



Harrow SACRE Annual Report

2018 - 2019



Foreword

The London Borough of Harrow is among the most religiously diverse boroughs in the country and the Harrow Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has a special and well established relationship with Harrow Council and the communities it serves. Although statistics from the 2011 National Census are now somewhat out of date they are helpful in illustrating the diversity of the Local Authority.

Harrow has the highest religious affiliation in England and Wales and is ranked as having the:

- highest percentage of Hindus (25.3%)
- highest percentage of Jains (2.2%)
- second highest percentage of Zoroastrians (0.1%)
- second lowest percentage of residents declaring No Religion (9.6%).

The Census data also reveals that 37.3% of residents have identified themselves as Christian, 12.5% as Muslim, 4.4% as Jewish, 1.1% as Buddhist and 1.2% as Sikh.

Harrow is also defined by its ethnic profile, having the:

- second highest percentage of residents of Indian origin (26.4%) and the highest percentage of residents who have described themselves using the category of 'Other Asian' (11.3%)
- highest ranking of residents identifying their country of birth as South and Eastern Africa (9.9%), Kenya (4.9%), Sri Lanka (4.3%) and Romania (2.2%)
- highest percentage of residents who identified themselves as British only (41.6%), indicating a high degree of integration
- a significant relocation of Eastern European families into Harrow since 2011.

The 2011 National Census revealed that Harrow's population is estimated to have increased to 239,100; this figure is 15.6% higher than the 2001 Census showed, and the recently published Office for National Statistics 2014 Mid-Year Estimates show a further increase to 246,011. Harrow's population is now at the highest recorded level, based on records going back to 1901. The 0-4 age group has increased by 5,418 between mid-2001 (12,058) and mid 2014 (17,476), which represents a 45% increase. There have also been increases across all the statutory school age groups. The 2011 Census showed that Harrow's residents were born in approximately 200 different countries and the percentage of Harrow's residents born in the UK is the 6th lowest ranking nationally. Harrow is ranked 7th nationally (and in London) for ethnic diversity and 2nd for religious diversity in London.

At the time of this report there are 61 schools in Harrow, 41 primary schools with nursery classes in 25 of these schools, 12 high schools, 1 all-through (4-18)

schools, 2 primary special schools, 2 high school special schools, 1 alternative provision secondary school, 1 nursery school and 1 pupil referral unit. There are 21 academy schools; 9 high schools, 1 primary special school, 1 all-through (4-18) school and 10 primary schools. There are 5 free schools; 2 primary schools, 2 high schools and 1 alternative provision secondary school. The number of schools judged to be good and outstanding on inspection far exceeds the national average.

Chair's Foreword

Last academic year 2018-19 showed me yet again how dedicated and hard-working SACRE members are. Attendance at meetings was high and without exception members arrived with insight into the items for discussion. Furthermore, each member spent time looking at community school websites and acquainting themselves with coverage of the Agreed Syllabus. Many of our SACRE members went into schools to lead RE lessons and assemblies. Schools are under tremendous pressure to offer stimulating and exciting lessons but have had, in some cases, limited resources to support them.

SACRE members have voluntarily given their time to enhance RE lessons and help develop children's knowledge of faiths in our area. SACRE members spoke about their faith at RE subject leaders and looked at how teachers might answer some of the big questions in our Agreed Syllabus. I am very grateful to them. Fortunately, Harrow Local Authority is very supportive of RE in schools and ensures that there is a termly meeting for subject leaders which is extremely well attended, but not all subject leaders can attend as their time out of class created additional pressures in some schools. Time out of class to attend professional development has a cost for the schools where budgets are tight. Ofsted are putting greater focus on subjects like RE and the subject leaders had an excellent talk from a local HT about the implications, but not every school could let their RE subject leader out to hear advice on the matter. Until RE CPD is seen as a priority it is inevitable that there will be teachers not having the skills they need.

Our greatest challenge this year, however, was working without our LA adviser who was on extended leave. We certainly missed the in-depth knowledge that an LA advisor brings to SACRE and, as Chair, I do not have the wealth of experience that Lesley Prior brings with her. The Local Authority Adviser role is crucial to a SACRE and it should not be underestimated how necessary this role is. Schools in the Local Authority (Glebe Primary School in particular) supported their fellow RE subject leaders' magnificently.

I would like to thank SACRE members for working so hard this year and in particular our clerk. I think the role of Chair to SACRE would be almost impossible without her.

