



St. Helens Council

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**St Helens SACRE  
Annual Report 2024**

## **Section 1: Chair’s introduction and context**

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### **Words from the Chair – Mrs S Forbes**

The St. Helens SACRE is pleased to present its annual report, highlighting yet another successful year of achievement and progress in promoting effective religious education and collective worship across the borough. Over the past year, SACRE has maintained a robust engagement by convening three times annually using a hybrid approach, fostering collaboration and dialogue among key stakeholders.

The termly SACRE Spotlight continues to be a valuable resource, providing essential local and national updates regarding religious education and collective worship to headteachers, RE teachers, and Primary RE leads.

The SACRE has readopted the Lancashire Locally Agreed Syllabus, thereby fortifying the foundation of religious education in our schools. Looking ahead, training sessions are scheduled for the new year, specifically tailored for Primary School RE leads, ensuring that educators are well-equipped to deliver high-quality religious education in their classrooms.

Our key priorities from last year’s report were as follows:

#### **Key priority 1: To improve attendance at SACRE meetings.**

The memberships were reviewed and the clerk wrote to those who had poor attendance to outline the expectation of the SACRE. This continues to be a target for the SACRE although more members are now opting for the hybrid virtual attendance which has increased attendance at the meetings. The meeting dates are now recorded on the council website.

#### **Key priority 2: Members attend NASACRE conference / training**

All new members have been signposted to the NASACRE training. We continue to be members of NASACRE. Catherine Hughes works alongside NASACRE to deliver CPD as well as helping to organise

the Annual Conference. The chair and SACRE facilitator have also attended the North West SACRE meetings.

### **Key priority 3:**

#### **a. To obtain data for GCSE / A Level results**

#### **b. To obtain data / information on KS1-3 through visits, RE lead meetings and student voice**

a. Data has been obtained.

b. This continues to be a key priority for 2024-2025 to meet with RE leads more regularly and establish a student SACRE.

### **Key priority 4: To review the locally agreed syllabus in consultation with RE leads**

The Lancashire Syllabus has been readapted for another four years and training has been booked with a range of stakeholders.

## **Section 2: RE**

St Helens SACRE has supported the RE provision in St Helens by the following activities:

- The SACRE continues to provide updates through the use of a termly newsletter
- The SACRE is represented during the St Helens First Network Primary Leads RE meeting and key updates are feedback to the group.
- The Chair **shares resources** and CPD events to all RE leads when appropriate.
- **OFSTED reports monitored** for links to Religious Education (see appendix)

### **Actions for 24/25 –**

#### **a) To continue to monitor OFSTED reports linked to religious Education**

#### **b) To monitor schools websites for links to religious education**

## **Section 3: Collective Worship**

St Helens SACRE has completed the following activities in relation to collective worship:

- Produced borough wide resources to use within lessons and collective worship for **Holocaust Memorial Day**
- A survey has been sent to all schools to obtain views on collective worship and to ensure that schools are complying with the laws.
- No determinations were applied for
- There were 0 withdrawals from collective worship
- **OFSTED reports monitor** for links to Collective Worship (see appendix)

### **Actions for 24/25 –**

#### **a) To continue to monitor OFSTED reports linked to collective worship**

#### **b) To monitor schools websites for links to collective worship**

#### **c) To analysis data from the school's survey to ensure that support is provided if needed.**

#### **Section 4: Links to other bodies**

*Miss Catherine Hughes* – Member of NATRE, ACTRE and AREIAC, Liverpool Catholic Archdiocese, NASACRE executive member

*Mrs Pamela Potter* – LA Consultant

*Mrs Anna Clark* – Member of NATRE, and PSHE association

*Mrs Lisa Houghton* – NAHT

*Mrs Karen Whitehead* - St Helens PCC (Parish Church Council), St Helens Deanery Synod

*Mr Michael Ashton* – Member of NATRE, AULRE, ACTRE

*Mrs Judith Prinsley* – Board of Deputies, Muswell Hill Synagogue, Harrigey multi-faith forum

*Councillor Marlene Quinn* – LA councillor, CYPS scrutiny, PLACE scrutiny, Children’s corporate parenting forum

*Miss Glenys Chalk* - C. Spiritual Direction

#### **Section 5: SACRE and local involvement**

- St Helens SACRE provided resources to all schools for Holocaust Memorial Day
- Termly newsletter updates to headteachers and RE leads – SACRE Spotlight
- Local councillor members are also governors to local schools

***Miss Catherine Hughes*** –Continues to be an executive NSACRE member and has delivered CPD as well as helping to plan the NASACRE annual conference 2024.

