



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

**September 2022 – August 2023**

**Celebrating Religious Education in Cheshire East**

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This is the annual report for Cheshire East SACRE covering the academic period **from September 2022 to August 2023**.

A full online SACRE meeting was held via Microsoft Teams in November 2022, followed by two in person meetings in the following subsequent terms at Brereton CE VA Primary and at Brine Leas Secondary Academy. Two RE Consultants served the SACRE during last academic year with our secondary colleague stepping down in March 2023. A process of replacing Chris Cooney was undertaken and SACRE expressed our thanks to Chris and were delighted when he agreed to stay on SACRE as a teacher union representative.

Change continued when our LA officer retired in the summer term, and we were delighted to welcome Joe Carter as the new LA officer at our July meeting. Our LA councillors were re-elected in May, and we are still establishing a regular presence at our SACRE meetings. Our recruitment processes have occupied our thinking, and we now have this as a rolling agenda item. Louise Collinge our excellent LA Clerk has provided some ongoing administrative and budget support. We once again applaud schools who have championed RE in the ongoing aftermath of Covid.

Our programme of RE Primary networks were re-established meeting in person across three areas of Cheshire East. Our Primary Consultant and a member of SACRE from Monks Coppenhall Academy, who was part of the Agreed Syllabus working party attended all three meetings. An option to attend online additional meetings each term with our Primary Consultant ensured another opportunity for training. Our secondary network meetings were all held online due to the travel distance needed for them to engage in person. Training Resources have been made available online and via CHESS (Cheshire East School Services).

The new syllabus launched in July 2022 at Eaton Bank Academy with a variety of faith representatives taking part and members of SACRE in attendance has now completed its first year of implementation. Many schools have set a plan in place to transition to the updated syllabus.

We are especially indebted to staff at St Marys RC Primary School in Crewe who held our budget until March 2023 when circumstances dictated, we needed a change of host school. Our thanks to Joe Carter who inherited SACRE as part of her portfolio who valiantly attempted to ensure we had access to the new budget for 2023/24.

We look forward to this new school year with the new curriculum being implemented across all our schools, which we hope will reflect the dynamic and changing nature of the subject.

*Gillian Merry Chair of CE SACRE*

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

### **1.1 Overview of academic year September 2022- August 2023**

As per usual practice, three full SACRE meetings were held during this academic year, two of which were in person, and one was held online. LA officers, RE Consultant advisers, the SACRE Clerk and members representatives from various religious and non-religious bodies were in attendance. The first meeting of the year was held online via MS Teams in November followed by two in person meetings at Brereton CE Primary in March and Brine Leas Secondary Academy in July.

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

In November we officially welcomed back our previous chair to SACRE and monitored the ongoing development of the syllabus one year after the original publication. We approved the annual report and discussed the ongoing impact on RE of the lack of visits and visitors to schools due to trends post CV-19. We noted the importance of extending the diversity of our recruitment to SACRE, approved our new constitution and code of conduct. We also began to use the NASACRE self-evaluation tool to inform our action planning and considered how to raise our profile in the LA.

During the March meeting at Brereton Primary we discussed the examination results; ongoing Understanding Christianity training for primary schools; NASACRE Online Training; and attendance at the NASACRE Conference. Our secondary consultant announced he was stepping down after 5 years and Rebecca Callister from Eaton Bank Academy was proposed as a possible replacement providing her school supported the decision to use her time and were willing to invoice SACRE accordingly. Collective Worship was discussed at length. We also acknowledged the REC Draft Handbook and proposed members read it. It was resolved to address aspects of the NASACRE self-evaluation tool in more detail at this and in subsequent meetings.

The July meeting was held in person at Brine Leas Academy. A new SACRE development plan for 2023-24 was presented and problems with accessing the 2023/24 budget within the LA were discussed at length. The completed Sector Led Improvement work on exciting knowledge organisers was also presented. Feedback from the NASACRE AGM was also discussed. Online Training was arranged with our primary consultant for our new Muslim and Jewish members. A union rep also stepped down.

