

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

LB RICHMOND UPON THAMES STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

September 2023

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 2022-23

Each year I record my thanks to all the members of the SACRE 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. But this year we have had to acknowledge the retirement through ill health of our wonderful RE Adviser, Lesley Prior. It is hard to put into words all that Lesley has done for us and for the many other SACREs which have had the benefit of her support for so many years. We miss her help and support for us, and we know that she would have greatly enjoyed the new areas of work that we have moved into with the Faith Direct days and the joint RE award for primary schools which will shortly be launched. Thank you, Lesley.

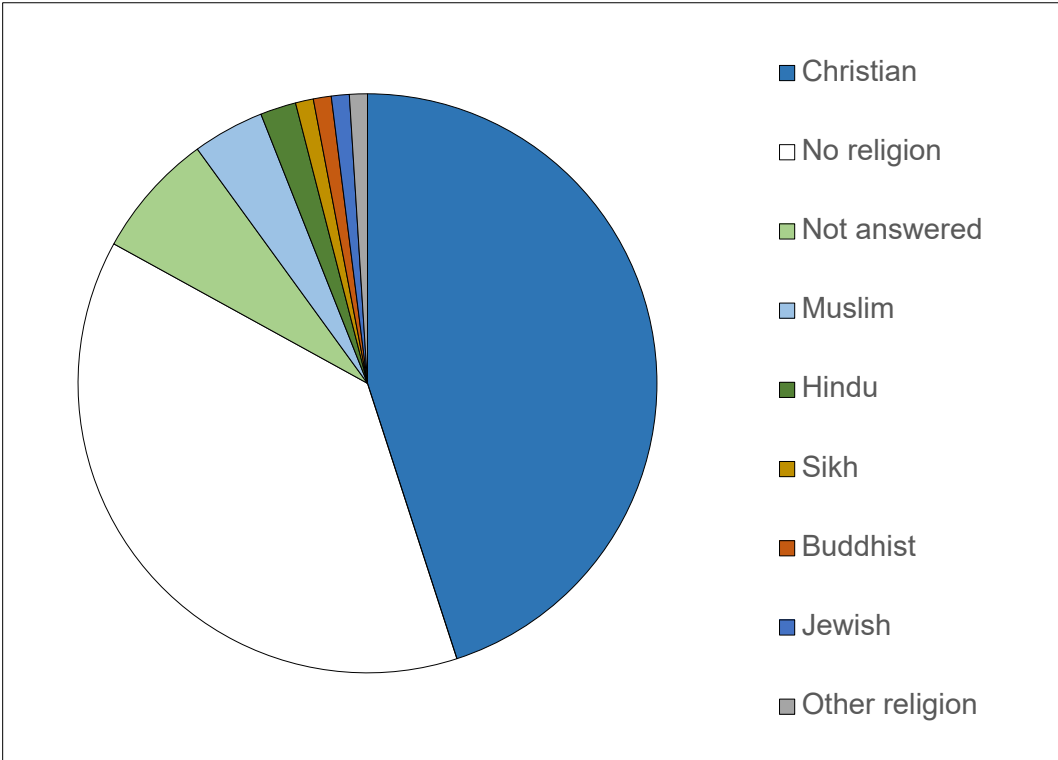
Supporting the SACRE team we are very fortunate to have our skilled and knowledgeable Democratic Services clerk, Joanne Tutt, whose attention to detail and thoughtful follow-up continues to ensure the success of our meetings throughout the year. This year, Joanne has played a very special role in taking on so much of the burden of forward planning and administration as we wait for the appointment of an RE Adviser to take the place of Lesley.

The Annual Report includes an account of our second Faith Direct Day, held on 4th July, splendidly hosted by the Head of Christ's School in Richmond. This year the day was extended with an invitation to our Faith leaders to form a panel to answer questions from the students attending, which stimulated some very reflective responses from the leaders to current issues. Our Humanist member Jon Fayle once again led our planning, well supported by members of SACRE both in the planning and on the day itself. A further Faith Direct Day is being considered for the summer of 2024.

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 our new joint work with our counterpart SACRE in the Royal Borough of Kingston will enable our primary schools to grow and flourish in their delivery of RE.

Cllr Penny Frost

1.2 Religion and Belief in LB Richmond upon Thames



Religion	2011	2021	% Change
People stating religion as Christian	55.4	45.3	-10.0%
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 Hindu	1.6	2.1	0.5%
People stating religion as Sikh	0.9	1	0.2%
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 2022-23. 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.

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 2022-23, SACRE gave particular attention to:

- the impact of potential increased academisation of schools and strategies to promote best practice in R.E. Members were of the view that Ofsted had a role to play in enforcing R.E provision and would welcome more 'deep dives' in R.E being undertaken as part of Ofsted inspections.
- the introduction of a joint R.E award for Kingston and Richmond schools. Members were aware that schools were sometimes discouraged from applying for the national

R.E Quality Mark as the cost and standards required were prohibitive. Therefore it was agreed to provide a local R.E award by extending the Kingston R.E Award to Richmond schools.

