

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

**Annual Report.**

**2022.**



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## SALFORD SACRE – 2022.

### Table of Contents.

1. Forward from the Chair on Salford SACRE.
2. Religious Education.
3. Collective Worship.
4. SACRE Arrangements.
5. Links with other Bodies.
6. Wider Areas of SACRE Involvement.



## Section 1. – Forward from the Chair on Salford SACRE.

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Salford Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) 2022.

First of all, may I on behalf of our membership and myself offer our grateful thanks to Salford LA for the way in which they have constantly offered advice, encouragement and support to the work of our SACRE this year. In particular 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, Sophie Wroe who keeps a great superefficient handle on the management protocol and procedures at our meetings and associated paperwork which goes with this territory.

Our membership has grown and thrived apace this year.

On behalf of our membership may I here take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of our new members this year. With reference to Committee A, I extend warm welcomes to Sandra Dutson, Religious Society of Friends, Ruth Watson, United Reform Church, Lisa Wilde, Buddhist rep and Bhavesh Whader, Hindu rep.

Many thanks to Professor Nawal Prinja, former Hindu rep on Committee A and Daniel Burton – former Church of England rep on Committee B for their services to Salford SACRE. We wish both Nawal and Daniel well with their future endeavours.

We are actively seeking to fill a Sikh vacancy on Committee A as well as one teacher representative each from the NAHT and NASUWT to serve on Committee C.

A hearty thanks both to Kindra Belcher, former RE Advisor for Salford SACRE and Kerril Casey, former Vice Chair of Salford SACRE. Kindra and Kerril stepped down from SACRE after securing new career opportunities and roles. We wish Kindra and Kerril every success for the future.

Congratulations to Deborah Crane, in her appointment of RE Advisor for Salford SACRE. Deborah is Subject Leader of Philosophy & Ethics at the Co-op Academy, Walkden, Worsley, City of Salford.

Many thanks also to our new co-opted members especially and including Jessica Pathak, Equalities Officer; Christopher Rice, LBGTQ+ Lead; Martyn Shaw, Youth Service Lead; and Natalie Stables, Ethnic Minorities and Travellers Achievement Service, all serving at Salford City Council.

Additionally, thanks to co-opted Headteacher, Jo McGarry - Headteacher at St Mary's Church of England, Cadishead, City of Salford; and Andrew Sims, Head of Sociology/teacher of Religious Education at the Co-op Academy, Walkden, Worsley, City of Salford.

I'm delighted that a few of our members serve on our City Equalities and Community Cohesion 'Annual Holocaust Memorial Day' planning team and again (as has been the case in the past) provided guidance and support in the organisation and delivery of a highly successful online civic event. 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, I also thank Counsellor Arnie Saunders and Counsellor Andrew Walters both of whom serve on our Committee D, for their advice, guidance and service they both gave as sitting members on this planning committee, thus also making valuable contributions and ensuring success of this important civic activity. Thanks also to the University of Salford that acted as a superb host and logistics hub for this activity. Further, a huge thanks to many of our members that attended this online event this year.

As I reflect on everything that has transpired on our SACRE journey this year, I'm indebted, gratified and so thankful for all the excellent advice encouragement and support I constantly receive from our incredibly committed and hardworking membership and wider co-opted team. I'm amazed at the high degree of expertise, quality experience, commitment and dedication demonstrated by our membership this year in the service of our SACRE.

With gratefully received LA encouragement and support our SACRE is rapidly transforming itself into that 'Beacon of Hope' serving all our schools and students across this historically great 800-year-old City of Salford. I've been particularly impressed with the way members (including co-opted members) have amazingly committed and dedicated themselves to the newly formed Religious Education Standards, Collective Worship and Community Cohesion panel initiatives this year. This is also the year where our SACRE here in Salford in collaboration with 4 other Greater Manchester Authorities of Manchester, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford in partnership with RE Today had successfully launched a New Agreed Syllabus.

I'm extremely proud of the way all our members (including co-opted members) on SACRE collaborated with the LA to aid the successful facilitation, execution and delivery of these ventures. Well Done All of You!

