



Lewisham SACRE Annual Report 2024



Contact names and addresses

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Lewisham SACRE is a member of the [National Association of SACREs](#)



Information about RE and the SACRE can be located on [the Lewisham website](#)
and the [Lewisham Services for Schools Website](#)

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Lewisham SACRE Annual Report for 2024

Overview

Lewisham SACRE meeting dates in 2024

14 March	On Zoom
24 April	Emmanuel Church, Lee
10 July	London Sivan Kovil
26 September	Emmanuel Church, Lee
20 November	Lewisham Islamic Centre

This year Lewisham SACRE continued to work and meet regularly. Attendance has been good and all meetings have been quorate. The SACRE Executive (Chairs of SACRE & ASC, the Clerk, LA Officer and RE professional advisor) have met between meetings to progress work and ensure profitable meetings.

Some planned meeting dates during the year had to be changed due to first a local mayoral election (Lewisham has an elected Mayor) and then council and general elections. We have been delighted to hold meetings in local places of worship more easily than before the Covid pandemic.

SACRE aims to support its members' development and participation in meetings by encouraging them to engage in national training and to lead on meeting items where possible.

SACRE members have been involved in many activities to support their communities, the schools and each other. As well as attending SACRE meetings, several members supported local events for Holocaust Memorial Day and later in the year the Jewish Life Exhibition at the synagogue, where the launch event was attended by many SACRE members.

Members have engaged with items for SACRE's discussions and attended the NASACRE AGM and NASACRE's online Training events.

SACRE Meeting Agendas and papers are located on the Lewisham Council website: <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=396&Year=0>

1. Foreword by the Chair of Lewisham SACRE

Once again it is my privilege to present the Lewisham SACRE annual report for the year. Throughout 2024 our SACRE meetings continue to be strongly supported by its members at its bi-monthly meetings, and as you can see from the Overview, all meetings have been fully represented from the four groups - a testament to the strength of ownership our local community has of its SACRE. I am personally both grateful and honoured to have served on the committee.

Throughout the year Lewisham SACRE has sought to support its schools to enable them to deliver high quality RE lessons and assemblies and provide resources and advice that recognises the diversity of teachers and student of faith and none, including making available the Ramadan Advice to Schools document and Jewish Life Education resources.

Significantly, in the 80th year that commemorates the Holocaust, SACRE members were able to attend the opening of the Jewish Life Exhibition, a week-long event open to school pupils and teachers.

As part of our ongoing desire to meet in different religious venues across the borough, members were also given a tour of the large Lewisham Islamic Centre prior to the start of one of its meetings and were able to observe and engage with some of the teaching of Muslim students that is conducted in the centre.

This year, SACRE will be reviewing and updating its Agreed Syllabus content as part of its commitment to support the dynamic teaching of RE across all school year groups. We believe that well-planned and well-delivered RE teaching contributes to the successful engagement by students in other key subject areas like Politics, History, Philosophy and Sociology and helps build a generation of critical thinkers that are able to engage in a diverse society in a responsible way.

The success of our SACRE is in no small part to the faithful and longstanding commitment of members of our team who have brought great stability and fostered excellent discussions at meetings. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Anthony Doudle, Head of Lewisham Learning for his enthusiastic engagement, support and insights; Shaun Burns, our Deputy Chair who for yet another year, has juggled his commitment to Lewisham SACRE with his responsibilities to other official bodies including chairing another SACRE; Denise Chaplin, our Schools Improvement Officer, for her tireless support and huge knowledge that has proved so invaluable to the workings of SACRE; and to Stephen Sealy our Clerk for his diligence in producing minutes and on-going administrative support.

Respectfully submitted

Nick Hughes, Chair of Lewisham SACRE

2. Religious Education

The Locally Agreed Syllabus “Learning together through Faiths and Beliefs” was launched in 2018 and can be located on Lewisham council’s website (link on page 2).

Discussions and plans for a syllabus review began in 2024. SACRE had voted previously to postpone the decision to ask the LA dependent on ascertaining what was happening with RE in schools following a disrupted curriculum during the Covid pandemic.

Agreed Syllabus review

In July it was decided that scoping out the review of Lewisham’s Agreed Syllabus would begin in the Autumn term, and that a budget would be requested for this work after it had been scoped.

