



London Borough of Newham

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL on RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

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**Section 1 Introduction**

It is a great pleasure and privilege to be able to present Newham SACRE's Annual Report for 2020/21. I can report that thanks to the leadership of our SACRE consultant and advisor, Claire Clinton, and thanks to the continued commitment of the SACRE team, Newham SACRE has been able to continue to meet and support the teaching and learning of RE in our Newham schools, despite the continued challenges of the pandemic.

There is much to celebrate in this report, not least the hard work and effort of our Newham RE teachers, and the young people in Newham, who continued to deliver high quality teaching and learning in RE, despite all of the challenges they faced moving between in-person and online teaching. Other successes to highlight include the work that was completed at the start of the academic year, when a recovery curriculum for RE was written and published. This provided ideas for schools that would support planning for catching up from possible lost learning from 2019/20 and prepared schools for the possibility of having to move between classroom based teaching and online learning during the academic year. Newham SACRE was also able to provide advice on collective worship and how to continue to ensure this took place, when meeting together in large groups was prohibited.

I would also like to celebrate the fact that throughout 2020/21, Newham SACRE met online and was quorate at all of its meetings. The meetings were live-streamed and recorded. I would like to thank all of the SACRE members for continuing to make this adaptation this year and for all of their support and contributions in these meetings.

Also this year, Newham SACRE has been hard at work, ensuring that that the agreed syllabus work continued despite the pandemic. By using online meeting spaces, Newham SACRE was able to consult on all aspects of the agreed syllabus, and its associated planning, with representatives from a range of faith groups. This resulted in ideas and advice that will be included in the new syllabus and the schemes of work, due to be published in 2022.

I have no doubt that with the help and commitment of our SACRE members, SACRE consultant, and with the continued support of Newham Council, we will be able to continue to provide excellent support and advice to all Newham schools in the year ahead.

Marie Hardie – Newham SACRE chair

**Section 1 Overview**

Since 1988, it has been a requirement that every local education authority (LA) has a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Though legislation sets out both the structure and the remit of a local SACRE - principally, overseeing religious education (RE) and collective worship (CW) - in practice every SACRE has developed its own particular style and character.

Newham SACRE, which begun its work in 1989, has certainly developed its own particular style and character as this report will testify.

Some of the notable features of SACRE's work during 2020-2021 are included in this report, namely its support out to schools and its involvement with our agreed syllabus development – working with different religion and worldview leaders and teachers across all key stages. There have been a teacher working group reviewing and writing schemes of work for RE units and resources – they have met 4 times all together during the year, however most work has taken place in sub groups working within a specific key stage. SACRE members have also met in 7 sub-group working on knowledge coverage (key concepts, theology, philosophy, values and practices) within religion and worldviews.

### Newham SACRE Annual Report 2020-21

It is a legislative requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work and that this is sent to the Department for Education (DfE), NASACRE, to local schools and to other interested parties. Newham LA makes this report available publicly through their website.

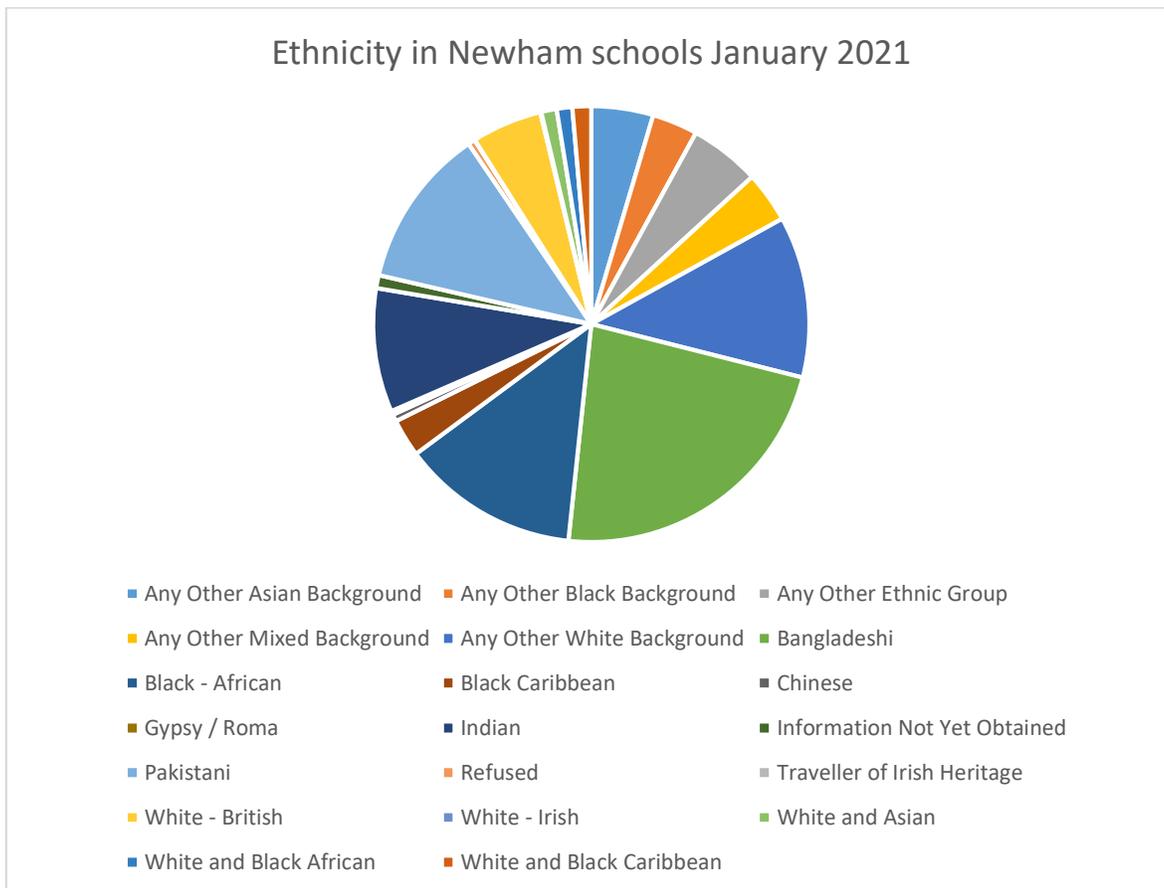
SACRE met three times across the academic year 2020-21. Due to the pandemic these meetings were held on zoom and live streamed on YouTube as a public meeting in accordance with the LA procedures. This has ensured that SACRE has continued to be active and discharge its responsibilities fully.

