

## Hull SACRE Annual Report 2021

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### Introduction

This report covers the years 2020 and 2021. Please note that this report is presented in a different format to previous editions. NASACRE has produced a new SACRE Annual Report Template and the DfE has been fully involved in this. Part of the rationale is to enable easier analysis of the reports. However, given the challenges of the past two years we may not be able to complete all the sections with the detail requested.

### From the Chair

The work of SACRE during the last two years has been demanding, to say the least. Finding new ways to meet and work, trying different online platforms and overcoming power cuts, slow connections and sickness have challenged us all. However, despite the difficult conditions members have continued to meet, with a mix of online and in-person attendance.

Our Clerk to SACRE, has been remarkable in ensuring that members are kept up to date with news and events, clerking meetings whilst working from home or in the grand surroundings of the Council Chamber (in almost splendid isolation) and via one of a number of virtual platforms. We are most grateful for her support and thank her wholeheartedly.

We were really sorry to receive the sad news of the death on 6 December 2020 of our long-standing Chair of SACRE Professor John Friend. John served as Chair of SACRE for around 20 years until ill-health forced his retirement in June 2018. He not only served on SACRE but was also an active member of Hull and East Riding Interfaith, he worked with the Lord Mayor's office to organise celebrations for Holocaust Memorial Day and regularly invited SACRE members to services and celebrations at Hull Reform Synagogue, Ne've Shalom, in Willerby.

We were delighted to welcome an additional representative to SACRE from the Jewish community in 2021 and hope that he will enjoy this new role.

In the Autumn term 2019 SACRE agreed to meet the statutory requirement to establish an agreed syllabus conference (ASC) to review the current syllabus.

We must extend our thanks to the local faith communities for their interest and involvement in creating the next agreed syllabus for RE. Representatives have attended numerous ASC meetings and acted as critical friends, reviewing and proof-reading the material as it was developed.

## OFFICIAL

In October 2021 we launched our next agreed syllabus, *A Syllabus for Religion and Worldviews*, created in partnership with East Riding SACRE, a tradition continued since the inception of unitary authorities in 1996.

*The RE Syllabus is a statement from both Councils of their commitment to spiritual, moral and social values as a critical feature of education in the area, and offers new and exciting ways to ignite curiosity and foster all that good quality religious education can bring. It offers bridges to our local, incredibly rich, cultural and faith heritage and offers many opportunities for exciting and meaningful learning for years to come.*

Jo Moxon, Interim Assistant Director Learning and Skills, Hull City Council, October 2021

### SACRE meetings 2020/2021

#### 2020

- 14 January - joint meeting with East Riding SACRE, Guildhall
- 5 February – joint meeting with East Riding SACRE, Francis Askew primary school, Hull
- 9 July - SACRE hybrid meeting Guildhall & via Webex
- 19 November – SACRE hybrid meeting Guildhall & via Webex

#### 2021

- 9 March – Hull SACRE meeting via Zoom
- 9 June – Hull SACRE hybrid meeting in the Guildhall and via TEAMS
- 8 July – Joint meeting with East Riding SACRE – County Hall and Zoom – ratified the agreed syllabus and submitted to each Overview and Scrutiny Commission for information.
- 14 October – Hull SACRE hybrid meeting, Guildhall and via TEAMS
- 19 October - **Launch event for 2022 Agreed Syllabus for Religion and Worldviews**, County Hall, Beverley & online via ZOOM, which was well attended by teachers and SACRE members.

### ASC overview - Joint Hull and East Riding ASC

In spite of the many challenges facing schools and their teachers during the last two years there has been a great deal of support for the review and subsequent revision of the agreed syllabus. ASC meetings have been attended by LA officers, SACRE members, teachers and representatives of local faith communities.

**22 October 2019**, Hessle All Saints primary school - first meeting of the joint Hull and East Riding ASC to discuss consultation about the current syllabus. It was agreed to create an online survey hosted by East Riding.

**5 December 2019**, Walkington primary school – shared survey outcomes (96 respondents from schools in Hull & East Riding), agreed to take to next SACRE meeting (10 /12/19).

## OFFICIAL

**14 January 2020**, The Guildhall – received comments from SACREs on survey outcomes and discussed what the two SACREs should commission in light of responses from schools and others. It was agreed that the syllabus must:

- take account of national thinking about RE from recent reports
- be conceptually based
- be academically rigorous
- embrace the notion of RE as being comprised of theology, philosophy and social sciences
- include content that can be adapted for different settings and pupil abilities
- meet the needs of pupils at all key stages (EYFS to KS5, including pupils at KS4 who do not follow a course leading to a recognised RS qualification) and pupils of all abilities including those with identified SEND
- be relevant and useful to community schools, CE VC schools and academies
- have a clear progression of expectations throughout a child's learning journey, including a clear knowledge and skills progression
- in addition to the requirement to teach Christianity '*in the main*', reflect religious diversity and worldviews
- include opportunities for focused enquiry-based work

The planned intention was to launch the syllabus in March 2021.

