

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

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

**January 2023**

This LB Brent SACRE Annual Report is presented in the 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 2021-22

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. The following statistics which relate to religion and belief are from the latest 2021 National Census and illustrate the diversity of the Local Authority.

All Usual Residents	339,817
Christian	131,914
Buddhist	3,117
Hindu	52,876
Jewish	3,723
Muslim (Islam)	72,574
Sikh	1,530
Other religion: Total	4,424 (of which 2,488 Jain)
No religion: Total	46,153
Religion not stated	23,506

## 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 2021-22. 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 previous LB Brent LAS had been in place for some time, but in recent years had been undergoing a rigorous process of review and revision.

In 2021-22, this process was completed successfully and a new LAS for LB Brent was approved by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The new LB Brent Agreed Syllabus is available via this link:

**New Link to be added**

## **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 2021-22, SACRE gave particular attention to:

- the development of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus and strategies to promote its implementation once it had been approved formally
- exploring the workforce data produced by the National Association of Teachers for RE (NATRE) and its implications for the provision of RE in local secondary schools although it was noted that SACRE has no direct remit over these schools
- discussing the RE Report card, a data review of RE Provision undertaken by a team from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), and RE Today Services. Members were of the opinion that although the report was very secondary focussed it was a useful summary of the national picture and the card should be shared with schools.

The key outcomes of these discussions 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 2021-22. 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 2021-22 were held via virtual platforms.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> November, focusing on:
  - Raising the Profile of RE in your School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022, focusing on:
  - Ofsted and RE
  - Resources to Promote High Quality RE
- 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, focusing on:
  - Faith and Belief Forum: <https://faithbeliefforum.org/>
  - Knowledge in RE
  - RE in the Summer Term.

Each of these sessions also featured updates on the work on the supplementary materials to support 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 initiative has been strengthened during the academic year and is widely used, with questions being raised, materials recommended and documentation shared. As the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 continued to prevent 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 Good Practice Network for Subject Leaders for RE in community secondary schools also continued to run on a termly basis in 2021-22. 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:
  - **To be advised RE**
- **Date to be inserted**, focusing on:
  - **To be advised RE**
- **Date to be inserted**, focusing on:
  - **To be advised RE**

## **2.5 Complaints and Withdrawals**

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2021-22 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2021-22.

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

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

During 2021-22 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 2021-22:

In the Autumn Term:

- Roe Green School

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

- Uxendon Manor

Contact was made with the school to offer support and encourage the submission of its application, but if no such application were received, the schools would be notified by SACRE that its determinations was no longer in place and that it would therefore be legally obliged to offer daily acts of Collective Worship that are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

In the Spring Term:

- Phoenix Arch School

- Preston Park Primary School

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 2021-22 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2021-22.

### **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 2022 NASACRE Conference and AGM was held virtually on 23rd May 2022, and was attended by Lesley Prior (LB Brent SACRE Advisor). 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 2022 Conference can be found at: <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2022-ambitious-sacre/>.

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 2021-22**

The SACRE met on the following three occasions in 2021-22:

- 14th October 2021
- 10th February 2022
- 6th July 2022 (including an Agreed Syllabus Conference)

The SACRE usually meets at Brent Civic Centre but has continued to meet virtually.

### **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**

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Chair of the SACRE      | Basma Elshayyal (Group B)    |
| • Vice Chair of the SACRE | Helen Mooney (Group C)       |
| • Clerk to the SACRE      | Andrew Phillips              |
| • Local Authority Contact | Jen Haskew                   |
| • Adviser to SACRE        | Lesley Prior (RE Consultant) |

### **6.4 Membership, Representation and Recruitment**

During the year SACRE was pleased to be able to welcome Sally Strauss as a representative of the Judaism faith. As required within the SACRE constitution a membership review was undertaken following the local borough elections. Whilst no changes were recommended as a result, SACRE has agreed to undertake a further review once the final 2021 census information has been published to ensure membership remains representative of the current breakdown of religion and faith groups across the borough

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

### **6.5 Attendance**

All SACRE meetings in 2021-22 were quorate.



## **6.6 Attendance Records**

Full details of attendance are available at:

[Browse meetings - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education \(SACRE\) \(brent.gov.uk\)](https://www.brent.gov.uk/standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education)

## **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**

The London Borough of Brent continues to provide SACRE with administrative support and to cover 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. SACRE Membership 2021-22**

### **7.2. List of Schools with a Determination**

### **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](#)