

# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

## Annual Report 2022-23



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

## **Ib. Words from the Chair of SACRE**

My name is Christine St Matthew-Daniel, and I was elected as councillor on 5 May 2022 to serve the residents of Blackheath Westcombe. It was a pleasure and a delight to have been elected SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) Chair on 12 October 2022 for the 2022-23 academic year. Our collective role as Sacre members was to be an effective and efficient advisory body to Greenwich schools.

Our commitment included the following but were not limited to:

- addressing issues relating to RE in local schools and other educational establishments and developing the Multi faith and belief guidelines
- developing ways of supporting schools in the delivery of the religious education syllabus and monitoring this delivery
- developing and maintaining links with local and national faith and belief communities
- producing an annual report of its work.
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Although the Law tells us that Religious Education (RE) is to be taught in all schools as RE is not part of the National Curriculum we are grateful to Greenwich Children's Services for their continued support and the assistance of Matthew and Lucy whose contributions and guidance have been invaluable.

We as members took a collective responsibility to ensure that we were committed to making sure that what we did improved religious education and collective worship for schools in Greenwich. We did this by making sure that our local communities and teachers had the opportunity to influence and support what pupils learned in RE. One of the many positive things agreed by members was for Greenwich SACRE to begin to collect the views of teachers as to whether they feel the current curriculum needs amending, or whether they would like an entirely new curriculum. You can read more about this in the report.

We made sure that our Greenwich SACRE members were made up of other Christian denominations and other faiths and beliefs, The Church of England, Teachers' Professional Associations & Teachers' Associations, and The Local Authority. Each of these group members played a pivotal role in driving forward the three-year agenda plan for the Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE which is reviewed and updated annually.

I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to committee members who have left us, and I thank those members who remain, for their sterling work on making Greenwich SACRE what it is now as we continue to see it go from strength to strength in its dedication to improving RE and collective worship.

Councillor Christine St Matthew-Daniel,  
Chair of Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE 2022-23

<b>Chair of the SACRE:</b> Cllr St Matthew-Daniel	<b>Vice-Chair of the SACRE:</b> Mtr Ariadne van den Hof
<b>Clerk for SACRE &amp; ASC:</b> Lucy Davies	<b>Contact from Royal Greenwich Local Authority:</b> Matthew West

### **Ic Overview of meetings and attendance**

Term	Date	Quoracy	Venue
Autumn Term	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Quorate	The Woolwich Centre & via Zoom
Spring Term	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Quorate	The Woolwich Centre & via Zoom
Summer Term	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Quorate	The Woolwich Centre & via Zoom

We had some changes in membership this year. Renu Partap stood down as one of the Hindu representatives and David Osbourne as a secondary RE lead representative. SACRE thanked them both for their work with SACRE. We welcomed Dr Yinka Oyebade as a new representative for African churches. Two observers were welcomed to attend SACRE meetings: Ms. Mona Jones attended the Spring meeting; and Rahima Choudhury R.E. lead at Thomas Tallis School attended the summer meeting.

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).

## **2. Religious Education (RE)**

### **2a The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

The Agreed Syllabus for religious Education was launched in the 2018-19 academic year. By the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 (less than a year after the launch), it had been viewed 852 times, not including views from members of local authority staff. The agreed syllabus has been adopted by both maintained schools and academies. SACRE has not carried out an analysis of which academies have adopted the agreed syllabus. In the 2022-23 academic year, SACRE members began discussing updating the curriculum, and whether to buy in another local authority's curriculum or to amend RBG's curriculum. It was agreed that RBG SACRE would begin to collect the views of teachers as to whether they feel the current curriculum needs amending, or whether they would like an entirely new curriculum.

### **2b Standards and monitoring of RE**

SACRE members continue to monitor inspection reports by Ofsted, SIAMS and Catholic Section 48 inspections, to gain an insight into the teaching of RE in schools in RBG. The Archdiocese of Southwark announced a new format for their religious inspections of Catholic Schools. Thirty-one schools received an Ofsted inspection during the academic year (two maintained nursery schools, twenty-two primary schools and seven secondary schools (one of which was a special school)). Three schools had deep dives into religious education (two maintained primary schools and one secondary academy), two were judged

as good and one outstanding. Two other schools did not have deep dives into religious education, but the teaching of the subject was mentioned in the report as having been considered.

Mentions of religion, belief, values, collective worship, and assemblies can be seen in table 1 below.

