Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report September 2024 - September 2025








ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

nasacre

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1. Overview 2024 to 2025

1a. Words from the Chair of SACRE

It has been an honour and a privilege to be able to serve as Chair for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the Royal Borough of Greenwich during the 2024/2025 academic year.

I am very grateful to Ms Sharon Docherty for her support as Vice-Chair and for the support and guidance provided by our Clerk, Ms Lucy Davies, and by our LA advisers, Mr Matthew West and Ms Cathy Bee.
Matthew West has provided support for Greenwich SACRE for 8 years. It has been a joy and pleasure to work with him and we are very grateful, as a Council, for all his help and support. We were sad to say goodbye to him, this year, but are very grateful to Cathy Bee for taking on this role and for doing so with such enthusiasm and dedication.

This year, for the first time since the pandemic, we have ventured beyond the Woolwich Centre with our meetings. It was wonderful to be able to visit Middle Park School, have a tour of their building and hear about the work that they are doing, especially with Religious Education. We also received a very warm welcome at St Alfege's Church in the centre of Greenwich, where we were given a tour of this beautiful and historic building before our Council meeting. We aim to have one meeting at the Woolwich Centre, one at a school and one at a place of worship each year.
I am delighted that all our meetings were quorate. We are very fortunate to have such a diverse and committed membership.

We had some changes to membership of groups A, C and D during the 2024-25 academic year, which you will read about further on in the report. I want to thank outgoing members for their time and contributions.
In June 2024, we asked the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), because it had been more than 7 years since the launch of the current ASC. However, moves to formulate a national curriculum for RE led us to pause our preparations for a new ASC, in July 2025, as a national curriculum, if it came about, would replace our ASC. It was felt to be prudent to pause and follow any developments regarding a national curriculum.

The RE Network, led by Rahima Choudhary, in the meantime, has provided valuable feedback about the current syllabus. Much of it is extremely positive, but the network has also identified areas for improvement.
Part of our role is to monitor inspection reports by Ofsted, SIAMS and CSI. The Ofsted reports of 8 inspected schools made positive comments on RE or Collective Worship-related topics. Two of these schools received a deep dive in RE, with the reports commenting on the good understanding children had of beliefs and cultures that differ from their own.

Four schools received Section 48 inspections: two Anglican and two Roman Catholic. The two Roman Catholic schools received outstanding and good grades, respectively. SIAMS (the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) does not give an overall grade, but both schools were praised for their ethos and curriculum. We congratulate all these schools on the effort they make to provide high quality RE and Collective Worship for their pupils and students.

We continue to be grateful to Greenwich Children's Services for the support we receive from them.
I would like to express my thanks to each and every member of our SACRE and for the contribution that they make to the work we do in supporting the young people in our schools.
In presenting this report I commend the work of our SACRE, its members, those who support us, our schools and most importantly the young people in the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the positive contributions they make to their schools, neighbourhoods, and the wider community.

Ariadne van den Hof (Chair 2024-2025) April 2026

1b Overview of meetings and attendance

Chair of the SACRE: Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	**Vice-Chair of the SACRE:** Ms. Sharon Docherty
Clerk for SACRE & ASC: Lucy Davies	**Contact from Royal Greenwich Local Authority:** Matthew West - to September 2025 From September 2025: Catherine Bee (shadowing)

Term	Date	Quoracy	Venue
Autumn Term	13th November 2024	Quorate	The Woolwich Centre/Hybrid
Spring Term	17th March 2025	Quorate	Middle Park Primary School
Summer Term	9th July 2025	Quorate	St Alfege Church, Greenwich

The Chair, the LA Officer, and Clerk discuss, review actions, and plan the agenda for each meeting. SACRE operates a 3-year rolling meeting cycle developed by the clerk to ensure SACRE business is allocated in a timely manner to meetings over an extended period (see appendix 2).

