

# Wandsworth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

## Annual Report for the academic year September 2020- August 2021

### 1. Introduction

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#### Chair's welcome

*The 2020-2021 academic year has been another unusual year for the Wandsworth SACRE. Having not been able to meet in the summer term of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the first national lockdown, it was a joy for us to be able to get together again, albeit virtually in November. We welcomed a new teacher association member to the SACRE during the year, Clare Hewitson from the NEU, who replaced Jo Taylor-Campbell who resigned last year.*

*Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic and meeting virtually rather than around a table in the Town Hall or at one of our fantastic places of worship in the Borough, Wandsworth SACRE has managed to continue with its work to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally, as well as socially, culturally and physically. We participated in national RE meetings and events, including the NASACRE AGM and we continue to follow with interest, developments following the publication of the OFSTED report on RE in May 2021 which in turn followed the research by Dr Richard Kueh.*

*Our SACRE actively seeks to ensure all children in Wandsworth have access to high quality and challenging RE and we provide support to RE subject leaders through the auspices of a newsletter which signposts resources and highlights forthcoming festivals among other elements. Our active primary RE teachers' network is usually attended by 16 -18 subject leaders and we urge schools to recognise the importance of allocating school time for staff to attend.*

*During the latter part of the academic year our SACRE Officer, Mrs Angela Rundle, researched and planned our pilot for a series of Faith Trails around the Borough. Through these we not only aim to enhance the quality of RE in Wandsworth schools, but also want our children to be able to experience challenging learning opportunities, promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of their own and other cultures and beliefs while also celebrating the religious and cultural diversity found in Wandsworth.*

*In the next year we will continue to develop our Faith Trails initiative while placing a high priority on the quality of provision of RE and collective worship in schools, all the while continuing to build links between schools and local faith communities.*

*I offer my sincere thanks to members of Wandsworth SACRE and all others who work so hard to support RE in Wandsworth.*

*Councillor Angela Graham  
Chair, Wandsworth SACRE*

## **Overview**

1. This annual report of Wandsworth SACRE outlines the work of SACRE during the academic year 2020 to 2021. As last year, and unlike previous years, it does not include GCSE or A-level statistics for Religious Studies for the past year as examinations were cancelled. No school level data on Religious Studies was shared by schools with the Wandsworth Research and Evaluation Unit, which usually provides the statistics for the SACRE report.

### **Meetings held in the reporting year**

2. Wandsworth SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2020 – 2021. All were held virtually using Teams; meetings were held during the evening. It is intended to hold one meeting a year at different places of worship once circumstances allow. Attendance was generally good, and no meetings were inquorate. New members were welcomed. There was again no attendance by the Hindu community during the year however.
3. The NASACRE briefing is a standing item at all SACRE meetings.

### **Autumn Term Meeting 2020**

4. Meeting held on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

The annual review of Ofsted reports 2019-20 of the borough's schools was noted. Following on from looking at the NASACRE updates of July and October 2020, there was discussion about determinations, of which there had been none in Wandsworth schools.

There was an update from the RSE steering group, which had provided extensive support for schools in the formal introduction of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in Wandsworth schools. Schools had valued this, especially the resource "Getting to grips with the new RSHE curriculum" and were appropriately resourced for its implementation.

### **Spring Term Meeting 2021**

5. Meeting held on Monday, 1st March, 2021.

The SACRE Annual Report for 2019-20 was presented and discussed.

The Insight UK report on the state of Hinduism in Religious Education in UK schools was the major item for this meeting. Hinduism is strongly represented in Wandsworth, though sadly the nominated representative for Wandsworth had not been able to attend meetings and so their view was not known. A deputy has now been identified. It was agreed to address the concerns in the report through the SCITT and at Re subject leaders' network meetings.

Wimbledon Synagogue, which normally would host many school visits during the year, had produced a virtual school visits video, which was previewed by SACRE. It was hoped that other faiths might follow suit.

The Local Authority officer for SACRE introduced a plan to host "Faith Trails" to various places of worship within Wandsworth, based on an idea of Lambeth SACRE. The idea was approved.

### **Summer Term Meeting**

#### 6. Meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

The NASACRE report on SACRE funding was noted, with clarification given on Wandsworth's submission.

The Ofsted review of Religious Education was discussed, and it was agreed to disseminate the key messages through subject leader network meetings. The essence of Dr Richard Kueh's presentation at the NASACRE conference was shared in the feedback from the NASACRE conference, which four members of Wandsworth SACRE had attended.

The SACRE Officer shared her report outlining the support provided to subject leaders in Wandsworth schools.

