

Westminster Standing Advisory
Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2016-2017

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Introduction from the Chair of City of Westminster SACRE

This year has been a busy one for our SACRE, as we set upon the task of reviewing the Agreed Syllabus. Our Agreed Syllabus Conference, and Agreed Syllabus Working Group, have worked hard to discuss what Westminster Community schools need in order to be able to teach RE successfully for the years ahead. We are very grateful to Patricia Hannam of Hampshire LA and Lesley Prior, our SACRE advisor, for working with us to develop a version of the Hampshire syllabus 'Living Difference III' for our multi-faith, urban context. We took the whole year to engage with this process thoroughly, to get the right solution for our schools, and we look forward to launching the revised syllabus in 2018, and providing training for the teachers who will be using it.

We enjoyed hearing the feedback from our Vice Chair on the NASACRE annual conference in York, and I was honoured to be elected to the NASACRE executive this year. I am hopeful that what I learn about good practice from around the country and about the national picture for RE will help us locally to support our schools here in Westminster.

It is a privilege to be able to work with such a diverse group of people, who hold a wide range of beliefs, but with the shared goal of high quality Religious Education for our young people and ever-increasing understanding of each other's views and lives.

Emily Norman
Chair of Westminster SACRE

Background

This report summarises the activities of the City of Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 2016 – 2017. 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 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 The City of Westminster SACRE and associated papers can be found at: www.webfronter.com/westminster/RE/mnu3.html.

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 was originally adopted in 2006, when it was adapted from the Hampshire LAS to make it more suitable for Westminster schools. It was reviewed in 2011 and agreed without any changes. At the SACRE meeting of 29th June 2016, members unanimously agreed that the Local Authority should be asked to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to review the syllabus.

An Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened and had its first meeting in November 2016 to carry out the review of the Agreed Syllabus. The Conference met every term throughout 2016-17 and also set up a working party which met separately.

It was agreed to adopt the Hampshire RE Syllabus – *Living Difference III*, which the previous Syllabus was based on and to make it specific to The City of Westminster. As a result, the working group proposed a range of changes, which were recommended to the Agreed Syllabus Conference in June 2017. The members voted unanimously in their committees to agree these changes. The Agreed Syllabus document will be finalised in the autumn term of 2017-18 and given to the Cabinet Member for approval. This will then be followed up by a formal launch and training for RE teachers.

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 had been established for teachers in the Tri-Borough of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham. Issues addressed in 2016-17 were assessment in RE and Collective Worship.

1.4 Matters Discussed During the Year

- A new NASACRE Constitution. Westminster SACRE members voted to adopt the proposed Constitution;
- Review of the legal, education, and policy frameworks for RE by the Commission on RE.

1.5 Complaints Concerning RE

No complaints were received by SACRE in 2016-2017.

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 a renewal of the same) is published online and can be accessed via the following web link: <http://webfronter.com/westminster/RE/mnu2.html>. The guidance may also be found as Appendix 2 in 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 2016-17. There are currently three schools with a Determination:

School Name	Date determination granted
Hallfield Primary School	28.2.2013
George Eliot Primary School	26.2.2014
Queen's Park Primary School	26.2.2014

Determinations are for a period of five years. The Determination granted to Hallfield Primary School will therefore be lapsing in February 2018.

2.3 Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

No complaints were received by SACRE in 2016-17.

3. Links with Other Bodies

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

John Hicks, Vice-Chair of SACRE, represented The City of Westminster SACRE at the NASACRE AGM and Conference *Preparing for life in Britain today: the contribution of RE* in York on 16th May 2017.

Full details and copies of the relevant presentations and speeches can be found at: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2017/2017-materials>.

There were two key note speakers.

Dr Joyce Miller is one of the Commissioners serving on the RE Council's Commission on RE. She highlighted the key reports on RE published in recent years and gave an overview of the work that the Commission was focusing on. More details about it can be found on their website: <http://www.commissiononre.org.uk>. Dr Miller also introduced some relevant contradictions relating to life in modern Britain such as religiosity and secularity, globalisation and atomisation, convergence and divergence, etc., and discussed the implications they had for RE.

Aaqil Ahmed is a former head of Religious Programming at both Channel 4 and the BBC. He talked about a lack of religious literacy in wider society. His policy was to promote a learning journey and for all public bodies to have a religious literacy initiative in place which would be monitored and regulated in some way.

It was also announced at the Conference that Emily Norman, Chair of Westminster SACRE, had been appointed to the NASACRE Executive Committee.

Lesley Prior, the SACRE Consultant for Westminster, is now Assistant to the NASACRE Executive Group. She also attended the Conference and AGM.

4. SACRE Arrangements

SACRE Meetings were held on:

- 1st November 2016 at St Mary's Bryanston Square CE School, Bryanston Square, W1H 1DL

- 20th February 2017 at Burdett-Coutts & Townshend Foundation CE Primary School, Rochester Street, SW1P 2QQ
- 14th June 2017 at Edward Wilson Primary School, Senior Street, W2 5TL

Before November's meeting, several SACRE members from Committee A resigned from their membership. These were Lesley Taherzadeh O'Mara (Baha'i), David Quoroll (Society of Friends), Sophie Dunoff (Jewish Faith) and Hilary Sewell (Baptist Church).