School name	Mention of R.E. beliefs, values, assembly, or collective worship	Inspection outcome
Conway	Deep dive into R.E. Mention that children learn to respect faiths and opinions	Good
Meridian	Deep dive in R.E.	Good
Eltham Church of England	Collective worship is used to teach respect and democracy	Good
Linton Mead	R.E. was considered. Assemblies used to teach the right to be treated equally and respectful attitudes	Good
St Mary's Catholic School	Children have an extensive knowledge of faiths and beliefs	Outstanding
St Patrick's Catholic School	Assemblies used to teach democracy and managing emotions. Children are taught the school's faith and tolerance of others	Good
Kidbrooke Park Primary	Children are taught to respect values and beliefs of others	Good
Montbelle Primary	R.E. was considered but not a deep dive	Good
Ark Greenwich Free School	Deep dive in Religious Studies	Outstanding
St Thomas a Becket Catholic school	Children learn about a range of faiths and cultures	Good
Waterside (primary special school)	Children politely consider beliefs	Outstanding
St Margaret's Church of England primary school	Children learn an appreciation of different faiths and cultures	Good

Three faith schools had section 48 religious character inspections. Bishop John Robinson achieved excellent in their SIAMS inspection, with both teaching of religious education and collective worship being mentioned as excellent. Notre Dame Catholic Primary and St Ursula's Convent School both achieved good in their CSI inspections.

Outcomes at GCSE and A level in religious studies are also reported to SACRE. The outcomes are summarised in tables 2 and 4, with table 3 showing the schools that have not entered pupils in GCSE religious studies. During the summer term SACRE meeting in 2023, SACRE members checked the information published on RBG's secondary school websites for the curriculum followed for pupils not taking Religious Studies. The Local Authority representative then contacted The Halley Academy, The John Roan, and Woolwich Poly Boys. Following this work by RBG SACRE, The Halley Academy and The John Roan updated their websites and the lead of the RE network got in contact with the Headteacher at Woolwich Poly Boys to offer support.

Table 2

<b>KS4 2023 GCSE Religious Studies Results</b>	<b>N. Pupils</b>	<b>N. RS Entries</b>	<b>Entries %</b>	<b>5+</b>	<b>4+</b>	<b>1+</b>
St. Mary Magdalene All Through	168	166	99%	61%	73%	98%
Leigh Academy Blackheath	178	19	11%	58%	63%	100%
Ark Greenwich Free School	110	23	21%	96%	100%	100%
Plumstead Manor School	254	217	85%	42%	56%	97%
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	252	9	4%	100%	100%	100%
Thomas Tallis School	264	22	8%	77%	82%	100%
St Ursula's Convent School	122	122	100%	75%	84%	100%
St. Thomas More Catholic Comprehensive School	127	127	100%	83%	91%	100%
St. Paul's Academy	225	215	96%	65%	74%	99%
Kings Oak	10	2	20%	0%	0%	100%
<b>RBG</b>	<b>2853</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>650155</b>	<b>209670</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>98%</b>

Table 2 shows that the numbers of pupils that were entered for GCSE religious studies is the same as nationally at 32%. This figure is decreasing, as pre-pandemic the figure was 50%, in 2022 it was 43% and this year has dropped to 32%. The national figure is also reducing, from 34% in 2022 to 32% in 2023.

Seventy-four percent of students of GCSE religious studies attained a pass (4+), significantly above the national figure of 71%. Students attaining a good pass (5+) are 64% in RBG, higher than the national figure of 60% and a significant increase on last year's figure of 45%.

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 3

<b>No RS Entries</b>
Royal Greenwich Trust School
Harris Academy Greenwich
The Halley Academy
The John Roan School
Eltham Hill School
Woolwich Polytechnic School
Charlton Park Academy
Willow Dene School

Table 4

<b>KS5 2023 A Level Religious Studies Results</b>	<b>N. A Level Pupils</b>	<b>N. RS Entries</b>	<b>A*-A</b>	<b>A*-B</b>	<b>A*-E</b>
Harris Academy Greenwich	103	7	0%	14%	100%
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	95	2	50%	100%	100%
Thomas Tallis School	282	13	23%	31%	100%
Plumstead Manor School	101	4	0%	0%	100%
St. Mary Magdalene All Through	56	8	25%	38%	100%
<b>RBG</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>100%</b>
England	-	15284	25.9%	55.4%	97.6%

Table 3 shows that the number of schools entering students for A level religious studies was low, as was the number of students taking the subject in each school. This figure dropped from 921 pupils in 2022 to 637 in 2023. The percentage of students getting good passes was lower than the national figure.

