

Hackney SACRE

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Promoting, supporting and encouraging good practice in the teaching of
Religious Education in Hackney schools



Annual Report 2022-23

The report is produced in accordance with the Education Act 1996 and
forwarded to the DfE via NASACRE

Members approved this report on 31.1. 2024

Contents

- 1. Chair's Introduction and overview**
- 2. Standards and quality of provision in RE**
- 3. Collective Worship**
- 4. SACRE work with other agencies**
- 5. Contribution to community cohesion**
- 6. Management of SACRE**
- 7. Summary**
- 8. Membership of SACRE**

1. Introduction

1a. Chairman's Introduction

Each year SACRE is required to produce a summary of its activities. The Education Act 2002 requires that religious education must be provided as part of the basic curriculum in addition to the National Curriculum. Amended guidance on the content and format of this report is based on the NASACRE (National Association for Standing Advisory Councils) guidance 2021. The report outlines our work to promote RE and Collective Worship in the Borough, to develop the good teaching of Religious Education in our schools and to support community cohesion. This report covers the Academic year 2022-23 and includes a brief overview of SACRE discussions from this period.

Hackney SACRE with Hackney Education (previously the Hackney Learning Trust) continues to promote RE, Collective Worship, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and Community Cohesion. It is a legal requirement that SACREs review their Syllabus every 5 years, and having completed a review, the new Hackney Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was published in 2019 following widespread consultation with teachers and local faith leaders, as well as taking into account publications from the REC and Ofsted, including the RE subject review of Summer 2021. We are confident our Syllabus reflects the best practices as outlined in these reports/reviews and documents. We have concrete evidence of its implementation in half our primary and secondary schools and further analysis as to its implementation and effectiveness will be ascertained in the near future.

We continue to support our schools' development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and Community Cohesion. For example, with the production of the School RE Calendar, which, with the help of the Hackney Education, we send to all Children's Centres, Secondary schools and Primary schools in the borough. This provides some evidence of the impact of the Syllabus in schools, as the pupils' artwork included is based on key concepts and content required.

Our support for RE in schools continues through well attended and evaluated training sessions, the dissemination of updated schemes of work for key stages 1 and 2, and network meetings for Heads of Departments in Secondary schools.

Finally, I want to thank the Hackney Education in continuing to support our work over the past year.

Sandra Hall
SACRE Chair

1b. Overview of academic year 2022-23

Hackney SACRE met twice during the academic year 2022-23. Both meetings were quorate.

All agendas and approved minutes of these meetings are saved regularly and made accessible via the Hackney SACRE website:

Agenda items for these meetings included (in no particular order):

- Primary and Secondary Network Meetings and School Support/School Visits
- SACRE Self-Assessment Toolkit
- SACRE Funding
- Locally Agreed Syllabus Updates
- Attendance and membership to SACRE and Conference
- National RE developments
- Borough RE Calendar competition
- Presentations from Heartstone Project and UK Jewish Films
- Holocaust Memorial Day Event
- FOI requests
- 2021 Census Data
- GCSE Results
- Teacher Training, including Primary Story Circles Project
- SACRE Training/NASACRE Virtual Training sessions

2. Standards and quality of provision in RE

2a: Provision, compliance and time allocation for RE

The Hackney Agreed Syllabus 2019 recommends that 5% of curriculum time is dedicated to RE, that this should equate to approximately: 36 hours per year for KS1; 45 hours for KS2; 45 hours for KS3 and 40- 48 hours for KS4. This excludes time allocated for collective worship. Religious Education remains statutory for all students and Hackney expects schools to provide all students with their entitlement to study the subject, including at KS4 when they should preferably be entered for GCSE RS. While requirements for some Academies may differ, their funding arrangements ensure that they make provision for all pupils in RE.

3. Collective Worship

Hackney SACRE supports an inclusive approach to collective worship that promotes spiritual development and contributes to community cohesion. SACRE have previously provided resources for use in school assemblies.

Determinations: There have been no applications for determination during 2022-23.

Hackney SACRE have procedures for schools to apply for a determination, and guidance has been approved by Hackney council and has been made available to schools.

4. SACRE work with other agencies

Hackney SACRE supports Religious Education that meets the needs of all students with or without religious beliefs. It promotes inclusion of religious and non-religious groups and highlights the importance of racial harmony. RE promotes understanding and respect for all communities which is vital with the rise of fundamentalism and extremism in the UK and worldwide as well as examples of conflict within the local community. Through the teaching of RE, negative stereotypes and prejudices can and should be tackled and we should generate understanding, overcome barriers, and promote community cohesion.

Hackney SACRE is a member of NASACRE and have access to the NASACRE training programme. The SACRE Advisor is on the AREIAC executive committee and has links with national organisations for RE. Hackney SACRE has supported and funded the Holocaust Memorial Day event at Rio Cinema as well as the work of the Heartstone Story Circles which challenges prejudice, intolerance and hate.

