

Foreword and Summary

By the Chair of SACRE

Foreword

I feel honoured and privileged to serve as the new Chair of Ealing SACRE, having taken up the role in May 2017. As a former member, this is a new chapter in my involvement with Ealing's SACRE and I look forward to working with everyone.

I would like to thank SACRE members who have now retired from the Committee. Councillor Anthony Kelly, the previous Chair of SACRE, and Nora Leonard, former SACRE consultant, both of whom made a sterling effort in developing SACRE. We also said goodbye to Councillors Gulaid and Kumar and our long-standing Buddhist representative, Dr. Amarasinghe.

Turning now to the team who will carry on the work of SACRE, I would like to extend a warm welcome to those members who have recently begun their involvement with Ealing SACRE. Among our new members we are fortunate to have Lesley Prior, as our new consultant, Councillors Roz Reece and Munir Ahmed, and Mr Luxman Dissanayake, our new Buddhist member.

Over the last municipal year, Havelock Primary School and Wolf Fields Primary School have renewed their determinations, and we had a chance to hear their cases made directly by their Headteachers and representatives.

More recently in responding to the NASACRE survey questions, the committee had an opportunity to consider its practice as a SACRE and to reflect on past developments as well as to think about future developments.

As the conversation in the Religious Education world about its present settlement –with important repercussions for the SACREs—continues, this year we will be considering significant reports that have recently been published, among them the 'Interim Report: Religious Education for All' authored by The Commission on Religious Education, as well as the National Association of Teachers' of Religious Education (NATRE) 'Analysis of the Provision for Religious Education in Primary Schools'.

Cllr Charan Sharma

LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING

ANNUAL REPORT OF EALING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2016 - 17

1.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1.1 Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in the London Borough of Ealing was produced in 2014 and is called **Sowing the Seeds of the Future: An Exploration of Human Beliefs and Values**. This syllabus was unanimously approved by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 8th July 2014 and ratified by LB of Ealing Cabinet on 22nd July, to be implemented in LB Ealing community schools from September 2014.

The document is available via:

https://www.egfl.org.uk/sites/default/files/imported/categories/teaching/curriculum/subjects/re/re_curric/recurric_docs/Sowing_the_seeds_July14.pdf

It remains the legally binding document for all local authority maintained and voluntary controlled schools in the Borough.

Schools are required to teach all of the units prescribed by the syllabus, but must fill any gaps with their own school-based units. Most of the prescribed units build on tried and tested materials from the previous syllabus, but several new units were added in Key Stages 2 and 3.

It should be noted that the schemes of work are posted at: <https://www.egfl.org.uk/school-effectiveness/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/curriculum-subjects/religious-education>

These are examples only; they are not prescriptive, and teachers are welcome to amend and adapt them in accordance with the requirements of the syllabus.

1.2 Standards in RE

SACRE used to monitor standards in RE by carrying out an annual analysis of OFSTED reports. In 2016-17, SACRE members continued to regret the fact that current OFSTED arrangements make it extremely difficult for them to carry out this statutory duty, as the necessary evidence is no longer available. SACRE members therefore sought other ways in which to monitor standards in RE, such as supporting RE teachers in LA schools and also considered whether or not to monitor the RE aspects of school websites in the future.

2.0 IN-SERVICE TRAINING: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

2.1 Short Courses

The Authority offers a basic programme of in-service training.

SACRE members were pleased to note that there continue to be termly meetings for Subject Leaders for RE in primary and special schools. These have been delivered by various colleagues, including Lesley Prior, Religious Education Consultant and LDBS Adviser for RE in Community. Lesley also supports the work of the LB of Ealing SACRE. During 2016 - 17, these meetings took place at Ealing Education Centre on:

- **???? 2016**
- **8th March 2017**
- **10th May 2017**

Participants were given opportunities to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of different approaches to Religious Education and consider ways in which teaching and learning in the subject can be enhanced in their schools
- analyse the current legal requirements for RE in the LB of Ealing in relation to the the agreed syllabus and identify a variety of approaches to enable their schools to meet its requirements
- consider the interface between these religions and beliefs and school life, the challenges these create, the rights of children, schools and parents and possible strategies for resolving relevant issues in a practical and sensitive way
- learn about issues in RE at a national level and to discuss the challenges posed by these for RE in the LB of Ealing and their own specific contexts.

Feedback from these meetings is positive.

2.2 Additional Training

The RE Consultant has provided one to one support for RE Coordinators in various schools. She was also available to answer queries by telephone or email.

3.0 COMPLAINTS

No complaints on either Religious Education or Collective Worship were referred to SACRE for investigation in the year 2016 – 17.

4.0 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

4.1 Determinations

A list of schools which have been granted Determinations will be found in Annex ?.

4.2 Determination Renewals

The following determination renewals were granted during the academic year 2016 – 17:

- Havelock Primary School
- Wolf Fields Primary School

5.0 MATTERS CONSIDERED BY SACRE

The following matters were considered by SACRE in the year 2016 - 17.

- the making Suburban Faith Project:
<https://makingsuburbanfaith.wordpress.com>
- a response to the Big NASACRE Survey
- guidance on meeting the needs of Muslim pupils and colleagues, particularly during Ramadan:
https://www.egfl.org.uk/sites/default/files/imported/categories/teaching/curriculum/subjects/re/articles_docs/Muslim_pupils_guidance_Sept2016.pdf

6.0 LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

The LB of Ealing SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Login details for the NASACRE website are:

- Username: member1718
- Password: N@5aCR!78

Lesley Prior, the Ealing 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:

The login details (see above) 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 Lapid 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.

7.0 CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Anthony Kelly stepped down as Chair of Ealing SACRE during the year. He steered SACRE Meetings with interest and skill and SACRE members extended their warm thanks to him for all he contributed to their work together.

Cllr Charan Sharma became the new Chair of SACRE in Cllr Kelly's place and already brings a wealth of commitment and enthusiasm to the role.

During the year, regular SACRE Clerk Paula Portas was on maternity leave and in her absence, the role was ably covered by Ray Simpson. SACRE extends its thanks to him for all his work on its behalf and looks forward to welcoming back Paula in the new academic year.

In December 2016, the SACRE Consultant Nora Leonard retired. At her final SACRE Meeting in November 2016, members paid tribute to her. It was noted that Nora had succeeded in bringing together the very diverse group of people present in SACRE and had brought enormous value to the SACRE community. This was because Nora had embodied the importance of valuing one another. It was noted that Nora's achievements at Ealing SACRE were of huge significance and she was commended by everyone for all she had brought to her role.

Lesley Prior, RE Adviser for Community Schools at the London Diocesan Board for Schools was employed on a consultancy basis from January 2017 to support the work of SACRE.

8.0 SACRE CONTACT OFFICERS 2016 – 17

Cllr Charan Sharma, SACRE Chair, SharmaC@ealing.gov.uk
Paula Portas, SACRE Clerk, PortasP@ealing.gov.uk
Lesley Prior, SACRE Consultant, lesley.prior@london.anglican.org

9.0 MEETINGS

Meetings of SACRE were held on:

- **1st November 2016** at Ealing Town Hall
- **23rd February 2017** at Ealing Town Hall
- **22nd June 2017** at Ealing Town Hall

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

ANNEX A

LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2016-2017

MEMBERSHIP

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

Group B: Church of England

Group C: Teachers

Group D: LA Representatives

Officers:

