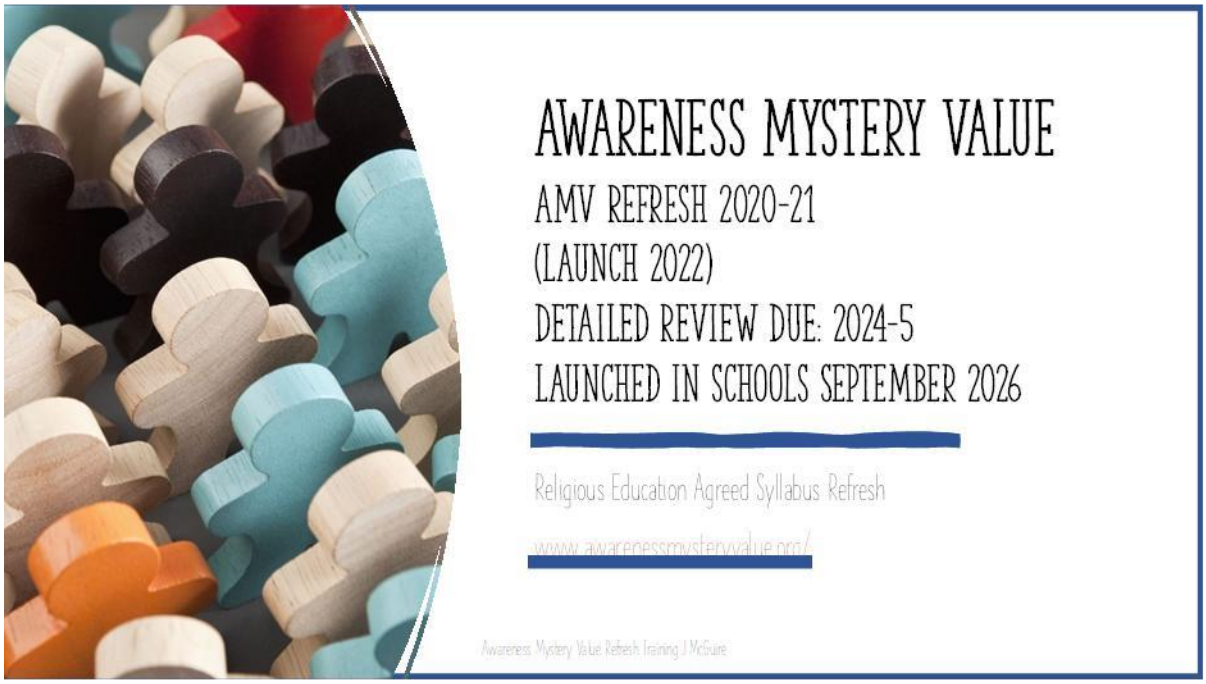
Haringey SACRE
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Annual Report 2024 – 2025



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1. (1a) Chair's Introduction

James Chiriyankandath, January 2026

As the Chair of the Haringey Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), I am pleased to introduce the report on the work done by the SACRE in 2024-25. The work outlined in the report reflects the care and dedication shown by Jan McGuire, our Religious Education Adviser, who continues to provide an invaluable steer for the Council, and Fay Jackson, acting for the Haringey Education Partnership (HEP) and the local authority, who ensured that the SACRE worked efficiently and dealt with tact and patience in dealing with challenges. During the year SACRE welcomed Panos Fellas, chair of Watford Area Humanists and a member of the SACRE in neighbouring Barnet, as a new member. I would like to thank all the Council members who have given their time and attention to the SACRE in the past year – faith representatives, teachers, and local authority councillors. I am especially grateful to Glenford Johnson, the Vice-Chair of SACRE, for again chairing a meeting in my absence. The meticulous clerking support provided by Christine Hatt, was appreciated.

Four SACRE meetings were held in the year. The first and last – in September 2024 and June 2025 – were in person meetings, the first at the Hornsey School for Girls, and the second hosted by the Alevi Cultural Centre in Haringey. Those in November 2024 and March 2025 were conducted online. The last meeting, in June, marked the success of the SACRE in successfully applying for a National Association of Standing Advisory Committees on Religious Education (NASACRE)/Westhill Endowment Trust grant for a project to capture living voices from the Alevi community in Haringey. It featured moving testimonies by young Alevi's reflecting on their experience in Haringey schools.

During the year, the SACRE voted to collaborate with its counterpart in Ealing to update the current Awareness, Mystery and Value syllabus, guidance documents and website while awaiting the Government's decision on religious education provision as part of the national Curriculum and Assessment Review.