***Mrs Pamela Potter*** - As part of the school effectiveness strategy there are achievement and improvement board meetings and school reviews conducted by the school effectiveness team. SACRE has also been discussed in School Effectiveness Team meetings.

***Mrs Judith Prinsely*** – works with the education group for the Board of Deputies, focus on the work of SACRE’s, receiving INSET and share good practice.

#### **Section 6: Management of SACRE**

##### **i) Meetings**

SACRE meets once a term using a hybrid approach. The majority of the members use Microsoft Teams but the chair and clerk always ensure that they meet in a public place. This is outlined on the Council’s website.

There was an additional meeting for the Agreed Syllabus Committee.

##### **Meeting 1: Autumn Term (11<sup>th</sup> October 2023)**

**Group A** Judith Prinsley and Ms Catherine Hughes (The Chair)

**Group B** Ms Glenys Chalk, Mrs Samantha Forbes (Vice Chair) and Ms K Whitehead

**Group C** Mrs Lisa Houghton

**Group D** Mrs Pamela Potter (SACRE Facilitator) Cllr Bisi Osundeko

**Also Present:** Mrs Angela Webster, Clerk to SACRE (LA Clerk)

**Main agenda items:** 1) Review of Constitution 2) Chair’s Update 3) Annual Report 4) Development Plan 5) NASACRE Updates 6) Teaching and learning 7) Collective Worship 8) SACRE training 9) OFSTED updates / reports

Agreed Syllabus Committee: (13<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

**Group A** Judith Prinsley

**Group B** Ms Glenys Chalk and Mrs Samantha Forbes (Vice Chair)

**Group C** Mr Mike Ashton

**Group D** Mrs Pamela Potter (SACRE Facilitator)

**Also Present:** Mrs Angela Webster, Clerk to SACRE (LA Clerk)

**Main agenda items:** 1) Advised that the Lancashire Syllabus should be readopted.

Meeting 2: (13<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

**Group A** Judith Prinsley

**Group B** Ms Glenys Chalk and Mrs Samantha Forbes (Vice Chair)

**Group C** Mr Mike Ashton

**Group D** Mrs Pamela Potter (SACRE Facilitator)

**Also Present:** Mrs Angela Webster, Clerk to SACRE (LA Clerk)

**Main agenda items:** 1) Ratified the recommendation to readopt the Lancashire Syllabus. 2) Development Plan 3) NASACRE Updates 4) Teaching and learning 5) Collective Worship 6) SACRE training 7) OFSTED updates / reports

Meeting 3: Summer Term (26<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

**Group A** Judith Prinsley, Dr Usama Munir

**Group B** Ms Glenys Chalk, Mrs Samantha Forbes (Vice Chair) Mr Matthew Swann

**Group C** Mr Mike Ashton

**Group D** Mrs Pamela Potter (SACRE Facilitator) Cllr Bisi Osundeko

**Main agenda items:** 1) RAG-rated 2023/24 development plan and set new priorities for the upcoming academic year. 2) NASACRE Updates 2) Teaching and learning 4) Collective Worship 5) SACRE training 6) OFSTED updates / reports

**Action for 23/24** – Attendance for all groups needs to be more consistent.

**ii) Budget**

SACRE's budget covers the cost of subscription costs for national organisations for RE and the resources from the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus. For the AS it is £5280 and for subscription to NASACRE it is £115 annually.

**iii) Committees**

**Committee A: Christian denominations and other faiths**

Mr Rajnish Kashyap

Judith Prinsley

Dr Usama Munir

Maria Overend

Jessica Maden

Ms Catherine Hughes (Vice Chair)

**Committee B: Church of England**

Ms Glenys Chalk

Ms Samantha Forbes (Chair)

Ms Cath Clark

Mr M Swann

Mr Iwan Williams

Vacancy

**Committee C: Teacher Associations**

Mr Mike Ashton

Ms Anna Clark

Ms Rebecca Eiffe

Mrs Lisa Houghton

Vacancy

Vacancy

**Committee D: Local Authority**

Mrs Pamela Potter (SACRE Facilitator)

Cllr Jeanette Banks

Cllr Damien O'Connor

Cllr Michael Haw

Cllr Michelle Sweeney

Cllr Bisi Osundeko

Cllr Marlene Quinn

**Section 7: Appendices**

- Table of provisional GCSE results
- St Helens SACRE Development plan 24-25
- OFSTED monitoring 23-24

