



**STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
AGENDA**

6.00 pm	Tuesday 23 March 2021	Virtual Meeting
----------------	----------------------------------	------------------------

Members **29**: Quorum **9** ***BUT*** a minimum of **one** representative must attend from each group

Representative Groups (current membership)

Group A

**Representing
Christian denominations and
other religious
denominations and beliefs (17):**

Mr Peter Feinson, Baptist
Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith
Mr Om Dhir, Hindu
Mr Sansar Narwal, Sikh
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Sunni Muslim
Rabbi Lee Sunderland, Jewish
Mr Tariq Mahmood, Sunni Muslim
Mrs Jenny Fox, Salvation Army
Mrs Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church
Pastor Aloysius Peter, Pentecostal Church
Mr John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church
Mr Nasir Mubashar, Ahmadiyya Muslim
Mr Luthaneal Adams, Pagan Federation
Barry Smith, United Reformed Church
Wendy Brice-Thompson, Roman Catholic

Group B

**Representing the
Church of England (3):**

Mrs Stephanie Ellner
Ruth Everett
Marlene Wylie

Group C

**Representing
teachers (4):**

Kirsty Fanning, ATL
Clare Beech
Kathryn Everitt
Terry Riches

Group D

**Representing the
Local Authority (5):**

Councillor Philippa Crowder
Councillor Judith Holt
Councillor Jason Frost
Councillor Osman Dervish

Councillor Viddy Persaud

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Maureen Smith 01708 433665
SACRE@haverling.gov.uk**

AGENDA ITEMS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - IF ANY, TO RECEIVE

2 NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

To note any substitute members present at the meeting and welcome any new members.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020 (attached) and to address any matters arising therefrom.

4 AGREED SYLLABUS

To receive an update on the Local Authority's response to the proposals regarding the Agreed Syllabus.

5 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive oral and written reports from the Primary and Secondary phase representatives and to comment on them or propose action as necessary.

6 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pages 11 - 16)

To receive oral and written reports and to comment on or propose action as appropriate.

7 VIRTUAL VISITORS AND VISITS PROJECT

To receive an update on the Virtual Visitors and Visits project.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Any member may raise issues previously notified to either the Chair or the Clerk (unless the issue relates to a matter arising from the meeting itself or is of an urgent nature, when the Chair will determine whether to allow it or not).

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next SACRE has been scheduled for Tuesday 29 June at 6pm.

**MAUREEN SMITH
Clerk to SACRE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1 December 2020 (6.00pm – 7pm)

The meeting took place via zoom (video-conferencing platform)

Present:

Representing Christian denominations and other religious dominations and beliefs (Group A):

Luthaneal Adams, Pagan Federation*
Wendy Brice-Thompson, Roman Catholic (Vice Chair)
Peter Feinson, Baptist
Jenny Fox, Salvation Army
Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church
Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith
Tariq Mahmood, Sunni Muslim
John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church
Rabbi Lee Sutherland, Jewish

Representing the Church of England (Group B):

Stephanie Ellner, Church of England
Ruth Everett, Church of England
Marlene Wylie, Church of England

Representing teachers (Group C):

Kathryn Everitt
Kirsty Fanning

Representing the Local Authority (Group D):

Councillor Osman Dervish
Councillor Jason Frost
Councillor Viddy Persaud

Professional advisers:

Julia Diamond-Conway
Deborah Weston

Maureen Smith – Clerk

*indicates for part of meeting

Chair's
Initials

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Holt, Om Dhir and Nasir Mubashar.

Wendy Brice-Thompson agreed to take the Chair for the meeting.

Deborah Weston explained that the Council had taken a decision regarding the membership of SACRE and Councillor Ford and Councillor Nunn were no longer members of SACRE. The Chair agreed to write to the two Councillors concerned to thank them for their input to SACRE and that they would be missed.

ACTION: Wendy Brice-Thompson

Luthaneal Adams arrived

2. NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members in attendance.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

3.1. It was noted that the term of office for the Chair and Vice Chair of SACRE was two years.

3.2. Wendy Brice-Thompson was unanimously elected as Chair of SACRE.

3.3. John Lester was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of SACRE.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING

4.1. The notes of the meeting held on 14 July 2020, were agreed as a true record. It was agreed that they should be watermarked to indicate that they were approved.