For changes to membership 24/25: Please see Section 6b and Appendix A

2. Religious Education (RE)

2a The Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus for religious Education was launched in the 2018-19 academic year. The agreed syllabus has been adopted by both maintained schools and academies. SACRE has not conducted an analysis of which academies have adopted the agreed syllabus.

Through the RE Leaders' Network valuable feedback on the agreed syllabus was reported to SACRE in July 2025.

- **Primary content**: Teachers felt this should not change significantly but could narrow and focus on key aspects, with a "wish list" of suggested content that teachers can use if they have more time.
- **Secondary content**: feedback came from ten schools who participated in the network.
    - Key Stage 3 curriculum: Should be condensed as there is too much content.
    - Key Stage 4 curriculum: Model and themes were popular.
    - Key Stage 5 curriculum: Acknowledged that there is a problem delivering the curriculum due to a lack of time, e.g. curriculum followed at St Mary Magdalene can take 15 hours over the course of a year.
- Teachers acknowledged that teaching the RE curriculum carries a financial cost as specialist teachers are needed, and the issue is compounded by a lack of RE teachers.

In July 2025 the Royal Greenwich Agreed Syllabus Conference agreed to a pause until after the publication of the National Curriculum Review and related National Curriculum documents to avoid unnecessary work on a revised local curriculum, which may not be needed.

A directory of local speakers, resources and places to visit to support delivery of the curriculum was agreed. This was later actioned in September 2025 for the 2025/26 academic year.

2b Standards and monitoring of RE

SACRE members continue to monitor inspection reports by Ofsted, SIAMS and Catholic Section 48 (CSI) inspections, to gain an insight into the teaching of RE in schools in RBG. Thirteen Primary or Secondary schools received an Ofsted inspection during the academic year. Two schools had a deep dive into religious education.

From September 2024, Ofsted no longer makes an overall effectiveness judgement.
Mentions of religion, belief, values, collective worship, and assemblies can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Ofsted Commentary 2024/25

Cherry Orchard	Celebrating diversity within the school is actively promoted. For example, pupils get involved in hosting an Afro Hair Day.
Cardwell	Pupils are humble, kind and highly respectful of different cultures, faiths and backgrounds
Horn Park	Diversity and difference are valued by all pupils. They are interested in learning about different religions and cultures. Because of the school's excellent work to develop pupils' character, they are well prepared to be positive citizens of the future
Alex McLeod	**RE Deep Dive.** Diversity and difference are valued by all pupils. They are interested in learning about different religions and cultures. Because of the school's excellent work to develop pupils' character, they are well prepared to be positive citizens of the future
Middle Park	**RE Deep Dive.** In assemblies, pupils learn about beliefs and cultures that differ from their own.
Eglinton	Pupils' strong understanding of different faiths, cultures and beliefs creates a harmonious environment
Deansfield	Pupils have a strong understanding of inclusivity, equality and diversity
South Rise	Pupils learn about the different cultures, beliefs and religions represented in their school and wider society.

Four schools had Section 48 religious character inspections. Reports can be found on the schools' websites.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)
SIAMS reports do not give an overall grade. However, both schools were praised for their ethos and curriculum.

- St Alfege with St. Peter's CE Primary
- St. Margaret's CE Primary

Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) Report

- St Patrick's RC Primary: Grade 1 - Outstanding
- St Thomas More RC Primary: Grade 2 - Good

Table 2: Outcomes at GCSE and A Level in Religious Studies/Philosophy:

KS4 2024 GCSE Religious Studies Results	N. Pupils	N. RS Entries	Entries %	5+	4+	1+
Ark Greenwich Free School	102	100	98%	97%	99%	100%
Eltham Hill	203	1	0%	0%	0%	0%
King's Oak	5	5	100%	0%	0%	0%
Leigh Stationers' Academy	245	10	4%	90%	100%	100%
Plumstead Manor	199	205	103%	32%	49%	92%
Royal Greenwich Trust	140	25	18%	60%	80%	100%
Saint Mary Magdalene	175	175	100%	49%	62%	96%
St Paul's Academy	236	234	99%	59%	67%	96%
St Thomas More	125	125	100%	85%	90%	98%
St Ursula's Convent	113	115	102%	70%	80%	95%
The John Roan	175	25	14%	64%	64%	92%
Thomas Tallis	247	58	23%	83%	90%	100%
RBG	**2904**	**1078**	**37%**	**61%**	**71%**	**95%**
England	**-**	**-**	**34%**	**62%**	**72%**	**97%**

