

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Annual Report 2019



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The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/>

1. Overview and Chair's Introduction

This report begins in a spirit of sadness at the loss of two valued members who died during the year. Sue Gyde, Children's Services representative and Pastor Gabriel Diya, African Caribbean Churches representative. In mourning their passing, we also celebrate the excellent contributions they made over the years. Sue and Pastor Gabriel worked very hard in our SACRE giving their time and talents very generously and we are extremely grateful for their commitment and dedication.

The new Agreed Syllabus was formally approved and launched in March 2019. Following the launch three training sessions were held for teachers and we have already received very positive feedback from several schools who believe that the new syllabus is helping them in the development of high-quality Religious Education for the young people in their care. Our thanks go to all members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, chaired by Dr. Robert Morgan, for developing a worthy resource. We have continued to maintain and develop relationships with national and local agencies. We were represented at the National Association of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education AGM and conference. We were pleased to have welcomed members of local agencies to our meetings enabling working on partnerships to help further the support we give to schools. These agencies included RBG PREVENT strategy, RBG inclusion team, RBG Safer Communities Team for Youth Crime and Gangs and the Development of Relationship and Sex Education in the statutory curriculum.

Entries to GCSE Religious Education increased from 50% to 53% in 2019 which compares very well with a national average of around 37%. This demonstrates that our schools attach importance to the subject. We applaud the schools within the borough who work hard in supporting their young people in providing challenging and stimulating religious education experiences both as an academic subject and an opportunity for them to progress in their own personal development, so they may acquire and show a respect for all faiths and beliefs and make positive contributions to the communities in which they live and learn.

We are grateful for the support we received from Children's Services. Sue Gyde's support, guidance and encouragement was exemplary and her achievements will carry on in our work. Matthew West, also from Children's Services, has supported our work with energy and a very positive approach to becoming involved in our endeavours which has been a great asset to our achievements. We also offer our thanks to our

Clerk, Lucy Davies. The success of our work relies so much on Lucy's management skills and the very amiable way in which she works with all members. Lucy ensures that SACRE members have what is needed in good time in order to meet targets and deadlines. Lucy's work and support are integral to our successes.

Each member of SACRE has shown a great commitment to working in a collaborative way, supporting one another, in achieving our aims for the year. I thank them individually and collectively for their unfailing belief in the work we do in supporting the young people in our schools.

In presenting this report I commend the work of our SACRE. Its members, those who support us, our schools and most importantly the young people in the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the positive contributions they make to their schools, neighbourhoods and the wider community.

Mike Cullinane
Chair – April 2020

2. Contact Information, Introduction and SACRE meeting dates

2.1 Contact information 2019

Chair of the SACRE: Mr. Michael Cullinane	Vice-Chair of the SACRE: Dr. Robert Morgan
Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference: Dr. Robert Morgan	Contact from Royal Greenwich Local Authority: Matthew West
Clerk for SACRE & ASC: Lucy Davies	

2.2 Introduction

2019 was another productive year for Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE, although saddened by the untimely passing of two of our members. Quoracy at meetings has continued to improve. Some changes to the constitution have been agreed with others

put forward for consideration to help ensure all meetings are quorate.

The Agreed Syllabus Committee completed the new Agreed Syllabus early in the year. A launch meeting was held in March 2019, with the Agreed syllabus going live on the RBC website in October. The dedication and hard work of members of the Agreed Syllabus Committee has resulted in an exciting revision of the syllabus.

SACRE members have attended NASACRE conferences and each SACRE meeting has had input from SACRE members and from different teams within the council.

2.3 Joint SACRE/ ASC Meeting dates for the year 2019

Term	Date	Quoracy	Venue
Spring Term	19 th March 2019	Agreed syllabus launch event	Professional Development Centre, Plumstead
Summer Term 1	25 th April 2019	Quorate	St Mary Magdalene Peninsula site, Greenwich
Summer Term 2	12 th June 2019	Inquorate	Plumcroft Primary School, Vincent Road, Woolwich
An additional meeting planned for the Autumn 2 on 20 th November. This meeting was cancelled because the LA officer had recently passed away.			

