



London Borough of Newham

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL on RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

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Section 1 Introduction

Newham SACRE began this year with the preparation of a briefing note on one of the most challenging and sensitive topics of recent times: the terror attacks in Israel and the ensuing violence in the Middle East. Our note emphasised the importance of respect and care for others, a sentiment common to many beliefs, religious and otherwise. The finished note was very moving and I'm sure it helped educators across Newham broach this difficult subject with children from a diverse set of backgrounds. I wish to thank all those involved in preparing the briefing note for working so hard and so quickly.

The more routine items of business continued as usual. Right at the start of the academic year we published our updated guidelines on collective worship. In the new year, we updated our advice to schools on Ramadan. In July, Keir Hardie Primary school hosted the prize-giving ceremony for our annual Place of Worship Competition. The Place of Worship competition has once again demonstrated how our children's creative talents can be nurtured through the exploration of each other's cultural and religious traditions. With a record number of schools participating this year, we have seen high quality poetry and artwork using a broad range of media. Congratulations to all who participated, and thank you to all the parents and educators who supported the competition.

Between the end of the school year and the time of writing, I received some particularly exciting news. Student RE Matters Newham (formally Newham Student SACRE) won a London Dangoor Award! The Faith & Belief Forum give out these awards annually for "demonstrating how Londoners from all faiths and beliefs can work together for a fairer and more inclusive city". Student RE Matters are thoroughly deserving of this award. I have seen much of the tremendous work Student RE Matters do with young people in Newham. The driving aims of Student RE Matters are to promote dialogue between young people of differing faiths and secular backgrounds and cultures, and contribute to community cohesion. This year, Student RE Matters completed a photography project called "My community, my Newham". The students visited places of interest in Newham, including places of worship, to discover their importance to those who attend them, and reflect on the theme of community and how this is built and maintained. Having spoken to some of the young people involved in past projects, I can also attest that the level of engagement among the students is high. The students' enthusiasm, their pride in their work, and their sense of achievement on completion of projects is inspiring.

A final mention must go to all those students in Newham who sat public exams this year. You will see from the detailed statistics in this report that Newham's GCSE results for Religious Studies are comfortably above national averages, and the A-level results are exceptional. Well done!

Ed Hoyle – 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 began its work in 1989, has certainly developed its own particular style and character as this report will testify.

Some of the notable features of Newham SACRE's work during 2023-2024 are included in this report, namely its support schools and its involvement with collective worship. SACRE continues to work with different religion and worldview leaders and teachers across all key stages to ensure our advice and work is fit for purpose.

Newham SACRE Annual Report 2023-2024

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 four times across the academic year 2023-24. Our meetings were hybrid with some members participating through 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.

September 2023	Live on Newham YouTube channel via Zoom
December 2024	Live on Newham YouTube channel via Zoom
March 2024	Live on Newham YouTube channel via Zoom
June 2024	Live on Newham YouTube 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.

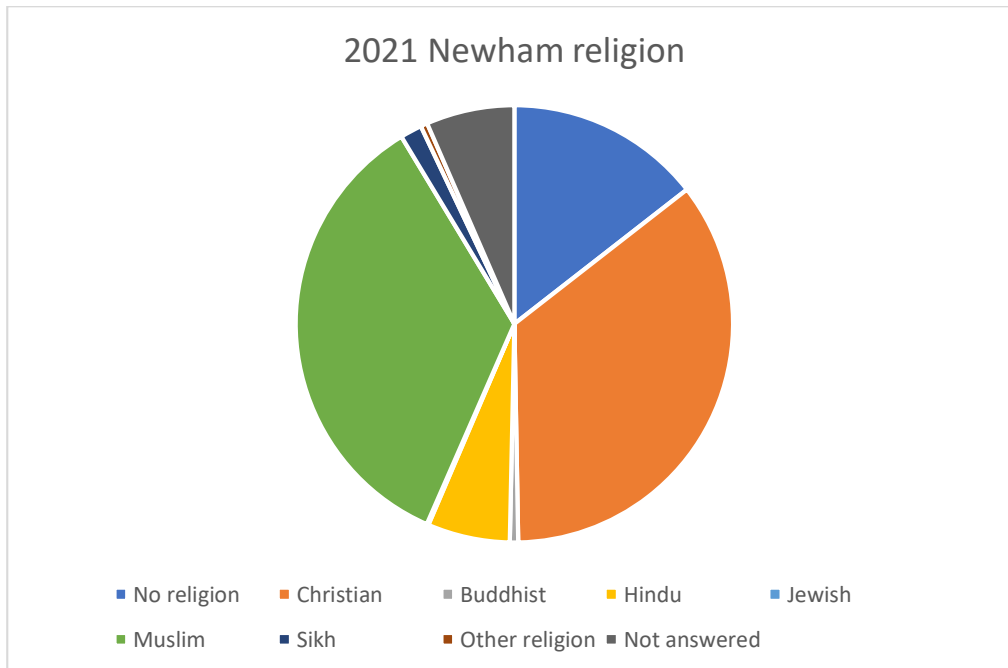
According to the Newham school census of January 2024, there were 63,336 children and young people aged 19 or under in Newham schools. They make up 18% of the total population in the borough. For comparison, across London as a whole, children and young people are 16% of the population. The number of children and young people in Newham is an important feature of the area.