4.2. Matters arising from the minutes, not included elsewhere in the agenda, were noted as follows:

4.2.1. Resource Catalogue (minute 3.2.2 refers)

Deborah Weston reported that she had circulated the places of worship list template for Redbridge so that it could be amended to reflect Havering information but had not had any response.

Chair's
Initials

4.2.2. Membership of SACRE (minute 3.2.3 refers)

Members of SACRE were pleased to note that Rabbi Lee Sunderland was present at the meeting.

4.2.3. Future Art Competition (minute 3.2.6 refers)

It was agreed that a future art competition would be discussed later in the meeting.

4.2.4. Update on School Activity (minute 4 refers)

Julia Conway-Diamond advised that this matter would be considered under item 10 on the agenda.

4.2.5. NASACRE Conference (minute 6 refers)

It was reported that it had not been possible to access the NASACRE website to book a conference place.

4.2.6. School website monitoring update (minute 7 refers)

It was agreed that the best way of progressing this matter would be to send the National Association of Teachers of RE website template to schools and ask them to self-evaluate the website.

5. AGREED SYLLABUS – Part one

Deborah Weston drew members attention to the details of the Agreed Syllabus contained in the agenda pack. It was noted that Havering had agreed to the re-writing of unit plan 2.14 but that SACRE had requested that all unit plans be re-written.

It was noted that there was a legal requirement to start reviewing the RE syllabus within 5 years.

The arrangements between Redbridge and Havering in terms of the agreed syllabus were outlined and it was noted that 2/3 of the funding came from Redbridge as it had more schools.

Julia Conway-Diamond advised that the Members needed to reconvene as the Agreed Syllabus Conference and therefore the meeting was paused to enable this to happen.

The SACRE meeting was paused

6. AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

The meeting reconvened as an Agreed Syllabus Conference and each group met separately to consider the following two proposals:

Chair's
Initials

To edit the Agreed Syllabus for RE to Havering subject to amendments and time limited information as set out in the agenda paper.

And

To recommend to the Local Authority that the partnership with the Redbridge SACRE be continued and the suite of resources supporting the syllabus be extended.

The SACRE meeting resumed

5. AGREED SYLLABUS – Part two

Each Committee reported on its decision following the meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference as follows:

Committee A – agreed both proposals

Committee B – agreed both proposals

Committee C – agreed both proposals with the proviso that maybe there isn't a need to change as much as suggested due to cost

Committee D – agreed both proposals

It was therefore unanimously agreed to make the recommendations to the London Borough of Havering.

ACTION: Julia Conway-Diamond

7. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY

It was agreed that this was covered in the local RE update.

8. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A question was raised about the possible partnership between schools and Havering Arts Council for a competition for schools. It was recommended that the Chair of SACRE contact the Chair of the Havering Arts Council (Chrissie O'Connor) and Matthew Russell from the Queen's Theatre who was leading on an initiative 'Havering Changing'. Guy Self, an officer within the Council, was also identified as a useful contact.

ACTION: Wendy Brice-Thompson

In response to a question regarding the distribution of information about the Farmington scholarship, it was explained that details were on the RE page of the Portal. Councillor Frost offered to share the information at the Havering Deanery Synod and John Lester would inform the Interfaith Forum.

Chair's
Initials

ACTION: Councillor Frost and John Lester

Deborah Weston advised that Colin Bloom, the Faith Engagement Minister was keen to have responses to a questionnaire and all members of SACRE were asked to participate in the Faith Engagement survey and the deadline for response was 11 December.

ACTION: All members of SACRE**9. ANNUAL REPORT**

It was reported that usually un-validated exam data and validated from the previous year would be included in the annual report. Members of SACRE were advised that due to the impact of the coronavirus on examinations a request had been made for schools not to be contacted about data this year.

Deborah Weston suggested that the data included on page 15 of the draft annual report which had been included in the agenda pack.

It was also suggested that there was some work required to determine the levels of provision for RE in schools. Areas to consider included the number of hours schools report as being spent on RE and the correlation between teaching hours and GCSE entries. If schools were not providing RE then that would be in breach of the regulations.

It was acknowledged that some schools spent an appropriate amount of time on RE and there was a need to send a letter to schools recognising this. It was agreed that Deborah Weston and Julia Conway-Conway would draft a letter for the Chair to sign.

ACTION: Deborah Weston / Julia Conway-Diamond / Wendy Brice-Thompson

The Chair agreed to prepare a foreword upon receipt of the list of bullet points to be included which Julia Conway-Conway would prepare.

