



Camden Standing  
Advisory Council on  
Religious Education

Annual Report  
2015-2016

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## **Introduction from the Chair of Camden SACRE**

It seems that the task of interreligious cohesion in our world becomes ever more challenging. In our own city, community relations have been put under new strain this year by the vote to leave the European Union. There has been a sharp increase in religiously-motivated hate crime, not least in our borough of Camden, and teachers report that this reaches inevitably into the classroom and playground. But the extraordinary strength of interfaith relations in London continue to be demonstrated, not least in the election of the first Muslim mayor of a Western European capital city.

Camden SACRE continues to do what it can within the resources available to support schools in our borough in managing the challenges that a diverse multifaith society raises and to prepare our young people to be citizens of a religiously pluralist (as well as complexly secular) world city. We hosted a wide ranging discussion in February with the former Secretary of State for Education Charles Clarke who advocates a radical overhaul of religious education and collective worship in schools. With events like this we hope to resource teachers and governors to reflect on their own school's response to the needs of their students and the troubling events of the wider world.

But we also seek to be practical and responsive to particular needs. This year we have provided new guidelines to help schools navigate the complicated issues of provision for prayer and the observance of religious fasts, not least as Ramadan falls during the busy summer exam season. Moving forward we hope to give more attention to resources for inclusive collective worship and to places of worship suitable for school visits. This report gives more information about these activities along with full details of our regular duties carried out in the academic year 2015-16.

**The Revd Canon Dr James Walters**

**Chair 2015-2016**

## **Background**

This report summarises the activities of Camden Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 2015 – 2016. 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 continues to be composed in the light of guidance from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) on the format of SACRE annual reports.

## **1. Religious Education**

### **1.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus**

After due process, the Local Authority agreed to adopt the Hampshire RE Syllabus – Living Difference. Work was carried out to adapt the syllabus to make it specific to Camden. The content of the syllabus and the methodology behind it were not amended, as these were the key factors in agreeing to adopt the syllabus. The new syllabus became the statutory Agreed Syllabus for all non-denominational schools in Camden from September 2012.

Materials were sent to schools in July 2012. Each school received hard copies of the Agreed Syllabus, plus CD versions. Schools also received a primary or secondary handbook, as appropriate.

Appropriate advice, support and training were offered to primary and secondary teachers to enable them to implement the new syllabus. The feedback was very positive.

Support continues to be provided to subject leaders via access to the Hampshire RE website and associated Moodle platform where there are many additional resources, including teaching plans.

### **1.2 Standards in RE**

The school visit programme continued and is a useful way of sampling approaches to the subject in a range of schools across Camden. SACRE members and the SACRE Consultant offer school based colleagues advice, help and support during these visits, 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**

The focus for the year was on continuing to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and to offer advice on providing appropriate teaching and learning activities for RE.

In addition, SACRE organised a keynote lecture for all stakeholders in RE in Camden as well as other invited guests. The Rt Hon Charles Clarke, former Secretary of State for Education was the keynote speaker. Charles is currently

Visiting Professor in Politics at the University of East Anglia and also a Visiting Professor in Politics and Faith at the University of Lancaster. The University has established a department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, within which he is doing some teaching and lecturing. With Professor Linda Woodhead, also at the University of Lancaster, he has worked on a paper on the future of religion in schools and this was the main subject of his address. The full paper can be found at:

<http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>

The lecture was hosted by the Chair of SACRE and held at the fascinating Faith Centre at the London School of Economics on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016 between 6-7.30pm. It was an essential event for anyone involved in RE.

#### **1.4 Complaints concerning RE**

No complaints were received by SACRE in 2015-2016.

## **2. Collective Worship**

### **2.1 Advice on Collective Worship**

SACRE has produced short and clear advice for schools on Collective Worship and distributed this to schools (see appendices).

Visits to schools by SACRE members accompanied by the SACRE Consultant and/or the Chair of SACRE have continued. 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. There are currently 13 schools with a Determination.

