

## Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

**Thursday 14 October 2021 at 4.30 pm**

This will be undertaken as an online virtual meeting

### **Membership:**

**Chair:** Basma ElShayyal (Chair)

**Vice Chair:** Helen Mooney

### **Advisers:**

- Lesley Prior

### **Representatives of:**

- Local Authority
- Church of England
- Brent's other faiths and denominations
- Teachers

**For further information contact:** Andrew Phillips, Governance Officer  
Tel: 020 8937 4219; Email: Andrew.Phillips@brent.gov.uk

**The SACRE meeting will be open for the public and press to attend as an online virtual meeting. The link to view the meeting live will be available [HERE](#)**

# Agenda

Item	Page
<b>1 Welcome and Introductions</b>	
<b>2 Election of Chair &amp; Vice Chair</b>	
To undertake the annual election of the SACRE Chair & Vice-Chair.	
Members are asked to note that in accordance with the SACRE Constitution:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The local authority has agreed not to exercise their right to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair, meaning the appointments will be a matter for SACRE to agree; and</li><li>• The appointment of Chair &amp; Vice-Chair will be for a one year term of office covering the 2021-22 academic year, with future elections to take place at the last SACRE meeting of each academic year.</li></ul>	
<b>3 Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	1 - 6
To consider and approve the minutes from the last SACRE meeting held on Tuesday 22 June 2021.	
<b>4 Determinations</b>	7 - 14
4.1 To consider the determination for the following school:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roe Green Junior School (Members are asked to note that a minute extract from the Roe Green Junior School Governing Body meeting held on 7 October 2021 has been attached)</li></ul>	
4.2 To note the following school(s) with an expired determination:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uxendon Manor School (should their application be submitted prior to the meeting this will be circulated for members consideration)</li></ul>	
<b>5 SACRE Annual Report 19/20 and 20/21</b>	15 - 23
<b>5.1 Final Draft SACRE Annual Report 2019-20</b>	
To receive a final draft of the 2019-20 SACRE Annual Report for consideration and approval.	

## **5.2 NASACRE Annual Report Template – 2020-21**

To note the Annual Report template developed by NASACRE upon which it was recommended all future SACRE Annual Reports should be based.

### **6 Religious Education National and Local Update (Brent workforce data) 24 – 25**

To receive an update on any local and national issues relating to the provision of RE and collective worship. Attached are details of the release of school level data from the 2020 DfE School Workforce Census relating to the provision of RE in Brent Schools.

### **7 NASACRE Briefing 26 - 38**

To receive and consider the latest NASACRE Briefing for September 2021.

### **8 Any Other Business**

**Date of the next meeting: Thursday 10 February 2022 at 4:30pm**

## MINUTES OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

**Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 22 June 2021 at 4:30pm**

### Attendees (in remote attendance):

<b>GROUP A</b> <i>(A committee of persons representing such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area)</i>	Basma ElShayyal (Chair, Sunni Islam) Sheralyn Snaith (Baha'i) Manhar Mehta (Jainism) Bhupinder Singh (Sikhism) Michelle Goldsmith (Humanism)
<b>GROUP B</b> <i>(A committee of persons representing the Church of England)</i>	Steve Taylor
<b>GROUP C</b> <i>(A committee of persons representing such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area)</i>	Lea Murray Helen Mooney (Vice-Chair) Ian Slade Florence Quainoo Kim Wilson
<b>GROUP D</b> <i>(A committee of persons representing the authority)</i>	Councillor Tariq Dar Councillor Orleen Hylton Councillor Neil Nerva

<b>In attendance:</b>	Lesley Prior (RE Advisor/Consultant to SACRE) Brian Grady (Brent Council OD Safeguarding, Partnership & Strategy) Helen Tulloch (Brent Council Governor Support Coordinator) Andrew Phillips (Brent Council – Governance Team) James Kinsella (Brent Council- Governance Team) Shaun Cremin (Associate Member) Suzan Tokcan (Humanism – alternate member attending as an observer)
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## 1. Welcome and apologies:

Basma ElShayyal (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members of SACRE for their attendance.

It was reported that apologies for absence had been received from Kim Wilson (Teachers representative – Group C)

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on Thursday 11 February 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

The group were also advised that new representatives from the Hindu and Judaism faiths were currently being sought to fill the existing vacancies in Membership Group A.

## 3. Determinations

Lesley Prior (RE Advisor and SACRE consultant) introduced the item, with SACRE being asked to consider the application for a determination received from Elsley Primary School.

Prior to consideration of the application, SACRE were advised of the current DfE guidance relating to schools with outstanding determination renewal applications during the pandemic. SACRE noted:

- In normal circumstances, determinations would last for a period of 5 years, and if a school wanted to continue it would need to reapply to SACRE at the end of this period. Whilst the DfE had allowed existing determinations due for renewal to continue during the pandemic, Lesley Prior advised this guidance had now been updated as the recovery had progressed and schools had reopened. As a result, the updated guidance from the DfE was that any initial extension should now come to an end requiring schools whose determinations had lapsed but been allowed to continue during the pandemic to now have to submit new applications.
- As a result a number of new determinations had been agreed by SACRE at the last meeting in February with members advised that these had needed to be backdated to the original date they had been due for renewal, rather than the new date on which the applications had been agreed.
- In the case of schools with a lapsed determination who had still to submit a new application (of which there were currently two within Brent) the advice from the DfE had been that they would be required to revert to providing collective worship that was broadly Christian in character pending any new determination application being agreed. In these cases SACRE would be expected to contact the school in order to confirm the position.

In response to comments raised in respect of the update provided SACRE were advised:

- That in terms of the monitoring of collective worship in schools whose determinations had lapsed this would be a matter for Ofsted to pick up as part of their inspection process. The role of SACRE remained to advise and support schools in terms of encouraging further applications within the necessary timescales.
- Clarification was provided that it was not the role of SACRE to advise Ofsted when determinations had lapsed and members were reminded of the approach adopted within Brent SACRE in terms of the process followed and proactive work with schools in this area, which had often been shared as best practice.
- In response to a query relating to Academy Schools, Lesley Prior outlined the process they would follow in terms of seeking the equivalent determinations relating to their collective worship, which were dealt with direct via the DfE.

Having noted the update provided at the meeting SACRE then moved on to consider the application received for a determination from Elsley Primary School. Lesley Prior outlined the process and considerations members would need to take into account when reviewing the application including the supporting data provided, level of consultation with governors, pupils and parents and each schools supporting policy in relation to collective worship. In considering the application members commended the high standard and comprehensive nature of the application.

It was therefore unanimously **RESOLVED** (with each of the four membership groups voting in favour) to approve and grant the renewal of the determination for Elsley Primary School. Whilst praising the quality of the application the need was also identified for the school to be advised that the RE Scheme of Learning they had submitted as part of the application had not been required or considered as part of the decision making process as this was separate to the collective worship strategy.

