



## Barnet SACRE Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report 2019 - 2020

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# Barnet SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

## 1. Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to present this report on the work of Barnet SACRE for the year 2019-20.

Three Meetings took place: 19 November 2019, 11 March and 23 June 2020.

Permit me to take a step back to the conclusion of the previous year:

The finale of the academic year 2018-2019 was the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus. The Mayor Councillor Caroline Stock, The Mayor's Escort Dr Richard Stock, The Most Reverend Athanasios, Bishop of Tropaeou, SACRE Members, local dignitaries and pupils, students and teachers from five schools all participated in the launch.

At the conclusion of the launch a fond farewell and presentation was made to Dr Anna Sallow who was retiring after seventeen years of outstanding service as Religious Education Advisor and consultant to SACRE and the Borough. Anna had given not less than everything to the cause, promotion and advocacy of Religious Education both Borough wide and on the National scene too. Barnet SACRE, schools and teachers owe her an immense debt of gratitude. Anna was presented with a gift from SACRE as a token of the affection and esteem in which she had been held. Anna will be much missed.

At our November meeting SACRE Members welcomed our new Religious Education Advisor and Consultant Jan McGuire. Jan with flair, style, passion, commitment and expertise, in abundance, presented her vision for Religious Education in the Borough and beyond. The transition from Anna to Jan has been truly seamless as both had worked quietly and with diligence in the months before to ensure a smooth transition.

2020 brought with it, in full panoply, the pandemic of Covid 19. This has impacted on the work of our Religious Education Advisor, Jan, and on our termly SACRE meetings that are now conducted virtually.

As ever, Barnet SACRE members have volunteered their time, expertise and support to the SACRE I would like to thank them all for being excellent champions of Religious Education in schools. Our volunteer members provide selfless service to the Borough, and we are indebted to them all.

Barnet SACRE is fortunate to have the expertise and support of the Director of School Improvement and Traded Services, Neil Marlow, who acts as the conduit between the LA and SACRE and is an appreciated champion of SACRE and Religious Education.

Under Jan's leadership Our Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) has been part of a successful bid for funding from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Westhill Endowment Trust to run the project '**VAT in RE**'. '**VAT in RE**' is a project that intends to boost the skills and confidence of RE Coordinators and Teachers to develop and implement a Medium-Term Curriculum Plan model that will impact on the quality of RE delivery. Amid the gloom of the pandemic this warmed the cockles of the hearts of all. Thankyou Jan.

Despite Covid 19 SACRE moves forward regardless of the obstacles and problems that come in Covid's wake. Our motto is carpe diem!

## **2. The Purpose of the Report**

Religion and worldviews remain significantly important in our richly diverse borough, nationally and globally. Religious Education is a valuable and enriching curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality Religious Education.

The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), from each Local Authority, will publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year.

This entails:

- advising the Local Authority on Religious Education given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus;
- monitoring the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its Agreed Syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- providing advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus;
- providing advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- in partnership with its Local Authority, considering whether any changes need to be made in the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE;
- offering advice to the Local Authority, and through the Local Authority to schools, concerning how an existing Agreed Syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

## **Barnet context statement**

For 2020, the population of Barnet is estimated to be 402,700, which is the largest of all the London boroughs. In 2020, the net population of Barnet is predicted to grow by around 8,500 people. The borough's overall population is projected to increase by around 10.9% between 2020 and 2030, taking the number of residents to about 446,400.

The Barnet population is projected to become increasingly diverse, with the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people in the borough population rising from 40.3% in 2020 to 42.8% in 2030. The wards with the greatest percentage increase in population between 2020 and 2040 are Golders Green, Colindale, Edgware and Mill Hill. In contrast, other wards in Barnet (e.g. Garden Suburb, Coppetts, Hale, East Finchley, Burnt Oak, and Oakleigh) are predicted to decrease in population by 2040.

