

Annual Report
For
Lambeth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
2024 – 2025.



**Lambeth SACRE is a member of the National Association of
SACREs**

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>



Welcome to our Annual Report for 2024 – 2025 of the Lambeth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, (SACRE.)

This past academic year has been yet another year of challenge for everyone, for many different reasons. The crisis in falling school roles resulting in surplus school places, noticeably affecting Lambeth Local Authority, has continued to take hold. Schools have also faced serious difficulties over school funding cuts and the increasing needs of pupils, particularly with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND.) There are also growing numbers of pupils with mental health challenges and trauma-related situations. This is on top of the struggles just to keep going for many people personally, coping with the cost-of-living crisis and other situations affecting them detrimentally at this time. Our world is continuing to go through troubled times, not least with the continuing war in Ukraine caused by the invasion of Russia and also the ongoing war between Hamas and Israel, sparking the ongoing Middle Eastern crisis. Sadly, these conflicts have led to world-wide terrorist incidents and a continued unprecedented rise in hate crime, particularly related to people's faith. All of this means it is a difficult and anxious time for our children and young people to be growing up in, indeed for all of us to be living in, at present.

Throughout all of this, our schools have again continued to be places of routine, safety, sanctuary and hope amidst the on-going turmoil that has been going on around them. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of Lambeth SACRE, to thank our schools for all they have continued to do to ensure that education and care has continued in the ways that they have and how they continue to serve, so diligently and often selflessly, their pupils and families.

Faith is an anchor of hope for many in difficult times. Of course, the learning about and learning from faith and beliefs is what SACRE is all about. Over the past year we have supported our schools in their provision of RE and Collective Worship. This year has seen the continued implementation of 'Exploring the World of Faith and Belief in Lambeth,' the Lambeth Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. We do hope that every maintained Community School in Lambeth (and other schools if they would like to!) have the statutory local RE syllabus embedded. It is important that schools continue to be mindful of gaps in quality RE learning that their pupils encountered due to COVID-19 lockdowns and ensure that each cohort of pupils has tailored future teaching which addresses any gaps in their RE knowledge and understanding. Our Lambeth RE Co-ordinators' Network provides a termly forum of support and training for RE Subject Leaders, we do urge all Lambeth RE Subject Leaders to join and attend the meetings.

Throughout this academic year, the government's Curriculum and Assessment Review has been taking place. The interim report, published in March, stated *"Despite the fact that RE is compulsory for all pupils up to the age of 18 (unless they are withdrawn), evidence suggests that a lack of national agreed content standards has led to national disparities in the quality of provision. There is a balance to be struck between securing an entitlement to high quality content for all, and, particularly in the case of RE, the need for flexibility to be retained for different school types (i.e. schools with a religious designation and those without). We will consider these points through our analysis of each different subject before publishing our final report."* We are pleased to see that the government understands the importance of high quality provision for all and of how RE clearly fits into its overall vision for the curriculum. We await the final report. In our fragile and turbulent world, high quality, meaningful and impactful RE is needed now more than ever.

As Chair, I would like to thank each and every member of Lambeth SACRE for their consistently loyal and dedicated support and work on SACRE. I must notably thank Kathryn Shaw, our LA Officer, for her on-going and unwavering support from the LA, particularly in covering many of the necessary administrative duties in the continuing absence of our SACRE Clerk; Penny Smith-Orr, our SACRE Consultant, for her consistent and upbeat RE and Collective Worship advice to SACRE; and Jo Backus, our Vice Chair. Thank you also to Sarah Thorley for her continued work on our Lambeth Faith Trails for Schools. If you haven't yet been on a faith trail, we recommend the experience!

Shaun Burns.

Chair, Lambeth SACRE.

