

# Lewisham SACRE Annual Report 2018



**Lewisham Standing Advisory Council on Religious  
Education**

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Lewisham SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>



Information about RE and the SACRE can be located on:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/religious-education-in-schools/standing-advisory-council-on-religious-education>

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## 1 Overview

### Lewisham SACRE meetings in 2018

7 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	London Sivan Kovil
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Olive Tree School, Lewisham Islamic Centre
28 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	London Sivan Kovil
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 Agreed Syllabus Launch	Lewisham Civic Suite
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	St Saviour's Church, Brockley Rise

### Lewisham Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) meetings in 2017

16 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Catford and Bromley Synagogue
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Catford and Bromley Synagogue
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	Emmanuel Church, Lee
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Olive Tree School, Lewisham Islamic Centre
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Emmanuel Church, Lee
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2018	Emmanuel Church, Lee
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Syllabus to Mayor & Cabinet	Lewisham Civic Suite
10 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Catford and Bromley Synagogue
18 <sup>th</sup> July – Syllabus to full council	Lewisham Civic Suite
19 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Catford & Bromley Synagogue

### Training for new and inexperienced SACRE members in 2018

20 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Catford & Bromley Synagogue
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### Training for Governors on the Lewisham Agreed Syllabus in 2018

30 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Lewisham Civic Suite
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As can be seen above, the members of the SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference have had an exceptionally busy year with their main focus being on the completion and launch of the Agreed Syllabus. As the membership of both bodies is the same, this represents incredible dedication to improving the local curriculum for Lewisham children.

The work of both bodies was made easier by the efforts of the Chairs of the two bodies who met with the RE Adviser and the SACRE Vice Chair between meetings to move on the work and the hard work and good humour of the SACRE / ASC Clerk who also spent time ensuring all relevant paperwork was available for scrutiny on the Lewisham website.

As the RE Adviser suffered a bereavement this year and had to have minor surgery in

October, a consultant was engaged to help move the work on assessment forward and provide the training sessions.

Many many thanks also to Joe Knappett, a former clerk of the SACRE and Kim's husband who, because of lack of capacity in the LA, helped the RE Adviser with ensuring the Agreed Syllabus was consistently set out and that invitations to the launch were managed well.

SACRE members were very shocked to hear that Gurbakhsh Garcha, their Sikh representative, died on 24th September in Lewisham hospital. He left a huge hole in many hearts. Gurbakhsh was a former LA representative on SACRE who became Sikh representative in his retirements from the council. He was Chair of the SACRE& ASC for many years, including during his Mayoral year.

On his LinkedIn profile Gurbakhsh described himself thus:

*'I write Panjabi poetry and do Panjabi/Urdu/English translation work with the help of my wife Ruth who I married in 1962, she is London born and brought up. Given an award by the Panjabis in Britain All Party Parliamentary Group (see A Lifetime on Tiptoes an e-book on amazonkindle).*

*I am secretary of the Lewisham branch of the United Nations Association.*

*An an active member of the Labour party I served as a Lewisham councillor for 20 years from 1986 to 2006. During this period I played an active role in setting up the Education Directorate in Lewisham after the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority by Mrs Thatcher. I also served as Deputy Mayor and Mayor of the borough and as a member of the cabinet before retiring from the council.*

*I chaired the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for 14 years till 2006 and still represent the Sikh community on it.*

*I am passionate about the environment and wild life preservation and support English Heritage, National Trust and London Wildlife.*

*I do fund-raising for our local Youth Club which I helped set up in 1978.*

*I work for Peace through Stop The War, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the United Nations Association. I play golf in whatever spare time I have left'.*

SACRE members continued to engage in many activities to support their work and to support each other. As well as attending the full SACRE and ASC meetings, members were involved in working group and individual meetings, including planning and supporting local events for Holocaust Memorial Day. Members heard about, supported and attended

each other's faith and belief events and participated in interesting dialogue and debate. For example they heard about and participated in the Inter Faith Walk and also the Mosque Open Day.

Meetings were held in a range of venues, these often enable members of SACRE to support SACRE's budget limitations. When SACRE meetings are held in schools or faith venues, the hosts share something about their work and community. This helps SACRE members to understand more about local schools or faith communities and how these can connect with each other to enhance delivery of quality RE.

## **1.1 Foreword by the Chair of Lewisham SACRE**

Welcome to Lewisham SACRE's Annual Report for 2018.

I am writing the Forward to our Annual Report as the newly appointed Chair to the Lewisham SACRE, having had the privilege of serving on the team since 2014.

