

Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2017-2018

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Introduction from the Chair of Westminster SACRE

It was a busy year for us on SACRE, as we finalised our work on our reviewed Agreed Syllabus, and then launched it in March this year. We were privileged to be able to hold our launch at Westminster Abbey's Education Centre, which was a wonderful celebration of the work everyone had put into the syllabus, and the high profile that RE continues to have in a borough rich in religious and cultural heritage. Justine Ball from Hampshire led some really useful training for RE leaders and SACRE members, and we are grateful to Hampshire LA for all their support in enabling us to have an urban version of *Living Difference III*, fit for our diverse context.

RE continues to thrive in Westminster, as can be seen in the GCSE and A-Level results, and in the high profile RE continues to have across our schools. In the summer term, Headteachers were extremely helpful in providing us with data about withdrawal from both RE and Collective Worship, many giving some useful commentary about this. Withdrawal rates across the borough (from the data we were given) appear to be very low, and where parents express concerns about lessons, trips, events or acts of worship, school staff are handling these sensitively and respectfully. We are very proud of our schools and their ability to do this so well.

Three of us attended the NASACRE conference this year, at Merchant Taylor's Hall in the City of London. It was NASACRE's 25th anniversary and a great celebration. Members brought back ideas shared by other SACREs around the country (such as a Youth SACRE), and we are enjoying discussing how some of these might enhance our work with Westminster schools even further.

As a SACRE, we discussed in detail the interim report by the Commission on RE, and looked forward to what some of the recommendations might be.

In an ever-changing and uncertain world, we continue to draw hope both from the rich history of faith and belief within our borough, and from a future shaped by our pupils, who show great passion, but also great sensitivity and cohesiveness. RE has such a crucial part to play in this, and we are glad to be able to support that where we can.

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 2017 – 2018. 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 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 which was reviewed by the Agreed Syllabus Conference over 2016-17 was finalised in the autumn term of 2017-18 and approved by the Cabinet Member in March 2018.

The LAS was then formally launched on 19th March 2018 at the Westminster Abbey Education Centre. The launch was also combined with a training session for RE teachers which was carried out by a Primary RE Adviser from Hampshire County Council.

The new Westminster Agreed Syllabus: *Living Difference III* can be found on the Westminster SACRE [website](#) 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 had been established for teachers in the Tri-Borough of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham. Issues addressed in 2017-18 were assessment in RE and Collective Worship.

1.4 Matters Discussed During the Year

- *State of the Nation Report: A Report on RE Provision within Secondary Schools* in England by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and the National Association of Teachers of RE;
- Consultation on *Interim Report on Religious Education for All* by the Commission on Religious Education. Westminster SACRE discussed the five recommendations offered by the report, following which Chair Emily Norman submitted a joint response to the consultation on behalf of Westminster SACRE before the deadline on 4th December.

1.5 Complaints Concerning RE

No complaints were received by SACRE in 2017-18.

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 can also be found as Appendix 5.2 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.

In 2017-18, Westminster SACRE conducted research into the level of pupil withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship across the borough. The purpose of this was to ascertain how Westminster SACRE could support schools better going forward and to see how Westminster compared to other local authorities nationally. The results of this local survey showed very low numbers of withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship across Westminster, which demonstrated good practice and inclusiveness in Westminster schools.

2.2 Determinations

There were no new applications for a Determination in 2017-18.

The Determination previously granted to Hallfield Primary was due to lapse on 28th February 2018. A determination renewal application was received from Hallfield Primary in the autumn term, following which Westminster SACRE arranged for two members, Cllr Antonia Cox and Jay Harman, to visit the school and report back to SACRE before their application could be considered. The visit took place on 30th January, and the school's application to renew their Determination was considered by Westminster SACRE at the spring term meeting on 26th February. The decision was that the school's Determination should be renewed.

There are currently three schools with a Determination:

School Name	Date determination granted
George Eliot Primary School	26.02.2014
Queen's Park Primary School	26.02.2014
Hallfield Primary School	28.02.2018

Determinations are for a period of five years. The Determinations granted to George Eliot Primary School and Queen's Park Primary School will therefore be lapsing in February 2019.

