

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2018



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The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs
<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

I. Overview and Chair's Introduction

Young people in schools in the Royal Borough of Greenwich have continued to benefit from developments within Religious Education in the curriculum, which is testimony to the hard work and expertise of colleagues who plan and teach the subject supported by their Headteachers. The work of the Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is to provide the framework and guidelines in supporting schools in striving to achieve excellence in Religious Education as a subject and helping develop young people in their personal development so that they will acquire a respect for all faiths and beliefs and become citizens who will make positive contributions to the communities in which they learn and live.

Entries to Religious Education at GCSE and A level have remained about the same as in 2017 but, considering there has been a significant decrease in entries nationally, this is good news demonstrating the value our schools give to the subject.

Much of the work of SACRE had been involved in this year was developing the new Agreed Syllabus so it could be launched in early 2019 for schools to begin using in September 2019. It gives me great pleasure to say that the work was completed in time, which is thanks mainly to the Agreed Syllabus Conference Chair, Robert Morgan.

We have continued to maintain relationships with agencies at national level and it is a delight to mention Robert Morgan again, who was elected Vice Chair of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE). We wish him well in this post.

We said goodbye to Denise Chaplin, the long-standing adviser to SACRE. Denise's work over the many years ensured that we are a SACRE that is fit for purpose and one which is held in high regard by those involved in the teaching of Religious Education in our schools. Her exceptional understanding of all religions and her experience in planning for the different key stages has been an enormous support for us all. In thanking Denise, we wish her the very best for the future.

We are grateful for the support we received from Children's Services. Sue Gyde has been a tremendous support to SACRE during the year. Her hard work has ensured that we always had the necessary information and documentation so that we were always able to meet our targets. Sue's infectious style in promoting high standards has been an asset to the SACRE. We are also appreciative of her colleague, Matthew West, whose work in supporting SACRE has been a great strength. Our thanks also go to the Clerk to SACRE, Lucy Davies, who ensures we have exactly what we need in ample time for SACRE to carry out its work. Lucy's attention to detail and her clear communication systems provides exactly what SACRE needs in order to work in a collaborative way, moving forward with confidence.

I thank each member of SACRE for all the work they have put in this year. Their commitment to working in a positive and collegiate way has been exemplary and undoubtedly a tremendous strength in achieving what SACRE has set out to in the year. An indication of this is that attendance at SACRE meetings has almost doubled in comparison to attendance in 2017.

In presenting this report to you I commend the work of SACRE, those who support us, our schools and most importantly the positive contributions our young people make to life in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Mike Cullinane
Chair
April 2019

2. Contact Information, Introduction and SACRE meeting dates

2.1 Contact information 2018

Chair of the SACRE: Mr Michael Cullinane	Vice-Chair of the SACRE: Mr. Robert Morgan
Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference: Mr. Robert Morgan	Contact from Royal Greenwich Local Authority: Sue Gyde / Matthew West
Consultant RE Inspector/ Adviser: Denise Chaplin	Clerk for SACRE & ASC: Lucy Davies

2.2 Introduction

SACRE made considerable progress in a number of areas in 2018. During the year most meetings were quorate SACRE members have also recommended changes to the constitution to enable quoracy to be achieved more easily. Attendance at meetings has improved from 35% in 2017 to 60 % in 2018

As the Agreed Syllabus Committee was convened during 2018 we took the step of frequent joint SACRE and ASC meetings to ensure the work of both groups was collaborative and informed, and to ensure timely decisions were made through increased quoracy. For this reason much of the variety of work SACRE carry out was curtailed slightly in 2018

SACRE members participated in national and regional activities including SEND training, NASACRE conferences

2.3 Joint SACRE/ ASC Meeting dates for the year 2018

Term	Date	Quoracy	Venue
Spring Term	20 th March (Postponed from 28 th February)	Quorate	St Mary Magdelene Primary School Christchurch Greenwich
Summer Term 1	17 th May	Inquorate	St Margaret's C of E School
Summer Term 2	20 th June 2018	Quorate	The PDC , Abbey Wood
Autumn Term 1	24 th September 2018	Quorate	Bishop John Robinson C of E School
Autumn Term 2	11 th October 2018	Quorate	St Margaret's C of E School
Autumn Term 3	6 th November 2018	Quorate	Greenwich Islamic Centre

