

# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

## Annual Report 2019-20



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The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

## **Ib. Words from the Chair of SACRE**

Normally, this foreword would be written by the Chair of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the Royal Borough of Greenwich. During the period covered by this report, Mike Cullinane was the Chair of the Council. He has since stepped down as Chair and is, unfortunately, not in a position to write the foreword to this report. He has asked me, as the current Chair of the Council, to introduce the report to you instead.

I would like to start by expressing our sincere thanks to Mike for his chairmanship and leadership and for the time and dedication he has given to this Council. Mike has been extremely influential and very committed to the work of this Council. We wish him well for the future.

The 2019-2020 academic year was a challenging one, for this SACRE, for schools, for our wider society and for the entire world.

Two highly valued members of SACRE, Sue Gyde and Pastor Gabriel Diya, passed away at the start of the academic year. This was mentioned in the previous report, which covered the calendar year 2019. Both are greatly missed by this SACRE and by the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Sue Gyde's input, in particular, to the work of this SACRE was invaluable and much appreciated. The first meeting of the academic year, which had been scheduled to take place mere days after their deaths, was cancelled as a mark of respect.

The year brought other challenges, though. We were able to have a meeting in January, but soon after the global pandemic necessitated the -partial- closure of schools and made meeting in person impossible.

Our Vice-Chair, Dr Robert Morgan, stepped down from both our local SACRE and from NASACRE. He will be very much missed. His contributions to SACRE were considerable and very valuable. He oversaw the process of reviewing and rewriting the locally Agreed Syllabus. We want to express our thanks to him for all his contributions and we wish him well for the future.

The new Agreed Syllabus was launched during the previous academic year and seems to be embedding well.

The pandemic affected the delivery of all subjects in schools, as many schools were closed to most pupils for much of the academic years. We appreciate the efforts that schools, and staff have put into delivering teaching and learning online and the support provided to all pupils. As a Council, we have tried to do what we could to support schools in the delivery of religious Education and Collective Worship during this academic year.

We are grateful for the support we received from Greenwich Children's Services. Matthew West has supported our work with energy and a very positive approach to becoming involved in our endeavours which has been a great asset to our achievements. We also offer our thanks to our Clerk, Lucy Davies. The success of our work relies so much on Lucy's management skills and the very amiable way in which she works with all members. Lucy ensures that SACRE members have what is needed in good time in order to meet targets and deadlines. Lucy's work and support are integral to our successes.

Each member of SACRE has shown a great commitment to working in a collaborative way, supporting one another, in achieving our aims for the year. I thank them individually and collectively for their unfailing belief in the work we do in supporting the young people in our

schools. In presenting this report I commend the work of our SACRE. Its members, those who support us, our schools and most importantly the young people in the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the positive contributions they make to their schools, neighbourhoods and the wider community.

Ariadne van den Hof (Chair 2021-2022) and Mike Cullinane (Chair 2017 - 2021),  
August 2022

<b>Chair of the SACRE:</b> Mr Michael Cullinane	<b>Vice-Chair of the SACRE:</b> Dr. Robert Morgan (now resigned)
<b>Clerk for SACRE &amp; ASC:</b> Lucy Davies	<b>Contact from Royal Greenwich Local Authority:</b> Matthew West

### **Ic Overview of meetings and attendance**

Term	Date	Quoracy	Venue
Autumn Term	27.11.2019	Cancelled due to death of LA advisor	
Spring Term 1	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Quorate	Christ Church Shooters Hill Hall.
Spring Term 2	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic	
Summer Term	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic	

2019-20 academic year was challenging, both for the entire world population and for RBG SACRE. At the beginning of the academic year, two members of SACRE sadly passed away, as a mark of respect, our first SACRE meeting was cancelled, as it was due to take place days later. Then as the year progressed, the country was placed in lockdown, which affected our ability to meet. Fortunately, we held a productive meeting in January 2020. Later in the academic year, our Vice Chair, Dr. Robert Morgan, had to step down from his position on both RBG SACRE and NASACRE and will be greatly missed.

The Chair, the LA Officer, and Clerk discuss, review actions and plan the agenda for each meeting. We are in the second year of a 3-year meeting cycle developed by the clerk to ensure SACRE business is allocated in a timely manner to meetings over an extended period (see appendix 2).