Table 2 shows

- Numbers of pupils that were entered for GCSE religious studies in 2025 are 5% greater than in 2024 and now above national.
- The percentage of pupils achieving a pass (4+) and a good pass (5+) is just below the national outcome.
- The gap between pupils achieving a good pass in RBG vs. national has narrowed to 1%, down from 2% in 2024.
- The gap between pupils achieving a pass in RBG vs. national has narrowed to 1%, down from 4% in 2024.

Table 3: Schools with no RS entries 24/25

No RS Entries in 2025	RS Entries in 2024?
Harris Academy Greenwich	No
Leigh Academy Blackheath	No
Leigh Academy Halley	No
Woolwich Polytechnic Boys	Yes
Woolwich Polytechnic Girls	No
Charlton Park Academy	No
Willow Dene School	No

Table 3 shows schools in which no pupils sat GCSE religious studies. It should be noted that Charlton Park Academy and Willow Dene are both special schools and pupils have high levels of need and require an alternative curriculum offer.

Table 4: A Level Entries and Outcomes 2025

A Level Philosophy/Logic	N. Pupils	No. of entries 2025	% Entered	% A*-A	% A*-B	% A*-E
Thomas Tallis	251	14	6%	0%	50%	100%
RBG	**945**	**14**	**1%**	**0%**	**50%**	**100%**

A Level Religious Studies	N. Pupils	No. of entries 2025	% Entered	% A*-A	% A*-B	% A*-E
St Mary Magdalene	72	9	13%	0%	11%	100%
Leigh Stationers Academy	122	2	2%	0%	0%	100%
RBG	**945**	**11**	**1%**	**0%**	**9%**	**100%**
England	**-**	**-**	**2%**	**32%**	**89%**	**98%**

Table 4 shows that the number of schools entering students for A Level religious studies remains low. Three fewer schools entered students for A Level RE or Philosophy than in 2024. As numbers are low, direct comparisons may not be useful – it should be noted that all students achieved at least an A* - E grade.

2c Teacher training (RE) and RE advice for schools

- During the year SACRE members and the teaching community have been kept informed of RE initiatives, events, and resources. Information has been made available to schools though, for example, the Children's Services Schools Bulletin and has included Holocaust Memorial Day and CPD opportunities.
- Links with the Greenwich Learning Partnership (GLP) have been established and resources to support RE in schools have been made available on the GLP website.
- Teachers in Greenwich have undertaken award winning anti-racism training offered by the local authority delivered with Hemisphere. This includes aspects of Faith and Belief.

The RE network for RE leaders in schools has been opened to all RE leaders in schools in RBG and continued to support the teaching of RE. We now have 28 Primary schools taking part and on average between 15-20 in attendance.

2024 Winter meeting:

- Introduction, Ofsted feedback & Scripture foundation. Ofsted has noted RE lacks depth and is inconsistent in primary schools, the key is depth not breadth.

2025 Spring meeting:

- Start the GLP resources , primary teachers pinpointed what they want in a lesson , resources , strategies.
- Planning the curriculum.
- Roll out Humanism

2025 Summer meeting:

- Training at St Paul's cathedral
- Christian beliefs and practices

2d Other information

No schools contacted SACRE requesting a withdrawal from their statutory duties relating to RE during the 2024-25 academic year.

2e Advice to the LA

No advice was given to the local authority this year.

3 Collective Worship

3a Monitoring of collective worship See also section 2b.

