

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE STANDING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

**London Borough of Tower Hamlets**

**2020-21**

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## 1. Report from the Chair of SACRE – Carolyn Lindsay



Religious Education has never been more important than now.

“The timing of the Ofsted report on Religious Education (Research and analysis) Research review series: religious education Published 12 May 2021), sends a powerful message to all those with an interest in the status of RE. As only the second subject review after science and the first Arts and Humanities subject in the schedule, it is a clear indication of the importance of Religious Education as a discrete subject, and the need for a broad and balanced curriculum.

“The review spells out the essential role that RE plays in every young person’s academic and personal development and emphasises the value that an education in religious and non-religious worldviews provides in later life.”

*Professor Trevor Cooling, Chair, Religious Education Council of England and Wales*

As *Katie Freeman, Chair, National Association of Teachers of RE* states “The need for high quality teaching in all schools for all pupils, both from an academic perspective and for each pupil’s personal development, is abundantly clear in the Ofsted report. “It sends out a strong reminder to all school leaders of the requirement to teach the subject at all key stages, including sixth form, and to consider the professional development and subject knowledge needed for teachers to deliver a high quality RE curriculum.”

Attendance at Religious Education training and at our Network meetings indicates that Religious Education continues to thrive in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH). Where national figures demonstrate that declining numbers of schools are offering RE at GCSE over that last 4 years, the overwhelming majority of schools in Tower Hamlets enter all their students for the full course. What is more pleasing is that, on average our schools achieve scores that exceed those for the subject nationally.

Tower Hamlets SACRE continues to grow and represents all the major religious traditions and non-religious worldviews. We are an active and supportive committee who have, despite Covid-19, continued to meet online since our planned Face to Face meetings with schools have been halted. However many of our committee members are based in schools so we are still in touch with education in Tower Hamlets and have been planning our future engagement with all our schools. LBTH SACRE is currently exploring a sustainable infrastructure to ensure its continued success for the future.

Over the last 3 years we have been fortunate to benefit from funding from Tower Hamlets Community Cohesion Fund. This allowed us to provide a wide range of training for schools focusing upon Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism as well as non-religious world views. The funding has also meant we could procure training and support for Subject Leaders and Senior Leaders so that we can ensure children in Tower Hamlets are offered the very best Religious Education available. This support has been hugely popular and very well received. Tower Hamlets now has a strong network of Subject Leaders who have established a Trello RE Network which meets informally to support the development of RE in schools. The Network is ever-growing and it is good to see such a strong group developing.

Unfortunately, funding was ceased in 2020 but we are looking forward to working with those who have now been given responsibility for building on the achievements so far, recognising that there is still much to do.

THEP and LBTH will be funding a RE Teachers conference to support the teaching of RE in our Primary and Secondary Schools as well as our launch of LBTH RE Agreed Syllabus 2022-2027.

An example of the excellent work carried out to support schools is the LBTH SACRE Ramadan Guidance handbook developed for teachers, carers and parents, in partnership with the London Muslim Centre and the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques. This work was led by Juber Hussain (Vice Chair), Fiona Shaik Umar, Wahida Begum and Deborah Weston (RE Advisor/Inspector) who they have collectively drafted the guidance for LBTH schools relating to Ramadan. We have received feedback from schools and will be reviewing it to guide schools and families in 2022-23.

The recent LBTH SACRE RE Survey would imply that our schools are actively teaching and promoting RE. There are a variety of models and we celebrate that schools are personalising the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus so that it is aspirational and meets the needs of Tower Hamlets pupils.

An emerging feature in many of our schools is 'Interfaith Week' where despite Covid restrictions saw a range of outside speakers either virtually or face to face sharing their faiths with our children.

SACRE has recently produced and adopted guidance for schools 'Schools Worship Guidance and Acts of Worship for LBTH'.

The Covid 19 pandemic has had an impact on SACRE's work in schools however we continue to endeavour circumvent the restrictions by holding meetings and training online. In the meantime Tower Hamlets Education Partnerships have provided access for all schools to the RE Today online lessons to be used during the pandemic. The recovery curriculum for 2021-22 in RE has been developed and schools are ensuring that any lost learning is being addressed

Some of our next steps for 2021-23 are to focus on Succession Planning for LBTH SACRE, to develop assessment in RE and consider how places of faith and belief in Tower Hamlets can support the teaching and learning in RE.

