

Table of contents

1. Introduction	p.2
1.1 Words from the Chair	p.2
1.2 Overview	p.2
2. RE (statutory responsibilities):	p.4
2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus	p.4
2.2 Standards and monitoring of RE	p.4
2.3 Teacher training	p.4
2.4 Advice to the LA	p.4
3. Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities):	p.5
3.1 Standards and monitoring of CW	p.5
3.2 Determinations	p.5
4. Links with other bodies	p.6
5. Other areas of SACRE involvement locally	p.6
6. SACRE arrangements (statutory responsibilities):	p.6
7. Appendices	p.8
7.1 Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A Level RS results	p.8
7.2 LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW	p.9
7.3 Development plan	p.14
7.4 Circulation details for this Annual Report	p.14

1. Introduction:

1.1 Words from the Chair

It is with pleasure that I present this year's SACRE Annual Report, reflecting on the progress, challenges, and aspirations of Religious Education and Collective Worship in our schools and communities. Over the past year, SACRE has continued to support and guide the development of high-quality RE, ensuring that it remains relevant, inclusive, and impactful for all pupils.

A key focus this year has been the ongoing review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus, a crucial process in ensuring that Religious Education remains engaging, academically robust, and reflective of the diverse beliefs and worldviews within our communities. SACRE has worked collaboratively with teachers, faith representatives, and education professionals to assess current provision and explore ways to enhance the syllabus. This work is progressing, and we look forward to further consultation and refinement in the coming months to shape a syllabus that meets the needs of all learners.

At a time when understanding, respect, and dialogue are more important than ever, our role in promoting high-quality RE and fostering interfaith engagement remains essential. We continue to be inspired by the commitment of teachers and school leaders who work tirelessly to provide pupils with an enriching RE curriculum and meaningful acts of collective worship.

This report highlights key achievements, and SACRE's ongoing commitment to supporting schools. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to ensuring that Religious Education continues to inspire curiosity, deepen understanding, and promote a culture of respect and inclusion.

I extend my sincere thanks to all SACRE members for their dedication and to our schools for their continued hard work. We look forward to another year of progress and collaboration.

Kate McDowell
Chair, Liverpool SACRE

1.2 Overview

Liverpool SACRE met in full twice over the 23-24 period due to unforeseen events and changes in the membership of the committee.

14th September 2023 – 4.00pm St Cleopas Primary

PRESENT

AH – Humanism, Committee A

TA- Islam, Committee A

AG- Sikhism, Committee A

BL - Judaism, Committee A

KM - St Cleopas Primary, Committee C

PB - Alsop High, Committee C

AP- Belvedere High, Committee C

Cllr. PM- LA, Committee D

MS - LA Officer

Clerk – PN

WELCOME

KM welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr Tom Cardwell, Colette Goulding and Joanne Kennedy.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The group agreed to accept KM as Chair and PB as Vice Chair.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 7th March 2023

Acceptance of minutes

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Web Trawl – reminders had been sent out to all members of the group but not all had been returned. The group needed to agree a way forward as some of the original members had now left.

Follow up – PB – still to action, MS to update Chair and re-assign agreed number of schools to SACRE members at the meeting.

Collective Worship film – this had been very well received.

Discuss later in meeting

MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES

A number of members had resigned over the last few months and some had not attended for some time.

PB said he would approach the Cathedral to see if there was anyone who would like to join the group. It was also noted that he is a SACRE member as a school representative but was willing to move to the role of C of E committee representative in order to free up a vacancy for a school representative.

The group agreed to reach out to the community to look for additional members for the group.

The Chair agreed to contact all the members who had not attended for some time to find out who was still active in order to move the group forward.

MS agreed to provide KM with a list of vacancies and members who have not attended.

TA asked if it was possible for him to nominate another Muslim for membership. This offer was welcomed: TA would follow this up.

LIVERPOOL ANNUAL SACRE CONFERENCE - 9/11/23

The date had initially been agreed as 9th November 2023, but arrangements for this were still far from complete. MS said she had reached out to a number of people via email, but there had been little response. This was disappointing, but was thought to be because many of the emails were to general addresses and would be a lot better if personal contact could be made.

MS booked a room at Toxteth Annexe as a backup- this will need cancelling.

