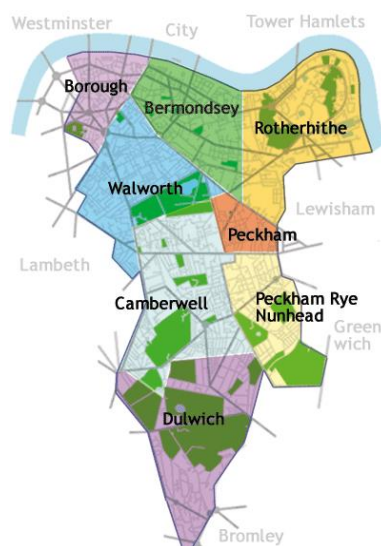


SOUTHWARK

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

2022- 2023



DRAFT

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Section 1: Introduction

1. Overview of SACRE Meetings

Since 1988, each Local Authority (LA) has been required by law to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

The remit of a SACRE is principally to oversee the Religious Education (RE) and collective worship within the authority principally to:

- advise Southwark Council upon matters connected with religious worship in community schools and in foundation schools which do not have a religious character. Religious education in these schools is to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- advise Southwark Council on teaching methods, choice of materials and teacher training in religious education and collective worship;
- require Southwark Council to review the locally agreed syllabus for religious education at least every five years.

The reporting period of the 2022-2023 report starts from September 1st 2022 and runs to August 31st 2023.

SACRE met on three occasions via Zoom during the academic year, 1st December 2022, Thursday, 23rd February 2023 and 6th June 2023. Please see Appendix A for more information.

Agenda items for these meetings included (in no particular order):

- Attendance and Apologies for Absence
- Recruitment to SACRE
- Appointment of RE Advisor
- Declaration of Interest from Members
- Minutes and Matters Arising
- Future Dates of Meetings
- Appointments of Chair and Vice Chair
- National News
- Ofsted updates
- Website monitoring
- RE Coordinator meetings
- Agreed Syllabus Survey
- RE Competition Themes, Entries and Awards
- Introduction to RE at Galleywall Primary School
- Action Planning and Annual Reporting

Section 2: Standards and quality of provision in RE

2a. The Locally Agreed Syllabus

RE is not part of the national curriculum. Each LA is required to produce an Agreed Syllabus for RE. Each LA is required to begin reviewing the current Agreed Syllabus within five years of its production. Southwark's current Agreed Syllabus, developed from Newham, was launched on 9th July 2018.

During this academic year, the syllabus was regularly discussed at teachers' network meetings, alongside the resources that are provided to accompany it.

During the latter part of the Summer Term, SACRE launched 2 surveys on the syllabus. The results of these will form part of SACRE's review of the current Agreed Syllabus in the coming year.

2b. Standards and monitoring of RE

Monitoring of quality and standards of education has been done through:

- Scrutiny of school websites by SACRE members
- Verbal feedback from RE Coordinators at the network meetings
- Launch of surveys for Head Teachers

SACRE members completed a form to share information about the school websites.

Feedback from the surveys and verbal comments from RE Coordinators in schools were also shared in SACRE meetings.

This information will support decision making and action planning for the coming academic year.

2c. Teacher training materials and advice for schools

Termly RE Coordinators' meetings were held throughout the academic year. As far as possible, meetings of Subject Coordinators are planned in response to their requests and areas for development that have been identified by the RE Adviser through the services of RE Today.

During meetings, Subject Coordinators were introduced to a range of local and national initiatives and CPD, including Spirited Arts, Strictly RE, Southwark SACRE's RE competition and locating the syllabus and accompanying resources on Southwark's Education, Learning and Achievement website.

2d. Advice given to the Local Authority and Other information

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about RE during the year.

No particular advice has been passed from SACRE to the LA outside of SACRE meetings. The LA Adviser and RE Adviser work closely to ensure the effectiveness of RE within the LA.

Section 3: Collective worship

3a. Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

It has proved more difficult to monitor standards of Collective Worship than RE through looking at websites.

3b. Determinations

No determinations have been requested in the year 2021-2022.

3c. Advice to the Local Authority and Other information

Southwark SACRE's guidance document for Collective worship is on the borough's Education, Learning and Achievement website. Here, teachers will also find a link to a calendar of festivals.

Southwark SACRE's Determinations procedure is available on request. There have been no applications for a determination (to alter the character of collective worship for some or all pupils in a school) in the reporting period.

There were no formal complaints to SACRE about collective worship during the year.

No specific advice was given to the local authority around the provision of collective worship.

Section 4: SACRE Links with other bodies

4a. National Bodies

Southwark SACRE are pleased to be linked with national bodies and receive national updates from the RE Adviser.

Information from NATRE and the REC has been used in meetings and shared with schools where appropriate.

