

By the Chair of SACRE
Foreword by Chair

LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW
ANNUAL REPORT OF HOUNSLOW STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION 2018 - 19

1.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1.1 Agreed Syllabus

At the SACRE Meeting on 11th November 2009, members decided that a revision of the Agreed Syllabus had become necessary and voted to institute an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The first Meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) was held on 10th February 2010. Further Meetings of the ASC were held on 7th June 2010, 20th October 2010, 8th February 2011 and 15th June 2011.

The text of the current syllabus was agreed on 15th June 2011 and published and launched in 2012. It was issued to schools as a CD Rom and is also available via:

[http://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/\(S\(0ahf4bmhkenabqbckuj4nh55\)\)/documents/s109897/Appendix%20-%20Widening%20Horizons%20Agreed%20Syllabus%20on%20Religious%20Education%202012.pdf](http://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/(S(0ahf4bmhkenabqbckuj4nh55))/documents/s109897/Appendix%20-%20Widening%20Horizons%20Agreed%20Syllabus%20on%20Religious%20Education%202012.pdf)

It currently remains the legally binding document for RE in all LA maintained schools in the LB of Hounslow.

1.2 Revision of the Agreed Syllabus

At the SACRE Meeting in February 2017, SACRE voted to formally call for a revision of the Agreed Syllabus.

It was agreed that a case would need to be made for an additional budget to fund the work of an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

In 2018-19, discussions about possible revisions to the current syllabus continued at SACRE Meetings, but the LA did not formally convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

In the enforced absence of the regular SACRE Consultant, SACRE employed another professional adviser to offer support. She advised SACRE members that in her view, the current syllabus gives good guidance for schools and is not didactic but that some revision is necessary to support them, particularly as RE in primary schools is often taught by non-specialists who have had little training in the delivery of the subject and that this may also be the case in some secondary schools.

SACRE members discussed the possibility of adopting a syllabus from another LA as is permitted by law, but were made aware that the costs attached to this can be much higher than

those associated with revising the current document. It was also noted that Hounslow might be able to sell its new syllabus to other LAs and thus recoup the costs of producing it.

At the time of writing, the statutory review of the Agreed Syllabus is now more than two years overdue.

1.3 Standards in RE

SACRE used to monitor standards in RE by carrying out an annual analysis of OFSTED reports. In 2018-19, SACRE members continued to regret the fact that current OFSTED arrangements make it extremely difficult for them to carry out this statutory duty, as the necessary evidence is no longer available. SACRE members therefore sought other ways in which to monitor standards in RE, such as an analysis of results of public examinations in RE.

In previous years, examination results for all schools in the Authority were included in this report with such an analysis. In 2018-19, SACRE members agreed once again that the difficulties encountered in obtaining accurate and reliable data rendered this analysis ineffective.

The Annual SACRE Sixth Form Conference for RE includes some opportunities for teachers and SACRE members to gather qualitative feedback about standards in RE. This feedback is reported to SACRE.

1.4 Religious Education Achievement Programme (REAP)

From 1st September 2001 the **REAP** course was available as a statutory means of fulfilling the Key Stage 4 requirements of the revised Agreed Syllabus. Schools were able to adapt the course to meet local needs. Schools were also responsible for standards and certification and the Authority offered a framework of support, advice, training and assistance with moderation in order to maintain consistency in the award of grades.

However, changes to the provision of support for RE in 2018-19 and the requirements of the agreed syllabus mean that **REAP** is no longer used in the majority of schools.

The syllabus makes it clear that RE should be taught to all pupils (unless they have been withdrawn from the subject by a parent or guardian), regardless of whether or not they are studying for a public examination. It should be noted that this requirement applies to **ALL** secondary schools, including those which have opted out of local authority control.

2.0 IN-SERVICE TRAINING: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

2.1 Short Courses

The Authority no longer offers a basic programme of in-service training.

In 2018-19, SACRE noted with regret that funding was no longer available to offer termly meetings for Subject Leaders for RE in primary and special schools as a result of further constraints on its own budget.

2.2 Newly Qualified Teachers

SACRE was pleased to note that the majority of all Newly Qualified Teachers in Primary Schools continue to receive some input on RE as part of the Authority's induction programme for teaching staff.

All Newly Qualified Teachers in RE Departments in Secondary Schools are also offered advice, help and support but this is no longer funded by the Authority.

3.0 COMPLAINTS

No complaints on either Religious Education or Collective Worship were referred to SACRE for investigation in the year 2018 – 19.