As a preliminary piece of work, members were asked to scrutinise the existing syllabus and consider changes, additions, amendments etc from their position of expertise.

Monitoring

SACRE members have received and discussed secondary school workforce data and the last GCSE results; they triangulated this with information on several secondary school websites.

In April SACRE received an update on KS 4 in 2023 from the Local Authority. Anthony Doudle presented an overview of Lewisham’s education landscape highlighting the following interesting data:

98.9% of Lewisham schools are good or better compared to 90% nationally. This equates to 100% of primary schools, and 93% of Secondary schools (with one Requiring Improvement) against a national secondary average of 83%.

Some schools have changed their status. Prendergast School has converted to Academy status while Bonus Pastor and Our Lady and St Philip Neri have converted to Academy status and are now part of the St Benedict MAT. Conisborough College is now a part of the United Learning MAT. This leaves only five secondary schools with Local Authority-maintained status.

2023 outcomes were most similar to those of 2019 so, for example in attainment the 2023 performance of 46.5 is comparable with 2019’s 44.4%. There have been gains in English 4-9 grades and 5-9 grades; there was a combined gain of 5%, while the eBaccalaureate saw a 3% gain.

These are evidence that young people have recovered well from the impact of the pandemic.

There was varied RE performance regarding schools’ grades 4-9 performance, ranging from between 50% to 93% attainment. The challenge was effecting more balanced performance.

Questions were asked regarding non-specialist teachers and linked to staff not being given adequate time to teach the RE curriculum. The latter coupled with lack of specialists would lead to reduction of the status of the subject and reduced teacher morale; this suggested that questions about recruitment needed to be asked.

Currently there is no evidence available about recruitment issues. This is something to pursue in 2025.

An updated letter from DfE about non-compliance circulated by NASACRE was acknowledged and may be useful once more complex data is received.

Standards in Religious Education

Locally devised measures of pupils' attainment: Assessment Guidance

Lewisham's Primary Assessment in RE guidance was finalised in 2022 and circulated to schools as well as being placed on the SACRE resource pages of the Services for schools website at: <https://schoolsservices.lewisham.gov.uk/Page/27247>

Religious Studies Performance in 2024

Lewisham SACRE conducts an annual review of GCSE and A Level religious studies examination entries and outcomes. This became more difficult over the years for a number of reasons including Covid.

Data for 2024

Sadly, by the end of the year no validated local exam data for 2024 was available although following SACRE's advice to the LA that they were concerned that a contextualising data analysis was required, an external data team were commissioned to produce it, the cost to be covered via SACRE's budget.

This arrived in time for the first meeting in 2025 as did data from NATRE and is included in this report. Please note the data analysis does not include Sydenham's substantial short course entries.

Lewisham GCSE Exam Entries 2024

School name	KS4 FC Entries Perc	KS4 SC Entries	KS4 All Entries Perc	No Entries Perc	Ofsted Rating	Percentage 9-4 FC	Percentage 9-4 SC	Secondary Premium	Sponsor
Deptford Green School	0.6	0	0.6	99.4	Good	0		Medium	
Sydenham School	0.4	90.5	90.9	9.1	Good	0	75.1	Low	
Forest Hill School	0.5	0	0.5	99.5	Good	0		Low	
Addey and Stanhope School	0	0	0	100	Good			Medium	
Trinity Church of England School, Lewisham	100	0	100	0	Good	64.5		Low	
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	100	0	100	0	Outstanding	79.3		Low	
Haberdashers' Knights Academy	9.5	0	9.5	90.5	Good	73.7		Medium	The Haberdashers' Livery Company
Haberdashers' Hatcham College	19	0	19	81	Good	80.5		Low	The Haberdashers' Livery Company
St Matthew Academy	96.5	0	96.5	3.5	Good	67.3		Medium	Archdiocese of Southwark
Sedgehill Academy	94.2	0	94.2	5.8	Good	58.2			United Learning Trust
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	100	0	100	0		79.3		Low	

