



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of**  
**Cheshire East Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**September 2021 – August 2022**

**Celebrating Religious Education in Cheshire East**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
	Words from the Chair of Cheshire East SACRE	3
1:1	Overview of the academic year September 2020-2021	4
1:2	Overview of full SACRE meetings	5
1:3	Overview of the ASC meetings	5
<b>2</b>	<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Statutory Responsibilities</b>	
2.1	<b>Locally Agreed RE Syllabus:</b> Engaging Encounter & Reasoned Response	6
2:2	Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus	6
2.3	Agreed Syllabus Conference and Review working parties	8
2.4	<b>Teaching Methods, Advice, Advice, and Training</b>	
2.4.1	Advice Support and Inset Training for Teachers	9
2.4.1	<i>Primary Schools</i>	
2.4.2	Cheshire East Primary School Networks/hub development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials</li> <li>• Understanding Christianity</li> <li>• Additional Support &amp; Contact with schools</li> </ul>	
2.4.3	<i>Secondary schools</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheshire East Secondary School Networks</li> <li>• Additional Support &amp; Contact with schools</li> </ul>	11
2.4.4	REQM Awards	12
2.4.5	Complaints concerning Religious Education	12
2.4.6	Withdrawals	12
2.4.7	Advice to the local authority	12
<b>3</b>	<b>COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - Statutory Responsibilities</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1	Standards and Monitoring Collective Worship	
3.2	Determinations	
3.3	Teacher Training, Advice, and Monitoring Collective Worship	
3.4	Complaints	
<b>4</b>	<b>LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES</b>	<b>14</b>
4.1	National and International	
4.2	Local and regional	
<b>5</b>	<b>CHESHIRE EAST SACRE: STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITES</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1	Professional and administrative support	
5.2	Membership, Representation and Recruitment	
<b>7</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>	
Appendix A	Examination Statistics	16
Appendix B	LA Publications	17
Appendix C	SACRE Development Plan	17
Appendix D	SACRE Statutory Functions	18
Appendix E	Distribution of the annual report	18
Appendix F	Membership of the Cheshire East SACRE – 2021/22	19

This is the annual report for Cheshire East SACRE covering the academic period **from September 2021 to August 2022.**

A full online SACRE meeting was held via Microsoft Teams in November 2021, followed by another online SACRE meeting in March 2022. The first in person SACRE meeting was combined with the launch of the Agreed Syllabus in July 2022. The RE Consultants, LA Officers and SACRE members have continued to find innovative and supportive ways of reaching schools despite teacher, and pupil absences. We are indebted to them for their commitment and enthusiasm.

As time was saved on travel across our vast and largely rural areas, more teachers continued to access the first two network meetings online. Resources have been made available online and new social media platforms have ensured ongoing CPD.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference which had been convened in 2020 continued both online and in person. The ASC has met termly online following the full SACRE meetings with work delegated to the RE Consultants and a small group working party of teachers who met in person at Monks Coppenthal Academy throughout the academic year. We are very grateful to the academy for their support in providing a room and refreshments to assist in the publishing of this new agreed syllabus. The new syllabus was launched in July 2022 at Eaton Bank Academy with a variety of faith representatives taking part and members of SACRE in attendance. We were delighted with the attendance of over 100 teachers from across Cheshire Easts schools and express our thanks to Eaton Bank 6<sup>th</sup> Form for assisting in hosting the event.

During the academic year we have welcomed new members of SACRE who represent both the Church of England and Teacher Unions. We are especially indebted to staff at St Marys RC Primary School in Crewe, Mike Harris our local authority officer, Cheryl Jackson and Louise Collinge our Clerks who have all provided ongoing administrative and budget support.