4.0 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

4.1 Determinations

A list of schools which have been granted Determinations will be found in Annex ?.

4.2 Determination Renewals

At the SACRE Meeting on 19th November 2018, the following school was granted a renewal of its Determination in relation to Collective Worship, subject to the approval of its Governing Body:

- Grove Road Primary School

The Governing Body of the school gave its approval on 22nd November 2018. As a result, this school may waive the legal requirement to provide Collective Worship that shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

SACRE noted once again that any school which has become an academy and wishes to renew its Determination should apply directly to the Department for Education in accordance with the appropriate protocols in such cases. The Consultant to the SACRE is available to offer them support during this process.

SACRE Members have been issued with a list of criteria to be used when considering applications for Determinations (or renewals of Determinations). These are:

- Consultation with School Governors
- Consultation with Parents
- Collective Worship Policy
- Current Practice
- Statistics for Faith Make Up of the School
- Legal Requirements Met
- Monitoring

5.0 MATTERS REFERRED TO SACRE

- SACRE first issued Guidance to Schools on arrangements for Muslim pupils during the month of Ramadan in November 2001, in conjunction with Hounslow LEA and Hounslow Central Mosque. This was updated in February 2016 by SACRE with additions and

amendments from Guidance produced by the LB of Redbridge and the LB of Tower Hamlets. Schools received and welcomed this document and found it useful. It is reviewed on an annual basis and updated if necessary.

A link to this Guidance Document can be found here:

<http://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/documents/s123225/Ramadan%20Guidance%202016%20edited.pdf>

- SACRE discussed the possibility of using some of its funding to be used to directly support RE in LA schools through a programme of training or perhaps to set up a competition on the theme of 'Faiths Living Well Together'.
- SACRE Members discussed the Draft Ofsted Inspection Pack and welcomed its renewed emphasis on a broad and balanced curriculum, thus giving higher priority to RE.
- SACRE Members reflected upon the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from RE and considered the possibility of providing some materials to support schools in dealing with this.

No other matters were referred to SACRE for consideration in the year 2018 – 19.

6.0 LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

The Hounslow SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

Login details for the NASACRE website are available from the Clerk to SACRE at: wendy.merry@hounslow.gov.uk

The NASACRE AGM and Conference took place at The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Manchester on 22nd May 2019. The theme of this year's event was: **Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships; RE Near and Far (Local, National, Global)**. Full details and copies of the relevant presentations can be found at: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2019/2019-papers-and-materials>

The login details (see above) may be required to access these presentations.

The first key note speaker was Peter Bull from Alsop High School in Liverpool. He spoke about how SACREs can transform schools to become beacons of hope. Professor Julian Stern was the second key note speaker. He is Professor of Religion and Education at the University of York St. John and focused on uncertainty and mortality which he defined as the two 'stubborn particulars' of RE for cohesive communities.

Lesley Prior, RE Consultant, is former Chair of NASACRE (2013-15) and now Assistant to the NASACRE Executive Group.

Lesley is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.

7.0 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

In January 2018, SACRE members and others gathered at the Heathland School in Hounslow to commemorate those who suffered in the Holocaust and all other victims of prejudice and oppression. Basil Mann (Group A) gave a report about the event to members of SACRE. It was noted that publicity for the event had been poor and it had not been 'picked up' by the local press. SACRE members discussed better ways of publicising the event in future.

Holocaust Memorial Day is officially marked on 27th January every year, with services taking place on and around that time. It marks the same date in 1945 when the Auschwitz concentration camp in modern-day Poland was liberated nearly eight months before World War Two officially ended. In the five years Auschwitz was open, an estimated 1.1 million people were killed at the concentration camp, around 90 per cent of whom were Jewish. Approximately six million Jewish and five million non-Jewish people were killed in the Holocaust. Tribute is also paid to all those killed or affected by genocides across the world.

Resources to support schools in teaching pupils about the Holocaust and other genocides can be found at: <http://hmd.org.uk/content/for-educators>

Basil Mann (Group A) once again played a key role as part of the organising group for this event. Members thanked him for his contribution and also agreed that it was good to see so many people from SACRE present to support it.

8.0 ANNUAL LECTURE

The SACRE Annual Lecture was given on the 17th January 2019 by Seema Malhotra, MP for Feltham and Heston. Her subject was 'RE and the Rise of Identity Politics' and had been very successful with sixty guests in attendance, including a large number of young people.

