

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

LB RICHMOND UPON THAMES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

October 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 2024-25

Looking back at the last year with SACRE, much of our time has been spent working on the revisions to the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in our maintained schools. This statutory duty, which seems to come round with increasing speed every five years, demands our time and attention but the task is made enormously pleasurable because of the level of engagement and commitment from all the members of our SACRE. Proposed revisions are discussed with fervour, and given scrutiny to ensure that what is presented will honestly reflect and encompass as far as possible the faith groups and world views represented within our borough. Once again, I record my thanks to the team for their commitment to the delivery of RE and values education in our schools. Our SACRE is a blend of friendship, understanding and honest sharing of faith perspectives, and is a pleasure to chair. We have benefited from the input of Ian Nicholson, our consultant from RE Today, who has guided us through many knotty issues. I would also like to give particular thanks for the support we receive from Achieving for Children.

We could not deliver our work without our skilled and knowledgeable Democratic Services clerk, Joanne Tutt, whose sound memory and attention to detail keeps us on track with our projects.

We had great hopes of delivering a Faith Direct Day for our Special Schools in the last academic year, but this project was overtaken by the need to concentrate on the revisions to our Agreed Syllabus. Now looking to the next academic year, we have a long list of projects to take forward; Faith Direct Days for the special needs and primary sectors, and guidance and encouragement for more primary schools to take up the challenge of the RE Award offered jointly between our Richmond and Kingston schools.

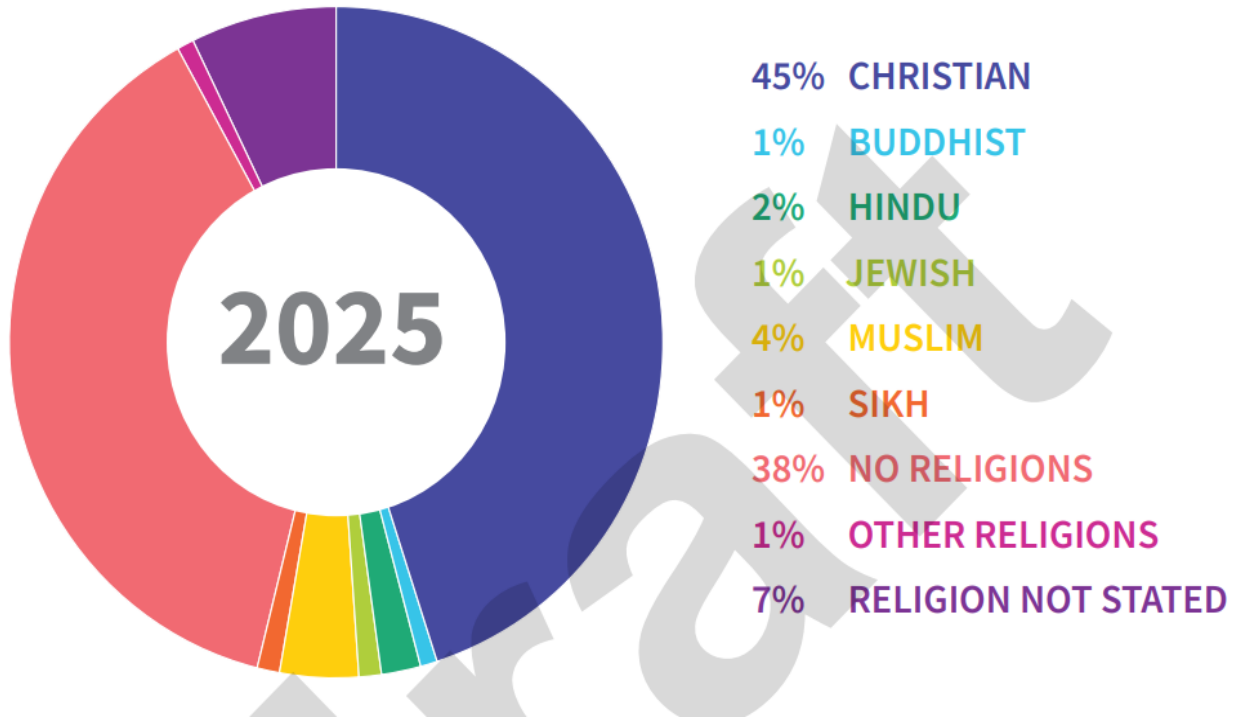
The Annual Report sets out the context of our approach to the important SACRE role of maintaining standards in RE. The commitment of our SACRE members is undiminished, and as we welcome new membership to the committee, we look forward to the next phase of our work.