The borough will become increasingly diverse, driven predominantly by growth within the existing population. Meeting the diverse needs of these growing communities may be a

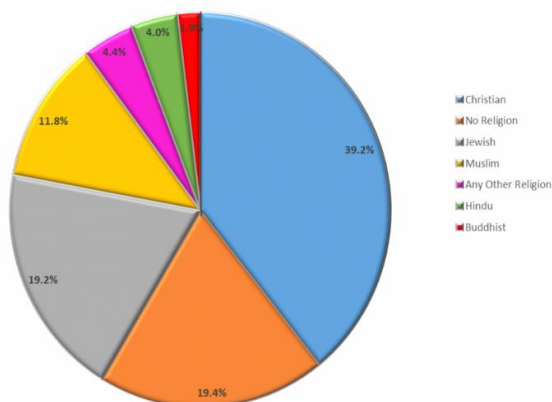
key challenge, as Colindale, Burnt Oak and West Hendon have increasingly diverse populations that are more than 50% Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME).

Barnet SACRE is aware of the challenge faced by the LA and would welcome deeper engagement to support the community and local government as they navigate this period of growth.

## Religion

Based on data from the Annual Population Survey, the most common religion in Barnet is Christianity (39.2%), followed by the Jewish (19.2%) and Muslim (11.8%) faiths (refer to Figure 1.8). Almost one in five people in the borough has no religion (19.4%), which equates to around 75,600 people, compared to the 152,500 Christians in Barnet. Whilst almost a third of people in the borough are either Jewish or Muslim (31%; n = 120,500), roughly one in twenty-five are Hindu (4.0%; n = 15,400) and Buddhists account for just under one in fifty (1.9%; n = 7,500).

Figure 1.8: Religions in Barnet, by percentage, 2018



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The wards with the lowest proportion of Christians also have the highest percentage of Jewish people in their populations (Garden Suburb (38.2%); Golders Green (37.1%); Edgware (32.6%)). The areas with the lowest proportions of Jewish people (refer to Table 1.11 and Figure 1.9) are located in Burnt Oak (1.2%), Colindale (1.4%) and Underhill (3.1%).

Table 1.11: The proportion of ward populations in Barnet by religion, 2011

Area	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Hindu	Buddhist	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Religion not stated
Brunswick Park	52.3%	4.7%	9.8%	6.6%	0.8%	0.5%	1.5%	15.8%	8.1%
Burnt Oak	50.0%	1.2%	18.4%	7.5%	2.5%	0.3%	0.5%	13.0%	6.5%
Childs Hill	37.7%	16.9%	14.2%	3.4%	1.3%	0.1%	0.7%	16.2%	9.4%
Colindale	46.6%	1.4%	19.3%	9.8%	1.9%	0.3%	0.4%	13.3%	7.0%
Coppetts	47.4%	4.0%	9.3%	6.1%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	22.8%	8.2%
East Barnet	54.3%	5.3%	6.1%	3.6%	0.8%	0.3%	1.0%	20.5%	8.1%
East Finchley	41.2%	8.8%	7.4%	4.2%	1.0%	0.4%	0.6%	27.2%	9.2%
Edgware	27.7%	32.6%	11.3%	8.8%	0.8%	0.4%	2.3%	8.2%	8.1%
Finchley Church End	28.3%	31.2%	8.1%	6.1%	1.3%	0.4%	0.8%	14.7%	9.1%
Garden Suburb	26.5%	38.2%	4.8%	2.4%	1.0%	0.2%	0.6%	15.1%	11.2%
Golders Green	26.1%	37.1%	12.2%	3.8%	0.9%	0.2%	0.6%	10.1%	9.0%
Hale	39.1%	19.4%	10.7%	8.1%	1.5%	0.3%	1.4%	11.5%	7.9%
Hendon	32.1%	31.4%	8.5%	5.6%	1.3%	0.2%	0.6%	11.5%	8.8%
High Barnet	53.4%	6.5%	3.9%	3.1%	0.6%	0.3%	0.7%	23.1%	8.3%
Mill Hill	39.1%	19.0%	12.3%	5.2%	1.1%	0.4%	0.8%	14.0%	8.2%
Oakleigh	52.6%	8.8%	6.7%	5.3%	0.8%	0.4%	1.3%	16.1%	7.9%
Totteridge	39.7%	16.2%	7.2%	6.7%	2.3%	0.5%	2.0%	16.5%	8.8%
Underhill	55.8%	3.1%	7.6%	3.3%	1.1%	0.2%	1.0%	19.1%	8.8%
West Finchley	38.1%	9.1%	7.8%	9.0%	2.1%	0.8%	2.3%	22.2%	8.5%
West Hendon	36.4%	14.1%	17.1%	11.0%	1.6%	0.2%	1.1%	11.4%	7.1%
Woodhouse	45.0%	6.4%	9.7%	9.3%	1.0%	0.5%	1.5%	18.4%	8.4%
<b>Barnet</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2011). Census 2011 data. Table: KS209EW – Religion.

