



Hull
City Council

HULL SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



SACRE

Hull SACRE Annual Report 2025

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Introduction

As Chair of Hull SACRE, I am pleased to present this report.

2024-2025 has been a busy year for Hull SACRE. I would like to thank not only the members of SACRE for their attendance and commitment, but also to our Clerk, Poppy Young, our Local Authority Officer, Mary Meredith and our extremely knowledgeable and experienced RE Consultant, Marilyn Cowling, for all their advice and wisdom.

- We have held three meetings this year which have been held as hybrid sessions when taking place at the Guildhall. I would like to thank Hull City Council for their support with our use of meeting rooms and electronic resources.
- This year the NASACRE conference was held in Stratford, London and one member attended and reported back to SACRE at the June meeting.
- A number of SACRE members have attended training sessions provided by NASACRE to help us be more effective in our roles. Locally, we have been working with Yorkshire and the Humber RE Hubs to promote them as a 'one stop shop' for teachers looking for accredited religion and worldviews specialist/trainers, CPD opportunities, resources or places to visit in our area.
- Earlier in 2024, a joint working party made up of members of Hull and East Riding SACREs, met to consider how schools were organising Collective Worship and to develop a joint guidance to reflect not only British society, but also core British values. In October 2024, the final version of the document was produced and the Hull and East Riding Collective Worship Guidance was ratified by both Hull and East Riding SACREs on 27th November 2024. Training sessions on the guidance were provided in readiness for its implementation in the 2025 spring term.
- Another key focus was starting the review and future development of the Hull and East Riding locally agreed syllabus, which many schools were finding useful as a structure and planning tool for the teaching of religion and worldviews. To provide a starting point for the first meeting of the joint Agreed Syllabus Conference which would be convening in November 2025, a number of consultation workshops were held in the Summer term for a range of people who either teach, or were influential in the teaching of, religion and worldviews within primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs). All Hull and East Riding schools were invited to participate to try to find some commonality across the areas. An online questionnaire had also been produced for those unable to attend.
- During the year, a number of SACRE members have continued to carry out school visits to promote awareness and understanding of their religion or worldview. Members have also 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.

- In December 2024, SACRE held its first Religion and Worldviews Conference for a number of years at the Guildhall. There were 84 delegates from the Hull and East Riding area representing a range of multi-academy trusts, independent schools, faith schools and local authority schools. The keynote speakers were Deborah Weston OBE and Dawn Cox. The feedback from delegates and the evaluation questionnaires were extremely positive and we are looking to hold another conference in 2027.

Overall, it has been a good year for SACRE as we have been able to make a positive difference by supporting the teaching of religion and worldviews in Hull schools. Hopefully, with the review of the agreed syllabus and the implementation of the Collective Worship guidance, we can continue to make SACRE's role not only fit for today, but also to make SACRE relevant for the future.

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.

2024

- 24 September – Joint meeting with East Riding of Yorkshire SACRE at the Hindu Cultural Centre, Hull. A number of teachers were also in attendance.
- 22 October – Meeting at the Guildhall. Attendees represented only 2 out of the four groups so not quorate and no minutes taken

2025

- 14 January – Meeting was quorate. Discussed the success of the Religion and Worldviews Conference which took place on 3 December 2024 at the Guildhall with 80+ attendees. Made plans to begin reviewing the current agreed syllabus in line with the five-year statutory requirement (last reviewed in 2019/20). The revised guidance on collective worship had been adopted at a meeting with East Riding SACRE and can now be sent to schools with an offer of training. The group discussed the NASACRE Conference which will be held in London on Monday, 19th May 2025. The Chair was likely to attend and encouraged other SACRE members to attend, if possible.
- 12 June – the meeting was quorate. It was chair noted that training for the renewed guidance on collective worship would begin in September. A report on the NASACRE conference on 19 May 2025 was provided by the Chair. The group discussed the outcomes of the Agreed Syllabus review meetings held online as three twilight sessions: 29 April, 20 May and 5 June. These were attended by teachers from primary, secondary and special schools, including PRU's. The Chair had shared with members a project proposal to review and update the Hull & East Riding Locally Agreed Syllabus. It was noted that the costs would be equally split between Hull and East Riding. The proposal was agreed. The Chair welcomed Mr B. Kiddle from Humanists UK to Hull SACRE. It was noted that Mr B. Kiddle would be a member of Group A on Hull SACRE.
- 30 September - a meeting took place between Hull and East Riding SACREs to discuss the feedback received from schools about the current Agreed Syllabus via the informal online meetings and online questionnaire. It was agreed that:
 - i. The first joint Hull and East Riding Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) would take place on 06 November 2025 at County Hall, Beverley.
 - ii. All faith groups with members on Hull and East Riding SACREs had been approached to have a representative on the ASC.
 - iii. Feedback from teachers on the current Syllabus had been positive, however the most common request was for the Syllabus to include more detail to support teachers and to have less content.
 - iv. Schools were concerned that they had to cover all of the content in the Syllabus, however members were keen to stress that not all of the content had to be covered.