There were 165 languages spoken by at least one pupil, and 38 languages (including English) had at least 100 speakers. 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.

In the 2021 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 2021 Census, 35% of the population said they were Christian, 34% Muslim (2nd highest figure for a Muslim population of a borough in the UK), 14% of people stated they had no religion, 6% stated they were Hindu, with the rest of the population members of other faith groups or not stating their affiliation. Newham is also an area of high mobility and we see in each census new religious group appearing in the borough.

Figures from 2021 census

Religion	Number of people	Percentage
Christian	123,746	35.3%
Muslim	122,146	34.8%
None (includes agnostics, atheists)	50,795	14.5%
Hindu	21,405	6.10%
Non-stated	22,933	6.5%
Sikh	5,638	1.6%
Buddhist	2,160	0.6%
Other	1,765	0.5%
Jewish	448	0.10%



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 www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/4761/newham-religious-education-syllabus-2022 and over 80 supports and schemes of work and medium term plans from EYFS to KS3 within a Google Drive that all Newham schools (maintained, faith, academy, free-schools have access to)
- The Newham SACRE RE consultant
- regular CPD opportunities for Religious Education (RE) and collective worship (CW); and
- SACRE documents sent electronically into every school.

2.2 Newham SACRE has given advice to the local authority on a number of occasions in 2023-2024. Some of these have fallen into assistance with parental objections to a part of the school curriculum on the basis of religion. The meetings, between schools and the LA, with the support of SACRE often have to unpack cultural rather than religious objections to an area of the curriculum, offering a great learning experience for parents as well as school leaders.

Newham SACRE sent out updated advice on Ramadan and fasting in schools for pupils in January 2024, which was received well by schools. The SACRE consultant also provided training for local faith leaders on the content of the RE syllabus, on hosting school visits to their places of worship and how to be an effective school speaker.

Newham SACRE undertook a self-evaluation review, using the NASACRE tool. This has helped to inform our priorities going forward into work for 2024-25, as well as being able to recognise where we are outstanding (which continues to be in every area).

2.3 Throughout 2023-24 there were RE network termly meetings for both primary RE leads and secondary heads of departments. These have covered the following topics and professional development opportunities:

Primary

Local and national updates; Pupil voice in RE – what to do as a school. Using pupil voice as a mechanism for reviewing and action development in RE; Humanism masterclass; Ofsted Deep and meaningful RE report and analysis.

Secondary

Local and national updates; Farid Panjwani – Masterclass in Islamic Hermeneutics; Masterclass on teaching Ethics in RE; Masterclass in teaching about secular worldviews.

Teachers have stated that this training has impacted their development in the following ways:

- *“For me as a subject leader the network meetings help me with my subject knowledge as well as keeping on top of national and local developments.” & “I enjoyed everything, starting from RE magazine update, discussion about the drama, games and activities, masterclass about Islam, info and RE HUB, and suggestions about pupils voice.” & “Coming today has helped me to feel more confident in my leadership and next steps.” & “I love our secondary network meetings especially the breakout groups to share good practice and discuss experiences of teaching RE. I gain so many practical tips and ideas to go back to my school with.”*
- *“I love the fact that we can go out and visit different religious buildings as our syllabus asks us to do this – it is wonderful that pupils get to have first-hand experiences of religion and worldviews around them.”*
- *“Today’s training was awesome, so many ideas are buzzing around my head and lots of practical resources I am looking forward to using.”*
- *“I found the ‘new to leading R.E.’ course incredibly helpful as networking with colleagues in the same boat as me has been incredibly useful and encouraging.”*
- *“The whole session, as usual Claire is so good at delivering these sessions and keeps it light and simple and yet manages to cover everything.” & “Being able to get an overall view of the borough’s legal requirements. I found it reassuring that we are on the right track to having a fully embedded collective worship process.”*

2.4 SACRE working with RE Matters Student Interfaith group worked on a project called ‘My community, my Newham’ in 2023-2024. It was a photography project where students got to visit different places of worship and meet different people from different religions and worldviews and reflect on the idea of community and how this could be captured through images. At present RE Matters staff are turning the students work into a toolkit for Newham teachers providing images and lessons starters to enhance RE lessons.

