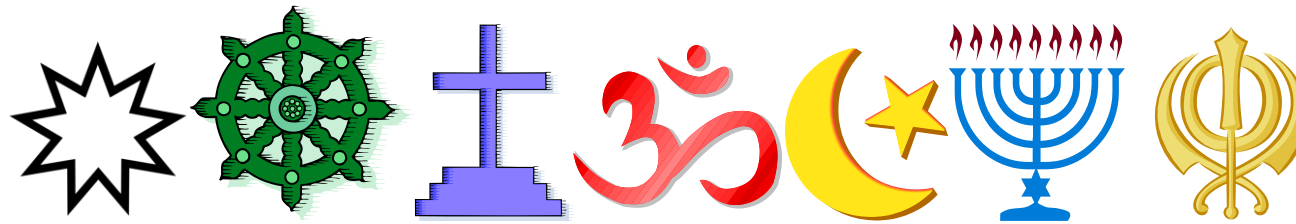


# Lewisham SACRE annual report

January 2015 - December 2015



*Learning Together Through Faiths*

**Lewisham Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

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

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



**The Lewisham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education may be found on:**

<http://webfronter.com/lewisham/religiouseducationcommunity/>

**Information about RE and the SACRE can be located on:**

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/curriculum/Pages/Religious-education.aspx>

and

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=341&Year=0>

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## 1 Overview

### SACRE in 2015

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> February        | Catford and Bromley Synagogue              |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2015     | Childeric School                           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2015       | Emmanuel Pentecostal Church, Lee High Road |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2015 | Catford Civic Suite                        |
| 8 <sup>h</sup> December 2015    | Catford and Bromley Synagogue              |

### Lewisham Agreed Syllabus Conference in 2015

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2015     | Catford and Bromley Synagogue |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2015 | Trinity School                |

### Training for SACRE members in 2015

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2015  | Catford Civic Suite |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 | Catford Civic Suite |

This year Dinah Griffiths was again elected by SACRE members to be Chair of Lewisham SACRE and Shaun Burns was elected Vice Chair. During the year Cllr David Britton was elected as Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC).

Despite this being a time of change and a time of austerity both nationally and locally, SACRE members continued to engage in many activities to support their work and to support each other. As well as attending the full SACRE meetings this year, members were involved in working group and individual meetings, planning and supporting local events for Holocaust Memorial Day and an event at the mosque to hear the voices of local young Muslims. Members attended each other's faith and belief events and

participated in interesting dialogue and debate.

Meetings were held in various educational and religious venues to enable members of SACRE to act as hosts and to support SACRE's budget limitations. Visits to local schools have provided the opportunity to discuss the varied provision offered around the Borough and to talk about RE in each school. When SACRE meetings are held in schools or faith venues, it is customary for the hosts to share something about their work and community. This helps SACRE members to understand more about local schools or faith communities and how these can connect with each other to enhance delivery of quality RE.

During the year SACRE's clerk moved on from her role in Lewisham and interim arrangements have been put in place. SACRE's papers and meetings are advertised as a matter of course alongside other council committees on the Lewisham ModernGov site.

### **1.1 Foreword by the Chair of SACRE**

For me, events occurring throughout the past year have emphasised the value and importance of Religious Education. By providing a curriculum which helps children to understand and to respect the beliefs of their friends and neighbours and to value the diversity of those beliefs, we have a chance to contribute to bringing about change in a society which often seems fraught with danger and hostility. Belief systems are not exclusive to specific religions: many of our children are from families such as humanists where no religious faith is practised but where there is a commitment to respect the value of human life and a desire to protect and enhance the environment.

SACRE is not here to proselytise or to change deeply held beliefs: rather our collective membership aims to work together to support and enhance learning across the age groups. Recently I had the privilege to join a group of teachers to begin work on revising the R.E curriculum. My thanks go out to teachers who came to the meeting straight from a long day at school and then set to work with

energy and commitment.

On that occasion the Synagogue gave us refuge: other communities have been equally generous with their offers of accommodation for meetings. My thanks also go to London Sivan Kovil (the Hindu Temple in Lewisham), to the Lewisham Islamic Centre, to Childeric Primary School in New Cross, to the Emmanuel Pentecostal Church in Lee and to St John Baptist Church of England school. There is very little available space now within the Council for us to hold meetings but we have been able to hold a training session for new SACRE members in the Civic Suite where the staff were, as always, unfailingly helpful in meeting our needs. That session was well attended and included some elected members who were new to SACRE.

The next year will be full of challenges for us. Curriculum changes are weighing heavily on schools and we shall have to work hard to ensure that R.E. remains as part of the offer from schools, both secondary and primary. SACRE members together with Denise Chaplin, our School Improvement Officer for R.E, will do everything we can to support schools in delivering and developing R.E.