The Chair, the LA Officer, and Clerk discuss, review actions and plan the agenda for each meeting. We are in the second year of a 3-year meeting cycle developed by the clerk to ensure SACRE business is allocated in a timely manner to meetings over an extended period (see appendix 2).

3. Religious Education (RE)

3.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus Conference, chaired by Dr. Robert Morgan, completed the work of reviewing the syllabus and producing new material which was launched in 2019. We are grateful to members of SACRE and the ASC for their preparatory work in developing the syllabus and to Dr. Morgan for his commitment to getting the syllabus completed. A new unit entitled 'Worship' was added to the Key Stage (KS) 1 and KS2 curriculum. This

replaced the 'Marriage' unit. A section on Humanism was added to the KS1 and 2 faith content. Following suggestions from the Religious Education leaders' network meeting, the KS 3 curriculum was re-arranged to a thematic approach, using key questions each term and looking at these from the perspectives of different faiths and beliefs. Two teacher training events were held on in Summer 2019 and a further event held in October 2019 to update teachers on the changes to the agreed syllabus. At these sessions, teachers gave positive feedback about the changes to the curriculum.

3.2 Teacher Network meetings

There were three, well attended, teacher network meetings in 2019, attended by Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) schools and academies. These groups were used to share information with teachers about the new agreed syllabus and to give teachers and leaders of RE an opportunity to ask questions and share best practice.

3.3 Royal Greenwich Religious Studies Performance 2019

Royal Greenwich SACRE conducts an annual review of GCSE and A Level Religious Studies examination entries and outcomes compared with those at a national level. In January 2020 SACRE received a report on the LA examination performance in Religious Studies

Introduction

In 2019 Religious Studies GCSE grades were in the second year of moving from A*-G grades to 9-1 grades. In this report attainment percentages of A*-C or A*-G in 2017 have been compared to 9-4 and 9-1 percentages respectively for 2018 and 2019 where applicable.

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies entries have increased slightly in RBG this year with 53% of Greenwich pupils being entered for Religious Studies compared to 50% in 2018.

Nationally the percentage has remained stable at 37% in 2019 and 2018.

Table 1 National and local pupils and entries in GCSE Religious Studies 2017–2019

	2017	2018	2019
National number of pupils at end of KS4	589,096	585,377	605,874
National entries RS	264,516	213,791	225,024
RBG number of pupils at end of KS4	2,168	2,266	2,364
RBG entries RS	1,112	1,126	1,254

Religious studies GCSE performance has seen a drop since last year with 67% of pupils achieving 9–4 compared to 73% in 2018. This is slightly below national performance of 72%. RBG pupils on average perform better in Religious Studies than in Geography (61%) and History (59%) but not as well as English (74%).

Table 2 Religious Studies GCSE results compared to national

	2017 (A*–C)	2018 (9–4)	2019 (9–4)
Royal Greenwich	73%	73%	67%
National	71%	72%	72%

Table 3 Religious Studies GCSE results compared to national

	2017 (A*–G)	2018 (9–1)	2019 (9–1)
Royal Greenwich	98%	99%	98%
National	98%	98%	98%

Table 4 Religious Studies GCSE results compared to English, Geography and History results for the borough

	2017 (A*–C)	2018 (9–4)	2019 (9–4)
Religious Studies	73%	73%	67%
English	76% (9–4)	74%	74%
Geography	59%	60%	61%
History	64%	57%	59%

In 2019 9 out of the 14 RBG secondary schools entered at least one pupil for Religious Studies. Harris Academy Greenwich, Halley Academy Woolwich Polytechnic and Greenwich Free School did not enter pupils for RS. The two special schools: Charlton Park and King's Oak (previously Moatbridge) also did not enter pupils for Religious Studies