October 2020	Live on Newham tube channel via Zoom
February 2020	Live on Newham tube channel via Zoom
June 2021	Live on Newham tube channel via Zoom

### Background to the Borough

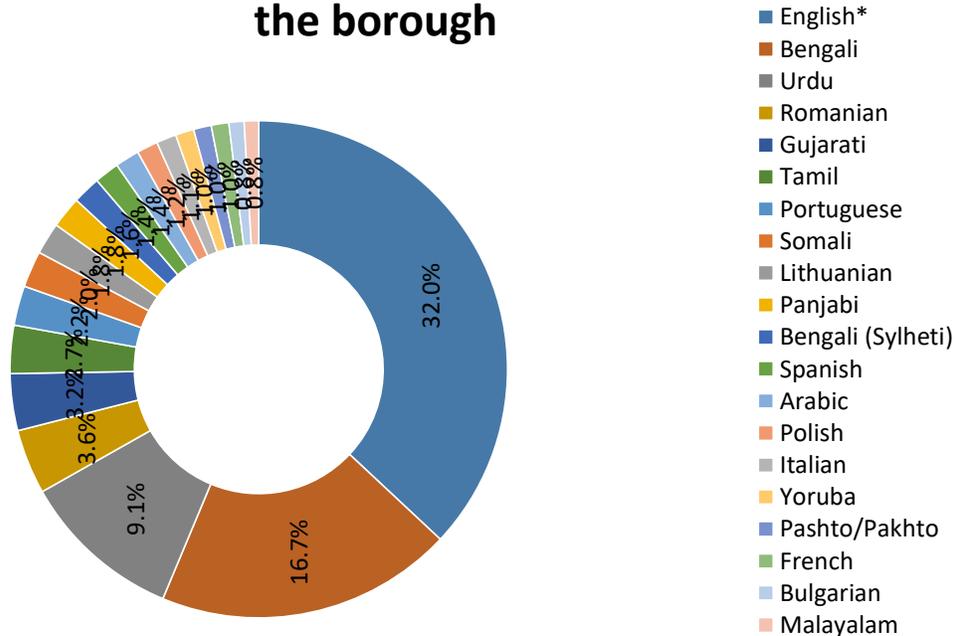
Newham is one of the most dynamic parts of the country. It has a youthful population, not an ageing one as in many other areas. There is an energy here that few other places can match. It is at the heart of one the largest areas of urban redevelopment in Europe. The Newham school census in January 2021 tells us there were 64,257 children and young people aged 4-19 on school and pupil numbers.

According to the 2011 census there were around 86,200 children and young people aged 19 or under in Newham. They make up 28% of the total population in the borough. For comparison, across London as a whole, children and young people are 24% of the population. The number of children and young people in Newham is an important feature of the area.