Lewisham Workforce Data 2023

School name	Religious character	School type	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% year 12 hours - RE	% year 13 hours - RE	% hours - RE
Deptford Green School	Does not apply	LA	3.34	3.39	3.78	0	0			2
Sydenham School	Does not apply	LA	1.8	3.48	3.41	3.19	2.89	3.25	3.95	3.1
Forest Hill School	Does not apply	LA	3.89	4.1	4.44	0	0	0	0	1.72
Addey and Stanhope School	None	LA	3.3	3.29	3.32	0	0			1.86
Trinity Church of England School, Lewisham	Church of England	LA	7.03	7.87	5.92	7.41	7.35			7.11
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	Roman Catholic	LA	5.13	4.08	4.18	4.17	3.25			4.1
Haberdashers' Knights Academy	Does not apply	Academies	3.37	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.21
Haberdashers' Hatcham College	Does not apply	Academies	3.54	3.42	3.36	1.12	2.16	2.79	0	2.38
St Matthew Academy	Roman Catholic	Academies	9.46	9.28	10.12	13.21	0			8.44
Sedgehill Academy	Does not apply	Academies								4.03
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	Roman Catholic	LA	5.13	4.08	4.18	4.17	3.25			4.1

This is the RE Teaching hours analysis for Lewisham schools from the school workforce census that took place in November 2023 and published in June 2024. The DfE have confirmed that we are free to publish the data.

From previous discussions about such data, we know errors are sometimes made by the school inputting the data, especially if the subject is called something else such as PRE or Worldviews. These hours directly impact on the 2024 summer exam results and also provide information to SACRE relevant to the Agreed Syllabus review.

Public Examinations 2024 - The National picture

GCSE

The number of students taking full course Religious Studies in England and Wales at GCSE remained stable at 233,288 following a 0.5% rise in entries from 2023 making it one of the most widely studied humanities at GCSE.

223,034 students took RS GCSE (full course) in England, an increase of 0.3%. In Wales 10,254 students took the subject, an increase of 6.4%. For the third year running, the number of students taking a GCSE short course rose in England, this year by 9.5% to 20,627. In Wales however, entries fell by 27.1% to 2,201.

This is despite an ongoing challenge in recruiting specialist teachers amidst a gulf in government funding. Recruitment targets were missed in 11 of the last 12 years during which time school workforce data show that 51% of those teaching RE mainly teach another subject and also that the number of teachers of RE has remained roughly the same since 2011, despite the number of entries growing.

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) and the National Association for Teachers of RE (NATRE) called on the new Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson MP, to introduce a National Plan for RE that would provide a fair allocation of resources and prioritise the subject as part of Labour's plans to recruit more specialist teachers.

RE saw a restoration of the teacher training bursary in 2024, but a shortage of specialists in schools remains a challenge given the long-term growth of the subject. The number of those recorded as teaching RE has remained roughly the same since 2011 at 16,200, while those delivering Geography and History lessons has risen by 1,700.

Katie Freeman, Chair of the National Association for Teachers of RE (NATRE), said: "These results are a testament to the incredible hard work of RE teachers up and down the country. RE teachers are a vital asset to their schools, their community, and most importantly the young people who they inspire and educate."

A Level

Key points:

- The overall trend in A level entries for Religious Studies over the last 5 years has been steeply downward in Wales but fairly stable in England
- Since 2020 entries in Wales have fallen by 37% from 1126 to 702.
- During the same period, entries in England remained fairly stable with a fall of just under 0.5% from 14,564 to 14,499
- Even though the trend for entries in England is downwards, this is within a context where most Humanities subjects have experienced a fall in entries and most science,

technology, engineering and maths subjects have seen an increase. It is worth noting that financial incentives for schools will have boosted these entries including the advanced maths premium scheme and a number of schemes established to boost science learning in schools.

- Of the Humanities, RS in England was one of the smallest decreases between 2023 and 2024 at 1.3%

Teaching

Methods of Teaching – Training

National information about courses has been circulated to schools electronically. Free training for teachers was offered by the Board of Deputies of British Jews prior to the Launch of the Jewish Living Exhibition at the synagogue in the Autumn term.

Methods of Teaching - The choice of Teaching Materials

During the year schools were sent information about national resources, courses and research opportunities for teachers.

Other Information

Complaints about RE

No formal complaints about RE in Lewisham schools have been presented to the SACRE this year.

Withdrawal from RE lessons

During the year one headteacher sought advice about parents withdrawing their children from RE lessons and support was given to help discuss this with the family and manage it in school.