I wish to acknowledge the immense support received from Deborah Weston, RE advisor for Tower Hamlets, the clerk to SACRE and the SACRE Committee who make the role interesting and challenging. Finally I wish to extend a huge thank-you to the schools and their staff who help to make Religious Education a high profile subject relevant to the children attending LBTH schools.

This annual report will give you a flavour of the work of Tower Hamlets SACRE including our achievements and areas to develop.

Carolyn Lindsay

Chair

## 2. Tower Hamlets' SACRE Activity

The following SACRE meetings were held during the reporting period:

- i. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- ii. Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021
- iii. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## 3. Membership of SACRE

NAME	Designation
<b>Committee A: Christian and other religious denominations</b>	
<b>Maswood Ahmed</b>	Muslim
<b>Waheda Begum</b>	Muslim
<b>Juber Hussain</b>	Muslim
<b>Fiona Shaik Umar</b>	Muslim
Vacancy	Muslim
Vacancy	Muslim
<b>Dr Ram Chandra Saha</b>	Hindu
<b>Birbahadur Singh Bance</b>	Sikh
<b>Mark Daveren</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Fr John Moffatt SJ</b>	Roman Catholic
Vacancy	Roman Catholic
<b>Leon Silver</b>	Jewish
<b>Hannah Peaty</b>	Buddhist
<b>Dr John Opute</b>	African Caribbean Pentecostal Churches
Vacancy	Free Church – Salvation Army
<b>Aran O'Carroll</b>	Free Church - Society of Friends
<b>Committee B: Church of England Reps (6)</b>	
<b>William Clarke</b>	Church of England
<b>Katie McNab</b>	Church of England
<b>Fiona Robb</b>	Church of England
<b>Robert Scott</b>	Church of England
<b>Brian Welsh</b>	Church of England
Vacancy	Church of England
<b>Committee C: Teacher Associations Reps (across phases of education) (6)</b>	
Vacancy	Headteacher Primary
Vacancy	Headteacher Secondary
<b>Lannen Armstrong</b>	Teacher Association Secondary
<b>Ruth Marx</b>	Teacher Association Secondary
<b>Nasima Khanom</b>	Teacher Association Primary

Alison Turnbull	Teacher Association Primary
<b>Committee D: Elected Members &amp; Officers</b>	
<b>3 Elected Members (1 minority, 2 majority) plus Chief Education Officer or representative</b>	
Cllr Andrew Wood	<i>Conservative Group</i>
Cllr Asma Begum	<i>Labour Group</i>
Cllr Mohammed Pappu	<i>Labour Group</i>
Carolyn Lindsay	Chief Education Officer (or representative) Interim Chair
<b>Co-option</b>	
Brigid Amoatin	CrossTeach
Tom Llewellyn -Jones	Non-Religious worldview

<b>In attendance at each meeting</b>	
Deborah Weston OBE	Associate Adviser for RE
Angus Huck	Clerk

During the year, action was taken to find people to fill vacancies in several groups with the effect that the membership of SACRE now better reflects the diversity of religions and worldviews in the local community.

## **4. Advice and information offered to the local authority and schools**

### **4.1 Local Developments**

SACRE received presentations from the following individuals and organisations. The outcomes of the subsequent discussions were shared with schools as appropriate

- Brigid Amoatin from CrossTeach – a Christian based Educational Charity that had been working with LBTH schools
- Tower Hamlets interfaith Forum – report on activities in schools during interfaith week

### **4.2 National Developments**

SACRE discussed the following National Developments in religious education

- The NATRE survey of primary schools
- The NATRE Spirited Arts Competition
- A Curriculum Symposium on RE led by NATRE
- The election of LBTH primary school teacher; Sarah Boyle onto the NATRE National Executive
- Gideon International has changed its name to ‘Good News for Everyone’ and continued to be active in LBTH schools, giving away free New Testaments to pupils who wished to receive them
- The Ofsted Research Review for Religious Education was published 2021
- The NASACRE Report on SACRE funding 2021
- Hinduism in Religious Education in UK schools 2021