In the coming academic year, SACRE will continue to develop links and make better use of information provided by and for the recently launched RE Hubs website, including the sharing of registered speakers and places of interest and worship in the local area.

In addition, connections and collaborative working links can be forged through the forthcoming NASACRE In Conversation Events with other London SACREs.

4b. Local bodies

Southwark Diocese provide excellent support to SACRE, which is pleased to have Fiona Foreman, its Diocesan Board of Education Secondary Education Adviser, as a member of committee B.

In addition, there is potential for SACRE to develop further and strengthen links with Southwark Interfaith Network.

Section 5: SACRE involvement in the Local Area and Community Cohesion

5a. Governor and head teacher links

A survey has been sent to all head teachers of schools using the syllabus asking for views in readiness for the syllabus review, with excellent response rates.

Head Teachers continue to receive RE Updates from the RE Advisor through Southwark's Education, Learning and Achievement team.

5b. Other local agencies and communities

SACRE has membership which reflects the religious and non-religious diversity of the local community. There are regular reviews of membership to ensure this remains the case.

In addition, there is potential for SACRE to develop further and strengthen links with Southwark Interfaith Network.

In the coming year, the RE Advisor will ensure the sharing of further opportunities to link with other agencies and communities and groups, with promotion through the RE Hubs website and through bespoke teaching and learning materials for Subject Leaders.

5c. Advice on community issues

During the academic year of this report, there were no specific issues arising to which SACRE was required to provide advice to the LA.

Throughout the year, the RE adviser regularly provided advice on speakers coming into schools and visits to places of worship locally.

In the coming months, this support will continue to be developed as per the above.

Section 6: SACRE Management and partnership with the Local Authority (LA)

6a. Professional and administrative support

During the reporting period, clerking of SACRE was undertaken with thanks to Dipesh Panchal of Governors Services.

Lee Souter from Southwark's Education, Learning and Achievement team, continues to hold responsibility for SACRE and liaise with the RE Advisor. In addition, this team continues to support is also provided for the running of the RE teachers' meetings and communications with schools.

The Local Authority also host and maintain the SACRE webpage at:

<https://education.southwark.gov.uk/school-improvement-advisory-team/assessment-and-curriculum/curriculum/standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education-sacre>.

From the above website, the Annual Reports can be accessed, and teachers may also access newsletters sent to schools. However, the SACRE planning resources and other useful links sections on this webpage are only available to those with a password.

Members of SACRE are able to access all papers, documents, and messages via the Governors Hub application provided through the LA and updated by the Clerk. In addition, membership of SACRE is also listed on this application, but the representation of different worldviews and religions it could be made clearer. Again, these can only be accessed by those who have been provided with a password.

It may be necessary to review the accessibility of some of the required public documents such as SACRE membership, minutes and agendas of meetings.

6b. Finance

The LA allocated funding to support the work of SACRE for the academic year of this report.

Some of this funding was allocated to provide the RE Advisor support contracting with RE Today Services of an RE Advisor for 9 days during the year. These days include attending SACRE meetings, writing statutory annual report, providing national updates and information and first response consultancy.

6c. Membership

Please see Appendix A showing membership and attendance of SACRE for the period of this report.

6d. Professional development opportunities

Representatives were given the opportunity to attend NASACRE's annual conference.

Members receive regular training on Ofsted and other developments in the subject when included in the agenda of meetings and are invited to join the termly RE Teachers' meetings.

In addition, all members will be able to receive free 'kitemark' training when the RE HUBS website is launched, providing advice and guidance on engaging pupils in schools with lived experiences of religions and worldviews.

Appendix 1

Attendance of SACRE during 2022-23

1st December 2022				
A Other denominations, faiths and beliefs	B Other denominations, faiths and beliefs	C Teacher Representatives	D Authority Representatives	Apologies
Mariano Marcigaglia John Bonnici Jo Patterson Robert Vertes Trevor Moore	Fiona Foreman	James Lewis	Graham Neale Lee Souter, LA Officer Dipesh Panchal (Clerk)	None

23rd February 2023 – inquorate meeting				
A Other denominations, faiths and beliefs	B Other denominations, faiths and beliefs	C Teacher Representatives	D Authority Representatives	Apologies
Mariano Marcigaglia John Bonnici Trevor Moore	Fiona Foreman	James Lewis	Lee Souter, LA Officer Dipesh Panchal (Clerk)	Jo Patterson

6th June 2023 – inquorate meeting				
A Other denominations, faiths and beliefs	B Other denominations, faiths and beliefs	C Teacher Representatives	D Authority Representatives	Apologies
Mariano Marcigaglia John Bonnici Junade Zakir Jo Patterson Ming Chi	Fiona Foreman		Lee Souter, LA Officer Dipesh Panchal (Clerk)	Bruce Vertes Graham Neale