

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

LB RICHMOND UPON THAMES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

February 2022

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 2020-21

Each year, when I write the foreword to our SACRE Annual Report, I take the opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to all the members of the SACRE team for their commitment to the delivery of RE in our schools, and to acknowledge the blend of friendship, understanding and honest sharing of faith perspectives which makes our work so distinctive, and such a pleasure to chair.

Following the hard work put in by SACRE members to deliver our Revised RE Syllabus for our community schools, it was disappointing that we have not been able to launch it with a public event, as was possible in the pre-Covid days. However, we were grateful to our RE consultant, Lesley Prior, for her excellent training to accompany the circulation of the Revised Syllabus to our schools. It was good to hear the very positive feedback from the many teachers who were able to attend this virtual event.

Despite the problems posed by lockdowns and isolation, our SACRE has enjoyed a busy year. The Annual Report gives a flavour of some of the important topics we have considered, such as the Ofsted challenge on the nature of knowledge, and we have been kept closely in touch with what is happening in our primary schools through the Primary RE Network, and presentations from some of our primary teachers explaining how they approach the teaching of RE using the Revised Syllabus. We have many further projects in the pipeline for the coming year.

I record my thanks to two special people who provide the solid foundation for all the work that our SACRE undertakes – our splendid consultant Lesley Prior, whose drive and determination for keeping RE in the forefront of our schools is so important for its success. And our clerk Joanne Tutt, whose attention to detail and thoughtful follow up ensures the success of our meetings throughout the year.

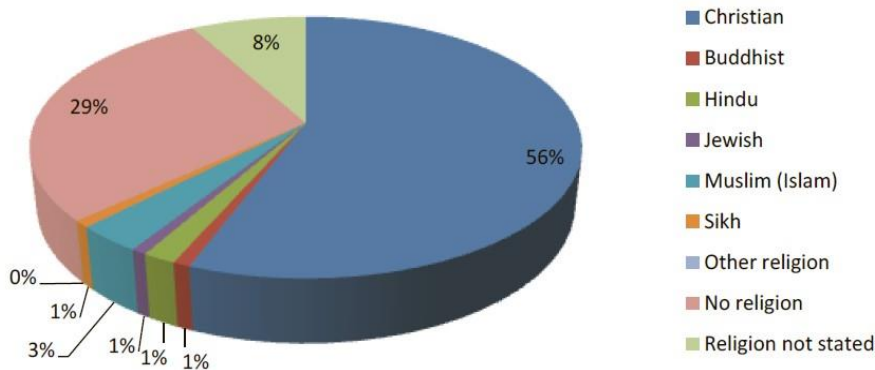
As I write, we remain in that strange new world of virtual meetings and electronic communication, and missing the warmth of round-table discussions. But the number of members of our SACRE continues to grow, the commitment and friendship of our group is undiminished, and soon we will be able to meet face to face again.

Cllr Penny Frost – Chair, Richmond SACRE

1.2 Religion and Belief in LB Richmond upon Thames

Although the following statistics from the 2011 National Census are now somewhat out of date they remain helpful in illustrating the diversity of the Local Authority.

Religion in Richmond, 2011



Religion	2001	2011	% Change
People stating religion as Christian	65.83	55.35	-10.58
People not stating Religion	8.27	8.47	0.2
People stating religion as Muslim	2.26	3.26	1.02
People stating religion as Hindu	1.46	1.63	0.17
People stating religion as Sikh	0.66	0.85	0.19
People stating religion as Buddhist	0.66	0.84	0.18
People stating religion as Jewish	0.91	0.75	-0.16
People stating religion as Other Religions	0.42	0.48	0.06

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 2020-21. 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?CommitteId=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.

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 2020-21, SACRE gave particular attention to:

- a publication by Insight UK in relation to the state of Hinduism in RE within UK Schools and noted its findings, while also being clear that the draft of the new LAS requires that aspects of Hinduism should be taught at every stage of education (except where a school's own choices in relation to publicly accredited examination syllabus may prevent this) - the report can be read here:

https://insightuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hinduism-in-RE_Project-report.pdf

- a publication from Ofsted on knowledge in RE – the report can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education>

- The recommendation in the Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education, that SACREs should be replaced with Local Advisory Networks for Religion and Worldviews' (LANs). Richmond SACRE was a volunteer member of a pilot project looking at the possible implementation of LANs and had been asked specifically to look at issues around membership. Therefore at the October 2020 SACRE meeting, members had a productive discussion on their personal experiences of being SACRE members. The final report of the pilot project can be read here:

<https://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-58-final-still-standing.pdf>

The key findings from both of these reports have also been analysed and evaluated by members of the RE Networks and their implications for planning teaching and learning considered with care.