This report seeks to give an overview of the RE environment in Haringey and the work of SACRE in fostering the development of RE to the benefit of the schoolchildren of this diverse borough at what is an especially challenging time nationally and internationally.

James Chiriyankandath, March 2026

(1b) Introduction: Overview Purpose of the report

2025 marked a pivotal period of curriculum development for Religious Education as England is awaiting the release of the formal Curriculum and Assessment Review recommendations and the Government decision on Religious Education. Haringey SACRE had already entered into their legal obligation to review the Agreed Syllabus but remains mindful of the changes that could follow. 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 to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

(1c) Haringey context statement: Religion in Haringey

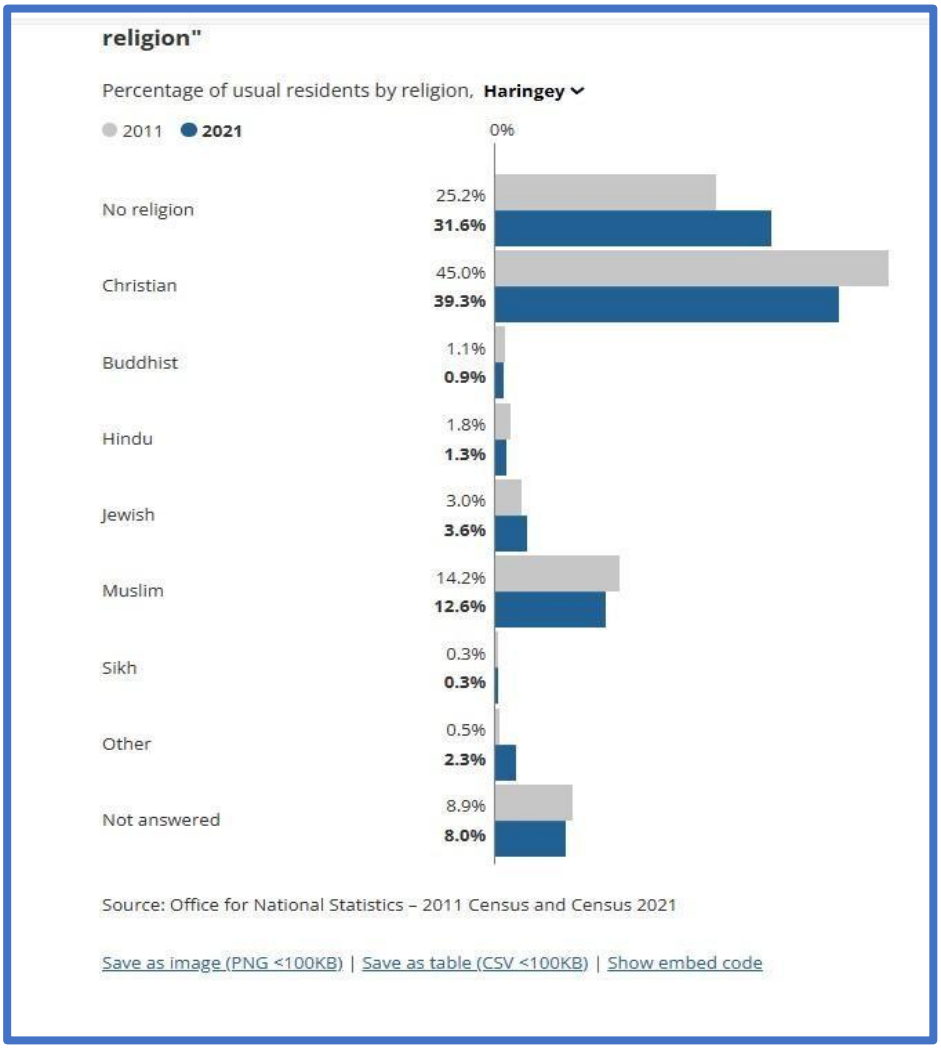
Our 2024 – 2025 Haringey context statement is drawing on the analysis of the 2021 Census data that has been released on the ONS website.

Statement from the ONS Census 2023 analysis: 'In 2021, 31.6% of Haringey residents reported having "No religion", up from 25.2% in 2011. The rise of 6.4 percentage points was the largest increase of all broad religious groups in Haringey. Because the census question about religious affiliation is voluntary and has varying response rates, caution is needed when comparing figures between different areas or between censuses.

