



HACKNEY SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

This report is published in accordance with the Education Act 1996 and
forwarded to the DFE via NASACRE

MEMBERS APPROVED THIS REPORT ON:

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1. SACRE membership

1. Chair's introduction

Hackney SACRE with Hackney Education continues to promote RE and Worldviews, Collective Worship, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and Community Cohesion. It is a legal requirement that SACREs review their Syllabus every 5 years, and having completed a review, the new Hackney Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was launched in March 2024 ready for full implementation in September 2024. The launch followed widespread consultation with teachers and local religious and non-religious leaders. Considerations was also taken from national publications including the REC and Ofsted, including the RE subject review. We are confident our Syllabus reflects the best practices as outlined in these reports/reviews and documents.

We continue to support our schools' development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and Community Cohesion. For example, with the production of the School RE Calendar, which, with the help of Hackney Education, we send to all Children's Centres, Secondary schools and Primary schools in the borough. This provides some evidence of the impact of the Syllabus in schools, as the pupils' artwork included is based on key concepts and content required.

Our support for RE in schools continues through well attended network meetings for Primary RE Leads and Heads of Departments in Secondary schools.

Finally, I want to thank the Hackney Education in continuing to support our work over the past year.

Sandra Hall
SACRE Chair

1.Overview:

Since 1988, it has been a requirement that every local education authority (LA) has a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Each year SACRE is required to produce a summary of its activities.

The Education Act 2002 requires that Religious Education must be provided as part of the basic curriculum in addition to the National Curriculum. Amended guidance on the content and format of this report is based on the NASACRE (National Association for Standing Advisory Councils) guidance 2021. The report outlines our work to promote and develop the good teaching of RE and Worldviews and Collective Worship in the Borough, to support community cohesion. This report covers the Academic year 2023-24 and includes a brief overview of SACRE discussions from this period.

SACRE met virtually four times across the academic year 2023-24.

11th October 2023

31st January 2024

27th February 2024

5th June 2024

2. Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education

Within Hackney, advice is available to schools around RE and Worldviews through various formats including:

- The Hackney Locally Agreed Syllabus
<https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/extranet/hackney-agreed-syllabus>
- Documentation to support with intent, implementation and impact for the Hackney LAS
- A Google Drive accessible to all schools across Hackney borough. The Google Drive contains lesson resources, schemes of work and medium-term plans from EYFS to KS3
- The Hackney SACRE RE consultant
- Termly CPD opportunities to support the teaching and development of RE and Worldviews
- SACRE guidance documents sent electronically into every school e.g. Ramadan Guidance for schools in Spring 2024.

Hackney SACRE undertook a self-evaluation review, using the NASACRE toolkit. This is regularly reviewed and updated which helps to identifying the priorities, areas of strength and targets for development.

In November 2023 Hackney SACRE, hosted a free training session by ‘Solutions not Sides’ in response to the terror attacks in Israel in October 2023. Solutions Not Sides is ‘an education programme that exists to provide humanising encounters, diverse narratives and critical-thinking tools in order to empower young people with the knowledge, empathy and skills to promote dialogue and conflict resolution, and to challenge prejudice in the UK.’ This training session was open to all Hackney secondary and sixth form teachers. An invitation was also extended to secondary teachers in four neighbouring boroughs. The training was attended by RE and PSHE Leads from Hackney and Redbridge schools as well as members of Hackney local authority. It covered important issues and advice including tackling Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in schools in the context of the Israel-Palestine debate.

Feedback from the Solutions not Sides training:

100% of attendees said: the training session was good, the methodologies and approaches suggested were clear and the training met its aims.

One attendee commented in the evaluation of the training:

“Really helpful session and very useful to have the resources afterwards. Was very interesting to hear about the philosophy and approach - e.g., the way that the Israeli and Palestinian participants were given the 'authority' and 'humanity' keys. I am glad that we were also given lots of time for the card activity, which created an opportunity for discussion at our table about all kinds of things, including our own emotional response to the conflict and the sometimes quite difficult conversations we have had with other people about it.”