Figure 1.9: Jewish population (%) in Barnet, by ward, 2011 Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2011). Census 2011 data.

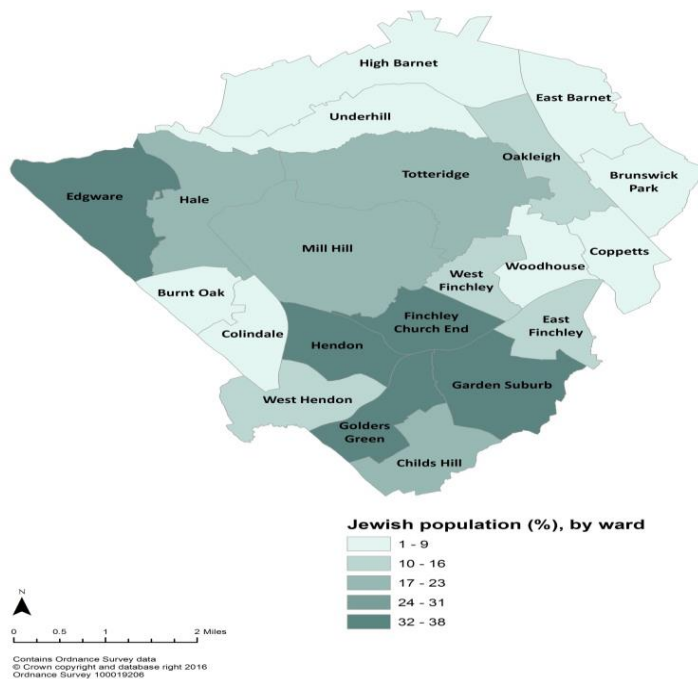
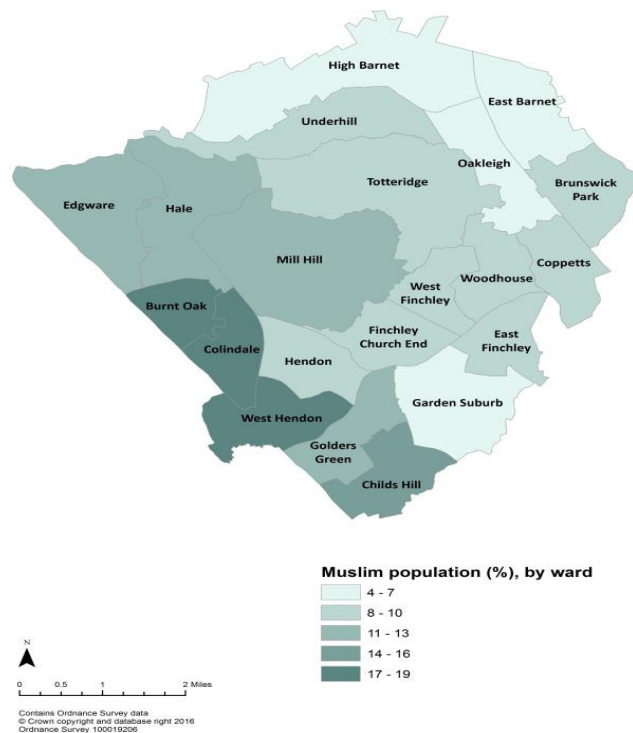


Figure 1.10 shows the distribution of the Muslim population in Barnet. The highest proportions of Muslims are found in wards concentrated in the West of the borough;

Colindale (19.3%); Burnt Oak (18.4%) and West Hendon (17.1%). In contrast, the areas with the lowest percentage of Muslims are mainly located in the North of the borough (High Barnet (3.9%); East Barnet (6.1%); Oakleigh (6.7%)), with the exception of Garden Suburb (4.8%).

