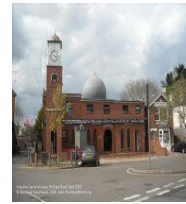
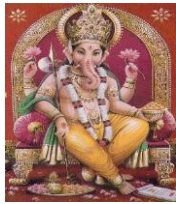




Royal Borough of Kingston

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KINGSTON UPON THAMES
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION [SACRE]
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022- 2023
(SEPTEMBER 2022 TO AUGUST 2023)**



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INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE SACRE, MARIA JAMES

This has continued to be a very challenging year for everyone, especially our schools. Despite the challenges, as a SACRE we have continued to make great progress within the borough as well as moving SACRE forward as an advisory body. SACRE members were able to meet virtually this year, ensuring meetings took place while maintaining quoracy.

Once again it has been the privilege of Kingston's SACRE to guide and oversee schools with regard to Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship. As Chair of Kingston's SACRE, I know how dedicated and careful the various members and local government officers are about supporting the RE of this borough.

We are fortunate in Kingston that there are many teachers who realise the importance and value of the subject and have continued to teach Religious Education with enthusiasm, relevance and rigour. SACRE is privileged to support their work and particularly values the contribution from our teacher members at SACRE Meetings. These members ground our practice in schools and teaching.

As ever, we applaud the excellent practice in our schools. At a time of continual change and perception, SACRE members look forward to another year of serving the hard-working teachers of our Borough, counting it a privilege to be involved in this ongoing service. We will keep abreast of potential changes in both RE and Collective Worship initiatives and policies as we anticipate continued dialogue with national and professional bodies.

I am pleased to report that Kingston SACRE has been developing closer links with Richmond SACRE and the new joint RE Award was launched in September 2023.

SACRE members are always keen to visit schools and value the times when they meet in a school setting for their meeting. Please contact our Clerk, Karen Bridgman, if you are able to host a meeting.

I look forward to working with SACRE colleagues and the teachers of this borough through the coming year.

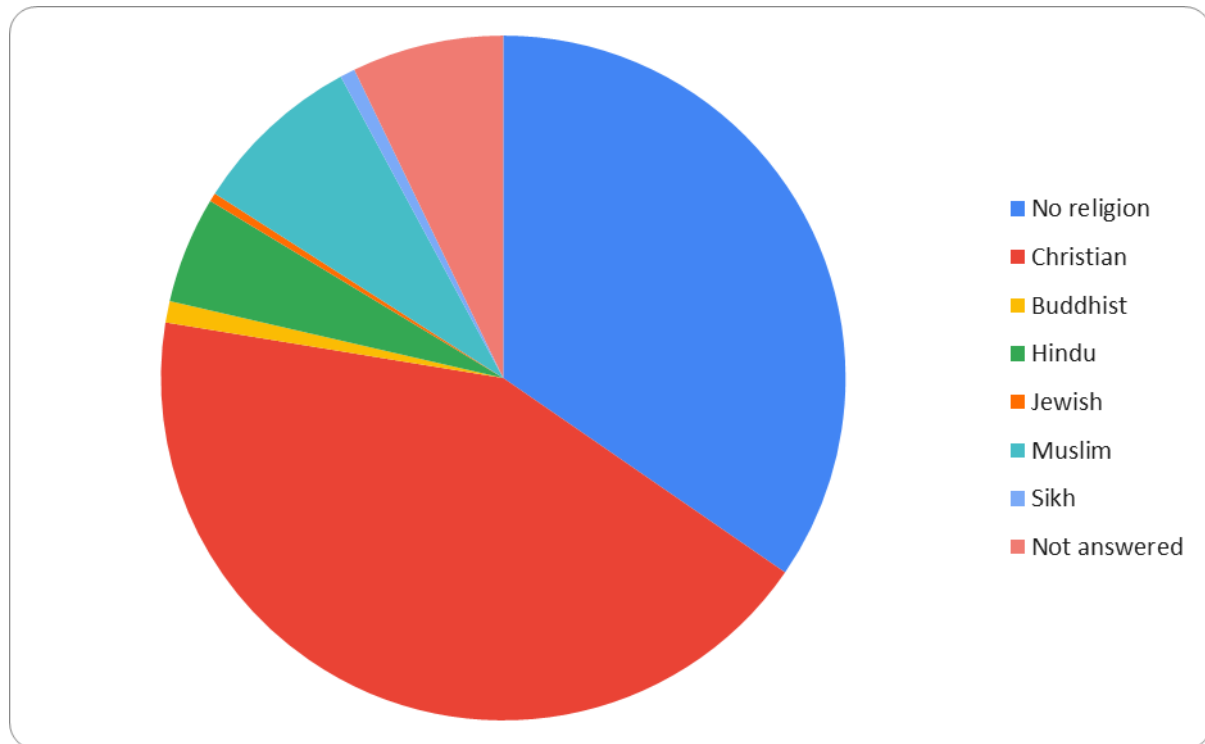
Thank you

Dr Maria James
SACRE Chair

RELIGION AND BELIEF IN RB KINGSTON UPON THAMES

The 2021 National Census illustrates the diversity of the local authority.