3. Collective Worship

SACRE's collective worship guidance, updated in 2023, can be found on the council website - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/religious-education-in-schools/standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education>

Determinations

Schools can apply to SACRE for a determination about the right to provide an alternative

form of Collective Worship that they feel is more suited to their school community. There are currently no Determinations in place. SACRE's Determination Guidance can be found online at: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/education/schools/religious-education-in-schools/standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education>

Monitoring Collective Worship & Spiritual Development

Part of SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of Collective Worship in Lewisham schools. No work has been undertaken towards this end during the year.

Other information - Complaints

There have been no complaints referred to SACRE about collective worship in Lewisham schools this year.

4. Links with other agencies

National

Information from a number of communities and bodies enables the SACRE to keep abreast of national initiatives and to be involved in developments.

The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC)

The School Improvement Officer supporting the SACRE and the Deputy Chair are members of AREIAC.

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Lewisham SACRE is also a member of the National Association of SACREs and its Adviser is acting Co-Chair of that body. The SACRE also subscribes to the NASACRE online training programme which has been attended by several members during the year. Their Newsletters are circulated to all members.

NASACRE AGM – June

Whilst Cllr Tam attended the NASACRE conference in person, Cllr Liz and Denise attended the hybrid event virtually, particularly in view of the length of time it would take to attend in person. It was partly difficult to support all SACRE members who might wish to attend because the LA couldn't pay travel expenses for anyone not already set up as a supplier or employee on the Council's system.

The information from the conference was shared with members Cllr Johnston-Franklin reported that technical difficulties had made hearing the speakers difficult for those

attending virtually. It was also disappointing – particularly for those attending in person – that some of the key speakers presented online. The Children’s Commissioner, Rachel De Souza, for example had done this.

Further details can be found on the NASACRE website:

<https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2024-how-can-sacres-support-high-quality-re-collective-worship/>

A number of members regretted that Rt Hon Charles Clarke has now resigned as NASACRE patron.

Cllr Johnston-Franklin reported that issues about the development of RE in schools and teacher recruitment was mentioned. OfSTED’s recent report on RE in schools had confirmed what NASACRE and local SACREs had communicated about the necessity for greater funding.

NASACRE and London SACREs ‘in conversation’ meetings

SACRE members attended these sessions and shared general concerns and brought back good ideas and shared concerns. This included securing finances and venues (including places of worship) for SACRE meetings.

The RE Council of England and Wales (REC)

The work of the REC has been disseminated throughout the year.

The Inter Faith Network UK (IFN) and Inter Faith Week

In April, SACRE members were advised that the Inter Faith Network was dissolving at the end of the month. Denise reported that at a recent meeting she’d attended on behalf of NASACRE, several national associations had expressed a desire to continue the Inter Faith week event this year. Members had discussed selecting a theme that the school communities could give their support to and promote unity, such as ‘better working together’ or ‘building bridges’.

SACRE and local schools were kept informed about Inter Faith week and as the second week of the Jewish Life Exhibition at the local synagogue was held in that week it gave a local focus for some schools.

Local

SACRE members have links with local schools and faith communities. -The ASC Chair, SACRE Deputy Chair and a couple of other members of SACRE were members of the

Lewisham Interfaith Forum (LIF) which continue to struggle for existence in 2024. Some SACRE members work with the local Holocaust Memorial Day group.

Chariot Festival and Peace Walk

In September SACRE heard that Daisy had attended and enjoyed the Chariot Festival.

Gerald reported that he had attended the Peace Walk, joining at the Catford synagogue, where Rabbi Weisz gave an address and introduced as a special visitor a fellow passenger who had intervened when he was racially abused on a recent train journey. The walk had then proceeded to the Civic Suite where the Mayor delivered a talk and on to the mosque, where it was joined by Imams, including Iman Shakeel. The Peace Walk ended at St Stephens Church. Around a hundred people were estimated as taking part in the walk.

5. SACRE Arrangements

The SACRE is supported by a part time School Improvement Officer / RE Adviser. Minutes have been taken by a minuting clerk and whilst other clerking responsibilities have been covered by the RE Adviser, these are now being taken on by the clerk who will be fully doing the job in 2025. The London Borough of Lewisham meets all costs for these posts and provides a budget for SACRE, which includes costs for the NASACRE subscription and training programme, an examination data report and as required the ASC and the revision of the Agreed Syllabus.