## Appendices

### St Helens Provisional GCSE results 2024

Total KS4 Cohort	Total Subject Entries	Grade 9	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 1	Grade U	% Grade 4+	% Grade 5+	% Grade 7+
263	11	0	4	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	91%	91%	64%
288	62	1	3	9	11	13	8	11	5	1	0	73%	60%	21%
169	11	0	0	1	4	1	1	3	1	0	0	64%	55%	9%
302	41	0	5	3	10	4	5	8	4	2	0	66%	54%	20%
285	272	12	13	35	49	34	31	41	32	22	3	64%	53%	22%
237	223	7	10	20	26	35	26	32	31	28	8	56%	44%	17%
103	98	4	2	7	16	7	4	17	15	11	15	41%	37%	13%
179	152	4	7	4	14	25	13	19	30	23	13	44%	36%	10%

### Development Plan 2024-2025

#### **Section 1: Management of the SACRE and partnership with LA and stakeholders**



Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
<b>1b) Established practice with SACRE meetings</b>  <i>Linking to the LA strand of <b>attendance</b> and the right of all students to have the best quality education</i>	To improve attendance at SACRE meetings  To encourage active participation from all members of SACRE	Ongoing throughout the year	Minutes of meetings  Website screenshots	Chair		Chair	
<b>1f) Advanced practice in partnerships with key stakeholders</b>  <i>Linking to the LA strand of <b>well being</b> and the needs and well being of all children</i>	To begin to establish a St Helens Youth SACRE	Ongoing throughout the year	Minutes of meetings, headteacher letters	Chair needs top outsource this to members who teach KS4.			

## Section 2: Standards and quality provision of Religious Education

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
<b>2b) Established practice with standards of achievement and public examinations entries</b>  <i>Linking to the LA strand of attendance and the right of all students to have the best quality education</i>	To obtain data for GCSE / A Level results  To obtain data / information on KS1-3 through visits, RE lead meetings and student voice	Ongoing throughout the year	SACRE Report with data  Minutes / agenda / feedback from meetings / student voice data			Chair / PP	
<b>2e) Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools</b>	To meet with RE leads in academies at least once term.	Term 1	Minutes / agenda / resources / feedback from meeting	MA		Chair / PP	

### Section 3: Effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
<b>3a) Established practice with the review process</b>	To monitor the implementation of the AS	Ongoing throughout the year	Teacher feedback  Costed action plan for re-launch  Teacher feedback / minutes	Chair		Chair / PP	

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
<a href="#">Linking to the LA strand of attendance and the right of all students to have the best quality education</a>	Moving forwards – more outreach work from the SACRE to schools.						

### **OFSTED Trail 2023/24**

St Helens SACRE – OFSTED Report’s 2023-24

In 2023 – 24, 20 schools / educational establishments (including residential and the council) in St Helens were inspected by OFSTED. Here are examples in the OFSTED reports of statements linking to Religious Education, collective worship and British Values:

Rivington Primary School (March 2024)

Pupils benefit from a wealth of remarkably considered experiences that help to prepare them exceptionally well for life in modern Britain. For example, they discuss and consider topical issues with deep understanding and empathy. These conversations are captured on the school podcast and shared across classes and with families. This provides an effective model for how to discuss and debate issues respectfully. Pupils have an impressive understanding of equality. They fully respect differences between themselves and others.

Bleak Hill Primary School (April 2024)

Pupils take pride in winning the attendance bears that are presented by pupil ‘attendance activists’ each week during collective worship.

They recognise that these opportunities, alongside their learning about diversity and difference, prepare them well for the world outside of the classroom. The school’s rich offer provides the knowledge and skills that pupils need to become successful and active citizens of modern-day Britain.

Merton Bank (May 2024)

Pupils understand the school's values and fundamental British values clearly. They spoke with maturity about their knowledge of democracy and individual liberty. Pupils have an honest and tolerant approach to the differences between people, including religion and race.

Allanson Street Primary (May 2024)

Well-considered opportunities help to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

Pupils learn about different religions and have an appreciation of everyone's uniqueness.

Mill Green School (May 2024)

Pupils also learn about life in modern Britain and what it means to have a positive relationship.

Robins Lane Community Primary School (July 2024)

Pupils learn about the differences between people, including different religions and faiths. They are respectful towards others who may have different beliefs, cultures or backgrounds. Pupils take great pride in their school and its community. They are well prepared to grow up in modern Britain.