

Luton SACRE Annual Report

September 2023 - July 2024

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1. Introduction

In the period September 2023 to July 2024, Luton SACRE met three times. The main focus of this year's work was the development of a new agreed syllabus for Luton as well as the development of a refreshed constitution and associated membership.

The new agreed syllabus can be seen here: [Luton Agreed Syllabus](#).

New Councillors were nominated and admitted onto the SACRE and induction meetings were held with the Education Service.

Schools Forum agreed to carry forward unspent funds which enabled SACRE to fund agreed initiatives, namely Teaching and Learning Consultant support for the development of curriculum materials for the new syllabus (2024-25) and continued support for Luton Council of Faiths for their work with schools.

Thanks, must be extended to Matthew Sims who served as clerk to the Luton SACRE for many years. Clerking responsibilities have now been taken on by Luton Education's Governor Services.

Comment from the Chair, John Williams

As chair and on behalf of the SACRE membership, I would also like to acknowledge the consultative support of R.E. Today and, in particular, Lat Blaylock, a long-time admirer of the work of the Luton SACRE. For many years, he has successfully overseen programmes of CPD to teachers from all phases, to support the delivery of the locally agreed R.E. syllabus. He has diligently kept the SACRE membership abreast of all national R.E. initiatives and OFSTED's evaluative judgements of the quality of R.E. teaching, both locally and nationally. We are also most grateful for his endeavours in securing invaluable funding from the national "Westhill Foundation," in order to promote local community peace initiatives.

Since January 2024 though, as will be addressed in item four, the Luton SACRE have embarked on the creation of a bespoke and innovative RE syllabus that truly represents Luton's unique demographic. Underpinning this goal, has been the desire to provide our young school children with every opportunity to develop a greater understanding and respect for all religious faiths and worldviews.

Kay Kyobi and Elif Ucar, teaching members of the SACRE, deserve specific mention for their inspirational leadership in achieving this objective and for working in close consultation with local faith leaders, teaching professionals and, indeed, their own inspiring young students at the Luton Sixth form College. As I come to the end of my time as chair, after many wonderful years of service, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all those amazing colleagues I have had the honour to work alongside. This, in particular, pursuing the highest quality outcomes for our wonderful young people of Luton. For them to grow in an ever-increasing community culture of respect, tolerance and empathy. For love to always succeed over envy, bitterness and prejudice.

2. Religious Education (Statutory Responsibilities)

Our review of our 2019-23 syllabus was completed in 2023 and it was agreed that a new syllabus was needed. Two propositions for writing Luton's new syllabus were presented and

underwent rigorous scrutiny. As a result, a new RE syllabus for Luton was commissioned to be written by the team of local Luton teachers led by subject experts from Luton Sixth Form College. This work has been completed during this cycle of SACRE development. A major priority for SACRE this year and next is the implementation of the new syllabus in our town.

Numerous workshops, meetings and consultation events took place over the academic year 2023-24 with many teachers from across the town. The aim was to create a syllabus which is relevant to modern life, reflecting world views and Luton's context. The bulk of this work was completed by July 2024.

3. Collective Worship (Statutory Responsibilities)

In 2023-24, the Luton SACRE received no requests for determinations and no complaints were recorded.

4. Links with Other Bodies

The Luton SACRE refreshed its membership of NASACRE, and members have benefitted from attendance at online webinars as well as the national conference in York in May 2024. The clerk to SACRE informs members directly when opportunities for training arise, or new information is shared by NASACRE.

In addition, information to support the teaching of RE, including online resources and websites of organisations are shared with schools through the fortnightly Education Service Newsletter.

Luton Council of Faiths

Thanks to the work of Luton Council of Faiths (LCOF), a wonderful and supportive panel of local faith leaders who have been helping us to deliver a series of primary school assemblies on popular demand. Those assemblies aim at fostering a positive environment and mutual respect amongst young people when they see the local faith leaders demonstrating how, despite their differences, they work together for the common good in our town. 10 primary schools participated in those key stage 2 assemblies reaching 4000 pupils.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to learn about different faiths and beliefs to my own. This assembly was fantastic, and I was inspired by it," a student said.

A teacher commented "The similarities between the faith leaders (e.g. believing in one God), faith leaders talking about their experiences in different countries and now all living together in Luton), religious clothing used to show what they wear, was all fascinating and hugely educational for us all in our school".

Furthermore, LCOF supported a primary school by facilitating an Interfaith Workshop at two sites by inviting guests and visitors from Luton different faith communities. People gladly joined in and supported the event.

Faith leaders from Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism shared their beliefs with families and children.

The event 'Get Creative with Religion' led by the school's RE subject leader, involved a range of activities from making Islamic calligraphy, to painting Easter eggs and Indian rangoli patterns.

Parents from all backgrounds have been supportive of the initiative led by this school. One parent said, "I am learning alongside my child." Another parent said, "With the current issues around the world, isn't it lovely that we can sit together and learn about each other's faith."

All our schools' engagement culminates in the Annual Peace Walk – 2024 saw the 28th Luton Peace Walk. Several primary schools' teachers joined this iconic event to promote peace and harmony in the town.

Khayaal Theatre Company

Khayaal Theatre Company toured Luton Primary Schools with a show telling stories from multiple faiths. See Appendix 3 for the full report.

5. Luton SACRE's own Arrangements (Statutory Responsibilities)

During 2023-24, Luton SACRE refreshed the constitution and raised the profile of the SACRE through closer links with the Education Service. Senior members of the Education Service have been co-opted on to the SACRE. The new constitution specifies expectations around quoracy, membership and representation to ensure compliance with legislation.

