



# Wandsworth

Chief Executive  
Mike Jackson

Wandsworth Borough Council  
**Chief Executive's Group**  
The Town Hall Wandsworth High Street  
London SW18 2PU

Date: 21st February 2024

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## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2024 AT 7.30 P.M.  
KHALSA CENTRE GURDWARA, 95 UPPER TOOTING  
ROAD, SW17 7TW**

### **SACRE Membership:**

**Group A – Religious denominations other than the Church of England – namely Christian and other denominations, religions and world views which appropriately reflect the principal faith traditions and belief systems in Wandsworth:**

Mr Dominique Joseph Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church), Ms Sharon Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue), Mr Nabhinandan Das (London Institute of Vedic Education (Hindu)), Mr Jon Fayle (Humanists UK), Ms Saffi Haines (Society of Friends), Rev. Rosamund Hollingsworth (the Methodist Church of Great Britain), Mrs Maria Liddy (Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark), Ms Jyotika Pandya (Hindu Education Board UK), Mr Colin Perry (Buddhapadipa Temple), Mr Paul Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is), Imam Khubaeb Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre), Mr Usman Shazhad Butt (Ahmadiyya Muslim Association), Mr Charan Singh (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara) and Mr Harbans Singh Mehta (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara).

**Group A Substitute:** Ms Shanta Chellappoo-Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is).

### **Group B – Church of England:**

Mr Shaun Burns and Ms Rachel Croft.

### **Group C – Teachers' Associations:**

Mrs Claire Beecher (NEU), Ms Clare Hewitson (NEU), Ms Anna Madden (NAHT) and Ms Brigitte Sayers-Eugster (NASUWT).

**Group D – Local Authority:**

Councillor Sana Jafri (Chair), Councillor Mrs Rosemary Birchall, Councillor Angela Graham and Councillor Denise Paul.

**Co-opted members:** none

## **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. Minutes - 2nd October 2023**

**(Pages 5 - 10)**

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the SACRE held on 2nd October 2023 and to consider any matters arising.

**3. Membership**

To receive a verbal update on the membership of the SACRE.

**4. SACRE annual report 2022-23**

**(Pages 11 - 22)**

To consider the SACRE annual report for 2022-23.

**5. Ofsted annual report 2022-23**

To consider the Ofsted annual report for 2022-23.

**6. RE Hubs newsletter**

**(Pages 23 - 24)**

To consider the RE Hubs Spring 2024 newsletter.

**7. School interfaith working**

To consider school interfaith working within Wandsworth.

**8. Future Meeting Dates**

To note the forthcoming SACRE meetings scheduled for 2024:

- Monday 10th June 2024 at the Buddhapadipa Temple
- Monday 30th September 2024 at Wandsworth Town Hall

All meetings of the SACRE start at 7.30pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
held at the Town Hall, Wandsworth, SW18 2PU  
on Monday, 2nd October, 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

**Group A – Christian and Other Religious Denominations:**

Mr Dominique Joseph Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church)  
Ms Sharon Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue)  
Ms Saffi Haines (Society of Friends),  
Ms Jyotika Pandya (Hindu Education Board UK),  
Mr Paul Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is),  
Mr Charan Singh (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara)

**Group B – Church of England:**

Mr Shaun Burns (Southwark Diocesan Board of Education)

**Group C – Teachers' Associations:**

Ms Clare Hewitson (NEU)  
Ms Clare Beecher (NEU)

**Group D – Local Authority:**

Councillor Sana Jafri (Chair)  
Councillor Rosemary Birchall  
Councillor Mrs Angela Graham  
Councillor Denise Paul.

**Co-opted member:**

Mr Jon Fayle (Humanists UK)

**In attendance:**

Mr Andrew Hough, Head of School Participation and Performance  
Mrs Angela Rundle, SACRE Officer  
Mrs Ruth Wright, Democratic Services Officer

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Ms Rachel Croft (Church of England representative)  
Mr Nabhinandan Das (London Institute of Vedic Education (Hindu)),  
Rev. Rosamund Hollingsworth (the Methodist Church of Great Britain),  
Imam Khubaeb Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre),  
Mr Harbans Singh Mehta (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara)  
Ms Brigitte Sayers-Eugster (NASUWT) (on maternity leave)

**2. Minutes - 12th June 2023**

**RESOLVED –**

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education meeting held on 12th June 2023 were a correct record.

### **3. Membership**

The Chair advised that Claire Wood had stepped down from SACRE as she had retired from being a headteacher at All Saint's Primary School and was the NAHT rep.

In terms of new members, Jyotika Pandya from Hindu Education Board UK was welcomed. She replaced Jatin Bhatt on SACRE.

There were no questions or comments about membership.

### **4. Full membership request to join Group A by Jon Fayle (Humanist member)**

#### **Re-order of agenda**

As Jon Fayle was not present in the meeting at the time, the Chair moved to agenda item 5 'Ofsted Reports' next.

The item was considered following a request to join the membership of SACRE. It was noted that in accordance with the Wandsworth SACRE constitution, which stated:

'Where a faith group not currently represented on Group A wishes to join SACRE, a representative of that faith group will be asked to apply to the Local Authority (through the SACRE Clerk) and attend a SACRE meeting to present their request. SACRE will then refer the matter to the Local Authority, recommending approval, rejection or co-option, with reasons. The Local Authority will then determine whether the group appropriately contributes to the principal faith traditions in Wandsworth and that its appointment would be consistent with the efficient discharge of Group A's functions.'