January School Census, 2021

## Languages with the largest numbers of speakers within the borough

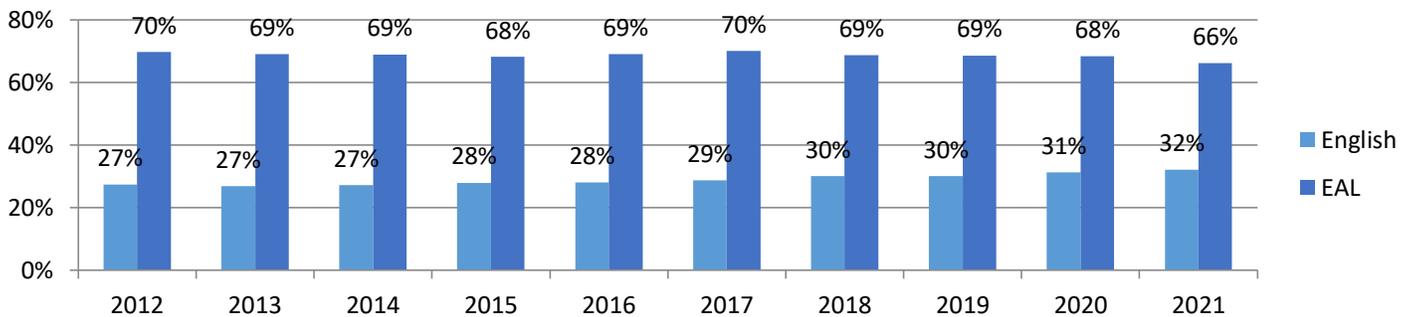


January School Census, 2021

Data shown are for languages or groups of languages where there are 500 or more speakers within the borough

English is the most frequently recorded first language spoken, just under one third of all pupils in Newham schools speak English as their first language.

## Proportion of School Population Speaking English and English as an additional language



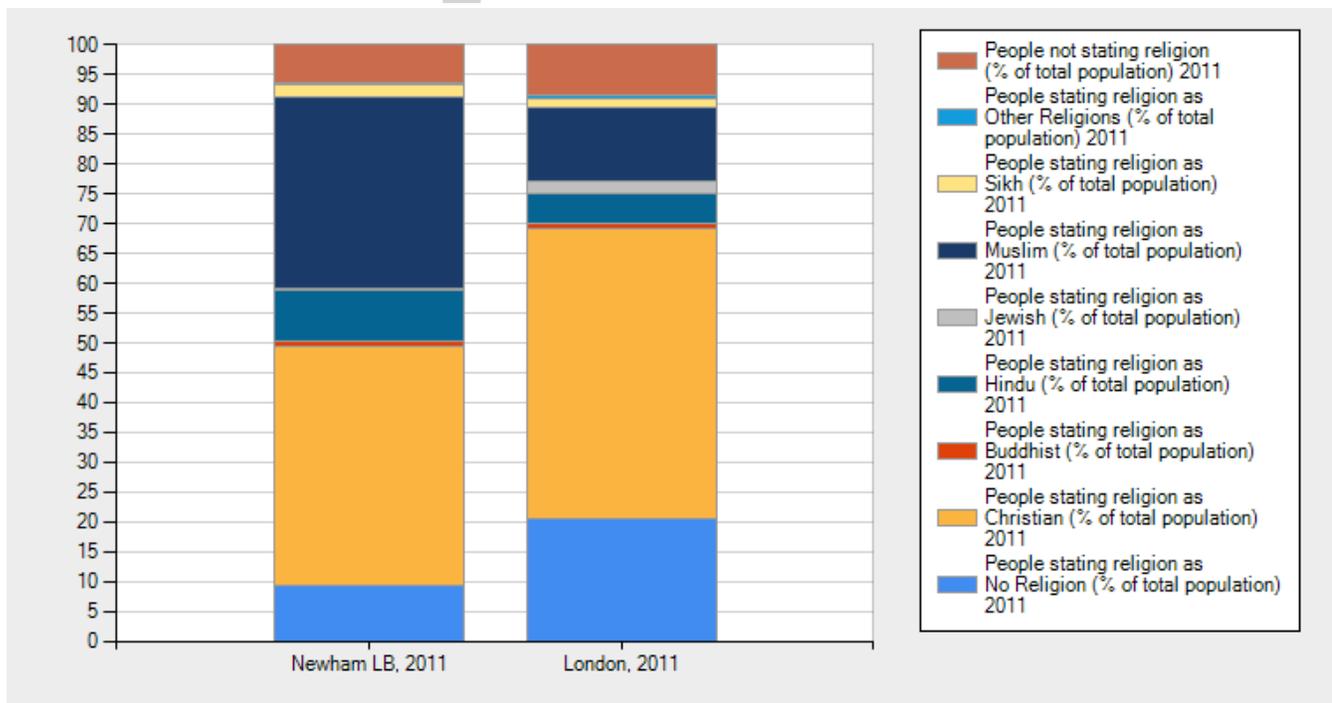
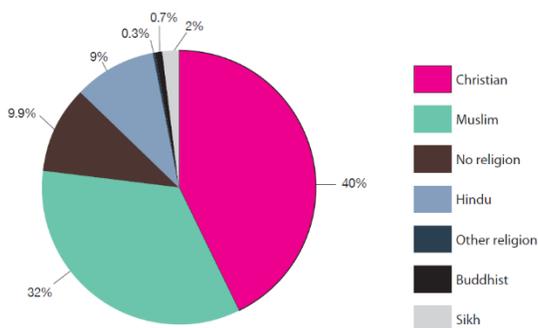
There were 20 different languages spoken by at least 500 pupils across all of Newham’s schools, and in total there were 207 languages spoken by at least 1 pupil. This, with the ethnicity break down within schools, shows there is a rich diversity within Newham schools that the teaching of Religious Education embraces.