### 4.3 Professional Development for teachers of RE

SACRE was able to share the following opportunities for teacher training in LBTH

- RE Today Programme: During the academic year, SACRE received regular reports from Carolyn Lindsay about this LBTH funded programme. The programme included several elements including a continuation of the successful Ambassadors of Faith and Belief Programme which involved students in year 12 of LBTH schools being trained to speak to primary school children as Ambassadors for a specific religious or non-religious worldview. Training for primary teachers of RE to increase their subject knowledge and ability to lead the subject in their school and a pupil teacher conference.
- Farmington Fellowships for Teachers of RE

### 4.4 Resources for the teaching of RE

SACRE discussed the following resources to support the teaching of RE

- RE Today’s anti-racist RE programme

SACRE carried out the following exercises in relation to religious education and acts of collective worship

- SACRE discussed a sample set of policies on Collective Worship from school websites. A summary of the findings was shared with schools. SACRE also shared a document produced by NATRE with descriptors for the types of material that can be shared on school websites in relation to RE. The document rates the activities as bronze, silver, and gold levels of practice.
- Virtual Visits to places of worship.

During the year, SACRE worked on extending the resources available to support RE through visits to places of worship and other significant venues. A resource had been produced to introduce the London Buddhist Centre and one that focused on Christianity called Living Faith, Diwali at the Gurdwara Sikh Sangat. Further resources are planned. Also available are the following through

**Places of Worship Photo Packs**

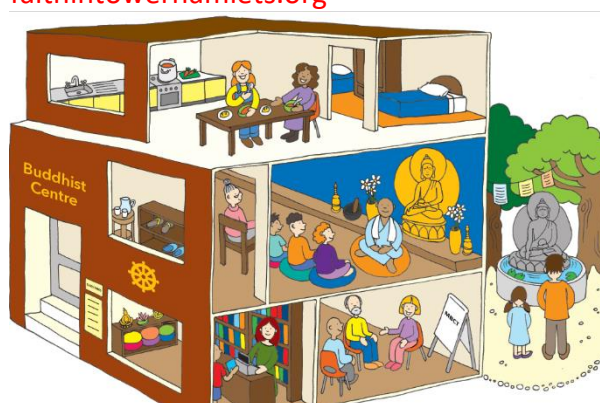
These photo packs contains an assortment of images detailing features of each place of worship, along with an index document, and a cutaway summary image.

**Additional guidance**

- ◆ [Using images of Places of Worship in RE](#)
- ◆ [Using cutaway images – what happens in a Place of Worship?](#)

<b>Buddhism</b> Buddhist Centre	<b>Christianity</b> Church	<b>Hinduism</b> Mandir
<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
<b>Islam</b> Mosque	<b>Judaism</b> Synagogue	<b>Sikihism</b> Gurdwara
<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>

[faithintowerhamlets.org](http://faithintowerhamlets.org)



Crossteach produced the following videos: [Stefan living faith video updated](#)



## Living Faith: Stefan



In this video we find out how the Christian faith impacts Stefan's life, including his work and how he treats others.

## 5. Monitoring of Standards

### 5.1 GCSE entries and results

The Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in severe disruption to the teaching of public examination courses. In recognition of this, the government has decided not to produce school level performance data. Local Authority level data have been published however -see below:

It is pleasing to read that not only are entry rates and attainment at grades 9-4 above the national average but pupils match or exceed the national average in attainment 8 scores and EBacc Average Point Scores in a range of subjects, despite scoring highly on deprivation measures such as entitlement to Free School Meals. Tower Hamlets has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rate of entry 72.3 (out of 151) in the country.

### 5.2 School workforce Data

The table in appendix A represents information about the allocation of teachers to provision for Religious Education in Tower Hamlets as indicated from the census completed in November 2019 and published in the summer of 2020.

In a discussion about the school workforce data above, SACRE asked the local authority to note and investigate the following schools, mindful that in some cases, it was clear that errors had been made in the input of data.

