

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

LB RICHMOND UPON THAMES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

September 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 2021-22

This year I am writing the Foreword to our SACRE Annual Report against the backdrop of the national sadness at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose life was spent in service to her country and in defence of all nations of the Commonwealth, and all faiths and world views within these nations. I write on behalf of members of our SACRE to pay tribute to her lifetime of faithful service.

Each year I record my thanks to all the members of the SACRE team, supported by our immensely valuable RE consultant, Lesley Prior, 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. And supporting the SACRE team we are very fortunate to have our skilled and knowledgeable Democratic Services clerk, Joanne Tutt, whose attention to detail and thoughtful follow-up continues to ensure the success of our meetings throughout the year.

The Annual Report gives a flavour of our approach to the important SACRE role of maintaining standards in RE, and we have been kept closely in touch with what is happening in our primary schools through our consultant's reports from the Primary RE Teachers' Network.

The 21/22 academic year has broken new ground, as we held our first, and very successful, Faith Direct Day on 12th July, splendidly hosted by the Head of Turing House School in its brand-new premises. Five secondary schools sent groups of delegates from Key Stage 3 to join faith representatives from the major faiths and world views, to hear their views and ask them questions. You will find more details of the event in the Annual Report under section 2.5. The whole event would not have been possible without the drive and determination of our Humanist member Jon Fayle, but it was well supported by members of SACRE in the planning and on the day itself. A further Faith Direct Day will be one of the range of projects SACRE will be considering for the coming year.

The number of members of our SACRE continues to grow, the commitment and friendship of our group is undiminished, and this year we have had the great pleasure of meeting face to face again.

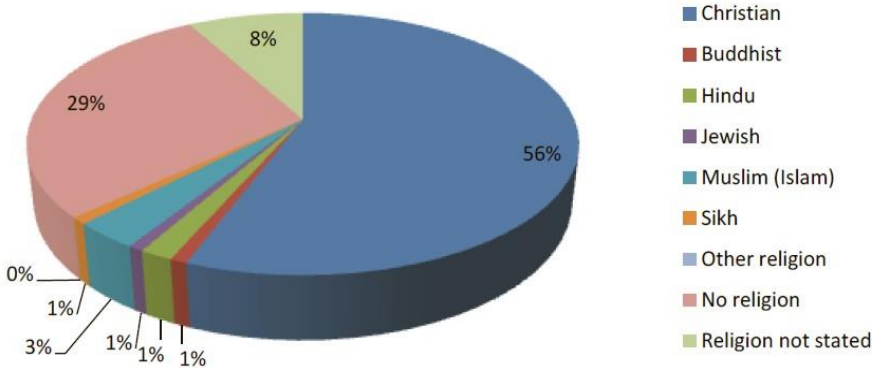
Cllr Penny Frost

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.

Please note that at the time of writing, the statistics emerging from the 2021 National Census are yet to be published.

Religion in Richmond, 2011



Religion	2001	2011	% Change
People stating religion as Christian	65.83	55.35	-10.58
People stating religion as No Religion	19.54	28.45	8.91
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 2021-22. 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 2021-22, SACRE gave particular attention to:

- strategies to promote the continued implementation of the agreed syllabus, including a briefing for headteachers and a training event for Subject Leaders in RE
- exploring the workforce data produced by the National Association of Teachers for RE (NATRE) and its implications for the provision of RE in local secondary schools

although it was noted that SACRE has no direct remit over these schools – see: <https://cabinet.richmond.gov.uk/documents/s92034/Workforce%20data.pdf>

- planning and hosting a ‘Faith Direct’ event, offering Key Stage 3 pupils opportunities to meet and talk with representatives of the religions and worldviews included in the syllabus and involving SACRE members
- discussing the RE Report card, a data review of RE Provision undertaken by a team from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), and RE Today Services. Members were of the opinion that although the report was very secondary focused it was a useful summary of the national picture and the card was shared with schools.
- membership of the Richmond SACRE. The Richmond SACRE received feedback following its involvement in the pilot project to look at one of the recommendations from the Commission on Religious Education report ‘Religion and Worldviews: A Way Forward’, which proposed replacing SACREs with Local Advisory Networks on Religion and Worldviews. Richmond SACRE had focused on membership of SACREs as part of the project and as a result of that work NASACRE had developed some guidance on membership of SACREs.

