

# **London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham SACRE Annual Report 2019 to 2020**

## **Introduction**

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The Borough'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.

## **Part One**

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Records the terms of reference of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham SACRE and the occasions on which it met in 2019 to 2020.

## **Part Two**

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Reports the matters dealt with by the SACRE during the year.

## **Part Three**

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Notes the composition and membership of the SACRE.

# Part One

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## The establishment, terms of reference and meetings of the SACRE

1. The Borough's SACRE was established by the Education Committee in January 1990. 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."
2. 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.
3. The SACRE met on three occasions in 2019 to 2020:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019;
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020;
  - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020.
4. Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of its duties is provided to SACRE by the Borough. The SACRE is grateful to the Borough for making this support available.
5. The SACRE usually meets at the Lilla Huset Professional Development Centre, 191 Talgarth Road, W6 8BJ. SACRE is grateful to the staff there for their help in making the necessary preparations and for offering technical support.
6. The Spring Term meeting of the SACRE took place at St Paul's Church Hammersmith. The meeting was organised by Mark Newton, Chair of the SACRE (Group B – Church of England). The meeting included a tour of the church and a presentation about the wide range of local and other community projects which it has initiated and/or supports. Please see this link for more details: <https://www.sph.org/>
7. As a result of the pandemic, the Summer Term Meeting took place online, in accordance with advice offered by the Department for Education.



# Part two

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## Matters dealt with by the SACRE in 2019 to 2020

1. An on-going issue for the SACRE continues to be membership. However, there are constant efforts made to increase membership. Information on the SACRE is kept up to date on School Zone, so that individuals interested in joining can consult with the clerk to the SACRE. Regular contact is made with the appropriate appointing bodies to remind them when members are required. Every SACRE communication sent to schools provides information on the SACRE and asks anyone interested in membership or finding out more information on the work of the SACRE to get in touch with the Clerk.

Details and further information are available here: <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/schools-and-colleges/school-staff-zone/standing-advisory-council-religious-education-sacre>

2. Reasonably constant membership of the SACRE has been maintained but unfortunately the SACRE Meeting held in the autumn term was inquorate.
3. Matters discussed during the year included:
  - Funding and other LA Support for SACRE
  - Inspection Findings relating to RE based on the new OFSTED Framework
  - The Review and Revision of the Agreed Syllabus
  - Support for the Implementation of the New Agreed Syllabus
4. Ramadan Guidance is provided by SACRE Member Naif Sheikh (Group A - Muslim) in consultation with SACRE and the guidelines were sent out to all schools in the Borough via School Staff Zone.
5. In the summer meeting, SACRE Members who were also members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference voted to adopt the latest version of Living Difference the previous agreed syllabus from Hampshire County Council. This 'parent' syllabus exists in two forms – South Coast and London – and obviously the London one has been chosen for Hammersmith and Fulham as it more fully reflects the diversity of religious and other beliefs in the area.

A link to the syllabus can be found here:

[https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/section\\_attachments/living\\_difference\\_iii\\_-\\_hammersmith\\_and\\_fulham\\_electronic\\_version.pdf](https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/section_attachments/living_difference_iii_-_hammersmith_and_fulham_electronic_version.pdf)

A link to the free support materials for the syllabus can be found here:

<https://re.hias.hants.gov.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=43>

6. The SACRE Adviser kept members up to date on RE matters. She reported on the RE Local Coordinators Meetings as well as the latest updates from NASACRE ([www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk)) of which this SACRE is a member.
7. The SACRE received no requests in 2019 to 2020 from headteachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their schools. The procedures for making such a request are set out in Appendix A of this report. Information about the procedures can also be obtained from the Clerk to the SACRE at [lorraine.mitchell@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.mitchell@lbhf.gov.uk).
8. In 2019 to 2020, SACRE was not asked to deal with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools.

# Part Three

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## Composition and members of the SACRE in 2019 to 2020

**Chairman of the SACRE** Mark Newton

**Clerk to the SACRE** Heather Livermore (*Hammersmith and Fulham: Executive Support Officer Children's Services*)

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**GROUP A** – up to 9 members

***Representing Christian and other religious denominations and non-religious worldviews***

Bhupinder Singh  
Graham Newman  
Naif Sheikh (V-C)  
Lalani Perera

Sikh representative  
Jewish representative  
Muslim representative  
Buddhist representative

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**Group B** – up to 6 members

***Representing the Church of England***

Eleanor Allen  
Madeleine Miller  
Mark Newton (Chair)  
Astrid Wilson

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**Group C** - up to 6 members