**5 February 2020**, Francis Askew primary school – Joint Hull and East Riding SACRE meeting,

**8 July 2020** First virtual ASC held via TEAMS – Members provided with first draft and update on progress with the LAS. (The continuation of the Covid 19 pandemic had a severe impact on the flow of this work. Meetings with teachers, collaboration with colleagues and local faith communities all had to be carried out via online video sessions).

**14 October 2020** hybrid meeting at Guildhall and via TEAMS –

**10 December 2020** Joint ASC online via TEAMS (ER SACRE host)

**20 January 2021** - joint ASC via ZOOM (Hull SACRE host)

**3 March 2021** – joint ASC via ZOOM (Hull SACRE host)

**5 May 2021** – joint ASC online via TEAMS (ER SACRE host)

**19 October 2021** – **Syllabus launch.** The 2022 RE syllabus, *A syllabus for Religion and Worldviews* is hosted on <https://hereforschools.co.uk>

[2022 Agreed Syllabus- A Syllabus for Religion and Worldviews | Here for Schools](#)

### **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.

The responsibilities of the SACRE:

- to advise the LA on matters connected with collective worship in community schools and the RE to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. This includes particular methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision for the training of teachers
- to require the LA to review its current Agreed Syllabus
- to determine (following an application made by the headteacher of any community or foundation school) whether it is appropriate for the requirement for collective worship to be broadly Christian should not apply in the case of that school or for some of the pupils in that school
- to publish an annual report on its work

Whilst the majority of schools in Hull are academies, most tell us that they follow the local agreed syllabus for RE. The current syllabus is hosted on

<http://www.eriding.net/all-ages/religious-education/>

This syllabus is due to expire at the end of August 2022.

### **Standards and monitoring of RE**

Whilst it has not been appropriate to conduct monitoring visits to schools, SACRE members have considered the comments made about standards and teaching of RE where mentioned in OfSTED inspection reports. We have also viewed the provision of RE within the curriculum on a selection of school websites. More recently Twitter has also been providing some accounts of what pupils are encountering in their RE lessons.

SACRE members have also been dropping into teacher network meetings; participating in 'Living Faiths Libraries' where they have been delighted to engage in conversations with the pupils to talk about their beliefs and practices.

### **Teacher training**

Details of training opportunities for teachers, both local and those offered by organisations and faith communities across the country, are posted on REinHull:

<https://reinhull.wordpress.com>

This is a site where teachers can share resources and ask for advice.

The LA has also included any information and notices about training for teachers of RE in the termly newsletter to schools.

### **SACRE website**

In June 2021 we finally achieved official presence on:

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

This is ongoing work to ensure that the information on the site is informative, relevant and up to date.

### **Withdrawals**

SACRE has provided information regarding withdrawal of pupils from statutory RE to schools on request. There have only been two requests for information in the period covered by this report.

### **Collective worship**

The information and guidance for collective worship, titled 'Worship Works' produced by Hull and East Riding SACREs, is available to download from the following link:

<http://www.eriding.net/all-ages/religious-education/statutory-key-content/worship-works/>

This guidance is due to be reviewed during 2022/23.

There has been no monitoring of collective worship over the last two years other than noting the rare comments in OfSTED reports.

Determinations: There have been no requests to change the determination for collective worship in the last two years.

### **Links with other bodies**

- NASACRE - National Association of SACREs - ( [Home | NASACRE](#) )
- HERI - Hull and East Riding Interfaith - ( <https://heri-online.org/> )
- 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/> )
- CSTG – Culham St Gabriel's Trust ( <https://www.cstg.org.uk/> )

### **SACREs own arrangements**

SACRE is supported extremely well by the Clerk to SACRE as mentioned in the Chair's comments. The Interim Assistant Director, an RE specialist, has regularly attended meetings of SACRE and the ASC and been a valuable support, but has recently retired. We have welcomed a replacement LA representative who, although new to the role, is very supportive. In addition, the LA funds the services of an independent RE specialist to support and advise SACRE.

Holding meetings online has meant that most SACRE meetings have been quorate during this period. We have recruited both teacher and faith community representatives during this period. The work of the ASC and the production of the new syllabus has involved people from 7 different faith communities and others with non- religious worldviews and who are now working with either Hull or East Riding SACRE.

**Constitution & Development Plan** We have searched the archives to find the SACRE constitution to review, without success. We will be writing a new constitution to enable us to create a new development plan over the next year.

## Appendices

- Of the secondary schools in Hull there are eleven academies, one university technical college and one free school. The LA has not received GCSE or A level results for Religious Studies from school in Hull for 2021. SACRE will request details from individual schools.
- CPD – one third of secondary schools and almost half of all primary schools have attended at least one CPD session on the 2022 syllabus during 2021.
- Circulation details for this report:

### Hull City Council

Portfolio Holder Children's Services

Director of Children, Young People and Family Services

Assistant Director Learning & Skills PSA

Head of Education Standards & Partnerships (11-19)

Head of Standards & Partnerships (0-11)