Across London, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having "No religion" increased from 21.0% to 27.1%, while across England the percentage increased from 24.8% to 36.7%. In 2021, 39.3% of people in Haringey described themselves as Christian (down from 45.0%), while 12.6% described themselves as Muslim (down from 14.2% the decade before). There are many factors that can cause changes to the religious profile of an area, such as a changing age structure or residents relocating for work or education. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses. Religious affiliation is the religion with which someone connects or identifies, rather than their beliefs or religious practice.'

In addition, SACRE has been engaging with the Alevi community as local population intelligence reveals that there is a sizable Alevi community in Haringey, even though this does not show up as a named community worldview on the census data.

Read the bulletin Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021.



Haringey is a lively and diverse borough with a quarter of residents being under the age of 20. 70% of pupils come from ethnic minority backgrounds. Over one hundred languages are spoken by pupils attending Haringey Schools and 50% of these speak English as an additional language.

Haringey is one of the most religiously diverse Boroughs in the U.K.

*** Appendix B: Haringey Ethnic groups from Jan 2022 school census & B i Haringey State of the Borough.

The Business Intelligence team in Haringey produce a very detailed report on the State of the Borough (published in June 2022).

State of the Borough profile - June 2022 (haringey.gov.uk)

(1d) Overview: Haringey SACRE Meetings 2024 - 2025

Every Local Authority has to convene a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Haringey SACRE convenes four times each year. It comprises of four statutory groups: Committee A, B, C and D members. *** Appendix A: Haringey SACRE Membership list

- Thursday 12th September 2024: In person
- Thursday 14th November 2024: zoom
- Thursday 27th March 2025: zoom
- Thursday 5th June 2025: In person

Haringey holds four meetings annually. In 2024-2025 we held two virtual meetings and two face to face meetings including the June 2025 celebration meeting hosted at the Alevi Cultural Centre where we had presentations from Umit and Cleia from the University of Westminster, Alevism Cultural leaders and a young person who made an excellent case for Haringey SACRE to adopt changes to the Agreed Syllabus under current revision.
Attendance at the Haringey SACRE meetings is consistent and quorate, apart from in very rare unavoidable circumstances. We continue to ensure the membership reflects the demographic. The SACRE are aware of vacancies and are endeavouring to attract representation of as many of the religion and worldviews groups in Haringey. SACRE has endeavoured to build stronger relationships with the Alevi community and the celebration event in June 2025 demonstrated that it was valuable to spent time developing our links in the wider community. We have welcomed new members to our team of committed and supportive volunteers from the community.

Our Chair of SACRE took on the role in June 2022: James Chiriyankandath, senior research fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in London. James has served on the SACRE as a Governor and has been a welcome contributor to discussion and decision making.

Each meeting follows an agenda format that aligns with the formal Annual Report documentation. This allows for transparency and keeps an accurate record of the meetings to summarise in the reporting process at the end of each year. 2024-2025 SACRE Annual Report uses the NASACRE template (October 2021) in line with national guidance. The Annual Report process is also one of reflection, and this raises areas of development that SACRE has identified on their active development plan.

This is an ongoing process. Each Annual Report comments on areas that we aim to address and improve upon, whether this is attracting new membership, offering additional training and support to RE teachers and schools or reviewing issues that have arisen in the Agreed Syllabus Conference process. The minutes of the meetings accurately record these discussions and are sent to HEP to be added to the SACRE page on the HEP education pages.

2. Religious Education Statutory Responsibilities (2a) The Local Agreed Syllabus and RE in schools

The Awareness Mystery Value (AMV) Haringey Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was last refreshed in 2020-2021, with a formal launch in schools in 2022. This triggered SACRE to raise the importance of a review being agreed by SACRE as from September 2024. The AMV Syllabus outlines the statutory requirements for planning, teaching and assessment procedures. The Agreed Syllabus documents are offered to all schools in the Borough.

The new Haringey website address that hosts the current syllabus and guidance materials : https://AMVsyllabus.org

The AMV syllabus focus is on 6 areas of 'Big Enquiry' that allow for 'deep teaching' and learning:

1. Beliefs, teachings and sources
2. Practices and ways of life
3. Forms of expressing meaning
4. Identity, diversity and belonging
5. Meaning, purpose and truth
6. Values and commitments

HEP commissioned the RE adviser 2024 – 2025 to support curriculum development in Haringey schools. As a result, a number of schools have benefited from 'surgery' style virtual support sessions, RE Network and specialist RE training for coordinators and teachers as well as full school staff training to launch new RE curriculums. The Borough is continuing to offer a series of termly training and support opportunities to the RE teachers. Each session has a focus on curriculum planning using the 'golden threads' of the Haringey AMV syllabus. The training opportunities are advertised on the Haringey website and are supported by the HEP team.