In terms of the expired determinations it was noted that these related to the following schools – Uxendon Manor & Roe Green Junior School. Having noted the advice provided by Lesley Prior at the meeting it as **RESOLVED** that further contact be made with the schools to support and encourage the submission of their applications. Lesley Prior agreed to liaise with Helen Tulloch regarding the nature of the advice guidance and specific wording to be used when contacting each school.

#### **4. Religious Education Updates (Local and National):**

SACRE received an update from Lesley Prior on recent national and local issues in relation to the provision of RE and collective worship within schools. As part

of the update SACRE were advised of the publication of a significant review by Ofsted relating to the provision of RE within schools, the details of which had been included as part of the agenda papers. The review had been led by Dr Richard Kueh who had been appointed as the new Ofsted subject lead for RE

As part of his role, Dr Kueh had recently posted two short updates on YouTube relating to the review which covered the factors that can influence the quality of RE in schools and the substance of the RE curriculum highlighting a number of key issues relating to the review. In considering the Ofsted review, SACRE were advised that this included an outline of the national context in relation to the provision of RE, along with the successes and struggles that the subject experienced in order to encourage schools to reflect on the context within their own setting.

SACRE also noted the focus within the review on progression and teaching within the curriculum along with the assessment process and pedagogical approaches and models. The review also referenced what it felt to be the three different types of knowledge or pillars of progression within RE, which were identified as:

- First: substantive knowledge – knowledge about various religious and non-religious traditions;
- Second: ways of knowing – pupils learn how to know about religion and non-religion; and
- Third: personal knowledge – pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about the religious and non-religious traditions they study

Finally, SACRE noted the review moved on to highlight features of high quality RE.

In welcoming the review, SACRE were pleased to note that much of the approach and thinking outlined had already formed the basis for the ongoing work and development of the agreed syllabus curriculum within Brent and been embedded within the supplementary schemes of learning and materials being prepared to accompany the curriculum once completed. Basma El Shayyal (as Chair) also felt it important to recognise the way this reflected the excellent practice and professional approach within Brent led by academic rigour.

As a final issue highlighted, Lesley Prior also drew attention to the efforts being made within Ofsted to ensure their inspectors received appropriate levels of training in relation to RE and the practice and requirements of collective worship, which was also welcomed by members of SACRE.

SACRE **RESOLVED** to note and welcome the update provided which Lesley Prior advised would also be summarised in her next SACRE newsletter.

## **5. SACRE Annual Report 2019-20 and 2020-21:**

Lesley Prior provided SACRE with an update on progress in finalising the Annual Report 2019-20. Members were advised that a draft had been prepared, which was currently subject to review by the Chair and other officers. Once comments had been received the report would be finalised for submission to the next SACRE meeting in order for formal approval and sign off.

In terms of the 2020-21 Annual Report, Lesley Prior advised of the work being undertaken by NASACRE to develop a standard template for SACRE Annual Reports as a means of providing a more consistent approach and reflecting and sharing best practice. As a result, it was proposed that drafting of the 2020-21 Annual Report should be based on the standard NASACRE template with a draft to be prepared and provided for a future meeting, once the new template was available.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a final draft of the 2019-20 Annual Report be provided for the next SACRE meeting with the 2020-21 Annual Report to be prepared and presented to a future meeting for sign off on the basis of the standard template, once available.

## **6. NASCRE Briefing (Including feedback from Annual Conference):**

SACRE noted the update provided with the agenda in relation to NASACRE, with feedback provided on the NASACRE Annual Conference & AGM held on 24 May 2021. Members noted that the theme of the Conference had been the flexibility, commitment and support shown to maintaining the provision of RE within schools throughout the pandemic. Members noted the event had also contained a number of useful workshops for delegates.

Basma El Shayyal (as Chair) advised that she had attended on behalf of Brent SACRE and had found the event to be very positive. As a result of it being hosted online it had also generated a higher level of attendance and participation, which had been much welcomed. Feedback provided following the event from delegates had also been very positive, with members pleased to note the focus and support provided from across the academic sector and more generally in terms of the development and arrangements for delivery of RE and the harnessing of this learning and research.

As no further issues were raised SACRE **RESOLVED** to note the update provided and positive feedback received from the NASACRE Annual Conference.

## **7. Any other business:**

The following issues were raised as matters under Any Other Business:



- In terms of an update on the status of the work being undertaken to complete the agreed syllabus review the Chair advised that progress continue to be made with the current proposal to schedule an Agreed Syllabus Conference during the Autumn term. Brian Grady (OD Safeguarding, Partnership & Strategy) advised that in advance of the ASC being scheduled further updates would continue to be provided through the groups who had been involved in the development and consultation on the syllabus undertaken to date, in order to ensure a consistency of approach.
- A question was raised regarding the use of RE as a means of facilitating the provision of information and encouraging the take up of the Covid vaccine amongst different faith groups and young people across the borough. Whilst this was not felt to be an issue which fell directly within the remit of SACRE or RE and collective worship, members noted the efforts being made to tackle the issue through PHSE discussions within schools and also through a series of specific events and seminars aimed at different faith and age groups across the borough along with the role of the Multi Faith Forum in this respect.
- Members received a brief update on progress in developing the content of the website aimed at supporting the new agreed syllabus once approved. It was noted that a significant amount of content had been developed and would be available for teachers to access with the suggestion that this was demonstrated to support the next Agreed Syllabus Conference, once scheduled.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that future SACRE meetings had been scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, 14 October 2021 - 4.30pm (to be held as an online meeting)
- Thursday 10 February 2022 – 4:30pm (to be held as an online meeting)

The meeting closed at 5.51pm

**BASMA ELSHAYYAL**

Chair

## **Roe Green Junior School Determination**

## APPLICATION FOR A DETERMINATION

That Section 394 (1) of the Education Act 1996 should NOT apply to a school.

<b>1. Name of School:</b>												
Roe Green Junior School												
<b>2. Head Teacher:</b>												
Ms Melissa Loosemore												
<b>3. Pupils to whom application applies:</b>												
This application applies to the whole school. Yes												
<b>4. Outline reasons for application:</b>												
<p><b>There are 460 pupils on roll aged 7-11.</b>  <b>The proportion of pupils from different religions is;</b></p> <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>153 pupils</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>118 pupils</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>166 pupils</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are a small number of pupils belonging to the following groups:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>4</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </table> <p>In addition 14 pupils, 3% have no declared religious faith and 2, Other religion 1%.  Refused 2, 1%</p>	Christian	153 pupils	33%	Hindu	118 pupils	26%	Muslim	166 pupils	36%	Buddhist	4	1%
Christian	153 pupils	33%										
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Buddhist	4	1%										
<b>5. Outline details of consultation with governors:</b>												

This Application was discussed with the Governors. The Governors unanimously stated their wish to continue with existing practice based on a multi-faith approach and to follow SACRE's Recommended Approach

**6. Outline of details of consultation with parents:**

A letter was sent to parents via our Parent Ping (copy attached) informing them of any decision to apply for a determination based on the continuation of present practice and inviting them to respond if they objected. Two parent replied to this application, but just wanted clarification of the process. In addition all parents are invited to assemblies when possible and before the Lockdown, many have expressed satisfaction with the current approach.