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
22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022 Online	A - 6 B - 1 C - 1 D - 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Chair of SACRE &amp; membership</li> <li>• Review of the syllabus one year on</li> <li>• Annual Report 2021-2022</li> <li>• Interfaith Week 2022</li> <li>• REC national developments</li> <li>• Encourage link governors for RE</li> <li>• Collective worship conversation</li> </ul>	1b 2a,3a,3b,3c 3e  5b,5c 1f, 1f Section 2
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 Brereton CE Primary	A - 5 B - 3 C - 2 D - 1	<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>• Use of websites &amp; Ofsted reports to monitor RE</li> </ul>	2b 2c 2b, 2c, 2d 3f, 2b,2c,2d,3f
6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 Brine Leas Academy	A - 5 B - 2 C - 2 D - 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SACRE development plan 2023/24</li> <li>• New member training</li> <li>• Messages from NASACRE May 23</li> <li>• Update from Sector development work</li> <li>• Knowledge organisers to support syllabus</li> <li>• RE Subject leader networks</li> <li>• Infographic data</li> <li>• Budgets</li> <li>• Collective worship review</li> </ul>	1d 1c,1d, All/3f 3a -3e 2a,3e 3a-3e 3 1 4
<b>NASACRE Development Plan Sections discussed at each meeting</b>		1a, 1b, 1c, 1e,1f,1g, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 3c,3f	

## 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 in July 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. (95% of all Cheshire East schools attended the launch meetings).

**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 also 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 are willing to 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: <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/sacre.aspx> or on the **CHESH** resource hub [Cheshire East RE Agreed Syllabus 2022-2027 \(Statutory\) | Chess Hub](#)

This year a working party of teachers from primary schools met with the RE Consultant to write and provide a set of new Knowledge organisers to support the new syllabus based on the end of key stage statutory expectations. This was in response to feedback from schools.

### 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 and Section 8 Ofsted inspection reports identify 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 websites 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 until March 2023 Chris Cooney (Secondary).

- b) **Conversation:** Network meetings for RE identify what is happening in specific schools.
- c) **Concerns:** This is through matters raised by schools and teachers directly with SACRE.
- d) **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 was written to address these concerns.
- e) **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.

### **Subject strengths**

- Exam data shows that the percentage of students achieving the top grade has increased since the last academic year.
- Exam data shows that RE continues to be a subject on the rise in schools across Cheshire East. All schools are now entering students for the examination, albeit some in small numbers. Although the numbers are not as high as for 2022-23 academic year as the previous year, the numbers of students being entered for GCSE RE exam are still higher than other previous years, indicating a continued growth of the subject.
- All students entered for the A level Religious Studies achieved a grade, with more than 80% achieving grade A\*-C. At all grades, students in Cheshire East perform better than students across the North West and Nationally.

### **Areas for development**

- In most schools where students are entered for the GCSE exam as a full cohort, students are not achieving highly and are missing out on the top grades. A focus should be looking at how much curriculum time and support is given to students in schools sitting full cohorts.
- 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 improving students grades. Some schools are only entering very small numbers of students, despite large cohorts. It may be worth reaching out to offer support to help to grow the subject in these schools.

- Many schools are not offering A level Religious Studies, despite having Sixth Forms attached to the schools. Some schools are offering A level Philosophy rather than A level Religious Studies.
- Not all schools offer any Religious Education outside of the GCSE/A level offering at KS4/5.

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

### **2.3.1 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, CNESS (Cheshire East School Services) or in an RE termly update using emails supplied by the school RE Leaders. Websites have also been monitored to see how much importance is placed on RE as a subject. The Facebook group called **RE Teachers across Cheshire East** was set up 2021/22 in consultation with the LA communications department. Chris Cooney & Sue Glover, our consultants are administrators, and we currently have an additional 71 members. This is proving a growing method of communication and collaboration.

### **2.3.2 Primary Schools**

Telephone and/or email support on behalf of 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, statutory obligations in regard to the syllabus review and resource suggestions. Many schools have reviewed their implementation of the RE curriculum in light of the new 2022 syllabus.