My thanks as always goes to Denise for her unflagging persistence and hard work, and to my Vice Chair, Shaun Burns, who is the Primary religious education adviser for the Southwark Church of England Diocese and a chair of two other SACREs, which I think is over and above the call of duty!

Many thanks to all of you who have supported our work in so many ways.

With all good wishes,

Dinah Griffiths  
Chair, Lewisham SACRE

## **2. Religious Education**

### **2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus “Learning together through faiths”**

The Lewisham Agreed Syllabus was launched on 30th June 2009.

This year an Agreed Syllabus Conference was established and has been scoping out the work required to review the Agreed Syllabus in order to bid for an appropriate level of funding from the LA. Cllr David Britton was elected as Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. Preliminary meetings have included Training on the work of An Agreed Syllabus Conference for SACRE members and consultations with teachers. More will be reported on the ASC in the next year’s report.

#### **2.1.2 Monitoring**

The SACRE remains concerned about how to monitor both the quality of RE in Lewisham schools and the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus. SACRE members continue to investigate ways of monitoring RE that will be useful to teachers and to SACRE. Conversations with teachers about the current Agreed Syllabus will enable SACRE members to know more about how the syllabus is working and where adjustments and revisions will be needed. SACRE receives and discusses the Section 48 Inspection reports on faith schools where RE is formally inspected. This, at least, informs the SACRE of RE provision and standards in faith schools within the Local Authority.

## **2.2 Standards in Religious Education**

### **2.2.1 Locally devised measures of pupils' attainment: Assessment Guidance**



Lewisham Agreed Syllabus Conference promotes the use of its Assessment guidance that utilises the 9-level scale of attainment from the non-statutory National Framework for Religious education. It also incorporates a modification of the 'P' scales for use with children achieving below level 1 mainly in special schools and also incorporates a set of 'pupil – speak' levels developed by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). Levels have been removed from all other subjects by the government so Lewisham needs to consider and revise the current advice for a 'post level' curriculum.

Revision of the Lewisham Assessment Advice have begun as part of the early work for the Agreed Syllabus review

## **2.2 Lewisham Religious Studies Performance in 2015**

Lewisham SACRE conducts an annual review of GCSE and A Level Religious Studies (RS) examination entries and outcomes. The number of pupils in England and Wales taking GCSE RS full course rose again in 2015, up 5.3% against 2014 to 283,756. This echoed the increase in A Level entries, which were up 6.5% compared with 2014.

However the removal of short courses from Department for Education (DfE) performance tables was judged as having a serious and negative impact on the number of pupils choosing to take RS at GCSE level nationally. DfE performance tables do not take account of results in short courses. The GCSE short course RS, which had been very popular in the past and provided a reward for schools who provided RE for all, has suffered as a result. The short course is delivered at GCSE standard but covers half the content of a full course and is therefore worth half a GCSE. Changes in entries for short courses have a disproportionately significant impact on RS: as almost two thirds of all short course GCSEs taken in England and Wales were in RS.

## 2.2.1 GCSE Religious Studies

There has been a 4% increase in RS GCSE entries nationally in 2015 and a 3% increase in local entries (from 1,362 in 2014 to 1397 in 2015).<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1 National and local entries in GCSE Religious Studies 2013-2015**

|                 | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Lewisham</b> | 1265    | 1362    | 1397    |
| <b>National</b> | 229,009 | 258,745 | 269,161 |

RS GCSE A\* - C performance in Lewisham is in line with 2014 performance and exceeds national performance by 3% points. Locally performance in RS exceeds performance in English, Geography and History.

**Table 2 Religious Studies GCSE A\* - C results compared to national**

|                        | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>A* - C Lewisham</b> | 74%  | 57%  | 70%  |
| <b>A* - C National</b> | 74%  | 72%  | 72%  |

**Table 3 Religious Studies GCSE A\* - G results compared to national**

|                        | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>A* - G Lewisham</b> | 99%  | 97%  | 98%  |
| <b>A* - G National</b> | 98%  | 98%  | 98%  |

**Table 4 Religious Studies GCSE A\* - C results compared to English, Geography and History results for Lewisham**

|                                 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>A* - C Religious Studies</b> | 74%  | 57%  | 70%  |
| <b>A* - C English</b>           | 75%  | 74%  | 67%  |
| <b>A* - C Geography</b>         | 62%  | 51%  | 58%  |

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/470140/SFR37\\_2015\\_Additional\\_Tables.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/470140/SFR37_2015_Additional_Tables.xlsx)

|                           |     |     |     |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>A* - C History</b>     | 64% | 61% | 63% |
| <b>A* - C Sociology</b>   | 60% | 70% | 61% |
| <b>A* - C Citizenship</b> | NA  | 86% | 65% |

In 2015, only one mainstream secondary, Addey and Stanhope, did not enter any pupils for full course RS GCSE. In 2014 the same school had entered 28 pupils to GCSE RS with the remainder of the cohort entered for a short course; all 28 pupils achieved at least a C full GCSE pass. The situation at Addey and Stanhope developed out of serious, unforeseen staffing issues and all students were instead entered in 2015 for the short course. Outcomes on the 2015 short course were good with 61% of the 85 pupils entered achieving at least a C pass. This was an increase of 13% on 2014. No pupils at the three special schools were entered to GCSE RS.

