

**London Borough of Waltham Forest**

**SACRE**

**(Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education)**



Annual Report  
2017-2018



Waltham Forest SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs



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## 1 Overview & introduction from the Chair of SACRE

Yet again this year I wish to start this forward by thanking the efforts of our education directorate to ensure that our SACRE may continue to carry out its functions into the future. The changes enacted by the present Government have reduced the education support budget to the bone for local authorities, and these changes have had a major impact on the support that many SACRE's are provided with. I just wanted to start by thanking our council leader and cabinet lead in conjunction with our educational professionals in continuing to support the work that we do in promoting and supporting community and faith cohesion in our schools in what is amongst one of the most diverse local authorities in the country. Our council made a very magnanimous gesture in stating it wished to work equally with the academy and free schools in the borough along with those that remain as maintained and I trust in turn they will all value and use the resources and non-statutory advice provided in our soon to be published and promoted agreed syllabus for Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 to promote and extend religious knowledge and cultural education in the borough.

I hope by now you will have seen that Waltham Forest has been greatly privileged to be declared the first London Borough of Culture for 2019 and this I am sure will bring much to help us all extend the opportunities to explore and appreciate the many gifts and talents that our religions have brought to our cultural mix. Before I get kicked in the shins I must also qualify this by saying we have endeavoured to value and explain the position of people who are either agnostics, atheists, humanists and those without any type of faith represented in our very culturally rich community. The many public and LA sponsored events that take place during the year show the tip of the iceberg which is under the water line obscuring all the work and commitment contributed by our faith and secular groups to enhance and promote the pride and peace we have in Waltham Forest. The borough does sincerely and practically live up to the William Morris Motto which the borough treasures as its own in that "Fellowship is life and the lack of fellowship is death". We continue to live and grow together and long may it continue.

The past year has been a full one for me with yet another trip to the Rainbow Nation of South Africa but this time concentrating more on the spectacular wildlife, amazingly beautiful countryside and the geology. Most memorable was visiting an Ostrich farm with all the poor birds looking totally disgruntled and huddled together in the deluge of rain during the delivery of the first major rainfall on the Cape for the last five years. The local paper described it as Biblical amounts of rain and indeed just on four inches of rain fell in one day. To meet with the elephants was also astounding especially the way they sussed out who they could steal all the food we had for them in one go. Not of course to mention the wonderful people would be so rude of me and especially the Township Church which we visited for Sunday Mass which had the most spectacular and moving singing all led by just a drum and tambourine, it was wonderful when they thought the celebrant had spent too long speaking they just all spontaneously broke out in song and that was that. A country that has a bright future as long as they get on top of the endemic corruption and achieve just land reallocation.

Finally, can I pay tribute to all the SACRE members who come out to our at least six meetings a year, many held on cold and inhospitable winter nights, it's a great pleasure meeting and working with them all. I'd also like to pay thanks to our support, particularly from Governor Services and our SACRE Clerks. I thank Peter Dawe for his long and valued service to our SACRE as he stood down this year as a member and vice chair. We all wish him all our best wishes for the future and finally but not least to Mike Style as he takes up the post of vice chair.

Looking forward to next year and the launch of the revised Agreed Syllabus, it's going to be no less a challenge but one we all yet again relish, because good RE contributes to good communities living alongside and with each other.

I have great pleasure in commending the following report to you.

Kind Regards

Ted Cooke

Chair, Waltham Forest

## 2 Religious Education (RE)

### **RE's contribution to education of children and young people.**

Effective teaching of RE makes a significant contribution to the education of children and young people.

Waltham Forest has a rich heritage of culture and diversity. This is continuing today in an era of globalisation and an increasingly interdependent world. Religion and belief for many people forms a crucial part of their culture and identity. Religion and beliefs have become more visible in public life locally, nationally and internationally. The impact of religion on society and public life is constantly brought to public attention through extensive media coverage. The rapid pace of development in scientific and medical technologies and the environmental debate continue to present new issues which raise religious, moral and social questions. The internet enables learning and encourages participation in public discussion of issues in a new and revolutionary way." [https:// www.gov.uk/government/publications/ religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010).

