

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON & CHELSEA Annual Report 2019 to 2020

Introduction

The Royal Borough's **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** is required, in accordance with Section 391(6) of the Education Act 1996, to publish an annual report on its activities. This is its twenty-ninth report and it is divided into three parts.

Part one

Records the terms of reference of the Kensington and Chelsea SACRE and the occasions on which it met in 2019 to 2020.

Part two

Reports the matters dealt with by the SACRE during the year.

Part three

Notes the composition and membership of the SACRE.

Part one

The establishment, terms of reference and meetings of the SACRE

1. The Royal Borough's SACRE was established by the Education Committee (Shadow) on 14 June 1989. Its current terms of reference, as laid down by the Education Reform Act 1998, are: "to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit."
2. In particular, the SACRE is charged with the following responsibilities:
 - It can require the authority to review the Agreed Syllabus on religious education.
 - It may determine, on application by the headteacher that requirement for collective worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of its pupils in a particular school.
 - With the authority, to review the support offered for RE teaching, the methods of teaching employed, and teachers' in-service professional development.
3. In addition, the Education Committee (Shadow) decided to give a direct role to the SACRE in the consideration and disposal of complaints related to the curriculum or religious worship. The SACRE will be asked to advise where complaints relate to religious education given in accordance with an agreed syllabus or to religious worship in county schools.
4. The SACRE met on four occasions in 2019 to 2020:
 - 10 September 2019;
 - 19 November 2019;
 - 12 March 2020;
 - 16 June 2020.
5. The SACRE usually meets at the Royal Borough's Town Hall. Secretarial assistance and a budget for the discharge of its duties is provided to SACRE by the Royal Borough. The SACRE is grateful to the Royal Borough for making this support available. Covid-19 has meant that following the March 2020 meeting – all meetings of SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus training have taken place via virtual platforms.

Part two

Matters dealt with by the SACRE in 2019 to 2020

Membership

6. This year the SACRE bade farewell to two members Javid Djalili and Karen Wyatt. Lucy Nutt the Principal Adviser and the LA senior officer on the SACRE left in the spring term to take up the position of Head of School and Early Years Improvement at Enfield Council. The SACRE is appreciative and grateful for the time and effort that they put into their different roles on the SACRE.
7. The SACRE is constantly looking to recruit new members and regular contact is made with the appropriate appointing bodies to remind them that there are vacancies on the Royal Borough's SACRE. Appeals for new members are also made whenever information is sent out by the SACRE in school communications. In spite of the efforts being made it remains difficult to attract and retain new members. There are particularly difficulties in recruiting to Group C (teacher representatives). Regular requests are made directly to staff and via the teaching unions. Membership in each category needs to be maintained to ensure that meetings of the SACRE are quorate. There were several occasions during the previous reporting year when SACRE meetings were not quorate. During 2019-20 although there are still vacancies meetings have been held virtually and as a result attendance has improved.
8. The SACRE's activities in 2019-20 were dominated by the revision of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The Agreed Syllabus Conference was made up of the same membership of the SACRE it concluded its work in June. In line with surrounding Borough's, including Westminster, the SACRE agreed to adopt the London Version of the Hampshire Living Difference III. A well-attended training event was led by Justine Ball from Hampshire. The Borough's Agreed Syllabus and its related resources, which includes additional material and information provided by SACRE members can be found on the services2schools site – the information is stored in the resources area. It is a public access site and a password is not required to access the information. For further information take at the [Services2Schools website](#)
9. Due to Covid-19 the NASACRE Annual Conference was cancelled and school examinations did not take place. Instead students' grades were decided by teacher assessment rather than by examination. As previously reported the meets through the year were dominated by the need to review the Agreed Syllabus. However, other matters discussed during the year included –
 - Legal requirement to teach RE and SACRE funding.
 - Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) which was to be compulsory in primary schools from September 2020
10. The SACRE has kept information up to date on the Royal Borough's website refreshed. Information on the website has links to the community engagement area of the Borough's website – access is via the Royal Borough's website, the link is

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/children-and-education/schools/school/standing-advisory-council-religious-education-sacre>

11. SACRE are open to the public and are advertised on the SACRE area of the Borough's website. Occasionally SACRE members kindly offered different venues for the meetings to take place. Since 23 March 2020 - all meetings have taken place on-line.

The requirement for Collective Worship

12. The SACRE received no requests in 2019 to 2020 from headteachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their schools. The procedures for making such a request are set out in Appendix A of this report. Information about the procedures can also be obtained from the Clerk to the SACRE at the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX.

