

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

## **LB BRENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**January 2022**

This LB Brent SACRE Annual Report is presented in the new format developed by NASACRE in conjunction with the DfE for use from September 2021.

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Foreword from the Chair of SACRE 2020-21

To be added!

**Basma Elshayyal**

### 1.2 Religion and Belief in LB Brent

The London Borough of Brent is (one of?) the most diverse area(s) in the country in relation to religions and other world views and is also the most diverse locality in the UK by country of birth. The composition of its Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) reflects this. Although the following statistics from the 2011 National Census are now somewhat out of date they remain helpful in illustrating the diversity of the Local Authority.

All Usual Residents	311215	
Christian	129080	41.48
Buddhist	4300	1.38
Hindu	55449	17.82
Jewish	4357	1.40
Muslim (Islam)	58036	18.65
Sikh	1709	0.55
Other religion: Total	3768	1.21
Other religion: Animism	0	0.00
Other religion: Baha'i	47	0.02
Other religion: Believe in God	42	0.01
Other religion: Brahma Kumari	88	0.03
Other religion: Chinese Religion	2	0.00
Other religion: Church of All Religion	9	0.00
Other religion: Confucianist	0	0.00
Other religion: Deist	7	0.00
Other religion: Druid	12	0.00
Other religion: Druze	57	0.02
Other religion: Eckankar	15	0.00
Other religion: Heathen	6	0.00
Other religion: Jain	2462	0.79
Other religion: Mixed Religion	122	0.04
Other religion: Mysticism	1	0.00
Other religion: Native American Church	0	0.00
Other religion: New Age	4	0.00
Other religion: Occult	6	0.00
Other religion: Own Belief System	8	0.00
Other religion: Pagan	80	0.03
Other religion: Pantheism	7	0.00
Other religion: Rastafarian	178	0.06
Other religion: Ravidassia	22	0.01
Other religion: Reconstructionist	4	0.00

Other religion: Satanism	0	0.00
Other religion: Scientology	7	0.00
Other religion: Shamanism	1	0.00
Other religion: Shintoism	10	0.00
Other religion: Spiritual	102	0.03
Other religion: Spiritualist	71	0.02
Other religion: Taoist	25	0.01
Other religion: Theism	8	0.00
Other religion: Thelemite	0	0.00
Other religion: Traditional African Religion	16	0.01
Other religion: Unification Church	19	0.01
Other religion: Universalist	10	0.00
Other religion: Vodun	8	0.00
Other religion: Wicca	13	0.00
Other religion: Witchcraft	1	0.00
Other religion: Zoroastrian	152	0.05
Other religion: Other religions	146	0.05
No religion: Total	33054	10.62
No religion: No religion	32267	10.37
No religion: Agnostic	151	0.05
No religion: Atheist	116	0.04
No religion: Free Thinker	5	0.00
No religion: Heavy Metal	14	0.00
No religion: Humanist	40	0.01
No religion: Jedi Knight	460	0.15
No religion: Realist	1	0.00
Religion not stated	21462	6.90

## 2. Religious Education Statutory Responsibilities

### 2.1 Background

The London Borough of Brent's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities. This report summarises its activities during the academic year 2020-21. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: "to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit."

In particular, the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:

- It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on Religious Education.
- It may determine, on application by the headteacher that the requirement for Collective Worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the Collective Worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.

- With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers' in-service professional development.

In addition, the SACRE has a direct role in the consideration and disposal of complaints related to the RE curriculum or Collective Worship. The SACRE will be asked to advise where complaints relate to Religious Education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus or to Collective Worship in county – now called community – schools maintained by the LA.

Details of the work of the LB Brent SACRE can be found here:

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

Agendas, minutes and associated papers can be found via this link:

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/>

## **2.2 Locally Agreed Syllabus**

By statute, every local authority is required to adopt a Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) for Religious Education and to review it every five years. The current LB Brent LAS has been in place for some time, but in recent years has been undergoing a rigorous process of review and revision.

The LB Brent Agreed Syllabus is available via this link:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/education-and-schools/student-and-school-information/religious-education/>

## **2.3 Standards in RE**

SACRE members give close consideration to the various national and local developments concerning the provision of RE. Their discussions are prompted by the information provided to the SACRE through the regular updates from teacher members, the RE Consultant and SACRE Adviser and NASACRE Briefings. During 2020-21, SACRE gave particular attention to:

- a publication by Insight UK in relation to the state of Hinduism in RE within UK Schools and noted its findings, while also being clear that the draft of the new LAS requires that aspects of Hinduism should be taught at every stage of education (except where a school's own choices in relation to publicly accredited examination syllabus may prevent this) - the report can be read here:

[https://insightuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hinduism-in-RE\\_Project-report.pdf](https://insightuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hinduism-in-RE_Project-report.pdf)

- a publication from Ofsted on knowledge in RE – the report can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education>

The key findings from both of these reports have also been analysed and evaluated by members of the RE Networks and their implications for planning teaching and learning

considered with care.

