



Introduction by the Chair Kevin McSharry

Three meetings took place: 6th November 2018; 3rd March 2019 and 25th June 2019 all were quorate. Termly newsletters were circulated before each meeting outlining any material that pertained to Religious Education and Collective Worship.

At the **November meeting** members were encouraged to view resources on You Tube that looked at RE and the impact it had on young people under the section 'My Future, My Career, My Religious Education'. Members viewed one of the films and commented that the young people showed the positive aspects of learning about religions and its impact on their educational and working lives. Material on Alevism , that had been discussed at a previous meeting , were circulated.

At the same meeting an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) was convened and the working party (Mr Gerry Cohen, Rabbi Mark Goldsmith, Mr Kevin McSharry, Ms Marina Robb, Dr N. Shah & Dr A. Sallnow) presented the proposed changes for the new syllabus. These were discussed and a vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed by all four groups to accept the new syllabus for implementation in September 2019.

Items from the SACRE newsletter were discussed including the recommendations made by Westminster Faith Debates '**A New Settlement Revised: Religion & Belief in Schools**' by **Charles Clarke & Linda Woodhead** July 2018, which contained **16** quite radical recommendations. Members split into small groups, and then fed back their views on some of the recommendations. Lively discussion ensued and comments were reported back to the authors.

The SACRE Development Plan was discussed and proposals made. These included:

- *to provide or organise CPD and INSET for teachers, with Faith communities to the fore;*

- *to use the expertise of SACRE members;*
- *to run conferences for a day, to bring SACRE members, teachers and governors together, or doing courses on new syllabuses, guidance, schemes of work or planning.*
- *to give authentic Faith community voices an audience among teachers.*

There was collective agreement that training staff to deliver this new curriculum could lead to people being better informed.

At the **March meeting** the paper that had been circulated on National and Barnet Religious Studies examination entries and results were discussed. Concern was expressed at the fall nationally of entries to all examinations. The reasons for this decline were discussed including the exclusion from the Russell University's list of Facilitating subjects and NATRE's identification of successive governmental policy decisions that had failed to maintain and support RE as part of the broad & balanced curriculum.

New Ofsted Framework Katie Dawbarn assured members that Ofsted had recognised the above issue, which partly led to an alteration in their framework. Via its new framework, Ofsted would now focus less on attainment data and more on reviewing schools' intent, implementation, and impact in delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. It was noted that the new Ofsted Framework would be in place from September 2019.

School visits by SACRE members were discussed and material to support these visits had already been written.

It was decided that the syllabus launch would take place in the June meeting with invitations sent to local RE leaders and presentations made by local schools. Dr Anna Sallow announced that she would be retiring at the end of the Autumn Term having spent fifteen years as the RE consultant.

At the **June meeting** the main item was the launch of the New Syllabus. The Mayor Councillor Caroline Stock, Mayor's Escort Dr. Richard Stock agreed to participate as did Bishop Athanasios of Tropaeou, SACRE Members, pupils, teachers & local dignitaries. A pack that included an outline of the New Syllabus, the REC material on Why RE Matters and the population data on religion in Barnet.

Faith groups were invited to have stalls where they could display any resources for use in schools and there were seven tables of resources.

Presentations began by looking at What is special about the Barnet syllabus?

The key points that were made were:

- It is **locally decided** by Teachers, Faith Groups & SACRE Members

- Barnet's Syllabus is arranged with **Key questions Key Concepts** and is enquiry based. A participatory activity designed to explore what this meant and this provided discussion and debate.
- The importance of being religiously literate and a quiz was produced that participants completed in twos and the answers discussed

Pupils' Voices

The students were asked to reflect on the following questions: What I have learnt from RE that has made me think differently? Why RE is important? If we didn't study RE what would the loss be?

5 schools participated two primary schools & three secondary schools. They represented Faith Schools, Community Schools and Academies. Their presentations were of a very high standard. They spoke with enthusiasm, knowledge & conveyed the importance they placed on having high quality RE. The Director of Education thanked them. Also, at the meeting Dr Anna Sallnow was presented with gifts & thanked for her work. Additionally, bouquets were presented to The Mayor Cllr. Caroline Stock and Sarah Beaumont, Head of Governors' Services, who was departing to the London Borough of Newham after 17 years with Barnet.

