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1. Introduction:

1.1 Words from the Chair

I am very pleased to present Liverpool SACRE Annual Report after a difficult few years due to pandemic lockdowns, we will be meeting in person again this year which I am sure is good news for everyone.

We have reviewed membership over the last year and made inroads to reduce vacancies on the Standing Council and improve representation from all the major religions and world views. May I take this opportunity to welcome new members and thank them and all members for their time and commitment to Liverpool SACRE.

During 2021 – 2022 we have attended the NW Hub online and found comparison with other SACREs across the region very useful, informative and reassuring.

Our main focus has been to ensure that the new Liverpool SACRE syllabus is being fully embedded in practice. We want schools to know we appreciate their feedback and that they can refer to us for any further support they may need. To this end, we held a successful and well attended in person Collective Worship conference at the end of June which was interesting, informative and a great opportunity for RE teachers to network with each other. Many thanks to everyone involved in making this possible.

1.2 Overview

Liverpool SACRE met in full three times over the 21-22 period and once as a conference-preparation group (12th May)

5th October 2022 - zoom

Attendance

Present: Cllr BM (Chair) - LA, Committee D
 PT - Diocese C of E, Committee B
 SC - Humanism, Committee A
 Rev CC - Diocese C of E, Committee B
 MS- LA Rep
 KMcD- St Cleopas, Committee C
 JR (Supply Clerk)

Apologies: SG and TA

Agenda items discussed:

Chair agreed as Barbara Murray, Vice-Chair Jeremy Wolfson. Letter to be sent to Headteachers about update on LAS; Free training links to be promoted; Investigate possible RE Today training; Quality check resources; Think about ideas for a competition in the Spring Term; Plan an 'in person' conference; FOI on budget received; Letter of gratitude sent out to synagogue by Chair.

10th February 2022 - zoom**Attendance**

Present: Cllr BM (Chair) – LA, Committee D
 OW – King David High School, Judaism, Committee A & C
 SC – Humanism, Committee A
 PT – Diocese C of E, Committee B
 PB – Alsop School, Committee C
 MS – LA Officer

Apologies: JW, SG, JW, MH, KMcD.

Agenda items discussed:

Update on membership and attendance, non-attenders being contacted and new teacher members to be requested by email to schools; Annual report shared and available on SIL SACRE webpage; New Annual Report form shared with group and request for colleagues to identify which aspects they could write made; NNW Hub Update from Chair and MS; Ofsted Review on RE; The Board of British Jews: National SACRE Conference: Worldviews update; Holocaust Memorial Day- film to be produced by PB's school; NASACRE updates shared; Liverpool Annual SACRE Conference date and Collective Worship focus agreed. Ofsted update shared by PT which considered findings on:

Substantive knowledge 'The curriculum should cover substantive content and concepts collectively (or 'collectively enough'), rather than covering excessive amounts of content superficially. Content is sufficient for pupils to grasp a bigger picture about the place of religion and non-religion in the world...The curriculum is well sequenced to ensure that pupils learn the knowledge they need for later topics.';

Ways of Knowing- The Gospels are the main source of our knowledge of early Christianity.;

Personal knowledge- where pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about what they study.

30th June 2022- in person**Attendance**

Present Cllr BM (Chair) – LA, Committee D
 MS – LA Representative
 OW– King David High School, Judaism, Committee A and C
 AH – Humanism, Committee A
 PT – Diocese CofE, Committee B
 PB – Alsop School, Committee C
 BB – Ranworth Primary School
 JB – Mab Lane Primary School
 JR - Clerk, School Improvement Liverpool

Apologies: KM, ZM, JW

Agenda items discussed:

Annual Report - MS provided an update: importance of report being interactive and owned by the whole SACRE council, the report was a working document. Feedback from RE teaching schools would support the locally agreed syllabus with deciding next steps. Chair noted it was important to have teacher input to monitor the syllabus. SACRE members to review the document and highlight any sections they could focus on; Monitoring LAS- survey suggested with 20-30 questions and could also include a recruitment to SACRE question; SACRE Development Plan - suggested a working party be set up with the first meeting to be arranged during the Autumn term.

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 area for development for the group, with ideas discussed for implementation in the next academic year, 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

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, Materials to use after the queen passed away.

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

3. Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities):

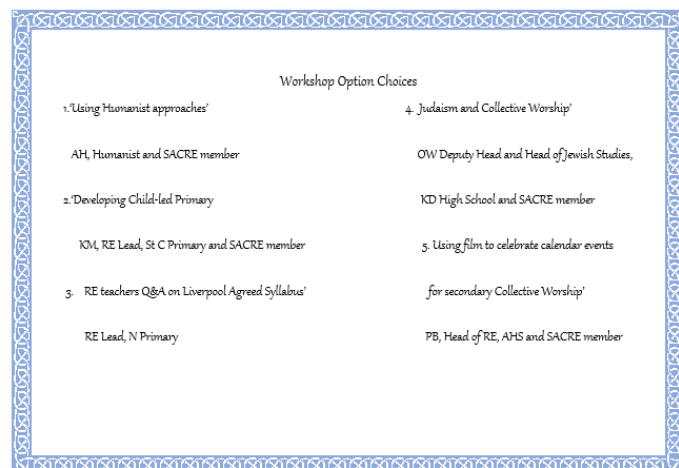
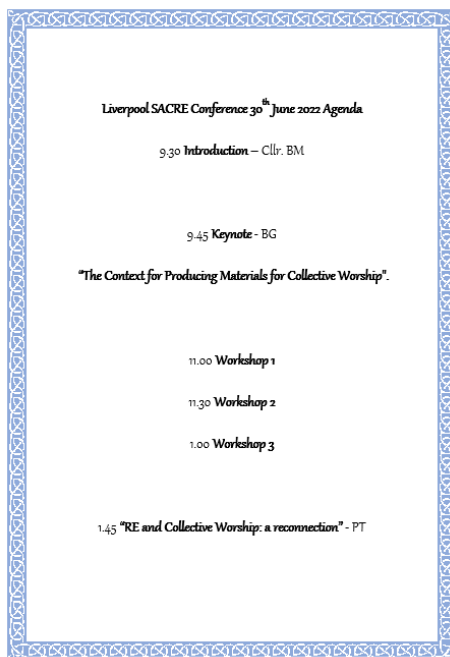
3.1 Standards and monitoring of CW

Monitoring CW is recognised as an area for development for the group, with ideas to be discussed for implementation in the next academic year, 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 June 2022



- 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 by the end of the year from primary schools, a secondary school and a new Humanist member replacing a previous colleague. 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 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 new 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.

7. Appendices

7.1 Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A Level RS results (released January 2023)

GCSE Full Course	LA Summary %		
LA Funded Schools 19	Grade 9-5	Grade 9-4	Grade 9-1
NOR 5198			
NOE 2533 (49%)	58%	67%	93%

A/S Levels not released yet, will update when released (Jan 23)

A Levels not released yet, will update when released (Jan 23)

7.2 LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW

Liverpool SACRE Guidelines for Collective Worship

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 and uploaded onto the SIL SACRE webpage