Mr Fayle gave a verbal presentation to members regarding his application for full SACRE membership. He provided some background about himself, including that he had been a Humanist for 20 years and was a member of the South West London Humanist Committee. He was a full member of the Richmond SACRE and had spoken in schools and participated in the school 'Faith Direct' events in Richmond.

Mr Fayle asserted that it was necessary for non-religious world views to be fully represented in SACRE. He explained that Humanists had similarities with religions in relation to ethics and philosophical questions. Humanists promoted showing respect, tolerance, courtesy and understanding towards others. The 2021 census stated that 36.2% of the borough's residents reported to be of 'No Religion', though some may not be Humanists, some would be. The same figures were 37% nationally and 27% across London. Mr Fayle furthered that it was important that those who were Humanist and those who subscribed to no religion were catered for within the Local Authority, schools and in SACRE, and to increase a wider understanding of 'world views' for all pupils.

There was a short discussion about the Group A title. The official DfE title was 'Christian denominations and such other religions and religious denominations

as, in the authority's opinion, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area'. The Wandsworth SCARE constitution listed it as 'Representing religious denominations other than the Church of England – namely Christian and other denominations, religions and world views which, in the opinion of the Local Authority, appropriately reflect the principal faith traditions in Wandsworth with census data as the starting point.' It was agreed that the SACRE agenda front sheet would be updated accordingly to include the wider elements.

Members agreed that accepting Mr Fayle as a full member of SACRE would broaden the remit of Group A to include 'world views', and was a positive move.

**RESOLVED** – each group voted in turn (with one member abstaining). Members agreed that the Local Authority be recommend to approve the Group A membership of Jon Fayle on SACRE.

Ruth Wright to take the recommendation to the Local Authority, for approval in accordance with the Council's decision making process.

## 5. Ofsted Reports

Angela Rundle explained that the Ofsted visit exemption for 'outstanding' schools had been removed and many schools had their visits postponed because of the pandemic. As such, Ofsted made visits to 33 Wandsworth schools in the 2022/23 academic year. Eight of these schools had not had their reports published at the time of writing the monitoring report, but since then two more schools had their inspections published. Each of those remained a 'good' school.

One of the inspection reports mentioned that religious education (RE) was reviewed, but did not add any detail. Another school had a 'deep dive' including RE work, but again, did not mention details in their inspection report. Ms Rundle stated that Ofsted would not assess RE at faith schools. Instead, for Christian schools there was the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. One Catholic school was assessed by Ofsted – St Joseph's (not St Mary's as listed in the report). It was graded as 'outstanding'. Overall, teaching in Wandsworth schools had been considered as at least 'good', with none listed as 'requiring improvement'.

Members voiced their concern that even with a 'deep dive', Ofsted had not described RE in schools in their reports. Therefore, the work of SACRE was harder in scrutinising and supporting schools accordingly, in their statutory remit to cover RE and world views. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Ofsted about the situation. Andy Hough commented that Ofsted probably gave more information to the senior leadership of schools following an inspection about RE, even though it was not stated in their published report. He added that Ofsted may say that their stance was because they were not the arbiter of RE. Members welcomed Ms Rundle's suggestion to ask the school which had experienced a deep dive for feedback on the experience at the RE subject leaders' meeting. She would then bring back details to SACRE. Andy Hough advised that instead of a letter being sent to Ofsted about the situation, he would

raise the matter at the next 'keeping in touch' meeting he and others in the Council were due to have with Ofsted. He would also use feedback from the RE leaders' meeting in his conversation with Ofsted, and report back to SACRE.

## 6. Faith Trail update

Ms Rundle Angela reported that there were four faith trails to take place that term, as one was running twice. There had been a change to one place of worship within one trail, but all the major religions were covered. The trails were for Years 5 and 6 to fit in with their RE curriculum and provide positive experiences and learning through all of the senses. The trails took place over a day each in the autumn and summer terms. Details of each trail were included in the RE newsletters. Angela added that members of Lambeth SACRE had joined in the recent Balham Trail, with a view to comparing how they implemented the model in their borough.

The trails included optional recording forms for the children during the visit and evaluation forms afterwards to help assess their effectiveness and help with understanding and respect. Ms Rundle stated that positive feedback had been received from schools and hosts. Sharon Coussins echoed the view, as she was a host at Wimbledon Synagogue. Cllr Mrs Graham added that she had joined a trail, and it was a privilege to take part. She added that the trails were invaluable for the children, but also for the teachers, assistants and parents/carers who participated. Ms Rundle informed that there was a waiting list of schools to join the trails, as they were popular. Ms Rundle read aloud feedback from schools:

### Southfields Trail, from Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School

Q. What were your hopes and expectations of this Faith Trail and how were they met?

*A. For the children to learn more about other religions and experience their place of worship. To see how other people live in other places of worship. To recognise similarities and differences and to be able to recognize how other faiths began. For the children to gain and show respect to other of different faiths.*

*The children also completed the Wimbledon Faith Trail last year. I am so pleased that they have knowledge, understanding and respect for other faiths. The children can recognize similarities and differences and understand that religion can bring us together and help us be the best version of ourselves.*

*A very big thank you for making the arrangements. It is such a lovely day out as a bonus on top of our learning. We will continue to attend as long as opportunity is available.*

### Wimbledon Trail, from All Saint's CE Primary School

Q. What were your hopes and expectations of this Faith Trail and how were they met?

*A. To give children first-hand experience of places of worship that they may not have visited before. To give them opportunity to ask questions of the different faith leaders. Tied in with our RE topic of Faith in the local area. Completely met expectations.*

Q. How would you assess the value of this activity:

1) for yourself and other participating staff?