In the 2011 Census, Newham had the largest proportion of non-white, non-British ethnic groups in the country. Around 93% of children and young people were from these groups; the largest proportions were of Bangladeshi (18%) and Black African (16%) origin. However, the vast majority (85%) of Newham’s 0-15 year olds were born in the UK. This diversity is also expressed in terms of faiths. In the 2011 Census, 40% of the population said they were Christian, 32% Muslim (2<sup>nd</sup> highest figure for a Muslim population of a borough in the UK) and 9% Hindu, with the rest of the population members of other faith groups or with no religious affiliation. Newham is also an area of high mobility.

Figures from 2011 census

Religion	Number of people	Percentage
Christian	123,119	40%
Muslim	98,456	32%
None (includes agnostics, atheists)	29,373	9.4%
Hindu	26,962	9%
Non-stated	19,775	6.4%
Sikh	6,421	2.1%
Buddhist	2,446	0.7%
Other	1,090	0.3%
Jewish	342	0.1%

Newham Census 2011



Similarly, religious affiliation has not changed significantly, over four-fifths of residents (83%) regard themselves as belonging to a particular religion, which is far higher than both the London (61%) and the national averages (52%). Just 17% say they have no religion. Christianity is still the largest religion in Newham (37% residents say they are Christian), followed by Islam (32%) and Hinduism (10%). (Taken from Understanding Newham 2018)

## Section 2 Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education (RE)

- 2.1 Within Newham, advice is available to schools around RE through four forms:
- The Newham Agreed Syllabus <https://www.newham.gov.uk/schools-education/school-curriculum/6> and support schemes of work
  - the SACRE RE consultant
  - regular CPD opportunities for RE and
  - SACRE documents being sent electronically into every school.
- 2.2 The RE consultant to SACRE has given advice to the local authority on a number of occasions in 2020/2021. Some of these have fallen into assistance with parental objections to a part of the school curriculum on the basis of religion. The meetings often have to unpack cultural rather than religious objections, offering a great learning experience for parents as well as school leaders.

A larger piece of work for SACRE and the RE consultant was deciding to create a recovery RE curriculum for schools for the Autumn term 2020. This gave schools the option to lift the normal Agreed Syllabus legislation and provide RE in a different way, giving time to teachers and schools to process lockdown and think together about big questions. In monitoring schools we have discovered half of all schools used these resources, and half decided to carry on as usual with their RE. For those schools who did use our recovery curriculum they told us:

“They had such good topic to support children's wellbeing and help them settle in after going through such hard times.” Ranelagh Primary School

SACRE sent out updated advice on Ramadan and fasting in schools for pupils in January 2021, which was received well by schools. The SACRE consultant also provided training for local faith leaders on the content of the RE syllabus, hosting school visits to their places of worship and due to the pandemic how to do virtual visits to places of worship during lockdown.

- 2.3 The SACRE short film on the value of RE continues to be available to watch online at <https://youtu.be/2Dx8Wv2V2ug>. It celebrates the role of SACRE, faith leaders, teachers and pupils in working together successfully in a local area to ensure high quality RE.
- 2.4 Monitoring of RE in schools

From the LA’s monitoring of schools, we know that 70 pupils have been withdrawn from RE lessons across primary and secondary schools from a total of 64,257 pupils. This means that 99.89% of pupils are in Newham RE lessons. This sustains our low figures over the last ten years and SACRE believes this flows from the authority’s emphasis on inclusion, and the hard work of schools to explain the purpose of RE and the importance for all pupils to receive education about others’ beliefs. We are grateful to local faith leaders being prepared to go into schools and talk about this issue directly with families from their own religion to support understanding around the purpose of RE in our area and keep everyone, as far as possible, receiving RE.