At the SACRE Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015, members considered and approved an application for the renewal of a determination from the following school:

- Primrose Hill Primary School

As part of its application, the school shared a short film featuring a song it had created to promote awareness of the refugee crisis called 'Where Can We Go?'. This featured in the Act of Collective Worship observed by SACRE members. It can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMR7nnD\\_l8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMR7nnD_l8o)

At the SACRE Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016, members considered and approved an application for the renewal of a determination from the following school:

- Brecknock School

Applications from Beckford Primary School and Rhyl Primary School were considered at the same meeting, but no renewals were granted. SACRE members

had not been able to make a visit to Beckford Primary school to observe Collective Worship. The school was encouraged to make another application at the next SACRE Meeting, once such a visit had taken place. The application from Rhyl Primary School lacked formal ratification by the school's Governing Body. This school was also encouraged to make another application at the next SACRE Meeting.

At the SACRE Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016, members considered and approved an application for the renewal of a determination from the following school:

- Rhyl Primary School

### **Schools with Determinations and Date of Review**

- Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children 02/17
- Kingsgate Primary School 02/17
- Christopher Hatton Primary School 06/17
- Edith Neville Primary School 02/18
- Brookfield Primary School 06/18
- Eleanor Palmer Primary School 06/19
- Gospel Oak Primary School 11/19
- Hampstead School 06/20
- Torriano Infant School 06/20
- Torriano Junior School 06/20
- Primrose Hill Primary School 10/20
- Brecknock Primary School 02/21
- Rhyl Primary School 05/21

Some schools have determinations which have expired but have been invited to renew these.

### **2.3 Complaints Concerning Collective Worship**

No complaints were received by SACRE.

## **3. Other Matters**

### **3.1 Spaces for Prayer and Reflection in Schools**

At the SACRE Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016, members discussed guidance on the above issued to schools by the LB of Harrow SACRE. It was agreed that SACRE would create similar guidance for Camden schools and a working group was set up to prepare this. Members include Shahanaz Begum, Cllrs Roy and Tomlinson and the Reverend James Walters.

### **3.2 Ramadan Guidance**

At the SACRE Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016, members discussed providing Ramadan guidance for schools as in the next few years it falls during the summer term and therefore the period of public examinations. It was decided that it would

also be useful to provide guidance about fasting in other religious traditions, particularly Judaism, within the same document. It was agreed that SACRE would create an appropriate briefing document for Camden schools and a working group was set up to prepare this. Members included Shahanaz Begum, Cllr Rosenberg, Amanda Szewczyk-Radley and the Reverend James Walters.

#### **4. Links with Other Bodies**

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

Reverend James Walters, Chair of SACRE, represented Camden at the NASACRE AGM and Conference at Central Methodist Hall in London on 17th May 2016.

Full details and copies of the relevant presentations can be found at:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2016/2016-materials>

Login details are required to access these presentations, and can be obtained from the clerk.

There were two key note speakers.

The Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE, formerly President of the Family Division of the High Court was the first female Lord Justice of Appeal and until 2004, was the highest-ranking female judge in the United Kingdom. She has chaired many high profile enquiries and inquests. Baroness Butler-Sloss served as Chair for the recently published **Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life**. See this link for details: <http://www.corab.org.uk>

Professor Adam Dinham is Professor of Faith and Public Policy at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is also Chair of the British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group (Socrel), Professor of Religious Literacy, Diakonhjemmet University College, Oslo, Norway and Honorary Stephenson Professor of Leadership, Religion & Society, Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies, Sheffield University, UK. With Martha Shaw, Professor Dinham is the co-author of **RE for REal: The Future of Teaching and Learning about Belief**. See this link for details: <http://www.gold.ac.uk/faithsunit/reforreal/>

If SACRE members would like to hear their speeches from the NASACRE AGM/Conference, then they will need to login to the NASACRE website to gain access to a podcast.