9.0 ACADEMIES

Members have regularly discussed the place of RE in Academies and whether or not teachers from Academies could or should be members of Group C. It was noted that whilst Academies are not obliged to follow the Locally Agreed syllabus for RE, they do have an obligation to provide RE and Collective Worship. At present, all Academies in the London Borough of Hounslow are invited to use the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE and members hope that they will do so. Teachers from Academies continued to be members of Group C on SACRE in 2018-19 as their schools are using the Locally Agreed Syllabus and their membership of SACRE is supported by the appropriate Unions.

Government guidance on RE and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools>

10.0 SIXTH FORM CONFERENCE

The Conference (sponsored by SACRE) took place in June 2018 at Cranford Community College and was attended by over 120 Sixth Formers. The young people represented a wide range of religious and secular belief systems. They came from several schools.

The conference was an opportunity for young people to explore key questions through various ways which enabled them to interact it and with each other. They were encouraged to think critically and explore new ideas.

Participants were joined by members of our local communities and SACRE Members from Group A formed part of a 'Question Time' Panel during the day.

The Sixth Formers then participated in a variety of workshop activities which were planned and delivered by beginning teachers from the Secondary PGCE in RE at The Institute of Education, University of London and the University of Roehampton, as well as staff and students from Cranford Community College.

Evaluations clearly show that once again, the day was a tremendous success. Particular thanks must go to colleagues at Cranford Community College for hosting such a worthwhile event and to Jane Savill (Group B) who is the Subject Leader for the Secondary PGCE in RE at The Institute of Education, University of London as well as staff from the University of Roehampton. Their commitment and enthusiasm make this event possible.

11.0 CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

In 2018-2019, SACRE discussed several issues relating to membership. There were concerns that not all vacancies were filled. It was noted that SACRE's links with the local interfaith group, 'Hounslow Friends of Faith' may be helpful in helping to ensure that all those vacancies are filled.

SACRE also noted that attendance (or otherwise) of members was not being adequately monitored.

A list of SACRE Members during 2018-19 can be found in Annex ?

12.0 SACRE CONTACT OFFICERS 2018 - 2019

Wendy Merry, Clerk to SACRE

Tel: 020 8583 2061 E.mail: wendy.merry@hounslow.gov.uk

Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 4DN

Dr Ranvir Singh, Chair of SACRE

Tel: ? E.mail: ?

Lesley Prior, Professional Adviser for RE

Tel: E.mail: lesley.prior@london.anglican.org

13.0 MEETINGS

Meetings of SACRE were held on:

- 19th November 2018
- 18th March 2019
- 10th June 2019.

SACRE Officers were also in contact with each other at various times throughout the year to set the agendas for meetings and to discuss other procedural matters.

14.0 SACRE MANAGEMENT

Chair: Dr Ranvir Singh (Group A - Sikh)

Vice Chair: Eileen Crabtree (Group D)

Group A (Faith Communities)

Convenor: Mr Sarup Singh Mahon (Group A -Sikh)

Group B (The Church of England)

Convenor: Mr Steve Line

Group C (Teachers)

Convenor: Ms Mehmoona Yousof (Cranford Community College)

Group D (Local Education Authority)

Convenor: Mrs Eileen Crabtree

ANNEX A

LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW LA STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2018-2019

MEMBERSHIP

TO BE ADDED

SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED DETERMINATIONS IN RESPECT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:

:

SCHOOL

EXPIRES

Alexandra Primary School
(formerly two separate schools)

4th February 2020

Berkeley Primary School

14th November 2021

Andrew Ewing Primary
(now an academy named
Westbrook Primary School)

17th November 2014

(did not seek a renewal from the DfE)

Chiswick Community School
(now an academy)

7th June 2015

Cranford Primary School

4th February 2020

(formerly two separate schools)

Cranford Community College
(now an academy)

(renewed through the DfE)

Grove Road Primary School

22nd November 2024

The Heathland School

15th June 2021

Heston Community School
(now an academy)

7th June 2015

Hounslow Heath Infant and Nursery School

4th February 2020

Hounslow Heath Junior School

4th February 2020

Kingsley Academy
(now an academy,
formerly Hounslow Manor School)

17th November 2014

Lampton School
(now an academy)

17th November 2014

Norwood Green Infant and Nursery School

4th February 2020

Norwood Green Junior School
(now an academy)

17th November 2014

Orchard Primary School

15th November 2019

Spring Grove Primary School

26th June 2018

Springwell Infant and Nursery School

4th February 2020

Springwell Junior School

15th November 2019

Wellington Primary School

29th February 2021

