

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

I would like to begin my introduction by offering sincere gratitude to all members of Liverpool SACRE, and many others including teachers and community members, who have worked so hard to support Religious Education in Liverpool in the year covered by this report.

We must also acknowledge the loss of valued members during this challenging period. Their contributions to our work were immeasurable, and their absence is deeply felt.

2022/23 has been another extraordinary year, and despite these trying circumstances, SACRE remained steadfast, meeting through virtual and face-to-face meetings. We are grateful for the enriching opportunities that our partnerships with School Improvement Liverpool, NASACRE, Liverpool schools and the wider community continue to offer primary and secondary teachers and our children and young people.

SACRE remained committed to its monitoring responsibilities and had a comprehensive plan to support the implementation of the new agreed syllabus. We benefited greatly from support within the Authority, and appreciate the collaboration with Meryl Sangare during this time. SACRE members continued to closely follow developments stemming from the report published by the Commission on RE.

At the core of our efforts, SACRE remains dedicated to ensuring that every child in Liverpool has access to high-quality and intellectually stimulating Religious Education. I express my thanks once more for the commitment of all those involved in the pursuit of excellence in Religious Education in Liverpool.

Kate McDowell
Chair, Liverpool SACRE

1.2 Overview

Liverpool SACRE met in full twice over the 22-23 period due to unforeseen events and changes in the membership of the committee.

22ND NOVEMBER 2022 F2F and via Zoom

Attendance

Present:

- Cllr BM (Chair) – LA, Committee D
- MS – LA Representative
- AH – Humanism, Committee A
- PT – Diocese C of E, Committee B
- PB – Alsop School, Committee C
- TA – Muslim, Committee A
- AP – Belvedere Academy, Committee C
- MH – Diocese C of E, Committee B and C
- AG – Sikh, Committee A

KM – St Cleopas CE Primary, Committee C

JR – Clerk

Apologies: MT, JWi and JWo.

Agenda items discussed:**Annual Report**

M Sangare provided an update. The Liverpool SACRE Report 2022 had been shared with members prior to the meeting. The report was based on a new format and members agreed the new format worked well. The appendices had been updated to include determinations and would continue to be refined and reviewed. Members agreed the determinations were very helpful and supported communication with parents. A discussion ensued around the influx of new families to the city that may see themselves in a school not of their faith. PT raised that it was important families new to country learn about the Christian faith. Research around collective worship was discussed and the need to look at ways to be factually aware of what goes on in schools. A website trawl was suggested. It was noted that teachers are reaching out for support on the new RE syllabus. MS to share the questionnaire with the members to assist in the website trawls. BM to allocate the schools, however, it was optional for members to take part. Members would look at 2 or 3 schools each and focus on the: Collective Worship Policy; RE Policy – does it reflect the RE syllabus?

Feedback from the website trawls would support schools prior to Ofsted to ensure they were compliant. Statutory advice could be sent to schools. Members to feedback their findings at the next meeting and to note examples of good practice. The conference next year would focus on planning and assessment and how to evidence progression. Suggested conference title, 'Progression in RE'. Schools could share good practice and would be given an opportunity to write lesson plans at the conference. Governor training was highlighted as an action for future reports. The members thanked MS for the very thorough and comprehensive Annual Report.

SACRE Development Plan

MS provided an update, and the SACRE self-assessment tool was shared with members. The timeframe for completion was 3-5 years. The self-assessment tool formed the SACRE development action plans. Promoting cohesion across the community was highlighted. It was agreed members would send their self-assessment individual responses to PB to collate. A SACRE sub-meeting would then be arranged for January to discuss the responses.

Inter-Faith Encounters and The Religion and World View Report

PT provided an overview. The report had been shared with the members prior to the meeting. The Religion and Worldviews book was highlighted. PT had attended NASACRE training and provided a summary. Members were directed to the NASACRE website for further information on webinars and training.

AOB

Future meeting dates and times agreed. It was suggested student teachers were invited to attend SACRE meetings. It would also be an opportunity for members to ask about the RE training they receive. Humanist UK Conference 9th -11th June 2023 – invitation to be sent to all members and schools. Holocaust Memorial Day, funding for a filmed presentation was discussed. BM to enquire with the Town Hall and JWo.

7th MARCH 2023 via Zoom**Attendance**

Present: Cllr BM (Chair) – LA, Committee D
 MS – LA Representative, School Improvement Liverpool
 AH – Humanism, Committee A
 KM – St Cleopas CE Primary, Committee C
 PB – Alsop School, Committee C

Apologies: JW, OW, MT and TA.

