



# **Harrow SACRE Annual Report**

**2021 – 2022**

**LB HARROW STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**January 2023**



**Harrow  
SACRE**



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# Forward

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Foreword from the Chair of SACRE 2021-22

The first normal year for some time and what a relief to be back to normal!

The teaching profession has continued to work with rigour to ensure that children have the best outcomes and grow despite some difficult previous years. RE teaching has continued in all Harrow schools and the subject leaders have collaborated in their planning with each other. There have been subject leaders meetings on zoom that have been very popular with subject matter led by the needs of the teachers. RE leaders have continued to talk regularly via WhatsApp and share their expertise. SACRE meetings continued to be well attended despite being on zoom. One of our members attended the NASACRE annual meeting and we were able to discuss the Ofsted deep dives and how to prepare for them.

Education will always have challenges but where there is a spirit of co-operation most difficulties can be overcome. Through the RE subject leaders meetings we were able to address these difficulties and plan ways to move forward.

Visits to places of worship began again, and with the support of the local community, children were able to visit and learn about the rites and rituals in a place of worship from their visits. This enhances a child's learning as they can contextualise what they have learnt in school.

We are always grateful to hear of the good work in our schools. Whitmore RE department (our only non-academy secondary school) is flourishing and the students enjoy RE and gain good results. We also support schools in the authority that are part of a MAT and Lesley Prior has supported other secondary schools as necessary.

Collective worship has returned to normal in school which is a great relief. Singing in school has returned and is much enjoyed. Teachers have engaged with SACRE on how to produce better collective worship. Talking to children at Vaughan Primary School the children gained much from their collective worship sessions and missed being together during Covid times.

Harrow SACRE is a thriving and vibrant group and we learn from each other and move forward together. We are lucky to have an excellent clerk in Vivian Wright and our councillors from the local council take an active interest in what we do. We are exceptionally lucky to have Patrick O'Dwyer, Director of Education, as a LA senior representative who supports us in all we do and Lesley Prior who has a great depth of knowledge on the subjects of RE and collective worship and works tirelessly to support the teachers in the authority.

**Alison Stowe, Chair 2021-2022**

## 1.2 Religion and Belief in LB of Harrow

The London Borough of Harrow is among the most religiously diverse boroughs in the country and the Harrow Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has a special and well established relationship with Harrow Council and the communities it serves. Although statistics from the 2011 National Census are now somewhat out of date they remain helpful in illustrating the diversity of the Local Authority.

Harrow had the highest religious affiliation in England and Wales and was ranked as having the:

- highest percentage of Hindus (25.3%)
- highest percentage of Jains (2.2%)
- second highest percentage of Zoroastrians (0.1%)
- second lowest percentage of residents declaring No Religion (9.6%).

The Census data also revealed that 37.3% of residents identified themselves as Christian, 12.5% as Muslim, 4.4% as Jewish, 1.1% as Buddhist and 1.2% as Sikh.

Harrow was also defined by its ethnic profile, having the:

- second highest percentage of residents of Indian origin (26.4%) and the highest percentage of residents who have described themselves using the category of 'Other Asian' (11.3%)
- highest ranking of residents identifying their country of birth as South and Eastern Africa (9.9%), Kenya (4.9%), Sri Lanka (4.3%) and Romania (2.2%)
- highest percentage of residents who identified themselves as British only (41.6%), indicating a high degree of integration
- a significant relocation of Eastern European families into Harrow since 2011.

The 2011 National Census revealed that Harrow's population was estimated to have increased to 239,100; this figure is 15.6% higher than the 2001 Census showed, and the Office for National Statistics 2014 Mid-Year Estimates showed a further increase to 246,011. Harrow's population is now at the highest recorded level, based on records going back to 1901. The 0-4 age group increased by 5,418 between mid-2001 (12,058) and mid 2014 (17,476), which represents a 45% increase. There were also increases across all the statutory school age groups. The 2011 Census showed that Harrow's residents were born in approximately 200 different countries and the percentage of Harrow's residents born in the UK is the 6th lowest ranking nationally. Harrow is ranked 7th nationally (and in London) for ethnic diversity and 2nd for religious diversity in London.

## 2. Religious Education Statutory Responsibilities

### 2.1 Background

The London Borough of Harrow's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities. This report summarises its activities during the academic year 2021-22. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: "*to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious*

*worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.”*

In particular, the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:

- It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on Religious Education.
- It may determine, on application by the headteacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the Collective Worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
- With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers’ in-service professional development.