ACTION: Julia Conway-Diamond / Wendy Brice-Thompson

It was noted that once completed the Annual Report needed to be sent to NASACRE and the DfE.

ACTION: Julia Conway-Diamond**10. VIRTUAL VISITS AND VISITORS SCHEME**

SACRE members were advised that Dawn Ladbrook and Marlene Wylie had been working together to organise the virtual visits and visitors scheme. Details of a virtual tour of the Romford Evangelical Church were

to be shared on the RE pages of the Portal. The tour is about the church community not just the physical building. It would also be possible, subject to the necessary protocols, to arrange for a virtual visitor to talk to children in classrooms. Julia Conway-Diamond wished to record thanks to everyone at the Local Authority who had helped to write the necessary protocols.

St Andrew's in Hornchurch were also developing a PowerPoint package and Julia Conway-Diamond offered to review the materials as they were produced.

Julia Conway-Diamond explained that her contract with Havering was for only 6 days per year. However, it was possible for SACRE to apply for a West Hill NASACRE grant to fund such a scheme if anyone was interested in making the application on behalf of Havering SACRE to enable the project to involve as many places of worship as possible.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to invite other faiths to identify virtual visitors to develop the scheme to a wider group and other places of worship. Rabbi Lee Sunderland suggested that it would be something he could do quite quickly and it was agreed that he and Julia Conway-Diamond would work together to progress this idea.

It was suggested that pre-recorded videos could be used for slots in assemblies and lessons and linking the videos to particular units of the syllabus would be particularly useful.

Luthaneal Adams offered to provide the technical expertise to prepare the videos if that would be helpful.

John Smailes advised that the Gideons had produced a 5 minute video.

SACRE members noted that the Salvation Army and Romford Baptist Church also wanted to be involved in the virtual tours work.

It was noted that there was a lot of content and it needed to be broken up into specific topics. Julia Conway-Diamond suggested that the content could be uploaded separately.

It was suggested that the Community Infrastructure Levy, where each community decides how it is spent, might be a source of funding for the project. Jerry Haley was identified as an Officer within the Council who would be able to advise on this matter. It was agreed that Deborah Watson would liaise with Councillor Persaud and Council Officers to determine whether the Community Infrastructure Levy could support this initiative.

ACTION: Deborah Watson and Councillor Persaud

It was agreed that Dawn Ladbrook and Wendy Brice-Thompson would complete the West Hill NASACRE form.

ACTION: Dawn Ladbrook and Wendy Brice-Thompson

11. WIRE AWARD

It was noted that to get schools in the RE Quality Mark is expensive and the WIRE Award would be an alternative for schools to gain an award from Havering SACRE.

In response to a question, it was explained that WIRE stood for Wider Inclusivity in RE. It was confirmed that there was no prize it was merely a recognition of the work done in schools.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to discuss.

13. DATES OF MEETINGS IN THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

The following dates were agreed for the remainder of the academic year:

March 23 at 6.00 pm – via Zoom

June 29 at 6.00 pm – meeting format to be determined.

The meeting closed at 19:40.

Chair.....

Date.....

Chair's
Initials

This page is intentionally left blank

Havering SACRE, Local RE update: Spring 2021

Subject Leaders' meetings

The Subject Leaders' Network for this term was held 4-5pm on 3rd February. The main focus was assessment and we thought about this with links to the Agreed Syllabus. Due to the current circumstances, we could not spend as long as usual on our main item, as it was extremely important to include a section on remote learning so that schools could share their good practice and learn from each other.

Next term, the meeting will be held on 13th May and will look at story. This includes books containing good retellings of religious stories that are included in the syllabus. Also, stories to link RE to other subjects, such as the life stories of particular scientists with connections to religion and children's literature with religious themes.

RE Syllabus Review

Maureen Smith (Clerk to SACRE) has approached Havering Education Services to gain clarity on how this matter will proceed after the vote of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

Virtual Visits and Visitors Scheme

Hannah Griffiths has headed up Romford Baptist Church's contributions to this project. They have created 2 excellent short films. One on special places around the church and the other on important places in the church for serving the community.

These films were briefly introduced at the Subject Leaders' Network meeting in February and will be the focus of the RE article in Havering Education Services' next School Improvement Update.

This scheme and its protocols were also briefly introduced to a group of RE professionals at the national conference of NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE).

This page is intentionally left blank

Having SACRE, National RE update: Spring 2021

NATRE curriculum symposium

NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE) will be running a 24 hour residential curriculum symposium in Autumn. The association is hopeful that it will be able to run this as a face to face event in order to create a curriculum learning community.

