

Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2021-2022

Table of Contents

Introduction from the Chair of Westminster SACRE	2
Background	3
1 SACRE Arrangements	3
1.1 Membership Updates	3
1.2 Review of Constitution.....	4
1.3 Chair Elections	4
2 Religious Education (RE)	4
2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus	4
2.2 Standards in RE	4
2.3 Methods of Teaching, the Choice of Teaching Materials, Teacher Training	4
2.4 Matters Discussed During the Year	5
2.5 Complaints Concerning RE	5
3 Collective Worship (CW)	5
3.1 Advice on Collective Worship	5
3.2 Determinations	6
3.3 Complaints Concerning Collective Worship.....	6
4 Links with other Bodies	6
5 Appendices	7
5.1 Westminster SACRE Membership 2021-22.....	7
5.2 Westminster SACRE Guidance on Collective Worship.....	7
5.3 KS4 and KS5 RE Results 2021-22	8

Introduction from the Chair of Westminster SACRE

I am honoured to be able to introduce the Annual Report of the Westminster SACRE for 2021-22.

As a relatively recent member of the SACRE, I am enormously grateful for the clear and knowledgeable help we receive from Lesley Prior as RE Advisor and from Jackie Saddington as LA Advisor on the SACRE. The SACRE has also benefitted hugely from the continual support of Natalija Sorokina as our Clerk.

I hope this report helps to give a clear picture of the work that the SACRE is committed to in support of our local schools.

Dr Linda Ulrich
Chair, Westminster SACRE

Background

This report summarises the activities of the Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 2021-22. 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 the 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 occasions in 2021-22:

- 14 December 2021
- 24 March 2022
- 28 June 2022

SACRE meetings are usually hosted by the Local Authority or the SACRE members in venues across Westminster. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, the autumn term meeting was held virtually while the other two were held as hybrid meetings allowing for both in-person and online attendance.

Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of the SACRE's duties is 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
- Commissioning of an RE Consultant
- Funding of the NASACRE annual membership
- Funding of the NASACRE annual training offer
- Funding for two SACRE members to attend NASACRE's annual Conference and AGM when it is held in-person, or equivalent funding for SACRE members to attend the Conference should it be held virtually
- Costs relating to establishing and reviewing a Locally Agreed Syllabus (when appropriate)

Professional support was provided by SACRE Consultant Lesley Prior on a consultancy basis.

1.1 Membership Updates

Autumn Term 2021

- Myles Owen was appointed to represent the London Diocesan Board for Schools on Committee C.

Spring Term 2022

- Mary Wilson was appointed to represent the RC Diocese of Westminster on Committee A.
- Shirin Rose King was appointed to represent Baha'i Local Spiritual Assembly of Westminster on Committee A.

Summer Term 2022

- James Spencer representing the Local Authority on Committee D was not re-elected as a councillor during the local council elections in May 2022. His term of office also finished in the same month, which made him ineligible for the SACRE membership under Committee D.
- Daniel Hirschfield was nominated by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to replace Sandra Teacher on Committee A. Daniel's formal appointment as a SACRE member on Committee A was temporarily put on hold while the appointment process in Westminster was still being confirmed following the change in local council administration. Daniel was invited to attend the SACRE's summer term meeting as an observer while the above was being clarified.

1.2 Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

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

In 2021-22, both Chair and Vice-Chair annual elections were postponed from Autumn 2021 to Spring 2022 as the SACRE meeting in December 2021 was not quorate. The elections took place at the SACRE meeting in March 2022 with the following outcome: Councillor James Spencer was re-elected as Chair and Linda Ulrich was elected as Vice-Chair.

At the SACRE's meeting in June, Linda Ulrich was confirmed as Acting Chair following the change in James Spencer's membership as mentioned in Section 1.1 just above.

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 current Westminster LAS was adopted in Autumn 2017 from *Living Difference III*, the syllabus devised by Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. At the time, Hampshire's parent syllabus *Living Difference III* was revised for the London context, and so it was the London version of *Living Difference III* that was adopted by Westminster.

The Westminster LAS: *Living Difference III* 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 2022-23. Groups A, B and C will need to vote for a recommendation to the Local Authority to establish an Agreed

Syllabus Conference (ASC) for the review of the syllabus at the SACRE meeting in Autumn 2022. As Group D is the Local Authority, it does not get a vote. The voting was originally planned for the SACRE's meeting in June 2022; however, it did not take place as the meeting was not quorate.

Hampshire reviewed their parent syllabus *Living Difference III* in 2021, which resulted in the *Living Difference IV* edition coming out in November 2021. They agreed to give a presentation on *Living Difference IV* on 8 September 2022 to share an overview of how it differed from *Living Difference III* and what deals they could offer to local authorities considering adopting it. The Westminster SACRE members agreed it would be important to attend this to familiarise themselves in more detail with the changes made to the parent syllabus. RE teachers would also be invited to this session. Hearing from Hampshire will be helpful for when the ASC is finally convened to carry out the review of the Westminster LAS.

