

# **Brent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

## **Annual report 2018-19**

**October 2020**

Queries about this report should be addressed to:

Helen Tulloch  
Governor Support Coordinator  
Setting and School Effectiveness  
Brent Civic Centre  
Engineers Way  
Wembley HA9 0FJ  
Tel: 020 8937 3038  
Email: [helen.tulloch@brent.gov.uk](mailto:helen.tulloch@brent.gov.uk)

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

### ANNUAL REPORT OF BRENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2018-2019

#### 1.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

##### 1.1 Agreed Syllabus

An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) was convened in June 2017 tasked with reviewing and redrafting the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Until a new Agreed Syllabus is approved by Brent Council, the current syllabus remains the legally binding document for all local authority maintained schools in the Borough.

A full version of the current Agreed Syllabus, including its appendices, can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946060/agreed\\_syllabus\\_for\\_religious\\_education.pdf](http://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946060/agreed_syllabus_for_religious_education.pdf)

##### 1.2 Standards in RE

Analysis of Ofsted reports, following inspection, remain an important source of information on the effectiveness of schools in relation to the teaching and delivery of the curriculum for Religious Education (RE) and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

A total of 17 schools in Brent received an Ofsted inspection in the 2018/19 academic year.

It is noted that no adverse issues were identified during the inspection of these schools in terms of religious education and/or spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is also noted that a number of schools received positive comments on their approach to RE and/or its impact, as indicated in the following table:

School	Type	Ofsted comment
Newfield Primary School	Maintained Community School	<p>The curriculum supports pupils' personal development. In studying the Second World War, for example, Year 6 pupils explored the feelings of Anne Frank while in hiding from the Nazis. Such topics promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.</p> <p>Strong promotion of moral and social qualities and the British values of tolerance and respect helps pupils from different backgrounds to get on well together. Pupils are well prepared for their future life in a diverse society. As one pupil commented: 'We all work together; no one is excluded.'</p>

School	Type	Ofsted comment
St Robert Southwell RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided School	<p>Leaders ensure that there are many opportunities for pupils to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding.</p> <p>The broad curriculum contributes well to pupils' strong understanding of SMSC.</p>
Mount Stewart Infant School	Maintained Community School	<p>The school's strong values foster pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.</p> <p>In RE, pupils' progress is stronger in learning about different faiths and the values of tolerance and kindness.</p>
St Gregory's Catholic Science College	Multi Academy Trust	<p>Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted very well throughout the curriculum and in the broader work of the school.</p> <p>Pupils are exceptionally respectful of others, reflecting the school's ethos and values. They are encouraged to discuss difficult issues and to listen to the viewpoints of others from different cultures, religions and backgrounds.</p>
Fryent Primary School	Maintained Community School	<p>Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted well across all aspects of school life. In lessons, pupils learn about other cultures and are encouraged to respect the religious practices of others. As a Rights Respecting School, pupils are taught values to practise each week, such as caring and empathy.</p> <p>Pupils are helped to correct mistakes and develop their learning. For example, in religious education lessons visited by inspectors, pupils discussed their understanding of Hindu rituals. Teachers used effective questioning to help pupils make links with practices in other religions and cultures.</p> <p>The school embraces all cultures and religions through the curriculum, assemblies and displays.</p>

School	Type	Ofsted comment
Lyon Park Primary School	Community School	<p>Through the curriculum, pupils develop a strong awareness of different faiths, ethnic backgrounds and cultures. Pupils demonstrate respectful and considerate attitudes and are well prepared to play a positive role in modern Britain.</p> <p>They are taught how to show respect for each other, even if they hold very different beliefs or points of view.</p>
Kingsbury Green Primary School	Community School	<p>Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is actively promoted.</p> <p>Pupils' personal development is outstanding. They show very high levels of respect for one another's cultural and religious beliefs, learning in a prejudice-free environment, where everyone's opinion is valued.</p>
Harlesden Primary School	Community School	<p>Pupils are caring, articulate and confident. Leaders and staff promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.</p> <p>The school's values and caring ethos promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development effectively. Pupils appreciate the difference between right and wrong and told inspectors that it is important to 'be fair' and 'kind to everyone'.</p> <p>Older pupils spoke maturely about the importance of being equally respectful towards people of different religions, as well as those who do not have a faith.</p>

