

Lambeth
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Annual Report
2021-2022



Lambeth is a member of the National Association of SACREs

Introduction by The Chair of Lambeth SACRE.

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2021 – 2022 of the Lambeth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, (SACRE.)

As you will know, this academic year has continued to be a challenge for everyone, not least for those involved in education, as we have all continued to journey through the rumbling on of the COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented and largely negative impact. Our schools have continued to be places of routine, safety and sanctuary 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 done to ensure that education and care has continued in the new and revised ways that they have, throughout the worst of the pandemic and in the months following. Numerous people in and around Lambeth have made a difference to their neighbours and fellow members of the local community. Our local faith and belief communities have been at the forefront of these efforts and initiatives; indeed, faith is an anchor of hope for many in difficult times.

Of course, the learning about and from faith and beliefs is what SACRE is all about. Over the past year we have kept going in supporting our schools, from a distance, in their provision of Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship. Our meetings have remained virtual, but we look forward to returning to face-to-face meetings, enabling us to, once again, build good relationships between the different members and the communities which they represent. It has been important to SACRE that RE has been included as part of the 'Catch Up Curriculum,' to ensure that this is broad and fully meets the needs of pupils. It is important that schools are mindful of gaps in quality RE learning that their pupils have encountered due to COVID-19 lockdowns and ensure that each cohort of pupils has tailored future teaching which addresses major gaps in their RE knowledge and understanding.

This year has been an implementation year for the new Lambeth Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, and we do hope that every maintained Community School in Lambeth (and other schools if they would like to!) now have the syllabus embedded. 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

Our Lambeth RE Co-ordinators' Network provides a termly forum of support and training for RE Subject Leaders and if your school is not represented at these meetings, I do urge the RE Subject Leader to join and attend the meetings. Details of forthcoming meetings can be found on the Lambeth Schools' Partnership website at: www.lambethschoolspartnership.uk/

As Chair, I would like to thank each and every member of Lambeth SACRE for their consistent loyal and dedicated support and work on SACRE. I must notably mention Penny Smith-Orr for her consistent RE advice to SACRE; Kathryn Shaw, our LA Officer, for her on-going support from the LA; Jo Backus, our Vice Chair; and Maria Gabrielczyk, our SACRE Clerk, for her organisation and efficiency.

Thank you also to Sarah Thorley for her continued work on our Lambeth Faith Trails for Schools, which are back up and running. If you haven't yet been on a faith trail, I recommend the experience to you!

Shaun Burns.

Chair, Lambeth SACRE.

Overview

Lambeth SACRE met virtually three times during the year on 8th November 2021, 30th March 2022 and 27th June 2022.

A fourth meeting was of the executive group to plan for the next year held virtually on 7 July 2022.

The membership of Lambeth SACRE was discussed at each meeting and efforts are ongoing to improve the attendance of members. A project during the year was to discuss Determinations and to help schools make their Collective Worship inclusive.

At each meeting a section of the NASACRE Self Evaluation Toolkit was completed with much discussion. This will inform a development plan for the next year. Also discussed at each meeting are the Lambeth Faith Trails, which with a pause for Covid, have started to be running again with bookings from schools coming in. Other discussions were on Religion and Worldviews, the NASACRE AGM, the RE Report Card and matters arising from the RE Consultant's reports to each meeting.

Religious Education (RE)

The new Agreed Syllabus for Lambeth is still in the early stages of being bedded in at schools. The Headteachers' Breakfast Meeting have had a presentation on the new syllabus and Governors have also been informed. The syllabus is on the Lambeth Council website SACRE pages. The RE Consultant led the last of three training events in the Autumn term and put on three RE Network Meetings for Primary RE Co-ordinators through the year. These are still in the early stages, and it is hoped that more RE Co-ordinators will join in during next year. A newsletter is sent to schools at the beginning of term with information and dates.

One of the requests from teachers has been on help with planning and detailed units of work for the new syllabus. The syllabus has key questions and what must be taught along with some ideas for activities, but not actual lesson plans which seems to be challenging some of the teachers!