RE subject networks were once again held termly in person across Cheshire East with an additional supportive online meeting each term. Over the 2022/2023 academic year these meetings saw an average attendance of 15 teachers at each meeting. Online attendance at subsequent meetings was much lower with an average attendance of 5-6 teachers. A new RE subject leaders network was also held online in October. Planning from the new syllabus, using the EKSS standards for assessment and meeting statutory obligations formed the main structure of each meeting.

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

For the purposes of training and effective implementation of the new syllabus RE subject leader networks are organised into three key areas: Cheshire East South, Cheshire East North and Mid Cheshire East. Network meetings are held in primary schools to encourage participation and RE



Leaders from Monks Coppenhall Academy, Ivy Bank Primary Academy, Mossley CE VC Primary, Poynton High School and Eaton Bank Academy are currently involved in hosting and leading these groups that met during the course of the academic year. These have been overseen by our RE Primary Consultant, Sue Glover.

### **Additional Materials**

Our Primary Consultant and Rachel Long, RE Head of Department from Poynton High School made several subject knowledge videos during the pandemic 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.

During 2022/23 a small working party of primary teachers have met with our primary RE Consultant and written key knowledge organisers to match and compliment the agreed syllabus end of key stage statements. These were distributed to schools via networks, email an online meeting and via the resources section on CHESS (Cheshire East School Services) website.

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

Our RE Consultant, an accredited *Understanding Christianity* independent trainer for RE Today completed a final and third cycle of online training for primary schools which involved 3x three-hour sessions including gap tasks, with 8 teachers from Cheshire East schools. All Cheshire East VA/VC church schools had been previously trained. This makes a total of 68 schools having received this national training.

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

Research based materials are currently offered to schools via the Agreed Syllabus Handbooks. Dr Kate Christopher worked on Islam worldview materials in collaboration with Canterbury University, and subsequently on History and RE materials with John Rylands library in Manchester. Permission to trial these materials and also to host the Islam materials in our Handbook planning guidance was given and received with thanks. Some of our schools have used these materials and we will continue to signpost them to schools.

The Tytherington RE Subject leaders group was also supported by our RE Consultant. This brought together a number of feeder schools to work on long term planning.

### 2.3.3 Secondary Schools

Chris Cooney continued to support the RE in Secondary Schools for two terms during this academic year through monitoring, surveys, emails, social media & phone calls. The online **network meetings** covered a range of areas including: the locally agreed syllabus, GCSE and A-level exams re-invigorating visits and visitors post-pandemic.

#### Autumn 2022

The newly agreed RE Syllabus launch in July 2022 was attended by 15 Secondary R.E. teachers. In the light of this:

- This first half-term time was spent supporting colleagues via email. Shared resources sent out by NATRE were shared.
- Emails were sent regarding school speakers - in particular sharing the details needed to book Ann Angel as a speaker representing the Jewish faith.
- Inter-faith day was held for pupils at Brine Leas - first time since COVID - list of contacts and logistics of the day shared with secondary colleagues.
- Further development of knowledge organisers for secondary was in progress by CC and MH.

#### Spring 2023

Telephone and/or email support was given to schools, including responding to requests for information/advice, and the sharing of NATRE termly updates. Support was offered to:

- Ruskin High – regarding changes to their curriculum design to match the locally agreed syllabus.
- Alsager School – regarding a joint REQM award, as well as how to organise an inter-faith day.
- Wilmslow Academy – regarding support for GCSE marking/sharing of answers. Also support regarding some work being done as part of the NPQLT program.
- Joint applications to Farmington were submitted.

#### Summer 2023 (Chris Cooney Secondary Consultant stepped down)

- Tytherington- building on a joint curriculum between secondary school and primary feeders. Assessment of current curriculum offering at Tytherington- meeting held and discussed changes.
- Wilmslow- emailed list of contacts for places of worship.
- Fallibroome academy/Winsford Academy/Macclesfield Academy- working with EBA as supportive network to develop curriculum and support new HODs

#### Twilight Networks

**13<sup>th</sup> December 2022** – held online. The focus of the meeting was to evaluate the implementation of the new syllabus so far. There was opportunity to share best practice and offer any EBI's that can be worked on.