The pilot for the Faith Trail initiative, visiting the Buddhist temple, synagogue and Catholic church was explained, and two SACRE teacher members had volunteered to take part in this with their schools.

## **2. Religious Education**

### **Syllabus**

The current Wandsworth Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) was launched in September 2017. It is therefore due for review in 2022, and SACRE meeting time has been set aside next summer to meet with working parties from the ASC.

### **Monitoring and standards**

Standards in RE in secondary schools are normally monitored by scrutinising the exam data from GCSEs and A level. This has again not been possible this year. A trawl is also made of Ofsted reports to look for references to RE and SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development). This again was not possible this year. Section 48 reports are also sent to SACRE, but again with a break in the carrying out of inspections, there were none in the last year.

The workforce data for secondary schools, produced by NATRE is discussed, and follow up made to schools where there has been no submission, or where time allocation to RE appears low. It should be noted that in Wandsworth, only one secondary school is a community school, while with the exception of one voluntary aided school, the others all have academy status. Some primary schools are working towards the REQM, but lockdown and Covid management has delayed submissions. No schools currently hold the award.

### **Continuing professional development**

The primary RE subject leaders' network met virtually twice in each term. High quality training is delivered by a professional RE consultant. The foci for meetings in the last year were

- Islam and World Views (autumn 2020)
- Sikhism: origins in the UK and change over time (spring 2021)
- Religious stories and progression in World Views (summer 2021)

### **Other support for schools**

The email network group set up by the LA SACRE Officer has continued to enable members to keep in touch with each other to seek advice and share good practice. It includes some co-ordinators from independent schools as well as LA community schools.

The LA SACRE Officer produces a termly newsletter which has a calendar of events including major faith festivals, signposts good practice and shares resources.

SACRE has produced guidance for schools on Ramadan, which is updated annually (see appendix).

No complaints about religious education in schools were referred to SACRE this year.

## **3. Collective Worship**

No monitoring of collective worship, either of quality or compliance to statutory requirements, took place during the year. No requests for determinations were received during the year. No schools in Wandsworth have been given determinations in the past.

No complaints regarding collective worship in the community schools of Wandsworth were referred to SACRE during the year. SACRE has produced guidance for schools on collective worship, which is due for review next year (see appendix).

### **Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests**

There was one FOI request during the past year, from NASACRE about funding for Wandsworth SACRE. The information was supplied.

## **4. Links with other bodies**

Wandsworth SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

One meeting per year is held jointly with Wandsworth's Multi Faith Forum. The agenda for this is chosen to reflect the interests of both bodies.

There are good links with the Church of England Diocese of Southwark and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, whose advisers to Wandsworth's VA schools are much valued by the schools themselves and the School Improvement Service.

## **5. Other SACRE local involvement**

The local authority set up a steering group to support schools with the introduction of RHSE. This was reported to SACRE and the steering group also provided information to governors.

SACRE gave its approval to the LA Officer to arrange a Faith Trail for pupils to visit different places of worship local to each other on the same day. This was planned to begin in the 21-22 academic year.

## **6. SACRE's Administrative Arrangements and Financial Support**

SACRE meetings are clerked by a Democratic Services Officer from Wandsworth Council. An officer is provided to support the LA. Specialist RE professional support for SACRE is provided by an external consultant, Lesley Prior, who supports a number of London SACREs.

The annual budget for support for SACRE in 2020-21 was £6000, the same as in 2019-20. This funds the external consultant, LA SACRE Officer, NASACRE membership and other incidental expenses. Wandsworth Town Hall normally provides a room for meetings, but as noted, these have been held online in the past year.

### **Membership**

While some members have been in place for a number of years, there is always some movement in the membership, but vacancies are quickly addressed. No meetings in the past year were inquorate, and there was no fall off in attendance due to the move to online meetings necessitated by the pandemic.

Group A contains representatives of all the major faiths and some denominations or branches within them, and three nominated deputies for some faiths. The Humanist member is currently co-opted, but arrangements have been made for the Humanist member to request full membership of Group A.

### **Training**

The NASACRE conference being online in 2021 meant that four members were able to attend. SACRE is also happy to fund a certain amount of training for members.

## **7. Appendices**

There are no tables of exam results for the year 20-21 as no national exams took place.

CPD provided for schools – see above

SACRE has provided advice for schools on Collective Worship - [wandsworth sacre guidance on collective worship.pdf](#) and on Ramadan [ramadan-guidance.pdf \(wandsworth.gov.uk\)](#)

In addition to the DfE and NASACRE, the report is circulated to SACRE members and schools.