A. *I certainly learnt lots on the day, as did other members of staff*

2) in relation to your RE curriculum?

A. *It fitted in perfectly with our Y6 topic of Faith in the local area. It was also an excellent refresher for faiths that children learnt about lower down the school.*

### Balham Trail

Clare Hewitson from Finton House School provided members with a photo montage of the children's work and feedback from the trails. Ms Hewitson added that the pupils always found the trails a positive experience and the school's Year 5 and 6 pupils had joined in all three trails over a two-year time span.

Dominique Clem asked if his Seventh-day Adventist Church could be part of future trails. Ms Rundle replied that she would liaise with him about that outside of the meeting.

It was recognised that the trails took a lot of planning, and Shaun Burns initiated thanks for Ms Rundle for all her dedicated and hard work in that regard.

## **7. NASACRE training**

Members were advised to look at the training on offer and contact Ms Rundle or Mrs Wright if they wanted to undertake a course, as advance payment had been made for attendees.

## **8. Discussion on the current situation on the core report - 'Religion and world views: the way forward, a national approach for RE'**

Mr Fayle started the discussion by saying that the report was good and included helpful recommendations. He added that he had asked Charles Clarke MP whether the report remained relevant, and was told it was. It was noted that both Richmond and Wandsworth SACREs wrote to the Secretary of State at the time the report was published, for help with moving it forward, but neither received a reply. It was also noted that some of the report recommendations required legislative changes.

Members discussed a few points from the report, including what schools called their class subject to cover religions and world views education. Although academies were not monitored by SACREs, it was questioned whether their funding agreements could be revised to ensure that religious and world views education was included in their curriculum. Ms Rundle stated that in the past she had written to all academies that taught the subject with an adequate time allocation and praised them, and to those who did not, she asked why and offered support. It was added that partnership working was required, not dictating actions to schools.

Ms Rundle confirmed that she always published the Wandsworth SACRE annual report and minutes of past meetings were available online.

Mr Fayle suggested that a Humanist speaker be included in the RE leaders and headteachers meeting in relation to the Key Stage 3 syllabus. Ms Rundle reported that she had already invited a Humanist speaker to the next RE subject leaders' meeting.

Mr Fayle asked if there was any interest in creating a working sub-group to explore the report further within Wandsworth and feedback to SACRE. It was agreed that an email would be sent to members for them to consider their involvement. Members were reminded that the full report could be found on <https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Final-Report-of-the-Commission-on-RE.pdf>

## **9. Future Meeting Dates**

It was confirmed that the next meeting date was:

Monday 4th March 2024, location to be confirmed.

## **10. Any other business**

### NASACRE Briefing

The briefing paper was circulated prior to the meeting, though was received too late for the agenda pack. No members raised any questions or comments about the paper.

### WhatsApp group

Mr Fayle mentioned that Richmond SACRE had a WhatsApp group for members to keep in contact, and asked whether the Wandsworth members wanted to be part of one. It was agreed that an email would be sent round to members about that.

### London Borough of Culture 2025 bid

Mr Burns asked how SACRE members could contribute towards the project. It was agreed that Mrs Wright would find out and share that with members. Mr Burns advised that he was involved in the London Borough of Culture in Lewisham.

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.



## **Wandsworth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

### **Annual Report for the academic year September 2022- August 2023**

#### **1. Introduction**

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#### **Chair's welcome**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this report as the Chair of Wandsworth SACRE. The 2022-23 academic year was a welcome return to normal, post pandemic. We had three meetings during the year, two of which were at the Town Hall and one hosted at one of our places of worship, where we enjoyed a presentation and tour of the Quaker Friends Meeting House.

We welcomed new members this year – in Group A: Imam Usman Shahzad Butt from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Rev. Rosalind Hollingsworth from the Methodist Church of Great Britain; in Group C: Claire Beecher from the NEU and Brigitte Sayers- Eugster from the NASUWT; and in Group D: Cllr. Denise Paul; together with Jon Fayle from Humanists UK as a new co-opted member.

We also said goodbye to some members this year – Ewa Bednarek, Claire Wood, Sharon Docherty, Cllr. Norman Marshall and Cllr. Juliana Annan.

Wandsworth SACRE has continued with its work to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally as well as academically. We participated in the NASACRE AGM and continue to follow with interest developments in RE nationally; for example, we looked to see what progress had been made in the ideas presented in the draft handbook of the Religious Education Council, and considered the impact that further academisation would have on our ability to support RE in our schools.

Our SACRE actively seeks to ensure all children in Wandsworth have access to high quality and challenging RE and we provide support to primary RE subject leaders through the teachers' network meetings. These are free of charge to maintained schools and we urge school leaders to recognise the importance of allocating school time for staff to attend. We also produce a termly newsletter which signposts

resources, draws attention to issues of interest in the RE world and highlights forthcoming festivals among other features.

Pupils' learning in RE has continued to be enhanced by the Faith Trails which have allowed our children to experience exciting learning opportunities while promoting an ethos of respect for others. We are very grateful to our Group A members who have facilitated these. The trails have built on pupils' understanding of their own and other cultures and beliefs while also celebrating the religious and cultural diversity found in Wandsworth.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to members of Wandsworth SACRE and all others who work so hard to support RE in Wandsworth.

