



## Barnet SACRE Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report 2020 – 2021

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## 1. Introduction

### **(1a) Words from the Chair of Barnet SACRE: Kevin McSharry (09.11.2021)**

There were three meetings of Barnet SACRE in 2020/21: November, March, and June. 2020/21 brought with it, again, in full panoply, the pandemic of COVID 19. This has impacted on the school-based work of our Religious Education Advisor, Jan McGuire, and on our termly SACRE meetings. However, despite the challenges presented by COVID 19 the work of Barnet SACRE has gone on undiminished; and has inspired innovative virtual working.

As ever, Barnet SACRE members have volunteered their time, expertise, and support to the SACRE. I would like to thank them all for being excellent champions of Religious Education in schools. Our volunteer members provide selfless service to the Borough, and we are indebted to them all. Four members attended the Annual NASACRE Conference, two of whom stood in the elections for the NASACRE Executive; three members continued to revisit our local SACRE Constitution; two members monitored the SACRE section of the LA website; and one of our Hindu members read, analysed, and presented a power point of the Report on Hinduism. One outcome of which would be to list the names and locations of the various Hindu Centres in Barnet.

Barnet SACRE is fortunate to have the expertise and support of the Director of School Improvement and Traded Services, Neil Marlow, who acts as the conduit between the LA and SACRE and was and is an appreciated champion of SACRE and Religious Education.

Under Jan's leadership our Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) was part of a successful bid for funding from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Westhill Endowment Trust to run the project 'VAT in RE'. 'VAT(Vocabulary-Artefacts-Texts) in RE' is a project that intends to boost the skills and confidence of RE Coordinators and Teachers through collaborative curriculum planning. The model aims to impact on the quality of RE delivery. Amid the gloom of the pandemic this warmed the cockles of the hearts of all. The VAT Project has now come to a successful conclusion. Jan continued to inspire, to involve schools and lead on the following projects: Young Ambassadors, The WIRE Award and Spirited Arts. One of our Primary Schools won in the category "We have far more in common..." of The Spirited Arts Competition 2021; and their winning artwork, so appositely, echoed the aims and objectives of COP 26. The sterling work and achievements of our Schools will be acknowledged, marked, honoured, and celebrated at our June 2022 Meeting.

We have embarked in earnest on preparations for our next Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to align the Barnet Agreed Syllabus to the national changes driven by the Religious Education Council Report, THEOS Report and The Ofsted Religious Education Review (May 2021).

Sally Giovanelli (Primary) and Jack Robertson (Secondary) were welcomed as new members to Barnet SACRE, thus strengthening our teacher representation and links to schools.

Despite COVID 19, Barnet SACRE moved forward regardless of the obstacles and problems that came in COVID's wake. Our motto is carpe diem!



## Introduction

### (1b) Overview Purpose of the report

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.

### (1c) Barnet context statement

The data for the 2020-2021 report still reflects the most recent data for the borough, whilst waiting on the detailed data of the March 2021 Census. The population of Barnet is estimated to be 402,700, which is the largest of all the London boroughs. In 2020, the net population of Barnet is predicted to grow by around 8,500 people. The borough's overall population is projected to increase by around 10.9% between 2020 and 2030, taking the number of residents to about 446,400.

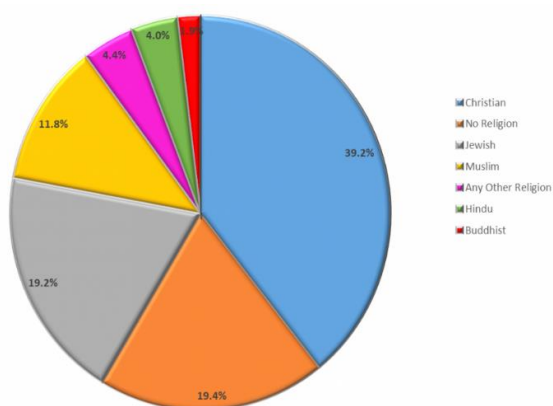
The Barnet population is projected to become increasingly diverse, with the proportion of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people in the borough population rising from 40.3% in 2020 to 42.8% in 2030. The borough will become increasingly diverse, driven predominantly by growth within the existing population. Meeting the diverse needs of these growing communities may be a key challenge, as Colindale, Burnt Oak and West Hendon have increasingly diverse populations that are more than 50% Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME). Barnet SACRE is aware of the challenge



faced by the LA and would welcome deeper engagement to support the community and local government as they navigate this period of growth.