Cllr Penny Frost
Chair of SACRE, 2024-25

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 2024-25. 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. During 2024-25 the Richmond SACRE held a series of Agreed Syllabus Conferences in order to conduct a rigorous process of review and revision of the Richmond Agreed Syllabus, which had last been published in 2020.

As a result of this process, a refreshed version of the Agreed Syllabus was approved by the members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 1 April 2025 and endorsed by the local authority at the Annual Council Meeting of 13 May 2025. The new version of the Agreed Syllabus was then published and circulated to schools in June and training provided in July 2015, in order that schools could be ready to teach the Syllabus in 2025-26 academic year.

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

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 2024-25, SACRE gave particular attention to:

- revising the Agreed Syllabus, which was the main focus of the work of the SACRE during 2024-25. Members of the SACRE, led by the expertise of Ian Nicholson of RE Today and Helena Moore at AfC, worked together to discuss the relevant changes that had occurred since the 2020 version of the Syllabus and how these should best be incorporated into the Syllabus. Discussions were thought provoking, honest and conducted with mutual respect and a focus on providing the best possible education for those educated in the borough's schools.
- continuing work to find out the barriers to provision of R.E in the borough's secondary schools. Sub groups of the SACRE had conducted research into what information schools provided on their websites, about their R.E provision, which had followed on from a survey that had been sent to secondary schools in the winter and spring term of the 2023/24 academic year. As a result of the work undertaken, the SACRE Chair disseminated to schools a suggested good practice guidance on an R.E policy, written by members of the SACRE.
- ongoing work to hold a Faith Direct Day for the pupils in the borough who attended schools for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The SACRE had hoped to follow previous Faith Direct Days with a session specifically tailored for children with SEND but numerous practical difficulties had meant this had not been possible.
- consideration and discussion of the interim report of the government commissioned '[Curriculum and Assessment Review](#)', which had stated there would be a benefit from a national content standard to be adhered to in order to address regional differences in quality of the RE curriculum. Members discussed what this might mean for RE provision and noted more detail would be available when the full report was published in the Autumn of 2025.

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 2024-25. These sessions were led by Ian Nicholson, RE Consultant for RE Today. Occasionally SACRE members can attend 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 met three times during the 2024-25 academic year.

A launch and training session on the new Agreed Syllabus was provided for RE teachers and curriculum leads on 3 July 2025, delivered by the advisor to the SACRE Ian Nicholson. Delegates attended both in person, at York House, and online via Teams, for an interactive session to help them prepare for embedding the Syllabus in time for the September start of the next academic year. Analysis of the session was undertaken by the providers with a view to follow up work required in the 2025-26 academic year.

The Primary RE Network continued to grow in size and many members maintain constant and mutually supportive contact with one another between sessions using a WhatsApp Group. This initiative benefits members through 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

The Richmond SACRE had hoped to build on the success of previous Faith Direct Days in mainstream schools by holding a Faith Direct Day for pupils attending SEND Schools during the academic year 2024-25. Although several challenges prevented this from coming to fruition, the SACRE continued to discuss next steps for a Faith Direct Day and what this could look like for primary children or those with SEND.

2.6 Complaints and Withdrawals

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2024-25 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2024-25.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2024-25 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2024-25.

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.

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. Login details for the NASACRE website can be obtained from the SACRE Clerk.

During 2024-25, the Richmond SACRE has continued to work with Kingston SACRE and deliver 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

During this period Tanzina Tania joined as a Group C member in January 2025 and Rachel Lawrence joined as the Jewish representative on Group A in April 2025. Hywel Ling-Davies joined as a new Group B representative from the London Diocese in September 2024 and resigned in July 2025. In December 2024 Nicola Green resigned as a member of Group C and in July 2025 Fiona Foreman resigned as a Group B representative from the Southwark Diocese. The SACRE is immensely grateful to Nicola, Fiona and Hywel for their contributions to the work of the Richmond SACRE.

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

6.5 Attendance

All SACRE meetings in 2024-25 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](#)

6.7 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.

6.8 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. Clerking and administration of the SACRE are provided separately by the Democratic Services Department and funded by that general departmental budget.

7. Appendices

7.1 Table of GCSE Religious Studies Results 2024

The below table 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 Pts
-	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

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 Pts
-	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

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 Pts
-	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

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 Pts
-	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

7.2. SACRE Membership 2024-25

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) Rachel Lawrence (Judaism)

Group B – *Persons representing the Church of England*

Lesley Mortimer, Tim Wright and Hywel Ling-Davies (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.*

Liberty Sandeman, Nicola Green, Tanzina Tania

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

Co-opted Members – Martin O’Sullivan

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](#)