Councillor Sana Jafri  
Chair, Wandsworth SACRE

## **Overview**

1. This annual report of Wandsworth SACRE outlines the work of SACRE during the academic year 2022 to 2023. The GCSE and A-level statistics for Religious Studies for the past year are provided as an appendix to this report, with thanks to the Wandsworth Research and Evaluation Unit, which provides this information.

### **Meetings held in the reporting year**

2. Wandsworth SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2022-23. Meetings were held in the evenings. After two years of virtual meetings using Teams, it was a delight to be able to hold all our meetings in person again. Two were held at the Town Hall and one at a place of worship; this was at the Friends' Meeting House in Wandsworth High Street, and preceded by a tour and presentation by a member of the Society of Friends.

Attendance was generally good, and no meetings were inquorate. New members were welcomed, as listed above. There were three resignations and one member moved from representing the NAHT to Group B, the Church of England and another to being the Catholic representative, whose place was taken up by a Group C member moving to Group A. Another member from Group C moved into Group B. There were also two new teacher members. The Chair of SACRE resigned and Councillor Jafri became the new SACRE Chair.

3. The NASACRE briefing is a standing item at all SACRE meetings.

### **Autumn Term Meeting 2022**

4. Meeting held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022.

The Ofsted monitoring report prepared by the Local Authority's (LA) SACRE Officer was presented for discussion. This made an analysis of any comments on

Religious Education (RE) or spiritual, social, moral and cultural development (SMSC) that were found in the Ofsted reports from Wandsworth schools inspected in the academic year 2021-22. Just one school had had a deep dive in RE.

The next item for discussion was the Government White Paper regarding schools changing to academies. The effect that academisation would have on SACRE and its statutory remit was a major cause of concern. It was decided to maintain a watching brief and co-ordinate a joint response with other boroughs should this progress.

The Wandsworth Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) was now five years old. A vote was taken for the LA to be formally requested to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). The SACRE Officer invited interested SACRE members to join a working party of teachers who would support the ASC. Several members put themselves forward.

The Draft Religious Education Council handbook had been included in the agenda pack for SACRE members to consider in small discussion groups as a refresher activity, before its expected revision in 2024. The feeling of those present was that the discussions were helpful.

NASACRE's training plan, which enabled all members to attend any training provided by NASACRE free of charge, was shared with the group and members encouraged to sign up for any sessions in which they had a particular interest.

### **Spring Term Meeting 2023**

5. Meeting held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

The new Wandsworth Community and Partnerships Service Voluntary Sector Development Manager introduced herself and explained that her role was to develop and strengthen communities in the borough, including faith groups' links. A borough-wide voluntary and community needs analysis was taking place and progress would be reported back to SACRE.

The SACRE Annual Report for 2021-22 was presented and discussed. While the NASACRE template for the report was used, it was very similar to the format that had been used by the LA in previous years. There was some discussion on Wandsworth schools' Religious Studies (RS) GCSE and A-Level results, which were better than the national average and with some very good individual school results.

The 2021 Census Data on Religion for Wandsworth was considered. There were some direct correlations between the England and Wandsworth's statistics between 2011 and 2021, such as the decrease in percentage of those who were Christian, and an increase in those with no religion. The Jewish and 'other religion' percentages were the same as the English results. Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu numbers were listed at a higher percentage and Sikh at a lower within

the borough than the whole of England. Members also discussed the breakdown of the 'other religion' Wandsworth figures for 2021 which were many and varied.

### **Summer Term Meeting**

#### **6. Meeting held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The SACRE Officer reported back on the NASACRE conference which had been held in person again for the first time in three years and celebrated 30 years of NASACRE. The feedback and notes from the keynote speakers provided by the conference were also included. The Officer noted that national analysis of SACREs had been undertaken, and Wandsworth SACRE was one of only 23 who had provided their 2021-22 annual reports, and one of a smaller group who had submitted reports over the last three years. The new format for this conference was the holding of subsequent online workshops. The SACRE Officer would attend the interfaith dialogue and the Welcome Project and share the information later.

SACRE was pleased to be able to receive a virtual presentation on RE Hubs, funded by The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) and the RE Council. The website was explained as a 'one stop shop' to support the teaching of RE nationally and its features were explained. Some SACRE members expressed an interest in registering with the RE Hub and accessing the training to become Kite marked approved speakers.

Brigitte Sayers-Eugster from Shaftesbury Park Primary School provided a very interesting and practical presentation on how the Wandsworth Locally Agreed Syllabus has been used in her school.

An update was given on the Faith Trail initiative. There were now three trails running in each of the autumn and summer terms; Wimbledon Parkside with the Buddhaddipa Buddhist Temple, Wimbledon Synagogue and St Paul's CE church; Southfields with Ahmadiyya Fazl Mosque, South London Gurdwara and the Friends' Meeting House; and Balham, with Balham Mosque, Balham Hindu Mandir and St Mary and St John the Divine CE church. Each trail gave a chance to visit three contrasting places of worship of Abrahamic, Dharmic and Christian faith. All the trails were fully booked, with some returning schools now making it part of their RE curriculum offer for Year 6.

## **2. Religious Education**

### **Syllabus**

The current Wandsworth Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) was originally launched in September 2017. Due to the new directions in RE relating to Worldviews and forthcoming commissions for exemplar syllabi, it was updated and extended rather than replaced. Working parties from the teacher network assisted the ASC to produce the revised document, which was approved in February 2023.

