



## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far



# How can SACRE transform schools to become beacons of HOPE?



National Association of  
Standing Advisory Councils  
on Religious Education

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Alsop High School, Liverpool

DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019



## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

"I'm more than a piece of data"

Emily  
(17)

"Very few of the students I speak to are optimistic about the future or their current education"

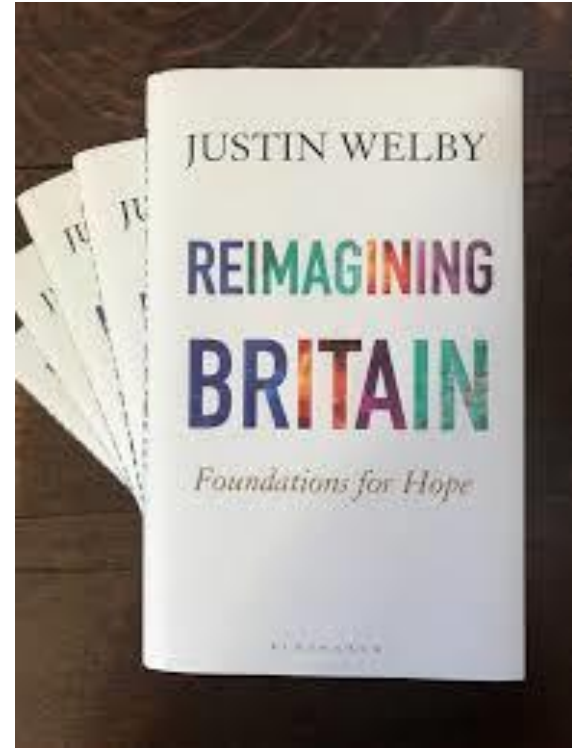
Mark  
(19)



## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

***“A focus on grades alone contributes to an inadequate sense of self-worth and does not diminish issues of mental health.”***

Archbishop Justin Welby





## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

***“Racism rising since Brexit vote. Nationwide survey shows 71% of people from ethnic minorities faced discrimination, up from 58%”***



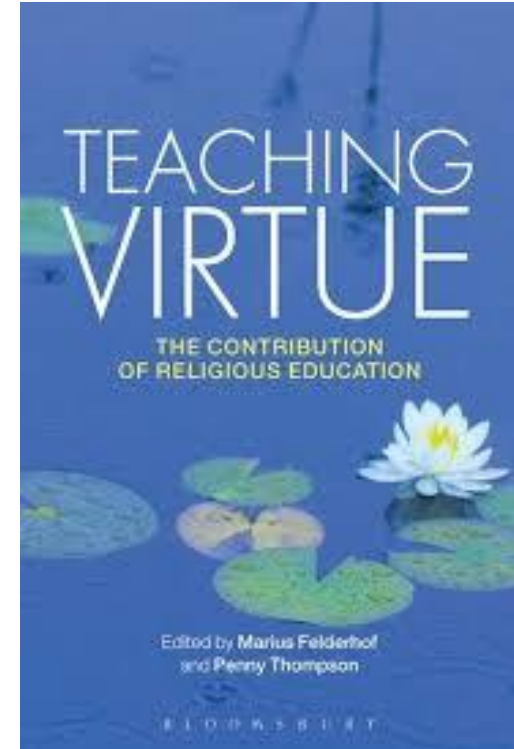
Guardian 20-05-2019



## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

***“The world and education in particular, is in need of an injection of Hope”***

Penny Thompson (Teaching of Virtue, 2014)







## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

*"We are at a pivotal moment in the life of our nation on a scale we haven't seen since the end of World War Two."*

Justin Welby





# Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

## The context

- ✓ Largest secondary school in Liverpool
- ✓ 11-18 provision
- ✓ 1550 students
- ✓ We sit in the shadows of Anfield and Goodison
- ✓ The immediate area is characterised by densely populated terraced streets consisting of rented and social housing.





## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

### The context - Disadvantage

- ✓ 64% (29% nationally) of students are disadvantaged
- ✓ Walton is the most deprived constituency in the UK
- ✓ 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of our intake attend schools situated in the Church of England parish of St Luke, Walton
- ✓ St Lukes ranks as the 21<sup>st</sup> most deprived C of E parish out of 12,508 parishes in England







## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

Why did we plan the HOPE initiative?