We look forward to this new school year with expectations of a new curriculum being implemented across all our schools, which we hope will reflect the dynamic and changing nature of the subject which in turn will give the schools and pupils we serve a much richer experiences of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Gillian Merry  
Chair of CE SACRE

## **1. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CHESHIRE EAST SCHOOLS**

### **1.1 Overview of academic year September 2021- August 2022**

Three full SACRE meetings were held during this academic year, two of which were online and one in person. Members who were LA officers, RE Consultants, the SACRE Clerk and members who are representatives from various religious and non-religious bodies were in attendance. The two online meetings were held online via Microsoft Teams from 5pm to 7pm with the third meeting held in person at Eaton Bank Academy in July. The Agreed Syllabus Conference which had originally been convened in an online meeting of the full SACRE in November 2020 continued to meet each term after each official SACRE meeting mirroring the pattern of the main meetings. Further details of the work of the ASC can be found on page of this report.

The usual agenda items remained constant at each meeting on the agendas: Primary & Secondary reports from RE Consultants which included network attendance; analysis of Ofsted reports; Sector Led improvement work; monitoring the syllabus and ongoing teacher support. Budget updates from the LA and NASACRE briefings were also discussed at each meeting.

In addition to the regular agenda items, in November we elected a new chair of SACRE, reviewed our constitution and monitored the ongoing development of the impact of syllabus review conference, approved the draft annual report, and discussed the impact of Coronavirus.

During the online March meeting we discussed the examination results; ongoing Understanding Christianity training for primary schools; NASACRE Online Training; attendance at the NASACRE Conference 2022 and the REC Report – Still Standing report. We welcomed a new Church of England representative and proposed a new teacher union representative.

The July meeting was a meeting held in person at Eaton Bank Academy following the launch of the newly Agreed Syllabus for Cheshire East schools. This was an excellent opportunity for SACRE members to attend early and be part of the new syllabus launch. A new SACRE development plan for 2022-23 was presented as well as an update on Sector Led improvement work. Feedback from the NASACRE AGM and updates on the REC's draft handbook were also discussed. Aspects of the NASACRE self-evaluation tool were discussed in more detail at this meeting.

The table in the section below details SACRE member attendance and additional agenda items cross referenced to the NASACRE self-evaluation tool. This toolkit focuses on five aspects of the work of SACREs:

1. Management and Partnerships;
2. Improvement in Standards, quality of teaching and provision of RE;
3. Evaluating the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus;
4. Promoting improvement in the quality and provision of collective worship and
5. the contribution of SACRE to the promotion of social and racial harmony.

## 1.2 Overview of full SACRE Meetings

Dates of meeting	Attendance & Committees Represented	Additional Agenda Items to those mentioned above	Links to NASACRE Development Plan Sections
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	A - 5 B - 2 C - 1 D - 2 Co-opted 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Chair of SACRE &amp; membership</li> <li>• Agreed Syllabus Conference/launch</li> <li>• Annual Report 2020-2021</li> <li>• Interfaith Week</li> <li>• Coronavirus Briefing updates</li> <li>• CoRe national developments</li> </ul>	1b 3a,3b,3c All 5b,5c 5d,2b 1f,
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	A - 5 B - 3 C - 2 D - 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCSE and A-Levels standards</li> <li>• Understanding Christianity training</li> <li>• Annual Report</li> <li>• REC Report – Still Standing report</li> <li>• Agreed Syllabus Conference/launch</li> <li>• Use of websites &amp; Ofsted reports to monitor RE</li> </ul>	2b 2c 2b, 2c 3f, 3a,3b,3c 2b,2c,2d,3f
7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	A - 3 B - 3 C - 1 D - 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RE Still Standing report</li> <li>• SACRE development plan 2022-2</li> <li>• New member training</li> <li>• Messages from NASACRE May 22</li> <li>• Update from Sector development work</li> <li>• Social media report</li> </ul>	1d,3f 1d 1c,1d,1e 1a,1c,3f 3f 1a,3e, 1d
		<b>NASACRE Development Plan Sections discussed at each meeting each</b> 1a, 1b, 1c, 1e,1f,1g, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 3c,3f	

## 1:3 Overview of the meetings of the ASC (Agreed Syllabus Conference)

Dates of meeting	Attendance & Committees Represented	Agenda Items	Links to NASACRE Development Plan Sections
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	A - 5 B - 2 C - 1 D - 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action planning developments for Yr2</li> <li>• Member discussion - worldviews</li> <li>• Sharing materials drafted so far</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul>	2a,2b,2c
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	A - 6 B - 2 C - 2 D - 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developments from action plan</li> <li>• Final drafted materials</li> <li>• Member discussion/Feedback</li> <li>• Final edits &amp; completion</li> </ul>	2a,2b,2c
7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	A - 3 B - 2 C - 3 D - 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement and acceptance of final new syllabus materials.</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul>	2a,2b,2c