***Representing teachers (including teachers of RE) and teachers' associations***

Cathy Afonso - NUT  
Courtney Hosp - Fulham Cross Girls' School  
Isabel Cyzba – NEU & Brackenbury Primary School  
Fiona Battah – Knowledge Schools Trust (Academies)

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**Group D** - 6 places including 3 co-optees

***Representing the Local Authority***

Jan Parnell, Director of Education  
Dr Keith Tysoe, Principal Lead Advisor  
Councillor Rory Vaughan

***Consultant to the SACRE***

Ms Lesley Prior

# Appendix A

## The requirement for Collective Worship

### Introduction

1. Section 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988 lays down that the collective worship required in community schools shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. DES circular 3/89 states that, in the Secretary of State's view, an act of worship which is 'broadly Christian' need not contain only Christian material provided, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character but within each school term the majority of acts must be so.
2. How collective worship is organised is for the headteacher to decide after consultation with the governing body, having regard to the following considerations:
  - any relevant circumstances relating to the pupils family backgrounds, for example the faith of the family;
  - their ages and aptitudes.
3. These considerations should inform:
  - the extent to which (if at all) any acts of collective worship in the school are not of a broadly Christian character;
  - the extent to which the broad traditions of Christian belief are reflected in those acts of worship of a broadly Christian character; and
  - the ways in which those traditions are reflected.

### *The role of the SACRE*

4. If the headteacher of a community school considers that the requirements for collective worship described in paragraph two could conflict with what is required by paragraph three, he or she can apply to **the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to lift or modify the requirements**. Before doing so the headteacher must consult the school's governing body who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. **The headteacher's application does not need to apply to the whole school**. It can be limited to any class or description of pupils at the school, and might relate, for example, to a particular group or year group(s) in the school in which there were many pupils of a particular faith or religion.
5. The purpose of this procedure is to allow for acts of collective worship according to a faith or religion other than Christianity where, for some or all of the pupils in a school, the requirement that worship should be of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate. One factor which may inform a headteacher's decision to make an application to the SACRE is the extent of withdrawals from Christian collective worship.
6. In considering whether to grant a headteacher's request, the SACRE must take account of any relevant circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils concerned. When it has made a **determination** on the request – which can only take the form of acceptance or rejection without modification – it must communicate this in writing to the headteacher and state the date from which it will take effect. It is for the headteacher to decide what

form the alternative worship will take, although the SACRE should be informed of the proposed arrangements.

7. The headteacher will wish to take appropriate steps to notify the governing body and parents of the new arrangements. Where such a determination is made in respect of all or some of the pupils in the school, daily collective worship must still be provided for them. Where a determination has been granted in respect of a class or description of pupils of a particular faith or religion, the alternative collective worship may be provided for those pupils as a whole. It may not be distinctive of any particular **denomination** of any faith or religion, but may be distinctive of a particular faith or religion. Parents continue to have a right to withdraw their children from this collective worship.
8. Any determination made under these arrangements ends after five years, unless renewed by the SACRE. There must be a review by the SACRE no later than five years after any determination was introduced; and subsequently within five years of each review. The headteacher can request an earlier review at any time, after consulting with the governing body. The headteacher must be given an opportunity to take part in any review

and, in turn, is required to consult the governing body who may wish to seek the view of parents.

9. It has been a legal requirement since 1944 that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship. Section 6 of the Education Reform Act provides for flexibility in timing and organisation of daily collective worship. It need now no longer be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups. For this purpose, a 'school group' means any group or combination of groups in which pupils are taught or take place in other school activities; it does **not** mean a group reflecting particular religious beliefs.

10 If a headteacher considers that changes of the sort described in paragraphs four and five of this appendix are justified, he or she should:

- consult with the governing body,
- after that, make application to SACRE on the attached form.

## Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Application for a variation in the requirement of the Education Act 1988 that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

1. **Name of school**.....
2. **Address of school**.....
3. **Name of headteacher**.....
4. **Pupils for whom the application is made**  
(Is the application being made on behalf of the whole school or part of it? If a part, state which group and their numbers.)
5. **On what grounds is the application made?**  
(State why you consider the requirement that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' to be inappropriate for pupils. Give any relevant information, including numbers, on the family background and faith of all pupils who would be affected.)
6. **Has the Governing Body been consulted?**  
(By law it must be. Please state the view the Governing Body gave. Did the Governing Body consult parents? What was their view?)
7. **Have Parents been consulted?**  
(What were their views?)
8. **What form would the proposed alternative form of collective worship take?**  
(Give as much information as possible.)