We wanted to “**Think outside the box**” and build the capacity for **HOPE** both within the school community and the neighbourhood.

We began with a genuine desire to develop **strategies to challenge young people** to engage with some of the positive values held by faith communities.





## Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships - RE near and far

The late Mary Warnock stated that of all the attributes that she would like to see in her children or pupils ***"The attributes of hope would come high or even top of my list. To lose hope is to lose the capacity to want or desire anything, to lose in fact the wish to live."***





So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

## 1. PLANNING - Steering group

- How could we bring out the best in people to reignite confidence, build character and empower them to take an active role in their communities?
- What type of community did we want to build in our schools?
- How could we become beacons of hope and to reconcile estranged groups?



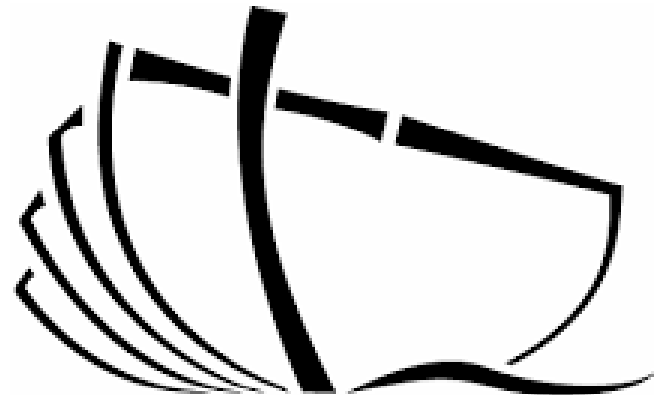


So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

## 2. PARTNERSHIP

Soon we gained the support of:

- Liverpool Diocese
- The Jewish Representative Council
- The Local Authority
- Housing Associations
- Local businesses
- Merseyside Police
- ..... and Liverpool City Council



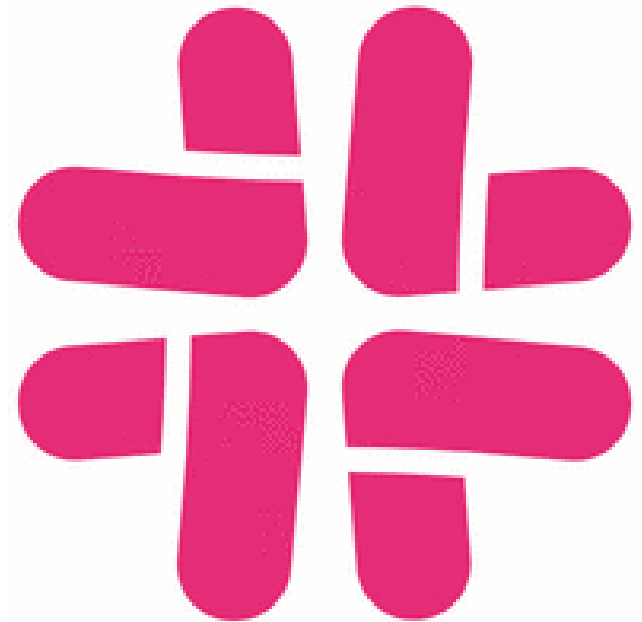
Diocese of Liverpool



So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

### 3. COLLABORATION

- ❑ Together for the Common Good, (T4CG) founded by Jenny Sinclair, daughter of the late David Sheppard.
- ❑ T4CG is a movement created to bring the principle of the Common Good alive, by encouraging and equipping people of good will to work together, across their political differences, as agents of change for the Common Good.