## 2. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

### 2:1 Locally RE Agreed Syllabus: *Engaging Encounter, Reasoned Response & Connecting Communities*

The locally agreed syllabus is the statutory syllabus for RE in Cheshire East schools prepared under schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996. This new current syllabus 2022-2027 was launched on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 at Eaton Bank Secondary Academy. The new syllabus represented a review process which took place across two academic years lengthened due to the impact on schools of the Covid pandemic. School were invited by questionnaire to give feedback on the previous syllabus during the 2019/20 academic year.

**This syllabus must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination and all church voluntary controlled schools within the local authority.** Ofsted use the local syllabus as the yardstick by which the inspectors make their judgements on the delivery of the RE curriculum in individual Cheshire East schools.

A large proportion of Cheshire East academies and free schools choose currently to follow this syllabus and attend the SACRE networks held for subject leaders. The existing syllabus is supported by networks led by two part-time consultants who are bought in for a set number of days each year. They are also available to lead INSET for staff in response to requests from schools if schools can buy in their support. Telephone and email advice is also regularly sought and provided by the consultants. Occasionally SACRE will suggest a consultant contacts and if appropriate visits a school who have shown they have a specific need in relation to implementing the agreed syllabus.

Copies of the syllabus and additional supplementary materials can be found on the webpage: [Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](http://StandingAdvisoryCouncilonReligiousEducation(cheshireeast.gov.uk))

### 2.2 Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus

SACRE have a statutory duty to monitor the impact of the locally agreed syllabus.

**This is completed currently through:**

#### a) **Analysis of Ofsted Reports & Websites –**

Section 5 Ofsted inspection reports identifies the performance of schools and occasionally make specific reference to Religious Education. The reports for schools in the authority which have been visited by Ofsted are analysed for each SACRE meeting and reported upon. Alongside this Consultants also analyse the school website to see what indicators of performance can be seen. This is particularly useful to show what importance schools put on the subject alongside other national curriculum areas. Success is then celebrated with schools. If concerns are raised then advice and support is offered by the two advisory consultants, Sue Glover (Primary) and Chris Cooney (Secondary).

#### b) **Conversation:** Network meetings on RE identify what is happening in specific schools.

c) **Concerns:** This is through matters raised by schools and teachers directly with SACRE.

d) **Feedback Questionnaires:** eg Agreed Syllabus

Feedback Questionnaires taken at the launch of the new syllabus in July 2022.

e) **SACRE Concerns:**

These are issues raised by SACRE members themselves. Eg direct concerns raised over the lack of contact with diverse communities or other cultures within the local area is often an issue for schools and this makes it difficult for schools to fully demonstrate a developed understanding of other faiths and cultures. The Visit and Visitors guide is contained within the new handbook Part 2 of the newly agreed syllabus.

f) **Monitoring of Primary School RE and Secondary RE Departments**

Support was offered by Chris Cooney and Sue Glover (RE Consultants) through telephone calls, emails, and network meetings. The exact nature and details of the work are listed in the next section.

Exam data was available this year for the first time since the pandemic in secondary schools.

#### **Subject strengths**

- Exam data shows that R.E is a strength in the area. Full course GCSE entries have risen by almost 500 students. A total of 1775 students were entered – this is the highest number of entries in the past 6 years in Cheshire East.
- The percentage of students gaining a pass grade (9-4) in Cheshire East at GCSE was almost 6% higher than the national average.

#### **Areas for development**

- 6.4% of GCSE pupils in Cheshire East achieved a Grade 9 – this is lower than the national average of 9.7% of entries. Helping students achieve Grade 9 should be a focus moving forward.
- At GCSE more pupils in Cheshire East achieved a grade in the lower end (1-3) than the national average – a focus going forward should be on moving those students up one grade.
- Some schools did not enter pupils for GCSE Religious Studies, these include some special schools, but also Middlewich High. This does beg the question as to whether these schools are offering some sort of Religious Education at KS4 as is required.