No parents over the past 6 years have exercised their right to withdraw their children from assemblies and collective worship. This illustrates the existing level of parental confidence in the current practice.

**7. Outline of proposed provision for collective worship**

The school would like to enable all children to take part in a daily act of collective worship of such a type that would be acceptable to all parents. We have been following SACRE's 'Recommended approach' since we were previously granted a determination, and wish to continue to do so. Our policy on collective worship is based on the 'Recommended Approach' and our programme of collective worship demonstrates the 'Recommended Approach'.  
Collective Worship policy attached.

**8. Signature of Head Teacher:**

## **Roe Green Junior School – GB meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Appendix 1**

### **Agenda Item No 11**

#### **a) SACRE Application**

ML explained to governors that the school had previously applied earlier in the year to Brent Council for the SACRE (Standard Advisory Council for Religious Education) application but are now required to re submit the application.

ML has spoken to the Chair (VA) and Vice Chair (KM) who have given their approval prior to presenting the application to the Full Governing Board meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021, that the school should apply to SACRE for determination that Section 394(1) of the 1996 Education Act should not apply to our school.

ML explained to governors the background to the SACRE application – schools like Roe Green Juniors that have a multi faith population, need to apply to SACRE every 5 years for the review and approval of the daily act of collective worship for pupils.

ML added that as Roe Green Junior school has many religions being represented within the school community it is not appropriate that the school follows a single faith approach for its collective worship but to adopt a multi faith approach.

ML stated that she has sent a text message to parents to explain why the application and consultation for the SACRE application was being made by the school – which resulted in a few parents seeking further clarification on the process that was being undertaken. Once she had explained the process further, the parents were happy to approve with the SACRE application for the multi faith determination for Roe Green Junior school.

ML added that the school are also required to submit the data on the religious communities that make up the school population as part of the SACRE application.

Governors had no questions on the SACRE application and all governors unanimously agreed that the school follows the Brent SACRE recommended approach for collective daily worship.

Signed .....



Date: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Chair of Governors

# **Roe Green Junior School Determination**

## **Copy of email from Chair of Governors to Head Teacher**

*Dear Melissa,*

*Having consulted with the Governing board, I confirm we are unanimous in agreeing Roe Green Junior School, should apply to Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), for determination that Section 394 (1) of the 1996 Education Act, should not apply to our school.*

*We are fortunate to have a diverse school community, and it is important our curriculum reflects this.*

*Feel free to contact myself or Kanta, if you have any queries.*

*Best regards,*

*Vijay Assani*

## Roe Green Junior School

Princes Avenue, Kingsbury, London, NW9 9JL

**Headteacher - Ms. Melissa Loosemore**

**Tel:** 020 8204 5221 | **Email:** [admin@rgjs.brent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rgjs.brent.sch.uk)

**Website:** [www.rgjs.brent.sch.uk](http://www.rgjs.brent.sch.uk) | **Twitter:** @RoeGreenJS



24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

All schools are required by law to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. This should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' unless a school has what is referred to as a 'determination'. In Brent this means that schools then have the choice of following a multifaith approach recommended by Brent SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) or following an approach devised by the school.

At this school we do not promote any particular faith and we aim to provide collective worship that can include the whole school community, pupil and adults. Collective worship contributes to pupils' spiritual and moral development and can help to develop the values shared by the whole school community.

For the past 6 years we have had a 'determination' and have been following the Brent SACRE's multifaith approach. The school governors have decided that it would be suitable for our school to continue this. A 'determination' must be renewed every five years. The time has come to do this again, and before we apply to Brent SACRE for this we would like to seek your views. If you do not agree with our decision please return the slip below. I would also very much like you to contact me so that I can hear your concerns. If we do not hear from you we will assume that you agree with our decision.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Loosemore

Headteacher

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do not agree with the school's proposal to continue the multifaith approach to collective worship



MENTALLY  
HEALTHY  
SCHOOLS



## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **The aims of our collective worship policy:**

- To educate our pupils in the widest sense.
- To impart basic spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.
- To recognise and reflect the multi-faith nature of our school and our community and to encourage recognition and respect for the belief of others.
- To foster a sense of community spirit, ethos and shared values.
- To provide time for spiritual reflection and response.

### **Statutory duty of the School:**

- All pupils (apart from those withdrawn by parents) will take part in a daily act of collective worship through whole school assemblies.
- Roe Green Junior School was granted a determination by the local SACRE as it was deemed inappropriate for the pupils to experience worship that is "wholly or mainly of a Christian character."
- Parents may withdraw their child from collective worship. Teachers, too retain the right to withdraw from collective worship. Roe Green Junior School aims to provide a form of collective worship that is acceptable to all parents, pupils and teachers.

### **Implementation:**

#### **Assembly**

- Collective worship will take place in whole school assemblies with the exception of the weekly year group assembly.
- The Head Teacher, a member of the Leadership Team or a teacher will lead the whole school assembly.
- Year Leaders arrange a weekly assembly within their year groups.
- All class teachers will lead and deliver a whole school assembly with their pupils at least once a year. The themes for these assemblies reflect key religious festivals in the year.
- On certain occasions, outside speakers will be invited to lead a whole school or year group assembly.
- Time for silent worship and/or reflection will be included in our assemblies.

#### **Themes for the week/day**



This is managed by the PSHCE and RE leaders. The themes for the week are integrated in pupils' planners and are displayed within each classroom. It is further reinforced in the school calendar and in the School website.

The themes of the week shape our daily thoughts. Each class teacher will be responsible for the delivery of these collective worship acts.

### **Monitoring, evaluating and review**

The school will evaluate this policy annually and assess its implementation through verbal and written feedback from both staff and pupils.

# Foreword and Summary

By the Chair of SACRE

## Foreword

*To be added by Chair*

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

## ANNUAL REPORT OF BRENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2019 - 20

### 1.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### 1.1 Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in the London Borough of Brent was produced in 2002. The document was issued to schools in a ring binder format and is also available via:

[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)

It remains the legally binding document for all local authority maintained and voluntary controlled schools in the Borough.

#### 1.2 Agreed Syllabus Revision

Brent's current Agreed Syllabus was originally produced in 2002. On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, SACRE called for an Agreed Syllabus Conference. It was apparent that, in spite of being fundamentally sound, the Brent Agreed Syllabus had become somewhat dated and not wholly compatible with the types of curriculum developments some schools wanted to make. Therefore, Brent set up a new Agreed Syllabus Conference to amend or replace that syllabus.

Following a meeting of Brent SACRE and Brent's Agreed Syllabus Conference on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, The Agreed Syllabus Conference concluded that it would be premature to proceed in developing a new syllabus until certain national developments, which might influence

aspects of Religious Education in schools, had become clearer. These developments included the publication of:

- new national curriculum guidance
- the Review of RE by the RE Council of England and Wales

A briefing paper for schools, outlining this position was issued in April 2012.

