Barnet SACRE
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Annual Report 2025 – 2026

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1.Introduction

1a. Chair of SACRE Introduction

Statement from the Chair of Barnet SACRE: Kevin McSharry (December 2026)

As Chair of Barnet SACRE, I am pleased to present this report on the work overseen by SACRE in 2025-26. I have been a resident of Barnet for over eight decades; and have served on SACRE as a representative of the local community since 1994, being elected Chair in 2015.I am a founder member and one time chair, for many years, of the Colindale Communities Trust; and a teacher for forty-two years, latterly as Head, at St. James' Catholic High School, Colindale. The Borough of Barnet has been seminal for me, and I welcome the privilege to serve as Chair of SACRE.

My fulsome thanks to the members of Barnet SACRE Faith representatives, teachers and Councillors and my vice chair Vicky Golestaneh for their service. Jan McGuire, our golden Religious Education Adviser, has informed and supported our work, together with Neil Marlow and Alison Poyiadjis for and on behalf of the Local Authority. My thanks to our Clerk to SACRE, Maria Gabrielczyk.

Three SACRE meetings were held during the school year. Our final meeting was a celebration that recognised the excellence in religious education in Barnet schools and the newly implemented Agreed Syllabus and Ann Taves Religious Education Worldviews Curriculum and the team of writers that were recognised in the prestigious London Dangoor Award in November 2025. The Mayor of Barnet, members of SACRE, Representatives of Barnet's diverse Faith and Worldview Groups, Councillors and Teachers were present for the SACRE celebration event hosted at the Greek Orthodox School.

SACRE's work during this period has focused on the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, the NASACRE Westhill project supporting the Worldviews resource audit and continued dedication and hard work in ensuring that the Barnet Religious Education Syllabus meets the needs of our pupils and students.

Supporting and upskilling the teachers of Religious Education has remained a clear focus, with Barnet NATRE affiliated Network and CPD events being offered termly for Teachers to participate in sessions covering Religion, World views, Ofsted and National Updates.

Barnet SACRE remains a very strong, enthusiastic volunteer team with tremendous experience, expertise and dedication in providing the very best Religious Education experience.

Kevin McSharry (Chair of Barnet SACRE, December 2026)

1b. An Executive Summary:

2025 - 2026 marked a pivotal period of curriculum development for Religious Education as England is awaiting the release of the formal Curriculum and Assessment Review recommendations and the Government decision on Religious Education. During this period Barnet SACRE continued to embrace their legal obligation to embed and monitor the bold new Ann Taves Curriculum approach of the Barnet Agreed Syllabus 2024. Barnet SACRE remains mindful of the national curriculum changes that could follow going forward.

Religion and worldviews remain significantly important in our richly diverse Borough, nationally and globally. Religious Education is a valuable and enriching curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality Religious Education.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), from each Local Authority, will publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.
This entails:

- advising the Local Authority on Religious Education given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus
- monitoring the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its Agreed Syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus
- providing advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus
- providing advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training
- in partnership with its Local Authority, considering whether any changes need to be made in the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE
- offering advice to the Local Authority, and through the Local Authority to schools, concerning how an existing Agreed Syllabus can be interpreted to fit in with a broad, balanced, and coherent curriculum.

The main purpose of the SACRE Annual Report is to hold the Local Authority to account by informing the Secretary of State, and key partners, what advice SACRE gave during the year to the Local Authority and how that was responded to, this includes advice on religious education in terms of the Locally Agreed Syllabus, Religious Education curriculum and support of teachers and community concerns linked to religion and worldviews, culture and differing well.

SACRE's role can be diverse and nuanced in its very nature. The Barnet SACRE meetings allow for conversations between representatives from a wide range of religion and worldviews, policial parties and educational representatives. Sitting around the same table to discuss issues that impact on the schools and wider community can be a very positive and empowering experience. SACRE

provides advice to the Local Authority (Borough) through the RE Adviser. In 2025 2026 support on issues relating to national press coverage and rising religious hate incidents was provided.

Three SACRE meetings were held during the school year. Our final meeting was a celebration that recognised the excellence in religious education in Barnet schools and the newly implemented Agreed Syllabus 2024 and Ann Taves Religious Education Worldviews Curriculum 2025. The Barnet curriculum writers, and the outstanding Barnet SACRE Inter – Faith Student Choir were both recognised in the prestigious London Dangoor Award in November 2025. The Mayor of Barnet, members of SACRE, Representatives of Barnet's diverse faith and worldview groups, Councillors and Teachers were present for the SACRE celebration event hosted at the Greek Orthodox School in June 2026.