Table 5 Religious Studies GCSE 9–4 Results by school 2017–2019

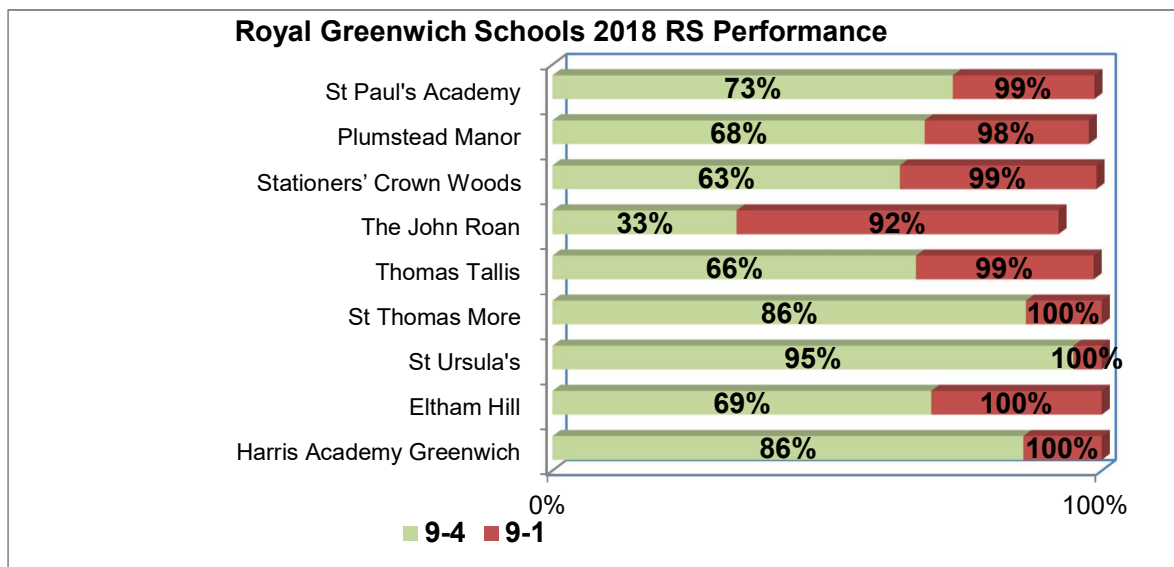
School	2017 (A*–C)	2018 (9–4)	2019 (9–4)	No of entries in 2019	Entries as % of total cohort
St Paul's Academy	76%	78%	73%	225	94%
Plumstead Manor	61%	65%	68%	211	91%
Stationers' Crown Woods	63%	65%	63%	204	80%
The John Roan	63%	58%	33%	203	92%
Thomas Tallis	72%	63%	66%	136	52%
St Thomas More	86%	84%	86%	123	100%
St Ursula's	97%	94%	95%	116	100%
Eltham Hill	89%	83%	69%	29	17%
Harris Academy Greenwich	76%	–	86%	7	4%
Woolwich Polytechnic	100%	–	–	0	–
Halley Academy	–	–	–	0	–
Greenwich Free School	–	–	–	0	–
Charlton Park Academy	–	–	–	0	–
King's Oak (Moatbridge)	–	–	–	0	–
LA total				1,126	53%
National total				213,791	37%
LA Average	73%	73%	67%		
National Average	71%	72%	72%		

Table 6 Religious Studies GCSE 9–1 results by school 2017–2019

School	2017 (A*–C)	2018 (9–1)	2019 (9–1)	No of entries in 2019	Entries as % of total cohort
St Paul's Academy	100%	99%	99%	225	94%
Plumstead Manor	95%	98%	98%	211	91%
Stationers' Crown Woods	97%	99%	99%	204	80%
The John Roan	100%	100%	92%	203	92%
Thomas Tallis	99%	99%	99%	136	52%
St Thomas More	100%	100%	100%	123	100%
St Ursula's	100%	100%	100%	116	100%