## **2. Religious Education (RE)**

### **2a The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

The Agreed Syllabus for religious Education was launched in the last academic year. By the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (halfway through this academic year and less than a year after the launch), it had been viewed 852 times, not including views from members of local authority staff. A further training session on the agreed syllabus was provided for teachers in the Autumn term 2019 following requests from those that had missed the previous sessions. The agreed syllabus has been adopted by both maintained schools and academies. SACRE has not carried out an analysis of which academies have adopted the agreed syllabus

### **2b Standards and monitoring of RE**

SACRE members continue to monitor inspection reports by Ofsted, SIAMS and Catholic Section 48 inspections, to gain an insight into the teaching of RE in schools in RBG.

Outcomes at GCSE and A level in religious studies are also reported on to SACRE. In this academic year, the previous year's results were scrutinised during the SACRE meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January (these

results were reported in the last annual report). In the summer of 2020, national examinations in Religious Studies at both GCSE and A level were cancelled and replaced with Centre Assessed Grades. Due to this, a data set for results and comparative data was not produced for this academic year by the Standards and Testing Agency.

SACRE noted from the previous year's data that not all schools had submitted students for Religious Studies GCSE or A level. A question was raised about whether these schools are following the short syllabus suggested in the RBG agreed syllabus.

### **2c Teacher training and RE advice for schools**

Teacher training on the new agreed syllabus for schools took place in the autumn term 2019. This was a continuation of the training offered during the summer term requested by schools that had been unable to attend the previous training. No training took place in Spring 2020 or Summer 2020 due to the pandemic.

### **2d Teaching & Resources**

During the year SACRE members and the teaching community have been kept informed of RE initiatives, events and resources. Information has been made available to schools though, for example, the Children's Services Schools Bulletin and has included Holocaust Memorial Day and CPD opportunities.

### **2e Other information**

No schools contacted SACRE about their statutory duties around RE during the 2019-20 academic year.

### **2f Advice to the LA**

During the 2019-20 academic year a query was made to the LA about the uptake of religious education in secondary schools that do not submit students for GCSE or A level religious studies.

## **3 Collective Worship**

### **3a Monitoring of collective worship**

SACRE continues to monitor the reports produced from inspections by Ofsted, SIAMS and Catholic Section 48 inspections to monitor collective worship in schools.

### **3b Determinations**

No determinations have been received from schools in Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2019-20

### **3c Teacher training provided**

The work of the RE Council of England and Wales, REC, has been disseminated throughout the year to inform SACRE, faith communities and local schools

### **3d Other information**

There is no additional information regarding collective worship

### **3e Complaints about collective worship**

There have been no complaints about collective worship in RBG schools brought to SACRE this year.

## **4. Links with other bodies**

### **4a NASACRE**

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE): The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of NASACRE. All SACRE members are encouraged to access the NASACRE website and have had the login details shared with them. Relevant information received from NASACRE is distributed to schools via the schools' bulletin.

During the 2019-20 academic year, a freedom of information request was received from NASACRE about the funding arrangements for SACRE that was answered in full.

RBG SACRE members are invited to attend the NASACRE conference each year.

### **4b Local bodies**

The clerk and local authority representative are in contact with the organisers of the RBG Faith Leaders Network. Information is shared between both organisations in both directions. Relevant information from the Faith Leaders Network is also shared with schools through the schools' bulletin. Holocaust Memorial Day information is also shared with schools through the schools' bulletin.

Several Greenwich SACRE members attend other SACREs and local Inter Faith Forums and therefore SACRE is informed by their ability to bring to the group information from other areas. SACRE is well served by RE teachers who attend and contribute a great deal to meetings as well as members of other teams within the LA such as SEND, PREVENT and other community groups and schools. SACRE members have attended RE events at local schools during the year.

## **5 Local work of SACRE**

### **5a Governor Training**

No governor training took place during the 2019-20 academic year.

### **5b Advice provided**

The RBG SACRE were visited by Nicolle Allwood who spoke about supporting young people with autism. She spoke about the work that she has done with schools and about how places of worship and belief can make their environments more inclusive to those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

RBG SACRE were visited by the LA advisor for Health and relationships education to speak about the Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) statutory curriculum. Following this, and after being asked by school leaders, SACRE agreed to form a statement as an affirmation of support on the teaching of RSE that was shared with schools. It was understood that how schools would be teaching about positive relationships aligned well with teaching children about faith and belief. This statement was agreed at the

first meeting in the next academic year and so is included in the 2020-21 annual report.