SACRE's work during this period has focused on the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, the NASACRE Westhill project supporting the worldviews resource audit and continued dedication and hard work in ensuring that the Barnet Religious Education Syllabus 2024 meets the needs of our students and teachers.

Supporting and upskilling the teachers of Religious Education will remain a clear focus for 2026 2027, with Barnet Network and CPD events being offered termly for Teachers to participate in sessions covering Religion, World views, Ofsted and National Updates and Collective Worship. In 2026 2027 monitoring of RE in schools including the implementation of the Statutory Barnet Ann Taves Agreed Syllabus 2024 will also be a SACRE focus.

Barnet SACRE remains a very strong, enthusiastic volunteer team with tremendous experience, expertise and dedication in providing the very best Religious Education experience.

It should be noted that Barnet SACRE's excellent delivery is despite receiving below the recommended central school services block (CSSB) at an estimated funding level of 2% of the CSSB.

1c. Context statement: Demography

September marked the implementation of the new Ann Taves curriculum embedded within the bold new Barnet Religious Education Syllabus 2024. The Agreed Syllabus reflects the religion and worldviews on Barnet's 'doorstep'. The ASC has considered the religion and worldview groups that represent the largest numbers in the borough: Christianity, Judaism, Islam and the growing non-religion group. The Agreed Syllabus deliberately reflects the demographic shift that can be evidenced in the borough. The most recent Office for National Statistics (ONS) data, from the March 2021 Census demonstrates that the Barnet population is becoming increasingly diverse, driven predominantly by the growth of the existing population.

Area Name	No Religion	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	Not answered
Barnet 2011	No 55,952 15.7%	No 152,500 39.2%	No 4,633 1.3%	No 22,096 6.2%	No 54,084 15.2%	No 36,708 10.3%	No 1,425 0.4%	No 4,633 1.3%	No 29,917 8.4%
2021	77,860 20%	142,321 36.6%	4,158 1.1%	22,105 5.7%	56,616 14.5%	47,688 12.2%	1,947 0.5%	5,192 1.3%	29,184 7.5%

Note: The 2011 figure is directly reported in the Census. The 2021 figure is rounded from the published 2021 religion distribution for Barnet and therefore should be treated as approximate

The data reveals that the Christian population remains the largest religious group within the Borough, with 142,321 individuals identifying as Christian in 2021. The Christian population has decreased by 2.6 percentage points, that equates to 10,179 fewer individuals identifying as Christian on this most 2021 census. There has been an increase in individuals identifying as both Jewish and Muslim (although the percentage of Jewish has reduced by 0.7 percentage points and the percentage of Muslims has increased by 1.9 percentage points). Whilst the Christian and Jewish population remain the two dominant religious groups within the Borough, the data reveals that the Muslim population has experienced a 1.9 percentage point growth and remain the third largest religious population in the Borough with 47,688 individuals identifying as Muslim. The number of people identifying as having "No Religion" increased by over 20,000 in the ten years, with 20% of the Barnet population in 2021 identifying as having "No Religion" in 2021.

SACRE's consideration of the implications of this data in the discussions about worldviews is ongoing. Census information shows that Barnet is currently the second largest borough, to Croydon. The Barnet population is becoming increasingly diverse, driven predominantly by the growth of the existing population. Meeting the needs of these growing communities may be a key challenge. Barnet SACRE is aware of the challenge faced by the LA and welcomes deeper engagement to support the community and local government.

2. Religious Education Statutory Responsibilities

2a. The Local Agreed Syllabus and RE in schools: when adopted and review date

The Barnet Agreed Syllabus 2024 for Religious Education provides statutory requirements for planning, teaching and assessment procedures. The Agreed Syllabus documents are offered to all schools in the Borough.

Barnet SACRE's new 2024 Agreed Syllabus is based on the academic research of Prof Ann Taves. The Agreed Syllabus follows the six big questions (BQ's) that Ann Taves says humans have asked for millennia. SACRE decided to take this route as the Ann Taves six big questions could be answered by all children within the diverse population of the borough. The intention was to create an inclusive Religious Education learning experience. The ASC process was financially supported by Barnet

