

Hackney SACRE

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Promoting, supporting and encouraging good practice in the teaching of Religious Education in Hackney schools



Annual Report 2021-22

The report is produced in accordance with the Education Act 1996 and forwarded to the DfE via NASACRE

Members approved this report on 8th February 2023

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1. Introduction

1a. Chairman’s Introduction

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 RE and Collective Worship in the Borough, to develop the good teaching of Religious Education in our schools and to support community cohesion. This report covers the Academic year 2020-21 and includes a brief overview of SACRE discussions from this period.

Hackney SACRE with Hackney Education (previously the Hackney Learning Trust) continues to promote RE, 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 published in 2019 following widespread consultation with teachers and local faith leaders, as well as taking into account publications from the REC and Ofsted, including the RE subject review of Summer 2021. We are confident our Syllabus reflects the best practices as outlined in these reports/reviews and documents. We have concrete evidence of its implementation in half our primary and secondary schools and further analysis as to its implementation and effectiveness will be ascertained in the near future.

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 the 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 and evaluated training sessions, the dissemination of updated schemes of work for key stages 1 and 2, and network meetings for 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

1b. Overview of academic year 2021-22

Hackney SACRE met three times during the academic year 2021-22. Each meeting was quorate.

All agendas and approved minutes of these meetings are saved regularly and made accessible via the Hackney SACRE website: <https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/extranet/sacre>.

Agenda items for these meetings included (in no particular order):

- Training of primary teachers – Primary Story Circles Project
- Support for Secondary teachers
- Borough RE Calendar competition
- SACRE Funding
- Website access to SACRE information
- Attendance and membership to SACRE
- Locally Agreed Syllabus-support materials and monitoring impact
- National RE developments-Ofsted subject Review and Worldviews perspective
- Strategies to combat Anti-Semitism in Hackney schools
- Holocaust Memorial Day Event
- Alevi FOI request

2. Standards and quality of provision in RE

2a: Provision, compliance and time allocation for RE

The Hackney Agreed Syllabus 2019 recommends that 5% of curriculum time is dedicated to RE, that this should equate to approximately: 36 hours per year for KS1; 45 hours for KS2; 45 hours for KS3 and 40- 48 hours for KS4. This excludes time allocated for collective worship. Religious Education remains statutory for all students and Hackney expects schools to provide all students with their entitlement to study the subject, including at KS4 when they should preferably be entered for GCSE RS. While requirements for some Academies may differ, their funding arrangements ensure that they make provision for all pupils in RE.

In general, the provision of RE remained constant, approximately at least one third of all Hackney primary schools and at least six secondary schools follow the schemes of work provided by the former RE Advisor. Support materials including video resources have been prepared to support RE teaching in primary schools. These videos were prepared to support schools who haven't been able to access visiting speakers or visit places of worship due to covid restrictions. Each of the video clips promote worldview learning and relate to

questions linked to primary units of work, specifically to the learning children are doing.

2b:Public Examination Results




This was the first set of formal examination results since summer 2019. Formal public examinations had not taken place in summer 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To support students and schools impacted by the pandemic and a disruption to schooling, examination boards made some reduction to the content that would be examined in the summer 2022 exams. Schools were informed of changes made to the RS GCSE content being examined in February 2022.

GCSE Full Course Summary

This data shows a drop of 187 students being entered for the full course GCSE Religious Studies compared to the 2019 data. The 9-5 % pass rate has increased by a healthy 6% since 2019.

The RE Advisor had to independently source figures for the national percentage of pupils achieving 9-5 passes. Unfortunately Hackney secondary schools performed below the national average for RS GCSE by 2.2%. However, the gap has continued to close since 2018. It is important to note that this data does not show the context of individual schools.

School	Entries						A*-C/9-5 points					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bridge Academy	25/173	31 (19%)	26			15/173 (9%)	88	83.8	81			80%
Cardinal Pole	143/162	144 (92.9%)	167			166/167 (99%)	69	59.7	53			66%
City Academy	58/176	42 (24%)	37			38/193 (20%)	95	73.8	62			79%
Clapton Girls Academ	174/175	168 (97.7%)	168			172/175 (98%)	87	74.4	86			77%
Waterside (Was HNS)		74 (83.1%)	81					59.5	40			
Urswick School	135/136	0	126			1/146 (1%)	70		49			0%
Haggerston	166/179	96 (69.9%)	125			27/135 (20%)	61	58.4	55			74%
Our Lady's	121/121	121/121	122			113/115 (98%)	77	50.9	58			46%
Skinners	136/170	148 (88.6%)	135			168/173 (97%)	79	70.9	65			64%
Petchey Academy	153/169					165/174 (95%)	58	62.5	42			59%
National								72	61			66%

Key: 2018-22 Entries/2019-22 results
 Increase 
 Decrease 1-9% 
 Decrease 10% + 

Data was also provided for Stoke Newington School which showed 6% of the cohort were entered for the full course GCSE, with 60% of students achieving grades 9-5. Waterside Academy (was Hackney New School) entered 99% of their cohort with 55% achieving grades 9-5. It is important to note that the results do not show the individual context of schools or reflect where schools may offer short course GCSE or follow an early entry system for students in year 10.