Figure 1.10: Muslim population (%) in Barnet, by ward, 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2011). Census 2011 data.

The Barnet wards with the highest percentage of people claiming to have no religion are East Finchley (27.2%), High Barnet (23.1%) and Coppetts (22.8%), whereas those with the lowest proportion of their population having no religion are; Edgware (8.2%), Golders Green (10.1%) and West Hendon (11.4%).

Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2019). Population by Religion, Borough. Data from the Annual Population Survey for 2018. Available at: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/percentage-population-religion-borough> External link

Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2011). Census 2011 data. Table: KS209EW – Religion: Ward details. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/> External link

Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2011). Census 2011 data. Table: KS209EW – Religion: Ward details.

Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/External link>

### **3. Management of SACRE: LA Support, Governance & Membership: September 2019 – September 2020**

Barnet LA manages the Barnet SACRE through the Barnet Education and Learning Service team (BELS). Neil Marlow, Director of School Improvement and Traded Services (School Improvement Team) has provided excellent support and guidance to our incoming Religious Education Adviser, Jan McGuire. SACRE feels well supported by the team. The Director for School Improvement acts as the conduit between the LA and SACRE on issues such as finance, data and councillor representation. The Education and Learning Service has appointed an experienced clerk to attend each SACRE meeting. We have been fortunate to be served by Jan Johnson (Until September 2020), and her successor Maria Gabrielczyk (October 2020 -). to minute the meetings and provide the Chair and Religious Education Adviser with valuable, although limited support.

Barnet LA, under the management of BELS, has continued to provide support to SACRE and its work to encourage the development of quality religion and worldviews, Religious Education and SMSC in schools.

The LA currently supports the funding of the Religious Education Advisers time, of twenty days a year. Finance is allocated to cover the role of the Religious Education Adviser, Jan McGuire, who provides specialist RE advice and governance support, writes the Government/ NASACRE annual reports and commissioned bids, facilitates the collaborative working groups required for the Agreed Syllabus Conference, attends AREIAC/ NASACRE/REQM/NATRE meetings or conferences and deals with day to day matters. SACRE has been working alongside BELS to update the SACRE website area, to raise the profile of SACRE and raise school awareness of the role and support that SACRE can provide them in school. This is ongoing.

#### **Governance**

In 2019 – 2020 SACRE called three formal meetings that were attended by Committee A, B, C and D members.

The Barnet Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education provides statutory requirements for planning, teaching and assessment procedures.

#### **Membership 2019 - 2020**

Every Local Authority must convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Barnet SACRE convenes three times each year. It comprises of four statutory groups. Attendance at meetings is consistent. We continue to ensure the membership reflects the demographic.

Our current Chair, Kevin McSharry, was elected Chair in 2010. Barnet SACRE would like to extend their thanks to Kevin McSharry for his commitment, rigour, passion and extensive support he provides to SACRE, Religious Education and the Religious Education Adviser. We are indebted to him.