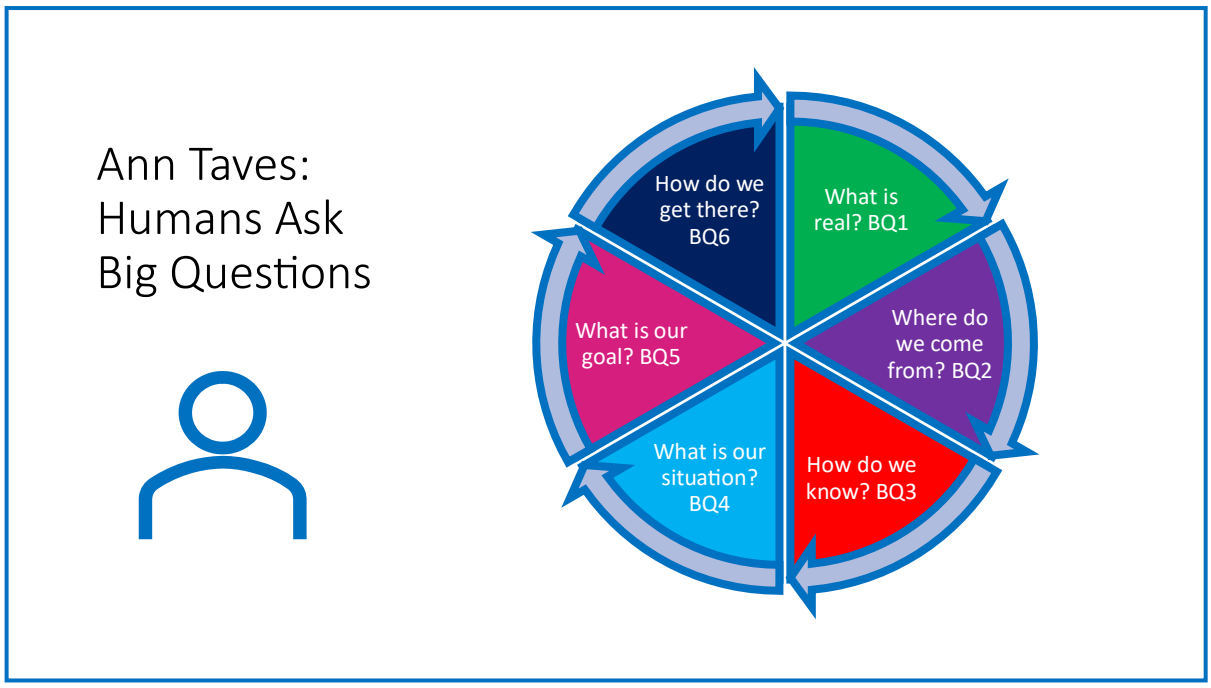
council, the Farmington Fellowship Programme and through a grant from Culham St Gabriels Trust. This partnership approach proved successful, and the Agreed Syllabus was ratified in June 2024 and was launched via a series of planned CPD training sessions that all schools were invited to. The Agreed Syllabus was formally implemented in schools in September 2025. Some schools started to implement the Agreed Syllabus immediately, and many schools are implementing the new Syllabus over a planned period.

SACRE is grateful to Neil Marlow, in his mediator role, for his continued support in assuring that SACRE is supported in its work.

BELs provide a series of Religious Education Network training events to support schools and teachers with curriculum planning and gaining familiarity with the Barnet Locally Agreed Syllabus. The sessions run once a term with additional sessions for new coordinators of Religious Education and 'surgery' style bespoke sessions for schools with the Associate Advisers for Religious Education, Jan McGuire and Sal Govanelli. The surgery sessions are well received by schools that are developing their RE curriculum in alignment with the Barnet syllabus.

The Barnet Syllabus provides a manageable curriculum structure for schools to implement, and in the broadest sense fits the Ofsted Religious Education Review May 2021 comment around 'golden threads' or key areas of learning that can be sequentially taught for progressive learning, from age 4-19. The syllabus is also intentionally mapped to the REC content standards, with a mindful approach to the Government Curriculum and Assessment Report, the decisions at this stage are unknown.

The syllabus also incorporated the Freedom of Religion and Belief principles, again focusing on human rights and the importance of differing well, that sits very naturally with Ann Taves conflict resolution, context and agency approach.



The six threads, or Big Questions, within the Barnet Syllabus are our Agreed Syllabus and curriculum focus.

The Religious Education Adviser for Barnet has concentrated on sharing the importance of curriculum planning tools, Curriculum grids and incorporating the 'Golden Threads' of the six Ann Taves 'Big Questions' to build sequential learning in the classroom. In addition, a focus on upskilling the non-specialist RE teachers in school, alongside building rich and deep lessons has been a key concern. This agenda has been delivered through a series of training session on the VAT pedagogy: encouraging teachers to build rich lessons through vocabulary, artefacts, and texts.