I believe our SACRE is making a significant positive difference in children's religious education learning and experiences across our network of LA community schools. Sometimes I wonder what impact and results we achieve in our SACRE setting here in Salford. I would argue we were able to capture a glimpse of an answer to this question when 3 fantastic City 'Youth Parliament' youngsters came along to talk to us about their religious education experiences from 3 different Salford secondary and primary schools at our meeting held last November. Listening to those children affirmed for me the vital importance of continuing to invest in this aspect of education through partnership with the LA, schools and fellow stakeholders.

To my mind the wider world that our young people inhabit is rapidly evolving into a global village through the wonders of ever advancing, innovative interconnected systems and platforms of technological marvels. Securing and fine tuning this aspect of education in ways

accessible to children helps to equip them with a skill set enabling them to navigate, understand, respect and value a world of faiths, cultures, humanistic perspectives and viewpoints.

35 years plus engagement with young people informs me that when we get this right, young people do come to appreciate and value this aspect of their school journey. This for me was the key lesson and take away from the 'Youth Voice' activity held at our November 2022 meeting. As an added bonus I would argue that students in these circumstances become this subject's best ambassadors - and further suggest that this has to be good for them, the schools they come from, their families, local communities and wider city.

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

David Levien

Chair of Salford SACRE

December 2022.



## Section 2. – Religious Education.

### Section 2. (a) The Agreed Syllabus.

Our thematic Local Agreed Syllabus has been revised and relaunched earlier this year. The revised relaunched syllabus was a collaborative managed exercise involving Salford and 4 other authorities across Greater Manchester - those others being Manchester, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford.

This RE Agreed Syllabus was written by RE Today. The authors are Stephen Pett, Kate Christopher, Lat Blaylock, Angela Hill, Fiona Moss, Julia Diamond-Conway Images, including cover images, courtesy of NATRE/Spirited Arts © NATRE Published by RE Today Services, Imperial Court, Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH.

Our SACRE working collaboratively with 4 other Greater Manchester SACREs, those being Manchester, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford; agreed together to adopt their syllabus in 2016. World events in the twenty-first century draw attention to the continuing power and significance of religious belief and other beliefs and worldviews in shaping human minds and communities. An understanding of different faiths and beliefs has never seemed more relevant

This syllabus reinforces the importance of religious education as an academic discipline. It aims to enable understanding of concepts and the development of skills and attitudes so that that pupil can explore wider issues of religion and belief in religiously literate ways. This syllabus seeks to prepare children and young people of Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, and Trafford for active citizenship in a diverse and rapidly changing world, exploring some aspects of British values in relation to religions and world views. The five SACREs who have collaborated in adopting this syllabus recognise their local areas as vibrant and unique, with much diversity of religion and belief. The population includes very large communities of tens of thousands of Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jewish people and Sikhs and smaller groups of other significant faith communities including Jains, Buddhists, and members of the Baha'i faith. Many children come from families that hold non-religious life stances. RE taught using this syllabus allows all learners to share their experiences and to learn from one another and the religions and beliefs in our community. This rich diversity influences the religions and beliefs to be taught in RE. This syllabus makes space for all pupils to explore their own beliefs, values, and traditions, and those of others in engaged and engaging ways. RE taught using this syllabus aims to support children to develop positive attitudes of respect towards people from all religions and world views. This syllabus continues in the tradition of ensuring that RE is responsive to the changing nature of schools and education. The syllabus enables schools to respond effectively to the government's Prevent Strategy and to the Ofsted Framework for Inspection which requires schools to '... ensure high standards of achievement, learning and behaviour for their pupils, as well as contributing to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'

Salford SACRE decided to continue with the current agreed thematic syllabus (subject to certain changes/amendments) written by RE Today and in conjunction with 4 other GM local authorities (Tameside, Trafford, Stockport, Manchester). The new version of the amended syllabus launched in Spring 2022 handles the following issues:

Firstly, the syllabus consists of completely renewed sections, ensuring it is compliant with up to date with government guidance and legislation, as well as current concerns in the RE community and the wider educational world from the last 5 years.

