



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

**TRAFFORD STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)**

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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1.1 Letter from the Chair of Trafford SACRE

Ian Nicholson
Chair of Trafford SACRE

1.2 An Overview

The 2019-2020 Annual SACRE Report gives a full account of the way in which Trafford SACRE is meeting its statutory requirements and is supporting RE, and collective worship in schools which are not voluntary aided. The report also gives details of the contribution of SACRE to the wider diversity agenda.

The attainment and progress of Trafford children and young people in RE and the provision for spiritual, moral and social and cultural development in schools are very good. The distinctive strength of Trafford SACRE members is their commitment to supporting schools to maintain their high standards in RE and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and also their commitment to community cohesion and interfaith issues.

The representation of SACRE members on three of the four committees is good. On Committee A there is strong representation across most of the major world faiths and also includes representation from the Baha'i faith, Humanist and Quaker representatives. SACRE has met three times during the year, with an average attendance of 18, including guests.

Trafford's GCSE results A and AS Level results for Religious Studies are not included in the report this year as there has been a National decision that performance data should not be made public. It is understood that the grades the young people were awarded to be in- line with the schools expectations.

There is still a statutory duty for SACREs to produce an Annual Report; however these no longer need to be sent to the Department for Education (DfE). This report will be sent to NASACRE which is collating and analysing all the reports. The report will also be made available on the Trafford website, via the link below.

http://www.traffordlearning.org/trafford/sections/public_html/teaching/curriculum/re/Trafford_LA_SACRE.htm

2. Religious Education in Trafford

2.1 Standards in RE

The 2020 Religious Studies results at GCSE and Post 16 have not been collected from schools this year.

2.2 Standards and Quality of Provision in RE

School inspection reports no longer include specific information on the quality of RE. There have been no Ofsted Subject and Survey inspections of RE the academic year 2019-2020 in Trafford.

2.3 The Quality of Provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

A comment on the Quality of Provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) is included in inspection reports. In the new Ofsted framework, which was came into effect in September 2015, there is no specific grade judgement for SMSC. This is now included in the grade for personal development behaviour and welfare.

Trafford schools continue to demonstrate high quality provision in this area as reflected in some of the extracts from the most recent Ofsted reports. In the academic year 2018-19 twenty one schools were inspected under the current framework. A full report is only written when a school move between grades (eg Good to outstanding). Good schools are inspected in a new short inspection lasting only 1 day and the outcome is a letter stating the school is still good, with limited detail, though schools do get verbal feedback from inspectors.

Extracts from a sample of reports 2019-20

Primary

Secondary

2.4 Complaints

No complaints were received in the academic year 2019-20

3. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 Monitoring Collective Worship

According to the new Ofsted framework, if the schools are not fulfilling a statutory duty it will be recorded in the report. There is no reference to non-compliance in collective worship in any Trafford Ofsted report from 2019-2020 and no complaints have been passed to SACRE.

3.2 Determinations

In 2019-20 one school was awaiting approval to be granted for their determination to withdraw from collective worship, which is broadly Christian in nature. (A determination is the lifting of the requirement that a school's collective worship be wholly or mainly of a Christian character). The delay was due to the SACRE meeting not being quorate. Following changes to the guidance the Chair of SACRE was assigned as 'a person of trust' to give a new four-year Determination on behalf of the SACRE.

The schools were:

- King's Road Primary School 2017-18
- Stretford High School 2017-18
- Seymour Park Community Primary School June 2019

Old Trafford Community Primary School had previously been granted a determination, but it is now an academy and as such no longer falls under SACRE, but reports directly to the EFA.

4. SACRE ACTIVITIES

4.1 SACRE events and the contribution to wider issues

4.1.1 Trafford's Holocaust Memorial Event

Holocaust Memorial Day is held annually on 27 January, and is a time for reflecting on specific events in the past and thinking about how we as communities and individuals stand up to discrimination, racism and hatred.

The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 was "Stand Together". The event featured Trafford schools was held in the Robert Bolt Theatre at Waterside Arts Centre on Wednesday 29th January for an invited audience.

The article below has kindly been shared by the pupils of Altrincham Grammar School for Girls;

Being part of the youth cabinet provides us with many experiences but when we were asked to be ambassadors for our school for such a prestigious event such as Holocaust Memorial Day we were all delighted to take part.