RE contributes to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of all children and young people when taught well in schools, and through this makes a significant contribution to helping "pupils and students develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain." Through practicing the skills of tolerance and mutual respect as seen in fundamental British values, RE provides schools with opportunities to develop pupils and students learning, understanding around people they will meet, work and live alongside. It can help schools build up resilience skills within the lives of children and young people.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2017>

### **Aims**

The curriculum for RE aims to ensure that through following the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus, all pupils:

- a. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
  - describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals;
  - identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews;
  - appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.
  
- b. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
  - explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities;
  - express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues;
  - appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion or a worldview.

c. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively;
- enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all;
- Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives

## **2.1 RE in the school curriculum**

RE is a statutory subject of the school curriculum of maintained schools. Academies and free schools are contractually required through the terms of their funding to make provision for the teaching of RE to all pupils on the school roll. Alongside the subject's contribution to pupils' mental, cognitive and linguistic development, RE offers distinctive opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. RE lessons should offer a structured and safe space during curriculum time for reflection, discussion, dialogue and debate.

Lessons should also allow for timely and sensitive responses to be made to unforeseen events of a religious, moral or philosophical nature, whether local, national or global.

### **Professional Development for Teachers**

The SACRE supported the introduction of 3 Faiths Forum, (now known as Faith and Belief Forum) to provide training on the delivery of religious education to teachers. SACRE is pleased to support this development to deliver an RE curriculum that enables children and young people to address key issues of belief and identity in a safe and secure learning space. The forum is endorsed and supported by both the local authority and the SACRE. The major part of their involvement in schools is planned for 2017/18.

Faith and Belief Forum have been working with a group of 10 primary and secondary schools to develop an interactive and interfaith approach to teaching and learning of RE. Their approach is based on developing school to school effectiveness. Their work will continue with teachers and schools paired to develop empathy, dialogue and literacy about the beliefs and values of themselves and others through the RE and wider curriculum.

## **2.2 Local Agreed Syllabus**

### **Key Stages 3,4&5**

The SACRE began a review of the Agreed Syllabus (AGS) for Key Stages 3, 4 & 5 during 2017/18 to present and recommend a newly reformed syllabus to the SACRE Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for publication. This revision of the Waltham Forest Agreed Syllabus is based on the same approach to RE as outlined in its predecessors. It is 'new' in that, building on the experience of the last five years, it:

- draws on key documents that have been issued since 2010
- follows the advice of the non-statutory National Framework that non-religious philosophies and worldviews should be part of the scope of RE programmes.
- follows the advice of the non-statutory National Framework for Religious Education where it states that 50% of time in RE should be in the study of Christianity
- incorporates clear strategies for progression in learning and identifies steps of progress

## **2.3 Standards in Religious Education**

### **KEY STAGE 4 GCSE 2017 FULL COURSE**

**For full statistical details, please see Appendix C of this report.**

The percentage of pupils entered for GCSE full course in WF was 55% in 2017; 1362 pupils. 69% of those pupils entered achieved a pass mark of A – C (national average was 70%).

### **KEY STAGE 4 GCSE 2017 SHORT COURSE**

**For full statistical details, please see Appendix C of this report.**

The numbers of students entered for specific short courses varies and many schools do not enter any students at all, preferring to focus on the full course.

### **Key Stage 5 GCSE A/S Level RS examination results**

**For full statistical details, please see Appendix C of this report.**

The AS level results 2017 show that 50 students were entered from three schools.

### **KS5 GCSE A Level Results**

**For full statistical details, please see Appendix C of this report.**

Six schools presented a total of 72 pupils with figures varying from 2 to 23. The results in the schools varied with one school achieving an average point score well above the national average; however that particular school presented only four pupils. The differences in the number of entrants and results are marked but one conclusion that can be drawn is that the three schools with the highest number of entrants performed better in the higher and middle ranges (B & C) of scores. The three schools with the smaller number of entrants performed better in the higher (A\*- B) range.

Please note the exam figures are the published figures for exams taken in 2017 as the 2018 results are not finally and verified and then published by the DfE or any other agencies until January or February of the following year.

### **3 Collective Act of Worship**

SACRE published a revised 'Advice to schools on Collective Act of Worship'. The revised advice provided more guidance to schools, and other particular advice to governors on their roles and responsibilities. SACRE has not received any requests for determinations relating to collective worship or complaints about how collective worship is delivered in school.