5. Contribution of SACRE to Community Cohesion

Hackney SACRE membership reflects the rich mix of faiths and communities found within the borough, including attendance to SACRE meetings representatives from the Alevi and Humanist communities.

The Hackney Agreed Syllabus of 2019 contains information about how RE should support the development of SMSC, and efforts have been made to increase references to a wider range of religious and non-religious beliefs that are represented in our community. This includes specific mention and expectation in the syllabus for schools to teach about our Alevi and Haredi Jewish communities in Hackney. One recommendation is for secondary schools to plan for delivering Judaism in year 7 to increase understanding, challenge stereotypes and combat Anti-Semitism.

A borough event led by the Jewish Film organisation took place in January 2023 to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The screening of 'Where is Anne Frank' at Rio cinema was attended by 130 students representing four secondary schools in Hackney. The initial feedback was that the event was extremely positive. We thank Hackney Education for supporting an event that commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day and supported community cohesion. A similar event has been funded by Hackney SACRE for January 2024.

Rachel Burns from UK Jewish Films attended the June 2023 SACRE Meeting to share and discuss the work carried out by the organisation. Resources were shared and Rachel was invited to attend Network Meetings in the Autumn term to share teaching ideas and resources to colleagues in supporting the delivery of the Jewish faith and lived experience.

In addition, several Hackney primary schools were involved in a 'Story circle' project. This project aims to challenge prejudice, intolerance and hate as well as developing literacy, discussions, and debate. At the RE Celebration on 4th July 2022 Sita Kumari, in her role as dancer/story teller for Heartstone, gave a presentation to introduce Chandra and the Heartstone Odyssey. Which was very well received by those present. Sita Kumari was also invited to the Summer term 2023 SACRE Meeting to feedback on the project alongside some colleagues from another London SACRE.

Furthermore, Hackney SACRE continues to produce a full-colour wall calendar showing religious and non-religious festivals and other significant dates. This is illustrated with artwork selected in a competition open to all Hackney primary school pupils and those in Key Stage 3. The published calendar is sent to all Hackney schools and Children's Centres. It not only supports and promotes the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils in schools, but also encourages learning about and celebrating the diversity of culture in Hackney.

6. Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA (Local Authority) and other key stakeholders

Hackney Education continues to support the work of Hackney SACRE. In January 2023 a new RE and SACRE Advisor was appointed. The advisor offer support for SACRE as well as primary and secondary schools in Hackney through the network meetings.

Membership of SACRE is reviewed in all meetings, and members are reminded that they should provide a representative in their absence or introduce a replacement when they resign from the SACRE committee.

Hackney Education continues to receive the total SACRE funding provided by Hackney Council. This included funding for:

- An adviser for SACRE and RE
- A clerk for SACRE
- CPD Support for SACRE Advisor including attendance at national events/conferences
- NASACRE subscription and training open to all SACRE members
- Planning and development of Alevism unit of work for KS2
- The Hackney Calendar competition including a published copy for all schools
- Funds to take forward, on request, plans to support local initiative
- Funding to promote community cohesion events
- A budget to cover Local Agreed Syllabus Review and launch

7. Summary

Thank you to the support of Hackney Education for supporting events to encourage community cohesion and tackle hate crime. This included funding for a recent event held in November 2023 by Solutions not Sides. This CPD event for secondary school teachers was held to support schools in tackling incidences of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in response to the current conflict in Israel and Gaza. This event was open to Hackney teachers and those working in neighbouring boroughs. A key focus for the next academic year will be the launch of the new Hackney Agreed Syllabus in 2024.

8. Members of SACRE 2022-23

Committee	Name	Notes	Email	
1. Religious Faith Groups	Hasan Bolucek	Alevi		
	Priya Reid	Jain/Hindu		
	Nirmal Hirani	Hindu		
	Sheikh Yasar Zaman	Islam		
	Rumana Rafique			
	Naftali Loewanthal	Judaism		
	Raj Dharma	Sikhism		
	Justin Madubuko	Catholic		Vice Chair
	Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa	Methodist		
	Paul Kaufman	Humanist		
	Ivor Millman	Judaism		
2. Church of England	Sally Moore			
3. Teachers	Sandra Hall	NEU	Chair	
	Sheena Merchant	NEU		
	Michelle Byrne	NEU		
	Nasima Ephraim	NEU		
	Brenda Humphreys	NASUWT		
	Linn Thorsen	NASUWT		
4. Local Authority	Lynne Troughton (Cllr)	Councillor		
	Ifraax Samatar	Councillor		
	Kam Adams (Cllr)	Councillor		
	Lee Laudat-Scott (Cllr)	Councillor		
	Sade Etti (Cllr)	Councillor		
	Claire Ramalli	Adviser		
Observer	Anton Francic	Observer		
Potential Member	Hiral Patel	Buddhist		
	Louise Ritchie	Church of England		