2.3 Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

No complaints were received by SACRE in 2017-18.

3. Links with Other Bodies

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

Graham Buckle and Ven Chueh Yun Shih represented Westminster SACRE at the NASACRE AGM and Conference *Stronger Together - Celebrating the Power of Community* in London on 24th May 2018. Emily Norman, Chair of Westminster SACRE, and Lesley Prior, SACRE Consultant for Westminster, also attended.

The Conference celebrated the silver jubilee of NASACRE and its championship of the work of SACREs in support of schools and communities across the country for 25 years.

The key note speaker at the Conference was Dr Vanessa Ogden, CEO of Mulberry Schools Trust and Headteacher of Mulberry School for Girls. In her speech, she covered the following themes: the character of social change and its benefits and challenges, the role of RE in schools, its nature and purpose in a harmonious, enlightened and prosperous society, and everyone's responsibility to the nation's children.

Full details and copies of the relevant presentations and speeches can be found at: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2018>.

4. SACRE Arrangements

SACRE Meetings were held on the following dates:

- 30th November 2017 at Hallfield Primary School, Hallfield Estate, London, W2 6JJ
- 26th February 2018 at St Matthew's CE Primary School, 18 Old Pye Street, London, SW1P 2DG
- 7th June 2018 at Edward Wilson Primary School, Senior Street, W2 5TL

In May 2018, Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson, SACRE member from Committee D, stepped down from her membership due to other commitments. Cllr James Spencer was appointed to replace her.

At the meeting on 7th June 2018, it was announced that Edward Thornley, SACRE member from Committee B, was leaving the UK and hence was resigning from his membership.

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 – 2017-18

Committee A – Faiths and Denominations

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

Committee B – Church of England

Edward Thornley – resigned in June 2018

Emily Norman (Chair)

Graham Buckle

James Hearn

John Hicks (Vice Chair)

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 Ruth Bush

Cllr Antonia Cox

Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson – resigned in May 2018

Cllr James Spencer – appointed in May 2018

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 Collective

5.3 KS4 and KS5 RE Results 2017-18

GCSE 2018 Religious Studies

	GCSE Religious Studies										2018	2018
										Total	9-5	9-4
2134004 Harris St John's Wood	6	5	8	3		2		1		25	88%	96%
2134628 Grey Coat Hospital*	20	30	28	26	14	10	12	9	1	150	79%	85%
2134687 Westminster City*		2	3	11	16	14	28	18	5	97	33%	47%
2134723 St Augustines High School	2	14	20	24	31	18	23	11	8	151	60%	72%
2134809 St Georges*	7	13	21	30	21	19	16	4	1	132	70%	84%
2136905 Paddington Academy*	3	4	5	5	4	4				25	84%	100%
2136906 Westminster Academy*	1	3	6	3	3	1	2	1		20	80%	85%
2136907 King Solomon Academy*	1	11	15	13	10	4	4			58	86%	93%
2136908 Pimlico Academy*	2	4	2	9	7	2	2	2		30	80%	87%
Total KC	42	86	108	124	106	74	87	46	15	688	68%	78%

A Levels 2018 Religious Studies

	GCE A Religious Studies (AA)									2018	2018	2017	2017
	*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total		A*-C	A*-E	A*-C	A*-E
2134628 Grey Coat Hospital*	2	5	4	3		1		15		93%	100%	85%	100%
2134673 St Marylebone*	1	2	2	2				7		100%	100%	70%	100%
2134687 Westminster City*		2	4	1				7		100%	100%	100%	100%
2134723 St Augustine's High School				4	2	1		7		57%	100%	50%	100%
2136905 Paddington Academy*			2	1				3		100%	100%	100%	100%
2136908 Pimlico Academy*		1	1					2		100%	100%	n/a	n/a
Total WC	3	10	13	11	2	2		41		90%	100%	85%	100%