2.5 Monitoring of RE in schools

From the LA’s monitoring of schools, we know that 7 pupils have been withdrawn from RE lessons across primary and secondary schools from a total of 63,336 pupils. This means that 99.99% of pupils in Newham attend RE lessons. This sustains our low figures of withdrawals over the last ten years, which we believe flows from the LA’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 and practices. We are grateful to local faith leaders being prepared to go into schools and talk about these issues 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
No. of schools	22	38	0	0
Percentage	36%	64%	%	0%

Secondary RE

	Outstanding	Good	Needs attention	Inadequate
No. of schools	6	8	2	0
Percentage	38%	50%	12%	0%

94% of Newham schools, using SACREs criteria, have said that their RE provision is good or outstanding. SACRE has advised the LA these schools require support, and in turn the LA have provided time for the RE advisor/consultant to work with the secondary schools who have indicated that their RE needs attention, ensuring they are given some support.

There were 10 pupils withdrawn from RE lessons in 2023-2024 from 63,336 pupils.

2.5 Complaints about RE

There have been no formal complaints received about RE from any Newham schools during 2023-24.

2.6 Public examinations

GCSE results

School	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U	Total	% 9-7	% 9-5	% 9-1
Bobby Moore Academy		10	8	5	9	7	6	3	1	1	50	20%	52%	98%
Brampton Manor	5	6	19	10	31	72	93	82	37	3	358	59%	88%	99%
Chobham		1		4	7	2	6	8	2		30	53%	83%	100%
Cumberland	13	21	33	21	48	57	43	32	18	5	291	32%	68%	98%
Eastlea	15	25	25	24	18	18	12	13	8	8	166	20%	42%	95%
Forest Gate School	7	10	10	23	46	58	49	32	18	1	254	39%	80%	100%
Kingsford	15	27	38	36	44	65	35	25	21	6	312	26%	61%	98%
Langdon	13	20	37	21	37	55	51	34	38	3	309	40%	70%	99%
Lister	21	42	53	31	51	52	30	23	11	4	318	20%	53%	99%
Little Ilford	1	1	3	7	7	10	4	9	4	2	48	35%	71%	96%
Oasis Academy														
Silvertown	2		1	2	2	4	3	3	1	1	19	37%	68%	95%
Plashet	2	10	26	12	42	67	48	35	32	1	275	42%	81%	100%
Rokeby	7	15	16	12	14	36	18	7	7		132	24%	62%	100%
Royal Docks		1	3	4	7	6	5	1			27	22%	70%	100%

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Sarah Bonnell	14	19	11	39	47	35	50	38		253	49%	83%	100%	
St. Angela's	7	10	21	24	48	25	33	17	2	187	40%	79%	99%	
St. Bonaventure's	2	14	18	25	31	39	25	21	17	1	193	33%	69%	99%
Stratford	8	14	26	25	33	50	41	35	37		269	42%	73%	100%
Newham Grand Total	111	238	345	294	490	693	529	446	307	38	3,491	37%	71%	99%
National Results											223034	31%	62%	98%

From this it can be seen that the GCSE averages in Newham were 79% for 9-4, Nationally this sat at 72.5%. Newham is 6.5% higher than the national figure. Newham is 9% higher for 9-5. Newham is 6% higher for 9-7 than the national average. This shows the added value pupils gain from sitting a GCSE in Religious Studies. It is also worth noting that 72% of year 11 pupils sat a full course GCSE in Religious Studies in summer 2023.

A' Level results

<i>A level Religious Studies 2024 (provisional)</i>	Number of grades awarded								Percentages			
	*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total	% *	% *- A	% *- B	% *- E
Bobby Moore Academy			1	3	3	2	1	10	0%	0%	10%	90%
Brampton Manor Academy	18	32	10					60	30%	83%	100%	100%
London Academy of Excellence	1	9	12	3				25	4%	40%	88%	100%
Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre, City of London Academy	2	7	2					11	18%	82%	100%	100%
St Angela's Ursuline School	1	3	8	5		1		18	6%	22%	67%	100%
St Bonaventure's RC School		1	3	2	2			8	0%	13%	50%	100%
Grand Total	22	52	36	13	5	3	1	132	17%	56%	83%	99%