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 on a termly basis in 2020-21. These sessions are led by Lesley Prior, RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE. 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. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all of these meetings in 2020-21 were held via virtual platforms.

- 15th October, focusing on:
 - An introduction to assessment in RE
- 23rd February, focusing on
 - Raising the profile of RE in your school
- 20th May, focusing on:
 - Considering the Implications of Ofsted's Research Review on RE, published on 12th May 2021. See this link to read the report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>
 - Exploring and Evaluating the Place of Narrative and Stories in RE.

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. As the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 prevented face to face meetings during this period, the support offered was hugely appreciated by all those involved.

Anyone wishing to join this group should contact Lesley Prior, the RE Consultant and Adviser

to SACRE who can ensure they are added to it.

Lesley can be reached at: lesley.prior@london.anglican.org.

Lesley Prior (the RE Consultant and Adviser to SACRE) offers extensive telephone and online consultations to Subject Leaders who are developing schemes of learning and reviewing and revising policy documents for RE. Lesley also issued six newsletters during this period (one every half term) for distribution to Primary Subject Leaders for RE to share new materials and resources, promote relevant RE events and highlight significant national developments and initiatives in the subject. SACRE members also receive these newsletters.

A further training session on the new LAS is scheduled for September 2021.

2.5 Complaints and Withdrawals

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2020-21 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2020-21.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

During 2020-21 the SACRE Adviser continued to offer advice and support on Collective Worship to staff in schools who have requested this.

3.2 Determinations

The Adviser to SACRE regularly reminds members about the role, nature and purpose of determinations in relation to Collective Worship. A determination lifts the requirement for the majority of the statutory daily Acts of Collective Worship in these schools 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.

The Adviser to SACRE can offer support with this process on request.

3.3 Other Information

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2020-21 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2020-21.

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.

The 2021 NASACRE Conference and AGM was held virtually on 24th May 2021 and attended by Councillor Penny Frost, Chair of the SACRE. Feedback on the Conference was provided to the SACRE at its summer term meeting and formed the basis for discussion and reflection by members. Full details and copies of the relevant paperwork from the 2021 Conference can be found at <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2021>.

The Adviser to SACRE is a member of the NASACRE Executive Group and is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.

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

6. SACRE Arrangements

6.1 Meetings in 2020-21

The SACRE met on the following three occasions in 2020-21:

- 1st October 2020
- 8th February 2021
- 16th June 2021

The SACRE usually meets at York House, Richmond Civic Centre. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all the SACRE meetings in 2020-21 were held via virtual platforms.

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. 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 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
- Adviser to SACRE Lesley Prior (RE Consultant)
Lesley.Prior@london.anglican.org

6.4 Membership, Representation and Recruitment –

Membership of the Richmond SACRE remained stable during 2020-21 and the SACRE continued to have representation from a wide range of faiths and beliefs.

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

6.5 Attendance

All SACRE meetings in 2020-21 were quorate. Members of the SACRE transitioned well with the move to virtual meetings and attendance levels remained high.

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 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames does not have a separate budget allocated to the SACRE. 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 Democratic Services budget.

7. Appendices

7.1 GCSE & A Level Religious Studies Results 2021

The government cancelled all public examinations at Key Stage 4 and 5 again in 2021 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Students were awarded grades through the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) process. Teachers in LB Richmond upon Thames schools used a range of evidence to award grades to students. These grades will not be published but an overview of the number of entries for GCSE and A level has been included below.

Key Stage 4: 759 GCSE entries

Key Stage 5 47 A level entries

7.2. SACRE Membership 2020-21

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), David Foll (Buddhism), Jitubhai Dave (Hinduism), John Fayle (Humanism) Elizabeth Rowley (United Reformed Church) Ruth Williams (Judaism) Yazad Badha (Zoroastrianism) Carmel Moreland (Catholicism)

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

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, Michelle Wrigley, Liberty Sandeman

Group D – *Elected Members (Councillors) from the Richmond Upon Thames Local Authority*
Councillor Penny Frost (Chair), Councillor Helen Lee-Parsons, Councillor Michael Butlin, Councillor Seamus Joyce

Co-optee

Rosie Herbert

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. 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](#)