



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockport Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education  
(SACRE)

Annual Report 2022-2023

# Table of contents

## **Section One:** *Introduction and the Work of Stockport SACRE*

- Words from the Chair
- Overview
- Dates and Content of Meetings
- Priorities for 2022-2023
- Dates for 2023-2024

## **Section Two:** *Statutory Responsibilities: Religious Education*

- Locally Agreed Syllabus
- Standards and Monitoring
- Professional Development and Support

## **Section Three:** *Statutory Responsibilities: Collective Worship*

- Standards and Monitoring
- Complaints and Determinations

## **Section Four:** *Links with Other Organisations*

## **Section Five:** *Stockport SACRE Arrangements*

## **SECTION ONE: Introduction and the Work of SACRE**

### **Words from the Chair of Stockport SACRE**

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Stockport SACRE for 2022/23. We have continued to provide support to schools, RE subject leaders and teachers throughout Stockport in our efforts to ensure that all children and young people in Stockport receive a quality religious education.

This year we have welcomed new members to our SACRE and are committed to further increasing our diversity and representation through 2023-2024.

Stockport SACRE has continued to strengthen links with schools through offering professional development, support, and advice, through the two RE Agreed Syllabus launch events led by RE Today, and the Stockport Subject Leader Networks, facilitated by Jo Gill, a teacher and member of Stockport SACRE.

The SACRE is committed to ensuring the RE Syllabus 2022-2027 is implemented effectively and supports our children and young people to:

- Develop an understanding of religions and world views, and enable them to develop their own ideas, values, and identities.
- Articulate their personal beliefs and values and respect the rights of others to differ.
- Seek to understand others and develop empathy.
- Think about big questions in life and support them to express ideas.

I would like to thank all members of Stockport SACRE for their commitment and to Stockport LA for their continued support. RE is a vital subject for children and for society, and we look forward to further championing the subject in the forthcoming year.

Chris Gordon

Chair of Stockport SACRE

## **Overview**

Stockport SACRE prepares this annual report. SACRE as a body is required to advise the Local Authority on matters relating to Religious Education and Collective Worship. This report provides a summary of the support offered for Religious Education and Collective Worship during 2022-2023. The report is a public document which is also sent to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Department for Education (DfE). For further information on the report or on RE and Collective Worship in Stockport, contact Stockport LA Officer to SACRE, Tracy Higgins at [tracy.higgins@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.higgins@stockport.gov.uk)

## **Dates and Content of Meetings**

The Stockport SACRE has met once a term to progress its work and monitored its work against priorities. All meetings were hybrid and took place in venues that accommodated joining online through Microsoft Teams. The standing items for Stockport SACRE meetings include:

- Welcome and apologies.
- Approval of minutes of previous meeting
- Matters Arising
- Stockport schools' updates on the RE Agreed Syllabus 2022-2027
- National updates relating to education and RE
- Training Opportunities
- SACRE Projects, including progress on recruiting new SACRE members to increase diversity.
- AOB and Dates of future meetings

### *SACRE Meetings took place on:*

- 14 June 2022
- 15 November 2022
- 14 March 2023
- 17 June 2023

## **Priorities for 2022-2023**

In addition to considering RE and collective worship across Stockport, SACRE discussed the following areas at its meetings during the year:

- The implementation of the new RE Locally Agreed Syllabus
- Professional development implications and opportunities for subject leaders and teachers
- Improving representation on SACRE from the groups under-represented
- Reviewing the role of SACRE and the Stockport SACRE Constitution

## **Dates for 2023-2024**

- 7 November 2023
- 27 February 2024
- 17 June 2024

## **SECTION TWO: Statutory Responsibilities: Religious Education**

### **The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

The Stockport SACRE Locally Agreed Syllabus has been revised and relaunched through 2021-2022. Stockport and four other Greater Manchester Local Authorities, Manchester, Salford, Tameside, and Trafford share this new syllabus. The RE Agreed Syllabus was produced by RE Today Services and was selected as it enables children to gain a deep knowledge of religions and worldviews, and reinforces the importance of religious education, as well as supporting the understanding of concepts, skills, and attitudes that support children and young people to explore wider issues of religion and beliefs with religious literacy.

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. It explores aspects of British values in relation to religions and world views. The new RE Agreed Syllabus has been updated in light of educational developments, and includes:

- An EYFS section that reflects the revised Early Learning Goals
- A SEND section reflecting an RE application of the new 'engagement model' for pupils with special educational needs.
- Reworked medium term plans to align them to the Ofsted priorities of intent, implementation, and impact.
- A section which outlines how the RE Agreed Syllabus potential in relation to cultural capital.
- A supplement on progression in learning and using key vocabulary and concepts: believing, expressing, and living.
- A revised section on achievement, assessment, and progress.
- New materials, including units on anti-racism, and optional additional units for KS2 and KS3 on topics, such as climate change and justice with a focus on religious teaching and practice around environmental issues.
- Guidance on actively promoting values, including British Values.

### **Standards and Monitoring**

This year the focus of the SACRE has been supporting schools to implement the new RE Agreed Syllabus 2022-2027. The SACRE plans to monitor the impact of the syllabus through 2023-2024.

