

Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2018-2019

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Introduction from the Chair of Westminster SACRE

In 2018-19, the City of Westminster SACRE enjoyed exploring the local and national context in more depth. Having launched our Agreed Syllabus, we looked for ways to support schools with its effective implementation. We also engaged in detail with the Commission for RE (CoRE) report, both in its draft stage and on final publication. We discussed a number of issues from this document, such as the right of withdrawal and the proposed name-change to 'Religion and Worldviews'. With regards to withdrawal, we were delighted with the incredible work done within our schools to provide highly inclusive RE and Collective Worship with the effect that very few pupils were withdrawn.

We also provided consultation feedback on the new Ofsted framework, welcoming the specific inclusion of Religious Education within the new framework. As schools prepare for the requirements of this new framework, we offer ourselves as a source of support and advice to schools, where appropriate, to strengthen and enhance their work in this area.

Some of our SACRE members were particularly struck by the work of other SACREs in prioritising pupils voice through 'Youth SACREs' and it has now been an aim of the City of Westminster SACRE to implement a similar body. This work is ongoing, and we look forward to seeing its fruition.

It was a joy to hold our meetings in a variety of venues around our wonderful borough, hosted by different faith communities represented within our SACRE, as well as some of our local schools. This heightened our awareness of the richness of places of worship there is within the City, and we are keen to link our schools up with these wherever possible.

I am especially grateful to Roger Butler, who provided us with advisor support while Lesley Prior was unwell, and to John Pearson-Hicks for chairing a number of our meetings during the year so that I could also act as an advisor to the SACRE. We are delighted that Lesley is now back with us, sharing her wisdom once again.

Emily Norman
Chair of Westminster SACRE

Background

This report summarises the activities of the Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 2018-19. The SACRE has a remit for monitoring Religious Education and Collective Worship in non-denominational schools. The relevant diocesan authorities monitor denominational schools. The Education Act 2002 requires that Religious Education (RE) must be provided as part of the basic curriculum in addition to the National Curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE and are not obliged to state their reasons for withdrawal.

This report is composed in the light of guidance from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) on the format of SACRE annual reports.

Details of the work of Westminster SACRE and associated papers can be found at: <http://services2schools.org.uk/Page/15387>.

1. Religious Education

1.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

By statute, every local authority is required to adopt a Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) of religious education and to review it every five years. The current Westminster LAS has been in place since the spring term of 2017-18 when it was formally approved by the Cabinet Member and launched to schools. It will be due for review in the academic year of 2022-23.

The Westminster Agreed Syllabus: *Living Difference III* is available on the Westminster SACRE website - <http://services2schools.org.uk/Page/15387> - along with a number of useful links to materials/websites/films that Westminster SACRE members had compiled together to help schools in teaching RE.

1.2 Standards in RE

SACRE members gave close consideration to the various national and local developments concerning the provision of RE and continue to do so.

SACRE members and the SACRE Consultant offered school-based colleagues advice, help and support during the year, reflecting the requirements of the agreed syllabus and pertinent to the individual needs of each school.

1.3 Methods of Teaching, the Choice of Teaching Materials, Teacher Training

An RE Good Practice Network, which had been previously established for teachers in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham, continued to run on a termly basis in 2018-19 with sessions in October, January and May. The focus of these meetings was planning for the year ahead, updating RE coordinators on RE-related news, sharing experiences and good practice examples.

The RE Good Practice Network sessions serve as an opportunity for RE teachers and coordinators to discuss any challenges they face and receive relevant support, for example, around assessment and attainment in RE, measuring and recording outcomes in RE, etc.

1.4 Matters Discussed During the Year

- *Religion and Worldviews: the way forward*, the final report of the Commission on Religious Education. The feedback from the discussion of Westminster SACRE was submitted to NASACRE.
- *A New Settlement Revised: Religion and Belief in Schools*, a report by Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead.
- Consultation by Ofsted on their draft *Education inspection framework 2019: inspecting the substance of education*. Westminster SACRE discussed the draft framework and agreed to submit a collective response to the consultation reflecting on the effects of the new framework on RE. A response was submitted ahead of the closing date for the consultation. Members were also advised that they could submit individual responses if they wanted to.
- Youth SACRE. Work started into looking to set up a Youth SACRE in Westminster and discussing possible approaches for it. A proposal was agreed to be taken to the Youth Council, and Cllr James Spencer, Westminster SACRE member, agreed to lead on this piece of work.

In setting up an agenda for each termly Westminster SACRE meeting in 2018-19, consideration was given to NASACRE's recommendations for agenda items as suggested in NASACRE's regular briefings.

1.5 Complaints Concerning RE

No complaints were received by SACRE in 2018-19.