**Monitoring and standards**

Standards in RE in secondary schools were monitored by scrutinising the exam data from GCSEs and A level. See appendix.

A trawl was also made of Ofsted reports to look for references to RE and SMSC. This was done and reported upon in the first meeting of the new academic year, October 2022. Section 48 reports are also sent to SACRE, but due to the break in the carrying out of inspections, there was only one in the last year.

The workforce data for secondary schools, produced by NATRE is discussed, and follow up made to schools where there had been no submission, or where time allocation to RE appeared low. It should be noted that in Wandsworth, only one secondary school was a community school until March 2023, while with the exception of one voluntary aided school, the others all have academy status. Some primary schools were working towards the RE Quality Mark (REQM). Two schools currently hold the award.

**Continuing professional development**

The primary RE subject leaders' network met once in each term at Wandsworth's Professional Development Centre. The foci for meetings in the last year were:

- A presentation and discussion on the Baha'i faith, followed by input into the revision of the LAS (autumn 22)
- Talks and discussions from faith representatives of Hinduism and Judaism; presentation from a primary school on how they had incorporated the LAS into their whole school curriculum (spring 23)
- Presentation from the Faith and Belief Forum; sharing of RE portfolios (summer 2023)

**Other support for schools**

The email network group set up by the LA SACRE Officer has continued to enable members

to keep in touch with each other to seek advice and share good practice. It includes some subject leaders from independent schools as well as LA community schools.

The LA SACRE Officer produces a termly newsletter which has a calendar of events including major faith festivals, signposts good practice and shares resources.

SACRE produced guidance for schools on Ramadan, which is updated annually (see appendix).

No complaints about religious education in schools were referred to SACRE this year.

**3. Collective Worship**

No monitoring of collective worship, either of quality or compliance to statutory requirements, took place during the year. No requests for determinations were received during the year. No schools in Wandsworth have been given determinations in the past.

No complaints regarding collective worship in the community schools of Wandsworth were referred to SACRE during the year. SACRE produced guidance for schools on collective worship (see appendix).

### **Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests**

There was one FOI request during the past year, from NASACRE in relation to funding.

## **4. Links with other bodies**

Wandsworth SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

One meeting per year had in the past been held jointly with Wandsworth's Multi Faith Forum, with an agenda chosen to reflect the interests of both bodies. This group had not met since lockdown; however Wandsworth has now appointed a Voluntary Sector Development Manager, one of whose briefs is to connect and support faith groups across the borough. She attended some SACRE meetings and been active in promoting multi faith/cultural events.

There are good links with the Church of England Diocese of Southwark and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, whose advisers to Wandsworth's VA schools are much valued by the schools themselves and the School Improvement Service.

## **5. Other SACRE local involvement**

The Faith Trails for Year 5 and 6 pupils in primary schools, a SACRE initiative which began in the 2021-22 academic year, have grown and flourished during the last year, and have been described above. Some Group A members have been very helpful in facilitating these.

Nine different schools have taken part so far, with some of these schools making this a part of their regular curriculum offer in RE. A longer list has signed up for future dates. Evaluations from hosts and schools have been extremely positive and pupils' work from the visits of a high standard, showing much thought and perception.

## **6. SACRE's Administrative Arrangements and Financial Support**

SACRE meetings are clerked by a Democratic Services Officer from Wandsworth Council. An officer is provided to support the LA. Specialist RE professional support for SACRE was provided by an external consultant, Lesley Prior, who supported a number of London SACREs.

The annual budget for support for SACRE in 2022-23 was £6000, the same as in 2021-22. This funded the external consultant, LA SACRE Officer, NASACRE membership and other incidental expenses. Wandsworth Town Hall provided a room for meetings, but it is an aspiration to hold at least one meeting a year at a place of worship. As noted, this year, two meetings were at the Town Hall and one at the Friends' Meeting House.

### **Membership**

While some members had been in place for a number of years, there is always some movement in the membership, but vacancies were quickly addressed. There were no inquorate meetings in the past year.

Group A contains representatives of all the major faiths and some denominations or branches within them, and two nominated deputies for some faiths. The Humanist member was co-opted during this reporting year, but arrangements were made for this member to request full membership of Group A.

### **Training**

The LA Officer attended the NASACRE conference in 2023. SACRE is also happy to fund a certain amount of training for members and signed up to NASACRE's training package.

## **7. Appendices**

Tables of exam results for the year 2022-23

CPD provided for schools – see above

SACRE has provided advice for schools on Collective Worship -

[wandsworth sacre guidance on collective worship.pdf](#)

and on Ramadan

[https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/media/10197/sacre\\_ramadan\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/media/10197/sacre_ramadan_guidance.pdf)

(updated annually)

In addition to the DfE and NASACRE, the report is circulated to SACRE members and schools.

Appendix

**WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SACRE - MARCH 2024**

**STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATIONS IN 2023**

**Introduction**

This paper summarises the Wandsworth and England results for 2023 Religious Studies GCSE and A Level examinations. It provides more detailed data for Wandsworth down to school level.

This is provided for information and discussion.

**Summary of national data**

Outcomes are still provisional to date (software to be updated with final data in April). Headline figures are as follows:

**The key outcomes for Religious Education in England at KS4 and KS5 in 2023**

- There were 193,610 entries for the full course in GCSE Religious Studies (RS), a significant increase from 2022 (144,010).
- After a dip last year, this meant that the numbers taking the full GCSE RS examination course were comparable to 2019 (207,720).
- There was no data available for entries for the short course in GCSE RS.
- The points average had dropped (from 5.3 in 2022 to 5.0 in 2023).
- There were 14,720 entries at A level, continuing a downward trend since 2018 (16,660).
- Percentages of A\*- B dropped from 68.1 in 2022 to 55.1, and A - E from 99.1 to 97.3.