The Network training events also provide SACRE with an additional way of monitoring RE in schools and helps to steer the provision and support offered to schools to develop skills required to deliver high quality RE in the classroom.

SACRE is aware that some academies have adopted at least elements of the AMV locally Agreed Syllabus; intelligence gathered through contact with schools. Going forward it would be ideal to promote RE training and Network sessions with the wider Haringey academy community.

(2b) AMV Agreed Syllabus Updates

HEP continues to support the RE Adviser with any amendments that are required to the current AMV syllabus.

The AMV working party have been very mindful of the active national discussions in the RE community, and the review process has proactively aligned the updates with the Ofsted RE Review (May 2021) the THEOS Report from 2020, the REC's work on statements of entitlement. The Agreed Syllabus Conference conversations reflects discussions within NATRE/AREIAC and NASACRE. SACRE agreed that the current syllabus is now dated to some degree. Although SACRE members would support a full revision of the syllabus, it was decided that at this particular time, with the Religious Education curriculum under national discussion, it was prudent to make improvements to the current document that would support teachers to deliver high quality RE, whilst waiting on the Government decision on the RE curriculum.
Haringey SACRE voted to work collaboratively with Ealing LA. This ASC collaboration has been a useful way to work effectively in terms of cost and time. The joint work has supported the development of planning documents and learning grids as well as developing the AMV website in this interim period. The Haringey ASC continues to vote independently from Ealing, and the Syllabus document produced will remain unique to each of the Local Authorities.

(2c) Standards and monitoring of RE

Haringey SACRE continued the process of monitoring RE during the period of 2024 – 2025.

During 2024-2025 SACRE had useful conversations with schools and teacher groups.

SACRE continues to support improvements to RE within schools by listening to children and teachers and offering training and bespoke support.

Religious Education Examinations: 2024- 2025

*** Appendix C: Haringey Examination Results 2024 2025

Monitoring of provision 2024- 2025 Primary Schools

The SACRE HEP education link leads on the allocation of schools to the SACRE members that monitor the designated school websites for evidence of RE.
Members of SACRE have links with primary schools through their faith communities within the borough, and this enables the group to gather evidence of good practice. SACRE continues to offer training and support to schools via the HEP website allowing the RE Adviser to gather evidence of RE good practice and areas that require additional support.
The Haringey SACRE also has an established working relationship with the local Diocese and Diocesan Religious Education Advisers and this can provide a collaborative approach to the monitoring of RE provision.
SACRE receives HEP's ongoing support in sharing data relevant to this role.

2024- 2025 Monitoring of Secondary Schools:

Academies bring new challenges in terms of accountability. Haringey 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.

Ofsted Reports 2024-2025:

Currently the HEP lead for Statutory Services, Fay Jackson, acts as the conduit between the LA and SACRE. HEP keeps the SACRE informed of Ofsted inspections and HEP 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.

SACRE and HEP monitor the reports for statements that celebrate good practice in RE as well as alluding to the school failing to meet statutory provision as far as religious education and collective worship is concerned.

(2d) Teacher training and materials and advice for schools

The HEP RE Adviser continues to offer school training and support opportunities.

Commissioned projects including those linked to Research awards (Farmington/NASACRE/ Westhill/ CSGT) have been shared and offered to schools free of charge to increase engagement and interest in RE. The RE adviser has provided schools with materials to support them in improving their RE in schools.

Advice on RE, resources and materials to support the delivery of the AMV agreed syllabus, as well as RE in general, have been shared in the schools circular collated by HEP and added to the HEP education website. Curriculum grids have been produced to support schools with their planning around progression, sequential learning, 'golden threads' and intent, implementation and impact themes encouraged by the Ofsted review of May 2021. National materials such the THEOS report and animated clip about religion and worldviews and looking through 'lenses' has also been shared.

During this period HEP has once again offered a series of RE Network training session to schools. This is an area of development for SACRE.

The CPD and Network provision has been a major step forward in engaging with schools and the important curriculum changes nationally in RE. Sessions have been provided on the Ofsted Research Review and religion and worldviews including humanism.

RE SACRE Teacher Network and CPD Opportunities 2024-2025

1. RE and the law
2. Ofsted
3. New in post – RE

Haringey HEP provide teachers with a range of RE CPD opportunities each year. Each year HEP asks teachers what their needs are and the sessions respond to the needs identified.