This includes:

- A new EYFS section reflecting revised early learning goals.
- A new SEND section reflecting an RE application of the new 'engagement model' for SEND pupils.
- Some rewriting of the 31 primary and 12 secondary medium term page plans to align them with the OFSTED priorities of intent, implementation, and impact, to update links and suggestions and to focus some of them more sharply on teacher-planning for successful learning.
- A new section (or web supplement) on RE's contribution to cultural capital.
- A new section (or web supplement) on progression in learning and using key vocabulary and concepts.
- A revised section on achievement, assessment and using the outcomes which emphasises curriculum sequences, knowledge building and progress lesson-by-lesson, unit- by- unit and term- by-term.
- Some new materials on anti-racism and RE, linked to the current section on British Values.
- Some optional additional units for KS2 and 3 on topics which have become urgent in recent years – e.g., units on climate change and justice with a focus on religious teaching and practice around environmental issues.

There were 2 highly successful and well attended New Agreed RE Syllabus Launch Conferences and training events held back in Spring details as follows:

- Thursday 10 February 2022 at the Village Hotel, Ashton under Lyne.
- Thursday 17 March 2022 at Manchester Central.

The aims of those two days enabled teachers to:

- Familiarise themselves with the new RE syllabus and all its legal and planning requirements.
- Consider and work towards better RE through high-quality implementation of the new syllabus.



- Examine examples of good quality curriculum examples in RE which emerge from the syllabus.
- Understand how to use the syllabus to raise the status and standards of RE.
- Plan for better RE in the coming years in their school.

These two training events were followed up with an additional shorter ‘briefing’ and was held at Dukinfield Town Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> June from 4.00 until 6.00 pm. This latter opportunity was aimed at teachers that had missed the spring term training or desired to benefit from a refresher. The briefing included examination of the following matters:

- An outline of the key points of the syllabus, including its intent and implementation.
- Exploration of the planning and units of work.
- Modelling some learning strategies for use in teaching.
- A reminder of the role of the syllabus and the support and resources.

Here in Salford, with the appointment of a new RE Advisor, we are renewing and refreshing our Religious Education Primary and Secondary networks – opportunities for RE teachers to come together to share good practice, help develop and support each other in the ongoing planning and delivery of the syllabus across our family of community schools.

## **Section 2. (b) Other additional information:**

The online syllabus is digitally available free to all schools. A short version for school websites and parental/other stakeholder is digitally accessible. Several supplementary papers available for all schools for free online access.

## **Section 2 (c) GCSE Results for 2022.**

This year 7 High Schools entered pupils for GCSE RE. All three Catholic schools entered over 90% of their cohort for the exam. Other schools had between 9 and 26 entries in their cohort.

Overall, 23% of the Salford Cohort took RE.

## **Attainment in RE at GCSE.**

<u>No of Schools: No on Roll: No entered: Cohort % :</u>	<u>% Achieving 9-4</u>	<u>% Achieving 9-5</u>	<u>% Achieving 9-7</u>	<u>Average Point Score</u>
	2022: School Nat	2022: School Nat	2022: School Nat	

		Gap		Gap		Gap		<u>2022.</u>
Oasis Academy	110 - 11 - 10%	82	5	82	16	64	29	6,7
St Patrick's								
RC High	179 - 176 - 98%	71	-6	57	-9	32	-3	5.1
St Ambrose Barlow								
RC High	207 - 195 - 94%	68	-9	54	-12	26	-9	4.8
All Hallows								
RC High	125 - 115 - 92%	66	-1	51	-15	18	-17	4.5
Co-op Academy, Swinton	166 - 23 - 14%	52	-25	48	-18	30	-4	4.4
The Lowry Academy Co-op Academy	184 - 26 - 14%	50	-27	42	-24	15	-20	3.8
Walkden	- 281 - 9 3%	22	-54	11	-55	0	-35	2.0

## Section 2. (d) Complaints concerning RE.

There have been no complaints concerning RE.

## 2. (e) Professional and Administrative Support Throughout 2022.

Salford SACRE was supported by an administrative officer who is employed by Salford Council.

The LA has a budget designed to support SACRE coverage of basic running costs and allows members to represent Salford at national conferences and contributes towards Salford's Holocaust Memorial Events. In addition, extra funding has been made available to support the new and amended RE syllabus launch conference to be held in February and March 22.