## Summary of Wandsworth data

- 1,040 students sat a Religious Studies (RS) examination in Wandsworth in 2023, very similar to the numbers in 2022 (1,029).
- 939 students sat the GCSE full course (952 in 2022), but none the short course. Nine students from Francis Barber had sat this the previous year.
- As for previous years, the number of students in the cohort has been included in the data, which shows the wide variation in the percentage of a cohort opting for RS. There was again a great divergence between schools in this: St Cecilia's, St John Bosco and Graveney entered all or almost all their students; Chestnut Grove the vast majority and Ashcroft about half.
- The lowest proportion was at Harris Battersea, where it was about a seventh of the cohort.
- Ark Putney again entered no students as it was not offered as a GCSE option, although it appears that it will be offered in future. Southfields and Ernest Bevin did not enter any students this year, although it is normally an option.
- It is not surprising that church schools enter more pupils, as RS is entitled to a defined amount of curriculum time, 10% in Catholic schools.
- The points score averages for Ashcroft, Graveney and Chestnut Grove were all above the LA average, Ashcroft significantly so; Harris and St Cecilia's perceptibly below. While St John Bosco was still below the LA average by 0.3, it had made a great improvement of 0.5 from last year; from 4.9 to 5.4, comfortably above the national average. Although the LA average of 5.7 was lower than the 5.9 of last year, it was much higher than the national average of 5.0, which had also dropped – from 5.3 last year.
- The highest average points (6.7) were earned at Ashcroft, the lowest at Harris (4.7) Only St Cecilia's (4.9) and Harris were below the national average.
- Overall the indicator of grades 9 - 4 showed that Wandsworth was again above the national average – 80.6% compared with 70.6% national, though below the LA 2022 9 - 4 average of 85%.
- In Wandsworth there were 97 entrants for A Level, up from 69 in 2022. Except for two, all passed with at least an E grade.
- There were six entrants for AS level, all from Graveney, for which there had been none in 2022.
- At A level, the percentage A\* - B comparator in Wandsworth dropped to 45.4%, well down from the 73.9% of 2022. This was also below the national comparator, which had only dropped from 68.1% to 55.1%. Above this were Ashcroft at 71.4% (7 students) and St Cecilia's (12 students) at 75%.
- At A\* - E, Wandsworth (97.3%) was only slightly below the national average of 97.9%.

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610)**  
**Qual: GCSE Full Course**

	Entries/NOR					% 9 - 4				Average points					
Centre	2018	2019		2022	2023	2018	2019		2022	2023	2018	2019		2022	2023
NCER National	162230	207720		144010	193610	71.8	72.4		75.3	70.6	5.1	5.2		5.3	5.0
LA Comparator	778	804		952	939	82.6	78.9		85	80.6	5.8	5.7		5.9	5.7
Ark Bolingbroke Academy	9/102	45/111		28/104	29/112	100	82.2		79	79.3	8.0	5.6		5.5	5.4
Ashcroft Technology Academy	128/201	98/199		97/203	108/209	88.3	91.8		96	91.7	6.4	6.1		6.5	6.7
Battersea Park School/ Harris Battersea	10/101	23/115		33/166	23/174	100	91.3		88	73.9	6.2	6.4		6.2	4.7
Burntwood	51/262	60/264		86/261	104/280	84.3	80.0		91	81.7	5.9	6.0		6.2	5.5
Chestnut Grove	97/148	131/163		157/175	150/171	91.8	76.3		91	84.0	6.0	5.6		6.2	5.8
Elliott/ Ark Putney	0	0		0/118	0										
Ernest Bevin	21/176	6/175		13/164	0	90.5	83.3		100		5.5	6.5		5.8	
Graveney School	249/258	245/255		269/281	265/277	86.3	84.1		89	84.9	6.1	6.1		6.3	6.0
Saint John Bosco College	56/62	37/45		121/130	115/133	71.4	83.8		73	73.9	4.8	5.8		4.9	5.4
Southfields (GM)	20/133	26/164		0/145	0	25.0	50.0				2.8	3.7			
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	137/137	133/135		148/148	144/147	73.7	62.4		70	66.7	5.2	4.8		5.1	4.9
Francis Barber PRU					1/36					100					8.0

**A& AS level results in Wandsworth schools (does not include sixth form colleges)**

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610)**

**Qual: GCE AS level**

	Entries					%A-B	%A-B	%A-B	%A-E	%A-E		%A-E
Centre	2018	2019		2022	2023	2018	2019	2023	2018	2019		2023
<b>NCER National</b>	<b>16130</b>	<b>7180</b>				<b>35.8</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>86.4</b>	<b>87.6</b>		
<b>LA Comparator</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>130</b>		<b>None taken</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>95.4</b>		<b>50</b>
Ark Bolingbroke Academy												
Ashcroft Technology Academy	28	31				64.3	80.6		96.4	100		
Burntwood	7	0				-			28.6			
Chestnut Grove	31	38				80.6	63.2		100	100		
Elliott/ Ark Putney												
Ernest Bevin	9	0				44.4			88.9			
Harris Battersea	7	5				71.4	80		100	100		
Graveney School	50	48			6	54.0	54.2	0	98.0	91.7		50
Saint John Bosco College	0	0										
Southfields	10	1				-	-		100	100		
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	17	7				23.5	-		82.4	71.4		