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

3. Religious Education (RE)

3.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus Conference, chaired by Dr Robert Morgan, has completed the work of reviewing the syllabus and producing new material to be launched in 2019 We are grateful to members of SACRE and the ASC for their preparatory work in developing syllabus materials and to national organisations for their advice and guidance. Meetings at the start of the year were not quorate so a decision was taken to run joint SACRE and ASC meetings with a view to completing the process this year- which was achieved successfully.

3.2 Teacher Network meetings

There were two, well attended, teacher network meetings in 2018, attended by Royal Borough of Greenwich schools and academies and free schools. This group has helped inform the work of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

3.3 Standards in RE

3.4 Royal Greenwich Religious Studies Performance 2018

Royal Greenwich SACRE conducts an annual review of GCSE and A Level religious studies examination entries and outcomes compared with national. In November SACRE received a report on the LA examination performance in Religious Studies

Introduction

In 2018 Religious Studies was among a number of subjects to move from the A*-G scale to the new 9-1 scale following English and Maths last year. In this report attainment percentages of A*-C or A*-G in previous years have been compared to 9-4 and 9-1 percentages respectively for 2018 where applicable.

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies entries have remained stable in Greenwich this year with 50% of Greenwich pupils being entered for Religious Studies compared to 51% in 2017. Nationally there has been a continued decline in the percentage of pupils being entered for Religious Studies, dropping to 37% in 2018 compared to 45% in 2017.

Table 1 National and local pupils and entries in GCSE Religious Studies 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
National number of pupils at end of KS4	600,425	589,096	585,377
National entries RS	268,759	264,516	213,791
RBG number of pupils at end of KS4	2,215	2,168	2,266
RBG entries RS	1,300	1,112	1,126

Religious studies GCSE performance was consistent with last year with 73% of pupils entered achieving a 9-4 grade compared to 73% achieving A*-C in 2017.

Table 2 Religious Studies GCSE results compared to national

	2016 (A*-C)	2017 (A*-C)	2018 (9-4)
Royal Greenwich	70%	73%	73%
National	72%	71%	72%

Table 3 Religious Studies GCSE results compared to national

	2016 (A*-G)	2017 (A*-G)	2018 (9-1)
Royal Greenwich	98%	98%	99%
National	98%	98%	98%

Table 4 Religious Studies GCSE results compared to English, Geography and History results for the borough

	2016 (A*-C)	2017 (A*-C)	2018 (9-4)
Religious Studies	70%	73%	73%
English	78%	76% (9-4)	74%
Geography	62%	59%	60%
History	69%	64%	57%

In 2018, 8 out of the 14 Greenwich secondary schools entered at least one pupil for Religious Studies. Greenwich Free School, Halley Academy, Harris Academy and Woolwich Polytechnic did not enter pupils for RS; neither did the two special schools: Charlton Park and Moatbridge/ Kings Oak.

