



# **Wigan Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**Annual report  
2024**

## **Wigan SACRE – 2024**

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## **Section 1 – Forward from the Chair of SACRE**

### **Forward From the Chair**

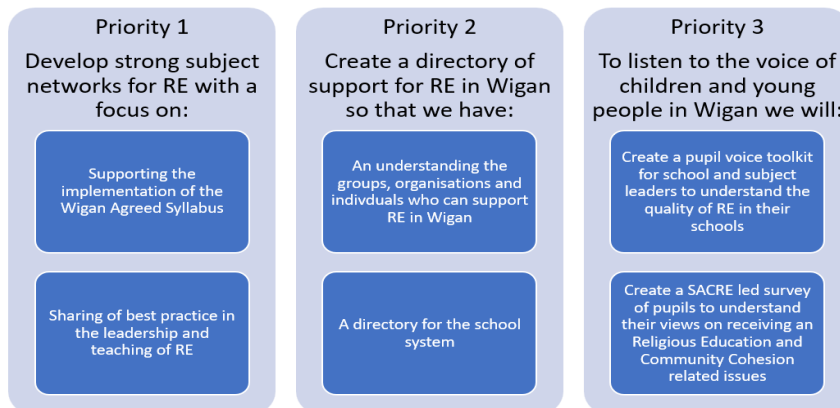
Welcome to the Annual Report of the Wigan Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. May I thank all our SACRE Members including co-opted partners, stakeholders and supporters for your ongoing service, commitment, and dedication throughout this year. As I reflect on everything that has transpired on our SACRE journey during this period, I'm indebted, gratified and so thankful for all the excellent advice encouragement and support received from our incredibly committed and hard-working membership and wider co-opted team. I'm amazed at the high degree of expertise and quality skill set demonstrated by our membership in the service of our SACRE. Your hard work and efforts significantly benefit our network of community schools right across this Authority.

May I also take this opportunity on behalf of our membership and myself in acknowledging grateful thanks to Wigan LA for the way in which they have constantly offered advice, encouragement and support to the work of SACRE this year. In particular may I thank Emlyn Wright, Service Lead Standards and Learning together with Sarah Arnold, Education Support & School Improvement Coordinator both at Wigan LA for their wise counsel and guidance. A huge thank you as well to our SACRE Clerk, Charlotte Farnworth who keeps a great super-efficient handle on the management protocols and procedures at our meetings and associated paperwork which goes with this territory.

Our SACRE is rapidly transforming into a proactive 'Beacon of Hope' body. We aim to be advocates of ambitious best practice RE, collective worship as well as ensuring these objectives also contributes to school community social cohesion initiatives.

As we move into another year of challenging times, I'm completely confident Wigan SACRE will continue to serve our community well in respect of its networks of schools, stakeholders and partners to the benefit of children, students and young people.

The Wigan SACRE knows itself well. We have used the NASACRE self-evaluation toolkit to understand where we are and to help us prioritise our activity in 2024 into those areas that will make the biggest difference to RE Education in our Borough. The Wigan SACRE development plan has three strategic our priorities for 2024, alongside operational activity to drive these priorities. Our priorities are:



David B Levien.

SACRE Chair. March 2025.

## **Section 2 – Religious Education**

In September 2023 Wigan SACRE board voted to adopt the Lancashire County Council agreed Syllabus. Our Agreed syllabus is available to schools digitally via Lancashire County Council's platform.

Wigan SACRE has supported the RE provision by the following activities: •

- SACRE schools receive a copy of the Lancashire Newsletter direct which includes links to events and other CPD opportunities.
- The SACRE is represented at the Lancashire Northwest group by the Chair.
- Resources and CPD events are shared to all RE leads when appropriate.
- OFSTED reports monitored for links to Religious Education
- A syllabus overview and contact details have been shared with all academies with some opting to adopt the syllabus.
- Local Authority funded the cost of the syllabus to all SACRE schools.
- Details of the new Lancashire's Syllabus was shared with all academy settings for their consideration.
- SACRE survey was sent out to SACRE schools to inform development plan

Questionnaire overview:

- In 2024 within our SACRE schools, 3 requests for withdrawal were received, along with one request that was for an individual workshop session.
- Several settings state they have an example of good practice they are happy to share.
- Settings inspected by Ofsted; none had RE as a selected subject.
- All SACRE settings have graded the quality of RE Good or better.

## **Section 3: Collective Worship**

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 compliance.
- No determinations were applied for
- There were 8 withdrawals from collective worship across 3 settings.
- There have been no complaints about collective worship.

## **Section 4: Wigan SACRE Arrangements**

### **Membership of Wigan SACRE in 2024**

Committee A - Christian Denominations, other World Religions and Non-Religious Views

Committee B - Church of England

Committee C Teacher Associations

Committee D Local Authority

**Co-opted Members**

Professor Geoff Baker

The SACRE have met 3 times in this year on the following dates:

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

**Section 5: Links with Other Bodies**

Wigan SACRE remains a member of NASACRE. Some members attended the annual SACRE conference in 2024 and reported back to the full SACRE following this event. Resources from the NASACRE website have also been utilised by the board.

Our SACRE Chair also attends a Northwest Group for SACRE Chairs and Advisors that meets in Preston on a termly basis.

The board received a presentation and information from GMCA Faith Network in May 2024.

Board Member are also members of:

Other Memberships
Member on Committee C as a representative of the Community Union, Education and Faiths Branch Sections
Member on the Lancashire North West Hub representing both Wigan and Salford SACRE Bodies
Muslim representative at Salford SACRE
Muslim Learner Services ( <a href="http://www.muslimlearnerservices.org">www.muslimlearnerservices.org</a> ), an organisation that supports schools and colleges with the Teaching and Learning of Islam.
Jewish representative of Salford SACRE
Other interfaith involvement