

# **Salford Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education.**

**Annual Report.**

**2024.**

## Contact Names and Addresses.

SACRE Role	Name	Designation	Contact
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Clerk to SACRE	Charlotte Robinson		Salford Civic Centre Chorley Road Swinton M27 5AW Viv.Bentley@salford.gov.uk
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## SALFORD SACRE – 2024.

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## Section 1 – Forward from the Chair of SACRE

### Forward From The Chair On Salford SACRE.

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Salford Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

May I thank all our SACRE Members including co-opted partners, stakeholders and supporters for your ongoing service, commitment, and dedication throughout this year. As I reflect on everything that has transpired on our SACRE journey through this period, I'm indebted, gratified and so thankful for all the excellent advice encouragement and support received from our incredibly committed and hard-working membership and wider co-opted team. I am amazed at the high degree of expertise and quality skill set demonstrated by our membership in the service of our SACRE. Your hard work and efforts significantly benefit our network of community schools right across the city.

May I also take this opportunity on behalf of our membership and myself in acknowledging grateful thanks to Salford LA for the way in which they have constantly offered advice, encouragement and support to the work of SACRE this year. May I thank Neil Fazackerley, Head of the Secondary Service, Provider Arm together with Vicky Ross, Head of the Primary Service Provider Arm, both at Salford LA for their wise counsel and guidance. A huge thank you as well to our SACRE Clerk, Charlotte Robinson who keeps a great super-efficient handle on the management protocols and procedures at our meetings and associated paperwork which goes with this territory.

Our SACRE is rapidly transforming into a proactive 'Beacon of Hope' body. We aim to be advocates of ambitious best practice RE, collective worship as well as ensuring these objectives also contributes to school community social cohesion initiatives.

As we move into another year of uncertain times, I am nevertheless confident Salford SACRE will continue to serve our community well in respect of its networks of schools, stakeholders and partners to the benefit of children, students and young people.

**David B Levien.**

**Salford SACRE Chair. March 2025.**

**SACRE Contributions to Salford City Council Holocaust Memorial Event –  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

A few of our members including the SACRE Chair serve on the Salford City 'Equalities and Community Cohesion Annual Holocaust Memorial Day' planning team and again (as has been the case in the past years) provided guidance and support in the organisation and delivery of a highly successful civic event held in Salford as well as online. This year's theme was "For a Better Future", an extremely relevant topic given contemporary world challenges. It was delightful to observe the participation of a significant number of young people at that event including a number of students from the Oasis Academy, an All Hallows, Year 10 team, including a year 10 student from the Ukraine as well as a number of Salford Youth Council representatives. A grateful thanks to Alex Klein, our Jewish Representative on Committee A, for his continued hard work again this year in advising, guiding and supporting the arrangement of music and other related matters. Likewise, thanks to Counsellor Arnie Saunders serving on our Committee D, for his advice, guidance and service sitting as a member on this planning committee, thus also making valuable contributions and ensuring success of this important civic activity. Further, a huge thanks to many of our members that attended this activity in person or through the online portal as well this year.

David B Levien.

Salford SACRE Chair.

## Section 2- Religious Education

The Local Agreed Syllabus was launched in 2022 and was managed collaboratively with Salford and four other SACREs in Greater Manchester; Manchester, Stockport, Tameside, and Trafford. The aim of this syllabus is to enable students to gain an understanding of different faiths and beliefs and the significance of religious belief and other beliefs in shaping worldviews, the minds of humans and communities. It seeks to enable an understanding of religious education as an academic discipline and as such aims to develop students 'understanding of concepts, skills, and attitudes so that pupils can explore wider issues of religion and belief in a religiously literate way. Within the 5 boroughs we have an increasingly diverse community with members belonging to several different religions as well as young people who come from families who hold no religious beliefs. Our syllabus aims to help them gain a broader understanding of these different beliefs, improve their knowledge of global affairs, and contribute to a more cohesive community. In times of global uncertainty and in times where it seems we live in an increasingly fractious and divided society, often exacerbated by disinformation found in social media, it is increasingly more important that our young people share experiences with one another and learn from each other and about the different religious beliefs in our community. We need young people who can reflect on questions of belief, values, and traditions and in turn to develop an open mind and tolerance towards one another.

Our syllabus is available to schools digitally and shortened summaries are also digitally available to parents and carers and other stakeholders. Schools are also expected to provide details of their curriculum on their school website.