### Primary RE

	Outstanding	Good	Needs attention	Inadequate
<b>No. of schools</b>	14	43	2	0
<b>Percentage</b>	24%	73%	3%	0%

Secondary RE

	Outstanding	Good	Needs attention	Inadequate
<b>No. of schools</b>	9	7	0	0
<b>Percentage</b>	56%	44%	0%	0%

2.5 Complaints about RE

There have been no formal complaints received about RE from any Newham schools during 2020-21.

2.6 Public examinations

Due to COVID 19 and lockdown there are no published examination results in RE/RS for summer 2021 that we can analyse as a local authority/SACRE.

Looking to national standards, the Joint Council for Qualifications has published this for GCSE RS results (cumulative percentages).

Subject	Gender	Number Sat	% of Total No. Sat	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES by Grade			
				7/A	4/C	1/G	U
Religious Studies	Male	110378 (113026)	3.8 (4.0)	29.3 (26.6)	74.7 (74.7)	98.4 (99.2)	100.0 (100.0)
	Female	132693 (134598)	4.6 (4.7)	46.5 (42.8)	85.7 (86.1)	99.3 (99.7)	100.0 (100.0)
	Male & Female	243071 (247624)	4.2 (4.4)	38.7 (35.4)	80.7 (80.9)	98.9 (99.5)	100.0 (100.0)

Looking to national standards the Joint Council for Qualifications has published this for A-Level RS results (cumulative percentages).

Religious Studies	Male	4285 (3948)	1.3 (1.2)	16.5 (11.2)	42.4 (34.7)	69.4 (62.4)	88.8 (86.4)	96.5 (96.7)	99.6 (99.7)	100.0 (100.0)
	Female	11374 (10616)	2.8 (2.7)	16.3 (11.3)	44.1 (36.6)	73.3 (66.4)	92.3 (89.4)	97.9 (97.6)	99.8 (99.8)	100.0 (100.0)
	Male & Female	15659 (14564)	2.1 (2.0)	16.4 (11.3)	43.6 (36.1)	72.3 (65.3)	91.3 (88.6)	97.5 (97.4)	99.7 (99.8)	100.0 (100.0)

2.6 Newham Agreed Syllabus

The last Newham Agreed Syllabus was published in September 2016. Building on the success of our last syllabus, we started the process of reviewing our agreed syllabus in January 2020. This was then placed on hold in March 2020 due to COVID 19 until March 2021. In the summer term 2021 the teacher working group and religion and worldview representative groups met once more to continue the work on the agreed syllabus text, coverage and content.

There are 25 teachers involved in reviewing the schemes of learning and support materials, and 20 religion and worldviews representatives helping with reviewing content, theology and practices.

2.7 Attainment in RE

Schools continue to make use of the Agreed Syllabus steps from 2016 in assessing pupils' attainment in RE. The RE consultant has worked with primary and secondary subject leaders through network meetings on grading and assessing pupils work in 2020-21.

The RE Advisor would in a normal year systematically review school Ofsted reports in order to maintain an overview of standards within schools, but due to COVID19 we have not been able to do this as Ofsted inspections were put on hold.

Newham has had 5 schools gain a national REQM award in 2020-21. Curwen Primary gained their 3<sup>rd</sup> gold quality mark; Elmhurst Primary gained a gold quality mark; Ranelagh Primary gained a gold quality mark; Star primary gained a gold quality mark; Nelson Primary gained a silver quality mark. SACRE was delighted to see these schools go through the process of accreditation and do so well. All schools gaining a gold award were asked by SACRE to consider joining SACRE teacher group, two schools took up the offer and are now an active part of SACRE.

**Section 3 Standards and quality of provision for Collective worship (CW)**

3.1 Within Newham advice is available to schools around CW through three forms:

- Newham's published advice on CW in schools <https://www.newham.gov.uk/schools-education/school-curriculum/6>
- the SACRE RE consultant and
- An annual collective worship course run by RE Matters.

3.2 The RE consultant to SACRE has given advice to the local authority on a number of occasions in 2020/2021. Some of these have fallen into assistance with parental objections to a part of collective worship. The meetings often have to unpack cultural and religious objections, offering a great learning experience for parents as well as school leaders.

3.3 Compliance with the statutory requirement

Collective Worship has been reviewed and monitored in Newham through the collection of relevant data from schools, which has shown:

Primary CW

<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Needs attention</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>
14	43	2	0
24%	73%	3%	0%

Secondary CW

<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Needs attention</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>
6	10	0	0
37.5%	62.5%	0%	0%

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From this data it can be seen that 98.5% of schools judged, using our Newham criteria, that their acts of collective worship were good or outstanding.

From the LA's monitoring of schools, we know that 1 pupil has been withdrawn from Collective worship from a total of 64,257 pupils. This means that almost 100% of pupils are in daily acts of collective worship.