At the SACRE Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, members indicated that their preference was likely to be a revision of the existing syllabus. It was also agreed that any new document should be made available to schools electronically.

At the SACRE Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016, members noted that in developing a new agreed syllabus there should be:

- a revision of the description of the local religious and cultural context taking into account changes in the demographics over the past decade or more
- meetings with teachers and children and young people to enable them to express their needs in relation to RE so that these can be reflected in the new document
- flexibility so that it can be used by all schools in Brent, including those not legally obliged to do so.

The first meeting to discuss the revision of The Brent Agreed Syllabus was on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Initial discussions focused on:

- the need for Brent to build on the existing syllabus to ensure coherence for pupils and staff
- the necessity for a document that reflects the exceptionally diverse nature of the local community, both now and in the future
- the requirement for a concise syllabus within a clear structure, but allowing scope for various modes of delivery
- a syllabus which emphasises both sameness and diversity within religions and beliefs as well as between them
- the need for enquiry led learning in RE to equip children and young people with knowledge, understanding and skills
- a syllabus that is introduced with suitable training events and supported later on by supplementary materials.

During 2019-20, work continued on the development of the agreed syllabus and in the summer, there were opportunities for members of Groups A and C to give their feedback about the draft materials.

### **1.3 Standards in RE**

SACRE used to monitor standards in RE by carrying out an annual analysis of OFSTED reports. In 2019-20, SACRE members continued to regret the fact that current OFSTED arrangements make it extremely difficult for them

to carry out this statutory duty, as the necessary evidence is no longer available. SACRE members therefore sought other ways in which to monitor standards in RE, such as supporting RE teachers in LA schools.

## **2.0 IN-SERVICE TRAINING: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **2.1 Short Courses**

The Authority offers a basic programme of in-service training.

SACRE members were pleased to note that there continue to be termly meetings for Subject Leaders for RE in primary and special schools, funded directly by the Local Authority. These have been delivered by Lesley Prior, Adviser to Brent SACRE and LDBS Adviser for RE in Community Schools and Stacey Burnam, an Adviser for RE who is leading the work on the revision of the agreed syllabus and the production of supplementary schemes of learning which will support its implementation.

During 2019 -20, these meetings took place on:

- 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Brent Civic Centre
- 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Wembley Conference Centre
- 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 online

All meetings included:

- a few brief business items, including information about national and local RE news, resources and updates
- information about key aspects of the RE Subject Leader's role to support participants and their colleagues in school in delivering the statutory requirements of the locally agreed syllabus - including opportunities to learn about different communities of faith and belief as well as pedagogies of RE
- a continuation of collaborative work on contributing to the development of the new locally agreed syllabus and the sharing of good practice from local schools.

Feedback from these meetings is extremely positive.

### **2.2 Additional Training and Support**

The SACRE Adviser also provided one to one support for RE Subject Leaders in various schools particularly during the lockdown period when many of them had been given more time to focus on developing curriculum plans for RE and various support materials.

There is a regular newsletter, usually issued once a term which informs RE Subject Leaders about relevant news, events and resources, but the number of issues was increased to two or three a term as the pandemic took hold. During this time, there was a clear focus on the sharing of suitable RE materials to be used for remote teaching and home learning. The SACRE Adviser was also available to answer queries by telephone or email. The majority of these queries related to RE, but others focused on issues arising from the interface between religion/belief and school life more generally.

### **3.0 COMPLAINTS**

No complaints on either Religious Education or Collective Worship were referred to SACRE for investigation in the year 2019 – 20.

### **4.0 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

#### **4.1 Determination Renewals**

The following determination renewals were formally ratified at the SACRE Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019:

- Leopold Primary
- Park Lane
- Wykeham Primary.

The following determination renewals were formally ratified at the SACRE Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020:

- Barham Primary
- Carlton Vale Infants
- Harlesden Primary
- Kingsbury Green Primary
- Roe Green Infants
- Roe Green Juniors
- Uxendon Manor Primary

Some of these applications/decisions had been delayed because of the pandemic.

On the advice of an official at the DfE, schools with a renewal pending during this challenging period were granted a 'period of grace' and were permitted to continue with their existing arrangements until such time as they were ready to submit their applications. Any renewal granted would be for a period of five years from the time the previous application lapsed, NOT the date of the renewal.

#### **4.2 Accord Coalition Award**

Brent SACRE has previously won a national award from the Accord Coalition (<http://accordcoalition.org.uk/>) to discover those SACREs that work hardest at

promoting the growth of mutual understanding between those of different beliefs. SACREs have a crucial role in boosting the growth locally of respect and empathy between those of different religions and other worldviews.

Aspects of Brent SACRE's work that drew particular praise from judges included its innovative approach to Collective Worship. The SACRE's material designed to support local schools in seeking a determination was recognised for its ground-breaking approach. Chair of the judging panel, Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE praised the way in which the SACRE enables schools to promote opportunities for pupils to communally explore and forge shared values in a way that is workable and respectful. The Model Approach can be found here: [https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946260/collective\\_worship\\_model\\_approach.pdf](https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946260/collective_worship_model_approach.pdf)

Brent SACRE also earned praise for the contribution from some of its members to a local anti-bullying campaign and PREVENT teacher training, along with the diversity of its makeup. The committee includes as full members both humanists and multiple representatives from the Jewish and Muslim faiths, to reflect major denominations.

A link to the Brent SACRE publication can be found here:

[https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946362/Brent\\_SACRE.pdf](https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946362/Brent_SACRE.pdf)

## **5.0 MATTERS REFERRED TO SACRE**

During the year, SACRE considered the following key items and issues:

- A self evaluation exercise and the identification of its key priorities
- A revision to its Constitution with a particular focus on membership to be referred to the LA for approval
- Examination results in Brent schools during 2018-19
- Recent Ofsted Reports on Brent Schools and any references within them in relation to RE, as well as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- National research about references to RE in Ofsted Reports.

There were also opportunities for members to participate in agreed syllabus workshop activities.

## **6.0 LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES**

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

The Adviser to SACRE is a former Chair of NASACRE (2013-15) and now Assistant to and member of the NASACRE Executive Group.

It was not possible for the NASACRE AGM to take place in May as originally planned.

The Adviser to SACRE is also a member of many other RE professional bodies

and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.

## **7.0 CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Basma El Shayyal took on the role of Co-Chair in February 2013 and has steered SACRE Meetings as Chair throughout 2019-20. Basma brings a wealth of practical experience as an RE teacher and as a longstanding member of Group A.

In October 2019 SACRE agreed to appoint Shaun Cremin as a co-opted member under Group C (Associations representing Teachers). In addition Roger Butler's term as RE Advisor to SACRE also ended during the year with all members of SACRE thanking him for his service and support.