Arriving at the venue we, the 7 members of youth cabinet and Mrs Bowyer were quickly put to work, our job for the day to seat everyone. Sounds a lot easier than it was! The day involved a variety of people in high positions including the Mayor of Trafford and each of these had a specific seat! Not to mention the groups of schools we had to seat quickly, Lauren and Sacha ran up and down one set of stairs for a long time! Once we had finally seated everyone, with only a few hiccups we took our seats for the event to begin.

The event started with a Loreto Grammar pupil playing a violin solo followed by a welcome from His Worship the Mayor of Trafford. The event was presented by Frank Vigon, a retired secondary school teacher and Jewish educator and featured a moving story told by Peter Kurer, a holocaust refugee. As well as this the audience also heard pupils from Sale Grammar and Saint Ambrose reflect on their visit to Auschwitz and we watched a variety of performances from a flute solo, a dramatic excerpt and even a gypsy dance. The event featured candle lighting and a prayer to remember all those lost during the holocaust followed by pledges on a more promising future from Rabbi Haim Shalom as well as two primary and two secondary school pupils. To finish off the day we heard the Firs Primary School singing a moving version of "The Moment". This was followed by closing remarks, from Councillor Sean Anstee, Deputy Leader of Trafford Council before we just had time for a few photos for the MEN newspaper.

For me the event brought to light the genocides that have happened since the holocaust and are still happening today. The event left us with a quote that for me sums up what the day was about:

*“First they came for the Communists, And I did not speak out Because I was not Communist
Then they came for the Socialists And I did not speak out Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists And I did not speak out Because I was not a trade unionist,
Then they came for the Jews And I did not speak out Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me And there was no one left To speak out for me “*

Pastor Martin Niemoller

4.2 Links with other Agencies and Partnerships

4.2.1 NASACRE

Trafford SACRE continues to be a member of NASACRE and sees links with this national body as essential. The Annual report will be sent to NASACRE.

5. SACRE MANAGEMENT

5.1 SACRE Meetings

SACRE has met three times during this year. None of the three meetings were quorate. The average attendance at the termly SACRE meetings in 2019-2020 was 13. This includes officers in attendance and guests.

Attendance in each committee at each formal meeting			
	November 2019	Feb 2020	June 2020
Committee A	6	7	8
Committee B	0	0	0
Committee C	2	2	2
Committee D	1	1	2
Total including guests and officers:	10	14	14

A summary of SACRE meetings with attendance and the main issues discussed is included **Appendix 1**.

5.2.1 Membership

Committee A has representatives from all the six major world faiths and includes a member from the Baha'i Faith, a Humanist and members from the Hindu, Sikh and Quaker faiths. The representation on Committee A continues to widened discussions at SACRE meetings. Representation on Committee B continues to be low and while there has been representation from Chester Diocese this will cease for 2019-20. There are currently two vacancies from Manchester Diocese. Attendance from the members on Committee C has previously been very good, but resignations now mean new members are being sought. Members from Committee D continue to give their full support for SACRE although on occasions other council commitments limit their attendance.

Details of SACRE membership are included in Appendix 2.

5.2.2 Priorities for 2019-2020

The Priorities in the 2019-2020 SACRE Development Plan are:

- To fulfil the Council's statutory duty to develop an effective SACRE.
- To ensure the induction and training of new SACRE members.
- To continue to support and oversee the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus for Trafford.

The SACRE Development Plan is included in **Appendix 3.**

Trafford Standing Advisory SACRE for Religious Education

29th October 2019
Meeting Room 6, Trafford Town Hall
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Name	Representing	Group
Ian Nicholson	Stretford Grammar, Secondary RE Hub School	C/Chair
Saima Alvi	Muslim Faith	A/ Vice Chair
Dave Kitchen	NASUWT	C
Sandra Stewart	Jewish Faith	A
Christine Gilmore	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	A
Mike Battman	Humanist	A
	Baha'i Faith	A
Becky Carey		
	Humanist	A
Deborah Densham		
	Trafford Council	D
Cllr Whit Stennett		
Samuel Hodkin	Clerk to SACRE	

Apologies:

Name	Representing	Group
Cllr Denise Western	Trafford Council	D
Cllr Laurence Walsh	Trafford Council	D
Alhan Taefi	Baha'i Faith	A
Linda Davison	Catholic Faith	A
Jane Bryan	Advisor to SACRE	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as listed above and accepted. IN advised those present that no resolutions could be made, as the meeting was not quorate.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Matters Arising – An offer has been made for funding with regards to NASACRE.

