

Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2024-2025

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Introduction from the Chair of Westminster SACRE

I am very pleased to be able to introduce this annual report from the Westminster SACRE. We made progress last year in links with academies, as an RE teacher from Gateway Academy was elected to the post of Vice-Chair in October 2024. Also, members of various SACRE committees have visited the academy to give talks to the pupils. We have been less successful in our second area of development – that of creating stronger links with councillors on our committee - and this is being addressed again in 2025/26.

Our members of Committee A (Faiths and Denominations) are widely represented, and their enthusiasm has enabled us to take up the challenge of updating our 'Things of the Spirit' document. This is still a work in progress at present, but it will result in a very valuable document for schools.

We are fortunate in receiving updates and information from RE Today and pleased that this can continue into the future. We remain enormously grateful for the continual support, with data, documents and minutes, from our clerk Natalija Sorokina. We also thank Jackie Saddington who has presented the SACRE with information about finances and about the work of the Local Authority as our LA advisor.



Rev Dr Linda Ulrich
Chair Westminster SACRE
January 2026

Background

This report summarises the activities of the Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 2024-25. The SACRE has a remit for monitoring Religious Education and Collective Worship in non-denominational schools. The relevant diocesan authorities monitor denominational schools. The Education Act 2002 requires that Religious Education (RE) must be provided as part of the basic curriculum in addition to the National Curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE and are not obliged to state their reasons for withdrawal.

This report is composed in light of guidance from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) on the format of SACRE annual reports.

Details of the work of Westminster SACRE and associated papers can be found at: <http://services2schools.org.uk/Page/15387>.

1. SACRE Arrangements

The Westminster SACRE met on the following dates in 2024-25:

- 15 October 2024
- 4 March 2025
- 24 June 2025

SACRE meetings are usually hosted by the Local Authority or the SACRE members in venues across Westminster. All three meetings in 2024-25 were hybrid meetings allowing both in-person and virtual attendance, and they were held in Westminster City Hall.

All three SACRE meetings in 2024-25 were quorate.

Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of the SACRE's duties are provided to the SACRE by Westminster City Council. The key areas of this support include the following:

- Provision of a Clerk
- Provision of a Local Authority Adviser
- Provision of a meeting room at Westminster City Hall
- Commissioning of an RE Consultant
- Funding of the NASACRE annual membership
- Funding of the NASACRE annual training offer
- Funding for up to two SACRE members to attend NASACRE's annual Conference and AGM
- Costs relating to establishing an Agreed Syllabus Conference and reviewing a Locally Agreed Syllabus (when appropriate)

Professional support was provided by RE Consultants Angela Hill (autumn), Debbie Yeomans (spring) and Ian Nicholson (summer) commissioned from RE Today on a consultancy basis.

1.1 Membership Updates

Autumn Term 2024

- Graham Walker was appointed to represent Bahá'í Local Spiritual Assembly of Westminster on Committee A.

Spring Term 2025

- Femi Josiah was appointed to represent National Education Union on Committee C.

Summer Term 2025

- Darren Guttridge resigned from Committee C.

1.2 Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

As specified in the Westminster SACRE Constitution revised in the autumn term 2020, Chair and Vice Chair elections need to take place on an annual basis in the autumn term.

In 2024-25, both Chair and Vice-Chair annual elections took place at the SACRE meeting in October 2024 with the following outcome: Linda Ulrich (Committee B) and Amina Mohammed (Committee C) were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

2. Religious Education

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

By statute, every local authority is required to adopt a Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) of religious education and to review it every five years. The Westminster LAS was adopted in 2023-24 from *Living Difference IV*, the syllabus devised by Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. It was the London version of *Living Difference IV* that was adopted by Westminster.

The Westminster LAS *Living Difference IV* is available on the Westminster SACRE website - <http://services2schools.org.uk/Page/15387> - along with a number of useful links to materials/websites/films that Westminster SACRE members had compiled together to help schools in teaching RE.

Westminster's LAS will be due for review in the academic year of 2028-29.

2.2 Standards in RE

SACRE members gave close consideration to the various national and local developments concerning the provision of RE. These discussions were prompted by the information provided to the SACRE through the regular updates from the RE Consultant on the SACRE and NASACRE Briefings.

2.3 Methods of Teaching, the Choice of Teaching Materials, Teacher Training

In 2024-25, the termly RE Good Practice Network meetings were replaced by 9 virtual training sessions that were facilitated by RE Today. The sessions were open to teachers from Westminster as well as other local authorities across the country. Westminster teachers were welcome to choose to attend as many of the nine sessions as they preferred. Some of the

sessions were run by the RE Consultant on the SACRE with others facilitated by other RE Today consultants.

2.4 Matters Discussed During 2024-25

Key matters included the following:

- Review of Ramadan guidance for schools
- SACRE self-evaluation, including a focus on school visits and setting up a working group
- RE Adviser arrangements for 2025-26: the SACRE agreed to continue with the RE consultancy support from RE Today.
- Westminster's guidance for Collective Worship

In setting up agendas for the termly SACRE meetings in 2024-25, consideration was given to NASACRE's recommendations for agenda items as suggested in NASACRE's regular briefings.

Further information on what the SACRE discussed in 2024-25 can be found in the minutes of the three meetings held in 2024-25. All approved minutes of the SACRE meetings are kept on the Westminster SACRE [webpage](#).

