



St. Helens Council

St Helens SACRE Annual Report 2025

Section 1: Chair’s introduction and context

Contents

Section	Pages
1: Introduction	2-3
2: Religious Education	3
3: Collective Worship	4
4: Links to other bodies	4
5: SACRE and local involvement	4-5
6: Management of SACRE	4-7
7: Appendices	8-14
a) GCSE results	
b) Development plan 24-25	
c) St Helens SACRE OFSTED reports 23-24	

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.

Last year, the SACRE readopted the Lancashire Locally Agreed Syllabus. Training sessions were delivered across the year specifically tailored for Primary School RE leads, ensuring that educators are well-equipped to deliver high-quality religious education in their classrooms. In addition to this, we ran two subject knowledge sessions for Judaism and Islam in line with the LAS assessment outcomes.

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.

By summer, representatives from each group were attending each meeting and members agreed that attendance had improved. Groups A and D will remain a focus in 2025/2026.

Key priority 2: Establish a Youth SACRE

Information was shared across the borough for an opportunity for Year 5 children to engage but there was only a small number of schools that responded. This will remain as an area of development for the SACRE and a SMART target has been set.

Key priority 3: To obtain data for GCSE / A Level results

a. Data has been obtained. Members have agreed that this will now be standard practice and removed from the development plan.

Key priority 4: To monitor the implementation of the AS

Training was offered across the borough for the Lancashire Syllabus and there was a strong uptake from our primary colleagues. Subject knowledge sessions have been offered across the year and this will be something that we aim to continue with in the next academic year.

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 25/26 –

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:

- A survey has been sent to all schools to obtain views on collective worship and to ensure that schools are complying with the laws.
- A collective worship guidance document is in the process of being created by members.
- 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 create/ roll out and provide training based around Collective Worship Guidance.

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, NAHT

Mrs Lisa Houghton – NAHT

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

Ms Jo Roberts – NAHT

Ms Carol Austin – ASCL

Section 5: SACRE and local involvement

- Termly newsletter updates to headteachers and RE leads – SACRE Spotlight
- Three training sessions were offered across the year/
- Local councillor members are also governors to local schools

Miss Catherine Hughes –Continues to be an executive NASACRE member and has helped to plan the NASACRE annual conference 2025.

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

Mrs Samantha Forbes – has shadowed two other SACRE meetings for development in the position of chair.

Section 6: Management of SACRE

i) Meetings

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

Meeting 1: Autumn Term (9th October 2024)

Group A Judith Prinsley and Ms Catherine Hughes (Vice Chair)

Group B Ms Glenys Chalk, Mrs Samantha Forbes (Chair) and Mrs Cath Clark

Group C Mrs Lisa Houghton and Mr Mike Ashton

Group D Mrs Pamela Potter (SACRE Facilitator) Cllr Marlene Quinn

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

Main agenda items:

Update from Chair, SACRE Annual Report, SEF / Development Plan, Interfaith Week 2024
Teaching and Learning and Religious Education, Collective Worship, Ofsted, Correspondence and updates – NASACRE / DfE etc – Catherine Hughes, SACRE Training

Meeting 2: (26th February 2025)

Group A Judith Prinsley

Group B Mrs Samantha Forbes (Chair), Mr M Swann and Mrs Cath Clark

Group C Ms Emma Nicholson

Group D Mrs Pamela Potter (SACRE Facilitator)

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

Main agenda items:

Determination Policy

SEF Development Plan

Annual Report

- Submitted to the Secretary of State for Education and NASACRE in December.

Update from Chair

- SACRE Spotlight attached
- Who's who – Member information attached.

Teaching and Learning

- Feedback from LAS Training 25/02/2025
- Oracy in the spotlight
- Login details for the Lancashire Syllabus

Religious Education and Collective Worship

- An insight into collective worship – Survey results
- Picture News Competition,

Ofsted

Correspondence and updates – NASACRE / DfE etc

- NASACRE AGM
- Northwest Hub SACRE Training

Meeting 3: Summer Term (25th June 2025)

Group A Ms Judith Prinsley, Ms Catherine Hughes (Vice chair) and Mr Gareth Williams.