The Barnet Agreed Syllabus 2024 will be considered for revision in 2029.

2b. Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

The ASC concluded in June 2024 with the formal ratification of the syllabus and submission to the Department of Education (2025). The next formal ASC will be due to be called in 2029.
During the 2025-26 period Barnet SACRE finds itself in the first full year since the completion the ASC process. 2024-2025 marked the finalisation of an intense period of collaborative working driven by the ASC.
2025 – 2026 saw Barnet schools benefiting from the ASC process funded by the Borough (£18,000 for the three-year process) with additional development finance awarded by Culham St Gabriels Trust and from the Farmington Scholarship programme to support two teachers in their involvement in the research and writing process.
The following members from the writing team remain engaged with the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus, supporting schools and developing further resources: Jan McGuire- lead editor and writer, Sally Giovanelli - RE teacher and SACRE member, Jack Robertson – QE Boys School – Teacher and SACRE member, Sophia Tsiaparis – Underhill School – Teacher, Ruth Marx – Adviser.

2c. Standards and Monitoring of RE and Celebrating

Barnet SACRE has resumed monitoring RE during the period of 2025 – 2026.

Monitoring takes place through engagement with RE teachers attending the regular BEL's training events, affiliated to NATRE, and one-to-one bespoke RE surgeries provided by the RE adviser, including whole school staff training around curriculum development based on the Barnet syllabus.

SACRE also, with the help of the Borough, scrutinises Ofsted inspection reports and exam data. This informs conversations with schools. SACRE retains links with teacher groups, completes website trawls and recognised RE teachers at the celebration event (June 2025).

SACRE celebrates the success of religious education in schools at the June event (Ofsted, national and local awards for RE), as well as raising the profile and benefits of teaching RE within the wider community.

SACRE continues to support improvements to RE within schools by offering training and bespoke support when improvement areas are identified e.g. new in post training to boost the confidence of primary RE coordinators.

School workforce data is received each year, and this is discussed in the Pre SACRE planning meeting and raised when appropriate in the SACRE meeting.

The Examination data is analysed each year and Neil Marlow, Barnet's Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning and SACRE education lead, comments on the results as an agenda item in the SACRE meeting, as well as producing an appendix document to submit with the Annual Report.

Appendix C: Examination Data 2025-2026

June 2026 Barnet SACRE Celebration Event (Greek Orthodox Church)

The SACRE monitoring process is partly used to identify excellent RE practice that can be celebrated and held up as a model of excellence and encouragement in the RE community. In June 2026 SACRE hosted a wide range of presentation tables from worldviews from around the Borough at the celebration event. The Religious Education SACRE Celebration Event in June 2026 was also used to showcase the Barnet Ann Taves religion and worldviews Agreed Syllabus, and to recognise the writers that had been awarded a London Dangoor Award in November 2025. The Barnet SACRE Interfaith choir also received a London Dangoor Award, and the students and their parents and families came to celebrate with us, where the choir entertained us with their beautiful singing, all on the theme of harmony, sharing and humanity.

The SACRE Celebration of religious education is an uplifting community event, and in June 2026 the Mayor of Barnet joined us to hand out awards and listened to the exemplars of good RE.

Westhill NASACRE Award 2025:

Barnet was a awarded a Westhill/ NASACRE award in 2025 to complete an audit of free online resources available for the national RE community to use to support RE Religion and Worldviews curriculum planning. The desire is to create a useful audit document that national RE advisers and national academics and funders can use to identify the strengths and weaknesses within the worldview's resources currently available for teachers to use. The ideal outcome will be for new resources to be created to meet this identified gap. Barnet hopes that this will support the Barnet teachers in implementing the Barnet Syllabus and Ann Taves Curriculum going forward.

Winner of the London Dangoor Awards 2025:

A highlight of our year was that Barnet SACRE were awarded two London Dangoor awards in November 2025. The SACRE were well represented at the Dangoor Award event, including the Chair, Vice Chair, SACRE Syllabus writers, and members of the Barnet SACRE interfaith student choir as well as supported by the Mayor of Barnet. The London Dangoor award ceremony was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street, London on the 25th of November 2025. It was an evening of celebration, joy and delight to share with and hear of the many London projects that are impacting positively on children and adults of faith and none. The endeavours of the writers of our Barnet Agreed Syllabus and the Ann Taves curriculum were publicly acknowledged and lauded at the London Dangoor Awards alongside our Barnet SACRE Inter-Faith Choir. Our wonderful Barnet SACRE Interfaith choir supports many events across the community and stands as a wonderful exemplar of working together across cultural, religious and racial difference. Dr. Alan Shaw, SACRE member, and founder and leader of the choir received the Dangoor Award on behalf of all the students. SACRE

further celebrated the two Dangoor Awards at the June 2026 SACRE event where the Mayor of Barnet gave awards to the writing team and the choir.