## Membership of Barnet SACRE the standing advisory council on Religious Education

<b>GROUP A: Christian denominations other than the Church of England and principal religions represented in Great Britain</b>	<b>GROUP B: Church of England</b>
Mrs Vicky Golestaneh (Baha'i)	Mrs Jayne Pavlou (London Diocese)
Ajantha Tennakoon (Buddhist)	Rev Robin Sims-Williams (London Diocese)
Mrs Catherine Salinger (Free Church)	Mrs Mel Adams (Diocese of St Albans)
Mrs Mary Karaolis (attending on behalf of Very Revd AC Damiano: Greek Orthodox Church)	Vacancy (Diocese of St Albans)
Mr Sury Khatri (Hindu)	
Mrs Veena Bedi (Hindu)	
Ahmad Alkazemi (Islam)	
Dr Mukal Shah (Jain)	
Dr. Natubhai Shah (Jain)	
Rabbi Mark Goldsmith ( Jewish)	
Mr Gerry Cohen (Jewish)	
Vacancy (Sikh)	
Vacancy (Sikh)	
Mr Connor O'Halpin (Roman Catholic)	
Monika Cleaver (Roman Catholic)	
Major Mark Rose (Salvation Army)	
Joan Scannell (Salvation Army)	
Mr Mark Leach (Methodist)	
<b>GROUP C: Teachers Associations, including representation from Academy Schools</b>	<b>GROUP D: Local Authority, including elected Councillors LA</b>
Mr Kevin McSharry (Chairman & ASCL)	Agnes Slocombe (L.A.)
Ms Marina Robb (East Barnet School: NEU)	Cllr John Hart
Ms Claire Pawlasczek (East Barnet School : NEU)	Cllr Danny Rich
Dr Alan Shaw (Hasmonean Primary School: NAHT)	Cllr Lachhya Bahadur Gurung
Ms Sandra Teacher	Cllr Jess Brayne
	Cllr Reuben Thompstone
<b>Other</b>	<b>Co-opted non-voting members</b>
Maria Gabrielczyk – <b>Clerk</b>	Jan McGuire (JMcG) Jan McGuire LA, RE Consultant and Advisor to SACRE
	Mr Neil Marlow LA, Head of School Improvement, representing Director of Education and Skills



## 4. Standards and Quality of Provision of Religious Education \*\*\*

DATE	EXAM	STUDENTS ENTERED	% Barnet	% National	% Barnet	% National	Comment
Key Stage 5 Attainment							
2020	A LEVEL						Entry maintained.
2019	A LEVEL						% may reflect grade boundary changes
2018							decline linked to ceasing of AS offering?
2015	A/S LEVEL						The A/S examination is still being offered by examinations boards.
Key Stage 4 Attainment							
			% Barnet Grade 4+	% National Grade 4+	% Barnet Grade 7+	% National Grade 7+	
2020	GCSE FULL COURSE						
2019	GCSE FULL COURSE						
2018	GCSE FULL COURSE						
2017	GCSE FULL COURSE						

\*\* The first examination of the current AS and A level in religious education and studies was in September 2018. The first examination of the current GCSE in religious studies, graded 9-1, took place in the summer of 2018.

### Commentary

## Religious Education examinations: 2020

### Quality of Provision of Religious Education of Standards

#### LA statement re C19 and examinations:

The usual practice is to report in this section and analysis the examinations taken in our schools in Religious Education at GCSE and A level. Due to the Covid 19, school closures and the national decision in relation to students taking examinations we will not be carrying out the usual exercise this year.

Following the closure of schools from 23 March 2020 the DfE stated “As part of steps taken to fight the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the [government announced](#) that all exams due to take place in schools and colleges in England in summer 2020 are cancelled and that it will not publish any school or college level educational performance data based on tests, assessments or exams for 2020.... We will not hold schools and colleges to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2020 and that data will not be used by

*others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account..... We will not be publishing school, college or multi-academy trust (MAT) level performance data based on summer 2020 tests, assessments and exams at any phase.....All those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams **and local authorities**, should use data from previous years when assessing school and college performance, and not the 2020 data”*

Secondary school students still received their A-level, GCSE and BTEC results but the grades were determined in a different way this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. With exams cancelled this year because of Coronavirus, pupils were allocated their results based on either the school's teacher assessments, known as Centre Assessed Grades, or the standardised grade from Ofqual (whichever was the highest). We are confident that schools in Barnet followed a robust and appropriate process in order to get to a Centre Assessed Grade for each student. They used information such as previous classwork, homework, results in assignments and any mock exams in order to arrive at that grade.

In primary schools the DfE are not publishing any national, regional, local or constituency statistics for any primary school assessments for the 2019 to 2020 academic year.

We do not want to be drawn into commenting on speculation on the results in Religious Education. We support our schools to make sure standards are maintained and that the outcomes were fair to all students.