AOB – IN has not contacted Laura Roberts as a follow-up action from the last meeting.

IN to contact Laura Roberts regarding AOB last meeting

3. Determination Review

IN will contact the new Headteacher at Seymour Park Primary School to see if they wish to continue with their determination.

IN will visit the school prior to the Spring 2020 meeting, to ensure that the Determinations can be reviewed and put forward.

4. Annual SACRE Report

Copies of the Report were provided in advance of the meeting as well as at the meeting. Any comments and amendments can be sent to IN, JB or SH.

GCSE and A Level results have exceeded national averages once again, however the number of GCSE and A Level students has decreased again, in part due to the number of students taking RE at AS Level.

Q. A Member asked if RE was perceived as a “soft” subject. IN advised that it may have been previously, but Universities are accepting all A Levels now.

Q. A Member asked if the lower uptake of RE is due to the narrowing of the curriculum. IN advised that this is likely to be a factor.

SH to make required changes to SACRE Report, and circulate to SACRE members

There has been a decrease in the number of pupils achieving Grades 7-9 in RE, the Grade 9 descriptors are changing year on year. The results data can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 of the SACRE Report.

The Trafford SACRE continue to be a member of the NASACRE; this link to the national body is seen as essential.

5. **New Ofsted Inspection Framework and RE**

NATRE is monitoring references to RE in Ofsted reports under the new Inspection Framework. The quality of education grading and consequently the overall effectiveness rating can be Requires Improvement if the quality of any subject, including RE, is not sufficient. This is also a factor if insufficient time is given to any subject including RE.

Q. A Member asked if the EBacc is still a priority. The Chair advised that while it is still a factor in league tables, it is not a requirement for students to study subjects that satisfy the EBacc criteria.

RE and other subjects can now be subject to a “Deep Dive” based on results; this involves a subject specialist inspecting every lesson in that subject for the entirety of the two-day inspection.

The SACRE will be able to get a better picture of how RE is taught in the LA from Ofsted inspections under the new framework; this is a positive development and the NATRE update has proven very useful.

Q. A Member asked if there was guidance as to which religions are taught in RE. The Chair informed the Committee that the LA guidance is clear; schools should teach religions that are prevalent in the local area. For example, Judaism and Ba’haí are taught in Trafford.

6. **RSE Discussion – Beyond SACRE**

In the absence of SSi, it was agreed that this discussion would be deferred to the next SACRE meeting.

7. **Dates of Future Meetings**

25th February 2020 – British Muslim Heritage Centre
16th June 2020 – Stretford Grammar School

8. **Any Other Business**

The event for British Holocaust Memorial Day will take place from 1-3pm on

**SH to add
to Agenda
for next
SACRE
Meeting**

29 January 2020. All SACRE members are invited to attend, and more involvement from schools is most welcome.

The Chair has received an email from NATRE, stating that they wish to support 100 primary schools to improve RE in the school. They will receive NATRE membership for 2 years, resources and a starter kit to this effect. Up to 20 schools can be nominated by each SACRE. The Chair has spoken to Kylie Spark at TTSA (Trafford Teaching Schools Alliance), who will suggest schools who may benefit from the funding; the Committee will support any applications and recommend the schools to NATRE. This will also ensure that the assistance goes to schools that need it most.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 25 February 2020, 6-8pm, British Muslim Heritage Centre

Meeting closed at 7:15 p.m.



Minutes of the meeting of the Trafford Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE), held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 6:00p.m.

PRESENT: Ian Nicholson (Chair)
Saima Alvi (Vice Chair)

Group A

Mike Battman (Humanist Community)
Christine Gilmore (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)
Stuart Parsons (Buddhist Faith)
Sukhbir Singh (Sikh Faith)
Sandra Stewart (Jewish Community)
Alhan Taefi (Ba'haí Faith)
Irene Wai Lin Chan (Buddhist Faith)

Group C

Dave Kitchen (NASUWT)

Group D

Cllr Karina Carter (Trafford Council)
Cllr Patricia Young (Trafford Council)

IN ATTENDANCE: Samuel Hodkin (Clerk, Minutes)
Jane Bryan (Advisor to SACRE, Trafford Council)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Becky Carey (Ba'haí), Linda Davison, Cllr David Jarman and Cllr Shirley Procter.

