



**Wirral SACRE
Annual Report 2025**

Section 1: Chair’s introduction and context

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Words from the Chair – Miss C Hughes

Wirral SACRE has not been in existence for several years for various reasons. As an NASACRE Executive member based in the North West, I offered my support to the Education Director of Wirral Council. In July 2025, myself and Assistant Director of Education (interim), met to discuss setting up and re-establishing the SACRE for Wirral Council.

From September 2025, the focus of the SACRE has been to organise the membership. Our first meeting was to explore who might be interested in becoming a member and setting out the focus. Our focus is to support teachers teaching RE with their subject knowledge. We are clear that re-establishing a purposeful SACRE that fully supports students, will take time and is a huge task.

To obtain a ‘bigger picture’ on RE on the Wirral, we sent out a survey to all educational establishments, even though not all schools are under the remit of this SACRE. It was crucial we had a clear and honest starting point. The survey looked to find out the following key information:

- Who is the RE lead
- What syllabus is being used
- Complaints and withdrawals from RE
- Complaints and withdrawals from Collective Worship

Over 100 schools completed the survey. This information has been insightful and will help the new established SACRE focus on key areas and moving forward.

We have a clear vision of what is needed moving forward and we are confident we can support and strive to support excellent Religions Education for all our students on the Wirral.

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

Key priority 1: To explore membership for other faiths and other educational providers

Key priority 2: To support staff teaching RE in their knowledge and understanding of RE through resources / CPD

Key priority 3: To ensure key documentation is in place (Determination policy, constitution etc)

Section 2: RE

Wirral SACRE has begun to re-engage with schools. We have done this by sending out a **survey** to all schools to find out key information as previously discussed. One piece of information acquired was the names and emails of RE leads. This will be used for communication, sharing resources and allowing staff to contact the chair / SACRE for individual support.

Wirral SACRE also produced **Remembrance Day resources** to be used in RE lessons / collective worship. This was sent to all educational establishments on the Wirral.

On the Wirral, 3 schools have the **RE quality mark**:

Riverside Primary School – Gold 2021 and 2024

Thingwall Primary School – Gold 2022

Liscard Primary School – Gold 2022

On the Wirral there have been 83 **withdrawals** from RE from 22 schools.

There have been 16 **complaints** about RE from 8 schools. 4 schools have both at least 1 withdrawal and a complaint.

The Survey found that the **Agreed Syllabus** is being used by many schools as well as other resources depending on the nature of the school.

OFSTED reports are read to see whether RE / Collective Worship is highlighted. Since September 2025, this has occurred in 1 OFSTED report.

Actions for 25/26 – a) To develop worthwhile links with RE leads b) To provide support around the issue of withdrawals and complaints c) To provide CPD / resources for schools

Section 3: Collective Worship

Wirral SACRE has completed the following activities in relation to collective worship:

- Produced borough wide resources to use within lessons and collective worship for **Remembrance Day**
- Produced a **determination policy** for all schools that is awaiting formal approval from SACRE and the legal team at the council
- No **determinations** were applied for
- There were 43 **withdrawals** from collective worship from 17 schools
- There were 5 **complaints** about collective worship from 4 schools. 3 schools had both at least 1 withdrawal and a complaint. 4 schools have had complaints / withdrawals in both RE and Collective Worship

Actions for 25/26 – a) To support schools in relation to withdrawals and complaints b) To provide resources and CPD focusing on collective worship

Section 4: Links to other bodies

Miss Catherine Hughes (Chair) – NASACRE executive member

Miss Sarah Fleming – NEU, NATRE, ACT

Mr Michael Brassington – Humanist UK

Mrs Danielle Evans – NAHT

Mrs Vida Wilson – Wirral LEA Councillor

Mrs Joy Schmack – NEU, NALRE

Section 5: SACRE and local involvement

- Wirral SACRE provided resources to all schools for Remembrance Day

Miss Catherine Hughes (Chair) – NASACRE executive member, attended NASACRE meetings, helped lead various NASACRE online training sessions.

