

# HSACRE

**HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021**

The current HSACRE was inaugurated on 22 February 1989 and this is its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, in accordance with its constitution and statutory obligations.

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**1. FOREWORD BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILIES, EDUCATION AND WELLBEING 2020/21  
COUNCILLOR SUSAN O'BRIEN**



*I am delighted to offer my introduction to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of Hillingdon's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (HSACRE). Unfortunately, it comes during a year in which HSACRE was pushed to remain largely dormant as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. HSACRE's work in 2020/21 was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple lockdowns and restrictions hindered the ability of HSACRE to conduct its work effectively. Although the majority of this year was defined by the pandemic, Religious Education continues to make a huge contribution to the Council's commitment to developing community cohesion, and I am pleased to see that meetings managed to resume in the 2021 Summer Term.*

*Despite the pandemic, HSACRE still managed to put the wheels in motion to undertake an interim review of Hillingdon's agreed RE syllabus; HSACRE also played its part in offering sound advice regarding pupils' adherence to certain religious festivities to maintained schools in the Borough throughout the academic year.*

*I would like to thank the membership of Hillingdon's SACRE for their continued work in supporting Religious Education within the Borough and I extend my thanks to all those who support HSACRE as they start to reconvene and continue the important work that HSACRE does. I look forward to seeing the activities undertaken by HSACRE in 2021/22.*

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

HSACRE members are from four distinct groups and the Committee is only quorate when representatives from every group are present:

**GROUP A** – Representatives of all faith groups in Hillingdon, including representatives from the Christian community, but not members of the Church of England. HSACRE works to ensure that along with representatives from all the major world faiths, it works with all communities within the Borough and welcomes their representation so long as they recognise the emphasis placed on inclusion by HSACRE.

**GROUP B** - Representatives from the Christian Church of England.

**GROUP C** - Representatives from each of the teachers' professional associations.

**GROUP D** - London Borough of Hillingdon Councillors.

A list of members of each group is included as Appendix A.

**Chairman** - Carole Jones, Headteacher, Yeading Junior School

**Advisor** - Elenor Paul

**Clerk** - Luke Taylor and Steve Clarke (Democratic Services at the London Borough of Hillingdon) served as clerks during 2020 – 21.

## **3. ACTIVITY REPORT**

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 effectively paused the HSACRE's activities and a planned teacher training conference was unfortunately cancelled. The HSACRE's scheduled meetings were effectively cancelled from March 2020 through to June 2021. On 17 June 2021, HSACRE reconvened for their only meeting of the 2020/21 academic year. Many of HSACRE's activities were put on hold during the pandemic but advice and support was still given to RE coordinators and teachers where possible on matters relating to Religious Education, including guidance to maintained schools on pupils' celebration of Ramadan and Diwali.

Praise should be given to all of the members of the Hillingdon SACRE for their patience throughout the 2020/21 academic year.

## **4. MEETINGS OF HSACRE IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20**

Full meetings of HSACRE were held on:

- 17 June 2021 - Civic Centre, Uxbridge

The following meetings were scheduled but were unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 10 November 2020 - Cancelled
- 30 March 2021 - Cancelled

## **5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

HSACRE had a budget available of £4,900 for the 2020/21 financial year.

## **6. ADVICE GIVEN TO THE AUTHORITY BY SACRE**

Advice is given annually to the authority on Religious Education and Worship paragraphs in its information booklets for families entering a particular phase of education.

## **7. PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS**

- Issued Ramadan Guidance to schools in the Borough April 2021.

## **8. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

Comments on this report are welcomed. These should be sent to:

Democratic Services, Phase II, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1UW, or by emailing [democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk)

# APPENDIX A – Members of HSACRE throughout the 2020/21 Academic Year

## GROUP A

Bahai	Alice Vahdat
Baptist	Vacant
British Humanist Association	Alavari Jeevathol
Buddhist	Vacant
Hillingdon Area Salvation Army	Vacant
Hindu	Balmukund Prasad Joshi
Jewish	Ruth Freedman
Methodist	Angela Lount
Muslim	Amir Ahmed
Quaker	Vacant
Roman Catholic	Vacant
Sikh	Jasvir Singh Rayat
United Reform Church	Vacant

## GROUP B

Church of England	Father Desmond Banister (Vice-Chair)
	Joan Beavington
	Pauline Byles
	Melanie Dring
	Keith Lunn

## GROUP C

Association of Secondary School and College Leaders	Vacant
National Association of Headteachers	Carole Jones (Chair)
National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers	Vacant
National Union of Teachers	Simon Wallace

## GROUP D

Local Authority	Councillor Shehryar Ahmed-Wallana
	Councillor John Hensley

	Councillor Carol Melvin
	Councillor June Nelson
	Councillor Jagjit Singh

### **OFFICER SUPPORT**

London Borough of Hillingdon Committee Services	Luke Taylor / Steve Clarke Democratic Services, Phase II, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1UW
Consultant for Hillingdon SACRE	Elenor Paul