Ramadan advice was updated for the 2019-20 academic year and agreed by SACRE. This was shared with schools in a timely manner

## **6 SACRE Arrangements**

### **6a Professional and administrative support**

A clerk, who is a central contact for SACRE business, distributing papers for meetings and servicing the meetings, provides SACRE's business support. Additional support was provided by the Royal Borough of Greenwich School Improvement Team.

### **6b Membership, representation and quoracy**

RBG SACRE welcomed a new full member following RBG's agreement to amend the constitution to allow our Humanist representative to be a full member of group A with voting rights.

### **6c Training**

All RBG SACRE members are provided with the login details for the NASACRE website so that they can access training opportunities that are provided. The clerk also offers the opportunity to attend the NASACRE annual conference to members.

### **6d Finance**

RBG SACRE continues to be funded through the School Improvement budget. This includes funding for clerking services, and the Local Authority Officers' time, membership of NASACRE, attendance of the annual conference and refreshments for meetings.



**Appendix A:  
Membership in 2019-20**

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of SACRE meetings attended (or arranged a substitute)</b>	<b>Apologies received</b>
	African-Caribbean Churches	Vacant		
	Baha'i	Mr. Allen Duncan	0 out of 1	
	Baptist Churches	Vacant		
	Buddhism	Mr. Mariano Marcigaglia	1 out of 1	
	Evangelical Churches	Mr. Jeff Laws	1 out of 1	
	Hinduism	Ms. Lakshmi Vyas	0 out of 1	Yes
	Hinduism	Mrs. Renu Partap	1 out of 1	
	Humanists UK	Ms. Rachel Taggart- Ryan	1 out of 1	
	Islam	Mr. Kalid M. Ahmed	0 out of 1	Yes
	Islam	Imam Swaleh Kabocho	1 out of 1	
	Judaism	Rev. David Rome	1 out of 1	
	Methodist Church	Vacant		
	Roman Catholic Church	Mr. Mike Cullinane (Chair)	1 out of 1	
	Sikhism	Mr. Balbir Singh Bakhshi	0 out of 1	Yes
	Sikhism	Vacant		
	URC	Vacant		
<b>Group B</b>	The Church of England	Mr. Bob Love	1 out of 1	
	The Church of England	Mr. Jeremy Lunnon	1 out of 1	
	The Church of England	Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	1 out of 1	
	The Church of England	Mr. Shaun Burns	0 out of 1	Yes
<b>Group C</b>	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Claire Harrison	1 out of 1	
		Sarah Osborne	0 out of 1	Yes
		Ms. Ruth Handyside	0 out of 1	Yes
		Vacant		
	HE representative	Mr. Robert Morgan	1 out of 1	
<b>Group D</b>	The Local Authority	Cllr. Ann Marie Cousins	1 out of 1	

		Cllr. Pat Greenwell	1 out of 1	
		Cllr. Christine Grice	0 out of 1	
		Mr. Matthew West	1 out of 1	

## Appendix B

### THREE YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA PLAN 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

This document is the three-year agenda plan for Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE. The document is drafted by the Local Authority Representative and approved and owned by RBG SACRE. The agenda plan is agreed annually at the first meeting of the academic year and is reviewed annually on a three-year rolling basis.

The plan gives a framework to ensure that SACRE fulfills its duties. SACRE agendas are not limited to these items, and SACRE will consider items as appropriate in order to fulfill its duties. These could include consideration of applications to vary requirements for collective worship; requesting the Local Authority to set up a Statutory Agreed Syllabus Conference; monitoring delivery of the Agreed Syllabus; reviewing provision for in-service training and development and receiving Ofsted RE inspection reports.

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
2018-19	24 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan)
	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Agreement of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance – approve Gender Identification and Faith (briefing from Michele Holmes)
	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RE Results for 2017/2018
	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange Feedback from ASC Launch RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan) Annual Approval of Code of Conduct RE Results for 18.19 Ramadan Guidance - approve Monitor implementation of the latest Agreed Syllabus <i>(Note: may move, depending on launch date)</i>
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference Multi-Faith Guidelines Review
<b>2020-21</b>	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan) Annual Approval of Code of Conduct RE Results for 19.20 Ramadan Guidance - approve
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference
<i>Note</i>	<i>ASC</i>	<i>Requirement to review Agreed Syllabus content – every 5 years</i>

## **Appendix C**

### **Circulation details for this annual report**

Once agreed by SACRE and any final amendments are made, this annual report will be published on the RBG website in the SACRE section, and the clerk will send a copy of the report to the Secretary of State for Education and NASACRE for their records.