Following some further discussion, the group agreed it would be better to postpone the conference until more meaningful arrangements could be put in place.

The purpose and aims of the conference were discussed briefly and the following format was suggested:

- Am – visits to other faith venues..
- PM – Other Faith representatives to be invited. A Market Place format was favoured, with delegates choosing 2-3 faiths. This would be followed by Key Stage specific groups for book looks and discussion on how progression is captured. It was also agreed that it would be good to feature visits to 1 or 2 Faith/non-faith meeting places at each conference over the next 5 years on a rolling cycle.

The group discussed possible arrangements in some depth and a number of valuable suggestions were made.

It was suggested that Judaism and Islam could be the focus of the first conference, particularly as they had featured in many of the reported negative faith-related incidents in the city.

It was agreed that a separate working group should be formed to discuss further details of the plans for the conference. The meeting could take place in the Toxteth Annexe on 6th November (changed to online Teams meeting), with a view to holding the postponed conference in Spring Term 1 2024.

MS agreed to change the provisional booking to a smaller room on the new date, but this later changed to an online meeting to allow colleagues to attend- time TBC with MS by KM.

Action

- MS to cancel venue and send out Teams invite for 6th November
- Group to Collate list of contacts
- Discuss / Agree Possible venues for visits
- Discuss/ Agree Ideas for the pm session.
- Timings for planning meeting to be agreed

SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

An initial plan had been drawn up but needed people to commit.

The details of the plan could be discussed in the Spring meeting (25th Jan 4pm Alsop High School).

WEB TRAWLS

Work was ongoing.

MS circulated copies of the form to be completed and explained what needed to be done.

The purpose was to collate information from LA non-faith school websites about the implementation of the locally agreed RE syllabus, and identify if there were any gaps in information, or information could not be easily accessed on the site. Support could then be offered to any schools as appropriate.

Action

- All the group present agreed to complete the trawl and forward the forms to MS for collation and then analysis.

NASACRE UPDATE

The on-line training had now been paid for; MS circulated a list of training for next few months. The password was also listed on the agenda.

AOB

Holocaust Memorial Day – 22/1/24. The resources would be launched from October onwards. MS to circulate further details.

BM – A letter of appreciation and thanks had already been sent by MS, but the Chair and Vice Chair agreed to send her a letter as well.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 25th January – 4.00pm - Alsop School.

1st February 2024 – 3.30pm Teams- online

PRESENT

AH – Humanism, Committee A

AG- Sikhism, Committee A

BL - Judaism, Committee A

KM - St Cleopas Primary, Committee C

PB - Alsop High, Committee C

AP- Belvedere High, Committee C

Cllr. JK- LA, Committee D

Cllr. PM- LA, Committee D

MS - LA Officer

WELCOME

KM welcomed all to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had not been received from any members

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 14th September 2023

Acceptance of minutes

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and were accepted as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

Letter of Appreciation

Chair and Vice Chair agreed to send BM appreciation letter.

MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES

KM contacted all on list but had minimal response. KM has reminded non-attending members that they can send a suitable representative in their place, if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Action

- Letter to be sent out by Chair confirming that they are not on the committee due to lack of response and attendance without apologies.
- Gaps to be confirmed in membership and any suggestions for new members greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL REPORT

Now on SIL website and Nasacre website. MS thanked by Chair for pulling this together

LIVERPOOL ANNUAL SACRE CONFERENCE - 9/11/23

Due to venue difficulties, the date will now be Wednesday 22nd May. Need confirmation from TA, suggestion to use PB contact to see if they can help confirm with Al Rahma Mosque for the date change. Chair will also contact TA to see if they can get a response on this, so that it can be finalised and publicised, to ensure as many RE leads as possible can book on to the conference.

Action

- Teams meeting TBC end of April to finalise details of conference.
- Chair to contact TA, MS to contact UM to get mosque visit finalised

SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Sub-committee- discussion around when this last met and the need to get this in place again. PB, AH, AP, KM agreed to be on the sub-committee and set up a zoom meeting to begin the process.

Action

- KM zoom meeting date TBC to begin the process.

- MS to send out previous one to help with the discussion.

WEB TRAWLS

MS presented findings from the 43% of Primary schools looked at. It was agreed that this is an ongoing action to complete this for all LA, Academy and Trust schools.