<i>AS level Religious Studies 2024 (provisional)</i>	Number of grades awarded					Percentages			
	A	B	C	D	E	Total	% *- A	% *- B	% *- E
Brampton Manor Academy	9	4	2	1		16	56%	81%	100%
St Angela's Ursuline School	2	1				3	67%	100%	100%
Grand Total	11	5	2	1		19	58%	84%	100%

National A'Level Results

Percentage of candidates gaining grade									%gaining	Number
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	A*-E	grades
Religious Studies 2024	6.0	19.7	29.2	23.9	13.8	5.6		1.8	98.2	16622

From these exceptional results we can see Newham pupils at A' Level did incredibly well. A*-A results were 48% higher than the national average; A*-B were 28% higher. Newham SACRE are incredibly proud again of these results.

SACRE continues to monitor school's comments about our present agreed syllabus. We reviewed the results of our teacher survey on the implementation of the 2022 Agreed Syllabus during our September meeting 2023. The RE Advisor along with teachers from SACRE went on to provide the extra support, CPD needs and materials that were requested to be developed in 2023-24.

2.7 Attainment in RE

The RE Advisor systematically reviewed Newham school Ofsted reports in order to maintain an overview of standards within schools.

Primary Schools

Kaizen Primary School May 24

The school embraces the diverse community and the array of languages that pupils speak. The many pupils who start school at different points during the year are included with warmth, sensitivity and kindness. . Pupils are proud of their leadership roles and the impact that these have on the school community. For example, digital leaders help out in computing lessons and **school council members ensure that everyone's voice is heard.**

Plaistow Primary School July 24

Pupils' behaviour is impeccable. They are kind to each other and listen well to staff and to each other. Discrimination is never tolerated. **Pupils are aware of commonalities between different communities as well as fundamental British values and what they mean. The school has ensured that many different backgrounds are represented in its curriculum.** Pupils are taught about different kinds of discrimination and have routine opportunities to discuss these. Pupils also learn about the rule of law and the important mechanisms of democracy, such as parliament and voting. They learn to understand and respect the importance of treating everyone equally and with respect in school and the wider community

Curzen Primary School January 24

Staff ensure that every pupil has an annual visit to the theatre, **a place of worship** and an opportunity to travel outside London, such as a visit to the seaside. The personal development of pupils is carefully considered and planned for. Staff encourage pupils to be responsible global citizens.

Brampton Primary School January 24

Pupils really enjoy their learning. They are proud to be part of a school where their rights and responsibilities are promoted and respected. This is clear in their attitudes. Pupils show respect for one another and for staff. Pupils are kind to each other, and they do not tolerate bullying. Pupils feel that they have a voice in their education. They comment that this is a 'listening and telling' school, saying that this helps them to feel safe. The school's offer for pupils' personal development is excellent. **Through carefully considered religious education (RE) and personal, social, health and economic education curriculums, pupils learn about world religions and the diversity of modern Britain. Pupils also visit the places of worship of different religions and experience overnight visits, including abroad.**

Keir Hardie Primary May 2024

Leaders work carefully to promote an inclusive and welcoming environment. For instance, they promote the importance of equality and celebrate diversity. Teachers encourage pupils to feel responsible for the world around them and to be active citizens. **Staff enable pupils to develop their knowledge and skills deeply across all subjects. For example, in religious education (RE), pupils developed their understanding about festivals, different belief systems and explained parables confidently. The school develops pupils' wider development impressively. This includes through a very well thought-out programme of RE and personal, social and health education. Staff aspire for pupils to leave the school as empathetic, kind and ready for life in modern Britain.**

There are regular visits to a wide range of places of worship. Pupils listen to guest speakers from different backgrounds. They are taught about keeping healthy.

Roman Road Primary July 2023

Pupils are respectful and tolerant of others. Class assemblies celebrate different faiths, and an 'express yourself' day encourages pupils to embrace who they are. Pupils enjoy helping others. For example, they collect food items and raise funds regularly for nominated charities. The school council has worked with leaders to make changes to the school, including increasing the equipment available outdoors.

St Stephen's Primary School October 2023

Pupils are brilliant role models. They demonstrate the school's values in all that they do. This is because the school's 'We care' philosophy runs through everything that happens. It helps pupils to understand and respect others. 'Well-being ambassadors' help to promote good mental and physical health. These pupils enjoy looking out for those who might be feeling sad and finding ways to help them to feel better again. Pupils have opportunities to experience different social and cultural events, including theatre trips and residential.