In March 2024 Hackney SACRE launched the new Hackney Locally Agreed Syllabus after a period of consultation. The consultation took place during the Agreed Syllabus Conferences and feedback from Hackney teachers during the primary and secondary network meetings. A working party was set up to review including SACRE members and teachers from Benthal and Springfield Primary schools and Clapton Girls Academy. Led by The Hackney RE Advisor the working party analysed the Census Data 2021 for Hackney Borough to ensure that the new locally agreed syllabus was reflective of Hackney’s diverse communities. The teachers in the working party produced KS1 and KS2 schemes of work on Humanism and non-religious worldviews and KS3 schemes of work on Religion in Hackney, Jewish Worldviews and Buddhist Worldviews.

The Hackney Locally Agreed Syllabus has also adopted a KS2 unit of work on Alevism, being only the second borough in the country to do so. This is to reflect the Alevi community living and working in the borough of Hackney.

The Hackney Agreed Syllabus launch event was held in March 2024 at The Tomlinson Centre, Hackney. The event was attended by SACRE members, local faith and Humanist leaders, Headteachers, Primary RE Leads, Secondary Heads of Department and members of the local authority.

The event commenced with the wonderful contributions from St John’s Primary School and St Paul’s with St Michael’s school choirs, who sang uplifting songs and hymns. Hackney SACRE were most grateful for their contributions to the launch and thank them for their time and efforts.

The launch included speeches from Hackney’s Director of Education, the Hackney RE Advisor and a panel of speakers from a cross section of local Religion and Worldviews leaders. The panel included an Alevi, Jewish and Humanist representative and year 13 student from Clapton Girls Academy. The student gave an inspiring speech about her passion for Religious Education and plan to study.....at.....university in the forth-coming academic year.

Throughout 2023-24 the Hackney RE Advisor ran termly meetings as well as CPD training for the new Hackney agreed syllabus. The meetings were attended by primary RE Leads and Secondary Heads of Department with some Primary Headteachers also

attending the syllabus training session in May 2024. The meetings have covered the following topics and training:

Primary:

- National and local updates
- Discussion of Locally agreed syllabus models
- Key note speaker: Rachel Burns at UK Jewish films
- RE Hubs website
- Training opportunities
- LAS training with Claire Clinton (Newham's RE Advisor)
- Raising the profile of RE
- Assessment in RE
- SWOT analysis

Secondary:

- National and local updates
- Discussion of Locally agreed syllabus models
- GCSE Exam feedback-headlines
- LAS Review and presentation from Head of Department at Clapton Girls Academy
- Key note speaker: Rachel Burns at UK Jewish films
- Sharing Best Practice-SEND
- LAS Training

Public examinations:

GCSE Results 2024

School	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U	Total	4+	5+	7+
All Saints Catholic High School	8	12	20	13	16	14	6	7	4	5	105	60	47	17
Cardinal Pole Catholic School	6	18	24	24	35	28	24	6	2		167	119	95	32
Clapton Girls' Academy	2	7	10	5	14	29	25	37	33	2	164	143	138	95
Haggerston School		1	2	3	4	4	2		1		17	14	11	3
Mossbourne Community Academy	1	5	12	14	15	33	26	40	45		191	173	159	111
Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy	1	6	9	11	24	25	29	24	29		158	142	131	82
Skinners' Academy	3	4	2	5	9	7	4	3	3		40	31	26	10
Stoke Newington School and Sixth Form		2		1	5	4	5	4	1		22	20	19	10
The Bridge Academy		2	1	2	2	2	3	4	3		19	16	14	10
The City Academy, Hackney		1	5	3	5	4	2	4	2		26	20	17	8
The Excelsior Academy	14	16	20	25	33	24	11	20	7	3	173	120	95	38
The Urswick School - A Church of Engla	3	14	32	24	18	21	13	10	6	3	144	92	68	29
Waterside Academy	5	7	13	12	22	12	5	11	3	3	93	65	53	19
HACKNEY	43	95	150	142	202	207	155	170	139	16	1319	1015	873	464
HACKNEY												77.00%	66.20%	35.20%

The GCSE 2024 results for Hackney schools were 77% at grades 4-9. The national average for GCSE Religious Studies was 72.5%. Hackney schools performed above the national average by 4.5%. Hackney is 3.8% higher than the national average for grades 7-9.