## **Attainment in RE not covered by public examination**

In addition to the data provided, information is also gathered during school visits by the BELS team, including the independent Religious Education Adviser, and from Ofsted reports. Visits to schools were suspended in the Summer Term due to the C19 pandemic but every LA maintained school had a School Effectiveness Visit carried out remotely. SACRE is pleased that visits to schools to offer support and provide guidance have resumed.

## **RE Quality Mark (REQM) 2019- 2020**

The Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) was introduced in 2014 to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding RE. Barnet SACRE aspires to actively promote this award across schools as well as offering additional support from trained REQM assessors and RE advisers. Barnet SACRE aims to promote the REQM process in schools and will be monitoring this area.

## **Monitoring of provision**

### **2019- 2020 Monitoring of Primary Schools:**

Members of SACRE have links with primary schools through their faith communities within the borough. SACRE continues to offer training and support to schools via the BELS website.

When the C19 situation has abated, SACRE's Religious Education Adviser intends to facilitate an analysis of the Barnet school websites to audit and monitor the delivery of RE. The Religious Education Adviser also intends to establish an increased working relationship with the local Diocese and Diocesan Religious Education Advisers to establish a more collaborative approach to the monitoring of RE provision.

The BELS training programme has provided an opportunity for the Religious Education Adviser to visit schools to support and learn about the needs of teachers and pupils in the borough. The training opportunities offered by BELS to teachers to upskill in RE and work on

their curriculum planning, has also allowed the Religious Education Adviser to gather important data on the needs of the teachers in the Primary sector.

There is a growing concern for SACRE's ability to report on progress in the future if schools all use their own assessment systems. It will be difficult to standardise these for the purpose of analysis and comparison at Primary level. SACRE will require BELS support in sharing data relevant to this role.

#### **2019- 2020 Monitoring of Secondary Schools:**

Academies bring new challenges in terms of accountability. Barnet SACRE aspires to have positive working relationships with academies that continue to use the locally Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE also monitors the Ofsted reports to note progress and excellence in SMSC and RE delivery as well as issues requiring support. This is ongoing.

## **5.Ofsted Reports**

Currently the Director of School Improvement and Traded Services, Neil Marlow, acts as the conduit between the LA and SACRE. He keeps the SACRE informed of Ofsted inspections and reports on comments related to religion and worldviews and SMSC that may require celebration or action. Nationally the picture for RE reflects the overall picture and grading for a school. Mostly, the reports do not make specific reference to RE but report on social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

Where it has been made known that a school is not meeting statutory advice, SACRE will contact the school and offer support via the BELS team.

## **6. Support for Improving Teaching of the Locally Agreed Syllabus**

### **Commissioned Projects: 2019-2020**

BELS has not commissioned Barnet SACRE to complete any commissioned research or papers during this period. However, the independent Religious Education Adviser for Barnet has been commissioned to run the RE Coordinators Network and training sessions, and these are now becoming an established offering. These sessions provide an opportunity to provide support for improving teaching of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

### **Research Awards: 2020-2021: Westhill NASACRE Project Award**

#### **Education into Diversity: 'VAT in RE': Boosting the skills and confidence of RE Coordinators and Teachers in delivering their Agreed Syllabus in the classroom**

Our Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) has been part of a successful bid for funding from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Westhill Endowment Trust to run the project '**VAT in RE**'.

'VAT in RE' is a project that intends to boost the skills and confidence of RE Coordinators and Teachers to develop and implement a Medium-Term Curriculum Plan model that will impact on the quality of RE delivery.

The project will provide a series of training events, workshops and writing group sessions that will introduce RE Coordinators, and teachers of RE, to the idea of 'VAT' in Religious Education. The workshops will include a close working relationship with members of the richly diverse local faith groups represented on the SACRE in Barnet. The project will focus on exploring tier three Vocabulary (Etymology), Artefacts (Art) and Texts (stories) that help to bring diversity and faith groups represented in the Agreed Syllabus alive. Teachers will then be supported in the production of detailed exemplar Medium-Term Plans (KS2/KS3) that clearly incorporate 'VAT in RE'.