SACRE also published revised advice to schools and colleagues on observance of the holy month of 'Ramadan'.

### **4. Links with other Agencies**

SACRE has enjoyed links with other agencies, inter-Faith Groups and Newham SACRE.

SACRE has kept up with important developments in education and received reports and presentations from within the Waltham Forest Education Service and beyond, these include:

In January 2018, the Council received a presentation from the borough's "Prevent" lead officer. The suggestions were well-received. The SACRE also advises the local authority via its relationship with the school effectiveness advisor. There have been no requests from government, or from other statutory bodies, for advice

In June 2018, The Local Authority Designated Officer for Child Protection and Safeguarding (LADO) made a very welcome presentation on the LA's approach to safeguarding children and young people in education in Waltham Forest.

**5 Waltham Forest SACRE Meeting Dates 2017 - 2018**

**Autumn 2017**

*11 October 2017 - AGM*

22 November 2017

**Spring 2018**

24 January 2018

21 March 2018

**Summer 2018**

23 May 2018

4 July 2018

## Appendix A – Constitution of SACRE

### **Constitution of the Waltham Forest Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE]**

#### **1. Defined Terms / Acronyms:**

Adviser	The LA's professional RE technical lead
Agreed Syllabus	The approved RE syllabus adopted by the LA
DfE	Department for Education
HMI	Her Majesty's Inspector
LA	The Local Authority known as Waltham Forest Council.
Members	Nominated and approved SACRE person eligible to vote
Ofsted	Office for Standards in education- the sector inspectorate
Other Persons	Any member of public eligible to join SACRE but does not hold voting right solutions for SACRE work topics
Representative	The LA's professional representative from Children's Services
RE	Religious Education
Working Parties	A delegated group from within SACRE tasked with recommending

#### **2. The purpose of the Waltham Forest SACRE is:-**

1. **To advise the Local Authority (LA)** on matters connected with collective worship in community schools and the religious education (RE) to be taught in accordance with the local agreed syllabus in community and voluntary aided schools. SACRE also provides advice to Academy, Independent and free schools within the LA boundary.
2. SACRE may respond to other matters regarding religious education which the borough may refer to the SACRE, or as the SACRE may see fit e.g. challenging the provider with regards to opportunities to study the subject, training of staff, and standards of achievement.
3.
  - a. SACRE is the local body to agree a "determination", for a particular school, on application by the Headteacher. Whilst the Law requires the majority of acts of collective worship in schools, to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, the Act also gives to SACRE the power to amend this requirement by a determination and put in its place an alternative form of collective worship, for some or all pupils.
  - b. SACRE may appoint a sub-committee to exercise this role which will consist of the chair, the vice chair and one representative of each SACRE group.

4. **To work with and actively support the Borough** in implementing the Waltham Forest Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
3. The work of SACRE will be achieved in partnership with the interested parties by:-
  - a) Being given information about the existing provision for RE in schools, i.e. levels of staffing, resources, curriculum used, progress data, achievement and results.
  - b) Providing support for RE within the LA and to schools, subject to available resources
  - c) Publicising SACRE's role and function to Headteachers, Governors, Teachers, Parents, Academies, Free Schools, Independent Schools and the wider Faith Communities and the local community as a whole.
  - d) Advising those in c) about the nature of RE, its legal requirement in schools and their responsibilities for ensuring its provision.
  - e) Supporting and fostering community cohesion, citizenship and interfaith and cultural links
  - f) Encouraging members of SACRE to lead and participate in training activities
  - g) Advising resources for the support of the WF Agreed Syllabus and the promotion of good citizenship, community cohesion and interfaith links
  - h) The Council keeping up to date with national developments from HMI, Ofsted, and DfE with regard to the development and teaching of RE and provision for collective worship
  - i) Offering advice, support and participation in the Borough's complaints procedure when appropriate/on request.
  - j) Discussing in a local context national policy, in relation to RE.
5. **(i) To publish an annual report** (as per Circular 1/94) which shall:-
  - a) Specify any matters in respect of which SACRE has given advice to the borough
  - b) Broadly describe the nature of advice given
  - c) Where any matter was not referred to the SACRE, give SACRE's reason for offering advice
  - d) Report on the public examination results in RE / RS for the previous school year
  - e) Report on activities undertaken to promote and develop RE and collective worship in the borough's schools and community
  - f) Describe work towards the production of/ review of/modification of the Waltham Forest Agreed Syllabus
  - g) Describe work done by SACRE to promote community cohesion in the LA.