**Subject: Religious Studies (4610)**  
**Qual: GCE A level**

	Entries					%A* - B				%A* - E					
Centre	2018	2019		2022	2023	2018	2019		2022	2023	2018	2019		2022	2023
NCER National	16600	15980		14950	14720	52.3	50		68.1	55.1	98	97.9		99.1	97.3
LA Comparator	82	105		69	97	52.4	51.4		73.9	45.4	98.9	96.2		100	97.9
Ashcroft Technology Academy	11	7		19	7	81.8	100		89.5	71.4	100	100		100	100
Bolingbroke Academy				3	12				100	25				100	100
Burntwood	19	17		9	18	42.1	23.5		55.6	38.9	100	88.2		100	100
Chestnut Grove	11	18		14	23	81.8	66.7		57.1	43.5	100	100		100	100
Ernest Bevin	4	9		0	0	25	22.2		0	0	100	88.9		0	0
Graveney School	16	22		11	11	62.5	54.5		58.3	41.7	100	100		100	91.7
Harris Academy Battersea	0	5		0	0	0	80		0	0	0	100		0	0
Saint John Bosco College	3	0		0	13	0	0		0	38.5	100	0		0	100
Southfields	7	10		0	0	0	20		0	0	100	90		0	0
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	11	17		12	11	54.5	64.7		91.7	75	90.9	100		100	91.7

2023 data is provisional



## Newsletter Spring term 2024

### Places of Interest and School Speaker training

There are nearly 400 School Speakers and Places of Interest now live on the RE Hubs website. 100% of those who have attended our training have rated it 4 or 5 out of 5 stars. They are grateful for the support and opportunity to find out what others are doing, and highly recommend this to others.

"Great to Network and to meet other practitioners. Always keen to hear about what has worked for faith leaders or from group of experts".

"Very focused and engaging presentation where we were able to share and learn from Experience. I thought that 90 minutes was just right! I will recommend this training to others. Thank you so much!!"

We are aware it remains a challenge for some schools to provide their pupils with experiences and engagement from a range of religions and non-religious worldviews. RE Hubs is designed to help schools, SACREs, and Interfaith Networks make these connections. The more places and speakers we can advertise, the better we can help to bridge these gaps, ensuring that pupils get to meet and learn from lived experience.

Registering is easy and free, simply by visiting our website (<https://www.re-hubs.uk/get-involved/get-involved/>) and click to register as a place of interest or a schools speaker or both!. Do get in touch with your RE Hubs Lead if, as an organisation, a bespoke session would be helpful or if you have trained elsewhere to see if we can advertise what you do.

### Supporting Our Teachers

**Do you run a local group for RE Teachers?** If you haven't as yet registered your group on our website, then you can do that here: <https://www.re-hubs.uk/get-involved/register-local-group/>. Did you know there is a new function on the RE Hubs website that enables you to **enter details of your upcoming local group meetings**? You can add your meetings by following this link: <https://www.re-hubs.uk/get-involved/register-local-group-meeting/>

### Are you new to leading a local group for RE Teachers?

Join us for 3 twilight sessions exploring effective local group leadership and have the opportunity to share ideas and network with fellow local group leaders! This training runs on zoom over 3 sessions in the spring and summer term on the following dates:

- Thursday 14th March 4-5.30pm
- Thursday 18th April 4-5.30pm
- Thursday 16th May 4-5.30pm

"Informative, engaging and such a vital link of support." Nicola

"This training has really helped my confidence in leading my first meeting – thank you." Heather

To book a place click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/QW3n0EKyFh>

### Local Leaders CPD training

The next local leaders' session is on 17 April from 4 pm on Zoom and will support you to grow your network with ideas for best practice, top tips and resources from RE experts. The session will include input from network leaders who will speak about their own networks and how they plan and develop them.

Book here: <https://forms.office.com/e/wkrRMIDbTE>

**How do you equip yourself to 'step into the role' of a CPD trainer?**

**How do you make the transition from being a colleague to becoming a trainer and RE CPD leader?**

**How do you overcome imposter syndrome in your new role?**

## Do you lead Religious Education across a MAT?

Why not join our national MAT RE network and have the opportunity to meet with other RE Leads from MATs across the country. This is a great opportunity hear from other MAT RE leads about how they have engaged & informed SLT on RE and find out where other MAT RE leads go to support RE learning.

The next meeting is on 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 - 4- 5.30pm. Book your place: <https://forms.office.com/e/BZaHDGG69J>

This event will be free for all RE leads in MATs who have NATRE or AREIAC membership. If you are not a member of either organisation, we encourage you to join, or a £100 fee will be payable to attend this meeting.

<https://www.natre.org.uk/membership>

<https://www.arei.ac.org.uk/join-arei.ac>

## Leadership Scholarship Programme with Culham St Gabriel's Trust

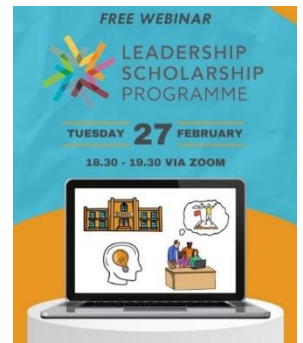
This programme aims to provide opportunities for emerging Religion and Worldviews leaders, expanding and deepening reflections on educational leadership in the subject, with mentoring, structured challenges, research insights, inspirational networking events, and experience of professional development delivery.