- v. Some schools reported an increase in the number of secondary school pupils taking RS as a GCSE option, and had seen some change in attitude toward Religion and Worldviews as provided by the current syllabus because pupils are seeing how the subject relates to them as individuals.
- vi. Few schools had requested that more information be provided on alternative belief systems, such as environmentalism, as students had expressed an interest in exploring other faiths.

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 2025/26.

When visiting schools, SACRE members have been encouraged by the openness of both teachers and pupils to taking a worldviews approach as promoted in *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 agreed syllabus is hosted on <https://hereforschools.co.uk/Page/19378> with other guidance and resources covering all ages from Early Years through to sixth form found on <https://reinhull.wordpress.com/>

Teacher training/advice for schools

Whilst an offer of CPD for teachers of religious education is provided by local independent consultants, take up by teachers has been limited, due largely to the constraints on schools of time and limited budgets. Visits to faith venues have also reduced in number though SACRE members have participated in a number of 'Living Faith Libraries' in both primary and secondary settings.

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.

Standards and monitoring of RE

SACRE members have made visits to schools during this academic year, speaking with pupils and their teachers. Ofsted reports of Hull schools which have referred to provision for RE and learning in the subject have been considered at SACRE meetings.

Some 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.

The guidance document for Collective Worship has been revised through partnership with East Riding SACRE and can be found on <https://hereforschools.co.uk/Page/43578>

Links with other bodies

- NASACRE - National Association of SACREs - ([Home | NASACRE](#)) A SACRE member attended the Conference and AGM in York in 2024
- 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.arei.ac.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
- RE Hubs – Three members of SACRE are registered trainers on RE Hubs [Explore RE in your area](#) and information is regularly shared with schools about the amenities offered via this website.
- 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 'REinHull' <https://reinhull.wordpress.com/>

Members attending HERI meetings converse with a range of people with very differing worldviews and encourage them to get involved with the 'Living Faiths Library' events which are so popular with both primary and secondary schools.

Members of local faith communities and people with non-religious worldviews attended and contributed to the Religion and Worldviews conference organised and run by Hull SACRE in December 2024 and made links with many of the teachers who attended the conference

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 publishes details of SACRE meetings on the CMIS webpage. SACRE meetings are more frequently quorate as we have been fortunate to welcome new members.

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.

- Circulation details for this Annual Report: SACRE members, LA, City Council, all Academies and Free Schools, NASACRE and DfE. Also published on Hull CMIS webpage

Appendix

Table of Exam Entries and percentage time RE is taught in KS3

Table showing number of GCSE Full Course entries together with percentage of teaching time given to religious studies in Key Stage 3/4 according to data from *SWF data for Hull*, the school workforce census that took place in November 2024 and provided by NATRE (National Association for Teachers of RE). Not all academies in Hull are found on this table. Errors are sometimes made by the school inputting the data, especially if the subject is called something else such as PRE or Worldviews. It should not be assumed that these schools teach or do not teach RE.

School name	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% year 12 hours - RE	% year 13 hours - RE	% hours - RE	KS4FCEntriesPerc	NoEntriesPerc	Percentage9-4FC
Archbishop Sentamu Academy	6.49	6.53	8.1	9.09	6.43	0	0	6.47	95.9	4.1	25.7
Kingswood Academy	3.27	3.29	3.22	3.73	2.15			3.1	4.8	95.2	100
The Marvell College	3.63	8	7.38	6.92	6.87			6.6	84.4	15.6	49.2
Newland School for Girls	3.75	3.53	1.37	1.39	1.39			2.32	19.9	80.1	81.5
Kelvin Hall School	0	0	0.6	0.6	0.61			0.36	4.5	95.5	85.7
St Mary's College	10.43	7.14	7.06	6.65	11.41	1.65	0	6.66	96	4	80.1