Once again, we have continued to offer termly network meetings for Subject Leaders of RE in both primary and secondary schools. These have been planned and led by our teacher subject advisor, Deborah Crane, with support from Pennine Learning, a team of trained RE consultants with considerable expertise in the teaching of RE in schools. The organisation works at national and regional level and we have been fortunate to have had the benefit of their expertise this year in helping us shape our CPD offer for teachers. This has enabled both primary and secondary schools to engage in essential professional development, get timely updates on the new Ofsted report and collaborate with colleagues on the new research 'Religion and World views' projects. More and more members are getting involved in leading projects across the borough and this is testament to the commitment and hard work of the RE teachers across Salford.

Also, during this year, we have offered several webinars and resources to schools to develop teacher subject knowledge about the different religions covered in our syllabus. These were jointly funded by the local authorities whose schools use the same syllabus. Copies of the recordings of these were sent to schools so that teachers could refer to them again later.

In 2025 we aim to develop this CPD further with some additional courses for teachers as well as further opportunities to learn about assessment in RE and to gain some further subject knowledge about the different religions that are taught within our syllabus.

In 2024 we have published a guidance document for school on Collective Worship which was developed by a working party of members and teachers from local schools. This was consulted upon with schools and revised before being launched officially. We have also offered training on collective worship to schools in connection with this.

One of our SACRE members has undertaken a trawl of all the school's Ofsted reports for evidence of practice in RE and SMSC. This has provided a wealth of knowledge about what is going on in our schools, both in the subject and more widely. In addition, members have also undertaken a trawl of a sample of schools' websites to gain further information about how schools deliver RE. Council School Improvement Advisors have also visited all primary and secondary schools as part of their Quality Assurance process and asked specific questions about the delivery of the RE curriculum. This has enhanced our intelligence further about the quality of RE in schools.

### **GCSE Results**

In 2024 667 pupils entered for GCSE RE. which is 25.9% of the total cohort. This is an increase of 15% on the previous year and an almost 3% increase on 2022 . (2023 10.7% 2022 23% ) 9 secondary schools entered pupils for GCSE in RE one more than in 2024. Intelligence gathering shows that more schools intend offering GCSE RE in the next few years. All three Catholic High Schools entered over 90% of their cohorts for the exam. Other schools entered cohorts of between 1 and 48 students. School leaders seem to want to teach RE and see the value in the subject, however some are frustrated that the subject is not counted as an Ebacc subject along with history and Geography. This is particularly the case within Catholic schools who enter virtually all pupils for the exam. It is hoped that curriculum reform might address this issue.

This year we have had no complaints about the teaching of RE

The table below shows further details of the schools and their results.

School	No on roll	No entered	Cohort %	% achieving grades 9-4 2024	School to nat gap	% achieving grades 9-5 2024	School to nat gap	% achieving grades 9-7 2023	School to nat gap	Average Points Score
St. Patrick's RC High	185	176	95%	73%	-1	59%	-3	32%	-1	4.9
Salford City Academy	167	28	17%	96%	+28	89%	+28	46%	+15	6.4
The Lowry Academy	179	39	22%	62%	-10	46%	-15	23%	-8	4.6
Oasis Academy	184	48	26%	67%	-5	58%	-3	33%	+2	5.1
Swinton Academy	158	26	16%	69%	-3	62%	0	42%	+11	5.2
All Hallows RC High	151	144	95%	65%	-7	56%	-6	29%	-2	4.8
St Ambrose Barlow RC High	207	190	92%	57%	-15	50%	-12	15%	-16	4.2
Walkden Academy	295	15	5%	60%	-12	47%	-15	13%	-18	4.6
Albion Academy	159	1	1%							

### **Year on Year Comparison**

It is difficult to make year on year comparisons with small cohorts. However, when we compare the schools with 2023 with 2024, we see that in Salford there has been a slight decline in GCSE grades at Grades 9-4 (passing grades) of 3% from 69% achieving Grades 9-4 in 2023 to 66% in 2024. For information the national average for attainment at Grades 9-4 in 2023 was 71% and in 2024 was 72% therefore there was very little improvement nationally. Results this year are the same as they were in 2019 which is the year before the pandemic. In that year 66% of Salford pupils achieved Grades 9-4 and 76% achieved this nationally. In this respect the national average over time has declined while the Salford average has remained stable.

We would like to take the opportunity in this report of congratulating our RE students on their results and their teachers for the work they did with the young people.

