond SACRE has continued to forge closer links with Kingston SACRE and develop collaborative work, such as the Joint RE Award. This arrangement is in part supported by Achieving for Children, which provides Education and Children’s Services for both the boroughs of Richmond and Kingston.

5. SACRE Involvement Locally

LB Richmond upon Thames SACRE has developed links with various local groups and initiatives, particularly Hounslow Friends of Faith and the Richmond Interfaith Forum with whom it shares some members.

<https://www.hounslowfriendsofffaith.org/>

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/inter\\_faith\\_forum](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/inter_faith_forum)

6. SACRE Arrangements

6.1 Meetings in 2023-24

The SACRE met on the following three occasions in 2023-24:

- 5 October 2023
- 26 Feb 2024:
- 27 June 2024

The SACRE meets at York House, Richmond Road.



**6.2 Professional and Administrative Support**

Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of the SACRE’s duties is provided by the LB Richmond upon Thames and Achieving for Children. The key areas of this support include the following:

- Provision of a Clerk
- Commissioning of an RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE
- Funding of the NASACRE annual membership
- Funding for at least one SACRE member to attend NASACRE’s annual Conference and AGM
- Costs relating to establishing and reviewing a Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE is grateful to the LB Richmond upon Thames and Achieving for Children for making this support available.

**6.3 Key Contacts**

- Chair of the SACRE Cllr Penny Frost (Group D)  
Email: Cllr.P.Frost@richmond.gov.uk
- Clerk to the SACRE Joanne Tutt  
Email: Joanne.Tutt@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

**6.4 Membership, Representation and Recruitment –**

During 2023-24 the Richmond SACRE continued to have representation from a wide range of faiths and beliefs.

During this period Tim Wright joined as a new Group B member, as a representative from the London Diocese. Ian Nicholson joined as the RE advisor to the SACRE. Kate Baum stepped down from her role as a representative of the Jewish Faith and efforts began to find a replacement for her.

A full list of SACRE members is included in the Appendices.

**6.5 Attendance**

All SACRE meetings in 2023-24 were quorate.

**6.6 Attendance Records**

Full details of attendance are available by browsing the minutes of meetings, which can be found on the following website:

[Browse meetings - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education \(SACRE\) - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

**6.6 Training for SACRE Members**

SACRE members are encouraged to attend training provided by NASACRE. School based SACRE members or those with other links to education also attend local and national RE training including Diocesan training.

6.7 Finance given to SACRE for its Work

The funding for the running costs of the SACRE, the work of the RE Consultant, and other costs such as membership of NASACRE, and attendance at the NASACRE Conference etc are taken from the Central Schools Services Block of the schools budget. This is at the discretion of the Schools Forum membership, who are asked to agree funding on an annual basis.

7. Appendices

7.1 Table of GCSE Religious Studies Results 2024

The summary below shows the borough results compared with the national picture.

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)																		
QAN: 60184000																		
Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg
-	National (State Funded)	627930	105850	6.9	10.2	12.0	17.0	14.2	10.4	13.4	8.3	4.8	2.2	0.6	60.3	70.7	97.2	5.0
-	LA (State Funded)	2007	296	7.4	12.2	13.9	19.3	16.6	11.5	12.2	3.0	3.0	1.0	-	69.3	80.7	99.0	5.5
Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)																		
QAN: 60188790																		
Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg
-	National (State Funded)	627930	47940	6.6	9.6	11.4	15.9	14.6	11.5	13.3	8.9	5.7	1.8	0.7	58.1	69.6	97.6	4.9
-	LA (State Funded)	2007	58	15.5	8.6	17.2	20.7	12.1	12.1	10.3	3.4	-	-	-	74.1	86.2	100.0	6.0
Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)																		
QAN: 60300632																		
Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg
-	National (State Funded)	627930	23480	8.3	10.6	11.7	16.4	13.3	10.7	13.2	8.3	5.1	1.7	0.6	60.3	71.1	97.7	5.1
-	LA (State Funded)	2007	222	19.8	14.4	16.2	16.7	11.7	7.7	8.6	4.1	0.5	0.5	-	78.8	86.5	99.5	6.3
Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Course (391)																		
QAN: 60300796																		
Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg
-	National (State Funded)	627930	16650	6.7	9.8	11.7	15.5	14.4	11.6	13.2	8.9	5.8	2.1	0.4	58.0	69.6	97.5	4.9
-	LA (State Funded)	2007	145	10.3	11.7	16.6	21.4	14.5	11.7	10.3	1.4	0.7	1.4	-	74.5	86.2	98.6	5.8
Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Short Course (394)																		
QAN: 60183998																		
Est. No.	Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	Avg Pts			
-	National (State Funded)	627930	14390	3.5	7.0	8.8	11.9	12.5	11.7	14.5	11.9	9.2	6.3	2.7	0.0			
-	LA (State Funded)	2007	123	9.8	16.3	17.1	19.5	12.2	7.3	7.3	6.5	1.6	-	2.4	0.0			
4003	Hampton High	175	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	0.0		
4001	Turing House School	124	122	9.8	16.4	17.2	19.7	12.3	7.4	7.4	6.6	1.6	-	1.6	0.0			

7.2. SACRE Membership 2023-24

**Group A** - Persons representing Christian denominations and other beliefs, religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the “Council” (SACRE), will appropriately reflect the principal beliefs and religious traditions of the area.

Charanjit Ajitsingh (Sikhism), Rashid Ali Laher (Islam), Madara Sathyendrakumar (Buddhism), Jitubhai Dave (Hinduism), John Fayle (Humanism) Elizabeth Rowley (United Reformed Church) Carmel Moreland (Catholicism)

**Group B** – Persons representing the Church of England

Lesley Mortimer and Tim Wright (London Diocese), Fiona Foreman (Southwark Diocese)

**Group C** – *Persons representing such associations on behalf of teachers, as in the opinion of the Council (SACRE) ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area.*

Nicola Green, Liberty Sandeman, Martin O’Sullivan (Co-opted)

**Group D** – *Elected Members (Councillors) from the Richmond Upon Thames Local Authority*  
Councillor Penny Frost (Chair), Councillor Suzette Nicholson, Councillor Michael Butlin,  
Councillor Kuldev Sehra

**7.3 Circulation Details for the SACRE Annual Report**

This Annual Report is shared with the Director of Education for LB Richmond upon Thames and sent to the Department for Education, NASACRE and schools, including governors. It is also presented annually to a full Richmond Council meeting for note. The report will be available for anyone to view on the LB Richmond website:

[Committee details - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education \(SACRE\) - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)