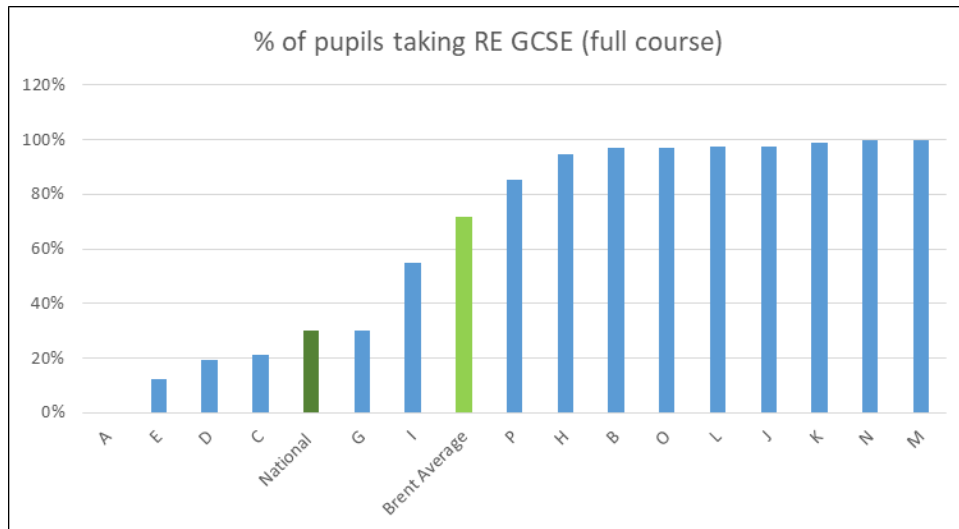
### 1.3 Religious Studies: GCSE and A Level Participation and Attainment

#### 2018/19 Religious Education GCSE

Religious Education GCSE (full courses of study) was offered in all but one Brent secondary school in the 2018/19 academic year. The percentage of Brent students sitting Religious Education GCSE (full) examinations in 2019 was 67 per cent. This is significantly above the national average of 31 per cent.

However, whilst the overall percentage of students sitting GCSE RE is high, the variation between schools in Brent is significant as evidenced by chart 1 below. It is noted that four schools in Brent have less than 30 per cent of students sitting GCSE RE.

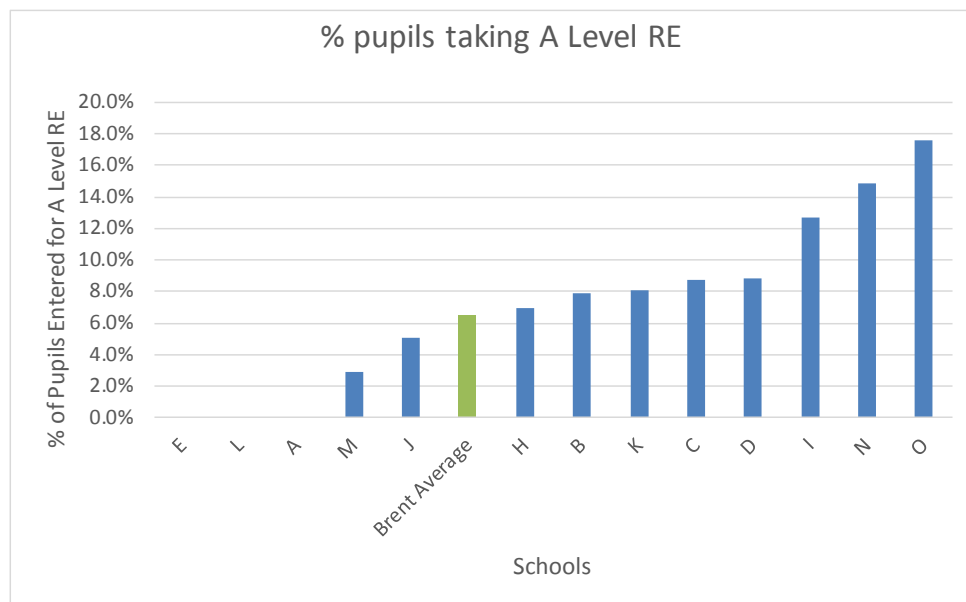
Chart 1: Percentage of Brent students sitting GCSE in Religious Education (2019) by school (anonymised)