Religion	No of Responses	Percentage
No religion	57,641	34.3
Christian	71,670	42.6
Buddhist	1,726	1
Hindu	8,456	5
Jewish	693	0.4
Muslim	13,366	8
Sikh	1,119	0.7
Not answered	11,966	7.1



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES)

Background

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames' 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 2022-23.

The main function of a SACRE is to advise the local authority on matters related to the religious education, which follows the locally agreed syllabus and on collective worship in schools. SACRE's:

- Can require the LA to review its agreed syllabus
- Must consider applications from a Head Teacher that their school is released from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (this is known as a determination).
- Must produce an annual report of its work.

The role of the SACRE is to also support good RE and collective worship within its schools by:

- Giving advice on ways of teaching agreed syllabus RE, including the choice of teaching materials.
- Monitoring school's provision for RE and collective worship as well as the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of pupils.
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers in RE.
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivering of religious education and collective worship referred to it by the LA.

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 RB of Kingston upon Thames Locally Agreed Syllabus has been in place since September 2018.

During 2022-2023, SACRE has reviewed the current LAS. The current syllabus was produced by RE Today on behalf of SACRE and covers all the key stages including early years and sixth form. SACRE felt that schools needed more time to embed the syllabus as this was a big change from the previous one and there was also the impact of the pandemic on our schools. SACRE agreed that the current syllabus would continue for a further five years from September 2023 but new units were added.

Standards in RE

SACRE members give close consideration to the various national and local developments concerning the provision of RE. Their discussions are prompted by the information provided to the SACRE through the regular updates from teacher members, NASACRE Briefings and NATRE newsletters.

During 2022-2023, SACRE meetings focussed on:

- Reviewing the locally agreed syllabus and deciding which additional information could be added.
- The Christmas Journey which is organised by Insight. The Christmas Journey is an interactive re-telling of the first ever Christmas and is for Year 2 children. Insight works with Kingston churches who host this event. The Christmas Journey supports the Kingston agreed syllabus.
- A joint RE Award with Richmond upon Thames SACRE.
- Membership of the SACRE.
- Exploring the workforce data produced by the National Association of Teachers for RE (NATRE).

Teacher Training

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and London Borough of Richmond upon Thames continued to run joint termly briefings for RE Subject Leaders. There were two sessions during the 2022-2023 academic year. The first session was led by Lesley Prior, Richmond SACRE's RE Consultant and Adviser. The second session was led by Insight. Both of these meetings were held via virtual platforms.

The first session on 8 November 2022 focussed on local and national RE News, RE in the EYFS and Assessment in RE. The second session on 13 June 2023 focussed on the support provided to primary schools by Insight and the locally agreed syllabus.

Complaints and Withdrawals

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2022-23 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2022-2023.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (STATUTORY DUTIES)

Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

During 2022-23 SACRE did not receive any requests for advice and support on Collective Worship.

Determinations

No local authority maintained school in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames has ever applied to SACRE for a determination.

SACRE has not received any reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Other Information

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2022-23 in relation to Collective Worship.

LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACRE's (NASACRE) and National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) and discusses key points raised in their briefings.

SACRE ARRANGEMENTS

SACRE Meetings

SACRE met on 7 November 2022 and 17 April 2023. The meeting on 7 November was hosted by Malden Manor Primary School and the Kingston, Surbiton and District Synagogue hosted the meeting on 17 April 2023.

Professional and Administrative Support

Assistance for the discharge of SACRE's duties is currently provided by:

- AfC Associate Director, School Improvement and Standards
- AfC Lead School Improvement Adviser for Curriculum Development
- Provision of a Clerk
- Funding of the NASACRE and NATRE annual membership.
- Costs relating to establishing and reviewing a Locally Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE is grateful to the RB of Kingston upon Thames and Achieving for Children for making this support available.

Membership, Representation and Recruitment

There were changes to the membership of the Kingston SACRE during 2022-2023. SACRE was pleased to welcome Councillor Sue Ansari and Councillor Helen Grocott.

The following SACRE members stepped down during this period: Joy Sanderson (Diocese of Southwark) and Darryl Betts (Insight). SACRE thanked them both for their much valued contributions during their years as members.

SACRE still has a number of vacancies especially representing the different faiths and beliefs in the borough and from schools.

Attendance

All SACRE meetings in 2022-23 were quorate. Members of the SACRE transitioned well with the move from virtual meetings and attendance levels remained high.

Finance given to SACRE for its work

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames does not have a separate budget allocated to SACRE. The funding for the running costs and memberships of national bodies is funded through AfC.