

# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

## Annual Report 2021-22



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

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

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

It has been an honour and a privilege to be Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the Royal Borough of Greenwich during the 2021/2022 academic year.

This was the year that life returned to some kind of normality after the lockdowns necessitated by the pandemic. There were no more lockdowns and schools were able to operate more or less as normal. GCSE and A-levels exams were held again for the first time since 2019.

As a Council we were able to gather for our usual three meetings a year, albeit virtually for the first two.

Council elections caused some changes to our membership. Our Vice-Chair, Rachel Taggart-Ryan, was elected as a Councillor and consequently stood down as a member of SACRE. Cllr Cousins and Cllr Williams reached the end of their periods of service on SACRE and were replaced by Cllr St Matthew-Daniel and Cllr Mbang. We thank all three for their contributions to SACRE and wish them well for the future.

We do have a number of vacancies on our Council, and we are exploring ways of encouraging new people to join us. The Council has an important role to play in our borough and with our schools and we hope that more people will want to support this.

We are proud of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education that was launched in the 2018-2019 academic year. As you will see in the report, it has had hundreds of views and has been adopted by both maintained schools and academies.

As always, we are grateful to Greenwich Children's Services for the support we receive from them. Matthew West's calm, positive and helpful advice and guidance is greatly appreciated. We also value highly the help and support that our Clerk, Lucy Davies, gives us. She keeps us informed about NASACRE training and events, produces minutes of our meetings, and makes sure that all members know when and where our meetings are held. We would not be able to do what we do without the help of both Matthew and Lucy. We are grateful that Greenwich Children's Services continue to provide this help in these financially challenging times.

I would like to express my thanks to each and every member of our SACRE and for the contribution that they make to 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)  
June 2023

<b>Chair of the SACRE:</b> Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	<b>Vice-Chair of the SACRE:</b> Rachel Taggart-Ryan
<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	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	Quorate	Virtual
Spring Term	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Quorate	Virtual
Summer Term	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022	Quorate	Professional Development Centre

We had some changes in membership this year. Rachel Taggart-Ryan stood down after being elected as a councillor in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Cllr Cousins and Cllr Williams also reached the end of their period of service, and we welcomed Cllr St Matthew-Daniel and Cllr Mbang. We also welcomed Sharon Docherty as a new member in group A. Mtr Ariadne attended the NASACRE annual conference and fed back to SACRE members in the summer meeting.

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 2018-19 academic year. By the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 (halfway through the last 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. 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. Fourteen Ofsted inspections took place in the 2021-22 academic year, none of which had a deep dive in Religious Education.

Outcomes at GCSE and A level in religious studies are also reported to SACRE. In the summer of 2022, the first exams at GCSE and A 'levels took place since 2019, due to the pandemic. The Department for Education has made it clear that comparisons should not be made between these outcomes and previous years. Therefore, the data provided in the tables below does not make comparisons of outcomes.

Table 1

<b>KS4 2022 GCSE Religious Studies Results</b>	<b>N. Pupils</b>	<b>N. RS Entries</b>	<b>Entries %</b>	<b>5+</b>	<b>4+</b>	<b>1+</b>
St. Mary Magdalene All Through	171	170	99%	61%	66%	96%
Harris Academy Greenwich	190	14	7%	43%	86%	100%
Ark Greenwich Free School	111	15	14%	7%	100%	100%
Plumstead Manor School	232	201	87%	53%	69%	98%
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	263	243	92%	57%	68%	98%
Thomas Tallis School	266	57	21%	37%	79%	100%
St Ursula's Convent School	128	127	99%	31%	87%	100%
St. Thomas More Catholic Comprehensive School	127	127	100%	35%	87%	99%
St. Paul's Academy	239	224	94%	33%	89%	100%
Kings Oak	10	3	30%	100%	0%	100%
<b>RBG</b>	<b>2742</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>645475</b>	<b>221435</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>90%</b>

Table 1 shows that the numbers of pupils that were entered for GCSE religious studies is higher than the national percentage (43% in RBG compared with 34% nationally). However, there is little room for celebration, as pre-pandemic over 50% of students in RBG took religious studies.

Seventy-seven percent of students of GCSE religious studies attained a pass (4+), significantly above the national figure of 70%. However, students attaining a good pass (5+) are 45% significantly below the national figure of 60%.

Table 2 shows schools in which no pupils sat GCSE religious studies. It should be noted that Charlton Park Academy and Willow Dene are both special schools and pupils have high levels of need and require an alternative curriculum offer.