Action

- AP and PB (after Easter) agreed to look at the rest of the secondary schools using the updated and simplified form that MS will circulate to the group. AG is happy to do some of the Primary ones, with KM sending out example of completed one and how to find the information on the school websites. KM also happy to continue with Primary webtrawls.

NASACRE UPDATE

Newsletter with available courses circulated to the group. Members to let MS know which courses they want to book onto and MS will liaise with Nasacre admin to get links etc.

AOB

AP thanked AG for invite to Gurdwara

Holocaust Memorial Day. Discussion round incorporating more schools in the Celebration at the Town Hall. PB to contact organisers to try to get this moving forward

Speakers list requested by AH, KM suggested RE Hub working on this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 22nd May 3.15-4.30pm TA after conference (**cancelled due to poor uptake of delegates for conference**).

2. RE (statutory responsibilities):

2.1 The local agreed syllabus (LAS) has been taken up by 10 Secondary schools and 44 Primary schools with 3 secondary academies adopting the LAS. This represents roughly 76% of non-faith primary schools and 42% of secondary non-faith schools using the LAS.

2.2 Standards and monitoring of RE

Monitoring the AS is recognised as an ongoing area for development for the group, with trawls needing to be completed by all members of the committee and findings collated from this, along with the process for reviewing the AS by the group.

No schools have applied for or achieved REQM awards. The ACCORD and Westhill award details are on the SACRE page of the SIL website and sent out to RE Subject Leaders email list.

2.3 Teacher training, materials and advice for schools is sent out when it is received to all schools by the LA Officer e.g. Holocaust Memorial Day materials.

2.4 Advice to the LA is through the LA Representative, for example when schools request a withdrawal they are sent information on the process from the LA Rep. and this is discussed by SACRE in the next meeting. No complaints have been received.

3. Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities):

3.1 Standards and monitoring of CW

Monitoring CW is recognised as an ongoing area for development for the group, with web trawls to help identify schools where it is being successfully implemented and share this information with other schools.

3.2 Determinations - SACRE has not received any requests for determinations with regard to Collective Worship, either this year or in recent previous years. Any school wishing to explore the relevance of a determination (daily collective worship which is other than wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character) in their context should contact the School Improvement Officer.

Church schools are not eligible for a determination. For an academy wishing to apply for a determination the correct process is for the Trust to apply through the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to the Secretary of State.

3.3 Liverpool SACRE CW Conference 'Progression in RE' Summer 2024

- The focus has been agreed as a visit to a local Mosque for RE Leaders, to make connections for future visits with pupils. Other faith representatives will be invited to share what visits to their places of worship, followed by opportunity for schools to share what progression in RE looks like in their schools through a 'book look' approach and to agree next steps for their schools. Cancelled due to poor uptake (8 booked on) making it financially unviable unfortunately.
- Local and national training fliers have been circulated to schools, along with materials and advice for schools to support teacher training in this area and also through putting colleagues in touch with lead practitioners to improve individual practice.
- See Section 2 for information on withdrawals and complaints
- Advice to the LA provided by the LA Representative

4. Links with other bodies

- Liverpool SACRE funds National bodies membership of NASACRE and NNW Hub
- Working with local bodies such as the Diocese, HMD events with SACRE supporting members to produce materials to support HMD

5. Other areas of SACRE involvement locally

- Governor training- none requested this year
- Advice on issues within the community, e.g. Holocaust Memorial Day, Remembrance Sunday advice for schools in partnership with the local communities

6. SACRE arrangements (statutory responsibilities):

- Liverpool LA supports the SACRE by funding professional and administrative support through clerking, an adviser and links to council initiatives through Council members contributions to the group

- Membership was reviewed at the beginning of the last academic year, addressing some gaps in representation and recruitment of school practitioners, resulting in new members joining. Members who had not attended have been approached to get confirmation of wanting to continue as group members and all meetings were quorate, although it is recognised that we need more representation on Committee A, B and C.
- Training for SACRE members has been offered through NASACRE courses and conferences circulated to the group
- Liverpool SACRE has a small budget which is managed by School Improvement Liverpool. This enables attendance at conferences such as the NASACRE AGM, opportunities to run CPD for teachers, for example the Annual SACRE Conference and other activities to support RE in Liverpool.