The Rt Hon Charles Clarke' speaker at last year's NASACRE AGM is now Patron of NASACRE and attended this year's event too. He participated in a panel session with other speakers at the end of the day.

Lesley Prior, the SACRE Consultant for Camden, is former Chair of NASACRE (2013-15) and now Assistant to the NASACRE Executive Group. She also attended the Conference and AGM.

#### **4. SACRE Arrangements**

SACRE Meetings were held on:

- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

At the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015, James Walters (Group B) was elected as Chair and Abdul Quadir (Group A – Muslim) was elected as Vice Chair for the academic year.

Clerking of SACRE was provided by Camden Council Committee Services section.

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

The Local Authority covered the running costs.



## **Appendix 1**

### **SACRE MEMBERSHIP – 2015/ 2016**

#### **PANEL A – CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS**

Ms. Jean Harrison (Camden Free Church, Baptist)

Ms. Lynndy Levin (Jewish)

Rev. B. Ananda Mangala (Buddhist)

Ms. Shahanaz Begum (Muslim)

Mr. Abdul Quadir (Muslim – Vice Chair)

Ms. Krishna Pujara (Hindu)

Mr. Peter Ward (Roman Catholic) – served until 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Ms Alice Fuller (Humanist) - served until 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Liam Whitton (Humanist) - served from 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

#### **PANEL B – THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

Mr. Peter Ginnings

Ms. Amanda Szewczyk-Radley

Reverend James Walters (Chair)

Ms. Liz Wolverson

Rev Christopher Cawse – served until 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

#### **PANEL C – TEACHERS**

Ms. Anne Boater – served from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

Ms. Michelle Chalibamba

Ms. Tracy Edwards – served until 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

Ms. Anna Lockley Scott – served until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016

Ms. Lynn Trigg

#### **PANEL D – CAMDEN LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Siobhan Baillie – from 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Julian Fulbrook

Heather Johnson

Oliver Lewis

Phil Rosenberg

Leila Roy – to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Stephen Stark – from 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Paul Tomlinson

Don Williams – to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY FOR CAMDEN COMMUNITY AND FOUNDATION SCHOOLS**

#### **TO CONSIDER BEFORE APPLYING FOR A DETERMINATION**

##### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The legal basis for acts of collective worship is the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the "1998 Act"), as amended by the Education and Inspection Act 2006.

1.2 Schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Arrangements in community and foundation schools are the responsibility of the headteacher after consultation with the governing body.

1.3 The act of collective worship in community and foundation schools "shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" unless schools have a Determination from SACRE that this requirement is inappropriate.

1.4 Acts of collective worship in Camden community and foundation schools must take place every day according to one of the following:

- (1) Schedule 20 of the 1998 Act states that school collective worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". (Circular 1/94 provides an interpretation of this in paragraphs 61-66)
- (2) a Determination from SACRE that the school will follow the approach contained in this policy.
- (3) a Determination from SACRE that the school will follow the approach described in its application to SACRE.

1.5 A Determination from SACRE does not remove the requirement for a daily act of collective worship.

##### **2. The purpose of school collective worship**

2.1 The Education Act 1996 section 13 (as amended) requires schools to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in the work of the school as a whole. The act of collective worship can play a role in pupils' spiritual development and also their moral, social and cultural development.

2.2 SACRE believes that the act of collective worship in Camden community and foundation schools, if account is taken of the background of pupils, can contribute to cohesion and stability amongst diverse religious and ethnic groups and to the development of shared values.

2.3 The act of collective worship can contribute to the knowledge, awareness and understanding of each individual pupil.

### **3. The organisation of school collective worship**

3.1 School collective worship, subject to the parental right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for and to include all pupils attending the school. School sixth form students are permitted to withdraw themselves from collective worship. The exercising of the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship should be made to the headteacher in writing.

3.2 The timing and organisation of the daily act of collective worship can be flexible. It need not be held at the start of the day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups, form groups or other groups to suit the school circumstances. The absence of a meeting space to accommodate large groups of pupils is not an obstacle to implementing a daily act of collective worship.