2. Collective Worship

2.1 Advice on Collective Worship and Determinations

The advice for schools on Collective Worship, including the process of applying for a Determination (and/or a renewal of it) is published online and can be accessed via the following web link: <http://services2schools.org.uk/Page/16173>. The guidance can also be found attached in Appendix 5.2 of this document.

Any school applying for or renewing a Determination should receive a visit from SACRE members prior to the application being discussed at a meeting.

2.2 Determinations

There were no new applications for a Determination in 2018-19.

The Determinations previously granted to George Eliot and Queen's Park Primary Schools were due to lapse on 26th February 2019. SACRE Clerk contacted the headteachers of both schools in the autumn term 2018 to ask if they would be applying for a renewal. Both schools confirmed that they would not be renewing their Determinations and that they were aware of the implications of such a decision. SACRE members discussed that, as part of a quality assurance check, it was important for a couple of members to visit the two schools to observe their practices. Chair and Vice Chair of Westminster SACRE volunteered to carry out these visits. Both schools were then contacted and visit arrangements were made. The outcome of both visits was to be fed back at the SACRE meeting in the autumn term 2019.

There is currently one school with a Determination in Westminster:

School Name	Date determination granted
Hallfield Primary School	28.02.2018

Determinations are for a period of five years. The Determination granted to Hallfield Primary will therefore be lapsing in February 2023.

2.3 Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

No complaints were received by Westminster SACRE in 2018-19.

3. Links with Other Bodies

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

Emily Norman, Chair of Westminster SACRE, represented the SACRE at the NASACRE AGM and Conference *Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships; RE near and far (local, national, global)* in Manchester on 22nd May 2019. Sara Perlmutter who joined the SACRE in May 2019 was also present at the Conference. Both Emily and Sara noted that the Conference with an excellent opportunity to network with peer colleagues from other geographical areas and encouraged other SACRE members to attend the Conference in future.

Full details and copies of the relevant paperwork from the 2019 Conference can be found at <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2019>.

On 1st May 2019, Emily Norman also attended an Interfaith Matters meeting. This was to raise the profile of Westminster SACRE, inform Interfaith Matters members of the work that the SACRE did and encourage interest from potential members for Committee A.

Earlier in the year, in February 2019, Emily Norman also met with a researcher from the University of Munich who was in London for a few days gathering information for her project called *Religion and morality policy: An analysis of the influence of religious groups during the implementation stage*. The German researcher had asked for an opportunity to find out more about the work of the SACRE, which they thought may be of benefit to their project work.

4. SACRE Arrangements

SACRE meetings were held on the following dates:

- 15th November 2018 at St Barnabas Church, Westminster
- 7th February 2019 at Burdett-Coutts and Townshend Foundation CE Primary School, Westminster
- 6th June 2019 at Radha Krishna Temple, Westminster

Membership Updates

November 2018

- **James Hearn**, SACRE member from Committee B, resigned from his membership due to other commitments. **Simon Atkinson** was appointed to replace him.

January 2019

- **Chueh Yun Shih**, a Buddhist member from Committee A, resigned due to relocation to a different country.

February 2019

- **Linda Ulrich** was nominated to represent Church of England (Committee B), which was to fill a vacancy after the resignation of Edward Thornley in June 2018.
- **You Shun Shih** was nominated as a Buddhist member to replace Chueh Yun Shih mentioned above.
- **Dawn Waterman** representing Board of Deputies of British Jews under Committee A resigned due to a change in her role. **Sara Perlmutter** was nominated as a Jewish member to replace Dawn.
- It was decided to cease membership of **Jay Harman** who represented Humanists UK under Committee A. Jay left Humanists UK in summer 2018, and SACRE had been unable to reach him as we only had his work contact details which he had with Humanists UK.
- Membership of **Katy Parsi-Boetig** representing Baha'i under Committee A was also ceased due to non-attendance at meetings and lack of communication.

April 2019

- **Cllr Ruth Bush**, SACRE member from Committee D, stepped down from her membership as she had become Lord Mayor of Westminster for a year. **Cllr Aicha Less** was appointed to replace Cllr Bush.

June 2019

- **Amir De Martino**, SACRE member from Committee A representing Islamic Faith, resigned due to other commitments.

Where members stepped down without arranging replacements or their membership was ceased, Clerk contacted their nominating bodies regarding filling the relevant membership vacancies.

Clerking of SACRE was provided by The City of Westminster.

Professional support was provided by SACRE Consultants Lesley Prior and Roger Butler on a consultancy basis.

The Local Authority covered the running costs.