## **8.0 SACRE CONTACT OFFICERS 2019 – 20**

SACRE Chair: Basma El Shayyal

SACRE Vice-Chair: Helen Mooney

LA Lead Officer: Helen Tulloch (Governor Services Co-ordinator)

Clerk to SACRE Clerk: Kunwar Khan (Brent Governance Team)

SACRE Adviser: Lesley Prior

## **9.0 MEETINGS**

Meetings of SACRE were held on:

- **17<sup>th</sup> October 2019** at the Civic Centre
- **30<sup>th</sup> January 2020** at the Civic Centre
- **25<sup>th</sup> June 2020** online in accordance with unofficial advice from the DfE.

The Local Authority Adviser, the Clerk and the SACRE Adviser also met between meetings where and when necessary.

## **10.0 SACRE MANAGEMENT**

Basma El-Shayyal (Group A) chaired SACRE Meetings in 2019 -20.

Brent SACRE has produced a document entitled **Welcome to SACRE: Information and Code of Conduct**. It is available via this link:

[https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946362/Brent\\_SACRE.pdf](https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946362/Brent_SACRE.pdf)

**London Borough of Brent SACRE membership 2019/20**

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

Baha'i	Abraham	Wilson
Baha'i	Farjad	Farid
Buddhism	Rupa	Monerawela
Hinduism (Brent Hindu Samaj)	Deva	Samaroo
Hinduism (Saiva Siddanta)	Santanam	Swaminathan
Islam (Shi'a)	Andleeb	Naqvi
Islam (Shi'a)	Basma	El Shayyal
Jainism	Manhar	Mehta
Judaism	Tamar	Bennett
Roman Catholicism	Dawn	Titus
Christina Orthodox	Gillian	Crow
Pentecostal Churches	Sarah	Cawte
Sikhism	Bhupinder	Singh
Zoroastrianism	Malcolm	Deboo
Zoroastrianism	Yazad	Bhadha

**Group B: Church of England**

Graham	Marriner
Steve	Taylor
Andrew	Teather
Mark	Newton

**Group C: Associations Representing Teachers**

Lea	Murray
Andrew	Bate
Helen	Mooney
Ian	Slade
Florence	Quainoo
Shaun	Cremin (co-opted)
John	Roche

**Group D: LA Representatives**

Cllr Neil	Nerva
Cllr Tariq	Dar
Cllr Orleen	Hylton



## New SACRE Annual Report framework

**Format for the new Annual Report. NASACRE in conjunction with the DfE will be doing a national analysis of Annual Reports using this framework from September 2021.**

**1. An introduction including:**

- Table of contents
- Words from the Chair of SACRE
  - welcoming new members, celebrating successes, thanks, etc.
- Overview, number of times SACRE has met and attendance at meetings, venues, and a brief overview of content of these meetings including Self-evaluation too – link to SACRE Development plan
- Overview as above for the ASC if this is currently sitting, working groups, progress
- *Executive summary (if report is over 10 A4 pages long this might be helpful as a separate document, so readable for schools?)*

**2. A section on RE (statutory responsibilities) including:**

- The local agreed syllabus and RE in schools, including whether any academies have adopted the LAS
  - Monitoring the AS, relationship with an AS review
  - Work of the ASC and associated working parties if this is currently sitting showing progress, links to other work nationally or locally
- Standards and monitoring of RE
  - This can include monitoring by scrutinising exam data, conversations with schools, teacher groups, website trawls, presentations from teachers. What has SACRE done and how has the monitoring helped SACRE to commend successes and support improvements?
  - Have any schools applied for or achieved REQM awards?
- Teacher training and materials and advice for schools
- Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, complaints)
- Advice to the LA

**3. A section on Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities) including:**

- Standards and monitoring of CW
  - This can include monitoring by scrutinising Ofsted reports, conversations with schools, teacher groups, website trawls, presentations from teachers. What has SACRE done and how has the monitoring helped SACRE to commend successes and support improvements?
- Determinations
  - How many are current and how many have been applied for and what happened? Link to Determination Process documents online. Is that refreshed, or does it need updating?

- Teacher training provided (locally or national training circulated to schools) materials and advice for schools
  - Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, Complaints)
  - Advice to the LA
4. A section on links with other bodies
- National bodies, e.g. NASACRE, the REC, central faith and belief organisations
  - Local bodies, e.g. Dioceses, Inter Faith Groups, Peace Walks, HMD events
5. A section on other areas of SACRE involvement locally
- Governor training
  - Advice on issues within the community, e.g. Ramadan advice for schools in partnership with the local communities
6. A section on SACRE's own arrangements (**statutory responsibilities**) including:
- Professional and administrative support and how the LA supports the SACRE (clerking, adviser, links to council initiatives)
  - Membership, representation & recruitment - quoracy, issues and successes with recruitment
  - Training for SACRE (and ASC) members
  - Finance given to SACRE for its work
7. Appendices
- Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A Level RS results
  - Details on CPD provided to schools
  - Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW
  - Development plan tied to funding
  - Circulation details for this AR

## Notes to accompany the release of school level data from the 2020 DfE School Workforce Census.



This data was reported by schools to the DfE as part of the school census in November 2020. The national data trends were published in June, but this dataset was extracted from the data as part of a memorandum of understanding between NATRE and the DfE. 2928 schools are included in the sample which includes the majority of state funded secondary schools. but not all; some have not reported any data this year for a variety of reasons.

### **Hours taught for years 7 to 13, in subjects RE, philosophy and all subjects, reported by a sample of state-funded secondary schools with electronic timetabling software, School Workforce Census 2020**

To note:

1. I calculate that around 20% of schools that completed their SWF this year chose not to report of RE but did report other subjects – some of those reported the more obvious “0.0%” last year.
2. Where schools reported that they allocate teaching hours to a specific year group, but have not included RE in that report, this is indicated by a dot in that year group column. SACREs are advised to investigate this issue as it appears unlikely that a discrete lesson of RE is being taught in these circumstances.
3. I’ve created a couple of new columns to indicate possible reporting issues e.g. where RE is either possibly not reported or under reported but Philosophy is reported (instead?). This can easily happen if the lesson on the timetable is Philosophy and Ethics or even Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. The timetabling software often looks at the first part of the title and makes a judgment about which code to allocate. Some schools report RE and Philosophy.
4. There has been an increase in provision in some schools and a decrease in others. These two figures, as a proportion of reporting schools, are roughly the same. Increases and decreases are labelled. Some of the differences are very small.
5. Where schools report zero hours in any year group, these are highlighted in pink.

**The usual health warning applies:** This data is a conversation starter not a definitive indicator of what schools are doing so SACREs need to treat the information alongside other information such as the school website, public examination results (where available) and school visits. I always write to schools to ask them to clarify, if there is no data or if the data suggests they are non-compliant.

The next step for a SACRE might be to use its statutory remit ‘to advise the local authority’ to formally report the fact that schools in their area have reported data to the DfE that suggests they are non-compliant with the law in relation to RE and in the case of academies, their funding agreements. The LA can be asked to investigate and report their findings back to SACRE after a conversation with a school leader.