The Chair advised that the meeting was not quorate; but will provide an update on Inquorate meetings in Item 4.

2a. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25 February 2020

Resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2020 be approved in principle, but with full approval deferred until a future meeting that is quorate.*

2b. MATTERS ARISING

i) **SACRE Report**

Jane Bryan informed the SACRE that the SACRE Report had been sent to the Diocese of Chester for approval.

ii) **RSHE Guidance**

The Chair informed the SACRE that Teaching Schools are rolling out this guidance, and the Chair is the Regional Lead for this. School PSHE Leads may approach SACRE members to discuss faith community views on RSE. The new RSHE syllabus will now be rolled out in September 2020 due to the current situation; Schools are legally obliged to consult faith communities on their RSHE syllabus.

A Committee Member commented that he had been speaking with parents in the local Sikh community; they had received no queries from Schools regarding consultation around their respective RSHE syllabi. The Chair clarified that Altrincham Grammar School for Girls are coordinating support via the Primary and Secondary School networks centrally.

iii) **Update on Ofsted and RE**

Owing to the suspension of Ofsted inspections, NASACRE are not providing any guidance on Ofsted and RE; however Schools may sign up to NATRE for advice free of charge until the end of the current academic year.

3. **Determinations**

In the light of few SACREs being able to meet, even in a virtual way, the Department for Education has provided guidance on Determinations where a SACRE is inquorate. A SACRE may either extend an existing Determination for a period of 12 months, or assign to 'a person of trust' the ability to give a new four-year Determination on behalf of the SACRE; this would mean that any parental complaint around Collective Worship would not be upheld.

Jane Bryan advised that the quoracy situation with the Dioceses of Chester and Manchester has been difficult, with no nominations for representations forthcoming. The Chair is happy to contact Seymour Park Primary School and examine whether the arrangements made in June 2019 are still satisfactory to grant a four year extension.

The Clerk agreed to circulate a Resolution concerning the Determination to the SACRE, allowing all members to vote, whether present at the meeting or not. It was also agreed that SACRE members would be given seven days to submit their vote to the Clerk by email; he will inform members of the result when the voting period had concluded.

The Chair gave an overview of Determinations for the benefit of the Councillors, who were attending their first SACRE meetings.

Resolved: That the Clerk circulate a Resolution to the SACRE, to establish the position of the Committee regarding the Determination.

The Resolution was circulated by the Clerk to the SACRE for a vote, and Option 2, *“That the SACRE nominate Ian Nicholson, Chair of Trafford SACRE, to be the ‘person of trust’. He will contact Seymour Park Community Primary School and examine the arrangements in place for Collective Worship. If he is satisfied with the arrangements for Collective Worship, he will grant a new Determination to the School for a four-year period to June 2024.”* was agreed to by 6 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

4. Discussions at Deputies’ Forum Re: DfE Guidance

Jane Bryan reported that, due to the situation around Co-Vid19, the Deputies’ Forum did not take place.

5. HMI (Her Majesty’s Inspector) for RE

A new HMI, Richard Coupe, has been appointed in the area of Religious Education. He has previously been involved with NASACRE, and this is seen as advantageous for inspecting the subject.

6. Commission on RE – Link to Trafford

The NASACRE have requested that SACREs participate in a research project with Oxford University around the nature of the SACRE, to become the Committee on Religions and World Views; this was a recommendation of the recent Commission on Religious Education (CoRE). This would generally involve a telephone or Zoom discussion with the researchers from Oxford University; the Clerk will add some information on this to the email with the Determinations Resolution.

7. Trafford Agreed Syllabus for 2021

The Trafford Agreed Syllabus is shared by four other Local Authorities, and a new agreement is required for September 2021; therefore an Agreed Syllabus Conference must be convened. Trafford SACRE could agree their own syllabus, but this would need to commence in September; the 2016 syllabus may be agreed again, but this would come at a cost to RE Today.