The agreed syllabus and supporting materials have been provided for schools free of charge. This has been funded using SACRE funding supplemented by curriculum support funding for RE, which has been payment for 5-year licence for the Agreed Syllabus for 90 schools at a total cost of £6,372 (£1,274.40 annually), representing 19% of the total annual budget and finishes in March 2025.

7. Appendices

7.1 Table of GCSE – short and full, A Level RS results (not released yet)

GCSE Full Course - LA Summary % (no.)			
LA Funded Schools	Grade 9-5	Grade 9-4	Grade 9-1
NOR 5,640			
NOE 2,444	49.9% (1,166)	62.8% (1,475)	96.4% (2,327)
National 16,990	58% (9,730)	69.4% (11,650)	97% (16,510)

A-Level Full Course - LA Summary %			
LA Funded Schools	Grade A*-A	Grade A*-B	Grade A*-E
NOE			
National			

AS-Level Full Course - LA Summary %		
LA Funded Schools	Grade A-B	Grade A-E
NOE		
National		

7.2 LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW

DETERMINATIONS

Where the Head and Governors feel that it would be unreasonable for all or some of their pupils to take part in worship that is of this broadly Christian character they can seek a Determination from their local Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). This would mean that worship can be in a different form/character for those pupils and still meet legal requirements.

The right to apply for a determination does not apply to faith schools. Their worship must be in accordance with the Trust Deeds of the school.

Seeking a Determination

If after careful consideration and discussion the Headteacher, Staff and Governors decide that the most appropriate action for your school is to seek a determination then this is the procedure to follow.

- ❖ The Headteacher consults with staff and governors to discuss the extent to which the legal requirement for Collective Worship to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” is not appropriate within their school.
- ❖ The Headteacher and governors consult parents.
- ❖ The Headteacher applies to SACRE in writing requesting that a Determination be granted giving clear reasons why and evidence to support the application.
- ❖ The SACRE will then consider the application.
- ❖ The SACRE may ask to meet with the Headteacher in order to clarify any issues.
- ❖ A representative of the SACRE (usually a LA officer) will visit the school to observe pupils taking part in what the school considers to be an appropriate alternative to Collective Worship.
- ❖ The SACRE will notify the Headteacher and the governors of its decision in writing.
- ❖ A Determination will last for 5 years from the date of its effect, after which time it must be reviewed.
- ❖ In a school where a Determination has been granted daily Collective Worship in its alternative form must still be provided every day.

Liverpool SACRE Guidelines for Collective Worship

- ❖ A Determination does allow scope for Collective Worship to contain distinctive elements from a particular faith or religion but it may not be distinctive of a particular denomination within any faith or religion.
- ❖ Parents continue to have a right to withdraw their children from the Collective Worship.

Written requests for a determination and supporting documentation should be sent to:

Chairperson of SACRE
c/o Clerk to SACRE
Toxteth Annexe Conference Centre
Aigburth Road
Liverpool
L17 7BN
Email: sil@si.liverpool.gov.uk

An Example of a Collective Worship Policy

Schools may use this example as a basis for their policy, if they wish. School policies have to be ratified by the governors every time they are amended. Schools may find that some details which need to be amended more often than a policy is reviewed are better placed in an 'appendix' which does not need to be governor approved every time it changes. References are made to an appendix throughout this example policy.

The Collective Worship Policy at ? School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

The Collective Worship Policy of ? School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of ? school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in ? School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences

of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Worship Co-ordinator, headteacher, deputy head and representatives of each year group form the Worship Team.

The role of the team will be to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

Schools may wish to include a 'job description' for the Collective Worship co-ordinator/team in an appendix to their Collective Worship policy. See Section 3 of this document

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or one of the multi-purpose rooms, or the classroom.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

(A description of the variety of groupings may also be included here or in an appendix.)

Leadership

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. (The appendix might include details such as a weekly leadership pattern)

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets (Included in the appendix) list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets (Included in the appendix), these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance (Included in the appendix) on acts of Collective Worship at----- School. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

(See section 4 of this document for 'Visitor Guidance')

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used

(included in the appendix). Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

7.3 Development plan (in progress)

7.4 Circulation details for this Annual Report

This report will be circulated to the full Liverpool SACRE membership, uploaded onto the SIL SACRE webpage and on the nasacre website.