

# Foreword and Summary

By the Chair of SACRE

## Foreword

Camden SACRE had a positive and productive year over the course of 2016-17. A number of determinations were considered and approved, and towards the end of the academic year, SACRE initiated a review of the Agreed Syllabus for Camden schools. Members continued to volunteer their time and their expertise to ensure that the Camden SACRE fulfilled its obligations to the best of its ability. Wherever possible, members provided additional support to schools, such as a short guidance on collective worship, as well as Ramadan guidance.

As we move into a new academic year, with a new Chair and Vice-Chair, Camden SACRE remains committed to providing further support and guidance to schools. We aim to strengthen relationships with schools through more visits, and more conversations, as well as through our partnership with Camden Learning. We will agree a new Agreed Syllabus, and hope to refresh our guidance on collective worship to ensure it remains fit for purpose. In the face of limited resources, we will also aim to look at how we can provide support to schools in Camden in a way that will have the greatest impact on the delivery of religious education and collective worship in the borough.

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. We have also experienced a number of departures this year, both from SACRE and officers who have worked with us in Camden Council, all of whom I would like to thank for the work they put into the success of Camden SACRE over the years. We would like to thank Jean Lang for the work she did as a Camden Council officer on RE and school improvement, and SACRE member Cllr Abdul Quadir for his service as Vice-Chair over the last few academic years.

A special thanks to the former Chair, Revd. Dr Jim Walters, who supported the SACRE in its work for a number of years, and always engaged and inspired members to keep contributing to the local and wider discourse on religious education and collective worship in a fruitful way. We wish him continued success in his future endeavours, and hope to keep progressing the work of Camden SACRE from strength to strength.

**Shahanaz Begum**  
**Chair of Camden SACRE**

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF CAMDEN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2016 - 17**

#### **Background**

This report summarises the activities of Camden Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) during the academic year 2016 – 17. 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. 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 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **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 2016-17.

## **2. 0 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 are currently 15 schools with a Determination. The schools and the dates of their Determination expiry are listed below:

- 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
- 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

In 2016-17 there was one new application for a Determination from Fleet Primary School.

At the SACRE Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017, members considered and approved applications for the renewal of a determination from the following schools:

- Beckford Primary School
- Kingsgate Primary School

At the SACRE Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, members also considered and approved applications for the renewal of a determination from the following schools:

- Christopher Hatton Primary School
- Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children

They also approved an application for a new Determination from Fleet Primary at that meeting.

### **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 2016 - 17.

- a response to the Big NASACRE Survey
- a review of guidance on meeting the needs of Muslim pupils and colleagues, particularly during Ramadan
- the possible compilation of a directory of places of worship in and close to the London Borough of Camden as a resource to support teaching and learning in RE in schools.

## 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 the NASACRE AGM and Conference at The Hilton Hotel in York on 16th May 2017.

Full details and copies of the relevant presentations (including sound recordings of the main speeches) can be found at:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2017>

Login details are required to access these presentations.

There were two key note speakers.

**Dr Joyce Miller** is Associate Fellow in the Religions and Education Research Unit at the University of Warwick (WRERU). In 2007 she retired as Head of Diversity and Cohesion at Education Bradford, prior to which she was a Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Wolverhampton. Joyce has taught in secondary schools in Coventry and Northumberland. She is a former Chair of the RE Council, AREIAC, Bradford SACRE and the Schools Linking Network.

Joyce is one of the Commissioners appointed by the RE Council to review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE.

**Prof Aaqil Ahmed** is the only person to have been both BBC and Channel 4 Head of Religion and Ethics. He grew up in the north of England and is a practising Muslim. He is a Professor at the School of Media and Performing Arts, University of Bolton and a Board member of various organisations including The Prince's Trust mentoring charity, Mosaic. Aaqil has written on the subject of religious literacy, recently delivering contributory chapters to Open Democracy's 'Rethinking the BBC' and Lapido Media's 'Religious Literacy for Journalists Handbook'.

Aaqil explained why religion and ethics are so important in today's world, and how to present the issues fearlessly but fairly without creating phony controversy: *"The subject matter is so rich, you don't need to be that foolish and set out to do it. You just need to tell the most important stories that are relevant today."*

The Rt Hon Charles Clarke' (speaker at the NASACRE AGM in 2015) is 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, 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**

At the end of the year, Revd. Dr Jim Walters, Chair of Camden SACRE (and member of Group B) announced his resignation because of increased commitments and responsibilities in his role as Chaplain at the London School of Economics. SACRE members were hugely appreciative of all that he has done to support them and their work over several years, acknowledging his clarity of thought, grasp of the pertinent issues and wish to make SACRE an invaluable resource in helping schools to meet the challenges and issues they face in an ever more complex world of religions and beliefs. He will be much missed.

We also saw the retirement or departure of a number of other SACRE members, and are looking for new volunteers to succeed them.

## 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](mailto:vinothan.sangarapillai@camden.gov.uk)

## 7.0 MEETINGS

Meetings of SACRE were held on:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016** at Camden Town Hall
- **8<sup>th</sup> February 2017** at Camden Town Hall
- **3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017** 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 2016-17**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

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

Shahanaz Begum (Muslim)  
Jean Harrison (Baptist)  
Dr Lynndy Levin (Jewish)  
Rev. B. Ananda Mangala (Buddhist)  
Abdul Quadir (Muslim)  
Krishna Pujara (Hindu)  
Liam Whitton (Humanist)

#### **Group B: Church of England**

Rev. Dr. James Walters (to July 2017)  
Peter Ginnings  
Liz Wolverson (to February 2017)  
Mary Thorne (from February 2017)  
Amanda Szewczyk-Radley (to May 2017)

#### **Group C: Teachers**

Michelle Chalibama  
Ann Boater  
Lynne Trigg (to May 2017)

#### **Group D: Camden Local Authority**

Cllr Siobhan Baillie  
Cllr Julian Fulbrook  
Cllr Heather Johnson  
Cllr Oliver Lewis  
Cllr Phil Rosenberg  
Cllr Stephen Stark  
Cllr Paul Tomlinson

## APPENDIX B

### GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAM RESULTS IN CAMDEN

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Number of candidates obtaining that grade</b>
<b>A*</b>	<b>80 (12%)</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>161 (24%)</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>158 (23%)</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>93 (14%)</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>84 (12%)</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>45 (7%)</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>33 (5%)</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>18 (3%)</b>
<b>U</b>	<b>12 (2%)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>684 (100%)</b>