North Beckton Primary School September 2023

Pupils enjoy lots of experiences in and out of school. This includes trips to the Tate Modern and British Museum. **They learn about those from different faiths and cultures, including visiting different places of worship.**

Sandringham Primary September 2023

Pupils are taught about and encouraged to respect all cultures and faiths. They readily celebrate each other's successes. The pupil-led school government petitioned their local Member of Parliament to secure quiet streets around their school.

Britannia Village June 2024

Pupils are happy and thrive in this popular school. They feel proud to be a part of this diverse school community.

School 360 November 2023

School 360's values of joy, responsibility, curiosity, courage and kindness are seamlessly interwoven through daily life here. The curriculum has been well designed to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. The school's work to develop pupils' awareness of and contribution to social justice is of high quality. For example, there is strong collaboration with local charities that enrich the curriculum and contribute positively to building a community on this completely new school site.

Royal Wharf September 2023

Leaders develop pupils' characters exceptionally well. **Staff encourage pupils to celebrate the differences and cultures of people across the world and in their community.** Pupils understand that their opinions are important and valued. Pupils across the school behave well. They show high levels of respect towards each other and to staff. They understand and know about modern British values. They learn about different relationships and know how to keep safe and healthy.

Salisbury January 2024

This is a welcoming school. New pupils are helped to settle in quickly, and pupils are kind and helpful to one another. **Pupils develop a rich understanding of the diverse cultures and faiths in their community. There are many opportunities to celebrate diversity, including the well-attended 'International Day'. Work has taken place to ensure that the curriculum is carefully sequenced so that pupils build on their knowledge and understanding over time. For example, in religious education (RE), pupils build a depth of knowledge about 'belonging'. In Nursery, they learn about where they belong, then, over time, progress to learning about the artefacts, practices, and celebrations that symbolise belonging in different religions. This helps to prepare pupils to address bigger questions in Year 6.**

Godwin Junior School January 2024

The school aims to prepare pupils for secondary school while also teaching them how to be good citizens for the future. Pupils achieve well in their learning. Pupils are kind and respectful to each other and polite to staff and visitors. The curriculum also teaches pupils about important concepts related to discrimination and treating others with respect and kindness.

St Francis Catholic Primary School July 2024

The school has a mantra of 'peace, love, knowledge'. Staff and pupils live by this every day. This can be seen throughout the school, both in the kindness that all members of the school community show to each other and through the careful and deliberate planning of learning. Leaders also place high value in the work that they do to build the moral character of pupils. This includes pupils' learning about fundamental British values.

Gallions Primary School November 2023

Through their philosophy lessons, pupils develop their ability to debate current affairs.

Avenue Primary School

Pupils appreciate the warm and respectful relationships that they have with staff. As one pupil put it: 'This school is built on kindness and respect. The curriculum encourages pupils to understand and reflect on wider society and their experiences of the world around them. This is enhanced by special in-school events. For example, pupils enjoy taking part in school cultural days which celebrate pupils' diverse backgrounds, cultures and religions

Colegrave Primary School October 2023

They make sure pupils understand their rights and learn how to take responsibility for their actions. Staff have consistently strong subject knowledge. They use this to ensure that pupils can explain their thinking, and they challenge them to use precise subject vocabulary right from the start in the early years.

St Winefride's RC Primary School October 2023

Visits to different places of worship and regular multicultural days encourage pupils to celebrate other religions and cultures. Pupils support the well-being of others both in and beyond the school community, including raising money for charity and organising an annual 'reverse advent calendar'. The school council members, as well as pupil teams who represent different subjects, work with leaders to ensure pupils' views contribute to the life of the school. The school has given careful thought to pupils' broader development. The personal, social, health and economic education curriculum is designed to help pupils learn about staying mentally and physically healthy. **A number of external speakers and assemblies** add to these key messages. For example, pupils receive visits from the police, who speak about knife crime and how to stay safe outside of school.

Sheringham School January 2024

Pupils thrive in a caring and nurturing environment. **Staff enable pupils to respect and understand different faiths, beliefs and views.** This creates a harmonious and happy school environment. Playtimes are fun and lively. The school council has worked with leaders to increase the variety of activities.

Secondary Schools

Brampton Manor April 2024

The school has designed a broad and ambitious curriculum. As a result, pupils develop secure subject knowledge, which results in very strong examination results in a wide range of GCSE and A-level subjects.

Quwat ul Islam Girl’s School June 2024

Pupils have opportunities to debate current affairs regularly **and learn about religions and cultural traditions other than their own.** They are taught the importance of challenging stereotypes in the workplace.