## **2:3 Agreed Syllabus Conference and Review Working Parties**

Following feedback from questionnaires sent out to schools at the start of the last academic year the agreed syllabus review conference was convened, and work delegated to consultants and a working party of teachers.

An action plan was then drawn up, based on feedback from schools and the following specific areas highlighted:

- The syllabus is weighty and needs simplifying for better access.
- Some of the language is now out of date.
- Section 2: Engaging Encounters with worldviews is currently a hot topic within RE.
- Section 2: There is a need to streamline content for each religion /non-religious worldview and Key Stage. New tables providing assessment criteria, objectives, and outcomes are requested.
- Section 3: End of Key Stage statements are appreciated and used by schools.
- All content should refer to a non-religious/humanist world view.
- Content would reference latest national CoRe report and Ofsted inspection guidance.
- The Handbook would be simplified with links/references to the content in the main syllabus.

The ASC met again in July 2021 to report on progress the two RE consultants had made so far. Copies of all draft documents and action plans were circulated and agreed amongst SACRE members. An in person working party of a selection of primary and secondary teachers of RE began in November 2021 and held subsequent meetings at Monks Coppenhall Academy in January and May 2022. A final draft of all the statutory materials was presented to and agreed by the SACRE ASC in March 2022. This left the final completion of the two detailed Handbooks Part 1 which covered non statutory planning guidance and Handbook Part 2 the general guidance which included a visits and visitors guide. The final document was agreed by the final ASC in July 2022.



## **2.4 RE: Teaching Methods, Advice, Materials and Training**

### **2.4.1 Advice, Support, and Inset Training for Teachers**

Ofsted reports have been monitored during SACRE meetings and letters of congratulations sent to schools that received positive comments regarding areas of RE. Notices about courses, networks and 'twilights' initiatives are given via the Cheshire East Bulletin or by emails supplied by the schools.

A new Facebook group called **RE Teachers across Cheshire East** was set up last year in consultation with the LA communications department. Chris Cooney & Sue Glover, our consultants are administrators, and we currently have an additional 70 members. This is proving a growing method of communication and collaboration.

### **2.4.2 Primary Schools**

Telephone and/or email support on behalf of Cheshire East SACRE was given by the primary RE schools consultant to approximately 100 primary schools who requested direct advice during the academic year. Queries ranged from new subject leaders asking for support in developing the agreed syllabus to more experienced subject leaders asking for support on RE teaching, visits, and visitors, and resources. The large majority of the queries centred around advice for long term planning, the new statutory obligations in regard to the syllabus review and resource suggestions. Many schools were and still are rethinking what they do in the light of the syllabus review process.

Centrally run online networks for all primary subject leaders led by our primary schools consultant were held online in December and February, followed by an in-person syllabus launch event in July. This meeting saw a record number of teachers (approx. 45-50) in attendance at each online event followed by a record in person attendance of over 85 primary teachers at the launch event. A small new RE subject leader networks was also held online in October. The use of the EKSS standards and sharing the ongoing developments of the agreed syllabus review formed the structure of the meetings. Primary school teachers have also submitted materials to contribute to the review process.

### **Cheshire East RE Leaders Primary Schools Network/Hub Development**

Due to holding the networks largely online during the academic year, the previously run networks for primary teachers has begun to change. The two online meetings were hosted by the RE Consultant and previous hub leaders helped to host the breakout rooms in the meetings. For the purposes of the launch of the new syllabus the teachers were seated in three key groups Cheshire East South, Cheshire East North, and Mid Cheshire East. Going forward we are exploring the potential of developing a hub in each area. Potential hub RE Leaders from Monks Coppenhall Academy, Mossley CE VC Primary, Poynton HS and Eaton Bank Academy have expressed an interest in being involved and will be meeting to explore this during the next academic year.

