



St. Helens Council

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**St Helens SACRE  
Annual Report 2021**

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

In the past 10 months, St Helens SACRE has had a change in its chair person. From March 2021, the Chair is Miss Catherine Hughes – Curriculum Leader for Religious Education at St Cuthbert's Catholic High School. Previously it was Miss Jennifer Rowlands – Curriculum Leader for Religious Education at Cowley International College.

During this time, meetings have taken place virtual due to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

Since taking over as chair, the priority was to develop links with all RE leads in St Helens. This has been successful and is becoming an open dialogue between SACRE and the RE leads. This is something that will be built upon in the coming year to share good practice, offer advice and ultimately raise attainment and progress in RE in St Helens.

As part of developing a link with RE leads, staff were invited to complete an online survey. Questions focused on areas for CPL and support needed. 11 responses were completed. This information will inform SACRE CPL sessions for the coming year and other ideas for SACRE to support partnerships between schools.

The Chair and SACRE are clear on developments needed for moving forward especially in utilise the expertise within the SACRE group. For example, to develop resources including video clips to use within schools from the faith representatives. To continue to build upon the good work SACRE has done in previous years.

St Helens SACRE continue to implement the Lancashire County Council Agreed Syllabus (AS) which was updated for September 2021. St Helens SACRE will begin to adapt the AS to suit the needs of our students and the local demographic where appropriate.

## **Section 2: Advice to statutory bodies**

During 2021, St Helens SACRE has provided advice to the local authority on a range of matters including:

- School Effectiveness Team (PP)– reference to RE, sequence of the syllabus and link to others subjects, discussion in reference to the quality of education
- Primary Head teacher meetings (GC)
- Liverpool Archdiocese meetings (JK)

St Helens SACRE has provided advice and guidance to schools to a number of issues including:

- Culham St Gabriel report / LTLRE CPL (sent to all RE leads)
- Reading books for primary schools (sent to all Primary RE leads)
- Holocaust training and KS3 textbooks (sent to all Secondary leads)

- Tablet sponsorship link (sent to all RE leads)
- AS support on the curriculum (Primary school x2)
- Exam boards support (Secondary school)
- Curriculum time allocation (Secondary school)

### **Section 3: Standards and quality of provision of RE**

#### **i) GCSE Results**

In 2021, a variety of exam boards were used including AQA, Edexcel and Eduqas. The attainment for RE in St Helens is as follows:

GCSE Grade										Total Entries	% 9-7	% 9-5	%9-4						
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U										
6	7	13	20	23	24	21	11	5	1	131	19.8%	52.7%	71.0%						
9	26	30	30	23	43	29	24	10	0	224	29.0%	52.7%	71.9%						
3	8	12	11	10	6	2	0	0	1	53	43.4%	83.0%	94.3%						
19	16	17	25	29	19	27	13	13	0	178	29.2%	59.6%	70.2%						
15	22	15	9	5	11	4	3	1	1	86	60.5%	76.7%	89.5%						
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%						
0	3	3	13	5	8	18	11	20	10	91	6.6%	26.4%	35.2%						
3	3	5	9	21	42	24	41	16	3	167	6.6%	24.6%	49.7%						
10	7	7	5	6	4	0	0	0	0	39	61.5%	89.7%	100.0%						
<b>65</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>68.1%</b>						
										<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>

Curriculum time at KS4 ranged from 8-10% for GCSE RE students to 2% for core RE.

#### **ii) A Level Results**

#### **iii) Teacher training and support**

St Helens SACRE has signposted schools to training from the following:

- Lancashire County Council (AS)
- LTLRE
- RE Today

St Helens SACRE also led a joint 'Teach Meet' with NATRE, with a focus on Hinduism. This was led by the Miss Catherine Hughes (Chair of SACRE) and Miss Sarah Daley (member of SACRE and NATRE). There was also a faith representative. It is hoped that this format of 'teach meets' continue termly with a focus on local needs. Judaism CPD was also provided for schools (Feb 2021)

#### **iv) Withdrawal and complaints**

Schools are signposted to NASACRE advice and support on protocols for withdrawal from Religious Education. From the Headteacher Survey 2021 (Oct 21), it was noted that 2 students were removed from Religious Education. The survey also found that there was one complaint about Religious Education. SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to Religious Education. No such complaints were received in the past year.

#### **v) RE Mark**

Cowley International College has the RE Mark – Gold status. Support and guidance will be given to any further schools who wish to apply for it.

#### **Section 4: Agreed syllabus**

St Helens SACRE have bought the Lancashire agreed syllabus. In September 2021 Lancashire updated their syllabus and are providing CPL as part of this. From the Headteacher Survey 2021 (Oct 21), all syllabus that are followed as well as the AS:

**Primary:** Come and See

**Secondary:** People of God (Catholic Archdioceses SOL)

From the Headteacher Survey 2021 (Oct 21), it was noted that curriculum time at KS1 and 2 ranged from 3% - 20%.