It is so important that the LA support us by having a clerk to take minutes and collate responses to agenda items.

I would like to end with the sad news of the death of Pat Stevens who was RE adviser in Harrow for over 20 years and who did so much for the Harrow SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conferences. Pat set an incredibly high standard for quality RE and supported SACRE and RE teachers everywhere.

Patrick O'Dwyer, Divisional Director Education Services, said this of her at her funeral:

“Pat took the view that having a faith was not just a matter of a set of beliefs to adhere to but it was a way of finding meaning. In all she did she tried to teach our children and their teachers the meaning that faith brought to people’s lives. How faith brought an understanding to life. She could be as excited about that dialogue if it were, for example, about Sikhism or Judaism or Islam as well as her own dearly held faith.

Where some saw a thorny forest to navigate amongst different and sometimes conflicting beliefs, Pat saw a rich garden of beautifully coloured flowers that lay on a journey to discover, or perhaps better to say, understand the meanings they gave. To her, faith was not an obstacle between people but a gift, from one to the other.

That is what she brought to the teaching of RE in Harrow, that faith was grounded in the daily experience of real human beings in their community.”

Alison Stowe
Chair Harrow SACRE

Matters considered by SACRE in 2018-2019

a) Monitoring of the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

In 2018-19, SACRE continued to seek ways to fulfil its statutory obligation to monitor RE in general and the implementation of the locally agreed syllabus in particular.

Members therefore embarked on a new initiative to conduct a survey of websites of schools under Local Authority control, whilst appreciating and understanding that these may not give a wholly accurate picture of provision.

SACRE also encouraged and invited schools to post links to the locally agreed syllabus on their websites to reinforce the relationship between the statutory requirements and what is actually planned and taught.

In addition, the Chair of SACRE wrote to all schools combining an outline of SACRE's remit with a request for information from them about their RE schemes of learning.

Members noted that it is often difficult to gather relevant data from primary schools because subjects are often taught in a cross curricular way.

b) RE Commission: Interim Report on RE

(see <https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/final-report-religion-and-worldviews-the-way-forward-a-national-plan-for-re/>)

In the autumn, SACRE considered the Final Report produced by the independent Commission on RE, set up by the RE Council of England and Wales.

The report included a series of recommendations. Members noted that whether these recommendations are actually realised will depend on:

- Changes in statutory legislation
- Finance

The recommendations include:

- Changing the name of RE to "Religions and World Views";
- Replacing the locally agreed syllabus with a national entitlement;
- Changing the role of SACRES in consequence of this;
- Removing the right to withdraw from RE.
- The recommendations have no legal status and at the current time there is no indication that they will more into legislation.

There are no time frames stated within the Report for the implementation of these recommendations. The recommendations have no legal status and at the current time there is no indication that they will move into legislation. SACRE drafted a paragraph for the schools' bulletin to remind schools that the recommendations of the report have no legal status.

At the spring meeting, members noted that a number of schools in Harrow were in the process of becoming academies, including some Catholic schools. SACRE has no statutory remit over these schools but with so many changes afoot affecting RE education, members noted that it is more than ever important to monitor schools' RE provision.

c) Guidance for Schools (available on Harrow SACRE website):

During the year, SACRE revisited, reviewed and updated where necessary its guidance for schools on:

- Ramadan
- Days of Religious Observance

d) Determinations

The Adviser to SACRE reminded members about the role, nature and purpose of determinations in relation to Collective Worship and information was gathered to indicate which schools were awarded these in the past. The LA Adviser included an item about determinations and their role, nature and purpose in the schools' bulletin.

Marlborough Primary School tabled a draft application for a determination at the spring meeting of SACRE for consideration and feedback from members. The school was invited to make a formal application at a later date.

Norbury Primary School was granted a determination at the SACRE Meeting on 27th June 2019.

e) RE Subject Leader Meetings

The RE Subject Leaders have met three times this year. The meetings are very stimulating and informative. Some SACRE members from Group A have contributed presentations: Mercedes Afnan on the Baha'i faith, Varsha Dodhia on Jainism and Phiroza Gan-Kotwal on Zoroastrianism.

The RE Subject Coordinators have now had a year to work on schemes of learning based on the Agreed Syllabus and future meetings will focus on the lesson plans that have been developed. There is a clear programme for the year ahead and it is hoped that SACRE members will continue to be involved in these in a variety of different ways.

SACRE Monitoring and Evaluation of Attainment in R.E.

Public examination entries and results in RS GCSE and GCE AS and A level in 2010 - 2019

GCSE Short Courses are not counted in the Performance Table Attainment and Value Added Measures. In 2018, an additional 20 reformed GCSEs which includes RE were graded on a 9-1 scale were sat by pupils for the first time, along with the English language, English literature and mathematics GCSEs which were reformed in 2017.

GCSE Religious Studies Full Course

Local Authority level data (non-denominational schools only)

Year	Entries	9-1 (A*-G)	9-4 (A*-C)	9-5	9-7 (A*-A)	Grade 9	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4
2018-19	1233	98.78%	76.24%	64.31%	27.90%	5.84%	9.65%	12.41%	19.46%	16.95%	11.92%
2017-18	1191	99.10%	74.90%	61.70%	28.20%	6.50%	8.60%	13.10%	18.20%	15.30%	13.20%

2018-19 Provisional data download from Key to Success

Year	No. entries	% cohort	A*	A	B	C	A* - C	A* - G
2016-17	1,140	55.60%	9.80%	23.70%	22.40%	19.40%	75.30%	98.60%
2015-16	1,227	57.70%	9.20%	24.90%	21.60%	17.70%	73.30%	98.80%
2014-15	1,126	53.00%	11.70%	20.40%	26.00%	18.50%	76.60%	98.80%
2013-14	499	27.00%	14.00%	24.20%	26.30%	15.60%	80.20%	98.40%
2012-13	305	18.00%	14.10%	27.20%	25.20%	15.40%	82.00%	99.00%
2011-12	179	10.70%	25.70%	30.20%	21.20%	14.00%	91.10%	98.90%
2010-11	113	7.00%	25.70%	28.30%	17.70%	15.90%	87.60%	99.10%
2009-10	211	11.00%	13.70%	25.10%	27.20%	17.30%	83.50%	99.50%

National Data (provisional) (Please note this data includes all schools)

Year	Entries	9-1 / A*-G	9-4 / A*-C	9-5	9-7 / A*-A	Grade 9	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4
2018-19	225024	98.2%	72.3%	60.9%	30.5%	7.5%	10.4%	12.6%	16.1%	14.4%	11.4%
2017-18	213853	98.0%	71.8%	60.3%	30.0%	7.3%	10.1%	12.6%	15.9%	14.4%	11.5%

SFR Subject time series underlying data

Year	No. entries	A*	A	B	C	A* - C	A* - G
2016-17	264,527	10.30%	19.60%	23.30%	18.40%	71.60%	97.90%
2015-16	268,759	10.80%	19.00%	23.30%	18.50%	71.60%	97.80%
2014-15	269,511	11.10%	19.00%	23.30%	18.80%	72.20%	97.90%
2013-14	259,359	11.20%	19.30%	22.70%	18.50%	71.70%	97.60%
2012-13	229,009	11.60%	19.90%	23.00%	19.10%	73.60%	98.20%
2011-12	210,602	11.90%	20.20%	22.90%	19.10%	74.10%	98.40%
2010-11	195,109	11.80%	20.20%	22.70%	19.00%	73.70%	97.30%
2009-10	176,350	11.80%	19.90%	22.90%	18.80%	73.40%	98.50%

2016, 2017, 2018 Source: DfE Statistical First Release KS4 provisional
 "SFR48_2016_subject_tab

2010 to 2015 Source: <http://www.bstubbs.co.uk/gcse.htm>

AS Level

Local Authority level data (non-denominational schools only)

Year	No. entries	A	B	C	D	E	A - B	A - E
2018-19	12	0.0%	25.0%	25.0%	8.0%	17.0%	25.0%	75.0%
2017-18	20	15.0%	5.0%	40.0%	10.0%	20.0%	20.0%	90.0%
2016-17	35	2.9%	11.4%	5.7%	25.7%	14.3%	14.3%	60.0%
2015-16	30	3.3%	6.7%	16.7%	20.0%	20.0%	10.0%	66.7%
2014-15	13	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	46.2%	23.1%	7.7%	92.3%
2013-14	16	6.3%	37.5%	0.0%	43.8%	6.3%	43.8%	93.8%
2012-13	5	40.0%	40.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	80.0%	100.0%
2011-12	13	0.0%	46.2%	15.4%	0.0%	15.4%	46.2%	76.9%