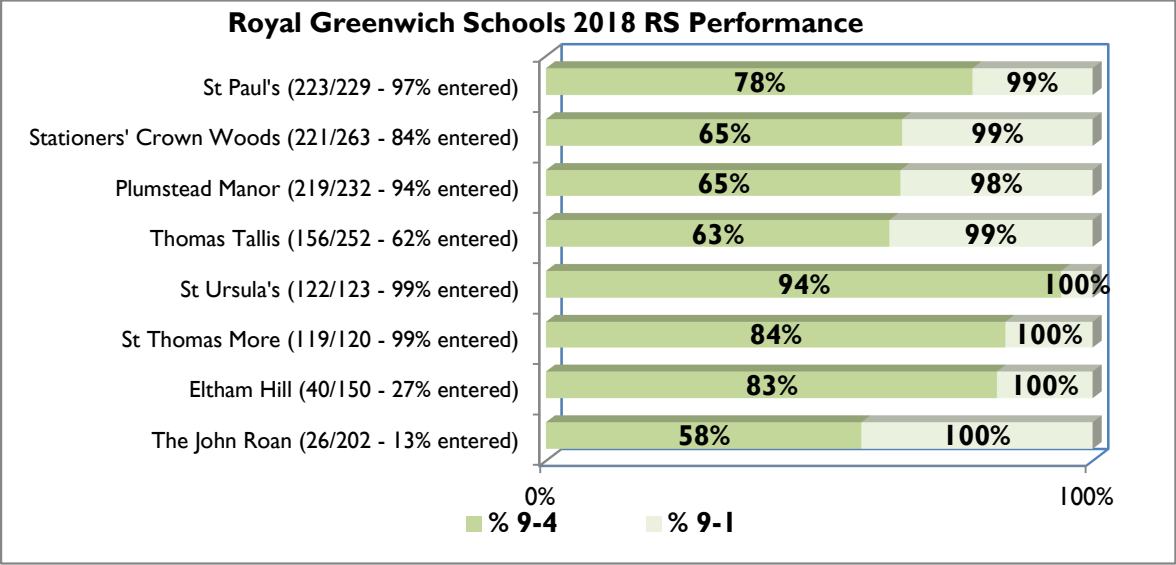
Table 5 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C/9-4 Results by school 2016-2018

School	2016	2017	2018 (9-4)	No of entries in 2018	Entries as % of total cohort
St Paul's Academy	75%	76%	78%	223	97%
Stationers' Crown Woods	58%	63%	65%	221	84%
Plumstead Manor	64%	61%	65%	219	94%
Thomas Tallis	55%	72%	63%	156	62%
St Ursula's	92%	97%	94%	122	99%
St Thomas More	88%	86%	84%	119	99%
Eltham Hill	90%	89%	83%	40	27%
The John Roan	88%	63%	58%	26	13%
Harris Academy Greenwich	81%	76%	-	0	0%
Halley Academy	78%	-	-	0	0%
Woolwich Polytechnic	100%	100%	-	0	0%
Greenwich Free School	-	-	-	0	0%
Charlton Park Academy	-	-	-	0	0%
Moatbridge	-	-	-	0	0%
LA Average	70%	73%	73%	1,126	50%
National Average	72%	71%	72%	213,791	37%

Table 6 Religious Studies GCSE A* - G/9-1 results by school 2016-2018

School	2016	2017	2018 (9-1)	No of entries in 2018	Entries as % of total cohort
St Paul's Academy	97%	100%	99%	223	97%
Stationers' Crown Woods	95%	97%	99%	221	84%
Plumstead Manor	97%	95%	98%	219	94%
Thomas Tallis	99%	99%	99%	156	62%
St Ursula's	100%	100%	100%	122	99%
St Thomas More	99%	100%	100%	119	99%
Eltham Hill	100%	100%	100%	40	27%
The John Roan	100%	100%	100%	26	13%
Harris Academy Greenwich	100%	100%	-	0	0%
Halley Academy	98%	-	-	0	0%
Woolwich Polytechnic	100%	100%	-	0	0%
Greenwich Free School	-	-	-	0	0%
Charlton Park Academy	-	-	-	0	0%
Moatbridge	-	-	-	0	0%
LA Average	98%	98%	98%	1,126	49%
National Average	98%	98%	98%	213,791	37%

Charts 7 Religious Studies GCSE A* - C and A* - G results by school for pupils entered (with % entered)



A Level Religious Studies

The national number of entries in A Level Religious Studies fell over 20% from 2017. Entries in RBG schools increased from 40 last year to 51 in 2018.

Table 9 National and local entries in A Level Religious Studies 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
National	22,638	22,000	17,024
Royal Greenwich	40	40	51

Table 10 National performance (A* - A, A* - B and A* - E) 2015-2017

	No of candidates	A* - A	A* - B	A* - E
2016	22,638	24%	55%	99%
2017	22,000	24%	55%	99%
2018	17,024	23%	52%	98%

3.2 Six Royal Greenwich schools delivered A Level courses in Religious Studies in 2018 (two more than last year). It is important to apply caution when looking at performance over time because of the low number of entries year on year.