In addition, the SACRE has a direct role in the consideration and disposal of complaints related to the RE curriculum or Collective Worship. The SACRE will be asked to advise where complaints relate to Religious Education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus or to Collective Worship in county – now called community - schools.

Details of the work of the LB Harrow SACRE and associated papers can be found on its designated page on the LA website:

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/schools-learning/standing-advisory-council-religious-education>.

## **2.2 Locally Agreed Syllabus**

By statute, every local authority is required to adopt a Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) for Religious Education and to review it every five years. The current LB Harrow LAS has been in place since December 2016. It was therefore due for review in this academic year of 2021-22.

The LB Harrow Agreed Syllabus is available via this link:

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/23996/agreed-syllabus.pdf>

At the SACRE Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021, members discussed a range of options in relation to the review:

- The current syllabus can be retained just as it is;
- The current syllabus can be retained in essentials but updated with some new materials;
- A syllabus from another LA can be brought in: some London LAs have purchased syllabuses in this way, some of which may be customised to meet local needs with the parent authority’s permission;
- A commercially produced syllabus can be purchased and again some of these may be adapted to reflect local conditions.

LB Harrow teachers with responsibility for RE were asked for their views. They were unanimous in wanting to retain the present syllabus but asked that it should be updated to reflect current initiatives in RE itself as well as education more generally. The teachers made it clear that they want to build on the good work already achieved and this option was endorsed by SACRE members.

The decision was therefore taken to call upon the LA to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference to carry out this work in accordance with current legal requirements.

## **2.3 Standards in RE**

SACRE members gave close consideration to the various national and local developments concerning the provision of RE. These discussions were prompted by the information provided to the SACRE through the regular updates from the RE Consultant and SACRE Adviser and NASACRE Briefings.

## **2.4 Teacher Training**

A Good Practice Network for Subject Leaders for RE in community primary schools continued to run on a termly basis in 2021-22. These sessions are run by Lesley Prior, RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE. The Chair of SACRE, Alison Stowe is always present too and plays a key role in building effective links between SACRE and the members of this group.

The RE Subject Leaders have met three times this year. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all of these meetings in 2021-22 were held via virtual platforms.

- 9<sup>th</sup> December, focusing on:
  - Sharing Resources to Support High Quality RE in the Primary Curriculum
- 15<sup>th</sup> March, focusing on:
  - Assessment in RE
  - Knowledge in RE with particular reference to the Ofsted Research Review: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-publishes-research-review-on-religious-education>
- 26<sup>th</sup> May, focusing on:
  - Ofsted 'Deep Dives' in RE
  - The Revision of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Network has continued to grow in size and members have maintained constant and mutually supportive contact with one another between sessions using a WhatsApp Group. There has been a further increase in significant activity via this route now involving more than thirty teachers, with questions being raised, materials recommended and documentation shared. As the continued sensitivities related to Covid-19 prevented face to face meetings, the support offered was hugely appreciated by all those involved.

Anyone wishing to join this group should contact Lesley Prior, the RE Consultant and Adviser to SACRE who can ensure they are added to it.

Lesley can be reached at: [lesley.prior@london.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.prior@london.anglican.org).

The RE Consultant and Adviser to SACRE also offers extensive telephone and online consultations to Subject Leaders who are developing schemes of learning and reviewing and revising policy documents for RE. She also issues six newsletters during this period (one every half term) for distribution to Subject Leaders to share new materials and resources, promote relevant RE events and highlight significant national developments and initiatives in the subject. These are also shared with SACRE members.

## **2.5 Complaints and Withdrawals**

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2021-22 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2020-21.

## **3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities**

### **3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship**

During 2020-21 SACRE members supported by the Chair of SACRE Alison Stowe and SACRE Adviser Lesley Prior revised the Collective Worship guidance for schools. The new document has been published online and it can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.harlow.gov.uk/schools-learning/standing-advisory-council-religious-education>

### **3.2 Determinations**

The Adviser to SACRE regularly updates members about the role, nature and purpose of determinations in relation to Collective Worship.

**The following school received a determination in relation to Collective Worship (or a renewal of the same) during 2021-22:**

- **Vaughan Primary School – expires Autumn Term 2026**

**Guidance on applying for a determination (or a renewal of the same) can be found with the relevant application forms in the LB Harlow SACRE document ‘ The A to Z of School Collective Worship’ via this link: <https://www.harlow.gov.uk/schools-learning/standing-advisory-council-religious-education>**

**The Adviser to SACRE can offer support with this process on request.**

### **3.3 Other Information**

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2021-22 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2021-22.