**Deborah Weston: NATRE Research Officer**

School name	Religious character	School type	LA name	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% mixed hours - RE	% all hours - RE 2020	% all hours - RE 2019	Change from 2019 to 2020 in total hours of RE	Reporting issues
Michaela Community School	None	Free schools	Brent	.	.	.	.	.	.	9.1	unavailable	unavailable	
Ark Elvin Academy	None	Academy sponsor led	Brent	2.6	2.4	2.3	1.9	0.0	.	1.6	.	Decrease	
Wembley High Technology College	None	Academy converter	Brent	4.6	4.2	4.7	5.0	0.0	.	3.4	.	Decrease	RE and Philosophy reported
JFS	Jewish	Voluntary aided school	Brent	12.5	12.6	10.5	11.4	10.9	.	9.9	9.5	Increase	RE and Philosophy reported
Claremont High School	None	Academy converter	Brent	4.2	4.0	5.6	3.1	0.0	.	3.1	3.7	Decrease	
Kingsbury High School	None	Academy converter	Brent	0.0	5.9	7.9	7.3	0.0	.	3.3	3.2	Increase	RE and Philosophy reported
Queens Park Community School	None	Academy converter	Brent	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.0	.	Philosophy reported but not RE
Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College	Roman Catholic	Academy converter	Brent	11.4	9.3	11.2	10.6	14.6	.	11.4	13.6	Decrease	
Alperton Community School	None	Academy converter	Brent	2.3	5.5	3.4	5.5	4.5	.	3.2	2.4	Increase	
St Gregory's Catholic Science College	Roman Catholic	Academy converter	Brent	9.8	8.7	9.8	9.6	9.0	.	8.9	8.6	Increase	
Newman Catholic College	Roman Catholic	Voluntary aided school	Brent	11.9	9.0	7.8	10.5	9.9	.	8.7	8.9	Decrease	
Preston Manor School	None	Academy converter	Brent	4.1	4.0	3.9	2.7	2.7	.	3.4	3.4	Increase	
Capital City Academy	Does not apply	Academy sponsor led	Brent	0.0	0.0	3.6	4.2	2.7	.	1.7	1.2	Increase	
Ark Academy	Does not apply	Academy sponsor led	Brent	3.1	3.8	3.8	7.6	6.2	.	4.9	5.1	Decrease	
The Crest Academy	Does not apply	Academy sponsor led	Brent	2.4	1.9	1.8	3.4	3.2	.	2.4	3.6	Decrease	

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National Association of  
Standing Advisory Councils  
on Religious Education

## **SACRE BRIEFING**

**Issue: 29**

This issue includes:

- **Welcome and Update from the Chair**
- **NASACRE Annual AGM and Conference 2021**
- **Executive elections - meet Anne Andrews**
- **Conference 2022**
- **Westhill Awards 2021-22 - the Winners**
- **NASACRE website refresh**
- **Online SACRE meetings and Agreed Syllabus Conferences**
- **SACRE Annual Reports**
- **SACRE Self-Evaluation Tool**
- **NASACRE Training programme 2021-22**
- **SACRE funding report**
- **School Workforce Data**
- **Membership of AREIAC**
- **LAN Project**
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- **Inter Faith Week 2021**
- **Holocaust Memorial Day**
- **Items for your next Agenda**

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## Welcome and Update from the Chair

Welcome to the new academic year and welcome back to NASACRE Briefings – thank you all for your hard work and support provided to RE and to schools during the challenging year of 2020-21. For a reflection on the past year, I can recommend a look through the series of blogs from RE subject associations:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/>

As you'll see from this Briefing, there are some exciting times ahead for us all – as I am writing this over the summer break, I hope these new times are not too worrying in terms of the global pandemic and its development by September.

The **NASACRE report** on SACRE funding was a highlight of last year. Although the main findings were not a surprise (many SACREs are underfunded...) there were unexpected outcomes in terms of the impact of the report. We are continuing discussions with the DfE about funding issues and how to address them, and you'll see news of Parliamentary and other political activity related to RE reported on our Twitter account by Paul Smalley – do follow us if you can on #NASACRE. The outcomes of the Freedom of Information request, and the subsequent report, included activity at local SACRE meetings during the summer term. Please let us know on [chair@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:chair@nasacre.org.uk) if you have anything to raise as a result of the FOI response.

Other team activities which will have additional impact next year include the reworking of the SACRE self-evaluation toolkit, a new website (pending), and new advice on how to write annual reports for the DfE and NASACRE. These developments have encouraged our Executive to design an online professional development programme for SACRE members to see us all through the next year – details are in the Briefing and on the website. We are also planning a 'real' conference for May 2022 – and I'm really looking forward to a proper reunion with colleagues and friends.

In my recent blog for <https://www.reonline.org.uk/>, I explained that NASACRE's hopes for next year are encapsulated in our **mission statement**.

As usual, we will be listening to members, reacting to national and local initiatives and advising statutory and non-statutory bodies on RE and collective worship. We will especially continue our campaigning for adequate levels of resourcing for SACREs, and for professional development, and continue to play a key role in any future debates about the place of RE and collective worship in schools.

These hopes are based on cementing existing partnerships with other subject

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Councils are so much more than the vehicle for recommending an agreed syllabus. It is a privilege to work with them, and their individual members, and to take a lead role on the Executive committee. Thank you to the whole team for a successful year in such difficult times."

I would just like to pass the same message on to readers of our Briefing, and to wish you all a peaceful and productive year ahead.

Linda Rudge

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## **NASACRE Annual AGM and Conference 2021**

2021 was NASACRE's first online conference with multiple speakers and 10 breakout rooms hosting over 200 delegates. The conference report can be found [here](#).

Delegate evaluation forms were very positive in the main, although there were one or two technical hitches during the day. Anyone wanting to find out more about those (and avoid the same unexpected Zoom training pitfalls!) may contact [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk).

All workshop materials, PowerPoints and recordings from the day are still live on the NASACRE website for you and your SACRE members.

One new Exec member was elected at the AGM, as reported in the next item.

Thank you to all the team who made the conference possible and a success, including all the workshop leaders and our keynote speakers.

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## **Executive elections - meet Anne Andrews, our newest Exec member**

My name is Anne Andrews, and I am the newest member of the NASACRE Exec; one of my key roles will be in helping to produce these Briefings.



I currently work as the RE Adviser to the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, supporting 282 schools with RE and preparations for SIAMS, as I also recently trained as a SIAMS inspector. I have been in role at the diocese for just over seven years and as part of that, advise three SACREs and sit as a member of Group B on a fourth. Prior to that, I was working as PPA cover teacher with responsibility for RE and Modern Foreign Languages at the school where I am now a brand new governor. It was in this school that I first encountered the world of RE, as I had previously taught MFL in a Secondary school.

That encounter for me was life changing, as I discovered that RE was a most fascinating and challenging subject to teach. So, when given the option of leading on music or RE, I opted for the latter. And that began a journey of discovery and challenge, as the more I found out, the more I realised I did not know. It is undoubtedly that passion to find out, and the desire to ensure that others can encounter this wonderful subject, that has led me to the place I am now.