GROUP A: Christian Denominations other than the Church of England and representatives from faiths and beliefs in the local area.	Attendance	GROUP B: The Church of England	Attendance
Jo Backus – Buddhist Vice-Chair	2	Shaun Burns- Chair	3
Christianity – Majority Black Churches	Vacant	Sarah Thorley	2
Andrew Dart - Christianity - Methodist	0		
Christianity - Roman Catholic	Vacant		
Christianity - United Reformed Church	Vacant		
Umar Mahmood -Islam	1		
Caribbean Hindu	Vacant		
Illana Epstein - Judaism	1		
Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Singh - Sikhism	1		
Aaron Wilkins - Humanist	1		
GROUP C: Teachers and Associations representing Teachers	Attendance	GROUP D: Local Authority Representatives	Attendance
Jason McInnis – Secondary School Head of Religious Studies.	0	Cllr Saleha Jaffer Elected Member	1
Primary School Rep	2	Cllr Christina Valcarcel	0
Denise Henry - NEU Rep	0	Penny Smith-Orr– SACRE Consultant	3
NEU	Vacant	LA Officer Kathryn Shaw	3
NAHT	Vacant	Maria Gabrielczyk – Clerk	1

Lambeth SACRE met four times during the year 2024-2025 and the Executive group met on one additional occasion in August 2025.

The meeting in November 2024 was held at Lilian Baylis Technology School, and the rest of the meetings were held at the civic centre with the Executive meeting online.

Brief Overview of Meetings.

Unfortunately, the meetings this year were not quorate so the actions of the SACRE could not be agreed. However, the meetings worked on the basis that when quorate we would agree all the minutes retrospectively. Standing items on the agenda are the RE Consultant's Update and the SACRE Development Plan, the Lambeth Faith Trails for Schools and training available to members.

The Self-Evaluation Toolkit was sent to members and the first part of this was undertaken in the Summer. Discussions were held on the consultation on Interfaith Week and the consultation on the national Curriculum and Assessment Review, for which Lambeth SACRE submitted a formal response. The interim report on the curriculum review was discussed and a decision on the review of our Agreed syllabus was put on hold until the final report comes out.

The 2021 Census results for Lambeth were looked at to check whether the faith groups on our membership list were representative of the latest demographics of the local community. A lot of discussion has taken place on how to get the membership of SACRE up and representative of Lambeth. A new Jewish representative was found and a Primary RE coordinator was welcomed onto the committee. A visit from the new Head of Community and Engagement and Participation in Lambeth was interesting and a promise was made to strengthen relationships with the faith leaders.

The Faith Trails is a standing item and it was reported that the online self-booking system was much improved. An event was planned for teachers in April 2025. The updated constitution of Lambeth SACRE was presented at the September 2024 meeting and agreed.

Members of SACRE attended the NASACRE AGM and there was a full report of the proceedings given in the Summer meeting.

Religious Education Statutory Responsibilities.

The Agreed Syllabus for RE for Lambeth schools is being implemented by most schools in Lambeth now. The syllabus can be found on the Lambeth Local Authority website at: www.lambeth.gov.uk/schools-and-education/education-lambeth/religious-education-lambeth-schools/agreed-syllabus-religious-education

The termly RE network meetings took place and were attended by more teachers. The meetings cover RE news, some information on religious festivals and other events, ideas for teaching activities and some training on aspects of RE for the teachers to share in their schools. Details of forthcoming meetings can be found on the website at: <https://www.lambethschoolspartnership.uk/Training>.

As a result of the meetings, we have got a new Primary RE coordinator on the SACRE Committee. Currently the only monitoring of RE is by speaking to the RE Co-ordinators.

The Lambeth Faith Trails have been very successful this year and several members of the SACRE committee have also taken part. The booking system has been working well and where a place of worship has had to leave the scheme, others have been found. The information for these trails can be found at; [Faith Trails & Visits for Religious Education | Lambeth Schools Partnership](#).

An event was planned, to take place in the Streatham Synagogue, as a celebration of the faith Trails and for teachers to share their experiences. The date was for the last week of the Easter term, but as teachers were unable to attend in the end, it was a meeting of the faith leaders who open their places of worship to the schools and was successful from the point of view of these leaders sharing their experiences. Sarah Thorley, who has been the driving force of these trails, announced that she would be retiring from them and stepping away at the end of the Summer term.

Regarding Religious Studies (RS) GCSE taken in Lambeth schools in 2025, there were 1370 entries for GCSE compared to 1361 in 2024.