**So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?**

*“As understood within Catholic Social Teaching, schools are intermediary institutions and if their energy is directed for the Common Good their strength and vitality can give our country life. Collaborating with other institutions they have the capacity to generate ‘bridging capital’ and strengthen civil society.”*

*“If rooted in place, if collaborative and genuinely outward facing, a school can be a source of energy and encouragement, ideally positioned to bridge estranged interests and promote common good thinking and participation in its neighbourhood.”* Jenny Sinclair – Founder T4CG



## So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

We wanted our schools to act as local hubs to be the **catalyst** to:

- ✓ Encourage young people to take **responsibility**
- ✓ Form **character**
- ✓ Bring people **together**
- ✓ **Link** local institutions, strengthen civil society
- ✓ Generate **neighbourhood pride**
- ✓ Foster communities in which all can flourish  
..... and build the **Common Good**





So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

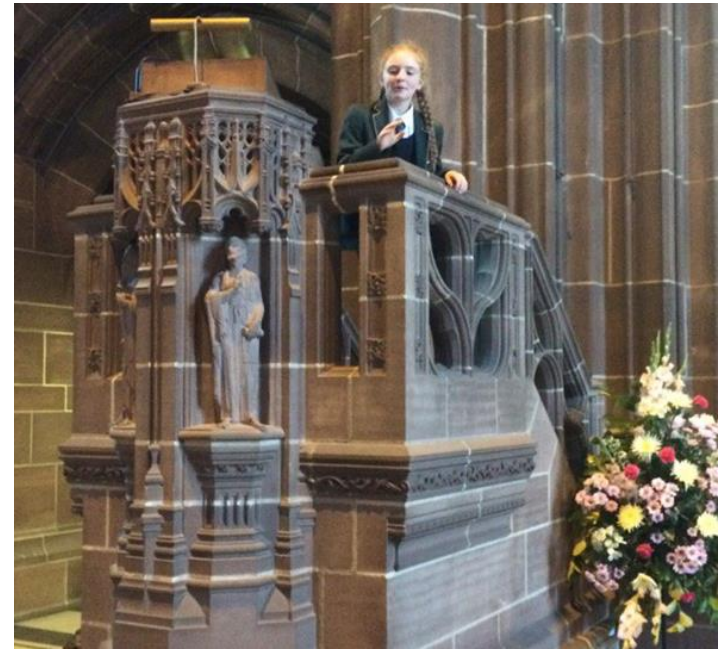
The initiatives were devised to inspire young people to be compassionate, responsible citizens able to listen to others, discover common values and work together in their communities.





So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

The initiative consisted of a series of events, talks, visits, workshops and social action projects.







So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

We invited **inspirational speakers** into our school and community to bring stories of hope in the face of obstacles and social injustice.







So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

We were approached by The Bank of England to host **Mark Carney**, and our students delivered an act of collective worship about social justice and the Hope Charter.





So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

Archbishop of York, John Sentamu told students to work together to extend their fame through their deeds.

He spoke about the importance of **social action**.





So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

**Social Action** is now integral to the life of our school:

- ✓ Our weekly older residents lunch club
- ✓ History projects, e.g. Blitz Mural Project
- ✓ Cabaret afternoons
- ✓ Christmas Parties

These break down barriers of misunderstanding between young volunteers and older residents.

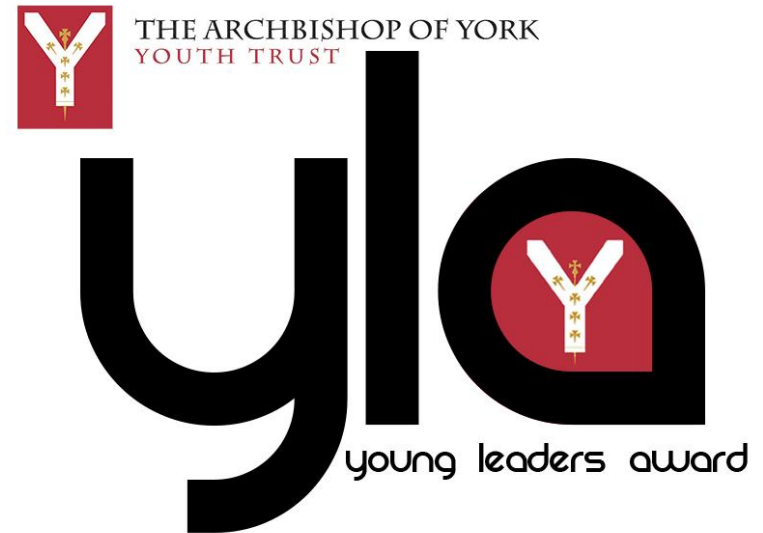




So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

## Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award.