As noted in the Overview above, there has been a huge commitment by SACRE and the AST members to complete and deliver the new Agreed Syllabus for schools. This has resulted in the launch in October of an excellent piece of work that the Borough and SACRE / ASC can be proud of and I am confident that the new syllabus will prove to be a valuable asset to RE departments across the phases in our Borough. It further goes to show the importance of providing a curriculum which helps young people in education gain an understanding of the diversity of beliefs, including those outside of a religious framework, from their fellow students.

I count it a privilege to be a part of a team that so enthusiastically expresses its diversity of beliefs whilst endeavouring to work together to enhance religious understanding and education across the age spectrum. I especially want to thank the teachers who attend after what is often a long day, making the commitment to contribute to the discussion and decision making at the meetings.

Once again, our appreciation of our diverse religious expression has been reflected in the variety of venues that have hosted SACRE and AST meetings, including the London Sivan Kovil Hindu Temple in Lewisham, Catford & Bromley Synagogue, Emmanuel Church, Lee, and the Lewisham Islamic Centre, and on behalf of SACRE I would like to express our thanks to these organisations for their gracious hospitality.

Going forward and with the work of the AST behind us, SACRE can revisit other areas it is mandated for, including the monitoring of the standards of RE across the Borough and the performance of students who take RE courses; providing signposting, advice and resources to schools for religious education ideas and collective acts of worship, including the Holocaust Memorial Day and Ramadan Advice to Schools, as well offering support through crisis events. The worrying rise and continued incidents of violent knife crime leaves many schools in need of support and guidance on how best to counsel young people caught up in the distress of such incidents and part of the work of SACRE aims to offer relevant guidance and awareness to teachers.

SACRE continues to do all it can to ensure that R.E. remains a key part of school curricula – both primary and secondary. Understanding and respecting the value of friends and neighbours from different backgrounds is a key part to developing a cohesive community and SACRE endeavours to be a voice in that discussion, by doing all it can to support schools in developing R.E.

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to some key members over this year including: Kate Bond, former Director of Education for Lewisham, whose ‘can-do’, innovative contributions will be missed; our Humanist Representative, Luke Donnellan, who has since been replaced by Hester Brown from the Humanist Society; and Molly Ballard representing the Baha’is, who has since been replaced by Afonso Veiga. My thanks go to all those who have given their time to work so tirelessly over this last year.

We look forward to working with the new team members and especially Angela Scattergood, our new Director of Education for Lewisham.

My deeply indebted thanks go to Shaun Burns, Deputy Chair to the Lewisham SACRE (as well as chairing another SACRE in London, as well as being the Primary Religious

Education Advisor for the Southwark Church of England Diocese), who has guided me through my inaugural term as chair. Similarly, my thanks must go to Denise Chaplin, our School Improvement Officer for R.E., whose encyclopedic knowledge of all things R.E. in schools is an irreplaceable asset to our team and means Lewisham SACRE can deliver such a commendable service to R.E. education across our Borough.

Many thanks to all who have supported, served and given to the work in so many ways.

Respectfully submitted

Pastor Nick Hughes  
Chair, Lewisham SACRE.

## 2. Religious Education

### 2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus “Learning together through Faiths and Beliefs”

The new Lewisham Agreed Syllabus was launched on 10<sup>th</sup> October following 3 years of dedicated and intense work. The syllabus was initially placed in the Lewisham website and will transition to new space when the council’s new website is designed.

#### 2.1.2 Monitoring

The SACRE remains concerned about how to monitor both the quality of RE in Lewisham schools and the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus. SACRE members continue to investigate ways of monitoring RE that will be useful to teachers and to SACRE. Following the launch of the new syllabus the SACRE will focus its efforts on monitoring its implementation and delivery.

## 2.2 Standards in Religious Education

### 2.2.1 Locally devised measures of pupils' attainment: Assessment Guidance

The old Lewisham Agreed Syllabus contained out of date Assessment guidance that utilised the old 9-level scale of attainment from the non-statutory National Framework for Religious education. It also incorporated a modification of the ‘P’ scales for use with children achieving below level 1 mainly in special schools and also incorporates a set of ‘pupil – speak’ levels developed by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). Levels have been removed from all other subjects by the government so as part of the Syllabus review this advice is currently being reviewed for a ‘post level’ curriculum.

### 2.2 Lewisham Religious Studies Performance in 2018

#### Introduction

Lewisham SACRE conducts an annual review of GCSE and A Level religious studies examination entries and outcomes.