Mr Michael Brassington – Humanist educational meetings

Mrs Danielle Evans – School governor, LTRE network meetings, Farmington Scholarship

Mrs Joy Schmack – School governor, LTRE network meetings, Farmington Scholarship

Section 6: Management of SACRE

i) Meetings

Meeting 1: Autumn Term - Meeting of interest (Sept 2025)

Group A: Richard Dodd, Michael Brassington

Group B: Rev Chris Turner

Group C: Catherine Hughes (Secondary / AP) (Chair), Julie Swaby (Primary)

Group D: Mark Bellamy (LA rep), Cllr Stephen Bennett, Cllr Vida Wilson, Cllr Chris Cooke, Cllr Chris Carubia

Main agenda items: 1) Welcome and introductions 2) Constitution 3) Membership 4) Purpose and year ahead

Meeting 2: Autumn Term (Nov 2025)

Group A: Richard Dodd, Michael Brassington

Group B:

Group C: Catherine Hughes (Secondary/AP) (Chair), Julie Swaby (Primary), Joy Schmack (Further Ed), Sarah Fleming (Secondary)

Group D: Mark Bellamy, Cllr Tony Murphy

Main agenda items: 1) Constitution 2) Membership 3) Teaching and Learning 4) Collective Worship 5) Annual Report 6) Updates

This meeting was not quorate.

ii) Budget

Wirral SACRE does not receive a formal budget as of yet. Although Wirral Council has subscribed to NASACRE. This is below the mean SACRE budget of £11,000 as stated in the NASACRE funding report (May 2021).

iii) Committees

Chair: Miss Catherine Hughes

Vice Chair: To be elected

Clerk: To be arranged

Committee A: Christian denominations and other faiths

Richard Dodd (Evangelical)

Aakhila (Islam)

Michael Brassington (Humanist)

Committee B: Church of England

Rev Chris Turner

Rev Ronald Iveson

Committee C: Teacher Associations

Sarah Fleming

Holly Martin

Gemma Crosthwaite
Julie Swaby
Keren Elson
Danielle Evans
Nicky Turner
Joy Schmack

Committee D: Local Authority

Cllr. Tony Murphy (Cllr Stephen Bennett as reserve)
Cllr. Vida Wilson
Cllr. Chris Cooke
Cllr. Chris Carubia
Mr Mark Bellamy – Assistant Director of Education Wirral Council (Interim)

Action for 25/26 – To explore membership for both Group A and Group B

Section 7: Appendices

- Table of GCSE results / A Level Results
- OFSTED Reports

Appendices
GCSE and A Level Results 2025

GCSE Results

KS4 Religious Studies			
	Grade		
	9 to 1	9 to 4	9 to 5
Number Achieving	1332	936	778
Percentage Achieving	97	68	57

Religious Studies											
School	Grade										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U	X
1	1		5	1	4	4	3		2		
2	1	1	3	2	5	5	2	3			
3			2	2	3	3	7	1	1		
4		1	1	3	8	20	14	9	3		
5	1	1	11	5	4	1		1	1		
6		3	3	5	6	2	1		1		
7				1	2	5	3	2	3		
8		2	2	3	4	1	1	2			
9		3	2	1	5	4	5		1		
10		2	4			1	1			1	
11	1	1	15	18	28	36	35	15	7		
12	31	39	46	33	26	23	12	6	6	14	3
13	30	25	30	17	29	15	13	7	1	10	3
14	3	2	4	1	4						
15	1	1	5	20	26	31	21	19	27		
16	1				6	1	1	2			
17		1	1	1	4	17	11	17	11		
18		1	4	4	5	3	6	4	2		
19		1	2	1	5	7	14	28	11		
20	22	36	45	42	37	41	13	4	2	9	2
Total	92	120	185	160	211	220	163	120	79	34	8

A Level Results

KS5 Religious Studies (A Level)								
Grade								
A*	A	B	C	D	A*-A %	A*-B %	A*-C %	A*-D %
6	23	33	30	13	25.4	54.4	80.7	92.1

Wirral OFSTED Reports 2025-26

Since September 2025, 3 educational establishments have had their OFSTED reports published following a recent inspection.

The following had comments relating to RE / Collective Worship:

Woodchurch High School – September 2025

“Pupils learn about and respect diversity. They engage respectfully with others who have different beliefs.”