3.3 An act of collective worship on specific occasions may be centred on one particular faith.

3.4 An act of collective worship may involve the participation of one or more members of faith communities who are not members of the school community.

3.5 Schools should have a termly plan for acts of collective worship.

3.6 The school's plan for acts of collective worship should be sensitive to any reluctance on the part of pupils to take an active part in acts of collective worship distinctive of a faith other than their own.

3.7 Acts of collective worship should provide opportunities for times of silence when pupils may pray privately according to their own faith traditions, or when they may reflect or meditate.

3.8 Acts of collective worship should show respect for the values and aspirations that all religious traditions have in common and to the values and aspirations of those without a religious faith commitment. They should support the personal spiritual development of every pupil at the school and seek to avoid giving offence.

3.9 Camden community and foundation schools should be prepared to provide facilities for pupils to organise opportunities for prayer should they or their parents make a reasonable request to do so. This would be in addition to the daily act of school collective worship and should not interfere with the school's curriculum.

3.10 Whilst acts of collective worship can contribute to religious education, the two are separate. In considering how to exercise their responsibility for acts of collective worship, headteachers should bear in mind this would not necessarily form part of the responsibilities of teachers holding curriculum responsibilities for religious education.

3. 11 SACRE hopes that by fulfilling the aims described in this policy parents will not wish to exercise their right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship. Such withdrawal could harm the cohesiveness and unity, which acts of collective worship provide. However, headteachers may not put pressure on parents, their children or sixth form pupils over this decision.

#### **4. The aims of acts of school collective worship**

4.1 Because acts of collective worship take place in an exclusively educational context, their aims are not the same as those for corporate worship held in places of worship in the community.

4.2 The aims which Camden SACRE wishes Camden community and foundation schools to promote are:

To provide pupils with opportunities to

- explore some of life's fundamental experiences, such as a sense of fascination, wonder and mystery.
- explore the higher ideals that have motivated others.
- worship a deity or supreme being
- discover and explore together the experiences and inspiration of others.
- widen their emotional responses and to deepen their sensitivity to spiritual belief
- meet together as a community to be reminded of the values, rules and responsibilities of belonging to that community.
- share times of celebration and joy, of sadness and loss.
- ask or reflect upon questions at the heart of our existence.
- develop pupils' awareness of important religious traditions and festivals.
- to reflect and respond  
and to provide opportunities for the school to give expression to the school ethos.

#### **5. Some features of acts of collective worship**

5.1 School acts of collective worship might feature opportunities to explore the following:

- a sense of enquiry, exploration and open-mindedness
- a celebration of meaning, purpose and direction
- an awareness of life's joys and sorrows
- an awareness that life involves choices, right and wrong, justice and injustice.
- a sense of uniqueness, self-esteem and identity
- a sense of inter-dependence with each other and with the natural world
- an awareness of the nature of commitment and how this affects a person's values and attitude to life
- an awareness that most religious faiths are based on the concept of deity
- an awareness that religious faith includes a sense of reverence, devotion and adoration and a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- a sense of transience and constant change
- a sense of pattern, sequence and order.

## **Camden Local Education Authority**

### **Camden Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

#### **Collective worship: applying for a determination**

##### **Advice to headteachers**

###### **1. Background**

1.1 A determination from SACRE lifts the requirement of Section 7(1) of the Education Reform Act 1988 that collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character".

1.2 Section 12 of the Act allows for applications to be made to the local SACRE "to consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school".

1.3 Paragraphs 68-81 of the DFE (Department for Education) Circular 1/94 summarise the position on determinations. If you consider that it is inappropriate for the school to provide collective worship "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", you can apply to SACRE for a determination. The Act requires consultation with the governing body before an application can be made.

1.4 In accordance with paragraph 74 of Circular 1/94, SACRE has drawn up these procedures to help you apply for a determination.

