

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

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

JANUARY 2023

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 2021-22

LB Camden SACRE continues to fulfil its statutory duties in what has been another challenging year for schools. There has been a good attendance from all groups at meetings online. This has ensured that the SACRE remains reflective of the local community and has representatives from the major religions and worldviews. Teacher representation at meetings is a cause for concern and is something SACRE needs to address in the next academic year.

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 exempting them 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 number of visits have been made to schools by SACRE members before a determination has been agreed. This has allowed Headteachers and members of SACRE to engage in dialogue and for members to attend a daily act of Collective Worship. Such visits have been vital in ensuring that members are making wise decisions when considering an application for a determination.

This year, our primary adviser Lesley Prior, has worked closely with Camden Learning and been able to set up RE network meetings. This group meets termly to share good practice and receive high quality training. In addition to the termly meetings, an excellent RE newsletter is distributed to all schools six times a year and RE leads are encouraged to join a WhatsApp Group. I hope very much that this network will strengthen as we move forward and keep members informed of how SACRE might be able to support them further in ensuring RE in schools is taught well and to a high standard.

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 LB Camden receive excellent RE and experience high quality Collective Worship thus enabling them to flourish holistically.

Mary Thorne (Group B)

1.2 Religion and Belief in LB of Camden

From the 2021 census, the religious beliefs of the inhabitants of Camden are:

Christian	31.4%
Buddhist	1.1%
Hindu	1.3%
Jewish	4.8%
Muslim	16.1%
Sikh	0.2%
Other	0.9%
No Religion	34.6%
Not Stated	8.9%

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 2021-22. 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.

The LAS for LB of Camden can be accessed here: [insert link](#)

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

A Good Practice Network for Subject Leaders for RE in community primary schools has now been established and will run on a termly basis. These sessions are led by Lesley Prior, RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE.

The RE Subject Leaders in community primary schools have met twice this year. Due to continued restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all of these meetings in 2021-22 were held via virtual platforms.

- 2th January, focusing on:
 - Intent, Implementation and Impact in RE
 - Ofsted News Relating to RE
- 14th June, focusing on:
 - A Presentation by the Faith and Belief Forum: <https://faithbeliefforum.org/>
 - Assessment in RE.

It is hoped that Primary RE Network will continue to grow in size and members can maintain constant and mutually supportive contact with one another between sessions using a WhatsApp Group. This initiative has been warmly welcomed, with questions being raised, materials recommended and documentation shared. As the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 prevented face to face meetings during this period, the support offered was hugely appreciated by all those involved.

Lesley Prior (the RE Consultant and Adviser to SACRE) also 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 2021-22 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2021-22.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

During 2021-22 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. These last for five years and any school wishing to continue with this arrangement must therefore seek a renewal at that point.

In 2021-22, the following schools received a determination in relation to Collective Worship:

- Christopher Hatton Primary School (expires spring 2027)
- Kingsgate Primary School (expires spring 2027)
- Fleet Primary School (expires summer 2027)
- Frank Barnes School for the Deaf (expires summer 2027)

At the spring term meeting, it was noted that West Hampstead Primary School's Determination had expired and no application for a renewal had been received. The school was therefore sent notification that its Determination had ended and reminded of its new obligation to offer Collective Worship of a wholly or mainly broadly Christian character.

3.3 Other Information

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2021-22 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2021-22.

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 2022 NASACRE Conference and AGM – 'Ambitious SACREs' - was held virtually on 23rd May 2022, and Mary Thorne (Chair of SACRE - Group b) 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 2022 Conference can be found at <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2022-ambitious-sacre/>.

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 2021-22

The SACRE met on the following three occasions in 2021-22:

- 2nd November 2021
- 22nd March 2022
- 30th June 2022

The SACRE usually meets at Camden Town Hall. Due to continued restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all the SACRE meetings in 2021-22 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

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| • 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 |
| • 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 continues to have 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 2021-22 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 2022

GCSE results

Grade	No. of entries	Percentage
9	71	11.54%
8	79	12.85%
7	69	11.22%
6	100	16.26%
5	94	15.28%
4	78	12.68%
3	64	10.41%
2	35	5.659%
1	18	2.93%
U	7	1.14%
Total	615	100%

A Level results

Grade	No. of entries
A*	7
A	6

B	9
C	3
D	1
Total	26

7.2. SACRE Membership 2021-22

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) (to June 2022)
Sally Hay (Humanist) (Full Member from June 2022)

Panel B

Felicity Djerehe
Stephanie Ellner
Mary Thorne
Rev Sally Jones
Rev Damien Mason
Rev Natasha Beckles

Panel C

Luke Browne (to Mar 2022)
Paul Kayser
Sarah Richardson (from May 2022)

Panel D

Nasim Ali (to May 2022)
Maryam Eslamdoust (to May 2022)
Julian Fulbrook
Maria Higson (to May 2022)
Lazzaro Pietragnoli (to Nov 2021)
Nazma Rahman
Jonathan Simpson (to May 2022)
Matthew Kirk (from May 2022)
Izzy Lenga (from May 2022)
Sylvia McNamara (from May 2022)
Jenny Mulholland (from May 2022)
Jenny Headlam-Wells (from May 2022)

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.