**Table 5 Religious Studies GCSE A\* - C results by school entries 2013-2015**

| <b>School</b>                        | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>No of entries 2015</b> | <b>Entries as % of total cohort</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bonus Pastor Catholic College        | 66%         | 67%         | 77%         | 141                       | 100%                                |
| Forest Hill School                   | 88%         | 37%         | 57%         | 214                       | 98%                                 |
| Prendergast School                   | 85%         | 82%         | 77%         | 107                       | 98%                                 |
| Prendergast Ladywell School          | 56%         | 67%         | 65%         | 185                       | 98%                                 |
| Sedgehill School                     | 81%         | 62%         | 78%         | 214                       | 93%                                 |
| Trinity Church of England School     | 68%         | 52%         | 73%         | 81                        | 92%                                 |
| St Matthew Academy                   | 59%         | 45%         | 51%         | 126                       | 89%                                 |
| Sydenham School                      | 79%         | 50%         | 79%         | 187                       | 89%                                 |
| Deptford Green School                | 85%         | 65%         | 76%         | 83                        | 74%                                 |
| Conisborough College                 | 58%         | 40%         | 57%         | 28                        | 18%                                 |
| Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy | 74%         | 64%         | 53%         | 19                        | 11%                                 |
| Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College | 62%         | 50%         | 92%         | 12                        | 6%                                  |

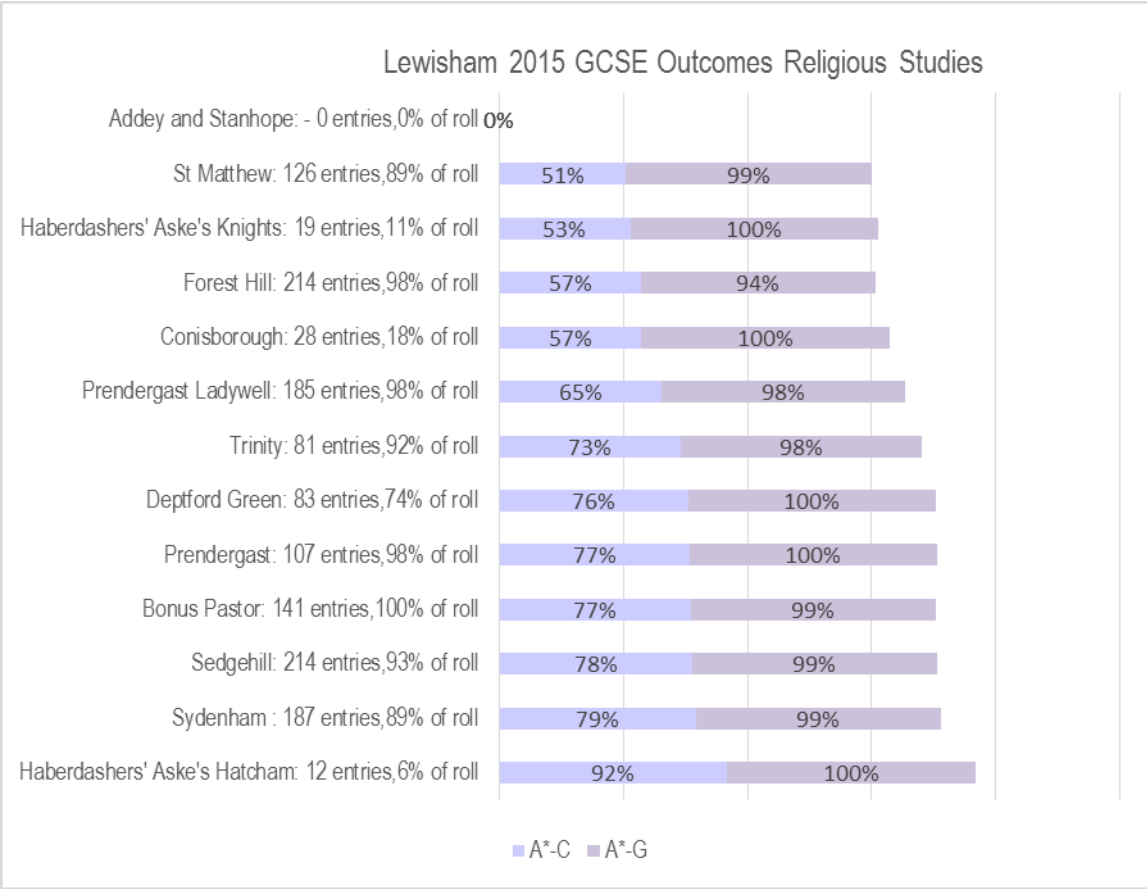
|                         |            |            |            |               |            |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Lewisham</b>         |            | <b>57%</b> | <b>70%</b> | <b>1397</b>   | <b>66%</b> |
| <b>National Average</b> | <b>74%</b> | <b>72%</b> | <b>72%</b> | <b>269161</b> | <b>44%</b> |