### **Support for SACRE**

Salford SACRE continues to be supported by an administrator and a senior school improvement professional. The LA budget allows members to represent Salford at national training and conferences as well as contributing to the annual Holocaust Memorial Events. In addition to this the budget enables termly networks and CPD to be provided to schools at no cost to teachers as well as enabling members to attend regional RE focused networks.

### **Section 3 – Collective Worship**

#### **Determinations**

There have been no applications for determinations in 2024

#### **Complaints about Collective Worship**

There have been no complaints about collective worship in 2024.

## Section 4 – SACRE Arrangements

### Membership of Salford SACRE in 2023

#### Committee A

Christian Denominations , other World Religions and Non-Religious Views

#### Committee B

Church of England

#### Committee C

Teacher Associations

#### Committee D

Local Authority

#### Co-opted Members

Neil Fazackerley	Salford LA
Jo McGarry	Salford LA
Jessica Pathak	Salford LA
Chris Rice	Salford LA
Martyn Shaw	Salford LA
Natalie Stables	Salford LA
Andrew Sims	Co-op Academy Walkden

#### Officers

Deborah Crane RE Advisor to Salford SACRE

[SalfordREnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:SalfordREnetwork@gmail.com)

Charlotte Robinson Clerk to SACRE

[Charlotte.Robinson@salford.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Robinson@salford.gov.uk)

### **Membership Overview and Issues**

The SACRE have met in person 3 times on the following dates in 2023-4

In 2024 our meetings were planned by a smaller strategic group of members who acted as a steering group to set agendas and help with organisational aspects of the group. Actions planning was completed using the NASACRE Toolkit.

Our Youth Council continues to have a voice in meetings with representatives attending on almost all occasions. On one occasion a presentation by 2 member was provided to take about the value of RE in their own educational journey.

Information about the newly formed NW RE Hub has been sent out to schools and 2 members also attended the NASACRE Annual Conference in London.

Continued partnership with our neighbouring Greater Manchester Local Authorities continues and this has resulted in additional CPD for teachers being made available. Salford and Manchester are joining forces in 2024 to 2025 to provide joint networking for RE teachers and this might lead to further opportunities going forwards to share practice and resources.

## Section 5- Links with Other Bodies

Salford SACRE remains a member of NASACRE. Some members attended the annual SACRE conference in 2024 and reported back to the full SACRE following this event. Resources from the NASACRE website have also been utilised and links were made with another LA in London to learn about their practice of monitoring of school websites.

There are strong links with the Jewish Board of Deputies and SACRE gets regular updates from this group via members who have attended conferences.

At a local level, SACRE has links with the Salford Schools Forum and the Salford Council Equalities and Community Cohesion Team. This cohesive approach has been particularly evident in the collaboration around the annual Holocaust Memorial events. Once again, the Annual Holocaust Memorial Day event was organised with input from SACRE Members and young people from schools in Salford. The group also has links with Salford Governor Services and has been able to be part of the annual training and updates programme.

Salford SACRE is also linked with the Greater Manchester Faith and Belief Forum. This is a relatively new initiative allowing opportunity for the 10 Chairs/Vice Chairs/Advisors of SACRES across Greater Manchester to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. These meetings are held twice a year.

Our SACRE Chair also attends a North West Group for SACRE Chairs and Advisors that meets in Preston on a termly basis.

## Section 6 – Wider Areas of SACRE Involvement

As in previous years, individual members have been involved in the planning and delivery of Salford City's Holocaust Memorial Day. These members worked as part of a wider group co-ordinated by the Community Cohesion Team within the council. Student participation was encouraged in this memorial event.

Individual members have been active in visiting schools and speaking to staff and to students as well as organising events. Examples of some of these are listed below to give a flavour of the work they have been doing

- The Humanist representative has visited several schools, both primary and secondary and delivered assemblies on humanism.
- The Jewish Faith representative has visited schools and assemblies and has been to the RE teacher meetings. He has also been training teachers at Edge Hill University.
- One of our SACRE members who represents the United Reform Church has been very active in organising a Culture Day in one of our secondary academies. This was an excellent celebration of all the different cultures that are represented by staff and students of the school.
- In the last year The Manchester Buddhist Centre has held 20 visits to the centre and 1 in- school session was held.
- Our Church of England representative has been working in two primary schools and delivering collective worship each week, teaching during holy week and providing a school church service for both Easter and Christmas as well as an Easter experience.

We are very grateful for the work our representatives do to make links with our schools.