



**Halton Standing Advisory Council on
Religious Education (SACRE)**

Annual Report

September 2023 – August 2024

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1. Introduction:

The Halton SACRE met once in 2023 – 2024, on the 25th June 2024. The meeting was face to face.

25th June 2024 x7 attendees, x2 apologies.

Agenda included membership, an overview of Humanism; Ofsted report on RE; the LA provision for supporting the work of SACRE; National Content Standards; approving the SACRE annual report 2022-2023; feedback from the NASACRE annual conference.

The 2023 – 2024 membership of Halton SACRE is in appendix F.

2. Religious Education (statutory responsibilities):

In Halton, 27 Maintained and Voluntary Controlled schools follow the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus (LAS), as adopted by Halton SACRE. Seven academies also purchase the LAS.

The ASC on 01 March 2016 adopted the LAS for September 2016 – 2021. The LAS was revised by Lancashire County Council and subsequently adopted by Halton SACRE for a further five years in summer 2021.

RE teachers have had access to specific training allied to the use of the LAS across key stages, including EYFS through online networks delivered by Lancashire LA (LPDS) and SACRE and further online CPD opportunities during 2023 – 2024.

2.1. Standards and monitoring of Religious Education:

ALL 62 Halton Schools are requested to complete the annual return in order to capture a full and comprehensive picture of Religious Education across all Halton school. The percentage of school's figures in this report refer to the percentage of schools that responded to the 2023-2024 annual return. 55% of schools responded (34/62 schools), made up of 55% of the total primary schools in Halton, 56% of Halton's secondary phase schools and 50% of Halton's special schools.

Annual return grades for the following (1 – Outstanding, 2 – Good, 3 – Satisfactory, 4 – Inadequate)				
Quality of RE curriculum provision	1 = 20% 21% 17% 23% 26% 30% 18% 21%	2 = 73% 77% 72% 64% 57% 68% 82% 71%	3 = 7% 3% 10% 12% 15% 2% 0% 6%	4 = 0% 0% 0% 2% 0% 0% 0%
Quality of teaching and learning in RE	1 = 18% 18% 10% 23% 19% 27% 18% 18%	2 = 70% 77% 66% 65% 64% 66% 75% 71%	3 = 13% 5% 24% 12% 15% 7% 7% 9%	4 = 0% 0% 0% 0% 2% 0% 0% 3%
Standards of attainment and achievement	1 = 10% 13% 10% 25% 21% 23% 18% 15%	2 = 77% 77% 80% 60% 60% 66% 68% 68%	3 = 13% 10% 14% 15% 19% 11% 14% 15%	4 = 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 3%
Quality of collective worship	1 = 20% 13% 17% 26% 28% 32% 22% 27%	2 = 67% 77% 62% 60% 57% 66% 61% 53%	3 = 13% 10% 21% 14% 15% 2% 14% 18%	4 = 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 4% 3%
Overall Effectiveness of RE and Collective worship	1= 17% 15% 14% 21% 26% 26% 18% 21%	2= 67% 80% 66% 65% 62% 70% 79% 65%	3= 17% 5% 21% 12% 13% 4% 4% 12%	4= 0% 0% 0% 2% 0% 0% 0% 3%
1. Figures in blue are 2016/17 2. Figures in green are for 2017/18 3. Figures in black are 2018/2019 4. Figures in purple are 2019/2020 5. Figures in brown are for 2020/21 6. Figures in red are for 2021/2022 7. Figures in orange are for 2022/2023 8. Figures in grey are for 2023/2024 and previous years are for comparison				

2.2. Religious Education provision in schools: Of the 34 responding schools,

- 100% of schools have an RE co-ordinator.
- 100% of schools regularly monitor, review and evaluate RE provision
- 91% of schools have provision for a daily act of worship in line with statutory requirements.
- 79% of schools regularly monitor, review and evaluate collective worship provision.
- 100% follow an appropriate syllabus and all allocate at least the *minimum recommended RE entitlement time* across KS1 – 2, whilst the five secondary schools and one secondary special school returns record;

2023/24	83% KS3	34% KS4
2022/23	67% KS3	33% KS4
2021/22	100% KS3	50% KS4
2020/21	100% KS3	80% KS4
2019/20	100% KS3	40% KS4
2018/19	70% KS3	50% KS4
2017/18	100% KS3	86% KS4
2016/17	100% KS3	100% KS4
2015/16	100% KS3	83% KS4

- Specialist teaching at KS4;

2023/24 – 53%
2022/23 – 30%
2020/21 - 36%
2019/20 - 38%
2018/19 - 39%
2017/18 - 35%
2016/17 - 13%
2015/16 - 37%

- One Halton school has achieved the REQM award.

2.3. Teacher training, materials and advice for schools:

Halton SACRE issued information to all schools on useful resources to support continued learning, online conferences, online and face to face CPD and publications during 2023/24. Also circulated were updates from LPDS for the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus, NW AREAIC, NATRE and NASACRE and Pennine Learning.

2.4. Withdrawals.

Halton SACRE has set procedures for schools requesting withdrawals. There is clear guidance on the approaches to adopt when engaging with parents and carers and young people and a proforma to submit to the LA outlining the reasons for withdrawal. There has been concern previously with requests for withdrawal from parents and carers (sometimes several at one time) which have subsequently been rescinded. The proforma requests that schools submit such information, thus providing evidence of any potential underlying issues within a community or beyond. The LA officer to SACRE informs the Chair and Vice Chair of any completed or rescinded requests. The LA Officer to SACRE and the Head of Halton's Virtual School and KCSIE Officer also log discriminatory/prejudicial incidents reported by school to review any potential patterns within a community.

2023/24	9 from Collective Worship	2023/24	9 from RE
2022/23	11 from Collective Worship	2022/23	9 from RE
2021/22	10 from Collective Worship	2021/22	5 from RE
2020/21	1 from Collective Worship	2020/21	3 from RE
2019/20	9 from Collective Worship	2019/20	7 from RE
2018/19	14 from Collective Worship	2018/19	11 from RE
2017/18	11 from Collective Worship	2017/18	4 from RE
2016/17	13 from Collective Worship	2016/17	9 from RE

2.5. Complaints.

There were no complaints to Halton SACRE in 2023-2024. Any complaint is dealt with by appropriate members of SACRE and/or the LA e.g. time allocation for RE.

3. Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities): including:

Standards and monitoring of collective worship in 2023 – 2024 from schools' self-evaluation of collective worship was;

- Outstanding 27%
- Good 53%
- Satisfactory 18%
- Inadequate 3%

In **2023 – 2024 91%** of schools make provision for a daily act of worship in line with statutory requirements, compared with 100% in 2022/23, 97% in 2021/22, 100% in 2020/21, 93% in 2019/20, 92% in 2018/29 and 100% in 2017/18.

Collective worship in primary schools is regarded as a strength in the borough (partly due to the high proportion of faith schools). In the last 8+ years, no school has been found by Ofsted to be failing to fulfil its statutory obligation in collective worship.

Schools regularly review and evaluate collective worship:

2023/24	79%
2022/23	86%
2021/22	83%
2020/21	92%
2019/20	83%
2018/19	79%
2017/18	90%
2016/17	96%
2015/16	88%
2014/15	85%

3.1. Determinations.

There are no current and none have been applied for. Link to Determination Process documents online.

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/SACRE.aspx>

3.2. Teacher training

CPD opportunities, RE resources and advice for schools from national bodies are circulated to all schools via the schools circular and/or through network meetings.

3.3. Withdrawals.

There were 9 withdrawals from collective worship and 9 from RE in 2023 – 2024 (see above). SACRE monitors, advises and supports schools with this through comprehensive guidance materials, request for submission of withdrawals to the Clerk to SACRE. There were no complaints with regard to collective worship in 2023 - 2024).

3.4. Religious and non-religious perspectives.

Schools are given the opportunity to consider responses to real world situations from different religious and non-religious perspectives.

Schools are given the opportunity to include any non-religious world approaches/beliefs during teaching

4. Links with other bodies:

National bodies Halton SACRE engage with are NASACRE, the REC, AREIAC and, as appropriate central faith and belief organisations in the Liverpool City Region.

Local bodies include; the four dioceses represented on Halton SACRE, Inter Faith Groups and Faith Groups within the Liverpool City Region, North West RE Hubs, and Generate Teaching School Hub.

5. Other areas of SACRE involvement locally in Halton:

Governors and governing board have been provided with guidance documents to support their role e.g. Compliance with the duty to teach RE, RE in academies and free schools, SACRE guidance for governors, RSE guidance for governors, RE and collective worship updates via the termly Director of Children's Services report to governors and guidance on the role and functions of SACRE.

The SACRE is looking at ways of strengthening engagement with school communities within the borough, to inform its own work, celebrate and challenge the quality of RE and collective worship allied to the outcomes of the annual return.