## **Materials**

Our Primary Consultant and Rachel Long, RE Head of Department from Poynton High School made several subject knowledge videos two years ago and they are hosted on an unlisted RE YouTube channel. They aim to develop subject knowledge through interviews with religious/non-religious community members. These subject knowledge interviews include representatives from Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Humanism, Islam, and a Christian charity. Teachers from Cheshire East can contact Sue Glover, our primary schools consultant if they would like to access them. These were made possible through additional sector led improvement funding and included themes on diversity and inclusion, challenges for holding a religious/non-religious worldview in the UK today and advice to primary teachers teaching about their individual worldviews.

## **RE Today subsidised Understanding Christianity Resource training – Primary Schools**

Our RE Consultant, an accredited *Understanding Christianity* independent trainer for RE Today completed a second cycle of online training for primary schools which involved 3x three-hour sessions including gap tasks, with 13 teachers from Cheshire East schools. All Cheshire East VA/VC church schools had been previously trained. This makes a total of 60 schools having received this national training in all. The final cycle of the subsidised training will take place next academic year. Several schools expressed an interest at the agreed syllabus launch.

## **Additional Support and contact with schools**

As part of the two online network meetings the RE Consultant brought in Dr Kate Christopher to present her work on Islam worldview materials which she worked on in collaboration with Canterbury University. Permission to trial these materials and also to host them in our handbook planning guidance was given and teachers received the materials well. At the second online meeting in March Dr Kate Christopher presented some History & RE materials produced in partnership with John Rylands library in Manchester. It is hoped all these materials may add support to the agreed syllabus. Professor Hannah Barker from the University of Manchester who oversaw the project and its impact and funding was in touch in mid-June to see if some of our Cheshire East schools would take part in a trial using these materials in schools which exemplify studying RE using a historical new disciplinary lens. This is an excellent opportunity for schools to use some research-based materials and to give feedback to the university. We hope to engage some of the schools to get involved.

### **2.4.3 Secondary Schools**

Chris Cooney continued to support the RE in Secondary Schools through monitoring, surveys, emails & phone calls. The online **network meetings** covered a range of areas, such as, input into the review of the locally agreed syllabus, support for pupils sitting exams, changes put in place for the sitting of GCSE and A-level exams post-covid, re-invigorating visits and visitors post-pandemic.

#### ***Network Meetings***

Dec 2021: One to one meeting with Natalie Cross at Ruskin regarding curriculum design. The focus was to help Natalie develop her curriculum to include a worldviews paradigm.

Dec 2021: Teams video 'drop-in' session run – opportunity for secondary leaders to ask any questions or raise any issues. 3 colleagues joined – Ruskin, Middlewich, Shavington. All asked about curriculum and how to include worldviews. This was discussed with some teaching strategies suggested. I also shared some resources. Ruskin also shared that the Head of RE job was to be advertised.

April 2022: Teams meeting regarding input to the locally agreed syllabus. Run as an open forum to teachers to review the draft syllabus and offer input, as well as example resources that could be included in the appendix.

#### ***Additional Support:***

Email support given to new Head of Subject at Ruskin High regarding curriculum design and the sharing of Brine Leas resources and plans.

Email support given to Sarah Skingle at Alsager School regarding the REQM.

Email support given to Sarah Skingle at Alsager school sharing contacts of religious visitors and other interest groups for schools.

Work with Sue Glover on design and implementation of new locally agreed syllabus, including launch event.

#### **2.4.4 REQM Awards**

Schools of all types have been encouraged to apply for the REQM award. Current Cheshire East schools holders are as follows:

Acton CE Primary Academy – Gold

Brins Leas Secondary Academy- Gold

#### **2.4.5 Complaints**

There have been no complaints to the LA during the past year in respect of RE, requiring the LA's Special Appeal's Committee to be convened.

#### **2:4.6 Withdrawals**

Any school requiring advice on pupils withdrawal from RE makes contact with the RE Consultants. The number of pupils currently withdrawing from the subject are very few across the authority and where there are small pockets, this is due to religious affiliation namely members of Plymouth Brethren, Jehovah's Witnesses, and very rarely Muslim pupils. Advice has been given to two schools on alternative provision and on consultation with parents who request withdrawal from RE.