**Table 6 Religious Studies GCSE A\* - G results by school 2013-2015**

| <b>School</b>                        | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>No of entries in 2015</b> | <b>Entries as % of total cohort</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bonus Pastor Catholic College        | 99%         | 99%         | 99%         | 141                          | 100%                                |
| Forest Hill School                   | 100%        | 95%         | 94%         | 214                          | 98%                                 |
| Prendergast School                   | 100%        | 97%         | 100%        | 107                          | 98%                                 |
| Prendergast Ladywell School          | 97%         | 99%         | 98%         | 185                          | 98%                                 |
| Sedgehill School                     | 98%         | 98%         | 99%         | 214                          | 93%                                 |
| Trinity Church of England School     | 100%        | 92%         | 98%         | 81                           | 92%                                 |
| St Matthew Academy                   | 99%         | 97%         | 99%         | 126                          | 89%                                 |
| Sydenham School                      | 99%         | 100%        | 99%         | 187                          | 89%                                 |
| Deptford Green School                | 99%         | 98%         | 100%        | 83                           | 74%                                 |
| Conisborough College                 | 99%         | 99%         | 100%        | 28                           | 18%                                 |
| Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy | 100%        | 98%         | 100%        | 19                           | 11%                                 |
| Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College | 100%        | 100%        | 100%        | 12                           | 6%                                  |
| Addey and Stanhope School            | 100%        | 100%        | -           | 0                            | 0%                                  |
| Brent Knoll School                   | -           | -           | -           | 0                            | 0%                                  |
| Drumbeat School and ASD Service      | -           | -           | -           | 0                            | 0%                                  |
| Greenvale School                     | -           | -           | -           | 0                            | 0%                                  |
| <b>Lewisham</b>                      |             | <b>97%</b>  | <b>98%</b>  | <b>1397</b>                  | <b>66%</b>                          |

|                         |            |            |            |               |            |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>National Average</b> | <b>98%</b> | <b>98%</b> | <b>98%</b> | <b>269161</b> | <b>44%</b> |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|

**Chart 7 Religious Studies GCSE A\* - C and A\* - G results by school (with % entered)**



**Table 8 Religious Studies GCSE A\* - C results in 2015 by contextual factors**

|                       |                                     | <b>A* - C</b> |            |                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|
|                       |                                     | <b>No.</b>    | <b>%</b>   | <b>No. of entries</b> |
| <b>Gender</b>         | <b>Female</b>                       | 561           | 78%        | 718                   |
|                       | <b>Male</b>                         | 410           | 60%        | 679                   |
| <b>Pupil Premium</b>  | <b>Not Pupil Premium</b>            | 628           | 76%        | 830                   |
|                       | <b>Pupil Premium</b>                | 343           | 60%        | 567                   |
| <b>SEN</b>            | <b>No Special Needs</b>             | 851           | 76%        | 1116                  |
|                       | <b>Special Needs</b>                | 120           | 43%        | 281                   |
| <b>First Language</b> | <b>English</b>                      | 679           | 69%        | 988                   |
|                       | <b>Not English</b>                  | 292           | 71%        | 409                   |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>      | <b>White British</b>                | 175           | 66%        | 266                   |
|                       | <b>White Irish</b>                  | 7             | 64%        | 11                    |
|                       | <b>White Irish Traveller</b>        | -             | -          | 0                     |
|                       | <b>White Gypsy Roma</b>             | -             | -          | 0                     |
|                       | <b>Any Other White Background</b>   | 94            | 72%        | 131                   |
|                       | <b>White and Black Caribbean</b>    | 38            | 58%        | 65                    |
|                       | <b>White and Black African</b>      | 19            | 63%        | 30                    |
|                       | <b>White and Asian</b>              | 13            | 87%        | 15                    |
|                       | <b>Any Other Mixed Background</b>   | 44            | 73%        | 60                    |
|                       | <b>Black Caribbean</b>              | 204           | 66%        | 311                   |
|                       | <b>Black African</b>                | 211           | 78%        | 272                   |
|                       | <b>Any Other Black Background</b>   | 51            | 74%        | 69                    |
|                       | <b>Indian</b>                       | 5             | 71%        | 7                     |
|                       | <b>Pakistani</b>                    | 6             | 55%        | 11                    |
|                       | <b>Bangladeshi</b>                  | 4             | 80%        | 5                     |
|                       | <b>Any Other Asian Background</b>   | 46            | 72%        | 64                    |
|                       | <b>Chinese</b>                      | 12            | 75%        | 16                    |
|                       | <b>Any other ethnic group</b>       | 22            | 61%        | 36                    |
|                       | <b>Information Not Yet Obtained</b> | 7             | 78%        | 9                     |
|                       | <b>Refused</b>                      | 13            | 68%        | 19                    |
| <b>LA Average</b>     |                                     | <b>971</b>    | <b>70%</b> | <b>1397</b>           |

