

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

LB BRENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

January 2026

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 2024-25

Draft to be finalised.

Bhupinder Singh Bhasin

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 2023-24. 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:

[Committee details - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education \(SACRE\)](#)

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

[Browse meetings - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education \(SACRE\)](#)

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.

After undergoing a rigorous process of review and revision, a new LAS for LB Brent was approved by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 6th July 2023. The syllabus is successfully being implemented across schools within the local authority.

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

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/-/media/media/files/resident-documents/education-documents/brent-agreed-syllabus-2023.pdf?rev=6939ad5ddb374c81bb0ebaa9fd0276ef>

2.3 Standards in RE

SACRE members consider 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 SACRE Adviser and NASACRE briefings. During 2024-25, SACRE gave particular attention to:

- The embedment of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus and strategies to promote its implementation. As well as making it accessible to schools by promoting it through the Head Teachers bulletin.
- Exploring meaningful ways to engage with the RE Hubs website as a means to build bridges between Brent's SACRE, Schools and places of worship, in order to support teachers and schools collectively. Training opportunities available for members of Brent's SACRE. Empowering everyone to effectively engage with schools, thus providing purposeful experiences whereby pupils can engage with religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Monitoring RE Hubs and NASACRE training uptake and promoting this to SACRE members for the purpose of executing SACRE roles more efficiently.
- Schools have been benefiting from the RE advisor (Nadia Nadeem) issuing newsletters for schools on a half termly basis. The newsletters have provided additional support and guidance for schools and teachers, in delivering a high quality, rich and inclusive RE curriculum. These newsletters will also be shared with SACRE members too from September 2025.

- To provide additional support and guidance for schools and teachers the RE advisor (Nadia Nadeem) will be leading the 'Good Practice Network' from September 2025. This will provide SACRE with an insight into how schools are leading RE and Collective Worship from the perspective of RE Leads.
- A need to improve the core RE in Brent. Especially in secondary schools. This will need to be reviewed in light of the evaluations from the LA's school advisors and the monitoring surveys of both primary and secondary schools.
- Actioning the reviews of the world religion summaries on the Brent website, to ensure that these are reflective of the diverse lived experiences of our members and local communities.

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 community primary and secondary school subject leaders in RE, continued to run on a termly basis during the 2024-25 academic year. These sessions were led by Stacey Burnam, the RE Consultant supporting the work on the embedment of the agreed syllabus.

The RE subject leaders in both community primary and secondary schools have met three times this year. All the meetings in 2024-25, were held via virtual platforms.

- **November 2024**
- **March 2025**
- **June 2025**

The sessions focused on discussions relating to pedagogy in RE, deliberating the Ofsted report, as well as sharing examples of pupils learning.

The meetings have highlighted that teachers have continued to work in line with the current syllabus, and that pupils have been engaging with the curriculum; producing high quality learning, which is in line with the latest developments and Ofsted expectations for RE. Feedback from the surveys also indicates that these meetings are supportive in facilitating teachers in identifying next steps for their classrooms and their personal CPD.

2.5 Complaints and Withdrawals

There have been no complaints to SACRE in 2024-25 in relation to Religious Education.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Religious Education in 2024-25.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities

3.1. Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

During 2024-25 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

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 2024-25:

- Fryent Primary School
- Roe Green Junior School
- Leopold Primary School
- Wykeham Primary School
- Kingsbury Green Primary School
- Park Lane 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 2024-25 in relation to Collective Worship.

SACRE has received no reports of pupils being withdrawn from Collective Worship in 2024-25.

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. Login details for the NASACRE website can be obtained from the SACRE Clerk.

The 2025 NASACRE Conference and AGM was held face to face on Monday 19th May 2025, at Stratford Town Hall, London. The SACRE advisor (Nadia Nadeem) attended the conference and provided verbal and written feedback at SACRE's summer term meeting. This formed the basis for discussion and reflection by members. Full details and copies of the relevant paperwork from the 2025 Conference can be found at: <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2025-sacres-taking-a-stand-positive-responses-to-controversial-issues/>

The Adviser to SACRE is a member of NASACRE 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. During this academic year, we have encouraged our faith leaders to complete the training with RE Hubs to gain accreditation that will enable them to work alongside local schools by going into schools and sharing their faiths and lived experiences with pupils. Thus, bridging the gap between schools and local communities.

5.1 National Census 2021

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

Thus, as suggested by the SACRE, the 2021 National Census, included an option to self-identify with regards to religion: with the question remaining voluntary.

The information provided by the National Census 2021 has been used by a range of groups, including SACRE to plan and deliver services.

6. SACRE Arrangements

6.1 Meetings in 2024-25

The SACRE met on the following two occasions in 2024-25:

- 6th February 2025
- 22nd July 2025

The SACRE conducted virtual meetings.

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 | Bhupinder Singh Bhasin (Group A) |
| • Vice Chair of the SACRE | Kyriacos Papasavva (Group B) |
| • Clerk to the SACRE | Abby Shinhmar |
| • Local Authority Contact | Jen Heskew |
| • Adviser to SACRE | Nadia Nadeem (RE Advisor) |

6.4 Membership, Representation and Recruitment

During the year, SACRE was pleased to be able to welcome Kyriacos Papasavva as a CofE representative, in October 2024.

As required within the SACRE constitution, SACRE has undertaken a review 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

The February SACRE meeting in 2024-25 was quorate. The July meeting was not.

6.6 Attendance Records

Full details of attendance are available at:

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

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 2024-25

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 NASACRE.

ANNEX A

London Borough of Brent SACRE membership 2024/25

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

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Baha'i | Saghar | Forouhi |
| Baptism | Elizabeth | Sims |
| Buddhism | Rupa | Monerawela |
| Hinduism (Brent Hindu Samaj) | Deva | Samaroo |
| Hinduism (Saiva Siddanta) | | |
| Islam (Shi'a) | Andleeb | Naqvi |
| Jainism | Manhar | Mehta |
| Judaism | Sally | Strauss |
| Roman Catholicism | Amanda | Wheelan |
| Christina Orthodox | | |
| Pentecostal Churches | Sarah | Cawte |
| Sikhism | Bhupinder | Singh |
| Zoroastrianism | Malcolm | Deboo |
| Zoroastrianism | Dr Kavita | Kokavita |
| Zoroastrianism | Yazad | Bhadha |
| Humanism | Michelle Suzan | Goldsmith Tokan (sub) |

Group B: Church of England

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Graham | Marriner |
| Kyriacos | Papasavva |

Group C: Associations Representing Teachers

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Andrew | Bate |
| Ian | Slade |
| John | Roche |
| Kim | Wilson |
| Stephanie | Enas |

Group D:

LA Representatives

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Cllr Neil | Nerva |
| Cllr Robert | Johnson |
| Cllr Arshad | Mahmood |

List of Schools with a Determination

| |
|--|
| Anson Primary School |
| Barham Primary School |
| Brentfield Primary School |
| Carlton Vale Infant School |
| Chalkhill Primary School |
| Elsley Primary School |
| Harlesden Primary School |
| Lyon Park Schools |
| Malorees Infants School Mitchell Brook Primary |
| Mora Primary School |
| Mount Stewart Inf School |
| Mount Stewart Junior School |
| Newfield Primary School |
| Northview Primary School |
| Park Lane Primary School |
| Phoenix Arch School |
| Preston Park Primary School |
| Roe Green Infant School |
| Roe Green Junior School |
| Stonebridge Primary School |
| Wembley Primary School |