HACKNEY SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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 18/03/2026:

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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.

We continue to support our schools' development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and Community Cohesion with the production of the School RE Calendar which we send to all Children's Centres, Secondary and Primary schools in the Borough.

This report 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 and evaluated training days, the dissemination of updated schemes of work and network meetings for RE Leads.

I want to thank all members of Hackney SACRE for their contribution and support and especially to the Clerk, Joanna Murray.

Finally, I want to thank Hackney Education in continuing to provide excellent specialist advisory support so that Hackney SACRE can continue to function effectively, by funding the services of our RE and SACRE Advisor, Claire Ramalli during this year.

Sandra Hall
SACRE Chair

2. 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 of Hackney, to support community cohesion.

This report covers the Academic year 2024-25 and includes a brief overview of SACRE discussions from this period.

SACRE met virtually three times across the academic year 2024-25.

- 4th December 2024
- 13th March 2025
- 11th June 2025

All meetings were quorate.

All agendas and approved minutes of these meetings are shared with members and published online https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/extranet/sacre

Agenda items for the 2024-25 SACRE meetings included (in no particular order):

- Sharing Good Practice
- Member presentations: 'My World View'
- The right to withdraw guidance
- Code of conduct
- Pupil voice
- Self-assessment toolkit
- Annual report
- Hackney Calendar
- Local network meetings
- NASACRE and Virtual Training and updates
- OAK National Academy resources
- Faith & Belief Forum
- HMD Hackney event
- School visits

Hackney SACRE meetings offer opportunities to hear from members in a slot entitled 'My worldview.' This year we had a presentation from Dr Naftali Loewenthal, a board member, who provided the board with a presentation called; The Jewish World View.

3. 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
- SACRE guidance documents sent electronically into every school e.g. Ramadan Guidance for schools
- The right to withdraw documentation

Hackney SACRE continues to self-evaluate, using the NASACRE toolkit. This is regularly reviewed and updated which helps to identify the priorities, areas of strength and targets for development.

In the autumn term 2024-25, the take up of the new Hackney locally agreed syllabus was embedded into the School Improvement Plan (SIP) process. The Hackney Local Authority member reported that discussions between the LA and schools were positive with the new syllabus being embraced.

Hackney SACRE invites local schools and RE coordinators to share feedback on the new locally agreed syllabus. During the autumn SACRE meeting William Patten Primary school staff presented to members and reported positively on the support received and the new syllabus. The presentation on the LAS reported:

- The LAS encourages thinking skills across all perspectives and wider concepts
- Has a strong focus on EDI
- Encourages analytical thought and thinking skills in the classroom
- Recognises best practices
- Clearly aligns with SACRE
- The syllabus is well informed in all areas (The school noted the pool of experience used in creating the programme in Hackney by the SACRE board)

- Shows clear progression

In the spring 2025 SACRE meeting, Sian Maciver, RE coordinator from Sebright Primary, provided SACRE with feedback on the new local syllabus. Her feedback was incredibly positive, stating the new syllabus was informative allowing for lessons to be creative. Sian stated that the pupils were engaged and enjoyed every lesson.

Network meetings:

In Autumn 2024, Claire Ramalli, Hackney RE Advisor organised CPD training on the new Hackney agreed syllabus held at William Patten school. Claire was joined by Taranum Afshan, Newham's Primary RE Advisor. This session was attended by some new RE coordinators and others who had attended previous CPD on the new syllabus. The session included looking at examples on planning, using the overarching questions. Attendees also received planning resources.

In spring 2025 Berger Primary school hosted the network meeting. Two Alevi faith members delivered training to schools to support the introduction and delivery of Alevism into the Hackney Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Public examinations:

GCSE Results 2025

COUNTA of UPN	*GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies*											Numbers				
School Name		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	U	Grand Total	Entries	4+	5+	7+
CARDINAL POLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL	3	8	13	22	20	31	24	17	8	8	1	155	152	108	88	33
City Academy Hackney	162	1	3	3	2	4	3	5	5			188	26	19	17	10
City of London Academy Shoreditch Park	94											94	0	0	0	0
CLAPTON GIRLS' ACADEMY	6	3	6	16	15	24	18	22	29	36		175	169	144	129	87
HAGGERSTON SCHOOL	161		1	1	3	2	3	5	4	1	1	182	21	18	15	10
Lubavitch House Senior Girls School	16											16	0	0	0	0
Mossbourne Community Academy	9		4	8	11	17	46	34	39	38		206	197	185	174	111
Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy	3	1	1	9	9	12	26	24	42	28	1	156	153	141	132	94
OUR LADY'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL	1	11	7	14	10	16	20	15	7	3	1	105	104	71	61	25
Skinners' Academy	132	2	3	5	11	4	11	4	3	2		177	45	35	24	9
STOKE NEWINGTON SCHOOL	254											254	0	0	0	0
The Bridge Academy	129	1		3	7	8	7	6	4	7		172	43	39	32	17
The Petchey Academy	6	19	20	17	22	25	22	21	11	7	7	177	171	108	86	39
The Urswick School	5	8	19	14	19	18	27	14	9	4	4	141	136	91	72	27
Waterside Academy	1	8	9	4	7	16	10	10	7	2	4	78	77	52	45	19
Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls School	82											82	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	**1118**	**62**	**86**	**116**	**136**	**177**	**217**	**177**	**168**	**136**	**19**	**2412**	**1294**	**1011**	**875**	**481**

The GCSE 2025 results for Hackney schools were 78% at grades 4-9. The national average for GCSE Religious Studies was 73.2%. Hackney schools performed above the national average by almost 5%. Hackney is over 5% higher than the national average for grades 7-9. We offer our thanks and congratulations to Hackney schools on these fantastic GCSE RS results.

4. Standards and quality of provision of Collective Worship

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 2024-25. 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.

5. 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 Claire Ramalli is on the AREIAC Executive committee. She attended the NASACRE AGM in summer 2025 in London where she was voted onto the NASACRE executive.

Hackney SACRE continues to support and fund the Holocaust Memorial Day event which in 2025 was held at the Picturehouse in Hackney, led by UK Jewish films. This event showed a screening of 'For A Better Future', followed by a Q&A with Holocaust education expert Mike Levy.

Five Hackney secondary schools booked to attend the event totalling 137, including teachers. The Hackney SACRE and RE Advisor was also in attendance.

The feedback by attendees rated the event overall as:

- Excellent 40%
- Good 60%

6. Contribution of SACRE to the wider LA agenda

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 2024-25 competition was 'celebrations and festivals.' The Hackney SACRE and RE Advisor received over 200 entries from primary and secondary schools across the borough. Entries were received from eight different schools.

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 and Worldviews in Hackney.

7. Management of SACRE

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 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

8. 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 2025-26 include supporting Hackney schools with the implementation of the new Hackney locally agreed syllabus. This means starting to visit schools to review syllabus implementation as well as ensuring access to all the planning and resources via Google Drive.

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

9.Membership 2024-25

Committee	Name	Notes
1. Religious Faith Groups	Hasan Bolucek	Alevi
	TBC	Jain/Hindu
	Nirmal Hirani	Hindu
	Sheikh Yasar Zaman	Islam
	Rumana Rafique	
	Naftali Loewanthal	Judaism
	TBC	Sikhism
	Justin Madubuko	Catholic
	Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa	Methodist
	Paul Kaufman	Humanist
	Ivor Millman	Judaism
2. Church of England	Louise Ritchie	Church of England

3.Teachers	**Sandra Hall**	**NEU, Chair**
	Sheena Merchant	**NEU**
	Michelle Byrne	**NEU**
	Nasima Ephraim	**NEU**
	Brenda Humphreys	**NASUWT**
	Linn Thorsen	**NASUWT**
4.Local Authority	**Lynne Troughton (Cllr)**	**Councillor**
	Ifraax Samatar	**Councillor**
	Kam Adams (Cllr)	**Councillor**
	TBC	**Councillor**
	Sade Etti (Cllr)	**Councillor**
	Claire Ramalli	**Adviser**
Observer	**Damien Parrot LAMA**	**Observer**
Potential Member	**Hiral Patel**	**Buddhist**