This year SACRE experienced difficulty in obtaining the data as the LA no longer has a data analysis section. Conversations are continuing with the LA to ensure that this situation is rectified in the future.

## 1. GCSE Religious Studies

### The national picture:

“The number of pupils in England and Wales taking GCSE Religious Studies full course fell for the second year in a row, down 10.4% against 2017 to 241,749.

In addition, the number of pupils in England and Wales taking the short course GCSE in Religious Studies fell even more sharply, down 35.8% from last year to 34,087.

The decline was greater in England than in Wales. In England the number of entries for GCSE Religious Studies full course fell by 10.7% to 229,189. In Wales the equivalent figures were down by 4.2% to 12,560, although these came after last year’s record high.

All schools, including Academies, have a legal requirement to offer Religious Education at all key stages, but these figures suggest that this is not sufficient to ensure that all pupils in England study the subject at Key Stage 4. In too many cases, there are no consequences for those schools that decide to flout their legal obligation, with Religious Education not featuring in measures such as the EBacc that are used to hold them to account.

At a time when greater religious literacy is even more necessary than ever before, the decline across England and Wales in pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies is troubling.

The fall in entries comes despite pupils emphasising how much they value and enjoy studying Religious Education (underlined by the overall rise in entries at A-Level and GCSE over the past decade) and despite the fact that the Government is rightly emphasising the importance for young people to have knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs.

This drop in entries should not detract from a decade of strong growth for Religious Studies GCSE. In 2008 there were 166,628 entries for Religious Studies in England and Wales. The number of entries increased every year, reaching a peak in 2016. While there was been a decline in 2018, the number of pupils receiving a full course GCSE in Religious Studies is still 45.1% greater than in 2008.

The key outcomes for Religious Education in England and Wales at KS4 in 2018 are as follows:

- There were 241,749 entries for the full course in GCSE RS, a fall of 10.4% from 2017 (269,839)

- There were 34,087 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, a decline of 35.8% from 2017 (53,071)
- There were 275,836 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses), a decline of 14.6% from 2017 (322,910). Entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses) peaked in 2011 at 461,795. There has been a decline in entries of 40.3% in seven years with 186,000 fewer pupils achieving a qualification in RS at the end of KS4.
- 29.7% of entries for the full course in GCSE RS were awarded at least an A or 7
- 22.7% of entries for the short course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A\*\*

NATRE, August 2018

The following Lewisham data was received with no commentary in March 2019. It was circulated to local secondary schools for any further information they might be able to give SACRE including, for example, short course entries but none responded.

### KS4 Religious Education Analysis

Lewisham

Breakdown of validated full GCSE Religious Studies results from 2018. Please note that this is the first year of number grades for this subject. A grade 4 is equivalent to a low C grade

	All pupils				Girls				Boys			
	Entries	% 9-7	% 9-4	% 9-1	Entries	% 9-7	% 9-4	% 9-1	Entries	% 9-7	% 9-4	% 9-1
Addey and Stanhope School	43	14%	79%	98%	22	23%	86%	100%	21	5%	71%	95%
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	151	13%	60%	99%	66	9%	61%	100%	85	15%	59%	98%
Conisborough College	21	0%	38%	95%	8	0%	38%	100%	13	0%	38%	92%
Deptford Green School	125	19%	53%	98%	57	30%	70%	100%	68	10%	38%	97%
Forest Hill School	166	6%	42%	98%	0	-	-	-	166	6%	42%	98%
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	63	32%	86%	100%	27	22%	85%	100%	36	39%	86%	100%
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	7	0%	57%	100%	4	0%	50%	100%	3	0%	67%	100%
Prendergast Ladywell School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prendergast School	83	66%	95%	100%	83	66%	95%	100%	0	-	-	-
Prendergast Vale School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sedgehill School	143	11%	55%	97%	84	13%	60%	95%	59	8%	49%	100%
St Matthew Academy	130	10%	65%	98%	60	18%	77%	100%	70	3%	56%	97%
Sydenham School	16	31%	69%	100%	15	33%	73%	100%	1	0%	0%	100%
Trinity Church of England School	109	28%	68%	98%	53	42%	83%	100%	56	16%	54%	96%
<b>Lewisham</b>	<b>1057</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>98%</b>

### KS5 Religious Education Analysis

Lewisham

Breakdown of validated A Level Religious Studies results from 2018.

