



St. Helens Council

**St Helens SACRE
Annual Report 2023**

Section 1: Chair’s introduction and context

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Words from the Chair – Miss C Hughes

St Helens SACRE continues to become more effective in its organisation and management and continues its drive to improve and support Religious Education in St Helens. We have utilised the strengths of our faith representatives to lead staff CPD during Inter Faith week, this is something we want to build on. Each meeting has a clear focus with standard agenda items including the development plan. We have introduced a termly headteacher newsletter – SACRE spotlight. The purpose of this is to showcase the good RE that is happening in our schools but also to raise the profile of SACRE and to communicate any national issues and developments. We have also done work on the 2021 census to ensure our membership reflects the demographics of our local area, we are aware of the changing local society and to ensure our AS is relevant.

St Helens SACRE is also beginning to have a national voice through being on BBC Radio 4 Sunday programme and having a member on the NASACRE Executive board. This will help raise our profile and enable us to share the good practice that we are currently doing.

We continue to have a clear vision and will continue to strive to support excellent Religions Education for all our students in St Helens.

To complete this report, all members are invited to contribute and a headteacher survey is used.

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

Key priority 1: Determination policy to be produced and shared with all schools

Determination policy has been produced by St Helens SACRE and shared with all St Helens schools.

Key priority 2: To improve attendance and hold hybrid meetings

We have held the meetings hybrid and also changed the times to try to improve attendance at meetings. This is something we need to continue to work on next year. Next year we are looking at the timing of the meeting as well as putting the dates on the council website.

Key priority 3: To explore membership for other faiths and other educational providers

We have explored the membership of our SACRE to reflect our demographics. We have appointed a new member for group B (Church of England), group C (Teacher associations – from a ITT college). We have also started to make link for representative of group A (other faiths) for Hinduism and Humanism. We will also appoint a vice chair in the September 2023.

Section 2: RE

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

- There have been **RE lead meetings** run by the Chair. All meetings are an opportunity to share good practice, recent research, CPD opportunities and to focus on the AS. The minutes are shared with all members of SACRE and all RE leads in the borough.
- The Chair **shares resources** and CPD events to all RE leads when appropriate.
- For **Inter Faith week** – we lead a week long CPD event and provided resources for schools for collective worship. Each day focused on a different worldview, the CPD matched that evening. Various faith representative from St Helens SACRE lead the CPD which all schools were invited to attend.
- St Helens SACRE conducted a **student voice survey**. 8 primary schools and 1 secondary school took part. This was positive and questions linked to a national survey for comparison. This is something we are looking to develop next year.
- One secondary school took part in a **parent survey** as part of a research project lead by the chair. This was extremely positive and shared with all SACRE members.
- There is only 1 withdrawal from RE
- **OFSTED reports monitored** for links to Religious Education (see appendix)

Actions for 23/24 – a) To hold an Agreed Syllabus Conference b) To continue to monitor OFSTED reports linked to religious Education c) 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**
- Produced and shared a **determination policy** for all schools
- **Faith representatives from St Helens SACRE led specific CPD** for interfaith week which all schools were invited to attend
- No determinations were applied for
- There were 0 withdrawals from collective worship
- **OFSTED reports monitor** for links to Collective Worship (see appendix)

Actions for 23/24 – a) To continue to monitor OFSTED reports linked to collective worship

b) To monitor schools websites for links to collective worship

Section 4: Links to other bodies

Miss Catherine Hughes (Chair) – 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

Mr David Thorpe – Liverpool Diocese

Mrs Justine Kellet – NAHT, PASH

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

Section 5: SACRE and local involvement

- St Helens SACRE provided resources to all schools for Holocaust Memorial Day
- St Helens SACRE provided resources to all schools for Interfaith week and opportunities for staff CPD
- Headteacher newsletter to all schools biannually – SACRE Spotlight
- Local councillor members are also governors to local schools

Miss Catherine Hughes (Chair) –Culham St Gabriel Leadership stage 2 programme completed, was a guest on BBC Radio Sunday programme on teaching RE and the recruitment crisis, nominated and successful in becoming NASACRE executive member, attended NASACRE meeting, helped lead ‘new to SACRE’ NASACRE training.

Mr Michael Ashton – shared the work of SACRE at the AULRE May conference, worked with 10 schools on RE and specific twilight sessions on Judaism, work with primary schools on collective worship.