## 2.2.2 A Level Religious Studies

The key outcomes of the 2015 A level results in England and Wales for RS were as follows:

23,372 RS A level entries were recorded, an increase of 6.5% on 2014 and more than double the number in 2003 (11,132 entries were recorded in 2003). The number of entries for RS A level has increased by 110% since 2003, more than for any arts, humanity or social science subject (the nearest subject is Political Studies with an increase of 62%). Among all subjects, only Further Maths has seen more rapid growth than RS

23.9% of entries for RS A level were awarded an A or an A\*

There were 37,365 entries for RS at AS level, an increase of 5% on 2014 and more than double the number in 2003 (15,482 entries were recorded in 2003)

The contextual evidence shows the growing status of RS as a subject for Higher Education entry:

The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that RS A level provides 'suitable preparation for University generally'

Both Oxford and Cambridge University include RS in the top level list of 'generally suitable Arts A levels'

Applicants with RS A level were more likely to gain admission to study History at Oxford University in 2012 than those with A levels in many 'facilitating' subjects. 20% of students admitted to Oxford University to study mathematics in 2012 had an RS A level (more than those with Economics, Physics and Business Studies A levels)

Research from the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at Durham University on the comparative difficulty of different subjects at A level showed that RS was 'in the middle difficulty range, similar to Geography and more demanding than English'

Nationally, the number of A Level entries has risen steadily between 2013 and 2015 and results are broadly consistent year on year. There has been a 21% increase in A Level entries from schools with sixth forms in Lewisham (from 48 in 2014 to 58 in 2015).

**Table 9 National and local entries in A Level Religious Studies 2013-2015**

|                 | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>National</b> | 19,171      | 19,841      | 21,577      |
| <b>Lewisham</b> | -           | 48          | 58          |

**Table 10 National performance (A\* - A, A\* - B and A\* - E) 2013-2015**

|             | <b>No of candidates</b> | <b>A* - A</b> | <b>A* - B</b> | <b>A* - E</b> |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>2013</b> | 19,171                  | 26%           | 55%           | 99%           |
| <b>2014</b> | 19,838                  | 26%           | 54%           | 99%           |
| <b>2015</b> | 21,277                  | 24%           | 55%           | 99%           |

Four Lewisham schools delivered A Level courses in RS in 2015. This is cost effective given the relatively low number of entries. It is important to apply caution when looking at performance over time because of the low number of entries year on year. The same four schools offered AS courses in RS, however uptake is low: there were twelve entries in 2015.

Subject data currently available to LA teams excludes outcomes from 6th form colleges. Last year Christ the King College offered A level courses in Religious Studies. Ninety four entered A level RS of whom 48% achieved grades A\*-B with all achieving A\*-E.



**Table 11 A Level A\* - B results**

| School             | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | entries in 2015 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| Forest Hill School | -    | 25%  | 15%  | 20              |
| Sydenham School    | -    | 43%  | 39%  | 18              |
| Prendergast School | -    | 67%  | 33%  | 15              |
| Sedgehill School   | -    | 33%  | 20%  | 5               |
| <b>LA Average</b>  | -    | 42%  | 28%  | 58              |

**Table 12 A Level A\* - E results**

| School             | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | No of entries in 2015 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| Forest Hill School | -    | 100% | 100% | 20                    |
| Sydenham School    | -    | 100% | 100% | 18                    |
| Prendergast School | -    | 100% | 100% | 15                    |
| Sedgehill School   | -    | 100% | 100% | 5                     |
| <b>LA Average</b>  | -    | 100% | 100% | 58                    |

**Note**

Analysis of GCSE and A Level performance in 2015 is based on provisional data. The DfE will publish final data in January 2016.

A draft of this report was sent to all secondary Head teachers and Heads of RE for confirmation of results.

National data sourced from the DfE publications:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/467610/SFR37\\_2015\\_Subject\\_Timeseries.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/467610/SFR37_2015_Subject_Timeseries.xls)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/473550/SFR38\\_2015\\_Subject\\_time\\_series\\_tables\\_14\\_and\\_15.xlsm](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/473550/SFR38_2015_Subject_time_series_tables_14_and_15.xlsm)

**2.3 Teaching****2.3.1 Methods of teaching - training**

National information about courses organised, for example by the National Association of Teachers of RE, CEM, exam Boards, the

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the London RE Hub have been circulated to schools

### **2.3.2 Methods of teaching - The choice of teaching materials**

During the year schools were also sent information about national resources.