#### **2:4.7 Advice to the Local Authority**

Advice was given on behalf of SACRE by RE Consultants to Cheshire East Local Authority on the following topics during this past academic year: agreed syllabus review; freedom of information in relation to RE/CW; Hinduism in schools report; RE Review Report May 2021.

### **3. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **3.1 Standards & Monitoring**

##### **Supporting & Advising on Collective Worship**

All previously published Cheshire East material giving guidance for collective worship (2015) still stands in respect of the law. The School and Standards Frameworks Act 2006 continues to reflect the current law governing collective worship. NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Council for RE) have produced a paper giving further insights into collective worship which is available on the NASACRE website for members. Under the Ofsted framework, inspectors do comment on the opportunities for spiritual development in schools.

The Cheshire East Collective Worship guidelines can be found on the Cheshire East SACRE website which is listed in Appendix B. Very few teacher enquiries have been made during 2021/22 with respect to the law governing collective worship in Cheshire East schools. These were responded to by the RE Consultants. There has been no formal monitoring of collective worship during this last academic year.

#### **3:2 Determinations**

The SACRE has not been called upon during the past year to make any determinations concerning collective worship. Due to several external enquiries, (ie not from schools bodies), it was decided that a review of some of this guidance would take place during the last academic year. This has been completed and added to the SACRE website section on collective worship.

#### **3:3 Teacher Training & Monitoring Collective Worship**

There has been no formal training in collective worship during this academic year but general advice was given in respect of collective worship and the law.

#### **3:4 Complaints**

There have been no complaints to the LA during the past year in respect of collective worship requiring the LA's special Appeals Committee to be convened

## **4. LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES**

### **4.1 National and International**

The Cheshire East SACRE is a member of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE). The NASACRE Newsletters 'SACRE News' are much valued by SACRE members, providing useful insight into the activities of SACREs and the teaching of RE across the country. A member always attends the AGM which usually takes place in May.

Letters have often been written from Cheshire East SACRE members to NASACRE, DfE, Ofsted and local MPs to raise concerns about the ongoing marginalisation of RE.

### **Celebrating Cheshire East RE Westhill Project 'Stop, Take a Look & Listen'**

An article written by Sue Glover our primary school's consultant for RE Today magazine was published in January 2021. This was based on a grant project that took place during the previous year on community cohesion. The DfE were considering putting information about contact theory and the shared space toolkit into a project and asked for some evaluation information. NATRE asked our permission to share our report of our Westhill project. Details and the toolkit produced from the project can be found on the SACRE website.

### **Farmington Fellowships**

Our Secondary consultant Chris Cooney has a Farmington Fellowship and another member of SACRE has completed one on using media in secondary RE.

### **4.2 Local and Regional**

Cheshire East SACRE has links with the local Macclesfield Interfaith Group. Cheshire East SACRE continues to have some links through the in-service programme with the University of Chester and Chester Diocese.

As well as supporting Cheshire East primary schools as a consultant, Sue Glover also serves on Cheshire West SACRE and works as an independent consultant for the Diocese of Chester which has continued to fund religious education and collective worship support in Cheshire East church primary schools as part of their work in schools. Sue is also an accredited REQM Assessor and has previously completed some network development for the TTSA (Trafford Teaching schools Alliance).

Chris Cooney our Secondary consultant is Head of RE at Brine Leas Academy which is part of the Chimney Schools alliance and organises RE days for several local schools.

Interfaith week is advertised to schools each year, and school involvement encouraged.

## 5. CHESHIRE EAST SACRE: STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

### 5.1 Professional & administrative support

The local authority provides administrative support through a Senior Clerk, Louise Collinge. Cheshire East local authority officers Mark Bayley & Mike Harris provide direct links to the local council. All attend SACRE meetings. Professional advice and support comes through our two RE independent Consultants, Sue Glover and Chris Cooney. An annual budget of £9170 is provided for the work of SACRE and additional sector led improvement funding is provided for specific initiatives. Last year this was an additional £1900. The budget covers all administrative support, payment for consultants, NASACRE, admin support for finances, and any special projects which may involve resources and supply cover for teachers who are involved.