(ii) SACRE may appoint a sub-committee to carry out this function which must include representatives of all four groups.

### 3. Membership

The Waltham Forest Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) shall consist of representative members appointed by Waltham Forest Council (the Local Authority) to represent:

- Group 'A': Christians and other religious denominations as will appropriately reflect the religious traditions of those within the Local Authority (See appendix A)
- Group 'B': The Church of England
- Group 'C': Teachers Associations Recognised by the Authority and Other educational establishments
- Group 'D': The Local Authority and non-faith organisations

The Membership of the SACRE will be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the autumn term.

#### **4. Composition and quorum**

All Groups the composition shall be as presented in Appendix A of this document.

Meetings of the SACRE shall be quorate when at least one representative member from each of the four representative groups is present; four representatives. If the meeting is not quorate, the meeting can continue, but decisions would have to be ratified at the next meeting of the SACRE.

*A Working Party meeting does not constitute a formal SACRE meeting (see paragraph 6).*

#### **5. Co-opted Members**

The representative groups on the SACRE may co-opt other persons for such purposes and such length of time as the representative groups on SACRE decide. Co-opted members may resign at any time and may be removed by representative Groups at any time.

#### **6. Working Parties**

SACRE may establish and appoint members to Working Parties which may include non-members of SACRE that have the expertise to contribute to a particular subject/topic. Any established Working Party will have a 'terms of reference' for its work leading to recommendations to SACRE rather than the delegation of decision making. The composition for a working party will include a member representative from each Group of the constitution of SACRE.

#### **7. Position of Chair and Vice Chair of SACRE**

The elections of the Chair and Vice Chair of SACRE shall be conducted annually by the representative members of the SACRE, at its first meeting of the council cycle.

Each represented member will have one vote for the purpose of electing a Chair and Vice Chair.

The Chair and Vice Chair of SACRE will be elected from amongst members of Groups A, B, C and D. If there is more than one candidate for either position, the candidate receiving the most votes shall be elected.

In the absence of a Chair and vice chair', an executive member shall be elected to lead the SACRE for that meeting.

The prime duties of the Chair, with the support of the Vice Chair are to:

- Manage the meetings of SACRE
- Attend meetings with the LA as necessary
- Represent the WF SACRE to other bodies (e.g. NASACRE) as required and
- To lead on any other matters as agreed by SACRE

**8. Advisor to SACRE**

The LA will allocate appropriate advisor time to the SACRE. The specific responsibilities of this advisor are to:

- Provide advice to the SACRE and any Working Parties on professional issues
- Advise and update SACRE members on any new government guidance or policy documents
- Support SACRE to carry out its role of monitoring and supporting schools within the LA for the delivery of the RE and Collective Worship curriculums.
- Provide updates and information to the LA as necessary

**9. Voting Procedures in SACRE**

On any issue to be decided by the SACRE, except as provided in Section 7 paragraph 2, only the four representative groups shall be entitled to a vote and each group shall have a single vote.

Individual representative members cannot vote separately. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote; nor are the advisor(s) to SACRE.

All issues shall be decided by a simple majority vote, there shall not be a casting vote.

All decisions taken by the SACRE, including the election of Chair and Vice Chair, shall be recorded by the Clerk in the minutes of the meeting.

**10. Voting procedures within each Representative Group**

Before any representative group casts its single vote on any issue to be decided by the SACRE it shall meet to discuss the issue. The decision of the

representative group shall be determined by a simple majority vote in which each member of the group has one vote.

Issues shall be decided by a simple majority vote and there shall not be a casting vote. In the case of a tied vote the group shall abstain from voting on the issue in SACRE; this abstention should be recorded by the Clerk.

Where there is an instance when a meeting is not quorate, votes may be polled via email to the Clerk to SACRE. A written proposal must be provided to members in advance of this vote requiring a yes/no vote only.

**11. Terms of Office for Representative Members**

The representative members shall hold office until such members' terms of office come to an end or they resign or they become otherwise ineligible for membership.