### **Examination Results**

A NATRE (National Association of the Teachers of RE) report highlights that the removal of the short course from the performance tables has vastly reduced the number of pupils leaving school with a qualification in Religious Studies. In many schools, the removal of the short course has coincided with an increase in schools reporting in the school workforce data that RE is not taught in Year 11. In Stockport in 2023, 21.05% of students in Y11 took GCSE RE. However, the percentage of pupils taking RE at GCSE in Stockport secondary schools varies from 4.44% to 98.08%. In all Catholic High Schools more than 90% of pupils

took RE at GCSE. Overall, 69% of pupils achieved a 9-4 grade compared to 71% nationally, and 57% a 9-5 grade, compared to 60% nationally.

GCSE Results: Religious Studies									
Geographical	Region Name	LA	Version	Establishment Type	Qualification Type	Subject	Grade	Number Achieving	Percentage Achieving
National			Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 1	204822	98%
National			Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 4	148855	71%
National			Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 5	125468	60%
National			Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	Total Pupil Entries	209670	
Regional	North West		Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 1	34455	97%
Regional	North West		Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 4	23396	66%
Regional	North West		Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 5	19239	54%
Regional	North West		Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	Total Pupil Entries	35533	
Local Authority	North West	Stockport	Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 1	639	97%
Local Authority	North West	Stockport	Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 4	451	69%
Local Authority	North West	Stockport	Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	9 to 5	374	57%
Local Authority	North West	Stockport	Revised	State-funded School (LA)	GCSE	Religious Studies	Total Pupil Entries	656	

### ***Professional Development and Support***

The five Greater Manchester Local Authorities organised two RE Agreed Syllabus Launch Events, facilitated by Lat Blaylock and attended by more than three hundred senior and subject leaders. These events were organised by the five Greater Manchester SACRE Officers, and attended by Stockport SACRE members, including the Chair. Feedback was positive with leaders saying how the training has supported effective implementation of the new RE Agreed Syllabus.

The RE Agreed Syllabus Launch Events took place on:

- Thursday 10 February 2022 at The Village Hotel, Ashton-Under-Lyne
- Thursday 17 March 2022 at Manchester Central

The aims of the RE Agreed Syllabus launch events were to:

- Understand the structure of the RE Agreed Syllabus and legal and planning requirements.
- Ensure all participants have a good understanding of high quality RE and how to plan for effective implementation of the new RE Agreed Syllabus.
- Explore examples of quality curriculum in RE using the RE Agreed Syllabus.
- Develop an understanding of how to use the RE Agreed Syllabus to raise the status and standards of RE.

These two training events were followed up with an additional shorter 'briefing' which was held at Dukinfield Town Hall on 28th 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.

## SECTION THREE: Statutory Responsibilities: Collective Worship

### **Standards and Monitoring**

It is the responsibility of SACRE to monitor schools' statutory responsibility to hold Collective Worship. Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship has not been a priority through 2022-2023. However, the SACRE plans to review the quality of Collective Worship across Stockport schools through conducting good practice visits through 2023-2025.

### **Complaints and Determinations**

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Guidance on good practice and protocols for withdrawal are made available to schools. SACRE recognises parents' legal right to withdraw but would like to see all children and young people have access to rich and stimulating Collective Worship.

No complaints were made to SACRE during the year about Collective Worship. There were no requests for a determination to vary statutory requirements. The Stockport SACRE Determinations Policy is to be updated in line with NASACRE guidance and approved in 2024.

## SECTION FOUR: Links with other organisations

### **NASACRE and AREIAC**

Stockport SACRE has links with NASACRE, which supports all local SACRE'S to conduct their function effectively, by providing training and events through the year. The LA Officer is a member of The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) which is an organisation for specialist educationalists, including all qualified teachers, who provide advice, leadership, training, and support for multi-faith religious education in schools and colleges. AREIAC regional groups meet termly to discuss national issues regarding religious education and share and develop resources. The LA Officer disseminates relevant information to the SACRE.

### **Other Stockport SACRE Links**

Stockport SACRE works closely with the four Greater Manchester SACREs that share the same RE Agreed Syllabus, Tameside, Trafford, Manchester, and Salford. The Chair of SACRE sits on the Chester Diocese Board of Education, and members have links with Stockport Disability Forum and Stockport's Ethnic Diversity Service.

## SECTION FIVE: Stockport SACRE Arrangements

### **Professional and Administrative Support**

Stockport SACRE meets every term through the academic year to discuss the work taking place in Stockport schools and how the SACRE can support the Religious Education across the borough. The Local Authority Officer, Chair and Stockport's Business Support work together to ensure the members of SACRE are provided with the appropriate updates and reports for those meetings. This includes updates from NASACRE, AREIAC and other faith

education associations, and Religious Education and World Views networking sessions for teachers. A member of Stockport SACRE organises and facilitates the RE Network for RE Subject Leads across Stockport and provides the SACRE with National updates in meetings. In addition, members have attended the RE Networks to gain a deeper understanding of the implementation and impact of the RE Agreed Syllabus.

### **Membership, Representation & Recruitment**

Stockport SACRE work hard to recruit members to represent the diversity across Stockport, and ensure membership aligns with the SACRE constitution. There is representation from Islam, Judaism, Quakers, Church of England, Methodist, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Baha'i Faith, and Humanists. There is a full complement of Council Officers and education representatives. There are vacancies and during 2023-2024, Stockport SACRE will continue to proactively recruit members from faith groups not currently represented. The SACRE received no independent funding but Stockport Local Authority fund business support for meetings, the LA Officer's support, and the membership fees for NASACRE and AREIAC.

Increasing membership and the diversity of the membership remains a priority for 2023-2024.

This Stockport SACRE Annual Report will be circulated to the following groups:

- SACRE members
- Director of Education
- NASACRE
- Department for Education