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. Depending upon the school needs - the curriculum and the delivery of the RE can feature as one of the foundation subjects. This can involve learning walks, work scrutiny and pupil voice. RE has been featured in this process over the last 12 months. 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. Provided CPD for a secondary school in St Helens on their curriculum

Section 6: Management of SACRE

i) Meetings

SACRE meets once a term via teams:

Meeting 1: Autumn Term (12th Oct 22)

Group A: Catherine Hughes (Secondary) (Chair), Justine Kellet, Judith Prinsley,

Group B: Glenys Chalk

Group C: Anna Clark (secondary and 6th form), Sarah Daley (6th form)

Group D: Pam Potter, Cllr Bisi Osundeko

Main agenda items: 1) NASACRE Updates 2) Teaching and learning 3) Collective Worship 4) SACRE training 5) OFSTED updates / reports

Meeting 2: Spring Term (8th March 23)

Group A: Catherine Hughes (Secondary) (Chair), Judith Prinsley

Group B:

Group C: Michael Ashton (University, ITT), Anna Clark (secondary and 6th form), Lisa Houghton (Primary), Rebecca Eiffe-Harvey

Group D: Pam Potter, Cllr Bisi Osundeko

Main agenda items: 1) NASACRE Updates 2) Teaching and learning 3) Collective Worship 4) SACRE training 5) OFSTED updates / reports

Meeting 3: Summer Term (28th June 23)

Group A: Catherine Hughes (Secondary) (Chair), Judith Prinsley

Group B: Glenys Chalk, Karen Whitehead

Group C: Michael Ashton (University, ITT)

Group D: Pam Potter

Main agenda items: 1) NASACRE Updates 2) Teaching and learning 3) Collective Worship 4) SACRE training 5) OFSTED updates / reports

Action for 22/23 – Meetings to be hybrid

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) Committees

Chair: Miss Catherine Hughes

Committee A: Christian denominations and other faiths

Dr Usama Munir (Islam)

Maria Overend

Judith Prinsley (Judaism)

Mrs Justine Kellett (United Reform Church)

Mrs Samantha Forbes

Ariel Abel

Committee B: Church of England

Mr David Thorpe

Mr Iwan Williams

Miss Glenys Chalk

Rev Lynne Jackson

Mrs Karen Whitehead

Committee C: Teacher Associations

Mrs Lisa Houghton

Mrs Anna Clark

Miss Catherine Hughes

Miss Sarah Daley

Miss Rebecca Eiffe-Harvey

Mr Michael Ashton

Committee D: Local Authority

Mrs Pamela Potter (Local Authority Consultant)

Cllr Dave Banks

Cllr Anthony Burns

Cllr Michelle Sweeney

Cllr Michael Haw

Cllr Bisi Osundeko

Cllr Susan Murphy

Action for 22/23 – To explore membership for other faiths and other educational providers

Section 7: Appendices

- Table of GCSE results / A Level Results
- St Helens Determination policy
- St Helens SACRE Development plan 23-24
- OFSTED monitoring 22-23

Appendices

St Helens GCSE results 2023

Table 1: 2023/2023 Academic Year Provisional GCSE Full Course Religious Studies grade outcomes by school

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Centre	Entry Profile			Number			Percentage		
	Number of Pupils in Y11	Number of Exam Entries	% Pupils Entered	9-5	9-4	9-1	% 9-5	% 9-4	% 9-1
School A	245	0	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-
School B	234	220	94%	94	120	214	43%	55%	97%
School C	239	226	95%	118	146	215	52%	65%	95%
School D	142	10	7%	4	4	10	40%	40%	100%
School E	288	121	42%	86	104	120	71%	86%	99%
School F	294	36	12%	19	26	35	53%	72%	97%
School G	122	101	83%	18	28	86	18%	28%	85%
School H	179	175	98%	38	60	156	22%	34%	89%
School I	207	15	7%	12	13	13	80%	87%	87%
St Helens LA Mainstream	1950	904	46%	389	501	849	43%	55%	94%

The exact exam boards used in 2023 and the number of entries in St Helens are shown below for information:

QAN	Qualification Title	2023 Entries
60184000	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies Specification A	357
60184012	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies Specification B	100
60188790	WJEC Eduqas Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies	176
60300632	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies B	50
60300796	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies A	221

St Helens SACRE Determination Policy – 2023

Introduction

The law requires all schools that do not have a religious foundation to provide "a daily act of collective worship" for all pupils in the school, other than those withdrawn at the request of their parents.

Where a headteacher considers that the requirement to provide worship that is wholly or predominately Christian could conflict with the requirement to provide worship that accords with the family backgrounds of pupils, schools can apply for a determination to lift or modify the requirement.

Maintained schools should apply to St Helens SACRE and academies should apply through the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Before requesting a determination, a headteacher must consult the school's governing board, who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. The headteacher's application may relate either to a clearly described and defined group or to the whole school.