Table 11 A Level A* - B results

School	2016	2017	2018	No of entries in 2018
Stationers' Crown Woods	38%	22%	21%	8
Harris Academy Greenwich	44%	20%	53%	15
Plumstead Manor	22%	24%	20%	10
Thomas Tallis	42%	56%	21%	14
Eltham Hill	-	-	67%	3
Royal Greenwich Trust	-	-	0%	1
LA Average	35%	29%	35%	51

Table 12 A Level A* - E results

School	2016	2017	2018	No of entries in 2018
Stationers' Crown Woods	100%	100%	100%	8
Harris Academy Greenwich	100%	100%	100%	15
Plumstead Manor	100%	95%	90%	10
Thomas Tallis	100%	100%	100%	14
Eltham Hill	-	-	100%	3
Royal Greenwich Trust	-	-	100%	1
LA Average	100%	100%	98%	51

SACRE were advised that nationally, the number of entries for the full course remained stable whilst the data shows an uplift for A*-C for Greenwich of 3% (to 73%) this year. This compares to 71% nationally (a drop of 1% from 2016).

Progress 8, Attainment 8 and Ebac have impacted on the take up of GCSE RE but it remains strong in the LA compared with national: the LA is well above the National average in terms of percentage of cohort entered with 50% of the cohort entered for RE compared with 37% nationally. Outcomes were slightly above national too.

Schools that did not show any entries for 2018 were Harris Academy Greenwich, Halley Academy, Woolwich Polytechnic, Greenwich Free School, Charlton Park Academy and Moatbridge/Kings Oak.

No schools in the Royal Borough of Greenwich followed short course RE. In our new Agreed Syllabus for Key Stage 4 we have set out the minimum number of hours for taught RE during the Key Stage. Schools should offer full course GCSE as an option at the very least.

With regards to A Level – nationally there was a drop in the number of students being entered for RE but an increase in numbers opting for RE in the LA (though outcomes have declined slightly).

3.5 Teaching & Resources

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 through, for example, the Children's Services Schools Bulletin and has included Holocaust Memorial Day, United Nations 70th Anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights and CPD opportunities.

3.6 Complaints about RE

There have been no complaints about RE in Greenwich schools brought to SACRE this year.

4. Collective Worship

SACRE has not engaged in any work on Collective Worship this year.

4.1 Monitoring

SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of Collective Worship in local schools but notes with concern its limited ability to collect information to make a judgement. A SACRE meeting was held at Bishop John Robinson School in September. The school had been awarded the RE Quality Mark during the previous academic year.

4.2 National

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. The work of the All Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion and Belief, APPG, was disseminated at the June SACRE meeting along with the BBC report on Religion and ethics.

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE): The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of NASACRE. This year Dr Robert Morgan (SACRE vice chair and chair of ASC), was elected as vice chair of NASACRE after being nominated by the Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE.

4.3 Determinations

No Determination applications have been received this year.

5. Links with other agencies

5.1 Local

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 and members of other teams within the LA such as SEND, PREVENT and other community groups and schools. SACRE members have attended RE events at local schools during the year.

5.2 SEND

During the year members of SACRE have attended training to help faith communities provide for children and young people with ASD, Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This was well attended and will be repeated during 2019.

6. SACRE Arrangements

6.1 Local Authority Support

A clerk, who is a central contact for SACRE business, distributing papers for meetings and servicing the meetings, provides SACRE's business support. In 2018 SACRE was supported by an external RE Adviser/ Inspector from another LA and officers from the Royal Borough of Greenwich School Improvement team. Salaries and administration costs for these posts for the work of SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference were met by School Improvement.

6.2 Membership

6.2.1 Quoracy and SACRE Constitution

During the year SACRE was very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Denise Chaplin as the longstanding RE adviser for SACRE and ASC who worked with the SACRE for many years. There are vacancies in membership from, URC, Baptist Churches and group C absence but there has been a big improvement in quoracy at meetings.