Religious Education Examinations: 2025- 2026: Quality of Provision of Religious Education of Standards

Appendix C: Examination Data 2025-2026

Monitoring of provision 2025- 2026 Primary Schools

Members of SACRE have links with primary schools through their teaching roles and faith communities within the Borough. SACRE continues to offer training and support to schools via the BEL's/ CET website.
SACRE monitors the Barnet school websites to audit RE.
SACRE depends on BEL's support in sharing data gathered during school visits and Ofsted reports relevant to this RE monitoring role. BEL's monitors the Ofsted reports to note progress and excellence in SMSC and RE delivery as well as issues requiring support, and the analysis is an agenda item at each SACRE meeting. This is ongoing.

2025- 2026 Monitoring of Secondary Schools:

Academies bring challenges in terms of accountability. Barnet SACRE aspires to have positive working relationships with academies that continue to use the locally Agreed Syllabus. Our SACRE includes members from Academy schools.
SACRE also monitors the Ofsted reports to note progress and excellence in SMSC and RE delivery as well as issues requiring support. Academies are welcomed at training and SACRE events. This is ongoing.

Ofsted Reports 2025-2026:

The Barnet Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning and SACRE education lead Neil Marlow, acts as the conduit between the LA and SACRE. BEL's keeps the SACRE informed of Ofsted inspections and Bel's reports on comments related to religion and worldviews and SMSC that may require celebration or action at the formal SACRE meetings. Nationally the picture for RE reflects the overall picture and grading for a school. Mostly, the reports do not make specific reference to RE but report on social, moral, spiritual, and cultural development.
Where it has been made known that a school is not meeting statutory advice, SACRE will contact the school and offer support to the BEL's team. Where excellent RE provision is noted, the SACRE awards the school at the annual celebration event and works with the teachers and school to share this excellence within the community.

2d. Teacher training and materials and advice for schools: using the AS: Description of SACRE activity and impact

Barnet (BEL's/CET) provides regular opportunities for schools to engage with worldviews and Religious Education training sessions, NATRE affiliated network sessions facilitated by the associate Religious Education adviser to SACRE, and bespoke curriculum support sessions.
Commissioned projects including those linked to Research awards (Farmington/ NASACRE/ Westhill/ CSGT/ Young Ambassadors) have been shared and offered to schools to increase engagement and

interest in RE. The RE adviser has provided schools with materials to support them in improving their RE in schools through the adoption of the different projects.
Advice on RE, resources and materials to support the delivery of the Barnet agreed syllabus, as well as RE in general, have been shared in the Head Teachers bulletin collated by BEL's and added to the BEL's education website. Curriculum grids have been produced to support schools with their planning around progression, sequential learning, 'golden threads' and 'intent, implementation and impact' themes encouraged by the Ofsted review of May 2021. National materials such the REC report around the National Content Standards and the THEOS report and animated clip about religion and worldviews and looking through 'lenses' has also been shared.

September 2025 marked the implementation of the Barnet Agreed Syllabus 2024: Ann Taves Religion and Worldviews Curriculum, through intensive support, workshop and training opportunities to ease the transitional period.

Supporting and upskilling the teachers of RE has remained a clear focus this year, with Barnet NATRE affiliated Network and CPD events being offered termly for teachers to participate in sessions covering religion and world views, Ofsted and national updates.

2e. Other information: withdrawals/ complaints

Withdrawals: There have been no withdrawals brought to the attention of Barnet SACRE 2025 – 2026. Information and guidance materials on the determination process have been added to the Barnet website. BEL's and SACRE provide annual reminders to the Head Teachers bulletin about information held on the BEL's/SACRE area with regards to guidance and support SACRE can provide schools.

Complaints: Barnet SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE and Collective Worship. In 2025-26 there were no such formal complaints to deal with.

2f. Advice to the LA about RE

Borough Advice: SACRE provides advice to the Local Authority (Borough) through the RE Adviser, and the Barnet Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning and SACRE education lead Neil Marlow, who brings concerns from schools and Governors to SACRE. SACRE in turn discusses the issues, responds proactively, and if required establishes small working parties and publishes requested advice.