### **2.3.3 The Multifaith and Multicultural Resources Centre**

During this year resources housed together as the Multifaith and Multicultural Resources Centre have continued in the temporary homes in a variety of schools and faith communities across Lewisham, Greenwich and Southwark. They continue to await a move to a new home as part of the Renewal regeneration scheme.

However progress in the scheme has not moved steadily. In June Dinah Griffiths, the Chair of SACRE reported to SACRE that she, Denise Chaplin and Shaun Burns had met and had a positive meeting with Alison Senior from LewishamC who had promised to assist Dinah with drafting a Business Case by forwarding a particular template. However, they did not receive the template and this situation was not available. As Hillsong Church were possibly going to become partners in the project, Pastor Nick had spoken to Hillsong Church on behalf of SACRE. He reported that the group is funding part of the work.

In 2016 SACRE members in partnership with the LA need to attempt to resolve the final homes of the resources so that schools can access them all.

## **2.4 Other Information**

### **2.4.1 Complaints about RE**

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

### **2.4.2 Membership**

This year SACRE has seen some more membership changes and has been concerned to ensure regular attendance. SACRE is fortunate to have several established members who support new members when they join. The review of the SACRE Constitution provided an opportunity to tighten up how absences are managed.

Training for new members has been provided on 2 occasions during the year.

## **3. Collective Worship**

### **3.1 Advice**

The SACRE's Advice on Collective Worship was updated last year.

### **3.2 Determinations**

No schools applied for a Determination this year

### **3.3 Monitoring Collective Worship & Spiritual Development**

Part of SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of Collective Worship in Lewisham schools. During the year, the SACRE have remained concerned that the Ofsted inspection reports in respect of collective worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development do not give them information for monitoring standards.

The SACRE have also taken an interest in the British Values agenda and its link with SMSC, however they have expressed concern regarding the impact of the focus of the Prevent agenda on the Muslim community. Training for school Governors in the provision for promoting Fundamental British Values within provision for pupils' SMSC development was provided in partnership with the Prevent Officer.

The SACRE advice on monitoring SMSC provision was updated this year, circulated to schools and is posted on Lewisham website.

### **3.4 Other information - Complaints**

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship in Lewisham schools this year.

## **4. Links with other agencies**

### **4.1 National**

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

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

The School Improvement Officer supporting the SACRE is a member of AREIAC; information from this body informs SACRE's work.

#### **4.1.2 The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)**

Lewisham SACRE is also a member of the National Association of SACREs and its Adviser is on the Executive of that body. Three SACRE members attended the conference.

### **NASACRE AGM 2015 - held in the Birmingham Council House, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

**Keynote: Rt Hon. Charles Clarke** – Visiting Professor of Philosophy and Faith Lancaster University

Charles Clarke said that religion is important in national life. SACREs form a vital link between faith communities and education.

Key points of his address:

Now is a big time for consideration of RE in Education. OfSTED has stated that the 1944 Education Act needs to be reconsidered.

The religious landscape in the UK is now very different from 1944 both in practice and diversity.

The educational landscape has also changed: Local Education Authorities are now Local Authorities and there is a bigger range of school types; LA, Academy, Free, Independent etc.

Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead, Professor in the sociology of religion in the Department of Politics, Philosophy & Religion at Lancaster University, have co-authored a book (to be published in June and made available free on-line to SACREs) to provoke discussion and consideration about RE, asking, "Is the current framework the right one?"

RE has never been more important. You only need to look at the current top news items across the world to see that. The modern world requires a good understanding of religion, faith and religious issues. Perspectives can be a worry and concern or illumination and inspiration.

Charles Clarke then raised a series of questions:

- Should RE be a statutory requirement at all? He believed the answer is yes, because of the increasing need for young people to understand religion.
- Should RE be part of the National Curriculum? Because of the right to withdraw a pupil, it would be difficult to equate it with

other subjects. It should be part of the national requirement in education. (as it is now part of the basic curriculum).

- What should RE be called? In 1944 it was Religious Instruction. Then there was a compact between the Church and the State – hence the right to withdraw. (In Scotland it is Religious and Moral Education.)
- Should RE be taught throughout Key Stages 1-5? Key Stage 5 has effectively gone, though it is still a legal requirement. Some say RE should be taught in KS1-3 but not KS4, others say it shouldn't be taught in KS4 but in KS1-3. Key Stage 4 is in a mess! Some say start at KS 3. The Tomlinson Report was not implemented. The whole 14-19 framework needs to be reconsidered.
- Should RE be national or local? There is a need for religion and schools to be linked – SACREs have a role to play in this. Generally there is a lack of LA support for locally agreed syllabuses. If it continues as now, it needs to be properly resourced.
- How would a local SACRE work if there was a national structure for RE? For reasons of community cohesion ALL children should have good cohesive RE. There needs to be better resourcing for SACREs whether there is a nationally or locally agreed syllabus. There needs to be more engagement from faith communities in education and vice-versa. This may only be possible through SACREs who can act as a bridge.
- Should non-theistic belief systems be involved?