For September 2020 SACRE prepared a template for schools of collective worship themes, links and reflections for each day during the Autumn term. Most schools from our monitoring of CW used these centrally produced materials and were very grateful for them. In fact from our teacher members talking at SACRE meetings we heard how CW gained an importance in everyone's day, everyone seeing and understanding the importance of quiet moments and the ability to reflect.

"Daily collective worship during lockdown provided an essential link between school and home and was much appreciated by our families from the feedback we received. We are grateful for the resources SACRE produced to support us during this time." WHCS

- 3.3 Determinations: There were no requests for a determination from schools in 2020-2021, and there were no renewals.
- 3.4 Complaints about collective worship: there were no complaints received by the LA or SACRE about collective worship in 2020-21.

## **Section 4 SACRE links with other bodies**

Nationally: Newham SACRE is a part of NASACRE and the LA consultant is a member of AREIAC, NATRE and the NASACRE executive. SACRE members attended the NASACRE virtual conference in May 2021 and gained a lot of ideas to bring back to what we could do as a SACRE in Newham. SACRE members have also attended the start of the NASACRE virtual monthly training programme.

Locally: Newham Council – Two of our Members are involved wider in the Local Authority. Ellen Kemp is a Member of Newham Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission while Councillor James Beckles is also Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety.

Governors Forum – Ellen Kemp and Saquat Ali are both on this, and often represents SACRE. Ellen is also the chair of Newham's Governor Association.

Newham has set up annual neighbourhood and faith groups around the borough, bringing the religious and non-religious community together. Many SACRE members are part of these conferences and continue to support project work outside of these meetings, trying to build community cohesion.

We have had Shah Muhmud (Newham's Community Engagement coordinator), Claire Clinton (SACRE consultant) and Rakesh Samplay working with the LA to help support faith groups during COVID 19 lockdown. From this work, the LA now has action plans in all departments that involve religion and worldviews as part of the plans for the development of work within the LA. This is an exciting development.

Councillor Canon Ann Easter (Interfaith cabinet member) along with Shah Muhmud have launched and kept running Newham's Forum of Faiths during lockdown, which many SACRE members are an active part of.

**Section 5 SACRE’s contribution to support schools through events and training**

SACRE members have made contributions to initial teacher training by coming to sessions run by Claire Clinton, the SACRE RE consultant, to talk to trainee teachers about their religious practices and beliefs. This was done virtually.

RE Matters with the help of SACRE members made seven films for Key Stage 2 pupils (aged 7-11), and another seven films for Key Stage 1 (aged 5-7). They can be found at <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBm9k0V6w4-WP5S4oStE4flf24aTBntf4> (KS2) and <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBm9k0V6w4-XhqU88mmMXA88OsGMXgOX2> (KS1).

Many SACRE members have hosted virtual school visits to their places of worship throughout the year. SACRE members have also virtually gone into schools to lead collective worship times as well as being a school faith visitor.

Locally SACRE maintains a link with RE Matters (run by the SACRE RE consultant), which provides termly network meetings for all Newham schools on RE, as well as a number of continuing professional development days throughout the academic year (ECT training for RE; RE ITT primary and secondary training through 4 local SCITTs; Junior and Infant RE conference days; SMSC advice; visit a place of worship database and competition; staff meetings). RE Matters runs a student SACRE group, between secondary schools, who meet half termly, and whose chair sits as part of the adult Newham SACRE group. This group for the first time in 18 years had to stop due to lockdown, we tried going on-line, but in the end schools just didn’t have enough capacity to be able to join this programme as well. Schools have agreed to start the programme again in September 2021.

**Section 6 SACREs own arrangements**

SACRE has been quorate for all of its meeting in the year September 2020-August 2021.

**Chart of SACRE attendance 2020-2021**

SACRE	Role	07/10/2020	03/02/2021	27/05/2021
Aisha Sheikh	Member	Apol	Y	Abs
Akhter Raouf	Member	Y	Y	Y
Alexa Charalambous	Guest/Member	Y (Guest)	Y	Apol
Asma Hussain	Member	Y	Apol	Y
Charlene McLeod	Member	N/A	Y	Y
Chetna Gandhi	Member	Y	Y	Y
Claire Clinton	Officer	Y	Y	Y
Councillor Aisha Siddiqah	Member	Abs	Apol	Y
Councillor Canon Ann Easter	Member	Y	Y	Y
Councillor James Beckles	Member	Abs	Y	Apol
Councillor Joshua Garfield	Member	Apol	Y	Y
Councillor Pushpa Makwana	Member	Y	Y	Y
Edward Hoyle	Member/Deputy Chair	Y	Y	Y
Elicia Lewis	Member	Y	Y	Y
Erin Docherty	Officer	Y	Apol	Left
Gillian Striesow	Member	Y	Y	Apol
Imam Khalil Laher	Member	Abs	Apol	Abs
Jo Mathias	Member	Y	Y	Abs