### 5.2 Membership, Representation & Recruitment

The membership of SACRE is under review at each meeting. Training for new members is provided where applicable and NASACRE materials are used to support this. Quoracy has never really been an issue. Representation during this academic year in Committees C (Teachers Unions) and Committee D (Local Council members) has been lower than in previous years. Recruitment of new members has been successful, and we were pleased to welcome a teacher union and Church of England representative this year.

According to 2011 Census, (soon to be replaced with the 2021 Census data which will be released over this next academic year) the majority of Cheshire East residents are Christian (68.9%), which is marginally higher than the figure for the Northwest and significantly higher than the figure for England overall (59.4%). The Cheshire East SACRE representation shows a good number of Christians and Other Religions represented in Committee A and Church of England representatives in Committee B. The second most practiced religion in Cheshire East is Islam (0.7%).

We have been unsuccessful to date in recruiting a new SACRE Muslim representative. This is something we are still pursuing. Appendix F shows the complete membership and attendance for this academic year.

#### 2011 Census Data

Region	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Buddhist	Jewish	Sikh	Other
Cheshire East	68.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
North West	67.3%	5.1%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%
England	59.4%	5.0%	1.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.4%

## 6. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A - Examination Statistics 2016-2019 (NB No data exists for last year and 2020/21)

	Cheshire East 2016	Cheshire East 2017	Cheshire East 2018 (national averages shown in brackets)	Cheshire East 2019 (national averages shown in brackets)	Cheshire East 2022 (national averages shown in brackets)
<b>GCSE Short Courses in RE</b>					
Number of candidates entered	787	941	149	436	No data
Number of grades A* -C/ grades 9-5	454	503	65	222	No data
Percentage gaining A* -C/ grades 9-5	57.7%	55.2%	14%	50.9% (47%)	No data
Percentage gaining A* -G/ grades 9-1	89.2%	97.4%	92.7%	96.6% (95.1%)	No data
Percentage of cohort entered	21%	26%	4.2%	11.7% (2.4%)	No data
<b>Full Course GCSE Religious Studies</b>					
Number of candidates entered	1483	1528	1221	1295	1775
Number of grades A* -C/ grades 9-5	1138	1148	791	794	1128
Percentage gaining A* -C/ grades 9-5	76.8%	75.5%	64.8% (58.4%)	61.3% (59.2%)	63.6% (59%)
Percentage gaining A* -G/ grades 9-1	98.8%	98.1%	98.6% (97.9%)	98.5% (98.2%)	98.9% (89%)
Percentage of cohort entered	39.5%	42.5%	34.5% (28.8%)	34.7% (29.7%)	44.3%
<b>GCE 'A' Level Religious Studies</b>					
Number of candidates entered	78	67	70	75	No data
Number of grades A-E	78	66	69	75	No data
Percentage gaining grades A-E	100%	98.5%	98.6%	100% (97.7%)	No data
Percentage of cohort entered	unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	No data
<b>GCE 'A/S' Level Religious Studies Y12</b>					
Number of candidates entered	131	94	11	10	No data
Number of grades A-E	123	87	7511	6	No data
Percentage gaining grades A-E	93.9%	92.6	100%	60% (90.8%)	No data
Percentage of cohort entered	unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	No data



## **APPENDIX B - LA Publications**

### **Religious Education Agreed Syllabus –**

#### **Engaging Encounter, Reasoned Response & Connecting Communities**

The new locally agreed syllabus and the accompanying Handbooks and all other documentation for religious education in primary and secondary schools is available on the Cheshire East SACRE website. <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/sacre.aspx>

### **LA guidance on Collective Worship**

Guidance on Collective Worship for community schools can be found under 'SACRE documents' on the Cheshire East SACRE website.

### **SACRE Annual Report**

Further copies of the annual SACRE reports are available from the Clerk to the SACRE, but these are also on the SACRE webpage.

Queries about publications should be made in the first instance to the SACRE clerk.