(2e) Other information

Withdrawals: There have been no withdrawals brought to the attention of Haringey SACRE 2024 – 2025. HEP and SACRE provide information held on the HEP/SACRE area with regards to guidance on withdrawal procedures.

Complaints: Haringey SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to RE and Collective Worship as well engaging in discussions and offering support to HEP and the LA with regards to more general areas of concern in the community linked to faith and religion. In 2024-25 there were no such formal complaints to deal with.

Borough Advice: SACRE provides advice to the Local Authority (Borough) through the RE Adviser, and the Lead Adviser for Statutory Services in Haringey Education Partnership, who brings concerns from schools and Governors to SACRE. SACRE in turn discusses the issues, responds proactively, and if required establishes small working parties and publishes requested advice. SACRE engaged in conversations around community responses in school relating to Israel and Palestine, Alevi community questions, the inclusion of humanism and non-religious worldviews in the Agreed Syllabus, Evangelical Christian questions over content e.g. sacredness and the Agreed Syllabus. Through responding proactively, and dealing with questions as they arise, SACRE intends to be supportive of Haringey LA, HEP, schools and the wider community.

3. Collective Worship Statutory Responsibilities (3a) Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is highlighted on the Development Plan as an area of ongoing work in 2024-2025. SACRE may need to combine the monitoring of RE and Collective Worship in a more structured format 2025-2026, once the ASC work has finalised.

(3b) Determinations: Haringey SACRE's Statutory Role 2024-25

Haringey 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 2024-25 for Haringey SACRE to consider.
SACRE and the RE adviser provide materials and guidance on the HEP education website as well as shared materials in the Headteachers schools circular.
http://www.nasacre.org.uk

(3c) Collective Worship and Training 2024 - 2025

Collective Worship remains a key Development Plan area. Haringey HEP has not commissioned any formal training on Collective Worship or the Determination process for Headteachers, Governors and teachers in schools in this period. This should be considered a development area going forward.

However, 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. Currently this is not embraced widely by schools. SACRE aspires to have a more active support role with schools and teachers in the Haringey area.

4. Links with National Bodies

NASACRE Conference and regular bulletins: Haringey SACRE was represented at the annual conference. The conference provided an opportunity for the RE Adviser to attend useful workshops on data, and the future of religious and worldviews education, all of which are useful in shaping the SACRE going forward. The new members of SACRE were also signposted to the NASACRE virtual 'New Members' training events programme.

NASACRE/Westhill application for funding: Haringey SACRE under the Chair's leadership applied for funding from Westhill to push further with the SACRE idea of collecting the voices of the community to support the Agreed Syllabus – with a particular focus on the Alevi community. This work would support an under resourced area and support teachers in schools with locally produced resources.

The SACRE bid in 2023-24 for a National Association of SACRE (NASACRE)/Westhill Endowment Trust grant was successful. In 2024- 2025 the project commenced. A working party was set up to allow for members of the Alevi community, academics from Westminster university, members of HEP a videographer and interviewer (RE Adviser) and a project manager- the RE adviser for Haringey and

HEP. The project has made a good start with the June 2025 SACRE meeting hosted at the Alevi community centre. The relationship between the Alevi community and SACRE is strengthening, and this can only have positive consequences going forward. The aim of the project will be to capture the living voices of the community, with a particular focus on the Alevi community, along with other members of the community that may feel that their voice is not always central on the RE Syllabus. At the end of the project SACRE hope to have a bank of useful resources that will support teachers and more importantly may provide children from an Alevi background with a sense of belonging.

REC/NATRE: Haringey has benefited from the data provided by the REC to help steer discussion, funding and raising awareness of the benefits of delivering high quality RE. This included workforce data provided by NATRE on percentage of RE time being offered in Haringey schools.

Central faith and belief organisations: Current Haringey SACRE members are often also representatives on other local interfaith style groups, and issues are raised, or SACRE is signposted to events at our SACRE meetings.

AREIAC/ Culham: The RE Adviser is on the AREIAC Executive, as well as representing Haringey at the London meeting. The meetings provide an excellent network of RE leads and the sharing of best practice and ideas for schools based in London. The Adviser also attended the AREIAC and conference this year, and this feeds back into the support that is provided to Haringey.

RE-Hubs: Members of SACRE have been invited to attend the local London REHubs in conversation sessions as well as accessing the national speakers training.

Dangoor Awards 2025: SACRE did receive a 'recognised project' award for their early work to build a relationship with the Alevi community. It would be wonderful if we were nominated again.