There will only be 25 places for delegates, therefore NATRE will be running an application process as it wishes to attract delegates from a variety of school types and at different stages of their journey on thinking about curriculum design.

At present, potential applicants are being asked to express their interest via this link: [Curriculum Symposium Expression of Interest Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/survey/curriculum-symposium-expression-of-interest)

As part of the symposium delegates will hear from both experts and practitioners in the area of curriculum design generally and curriculum design in for RE. As part of the process there will be tasks to complete before the symposium that will be shared with other delegates to prepare for the time spent together in the learning community. There is also an expectation that all delegates will provide a write up of their learning and subsequent curriculum development in early 2022.

Parts of this event will be filmed and written up so that this symposium, or aspects of it, can be replicated in NATRE local groups, individual schools etc. This face to face event and the subsequent legacy materials for use by others is generously supported by Westhill and CSTG.

How should SACRE approach teachers about this event?

Free Lockdown home learning from NATRE and RE Today

As a response to the work that teachers and school staff have been doing teaching pupils both in school and remotely, NATRE and RE Today made all the home learning resources created in the first lockdown free to all schools, regardless of whether or not they were NATRE members. These multi-faith resources are in the form of PDFs and are all available on the NATRE website and offer support for home learning about religious and non-religious worldviews for primary and secondary school pupils.

During the start of 2021, NATRE and RE Today have produced more home learning resources for pupils aged 7-14. These are in the form of PowerPoint presentations and are based on BBC's My Life, My Religion films.

The link for all of the resources is: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/>

At present, Havering have made teachers aware of these resources in various ways including the Subject Leader Network, School Improvement Update and portal.

In what other ways can these resources be shared with all schools?

Ofqual – consultation on proposed changes to GCSE and A level examinations 2021

In light of the recent government announcement about the 2021 exams, NATRE has already been in contact with officials, and will continue to engage positively and constructively with both Ofqual and DfE as they consult about the replacement for exams. The consultation on the replacement for exams has not yet reported.

Subject Knowledge Enhancement

Following the disappointing news that bursaries had been cut for most subjects including RE, it was excellent news that RE had been selected for funded subject knowledge enhancement courses. The funding will be available from April 2021 and hopefully will help support those people wishing to apply to teach RE who do not have a first degree in the subject. This decision follows intensive lobbying about the point that around 84% of trainee secondary RE teachers do not have a degree in Theology or Religious Studies and therefore need support in developing their subject knowledge.

To find out more, please follow the link below:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske-courses>

Art in Heaven 2020 and 2021

The 2020 Art in Heaven and Spirited Poetry competitions attracted record entries – lots of teachers set it in lockdown. Although many schools in England enter, there is international interest – eg from Indonesia, Poland, Australia, India, South Africa, Ireland, Cyprus and New Zealand. The website for the competition has now been updated. The relaunched 2020 section includes many amazing responses to last year's themes. The YouTube video to encourage entries had about 14 000 views last year and another has been made for 2021.

Themes for the 2021 competition have been uploaded to the website. A Climate Justice theme features again this year: 'God's good earth?'. Last year, Climate Justice proved the most popular theme, overtaking the hardy perennial 'Where is God?'

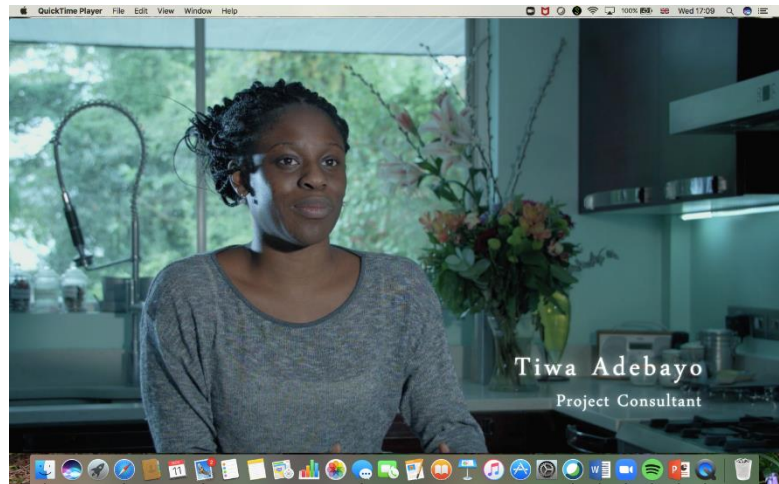
Promote further study to secondary classes with these films of Graduates in Theology and Religious Studies

