



Enfield

**Standing Advisory
Council on Religious
Education**

Annual Report 2017 - 2018

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Introduction from the Chair

As the Chair of Enfield's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), I am pleased to present our annual report for the period of September 2017 to August 2018.

Having been newly appointed as Chair in June 2018 and previously Vice-Chair for three years, I would like to thank our members who have had a very productive and busy year. Since we said goodbye to our previous Chair in February 2017, Enfield SACRE has had a rotational acting Chair. In addition to this, members have held the fort without a Vice-Chair (on a one-year sabbatical). I would like to thank Counsellor Michael Rye and the Reverend Dr Gordon Giles, (voted as our new Vice-Chair in June 2018), for their commitment to SACRE by taking on additional duties in the role of acting Chair.

At a time when greater religious literacy is more necessary than ever before, the decline across England and Wales in pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies is troubling. The Government is rightly emphasising the importance for young people to have knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs. Two key reports for RE were released in 2018; The Commission on RE Report, '*Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward*', emphasised the importance of studying both religious and non-religious worldviews, making 11 recommendations. In addition to this, '*A New Settlement Revised: Religion & Belief in Schools*' by Charles Clarke & Linda Woodhead, was published. The proposals could transform the role of SACREs, including the statutory power to grant determinations. Both reports will be discussed by our SACRE members in our Autumn Term and Spring Term meetings; we look forward to receiving guidance should the recommendations be adopted by the Government.

Enfield is a religiously diverse borough which has a significant number of all the major faith communities represented in the UK, which is reflected in our syllabus. There are also representatives of other faith groups including the Alevi Community, Jains, Baha'i and Zoroastrians. In June we launched our new Agreed Syllabus at a Headteachers Conference, which includes new information on assessment, British Values, pedagogy, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and guidance on withdrawal from RE, all of which were requested by RE subject leaders through a consultation.

Several SACRE members visited schools to observe Collective Worship, whilst some of our Faith Leaders welcomed schools to their places of worship across the borough. This year, we have produced a list of faith representatives who are available to visit schools to discuss their faith with pupils and lead assemblies; this information is available on our website. In addition to this, we sent out a newsletter each term to all our schools to ensure teachers are kept up to date with all the latest RE news, courses, reports and initiatives. We also continued to support our schools with commemorating the Holocaust in January by sending a Holocaust Memorial Pack to all schools with teaching resources and links. Examples of



outstanding work on this can be found on the Enfield SACRE's website under 'Showcase', a section dedicated to schools to share exemplary work across all areas of RE.

As a SACRE, we believe in developing and nurturing partnerships with other organisations, particularly those with a similar vision for RE and inter-faith harmony. We were pleased to welcome Syed Shah, Enfield's Faith Officer, who explained his role in the borough and all the good work he has been doing with Enfield's diverse faith communities. Joining with Barnet SACRE, members went to see the thought provoking 'Living with Gods' exhibition at the British Museum to enhance their RE knowledge and professional development. We look forward to further developing our partnership with Barnet SACRE and would like to thank their very knowledgeable RE Advisor Anna Sallnow for all her support and guidance to Enfield and for arranging the visit.

This academic year, Enfield SACRE looks forward to further developing our partnerships and forging new ones, including the Enfield Faith Forum, the Faith and Belief Forum and the Enfield Youth Parliament. We hope to continue to offer guidance and support to our schools, enabling them to provide engaging lessons with opportunities for students to explore differences and identify similarities and shared values and lessons that challenge stereotypes and provide a safe place to ask big deep and meaningful questions.

Sabah Raza
Chair of Enfield SACRE

1. Advice to statutory bodies

1.1 Local Authority

No advice was given by Enfield SACRE to the Local Authority.

1.2 Schools

Headteachers were advised to adopt the new Agreed Syllabus in their schools at the Headteachers conference in June 2018, where the Syllabus was officially launched by the Chair and Vice-Chair. They were reminded to encourage teachers to adapt the current scheme of work by applying an 'enquiry-based model' to lessons; guidelines of this pedagogy are included in the new syllabus. In addition to this, schools were informed of the new guidance available to support high quality teaching and learning, including methods of assessment and the EYFS framework which includes RE under the 'specific area' of 'Understanding the World'. After a consultation with Primary RE Subject Leaders, guidance on requests to withdraw from RE has also been included, alongside ideas on teaching British Values through RE.

1.3 Government

The Government did not request any advice from Enfield SACRE.