Community cohesion is important and should back on Ofsted's Framework. It should be given proper weight and should be

properly resourced.

Is there a need to have the right to withdraw? If the regime is different, there should not be a need to have this right.

Charles Clarke also noted that there were issues around training of teachers, resources and respect in schools for RE.

The address was followed by questions and discussion. These included:

- the need for SACREs to get their MP's attention,
- ensuring that parents understood what they were withdrawing pupils from
- the balance of groups within SACREs
- The role of the Established Church
- Resourcing of SACREs and RE
- Qualifications needed to teach RE and the need for good Continuing Professional Development
- Collective Worship

### **Main Business Meeting**

The main business was conducted promptly. Lesley Prior concluded her term of office as Chair. David Hampshire became the new Chair and Paul Smalley was appointed Vice-Chair. Denise Chaplin and Nasr Moussa Emam were duly re-elected to the Executive.

### **Seminars:**

Denise Cush and Mary Myatt gave seminar addresses which were followed by discussion in regional groups and period for questions and comments.

Various funding streams for RE were noted: Culham St Gabriel, Hockerill, Farmington, Keswick Hall Trust. Culham St Gabriel publishes RE-Online; Getting to Good and it also supports RE Hubs to provide continuing professional development (CPD) for teachers.

The RE Quality Mark was also promoted. Good RE teachers who are positive proponents of RE are key/significant in providing more good RE teachers.

Members were reminded that in relation to OfSTED the Framework for Inspection has been strengthened regarding RE. Inspectors will check websites of schools to look for shallowness or narrowness of the curriculum. RE can now be noted as an area for improvement.

**Other matters:**

The revised NASACRE website was demonstrated. All members of registered SACREs have access to the site.

Only two applications had been received for the Westhill Awards, so the final date for applications had been extended to 24 July 2015 for projects from September 2015 – August 2016.

**4.1.3 The RE Council of England and Wales (REC)**

The work of the REC has been disseminated throughout the year to inform SACRE, faith communities and local schools.



## **4.2 Local**

SACRE members have links with local schools and faith communities. SACRE is represented on the local Holocaust Memorial Day planning group.

## **5. SACRE Arrangements**

### **5.1 Support**

The SACRE is supported by a part time School Improvement Officer. This year much time and energy was spent in inducting and supporting a new external Clerk, but unfortunately she left during the year. The London Borough of Lewisham meets salaries and administrative costs for these posts and a budget for the revision of the Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE has a limited budget to cover printing, stationery and minor administrative costs as well as spending on initiatives to support RE and collective worship. There have been budget and work planning meetings between the executive and the LA during the year.

### **5.2 Induction arrangements for new members**

SACRE members are concerned to ensure that new members can understand SACRE's work and participate actively as soon as possible. Training sessions are provided twice annually for new or inexperienced members.

## **6. Other areas of work**

### **6.1**

#### **National Holocaust Memorial Day**

SACRE have continued to be represented on the planning group for the local events and many members have attended

### **6.2 SACRE Constitution**

The SACRE were informed that the constitution would be considered on the 10th June by the Constitutions team and was then referred to the full Council Meeting on 24th June. Dinah Griffiths attended the full Council Meeting in case any questions arose. This was not the case and the Constitution is now approved and published on Lewisham's website at <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/my services/education/schools/curriculum/Pages/Religious-education.aspx>

### **6.3 Ramadan Advice to Schools**

Advice for schools about issues around children fasting during Ramadan was approved for schools in 2015, circulated in the schools' mailing and is posted on the council's website. The 2015 – 17 advice particularly raises the issue of Ramadan coinciding with the public exam period. It can be found on the Lewisham Council website at:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/my services/education/schools/curriculum/Pages/Religious-education.aspx>