Eltham Hill	100%	100%	100%	29	17%
Harris Academy Greenwich	100%	-	100%	7	4%
Woolwich Polytechnic	100%	-	-	0	-
Halley Academy	-	-	-	0	-
Greenwich Free School	-	-	-	0	-
Charlton Park Academy	-	-	-	0	-
King's Oak (Moatbridge)	-	-	-	0	-
LA total				1126	
National total				213,791	
LA Average	98%	98%	98%		53%
National Average	98%	98%	98%		37%

Charts 7 Religious Studies GCSE 9-4 and 9-1 results by school for pupils entered (with % entered)



A Level Religious Studies

The national number of entries in A Level Religious Studies fell a further 5% in 2019 after a 20% reduction in 2018. Entries in RBG schools decreased slightly from 51 last year to 42 in 2019.

Table 8 National and local entries in A Level Religious Studies 2017-2019

	2017	2018	2019
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National	22,000	17,024	16,154
Royal Greenwich	40	51	42

Table 9 National performance (A* – A, A* – B and A* – E) 2017–2019

	No of candidates	A* – A	A* – B	A* – E
2017	22,000	24%	55%	99%
2018	17,024	23%	52%	98%
2019	17,024	22%	50%	98%

Five Royal Greenwich schools delivered A Level courses in religious studies in 2019 (one fewer than last year). It is important to apply caution when looking at performance over time because of the low number of entries year on year.

Table 10 A Level A* – B results

School	2017	2018	2019	No of entries in 2019
Stationers' Crown Woods	22%	21%	10%	10
Harris Academy Greenwich	20%	53%	53%	15
Plumstead Manor	24%	20%	0%	8
Thomas Tallis	56%	21%	14%	7
Eltham Hill	–	67%	0%	2
LA Average	29%	35%	24%	42

Table 11 A Level A* – E results

School	2017	2018	2019	No of entries in 2019
Stationers' Crown Woods	100%	100%	100%	10
Harris Academy Greenwich	100%	100%	100%	15
Plumstead Manor	95%	90%	100%	8
Thomas Tallis	100%	100%	100%	7
Eltham Hill	–	100%	100%	2
LA Average	100%	98%	100%	42

SACRE were advised that nationally the number of entries for the GCSE full course remained stable at 37%, whilst in RBG, the number of entries rose from 49% to 53%. Progress 8, Attainment 8 and Ebacc have impacted on the take up of GCSE RE nationally, but not in RBG.

Outcomes at GCSE 9–4 dropped slightly to 67% from 73% in RBG. This puts outcomes below the national average of 72%.

SACRE intends to undertake some work in 2020 to discover what RE syllabus is being used in schools not offering GCSE Religious Studies (three academies and two special schools) and for pupils not opting to take GCSE Religious Studies in other schools.

SACRE receives and considers the Section 48 Denominational Inspection reports of both Church of England and Catholic schools in the borough to inform monitoring of standards in RE and Collective Worship overall.

3.4 Teaching & Resources

During the year SACRE members and the teaching community have been kept informed of RE initiatives, events and resources. Information has been made available to schools through, for example, the Children's Services Schools Bulletin and has included Holocaust Memorial Day and CPD opportunities.

SACRE congratulates Haimo Primary School for attaining the RE Quality Mark (REQM) Gold Standard this year. This award is a reflection of the school's commitment high quality RE provision. There are now four schools in the borough that have achieved the Gold REQM: Bishop John Robinson;
Christ Church Shooters Hill;
Haimo;
St Mary Magdalene

3.5 Complaints about RE

There have been no complaints about RE in RBG schools brought to SACRE this year.

4. Collective Worship

SACRE has not engaged in any work on Collective Worship this year.

4.1 Monitoring

SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of Collective Worship in local schools but notes with concern its limited ability to collect information to make a judgement. The LA officer intends in 2020 to monitor all Ofsted school inspection reports and Section 48 reports for schools of a religious character to feed back to SACRE comments on the quality of collective worship in RBG schools.

4.2 National

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

The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE): The Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE is a member of NASACRE. Dr. Robert Morgan (SACRE vice chair and chair of ASC),

continues to act as vice chair of NASACRE.

