

Foreword and Summary

By the Chair of SACRE

Foreword

Camden SACRE has been busy over the 2017-18 academic year. A review of the Agreed Syllabus for Camden schools was completed with the help of all volunteer members, who gave their valuable time and expertise throughout the process to ensure that an informed and appropriate decision was made. In July 2017, Camden SACRE agreed to adopt the revised version of the Hampshire RE syllabus – Living Difference III. The syllabus was also amended by Westminster SACRE to make it more suitable for the London demographic, making it more appealing for members, and we hope, more appropriate for our schools.

National discussions on RE also helped Camden SACRE to think about the future of RE and of SACRE. The publication of an interim report by the Commission on RE regarding RE nationally, prompted discussions on the nature of RE, the best approach in teaching and learning going forward, as well as the role of SACREs and local communities. While the CoRE's final recommendations will not be of a binding nature, Camden SACRE is hopeful that it will continue to stimulate positive discussions over the coming months and years.

Camden SACRE will continue these discussions locally, with a specific focus on how we better support local schools to deliver good RE and how we use local data to help us do this. Following the launch of the revised Agreed Syllabus, schools were invited to training sessions to support them in delivering the new syllabus. We also obtained local data on RE delivery and going into the new academic year having begun conversations with schools regarding this data. In partnership with Camden Learning, we hope to continue supporting schools in this way, and to work with schools to build a more accurate and live picture of RE and related issues in the borough.

Determinations and collective worship still remain a top priority for Camden SACRE. One determination was considered and approved this year, with a significantly increased number expected in 2018-19. Camden SACRE remains committed to offering school visits as part of the process of determination, and we hope to improve the support offered around collective worship to further aid our schools going forward.

I would like to end by thanking all the members of the SACRE who have given their time over the course of the year, as well as Lesley Prior, our RE consultant, whose support has been indispensable. Camden Learning has also worked extensively with Camden SACRE to help us deliver our work this year, including on the Agreed Syllabus and training for schools. I look forward to working with members, and our partners, to continue the work of the Camden SACRE in the new academic year to improve the delivery of RE and collective worship locally.

Shahanaz Begum
Chair of Camden SACRE

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

ANNUAL REPORT OF CAMDEN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2017 - 18

Background

This report summarises the activities of Camden Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 2017 – 18. 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 former Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) on the format of SACRE annual reports.

1.0 Religious Education

1.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

After due process, the Local Authority agreed to adopt the Hampshire RE Syllabus – Living Difference in 2012. Work was carried out to adapt the syllabus to make it specific to Camden with the assistance of Westminster SACRE. The content of the syllabus and the methodology behind it were not amended, as these were part of the condition of 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 Revision of the Agreed Syllabus

During 2016-17, SACRE members were mindful of the legal requirement that the Agreed Syllabus should be reviewed in 2017-18.

In this context, the SACRE Consultant gave regular updates about the latest revision process of the 'parent' syllabus from Hampshire, now Living Difference III. Throughout the year, she also reported that Living Difference III would be produced in a parallel but slightly amended version to

make it more suitable for use in London Boroughs where it had previously been adopted, including Camden.

On 6th July 2017, an initial meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference took place. Preliminary discussions were held among members about the options to be considered during the review process. These included:

- retaining the present syllabus and authorising it for a further five years
- creating an entirely new syllabus
- adopting Living Difference III in its London 'version'
- sourcing and adopting another suitable syllabus from elsewhere, looking in particular at examples from other London Boroughs with similar demographics to Camden

Issues of cost and capacity were also considered.

These discussions took place against the background of various national projects addressing the nature of RE and its possible future within the curriculum, including the much anticipated interim report from the RE Council of England and Wales' independent Commission on RE: <http://www.commissiononre.org.uk>

The new agreed syllabus was launched in May 2018, with a reception for community schools hosted by the Mayor of Camden in the Mayor's Parlour. It was followed by training events for primary schools with training also made available to secondary schools.

1.3 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.

1.4 Complaints concerning RE

No complaints were received by SACRE in 2017-18.

2. 0 Collective Worship

2.1 Advice on Collective Worship

SACRE continues to provide advice about collective worship to schools.

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 are currently 15 schools with a Determination. The schools and the dates of their Determination expiry are listed below:

- 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
- Beckford Primary School 02/22
- Kingsgate Primary School 02/22
- Christopher Hatton Primary School 05/22
- Fleet Primary School 05/22
- Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children 05/22
- Edith Neville Primary School 04/23

In 2017-18 there was one new application for a Determination from Edith Neville Primary School.