The Annual Population Survey reveals that the most common religion in Barnet is Christianity (39.2%), followed by the Jewish (19.2%) and Muslim (11.8%) faiths (refer to Figure 1.8). Almost one in five people in the borough has no religion (19.4%), which equates to around 75,600 people, compared to the 152,500 Christians in Barnet. Whilst almost a third of people in the borough are either Jewish or Muslim (31%; n = 120,500), roughly one in twenty-five are Hindu (4.0%; n = 15,400) and Buddhist's account for just under one in fifty (1.9%; n = 7,500).

Figure 1.8: Religions in Barnet, by percentage, 2018



**(1d) Overview: Barnet SACRE Meetings 2020 - 2021**

Every Local Authority must convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Barnet SACRE convenes three times each year. It comprises of four statutory groups: Committee A, B, C and D members.

We are currently meeting via ‘zoom’ and ‘TEAMS’ as we have been holding virtual meetings during the pandemic. However, the plan moving forward is to have a hybrid arrangement, with two meetings being held virtually, and the final meeting of the year being used as a celebration opportunity at Hendon Town Hall. Attendance at meetings is consistent and quorate. We continue to ensure the membership reflects the demographic. 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 financial support for the SACRE to meet its statutory responsibilities. Barnet SACRE would like to extend their 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. This year 2020-2021 SACRE is implementing the new 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. 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.

In addition to the formal SACRE meetings, Barnet SACRE has also expressed the need to formally review the Barnet Agreed Syllabus beginning in 2021 under the leadership of Jan McGuire and alongside representatives of members of the Barnet SACRE. A regular working group will be required to meet to discuss and share out revision tasks as part of this process. \*\*Please see further information on the ASC in point (2b)

\*\*\* Appendix B: Barnet SACRE Membership list.

\*\*\* Appendix D: Development Plan Grading document 2021

## **2. Religious Education Statutory Responsibilities**

### **(2a) The Local Agreed Syllabus and RE in schools**

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

The current Barnet Agreed Syllabus was relaunched in 2019. The UK was in an interim stage nationally as far as the Religious Education debate was concerned between 2016- 2019. Therefore, Barnet SACRE decided to complete an interim review of the Agreed Syllabus. The last ASC was more than "gentle." However, we were aware that major changes were imminent on the national scene and that this would mean intense and serious rewriting of our Syllabus in the near future. The review process has been raised formally by SACRE, and a breakdown of the review timeline and finance required has been submitted to Barnet council, via Neil Marlow. The review has been agreed in principle. The funding has still to be allocated.

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.

BEL's provides 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 Adviser for Religious Education. The surgery sessions have been a new offer this year have been 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.

The three threads within the Barnet Syllabus are:

- Myself & Belonging (community/ religious community/ places of worship)
- Story, Celebration & Symbols
- Leaders and teachers & Beliefs (in action)

The Religious Education Adviser for Barnet has concentrated on sharing the importance of curriculum planning tools, Curriculum grids and incorporating the ‘Golden Threads’ 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.

### **(2b) Barnet (ASC) Agreed Syllabus Conference 2021-2025**

Since our last formal SACRE Report, Barnet SACRE has requested a formal review of the Agreed Syllabus.

The new syllabus aims to be aligned to the major new reports from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, the THEOS Report outlining major recent changes to religion and worldviews education and the Ofsted Religious Education Review of 2021. SACRE is aware that the current Barnet Agreed Syllabus is out of step with the current philosophy, focus on religion and worldviews, and emphasis on the new Ofsted inspection framework.

SACRE has initiated an Agreed Syllabus Conference request to Barnet council for funding (£18,000) to complete a full scoping exercise formally starting in 2021, followed by a full ASC (Agreed Syllabus Conference).

Agreed Syllabus Conference: (this is like a formal temporary statutory body called to complete the re-write). An Agreed Syllabus Conference is formally called by the SACRE when it feels that a revision or complete re-write is required. This falls outside of the annual stipend payment of an adviser- as this is a major piece of work and can take many months of writing and formal Conference work. The Conference cost needs to be set to a separate budget that is normally ring-fenced by the LA/ borough from the fee that the Government provides to every borough and County in the country. Normally the fee given to the RE adviser (20 days funding) and SACRE annually will be far smaller than the money sent from the Government to the Borough to pay for SACRE. This allows the Borough to forward plan for the Agreed Syllabus Conference and put the money aside for when it is requested formally.

In the 2021 – 2022 it is hoped that the ASC will be under way and making progress towards an improved RE Syllabus for Barnet.