Luton's School Improvement Service were commissioned to run workshops to support the implementation of the new locally agreed syllabus and to ensure that it aligned with current effective pedagogical practice.

The LA has appointed a dedicated clerk through Governor Services and has developed closer links between the SACRE and the LA Social Justice Unit.

The annual budget agreed by Schools Forum is £15,118. It was noted that NASACRE recommend funding should equate to 2% of the Central School Services Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Luton currently funds at 0.9% of CSSB and the national average is 0.62%¹. Luton Schools Forum agreed to carry forward the balance from FY 2023-24 to support implementation of the syllabus in 2024-25.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1) Professional Development Provided to Schools from September 2023 – July 2024

SACRE CPD – development of the new agreed syllabus

20 November 2023 at Luton Sixth Form College
3 January 2024 at Lea Manor
12 February 2024 at Whipperley Infants

¹ SACRE funding in England: A second report from NASACRE – Paul Smalley August 2023

14 February 2024 at Luton Sixth Form College
 5 March 2024 at Luton Sixth Form College
 18 March 2024 at Luton Sixth Form College
 13 May 2024 at Stockwood Discovery Centre

Schools in attendance at consultation sessions

Beech Hill	Farley Junior Academy	Somerles Junior
Beechwood Primary	Ferrars Academy	Surrey Street Primary
Bramingham Primary	Ferrars Junior	Southfield Primary
Bushmead Primary	Foxdell Primary	Stockwood Park Academy
Chalk Hills	Hillborough Junior	The Linden Academy
Challney Boys	Icknield Primary	The Meads Primary
Challney Girls	Lea Manor High	Warden Hill Infants
Chantry Primary	Parklea Primary	Warden Hill Junior
Chapel Street Nursery	Pirton Hill Primary	Waulud Primary
Chiltern Academy	Putteridge High	Whipperley Infant Academy
Crawley Green Infants	Ramridge Primary	Whitefield Primary Academy
Dallow Primary	Rothsay Nursery	Wigmore Primary
Denbigh High	St Margarets	
Downside Primary	St Matthew's Primary	

This represents

- 2 out of 6 maintained nursery schools
- 21 out of 31 maintained primary phase schools
- 9 out of 15 primary phase academies
- 8 out of 12 secondary phase academies

Area Partnership Boards – Consultation on the New Syllabus

South 10 January 2024
 North 30 January 2024
 East 1 February 2024
 Central 2 February 2024
 West 15 February 2024

Support for Implementation of the New Agreed Syllabus – commissioned from the LA School Improvement Service

The first network meeting supporting the development of curriculum materials for the new syllabus took place on 11 July 2024 with 21 attendees from across a range of primary schools.

Appendix 2) Khayaal Theatre Company Report – July and September 2023



Multifaith Stories

Tour of Luton Primary Schools

July & September 2023

–Summary Report–

For the first time since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, we were fortunate to be able to resume our annual tours of Multifaith Stories to Luton primary schools this summer in partnership with Luton Council of Faiths. We are grateful to all of you at SACRE Luton for your support.

Over three weeks (weeks commencing 3rd July, 11th Sept and 18th Sept), we were able to reach 11 primary schools with 14 performances and conversations benefitting 1702 Years 3-6 pupils and their teachers. Of the 11 schools, 3 were completely new to Multifaith Stories while the remaining schools had previously engaged with the work over the years 2017-2019.

03 July 2023: Someries Junior School (new)

04 July 2023: Sacred Heart PS

05 July 2023: Ramridge PS

06 July 2023: St Margaret of Scotland Catholic PS

12 Sept 2023: Whitefield Primary Academy

13 Sept 2023: Southfield Primary Academy

14 Sept 2023: Chantry Primary Academy

19 Sept 2023: Downside Primary School (new)

20 Sept 2023: Wenlock CoE Junior Academy

21 Sept 2023: Maidenhall Primary School (new)

22 Sept 2023: St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary

Multifaith Stories, Collection 1

A demon slaying heroine, a resilient cobbler, a punctilious baker, a bereaved youth, and their respective supporting casts draw on a constellation of character virtues to find meaning, purpose and success in their lives.

This collection of four wisdom tales from Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam explores humanitarian values common to all of the faith traditions inviting Key Stage 2 pupils to identify,

articulate and reflect on these values and their currency in and relevance to their lives. The stories are theatrically performed over 50 minutes followed by 10-15 minutes of conversation with options for extended engagement through games and exercises.

Schools' Feedback

"We were treated to a wonderful performance today, courtesy of the amazing [@KhayaalTheatre](#) The collection of 4 tales from Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity & Islam explored a plethora of values common to all faiths, encouraging children how to show these values in their own lives." – Whitefield Primary Academy, 12 Sep 2023

"All of our schools were privileged this week to receive a visit from the wonderful Khayaal Theatre, who performed a series of multi-faith stories, exploring key values that exist within different faiths. The collection of 4 tales hailed from Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and encouraged the children to show these values in their day-to-day lives, treating others with respect, fairness, love and empathy. A wonderful experience for the pupils involved. [#pioneerpromise #Unity #Respect Chantry Primary Academy Whitefield Primary Academy Southfield Primary Academy](#)" – Pioneer Learning Trust, 16 Sep 2023

Future Plans: To continue researching and developing new stories from diverse faith traditions for touring to Luton primary schools annually with the aim of adding new schools year on year.