5. Local SACRE Links and SACRE involvement locally

Dioceses: Haringey continues to benefit from the attendance of a Diocesan link adviser at our SACRE meetings. The representative shares the work of the Diocese within local schools and provides a clear link to SACRE. We hope to work more closely with the Diocesan adviser going forward, especially with regards to primary training and monitoring of RE and Collective Worship. The SACRE are keen to have a partnership approach to providing school support, and a CPD session has been suggested.

Inter Faith Groups: The Haringey SACRE members bring a wealth of inter-faith network links to the forum. This benefits SACRE immensely and helps to keep the membership of SACRE well balanced. Going forward Haringey SACRE will continue to build these links, and it is hoped that members of the wider interfaith community will attend the SACRE schools' celebration event each June .

Holocaust Memorial HMD: Haringey are fortunate to have very active links with the local Jewish community and organisations. This includes **G2G** that have provided support and training, sharing a presentation about the Holocaust with SACRE members. Haringey have shared their contact details with all schools. **Holocaust Memorial Day** with its annual varied focus and related themes enables schools to explore critical moral issues, investigate human behaviour, respond to inspirational stories and consider what it means to be a responsible British citizen. Two of our SACRE members are representatives on our local Holocaust Memorial Committee (Christian and Muslim).

Governor/ Head teacher training: Haringey SACRE also offers HEP access to Religious Education training to support Governors and Head teachers in meeting their legal requirement to provide high quality RE in schools.

6. Haringey SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities) including:

Professional and administrative support and how the LA supports the SACRE (clerking, adviser, links to council initiatives)

Haringey LA has commissioned Haringey Education Partnership (HEP) to manage the Haringey SACRE. Fay Jackson, HEP Lead for Statutory Services, has provided excellent support and guidance to our Religious Education Adviser. SACRE feels well supported by the HEP team. The HEP Lead for Statutory Services acts as the conduit between the LA and SACRE on issues such as finance, data and councillor representation. HEP employs a formal clerk, MG and CH have served SACRE during this period. Haringey LA, under the management of HEP, has continued to provide support to SACRE and its work to encourage the development of high-quality religion and worldviews, Religious Education and SMSC in schools.
SACRE has been working alongside HEP 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.

Membership, representation & recruitment - quoracy, issues and successes with recruitment

HEP works in partnership with the chair and members of the SACRE to identify gaps with representation of the local faith communities and wider group membership. Going forward a succession plan has been discussed for the role of Chair to allow for a mentoring and shadowing process to ease transition. Meetings have been consistently quorate, apart from very rare and unavoidable occasions.

*** Appendix A: Haringey SACRE Membership list 2024 2025

Training for SACRE (and ASC) members: All new members are invited to a training session that is delivered by the RE adviser at the end of formal SACRE meetings when required. In addition, NASACRE now offers national virtual training sessions that members have also been signposted to.

Finance given to SACRE for its work: 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, attends AREIAC/ NASACRE/Culham/NATRE meetings or conferences and deals with day-to-day matters.
In addition to the twenty days funding for the Religious Education adviser, Haringey (HEP) also fund work and attendance of meetings with the AMV Agreed Syllabus team. SACRE also has a very efficient and supportive paid clerk: Christine Hatt. SACRE is grateful for this support.

Appendices

Appendix A: Haringey SACRE Membership list 2024 2025

Appendix B: State of the Borough of Haringey
Appendix C: Haringey Examination Results 2024 2025

Circulation details for this Annual Report

The report will be shared, discussed, and agreed by Haringey SACRE in November 2024/ January 2025. Voting will be discussed at the November 2024 SACRE meeting. The report will be sent to the CEO of HEP to circulate to Head teachers and teachers through the schools circular. The report will also be added to the HEP Education/ SACRE/ RE page of the website. The report will be shared with Haringey council: submitted by SACRE members in office to raise awareness of the SACRE and the statutory requirements of RE in schools. The Report will be sent to NASACRE and to the Department of Education as formally required.

The SACRE clerk will send a copy of the SACRE report to the Department for Education: ministers@education.gov.uk

The report will also be emailed to NASACRE for publication on its website: SACRE reports: **admin@nasacre.org.uk**

If you have any comments about this report, please contact the Haringey SACRE Clerk Christine Hatt via e-mail at Christine.Hatt@haringeyeducationpartnership.co.uk

Jan McGuire Adviser for RE (Religion and Worldviews) Haringey HEP (Revised March 2026)