Complaints

13. The SACRE was not in 2019 to 2020 asked to deal with any complaints about the RE curriculum or about religious worship in community schools.

Examination Results

14. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the examination series planned was unable to run as normal, results instead were calculated using a variety of methods. This makes meaningful recording difficult for both Key Stages 4 and 5. At the time of writing verified results were not available.

Part three

Composition and members of the Royal Borough's SACRE in 2019 to 2020

Chairman of the SACRE Mr Laurence Julius (*Mr Javid Djalili - (resigned Feb 2020)*)

Clerk to the SACRE Ms Julie Farmer (*Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea*)

GROUP A – up to 10 members – (*inc two Roman Catholic vacancies*)

Representing Christian and other religious denominations

Ms Susan Jaff

Islamic Faith (V-C)

Mr Javid Djalili

Baha'i Faith (C) – (resigned Feb 2020)

Rev Ken Persaud

Notting Hill Community Church

Ms Darcy Biddulph

Buddhist Faith

Mr Narif Sheikh

Islamic Faith

Ms Karen Wyatt

Roman Catholic Representative – (resigned July 2020)

Mr Laurence Julius

Jewish Faith

Group B – up to 8 members

Representing the Church of England

Mrs Kathryn Kane

Mr Graham Marriner

(London Diocesan Board for Schools)

Mrs Katrina Quinton

Group C - up to 8 members

Representing teachers (including teachers of RE) and teachers' associations

Ms Celia Garth Rodriguez

(Colville Primary School)

Group D - up to 4 members (*two vacancies*)

Representing the Royal Borough

Cllr David Lindsay

(joined Spring 2019)

Lucy Nutt

Principal Lead Adviser (*left May 2020*)

Jackie Saddington -

Head of Governor Services

Consultant to the SACRE

Ms Lesley Prior

Appendix A

The requirement for Collective Worship

Introduction

1. Section 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988 lays down that the collective worship required in community schools shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. DES circular 3/89 states that, in the Secretary of State's view, an act of worship which is 'broadly Christian' need not contain only Christian material provided, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character but within each school term the majority of acts must be so.
2. How collective worship is organised is for the headteacher to decide after consultation with the governing body, having regard to the following considerations:
 - any relevant circumstances relating to the pupil's family backgrounds, for example the faith of the family;
 - their ages and aptitudes.
3. These considerations should inform:
 - the extent to which (if at all) any acts of collective worship in the school are not of a broadly Christian character;
 - the extent to which the broad traditions of Christian belief are reflected in those acts of worship of a broadly Christian character; and
 - the ways in which those traditions are reflected.

The role of the SACRE

4. If the headteacher of a community school considers that the requirements for collective worship described in paragraph two could conflict with what is required by paragraph three, he or she can apply to **the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to lift or modify the requirements**. Before doing so the headteacher must consult the school's governing body who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. **The headteacher's application does not need to apply to the whole school**. It can be limited to any class or description of pupils at the school, and might relate, for example, to a particular group or year group(s) in the school in which there were many pupils of a particular faith or religion.
5. The purpose of this procedure is to allow for acts of collective worship according to a faith or religion other than Christianity where, for some or all of the pupils in a school, the requirement that worship should be of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate. One factor which may inform a headteacher's decision to make an application to the SACRE is the extent of withdrawals from Christian collective worship.
6. In considering whether to grant a headteacher's request, the SACRE must take account of any relevant circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils concerned. When it has made a **determination** on the request – which can only take the form of acceptance or rejection without modification – it must communicate this in writing to the headteacher and state the date from which it will take effect. It is for the headteacher to decide what

form the alternative worship will take, although the SACRE should be informed of the proposed arrangements.

7. The headteacher will wish to take appropriate steps to notify the governing body and parents of the new arrangements. Where such a determination is made in respect of all or some of the pupils in the school, daily collective worship must still be provided for them. Where a determination has been granted in respect of a class or description of pupils of a particular faith or religion, the alternative collective worship may be provided for those pupils as a whole. It may not be distinctive of any particular **denomination** of any faith or religion, but may be distinctive of a particular faith or religion. Parents continue to have a right to withdraw their children from this collective worship.
8. Any determination made under these arrangements ends after five years, unless renewed by the SACRE. There must be a review by the SACRE no later than five years after any determination was introduced; and subsequently within five years of each review. The headteacher can request an earlier review at any time, after consulting with the governing body. The headteacher must be given an opportunity to take part in any review

and, in turn, is required to consult the governing body who may wish to seek the view of parents.