Advice to the LA/ BEL's is provided when issues are brought to the attention of the RE adviser to SACRE/ BEL's, this has included discussion over recent Ofsted reports, community cohesion within our diverse community that also has the largest Jewish population in London. Support and contacts were signposted, and resources and links were shared with all schools. The RE adviser entered discussions and provided support with issues related to national press coverage of a school in the Borough, rising religious hatred incidents and a round table set up in the Borough to discuss solutions.

Governor's school training is offered by the SACRE Religious Education adviser to provide support to Governors leading on RE and SMSC in their schools.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

3a. Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

SACRE (2025-2026) had contact with RE teachers attending the BEL's training events and Headteachers engaging with BEL's and the RE adviser through bespoke support sessions. Barnet SACRE reminds schools of the importance of collective worship. Links to support and guidance are provided on the Religious Education and SACRE area of the BEL's website. The RE adviser provided schools with links to materials that they could use for collective worship. The Diocese is also a helpful resource and supports the SACRE at meetings.

SACRE is considering how best to monitor Collective Worship, and continues to scrutinise Ofsted reports, has conversations with schools and teacher groups and website trawls.

3b. Determinations: Barnet SACRE's Statutory Role 2025-26: Advice to LA

Barnet SACRE has a statutory role in considering and granting determinations.
What is Determination? The Education Reform Act of 1988 (sections 6, 7, 9, and 12) entitles schools to apply to the SACRE for a 'Determination'. This allows the school to adjust the legal requirements to enable collective worship of a different character to take place for **some** or **all** pupils in the school. Determinations are made where a school, on behalf of a group of parents, requests Collective Worship other than that set down by statute. There were no determinations in 2025-26 for Barnet SACRE to consider. SACRE and the RE adviser provide materials and guidance on the BEL's website as well as sharing materials in the Head Teachers bulletin. http://www.nasacre.org.uk

Barnet has no active determinations for 2025 – 2026.

3c. Collective Worship and Training 2025 - 2026

Barnet SACRE has not commissioned any formal training on Collective Worship or the Determination process for Headteachers, Governors and teachers in schools during 2025 - 2026.
SACRE members continue to generously offer schools their time and expertise. Faith representatives offer to deliver assemblies, support curriculum planning, and provide guidance to individual teachers. This is a development plan item for 2026 - 2027.

3d. Advice given to LA about Collective Worship

The Barnet SACRE Diocesan link provides guidance and support on Collective Worship to SACRE and the LA during the formal SACRE meetings when appropriate. Barnet SACRE has planned to have Collective Worship training as a Development Plan item in 2026 2027, the RE adviser will be working collaboratively with SACRE members including the Diocesan member of SACRE. SACRE aspires to have a more active Collective Worship support role with schools and teachers in the Barnet area.

4. SACRE Involvement and Links with other bodies (National)

NASACRE Conference and regular bulletins: Barnet attended the annual NASACRE conference. The conference provided an opportunity for members to attend the network event and hear Prof Vanessa Ogden speak about the proposals for religious education within the Government curriculum assessment and review process. The sessions were useful in shaping the SACRE going forward. The RE Adviser and SACRE members find the NASACRE newsletter very helpful and uses it to plan the SACRE meetings. The new members of SACRE were also signposted to the NASACRE virtual 'New Members' training event.

Westhill NASACRE Award: At the NASACRE conference 2025 Barnet SACRE members were thrilled to receive a Westhill NASACRE Award to allow the writing team to complete an audit of current resources in the community that could be used to deliver the Ann Taves curriculum. This was very exciting news, and the writing team will now have the finance to continue their excellent work, under the project management of Sally Giovanelli, assisted by RE Advisers Ruth Marx and Jan McGuire and teacher writers Sophia Tsiaparis, Clare Lesser and Khadija Mahir.

REC: Barnet has benefited from the data provided by the REC to help steer discussion, funding and raising awareness of the benefits of delivering high-quality RE. In addition, the National Content Standard materials have been a useful addition to the Barnet writing work.

Culham Leadership Programme: Barnet SACRE were pleased to nominate a candidate for the 2025 Culham Leadership Programme. Khadija Mahir has been supporting the Ann Taves writing team as well as presenting at the SACRE meeting and at the teacher network session on Ofsted and RE.

AREIAC: The RE Adviser is on the AREIAC Executive and represented Barnet at the London meeting. The meetings provide an excellent network of RE leads and the sharing of best practice and ideas for schools based in London. These meetings are used to inform training for teachers.

NATRE: Barnet SACRE continue to provide an affiliated NATRE network to Barnet schools to help to support their delivery of Religious Education in schools. The RE adviser receives NATRE training updates and shares regular NATRE updates with teachers. All schools in Barnet have access to the excellent bank of teaching resources.

