

**LB CAMDEN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

JULY 2022

This LB Camden SACRE Annual Report is presented in the new format developed by NASACRE in conjunction with the DfE for use from September 2021.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Foreword from the Chair of SACRE 2020-21

Camden SACRE continues to fulfil its statutory duties in what has been another challenging year for schools.

There has been a good attendance at meetings online and a number of new members have joined SACRE this academic year. This has ensured that the SACRE remains reflective of the local community and has representatives on the board, from the major world faith and worldviews. Where there remain vacancies, members are actively looking to fill them.

The self-evaluation toolkit continues to ensure the work of the SACRE remains focused and key priorities identified.

A number of schools apply for determinations from offering a broadly Christian daily act of worship in their schools. SACRE members have taken time to carefully consider all applications and have appropriately challenged where necessary.

A working party has been set up to look more in depth at how Religious Education is taught within the borough and explore ways in which SACRE can support and advance the teaching of RE. This is very much a work in progress and the impact on the working party's work will be evaluated in due course.

May I take this opportunity to thank all SACRE members for their commitment and willingness to sit on this advisory body. SACRE has an important role to play in ensuring all pupils and students attending Community schools in Camden, receive a quality education in RE and experience high quality collective worship thus enabling them to flourish as holistically.

**Mary Thorne (Group B)
Chair**

1.2 Religion and Belief in LB of Camden

From the 2011 census, the religious beliefs of the inhabitants of Camden are:

Christian	38.5%
Buddhist	1.4%
Hindu	1.6%
Jewish	5.1%
Muslim	13.8%
Sikh	0.2%
Other	0.6%
No Religion	29.0%

Not Stated	9.6%
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2. Religious Education Statutory Responsibilities

2.1 Background

The London Borough of Camden’s Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities. This report summarises its activities during the academic year 2020-21. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: “to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.”

In particular, the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:

- It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on Religious Education.
- It may determine, on application by the headteacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the Collective Worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
- With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers’ in-service professional development.

In addition, the SACRE has a direct role in the consideration and disposal of complaints related to the RE curriculum or Collective Worship. The SACRE will be asked to advise where complaints relate to Religious Education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus or to Collective Worship in county – now called community - schools.

Details of the work of the LB Camden SACRE can be found here:

[Committee details - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education \(SACRE\) - Camden Council](#)

Agendas, minutes and associated papers can be found via this link:

[Browse meetings - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education \(SACRE\) - Camden Council](#)

2.2 Locally Agreed Syllabus

By statute, every local authority is required to adopt a Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) for Religious Education and to review it every five years. The current LB of Camden LAS has been in place since 2018, after undergoing a rigorous process of review and revision in conjunction with colleagues in Hampshire from where the LAS was adopted. The version used in LB of Camden (and three other LAs in London) has been adapted from the original to reflect the demographics of our capital city.

2.3 Standards in RE

SACRE members gave close consideration to the various national and local developments concerning the provision of RE. These discussions were prompted by the information provided to the SACRE through the regular updates from the RE Consultant and SACRE Adviser and NASACRE Briefings.

2.4 Teacher Training

Lesley Prior (the RE Consultant and Adviser to SACRE) offers extensive telephone and online consultations to Subject Leaders who are developing schemes of learning and reviewing and revising policy documents for RE. In addition, Lesley issued six newsletters during this period (one every half term) for distribution to Subject Leaders to share new materials and resources, promote relevant RE events and highlight significant national developments and initiatives in the subject. SACRE members also receive these newsletters.

Lesley can be reached at: lesley.prior@london.anglican.org.

2.5 Complaints and Withdrawals

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2020-21 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2020-21.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

During 2020-21 SACRE was unable to monitor Collective Worship provision fully because of the restraints imposed by the pandemic.

3.2 Determinations

The Adviser to SACRE regularly reminds members about the role, nature and purpose of determinations in relation to Collective Worship.

In 2020-21, the following schools received a determination in relation to Collective Worship:

- Brecknock School (expires summer 2026)
- Primrose Hill Primary School (expires summer 2026)
- Regent High School (expires summer 2026)
- Rhyl Primary School (expires summer 2026)
- Torriano Primary School

3.3 Other Information

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2020-21 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in

2020-21.

4. Links with other Bodies

LB Camden SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and notes and discusses key points from its regular briefings.

See this link for more details: www.nasacre.org. Login details for the NASACRE website can be obtained from the SACRE Clerk.