### **(2c) Standards and monitoring of RE**

Barnet SACRE has not proactively focused on standards and monitoring of RE during the period on 2020 – 2021. It has been an unprecedented time in schools, and Headteachers, teachers and pupils



have all been trying to navigate the new world that has been created by the upheaval of the pandemic. However, SACRE has had a light-touch approach with contact 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.

In 2021-2022 Barnet SACRE will consider how best to monitor RE, and will resume scrutinising exam data, conversations with schools, teacher groups, website trawls and will encourage presentations from teachers at the celebration event planned for June 2021. SACRE intends to celebrate the success of schools at this event, 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.

**The WIRE award 2020 – 2021** was launched in Barnet to encourage RE improvements and increased RE focus in schools. Five schools signed up to the initial programme, and SACRE is keen to encourage this as an annual programme that will monitor progress and will celebrate the successes at the celebration event in June of each year. This may provide a link to REQM.

#### **RE Quality Mark (REQM) 2020- 2021**

The Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) was introduced in 2014 to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding RE. Barnet SACRE aspires to actively promote this award across schools as well as offering additional support from trained REQM assessors and RE advisers.

#### **Religious Education Examinations: 2020- 2021**

##### **Quality of Provision of Religious Education of Standards (during C19)**

##### **LA statement re C19 and examinations:**

The usual practice is to report in this section and analysis the examinations taken in our schools in Religious Education at GCSE and A level. Due to the Covid 19, school closures and the national decision in relation to students taking examinations we will not be carrying out the usual exercise again this year.

Following the closure of schools from 23 March 2020 the DfE stated *“As part of steps taken to fight the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the [government announced](#) that all exams due to take place in schools and colleges in England in summer 2020 are cancelled and that it will not publish any school or college level educational performance data based on tests, assessments or exams for 2020.... We will not hold schools and colleges to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2020 and that data will not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account.... We will not be publishing school, college or multi-academy trust (MAT) level performance data based on summer 2020 tests, assessments and exams at any phase.... All those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams **and local authorities**, should use data from previous years when assessing school and college performance, and not the 2020 data”*



In 2021 the decision was made again to cancel all exams and not to publish any end of key stage assessments. The end of KS4 and KS5 assessments moved to Teacher Assessed Grades with evidence based, portfolio of work/mini assessments used by schools to justify the grades submitted.

Secondary school students still received their A-level, GCSE and BTEC results but the grades were determined again in a different way because of the Covid-19 pandemic. With exams cancelled this year because of Coronavirus, pupils were allocated their results based on the school’s teacher assessments, known as Teacher Assessed Grades. We are confident that schools in Barnet followed a robust and appropriate process in order to get to a Centre Assessed Grade for each student. They used information such as previous classwork, homework, results in assignments and any mock exams in order to arrive at that grade.

We do not want to be drawn into commenting on speculation on the results in Religious Education. We support our schools to make sure standards are maintained and that the outcomes were fair to all students.

**Standards and Quality of Provision of Religious Education**

Barnet BELs data officer’s summary October 2021:

Normally we would have Pupil level GCSE and A Level result’s, but we haven’t had any data to report on formally since 2019. Barnet is a diverse borough and the proportion of pupils in faith schools in Barnet does provide us with some additional insight.

Data by religious character of the school in Barnet October 2021:

Religious Character of school	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils
Church of England	6485	10.7%
Greek Orthodox	733	1.2%
Jewish	7342	12.1%
Non-Religious	38689	63.9%
Roman Catholic	7325	12.1%

Religious or Non-Religious School	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils
Religious	21885	36.13%
Non-Religious	38689	63.87%

Going forward the borough intends to resume the collection and analysis of examination data.

**Monitoring of provision 2020- 2021 Primary Schools**





Members of SACRE have links with primary and secondary 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.

When the C19 situation has abated, SACRE's Religious Education Adviser intends to facilitate an analysis of the Barnet school websites to audit and monitor the delivery of RE.

The Religious Education Adviser also intends to establish an increased working relationship with the local Diocese and Diocesan Religious Education Advisers to establish a more collaborative approach to the monitoring of RE provision.

SACRE will require BEL's support in sharing data relevant to this role.

### **2020- 2021 Monitoring of Secondary Schools:**

Academies bring new challenges in terms of accountability. Barnet SACRE aspires to have positive working relationships with academies that continue to use the locally Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE also monitors the Ofsted reports to note progress and excellence in SMSC and RE delivery as well as issues requiring support. This is ongoing.

### **Ofsted Reports 2020-2021:**

Currently the Barnet Education and Learning Service, Director of School Improvement and Traded Services 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. 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.

