

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

EALING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

February 2019

LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING

ANNUAL REPORT OF EALING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2017 - 18

1.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1.1 Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in the London Borough of Ealing was produced in 2014 and is called **Sowing the Seeds of the Future: An Exploration of Human Beliefs and Values**. This syllabus was unanimously approved by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 8th July 2014 and ratified by LB of Ealing Cabinet on 22nd July, to be implemented in LB Ealing community schools from September 2014.

The document is available via:

https://www.egfl.org.uk/sites/default/files/School_effectiveness/Religious_Education/Guidance/Sowing_the_seeds_Nov14.pdf

It remains the legally binding document for all local authority maintained and voluntary controlled schools in the Borough.

Schools are required to teach all of the units prescribed by the syllabus, but must fill any gaps with their own school-based units. Most of the prescribed units build on tried and tested materials from the previous syllabus, but several new units were added in Key Stages 2 and 3.

It should be noted that the schemes of work are posted at:

<https://www.egfl.org.uk/elp-services/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/curriculum-subjects/religious-education/re-3>

These are examples only; they are not prescriptive, and teachers are welcome to amend and adapt them in accordance with the requirements of the syllabus.

1.2 Standards in RE

SACRE used to monitor standards in RE by carrying out an annual analysis of OFSTED reports. In 2017-18, SACRE members continued to regret the fact that current OFSTED arrangements make it extremely difficult for them to carry out this statutory duty, as the necessary evidence is no longer available. SACRE members therefore sought other ways in which to monitor standards in RE, such as supporting RE teachers in LA schools and also considered whether or not to monitor the RE aspects of school websites in the future.

Key Stage 4

In four of the seven maintained schools without religious designation: Brentside, Greenford, The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls and Villiers High School the whole cohort sits Religious Studies GCSE. Across Ealing as a whole around 61% of students sit RS GCSE. They achieved a Progress 8 score (for all Ealing state funded high schools) of 0.76 which is Well Above Average.

Post 16

105 students took Religious Studies A level in 2018 at Ealing state funded high schools. Half of the students (53) were in schools without a religious designation. All students passed the A level exam, 87% gained A*-C and 53% gained A*-B.

2.0 IN-SERVICE TRAINING: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

2.1 Short Courses

The Authority offers a basic programme of in-service training.

Primary and special schools

SACRE members were pleased to note that there continue to be termly meetings for Subject Leaders for RE in primary and special schools. These have been delivered by various colleagues, including Lesley Prior, Religious Education Consultant and LDBS Adviser for RE in Community. Lesley also supports the work of the LB of Ealing SACRE. During 2016 -17, these meetings took place at Ealing Education Centre on:

- 28th September 2017
- 22nd March 2018
- 28th June 2018

Participants were given opportunities to:

- explore practical strategies for teaching and learning in the subject
- experience and evaluate how thinking skills can be promoted in RE through a range of activities, including 'the community of enquiry' and 'mysteries'
- consider how we can plan for effective learning and teaching in RE
- analyse how and why should we assess in RE and how we can do this effectively

Feedback from these meetings is positive.

High Schools

The high school RE subject leader network is run as part of the Ealing Teaching School Alliance (ETSA) programme of subject networks. In 2017-18 the network lead was Stephanie Alvis, Head of RE at William Perkin CE High School. A half- day subject conference was also held in the March 2018.

The dates of the meetings in 2017-18:

- Wednesday 1st November 2017
- Wednesday 14th March 2018 (Conference)
- Wednesday 20th June 2018

Areas covered in the conference were:

- Beliefs and Teachings at GCSE – supporting accessibility for lower ability pupils
- Stretching the Most Able – supporting high ability pupils at GCSE and transition to A Level.
- Key Stage 3 – developing skills and engagement in advance of KS4/5.
- Teachmeet: Revision Strategies

2.2 Additional Training

The RE Consultant has provided one to one support for RE Coordinators in various schools. She was also available to answer queries by telephone or email.

3.0 COMPLAINTS

No complaints on either Religious Education or Collective Worship were referred to SACRE for investigation in the year 2017 – 18.

4.0 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

4.1 Determinations

A list of schools which have been granted Determinations will be found in Annex B.

4.2 Determination Renewals

The following determination renewals were granted during the academic year 2017 – 18:

- Blair Peach Primary School
- Tudor Primary School
- Villiers High School

Members also noted that Featherstone High School's application was referred to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for their renewal as this is now the route for academies. Acton High School and Dormers Wells High School are also now academies so were referred to this route. The SACRE Adviser and LA School Effectiveness staff liaised with the DfE to clarify the situation for academies as the information was not readily available.

5.0 MATTERS CONSIDERED BY SACRE

The following matters were among those considered by SACRE in the year 2017 - 18.