Group B Ms Glenys Chalk, Mrs Samantha Forbes (Chair) Mr Matthew Swann, Mrs Cath Clark and Mr David Thorpe

Group C Ms Anna Clark, Ms Emma Nicholson, Ms Jo Roberts.

Group D Cllr Jeanette Banks.

Main agenda items:

Development Plan

- To be review and RAG-rated by members.
- New points of development for the upcoming year to be outlined together.

Update from Chair

- SACRE Spotlight

Teaching and Learning

- Feedback from Islam training with Dr Usama Munir on 19/05/2025
- Presentation from Sharon Booth, CEO and Founder of Solutions Not Slides – A British Educational Charity that travels around the UK talking to students aged 14-18 about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. www.solutionsnotsides.co.uk

Collective Worship

Draft Collective Worship guidance to be edited by members.

Ofsted

Correspondence and updates – NASACRE / DfE etc

- NASACRE Feedback – Catherine Hughes
- Northwest Hub feedback
- RE Hubs Newsletter

SACRE Training

Action for 25/26 – Attendance for all groups needs to be more consistent – especially groups A and D.

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

Ms Catherine Hughes

Mr G Williams

Judith Prinsley

Dr Usama Munir

Committee B: Church of England

Ms Glenys Chalk

Ms Samantha Forbes (Chair)

Ms Cath Clark

Mr M Swann

Mr David Thorpe

Committee C: Teacher Associations

Emma Nicholson

Carol Austin

Jo Roberts

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 – Rag Rated
- New development plan for 2025/2026
- OFSTED monitoring 24-25

Appendices

St Helens Provisional GCSE results

		GCSE			
		North West		England	
		St. Helens	North West		
Religious Studies	Boys	9 to 5	32%	47%	52%
		9 to 4	49%	59%	65%
		9 to 1	93%	95%	96%
	Girls	9 to 5	50%	61%	66%
		9 to 4	62%	72%	76%
		9 to 1	97%	98%	98%
	Total	9 to 5	42%	54%	60%
		9 to 4	56%	66%	71%
		9 to 1	96%	96%	97%

RAG rated 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
<p>1b) Established practice with SACRE meetings</p> <p><i>Linking to the LA strand of attendance and the right of all students to have the best quality education</i></p>	<p>To improve attendance at SACRE meetings</p> <p>To encourage active participation from all members of SACRE</p>	Ongoing throughout the year	<p>Minutes of meetings</p> <p>Website screenshots</p>	Chair		Chair	<p>Spring – Membership has been updated. Letters have been sent to non attenders.</p> <p>Summer – attendance has improved across the year and there has always been a representative from each group present at the three meetings.</p> <p>This will remain on the development plan for 25/26.</p>
<p>1f) Advanced practice in partnerships with key stakeholders</p> <p><i>Linking to the LA strand of well being and the needs and well</i></p>	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.			<p>Spring – 1 Year 5 class has been involved in a NW Hubs project. Invite sent to all schools. Ongoing</p> <p>Summer - Due to members being absent, this will remain on the</p>

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
<i>being of all children</i>							development plan next academic year.

Section 2: Standards and quality provision of Religious Education

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
2b) Established practice with standards of achievement and public examinations entries <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	Spring – data in Annual report Summer – target met and all members agreed that this will be removed for the development plan as it is now standard practice for the SACRE.
2e) Relations with academies and other non-	To meet with RE leads in academies at least once term.	Term 1	Minutes / agenda / resources / feedback from meeting	MA		Chair / PP	Spring – ongoing Summer – ongoing. Information needs to

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
LA maintained schools							be gathered in the new academic year of RE leads.

Section 3: Effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
3a) Established practice with the review process <i>Linking to the LA strand of attendance and the right of all students to have the best quality education</i>	To monitor the implementation of the AS Moving forwards – more outreach work from the SACRE to schools.	Ongoing throughout the year	Teacher feedback Costed action plan for re-launch Teacher feedback / minutes	Chair		Chair / PP	Spring – renewed LAS rolled out to schools. Login details sent out again as a reminder. Primary training delivered on 25/02/2025 by the Lancashire Syllabus. Summer – Islam subject knowledge session delivered. Humanism and Judaism session planned for next academic year.