This is a unique active citizenship programme which **empowers** young people to make a difference in their local community.







So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

**Themed Collapsed Curriculum Days.**

**JUSTICE Day** - workshops. Students led a Hillsborough Justice Day Service.

Mrs Margaret Aspinall addressed students







So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

**Faith Encounter Days -** workshops led by members of the Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist and Christian communities.

This was followed up by visits to a mosque, synagogue and cathedrals.





So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

**#PILGRIM ED** - we worked with a cluster of small rural primary schools in Cumbria to facilitate a pilgrimage of teddies around Liverpool.

The pilgrimage was covered by BBC Radio Merseyside.





So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

## Links with Liverpool Jewish Community.

We worked with Holocaust Educational Trust to host the Liverpool Premiere of Holocaust Film "84303".

After the film, Mr Zigi Shipper delivered his Auschwitz Survivor testimony.







So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

The Oddments Theatre Company performed "Amazing Grace", the story of John Newton.

They also performed to primary school children and community members.





So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

**The Great Get Together** - celebrated the life of the late Jo Cox, MP.

Students stood alongside the Liverpool Lord Mayor to demonstrate that we do have "more in common."







## “We Stand Together”

Alsop produced a series of posters as a positive response to terrorist attacks.

These posters celebrate diversity, promote contemporary people and provide inspirational quotes.





# ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL

Educate  
**Awards**  
2016

WOW Recognition Award

WOW RECOGNITION AWARD  
**WINNER**



## JO COX

'We are far more united  
and have far more in  
common with each  
other than things  
that divide us.'

**ALSOP  
ACHIEVE  
EXCELLENCE**

[www.alsophigh.org.uk](http://www.alsophigh.org.uk)



So how did we work via Liverpool SACRE to promote HOPE in north Liverpool schools?

## Visit of Italian Teachers

Fifteen Italian teachers visited Alsop to learn more about FAITH 2017 and the Common Good Schools toolkit.







## How do we know we have had an impact?

“Alsop truly is an example of what can be achieved by young people when the right environment is created which encourages respect, aspiration and a high standard of education. I am proud to be associated with Alsop High School and its culture and ethos.”



**Andy Cooke, QPM.**

**Chief Constable, Merseyside Police**





## How do we know we have had an impact?

Alsop is a school not just **IN** a community, but a school **LEADING** a community. This community has its share of problems.

At Alsop I saw only solutions. Alsop - the school, the staff, the pupils - inspired me.

**Alastair Machray**

**Editor, Liverpool Echo**





## How do we know we have had an impact?

"The school rooted in the north Liverpool community continues to be a force of the common good and shines as a beacon of hope to empower the aspirations and needs of all."

**Rt. Rev. Paul Bayes, Bishop of  
Liverpool**





## How do we know we have had an impact?

We at Alsop believe we are #MoreThanASchool.

I would like to finish with a short video which sums up how we have changed the culture of our school - the words are from the young people themselves.





# And finally ...

We have a huge task ahead.

The new OFSTED framework reasserts the place of RE in the curriculum for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.







How do we know we have had an impact?

My hope is that RE will equip young people with a determination to be world changers!!

They will be enraged by injustice and determined to "be the change they want to see."





How do we know we have had an impact?

They will not accept being “done to” and they will want to take responsibility and will be actively involved in their communities.

They will seek to live their lives for others and not just themselves

... and they will have **HOPE** in their hearts and in the future.

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## My final reply goes to Emily

She's not just a piece of data - she is my daughter and thankfully after a gap year she realises her potential to make a positive contribution to society.

She is now hoping to pursue a career in architecture and has a place at university.

The image features a green background with two light green hands cupped together in the center. Between the hands, the word "FAITH" is written in large, white, block letters. Each letter is set against a vertical brushstroke of a different color: 'F' is red, 'A' is blue, 'I' is orange, 'T' is yellow, and 'H' is dark blue.

**FAITH**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD