

Hull SACRE Annual Report 2023

Contents

• Introduction and words from the Chair	2
• SACRE meetings 2022/2023	3
• SACREs Statutory responsibilities for RE	3
• Collective worship	5
• Links with other bodies	6
• SACREs own arrangements	6
• Appendix	7

Introduction

2023 has been another busy year for SACRE.

- Most SACRE meetings have continued to be held as hybrid sessions when taking place at the Guildhall. Meetings have also been held in a school and at a synagogue and a mosque.
- One member attended the NASACRE conference and reported back to SACRE at the July meeting
- SACRE members have attended training sessions provided by NASACRE and also 'in house' to help us be more effective in our roles. Two members attended training provided by Regional RE Hubs and are now recognised as RE specialist/trainers and have their details on the website <https://www.regionalre.org.uk/> for schools to contact them. This website, organised on a regional basis, is a 'one stop shop' for teachers looking for CPD, resources or places to visit in our area.
- A key focus for SACRE this year was to create a constitution which reflects the Agreed Syllabus Religion and Worldviews approach, to make it fit for today and to take SACRE into the future. SACRE is working with the LA to seek representation from a wider range of worldviews for Group A
- Following extensive discussion with SACRE members it was agreed to continue work on the revision of our current guidance for collective worship in partnership with East Riding SACRE.
- We welcomed the *Jewish Living Experience Exhibition* to Hull Minster for three weeks in May 2023. SACRE members worked with Minster staff to ensure that the school groups and members of the public which visited this exhibition enjoyed the experience, engaged with the exhibits and had opportunities to engage with the volunteers from the Jewish community. Reviews from all ages were positive and affirmative of the aims of this exhibition. We are most grateful for the commitment and support of all involved and especially want to thank the staff at Hull Minster for enabling this exhibition to take place.
- National Interfaith Week, November 2023 – working with Hull and East Riding Interfaith (HERI) SACRE members participated in a number of *Living Faith Library* events in both primary and secondary schools. These events show young people in our schools that no matter which religion or other worldview a person may hold we have more in common than our differences.

Massive thanks from SACRE members and from myself, to the outgoing Chair, Marilyn, whose hard work and dedication has enabled SACRE to continually improve and expand its support to schools in the teaching of religion and worldviews. Finally, on behalf of SACRE members, I would like also massively thank Fiona, our Clerk to SACRE, to whom we continue to be extremely grateful for her outstanding support and commitment throughout her time as SACRE clerk and give a warm welcome our new clerk, Poppy.

Ian Sugarman, Chair of SACRE

SACRE meetings

SACRE has continued to enable members to attend meetings by holding them at the Guildhall and in other venues and where possible through providing the opportunity to attend via TEAMS where preferred.

2022

- 20 October – meeting at the Guildhall & via TEAMS, not quorate
- 3 November – joint meeting with East Riding SACRE at the Reform Synagogue, Ne've Shalom, Willerby. Designated as a training session for SACRE members with a particular focus on the Agreed Syllabus 2022. We are grateful to the synagogue for hosting this event.

2023

- 9 February – meeting at the Guildhall & via TEAMS
- 6 March – representatives of Hull SACRE attended East Riding SACRE's RE Conference at Tickton Grange, Beverley which was also attended by a small number of Hull teachers.
- 8 March – planning meeting with Hull Minster staff for forthcoming *Jewish Living Experience Exhibition*
- 9 March – SACRE members attended a teacher training session at Hull Hindu Cultural Centre
- 19 June – joint meeting with East Riding SACRE at Jaime Masjid on Pearson Park
- 03 July – SACRE meeting held at St James CE Academy, Bransholme, Hull. The meeting was quorate
- 7 November – SACRE AGM at the Guildhall & via Teams. New Chair elected. Meeting was quorate

Statutory responsibilities for RE

RE is not part of the National Curriculum, it is a local responsibility. Through the SACRE, local communities and teachers have the opportunity to influence and support what pupils learn in RE.

SACRE is required

- to provide advice to the Local Authority (LA) on all aspects of its provision for Religious Education (RE) in its schools. This does not include Voluntary Aided Schools. (Academies, whilst not under the responsibility of the LA, may or may not choose to avail themselves of the *Agreed Syllabus for Religion & Worldviews 2022* and benefit from the support of SACRE)
- to decide whether the LA's Agreed Syllabus for RE needs to be reviewed and to require the LA to so do (the previous syllabus was reviewed in 2019/2020 and determined to require revision, published in October 2021). The current agreed syllabus will be reviewed with stakeholders in the academic year 2024/25.