Other actions completed from Autumn to Spring:

- A SACRE who's who to introduce members and provide further support.
- Staff voice around collective worship.

Notes: Chair – Samantha Forbes

PP – Mrs Pamela Potter RE – Religious Education

CW – Collective Worship

Development Plan for 2025/2026

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

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
1b) Established practice with SACRE meetings	SACRE will work to improve attendance from all four groups by reviewing barriers to participation and adopting strategies recommended in NASACRE guidance (e.g., clear communication, hybrid meetings, early circulation of papers).	Attendance records will be monitored termly, with the aim of achieving representation from at least 75% of members across all four groups at each meeting.	Minutes of meetings Website screenshots	Chair Clerk Members		Chair	
1f) Advanced practice in partnerships with key stakeholders	SACRE will explore and establish a Youth SACRE, drawing on NASACRE guidance and models from other local authorities, to give young people a	The SACRE need more of a secondary school presence in order to get a working party together of Year 9/10 children.	Minutes of meetings, headteacher letters				

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
	voice in RE and collective worship.						

Section 2: Standards and quality provision of Religious Education

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
2e) Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools	To meet with all RE leads across the borough 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
3a) Established practice with the review process	To monitor the implementation of the AS Moving forwards – more outreach work from the SACRE to schools.	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

Section 4: Effectiveness of Collective Worship

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
3a) Established practice with the review process Linking to the LA strand of attendance and the right of all students to have the best quality education	Group B, with support from any interested members of other groups, will produce a clear guidance document outlining the statutory requirements for collective worship and offering practical ideas and examples for schools.	<p>Created: End of Autumn Term.</p> <p>Agreed by whole SACRE- Spring term,</p> <p>Shared and training delivered in Summer term.</p>	<p>Teacher feedback</p> <p>Costed action plan for re-launch</p> <p>Teacher feedback / minutes</p> <p>The guidance will help schools understand and implement collective worship in line with statutory duties, supporting SACRE’s role in promoting high-quality religious education and worship.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Group B</p>		Chair / PP	

Notes: Chair – Samantha Forbes

PP – Mrs Pamela Potter RE – Religious Education

CW – Collective Worship

St Helens SACRE – OFSTED Report’s 2023-24

In 2024– 25 so far, **23 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:

St Julies Catholic Primary School (Sept 2024)

They learn about other faiths and visit different places of worship.

Broad Oak Community Primary School (Oct 2024)

They also know about different religions and cultures and are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Outwood Academy Haydock (Oct 2024)

Pupils learn to appreciate difference and to understand different religions.

General Day Nursery and After School (Dec 2024)

Children also learn about cultures different to their own. For instance, staff place treats in children's shoes in recognition of St. Nicholas Day. These experiences enrich the curriculum and support children to gain a good understanding of different ways of life.

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy (Dec 2024)

The school’s programme for pupils’ personal development is carefully designed to help prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

Carmel College (Dec 2024)

Students enjoy an inclusive culture at college. They are courteous and respectful. Students celebrate one another's differences. They are compassionate and empathetic. Students organise 'cultural appreciation days', where they are encouraged to wear traditional clothing based on their background, allowing them to showcase their culture. They organise student groups, including the South Asian society, the African and Caribbean Society and the Latin Society. At these societies, they learn about culture, dance, food and musical traditions. Students have a good understanding of different faiths and beliefs. This prepares them well for life in modern Britain.

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School (Dec 2024)

Pupils have an excellent understanding of fundamental British values. They say that everyone should be treated equally and understand why discrimination should not be tolerated.

St Mary and St Thomas C of E Pirmiary School (Jan 2025)

The programme to promote pupils' personal development is noteworthy. It is well designed to ensure that pupils have the knowledge and skills to be well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Happy Bunnies (March 2025)

Children learn about other cultures and important celebrations. These experiences broaden children's understanding and prepares them well for life in modern Britain. n Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)