**28<sup>th</sup> April 2023** was also held online and built on the previous meeting. In summer 2023 no meeting was held due to examinations.

### **2.4.1 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

Brine Leas Secondary Academy- Gold

Handforth Grange Primary - Silver

### **2.4.1 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.

### **2:4.3 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 in previous years on alternative provision and on consultation with parents who request withdrawal from RE. No additional request were presented to SACRE during this academic year.

### **2:4.4 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, Exam data.

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

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

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

Cheshire East material giving guidance for collective worship (2015) still stands in respect of the law. These were last reviewed in 2021. 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 to use. 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 2022/23 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. SACRE has discussed the need to obtain data from schools and will try to address this during 2023/2024 by sending out a questionnaire to all local schools.

##### **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), a review of some of this guidance took 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 attends the AGM which usually takes place in May if distance allows. We tend not to attend if the venue is London due to time constraints and travel costs.

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'**

Our primary school's consultant wrote an article for RE Today magazine which 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 evaluative information. This is an ongoing project. 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 two Farmington Fellowships, and a previous member of SACRE has completed one on using media in secondary RE.

### **4.2 Local and Regional**

Cheshire East SACRE continues to have some links through the free in-service programme with the University of Chester and also with Chester Diocese.

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

Chris Cooney our secondary schools consultant is Head of RE at Brine Leas Academy which is part of the Chimney Schools alliance and regularly organises RE days for several local schools. We thank Chris for all his work over the past 5 years for SACRE. Rebecca Callister is taking his place.

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 officer Mike Harris provided direct links to the local council until he retired during this academic year. SACRE now has a new link officer, Joe Carter who will attend SACRE meetings. Professional advice and support this year came through our two RE independent Consultants, Sue Glover and Chris Cooney. Chris stepped down in April 2023.

An annual budget of £9170 is provided for the general work of SACRE including administration and additional sector led improvement funding has been 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. NASACRE materials are used to support this. Quoracy has never really been an issue but could become one if county councillors don't attend meetings. Representation during this academic year from 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 last year and a new Muslim representative this coming academic year.

*Percentage of usual residents by religion:*

Religion	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Buddhist	Jewish	Sikh	Other	No religion	No replies
<b>Cheshire East 2011</b>	68.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	22.7%	6.7%
<b>Cheshire East 2021</b>	54.3%	1.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	37.7%	5.5%
<b>North West 2011</b>	67.3%	5.1%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	25.7%
<b>North West 2021</b>	52.5%	7.6%	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	32.6%	5.3%
<b>England &amp; Wales 2011</b>	59.4%	5.0%	1.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.4%	25.2%	7.1%
<b>England &amp; Wales 2021</b>	46.2%	6.5%	1.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.9%	0.6%	37.2%	6.0%
<b>Globally 2022</b>	31.6%	25.8%	15.1%	6.6%	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	14.4%	Folk 5.8%

The Cheshire East SACRE representation includes 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%). Appendix F shows the complete membership and attendance for this academic year.

## 6. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A - Examination Statistics 2017-2023 (NB No data exists for 2020/21)

	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)	Cheshire East 2023 (national averages shown in brackets)
<b><u>GCSE Short Courses in RE</u></b>					
Number of candidates entered	941	149	436	No data	176
Number of grades A* -C/ grades 9-5	503	65	222	No data	70
Percentage gaining A* -C/ grades 9-5	55.2%	14%	50.9% (47%)	No data	39.7% (49.2%)
Percentage gaining A* -G/ grades 9-1	97.4%	92.7%	96.6% (95.1%)	No data	85.3% (91.8%)
Percentage of cohort entered	26%	4.2%	11.7% (2.4%)	No data	22.27% (1.9%)
<b><u>Full Course GCSE Religious Studies</u></b>					
Number of candidates entered	1528	1221	1295	1775	1624
Number of grades A* -C/ grades 9-5	1148	791	794	1128	939
Percentage gaining A* -C/ grades 9-5	75.5%	64.8% (58.4%)	61.3% (59.2%)	63.6% (59%)	57.9% (61.1%)
Percentage gaining A* -G/ grades 9-1	98.1%	98.6% (97.9%)	98.5% (98.2%)	98.9% (89%)	97.2% (97.8%)
Percentage of cohort entered	42.5%	34.5% (28.8%)	34.7% (29.7%)	44.3%	39.6% (26.9%)
<b><u>GCE 'A' Level Religious Studies</u></b>					
Number of candidates entered	67	70	75	No data	47
Number of grades A-E	66	69	75	No data	47
Percentage gaining grades A-E	98.5%	98.6%	100% (97.7%)	No data	100
Percentage of cohort entered	N/A	N/A	N/A	No data	N/A
<b><u>GCE 'A/S' Level Religious Studies – Year 12</u></b>					
Number of candidates entered	94	11	10	No data	No data
Number of grades A-E	87	7511	6	No data	No data
Percentage gaining grades A-E	92.6	100%	60% (90.8%)	No data	No data
Percentage of cohort entered	N/A	N/A	N/A	No data	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> and also on the CHES Resource Hub <https://www.chesshub.co.uk/Page/16677>

### **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 2022/23 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 write Knowledge Organisers to support both pupils and teachers with the implementation of 2022-2027 agreed syllabus. These can be found on CHES. (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 Improvement 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 Cheshire East SACRE annual report is sent to the following:

- NASACRE (National Association of SACREs)
- DfE (via NASACRE)
- Cheshire East Schools and Colleges
- Members of the Cheshire East SACRE & Representatives of local faith communities
- Lead Member for Children's Services
- Children and Families Committee
- Local Diocesan Board of Education

## APPENDIX F – Membership of the Cheshire East SACRE for 2022/23 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	Poynton High School, Poynton
Sandra Stewart	Judaism	sandra.oakdene@gmail.com
Hazel Brown	Catholic	<a href="mailto:hazelboxholes@gmail.com">hazelboxholes@gmail.com</a>
Rhoda Bailey	Methodist	Moors Farm, Church Lane, Scholar Green, ST7 3QR
Irene Faseyi	WSCF	53 Ford Lane, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 3EQ
<b>Committee B – Church of England</b>		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Address</b>
Fiona Pulle	Church of England	Brereton CEVA Primary Brereton
Revd David Page	Church of England	vicar@stpeters-elworth.org.uk;
Gillian Merry	(Chair) Church of England	217 Middlewich Road Sandbach CW11 3EL
<b>Co-opted Members</b>		
Mr G Nicholson	Humanist representative	Osborne House Trafford Road Alderley Edge SK9 7DN
<b>Committee C – Teachers' Associations</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Association</b>	<b>Address</b>
Matthew Hayhurst	NUT (Until Summer 2023)	RE Brine Leas Academy, Nantwich matthew.hayhurst@brineleas.co.uk
Lindsey McDade	UNISON	mcdade@monkscoppenhall.cheshire.sch.uk
<b>Committee D – Cheshire East Local Authority</b>		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Address</b>
Cllr Brendan Murphy	CEC	brendan.murphy@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Cllr Brian Puddicombe	CEC	brian.puddicombe@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Cllr Alan Gage	CEC	allen.gage@cheshireeast.gov.uk
<b>Officers</b>		
Chris Cooney	Secondary Consultant	Head of RE Brine Leas Academy, Nantwich christopher.cooney@brineleas.co.uk
Sue Glover	Primary RE Consultant	8 Pipers Court Hoole Chester CH2 3JL <a href="mailto:sue.glover62@gmail.com">sue.glover62@gmail.com</a>
Mike Harris	Cheshire East LA (Until July 2023)	Service Manager: Governance and Liaison People Directorate
Joe Carter	Cheshire East LA (Joined Summer 2023)	Project Manager People Directorate   Cheshire East Council