Overall Lambeth averages for GCSE 9 to 4 results in RS have dropped to 71% compared to 74% for 9 to 4 grades in 2024. Results are below national at A*-C grades (72%). Individual Lambeth school performance ranged from 90% to 46% for 9 to 4 grades. When compared to other subjects, RE performs higher than English, history and geography. See Appendix A for full results and hours taught.

As far as we are aware, no schools in Lambeth have applied for the RE Quality Mark. We would like to encourage local schools to work towards this award in the future.

The SACRE Consultant is available to answer questions and give advice by e-mail and some teachers have asked for advice regarding withdrawals.

Collective Worship Statutory Responsibility.

There have been no Determinations in Collective Worship sent to SACRE, but the committee has discussed the process should this occur. Lambeth SACRE's guidance on Collective Worship is now on the website and will help schools to see how they can provide Collective Worship that is inclusive and comfortable for those in their school community of all faiths and beliefs and those with no faith, thereby not feeling the need to apply for a Determination.

There has not been any training on Collective Worship during the year.

Links with Other Organisations and Local Involvement

The Lambeth SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE.) The Chair of Lambeth SACRE is the Primary Religious Education, Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Adviser for the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. The Vice Chair is a member of the Executive committee of NASACRE.

Faiths Together in Lambeth and the South London Interfaith Group and South London Citizens are also represented by members of the committee. The SACRE Consultant and Chair are both members of the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants, (AREIAC,) a national network of Religious Education advisers. The other Church of England representative, as a former independent RE Consultant, is also a member of AREIAC. Lambeth has also signed up to the London Hub network.

Each year advice is sent to schools for arrangements during Ramadan. RE Co-ordinators are given advice on local issues at the network meetings.

SACRE Statutory Responsibilities.

Lambeth SACRE has a budget, and this pays for an RE Consultant for 10 days per year and for a SACRE Clerk to the meetings who also keeps members in touch with any developments during the year. Unfortunately, the clerk has been absent from all meetings in 2025, the council representative has kindly taken the minutes in her absence. A Local Authority Officer attends each meeting which gives a strong link into the Council and helps with discussions.

There has been an issue with quoracy during this year, however the first meeting of 2025-6 was quorate and work is continually done to improve membership on the committee.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the training events put on by NASACRE and report back on these. Members are encouraged to go on one of the Faith Trails. Those that have already taken up this opportunity report that this has improved their knowledge of the faith communities and religious education in Lambeth which they serve as a member of Lambeth SACRE.

Appendix A Lambeth Schools % pupils' entries and results for KS4 GCSE Full and Short Course and Hours of RE taught as reported by schools.

School name	% hours - RE	% KS4FCEntries	% KS4SCEntries	% FC -9-4	% SC9-4
Woodmansterne School		36.6	0	90.6	
The Norwood School		16.5	0.6	71.4	100
Lilian Baylis Technology School	2.73	79.3	0	62	
Stockwell Park School		95.7	0	59.6	
Saint Gabriel's College	6.27	97.4	0	62.5	
La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls' School	10.5	95.7	0	87.9	
Bishop Thomas Grant Catholic Secondary School	8.31	98.9	0	86.4	
St Martin in the Fields High School for Girls	9.78	75.8	0	61.1	
London Nautical School	2.2	0	0		
The Elms Academy	6.58	96.5	0	85.6	
Ark Evelyn Grace Academy	3.73	22.9	0	64	
Platanos College		95.7	0	59.6	
City Heights E-ACT Academy	2.49	19.5	0	52	
St Martin in the Fields High School for Girls	9.78	75.8	0	61.1	
Oasis Academy South Bank	5.33	19.6	0	59.1	
King's College London Maths School					
Trinity Academy	3.48	25.8	0	71	

Appendix B

Previous Full Self-evaluation of Lambeth SACRE 2021-2022.