Azhar Academy Girl’s school March 2024

Provision for pupils’ personal development is exceptionally well thought through. **Through the school’s curriculum, pupils are taught about Islamic values and fundamental British values and a wide range of traditions and beliefs, including those different to their own.**

London Academy of Excellence March 2024

Teachers are highly skilled and experienced and have in-depth knowledge of the subjects they teach. They use a range of teaching strategies expertly, such as detailed explanations, simulated experiments, demonstrations, questions and discussions. Teachers skilfully link theoretical concepts with real-life examples. As a result, students develop excellent knowledge and skills. They revisit taught content frequently. They make sure that students have excellent study skills so that they can work independently.

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

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

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

3.2 The SACRE consultant to Newham SACRE has given advice to the local authority on a number of occasions in 2023-24 around issues concerning collective worship on behalf of SACRE. Some of these occasions have included assisting with parental objections to a part of collective worship practice within the borough.

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

	Outstanding	Good	Needs attention	Inadequate
No. of schools	21	35	4	0
Percentage	36%	58%	6%	0%

Secondary CW

	Outstanding	Good	Needs attention	Inadequate
No. of schools	4	8	4	0
Percentage	25%	50%	25%	0%

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From this data it can be seen that 87% 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 no pupils have been withdrawn from collective worship from a total of 63,336 pupils. This means that 100% of pupils are in daily acts of collective worship.

- 3.3 Determinations: There were no requests for a determination from schools in 2023-24, and there were no renewals.
- 3.4 Complaints about collective worship: there were no complaints received by the LA or Newham SACRE about collective worship in 2023-24.
- 3.5 SACRE worked on writing and updating its advice on collective worship in 2023 and published this with all schools in 2023-2024. It can be found here: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/6971/2024-newham-guidance-on-collective-worship>

Section 4 SACRE links with other bodies

- 4.1 Nationally: Newham SACRE is a part of NASACRE and the LA consultant is a member of AREIAC, NATRE and the NASACRE executive. One member of Newham SACRE serves as NASACRE treasurer. SACRE members attended the NASACRE conference in May 2024 in York and gained many of ideas to bring back to what we could do as a SACRE in Newham. SACRE members have also attended the NASACRE virtual webinar monthly training programme and found it useful training for all members.

Locally: Newham Council – One of our members is involved wider in the Local Authority. Ellen Kemp is a Member of Newham Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission.

Governors Forum – Ellen Kemp and Saquat Ali are both on this, and often represent SACRE at these meetings. Ellen is also the chair of Newham's Governor Association. The SACRE consultant has provided training to governors on RE and CW via 'education space', the LA governors training body.

Newham has set up annual neighbourhood and interfaith events around the borough, bringing the religious and non-religious community together. Many SACRE members are part of these meetings and continue to support project work outside of these meetings, trying to build community cohesion. Our SACRE vice-chair, Cannon Councillor Ann Easter, heads up the interfaith work within the borough as lead member on Newham cabinet.

We have had Shah Muhmud (Newham's Community Engagement coordinator), Claire Clinton (SACRE consultant) and Tuffayel Ahmed (Faith police officer) working with the LA to help support faith groups.

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

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

Many SACRE members have hosted school visits to their places of worship throughout the year or have visited schools to lead collective worship times as well as being a school religion and worldview visitor.

Newham SACRE with RE Matters ran our annual Visit a Place of Worship Competition through Newham schools. There were hundreds of entries and the winning work (judged by SACRE members) can be viewed at <https://www.rematters.co.uk/visit-a-place-of-worship-2021-2022> scroll to the bottom of the page) and you will find a PowerPoint presentation with the winning work for 2024. SACRE members awarded prizes and certificates to schools and pupils at the end of the summer term at an event at Keir Hardie Primary School.

Locally, Newham SACRE maintains a link with RE Matters (run by the SACRE 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. These include: 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 and staff meetings. RE Matters runs Student RE Matters a student interfaith group, between secondary schools, who meet half termly and representatives attend the adult SACRE group.

Section 6 SACREs own arrangements

SACRE has been quorate for all its meeting in the year September 2023-August 2024.

Chart of SACRE attendance 2022-2023

SACRE	Role	20.09.23	6.3.24	19.6.24	23.10.24
Aisha Sheikh	Teacher rep	Y	Apologies	Y	Apologies
Akhter Raouf	Other faiths – Sunni Muslim rep	Apologies	Y	unwell	Y
Alexia Charalambous	Teacher rep	Y	Y	No attendance	Apologies
Asma Hussain	Other faiths – Shia Muslim rep	Y	Apologies	Apologises	Y
Azaan Akbar	Teacher rep	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brother Sam	C of E rep	No attendance	No attendance	No attendance	No attendance
Catriona Martin	Officer – RE Matters	Observer and report provider for Student RE Matters			
Charlene McLeod	Teacher rep	Y	No attendance	Left SACRE	Left SACRE
Chetna Gandhi	Teacher rep	Apologies	Family emergency	Y	Y
Claire Clinton	SACRE consultant	Y	Y	Y	Y
Councillor Canon Ann Easter	Vice-chair LA rep	Y	Y	Apologises	Apologies
Councillor Joshua Garfield	LA rep	n/a	n/a	Y	Apologies
Councillor Jane Lofthouse	LA rep	Y	Y	Apologies	Y
Councillor Femi Falola	LA rep	Y	No attendance	No attendance	No attendance
Councillor Amar Virdee	LA rep	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dr S Saxby	Other faiths – Catholic rep	Y	No attendance	Y	Apologies
Edward Hoyle	Chair and other faiths Humanist rep	Y	Y	Y	Y
Elicia Lewis	Teacher rep - University	Y	Apologies	Y	Y
Ellen Kemp	C of E rep	Y	Y	Y	Y

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Jo Mathias	Teacher rep	Apologies	Apologies	Y	Apologies
Kishor Varsani	Other faiths – Hindu rep	No attendance	Apologies	Apologies	Y
Marie Hardie	Teacher rep	Y	Y	Y	Y
Puja Roudh	Other faiths – Hindu rep	No attendance	Y	Y	Apologises
Pradeep Singh	Other faiths – Sikh rep	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y
Ruth Everett	C of E rep	Y	Apologies	Apologies	Y
Saquat Ali	LA – governor rep	Y	Y	Y	Y
SACRE	Role	20.09.23	6.3.24	19.6.24	23.10.24
Sarah Heath	Teacher rep	No attendance	Apologies	Apologies	Y
Sharmin Ali	Other faiths – Sunni Muslim rep	Y	Apologies	Y	Left SACRE
Shirley Fortune/ Mehrunnisa Hussain	Clerk	Y	Y	Y	Y
Taranum Afshan	Teacher rep	Y	Y	Apologises	Y
Venerable Makure Mangala	Other faiths – Buddhist rep	Y	No attendance	Apologises	Apologises
Yael Callaghan	Other faiths – Jewish rep	Y	Y	Y	Apologies
Zeeshan Farooqi	Police interfaith rep	Y	Apologises	Y	Apologises

SACRE costs

Professional and administrative support

During the year 2023-24, three LA officers supported Newham SACRE professionally and administratively:

- Claire Clinton as professional SACRE consultant;
- Patrick Alexander as the Local Authority link office, and
- Mehrunnisa Hussain/Shirley Fortune as clerk to SACRE.

Finance: The sum of **£53,864.50** 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: £2000 for the clerk to SACRE; £2000 LA management costs; printing £150; NASACRE membership £115; RE Advisor consultant £49,309.50; NASACRE conference £240 & webinar programme £50)

Appendix 1 Membership of Newham SACRE 2023-2024

Church of England panel

Ruth Everett
Rev. Christiana Asinugo – retired from SACRE
Ms Ellen Kemp
Brother Sam
Cannon Councillor Ann Easter **Vice chair**

LA panel

Saquat Ali (LA Governor rep)
Councillor Joshua Garfield
Councillor Jane Lofthouse
Councillor Amar Virdee
Councillor Femi Falola

Other faiths panel

Kishor Varsani (Hindu)
Yael Callaghan (Jewish)
Edward Hoyle (Humanist) **Chair**
Ahktar Rouf (Sunni Muslim)
Venerable Mangala (Buddhist)
Asma Hussain (Shia Muslim)
Puja Roudh (Sikh)
Sharmin Ali (Sunni Muslim) Retired from SACRE in July 2024
Dr Steve Saxby (Catholic)
Pradeep Singh (Sikhi)

Teacher panel

Aisha Sheikh
Chetna Gandhi
Elicia Lewis - UEL RE Education lead
Jo Mathias
Marie Hardie
Pat McFarlene – retired from SACRE
Taranum Afshan
Sarah Heath
Alexia Charalambous
Azaan Akbar
Lucy Still

Local Authority lead officers

Claire Clinton
Patrick Alexander
Shah Muhmud
Zeeshan Farooqi
Mike Showsmith
Clerk to SACRE: Mehrunnisa Hussain