RE-Hubs: Teachers and SACRE members are informed of religious education links to training and support. Teachers and members are encouraged to navigate the broad website and take advantage of opportunities offered on the signposting website.

5. SACRE involvement locally: Activity and Impact

5a. Local SACRE Links and SACRE involvement locally

Dioceses: Barnet continues to benefit from the attendance of Diocesan Link Advisers from two dioceses at our SACRE meetings. The representative shares the work of the Diocese within local

schools and provides a clear link to SACRE. We hope to collaborate more closely with the Diocesan advisers going forward, especially with regards to primary training and monitoring of RE.

Appendix D: Development plan 2026

Inter Faith Groups: The Barnet SACRE members bring a wealth of inter-faith network links to the forum. This benefits SACRE immensely and helps to keep the membership of SACRE well balanced. Members of the wider interfaith community attended the SACRE schools' celebration event in June 2026.

Holocaust Memorial HMD: Barnet are fortunate to have highly active links with the local Jewish community and organisations. Barnet have shared their contact details with all schools. **Holocaust Memorial Day** with its annual varied focus and related themes enables schools to explore critical moral issues, investigate human behaviour, respond to inspirational stories, and consider what it means to be a responsible British citizen.

Governor/ Head teacher training: Religious Education training sessions are offered to support Governors and Head teachers in meeting their legal requirement to provide high quality RE in schools, this support is ongoing.

5b. Any additional advice given to LA not directly related to RE or CW

The RE adviser entered wider community and Borough discussions and provided support with issues related to national press coverage of a school in the Borough, rising religious hatred incidents and a round table set up in the Borough to discuss solutions.

6. SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities)

6a. Overview of SACRE meetings 2025 2026

Every Local Authority must convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Barnet SACRE convenes three times each year.

Meeting dates for 2024-2025

- Wednesday –5th November 2025 at 5-7pm (virtual meeting)
- Wednesday – 4th March 2026 5-7pm (virtual meeting)
- Wednesday – 10th June 2026 5-7.30pm (in person celebration)

It comprises of four statutory groups: Committee A, B, C and D members.

Barnet SACRE has adopted a 'hybrid' meeting routine. Barnet SACRE currently holds two virtual meetings, and the final meeting of the year is a face-to-face meeting and Religious Education celebration. The June SACRE celebration event was hosted by the new Greek Orthodox church in Barnet.
Attendance at meetings is consistent and quorate. The LA and Chair continue to ensure the membership reflects the demographic, and the monitoring of the membership is ongoing. The SACRE are aware of vacancies and are endeavouring to attract representation of as many of the religion and worldview groups in Barnet.

Our experienced Chair, Kevin McSharry, has an excellent grasp of the educational and demographic issues of the local Barnet community. The Chair is proactive in securing organisational and community support for the SACRE to meet its statutory responsibilities.

Barnet SACRE would like to extend thanks to Kevin McSharry for his commitment to supporting SACRE, Religious Education and the Religious Education Adviser.

Each meeting follows an agenda format that aligns with the formal Annual Report documentation. This allows for transparency and keeps an accurate record of the meetings to summarise in the reporting process at the end of each year. The 2025-2026 SACRE meetings followed the NASACRE template (October 2021) in line with national guidance. The Annual Report process is also one of reflection, and this raises areas of development that SACRE has identified to add to the development plan. This is an ongoing process. Each Annual Report comments on areas that we aim to address and improve upon, whether this is attracting new membership, offering additional training and support to RE teachers and schools or reviewing issues that have arisen in the Agreed Syllabus. The minutes of the meetings accurately record these discussions and are sent to Barnet/ BEL's to be added to the SACRE and BEL's education pages.

Appendix D: Development plan 2026

In addition, the Barnet SACRE completes a development plan that acts as a useful document for monitoring progress made in areas that are identified for improvement. When deemed beneficial the SACRE Chair also convenes working parties to create policy documents as well as to look at development plan issues, and to help support LA community initiatives, especially with a religion and worldviews, faith, religious hatred or community and diversity focus.

Barnet SACRE also warmly welcomes community leaders and new SACRE Advisers from across England, RE Leadership and Farmington candidates as observers to support them in their understanding of SACRE in process.