SACRE continues to monitor the reports produced from inspections by Ofsted, SIAMS and Catholic Section 48 inspections to monitor collective worship in schools.
Ofsted and religious inspections continued during the 2024-25 academic year.
Where there is a direct comment, reports consistently indicate that the quality of collective worship remains high. E.g.

- "Collective worship is enjoyed. The school community values the importance of daily prayer and reflection. It is fully inclusive and impactful on pupils and adults." St Alfege with St Peter's CE.
- "Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of the school and impacts upon every encounter" St Patricks RC

3b Determinations

No determinations have been received from schools in Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2024-25

3c Teacher training (Collective Worship) provided

The RE Networks have provided opportunities for teachers to share and develop their subject knowledge for Collective Worship. Both Secondary and Primary RE teachers are represented in the RBG SACRE and routinely feedback on areas of focus to inform discussions.

The work of the RE Council of England and Wales, REC, has been disseminated throughout the year to inform SACRE, faith communities and local schools.

3d Other information

None.

3e Complaints about collective worship

There have been no complaints about collective worship in RBG schools brought to SACRE this year.

4. Links with other bodies

4a NASACRE

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE): The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of NASACRE. All SACRE members are encouraged to access the NASACRE website and have had the login details shared with them. Relevant information received from NASACRE is distributed to schools via the schools' bulletin.

RBG SACRE members are invited to attend the NASACRE conference each year.

4b Local bodies

Several Greenwich SACRE members attend other SACREs and local Inter Faith Forums and therefore SACRE is informed by their ability to bring to the group information from other areas. SACRE is well served by RE teachers who attend and contribute a great deal to meetings as well as members of other teams within RBG, such as SEND, PREVENT and other community groups and schools. SACRE members have attended RE events at local schools during the year.

4C Greenwich Learning Partnership

The Greenwich Learning Partnership provides all RBG schools with CPD opportunities. The RE network is supported and facilitated through the GLP.

5 Local work of SACRE

5a Governor Training

No governor training took place during the 2024-25 academic year.

5b Advice provided

Ramadan advice was updated for the 2024-25 academic year and agreed by SACRE. This was shared with schools in a timely manner through the schools' bulletin.

SACRE Arrangements

6a Professional and administrative support

A clerk, who is a central contact for SACRE business, distributing papers for meetings and servicing the meetings, provides SACRE's business support. The Royal Borough of Greenwich School Improvement Team provided additional support.

6b Membership, representation and quoracy

All meetings were quorate.

We had some changes to membership of groups A, C and D during the 2024-25 academic year.

Mr Amit Patel became a member of Group A representing Hinduism. Mr Nahir Ahmed joined Group A representing Islamism. Mr Rajinder Sandhu was appointed to Group A representing Sikhism.
Ms Michelle Fante resigned from Group A as the Ba'hai representative.

Ms. Eva Troplini became a member of group C, representing primary school RE leaders. Mr Brian Kelly joined Group C representing secondary school RE leaders.

Cllr Leo Fletcher and Cllr Christine St Matthew-Daniel were welcomed back to group D to replace Cllrs Linda Bird and Lauren Dingsdale.

Ms Cathy Bee was welcomed to Group D representing the Local Authority, and SACRE said goodbye to Mr Matthew West as the Local Authority Representative.

6c Training

All RBG SACRE members have login details for the NASACRE website and can access relevant training opportunities.
Mtr. Ariadne van den Hof attended the annual NASACRE conference. She fed back to RBG SACRE at our meeting on 9th July 2025.

Other training courses throughout the year include:

- NASACRE: "So you joined your Local SACRE"
- USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) Conference.

6d Finance

RBG SACRE continues to be funded through the School Improvement budget. This includes funding for clerking services, and the Local Authority Officers' time, membership of NASACRE, attendance of the annual conference and refreshments for meetings.