Membership

The chair embarked on a recruitment drive & a number of new members were recruited from March Ajantha Tennakoon (Buddhism) Ms Joan Scannell Salvation Army, Mr Suri Khatri (Hindu), Rev. Robin Sims-Williams (London Diocese) Mrs Agnes Slocombe (LA)

Resignations were received from Rev Dr Gregory Platten (London Diocese) & the Rev Tristan Chapman St Albans Diocese

2. Advice to Statutory Bodies SACRE continues to have a close relationship with the Local Authority with support for the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

3. Standards & Quality of Provision of Religious Education

National Examination results 2019

A level Religious Studies 2019

167 students took the Religious Studies A Level in 2019. This was a drop from 190 students in 2018.

Eight schools/colleges had more than 10 students taking the Religious Studies A Level:

JCoSS	19 students
Mill Hill County	18 students
Woodhouse College	17 students

Finchley Catholic	17 students
QE Girls	15 students
Ashmole	13 students
London Academy	11 students
The Compton	11 students

The Average Point Score was 33 points with an average grade of C+. (36 points and B- in 2018)

The percentage achieving each of the grades is shown below:

		Barnet	National
A Level Religious Studies	A*	2.7%	4.30%
	A+	16.7%	21.90%
	B+	46.7%	50.50%
	C+	76.0%	76.70%

These are a drop from the 2018 and shows a downward trend over the last three years. However the progress made by the students overall from their different starting points at GCSE was good and placed Barnet in the 22nd percentile rank for both Average Grade and A*-C

98% achieved A*-E which matched the 2018 figure

GCSE 2019

1,934 pupils took the Religious Studies GCSE, an increase from 2018 which was 1,601.

Eight Barnet schools had more than 100 students taking the exam:

Mill Hill County	236 students
Hendon	177 students
QE Girls	173 students
Finchley Catholic	172 students
St James'	163 students
JCoSS	159 students
St Mary's and St John's	113 students
East Barnet	103 students

The attainment across Barnet is shown below:

		4+ in Religious Studies	5+ in Religious Studies	7+ in Religious Studies
GCSE	Barnet	85%	74%	44%
	National	71%	59%	29%

Both the attainment at GCSE and the progress made from the end of Key Stage 2 places Barnet's achievement in the top 10% of the country

No complaints about RE were received

4. Agreed Syllabus

An Agreed Syllabus conference was convened with participants from all the four SACRE groups, a questionnaire was devised, circulated to all schools and the responses collated and used to inform discussions. 4 subsequent meetings took place. The Revised Syllabus was approved at the November 2018 Meeting for implementation in the Autumn of 2019. Barnet SACRE has provided all schools with plans of work and support materials. The next review will take place in 2024.

5. Collective Worship

The guidelines are in place and no applications for determination or complaints were received

6. Management of SACRE A recruiting drive was put in place by the Chair Kevin McSharry supported by other SACRE Members this has resulted in a number of new appointments, ensuring that SACRE reflects the communities of which it is a part. All meetings were quorate.

A termly newsletter is circulated to all members and school & training is held on a regular basis either as part of the meeting or in a separate pre-meeting session.

No complaints were received about Religious Education or Collective Worship

7. SACRE's contribution to the wider Local Authority Agenda

A Holocaust pack was produced for use by schools, SACRE Members and the wider community. It was written by Rabbi Bernd Koschland, Anna Sallnow & designed by Sister Jacinta O'Driscoll O.P. from the community of Dominican Sisters at Rosary Priory, Bushey. The theme this year was '**Torn from Home**' and included stories of the many people throughout the world who have been torn from home as a result of religious persecution Young people from local schools who attended the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project also included reflections on their experiences and read their material at the annual Holocaust Remembrance Service in Barnet.

Students from Queen Elizabeth School have continued the project begun with a grant from the Westhill Trust. The students prepare material from their religion to then make presentations to local primary schools in their cluster group. It has been a very successful project and we are

grateful to the trust for their initial support. Women from the Interfaith Network have also begun to visit schools in pairs talking about their religion.

We are fortunate that we receive great support from Barnet Local Authority and all the members of SACRE.

Support is provided for all primary schools with termly newsletters & coordinator training. A local NATRE group (Enfield & Barnet) also has regular meetings.