

Lambeth SACRE

Annual Report 2020-2021



Lambeth is a member of the national Association Of SACREs

Introduction by the Chair of Lambeth SACRE AND Lambeth ASC.

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2020 - 2021 of Lambeth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE.) Since our last Annual Report, the world has changed unimaginably, affected so much by the global Coronavirus pandemic. The life of each one of us has been shaken and turned upside down and our schools and all essential workers have done an amazing and unforgettable job to keep us functional and safe through this unprecedented time, not least the NHS. Thank you everyone who has done anything to help us all.

One enduring lesson that everyone has learnt is the importance of community and how inter-dependent we all are on each other and the strong need for connected cohesive communities.

In Lambeth we are enriched and blessed to have such a diverse community, benefitting from people of many different cultures, faiths and beliefs who live, learn and / or work here. A key part of creating a cohesive community is building respect and understanding of what is important to each person. Religious Education (RE) serves a real purpose in enabling this to happen. In Lambeth SACRE we understand and hold steadfast to our statutory responsibility in supporting and monitoring RE and Collective Worship through the Local Authority to help build community.

This year has been a significant year in Lambeth SACRE, not least for these reasons: -

- 1) We have completed and published the review of the Lambeth Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. This is the new RE Syllabus for Lambeth which should now be being taught in all Lambeth LA maintained schools. Of course, other schools and academies within Lambeth are very welcome to use it as well in the sure knowledge that they will be using a relevant, up-to-date and high-quality RE syllabus to teach an exciting RE curriculum that is appropriate for the 2020s!
- 2) We have completed the main part of our Lambeth Faith Trails for Schools project, the result of a winning bid to Westhill/NASACRE for an award to fund this project. This engaging and memorable local resource is already been explored and adapted nationally and we look forward to Faith Trails being able to take place for real and more fully when and as the COVID-19 restrictions allow;
- 3) We said "Thank You" and sadly "Farewell" to our long-standing RE Consultant to Lambeth SACRE, Denise Chaplin. We also happily welcomed Penny Smith-Orr as our new RE Consultant;
- 4) Lambeth SACRE has set up a new Lambeth RE Subject Leaders' Network.

As Chair, I would like to thank each and every member of Lambeth SACRE and Lambeth Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for their consistent loyal and dedicated support and work on SACRE and the ASC. I must notably mention Denise and Penny for their RE advice to SACRE; Jo Backus, our Vice Chair, who particularly oversaw our Westhill/NASACRE Project and Sarah Thorley for her work on the project; Kathryn Shaw and Anthony Billings, our LA Officers, for their support from the LA; and Maria Gabrielczyk, our SACRE Clerk, for her organisation, efficiency and attention.

It was a particular honour to chair our first SACRE meeting, (albeit virtually,) after the first lockdown and for us to be able to listen to each other and share how the pandemic was affecting each of us, how members were managing and what people both individually and collectively as part of their different faith and belief community or other body whom they represent had been doing to care for other Lambeth people. This was a meeting that I will always remember and hold in my heart.

Shaun Burns.

Chair, Lambeth SACRE and Lambeth ASC.

Lambeth SACRE met three or four times during the year, one of these was an Executive meeting to plan the next year's work and set the dates.

The meetings were all held on a virtual platform. The meetings were all quorate.

Overview of SACRE Meetings.

The Finalising and launch of the new Agreed Syllabus for Lambeth took up some time during the year and was discussed at every meeting. The previous Adviser who was very instrumental in getting the Syllabus written and ready left SACRE as a result of LA re-organisation into appointing consultants, deciding not to re-apply for the role under the new process. A new Adviser was sought and attended from the Spring 2021 meeting. Members had an input into the job specification and requirements for the new adviser. The Adviser was asked to set up an RE Network for RE Subject Leavers and this was discussed by members. She was also to do some training on the new syllabus for the RE teachers.

Lambeth SACRE had achieved a Westhill award to fund a project developing Faith Trails for Schools where pupils can visit up to four places of faith in a day. A toolkit was developed which can be used nationally to make their own faith trails. A presentation was made and taken to the NASACRE Extraordinary Meeting in November. By the end of July 2021 there were 18 different faith trails planned for Lambeth and discussions on whether a virtual faith trail was viable. Work on a special website for the faith trails and a booking system was discussed by members.

The November 2020 meeting was largely given to talking about how the faith communities and schools had managed during the lockdowns. During the Spring and Summer meeting time was spent on Sections 1 and 2 of the self-evaluation of SACREs Toolkit and much discussion ensued. The idea is that when all the sections have been addressed, a development plan can be made and SACRE's work can be more focussed.

Religious Education.

The new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was launched during 2020 and schools were expected to implement it from September 2021. A working party of members and teachers along with the Lambeth Agreed Syllabus Conference worked very hard on the Syllabus and it was sent to schools, SACRE members and also put onto the Lambeth Council website. Alongside this, a project on Faith Trails for Lambeth Schools was finalised and presented to schools in Lambeth and nationally with a Toolkit for teachers to make their own faith trails in other parts of the country. A booking system and all the forms needed are on the website but due to the pandemic, schools have not managed to take part in the trails since the project, although bookings were starting to take off once COVID-19 restrictions permitted.