9. It has been a legal requirement since 1944 that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship. Section 6 of the Education Reform Act provides for flexibility in timing and organisation of daily collective worship. It needs no longer be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups. For this purpose, a 'school group' means any group or combination of groups in which pupils are taught or take place in other school activities; it does **not** mean a group reflecting particular religious beliefs.
10. If a headteacher considers that changes of the sort described in paragraphs four and five of this appendix are justified, he or she should:
 - consult with the governing body,
 - after that, make application to SACRE on the attached form.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education



Application for a variation in the requirement of the Education Act 1988 that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

1. **Name of school**.....
2. **Address of school**.....
3. **Name of headteacher**.....
4. **Pupils for whom the application is made**
(Is the application being made on behalf of the whole school or part of it? If a part, state which group and their numbers.)
5. **On what grounds is the application made?**
(State why you consider the requirement that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' to be inappropriate for pupils. Give any relevant information, including numbers, on the family background and faith of all pupils who would be affected.)
6. **Has the Governing Body been consulted?**
(By law it must be. Please state the view the Governing Body gave. Did the Governing Body consult parents? What was their view?)
7. **Have Parents been consulted?**
(What were their views?)
8. **What form would the proposed alternative form of collective worship take?**
(Give as much information as possible.)

SACRE Members 2019- 20.

Laurence Julius. – Chair of the SACRE

Active member of the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue in Holland Park with a passion for education. Responsible for starting a nursery at the synagogue. He is also a Local resident enjoying retirement. Married for over 40 years with 4 grown up children.

Katrina Quinton

I have been a member of the SACRE since 2016 representing the Church of England. I am a member of the congregation of St Mary The Boltons and have lived in Earl's Court since 2001. Married with two children, both of whom are now in secondary education.

Celia Garth Rodriguez

Celia has been the RE Lead at Colville Primary School for three years. She also teaches Reception at Colville. As part of her role as RE Lead, she is a member of the SACRE. She finds the SACRE meetings very informative and a great platform to meet representatives of different religions. Through her SACRE membership, she has been able to arrange trips and visitors as well as invite fellow SACRE members to observe RE at Colville. She would encourage all RE Leads to become members of their local SACRE as it is a real opportunity to be directly involved in how the RE syllabus is then implemented in schools.

Susan Jaff

Susan has an MBA and an Islamic Law (Sharia) background. Although her interests were always focused on Interfaith and Islamic Law, she pursued an industrial career. She founded a clean drinking water Project, Eden Bottling Company Ltd in Iraq at age 28, She moved to London in 2010 and continued to work in the water business. Susan is currently in the final phase of establishing a snack and chips factory, which she co-founded along with her twin sister. It is to start production by Autumn 2020, if all goes well. She is married and has two energetic boys. Her children inspired her to write Islamic children books.

Darcy Biddulph

Darcy is a long-time resident of the Borough and Buddhist member of SACRE. She is an educational and Interfaith representative of The Buddhist Society est 1924, the UK's leading Buddhist Educational Charity representing the major authentic traditions and the Buddhist endorsing authority to the M.O.D. Chaplaincy. It houses the largest private Buddhist library in the nation. She is Co-Author of 'The Teachings Of The Buddha, The Wisdom Of The Dharma From the Pali Canon To The Sutras', '365 Ways To Lead A Buddhist Life.' Author of 'Buddhism and Women'. She is a Buddhist faith advisor to a National fund and organised International Interfaith meetings at The House of Lords and Lambeth Palace. She is guest editor of The Middle Way, est. 1926, a quarterly educational journal. www.thebuddhistsociety.org
Info@thebuddhistsociety.org
Librarian@thebuddhistsociety.org

Members who left during the Academic Year 2019-2020

Javid Djalili - (resigned Feb 2020)

Born and raised in Kensington and attended St Mary Abbots Primary School and Westminster City School, Javid then went to Kingston Polytechnic to study Civil Engineering, and the University of Colorado at Boulder for a double-major BA in Economics and World Religions. He lived in Denver, Colorado USA for approximately 25 years. He often represents the Bahá'í Faith on interfaith councils, and he is a trained school speaker for the Faith & Belief Forum and an Assistant Chaplain at the Multifaith Centre at Imperial College.

For further information on the Bahá'í Faith: www.bahai.org.uk

Karen Wyatt (resigned July 2020)

Karen has taught in London since 2002 and has been appointed in headteacher roles since 2011. In September 2013, she took up a substantive headship at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School which has been judged to be 'Outstanding' in all areas by both Ofsted (November 2013) and the Diocese of Westminster (October 2017). As of September 2017, Karen has taken on the role of Executive Headteacher of both St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School in Fulham. She has been on the RBKC SACRE committee since September 2015