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

The RE Good Practice Network, which had been previously established for teachers in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, continued to run on a termly basis in 2021-22 with sessions in December, March and June. These sessions are run by Lesley Prior, RE Consultant on the SACRE.

The RE Good Practice Network sessions serve as an opportunity for RE teachers and coordinators to discuss any challenges they face and to receive relevant support, for example, around Ofsted's deep dives in RE, assessment and attainment in RE, measuring and recording outcomes in RE, etc.

2.4 Matters Discussed During 2021-22

Key matters included the following:

- Review of *Things of the Spirit*, Westminster's guidance for Collective Worship, and progress updates
 - Review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus (please also see Section 2.1 above)
 - The Education White Paper and its implications on RE and the work of SACREs
 - Quality RE in academies and further ideas around the work of the Academies Working Group
 - SACRE self-evaluation using NASACRE's self-evaluation tool
- The SACRE concluded it was well resourced. It has support from the Clerk, the LA Adviser and the RE Consultant, who is funded by the LA. Some areas for development were identified during this discussion at the summer term meeting and plans were made to look in the new academic year at possible projects that the SACRE could take up.

In addition to the above discussion, arrangements were made for members Linda Ulrich, John Pearson-Hicks and Cllr Ruth Bush to meet separately in August to go through the NASACRE's self-evaluation form in more detail with a view to presenting their initial thoughts to the wider group in Autumn 2022.

- **Census 2021 results**

It will be important to review them for the local context once the break down of the results is available in Autumn 2022. The SACRE's composition (especially Committee A) would need to be reviewed accordingly.

In setting up agendas for the termly Westminster SACRE meetings in 2021-22, 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 2021-22 can be found in the minutes of the three meetings held in 2021-22. All the minutes of the SACRE meetings are kept on the Westminster SACRE [webpage](#).

2.5 Complaints Concerning RE

No complaints were received by SACRE in 2021-22.

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>. The guidance can also be found attached in Appendix 5.2 of this document.

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 2021-22.

There is currently one school with a Determination in Westminster:

School Name	Date determination granted
Hallfield Primary School	28.02.2018

Determinations are for a period of five years. The Determination granted to Hallfield Primary will therefore be lapsing in Spring 2023. The necessary steps would be taken by the SACRE regarding this in the academic year 2022-23.

3.3 Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

No complaints were received by the Westminster SACRE in 2021-22.

4. Links with Other Bodies

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

The annual NASACRE Conference and AGM 2022 was held virtually on Monday 23 May 2022, and Linda Ulrich, Sandra Teacher and Rajinder Singh attended it representing the Westminster SACRE. Verbal feedback on the Conference was provided to the SACRE at its summer term meeting. Full details and copies of the relevant paperwork from the 2022 Conference can be found via <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2022-ambitious-sacre/>.

5. Appendices

5.1 Westminster SACRE Membership – 2021-22

Committee A – Faiths and Denominations

Naif Sheikh	Discover Islam	
Patricia Rogers	Humanists UK	
Rajinder Singh Bhasin	Sikh Faith	
Mary Wilson	The Diocese of Westminster	Appointed in Spring 2022
Shirin Rose King	Baha'i Local Spiritual Assembly of Westminster	Appointed in Spring 2022
Peter Ward	The Diocese of Westminster	Resigned in Autumn 2022
Sandra Teacher	Board of Deputies of British Jews	Resigned in Summer 2022

Committee B – Church of England

John Pearson-Hicks (Vice Chair until Spring 2022)

Linda Ulrich (Vice Chair elected in Spring 2022)

Myles Owen (appointed in Autumn 2021)

Committee C – Teachers

Darren Guttridge, Headteacher, Edward Wilson Primary (NAHT)

Catherine Thornton, Teacher, Hallfield Primary (NEU) (resigned in Autumn 2021)

Committee D – The Local Education Authority

Cllr Antonia Cox

Cllr Ruth Bush

Cllr James Spencer (membership ceased in Summer 2022)

Servicing Officers

Jackie Saddington, Local Authority Adviser to SACRE

Lesley Prior, RE Adviser to SACRE
Natalija Sorokina, Clerk to SACRE

5.2 Westminster SACRE Guidance on Collective Worship



Westminster SACRE
Guidance to Collective

More can be found on the Westminster SACRE webpage [here](#).

5.3 KS4 and KS5 RE Results 2021-22

At the time of submitting this report (March 2023), no data by subject at the local authority level has been made available for both KS4 and KS5 exam results.