Table 2

<b>No RS Entries</b>
Royal Greenwich Trust School
The Halley Academy
The John Roan School
Eltham Hill School
Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys
Charlton Park Academy
Willow Dene School

Table 3

<b>KS5 2022 A Level Religious Studies Results</b>	<b>N. A Level Pupils</b>	<b>N. RS Entries</b>	<b>A*-A</b>	<b>A*-B</b>	<b>A*-E</b>
Harris Academy Greenwich	108	5	20%	80%	100%
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	115	7	43%	57%	100%
Thomas Tallis School	269	13	23%	46%	92%
<b>RBG</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>96%</b>
England	-	15284	36.2%	67.8%	98.7%

Table 3 shows that the number of schools entering students for A level religious studies was low, as was the number of students taking the subject in each school.

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

The PTI (formally the Prince's Trust Initiative) ran RE CPD for teachers in a hub of schools in RBG. This included both primary and secondary schools. This has led to one of the secondary RE leaders to set up a network which continues to meet.

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.

### **2d Other information**

No schools contacted SACRE requesting a withdrawal from their statutory duties relating to RE during the 2021-22 academic year.

### **2e Advice to the LA**

No advice was given to the local authority this year.

## **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. Ofsted and religious inspections resumed during the 2021-22 academic year having been halted previously. Fourteen schools received an Ofsted inspection during the academic year (thirteen primary and one secondary school). None of the schools had a deep dive into religious education. Four reports mentioned assemblies, three that the school values are taught and the third that 'pupils learn about different faiths'. No faith schools in the Royal Borough of Greenwich received a religious inspection during this period.

### **3b Determinations**

No determinations have been received from schools in Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2021-22

### **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**

During the October SACRE meeting, the council discussed the information from the DfE in which it is proposed that the requirement for a daily act of worship is removed from the school day. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for full discussion once a date for the removal has been agreed.

### **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.

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 2021-22 academic year.

### **5b Advice provided**

Ramadan advice was updated for the 2021-22 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**

All meetings were quorate following the amendment to the constitution made last year. We welcomed a new member to group A, Sharon Docherty is representing Roman Catholic Church. Councillor Cousins and Councillor Williams both reached the end of their period of service and stepped down from Group D in the summer. We welcomed Cllr St Matthew-Daniel and Cllr Mbang to replace them.

### **6c Training**

All RBG SACRE members are provided with the login details for the NASACRE website so that they can access the 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 2021-22**

<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 Churches	Vacant		
	African Churches	Vacant		
	Baha'i	Mr. Allen Duncan	0 out of 3	
	Baptist Churches	Vacant		
	Buddhism	Mr. Mariano Marcigaglia	3 out of 3	
	Evangelical Churches	Mr. Jeff Laws	2 out of 3	Yes
	Hinduism	Ms. Lakshmi Vyas	1 out of 3	Yes
	Hinduism	Mrs. Renu Partap	0 out of 3	
	Humanists	Ms. Rachel Taggart- Ryan	2 out of 2	
	Islam	Mr. Kalid M. Ahmed	0 out of 3	
	Islam	Imam Swaleh Kabocho or Oinoor Mia	1 out of 3	Yes
	Judaism	Rev. David Rome	3 out of 3	
	Methodist Church	Vacant		
	Roman Catholic Church	Mrs. Sharon Docherty (From February 2022)	2 out of 2	
	Roman Catholic Church	Vacant		
	Sikhism	Mr. Balbir Singh Bakhshi	0 out of 3	Yes
	United Reformed Church	Vacant		
<b>Group B</b>	The Church of England	Vacant		
	The Church of England	Mr. Jeremy Lunnon	2 out of 3	Yes
	The Church of England	Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	3 out of 3	
	The Church of England	Mr. Shaun Burns	3 out of 3	
	The Church of England	Vacancy		
<b>Group C</b>	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Claire Harrison	3 out of 3	
		Sarah Osborne	0 out of 3	
		Ms. Ruth Handyside	0 out of 2	Yes

		Mr. Matthew Harris	3 out of 3	
		Mr. David Osbourne	3 out of 3	
		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
		Vacancy		
<b>Group D</b>	The Local Authority	Cllr. Ann Marie Cousins	2 out of 2	
		Cllr. Pat Greenwell	2 out of 3	Yes
		Cllr. Ivis Williams	0 out of 2	Yes
		Cllr. Christine St Matthew Daniel (From June 2022)	0 out of 1	Yes
		Cllr. Dominic Mbang (From June 2022)	0 out of 1	
		Mr. Matthew West	3 out of 3	

## Appendix B

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

This document is the three-year agenda plan for the 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>	ASC	<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.