



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Manchester SACRE Annual Report 2021

Due to disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic this report covers two terms of academic year 19-20 and the whole of academic year 20-21.

Manchester SACRE is aware of and supports the new DfE/NASACRE model for SACRE Annual reports and subsequent reports will subscribe to this format.

Foreword

Welcome to the Manchester SACRE Annual Report. It gives me great pleasure to write a brief introductory comment to this record of our activities during 2020 and 2021.

Manchester SACRE continues to strengthen its links with the schools in our area and will always offer support to schools through the commissioning of CPD, advice and guidance. I am pleased to note that we have renewed our relationship with R E Today and our partner LA's to commission a new locally Agreed Syllabus for teaching from September 2022.

In the coming year Manchester SACRE is looking forward to forging a good relationship with GMCA Faith and Belief Advisory panel which will promote the work of SACRE in the GMCA area.

I am pleased that we have once again broadened our membership to further strengthen our links with faith groups across the city. We have welcomed new representation from the Baha'i faith together with a new representative from the Jewish faith. We have listened with interest to our second in an occasional series of member presentations from Cedric Knipe of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. These presentations further strengthen our knowledge and appreciation of other faiths.

I am grateful for the help we have received from Nick Paul from the Manchester City Council particularly regarding contact and communications between SACRE and the schools in the city.

In finishing, I would like to note the quality of discussion that occurs in our SACRE meetings, this discussion is often very stimulating. I especially offer my thanks to the way the membership has responded to the challenges of maintaining an active body despite the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic.

Cllr. Ahmed Ali JP
Chair Manchester SACRE

Membership of Manchester SACRE at the end of academic year 2021

Name	Committee	Representing
Cllr Ahmed Ali	Committee D (Chair)	Local Authority (LA)
Rachel Kemp	Committee C Co-opted Member	RE Teacher
Cedric Knipe	Committee A (Vice Chair)	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Heather Steward	Committee A	Methodist
Nick Paul	Committee D	Local Authority
Maureen Curley	Committee B	Church of England
Erik Keasberry	Committee A	Chinese Christian
Martin Knowles	Committee A	Humanist
Julie Darbyshire	Committee C	RE Lecturer
Christine Howard	Committee A	Baptist Denomination
Mike Chesterton	Committee A	Evangelical
Simon Caplan	Committee A	Jewish
Rachel Skelton	Committee A	Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Rev Ruth Watson	Committee A	Utd Reformed Church
Valerie Clark	Committee A	Quaker
Nidhi Sinha	Committee A	Hindu
Dr S Sinha	Committee A	Hindu
Danielle Gordon- Lanes	Committee C	RE Teacher
Sukbhir Singh	Committee A	Sikh
Imran Naseem	Committee A	Islam
Rev. Fujo Malaika	Committee A	Interfaith Minister Christian
David Levien	Committee C	VOICE
Helen Tidesley	Committee C	NASUWT rep
Patrick Davern	Committee A	Roman Catholic
Sara Talai	Committee A	Baha'i
Hannah Kaira	Committee A	Baha'i
Afnan Carmel	Committee A	Baha'i

Sara Radivan	Committee A	Jewish
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The role of the SACRE

The SACRE is independent of the Local Authority and its main function is to advise the Local Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.

Also, it: -

- can require the Authority to review its current agreed syllabus
- and must consider applications made by a head teacher that the requirement for collective worship in Community schools or Schools which have not been designated as having a religious character to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils at that particular school.

The broad role of the SACRE therefore is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools.

Meetings held:

11th March 2020

25th June 2020

13th October 2020

3rd March 2021

8th July 2021

All meetings bar March 2020 were held online principally by the Microsoft TEAMS platform. Going forward SACRE remains open to offers from faith groups who may wish to host meetings subject to restrictions resulting from the COVID pandemic.

Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

The ASC followed on from considerable research on options and the canvassing of opinions from schools.

The whole SACRE membership formed the ASC and the matter was discussed in the meeting held on 3 March 2021. As part of the Manchester RE Agreed Syllabus review, Nick Paul outlined some of the options for a new syllabus to be agreed for the next 5 years in conjunction with the local authority. Written reports provided to members outlined these options and process in detail. The law under the Education Act requires that the Agreed Syllabus is reviewed after five years, a requirement that was being met. It was felt that given the exceptional circumstances presented by COVID 19 there was no reason the results of the review could not be implemented a year later.

As a result of discussions, the ASC agreed to move forward with RE Today option A (an updated version of the current syllabus). The advantage of this option being that it provides a consistency of approach as it is already established in schools with lesson plans already produced around its core elements. It was further agreed that this 'new syllabus' be launched in spring 2022 with an implementation date of September 2022. Finally, it was agreed that we would continue to work in collaboration with Salford, Trafford, Tameside and Stockport on this venture.

RE CPD

Following on from the school survey SACRE discussed launching some 'internal' CPD. Nick Paul and Christine Howard had undertaken to investigate what might be possible from within SACRE's own resources. Christine planned a CPD pilot to which schools were recruited from the Chorlton area with one school agreeing to act as a venue.

Unfortunately, the date coincided with the start of significant COVID related restrictions and was cancelled.

R.E Data

School examinations were cancelled in the summer of 2019 and 2020 due to the COVID pandemic therefore there is no validated local or national data to present.

SACRE communication with schools

Through the SACRE LA Officer schools continue to receive regular communications via the Children and Families Directorate Circular letter system. These communications include notification of events, requests for contact details and training /support materials from SACRE members or other faith organisations.

Provision of information for SACRE members

Manchester SACRE continue to be members of NASACRE and all members have access details to the website, including the regular briefings. OFSTED inspections were temporarily suspended during the COVID related period of considerable disruption to school life in 2020/21. Moving forwards members will be notified of schools receiving OFSTED inspections which will enable them to view complete reports via the OFSTED website.

Member presentations

Vice Chair Cedric Knipe gave the second member presentation providing an overview of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Cedric also provided in hardcopy and digital form a booklet entitled "outline of beliefs for Educators". The digital version of this booklet was subsequently distributed to all schools.

SACRE membership

During the period covered by this report academic year Manchester SACRE was pleased to welcome new representation from the Baha'i Faith in the person of Sara Talai and her colleagues Hannah Kaira and Afnan Carmel, one of whom will aim to be present at each meeting.

Freedom of Information requests (FOI)

SACRE received two FOI request during the period covered by this report. One was from a private individual concerning the teaching of paganism and other from NASACRE concerning LA funding of SACRE.

Requests for a determination

SACRE did not receive any requests for determinations with regard to Collective Worship during the period covered by this report. 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 SACRE via the local authority officer, Nick Paul (n.paul@manchester.gov.uk). Church schools are not eligible for a determination and 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.

Complaints concerning RE

There have been no complaints concerning RE.

Complaints concerning Collective Worship

There have been no complaints received about collective worship.

Finance

SACRE does not have a dedicated budget; however, the LA covers the costs of a professional clerk, meeting costs and the membership of NASACRE. The LA representative on SACRE has the authority to consider requests for financial support for SACRE activities and to authorise payment where funds exist and there is a clear benefit to the role of SACRE. In this regard during the period covered by this report Manchester LA has provided funds in to purchase a new five-year licence for our Agreed Syllabus, this licence will run until August 2027.

Nick Paul
Manchester City Council