- i. St Paul's Way, Swanlea School and Morpeth School – no provision reported in year 11. GCSE is taken in year 10



- ii. George Green's School – continues to report no provision in year 7-8 and minimal provision in years 10-11
- iii. Wapping High School– no provision reported in any year group.
- iv. London Enterprise Academy and Mulberry UTC re now reporting provision in the appropriate year groups

## Appendix A: School workforce data for 2020-2021

School name	Religious character	School type	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% all hours - RE 2020	% all hours - RE 2019	Change from 2019 to 2020 in total hours of RE	Reporting issues
Bishop Challoner Boys' School	Roman Catholic	Voluntary aided school	15.3	16.0	15.3	14.9	10.2	12.2	5.9	Increase	
Bishop Challoner Girls' School	Roman Catholic	Voluntary aided school	4.0	2.4	5.5	5.9	9.9	5.1	11.5	Decrease	
Bow School	Does not apply	Community school	5.0	4.0	5.6	5.6	3.9	4.8	3.4	Increase	
Central Foundation Girls' School	None	Voluntary aided school	3.4	3.4	3.4	6.3	6.0	4.6	4.6	Increase	
George Green's School	None	Voluntary controlled school	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	5.2	1.7	1.9	Decrease	
Langdon Park Community School	Does not apply	Community school	8.4	8.3	8.7	5.3	5.7	6.3	4.9	Increase	
London Enterprise Academy	None	Free schools	4.4	3.6	3.9	6.0	5.6	4.9	3.3	Increase	
Morpeth School	Does not apply	Community school	3.2	2.7	11.6	11.1	0.0	3.5	3.6	Decrease	
Mulberry School for Girls	Does not apply	Academy converter	3.4	2.6	7.6	8.2	6.6	4.9	4.6	Increase	
Mulberry UTC	Does not apply	University technical college	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.1	9.7	2.7	.	Decrease	UTC admits students from years 10-13
Oaklands School	Does not apply	Community school	3.5	3.8	4.1	6.2	7.9	3.9	4.4	Decrease	
St Paul's Way Trust School	None	Academy converter	5.0	3.3	10.7	9.5	0.0	5.8	5.1	Increase	
Stepney All Saints Church of England	Church of England	Voluntary aided school	5.9	5.4	4.9	6.6	6.6	5.5	unava	unavailable	
Stepney Green Mathematics and Com	Does not apply	Academy converter	0.0	4.9	5.7	5.5	5.9	4.5			Note: RE is included in the Humanities curriculum with a good allocation of time in year 7
Swanlea School	Does not apply	Community school	3.1	2.9	9.2	9.9	0.0	4.6	4.9	Decrease	
Wapping High School	None	Free schools	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	

## Appendix B: GCSE Entries in LBTH Summer Term 2021

School name	School religious character	School type	Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4	Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 entering		
				Full course only	Short course only	Total
Bow School	Does not apply	CY	218	40.4	0.0	40.4
Langdon Park Community School	Does not apply	CY	173	27.7	0.0	27.7
Morpeth School	Does not apply	CY	235	98.3	0.0	98.3
Oaklands School	Does not apply	CY	116	52.6	0.0	52.6
Swanlea School	Does not apply	CY	199	97.0	0.0	97.0
George Green's School	None	VC	194	61.3	0.0	61.3
Central Foundation Girls' School	None	VA	236	100.0	0.0	100.0
Stepney All Saints Church of England Secondary School	Church of England	VA	204	99.5	0.0	99.5
Bishop Challoner Girls' School	Roman Catholic	VA	144	97.9	0.0	97.9
Bowden House School	Does not apply	CYS	9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Phoenix School	Does not apply	CYS	22	0.0	0.0	0.0
Beatrice Tate School	Does not apply	CYS	9	0.0	0.0	0.0
New City College	Does not apply	FESI	101	10.9	0.0	10.9
Bishop Challoner Boys' School	Roman Catholic	VA	117	97.4	0.0	97.4
Mulberry Academy Shoreditch	Does not apply	ACC	175	18.9	0.0	18.9
Wapping High School	None	F	51	0.0	0.0	0.0
London Enterprise Academy	None	F	86	97.7	0.0	97.7
Canary Wharf College 3	None	F	38	0.0	97.4	97.4
St Paul's Way Trust School	None	ACC	226	93.8	3.1	96.9
Mulberry School for Girls	Does not apply	ACC	205	99.5	0.0	99.5
Ian Mikardo School	Does not apply	ACCS	12	0.0	0.0	0.0
Stepney Green Mathematics and Computing College	Does not apply	ACC	169	99.4	0.0	99.4
Mulberry UTC	Does not apply	UTC	29	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tower Hamlets LA	NULL	NULL	2967	72.3	1.5	73.8