6. Other areas of work

Membership

SACRE's support from the LA includes ensuring SACRE meets the legal requirement to have proportional representation in relation to communities in the borough. SACRE and the LA believe it is important to have representation from very small, but significant, local communities such as the Baha'i faith. During 2023 SACRE reviewed attendance and have continued to try to ensure the membership have a sense of shared purpose and teamwork.

At the start of 2024 members who had not attended for a while were contacted regarding their ability to support their nominating body and where needed these bodies were approached to appoint new members nominated by the sponsoring bodies but with more time to attend.

During the year SACRE welcomed several new members and said goodbye to some of members who were moving jobs or retiring.

In March SACRE unanimously co-opted Daisy Scalchi, a local parent, as a co-option as a committee member. Daisy explained that while she had a professional role in RE and ethics she was interested in project work exploring how RE is taught in schools. Her interest in joining the committee was a personal one as a parent of children in a Lewisham community school. A new Baha'i member had also been nominated.

In April SACRE were informed that David Osborne and Kim Knappett would both be leaving the committee. Kim had been a long standing member and chaired the last Agreed Syllabus Conference. Members thanked her for her hard work and commitment, recognising the agreed syllabus as a legacy of her involvement. Kim's family's history with SACRE was lengthy, her husband having been a clerk of Lewisham SACRE for many years.

After the local council elections SACRE welcomed a new councillor joining SACRE, Cllr Hau-Yu Tam. Cllr Jacq Paschoud stepped down as a full member, whilst remaining as a substitute for all Councillors.

In July Daniel Meyer joined SACRE as a new Church of England representative and the Bahai community nominated Jasmine Pourtaheri. Humanism now had a single representative as John Turner had retired from SACRE due to enhanced workload.

Sadly SACRE have a long standing vacancy for a representative for Lewisham Headteachers and Deputies despite several attempts by Anthony Doudle and Denise to fill this during the year.

Several new members have attended NASACRE's free online Training for new SACRE members.

Constitution review

In their first meeting SACRE were informed that the changes to Lewisham SACRE's constitution worked on in 2023 had been approved late that year and now form part of the appendices to Lewisham's constitution on the Lewisham website at:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/search?query=constitution&page=1&order=Relevance&skip=0&size=25>.

SACRE self-evaluation

In September SACRE members worked through the first section of the self-evaluation tool. There were long discussions around all sections, comparing previous judgements with current practice and considering barriers to success. This exercise gave the opportunity to provide new and less experienced members of SACRE with useful background information about how SACRE is supported and how its work links locally and nationally.

The active involvement of members in SACRE's work is a strength, leading to no inquorate meetings for many years. The availability of the NASACRE training events as well as members being encouraged to attend NASACRE annual conferences was celebrated.

However the pandemic had reduced some effectiveness, as it has for SACREs across the country – evidenced from information discussed at the 'SACREs in conversation' meetings. .

The area of most concern was SACRE's effectiveness of getting and using data. Whilst there is an invariable lag with the publication of data which needs to be cleansed before release, meaning that some secondary data isn't available until January, SACRE had previously been provided data on characteristics such as gender and ethnic groups, compared with national and local statistical neighbours. This had ceased during the pandemic and curriculum recovery time and had not been started again.

This exercise and the ensuing conversations has led to a new contract with external data providers being negotiated via the LA for exam results in 2024 and onwards.

Training

SACRE has subscribed to the NASACRE Training programme so that any number of members can attend all their charged sessions. This has been well received and several members have attended a range of sessions, including training for new SACRE members

Jewish Life Exhibition

In April Denise advised that this exhibition was coming to Lewisham. The Jewish Board of Deputies who developed it, will offer training to teachers considering taking children to it.

SACRE watched a PowerPoint presentation about the exhibition with information explaining how Synagogue volunteers would be on hand to show people around the exhibition when in situ. As neither Jewish rep was at the meeting a series of questions had been sent to the meeting by Gerald Rose so some answers and suggestions were drawn up to respond to him and the steering group.

In July Vicki Ashmore attended the meeting, accompanying SACRE's Jewish reps. She had been involved with the Jewish Life Exhibition when it was hosted at Bromley Synagogue. Vicki is an ex-head teacher and a member of the Bromley SACRE. She reported that the exhibition in Bromley had run for two weeks and had 650 visitors. She had explained how it was run and how children had responded.