	All pupils				Girls				Boys			
	Entries	% A*-B	% A*-C	% A*-E	Entries	% A*-B	% A*-C	% A*-E	Entries	% A*-B	% A*-C	% A*-E
Forest Hill School	6	17%	50%	100%	1	100%	100%	100%	5	-	40%	100%
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	5	20%	40%	100%	3	33%	33%	100%	2	-	50%	100%
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prendergast School	8	50%	75%	100%	7	57%	71%	100%	1	-	100%	100%
Sedgehill School	4	75%	75%	100%	4	75%	75%	100%	-	-	-	-
Sydenham School	6	33%	67%	100%	6	33%	67%	100%	-	-	-	-
<b>Lewisham</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Discussion on this data and subsequent discussion around 2019 data will feature in the 2019 report.

## **2.3 Teaching**

### **2.3.1 Methods of teaching - training**

National information about courses has been circulated to schools

### **2.3.2 Methods of teaching - The choice of teaching materials**

During the year schools were also sent information about national resources, courses particularly targeted at new GCSE Specifications and research opportunities for teachers.

### **2.3.1 The Multifaith and Multicultural Resources Centre**

The extensive collection of RE artefacts, resources and books had been previously accommodated in the Teachers' Centre. When the Teachers' Centre was closed SACRE had a very short window to save these items before they were disposed of, possibly discarded in a skip. SACRE struggled to accommodate them locally, but had been promised that the New Bermondsey project (Formerly Surrey Canal Sporting Village) would accommodate them as part of their multi faith centre. Originally they had been assured this would be about 2 years – that was in 2011. It appeared that this opportunity may have fallen through.

Work continued during the year to move various parts of the collection to St. Mary Magdalene School in Greenwich, a Southwark Diocese growing all-phase school that intends to become a centre of excellence for RE.

## **2.4 Other Information**

### **2.4.1 Complaints about RE**

No formal complaints about RE in Lewisham schools have been presented to the SACRE this year.

### **2.4.2 Membership**

Several members have moved on this year and new representatives were welcomed.

Last year a Membership application was considered from the Ahmadi Muslim Community. The procedure in Lewisham is that SACRE would make a decision on whether to recommend to the Local Authority an offer of full membership or of a co-opted place as well as the name the group would be known by.

SACRE attempts to have proportional representation in relation to communities in the borough but accepts that sometimes it is important to have representation from very small but significant communities such as the Baha'i.

After having submitted our request for a change in the Constitution

In December SACRE were informed that a series of changes to naming on the constitution (the National Education Union taking the places of NUT and ATL as an example) had also been proposed and SACRE was still waiting to hear from the council.

With regard to the NUT/ATL changes, Kim suggested that it would be easier for the NEU to have three generic places, rather than more specific places whose names would have to be changed later.

### **3.1 3. Collective Worship**

#### **3.2 Advice**

The SACRE's Advice on Collective Worship was updated in 2014. At the end of the year a newer version was discussed by the SACRE and approved.

#### **3.2 Determinations**

No schools applied for a Determination this year. Members reviewed and approved their Determinations process and guidance.

### **3.3 Monitoring Collective Worship & Spiritual Development**

Part of SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of Collective Worship in Lewisham schools. However this year SACRE members have been engaged in the Agreed Syllabus review so considering how best to do this has been held over to 2019.

### **3.4 Other information - Complaints**

There have been no complaints about collective worship in Lewisham schools this year.

## **4. Links with other agencies**

### **4.1 National**

Information from a number of contacts and bodies enables the SACRE to keep abreast of national initiatives and to be involved in developments.

#### **4.1.1 The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC)**

The School Improvement Officer supporting the SACRE is a member of AREIAC, as is the Deputy Chair of SACRE; information from this body informs SACRE's work.

#### **4.1.2 The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)**

Lewisham SACRE is also a member of the National Association of SACREs and its Adviser is on the Executive of that body. The Deputy Chair of SACRE attended the conference and fed back.

#### **4.1.3 The RE Council of England and Wales (REC)**

The work of the REC has been disseminated throughout the year to inform SACRE, faith communities and local schools.

### **4.2 Local**

SACRE members have links with local schools and faith communities and the local Inter Faith group. SACRE is represented on the local Holocaust Memorial Day planning group.

## **5. SACRE Arrangements**

### **5.1 Support**

The SACRE and the ASC are supported by a part time School Improvement Officer. Minutes have been taken by a minuting clerk whilst other clerking responsibilities have been covered by the RE Adviser and the Business support team in Lewisham. The London Borough of Lewisham meets costs for these posts and also provides a budget for SACRE, the ASC and the revision of the Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE has a limited budget to cover printing, stationery and minor administrative costs as well as spending on initiatives to support RE and collective worship. The budget is monitored regularly.