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 2021-22. 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 continued restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all of these meetings in 2021-22 were held via virtual platforms.

- 7th October, focusing on:
 - Raising the Profile of RE in Your School
- 22nd February, focusing on:
 - Ofsted News Relating to RE
 - Recommended Resources for Teaching and Learning in RE
- 10th May, focusing on:
 - Collective Worship
 - Assessment 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.

An update on RE was given at the Headteachers' Briefing on 15th September, with a particular focus on the legal requirements for RE, Ofsted's Research Review on RE and the new LAS.

A training session on the new LAS took place on 30th September 2021.

2.5 Faith Direct Day

SACRE hosted a 'Faith Direct Day' on Tuesday 12 July 2022 at Turing House School with speakers from the seven major religions and worldviews. The event was attended by five secondary schools, enabling over fifty Key Stage 3 students to join the event.

The schools received a briefing pack ahead of the event so that the students could come prepared with questions to delve as deeply as possible into each religion and belief. Students had twenty minutes to ask questions and share thoughts with each of the speakers, before returning to their own schools to share their learning with their peers.

The speakers and represented religions and beliefs were:

- Humanism – Jon Fayle
- Islam – Rashid Ali Laher
- Buddhism – Bhantee Upnanda
- Sikhism – Charanjit Ajitsingh and Barinder Sandhu
- Hinduism – Jitubhai Dave
- Judaism – Chaim Golker
- Christianity – Rev Joe Moffatt, Vicar of St Mary with St Alban Church in Teddington, and Rebecca Walker, Chaplain at St Richard Reynolds Catholic College.

The event encouraged dialogues discussion through thought-provoking questions to promote understanding and cohesion of others' points of view.

The event was attended by Twickenham MP Munira Wilson, who gave an opening speech to start the event, and the Leader of Richmond Council Cllr Gareth Roberts, who closed the day with a reflection of the event.

Cllr Penny Frost, Chair of SACRE and of Richmond Council's Education and Children's Services Committee, said:

"This event was all about celebrating differences in belief systems and educating each other to become world citizens. Being educated about religion helps us to ask the right questions and embrace diversity. It was great to see such thought-provoking discussion and a better understanding of the different perspectives of religion and belief."

2.6 Complaints and Withdrawals

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2021-22 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2021-22.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

During 2021-22 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 2021-22 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2021-22.

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 2022 NASACRE Conference and AGM – ‘Ambitious SACREs’ - was held virtually on 23rd May 2022, and Councillor Penny Frost (Chair of SACRE - Group D) attended it on behalf of LB Richmond upon Thames SACRE. Verbal 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 2022 Conference can be found at <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2022-ambitious-sacre/>.

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.hounslowfriendsoffait.org/>

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/inter_faith_forum

6. SACRE Arrangements

6.1 Meetings in 2021-22

The SACRE met on the following three occasions in 2021-22:

- 16th June 2021
- 17th November 2021
- 22nd February 2022

The SACRE usually meets at York House, Richmond Civic Centre. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, the autumn and spring 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 –

There were several changes to the Membership of the Richmond SACRE during 2021-22 and the SACRE continued to have representation from a wide range of faiths and beliefs.

The following SACRE members stepped down during this period: Rosie Herbert – (Co-optee), David Foll (Buddhism), Ruth Williams (Judaism) and Michelle Williams (Teaching representative). The SACRE thanked each of these members for their much valued contributions during their years as members.

However, the SACRE was pleased to welcome the following new members during this period: Fiona Foreman (Church of England), Madara Sathyendrakumar (Buddhism), Rob Barber (Teaching representative), Kate Baum (Judaism), Martin O’Sullivan (co-optee).

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

6.5 Attendance

All SACRE meetings in 2021-22 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 Table of GCSE & A Level Religious Studies Results 2021

GCSE Results were not published for 2021 due to exams being impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

7.2. SACRE Membership 2021-22

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

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

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, Rob Barber

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-optees

Rosie Herbert

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. 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](#)