Gerald advised that he had been introduced to this exhibition in Bromley having also assisted when an earlier version was exhibited in Woolwich and Thornton Heath. Denise

reported that some years ago all schools in the country had been sent a CD of the earlier exhibition.

Members were informed about the logistics of the exhibition in Catford which would incorporate a full tour, in smaller groups, of the synagogue, through the sukkah and a Q&A session in the sanctuary. At this stage an item had already been published in the Head's Mailing with booking details and a small flyer attached.

The exhibition would be aimed at KS2 and the bottom of KS3. SACRE confirmed their support for the event, which would be launched on 4 November 2024 due to the late timing of Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot. The second week of the exhibition coincided with Interfaith Week. Anthony Doudle and Denise, working with the LA had supported an effective risk assessment process for the exhibition.

All SACRE members were invited to the Launch event.

In November, Gerald reported that this event had been very successful. With the exception of the Tuesday morning of the second week and the Friday afternoons, two sessions had been run on each day.

Feedback from both students and teachers was positive. The Chair thanked the Jewish community via Gerald for hosting the event.

The image on the report cover sheet shows a class engaging with this exhibition.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

Gerald Rose reported to SACRE in March that arrangements for school workshops in 2023 had been different during the year up to 2024's event and that a Civic Centre service had been arranged for Monday 29 January but without schools' involvement. This had featured speeches, a memorial prayer and talk from the local Rabbi, Rabbi Weisz about his family's involvement in the Holocaust. The Council had laid on refreshments.

A school event took place subsequently on 11 March and there was a strong councillor presence at both events. Bonus Pastor School and three of its feeder schools (Our Lady and St Philip Neri, St William of York and Good Shepherd) were represented. The primary schools performed a prop-less piece relaying the story of someone who'd travelled on the Kindertransport whereas the secondary school dealt with the more horrific account of Rachel Levy's experience in Auschwitz.

SACRE discussed possibilities for the following year's event and hoped they would be informed and via representatives involved. Cllr Paschoud expressed her pleasure with the 2024 Civic Suite event but agreed with the need to widen the event to more schools as only schools with a religious character had participated. A formal marking of the event was needed, supported by a range of community events and that planning needed to be forward thinking and fit with the academic year'

Ramadan Advice for schools 2024 (and LIC Advice)

Updated advice from the Islamic Centre and SACRE, respectively – were agreed for circulation to schools. The SACRE's advice was signposted to schools in the weekly briefing as being posted on the council's website and the Services for Schools website.

2024 General Election manifesto for SACREs

This letter was sent to all local parliamentary candidates by the Chair to encourage support from politicians for RE in the new Government.

Dear (candidate name)

I am writing as Chair of Lewisham SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) to raise the important issue of high-quality religious education (RE) and collective worship in our local schools.

A SACRE is a statutory body set up by each local authority to provide for and to monitor RE and collective worship in local schools. SACREs are funded by government through the central school services budget (CSSB), specifically the schools and education allocation.

SACREs comprise a microcosm of the local community and democratic organisation, comprising faith, church, teaching union and local authority representatives.

Context

Recent reports, especially the Ofsted subject report for RE, have highlighted both the importance of RE and the need for better support for the subject in both primary and secondary schools. British society is multi-faith and multi-secular and poses both challenges and opportunities for living in a cohesive society. **RE and collective worship, when appropriately understood and implemented, provide essential elements of schools' educational purpose to prepare students for life in Britain today.**

The Lewisham SACRE believes that:

- good RE develops 'religious literacy' which can contribute towards mutual understanding between people from different beliefs and values
- high quality RE is about and for people of different religious beliefs and those of none
- high quality RE provides opportunities to discuss sensitive and philosophical issues in a safe learning environment
- high quality RE asks pupils to reflect on their own and others' beliefs, attitudes and ways of living
- high quality collective worship enables schools to develop a strong ethos and values and opportunities for the whole school community to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural values
- RE and collective worship contribute significantly to the promotion of Fundamental British Values and the development of respectful, informed and positive citizens of the 21st century.