SACRE has been encouraged by the number of academies, both primary and secondary continuing to use *The Agreed Syllabus for Religion and Worldviews 2022*, the result of a working partnership with East Riding of Yorkshire SACRE on a joint Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The provision of guidance and resources covering all ages from Early Years through to sixth form has been welcomed by teachers across a range of settings. SACRE has been pleased to receive positive and enthusiastic responses from many teachers on the approach to learning about **religion and worldviews** in this syllabus.

Teacher training/advice for schools

Whilst a programme of CPD for teachers of religious education was offered by local independent consultants during the school year 2022/23, take up by teachers has been limited, due largely to the constraints on schools of limited budgets. Recurrence of Covid infections in staff and meeting the challenges presented by the cohorts of pupils who missed so much school time during the pandemic are also cited as factors.

The Adviser to SACRE, working with a colleague from East Riding SACRE, has provided termly RE network meetings for primary teachers of RE in Hull and the East Riding to provide advice and support.

As all schools in Hull are academies support for religious education was not provided by the LA.

A conference for teachers of religion and worldviews is being held in the 2024 Autumn term. A consultation document has been circulated to all schools requesting suggestions for the theme and/or content of the conference.

Standards and monitoring of RE

SACRE members have not made any visits into schools throughout this period. Ofsted reports in Hull schools which have referred to provision for RE and learning in the subject have been considered at SACRE meetings; more recently Twitter feeds, collated by the Adviser to SACRE, have been useful in enabling SACRE members to gain some evidence of the quality of RE.

Some limited evidence of standards in RE has been provided by the Adviser to SACRE who has spoken with teachers at the termly RE network meetings and seen some examples of pupil work.

No requests for support with withdrawals from RE have been received this year.

Collective Worship

With regard to collective worship, it is the responsibility of SACRE to:

- provide advice to the LA on collective worship in its schools
- to consider any requests from Head teachers to hold collective worship that is not of a broadly Christian character
- to advise on matters relating to training for teachers in RE and collective worship

No requests have been received by SACRE, from any school, for a determination to change from holding collective worship that is of a broadly Christian character.

A small subcommittee has been established to look at revising the guidance on collective worship found in the document *Worship Works* and provided by SACRE for schools. Whilst noting that nothing has changed in law, members have considered the approach taken by other SACREs and the advice from NASACRE on collective worship. This revision will continue into 2024, working together with colleagues from East Riding SACRE to produce relevant, relatable guidance for collective worship in schools today.

Links with other bodies

- NASACRE - National Association of SACREs - ([Home | NASACRE](#)) Three SACRE members attended the Conference and AGM in 2022
- HERI - Hull and East Riding Interfaith - (<https://heri-online.org/>) Meets bi-monthly and some members of SACRE attend regularly
- AREIAC - Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers & Consultants <https://www.areiac.org.uk/>)
- NATRE - National Association for Teachers of RE (<https://www.natre.org.uk/>) Teachers are encouraged to make use of the excellent resources available from NATRE
- CSTG – Culham St Gabriel’s Trust (<https://www.cstg.org.uk/>) Provides resources, access to research, links to a wide range of different religions and worldviews and free online training/support for teachers of RE via www.reonline.org.uk
- SACRE has regular contact with local faith communities, York Diocese and Hull Minster

SACRE involvement locally

Through links with the local Imams, SACRE provides advice about Ramadan and fasting for schools and publishes this information on the SACRE website.

<https://www.hull.gov.uk/education-and-schools/support-education/standing-advisory-council-religious-education>

SACRE’s own arrangements

Professional and administrative support is provided by the LA through clerking and funding an independent RE adviser. The LA and city council representatives regularly attend SACRE meetings. The LA also administers the SACRE webpage. SACRE meetings are not always quorate which slows progress on some issues. However, we have seen an increase in members from faith communities but would like to increase representation for each of the four groups

SACRE members have attended training provided online by NASACRE and locally in person at a mosque, a synagogue and the Hindu cultural centre.

SACRE is provided with sufficient funds to carry out its work.

Appendices

- Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A Level results (requested)
- Circulation details for this Annual Report: SACRE members, LA, City Council, all Academies and Free Schools, NASACRE and DfE plus published on Hull SACRE webpage