Key Area	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1a	Religious Education provision across the LA		x	
1b	Standards of achievement	x		
1c	Quality of teaching and learning	x		
1d	Quality of leadership and management and resourcing	x		
1e	Recruitment and retention	x		
1f	Relations with academies and free schools	x		
2a	Review process of syllabus		x	
2b	Quality of the syllabus		x	
2c	Launching and implementing			x
2d	Membership of ASC			x
2e	Developing revised syllabus			x
2f	Use of national Guidance			x
3a	Support entitlement to Collective Worship	x		
3b	Enhance quality of provision of Collective Worship	x		
3c	Respond to determinations		x	
4a	SACRE meetings			x
4b	Membership and training			x
4c	Improvement/development planning		x	
4d	Professional and financial support	x		
4e	Information and advice		x	
4f	Partnership with key stakeholders		x	
4g	Relations with academies	x		
5a	SACRE membership		x	
5b	SACRE understanding of the local area		x	
5c	SACRE engagement with community cohesion		x	
5d	SACRE role within LA initiatives on Community Cohesion	x		

Appendix C Lambeth SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – September 2023- July2024

All the objectives are connected to the statutory duties of a SACRE. Annual allocation of Adviser Days 10

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Date	Costs	Success criteria	Progress
<p>Evaluate SACRE work and establish priorities.</p> <p>To prepare agenda, respond to any action from previous meetings and plan ongoing programme for SACRE committee meetings.</p>	<p>Continuous self evaluation process using the updated NASACRE self evaluation document</p> <p>Arrange the agenda by email 3 times per year</p> <p>Write papers and reports for the meeting to LA timetable</p>	<p>RE Consultant</p> <p>All SACRE members to discuss.</p> <p>Clerk, Chairman, RE consultant</p> <p>RE Consultant</p>	<p>Annual update of self-evaluation at Autumn meeting</p> <p>(Include results in the Annual Report – Autumn)</p> <p>For 4 meetings per year</p>	<p>During one meeting</p> <p>Consultant time 3 days</p>	<p>Identify further areas for development towards an advanced SACRE – to be incorporated as appropriate into future development plans.</p> <p>Results to be incorporated into the annual report.</p> <p>Effective meetings with</p> <p>Action points carried out by Members between the meetings. Members have knowledge of and an understanding of the responsibilities of SACRE</p>	<p>Self evaluation part 1 and 2 to be done in summer term Autumn Term</p> <p>Some meetings to be in person this year.</p> <p>Members need to know dates in advance and make every effort to attend meetings</p>
<p>To report annually on the work of SACRE.</p>	<p>Collect information on exam data and SACRE work</p> <p>RE Consultant to write an annual report by December</p>	<p>RE Consultant to write, Chairman to write forward and read, Clerk to circulate to schools.</p>	<p>Deadline end December 2023</p>	<p>RE Consultant time 2 days</p>	<p>Completed on time and copies provided for SACRE members, Director Assistant Director, schools and</p>	<p>Sent to DFE and clerk for sending</p>

Appendix C Lambeth SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – September 2023- July2024

All the objectives are connected to the statutory duties of a SACRE. Annual allocation of Adviser Days 10

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Date	Costs	Success criteria	Progress
	on the previous academic year.				their governing bodies. NASACRE and the secretary of State for Education	
To monitor standards of RE and CW in Lambeth Schools.	Look for alternative ways to monitor standards in schools. Provide data for members on RE examination results in Secondary Schools.	RE Consultant- Data team to provide RE Consultant with details	Ongoing For the Annual report 2023	Time at meeting Members time Adviser	To have discussed a way to monitor RE in schools and carry it out monitored RE in schools	Data not available in 2023. Discussion of monitoring to be continued
To reply to queries from schools regarding the syllabus and general support	Replying to telephone and email requests for resources and advice.	RE Consultant	as required	1 day per annum	RE Coordinators able to access resources	Emails from teachers answered through the year.

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Objective	Action	Responsibility	Date	Costs	Success criteria	Progress
* Plan units of work for the Lambeth Syllabus	RE Consultant to work on some units of work Members to consider and have input		During the year	?	Teachers able to use Agreed syllabus with ease	Ongoing process – discussions held each term with coordinators and ideas shared

Distribution of This Report.

The SACRE Annual Report is made available electronically to:

The Department for Education

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Lambeth SACRE members

Lambeth Council, Elected Members

Corporate Director of Children, Families and Education

Director of Education

SACRE Nominating Bodies

The principal Faith and Belief Groups in Lambeth

Teaching Unions in Lambeth

Ecumenical Borough Deans

All schools in Lambeth

Lambeth LA Website

Lambeth Schools Partnership website