2018-19 Provisional data download from Key to Success

National

Year	Number of entries	% of all entries	A	B	C	D	E	A - B	A - E
2018-19	2373	2.2%	19.0%	22.3%	22.5%	17.4%	9.7%	41.3%	90.8%
2017-18	4,091	2.3%	17.9%	20.9%	21.7%	19.2%	11.2%	38.8%	90.9%
2016-17	9,799	1.9%	19.1%	21.0%	23.1%	16.6%	10.9%	40.1%	90.7%
2015-16	28,865	3.2%	19.4%	23.5%	23.0%	16.3%	9.6%	42.9%	91.7%
2014-15	30,498	2.8%	20.4%	22.7%	23.3%	16.1%	9.6%	43.1%	92.1%
2013-14	29,519	2.6%	20.5%	21.6%	22.4%	16.5%	10.2%	42.1%	91.1%
2012-13	27,447	2.4%	20.0%	22.2%	22.5%	16.5%	10.4%	42.2%	91.6%
2011-12	26,259	2.3%	20.2%	21.1%	22.9%	16.9%	10.5%	41.3%	91.5%

A Level

Local Authority level data (non-denominational schools only)

Year	Number of entries	A*	A	B	C	A* - B	A* - E
2018-19	54	0.0%	19.0%	28.0%	39.0%	46.0%	100.0%
2017-18	62	6.5%	21.0%	30.6%	24.2%	58.1%	100.0%
2016-17	65	3.1%	18.5%	24.6%	33.8%	46.2%	98.5%
2015-16	39	0.0%	12.8%	28.2%	38.5%	41.0%	100.0%
2014-15	39	5.1%	10.3%	41.0%	28.2%	56.4%	97.4%
2013-14	24	4.2%	29.2%	45.8%	12.5%	79.2%	91.7%
2012-13	25	0.0%	8.0%	28.0%	44.0%	36.0%	100.0%
2011-12	29	0.0%	10.3%	58.6%	27.6%	69.0%	100.0%

2018-19 Provisional data download from Key to Success

National

Year	No. entries	% of all entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A* - B	A* - E
2018-19	16154	2.2%	4.3%	17.3%	28.4%	26.0%	15.7%	6.2%	50.0%	97.9%
2017-18	16832	2.3%	4.6%	18.2%	29.3%	25.8%	14.4%	5.7%	52.1%	97.9%
2016-17	22,066	3.0%	5.7%	18.6%	30.8%	25.8%	13.0%	4.8%	55.1%	98.7%
2015-16	22,641	3.0%	5.6%	18.7%	30.5%	25.6%	13.6%	4.9%	54.8%	98.9%
2014-15	21,273	2.8%	5.6%	19.1%	30.1%	25.3%	13.7%	5.1%	54.8%	98.9%
2013-14	19,838	2.7%	7.0%	18.7%	28.3%	25.1%	14.2%	5.4%	54.0%	98.8%
2012-13	19,171	2.5%	5.6%	20.8%	28.9%	24.7%	14.0%	5.1%	55.3%	99.1%
2011-12	18,849	2.4%	5.7%	20.3%	29.4%	24.5%	13.7%	5.4%	55.4%	99.0%

DfE Statistical First Release KS5

MANAGING THE SACRE AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, SCHOOLS AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Membership and Meetings
- Partnership with Harrow Council
- Partnership with Schools
- Partnership with NASACRE and the RE Council of England and Wales

a) Membership and Meetings

The SACRE meets four times a year, twice in the autumn term in order to devote time to the Annual Report and to respond to the additional requests from schools for advice in that period and once in the spring and in the summer terms.

In 2018-19, these meetings took place on:

- 9th October 2018
- 11th December 2018
- 19th March 2019
- 27th June 2019

SACRE has continued its efforts to recruit teachers to the SACRE via their professional associations, including one to represent the academy schools. The constitution allows for up to 6 teachers.