6. Halton SACRE's own arrangements (statutory responsibilities):

Professional and administrative support from Halton LA is in the form of a School Improvement Officer (LA Officer to SACRE) and provision of a Clerk to SACRE. The LA SSIO is new in post from June 2025 and will support the agenda of each meeting with RE/Collective worship updates, CPD/network provision for members and schools and advice as well as wider school improvement advice relevant to the quality of RE in schools.

- Membership and representation (See Appendix F).
- Recruitment – quoracy can be a challenge, with issues of recruitment of members to fill all available places. Recruitment remains a priority for Halton SACRE. Attendance across all groups can be an issue.
- Training for SACRE members has been facilitated through offer of attendance at LA RE network meetings and annual RE conference and attendance at NASACRE annual conference and online training.
- Finance given to SACRE for its work is in line with the expectations of the Central Schools Service Block, CSSB funding of approximately £13K allocated to local authorities for SACRE has been calculated as the underlying expenditure of Halton LA on the functioning of SACRE (including 5% of the salary of the SSQA acting as LA Officer to SACRE).

7. Appendices

A Table of GCSE – short and full

Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy –

17 of 193 (9%) pupils entered to GCSE 2022, with 58.8% 9-5 and 70.6% 9-4

No pupils entered for GCSE in 2023

No pupils entered for GCSE in 2024

The Grange All Through School –

No results for 2022/2023 or 2024

Wade Deacon High School –

13 of 309 pupils entered in 2023, with 76.9% 9-5 and 84.6% 9-4

8 of 308 pupils entered in 2024, with 75% 9-5 and 87.5% 9-4

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College –

228 of 268 (85%) pupils entered in 2022, with 38.6% 9-5 and 56.1% 9-4

207 of 220 pupils entered in 2023, with 21.7% 9-5 and 32.9% 9-4

268 of 281 pupils entered in 2024, with 25.7% 9-5 and 31.3% 9-4

Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic and C of E Academy (formally St Chad's) –

117 of 119 (98%) pupils entered in 2022, with 41.9% 9-5 and 55.6% 9-4

107 of 110 pupils entered in 2023, with 43.9% 9-5 and 59.8% 9-4

79 of 89 pupils entered in 2024, with 19% 9-5 and 36.7% 9-4

The Heath School –

215 of 242 (89%) pupils entered in 2022, with 41.9% 9-5 and 57.2% 9-4

226 of 230 pupils entered in 2023 with 34.1% 9-5 and 46% 9-4

56 of 237 pupils entered in 2023 with 57.1% 9-5 and 67.9% 9-4

B Details of CPD provided to schools is identified in the relevant sections above.

C Halton SACRE policy statements on RE and Collective Worship

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/SACRE.aspx>



Compliance%20with
%20the%20duty%20to



Guidelines%20for%2
0Collective%20Worsh



SACRE%20guidance
%20for%20governors

D Halton SACRE does not currently have a development plan.

E Circulation details for this Annual Report

- DfE
- NASACRE
- Halton SACRE members
- Elected members - HBC
- Strategic Director – People, HBC; Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision, HBC; Divisional Manager, Education 0 -19 and HBC School Improvement Team
- Halton Schools Circular
- Headteacher and Principals – All Halton schools
- Published on the SACRE section of the HBC website

F Membership as of November 2023

Group A Christian Denominations and Other Religions & Denominations, which reflect in the opinion of the Authority, the principal religious traditions in the area.

Diocese of Shrewsbury

1x vacancy

Liverpool Archdiocesan Schools Commission

Miss Jackie Coughlan

1x vacancy

Methodist Districts of Liverpool and Chester

1x vacancy

Buddhist

Mae Chee Shirley-Anne Hadley, Buddhist Nun,

Hindu

Ms Priti Mistry

Muslim

1x vacancy

Sikh

1x vacancy

Judaism

Mrs Gillian Moonman

Group B The Church of England

Chester Diocese

Ms Stephanie Moss

St Mary's CE Primary, Runcorn

Jenny Owen

St John's Church, Weston

Liverpool Diocese

Reverend Linda Riley-Dawkin

St Michael's, Ditton

Mr Paul Smalley

(Chair)

Group C Teachers' Associations

NAHT

1 vacancy

NASUWT

1x vacancies (primary)

Heather Callander, Wade Deacon

NEU

1x vacancies for secondary

Jane Scragg, primary representative

Jessica Williams, Widnes Academy (primary)

ASCL

Ian Latta, Sandymoor Ormiston Academy

1 x vacancy

Group D The Local Authority

Cllr Geoffrey Logan, Chair - Children & Young People Policy and Performance Board

2 x vacancies

Co-opted Members (N.B. can be affiliated to a group but have no voting rights)

Chair – Paul Smalley

Position vacant – Vice Chair.