## Section 2. (f) Summary.

This has been a productive year for Salford SACRE, particularly in terms of gaining agreement, time and funding for the development of the 2022 syllabus review. There had been a high level of debate about the aims of Religious Education in schools and about the strategies to meet these aims, with a wide range of contributions from members at well-attended meetings.

### Section 3. Collective Worship.

#### Determinations.

There have been no applications for determinations during 2022.

#### Complaints concerning Collective Worship.

There have been no complaints received about collective worship.

### Section 4. - SACRE Arrangement Section.

#### 4. (a) Membership of Salford SACRE -2022.

##### Committee A.

##### Christian Denominations, Other World Religions & Non-Religious Views.

Andrew Gallimore	-	Baptist
Pat Wilson	-	Methodist
Sandra Dutson	-	Religious Society of Friends
Sandra Burgess	-	Roman Catholic
Ruth Watson	-	United Reform Church
Joyce Yap	-	Baha'i
Lisa Wilde	-	Buddhist
Bhavesh Whader	-	Hindu
David Milne	-	Humanist
Alexander Klein	-	Jewish
Imran Kotwal	-	Muslim
Vacancy	-	Sikh

## **Committee B.**

### **Church of England.**

Reverend Karen Owen

Reverend Gareth Thomas

## **Committee C.**

### **Teachers Associations.**

Anne Broomhead - NEU/NUT

David Levien - Community/VOICE Union - Chair

Vacancy - NAHT

Vacancy - NASUWT

## **Committee D.**

### **Local Authority.**

Councillor Yolande Amana-Ghola

Councillor Adrian Brocklehurst

Councillor Adam Kealey

Councillor John Mullen

Councillor Arnold Saunders

Councillor Irfan Syed

Councillor Andrew Walters

Councillor John Warmisham

## **Co-opted Members.**

Neil Fazackerly - 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, Salford

### Officers.

Deborah Crane – RE Advisor for Salford SACRE

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Sophie Wroe – Clerk for Salford SACRE

[sophie.wroe@salford.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.wroe@salford.gov.uk)

### 4. (b) Salford SACRE Membership Overview/Issues.

Our SACRE has met three times this year. These meetings were held face to face detailed as follows:

29 <sup>th</sup>	March	2022.	Face-to-Face Meeting - Buile Hill Conf Centre.
16 <sup>th</sup>	June	2022.	Face-to-Face Meeting - Buile Hill Conf Centre.
10 <sup>th</sup>	November	2022.	Face-to-Face Meeting - Walkden Co-op Academy Salford.

Note: All meeting fully complied with Covid health measures/guidance.

Our SACRE meetings are planned by a small steering group team made up of 2 primary headteachers, a Secondary Subject Lead of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (this person recently appointed Advisor to Salford SACRE), another secondary teacher of Religious Education and Secondary Head of Sociology, a senior LA Advisor and myself chairing these meetings. Our steering group has employed to great effect the NASACRE Tool Kit Guide resulting in putting in place detailed action plans for members consideration and action.

I am pleased to report that we've covered a lot of good ground this year bound by a common vision and shared unity of purpose in serving our constituency here in Salford. Key to achieving our aims is ensuring our SACRE is able to successfully engage with our schools, their stakeholders and partners as well as continuing to build up our strong constructive relationship with the LA.

As part of our strategy to successfully move us forward our SACRE has established 3 membership panels designed to ensure we comprehensively embrace and deliver on all aspects of our statutory responsibilities. These panels are:

Panel 1 - Standards and Quality of Religious Education.

Panel 2 - Collective Worship.

Panel 3 - Community Cohesion, Equality and Inclusion.

Panels 1 and 2 are each led by a primary head teacher both of whom are on our steering committee. Panel 3 is fronted by the Salford SACRE Chair. Members from across Committees A-D divide up and serve as a team member on one of the 3 panels. 30 minutes panel sessions time is allowed within our meetings and followed through with a no more than 15 minutes report back plenary that all members can share and contribute towards.

At the time of writing this report our SACRE is in the middle of a 18 month or so development plan process. Matters at the forefront of our deliberations as follows:

- Salford SACRE is currently conducting a Religious Education and Collective Worship Primary and Secondary survey designed to help us gauge how schools are getting on with the new agreed syllabus and where we need to target advice and support. Thus far 40 plus schools have positively responded back and we have through the school bulletin reminded the others to complete and send in to us their responses to our survey. We have further managed to flag up the importance of this work by talking to school governors at a recently held online meeting. Initial impressions based on the data so far received and generated suggests that schools welcome SACRE Religious Education and Collective Worship advice, guidance and support.
- With the appointment of new Advisor to SACRE we are now relaunching and refreshing our Primary and Secondary Religious Education Teachers' Networks. Meetings can be online and face to face held at the Buile Hill Conference. These first meetings to be held this term.
- We are also as a SACRE beginning to explore and hopefully develop a culture around a pupil and student religious education voice. SACRE has already been treated to a presentation on this topic by serving members from Salford Youth Parliament at our last SACRE meeting of 2022. In collaboration and partnership with this youth body, the LA and support from the wider city we aim to broaden and deepen this work across our network of community LA schools.
- Our SACRE has launched a termly newsletter which is circulated to all our schools as well as members. We are increasingly encouraging schools to contribute items of interest to be inserted into this publication. Items of interest can include descriptions of great Religious Education lessons including employment of artefacts, creative arts, music, drama, use of language and literature etc. Anything connected to good practice collective worship/assemblies' faith visitor related activities, visits to places of worship, culture days just to mention a few and so on.

- Our SACRE has also taken the decision to promote, encourage and advise our schools to think about putting together potential Religious Education projects bids for Westhill/NASACRE consideration.

It is certainly a settled consensus across our SACRE that we have a great relationship with our LA and with the benefit of their advice, wisdom and support we are as a body in a good place moving forward. To maintain Salford SACRE momentum and synergy, its understood we need to continue along broad lines as follows:

- To fully embrace the importance of reinforcing and supporting our shared common vision and interest for excellence and best practice in the work we all do for SACRE and by extension hopefully benefitting the schools, teachers, and students we serve here in this City of Salford.
- Encouraging and empowering members to take on ownership of identified tasks we are required to perform with the intention of spreading our workload across the membership and not leaving responsibilities on the shoulders of the committed few.
- A need to continue on our present trajectory working through our action and development plans and within identified timeframes.

## **Section 5. - Links With Other Bodies.**

Salford SACRE remains a member of NASACRE. One of our members, Alex Klein, has until recently served as acting treasurer on the national executive of NASACRE. Several of our members attended the online 2022 Annual NASACRE Conference as well as availing themselves of excellent NASACRE online training courses organised and delivered by a wide range of recognised professional religious education experts in the field throughout the year.

There are strong links with the Jewish Board of Deputies and Salford SACRE meetings include regular feedback from members who have attended the conferences of this group.

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.

Links with other Greater Manchester authorities on syllabus collaboration and implementation have been described above. (See Section 2 – Religious Education) Salford SACRE’s involvement in Greater Manchester hub has been maintained throughout 2022

including involvement in the RE Conference preparations organised by this group and held in February and March 2022. (See Section 2 - Agreed Syllabus above).

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.

## **Section 6. - Wider Areas of SACRE Involvement.**

### **SALFORD SACRE and Links with the National Holocaust Memorial Day**

As already mentioned, (Section 1 – Forward from the Chair on Salford SACRE) a few of our members had again been closely involved in the planning and delivery of Salford City’s Holocaust Memorial Day. These members worked as part of a wider collaborative group put together by the City Equalities Community Cohesion team.

As has been the case in the past this planning team this year keenly encouraged school student participation in these Holocaust commemorations.

Pre-pandemic these events have seen participation from young people from Salford’s Roma community, all of whom are educated in Salford high schools. They gave a talk on their ancestors’ involvement in the Nazi persecution of this community. Other young people from the Jewish communities have read poems and told the story of at least one grandparent’s experience caught up in those tragic events.

This year’s event was hosted by the University of Salford and transmitted online. There were contributions from 2 primary and 2 secondary schools as well as from Salford Youth Council.

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