- SACRE members reflected at length on the RE Council of England and Wales' Commission on Religious Education: Interim Report and made a detailed response to its key recommendations
- the NATRE report 'The State of the Nation: A report on Religious Education in Secondary Schools in England' and its implications for schools in LB of Ealing
- determination applications for several schools and how to offer more support to those going through this process.

6.0 LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

The LB of Ealing SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

Marianne Izen (Group A) attended the NASACRE AGM and Conference at The Merchant Taylors' Hall in London on 24th May 2018.

The theme of this year's event was: **Stronger Together - Celebrating the Power of Community**

Full details and copies of the relevant presentations can be found at: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2018/2018-papers>

The login details (see above) are required to access these presentations.

The key note speaker was **Dr Vanessa Ogden**. She is the CEO of Mulberry Schools Trust, a Multi Academy Trust. She read Theology and Religious Studies at Manchester University, was an RE teacher, and served on the Commission on Religious Education (<https://www.commissiononre.org.uk>). At the formation of the first APPG on Religious Education, Dr Ogden said on the subject, "It fundamentally hits the heart of what it means to be a human being and anything that allows young people to take that apart for themselves... is just so exciting; I don't know how you can resist it really."

The Rt Hon Charles Clarke' (speaker at the NASACRE AGM in 2015) is Patron of NASACRE and attended this year's event too. He gave a brief introductory address

about the importance of RE and participated in a panel session with other speakers at the end of the day.

Lesley Prior, RE Adviser, is former Chair of NASACRE (2013-15) and now Assistant to and member of the NASACRE Executive Group.

Lesley is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.

7.0 CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Charan Sharma became the new Chair of SACRE in Cllr Kelly's place and already brings a wealth of commitment and enthusiasm to the role.

Lesley Prior, RE Adviser for Community Schools at the London Diocesan Board for Schools was employed on a consultancy basis from January 2017 to support the work of SACRE.

8.0 SACRE CONTACT OFFICERS 2017 – 18

Cllr Charan Sharma SharmaC@ealing.gov.uk

Lesley Prior Lesley.prior@london.anglican.org
Paula Portas PortasP@ealing.gov.uk

9.0 MEETINGS

Meetings of SACRE were held on:

- **2nd November 2017** at Ealing Town Hall
- **28th February 2018** at Ealing Town Hall
- **21st June 2018** at Ealing Town Hall

The Local Authority Adviser, the Chair, the Clerk and the Consultant also met between meetings where and when necessary.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2017-2018**

MEMBERSHIP 2017-18: May 2017-May 2018

LA Group:

Cllr Charan Sharma (Chair of SACRE and LA group from May 2017)
 Cllr Anthony Kelly (Chair of SACRE and LA group until May 2017)
 Cllr Tej Ram Bagha
 Cllr Abdullah Gulaid (until May 2017)
 Cllr Swarn Singh Kang
 Cllr Sanjai Kohli
 Cllr Mrs Seema Kumar (until May 2017)
 Cllr Tariq Mahmood
 Cllr David Millican
 Cllr Aysha Raza
 Cllr Munir Ahmed (from May 2017)
 Cllr Roz Reece (from May 2017)

Church of England Group:

Rev Karen Greenidge
 Rev Laurence Hillel
 Dr Peter Hounsell
 Mr Graham Marriner
 Ms Christine Sawyer

Other Faiths Group:

African Caribbean Church	-	1 vacancy
Baha'i	-	Ms Nadine Sayir Mr Samuel Lyle
Buddhist	-	Dr C Amarasinghe (until June 2017) Mr Luxman Dissanayake (from June 2017)
Free Church Federal Council	-	Mrs Marion McNeil
Hindu	-	Mr Rabindra Pathak
Humanist	-	Ms Kath Richardson (Chair of group)
West London Humanist & Secularist	-	Mr Oliver Murphy
Jewish	-	Dr Marianne Izen
Islam - Sunni	-	Mr Sikander Minhas
Islam- Discover Islam	-	Mr Naif Sheikh
Liberal Jewish	-	Mr Simon Motz (from September 2017)
Ramgarhia Sabha	-	Mrs Barjinder Lall Mrs P Pank
Roman Catholic	-	Ms Kim Burke
Sikh Missionary Society	-	Vacancy
Sri Guru Ravi Dasia Sabha	-	Mr S K Dhanda

United Reformed Church - 1 vacancy
Valmiki - 1 vacancy

Teachers Association Group:

NASUWT

- Mr Glen Burchell
- Ms Helen O'Neill (Chairman of Group)
- Dr Liz Day (Vice-chair of SACRE)

PAT

Mr Kris Bolt
Ms Naheed Mir