Renu Partap attended the NASACRE annual conference on behalf of RBG SACRE, with Dr. Robert Morgan attending in his role as vice chair to NASACRE.

4.3 Determinations

No Determination applications have been received this year.

5. Links with other agencies

5.1 Local

Several Greenwich SACRE members attend other SACREs and local Inter Faith Forums and therefore SACRE is informed by their ability to bring to the group information from other areas. SACRE is well served by RE teachers who attend and contribute a great deal to meetings as well as members of other teams within the LA such as SEND, PREVENT and other community groups and schools. SACRE members have attended RE events at local schools during the year.

5.2 SEND

During the year members of SACRE have attended training to help faith communities provide for children and young people with ASD, Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This was well attended, and the local authority officer involved will attend a SACRE meeting in 2020 to discuss how faith and belief groups would like to move forwards with this work.

6. SACRE Arrangements

6.1 Local Authority Support

A clerk, who is a central contact for SACRE business, distributing papers for meetings and servicing the meetings, provides SACRE's business support. Additional support was provided by the Royal Borough of Greenwich School Improvement Team. Salaries and administration costs for these posts for the work of SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference were met by School Improvement as were the costs for publishing the new agreed syllabus.

6.2 Membership

6.2.1 Quoracy and SACRE Constitution

There has been a big improvement in quoracy at meetings. Vacancies in membership from three? Group A organisations along with Group C vacancies and absence are detailed in Appendix A

SACRE awaits approval of changes to the constitution, from elected members of the council, which were proposed in 2017. The council legal team appointed an independent law firm in 2019 to give further advice.

6.2.2 Application from Humanists UK Regarding an application to join SACRE, from Humanists UK, which was received in 2017; a decision was made by the council to support this application in 2019 and Rachel Taggart-Ryan will be welcomed as a full member at the first SACRE meeting in 2020.

7 Other Work of the SACRE

This section includes advice given by SACRE. In 2019, advice was given to schools on Ramadan (see section 7.1) and the new agreed syllabus for Religious Education (see section 3.1 and 3.2).

7.1 Ramadan Advice

The SACRE Ramadan advice for schools was communicated via the Royal Greenwich Schools' Bulletin

7.2 Holocaust Memorial Day

Members were informed of activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Day including a commemoration service at Woolwich Town Hall on 28th January 2019. The theme was 'Torn from Home' and was attended by Christine May, the Mayor of Greenwich; Denise Hyland, Leader of the Council; Julie Taylor, Head of School Improvement; and staff and pupils from Mulgrave Primary School.

7.3 Youth Crime and Gangs

Kayleigh Thomas presented at SACRE on 25th April 2019 focusing on the work of the Safer Communities Team for Youth Crime and Gangs. SACRE members were given opportunities to reflect on how they might support young people attending their religious or belief group.

7.4 Relationships and Sex Education

Michele Holmes presented at SACRE on 25th April to inform members of the statutory curriculum entitlement being introduced in September 2020. Members noted how well this linked with the new local agreed syllabus for religious education, particularly the 'Who am I' section. Michele asked SACRE members to reflect on how they might support their communities to see the positive impact Relationships and Sex Education can have on children and young people.

7.5 PREVENT

Heather Hutchings, the Royal Borough of Greenwich PREVENT officer attended SACRE on 12th June 2019. Mr. Gilles Cabon the Royal Borough of Greenwich Inclusion Project officer also attended. SACRE members were given an opportunity to reflect on the requirements of PREVENT and how this may affect members of their faith or belief

communities. Heather Hutchings spoke about the monitoring work they undertake and how RBG is a priority borough because incidents are higher than in neighbouring boroughs. She reported on an anti-Islam group in RBG. Gilles Cabon stated that there is a low incidence of reported hate crime relating to protected characteristics in the borough.