## **APPENDIX C - SACRE Development Plan**

SACREs main areas of activity for 2021/22 are detailed below, the references in brackets indicate areas of the NASACRE self-evaluation tool that activities relate to:

1. To support teachers in dissemination of good practice, RE teaching and learning especially by meeting online as SACRE. (1a,1b,2a,2b,)
2. To help teachers and schools to raise standards in the quality of RE teaching in all schools but especially in the light of examinations in 2022. (2a, 2b, 2c, 2d,)
3. To discharge its responsibilities effectively. (All sections but especially 5a,5b 5d))
4. To complete a review of the agreed syllabus and publish revised materials for schools September 2022. (3a, 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f)

To achieve the above, the main SACRE budget of £9170 was spent on: Clerking and St Marys supportive administration; two RE Consultants; supply for teachers for working party and hub development; NASACRE subs and AGM attendance.

A further £1900 from Sector Led funding provided some supply cover for teachers to work online And in person alongside RE Consultants on the Agreed Syllabus.

## **APPENDIX D - Statutory Functions**

**These continue to remain the same in line with government legislation:**

- To advise the LA on matters relating to RE and collective worship; methods of teaching; choice of teaching material; provision of teacher training.
- To determine any applications from head teachers for dis application in relation to the general requirements for collective worship.
- To monitor the effective provision for RE in community and controlled schools.
- To consider whether changes need to be made in the Agreed RE Syllabus or the support offered to schools.
- To support the effective provision for collective worship in schools.
- To monitor the provision of daily collective worship in schools and consider how to improve such provision.
- To publish an annual report on its work.

## **APPENDIX E - Distribution**

The CE SACRE report is sent to the following:

- NASACRE (National Association of SACREs)
- Cheshire East Schools and colleges
- Members of the Cheshire East SACRE & Representatives of local faith communities
- Lead Member for Children's Services and the members of the Children's Services Strategic Panel
- Diocesan Education Associations
- DfE

## APPENDIX F – Membership of the Cheshire East SACRE for 2021/22 Academic Year

<b>Committee A Christian Denominations and Other Religions</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Denomination/Religion</b>	<b>Address</b>
Laurie Bailey	Baha'i	laurie@share-delight.com
Les Biddulph	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Bridge Cottage, Buxton Road, Upper Hulme, Leek, Staffs ST13 8TT
Jay Vaja	Hinduism	1 Marlborough Close, Macclesfield, SK10 2LA
Cathy Smeaton	Unitarian	c/o Poynton High School, Poynton
Gillian Merry	Methodist Ecumenical	217 Middlewich Road Sandbach CW11 3EL
Hazel Brown	Catholic	c/o St Anne's RC Primary School, Nantwich
Irene Faseyi	WSCF	53 Ford Lane, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 3EQ
Sandra Stewart	Judaism	sandra.oakdene@gmail.com
<b>Committee B Church of England</b>		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Address</b>
Fiona Pulle	Church of England	c/o Brereton CE VA Primary School, Brereton
Dean Steve Clapham Revd David Page	Church of England	rector@allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk (stepped down this year & replaced by: vicar@stpeters-elworth.org.uk;
Rhoda Bailey	Church of England	15 Woburn Drive, Congleton, CW12 3SS
<b>Co-opted Member:</b>		
Mr G Nicholson	Humanist representative	Osborne House Trafford Road Alderley Edge SK9 7DN
<b>Committee C Teachers' Associations</b>		
Mr Matthew Hayhurst	NASUWT	matthew.hayhurst@brineleas.co.uk
Lindsey McDade	UNISON	mcdade@monkscoppenhall.cheshire.sch.uk
<b>Committee D Local Authority</b>		
Cllr Brian Puddicombe	CEC	2 Sherwood Road, Macclesfield, SK11 7RR brian.puddicombe@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Cllr Allen Gage	CEC	The Grove, London Road, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6LW allen.gage@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Cllr Brendan Murphy	CEC	Hilton Road, Disley, Cheshire, SK12 2JU brendan.murphy@cheshireeast.gov.uk
<b>Officers</b>		
Chris Cooney	Secondary Consultant	Head of RE Brine Leas Academy, Nantwich chris.cooney@brineleas.co.uk
Sue Glover	Primary RE Consultant	8 Pipers Court Hoole Chester CH2 3JL sue.glover62@gmail.com
Mike Harris	Cheshire East LA	Service Manager: Governance and Liaison People Directorate