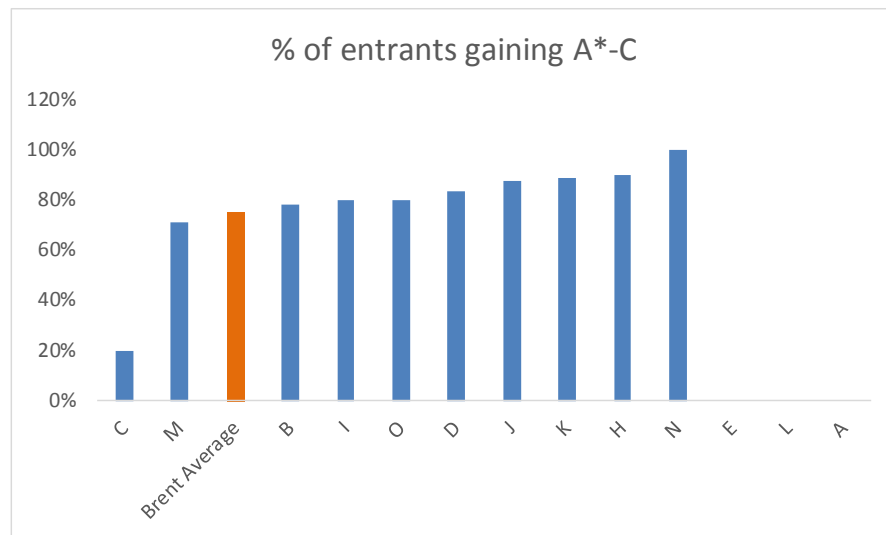
## 2018/19 Religious Education A Level

The combined total percentage of Brent students taking Religious Studies/Education A Level examinations in 2019 in was 6.5 per cent representing a total of 102 students. This figure is similar to the percentage of students taking A Level RE in 2018.

Chart 2: Percentage of Brent students sitting A Level in Religious Education or Religious studies (2019) by school (anonymised)



The following chart shows the percentage of students attaining A\*-C in the 2019 A Level examinations. On average, 75 per cent of Brent students sitting A Level RE or Religious Studies attained a grade of A\*-C.



## 2.0 TRAINING: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### 2.1 RE Subject Leaders meetings

SACRE members were pleased to note that there continue to be termly meetings for the Subject Leaders of RE in primary and special schools. These meetings are made available to all schools in Brent via Brent Council's School Compliance and Governor Training Programme.

The subject leader meetings are led by Lesley Prior, Religious Education Consultant. Lesley also supported the Brent SACRE along with Roger Butler. During 2018/19, these meetings took place on the following dates:

- 25/09/2018
- 29/01/2019
- 02/05/2019.

The RE Subject Leaders termly meetings provided participants with opportunities to:

- Receive information regarding the latest developments in RE, both locally and nationally
- Understand the challenges of these developments for schools
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of religions locally, nationally and internationally
- Understand how to apply that knowledge and understanding within the current requirements of the locally agreed syllabus for RE
- Analyse the appropriateness and effectiveness of their current schemes of learning in light of what they have learned
- Evaluate different activities and resources for teaching and learning, including visits and visitors in RE.

Feedback from the participants at these meetings continues to be very positive and the meetings have been a valuable sounding board for Agreed Syllabus Conference members when examining material for the revised Agreed Syllabus as well as evaluating progress.

### **3.0 COMPLAINTS**

No complaints on either Religious Education or Collective Worship were referred to SACRE for investigation in the year 2018/19.

### **4.0 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

#### **4.1 Determinations**

Maintained schools may apply to Brent SACRE for a determination if they identify that collective worship which is “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” is not appropriate for their pupils.

In 2018/19, thirty of Brent’s thirty-five community and foundation schools had a valid determination. In Brent, this means that such schools then have the choice of following a multi-faith approach recommended by Brent SACRE or following an approach devised by the school.

Whilst voluntary aided and academy schools are also required to have a daily act of collective worship, the governing body is responsible for determining its character and content, and do not therefore have to apply to SACRE for a determination.

#### **4.2 Determination Renewals**

The following determination renewals were granted during the academic year 2018-2019.

<b>School</b>	<b>Date</b>
Brentfield Primary School	27/06/2019
Byron Court Primary School	27/06/2019
Fryent Primary School	27/06/2019
Mitchell Brook Primary School	27/06/2019
Mount Stewart Infant School	27/06/2019
Mount Stewart Junior School	27/06/2019
Newfield Primary School	27/06/2019
Northview Primary School	27/06/2019

### **5.0 MATTERS REFERRED TO SACRE**

No matters were referred to SACRE for consideration in the year 2018/19.