## **Background**

Barnet SACRE benefits from being located in a richly diverse community. The recently reviewed Syllabus (2019) desires to provide a rich and diverse experience of Religious Education in the classroom.

However, there currently exists a dis-connect between the diversity and wealth of faith knowledge in the local community, including SACRE, and the confidence of RE teachers to deliver engaging lessons based on the Agreed Syllabus.

The project, that will commence late September 2020, aims to develop confidence in the Agreed Syllabus.

The projects intension is to support teachers and RE Coordinators:

- To relieve lack of curriculum planning time
- To build RE subject knowledge through **VAT in RE**
- To increase the understanding of tier 3 **Vocabulary** linked to faith groups/ religions
- To bolster knowledge of **Artefacts** that bring lessons alive
- To develop knowledge of **Texts/ stories/ narratives** used within faith groups that can support learning about diversity in the classroom

The Medium-Term plan document will also be able to reflect the additional concern of teachers to respond to 'Ofsted' focus and school curriculum requirements. Teachers state that they lack confidence in showing or evidencing: Intent, Implementation, Impact: sequential, or progressive, learning steps and questioning.

The exemplar Medium-Term Plan will provide a model for teachers to replicate or build upon.

The resulting exemplar Medium-Term plan will be published on the Barnet website and will be freely available for public view. The intension is to create an exemplar Medium-Term plan document or template that provides a model that can be replicated within other regions, by those using different Syllabi. It also provides a way of teachers up-skilling and empowering them to continue the curriculum planning process for RE within their own schools.

## **Education into Diversity**

For the purposes of this project the emphasis will be on bringing '**VAT in RE**' under the headings of key religions/ world views represented on the SACRE groups.

SACRE members will be invited to engage with the teachers and the writing group throughout the process. They will become faith Advisers. They will be tasked with checking the materials for 'faith' accuracy. SACRE faith representatives will be able to take the materials back to their faith community for consideration and comment. SACRE representatives and their communities will be actively engaged in building the 'VAT in RE' on the Medium-Term planning documents. We intend for the Medium-Term plan to reflect diversity in its most active and pro-active form. We hope that it will be a community process.

We intend that teachers and pupils will deepen their knowledge and understanding of 'religions / worldviews beliefs, practices, and values'. We intend for teachers and pupils to deepen their knowledge and understanding of each religion they encounter, and feel confident in applying vocabulary, artefact and textual layers to their discussion and written argument.

Barnet SACRE will lead the project. Each stage of the project's development will involve teachers and members of the wider faith communities. Progress will be shared for consultation purposes. The Project Manager will offer guidance to the team throughout and ensure that the resulting materials are high quality and fit for purpose.

### **Community benefit in our area**

This project affords great opportunities for teaching colleagues to share experiences and perspectives on diversity, in matters of faith and belief, with members of the diverse faith community of Barnet. The resulting Medium-Term Plans (Curriculum model) could, for example, point to the variety of Christian groups, as well as Bahá'í, Buddhist, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Rastafarian, Sikh, Alevi and other individuals and communities.

It will be a condition of the exemplar Medium-Term planning creative process that an understanding between people from different groups is promoted. Working collaboratively within SACRE, local faith groups, and between schools of diverse religious intake within Barnet, will model this.

Overall, the project will result in a model 'Medium-Term planning document designed to promote pupils':

- interest in how religion and belief features in the world today
- knowledge and understanding of the diversity of religion and belief
- deeper understanding of people from different groups

The resulting exemplar Medium-Term plan:

- will encourage positive community modelling of working on a project to support the values enshrined within the 2010 Equality Act
- deepen the RE subject knowledge and understanding of diversity in religion and belief within the teaching community
- will develop confidence in teachers to deliver high quality RE in their classrooms, that promotes deeper understanding of people from different groups

### **Sustaining the initial impact**

The work of the project will be sustained through teacher use of the exemplar Medium-Term plans uploaded to the Barnet website. This is a free, publicly accessible site. Access will be publicised through the SACRE RE briefing papers and Reports. The exemplar Medium-Term document will be shared during RE Coordinator Network meetings and training offered to schools.