\*\*\* Appendix A: Examination Results Table

### **(2d) Teacher training and materials and advice for schools**

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 (NASACRE/ Westhill/ CSGT/ Young Ambassadors/ WIRE award) have been shared and offered to schools free of charge 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 THEOS report and animated clip about religion and worldviews and looking through 'lenses' has also been shared.



## (2e) Other information

**Withdrawals:** There have been no withdrawals brought to the attention of Barnet SACRE 2020 – 2021. Information has been added to the Barnet website. BEL's and SACRE should consider adding 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 2020-21 there were no such formal complaints to deal with.

**Borough Advice:** SACRE provides advice to the Local Authority (Borough) through the RE Adviser, and the Barnet Education and Learning Service, Director of School Improvement and Traded Services 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 has been given to schools on supporting children and providing access to religious education virtually during the pandemic and the Holocaust Memorial support through the Head Teacher's bulletin and BEL's website.

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 the Hinduism Report 2020.

Governors school training has been delivered 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

Barnet SACRE has not proactively focused on standards and monitoring of Collective Worship during the period on 2020 – 2021. It has been an unprecedented time in schools, and Headteachers, teachers and pupils have all been trying to navigate the new world that has been created by the upheaval of the pandemic. All pupils, after a pro-longed absence, were welcomed back into the classroom. Schools in September 2020 had set up a process of 'working in bubbles'. SACRE members were concerned and agreed to monitor how the LA/ BEL's were going to manage the requirement for all schools to meet the collective worship requirement during this 'bubble' C19 period. September 2020 Barnet provided a statement on the website with clear national guidance and legislation.

SACRE has had a light-touch approach with 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 virtually.



The Diocese was also a helpful resource. Schools reported that they were providing increased levels of collective worship, or sometimes assembly style content, during this period to support the children that were finding it difficult to be learning at home away from the classroom environment.

In 2021-2022 SACRE will consider how best to monitor Collective Worship, and will resume scrutinising Ofsted reports, conversations with schools, teacher groups, website trawls and will encourage presentations from teachers at the celebration event planned for June 2021. SACRE intends to celebrate the success of schools at this event, as well as raising the profile and benefits of well-planned and delivered collective worship opportunities.

SACRE may need to combine the monitoring of RE and Collective Worship in a more structured format 2021 - 2022.

### **(3b) Determinations: Barnet SACRE's Statutory Role 2020-21**

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 2020-21 for Barnet SACRE to consider. SACRE and the RE adviser provides materials and guidance on the BEL's website as well as sharing materials in the Head Teachers bulletin. <http://www.nasacre.org.uk>

### **(3c) Collective Worship and Training 2020 - 2021**

Barnet SACRE has not commissioned any formal training on Collective Worship or the Determination process for Headteachers, Governors and teachers in schools during this recent period. This should be considered a development area going forward.

However, 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. During this current C19 time this offer can be via a virtual interaction. SACRE aspires to have a more active support role with schools and teachers in the Barnet area.

## **4. Links with National Bodies**

### **Westhill NASACRE Project Award: VAT in RE: Barnet Project**

[Home - Westhill \(westhillendowment.org\)](http://westhillendowment.org) The 'VAT in RE' project set out with the intention to boost the skills and confidence of RE Coordinators and Teachers. The collaborative planning process aimed to support their develop, build their subject knowledge in RE and help them to implement medium- and short-term Barnet Agreed Syllabus Curriculum Plans. The project provided a series of training events, workshops and writing group sessions to introduce RE teacher participants to the idea of 'VAT' in Religious Education: creating a rich learning experience by building in Vocabulary



(Etymology), Artefacts and Texts (stories) into their short-term planning. The workshops included a close working relationship with members of the richly diverse local faith groups represented on the SACRE in Barnet, including our Jewish, Christian and teacher representatives. The VAT in RE project was successfully formally completed and submitted to Westhill in 2021. The resources are accessed through the Westhill website and have been widely shared with Barnet schools.

A further link to resources will be available on the BEL's website.

**NASACRE Conference and regular bulletins:** Barnet had four members in attendance at the annual conference, as well as two SACRE members standing for the NASACRE election process. The conference provided an opportunity for members to attend useful workshops on the new Annual Review process, data, and worldviews education, all of which are useful in shaping the SACRE going forward. The RE Adviser also attended the NASACRE virtual training event on completing the new Annual Review. The new members of SACRE were also signposted to the NASACRE virtual 'New Members' training event.

**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 particular through the involvement of Barnet schools in the national REC Young Ambassador Programme 2021.