### **6.0 LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES**

Brent SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

## 7.0 SACRE MANAGEMENT and CONTACT OFFICERS 2018/19

SACRE Chair: Basma Elshayyal  
SACRE Vice Chair: Laurence Hillel (Vice-Chair, Church of England)

LA Lead Officer: Helen Tulloch (Governor Services Co-ordinator)  
Clerk to SACRE: Nikoleta Nikolova (Governance Officer)

## 8.0 MEETINGS

- 8.1. During the 2018/19 academic year SACRE met on the following dates:
- 9 October 2018
  - 7 March 2019
  - 27 June 2019
- 8.2. During the course of the year, in addition to SACRE standard agenda items relating to membership and determinations, members considered and discussed the following key issues:
- a. **Agreed Syllabus:** Establishing the framework and priorities for development of a new Brent agreed syllabus for Religious Education.
  - b. **The Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead Report - A New Settlement Revised: Religion and Belief in Schools:** Following a presentation on the key issues raised by the report and an outline of the report's 16 recommendations, SACRE members discussed:
    - The recommendation to reform the requirement for local authorities to agree a locally agreed syllabus for RE in favour of a nationally agreed RE syllabus.
    - The recommendation that SACREs should be reconstituted and properly resourced in order to assist in developing and delivering the faith aspects of the government's approach to community integration and cohesion.
  - c. **Making resources to support RE teaching and learning available online:** Members discussed the development of a Religious Education page and associated resources on Brent Council's BESTBrent website.



## ANNEX A

### London Borough of Brent SACRE membership 2018/19

**Group A: Christian and other religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions in the area.**

Baha'i	Abraham	Wilson
Buddhism	Rupa	Monerawela
Free Churches (United Reformed/Moravian)	Glen	Warner
Greek Orthodox	Andri	Kyriakidis
Hinduism (Brent Hindu Samaj)	Deva	Samaroo
Hinduism (Saiva Siddanta)	S	Swaminathan
Islam (Shi'a)	Aliya	Azam
Islam (Shi'a)	Basma	El Shayyal
Jainism	Manhar	Mehta
Judaism	Tamar	Bennett
Judaism (Reform)	Valerie	Boyd-Hellner
Rastafarianism	Leroy	Lindsay
Roman Catholicism	Dawn	Titus
Christina Orthodox	Gillian	Crow
Sikhism	Yoginder	Singh Maini
Zoroastrianism	Malcolm	Deboo
Zoroastrianism	Yazad	Bhadha

**Group B: Church of England**

Graham	Marriner
Laurence	Hillel
Graham	Noyce
Mark	Newton

**Group C: Associations Representing Teachers**

Lea	Murray
Sophie	Lynch
Andrew	Bate
Helen	Mooney

**Group D: LA Representatives**

Cllr Neil	Nerva
Cllr Tariq	Dar
Cllr Orleen	Hylton

### London Borough of Brent Agreed Syllabus Conference Members 2018/19

**Group A: Christian and other religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions in the area.**

Baha'i	Abraham	Wilson
Buddhism	Rupa	Monerawela
Free Churches (United Reformed/Moravian)	Glen	Warner
Greek Orthodox	Andri	Kyriakidis
Hinduism (Brent Hindu Samaj)	Deva	Samaroo
Hinduism (Saiva Siddanta)	S	Swaminathan
Islam (Shi'a)	Aliya	Azam
Islam (Shi'a)	Basma	El Shayyal
Jainism	Manhar	Mehta
Judaism (Reform)	Valerie	Boyd-Hellner
Rastafarianism	Leroy	Lindsay
Roman Catholicism	Dawn	Titus
Sikhism	Yoginder	Singh Maini
Zoroastrianism	Malcolm	Deboo
Zoroastrianism	Yazad	Bhadha

**Group B: Church of England**

Graham	Marriner
Laurence	Hillel
Graham	Noyce
Mark	Newton

**Group C: Associations Representing Teachers**

Lea	Murray
Sophie	Lynch
Andrew	Bate
Helen	Mooney

**Group D: LA Representatives**

Cllr Neil	Nerva
Cllr Tariq	Dar
Cllr Orleen	Hylton