

# Annual Report Knowsley SACRE 2020/2021

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## **Foreword by Chair of SACRE Cllr Margaret Harvey – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services**

The worldwide pandemic we are currently experiencing highlights more than ever the need for community cohesion at local, national and global levels. Our communities in Knowsley have once again come together to support one another during this difficult time and this has been a great asset in our response to the pandemic.

The importance of Religious Education and the spiritual, moral, and cultural development of our children and young people is crucial for this cohesion to be successful.

The pandemic has caused significant disruption to school life in Knowsley and to the running of the SACRE partnership. The 2020/2021 Annual SACRE Report identifies some of the impact this has had on the delivery of Religious Education and collective worship in our schools.

On behalf of SACRE, I would like to thank all the staff in our schools for their dedication and hard work, under continuing difficult circumstances, who have strived to ensure our children and young people continued to have access to Religious Education and collective worship throughout this difficult time.

Our commitment to providing the best possible Religious Education to our children and young people and supporting their cultural development remains a priority and I’ve been delighted to welcome all pupils back into the classroom.

SACRE is made up principally of volunteer members so I would like to thank them for their continued commitment to the children and young people of Knowsley and also to our Religious Education Consultant, Layla Taylor, for her support.

We are all looking forward to getting back to normality and continuing to build on our achievements and drive forward our priorities for this coming year.

## **List of SACRE Meetings 2020/2021**

### **Members of SACRE**

Chair

CLlr Margaret Harvey – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services

Clerk

Donna Spellman – Committee Services Officer

Members

Aby Hardy – Education Improvement Officer - KMBC

Penelope France – Education Improvement Officer – KMBC

Katy Race – Education Improvement Officer - KMBC

Layla Taylor – RE Consultant

Penny Thompson – Diocese Liverpool

Mair Hindmarsh – Headteacher at Kirkby CE Primary school

Jude Ryan – Headteacher at St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary school

Louise Bowman – headteacher of St Margaret Mary Infants Primary school

Damian McNulty - NASUWT Local Negotiating Secretary

## 2020/2021 Meetings Schedule

Date and Time	Agenda Items	Attendees	
10 <sup>th</sup> November 4pm	Terms of reference and election of new members	Cllr Harvey, Aby Hardy, Penny France, Mair Hindmarsh, Jude Ryan, Donna Spellman, Layla Taylor	
10 <sup>th</sup> November 4.30pm	Agreed Syllabus Conference	Cllr Harvey, Aby Hardy, Penny France, Mair Hindmarsh, Jude Ryan, Donna Spellman, Layla Taylor	
1 <sup>st</sup> December 4pm	Training Session for RE teachers on new syllabus	Layla Taylor, Aby Hardy and range of primary RE subject specialists	
23 <sup>rd</sup> March 4pm	Cancelled as not quorate		
24 <sup>th</sup> May	NASACRE conference	Aby Hardy, Penny France, Penny Thompson	
27 <sup>th</sup> May	RE Network meeting to discuss implementation of syllabus	Layla Taylor, Penny France	
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Cancelled as not quorate due to Covid		

## **Religious Education**

The locally agreed syllabus is Wirral Syllabus. This has been adopted by our maintained schools to be implemented by Sept 2021. Best practice has been shared during RE Network meetings which would suggest the new syllabus is working well and standards of high in our schools. Standards and monitoring of RE in schools has been completed through our recent Ofsted inspections. Most schools have maintained their Good status, one school has moved from Inadequate to Good and one from Inadequate to Requires Improvement. Vulnerable schools continue to have school leadership support funded by the LA. This also ensures standards improve and are monitored each half term. As there are no GCSE results for RE in the last academic year, it is not possible to report on them in this report. The number of schools Good or Outstanding is 88% in the primary sector which is 2% above the national figure of 86%.

Layla Taylor supports the RE subject leaders with regular meetings and advice. She has shared multiple teaching resources and assessment tools to support with the new syllabus.

The work of SACRE has been brought to the attention of the schools governing bodies to ensure they are aware of their statutory duties around RE and collective worship.

There has been no issues or complaints regarding RE education this academic year.

## **Collective Worship**

The expectation is in line with the Guidance for Collective Worship in schools January 1994, to provide daily collective worship opportunities. During the pandemic, schools have moved to class worship, some schools have returned to full school worship or key stage worship, in incidents of increased covid cases, this is one protective factor that is considered and schools are advised that they will return to small group worship. However, collective worship must still take place. Schools have not narrowed their curriculum which has been acknowledged in recent Ofsted and link officer visits. The Early Careers Framework which has been implemented in Knowsley this year provides new teachers and training teachers with appropriate support and guidance around RE and collective worship. This is being delivered by Best Practice in Knowsley which is one of the approved DFE bodies.

There has been no determinations or issues around collective worship in our schools this academic year.

## **National Bodies**

3 members of SACRE attended the NASACRE conference in May 2021. This had led to direct work around the RE Quality Mark. We have also used the new annual report template for this report following advice from NASACRE. Knowsley SACRE also hopes to explore links with North West forum for small SACREs in the hope that they can assist in increasing our membership and give further support and guidance.

## **Local Bodies and involvement locally**

The two education improvement officers and Chair of Knowsley SACRE Cllr Harvey have close links with all schools across the borough as well as with the local police. In our work we work closely to a range of agencies such as YOS, Police, health, parent carer voice on a range of issues encouraging equality and diversity and the sharing of best practice across these organisations. Our academy chains and our voluntary aided schools take part in our link officer meetings, headteacher briefings and vulnerable schools reviews where necessary so they are also kept up to date with the work of SACRE. Governors have been reminded of the work of SACRE through their Governor newsletter and Chair Of Governors forum this term.

## **SACRE Arrangements**

Knowsley SACRE will continue to use the communication tools such as headteacher briefings and Governor newsletter to highlight and share their work amongst the school and community. The LA provides clerking for SACRE and funding for our LA advisor. The LA also provides time of two education improvement officers to attend and organise SACRE meetings and agendas alongside the Chair. Funding for SACRE is set aside in the education budget should further training or development plans require its use.



*Knowsley Council*

Knowsley Annual SACRE Report 2021

## **Appendix 1**

### **GCSE**

There are no GCSE results for 2021 or 2021 to report upon this year as these are not being reported in the performance measures for the department of education due to the pandemic.



## Appendix 2

### Development Plan

#### Priorities for 2021/2022

To support the professional development of RE Teachers in Knowsley

- Termly LA run RE network meetings to share best practice and answer any questions about the syllabus or subject specific discussion
- Support schools who wish to apply for the RE Quality Mark

To support the development of collective worship

- Offer training to schools on collective worship via our collaborative leads

To support the professional development of SACRE members

- Fund any SACRE member who wishes to attend NASACRE annual conference
- To offer training to new SACRE members
- To consult with Faith leaders to try to expand the membership of SACRE

To monitor and support RE in Knowsley

- Ensure that as part of the link officer meetings, SACRE and RE is specifically discussed and minuted
- Continue to embed the RE Syllabus

This report is to be sent to all members of SACRE listed above and Nadine Carroll Head of Education. The report will also be submitted to NASACRE to be uploaded and shared.