## **2c Teacher training and RE advice for schools**

The PTI (formally the Prince's Trust Initiative) ran RE CPD for teachers in a hub of schools in RBG in the 2021-22 academic year which included both primary and secondary schools. This has led to one of the secondary RE leaders to set up a network which continues to meet. The lead from this group joined our final SACRE meeting of the 2022-23 year and fed back on behalf of RE leaders that are currently attending the network. She is keen to open the network to all RE leaders.

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.

## **2d Other information**

No schools contacted SACRE requesting a withdrawal from their statutory duties relating to RE during the 2022-23 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**

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 2022-23 academic year and the Catholic Schools Inspectorate announced a new

format for their religious inspections of Catholic Schools. Thirty-one schools received an Ofsted inspection during the academic year (two maintained nursery schools, twenty-two primary schools and seven secondary schools (one of which was a special school)). One mentioned that respect and democracy are taught through collective worship. One that assemblies teach the right to be treated equally and the importance of respectful attitudes. One other mentioned that assemblies are used to reach democracy and managing emotions. All three schools got a good outcome.

### **3b Determinations**

No determinations have been received from schools in Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2022-23

### **3c Teacher training provided**

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**

The RE commissions Still Standing report was discussed at the Autumn meeting, following an introduction to the report by the Buddhist representative.

### **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 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 Local work of SACRE**



## **5a Governor Training**

No governor training took place during the 2022-23 academic year.

## **5b Advice provided**

Ramadan advice was updated for the 2022-23 academic year and agreed by SACRE. This was shared with schools in a timely manner.

## **6 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. Additional support was provided by the Royal Borough of Greenwich School Improvement Team.

### **6b Membership, representation and quoracy**

All meetings were quorate.

Some members of SACRE stepped down during the 2022-23 academic year and we thank them for their contributions to RBG SACRE

Group A: Renu Partap resigned as Hindu representative in Spring 2023

Group C: Mr David Osbourne resigned as secondary RE lead representative in Spring 2023

Group D: Cllr Mbang stepped down in May 2023 when he was appointed as Mayor of Greenwich

There are now some vacancies in RBG SACRE membership, and the local authority representative is working with the Performance Analysis Service in RBG to obtain the most up to date census data to help determine whether the membership correctly represents the community.

### **6c Training**

All RBG SACRE members are provided with the login details for the NASACRE website so that they can access the training opportunities that are provided. The clerk also offers the opportunity to attend the NASACRE annual conference to members and Lakshmi Vyas attended the conference. She fed back to RBG SACRE at our meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### **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 2022-23**

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of SACRE meetings attended (or arranged a substitute)</b>	<b>Apologies received</b>
	African Churches	Vacant		
	African Churches	Vacant		
	Baha'i	Vacant		
	Baptist Churches	Vacant		
	Buddhism	Mr. Mariano Marcigaglia	3 out of 3	
	Evangelical Churches	Mr. Jeff Laws	3 out of 3	
	Hinduism	Ms. Lakshmi Vyas	2 out of 3	
	Hinduism	Mrs. Renu Partap <i>Resigned Spring Term 2023</i>	0 out of 2	
	Humanists	Vacant		
	Islam	Vacant		
	Islam	Imam Swaleh Kabocho or Olinoor Mia	1 out of 3	Yes
	Judaism	Rev. David Rome	1 out of 3	Yes
	Methodist Church	Vacant		
	Roman Catholic Church	Mrs. Sharon Docherty	3 out of 3	
	Roman Catholic Church	Vacant		
	Sikhism	Vacant		
	United Reformed Church	Vacant		
<b>Group B</b>	The Church of England	Mr. Jeremy Lunnon	2 out of 3	Yes
	The Church of England	Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	3 out of 3	
	The Church of England	Mr. Shaun Burns	1 out of 3	Yes
	The Church of England	Two vacancies		
<b>Group C</b>	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Claire Harrison	3 out of 3	
		Mr. Matthew Harris	0 out of 3	
		Mr. David Osbourne <i>Resigned Spring Term 2023</i>	1 out of 1	
		Seven vacancies		
<b>Group D</b>	The Local Authority	Cllr. Christine St Matthew Daniel	2 out of 3	Yes
		Cllr. Pat Greenwell	2 out of 3	Yes
		Cllr. Dominic Mbang <i>Until May 2023</i>	0 out of 2	
		Mr. Matthew West	3 out of 3	

## 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 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 and RE inspection reports.

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
<b>2023-24</b>	Autumn Term 9 <sup>th</sup> 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 15 <sup>th</sup> 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 26 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>2024-25</b>	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
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
		Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance RE Results for 23.24 ASC Planning
	Summer Term	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 School Websites review
<b>2025-26</b>	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.