Appendix A: Membership in 2024-25

Group A	Representing	Name	Number of SACRE meetings attended (or arranged a substitute)	Apologies received
	African Churches	Dr. Yinka Oyebade	2 out of 3	Yes
	African Churches	Vacant		
	Baha'i	Mrs. Michelle Fante Resigned December 2024	0 out of 1	Yes
	Baptist Churches	Vacant		
	Buddhism	Mr. Mariano Marcigaglia	3 out of 3	
	Evangelical Churches	Mr. Jeff Laws	3 out of 3	Yes
	Hinduism	Ms. Lakshmi Vyas	1out of 3	Yes
	Hinduism	Mr Amit Patel Appointed January 2025	1 out of 2	Yes
	Humanists	Ms. Helen Warner	3 out of 3	Yes
	Islam	Mr Nahid Ahmed Appointed December 2024	0 out of 2	
	Islam	Mr. Olinoor Mia	1out of 3	Yes
	Judaism	Rev. David Rome	1 out of 3	Yes
	Methodist Church	Vacant		
	Roman Catholic Church	Mrs. Sharon Docherty	1 out of 3	Yes
	Roman Catholic Church	Vacant		
	Sikhism	Mr Rajinder Sandhu Appointed November 2024	2 out of 3	Yes
	United Reformed Church	Vacant		
Group B	The Church of England	Mrs. Collette Kristiansen	3 out of 3	
	The Church of England	Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	3 out of 3	
	The Church of England	Mr. Shaun Burns	0 out of 3	Yes
	The Church of England	Two vacancies		
Group C	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Claire Harrison	3 out of 3	
	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Rahima Choudhury	3 out of 3	
	Teachers in the LA	Mr. Brian Kelly Appointed January 2025	2 out of 2	
	Teachers in the LA	Ms. Eva Troplini Appointed July 2025	1 out of 1	
	Teachers in the LA	Five vacancies		
Group D	The Local Authority	Cllr Lauren Dingsdale Appointed November 2024 until May 2025	2 out of 2	Yes
	The Local Authority	Cllr. Pat Greenwell	2 out of 3	Yes
	The Local Authority	Cllr. Leo Fletcher Appointed July 2025	0 out of 1	Yes
	The Local Authority	Cllr St. Matthew-Daniel Appointed July 2025	0 out of 1	Yes
	The Local Authority	Cllr. Linda Bird Appointed November 2024 until May 2025	0 out of 2	Yes
	The Local Authority	Mr. Matthew West	3 out of 3	
	The Local Authority	Ms. Cathy Bee	2 out of 2	

Appendix B: THREE YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA PLAN 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26

This document is the three-year agenda plan for Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE. The three-year agenda plan is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

The plan gives a framework to ensure that SACRE fulfills its duties. SACRE agendas are not limited to these items, and SACRE will consider items as appropriate to fulfill its duties. These could include: consideration of applications to vary requirements for collective worship; requesting the Local Authority to set up a Statutory Agreed Syllabus Conference; monitoring delivery of the Agreed Syllabus; reviewing provision for in-service training and development and receiving Ofsted and RE inspection reports.

Academic Year	**Date**	**Agenda Items**
2023-24	Autumn Term 9th October 2023	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Adoption of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve Planning for RBG Agreed Syllabus 2025-2029
	Spring Term 15th April 2024	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2022/23 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance RE Results for 22.23
	Summer Term 26th June 2024	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference Agreed Syllabus Conference – vote School Websites review Three-year rolling SACRE agenda plan – review and update
2024-25	Autumn Term 11th November 2024	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Adoption of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve
	Spring Term 17th March 2025	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance RE Results for 23.24 ASC Planning
	Summer Term 9th July 2025	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2023/2024 – approval ASC Planning

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
		School Websites review
2025-26	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Adoption of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve Planning for Agreed Syllabus
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2024/25 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance RE Results for 24.25
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference School Websites review Three-year rolling SACRE agenda plan – review and update

Appendix C: Circulation details for this annual report

Once agreed by SACRE and any final amendments are made, this annual report will be published on the RBG website in the SACRE section, and the clerk will send a copy of the report to the Secretary of State for Education and NASACRE for their records.