## 7. Appendices

### Appendix A

#### MEMBERSHIP OF LEWISHAM SACRE in this reporting year.

| Representing   | Name  | Sponsoring Body  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>GROUP A</b>   |   |  |
| <b>Other Christian denominations and other faiths &amp; beliefs represented in the Local Authority</b> |   |  |
| Baha'i   | <b>Dr. Mehdi Dabestani</b>                  | National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is                           |
| Buddhism   | <b>David Hutchens</b>                       | The Buddhist Society   |
| Free Church (Assemblies of God)  | <b>Pastor Nick Hughes</b>                   | The Free Churches Group, Churches Together in England                |
| Free Church (Baptist)  | <b>Vacant</b>                               | The Free Churches Group, Churches Together in England                |
| Free Churches (URC)  | <b>vacant</b>                               | URC Synod  |
| Hinduism   | <b>Vallipuram Bala</b>                      | London Sivan Kovil/ Temple, Clarendon Rise, Lewisham SE13 5ES        |
| Humanism   | <b>Luke Donnellan</b>                       | British Humanist Association   |
| Independent Evangelical  | <b>Vacant</b>                               |  |
| Islam  | <b>Mohammed Barrie</b>                      | Lewisham Islamic Centre  |
| Islam  | <b>Sarwoar Ahmed</b>                        | Lewisham Islamic Centre  |
| Islam ( extra contact)   | <b>Imam Shakeel Begg</b>                    | Lewisham Islamic Centre  |
| Judaism  | <b>Gerald Rose</b>                          | The Board of Deputies of British Jews                                |
| Judaism  | <b>Joan Goldberg</b>                        | The Board of Deputies of British Jews                                |
| Pentecostal  | <b>Vacant</b>                               |  |
| Roman Catholic   | <b>Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rotheron</b> | RC Commission for Schools & Colleges,                                |
| Sikhism  | <b>Gurbakhsh Singh Garcha</b>               | Network of Sikh Organisations<br>Lord Inderjit Singh, CBE., Director |

| <b>GROUP B</b>   |   | <b>The Church of England</b>               |
|--|---|--|
| The Church of England  | <b>Shaun Burns<br/>Diocesan Primary RE<br/>Adviser (Deputy Chair)</b> | The Diocese of Southwark                   |
| The Church of England  | <b>Vacant</b>   | The Diocese of Southwark                   |
| The Church of England  | <b>John Goodey</b>  | The Diocese of Southwark                   |
| The Church of England  | <b>Gail Exon</b>  | The Diocese of Southwark                   |
| The Church of England  | <b>Revd. Juliet Donnelly</b>  | The Diocese of Southwark                   |
| <b>Group C</b>   |   | <b>Teachers' Professional Associations</b> |
| ATL  | <b>Mrs Kim Knappett</b>   | Lewisham ATL                               |
| NUT  | <b>Karen Hansen.</b>  | Lewisham NUT                               |
| Academy/ Free School   | <b>Vacant</b>   |  |
| NUT  | <b>Claire Adams</b>   | Lewisham NUT                               |
| NAS/UWT  | <b>Pamela Phillips</b>  | Lewisham NAS/UWT                           |
| Lewisham Headteachers<br>& Deputies  | <b>Vacant</b>   |  |
| <b>Group D</b>   |   | <b>The Local Authority</b>                 |
| <b>LA members</b>  | <b>Councillor Jacq<br/>Paschoud</b>                                   | Lewisham Council                           |
|  | <b>Councillor David<br/>Britton</b>                                   | Lewisham Council                           |
|  | <b>Councillor Janet Daby</b>  | Lewisham Council                           |
| <b>School Governors<br/>Primary</b>  | <b>Dinah Griffiths (Chair)</b>  |  |
| <b>School Governors<br/>Secondary</b>                                      | <b>Vacant</b>   |  |
| <b>Executive Director of<br/>Children's Services or<br/>representative</b> | <b>Kate Bond</b>  |  |

## Appendix B

### **The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body that advises the Council on the provision of religious education and collective worship.

A SACRE is made up of four groups in order to bring a wide range of interests and talents to this work, and to reflect local faith communities.

These groups are:

- Group A: Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and representatives from a wide range of other faiths and beliefs representative of Lewisham's communities.
- Group B: The Church of England.
- Group C: Teachers' professional associations.
- Group D: Elected members of the Council, with representatives of the Executive Director for Children and Young People and governors of Lewisham schools.

Members of these groups are nominated by their respective organisations.

#### ***What the SACRE does***

Lewisham SACRE meets approximately four to five times annually.

The meetings are often held in a local place of worship in order to enhance members' knowledge and understanding of faiths other than their own.

At the meetings, members discuss issues relating to religious education in Lewisham schools and other educational establishments and monitor the delivery of that education.

We develop ways of supporting schools in delivering the religious education syllabus. We develop and maintain links with local and national faith communities.

SACRE also produces advice to support schools at times of local, national or international difficulty.

We welcome contact and visits from representatives of interested organisations or individuals to our meetings.

## Appendix C

### Distribution of this report

The report is made available electronically to:

The Department for Education

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Lewisham SACRE members

Lewisham Council, Elected Members

Executive Director of Children and Young People

Teaching Unions in Lewisham

SACRE Nominating Bodies

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

Ecumenical Borough Deans

All schools in Lewisham

LeSoCo

Goldsmiths' College (University of London)

Lewisham Libraries

London Boroughs of Greenwich and Lambeth (Clerks to the SACRE)

Lewisham LA Website

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