## **5.2 Induction arrangements for new members**

SACRE members are concerned to ensure that new members can understand SACRE's work and participate actively as soon as possible.

## **6. Other areas of work**

### **6.1 Holocaust Memorial Day**

SACRE received feedback on the Borough's Holocaust activities.

### **6.2 SACRE Constitution**

The SACRE's constitution is published on Lewisham's website.

### **6.3 Ramadan Advice to Schools**

SACRE approved their revised Ramadan Advice for circulation to Lewisham schools and placing on the Lewisham website. As in 2017 Ramadan coincided with the examination period. The Imam at the Lewisham Islamic Centre ensured prayer times were accurate and the document was circulated to schools and placed on the Lewisham website.

### **6.4 Advice on visits and visitors to schools.**

Following discussion and training for faith venues last year, advice for places of Worship on providing support to schools in relation to risk assessments and safeguarding was circulated via a number of means including at the syllabus launch and the AGM of the local Inter Faith group.

## 7. Appendices

### Appendix A MEMBERSHIP OF LEWISHAM SACRE in this reporting year.

Representatives of the following communities	Name
Baha'i	Molly Ballard, Afonso Veiga
Buddhism	David Hutchens
Free Church (Assemblies of God)	Pastor Nick Hughes
Free Church (Assemblies of God) <i>substitute</i>	Jeronne Rudder
Free Church (Baptist)	Rev Carol Bostridge
Free Churches (URC)	Rev Raymond Singh
Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala, Narmadha Saravanan ,Mrs Srivanathan
Humanism	Luke Donnellan, Hester Brown
Independent Evangelical	Nigel Desborough
Islam	Nadia Ali, Khadijah Knight
Judaism	Gerald Rose, Joan Goldberg
Pentecostal	Layo Afuape
Pentecostal <i>substitute</i>	Cheryl Abbam
Roman Catholic	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rotherham
Sikhism	Gurbakhsh Singh Garcha (now vacant)
C of E Diocesan Board	Shaun Burns (Deputy Chair)
C of E teacher Secondary	Vacant
C of E teacher Primary	Karen Hansen.
C of E Governor	vacant
C of E Minister	Paul Wynter
ATL / NEU	Kim Knappett
NUT /NEU	Kim Griffiths
Academy / Free School	Vacant
NUT / NEU	
NAS/UWT	Pamela Phillips / Mandy Keeble
Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Judith Purkiss
LA members	Councillor Jacq Paschoud
	Councillor Tauseef Anwar
	Councillor Hilary Moore
Primary School Governors	Isaac Sackey Lynda DeMarquet
Sec' School Governors	Adelire Adedeji
Representative of Executive Director of Education	Kate Bond / Angela Scattergood
Young Mayor Team	C/o Katy Brown & Malcolm Ball
RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin
SACRE Minute Clerk	Stephen Sealy

## **Appendix B**

### **The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body that advises the Council on the provision of religious education and collective worship.

A SACRE is made up of four groups in order to bring a wide range of interests and talents to this work, and to reflect local faith communities.

These groups are:

- Group A: Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and representatives from a wide range of other faiths and beliefs representative of Lewisham's communities.
- Group B: The Church of England.
- Group C: Teachers' professional associations.
- Group D: Elected members of the Council, with representatives of the Executive Director for Children and Young People and governors of Lewisham schools.

Members of these groups are nominated by their respective organisations.

#### ***What the SACRE does***

Lewisham SACRE meets approximately four to five times annually.

The meetings are often held in a local place of worship in order to enhance members' knowledge and understanding of faiths other than their own.

At the meetings, members discuss issues relating to religious education in Lewisham schools and other educational establishments and monitor the delivery of that education.

We develop ways of supporting schools in delivering the religious education syllabus. We develop and maintain links with local and national faith communities.

SACRE also produces advice to support schools at times of local, national or international difficulty.

We welcome contact and visits from representatives of interested organisations or individuals to our meetings.

## Appendix C

### Distribution of this report

The report is made available electronically to:

The Department for Education

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Lewisham SACRE members

Lewisham Council, Elected Members

Executive Director of Children and Young People

Teaching Unions in Lewisham

SACRE Nominating Bodies

The main Faith Groups in Lewisham,  
including Catford & Bromley Synagogue, & Lewisham Islamic Centre

Ecumenical Borough Deans

All schools in Lewisham

Lewisham College

Goldsmiths' College (University of London)

Lewisham Libraries

Lewisham LA Website

Lewisham Inter Faith Forum

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