## 2.4 Teacher Training

A Good Practice Network for Subject Leaders for RE in community primary schools continued to run on a termly basis in 2020-21. These sessions are led jointly by Lesley Prior, RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE and Stacey Burnam, the RE Consultant leading the work on the review of the agreed syllabus. Occasionally the Chair of SACRE, Basma Elshayyal is able to be present too and plays a key role in building effective links between SACRE and the members of this group.

The RE Subject Leaders in community primary schools have met three times this year. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all of these meetings in 2020-21 were held via virtual platforms.

- 20<sup>th</sup> October, focusing on:
  - Understanding the principles of teaching equality and diversity in RE
  - Sharing of teaching and learning examples in accordance with effective pedagogy, including defining skills progression in the subject
  - Clarification of requirements for Collective Worship
- 11<sup>th</sup> February, focusing on
  - Building Cultural Capital in RE
- 11<sup>th</sup> May, focusing on:
  - Considering the Implications of Ofsted's Research Review on RE, published on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021. See this link to read the report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>
  - Exploring and Evaluating the Place of Narrative and Stories in RE.

Each of these sessions also featured updates on the work on the supplementary materials to support the draft of the new Agreed Syllabus. These materials are being developed by Stacey Burnam in collaboration with teachers across Brent and include exemplar schemes of learning, as well as guidance on progression and assessment.

The Primary RE Network continues to grow in size and many members now also maintain constant and mutually supportive contact with one another between sessions using a WhatsApp Group. This was a new initiative during the academic year and has been warmly welcomed, with questions being raised, materials recommended and documentation shared. As the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 prevented face to face meetings during this period, the support offered was hugely appreciated by all those involved.

Anyone wishing to join this group should contact Lesley Prior, the RE Consultant and Adviser to SACRE who can ensure they are added to it.

Lesley can be reached at: [lesley.prior@london.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.prior@london.anglican.org).

Lesley Prior (the RE Consultant and Adviser to SACRE) and Stacey Burnam (the RE Consultant working on the agreed syllabus) offer extensive telephone and online consultations to Subject Leaders who are developing schemes of learning and reviewing and revising policy documents for RE. Lesley also issued six newsletters during this period (one every half term) for distribution to Primary Subject Leaders for RE to share new materials and resources, promote relevant RE events and highlight significant national developments and initiatives in

the subject. SACRE members also receive these newsletters.

A further training session for those new to the position of the Subject Leader for RE in Primary Schools was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 and covered the following aspects of the role:

- Auditing, Reviewing and Revising RE Documentation Including Schemes Of Learning And Policy Statements
- Supporting Colleagues and Monitoring Provision
- Organising Existing Resources And/Or Selecting New Ones
- Developing Your Own Subject Knowledge
- Accessing Support, Including Professional Networks
- Devising an Action Plan.

A Good Practice Network for Subject Leaders for RE in community secondary schools also continued to run on a termly basis in 2020-21. These sessions are led Stacey Burnam, the RE Consultant leading the work on the review of the agreed syllabus.

The RE Subject Leaders in community secondary schools have met three times this year. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all of these meetings in 2020-21 were held via virtual platforms.

- **Date to be inserted**, focusing on:
  - **????** RE
- **Date to be inserted**, focusing on:
  - **????** RE
- **Date to be inserted**, focusing on:
  - **????** RE

## **2.5 Complaints and Withdrawals**

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2020-21 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2020-21.

## **3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities**

### **3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship**

During 2020-21 SACRE continued to share its Collective Worship guidance for schools. The document has been published online and it can be accessed via this link:

[https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946260/collective\\_worship\\_model\\_approach.pdf](https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946260/collective_worship_model_approach.pdf)

### **3.2 Determinations**

The Adviser to SACRE regularly reminds members about the role, nature and purpose of determinations in relation to Collective Worship.

The following schools received a determination in relation to Collective Worship (or a renewal of the same) during 2020-21:

In the Spring Term:

- Barham Primary School
- Carlton Vale Infant School
- Harlesden Primary School
- Malorees Infant School
- Lyon Park Primary School
- Mora Primary & Nursery School
- Roe Green and Strathcona Infant School
- Wembley Primary School

At the same SACRE Meeting, members were asked to note that the following schools had determinations which had expired:

- Elsley Primary
- Roe Green Junior
- Uxendon Manor

Confirmation was sought from the Adviser to SACRE on the position regarding these determinations and following advice she had received from the Department for Education (DfE), she confirmed it would be possible for schools whose determinations had expired to extend their current determinations pending their renewal in light of the response to the pandemic.

The DfE had, however, advised that these extensions, whilst reflecting the current circumstances and challenges experienced by schools in managing the response to the pandemic, would not be indefinite. The schools concerned would still be expected to submit applications for renewal of their determinations, which were anticipated in the summer term (unless challenges of the pandemic increased) and, subject to approval, these would be backdated to the Spring Term.