Harrow SACRE Membership 2018 -2019

Chair: Alison Stowe (Group C)

Vice Chair: Cllr Camilla Bath (Group D)

Group A - Religious Traditions and Christian Churches

- Ms Mercedes Afnan: Baha'i
- Ven Sumaner Sramaner: Buddhist
- Bob Dawson: Christian (Free Church Federal Council) *from 9 October 2018.*
- Neville Ransley: Christian (Catholic) *until 9 October 2018*
- Carolyn O'Brien: Christian (Catholic) *from 9 October 2018*
- Ciara O'Flaherty: Christian (Catholic)
- Vijay Hirani: Hindu (Swaminarayan)
- David Cryer: Humanist (Harrow Humanists)
- Varsha Dodhia: Jain
- Gill Ross: Jewish
- Doreen Samuels: Jewish
- Zafar Khalid: Muslim (representing Harrow Muslim Council)
- Tahir Hashmi: Muslim (representing Harrow Central Mosque) *from 9 October 2018*
- Mohammed Amar: Muslim (representing Harrow Central Mosque) *from 11 December*
- Asad Omar: Muslim
- Vacancy: Rastafarian
- Paramjit Singh-Kohli: Sikh
- Phiroza Gan-Kotwal: Zoroastrian

Group B - Church of England

- Mary Abbott
- Reverend Kate Blake
- Reverend James Power

Group C - Teachers' Associations

- Fatema Rahemani (NAS/UWT) *from 11 December 2018*
- Alison Stowe (NEU)
- Teri-Louise O'Brien

Group D - Local Authority

- Cllr Camilla Bath, Conservative
- Cllr Ghazanfar Ali, Labour
- Cllr Peymana Assad, Labour *until 16 May 2019*
- Cllr Angella Murphy-Strachan, Labour *from 16 May 2019*
- Cllr Simon Brown, Labour (Reserve)
- Cllr Angella Murphy-Starchan, Labour (Reserve) *until 16 May 2019*
- Vacancy, Labour (Reserve) *from 16 May 2019*
- Cllr Dr Lesline Lewinson, Conservative (Reserve)

Lesley Prior (LDBS) is Adviser to the Harrow SACRE on behalf of the Corporate Director People Services.

Members have served throughout 2018-2019 except where otherwise indicated

In Attendance:

- Vivian Wright, Clerk to the Harrow SACRE

The Harrow SACRE Website

The SACRE website is accessible from the Council's website. It is updated with the agendas and minutes of SACRE meetings and the SACRE Annual Report (see www.harrow.gov.uk/SACRE)

The website raises the profile of Harrow SACRE.

It includes easier access to the calendar of meetings and to Harrow SACRE briefing documents, such as the guidance on:

- **Days of Religious Observance:**
[file:///Users/priorl/Downloads/Religious Observance Absence guidance 2018 19 v.3 agreed 09 10 18.pdf](file:///Users/priorl/Downloads/Religious%20Observance%20Absence%20guidance%202018%2019%20v.3%20agreed%2009%2010%2018.pdf)
- **Fasting During Ramadan**
- [file:///Users/priorl/Downloads/HARROW SACRE Ramadan 2018 FINAL.pdf](file:///Users/priorl/Downloads/HARROW%20SACRE%20Ramadan%202018%20FINAL.pdf)
- **Faith Matters in PE**
[file:///Users/priorl/Downloads/Faith matters in Harrow PE guidance 2015 with SACRE amendments 17.8.15.pdf](file:///Users/priorl/Downloads/Faith%20matters%20in%20Harrow%20PE%20guidance%202015%20with%20SACRE%20amendments%2017.8.15.pdf)

b) Partnership with Harrow Council (and the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) 2018-19

Agreed Syllabus Conference

The Agreed Syllabus should be reviewed every five years by the ASC. The previous locally agreed syllabus was published in 2008. The revision of Harrow's Agreed Syllabus was delayed until the publication of the new National Curriculum and guidance from the RE Council. It met to review the syllabus and once the syllabus was agreed on 18th April, 2016, the ASC was dissolved. Harrow SACRE worked closely with Harrow Council to establish the Agreed Syllabus Conference and all members of the SACRE agreed to be appointed to the Conference and support its work. Members considered the guidance set out in the DfE circular based on the Education Reform Act of 1988 (Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010). Once the Agreed Syllabus was adopted by Harrow Council it became a statutory requirement for maintained schools. Voluntary aided

schools with a religious character are not required to deliver the Agreed Syllabus, nor are Free Schools and Academies. However, Free Schools and Academies have to provide RE and fulfil the statutory requirements and many choose to do so by voluntarily following the locally agreed syllabus. Non-denominational academies and free schools must meet statutory requirements although not necessarily through the locally agreed syllabus.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

The Agreed Syllabus Conference was established in September 2014. Julie Crow was appointed as Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference and Mary Abbott as Vice-Chair. A small working party consisting of all groups was established to agree the principles for the Agreed Syllabus, to confirm the special adviser and oversee the development of the syllabus on behalf of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. This working party was chaired by the Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. In the summer of 2015 it completed the initial tasks and confirmed the agreement of the ASC to these steps. The work of the ASC was separately minuted although an update was provided regularly to the SACRE.

