



# NORTH TYNESIDE SACRE

Annual report 2024 to 2025

# North Tyneside Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) report 2024/25

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## **1. Overview and Chair's introduction**

### Chair's Introduction

As Chair of the North Tyneside SACRE, it gives me great pleasure to provide the introduction to this report as we reflect on another year of helping ensure that pupils in our schools develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally as well as academically. I would like to thank the SACRE members, as well as the teachers and community members, who have worked so hard to support RE and collective worship.

2024-25 was a year of development for North Tyneside's SACRE. We spent time working on an updated constitution to ensure we are fit for purpose as we move forward. We were keen to represent the demographic of the borough. I am pleased that Humanism representative has moved from an observer role to being part of committee A. I would like to thank all those members of SACRE, and the wider council, who gave so generously of their time and expertise to enable this.

The meetings in 2024-25 were enjoyable and constructive, demonstrating a shared commitment to the promotion of the best possible provision of teaching and learning. We continue to work in an atmosphere of mutual respect, celebrating what we can learn from each other.

With many thanks,

Cllr Steven Phillips

## **Overview**

### Duty to establish a SACRE

Since the Education Reform Act of 1988, all Local Authorities (LAs) have been required by law to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.

### The purpose of SACRE

SACRE is a unique body; it is set up by the LA but is independent of it, with the role to give advice to that LA. The law states that Religious Education must be taught in all maintained schools and a SACRE's role is to advise what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area.

The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year

and how the LA responded to that advice. This includes advice on Religious Education and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

### Composition of SACRE

The Local Authority has determined that the North Tyneside SACRE should comprise:

#### *Committee A.*

Roman Catholic representatives

Free and non-conformist representatives

Other Christian Denominations

Representatives of other faiths, including but not limited to;

Jewish

Sikh

Muslim

Hindu

Buddhist

#### *Committee B.*

Church of England representatives

#### *Committee C.*

Representation from such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area, which may include union representatives, primary school representatives and secondary school representatives.

#### *Committee D.*

Elected Members of the Local Authority.

In 2024/25, the North Tyneside SACRE has:

- four representatives on committee A,
- A representative for committee B
- A representative for committee C
- Three representatives on committee D

The aim is to strengthen committees B and C in 2025/26.

## **2. Standards and quality of provision of RE.**

North Tyneside Local Authority entered into a contractual agreement with Durham County Council and has been granted the right to adopt and adapt the

Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has begun to review the syllabus.

In the summer of 2024, students sitting GCSE Religious Education or Religious Studies achieved the following:

GCSE Religious Studies	2024-25		
	School	% entries	% of Entries Achieving 9-4
Beacon Hill School	0.0%	-	-
Burnside College	14.5%	57.9%	47.4%
Churchill Community College	0.0%	-	-
George Stephenson High School	6.7%	69.2%	69.2%
John Spence Community High School	18.2%	64.3%	39.3%
John Spence Community High School	18.2%	64.3%	39.3%
Kings Priory School	4.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Longbenton High School	10.2%	88.2%	82.4%
Marden High School	10.9%	100.0%	94.7%
Monkseaton High School	0.0%	-	-
Norham High School	0.0%	-	-
North Gosforth Academy	0.0%	-	-
Silverdale School	0.0%	-	-
Southlands School	0.0%	-	-
St Thomas More Catholic High School	95.3%	86.0%	78.1%
Whitley Bay High School	4.9%	100.0%	94.4%
Woodlawn School	0.0%	-	-
<b>North Tyneside LA</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>83.9%</b>	<b>75.3%</b>
<b>National</b>			

## Comparative data

GCSE Religious Studies	2023-24			2024-25		
	% entries	% of Entries Achieving 9-4	% of Entries Achieving 9-5	% entries	% of Entries Achieving 9-4	% of Entries Achieving 9-5
Beacon Hill School	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Burnside College	17.5%	62.1%	51.7%	14.5%	57.9%	47.4%
Churchill Community College	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
George Stephenson High School	2.9%	83.3%	83.3%	6.7%	69.2%	69.2%
John Spence Community High School	8.0%	84.6%	53.8%	18.2%	64.3%	39.3%
John Spence Community High School	8.0%	84.6%	53.8%	18.2%	64.3%	39.3%
Kings Priory School	0.0%	-	-	4.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Longbenton High School	5.8%	100.0%	100.0%	10.2%	88.2%	82.4%
Marden High School	14.7%	96.2%	88.5%	10.9%	100.0%	94.7%
Monkseaton High School	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Norham High School	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
North Gosforth Academy	14.7%	85.7%	78.6%	0.0%	-	-
Silverdale School	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Southlands School	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
St Thomas More Catholic High School	98.8%	81.3%	65.2%	95.3%	86.0%	78.1%
Whitley Bay High School	12.8%	93.6%	85.1%	4.9%	100.0%	94.4%
Woodlawn School	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
<b>North Tyneside LA</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>69.3%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>83.9%</b>	<b>75.3%</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>70.8%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>			
Norham High (Short Course)	48.6%	76.5%	64.7%			

## Quality of RE lessons

The quality of RE provision is primarily monitored through Education North Tyneside's School Development Partner programme.

Lesson visits in the sample of primary schools visited included vocabulary being modelled and used effectively in context by pupils. Retrieval of prior learning was good in response to questions asked of pupils. For example, pupils were asked to speculate what people would have been saying as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Pupils replied, 'Praise be to God' and 'Hosanna' and commented that they would want to welcome Jesus. When asked why bread is used in a communion service, pupil commented that it represents the 'bread of life' and 'when Christians take the bread, they feel closer to Jesus.'

Pupils in key stage one were observed being introduced to world religions through a unit of work focusing on special events. They compared festivals of light including Christmas and Diwali.

## Withdrawal from RE lessons

There was one withdrawal from RE reported to SACRE. Five schools sought advice from Education North Tyneside regarding parental requests to withdraw their children from RE. Following the advice, parents continued to support their children accessing RE lessons.

There were no complaints about RE.

### **3. Collective Worship**

Advice is available to schools around collective worship through Education North Tyneside. Schools have requested guidance in the following areas:

legal responsibilities/ legislation

delivery of collective worship (timetabling as well as methods)

withdrawing from collective worship (pupils)

There were reports of five pupils being withdrawn from collective worship. A further five pupils were withdrawn from collective worship for the period of Ramadan.

There were no requests for a determination from schools.

### **4. Links with other bodies**

North Tyneside SACRE has been a member of NASACRE for many years and value the input from this national body. SACRE members are regularly encouraged to attend NASACRE training and to make use of the resources on the website.

There are strong links with The RE Resource Centre at Church House, North Shields. The termly RE networks are held there and the Director is a valued member of North Tyneside SACRE.

There are also new links with the North East Regional RE Hub. The LA Officer attends RE Hub network meetings.

### **5. SACRE arrangements in North Tyneside**

As detailed in section 1 – overview.

North Tyneside Democratic Services clerk the meetings. The meetings are chaired by an elected member of the council.

North Tyneside SACRE meets termly in The Council Chamber of North Tyneside Council, The Quadrant, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear. The meetings start at 4pm and are open to the public. The dates, times and venue of the meetings are published on the council website and also on Education North Tyneside's website.

Dates for the next academic year's meetings are set at the summer meeting.

## **6. Appendices**

### Publication of the annual report

It is a legislative requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work and that this is sent to the Department of Education (DFE), NASACRE, to local schools and to other interested parties. North Tyneside LA makes this report available publicly through their website:

<https://democracy.northtyneside.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=304&Year=0> and publication on the NASACRE website.