2. Standards and quality of provision of RE

2.1 Public examinations

National A level Religious Studies 2018

This year, Religious Studies had a dramatic fall of **21.3%** in entries. Religious Education bodies have expressed deep concern over this decrease. One theory is that the fall might be perhaps due to its exclusion from the Russell Group Universities 'facilitating subject list'. As in 2017, most of the RS candidates were female: 14,690 compared with 5837 males. Of all Religious Studies students, 4.6% achieved an A* grade, compared with 5.2% last year. More than 50 per cent of students achieved an A* to B grade and 98 per cent of students passed. More students took RS than, among other subjects, Music (6251); French (8713); law (11,265); physical education (11,307); and political studies (17,964).

Enfield A level results 2018

Results have been received from seven schools in Enfield. There were 88 entries comprising of 23 boys and 65 girls; the same number of pupils that entered the examination in 2017, so unlike a decrease in numbers nationally, Enfield remains the same. The following grades were obtained:

2018 A Level Religious Studies Analysis

Local Authority level analysis of 7 non-denominational schools

	Number of entries	Percentage of entrants achieving grades						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	Unclassified
All pupils	88	6.8	14.8	20.5	34.1	13.6	8.0	1.1
Boys	23	4.3	13.0	34.8	30.4	8.7	8.7	0.0
Girls	65	7.7	15.4	15.4	35.4	15.4	7.7	1.5

The National Religious Studies AS-level

Customarily, this attracted a lot of interest amongst students, however numbers fell from 19,027 in 2017 to 8454 in 2018; a substantial drop of 44 per cent.

Enfield AS level results 2018

Results have been received from five schools in Enfield. There were 96 entries, 28 boys and 68 girls, an increase from 2017, unlike the national trend which indicates a sharp decrease. The following grades were obtained:

2018 AS Level Religious Studies Analysis

Local Authority level analysis of 7 non-denominational schools

	Number of entries	Percentage of entrants achieving grades					
		A	B	C	D	E	Unclassified
All pupils	96	30.2	20.8	16.7	19.8	6.3	6.3
Boys	28	42.9	25.0	10.7	14.3	3.6	3.6
Girls	68	25.0	19.1	19.1	22.1	7.4	7.4

National RS GCSE 2018

The number of pupils in England and Wales taking GCSE Religious Studies full course has fallen for the second year in a row, down 10.4% against 2017 to 241,749. In addition, the number of pupils in England and Wales taking the short course GCSE in Religious Studies has fallen even more sharply, down 35.8% from last year to 34,087, with the decline greater in England than in Wales. In England, the number

of entries for GCSE Religious Studies full course has fallen by 10.7% to 229,189. In Wales the equivalent figures are down by 4.2% to 12,560, although these come after last year's record high.

Enfield GCSE results 2018

It has not been possible to obtain the Enfield short course data for 2018; the only results we have been able to obtain are for full course GCSE. There were 1380 entries from 14 schools, a drop from 1528 in 2017, following the National trend. We cannot compare year on year statistics as the examination and grading system has changed. 1380 pupils entered the examination, 767 girls & 613 boys. The following grades were achieved:

2018 Enfield GCSE results

	No. of entries	Percentage of entrants achieving grades									
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
All Pupils	1380	3	7	9.8	17	13.5	11.8	17	12.9	6.2	1.7

At a time when greater religious literacy is even more necessary than ever before, the decline across England and Wales in pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies is troubling. The Government is rightly emphasising the importance for young people to have knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs.

SACRE members recognise that the examination data should take in to account the following concerns regarding RE, as identified in one Secondary school in Enfield. Whilst this may not be reflective of schools nationwide, Enfield SACRE is concerned that these issues may be reflected in other schools across the borough at KS3, KS4 and KS5.

- At KS3 until recently, 35 hours of RE were taught annually; allocation has been reduced to 27 hours due to the allocation of hours to Maths and English
- At KS4, Religious Studies (RS) used to be a cohort subject where all pupils were taught it as a full GCSE subject to be taken at the end of KS4. The subject was turned in to an option, to compete alongside other subjects and subsequently, the subject was taught as non-examinable RS to Years 10 and 11 for one hour a week, with a further drop in the allocated time (for Maths and English). As a result, no pupil receives their entitlement to RE, except those who choose the subject as an option.
- At KS5, approximately 40 students were entered for RS A Level. It has now dropped to approximately 30% of that number. This is primarily

due to the reduction in numbers studying the subject at KS4, but more importantly due to the change from modular to linear A Level, reducing choice. Students used to choose four subjects at AS level, but it is now restricted to 3.

- The number of lessons taught for A Level used to be ten over a two-week period, now reduced to nine, with a 50% increase in content coverage. Further, issues with staffing has seen a department with five full time members of staff reduced to the need for three.

Enfield SACRE has identified possible reasons for these issues:

- Successive cutbacks have put severe restraints onto schools; the reduction of the number of classes and lessons taught, has resulted in increased class sizes.
- RS is not an EBacc subject nor one of the core subjects of Science, Technology, English and Maths (STEM), however the focus is on the school being judged on value added, particularly focusing on Progress 8 and the EBacc.
- Changes to the KS4 RS curricular.

2.2 Attainment in RE not covered by public examinations

Enfield SACRE does not ask for schools to report on attainment in RE at key stages one, two or three. However, schools should have their own individual summative and formative assessment procedures termly, at the end of each year and key stage to inform their reports and school development plan. The Enfield Agreed Syllabus provides statements of attainment that schools are encouraged to use as support when assessing pupils. The RE Quality mark has been awarded at gold level to one primary school in Enfield for the second time, with each award lasting for a period of three years. This kite mark continues to be recommended to schools as an important tool for self-evaluation and to enhance the professional development, skills, expertise of subject leaders and the status of RE.

2.3 The quality of RE provision in schools

Enfield SACRE has provided all primary schools with a scheme of work to support coverage of the Agreed Syllabus and to provide support for non-specialist RE teachers. The Agreed Syllabus is based on the expectation that RE receives a minimum of 5% curriculum time, which is equivalent to 36 hours per year at key stage 1 and 45 hours per year at key stage 2.

Enfield SACRE recognises that the current scheme of work is outdated and that a new scheme of work is needed to fully reflect the syllabus and to ensure inclusion of current pedagogy; access to funds for a new

scheme of work should be considered by the Local Authority in time for the next Agreed Syllabus review in 2021.

To maintain a high standard of RE teaching and learning, newly qualified teachers (NQTs) joining primary schools in Enfield attended one of two courses on RE, ensuring that they are familiar with the Enfield Syllabus, scheme of work, resources and various pedagogical approaches.

2.4 Withdrawal from RE

SACRE did not receive any requests for withdrawal from RE.

2.5 Complaints about RE

SACRE did not receive any complaints about RE.

3. Agreed Syllabus

3.1 Review of the syllabus

The main work of SACRE this year has been to complete the review of the Agreed Syllabus. It was presented to all Enfield schools at the Headteachers' conference in June 2018, to be implemented in September 2018. New guidance was added on British Values, pedagogy in RE, requests to withdraw from all or part of RE, assessment and progression in RE and RE in the EYFS. In addition to this, faith leaders reviewed and updated religion specific content where appropriate. The syllabus is available to download on the Enfield SACRE website.

3.2 The next review

The next review of our syllabus will be in 2021.

4. Collective Worship

4.1 Compliance with statutory requirement

Enfield SACRE prepared a 'Recommended Approach' to Collective Worship in 2015 to support schools in their statutory responsibility to deliver daily acts of Collective Worship that are of 'broadly Christian character'. It highlights the provision of opportunities for spiritual expression and development and the school's duty to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and British Values. This can be found on the website.

4.2 Quality of collective worship

From September 2017, to promote the work and raise the profile of SACRE and to further develop relationships with our schools, the

Schools Visit Programme was relaunched. This provided SACRE members with the opportunity to observe and learn about collective worship and RE in our schools, meet with RE subject leaders and Headteachers and offer feedback and guidance in a non-threatening way; the experience has been a very positive one and much good practice was observed. This also served as an opportunity to receive feedback from schools on how Enfield SACRE could support them further. The 'Visitor Protocol' and 'SACRE Visit Feedback' forms were updated.

4.3 Determinations

No applications for determinations were received.

4.4 Complaints about collective worship

No complaints were received.

5. Management of SACRE

5.1 Attendance at SACRE by Committee

Committee A: Christian denominations other than the Church of England and other Faiths.

Committee B: Church of England representatives appointed by the London Diocesan Board in consultation with the Church of England Area Dean.

Committee C: Teachers and Headteachers.

Committee D: Four members of the Council (two from the Majority party and two from the Minority party) and two Officers from the Local Authority.

Three meetings were held at the Enfield Civic Centre on the dates below, with each meeting being quorate. A full member list is included at the end the report.

Autumn Term: November 9th 2017

Attended by: Committee A - 5 members
 Committee B – 3 members
 Committee C – 1 member
 Committee D – 3 members

Spring Term: February 20th 2018

Attended by: Committee A - 6 members
 Committee B - 3 members
 Committee C –1 member
 Committee D – 3 members

Summer Term: June 19th 2018

Attended by: Committee A - 6 members
Committee B - 3 members
Committee C – 1 member
Committee D – 3 members

5.2 Membership and training

Members are regularly updated on national initiatives and reports by Anna Sallnow, Enfield and Barnet's RE Advisor. Enfield SACRE members did not receive any formal training this year, however training is planned for the Autumn Term meeting in 2018 under the new Chair.

5.3 Complaints about RE and collective worship

No complaints were received by Enfield SACRE about RE or collective worship.

6. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda

6.1 SACRE's contribution to other agendas

SACRE discussed a framework for visiting local places of worship that would complement the publication already produced on generic places of worship. Some additions and suggestions were put forward and incorporated in the guidance which is available on the website. SACRE members were invited to the Holocaust Memorial Day in January and a number attended, reporting that the event had been a very powerful and moving remembrance of the victims of genocides in recent history. A networking event has been planned by Her Worshipful The Mayor of Enfield Saray Karakus for the Autumn Term for Enfield SACRE members and members of the Enfield Faith Forum. We look forward to working together in the future.

6.2 SACRE's support for schools

SACRE has arranged for two RE training sessions for newly qualified teachers at EYFS/key stage one and key stage 2. A termly newsletter was sent to all schools to ensure Headteachers and teachers are kept up to date with all the latest reports, courses and initiatives. Unfortunately, the annual RE subject leaders' workshop could not be held this year as the RE advisor was on a sabbatical for the year; this will resume in February 2019. SACRE recommends that the Local Authority reinstates an Enfield RE specialist to support schools with their teaching of RE, with half day visits where requested.

7. Summary

Enfield SACRE recognises that an updated scheme of work and accompanying high quality resources are needed to support the

implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus and that a Local Authority budget will be needed to support this.

Whilst we await guidance from the Government, should recommendations be adopted from either of the two key reports in 2018, we hope to continue to strengthen the status of Enfield SACRE by developing new partnerships with multifarious stakeholders, particularly schools.

8. Membership of SACRE

Enfield SACRE members for 2017 – 2018

Chair	Rotational
Vice Chair	Sabah Raza (Chair from June 2018)
Group A	Religious traditions and Christian churches
Vacancy	Baptist Church
Dr Bernard Arambepola	Buddhism
Vacancy	Greek Orthodox Church
Navaratnam Shanmuganathan	Hinduism
Muhammad Ibrahim	Islam
Sirvan Karakis	Alevi
Rubbina Umar	Islam
Rabbi Emanuel Levy	Judaism
Rabbi Yuval Keren	Judaism
Jill Saxton	Methodist Church
Vacancy	Pentecostal Church
Vacancy	United Reformed Church
Ruth Serner	Religious Society of Friends
Patricia Alder	Roman Catholic Church
Major Andrew Gaudion	Salvation Army
Vacancy	United Reformed Church
Vacancy	Independent Evangelical
Group B	The Church of England
The Reverend. Gordon Giles	St Mary Magdalene, Enfield (Vice-Chair from June 18)
Sally Moore	London Diocesan Board for Schools
Margaret Coleman	Christchurch, Cockfosters
The Reverend Ian Crofts	Jesus Church, Forty Hill
Stephen Miller	St Paul's, Winchmore Hill
Group C	Teacher Associations
Vacancy	Enfield Secondary Heads' Conference
Vacancy	Enfield Primary Heads' Conference
Vacancy	Enfield Special Heads' Conference
Sabah Raza	Enfield Teachers Association - NEU
Naomi Franks	ATL
Lucia Silva-Clark	Academy Trust
Group D	The Local Authority
Councillors	
Cllr Eric Jukes	

Cllr Michael Rye, OBE	
Cllr Haydar Ulus	
Cllr Nneka Keazor	
LA Officers	
James Carrick	Assistant Director - Education
Clara Seery	Head of School Standards & Support
Co-Opted	
None	

Enfield SACRE is grateful to the Local Authority, in particular for the provision of Pauline Swain, School & Early Years Project Manager, Janet Balfour, Governance Advisor and Anna Sallnow, RE Advisor.