Consultation with Teachers and Professional Development

In conjunction with the revision of the Agreed Syllabus, a teachers' working party met with the RE Consultant Lesley Prior for three afternoon sessions.

- 13th October 2015
- 3rd November 2015
- 24th November 2015

These sessions focused on:

- current issues in RE and in education more widely, both locally and nationally, including statutory and non-statutory documentation and guidance
- the opportunities and challenges offered by the existing agreed syllabus and the needs of staff and pupils
- principles of curriculum design in RE

In total, about fifteen teachers were involved and in the main, they came from primary schools, so the focus was initially on EYFS and Key Stages 1 and 2, though the same principles they identified could be broadly applied across all ages and phases of schooling.

The current syllabus was agreed in 2016 and is available via this link:

http://www.harrow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9712/sacre_agreed_syllabus_2016

It is a revision of the previous syllabus, rather than an entirely new document and:

- retains the two attainment targets – in equal balance

- reflects the increasing diversity of faith and belief in Harrow, while allocating some prominence to Christianity
- is inclusive of eight other religions (Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism Islam, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism) and humanism (as an example of an ethical non theistic world view) and aspects of these must be included at each stage of schooling up to and including Key Stage 3, albeit with varying degrees of emphasis
- requires that assessment of each pupil's progress is carried out each half term
- retains the level statements for advice and support purposes although consideration is also given to new national advice on assessment without levels in RE
- acknowledges that there are many different ways of assessing pupils and of keeping records of the work they have done, including, but not restricted to written work in books or folders
- gives clear advice on how to plan academically rigorous and creative RE, without supplying a complete and detailed scheme of work
- outlines principles of curriculum planning in RE which focus on an enquiry/question led approach to the subject.

The Launch of the Agreed Syllabus

The syllabus was launched on 20th June 2017 at Norbury Primary School. SACRE members attended the Launch and made the occasion a happy event. The Chair received very positive feedback. There were lovely displays from all the faith groups and the atmosphere was truly celebratory. The event also provided good opportunities for networking.

c) The Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants

Harrow SACRE was a member of AREIAC for 2018-2019 (see www.arei.ac.org.uk).

d) Partnership with Local Faith Communities

- *Guidance on Days of Religious Observance and Pupil Absence:*
This annual guidance and list of days of religious observance is one of the most valued services that Harrow SACRE provides to schools. It helps headteachers to decide how much leave may be allowed to pupils for religious observance. SACRE members work on this guidance over the summer ready to send out in the autumn. With so much relying on school attendance, SACRE recognises how vital it is for schools to have this guidance that comes with the authority of the faith communities.

It can be found here:

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/23992/religious-observance-absence-guidance-2018-19>

It is updated every year, using dates supplied by the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education. See www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/ for details.

- *Fasting During Ramadan:*

Schools have found this publication to be very useful and it has also been well received more widely. The Guidance is balanced and helps schools to manage over this period. Other LAs and SACREs, such as Hertfordshire would like to use it and these requests have been approved, providing that the work of Harrow SACRE is appropriately acknowledged. Cllr Ali (Group D) consulted local religious scholars about the document and received positive feedback from the Central Mosque and from Stanmore Mosque.

See this link for access:

http://www.harrow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7960/harrow_sacre_guidance_on_ramadan

e) Partnership with NASACRE

The NASACRE Conference and AGM (Manchester 2019)

Harrow SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

Unfortunately no one from the Harrow SACRE could attend the NASACRE AGM and Conference at The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Manchester on 22nd May 2019. The theme of this year's event was: **Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships; RE Near and Far (Local, National, Global)**.

Full details and copies of the relevant presentations can be found at:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2019/2019-papers-and-materials>

The first key note speaker was Peter Bull from Alsop High School in Liverpool. He spoke about how SACREs can transform schools to become beacons of hope. Professor Julian Stern was the second key note speaker. He is Professor of Religion and Education at the University of York St. John and focused on uncertainty and mortality which he defined as the two 'stubborn particulars' of RE for cohesive communities

Lesley Prior, RE Adviser, is former Chair of NASACRE (2013-15) and now Assistant to and member of the NASACRE Executive Group.

Lesley is also a member of many other RE professional bodies and shares information from them at SACRE Meetings.