2.5 Complaints Concerning RE

No complaints about the RE curriculum or collective worship in community schools were received by the SACRE in 2024-25.

3. Collective Worship

3.1 Advice on Collective Worship and Determinations

The advice for schools on Collective Worship, including the process of applying for a Determination (and/or a renewal of it) is published online and can be accessed via the following web link: <http://services2schools.org.uk/Page/16173>.

Any school applying for or renewing a Determination should receive a visit from the SACRE members prior to the application being discussed at a meeting.

3.2 Determinations

There were no new applications for a Determination in 2024-25.

There is currently one school with a Determination in Westminster:

School Name	Date determination granted
Hallfield Primary School	28/03/2023

Determinations are for a period of five years. The Determination granted to Hallfield Primary will therefore be lapsing in Spring 2028.

3.3 Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

No complaints were received by the Westminster SACRE in 2024-25.

4. Links with Other Bodies

The Westminster SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

The annual NASACRE Conference 2025 was held on Monday 19 May 2025 in Stratford Town Hall (London). Graham Walker attended the Conference on behalf of the Westminster SACRE and fed back to the SACRE at their summer term meeting. Full details and copies of the relevant paperwork from the 2025 Conference can be found via <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2024-how-can-sacres-support-high-quality-re-collective-worship/>.

5. Appendices

5.1 Westminster SACRE Membership – 2024-25

Committee A – Faiths and Denominations

Chandri Vora	Hindu Education Board UK	
Daniel Hirschfield	Board of Deputies of British Jews	
Graham Walker	Baha'i Local Spiritual Assembly of Westminster	Appointed in Autumn 2024
Imran Asif	Discover Islam	Appointed in Summer 2025 in place of Naif Sheikh
Mariano Marcigaglia	Network of Buddhist Organisations	
Mary Wilson	The Diocese of Westminster	
Naif Sheikh	Discover Islam	Replaced by Imran Asif at request of the nominating body in Summer 2025
Patricia Rogers	Humanists UK	

Committee B – Church of England

John Pearson-Hicks
Linda Ulrich
Hannah Legg

Committee C – Teachers

Amina Mohammed, Gateway Academy (NEU)
Darren Guttridge, Headteacher, Edward Wilson Primary (NAHT) (resigned in Summer 2025)

Femi Josiah, Edward Wilson Primary (NEU) (appointed in Spring 2025)

Committee D – The Local Education Authority

Cllr Karen Scarborough

Cllr Angela Piddock

Cllr Jason Williams

Servicing Officers

Jackie Saddington, Local Authority Adviser

Ian Nicholson, RE Adviser from RE Today

Natalija Sorokina, Clerk

5.2 KS4 and KS5 RE Results 2024-25

Please see below:

KS4 - GCSE 2024 Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies															
LA	Sch type	School name	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	Entry	% of school cohort taking RS	
WCC	Secondary	Grey Coat Hospital	13%	25%	13%	22%	10%	8%	7%	1%	1%	0%	100%	99%	
		Harris Academy St John's Wood	0%	21%	3%	28%	14%	21%	7%	3%	0%	3%	100%	15%	
		King Solomon Academy	8%	14%	13%	24%	10%	10%	11%	8%	0%	0%	100%	97%	
		Marylebone Boys' School	0%	8%	8%	33%	8%	33%	8%	0%	0%	0%	100%	10%	
		Paddington Academy	23%	20%	19%	13%	11%	6%	5%	2%	1%	0%	100%	100%	
		Pimlico Academy	2%	7%	16%	19%	12%	12%	16%	5%	9%	2%	100%	23%	
		St Augustine's High	4%	10%	7%	12%	15%	14%	19%	9%	4%	5%	100%	100%	
		St George's RC	17%	11%	15%	19%	10%	11%	13%	2%	1%	1%	100%	99%	
		St Marylebone	13%	19%	19%	16%	12%	7%	8%	3%	3%	1%	100%	97%	
		Westminster Academy	10%	10%	30%	20%	10%	10%	10%	0%	0%	0%	100%	5%	
	Westminster City	5%	19%	11%	17%	17%	7%	8%	12%	4%	0%	100%	97%		
	Secondary Total		13%	16%	12%	18%	15%	9%	7%	5%	3%	0%	100%	66%	
	Special	College Park School	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
St Marylebone Bridge Academy		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Special Total		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
WCC Total		12%	16%	14%	18%	12%	10%	11%	5%	2%	1%	100%	64%		

KS5 – A Levels 2025 Religious Studies

A Level Religious Studies											
LA	Sch type	Sch name	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Entry	% of cohort taking RS
WCC	Secondary	Grey Coat Hospital	0.0%	42.1%	36.8%	15.8%	0.0%	5.3%		100%	13.5%
		Paddington Academy	0.0%	11.1%	55.6%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%		100%	5.4%
		St Augustine's High	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	54.5%	18.2%	0.0%		100%	17.7%
		St George's RC	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		100%	1.6%
		St Marylebone	28.6%	21.4%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		100%	8.5%
		Westminster City	4.2%	37.5%	45.8%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%		100%	16.4%
WCC Total			6.3%	27.8%	43.0%	19.0%	2.5%	1.3%		100%	5.1%