SACRE awaits approval of changes to the constitution, which were proposed in 2017, from elected members of the council.

6.2.2 Application from Humanists UK

Regarding an application to join SACRE, from Humanists UK, which was received in 2017; the decision on full membership is still with the local authority

7 Other Work of the SACRE

7.1 Ramadan Advice

The SACRE Ramadan advice for schools was communicated via the Royal Greenwich Schools' Bulletin

7.2 Holocaust Memorial Day

Members were informed of activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Day including a commemoration service at Woolwich Town Hall. The theme was 'The Power of Words' and was attended by Peter Brookes, the Mayor of Greenwich; Denise Hyland, Leader of the Council; Julie Taylor, Head of School Improvement; and staff and pupils from Mulgrave school.

7.3 Commission on RE Report 'Religion and Worldviews: a national plan for RE',

This report and recommendations were discussed in October. Dr. Morgan informed members of the NASACRE response to the report. The LA officer informed SACRE of teachers' views within the LA. Members discussed the implications of the report in some detail as had read the report and the recommendations prior to the meeting.

The four questions put to SACRE were:

- What are your thoughts about the addition 'worldviews' at the expense of 'education'?
- Do you think a locally agreed syllabus would have democratic representation?
- Do you think the report fully included all learners?
- What do you think is driving the reforms this report sets out in its eleven recommendations?

**Appendix A:
Membership in 2018**

Group A	Representing	Name
	African-Caribbean Churches	Pastor Gabriel Diya
	Bahai	Mr. Allen Duncan
	Baptist Churches	Vacant
	Buddhism	Mr. Marciano Marcigaglia
	Evangelical Churches	Mr. Jeff Laws
	Hinduism	Ms. Lakshmi Vyas
	Hinduism	Mrs. Renu Partap
	Islam	Mr. Kalid M. Ahmed
	Islam	Imam Swaleh Kabocho
	Judaism	Rev. David Rome
	Methodist Church	Mrs. Lin Coplestone
	Roman Catholic Church	Mr. Mike Cullinane (Chair)
	Sikhism	Mr. Balbir Singh Bakhshi
	URC	Vacant
Group B	The Church of England	Mr. Bob Love
	The Church of England	Mr. Jeremy Lunnon
	The Church of England	Mtr Ariadne van den Hof
	The Church of England	Mr. Shaun Burns
Group C	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Claire Harrison
		Mr. Joe Spark/ Sarah Osborne
		Ms. Ruth Handyside
		Vacant
	HE representative	Mr. Robert Morgan
Group D	The Local Authority	Cllr. Ann Marie Cousins
		Cllr. Pat Greenwell
		Cllr. Christine Grice
		Mrs. Sue Gyde
		Mr. Matthew West
	RE Adviser	Mrs. Denise Chaplin
Coopted	Humanists UK	Ms. Rachel Taggart- Ryan

Appendix B

THREE YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA PLAN 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

This document is the three year agenda plan for Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE. The document is drafted by the Local Authority Representative and approved and owned by RBG SACRE. The agenda plan is agreed annually at the first meeting of the academic year and is reviewed annually on a three year rolling 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 in order 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 RE inspection reports.

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
2018-19	24 th September 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan)
	11 th October 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Agreement of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve Gender Identification and Faith (briefing from Michele Holmes)
	6 th November 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RE Results for 2017/2018
	25 th April 2019	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange Feedback from ASC Launch RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	12 th June 2019	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
2019-20	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan) Annual Approval of Code of Conduct RE Results for 18.19 Ramadan Guidance - approve Monitor implementation of the latest Agreed Syllabus <i>(Note: may move, depending on launch date)</i>
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference Multi-Faith Guidelines Review
2020-21	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan) Annual Approval of Code of Conduct RE Results for 19.20 Ramadan Guidance - approve
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference
<i>Note</i>	ASC	<i>Requirement to review Agreed Syllabus content – every 5 years</i>