The funded programme aims to develop leaders to be researchers, political voices, classroom specialists and curriculum drivers.

The programme is open to UK teachers from key stages 1 through 5, who are leading RE outside their own school.

Closing date for applications is 22nd March 2024

**Want to know more?** Join the free webinar from 6.30pm on Tuesday 27th February: <https://www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events/leadership-scholarship-programme-webinar/>



## National Survey 2024: Personal Knowledge in Religious Education

You are invited to take part in this survey: [https://hud.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4PdNrrP3xGb0DPM](https://hud.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4PdNrrP3xGb0DPM)

This national survey is part of a project about Personal Knowledge in RE funded by All Saints Educational Trust and led by Dr Emma Salter at the University of Huddersfield about Personal Knowledge in our subject. The aims of the project are to find out how Personal Knowledge is understood by different RE stakeholders and use this to develop high quality resources to support RE.

**Your professional experience in RE really counts**- whether you are a trainee, TA, HLTA, teacher, teacher-educator, RE Advisor, or have any other professional role related to RE. Please complete the 15-20 minute survey, and share the link with other RE professionals across your networks.

The survey closes on 28 March 2024. If you have questions about the project or the survey contact Emma at [e.salter@hud.ac.uk](mailto:e.salter@hud.ac.uk).





# Wandsworth

Chief Executive  
Mike Jackson

Wandsworth Borough Council  
**Chief Executive's Group**  
The Town Hall Wandsworth High Street  
London SW18 2PU

Date: 23rd February 2024

**For further information on this agenda, please contact the Democratic Services Officer:** Ruth Wright on [ruth.wright@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.wright@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk), 020 8871 6038

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2024 AT 7.30 P.M.  
KHALSA CENTRE GURDWARA, 95 UPPER TOOTING ROAD, SW17 7TW**

### **SACRE Membership:**

**Group A – Religious denominations other than the Church of England – namely Christian and other denominations, religions and world views which appropriately reflect the principal faith traditions and belief systems in Wandsworth:**

Mr Dominique Joseph Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church), Ms Sharon Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue), Mr Nabhinandan Das (London Institute of Vedic Education (Hindu)), Mr Jon Fayle (Humanists UK), Ms Saffi Haines (Society of Friends), Rev. Rosamund Hollingsworth (the Methodist Church of Great Britain), Mrs Maria Liddy (Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark), Ms Jyotika Pandya (Hindu Education Board UK), Mr Colin Perry (Buddhapadipa Temple), Mr Paul Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is), Imam Khubaeb Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre), Mr Usman Shazhad Butt (Ahmadiyya Muslim Association), Mr Charan Singh (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara) and Mr Harbans Singh Mehta (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara).

**Group A Substitute:** Ms Shanta Chellappoo-Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is).

### **Group B – Church of England:**

Mr Shaun Burns and Ms Rachel Croft.

### **Group C – Teachers' Associations:**

Mrs Claire Beecher (NEU), Ms Clare Hewitson (NEU), Ms Anna Madden (NAHT) and Ms Brigitte Sayers-Eugster (NASUWT).

**Group D – Local Authority:**

Councillor Sana Jafri (Chair), Councillor Mrs Rosemary Birchall, Councillor Angela Graham and Councillor Denise Paul.

**Co-opted members:** none

**LATE REPORT**

**AGENDA**

**5. Ofsted annual report 2022-23 (Pages 3 - 4)**

To consider the Ofsted annual report for 2022-23.



**Ofsted Report for the  
Academic Year 2022-2023**

[Ofsted Annual Report 2022/23: education, children's services and skills - GOV.UK  
\(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-2022-23-education-childrens-services-and-skills)

I have pulled out all the references to RE below:

- in too many primary and secondary schools, the religious education (RE) that pupils receive is of a poor quality and not fit for purpose, leaving pupils ill-equipped for some of the complexities of contemporary society.
- **Subject education**
- Our subject reports highlight general improvements in most subjects. Some of our findings are summarised below. Across subjects, we found greater weaknesses in English, music and PE, and extensive weaknesses in RE.

### **Religious education**

RE in schools is generally of poor quality. Although it is a statutory subject, schools often consider RE as an afterthought. As a subject on the curriculum, it is undervalued. RE is a complex subject, and the lack of clarity and support from government makes schools' job harder.

Some schools steer through these challenges well, but most do not. We found that:

- many schools do not meet the statutory requirement to teach RE at all stages
- pupils are rarely taught enough substance to prepare them to engage in a complex, multi-religious and multi-secular society (where religion and non-religion play different parts in different people's lives)
- too often, schools do not teach topics in the RE curriculum deeply enough for pupils to develop a substantial understanding of the subject matter
- non-examined RE is typically not high quality.

All pupils should develop a broad and secure knowledge of the complexity of religious and non-religious traditions. It will take coordinated effort by stakeholders to improve the quality of RE in schools:

- schools need high-quality professional development to teach RE well
- curriculum publishers need to identify clearly what pupils will learn and when, building on knowledge over time, so that pupils develop a deep knowledge of the chosen religious and non-religious traditions
- the government should provide clear expectations about RE provision in schools. Schools should follow these. Current non-statutory guidance

for RE should be updated and include clear information for schools about the breadth and depth of the syllabus they are expected to teach.

Angela Rundle  
LA Officer for SACRE  
February 2024