**Central faith and belief organisations:** G2G have delivered useful training for SACRE on the Holocaust, attending our SACRE virtually. The 2020 Hinduism Report was also presented and discussed at the SACRE meeting. Dr Shah updated SACRE on the exciting developments of the Jain Inter-Faith centre in Colindale. A British Board of Jewish Deputies representative also sits on the Barnet SACRE. Sandra Teacher is a very welcome addition to our membership.

**AREIAC:** The RE Adviser is on the AREIAC Executive, as well as representing Barnet at the London meeting, this year this has been a virtual experience. The meetings provide an excellent network of RE leads and the sharing of best practice and ideas for schools based in London.

**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 attends NATRE training updates and the NATRE conference and shares regular NATRE updates with teachers attending training events. All schools in Barnet have access to the excellent bank of teaching resources. The link to these resources should be made more available with a reminder in the Head Teachers bulletin.

## 5. Local SACRE Links and SACRE involvement locally

**WIRE Award:** locally the schools have been encouraged to join the WIRE Award scheme that has been kindly allowed by the Bristol SACRE. The scheme encourages schools to take part in three activities that extend their RE practice in school. The hope is that this experience will increase the delivery of RE in school and will help to raise the profile of the subject.

**Dioceses:** Barnet continues to benefit from the attendance of a Diocesan link adviser 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 adviser going forward, especially with regards to primary training and monitoring of RE.

**Inter Faith Groups:** The Barnet SACRE members bring a wealth of inter-faith network links to the forum, in particular the work of Dr Shah and the Jain centre. This benefits SACRE immensely and helps to keep the membership of SACRE well balanced. Going forward Barnet SACRE will continue to build these links, and it is hoped that members of the wider interfaith community will attend the SACRE schools' celebration event in June 2021.

**Holocaust Memorial HMD:** Barnet are fortunate to have highly active links with the local Jewish community and organisations. This includes **G2G** that have provided support and training, sharing a presentation about the Holocaust with SACRE members. 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:** Barnet offered one Religious Education training session to support Governors and Head teachers in meeting their legal requirement to provide high quality RE in schools, this support is ongoing.

## **6. Barnet SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities) including:**

### **Professional and administrative support and how the LA supports the SACRE (clerking, adviser, links to council initiatives)**

Barnet LA manages the Barnet SACRE through the Barnet Education and Learning Service team (BELS). Neil Marlow, Director of School Improvement and Traded Services (School Improvement Team) 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 LA currently supports the funding of the Religious Education Advisers time, of twenty days a year. The Religious Education Adviser provides specialist RE advice and governance support, writes the Government/ NASACRE annual report and commissioned bids, facilitates the collaborative working groups required for the Agreed Syllabus Conference, attends AREIAC/ NASACRE/REQM/NATRE meetings or conferences and deals with day-to-day matters.

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.



## **Membership, representation & recruitment - quoracy, issues and successes with 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 representatives from a Primary and a Secondary school. Going forward a succession plan has been discussed for the role of Chair to allow for a mentoring and shadowing process of the vice Chair to ease transition. Meetings have been consistently quorate.

\*\*\* appendix B Full membership list as of Oct 2021

**Training for SACRE (and ASC) members:** 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 recently offered a national training session that members have also been signposted to.

**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 reports and commissioned bids, attends AREIAC/ NASACRE/REQM/NATRE meetings or conferences and deals with day-to-day matters. 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.

Funding of the 2021-2025 Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) review process under the direction of Jan McGuire and a collaborative writing party consisting of representatives from SACRE and teachers and schools in the borough of Barnet. Funding for the revision process, which will also include a series of launch events where the revised and updated Syllabus, curriculum grids and materials will be shared and modelled in training sessions with teachers, is still to be formally confirmed.

## **2. Appendices**

- A: Examination results table – no data for 2021
- B: Full SACRE Membership list
- C: Statement for the BEL's website
- D: Development Plan Grading document 2021
- E: Barnet Religion Data

## **Circulation details for this Annual Report**

The report will be shared, discussed, and agreed by Barnet SACRE in November 2021.

The report will be sent to the CEO of HEP to circulate to Head teachers and teachers through the schools circular. The report will also be added to the HEP 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](mailto:ministers@education.gov.uk)

The report will also be emailed to NASACRE for publication on its website: SACRE reports: [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk)

\*\*\* Appendix C: Statement for Schools for the BEL's Website

**If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Barnet SACRE Clerk Maria Gabrielczyk via e-mail at [mariagabrielczyk@gmail.com](mailto:mariagabrielczyk@gmail.com)**

Jan McGuire Adviser for RE (Religion and worldviews) Barnet BEL's (October 2021)