The new RE Adviser started up an RE Co-ordinators' network using a virtual platform and two meetings were held. Teachers talked about their experiences of lockdown and advice was given on ways to catch up with the RE syllabus. Ideas and resources were also discussed and teachers appreciated these new meetings.

Training was put on twice for the new syllabus and comments by teachers on what was different or similar will be addressed at subsequent meetings.

A guidance on Ramadan was revised by the Muslim representative on SACRE and the new adviser and sent out to schools straight after the Easter holidays in time for Ramadan!

None of the Lambeth schools have applied for the RE Quality Mark during this year, but teachers at the network meetings were encouraged to look at the criteria as an example of best practice.

Collective Worship.

Collective worship has not been monitored officially during the year but teachers have spoken about their schools practice at the network meetings.

There were no determinations, and a new determination policy is being formulated for use going forward.

There was no training on Collective Worship and no complaints were sent to SACRE.

Links with Other Bodies and Local Involvement.

The Lambeth SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE.) The Chair is the Primary Religious Education Adviser for the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education which the SACRE Adviser also attends. Faiths Together in Lambeth is a very active group to which members are affiliated and have helped with the faith trails. Various SACRE members also belong to Lambeth South London Interfaith Group; the Interfaith Network UK; Lambeth Citizens (an alliance of organisations working together for change) and part of South London Citizens; the Forum for International Relations Development (FIRD;) Mosaic (Prince of Wales Charity). The SACRE adviser, the Chair and one other member who is a retired independent RE Consultant are also members of the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC.)

Governors and members of the community were alerted to the new Syllabus which could be viewed online.

SACRE Arrangements.

The Lambeth SACRE has an RE Adviser working for 12 days a year and a clerk is provided from Governor Services. A local authority officer attends every meeting of SACRE and is a very helpful link to the council.

It is believed that all meetings were quorate. Membership of the SACRE is varied and it is hoped that the new RE Network will identify and encourage some teachers to join Group C. Where there are vacancies, active attempts are being made to fill them.

SACRE members have been invited to join the Syllabus Training given to teachers and are invited to join the Network meetings.

Lambeth Council pays for an Adviser and a clerk to SACRE.

Members' attendance at the three meetings is shown below:-

GROUP A: Faiths and other beliefs other than C of E	Attendance	GROUP B: Church of England	Attendance
Jo Backus – Buddhist Vice-Chair	3	Shaun Burns - Chair	3
Caribbean Hindu Shanti Briody	2	Sarah Thorley	3
Andrew Dart - Methodist	1	Esther Moorey – School Chaplain	0
Charley Jarrett - Humanist	2	Primary Teacher –	1 Vacant
Majority Black Churches	Vacant	GROUP D: LA	Attendance
RC	Vacant	Elected Member Cllr Marcia Cameron	2
Rabbi Stewart Myers – Judaism	1	RE Consultant for Lambeth SACRE Penny Smith-Orr	2
Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Singh Sikhism	3	LA Officer Kathryn Shaw Anthony Billings	3 3
United Reformed Church	vacant	Elected Member Cllr Martin Tiedemann	0
Umar Mahmood - Islam	3	Elected Member Cllr Pauline George	3
GROUP C: Teachers	Attendance	Others	
Pat Bennett NEU	1	Prevent Officer Lydia Nixon	1
Jason McInnis – Secondary School Teacher Rep.	1	PC Adam Berry - Lambeth Faith Liaison Officer	0
RE Teacher –		Maria Gabrielczyk – Clerk	3
Denise Henry – Union Rep	2		
Deputy Headteacher & RE Teacher NAHT	vacant		

Appendices.

There were no published public exams in 2021.

Continuing Professional Development for schools has been two RE networks and three training sessions on the new Syllabus.

The development plan is currently being formulated for the year 2021-2022, the two sections of the self-evaluation tool are here.

Self-Evaluation of Lambeth SACRE – Parts 1 and 2

Key Area	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
Section 1 Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education				
1a	RE Provision across the LA		x	
1b	Standards of achievement and public examination entries	x		
1c	Quality of learning and teaching	x		
1d	Quality of leadership and management, including the provision and management of resources	x		
1e	Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff	x		
1f	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools		x	
Section 2 The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus				
2a	The review process		x	
2b	The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus		x	
2c	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus		x	
2d	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)			x
2e	Developing the revised agreed syllabus			x
2f	Making best use of National Guidance			x

Distribution of this Annual Report.

The report is made available electronically to:

The Department for Education;

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE;)

Lambeth SACRE members;

Lambeth Council, Elected Members;

Director of Children's Services;

Teaching Unions in Lambeth;

SACRE Nominating Bodies;

The main Faith Groups in Lambeth;

Ecumenical Borough Deans;

All schools in Lambeth;

Lambeth LA website.