1.5 SACRE recommends that headteachers and governing bodies consider Camden's policy on collective worship before making an application using the proforma provided by SACRE ([INSERT LINK HERE OR INCLUDE AS APPENDIX?](#))

###### **2. Procedures for applying for a determination**

2.1 Collect data on the percentage of pupils belonging to different faith communities and include this with your application. Evidence that the family backgrounds of pupils are from a faith other than Christian or from a variety of religious faiths and life stances would be necessary for conclusion in favour of determination to be reached.

2.2 Discuss your proposal to apply for a determination with governors drawing their attention to the relevant sections of Circular 1/94 and the SACRE collective worship policy. Record the views expressed by governors, the voting outcome if a vote was taken, and the date of the meeting. Enclose this information with your application.

2.3 Seek the views of the parent body as to whether or not an application should be made. You are advised to write to parents, informing them of your intention to apply for a determination based on your policy for collective worship, and inviting them to respond if they object. A copy of this letter must be enclosed with your application.

2.4 Your application should demonstrate that the 1998 Act is being complied with, that is the school must organise a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

2.5 If the school intends to adopt the SACRE policy, then the implication is that the determination will apply to the whole school. Your application should explain how all pupils would take part in acts of collective worship on a daily basis. Secondary headteachers should note that the relevant requirements of the Act apply to all 11 to 19 year olds, apart from those sixth form pupils who have chosen to withdraw. Primary headteachers should note that the requirements do not apply to nursery schools and nursery classes.

2.6 If you do not intend to follow the SACRE policy, then you must clearly state what alternative policy you will use. You should demonstrate that the school's approach to collective worship is in concert with the aims of school collective worship as outlined in SACRE's collective worship policy, by providing a copy of the worship policy and programme.

2.6 You should apply using the appropriate form and sign the application, attaching all necessary additional papers:

1. Name of School
2. Name of headteacher
3. Pupils for whom the application applies
4. Reasons for applying, including information on the percentages of different faiths (or none) in the school
5. Details of consultation with governors
6. Details of consultation with parents (include copy of letter or newsletter requesting views of parents) and any consultation with pupils.
7. Proposed organisational arrangements for collective worship
8. Proposed policy for collective worship (if different from SACRE policy)
9. The statutory statement of the provision of collective worship intended for inclusion in the school's brochure.

### **3. Procedures for granting or rejecting applications**

3.1 SACRE should receive applications at least eight weeks before the meeting at which the application will be considered.

3.2 Initially, the written application will be scrutinised by the Professional Adviser to SACRE.

3.3 The school will be included in the SACRE visit programme prior to the application being heard.

3.4 Headteachers will normally be notified in writing of the date of the SACRE meeting at which the application will be heard. SACRE meetings are held once a term and headteachers are invited to attend. The headteacher will be notified in writing, normally within two weeks, of the determination made by SACRE. If the determination made is to accept the application, it shall take effect from the date of that SACRE meeting and shall have effect for five years

## **Camden SACRE**

### **Collective worship: Procedure for reviewing a determination**

Schools are granted a Determination by SACRE for a period of 5 years. The following procedure for reviewing a Determination has been agreed by SACRE: -

1. The Clerk to SACRE will write to a school approximately 3 months prior to the date for review, asking if it wishes to renew the Determination.
2. If a school wishes to renew a Determination, it should seek the views of parents through a letter or newsletter.
3. The governing body should formally agree to apply to renew the Determination
4. The appropriate form and supplementary papers should be sent to the Clerk of SACRE.
5. Information should be provided by the school about the representation of different faiths (or none) as well as details of the current arrangements for collective worship.
6. The school will be included in the SACRE visit programme prior to the renewal request being discussed at a meeting.
7. At the next SACRE meeting the form and supplementary papers will be presented and members asked to renew the Determination or not.
8. The school will be informed of the decision and, if successful, the Determination renewed for a further five years.
9. If a school does not respond to the request to renew its Determination, the Clerk will write to the school for clarification.