Appendix 2 SACRE priorities for 2023-2024

Key: Task completed
 Task to do
 Task started

No	Priority	Date	Process	Outcomes	Cost/resource implications
1	Annual report produced	<p>Oct onwards 2023 Nov 2023</p> <p>December 2023 January 2024 January 2024 Feb 2024</p> <p>March/April 2024 July 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE Advisor to write Annual report from October 2023, ready for review with SACRE executive in December 2023 • RE Advisor to liaise with LA data team to get 2023 GCSE, A Level exam analysis for RE Summer exams 2023 • Send final Annual Report 2023 to DFE and NASACRE – December 2023 • Publish 2022-23 report to schools & on LA website • Write a summary document to be shared with governors and HTs • Review DFE schools survey at February SACRE meeting 2024 decide action points • RE Advisor to e-mail RE subject leaders the new 2024 monitoring forms, and ask for monitoring survey to be completed by July 2024 • RE Advisor to collect returns from schools and analyse them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the LA & SACRE will know that they are discharging their legal duty to produce an annual report by 31.12.23 • LA & SACRE will have an overview provided on the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus in schools and school needs around RE and CW 	<p>Total cost of this work to be met from Adviser’s commissioned time budget, paid by LA</p>
2	Membership and development of SACRE	<p>Sept 2023</p> <p>On-going Sept 2023</p> <p>Sept 2023 June 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE advisor and SACRE members to suggest new recruits: ongoing – especially new religious groups in the Borough • Ensure each panel is quorate • Advertise NASACRE CPD programme for SACRE members for 23-24 • Ensure NASACRE membership fees are paid by LA • Work with Mayoral office for new appointment of councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good breath and diversity of faiths established on Newham SACRE • SACRE as far as is possible is representative of Newham population • SACRE is trained and capable to discharge their legal duties well • SACRE is linked in with national developments 	<p>Cost implication met within advisors and clerks paid roles to SACRE</p> <p>NASACRE membership annual fee and webinar one off fee for monthly CPD £160 met by LA</p>

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No	Priority	Date	Process	Outcomes	Cost/resource implications
3	Supporting good RE in schools	October 2023 January 2023 onwards February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POW competition is launched with schools – posters/postcards sent out to schools. Handbook written and sent to schools. SACRE members decide dates for judging at Feb SACRE meeting Members should visit at least one school to see RE lessons/ CW in progress or help with POW competition in 2023-24 Consider new ways in which SACRE can support excellent RE in Newham schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members develop a vision and ownership for how SACRE can support good RE in schools Members visit local Newham schools get a better understanding of what good RE looks like 	Cost implication met within advisor paid role to SACRE
4	Links to best practice in RE and CW	September 2023 Sept 2023 April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 LA to provide membership of NASACRE and it's on-line monthly training webinars Provide finances for consultant and SACRE member to attend National SACRE AGM May 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfil legal requirement to have a SACRE running correctly Reflect on best practice from other authorities and use in Newham 	Funding for 80 days work by RE advisor, to be secured for 2023-24 NASACRE AGM costs £300 to the LA annually
5	Development of our New Agreed Syllabus launched in 2022	Sept 2023 Sept 2023 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacre considers teachers feedback from monitoring forms on implementation of AS in their schools. SACRE considers how to resolve any issues Google drive is updated with new SOW and PPT supports created by RE Matters and schools over the last year to further support teachers Primary and secondary network meetings provide continued training on implementing the new agreed syllabus successfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfil legal requirements to have an up to date AS Reflect on best practice nationally as we develop our present AS Ensure teachers voice is central to the process 	Funding secured from LA for this extra piece of work
6	New prayer room advice published to schools	Sept 2023 Sept 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RE Advisor to send to all RE leaders and all schools, governors and HTs/SLT teams the new prayer room advice passed at SACRE meeting in June 23'. Get advice published on LA website. RE Advisor to liaise with Newham Director of Education and Deputy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School and governors are better equipped to be able to consider and deal with requests for prayer spaces within schools in Newham 	Funding secured from LA for this work from RE Advisors SLA

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No	Priority	Date	Process	Outcomes	Cost/resource implications
7	Updated collective worship advice published to schools	Sept 2023 October 2023 October 2023 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE considers at their meeting any final improvements on the working parties document and passes the document RE Advisor then sends the document to the LA for ratification RE Advisor then gets advice uploaded onto Newham LA website and sends out to schools RE advisor to provide a briefing for SLT teams virtually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The advice offered to schools will have been updated from our present advice which is 8 years old now Ensure we meet our legal duty to support schools with this element of school life 	Funding secured from LA for this work from RE Advisors SLA

Newham SACRE December 2024