- planning and holding a second Faith Direct Day for July 2023, which followed on from the success of the first 'Faith Direct' event in July 2022. 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
- examining the information provided by NATRE on the hours spent teaching R.E in the borough's secondary schools. Members discussed the SACREs capacity to undertake monitoring of R.E in schools and the began planning a SACRE sub-group to engage with secondary schools.
- examining the newly released 2021 Census data on religious affiliations in the borough, which most notably showed a decline in those described themselves as Christian and a rise in those describing themselves as having no religion. Only slight percentage changes were noted in the other religious categories.

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 2022-23. These sessions were led by Lesley Prior, RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE until January 2023, when the role was taken over by Insight. 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.

- 8th November 2022, focusing on:
 - R.E in the Early Years Foundation stage and assessment and progression in R.E
- 9th March 2023:
- 13th June 2023, focusing on:
 - The Bible and the trinity

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 a second 'Faith Direct Day' on 4 July 2023 at Christs 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 (Humanists UK)
- Islam – Rashid Ali Laher (Kingston Mosque)
- Buddhism – Madara Sathyendrakumar, Ven Seelawimala (London Buddhist Vihara)
- Sikhism – Charanjit Ajitsingh, Barinder Sandhu (Hounslow Sikh Gurdwara)
- Hinduism – Jitubhai Dave (Hanuman Hindu Temple)
- Judaism – Chaim Golker, Councillor Jo Humphreys (Richmond Synagogue)
- Christianity – Eseabasi Ntefon, (Holy Trinity Church, Richmond)

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

The event was attended by local MP Sarah Olney and the Deputy Leader of Richmond Council Cllr Jim Millard.

2.6 Complaints and Withdrawals

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2022-23 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2022-23.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

During 2022 the SACRE Adviser Lesley Prior continued to offer advice and support on Collective Worship to staff in schools who have requested this until her retirement at the beginning of 2023.

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

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2022-23 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2022-23.

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 2023 NASACRE Conference and AGM – ‘SACREs for the Future’ - was held on 22nd May 2023 at Fishmongers Hall, 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 2023 Conference can be found at <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2023-celebrating-30-years-sacres-for-the-future/>

During 2022-23, the Richmond SACRE has continued to forge closer links with Kingston SACRE and develop collaborative work, such as the Joint R.E 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.hounslowfriendsoffaith.org/>

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

6. SACRE Arrangements

6.1 Meetings in 2022-23

The SACRE met on the following three occasions in 2022-23:

- 4th October 2022
- 21st February 2023
- 15th June 2023

The SACRE usually meets at York House, Richmond Civic Centre.

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

6.4 Membership, Representation and Recruitment –

During 2022-23 the Richmond SACRE continued to have representation from a wide range of faiths and beliefs.

During this period Group C member Rob Barber stepped down. The SACRE extends warmest thanks to Rob for his invaluable contributions and keen interest whilst a member of the Richmond SACRE.

At the start of 2023 the long term advisor to the Richmond SACRE, Lesley Prior, retired from her consultancy role. Lesley had provided a wealth of expert support and advice to the SACRE over her tenure and formed close working relationships with the SACRE members. The SACRE remains grateful to Lesley for the firm base she helped the SACRE to build and on which it will continue to grow from. At the time of writing the report Lesley's post remains vacant while a replacement is sought.

The SACRE thanks all these former members for their valuable contributions.

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

6.5 Attendance

All SACRE meetings in 2022-23 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 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 2022

2022 GCSEs - Religious Studies

% Grade Distribution

QAN	Region	No. Entries	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X
60184000	Richmond	237	13.5	11.8	17.7	16.9	13.9	8.4	8.9	3	4.6	0.4	0.8
	National	103950	8.9	11.4	13	17.4	14.4	10.7	11.7	6.8	3.7	1.4	0.7
60188790	Richmond	35	5.7	5.7	20	22.9	20	8.6	5.7	5.7	-	2.9	2.9
	National	45610	8.6	10.9	12.7	16.2	14.6	12	10.8	7.4	4.4	1.7	0.7
60300632	Richmond	210	19	21.9	16.2	15.2	11.4	5.2	6.2	4.3	0.5	-	0
	National	23690	9.1	10.9	12.8	17.4	14.3	10.7	11.1	7.2	4.4	1.6	0.5
60300796	Richmond	150	11.3	12	14	21.3	14	14	9.3	2.7	0.7	0.7	0
	National	16530	8	11	11.8	16.1	15.2	12.3	11.7	7.4	4.5	1.7	0.4
60183998*	Richmond	96	15.6	17.7	11.5	14.6	17.7	15.6	3.1	2.1	-	1	1
	National	7930	5.6	6.6	9.4	13	12.4	13.7	14	10.6	8.1	3.9	0

*Short Course GCSE

2022 A Levels - Religious Studies

Region	No. Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X
Richmond	34	23.5	29.4	29.4	11.8	2.9	2.9	0	0
National	15220	12.7	23.5	31.7	19.7	8.2	2.9	0.9	0.4

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), 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, 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](#)