Action is urgently needed

The Lewisham SACRE calls upon Parliamentary candidates to pledge to work towards ensuring that RE and collective worship in schools have appropriate structures and funding, so that:

- **student teachers** receive sufficient training in RE
- **teachers** in all phases and stages of their career have high quality training opportunities
- **SACREs** have adequate funding to support schools in their provision of high quality RE and educationally inspiring collective worship.

With many thanks and best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Rev Nick Hughes MA
Chair of LEWISHAM SACRE

7. Appendices

Appendix A MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE OF LEWISHAM SACRE in this reporting year.

Members' attendance from period 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Key: P (green) = present, A (orange) = Apology issued for absence, blank (red) = absent without apology, N (grey) = not yet or no longer a member									
Group	Representing	Role	Name	Comments	14/03/2024	24/04/2024	10/07/2024	26/09/2024	20/11/2024
A	Baha'i		Aaron Ayala	Member until July 2024	P	A		N	N
A	Baha'i		Jasmine Pourtaheri	Member from July 2024	N	N	N	A	P
A	Buddhism		David Hutchens			P	A	A	P
A	Free Church (Assemblies of God)	Chair	Pastor Nick Hughes		P	P	A	P	P
A	Free Church (Independent Evangelical)		Elizabeth Maxted		P	P	A	A	P
A	Hinduism		Sharmila Manoharan		P		P	A	
A	Hinduism		Vallipuram Bala		P		P	A	
A	Humanism		Jennifer Sutherland		P	P	P	P	A
A	Humanism		John Turner	Member until July 2024	P	P	A	N	N
A	Islam		Imam Ashraf			P	A	A	P
A	Islam		Imam Sabir			P	P	P	P

A	Judaism		Gerald Rose	Shared place	P	A	P	P	P
A	Judaism		Joan Goldberg	Shared place		A	P	P	
A	Pentecostal		Layo Segun		P			A	
A	Pentecostal	Substitute	Cheryl Abbam						
A	Pentecostal	Substitute	Deacon Ogbu Olu		P			P	P
A	Roman Catholic		Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rothon		P	P	P	P	
A	Sikhism		Vacant						
B	CofE Diocesan Board	Deputy Chair	Shaun Burns		A	P	P	P	P
B	The Church of England	Governor and headteacher	Daniel Meyer	Member from July 2024	N	N		A	
B	The Church of England	Primary RE Subject Leader	Ms Gwen Carney		P	A	P	P	A
B	The Church of England	Retired Primary RE subject leader	Karen Hansen		P	P	P	P	
B	The Church of England	Secondary teacher	Vacant						
C	NAS/UWT		Korkor Burnett		P	A	P	P	P
C	NEU		Janey Joauvel		P		P	A	P
C	NEU	Chair ASC	Kim Knappett	Member until April 2024	P	P	N	N	N
C	NEU		Sian Blackwood-Carlyle		P		P		P
D	Director of Education		Angela Scattergood		A				A

D	Director of Education	Substitute	Anthony Doudle		A	P	A	P	A
D	LA members		Cllr Aliya Sheikh		P	A			P
D	LA members		Cllr Hau-Yu Tam	Member from April 2024	N	P	A	P	A
D	LA members		Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin		P	P	P	P	P
D	Elected members	Substitute	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	Changed from full LA membership to substitute in April 2024	P				
D	School Governors (Primary)		Caroline O Kalu		P				
D	School Governors (Secondary)		Vacant						
OTHER	Rastafarian (co-optee)		Vacant						
OTHER		Parent/media co-optee	Daisy Scalchi	Visitor on 14 March 2024, co-optee from 24 April 2024	P	P	A	A	P
OTHER	Young Mayor Team		Nicholas Gunner		P	P	P		A
OTHER	Young Mayor Team		Katy Brown						
OTHER		RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin		P	P	P	P	P
OTHER		SACRE Clerk	Stephen Sealy		P	P	P	P	P

Appendix B

Distribution of this report

The report is made available electronically to:

The Department for Education

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Lewisham SACRE members

The Mayor and Lewisham Council, Elected Members

Executive Director for Children and Young People

Teaching Unions in Lewisham

SACRE Nominating Bodies

The main Faith Groups in Lewisham, including Catford & Bromley Synagogue,

Lewisham Islamic Centre

All schools in Lewisham via the schools' mailing

Goldsmiths' College (University of London)

Lewisham LA Website

Lewisham Inter Faith Forum

Services for schools website

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