#### **Section 5: Collective Worship**

Collective worship has continued to be an area of importance for St Helens SACRE. St Helens SACRE has produced a Collective Worship policy for schools to amend and use if they wish.

Schools are signposted to NASACRE advice and support on protocols for withdrawal from Collective Worship. From the Headteacher Survey 2021 (Oct 21), it was noted that 2 students were removed from Collective Worship for religious reasons. There were no school based complaints about collective worship. SACRE has a role in investigating complaints against schools in relation to collective worship. No such complaints were received in the past year.

Throughout this academic year, examples of good practice will be shared with schools.

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

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

SACRE usually meets once a term, in 2021 the following meetings took place:

Meeting 1: Spring term 2021 - 3RD MARCH 2021

**Group A:** Justine Kellett, Usama Munir

**Group B:** Iwan Williams

**Group C:** Catherine Hughes (Secondary) (Chair), Anna Costello (Secondary)

Lisa Houghton (Primary)

**Group D:** Carol Gowan, Pam Potter, Cllr Bisi Osundeko, Cllr David Banks, Cllr Michelle Sweeney

**Main agenda items:** 1) Membership 2) Training 3) Action plan

Meeting 2: Summer term 2021 – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Group A:** Justine Kellett

**Group B:** Iwan Williams, Rev Lynn Jackson

**Group C:** Glenys Chalk (primary), Catherine Hughes (Chair) (secondary), Anna Clark (secondary and 6<sup>th</sup> form), Sarah Daley (Sixth form)

**Group D:** Pam Potter, Councillor Michelle Sweeney

**Main agenda items:** 1) Teaching and learning 2) Subject knowledge and good practice 3) Collective worship

Meeting 3: Autumn term 2021 – 15.12.21

**Group A:** Justine Kellett

**Group B:** Glenys Chalk

**Group C:** Catherine Hughes (Chair) (secondary), Anna Clark

**Group D:** Pam Potter, Cllr Michelle Sweeney, Cllr Bisi Osundeko

**Main agenda items:** 1) NASACRE updates 2) Teaching and learning 3) Collective worship

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions these took place via Teams.

## **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 £50 annually. This is below the below the mean SACRE budget of £11,000 as stated in the NASACRE funding report (May 2021).

## **iii) Links to other bodies**

Miss Catherine Hughes (Chair) – Member of NATRE, ATCRE and AREIAC, Liverpool Archdiocese

Mrs Anna Clark – Member of NATRE, and PSHE association

Miss Sarah Daley – Member of NATRE, ATCRE and ACVIC RE (chair), Liverpool Archdiocese

## **Section 7: Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda**

St Helens SACRE has contributed to the wider Local Authority agenda in the following ways:

- School Effectiveness Team (PP) – reference to RE, sequence of the syllabus and link to others subjects, discussion in reference to the quality of education

- Primary Head teacher meetings (GC)
- Liverpool Archdiocese meetings (JK)

### **Section 8: Summary**

St Helens SACRE is clear in its drive to improve the quality of RE and collective worship provision within St Helens. It will strive to work more collaborative with schools and to share the good practice already present within these schools. St Helens SACRE will build upon the links already made with the RE leads to continue to provide advice and guidance. St Helens SACRE will continue to develop key policies to support schools.

#### **Key priority 1: To use a range of methods to monitor standards and the quality of provision**

For example:

- Scrutinising inspection reports
- Collecting end of key stage data
- To continue to use the 'Headteachers Survey' to evaluate and monitor compliance with the AS
- Undertaking school visits to celebrate and share good practice

#### **Key priority 2: To develop a calendar of CPL events based on local needs and to start termly RE led meetings.**

For example:

- Worldview training – Humanism
- Sharing good practice on the AS

#### **Key priority 3: To continue to develop key policies to support schools**

For example:

- SMSC policy

#### **Key priority 4: To utilise the expertise within the SACRE group to support school locally**

For example:

- Advice and guidance during religious festivals
- Producing video clips of key religious stories
- To recruit further members of the faith community to the SACRE

### **Section 9: Membership**

**Chair:** Miss Catherine Hughes

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

Dr Usama Munir (Islam)

Maria Overend

Rabbi Ariel (Judaism)  
Jessica Abel Maden (Judaism)  
Mrs Justine Kellett (United Reform Church)

**Committee B: Church of England**

Mr David Thorpe  
Mr Iwan Williams  
Miss Glenys Chalk  
Rev Lynne Jackson

**Committee C: Teacher Associations**

Mrs Lisa Houghton  
Miss Anna Costello  
Miss Catherine Hughes  
Miss Sarah Daley

**Committee D: Local Authority**

Mrs Pamela Potter (Assistant Director of Education for St Helens)  
Cllr Dave Banks  
Cllr Anthony Burns  
Cllr Michelle Sweeney  
Cllr Michael Haw  
Cllr Bisi Osundeko

**Appendices**

**1) St Helens SACRE CONSTITUTION 2018**