**Appendix A:
Membership in 2019**

Group A	Representing	Name	Number of SACRE meetings attended (or arranged a substitute)
	African-Caribbean Churches	Pastor Gabriel Diya (Deceased December 2019)	1 out of 2
	Baha'i	Mr. Allen Duncan	1 out of 2
	Baptist Churches	Vacant	
	Buddhism	Mr. Mariano Marcigaglia	1 out of 2
	Evangelical Churches	Mr. Jeff Laws	2 out of 2
	Hinduism	Dr. Lakshmi Vyas	1 out of 2
	Hinduism	Mrs. Renu Partap	2 out of 2
	Islam	Mr. Kalid M. Ahmed	0 out of 2
	Islam	Imam Swaleh Kabocho	1 out of 2
	Judaism	Rev. David Rome	0 out of 2
	Methodist Church	Vacant	
	Roman Catholic Church	Mr. Mike Cullinane (Chair)	2 out of 2
	Sikhism	Mr. Balbir Singh Bakhshi	0 out of 2
	Sikhism	Vacant	
	URC	Vacant	
Group B	The Church of England	Mr. Bob Love	2 out of 2
	The Church of England	Mr. Jeremy Lunnon	2 out of 2
	The Church of England	Mtr Ariadne van den Hof	0 out of 2
	The Church of England	Mr. Shaun Burns	1 out of 2

Group C	Teachers in the LA	Mrs. Claire Harrison	1 out of 2
		Sarah Osborne	0 out of 2
		Ms. Ruth Handyside	0 out of 2
		Vacant	
	HE representative	Dr. Robert Morgan	2 out of 2
Group D	The Local Authority	Cllr. Ann-Marie Cousins	1 out of 2
		Cllr. Pat Greenwell	1 out of 2
		Cllr. Christine Grice	0 out of 2
		Mrs. Sue Gyde (deceased October 2019)	1 out of 2
		Mr. Matthew West	2 out of 2
Coopted	Humanists UK	Ms. Rachel Taggart- Ryan	2 out of 2

Appendix B

THREE YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA PLAN 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

This document is the three-year agenda plan for Royal Borough of Greenwich SACRE. The document is drafted by the Local Authority Representative and approved and owned by RBG SACRE. The agenda plan is agreed annually at the first meeting of the academic year and is reviewed annually on a three-year rolling basis.

The plan gives a framework to ensure that SACRE fulfills its duties. SACRE agendas are not limited to these items, and SACRE will consider items as appropriate in order to fulfill its duties. These could include; consideration of applications to vary requirements for collective worship; requesting the Local Authority to set up a Statutory Agreed Syllabus Conference; monitoring delivery of the Agreed Syllabus; reviewing provision for in-service training and development and receiving Ofsted RE inspection reports.

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
2018-19	24 th September 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange - events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan)
	11 th October 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange- events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Annual Agreement of Code of Conduct Ramadan Guidance - approve Gender Identification and Faith (briefing from Michele Holmes)
		Membership and Attendance

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
	6 th November 2018 ASC meeting on the same date	Information Exchange – events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RE Results for 2017/2018
	25 th April 2019	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange Feedback from ASC Launch RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	12 th June 2019	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference
2019–20	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan) Annual Approval of Code of Conduct RE Results for 18.19 Ramadan Guidance – approve Monitor implementation of the latest Agreed Syllabus (<i>Note: may move, depending on launch date</i>)
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange– events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings

Academic Year	Date	Agenda Items
		Feedback from NASACRE Conference Multi-Faith Guidelines Review
2020-21	Autumn Term	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Membership and Attendance Information Exchange- events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Three Year Agenda Plan approval (rolling plan) Annual Approval of Code of Conduct RE Results for 19.20 Ramadan Guidance - approve
	Spring Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange- events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings RBG SACRE Annual Report for 2018 NASACRE AGM + Conference Attendance
	Summer Term	Membership and Attendance Information Exchange- events, training, celebrations of good practice and briefings Feedback from NASACRE Conference
<i>Note</i>	<i>ASC</i>	<i>Requirement to review Agreed Syllabus content - every 5 years</i>