The project will commence late September 2020.

### **Relevant Links with other agencies**

SACRE has links with other agencies including the Diocese, AREIAC, NASACRE, NATRE, REQ, Middlesex University Department for Philosophy and Religious Studies and REC.

## **7. Compliance with the Statutory Requirement**

### **Determinations: Barnet's SACRE's Statutory Role 2019-20**

Barnet SACRE has a statutory role in considering and granting determinations.

What is Determination? The Education Reform Act of 1988 (sections 6, 7, 9, and 12) entitles schools to apply to the SACRE for a 'Determination'. This allows the school to adjust the legal requirements to enable collective worship of a different character to take place for **some** or **all** pupils in the school. Determinations are made where a school, on behalf of a group of parents, requests Collective Worship other than that set down by statute.

There were no determinations in 2019-20 for Barnet SACRE to consider.

2020 marked an unprecedented year with the disruption and concerns linked to the C19 pandemic. All pupils, after a pro-longed absence, were welcomed back into the classroom. School in September 2020 had set up a process of 'working in bubbles'. SACRE members were concerned that the LA continues to manage the requirement for all schools to meet the collective worship requirement during this 'bubble' C19 period.

Barnet SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE and Collective Worship. In 2019-20 there were no such formal complaints to deal with.

## **Collective Worship**

Barnet SACRE reminds schools of the importance of collective worship. Links to support and guidance are provided on the Religious Education and SACRE area of the Barnet website.

## **8. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda**

SACRE members continue to generously offer schools their time and expertise. Faith representatives offer to deliver assemblies, support curriculum planning and provide guidance to individual teachers. During this current C19 time this offer can be via a virtual interaction. SACRE aspires to have a more active support role with schools and teachers in the Barnet area.

### **Contribution of SACRE to Social and Racial Harmony Agenda**

SACRE continues to offer to support the LA with their social and racial harmony, SMSC, British Values and Prevent agenda as well as sharing social bridging opportunities and enrichment of diversity and faith awareness experiences. Social bridging and wider diversity and faith experience still remains an Ofsted concern, and it can be particularly difficult for certain groups to access relevant opportunities. SACRE remains a key partner in sharing such opportunities to Barnet schools, through their committed work in raising the quality of Religious Education in the classroom.

Going forward it would be beneficial for SACRE to be more aligned with the LA's key priorities.

## **Advice to Local Authority, Schools and Statutory Bodies**

8.1 SACRE provides advice to the Local Authority through the RE Adviser, and the Director of School Improvement and Traded Services, Neil Marlow, the conduit between the LA and SACRE, who brings concerns from schools and Governors, to SACRE. SACRE in turn discusses the issues, establishes small working parties and publishes requested advice.

8.2 SACRE depends on the diligence of members of group D to raise the profile and statutory requirements of Religious Education in Barnet within the LA. BELS representatives and Cllrs act as a conduit between the LA and SACRE. SACRE is mindful that it needs to be aligned to the LA strategic vision.

Advice has been given to schools for example on Determinations and the Agreed Syllabus. Documents have been provided on behalf of SACRE for the LA website.

### **8.3 Barnet SACRE and the promotion of diversity:**

Barnet SACRE believes that encountering people of different faiths is one of the most effective ways of breaking down barriers and overcoming prejudices and misconceptions. SACRE aspires to provide opportunities within the community for children and young people to engage with different faith groups, and for teachers to have confidence in the support and knowledge that the SACRE may provide to them in their schools. Currently guidance is offered on the Barnet LA website and RE network events and training and bespoke support for teachers and schools is offered by the Religious Education Adviser. Going forward this is an area that the SACRE intends to develop.

Barnet is fortunate to work with the support of members and faith communities who give their time voluntarily to attend meetings in the interests of supporting and promoting RE.

**If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Barnet SACRE Clerk Maria Gabrielczyk via e-mail at**

Jan McGuire

Adviser for RE

November 2020