I hope to be able to serve NASACRE members well, ensuring that they have timely and useful information, so that in turn they can equip and inspire the teachers with whom they work.

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## Conference 2022

The 2022 AGM and Conference will be held at the **Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday 23 May 2022**. Please put this in your diaries!

The theme is **Ambitious SACREs** and the NASACRE conference team is now beginning to pull the programme together. Thanks for all your suggestions about what you need from our training days to support your local work.

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## Westhill Awards 2021-22 - the Winners

Over the last fifteen years, the Westhill/NASACRE Awards have successfully given SACREs opportunities to enhance their capacity to generate high quality experiences in RE (and collective worship) for their pupils.



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partnership) to apply for an award of up to £4,000.

Here are brief outlines of the winning bids:

**Bromley SACRE** - Pupils being made ready to pose 'big questions' to SACRE members relating to their faith, at an interfaith dialogue event promoting the aims of the new RE Agreed Syllabus.

**Leeds SACRE in association with Calderdale and Kirklees SACREs** - Creating a high quality film of a local synagogue, to enable pupils to visit it virtually, with supporting materials and options for live online sessions with representatives from the community.

**Nottinghamshire SACRE** - Pupils in Years 5/6 discovering the impact faith can have through exploring adherents' involvement in social projects, and then creating resources for use across the county.

**Tameside SACRE** - Training and accrediting educators from faith communities, allied with support to schools and resource materials, thus promoting more effective visits to faith centres.

**Wolverhampton SACRE** - Mounting two day-conferences for Secondary pupils, to develop teaching resources for exploring faith perspectives on diversity and racial equality.

**Please note the free online session in our training programme on 6 December 2021, 7-8pm:**

**How to apply for a WESTHILL/NASACRE Award**

The session will enable SACREs to consider how to make a high quality application for the annual Westhill grants. There will be a chance to hear from others who have won awards about their keys to success.

---

## NASACRE website refresh

We have been working with Matt, our webmaster, to overhaul the NASACRE website, bringing a fresh design and a more contemporary feel, making the content easier to navigate and more succinct. The content is being streamlined to make it easier to use and we are combining areas such as the Directory and Reports sections to reduce the number of searches a user needs to do.

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shared resources and links.

**The new site will go live shortly – SACRE Clerks and Chairs will be notified as soon as we have a date!**

Any feedback will be appreciated so that we can continue to evolve the site together.

## Online SACRE meetings and Agreed Syllabus Conferences

It is not possible for the DfE to give a definitive ruling or even an informal 'steer' on this issue, but NASACRE offers the following points for individual SACREs and their LAs to consider.

Establishment of SACREs and ASCs in (1994) legislation which was not covered by the **2020 Regulations** (as amended by **The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (legislation.gov.uk)**) that gave flexibility to LA committees to meet remotely.

Many LAs have either assumed SACREs and ASCs were encompassed by the Flexibility Regulations or have taken a pragmatic view and applied the same rationale when considering whether they should meet remotely. In the explanatory memorandum of the Flexibility Regulations, one of the main aims of implementing the statute was to allow LAs to manage their resources whilst having regard to the health and safety of their members, officers and the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is reasonable to suggest that whilst these regulations did not apply specifically to SACREs and ASCs, the same principles of postponing public meetings and meeting remotely during a public health emergency would still apply.

If the **1994 Regulations** are considered and applied to SACRE and ASC meetings:

- Remote meetings were not an option when the Regulations were made in 1994, so they were drafted with 'in person' meetings being the only option available.
- But an argument could (perhaps) be made that the legal requirement is to 'meet', but the form of the meeting is not stated, so that might enable continuing with remote meetings if there is good reason to do so.

As SACREs have been meeting remotely (some erroneously thinking the Flexibility Regs applied to them) then, when restrictions apply or there is a large number of COVID cases in their area, in the view of **Page 34**, this would continue to be a

Beyond restrictions being lifted, it comes down to individual LAs and whether they think there is a risk of legal challenge of the validity of meetings being held remotely (and consequently, of decisions made in these meetings).

Some might be inclined to say that, regardless of the Regulations being old, a meeting is a meeting whether it is held remotely or otherwise, particularly if it can meet the requirements for accessibility to the public, access to agendas etc. SACREs and ASCs are not LA committees, so they are not bound by the same regulations, which perhaps gives some flexibility to determine their format – even if it is to regularly take a 'blended' approach, including an annual 'in person' meeting.

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## SACRE Annual Reports

All SACREs have a statutory duty to produce an annual report on their business. Currently these are sent to the DfE (and NASACRE) and there is no analysis of them. NASACRE has produced a new **SACRE Annual Report Template** and the DfE has been fully involved in this. Part of the rationale is to enable easier analysis of the reports. The DfE is also going to encourage MATs (Multi-Academy Trusts) to complete an annual report using the same template, which is available **here** on the website.

Thank you to those SACREs whose representatives joined the AGM workshops sharing the work in progress – their comments were extremely helpful.

We have agreed to set aside funds to engage somebody to carry out an analysis of the reports. In order to have as full a data set as we can, we're asking two things of SACREs:

- Firstly, please ensure you use the **new template** for all your annual reports from now on.
- Secondly, please send your annual report to NASACRE (and the DfE) promptly, ideally before the end of the calendar year, or as soon as possible thereafter.

We plan to present the findings of our analysis at our 2022 Conference in Birmingham.

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## SACRE Self-Evaluation Tool

As mentioned at the AGM, NASACRE has updated the SACRE Self-Evaluation Tool, making it more relevant to the work and context of SACREs today. This will be available on our new website and will be featured in our 2021-22 training programme in March.

## NASACRE Training programme 2021-22

A new programme of virtual webinars has been planned for SACRE members. This started on 22 June with **How can national data help SACREs speak with authority?** which was a re-run of a conference workshop.

If you weren't able to be there, here is the **link** to the recorded event. Access Passcode: %9ff2uHJ

Our next two training sessions are:

### 23 September 2021, 7-8pm

#### **So, you've joined your local SACRE...**

Led by Denise Chaplin. This session will help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members can make their contribution to this work.

Free online session

### 7 October 2021, 7-8pm

#### **New SACRE Annual Report Template**

Led by Claire Clinton. This session is essential for all those who are - or will be - writing SACRE annual reports. NASACRE, in collaboration with the DfE, has refreshed the SACRE annual report template and those who have worked with the DfE will explain the new contents and why writing to this template is important for a national analysis of SACRE annual reports from 2022 onwards.

Free online session

**Click here for our training programme for 2021-22 and to find out how to make a booking.**

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## SACRE funding report

We are very pleased with the momentum of the **NASACRE funding report** and following publication, we had some media attention. We would like to thank the RE Policy Unit for this. Through them Luke Pollard, MP for Plymouth, Sutton and Davenport was able to ask some Parliamentary questions about it.

