



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL

# Manchester SACRE Annual Report 2019

## **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 2019.

Manchester SACRE continues to strengthen its links with the schools in our area, and is working to offer support to those schools whenever it is needed. I am pleased to note that we have once again commissioned high quality CPD for our schools this year which will strengthen the teaching of RE in our schools. Focussing as it did on the Manchester Agreed Syllabus this CPD will also encourage and support the use of this valuable document.

I am pleased that during the year we have once again broadened our membership to further strength our links with faith groups across the city. We have welcomed this year new members from both Roman Catholic and Jewish faiths together with a new representative from Humanism replacing long serving member Rob Grinter. To further strengthen our knowledge and appreciation of other faiths we have listened with interest to the first member presentation covering in this case the key tenets of the Sikh faith.

I am grateful for the help we have received from Nick Paul from the Manchester City Council particularly with regard to 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 and I offer my wholehearted thanks to the whole membership for their contributions.

**Cllr. Ahmed Ali JP**  
Chair Manchester SACRE

## Membership of Manchester SACRE at the end of year 2019

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
Grange Williams	Committee A	Bahai
Julie Darbyshire	Committee C	RE Lecturer
Christine Howard	Committee A	Baptist Denomination
Mike Chesterton	Committee A	Evangelical
Simon Caplen	Committee A	Jewish
Rachel Skelton	Committee A	Unitarian and Free Christina 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

## 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:**

5th March 2019

12<sup>th</sup> June 2019

15th October 2019

All meetings were held at the Friends Meeting House in Central Manchester but SACRE remains open to offers from faith groups who may wish to host meetings.

### **RE CPD**

During 2019 through the LA SACRE commissioned a full day of CPD for Primary teachers. This session was designed and led by Lat Blaylock from RE Today. Lat is a co-author of the Manchester Agreed Syllabus.

The sessions were held at Gorton Monastery in September.

Comments from Rachel Kemp (Primary RE Specialist)

21 teachers attended and there seemed to be a lot of new coordinators. The session was more talking and listening than paper based input. The topics covered included multi faith studies and the purpose of different classes. Feedback was very positive and the main idea that teachers gained from it was that RE was purposeful and that it can be cross curricular and cross Key stage. Also that RE can be very creative and indeed should be so rather than spoon feeding information to pupils, with more emphasis on talking than writing.

Following on from the school survey SACRE discussed launching some 'internal' CPD and Nick Paul and Christine Howard undertook to investigate what might be possible from within SACRE's own resources. The emphasis would be on subject knowledge.

## R.E Data

Score	No of Entries	% National Data	
9	120 (123)	4.9% (5.0)	8% (7.3)
7-9	641 (580)	26.2% (23.7)	31% (30)
5-9	1382 (1336)	56.4% (54.7)	61% (60.3)
4-9	1630 (1587)	66.6% (65.0)	72% (71.8)
1-9	2391 (2360)	97.6% (96.9)	98% (98.1)
Total Entries	2449 (2443)		

## Commentary

2019 saw the second year that Religious studies was assessed on the 9-1 score rather than the grades A\*-G, 2018 results are shown in brackets. These are the % of entries that have achieved each score not the total KS4 cohort.

## 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. In autumn 2018 SACRE used the schools circular to issue a survey to all schools. This survey was designed by SACRE and issued in the form of a link to a Google form. By summer 2019 43 responses had been received representing approximately 23% of the school estate.

The respondent profile

Primary (Faith)	Primary	Secondary (Faith)	Secondary	Special
10	27	1	3	2

A summary of the Actions and Recommendations was further highlighted.

- Reminder letter to be issued to all schools in September concerning status of and how to access Manchester Agreed Syllabus
- Schools to be encouraged (in this same letter) to direct specific questions/queries directly to SACRE via NP. Examples may be regulatory to do with Agreed Syllabus and its use or questions

- concerning particular faiths (or non) that can be forwarded to appropriate SACRE members
- Support for schools as a result of this survey (and more generally).

### **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. Throughout the academic year Nick Paul provided an overview of performance of RE in Manchester schools (with grateful assistance from Ruth Watson), following OFSTED inspections. From September 2019 a new OFSTED framework put more emphasis on curriculum and it will be interesting to see how RE is reflected through this.

### **Member presentations**

In 2019 SACRE began a series of occasional member presentations at the start of meetings. In October Sukhbir Singh presented an overview of the Sikh faith and invited questions and further discussion from those present. The presentation covered areas including Sikh Values and Practices, beliefs, some of the history of Sikhism and the values and practices.

### **SACRE membership**

During the academic year Manchester SACRE was pleased to welcome Martin Knowles who replaced Rob Grinter representing Humanism. SACRE thanked Rob for his input over a number of years. SACRE also welcomed Patrick Davern (Roman Catholic) and Simon Caplan (Judaism).

### **Freedom of Information requests (FOI)**

SACRE received one FOI request during academic years 18-19. This was a press request for information concerning schools daily act of worship and whether any schools had requested a determination to opt out of a daily act of worship that is wholly or mainly Christian in character. The response was no schools had requested a determination.

### **Requests for a determination**

SACRE did not receive any requests for determinations with regard to Collective Worship during the last academic year. 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](mailto: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.

Nick Paul  
Manchester City council