The 2021 I NASACRE Conference and AGM was held virtually on 24th May 2021, and Mary Thorne (Group B and Chair of SACRE) attended it on behalf of LB Camden SACRE. Verbal feedback on the Conference was provided to the SACRE at its summer term meeting and formed the basis for discussion and reflection by members. Full details and copies of the relevant paperwork from the 2021 Conference can be found at <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2021>.

The Adviser to SACRE is a member of the NASACRE Executive Group and is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.

5. SACRE Involvement Locally

LB Camden SACRE has developed links with various local groups and initiatives.

6. SACRE Arrangements

6.1 Meetings in 2020-21

The SACRE met on the following three occasions in 2020-21:

- 13th October 2020
- 4th February 2021
- 24th June 2021

The SACRE usually meets at Camden Town Hall. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all the SACRE meetings in 2020-21 were held via virtual platforms.

6.2 Professional and Administrative Support

Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of the SACRE's duties is provided by the LB Camden. The key areas of this support include the following:

- Provision of a Clerk
- Support of a Local Authority Adviser
- Commissioning of an RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE
- Funding of the NASACRE annual membership
- Funding for at least one SACRE member to attend NASACRE's annual Conference and AGM

- Costs relating to establishing and reviewing a Locally Agreed Syllabus (when appropriate)

The SACRE is grateful to the LB Camden for making this support available.

6.3 Key Contacts

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|---------------------------|--|
| • Chair of the SACRE | Mary Thorne (Group B) |
| • Vice Chair of the SACRE | Ann Boater (Group A) |
| • Clerk to the SACRE | Vinothan Sangarapillai
Vinothan.sangarapillai@camden.gov.uk |
| • Local Authority Link | Owen Rees
Owen.Rees@camden.gov.uk |
| • Adviser to SACRE | Lesley Prior (RE Consultant) |

6.4 Membership, Representation and Recruitment –

Progress has been made in recruiting members to Panels A and B. The SACRE has difficulties in recruiting teacher members, and in obtaining nominations from some faith communities. A full list of SACRE members is included in the Appendices.

6.5 Attendance

All SACRE meetings in 2020-21 were quorate. Attendance has improved with online meetings; however there is still difficulty with obtaining teacher attendance.

6.6 Attendance Records

Full details of attendance can be seen from the minutes online.

6.6 Training for SACRE Members

SACRE members are encouraged to attend training provided by NASACRE. School based SACRE members or those with other links to education also attend local and national RE training including Diocesan training.

6.7 Finance given to SACRE for its Work

The necessary funding is allocated to SACRE by the local authority. Costs covered include:

- The licensing of the Agreed Syllabus
- The work of the RE Consultant, purchased from the London Diocesan Board for Schools, including the cost of supporting the Primary RE Network
- Officer time from London Borough of Camden and Camden Learning Ltd
- Costs such as membership of NASACRE, and attendance at the NASACRE Conference etc.

Further funding and officer time is available for the development of the SACRE and its work if needed.

7. Appendices

7.1 Table of GCSE & A Level Religious Studies Results 2021

The government cancelled all public examinations at Key Stage 4 and 5 again in 2021 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Students were awarded grades through the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) process. Teachers in LB Camden schools used a range of evidence to award grades to students. These grades will not be published.

7.2. SACRE Membership 2020-21

Panel A

Shahanaz Begum (Muslim)

Ann Boater (Quaker)

Luke Dowding (Baptist)

Lynndy Levin (Jewish)

Sophie Fegan (Roman Catholic)

Krishna Pujara (Hindu)

Abdul Quadir (Muslim)

Philip Graham (Humanist) (from Mar 2021)

Sally Hay (Humanist) (Substitute Member) (from Mar 2021)

Panel B

Felicity Djerehe

Stephanie Ellner

Mary Thorne

Rev Sally Jones (from Jan 2021)

Rev Damien Mason (from Jan 2021)

Rev Natasha Beckles (from Feb 2021)

Panel C

Aidan Cottrell-Boyce (to Jan 2021)

Luke Browne (from Mar 2021)

Paul Kayser

Panel D

Nasim Ali

Sabrina Francis (to May 2021)

Maryam Eslamdoust (from May 2021)

Julian Fulbrook

Maria Higson

Oliver Lewis (to May 2021)

Lazzaro Pietragnoli

Nazma Rahman

7.3 Circulation Details for the SACRE Annual Report

This Annual Report is shared with the Executive Director for Supporting People for LB Camden and sent to the Department for Education and NASACRE.