Appendix D: Development Plan

6b. Professional and administrative support and how the LA supports the SACRE

Barnet LA manages the Barnet SACRE through the Barnet Education and Learning Service team (BELS). Neil Marlow, Barnet's Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning and SACRE education lead has provided excellent support and guidance to our Religious Education Adviser, Jan McGuire. SACRE feels well supported by the team. The Director for School Improvement acts as the conduit between the LA and SACRE on issues such as finance, data, and councillor representation. The Education and Learning Service has appointed an experienced clerk to attend each SACRE meeting. We are fortunate to be served by Maria Gabrielczyk (October 2020 -) who minutes the meetings and provides the Chair and Religious Education Adviser with valuable, although limited support.
Barnet LA, under the management of BELS, has continued to provide support to SACRE and its work to encourage the development of quality religion and worldviews, Religious Education and SMSC in schools. The Barnet ASC has been well supported historically, both financially and with personnel that attend meetings and offer academic and practical solutions, and this Annual Report is mindful that finance for an ASC should be planned for 2029.

SACRE has been working alongside BELS to update the SACRE website area, to raise the profile of SACRE and raise school awareness of the role and support that SACRE can provide them in school. This is ongoing.

6c. Membership, representation & recruitment

BEL's works in partnership with the chair and members of the SACRE to identify gaps with representation of the local faith communities and wider group membership. This is an ongoing process and has seen successful recruitment of new members, including teaching union representatives from a Primary and a Secondary school. Meetings have been consistently quorate.

The RE Adviser attends all the pre- SACRE planning meetings and all the formal SACRE meetings.

Appendix B: Full SACRE Membership list 2025-2026

6d. Training for SACRE (and ASC)

All new members are invited to a training session that is delivered by the RE adviser at the end of formal SACRE meetings when required. In addition, NASACRE has also offered a national training session that members have also been signposted to. The ASC team are mentored and supported throughout the ASC process by the RE Adviser and additional academic support from the team. The London RE-Hub also offers the opportunity for members to enter conversation with another Borough's; this has been advertised.

6e. Finance given to SACRE for its work

The LA currently supports the funding of the Religious Education Advisers time, of twenty days a year. Finance is allocated to cover the role of the Religious Education Adviser, Jan McGuire, who provides specialist RE advice and governance support, writes the Government/ NASACRE annual report and leads on SACRE commissioned bids to local and national bodies, attends AREIAC/ NASACRE/NATRE meetings or conferences and deals with day-to-day matters and correspondence. In addition to the twenty days funding for the Religious Education adviser, Barnet BEL's invites the Adviser to deliver RE training and offer school support on a bespoke basis.

The finance received to support SACRE is used to its fullest. The impact that the finance has had on creating an Award-Winning Religion and Worldviews Locally Agreed Syllabus and Ann Taves Curriculum should be noted. The bid writing to secure regular awarded funds from National bodies to extend further work in the Borough is also notable and outstanding.

However, the payment provided by the LA does not meet the hourly support provided to the SACRE and Borough by the RE Adviser, many emails, calls and tasks including writing commissioned bids are unpaid. The RE Adviser receives a Stipend, and this is often stretched to provide far more than the paid 20 hours that are paid. A review of the Stipend is overdue.

The Department for Education and NASACRE confirms that SACREs will be funded through the central school services block (CSSB) at an estimated funding level of 2% of the CSSB. It should be noted that he finances received to support Barnet SACRE work is lower than 2% of the CSSB.

Risk: that the 20-hour Stipend is carefully adhered to, and only the bare minimum of tasks are completed to meet the statutory requirements of SACRE for the Borough.

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Additional Data 2025-2026

Appendix B: Full SACRE Membership list 2025-2026

Appendix C: Examination Data 2025-2026

Appendix D: Development plan 2026

8. Circulation details for this Annual Report

The report was shared and discussed and agreed at the November 4th, 2026, SACRE meeting and submitted by the 30th December 2026 deadline.

The report will be sent to Barnet Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning and SACRE education lead Neil Marlow to circulate to Head teachers and teachers through the schools circular and to the LA. The report will also be added to the BELs/ Barnet Borough/ Education/ SACRE/ RE page of the website.

The report will be shared with Barnet council: submitted by SACRE members in office to raise awareness of the SACRE and the statutory requirements of RE in schools.

The Report will be sent to NASACRE and to the Department of Education as formally required.

The SACRE clerk will send a copy of the SACRE report to the Department for Education: ministers@education.gov.uk

The report will also be emailed to NASACRE for publication on its website: SACRE reports: **admin@nasacre.org.uk**

If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Barnet SACRE Clerk Maria Gabrielczyk via e-mail at mariagabrielczyk@gmail.com

Jan McGuire Adviser for RE (Religion and worldviews) Barnet BEL's

14.12.2026

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