At the SACRE Meeting held in the summer term, the determination was renewed for:

- Elsley Primary School

In terms of the expired determinations it was noted that contact would be made with the following schools to offer support and encourage the submission of their applications, but that if no such applications were received, these schools would be notified by SACRE that their determinations were no longer in place and that they would therefore be legally obliged to offer daily acts of Collective Worship that are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

- Roe Green Junior School
- Uxendon Manor.

Guidance on applying for a determination (or a renewal of the same) can be found with the relevant application forms in the LB Brent SACRE document referenced above (under 3.1).

The Adviser to SACRE can offer support with this process on request.

A list of all LA maintained schools with determinations in LB Brent can be found in Appendix ?.

### **3.3 Other Information**

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2020-21 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2020-21.

### **4. Links with other Bodies**

LB Brent SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and notes and discusses key points from its regular briefings.

See this link for more details: [www.nasacre.org](http://www.nasacre.org). Login details for the NASACRE website can be obtained from the SACRE Clerk.

The 2021 NASACRE Conference and AGM was held virtually on 24th May 2021, and Camilla Bath (Group D and Vice Chair of SACRE) and David Cryer (Group A) attended it on behalf of LB Brent SACRE. Verbal feedback on the Conference was provided to the SACRE at its summer term meeting and formed the basis for discussion and reflection by members. Full details and copies of the relevant paperwork from the 2021 Conference can be found at <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2021>.

The Adviser to SACRE is a member of the NASACRE Executive Group and is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.

### **5. SACRE Involvement Locally**

LB Brent SACRE has developed links with various local groups and initiatives.

#### **5.1 National Census 2021**

At their spring meeting, SACRE members welcomed Harshil Shah supported by Abdullah Mohamed, Brent's Census Engagement Managers in order for them to provide an update on the plans for the census due to be undertaken on Sunday 21st March 2021. The inclusion of the question on religion within the census was the particular focus and members were assured that it would include an option to self-identify. As before, the question would remain voluntary with the information provided used by a range of groups, including SACRE to plan and deliver services.

The importance of the census, from a SACRE perspective was noted, in terms of the updated data that would be provided around demographic changes across LB Brent and as a means of ensuring that the membership of SACRE remained as representative as possible.

### **6. SACRE Arrangements**

#### **6.1 Meetings in 2020-21**

The SACRE met on the following three occasions in 2020-21:

- 22nd October 2020
- 11th February 2021
- 22nd June 2021

The SACRE usually meets at Brent Civic Centre. Due to restrictions and safety precautions related to Covid-19, all the SACRE meetings in 2020-21 were held via virtual platforms.

## 6.2 Professional and Administrative Support

Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of the SACRE's duties is provided by the LB Brent. The key areas of this support include the following:

- Provision of a Clerk
- Support of a Local Authority Adviser
- Commissioning of an RE Consultant and Adviser to the SACRE
- Commissioning of an RE Consultant to work on the review of the agreed syllabus
- Funding of the NASACRE annual membership
- Funding for at least one SACRE member to attend NASACRE's annual Conference and AGM
- Costs relating to establishing and reviewing a Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE is grateful to the LB Brent for making this support available.

## 6.3 Key Contacts (add emails?)

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Chair of the SACRE      | Basma Elshayyal (Group B)    |
| • Vice Chair of the SACRE | Helen Mooney (Group C)       |
| • Clerk to the SACRE      | James Kinsella or ???        |
| • Local Authority Contact | ???                          |
| • Adviser to SACRE        | Lesley Prior (RE Consultant) |

## 6.4 Membership, Representation and Recruitment - quoracy, issues and successes with recruitment? Leavers, new members?

A full list of SACRE members is included in the Appendices.

## 6.5 Attendance

All SACRE meetings in 2020-21 were quorate???. Attendance has improved with online meetings ???.

## 6.6 Attendance Records

Full details of attendance are available at:  
????

## 6.6 Training for SACRE Members

SACRE members are encouraged to attend training provided by NASACRE. School based SACRE members or those with other links to education also attend local and national RE

training including Diocesan training.

## **6.7 Finance given to SACRE for its Work**

£???

 is allocated to SACRE and the funding contributes toward the running costs of the SACRE, the work of the RE Consultant, and other costs such as membership of NASACRE, and attendance at the NASACRE Conference etc.

## **7. Appendices**

### **7.1 Table of GCSE & A Level Religious Studies Results 2021**

The government cancelled all public examinations at Key Stage 4 and 5 again in 2021 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Students were awarded grades through the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) process. Teachers in LB Brent schools used a range of evidence to award grades to students. These grades **will/will not?** be published but an overview of the number of entries for GCSE and A level has been included below.

#### **Key Stage 4**

#### **Key Stage 5**

### **7.2. SACRE Membership 2020-21**

### **7.3 Circulation Details for the SACRE Annual Report**

This Annual Report is shared with the Director of Education for LB Brent and sent to the Department for Education, NASACRE and schools, including governors. The report will be available for anyone to view on the LB Brent website:

**Insert link here?**