TRS-UK (Theology and Religious Studies in Higher Education) has launched a set of recently-filmed interviews with Theology and Religious Studies graduates in jobs as varied as television documentary-making, law, local government, public relations, education, and many more. These high-quality YouTube films are available as ten individual (3-minute) filmed interviews and two 5-minute compilations, where graduates speak about the value of their degrees and show how they put their skills and knowledge to work in their jobs. They do not advertise a specific University, only the value of the degree and the doors it has opened for them.

These films (which can be selected at will) would be ideal for showing to pupils wondering about taking a degree in this subject, but unsure about where it might lead, or pressured to answer that question by parents. The answer is: it could take you in a myriad of exciting directions, and

employers are intrigued and delighted to have applicants with a degree in this subject. Theology and Religious Studies graduates have some of the highest employment rates of any University graduates, as they acquire multiple skills and a varied knowledge-base that is crucial for navigating our complex world.

There are 10 individual profiles and 2 compilations.



[View careers playlist](#)

[YouTube TRS-UK](#)

How can SACRE ensure that all secondary schools are aware of these?

The Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Programme: Finding your voice as a leader of Religion and Worldviews 2021-22

Following a successful pilot programme, Culham St Gabriel's are now inviting applicants to be part of a new cohort of Leaders for Change in 2021-22. This is an amazing opportunity for teachers.

Programme Outline:

The funded programme aims to develop leaders in the following four areas; research, curriculum, classroom and politics.

Stage 1

This stage is for those local or regional leaders who are beginning to work across more than one school. For example, leading Religion and Worldviews across a MAT or supporting other schools in a Federation and/or leading a local group or hub. Some NATRE Regional Ambassadors, SLEs, REQM Gold award RE leads or LTLRE Hub leads might find this Stage of CPD helpful.

This Stage is for teachers who have completed Stage 1 and/or for those who already have a regional/national role and would like to develop their expertise further. This stage is particularly for teachers/advisers who are likely to continue their specialism into senior leadership roles within or outside of their school situation. Those who are seeking to become advisers, ambassadors or an Executive member of one of the RE Organisations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Programme Partners:

The programme builds on the hugely successful AREIAC REvitalise scheme. It is funded by Culham St Gabriel's and the Jerusalem Trust. It brings together the following organisations who all have representatives on the steering group which oversees the programme:

- Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC)

- Association of University Lecturers on RE (AULRE)
- Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)
- National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)
- National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE)
- RE Council of England and Wales (REC)

More details, participant guides and the application form can be found on the RE Online website.

Applications close on 31st March 2021.

How will SACRE ensure that teachers know about this opportunity?

Independent Evaluation of the Understanding Christianity Resource

This report was published on 11th December. It presents findings and analysis from a study that examines the impact of Understanding Christianity in schools across England. The study, conducted by Dr Rachael Shillitoe at the University of Birmingham, seeks to evaluate the impact of RE Today's Understanding Christianity teaching resources amongst pupils and teachers across primary and secondary schools, with a particular focus on schools without a religious character.

This study aims to find out the extent to which the resource has 'made a difference' to teaching and learning about Christianity in RE.

*"Overall, the response to *Understanding Christianity* has been extremely positive, from both pupils and teachers, particularly in relation to the 'Big Story', pupil engagement and increased teacher confidence. Both pupils and teachers noted, in particular, the impact the frieze had on engagement and understanding. Teachers found pupils had an increased awareness of the big story in Christianity and pupils demonstrated their ability to connect this to core theological concepts.*

Understanding Christianity was valued for its promotion of pupil agency and individual reflection. Both teachers and pupils found the lessons to be inclusive with pupils from a range of religious and nonreligious backgrounds finding the lessons enjoyable and accessible. Pupils felt their lessons encouraged discussion, individual reflection and debate with a range of different viewpoints considered.

*There was considerable/noted improvement of textual understanding and knowledge of core concepts after using *Understanding Christianity*. The ability of pupils to articulate, discuss and reflect on core theological concepts was significantly improved when the *Understanding Christianity* resources, such as the Big Frieze and the Core Concept icons were used."*

The full report can be viewed on the [**Understanding Christianity**](#) website, [**available here**](#).

This page is intentionally left blank