### **4. Links with other Bodies**

LB Harrow SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and notes and discusses key points from its regular briefings.

See this link for more details: [www.nasacre.org](http://www.nasacre.org). Login details for the NASACRE website can be obtained from the SACRE Clerk.

The 2022 NASACRE Conference and AGM was held virtually on 23rd May 2022, and Camilla Bath attended it on behalf of LB Harrow SACRE. Verbal feedback on the Conference was provided to the SACRE at its summer term meeting and formed the basis for discussion and reflection by members. Full details and copies of the relevant paperwork from the 2022 Conference can be found at: <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2022-ambitious-sacre/>.

The Adviser to SACRE is a member of the NASACRE Executive Group and is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.

### **5. SACRE Involvement Locally**

LB Harrow SACRE has strong links with Harrow Interfaith, part of the Interfaith Network and members receive regular updates about its initiatives and activities, particularly where these might have relevance for local schools and teachers with responsibility for RE. See this link for more information: <https://www.harrowinterfaith.org/>

### **6. SACRE Arrangements**

#### **6.1 Meetings in 2021-22**

The SACRE met on the following four occasions in 2021-22:

- 28th September 2021
- 2nd December 2021
- 9th March 2022
- 29th June 2022

The SACRE usually meets at Harrow Civic Centre. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, SACRE meetings in 2021-22 continued to be held via virtual platforms.



## 6.2 Professional and Administrative Support

Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of the SACRE's duties is provided by the LB Harrow. The key areas of this support include the following:

- Provision of a Clerk
- Support of a Local Authority Adviser
- Commissioning of an RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE
- Funding of the NASACRE annual membership
- Funding for at least one SACRE member to attend NASACRE's annual Conference and AGM
- Costs relating to establishing and reviewing a Locally Agreed Syllabus (when appropriate)

The SACRE is grateful to the LB Harrow for making this support available.

## 6.3 Key Contacts

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| • Chair of the SACRE      | Alison Stowe (Group B)                            |
| • Clerk to the SACRE      | Vivian Wright                                     |
| • Local Authority Contact | Patrick O'Dwyer (Director of Education LB Harrow) |
| • Adviser to SACRE        | Lesley Prior (RE Consultant)                      |

## 6.4 Membership, Representation and Recruitment

Cllr Christine Robson joined the committee from 5 May 2021 replacing Cllr Ghazanfar Ali as one of the Labour councillors. Cllr Sasi Suresh joined as a Labour reserve member from 5 May 2021. From Group A, Bob Dawson, nominated by the Free Church Federal Council, and Tahir Hashmi, representing Harrow Central Mosque, resigned from the committee with effect from 31 August 2021 and 29 June 2021 respectively. From Group C, Teri-Louise O'Brien resigned with effect from 29 June 2021. She has been replaced by Fatema Rahemani.

Alison Stowe moved from Group C where she represented the NEU to Group B replacing Revd Kate Blake who resigned with effect from 9 March 2021 as a Church of England representative. New members Heena Mistry and Elizabeth Boulter replaced Alison Stowe and Teri-Louise O'Brien in Group C will be joining the committee in 2022.

Alison Stowe continues to serve as Chair; Cllr Camilla Bath was Vice-Chair up to and including the March 2022 meeting. She did not stand for re-election to the Council in the May elections but has continued to serve on the SACRE committee as an observer. The office of Vice-Chair has remained vacant since the June Meeting.

A full list of SACRE members is included in Appendix 7.1.

## 6.5 Attendance

Some SACRE meetings in 2021-22 were not quorate but all Minutes were subsequently approved at the next quorate meeting.

## 6.6 Attendance Records

Full details of attendance are available at:

<https://moderngov.harrow.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=282>

## 6.7 Training for SACRE Members

SACRE members are encouraged to attend training provided by NASACRE. School based SACRE members or those with other links to education also attend local and national RE training including Diocesan training.

## 6.8 Finance given to SACRE for its Work

£4,969 is allocated to SACRE by Harrow Council and the funding contributes toward the running costs of the SACRE, the work of the RE Consultant, and other costs such as membership of NASACRE, and attendance at the NASACRE Conference etc.