3. Standards and quality of provision of Collective

Hackney SACRE supports an inclusive approach to collective worship that promotes spiritual development and contributes to community cohesion. SACRE have previously provided resources for use in school assemblies.

Determinations: There have been no applications for determination during 2023-24. Hackney SACRE have procedures for schools to apply for a determination, and guidance has been approved by Hackney council and has been made available to schools.

4. SACRE work with other agencies

Hackney SACRE is a member of NASACRE and has access to the NASACRE training programme. The Hackney RE Advisor and RE Consultant is on the AREIAC Executive committee, a member of NATRE and AULRE. The Hackney RE Advisor attended the NASACRE AGM in Spring 2024 in York.

Hackney SACRE continues to support and fund the Holocaust Memorial Day event which in 2024 was held at Rio Cinema and run by UK Jewish films. This event showed the screening of the animated film 'My Father's Secrets' followed by a Q&A with Holocaust education expert Mike Levy. The event was attended by four Hackney secondary schools; Mossbourne Community Academy, Clapton Girls Academy, City of London Academy Shoreditch Park and Haggerston, totalling 118 pupils and teachers. Hackney SACRE members were also invited to attend the event.

In addition, several Hackney schools were involved in the 'Story circle' project. This project aims to challenge prejudice, intolerance and hate as well as developing literacy, discussions, and debate. Funding was given to support the Heartstone Story Circles celebration event in the summer term 2024.

5. Contribution of SACRE to the wider LA agenda

During 2023-24 The Hackney RE Advisor attended the Hackney Faith forum meeting as did Hackney member Brenda Humphreys. Feedback was given to SACRE members during the proceeding meetings.

Furthermore, Hackney SACRE continues to produce a full-colour wall calendar showing religious and non-religious festivals and other significant dates. This is illustrated with artwork selected in a competition open to all Hackney primary school pupils and those in Key Stage 3. The calendar theme for the 2023-24 competition was 'Unity.' This links with Hackney's 'No Place for Hate' strategy. The Hackney SACRE and RE Advisor received over 100 entries from primary and secondary schools across the borough.

The published calendar was sent to all Hackney schools and Children's Centres. It not only supports and promotes the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils in schools, but also encourages learning about and celebrating the diversity of RE, Worldviews and culture in Hackney.

6. Management of SACRE

Hackney SACRE has been quorate for all its SACRE and ASC meetings in the 2023-24.

Hackney Education continues to support the work of Hackney SACRE.

The Hackney SACRE Advisor and RE Consultant offers support for SACRE as well as Primary and Secondary schools in Hackney through the network meetings.

Membership of SACRE is reviewed in all meetings, and members are reminded that they should provide a representative in their absence or introduce a replacement when they resign from the SACRE committee.

Hackney Education continues to receive the total SACRE funding provided by Hackney Council. This included funding for:

- An adviser for SACRE and RE
- A clerk for SACRE
- CPD Support for SACRE Advisor including attendance at national events/conferences
- NASACRE subscription and training open to all SACRE members
- The Hackney Calendar competition including a published copy for all schools
- Funds to take forward, on request, plans to support local initiative
- Funding to promote community cohesion events
- A budget to cover Local Agreed Syllabus Review and launch event

7. Summary

Thank you to the support of Hackney Education for supporting events to encourage community cohesion and tackle hate crime.

The priorities for the next academic year 2024-25 include supporting Hackney schools with the implementation of the new Hackney locally agreed syllabus. This means offering training through the RE networks and ensuring access to all the planning and resources via the Google Drive.

Areas of development have also been identified on the SACREs Self-evaluation plan which continued to be monitored and developed.