Monitoring of Religious Education in schools was not undertaken apart from noting the attendance at meetings and training. No schools have applied for the REQM. The RE Consultant can be contacted by e-mail and gives advice to schools in this way. There was one school who requested support as a child was being withdrawn from RE following one parent's request, but against the other parent's wishes.

The success of this year was that the Lambeth Faith Trails could start again. A lot of work was done by a member of the SACRE committee who has updated the Lambeth school's website and worked with places of worship to make the trails possible. Some places of worship had closed, and new ones were sought. This was an item of discussion at SACRE meetings and at the RE Co-ordinators' meetings.

The Data Collection Team at Lambeth Council have indicated that the exam results for Lambeth schools are delayed at the time of writing.

Collective Worship (CW)

At the Autumn meeting 2021, a member showed a document on Determinations for schools and asked if Lambeth should send out a similar document. There has not been a request for many years and after a discussion on the pros and cons of doing this, it was decided to write a guidance for schools on how to make CW very inclusive for all pupils so that there would be less need for them to ask for a Determination. A short training on what a Determination is was given to members as a result of this and a guidance document was written with drafts being checked at each subsequent meeting.

There have been no complaints about CW during the year.

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, Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Adviser for the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. Faiths Together in Lambeth is a very active group to which some members are affiliated, and which has helped with the faith trails. The Faith Trails have opened SACRE to some of the faith providers and places of worship.

Various SACRE members also belong to the 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 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.)

No Governor training has been done although Governors have been told about the new syllabus. Before Ramadan, the Muslim member and the RE Consultant ensured that a guidance document was sent to schools on treating Muslim pupils fairly and with respect to their fasting during the month.

SACRE Arrangements

Lambeth SACRE pays for an RE Consultant for 10 days per year and pays for a Clerk to the meetings who also keeps members in touch with any developments during the year. A Local Authority Officer attends each meeting which gives a strong link in to the council and helps with discussions.

Membership needs to be improved and work has been ongoing to try and get more teachers involved. Two of the three meetings in the year were quorate - decisions made at a non-quorate meeting were moved forward to the next meeting for ratification. Appendix A below shows attendance at the three meetings.

Training for SACRE members has been on Determinations, and the Religion and Worldviews debate.

The budget for SACRE is £25,000 per year which pays for the adviser, the clerk and would pay for a venue once we meet face to face again. There is a small amount of a Westhill grant left which is for a training day for teachers on the Faith Trails and their usefulness and potential in RE.

Appendix A. 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	2
Caribbean Hindu Shanti Briody	2/2	Sarah Thorley	2
Andrew Dart - Methodist	3	Esther Moorey – School Chaplain	0
Charley Jarrett - Humanist	2	Sue Musgrave Children and Families Minister	2
Majority Black Churches	Vacant	GROUP D: LA	Attendance
Roman Catholic	Vacant	Cllr Marcia Cameron	1
Rabbi Stewart Myers – Judaism	1/1 Now vacant	Cllr Martin Tiedemann	0
Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Singh Sikhism	3	Cllr Pauline George	2
United Reformed Church	vacant	Cllr Saleha Jaffer	0/1
Umar Mahmood - Islam	1		
GROUP C: Teachers	Attendance	Others	
Pat Bennett NEU	1	RE Consultant for Lambeth SACRE Penny Smith-Orr	3
Jason McInnis – Secondary School Teacher Rep.	0	LA Officer Kathryn Shaw	3
Primary RE Teacher	Vacant	Maria Gabrielczyk – Clerk	3
Denise Henry – Union Rep	0		
Deputy Headteacher & RE Teacher NAHT	vacant		

Self-evaluation results for Lambeth SACRE undertaken at several meetings 2021-2022

Key Area	Key Area	Developing	Established	Advanced
1a	RE 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 CW	x		
3b	Enhance quality of provision of CW	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 CC	x		