2c. The Agreed Syllabus

The Syllabus was unanimously agreed and positively received by schools when it was launched in 2019 and is available on the SACRE web page provided by the Local Authority.

Hackney SACRE are confident that the Agreed Syllabus reflects best practice. Reports from the former RE advisor show that pupils and teachers engaged well with the enquiry approach and pedagogy set out in the syllabus. Individual primary and secondary schools were supported in the implementation of the Syllabus.

3. 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 2021-22.

Hackney SACRE have now updated the procedures for schools to apply for a determination, and updated guidance has been approved by Hackney council and has been made available to schools.

4. SACRE work with other agencies

Hackney SACRE supports Religious Education that meets the needs of all students with or without religious beliefs. It promotes inclusion of religious and non-religious groups and highlights the importance of racial harmony. RE promotes understanding and respect for all communities which is vital with the rise of fundamentalism and extremism in the UK and worldwide as well as examples of conflict within the local community. Through the teaching of RE, negative stereotypes and prejudices can and should be tackled and we should generate understanding, overcome barriers, and promote community cohesion.

Hackney SACRE are members of NASACRE and have access to the NASACRE training programme.

5. Contribution of SACRE to Community Cohesion

Hackney SACRE membership reflects the rich mix of faiths and communities found within the borough, including attendance to SACRE meetings representatives from the Alevi and Humanist communities.

The revised Hackney Agreed Syllabus of 2019 contains information about how RE should support the development of SMSC, and efforts have been made to increase references to a wider range of religious and

non-religious beliefs that are represented in our community. This includes specific mention and expectation in the syllabus for schools to teach about our Alevi and Haredi Jewish communities in Hackney. One recommendation is for secondary schools to plan for delivering Judaism in year 7 to increase understanding, challenge stereotypes and combat Anti-Semitism.

A borough event led by the Jewish Film organisation took place in January 2023 to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The screening of 'Where is Anne Frank' at Rio cinema was attended by 130 students representing four secondary schools in Hackney. The initial feedback was that the event was extremely positive. We thank Hackney Education for supporting an event that commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day and supported community cohesion.

In addition, several Hackney primary schools were involved in a 'Story circle' project. This project aims to challenge prejudice, intolerance and hate as well as developing literacy, discussions, and debate. At the RE Celebration on 4th July 2022 Sita Kumari, in her role as dancer/story teller for Heartstone, gave a presentation to introduce Chandra and the Heartstone Odyssey. Which was very well received by those present.

In addition, Hackney SACRE continues to be able to produce a full-colour wall calendar showing religious and non-religious festivals and other significant dates. This was illustrated with artwork selected in a competition open to all Hackney primary school pupils. The 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 culture in Hackney.

6. Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA (Local Authority) and other key stakeholders

Hackney Education continues to support the work of Hackney SACRE. In January 2023 a new RE and SACRE Advisor was appointed. The advisor will offer 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. SACRE are not informed of the amount but in 2021-22 this included funding for:

- An adviser for RE and SACRE
- Funds to support the development and accreditation of our SACRE adviser, including membership of professional associations
- A clerk for SACRE

- NASACRE subscription
- Funds to cover meetings
- Funds to take forward, on request, plans to support local initiative
- Training and development for schools
- Money to cover curriculum materials, including the Locally Agreed Syllabi

Hackney Education also disseminates funding upon individual requests. In the academic year of 2021-22 this included:

- Design and publishing costs for the Hackney RE Calendar
- Supporting a Holocaust Memorial event screening at Rio cinema, open to Hackney schools

7. Summary

Thank you to the support of Hackney Education, events to support community cohesion have been an area of strength for Hackney SACRE.

A new RE Advisor is now in post and aims to build positive relationships with primary and secondary RE leads, assist and support with the delivery of the agreed syllabus and reflect best practice. Teachers and SACRE members will be informed of local and national developments within the world of RE and worldviews.

In the next academic year we are keen to further develop links with local community groups including the implementation of Alevism through the curriculum. It is also key we develop responses to issues raised in our local schools around Anti-Racism and Anti- Semitism.

2021-22

Members of SACRE

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