At the SACRE Meeting on 26th April 2018, members considered and approved applications for the renewal of a determination from the following school:

- Edith Neville Primary School

Brookfield Primary School's determination ran out in June 2018 and has not been renewed, so they no longer have a determination.

2.3 Complaints Concerning Collective Worship

No complaints were received by SACRE.

3.0 MATTERS CONSIDERED BY SACRE

The following matters were considered by SACRE in the year 2017 - 18.

- SACRE discussed and sent responses on the CoRE report in the autumn term 2018.
- Members particularly like the idea of a national entitlement for RE, emphasising the legality of RE to schools in a new fresh way. They also felt that Ofsted should not be able to award a school with a judgement of outstanding unless it had at least 'good' RE in place.
- Workforce data on RE was considered by SACRE sent out by NATRE and letters were sent to the secondary schools in the borough where there was concern about the lack of recorded RE teaching.

4.0 LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

The LB of Camden SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Login details for the NASACRE website can be obtained from the Clerk to SACRE.

The SACRE Consultant attended, along with the chair and vice-chair the NASACRE AGM and Conference at The Hilton Hotel in London on 24th May 2018.

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

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-245-item-3a-nasacre-conference-report-2018.pdf>

There was a keynote address from Rt Hon Charles Clarke

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-581-item-3c-charles-clarkes-words-nasacre-agm.pdf>

Dr. Vanessa Ogden, CEO of Mulberry Schools Trust and Headteacher of Mulberry School for Girls gave the main keynote address

Her presentation and speech can be found here:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-815-item-3d-dr-ogden-speech-at-nasacre-24-may-2018.pdf>

Lesley Prior, RE Consultant, is former Chair of NASACRE (2013-15) and now Assistant to the NASACRE Executive Group.

Lesley is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.

5.0 CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

There were no changes in membership.

6.0 SACRE CONTACT

The SACRE can be contacted via the Camden Council clerk to the body, Vinothan Sangarapillai, on 020 7974 4071 or by email on vinothan.sangarapillai@camden.gov.uk

7.0 MEETINGS

Meetings of SACRE were held on:

- **9th November 2017** at Camden Town Hall
- **8th February 2018** at Camden Town Hall
- **26th April 2018** at Camden Town Hall

The Chair, the Clerk and the Consultant also met between meetings where and when necessary.

APPENDIX A

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2017-18

MEMBERSHIP (and No. of times attending meetings)

Group A: Christian and other religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions in the area.

Jean Harrison -2
Lynndy Levin – 0
Rev Ananda Mangala – 0
Abdul Quadir – 2
Krishna Pujara – 0
Liam Whitton – 3
Shahanaz Begum – 3

Panel B: C of E

Mary Thorne – 2
Peter Ginnings – 1

Panel C: Teachers

Michelle Chalibamba – 1
Ann Boater – 3
Aidan Cotterell-Boyce – 1

Panel D: Camden Local Authority

Cllr Baillie – 0
Cllr Fulbrook – 3
Cllr Johnson – 0
Cllr Lewis – 0
Cllr Rosenberg – 1
Cllr Stark – 0
Cllr Tomlinson - 3

APPENDIX B

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAM RESULTS IN CAMDEN summer 2018

Religious Studies GCSE Full Course 2018

Centre	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	9-5	9-4	9-1
National %	229,189	7.1	10.1	12.7	16	14.5	11.5	13.6	8.4	4.4	60.4	71.9	98.3
Camden %	507	13.5	17.3	15.6	15.6	14.2	7.1	10	4.7	1.1	76.2	83.3	99.1

Row Labels	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U	Grand Total
UCL					1	1	1	2	2		7
Haverstock	1				1	4	2	5		1	14
Parliament Hill		3	1		11	11	9	13	9		57
Regent High		2	9	4	7	8	4	5	2	1	42
Hampstead				3	3	2	1	4	1	1	15
Camden School for Girls	2	5	13	6	19	18	20	19	5	1	108
Maria Fidelis	3	12	21	15	13	10	9	8	1		92
William Ellis							1				1
La Sainte Union		2	7	8	17	25	32	32	48		171
Grand Total	6	24	51	36	72	79	79	88	68	4	507
Percentage	1.1%	4.7%	10%	7.1%	14.2%	15.6%	15.6%	17.3%	13.5%	0.9%	100%

From these statistics it can be seen that Camden full course GCSE results were 11.3% higher than the national average for Religious Studies at 83.3% (national average was 71.9%). It can also be seen that in terms of 9-7 grades Camden pupils performed 6.5% higher than the national percentage, with 36.4% in Camden compared with 29.9% as the national average.

507 pupils in year 11 sat an examination in Religious Studies out of a year group of 1562 pupils (32.4% of pupils).