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Dr Jo Sell (Newham RSHE advisor)	Guest	Y	N/A	N/A
Kishor Varsani	Member	Y	Y	Y
Marie Hardie (chair)	Member/Chair	Y	Y	Y
Ms Ellen Kemp	Member	Y	Y	Y
Mariyan Ahmed	Youth SACRE chair	Apol	LEFT	LEFT
Olubusola Daramola	Member	N/A	Y	Abs
Pat McFarlane	Member	Abs	Apol	Apol
Puja Roudh	Member	Apol	Y	Y
Rafiq Patel Minhaj Ul Qur'an	Member	Abs	Abs	Abs
Rakesh Samplay	Member	Y	Apol	Y
Rev Christina Asinugo	Member	Apol	Y	Y
Rev Susan Lucas	Member	Apol	Apol	Left
Ross Paton	Officer	Y	Apol	Y
Ruth Everett	Member	Y	Y	Y
Saquat Ali	Member	Y	Y	Apol
Sarah Heath	Member	Y	Y	Y
Sharmin Ali	Member	Y	Y	Y
Susanna Harskamp	Guest	Y	N/A	N/A
Antonella Burgio	Secretary	Y	Y	Y
Stephen Madigan	Member	Apol	apol	Y
Surinder Singh Jandu	Member	Y	Y	Apol
Taranum Afshan	Member	Y	Y	Y
Venerable Makure Mangala	Member	Y	Y	Abs
Yael Callaghan	Member	Y	Y	Y

**SACRE costs**

*Professional and administrative support*

During the year 2020-21, three LA officers supported SACRE professionally and administratively:

- Claire Clinton as professional SACRE consultant;
- Paul Smith as the Local Authority link office, and
- Antonella Burgio as clerk to SACRE.

*Finance:* The sum of **£22,092.90** was made available through the LA to support the work of SACRE during the year. The sum covered the cost of employing an RE consultant, the cost of clerking SACRE, membership of NASACRE and attending conferences, refreshments, printing and postage for all SACRE meetings. (These figures break down to: £1750 for the clerk to SACRE; printing £135.90; NASACRE membership £95; RE Advisor consultant £20,000; postage £52; NASACRE conference £60).

**Appendix 1 Membership of Newham SACRE 2020-2021**

**Church of England panel**

Ruth Everett  
Rev. Christiana Asinugo  
Ms Ellen Kemp  
Rev Sue Lucas

Rakesh Samplay

**Clerk to SACRE**

Mrs Antonella Burgo

**LA panel**

Councillor James Beckles,  
Saquat Ali (LA Governor rep)  
Councillor Joshua Garfield  
Councillor Aisha Siddiqah  
Councillor Pushpa Makwana  
Councillor Canon Ann Easter

**Other faiths panel**

Kishor Varsani (Hindu)  
Yael Callaghan (Jewish)  
Edward Hoyle (Humanist) **Vice Chair**  
Raffiq Patel (Sufi Muslim)  
Surinder Jandu (Sikh)  
Ahktar Rouf (Sunni Muslim)  
Funke Oham (Free Church - Pentecostal)  
Gillian Striesow (Free Church - Methodist)  
Venerable Mangala (Buddhist)  
Asma Hussain (Shia Muslim)  
Puja Roudh (Sikh)  
Imam Kahlil Laher (Sunni Muslim)  
Sharmin Ali (Sunni Muslim)

**Teacher panel**

Aisha Sheikh  
Chetna Gandhi  
Elicia Lewis - UEL RE Education lead  
Jo Mathias  
Marie Hardie **Chair**  
Pat McFarlene  
Taranum Afshan  
Stephen Madigan – left part way through the year as  
moved out of Borough  
Sarah Heath

**Student SACRE chair and vice-chair**

Maryam Ahmed

**Local Authority lead officers**

Claire Clinton  
Paul Smith  
Shah Muhmud  
Ross Paton/Erin Docherty

Appendix 2 SACRE priorities for 2020-2021

Key:	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:darkgreen;"></span> Task completed
	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:red;"></span> Task to do
	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:blue;"></span> Task started