In response, Schools Minister, Nick Gibb stated:

"The Department has received a copy of a report produced by the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE). The report presents a summary of responses received from local authorities to Freedom of Information requests relating to funding of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs).

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and academies, such as establishing and maintaining a SACRE. In the financial year 2021/22, the total funding for ongoing responsibilities in the CSSB is £257 million, a 3.8% increase compared to 2020/21, to keep up with inflation and pupil numbers. The Department does not specify what proportion of this money should be attributed to different services or duties. It is up to each local authority to decide this for itself. We expect that a SACRE should be sufficiently resourced to meet its statutory duties. If a SACRE is unable to do this, it should first raise a complaint locally about the issue. If it has done this unsuccessfully, the issue can be escalated to the Department's School Complaints Unit."

We have heard back from many SACREs how this report is giving them an opportunity to talk about the statutory work of their SACRE and how it is, and can be, resourced. We encourage SACREs to share the report with their LAs and Mr Gibb's answer, particularly where he states there has been a 3.8% increase in the CSSB. We also note that he stresses a SACRE must be sufficiently funded, and endorses the text in Religious Education in English schools (2010) in relation to the role and responsibilities of LAs in relation to SACREs and indeed the responsibilities of SACREs themselves. Given this answer, SACREs might like to consider how much of what is set out in the guidance they are able to do given the resources they have available. If they find themselves falling short, they should perhaps advise their LA accordingly and send them this [link](#) to the answer in Hansard. Ultimately a SACRE might need to complain to the DfE. If this is the case we would be happy to help you.

In the meantime, the DfE has launched a **consultation on reforming the National Funding Formula** (of which the CSSB is part). The relevant section of the proposal document is 4.2 on page 35. The major thrust of the proposals is to reduce the amount given to LAs by giving that funding directly to schools. We understand that there is no intention to give SACRE funding to schools – but it may be that SACREs are funded directly by government, or (more likely) become part of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG), Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) rather than a reduced CSSB block. The deadline for this consultation is 30 September – so there is not much time! SACRE members may wish to simply answer the introductory questions and then skip to question 11 of the **Online Survey**. You might wish to point out the findings of our report – that SACREs are generally underfunded, and that there is gross variation in funding nationally (one of the aims is "to bring more consistency across the country"). You might want to suggest that SACREs should be funded directly by Government – giving local people real decision-making power, or you might want to suggest a ring-fenced part of the LGFS dedicated to SACREs (although we think that is unlikely). We estimate that if funding for SACREs was commensurate with funding for other subject 'hubs' each SACRE might receive £60K pa. However, whatever you choose to write, we do feel that this is a great opportunity for all SACRE members – and all who care about Local RE – to make our voices heard. Please do respond to question 11!

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## School Workforce Data

Deborah Weston has sent the latest school workforce data to every SACRE in England.

If your SACRE has not received this, it is because your contact details are out of date on our **database**. Please email [deborah@retoday.org.uk](mailto:deborah@retoday.org.uk) and she will send you the data, and email [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk) to update your contact details in our database.

## Membership of AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants)

The RE advisers' association has changed the designations and fees for membership. Associate membership of AREIAC will be open to those who have part-time responsibilities for leading RE beyond their own school/organisation, paying 50% of the annual subscription rate. There may be members of your SACRE or teachers in your LA who could be eligible to join.

**More information can be found on <https://www.areiac.org.uk/>**

Do check it out and forward the information on to anyone who may be interested.

## LAN Project

Claire Clinton and her team are very grateful to the four SACREs who carried out action research into the CoRE recommendations around Local Area Networks (LANs).

Claire is writing up the project and we will share the report and its findings later this term.

## Buddhist Resources

We have a request for input from Buddhist representatives and teachers at Culham St Gabriels –

Dr Kate Christopher writes:

"A former Teach:RE student who is a Buddhist is working on a website for teachers to access resources on Buddhism. She **Page 35** is this text and link to a survey.

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experience in teaching Buddhism to children and teenagers into useful resources for others. This **short survey** aims to find out what would be the most helpful. We are seeking to build a picture of the needs regarding Buddhism, of those working in the area of teaching religion and ethics in schools.

We are grateful for your input and ideas.

All the best,

Amalee Rycroft and colleagues

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## Inter Faith Week 2021

As SACRE Clerks may be aware, Inter Faith Week 2021 takes place from **14-21 November**. The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) which leads the week, is grateful to Clerks for bringing this to the attention of SACRE members. SACREs play an important role in making schools and local authorities aware of Inter Faith Week and its importance for promoting mutual understanding and respect between those of different faiths and beliefs. Of more than 600 events in 2020, one of the most challenging years in living memory, around a sixth were school-based.

This year Inter Faith Week starts on Remembrance Sunday and ends the following Sunday. For details about the week, the best place to look is the **Inter Faith Week website** which contains a rich bank of resources for those wishing to hold events. A **new section** has been created for schools. It contains bespoke materials for both **Primary** and **Secondary** schools that are designed to support the delivery of a locally agreed syllabus. There is also a **Golden Rule** poster on eleven different faith traditions, to download for display in a classroom or meeting room.

As a member body of IFN, NASACRE encourages SACREs to host events for Inter Faith Week each year.

If your SACRE holds an event, please remember to register:

**<https://www.interfaithweek.org/events/submit>.**

And if your SACRE wants ideas for what you might do, please feel free to contact Dr David Hampshire, Assistant Director of the Inter Faith Network, at **[david.hampshire@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:david.hampshire@interfaith.org.uk)**.

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## Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is 27 January. SACREs, LAs and schools can find a wide variety of resources on the **Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT)** website.

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through an exploration of the new resources and hear from two guest speakers, Vera Schaufeld and Lord Alf Dubs, who both came on the Kindertransport. For more information and to sign up to the event, click here for the **Eventbrite link**.

The Trust is aware that some SACREs are heavily involved in themselves holding an event, or encouraging schools to mark HMD, but others may not have done this regularly, so please consider increasing your local involvement, especially at a time when hate crime, intolerant/extremist views, anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hate is increasing.

The Trust also commends **Generation to Generation (G2G)**, a charity that provides speakers to tell their family Holocaust stories online or face-to-face to a variety of audiences. Through these engaging and historically accurate presentations, integrating first-hand survivor testimony, **G2G** works to ensure the lessons of the Holocaust are learned, promoting tolerance of all groups in society.

To consider how **G2G** can support SACRE or your schools and to book a speaker, visit <https://www.generation2generation.org.uk> or book onto a free introductory event for educators: <https://www.generation2generation.org.uk/news/events/>

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## Items for your next agenda

- Set a timeline for your SACRE to pilot the new Annual Report format
- Put the date of the NASACRE AGM 2022 in your SACRE calendar
- Consider applying for a 2022 Westhill Award
- Book places for your SACRE members on relevant training events
- Inter Faith Week 2021
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2022
- Review SACRE's funding and compare with the NASACRE funding report; plan action points such as discussions with the LA.



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