A minute's silence was observed at the start of the meeting, to pay respects to PT a key committee member, who has sadly passed away after a short illness.

SACRE Development Plan Sub Committee

MS to send reminders for completion of forms. PB email to be updated to use his work email.

Web Trawl

BM updates- web trawl was ongoing, lack of collective worship on websites was noted. Community primary schools were using the locally agreed syllabus. Collective worship was not mentioned specifically across majority of primary schools. Some of the schools had visited local churches for celebration events. Majority of schools had RE policies, although some were outdated. A couple of schools were using Discovery RE and not the locally agreed syllabus. A couple of school's had the full agreed syllabus online. There was a lack of standalone collective worship policies. Twitter had some good examples of celebration worships. SACRE chair to write to schools to ask schools to include a collective worship policy and share resources. A discussion ensued around the difference between assembly and collective worship. It was noted that education and support should be offered to schools to distinguish between the two. Providing support to schools was key. Having spirituality and being able to reflect was important. The definitions needed to be broken down and shared with schools. Assembly v collective worship – are children being given the opportunities to be still, to reflect, to respond? Assemble and collective were key words. Gaps evident in the understanding around what collective worship is, agreed to continue with the trawl for a few more months, with all feedback information to be sent to MS who would collate the reports.

Nasacre Update Updates on training had been sent out. No further updates received.

OFSTED Subject Review The document had been shared prior to the meeting, it would support the development plan and locally agreed syllabus, references research to shape RE and move the subject forward. The multi-faith element and connections were highlighted.

Liverpool Annual SACRE Conference MS provided an update: Working title – 'Progression in RE'. Collective worship discussed and whether the conference was the right audience. The conference was aimed at RE Leads. Collective Worship could be a topic for discussion at the conference that the RE Leads can feed back to their SLT. The delivery of RE was a key focus. Connections post-covid needed rebuilding for links with families and communities. Connections with the different faiths was key in the subject review. Supporting schools in how to make links was discussed. Meeting members of faith communities could be included within the conference. This would particularly support new RE Leads and would

help schools connect. Could the conference take place within a place of worship? A discussion ensued around cost. The conference was planned for June or July 2023. It was noted that Alsop had bid for £10k from Church of England to develop a faith hub and it was given specifically to start conversations about faith. It was important to get the key messages out around different cultures. Children teaching children was powerful. A faith community with good facilities was needed for the conference. Suggestions included Allerton Synagogue, King David also had facilities within the school, the Quaker House in Liverpool. Action – to all think about possible different venues. MS to contact MT at Community Spirit to invite speakers to the conference. It was noted that the Humanist conference was in June. How to spread the word in schools was important. Context based support and assessment and progression were discussed, all were important to support teachers. A discussion ensued around how to include both in the conference. Inviting faith leaders would provide support. How to show progression and what it would look like in teacher's planning were discussed.

AOB

PT- An award was suggested through NASACRE for Liverpool and Knowsley. The award would celebrate and commemorate PT's life. It would show the impact and presence she has had on Liverpool SACRE. PT's involvement with charity was highlighted. PB agreed to follow up.

Collective Worship film, PB provided an update. Alsop school had filmed an act of collective worship for the National Day of Reflection. It was filmed in Walton Church and resources were used from Marie Curie and the Church of England. The final video would be sent to Liverpool schools and would give children an opportunity to sit, be still and reflect. Links would be available on YouTube.

22nd June 2023 Meeting deferred until September due to the sad passing of PT; changes in the Cllr members of the committee; and resignations of other members of the committee.

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

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.

- 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 due to recent unforeseen circumstances.
- 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 Level RS results (released January 2023)

GCSE Full Course - LA Summary %			
LA Funded Schools 19 NOR 5183	Grade 9-5	Grade 9-4	Grade 9-1
NOE 829 (16%)	56%	66%	95.5%
National 17%	62%	73%	97.8%

A-Level Full Course - LA Summary %			
LA Funded Schools 11	Grade A*-A	Grade A*-B	Grade A*-E
NOE 78	8%	27%	94%
National	25.5%	55.1%	97.3%

AS-Level Full Course - LA Summary %		
LA Funded Schools 1	Grade A-B	Grade A-E
NOE 1	100%	100%
National	48.4%	91.8%

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, uploaded onto the SIL SACRE webpage and on the nasacre website.