## 7. Appendices

### 7.1. 2021/22 Exam Results

#### GCSE

| 2021/22 | % 9 - 1<br>(A* - G) | % 9 - 4<br>(A* - C) | % 9 - 7<br>(A* - A) | % 9 - 5 | % 9  | % 8  | % 7  | % 6  | % 5 | % 4 | % 3 | % 2 | % 1 |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| England | 89.7                | 70.1                | 31.7                | 60.4    | 9    | 10.8 | 11.9 | 15.7 | 13  | 9.7 | 9.9 | 6.1 | 3.5 |
| Harrow  | 99.3                | 83.4                | 41                  | 73.8    | 13.2 | 13.5 | 14.3 | 17.9 | 15  | 9.5 | 8.9 | 5   | 1.9 |

#### A Level

| 2021/22 | % A* | % A  | % B  | % C  | % D | % E | % A*-A | % A*-B | % A*-C | % A*-D | % A*-E |
|---------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| England | 9.8  | 21.5 | 32.8 | 21.6 | 9.4 | 3.4 | 31.4   | 64.1   | 85.8   | 95.1   | 98.5   |
| Harrow  | 14.3 | 23.8 | 30.2 | 23.8 | 4.8 | 3.2 | 38.1   | 68.3   | 92.1   | 92.1   | 100.0  |

Source : England <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-performance-revised/2021-22>  
<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/a-level-and-other-16-to-18-results/2021-22>

Harrow : KS4 /KS5 pupil level data

## 7.2. SACRE Membership 2021-22

### Harrow SACRE Membership 2021-2022

Chair: Alison Stowe (Group B)

- Vice Chair: Cllr Camilla Bath (Group D) (until 5 May 2022)

Group A - Religious Traditions and Christian Churches

- Ms Mercedes Afnan: Baha'i
- Ven Sumaner Sramaner: Buddhist
- (Vacancy – now filled) Christian (Free Church Federal Council)
- Diana Ohene: Christian (Catholic)
- Ciara O'Flaherty: Christian (Catholic)
- Vijay Hirani: Hindu (Swaminarayan)
- David Cryer: Humanist (Harrow Humanists)
- Varsha Dodhia: Jain
- Gill Ross: Jewish
- Doreen Samuels: Jewish
- Zafar Khalid: Muslim (representing Harrow Central Mosque)
- Mohammed Amar: Muslim (representing Harrow Central Mosque)
- Asad Omar: Muslim
- Vacancy: Rastafarian
- Paramjit Singh-Kohli: Sikh
- Phiroza Gan-Kotwal: Zoroastrian

Group B - Church of England

- Mary Abbott
- Alison Stowe
- Reverend James Power

Group C - Teachers' Associations

- Fatema Rahemani (NAS/UWT Union)
- Heena Mistry (NAHT) (from 8 March 2022)
- Elizabeth Boulter (NEU) (from 8 March 2022)

Group D - Local Authority

- Cllr Camilla Bath, Conservative (until 5 May 2022)
- Councillor Janet Mote , Conservative (from 5 May 2022)
- Cllr Ghazanfar Ali, Labour (until 5 May 2022)
- Councillor Salim Chowdhury, Conservative (from 5 May 2022)
- Cllr Christine Robson, Labour (until 5 May 2022)
- Cllr Sasi Suresh, Labour (Reserve until 5 May 2022 then Labour representative)
- Cllr Angella Murphy-Strachan, Labour (until 5 May 2022)
- Councillor David Ashton, Conservative (Reserve) (from 5 May 2022)
- Cllr Simon Brown, Labour (Reserve) (until 5 May 2022)
- Councillor Hitesh Karia, Conservative (Reserve) (from 5 May 2022)
- Cllr Dr Lesline Lewinson, Conservative (Reserve) (until 5 May 2022)
- Councillor Dr Antonio Weiss, Labour (Reserve) (from 5 May 2022)

### **7.3 SACRE Publications**

- Days of Religious Observance:  
[https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/31111/Religious\\_observance\\_absence\\_guidance\\_22\\_23\\_agreed\\_20\\_1022\\_v2.pdf](https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/31111/Religious_observance_absence_guidance_22_23_agreed_20_1022_v2.pdf)
- Fasting During Ramadan  
<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/23994/fasting-during-the-month-of-ramadan.pdf>
- Faith Matters in PE  
<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/23993/faith-matters-in-physical-education>

### **7.4 Circulation Details for the SACRE Annual Report**

This Annual Report is shared with the Director of Education for LB Harrow and sent to the Department for Education, NASACRE and schools, including governors. The report will be available for anyone to view on the SACRE section of the LB Harrow website:

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/schools-learning/standing-advisory-council-religious-education>