

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY OF
LONDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) FOR
2023 – 2024**



**CITY
OF
LONDON**

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Introduction

Since 1988, it has been a requirement that every local authority (LA) has a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Though legislation sets out both the structure and the remit of a local SACRE - principally, overseeing religious education (RE) and collective worship - in practice every SACRE has developed its own particular style and character.

It is a legislative requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work and that this is published, sent to the local authority, to local schools and to other interested parties.

The City of London is an unusual authority in many ways, but especially because the geographical region is very small and the only maintained school is a voluntary aided school with a religious character. This is The Aldgate School. The implications of this for SACRE is that there is no school for whom a local Agreed Syllabus would normally apply. The legal requirements for RE in these schools is set out in the box below. The syllabus for Religious education in this school is normally provided by the London Diocesan Board for Schools. The only circumstances when an Agreed Syllabus would need to be followed are set out in the latest government guidance on religious education (see below) and this is why the City of London must prepare an Agreed Syllabus; so that one can be made available to the school should a parent make such a request.

SACRE Membership

Voluntary-aided schools with a religious character

In these schools RE is to be determined by the governors and in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed relating to the school or, where there is no provision in the trust deed, with the religion or denomination mentioned in the order designating the school as having a religious character. However, where parents prefer their children to receive RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus, and they cannot reasonably or conveniently send their children to a school where the syllabus is in use, then the governing body must make arrangements for RE to be provided to the children within the school in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus unless they are satisfied that there are special circumstances which would make it unreasonable to do so. If the LA is satisfied that the governing body is unwilling to make such arrangements, the LA must make them instead.¹

[Religious Education in English Schools \(2010\)](#) page 15

Committee A		
Amanda Crowley	AC	Member from the Diocese of Westminster Education Service – Catholic Member
Leon Silver	LS	Member from the Jewish community
Ruhela Begum	RB	Member from the Muslim community
Committee B		
Mary Thorne	MT	London Diocesan Board for Schools – Church of England
Committee C		
Alex Allan	AA	The Aldgate School Headteacher – Teachers’ Association
Committee D		
Kirstie Hilton (Chair)	KH	Head of Service, Education and Early Years, City of London Corporation
In attendance		
Deborah Weston	DW	Local Authority Advisor
Amrul Khan	AK	SACRE/ASC Clerk

SACRE Meetings held

The following SACRE meeting was held during the reporting period:

13th December 2024

The meeting was held via Zoom and was quorate.

Membership and attendance

SACRE reviewed the membership advice that they had offered the City of London and decided to recommend that a Humanist be added to the membership of Committee A. The LA representative agreed to take this SACRE advice to the City of London. The meeting was quorate, and all members attended.

Matters considered by SACRE

- The Department for Education's Curriculum and Assessment Review – Chaired by Prof. Becky Francis
- The campaign for a National Plan for Religious Education
- The challenges posed for the recruitment of teachers of RE and the removal of subject knowledge enhancement grants.
- National trends in GCSE and A level entries and outcomes
- National trends in the provision for RE as evidenced by school workforce data
- The Oxford, Cambridge and RSA report into the content of the curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4 and the role and form of assessment including SATs and GCSE qualifications.
- Open University Religion, Belief and Worldviews Hub
- Training opportunities offered by NASACRE, NATRE and others

Agreed Syllabus review

SACRE completed its Agreed Syllabus review in the summer of 2023. SACRE and its Agreed Syllabus Conference renewed the license with RE Today for their model syllabus A+ and to retain a copy within the City of London. This would be issued to the Aldgate School, if a parent requested that their child not receive religious education as set by the London Diocesan Board for Education.

Advice offered by SACRE and its Agreed Syllabus Conference to the City of London

SACRE recommended the addition of a Humanist to the membership of Committee A

End of Annual Report