When a vacancy arises, the LA must attempt to appoint a replacement member to the SACRE to represent the same group as the retiring member.

Any representative/ member may resign at any time.

**12. Declarations of Interest**

Interests, whether personal or prejudicial, should be declared annually. If a member has a prejudicial/personal interest in a particular, one-off, agenda item they should declare that interest and withdraw from the meeting and take no part in the decision making process.

**13. Disqualification**

Members or co-opted members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings without a satisfactory explanation will have their membership reviewed by the SACRE. The Local Authority may remove any representative or co-opted member that has failed to attend three consecutive meetings without valid reason.

**14. Administrative arrangements**

The SACRE must utilise its allocated funding to secure a Clerk to SACRE that will:

- Draft an agenda in accordance to requirements and legislation no less than 21 days prior to the meeting
- The agenda must be distributed to all members no less than seven days in advance of the listed meeting; all information shall be sent at least electronically and in hard format as necessary
- The minutes of each meeting shall be produced and approved with the Chair and Clerk within 20 working days of the meeting, the Clerk shall distribute these minutes to all members electronically

- The minutes of each meeting shall be listed on the agenda of the subsequent meeting for approval and shall be re issued to all members with the agenda for the forthcoming listed meeting
- Maintain an attendance register of attendance at SACRE and advise on attendance matters as detailed in point 13 of the constitution
- Publish all documents relating to the SACRE on the LA's website for public scrutiny

**15. Financial Arrangements**

The LA will provide the SACRE with an allocation of funding for the purposes of maintaining the work of the committee, securing professional advice as required, resourcing syllabus development and maintaining an overview of the provision in schools.

**16. Disputes and Complaints**

The intention of SACRE is to be collaborative and collective to ensure that no particular sector or member is unduly favoured within Waltham Forest. Any disputes or complaints shall be debated and resolved by SACRE at its meetings. Should any party/parties feel that matters have not been satisfactorily resolved they should reference the Council's Complaints Policy and Procedures for guidance.

## APPENDIX B      Current composition of LBWF SACRE

### Group A

#### **Other Christian denominations and other faiths represented in Waltham Forest**

One representative of Christian denominations and other faiths within the local community. Currently for LBWF this includes:

*Other Christian denominations e.g. Quaker, Methodist, Baptist*

African Caribbean Free Church	1 representative
Bah'ai	1 representative
Buddhism	1 representative - Mr Pilling
Free Church	1 representative - Rev Femi
Cole-Njie	
Hinduism	1 representative
Islam	4 representatives - Mr Akhtar, Mr Looch, Mr
Qureshi	
Judaism	1 representative - Mr Braham
Roman Catholic	1 representative

Sikhism	1 representative	- Mr Tarsem
Bhogal		
Pagan	1 representative	- Mr Stygal

#### Group B

The Church of England

Appointed by the Diocese of Chelmsford Education Committee with the Synod of the Waltham Forest Deanery

4 representatives – Mr Cooke, Fr Summers, Ms Waller and Fr

Walsh.

#### Group C

The Teachers and Educators of the borough

Representatives are generally appointed or nominated by the JCC or the sponsoring organisation, and can include:

Headteacher (may be either Primary or Secondary)	1 representative	
Early years	1 representative	- Ms Lloyd
Primary	1 representative	- Ms Soar
Special schools	1 representative	
A Primary Academy representative	1 representative	- Ms Jackson
A Secondary Academy representative & Mr Loblack	2 representatives	- Ms Joseph
Secondary School teachers	2 representatives	- Ms
Yaquooob Mr Lloyd		
KS5	1 representative	- Mr O'Neil
Higher Education	1 representative	
A School Governor	1 representative	- Mr
Whitehead		

#### Group D

The London Borough of Waltham Forest and the community

Elected Members

4 representatives – Cllrs Rehman, Sweeden, Mbachu and Lyons.

LBWF Director of Learning (or appropriate nominee)

1 representative – Mr Kilgallon

Humanist non-faith representative

1 representative – Ms Kaufman

#### Additionally

RE Advisor to WF SACRE	non-voting	– Ms McFadyen
Waltham Forest Faith Community Forum	non-voting	- Ms Smith
Waltham Forest Faith and Community Officer (Met Police)	non-voting	- PC S McDonald