In September 2016, Dawn Waterman was appointed to represent Jewish Faith in Committee A to replace Sophie Dunoff.

At the meeting on 1st November 2016, John Hicks (Committee B – Church of England) was appointed as the new Vice Chair to replace Elizabeth Wolverson who stood down in June 2016.

In December 2016, Katy Parsi-Boetig was appointed to represent Baha'i Faith in Committee A to replace Lesley Taherzadeh O'Mara.

At the meeting on 20th February, Darren Gattridge was welcomed to represent the NAHT in Committee C in place of Naomi Leaver.

At the meeting on 14th June 2017, the members agreed to co-opt two new members to Committee C (Teachers) – Fiona McTaggart and Hayat Boujettef, teachers at Gateway Academy and Edward Wilson Primary School respectively. Both are registered with the National Union of Teachers.

Also at this meeting, it was announced that John James from Grey Coat Hospital Secondary who had been a co-opted member to Committee C had decided to step down due to other commitments.

Clerking of SACRE was provided by The City of Westminster.

Professional support was provided by SACRE Consultant Lesley Prior on a consultancy basis.

The Local Authority covered the running costs.

5. Appendices

5.1 Westminster SACRE Membership – September 2016 - 17

Committee A – Faiths and Denominations

Amir De Martino	Islamic Faith
Chueh Yun Shih	Buddhist
Dawn Waterman – appointed Sep 2016	Jewish Faith
Jay Harman – appointed Feb 2016	British Humanist Association
Julia Walker	Hindu Faith
Katy Parsi-Boetig – appointed Dec 2016	Baha'i Faith
Peter Ward	Catholic Church
Rajinder Singh Bhasin	Sikh Faith

Committee B – Church of England

Emily Norman (Chair)
Graham Buckle
James Hearn
John Hicks (Vice Chair)

Committee C – Teachers

Darren Guttridge, Headteacher, Edward Wilson Primary (NAHT) – appointed Feb 2017
Catherine Thornton, Teacher, Hallfield Primary (NUT)
Fiona McTaggart, Teacher, Gateway Academy (NUT) - co-opted Jun 2017
Hayat Boujettef, Teacher, Edward Wilson Primary (NUT) - co-opted Jun 2017

Committee D – The Local Education Authority

Cllr Ruth Bush
Cllr Antonia Cox
Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson

Servicing Officers

Lucy Nutt, Westminster City Council
Lesley Prior, Adviser to SACRE
Amanda Price and Natalija Sorokina – Clerks to SACRE

5.2 Westminster SACRE Guidance on Collective Worship



Westminster SACRE
Guidance to Collectiv

5.3 KS4 and KS5 RE Results 2016-17

GCSE 2017 Religious Studies

	GCSE Religious Studies											2017	2017	2016	2016	2015	2015
	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G	
2134295 Quintin Kynaston*	2	13	19	10	1					45	98%	100%	91%	100%	67%	100%	
2134628 Grey Coat Hospital*	31	54	43	13	6	2	1			150	94%	100%	89%	100%	95%	100%	
2134673 St Marylebone*	38	44	29	23	9	2		1		146	92%	100%	95%	100%	93%	100%	
2134687 Westminster City*	9	12	23	20	22	24	9	5		124	52%	100%	60%	99%	69%	99%	
2134723 St Augustines High School	22	24	36	23	22	10	3	6	3	149	70%	98%	78%	99%	76%	99%	
2134809 St Georges*	17	26	40	31	15	6	2	2		139	82%	100%	78%	100%	62%	99%	
2136905 Paddington Academy*	9	14	8							31	100%	100%	94%	100%	88%	100%	
2136906 Westminster Academy*		4	6	7	2	2	1	1		23	74%	100%	58%	83%	58%	96%	
2136907 King Solomon Academy*	6	15	12	14	6	1		1		55	85%	100%	92%	100%	100%	100%	
2136908 Pimlico Academy*	1	1	6	1	3	4	1			17	53%	100%	82%	100%	76%	100%	
Total WC	135	207	222	142	86	51	17	16	3	879	80%	100%	82%	99%	80%	99%	

A Levels 2017 RE

	GCE A Religious Studies (AA)										2017	2017
	*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total	A*-C	A*-E		
2134001 Harris Sixth Form	1	16	15	10	2	1		45	93%	100%		
2134628 Grey Coat Hospital*	4	6	12	11	4	2		39	85%	100%		
2134673 St Marylebone*			3	4	3			10	70%	100%		
2134687 Westminster City*			5	2				7	100%	100%		
2134723 St Augustines High School		1	2	5	6	2		16	50%	100%		
2134809 St Georges*		1	9	2				12	100%	100%		
2136905 Paddington Academy*				4				4	100%	100%		
Total WC	5	24	46	38	15	5		133	85%	100%		