No	Priority	Date	Process	Outcomes	Cost/resource implications
1	Annual report produced	<p>January 2021</p> <p>Feb 2021</p> <p>Feb 2021</p> <p>April 2021</p> <p>Sept onwards 2021</p> <p>Sept 2021</p> <p>December 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish 2020 report to schools &amp; on LA website</li> <li>Review schools survey at February SACRE meeting 2021, and pass new draft for sending out to schools</li> <li>RE Advisor to e-mail RE subject leaders new 2021 monitoring forms, and ask for monitoring survey to be completed by July 2021</li> <li>RE Advisor to collect returns from schools</li> <li>RE Advisor to write Annual report from September 2021, ready for review at SACRE October 2021 meeting</li> <li>RE Advisor to liaise with LA data team to get 2021 GCSE, A/S exam analysis for RE September 2021</li> <li>Send final Annual Report 2021 to DFE and NASACRE – December 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both the LA &amp; SACRE will know that they are discharging their legal duty to produce an annual report by 31.12.21</li> <li>LA &amp; SACRE will have an overview provided on the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus in schools and school needs around RE and CW</li> </ul>	Total cost of this work to be met from Adviser's commissioned time budget, paid by LA
2	Membership of SACRE	<p>Feb 2021</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>June 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RE advisor and SACRE members to suggest new recruits: ongoing – especially new religious groups in the Borough</li> <li>Ensure each panel is quorate</li> <li>Work with Mayoral office for new appointment of councillors</li> <li>Review constitution of SACRE with LA</li> <li>Develop Friends of SACRE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a good breath and diversity of faiths established on Newham SACRE</li> <li>SACRE as far as is possible is representative of Newham population</li> </ul>	No cost implication
3	Supporting good RE in schools	<p>January 2021 onwards</p> <p>Feb 2021</p> <p>May 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members should visit at least one school to see RE lessons/ CW in progress or help with poetry competition in 2021 – on-going. Changed due to COVID</li> <li>Consider new ways in which SACRE can support excellent RE in Newham schools - ongoing</li> <li>Judge Poetry competition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members develop a vision and ownership for how SACRE can support good RE in schools</li> <li>Members visit local Newham schools get a better understanding of what good RE looks like</li> </ul>	No cost implication

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No	Priority	Date	Process	Outcomes	Cost/resource implications
4	Links to best practice in RE and CW	January 2021  January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure RE consultant to keep SACRE and LA up to date on legal issues: LA employed Claire Clinton to ensure this is done for 12 months</li> <li>• Provide finances for consultant and SACRE member to attend National SACRE AGM May 2021 and London meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulfil legal requirement to have a SACRE running correctly</li> <li>• Reflect on best practice from other authorities and use in Newham</li> </ul>	Funding for 30-35 days work by CC, to be secured for 2021-22
5	Develop our New Agreed Syllabus	January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form a teacher review group and set meetings dates to work on units during summer term 2021</li> <li>• Do a survey with teachers (RE leaders at primary and secondary schools) around what they like or don't like about our present AS, and ideas for anything they want included in our new review</li> <li>• Share results from survey with SACRE</li> <li>• Build upon Barbara Wintersgill's Big Ideas in RE, as well as Exeter University's work on aspects of RE – ensure Newham AS is up to date</li> <li>• RE advisor share plan for work with SACRE to ensure everyone is happy with the plan going forward</li> <li>• Have an agreed syllabus conference in Nov/Dec 2021, where the text of the new syllabus is agreed</li> <li>• Work with LA and design team to forward plan AS being ready for going into school's spring 2022</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulfil legal requirements to have an up to date AS</li> <li>• Reflect on best practice nationally as we develop our present AS</li> <li>• Ensure teachers voice is central to the process</li> </ul>	Funding secured from LA for this extra piece of work

## Appendix 3

# Celebrating Diversity!

## SACRE statement on recovery after lockdown Information for Autumn term 2020

SACRE is mindful of all the pressures on schools and teachers as they return after the pandemic. They met on 18<sup>th</sup> June and discussed what schools should do with their Religious Education (RE) curriculum in the Autumn term. This has led to a conversation with the LA and this statement.

SACRE are clear that as schools welcome more pupils back, RE has an important role to play as it seeks to support pupils to:

- make sense of the world they have experienced
- ask and consider big questions and responses from a range of people
- process and form their own views and opinions

For the Autumn term 2020 SACRE wants to emphasise to schools that it is their legal duty to provide RE for all pupils from the age of 4-19 as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. SACRE wants to allow schools to decide what they do for the **content** of their RE for this term. It may be that schools would like to use their RE time to give pupils time to discuss their thoughts and process their emotions as we collectively come out of lockdown and deal with issues that have arisen in children and young people's lives.

SACRE would suggest that schools who would like to do this consider using their RE time to explore ideas and beliefs around:

- Loss
- Life after death
- Hope
- Suffering
- Big questions like a consideration of 'Where was God during Covid19?' or 'Why do bad things happen to good people?'
- Issues around justice and discrimination

SACRE believes this gives schools the flexibility they may need during the Autumn term to meet the challenges of operating in new and different ways as schools come back together once more.

Schools can of course continue to teach our Newham RE Agreed Syllabus during the Autumn term.

From Spring term 2021 SACRE and the LA would expect all schools to return to teaching the Newham Agreed Syllabus.