It was suggested by a Committee member that it may be worth the expense of having the current Syllabus evaluated. Jane Bryan advised the Committee that obtaining feedback from Primary schools would be useful, as they have been positive around the current Syllabus. Stockport, Salford, Tameside and Manchester LAs will be contacted for their views on the Syllabus prior to the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

8. Trafford Secondary School Teachers Support Network

The Head of RE from Stretford Grammar School has created a Facebook page to allow Secondary school RE teachers and Subject Leads to discuss the teaching of RE and share resources; this will supplement the RE Network that already exists for Primary schools.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Religious Studies at Lostock High School

The Vice Chair advised that pupils at Lostock High School will no longer be studying Religious Studies at GCSE, due to low pupil uptake.

10. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: That the following items be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

i) Agreed Syllabus Conference

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next meeting of the SACRE be held on 9 November 2020 at 6:00 p.m, via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 7:17 p.m.

Appendix 2

Trafford SACRE Membership

The structure of Trafford's SACRE is defined by law and is split into four committees that represent different groups;

Committee A: Christian denominations other than the Church of England plus representatives of other faiths;

Baha'i Faith	Becky Carey, Alhan Taefi
Buddhist	Irene Wai Lin Chan, Stuart Parsons
Catholic Faith	Marika Richardson, Mrs Linda Davison
Hinduism	Jyoti Kamble
Islamic Faith	Dr Nasser Kurdy , Saima Alvi (Vice Chair)
Jewish Community	Sandra Stewart
Sikh Community	Sukhbir Singh
United Reformed Church	Paul Brewerton
Church of the Latter Day Saints	Christine Gilmore
Humanist	Deborah Densham, Mike Battman

Committee B: The Church of England

1 vacancy, Manchester Diocese
1 vacancy, Manchester Diocese
Miles Owen, Chester Diocese (Until August 2019)
1 vacancy, Chester Diocese

Committee C: Teacher and Headteacher Associations

ASCL	Ian Nicholson
NEU	Vacancy
NAS/UWT	David Kitchen
NAHT	Vacancy

Committee D: The Local Authority

Cllr Karina Carter (Trafford Council)
Cllr Patricia Young (Trafford Council)
Cllr David Jarman
Cllr Shirley Procter

Strategic Objective 2020-21			To fulfil the Council's Statutory duty to develop an effective SACRE			
Activity 1			To carry out Trafford Council's statutory duty to have a SACRE which meets regularly to advise Trafford Council on matters concerned with RE and Collective Worship and to ensure the induction and training of new SACRE members			
Objectives	Action	Criteria for Success	Strategies/Timescale	Roles & Responsibility	Budget	Review Date Review statement
Produce an annual report on the work of SACRE	Using records and papers of meetings, analysis of Ofsted subject summaries, statistics on GCSE and A Level entries and results write a report, with appropriate appendices, on the work of Trafford SACRE	Finalised version of the SACRE report to be sent to Trafford Council and NASACRE by the end of December and be made available through the Trafford website	Draft report presented at Autumn Term meeting Final report to schools, Council, NASACRE and MMU	Chair of SACRE Chair of SACRE Adviser to SACRE		Annually Term 1 meeting
Review and amend/update the annual SACRE development plan	Review the development plan and update in the light of DfE and Ofsted	Updated version of the development plan is agreed and included in the annual SACRE report	Development plan agreed by SACRE at Autumn meeting	Chair of SACRE		Annually

Ensure that SACRE members are well informed about SACRE related issues and contribute to local debates on such issues	Attendance at NASACRE meetings Summary analysis of NASACRE Meeting to be produced	Attendance at conference by a member of SACRE	Termly	A member of SACRE		Via minutes of meetings, email communications, sharing information.
Annual analysis of GCSE and A Level entry and results statistics	Analysis of information about entries and results at school. La and National level.	Analysis to be completed in time for the Autumn Term SACRE meeting and for inclusion in the annual report	Nov Each year	Chair of SACRE Adviser to SACRE		Analysis completed annually and included in the report, along with year on year data.
SACRE to receive and consider requests for determinations	Schools reminded they can apply for determinations. Schools with determinations are reminded when they expire and invited to reapply.	All schools have active and in date determination and meet statutory requirements for Collective Worship	As required	Adviser to SACRE		As required SACRE consider requests as received from schools.