

# Cheshire West SACRE Annual Report September 2021 - August 2022

## **Part 1 - Introduction**

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### **1.2 Overview of SACRE meetings including attendance and content**

October 2021 Teams online meeting. 11/20 members attended.

Secondary News: Still concerns about compliance but after a number of emails another school has signed up to local support with the intention of improving their RE provision. Report about Illuminations Pathways and how different local Dioceses have started to introduce these ways of working.

Primary News: Lots of new RE leads in the area requesting support. Schools looking at Low Stakes Testing techniques. Discussion about anti-racism resources and how we can use these to develop units of work.

Discussed Insight UK Report and the spread of religions taught at different key stages.

March 2022 Teams online meeting. 11/20 members attended.

Secondary News: Presentation about Illuminations Pathways and how these lessons are being used in local Church of England schools. Secondary hub meetings have been discussing different aspects of the GCSE.

Primary News: Support for 3 schools wanting to develop visits to places of worship. Support for one school about assessment and reporting in RE. A local group meeting on using Philosophy for Children in RE lessons. Recommended list of picture books which can be linked to the scheme of work was created and emailed to all schools with recommendations to purchase resources. Supported 15 Associate Teachers. PowerPoints created to support work on Sikhi. 10 schools participated in ½ day sessions with The Sikh Education Service and 3 more had 1 hour zoom question and answer sessions to support subject knowledge and enhance current schemes of work. Workshops were on The Sikh Way of Life and some schools also had sessions on music. Funded by a previous grant as a conference for primary schools was due to happen in March 2020, one week into Lockdown. Monitoring emails sent to all primary schools requesting info about long term plans for RE. Recommended Belonging and Believing Books and found out about a new online platform being prepared for EYFS based on the books.

We looked at the OFSTED RE research paper and how we can support schools to develop ways of knowing.

Previously invited MPs to an upcoming Parliamentary Round Table on RE and then discussed this meeting.

Two members attended the NASACRE training on Worldviews and reported back to the group.

One member reported back on attending the North West Hub.

June 2022 Teams online meeting. 10/22 members attended.

Secondary News: The Secondary Advisory Teach resigned earlier in the term due to changes at work. The position has been advertised to Cheshire West Schools.

Primary News: Report on an online training session with Lat Blaylock looking at OFSTED and RE attended by 30 teachers. This was funded by SACRE. 16 EYFS / Year 1 teachers attended a session with Gill Vaisey about resources for RE. Training for 14 Associate Teachers.

Discussion about the White Paper.

Feedback on the NASACRE annual conference and AGM.

Shrewsbury Diocese are approaching local Heads for Catholic representation on SACRE. Our representative of the Jewish community resigned as moving abroad. Despite efforts she was unable to find a local member who would like to join SACRE.

We looked at the RE Report Card and agreed to circulate.

### **1.3 Agreed Syllabus Conference**

We have not met as an Agreed Syllabus Conference this year. The review is due to start in the Summer Term of 2023.

## **Part 2 - Religious Education in Cheshire West**

### **2.1 Standards and monitoring**

We have started the process of asking all community and academy primary schools to forward website information / policy / long term plans so we can check for compliance. This information will be collated during August 2022. The Secondary Adviser remains concerned about compliance for RE in KS4 and 5 despite emails and phone calls to support. The majority of schools in Cheshire West at secondary level hold academy status or have a designated religious character.

### **2.2 Teacher training and support**

Support has been given to local primary and secondary schools as requested on a one-to-one basis particularly where there is a new subject lead. Document sent to Primary schools with recommended artefacts to accompany our scheme of work and one about picture books.

The Secondary Hub has been meeting with a focus on different aspects of the GCSE.

We currently have networks in the Chester, Ellesmere Port and former Vale Royal areas which meet as clusters of teachers online and face to face.

SACRE CPD offered included the following courses this year: -

- Philosophy for Children (Primary) with Naomi Anstice
- OFSTED and RE (Primary and Secondary) with Lat Blaylock
- RE in the Early Years and Year 1 for non-specialists (Primary) with Gill Vaisey
- Using Persona Dolls for EYFS and KS1 (Primary) with Naomi Anstice

We promoted training sessions throughout Facebook group (over 200 members) including those offered by Humanists UK, Culham St Gabriels, NATRE, Chester University, LTLRE, Jewish Museum, Holocaust Education, Farmington and RE Today.

Two-day sessions with Associate Teachers on RE.

### **2.3 Headteacher and Local Authority advice**

We have answered Freedom of Information requests. Advice on withdraw from RE from local Headteachers (Just 2 requests for information.)

## **Part 3 - Collective Worship in Cheshire West**

### **3.1 Standards and monitoring**

No developments to note.

### **3.2 Determinations**

No requests received.

### **3.3 Teacher training and support**

Some email support for teachers and Head Teachers about what is required by law for Collective Worship.

## **Part 4 - Links with other bodies related to RE and Collective Worship**

### **4.1 Three members of SACRE are REQM assessors.**

One member of SACRE is the NATRE Vice Chair (Primary) and a member of REPU (Religious Education Policy Unit).

Three members attend regional or national SACRE / NASACRE events.

Two members work with LTLRE North West.

## **Part 5 - SACRE involvement locally**

- 5.1** Two members of SACRE currently offer workshops to local schools on Humanism and Baha'i are involved with the Cheshire West Inter Faith Network.

## **Part 6 - SACREs own local arrangements**

### **6.1 Professional and administrative support**

Our Primary Adviser and SACRE Officer with LEA link (Naomi Anstice) is funded for 12 days a year. Naomi provides 1:1 support for new subject leads, responds to emails, supports local Headteachers, runs the Facebook group and one local group whilst supporting the other two, writes schemes of work and resources, organises, and leads CPD and updates on any RE news at a regional or national level.

Our Secondary Adviser (Tim Lee) is funded for 8 days a year. Tim provides 1:1 support for department leaders, leads a secondary network hub and supports a local group.

Our SACRE Clerk (Alison Williams) is funded as required. Alison provides all admin support for SACRE meetings and beyond throughout the term.

## 6.2 Membership, representation & recruitment

Cheshire West SACRE has a low membership and finds it difficult to recruit members of faith communities due to low levels of diversity within the area. We actively recruit by emailing organisations and advertising our meetings. Due to the low numbers, we meet together as one SACRE.

	<b>Members</b>
1	Chair of SACRE
2	Vice Chair, former RE Teacher
3	Primary Specialist Teacher in RE/ Union
4	CW&C Councillor
5	NASUWT union.
6	Methodist
7	NUT
8	Humanist
9	Chester Diocese
10	NUT
11	Church of England / Secondary Advisor
12	Baha'is/ RE Primary Teacher
13	Church of England
14	Hinduism
15	Latter Day Saints
16	NUT
17	Jewish
18	CW&C Councillor
19	Ex Student - observer
20	Clerk

## 6.3 Training for SACRE (and ASC) members

We advertise the training sessions offered by NASACRE which have been attended by 3 members this year.

## 6.4 Finance given to SACRE for its work

The budget allocated to Cheshire West and Chester SACRE for the financial year for March 2021- March 2022 was £10,000.

March 2022 – March 2023 is £10,000.

## **Part 7 - Appendices**

### 7.1 Table of GCSE – short and full

School level results were not published again this year.

### 7.2 A/S & A Level RS results

School level results were not published again this year.

**7.3 Details on CPD provided to schools**

As listed at 2.3 Teacher Training and Support

**7.4 Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW**

Not applicable for the current year.

**7.5 Circulation details for this AR**

This report will be circulated to members of Cheshire West and Chester SACRE, CW&C Head of Education and Inclusion, Debbie Edwards, NASACRE and the Department for Education.