5. Appendices

5.1 Westminster SACRE Membership – 2018-19

Committee A – Faiths and Denominations

Julia Walker	Hindu Faith	
Peter Ward	Catholic Church	
Rajinder Singh Bhasin	Sikh Faith	
Sara Perlmutter	Board of Deputies of British Jews	Appointed in February 2019
You Shun Shih	Buddhist	Appointed in February 2019

Committee B – Church of England

Emily Norman (Chair)

Graham Buckle

John Pearson-Hicks (Vice Chair)

Linda Ulrich – *appointed in February 2019*

Simon Atkinson – *appointed in November 2018*

Committee C – Teachers

Darren Guttridge, Headteacher, Edward Wilson Primary (NAHT)

Catherine Thornton, Teacher, Hallfield Primary (NUT)

Fiona McTaggart, Teacher, Gateway Academy (NUT) (co-opted)

Hayat Boujettef, Teacher, Edward Wilson Primary (NUT) (co-opted)

Committee D – The Local Education Authority

Cllr Aicha Less – *appointed in April 2019*

Cllr Antonia Cox

Cllr James Spencer

Servicing Officers

Lucy Nutt, Westminster City Council

Lesley Prior and Roger Butler, Advisers to SACRE

Natalija Sorokina – Clerk to SACRE

5.2 Westminster SACRE Guidance on Collective Worship



Westminster SACRE
Guidance to Collective

More can be found on the Westminster SACRE webpage -
<http://services2schools.org.uk/Page/16173>.

5.3 KS4 and KS5 RE Results 2018-19

GCSE 2019 Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies																
LA	Sch type	School name	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	Entry	No entry		
WCC	Secondary	Grey Coat Hospital	18.3%	16.3%	19.6%	23.5%	7.2%	8.5%	3.9%	0.7%	0.7%		98.7%	1.3%		
		Harris Academy St John's Wood	0.6%	1.1%	3.9%	2.2%	2.2%		1.7%					11.7%	88.3%	
		King Solomon Academy	6.6%	19.7%	19.7%	11.5%	27.9%	4.9%	8.2%				1.6%	100.0%		
		Marylebone Boys' School		1.0%	3.8%	3.8%	2.9%	1.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%			16.3%	83.7%	
		Paddington Academy		1.7%	4.6%	4.6%	1.7%	0.6%	0.6%	1.7%				15.4%	84.6%	
		Pimlico Academy		4.2%	3.1%	2.6%	1.0%	1.6%	0.5%	0.5%				13.5%	86.5%	
		Sir Simon Milton Westminster University Technical College														100.0%
		St Augustine's High	5.9%	11.8%	12.4%	23.5%	15.7%	5.9%	14.4%	8.5%	0.7%			98.7%	1.3%	
		St George's RC	5.4%	11.4%	18.1%	15.4%	14.8%	8.7%	10.7%	4.7%	1.3%			90.6%	9.4%	

	St Marylebone	24.7%	13.7%	14.4%	12.3%	9.6%	11.6%	6.8%	2.1%	0.7%		95.9%	4.1%
	Westminster Academy	0.6%	1.2%	1.2%	2.4%	2.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%			11.3%	88.7%
	Westminster City	0.9%	0.9%	11.9%	17.4%	18.3%	12.8%	20.2%	8.3%	3.7%		94.5%	5.5%
Secondary Total		5.4%	6.7%	9.1%	10.0%	7.6%	4.7%	5.4%	2.4%	0.6%	0.1%	51.9%	48.1%
Special	College Park School												100.0%
	Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee												100.0%
	St Marylebone Bridge Academy												100.0%
Special Total													100.0%
WCC Total		5.3%	6.6%	9.0%	9.9%	7.5%	4.6%	5.4%	2.4%	0.6%	0.1%	51.2%	48.8%
Total		6.3%	7.4%	9.5%	10.2%	8.1%	4.4%	5.0%	2.6%	0.9%	0.1%	54.5%	45.5%

A Levels 2019 Religious Studies

GCE A Religious Studies (AA)

LA	Sch type	Sch name	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total RS entries	Total KS5 pupils
WCC	Secondary	Grey Coat Hospital	1	2	6	7	3		1	20	153
		Paddington Academy		1	4					5	152
		St Augustine's High		1	3	1	1	3		9	86
		St George's RC		2	1	6	3		1	13	112
		St Marylebone		1	3	1				5	183
		Westminster City		1	2	2	3	1	1	10	85
Secondary Total			1	8	19	17	10	4	3	62	771
WCC Total			1	8	19	17	10	4	3	62	771

GCE AS Religious Studies (AS)											
LA	Sch type	Sch name	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total RS entries	Total KS5 pupils	
WCC	Secondary	St George's RC		1	1				2	112	
		St Marylebone		1		1			2	183	
		Westminster City						1	1	85	
	Secondary Total			2	1	1		1	5	380	
WCC Total				2	1	1		1	5	380	