Process

Any LA school seeking to apply for a determination should complete the attached form and send it with the required accompanying documents to the email address provided, for consideration by SACRE. Completed applications should be with the SACRE Clerk at least SIX weeks before the SACRE meeting that will consider the application. Southampton SACRE meets at least once a term and so the determination discussion and decisions will be taken to the next available meeting. SACRE will seek to respond within 3 weeks of that meeting. The response will either be to grant or deny the application for a determination or may request further information. Schools are strongly advised to have consulted with SACRE's professional adviser in advance of making an application.

Application

Applications for a determination can only be made by the head teacher of the school. If a school is considering making an application the head teacher must consult the school's governing body, who in turn should seek the views of all parents. It is advised that this consultation is undertaken with the involvement of SACRE professional adviser.

In order to apply for a determination, the Headteacher should consult with governors, parents, and staff, all of whom will need the following information to guide their decisions:

- A statement from the school as to why the 'wholly or mainly broadly Christian character' of Collective Worship is not appropriate (for all or part of the school)

- What is known about the heritage and background of pupils at the school
- Clear information about what the alternative form of collective worship would be and to whom it will apply
- The number of withdrawals from broadly Christian acts of Collective Worship
- The school's current policy on Collective Worship, and how parents from all backgrounds were engaged in drawing up the policy
- Any other information that the Headteacher considers may be appropriate to supporting the application, e.g. relevant paragraphs from the school's OFSTED report
- Governors and parents should also be given the opportunity to see collective worship in the school, should they wish.
- Governors must vote at a meeting of the full governing body. Parents and teachers should be given the opportunity to vote in a secret ballot.

This evidence to be shared with St Helens SACRE to enable a decision to be made.

How a decision will be made

Once the application and accompanying documentation has been received by the SACRE, an agreed representative group of SACRE members will hold a preliminary meeting before the next SACRE. This group will be convened as required by the professional adviser to SACRE and consist of a representative of each of SACRE group + one co-opted member + SACRE Professional Adviser(s). If there is insufficient time to convene this group before the next SACRE meeting, then a recommendation regarding the determination will be put before the following SACRE meeting as a confidential item.

Information about new arrangements for Collective Worship in the school should be published in the school prospectus. This information should also be made available to Ofsted.

SACRE must review its determination if the school so requests and, in any event, within five years of the date when the determination was made or last reviewed.

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 explore style / timing of meetings</p> <p>To encourage active participation from all members of SACRE</p> <p>To ensure SACRE dates are published on St Helens Council website</p>	Ongoing throughout the year	<p>Minutes of meetings</p> <p>Website screenshots</p>	Chair		Chair	
<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 being</i></p>	<p>Members attend NASACRE conference / training</p> <p>To begin to establish a St Helens Youth SACRE</p>	<p>Summer term</p> <p>Ongoing throughout the year</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings</p> <p>Minutes of meetings, headteacher letters</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p>	<p>Annual membership</p> <p>£500 – transport, copying etc</p>	Chair	

Success criteria	Actions	Timescale	Evidence	Responsibility	Cost	Monitoring	Impact
<i>of all children</i>							

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	
2e) Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools	To meet with RE leads in academies at least once	Term 1	Minutes / agenda / resources / feedback from meeting	CHS / 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 <i>Linking to the LA strand of attendance and the right of all students to have the best quality education</i>	To begin to review the current agreed syllabus (AS) To explore teacher views on the AS 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	

Notes: Chair – Miss Catherine Hughes PP – Mrs Pamela Potter RE – Religious Education CW – Collective Worship

St Helens SACRE – OFSTED Report’s 2022-23

In 2022 – 23, **19 schools / educational establishments** 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:

Merton Bank (Nov 22)

Pupils are welcoming towards visitors, but some pupils lack sufficient awareness of people with different backgrounds, religions and families. This hinders their readiness for life in modern Britain.

Queen's Park CofE/Urc Primary School (Jan 23)

Leaders encourage pupils to act as courageous advocates in school. Pupils develop as active citizens through their work with international schools.

Leaders have constructed a comprehensive curriculum to support pupils’ personal development. For example, pupils learn about different families, world religions and how to keep themselves healthy. This prepares them well to take their place in modern Britain.

St Helens College (February 23)

Teachers routinely model and promote fundamental British values and equality and diversity effectively in their lessons.

Eaves Primary School (February 23)

Pupils show respect towards each other. There is an understanding of the importance of being tolerant of people’s differences.

Pupils learn about diversity and celebrate different cultures and societies. They speak about the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect.

Carr Mill Primary School (March 23)

Leaders enliven the curriculum and broaden pupils’ horizons. Year 6 pupils enjoy their annual London excursion, where they visit London landmarks including Westminster Abby. Pupils learn about, and develop a strong appreciation of, cultural and religious diversity.

De La Salle School (June 23)

Pupils learn about different faiths and religions. This helps them to develop an understanding and respect for those who might have different beliefs from their own.