



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2017 AT 4.30 PM

GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 5 - CIVIC OFFICES

Telephone enquiries to Peter Smith-Parkyn (023) 9268 8361
Email: peter.smith-parkyn@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Membership

Vacant (Chair)
Councillor Ryan Brent (Vice-Chair)

- Group A - Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area**
- Group B - Representatives of the Church of England**
- Group C - Teacher representatives**
- Group D - Representatives of the Local Authority**

(Full Membership is located on Portsmouth City Council's website)

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Introductions

To welcome new members and introduce other members of the Council.

2 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Honorary Alderman Tom Blair (Roman Catholic Representative) is invited to lead on the moment for quiet reflection.

3 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

4 Declaration of Members' Interest

Members are asked to identify any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on any matters on the agenda.

Note: Should any indication of an interest arise during the meeting, members are asked to declare at that time, as soon as is practicable.

5 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 1 March 2017 (Pages 5 - 10)

It is recommended the Council agrees the minutes of the previous meeting held 1 March 2017 as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising from the minutes

Members are invited to raise any matters from the minutes that are not otherwise identified on the agenda.

7 Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting

To receive any updates from Members of SACRE.

Note: Items requiring decision will need to be brought to a future meeting.

8 Monitoring Group Report (Pages 11 - 16)

To endorse the attached Terms of Reference for the Monitoring sub-committee and to note the report from the first meeting held 15 June 2017.

- a. Terms of Reference
- b. Report items

Recommendations

- (1) that SACRE endorses the Terms of Reference for the Monitoring sub-committee and;**
- (2) Notes the findings of the first monitoring group meeting**

9 Report regarding the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus (Pages 17 - 20)

To receive a report from Patricia Hannam (SACRE's Professional Adviser) and to agree the recommendations contained within.

Recommended that

- (1) SACRE receive the report and considers next steps for further implementation and monitoring and;**
- (2) a programme for initial training in Living Difference III is planned in the forthcoming academic year and**
- (3) New SACRE members attend a SACRE training being offered in**

Winchester in 19th September

10 Report on The Commission on RE (Pages 21 - 24)

To receive a report from Patricia Hannam (SACRE's Professional Adviser) on the Commission on RE and verbally on other national matters including NASACRE AGM in May.

SACRE are asked to note the Terms of Reference for "The Commission on RE", contained as an appendix.

Recommended that

- (1) The report from the Professional Adviser is noted and;**
- (2) The Commission on RE Terms of Reference are noted.**

11 Verbal Report on the Southampton Guidance Document

To receive a verbal report from Justine Ball* on the Southampton Guidance document referred to in Minute 11 of SACRE Minutes (1 March 2017) and its development in Hampshire.

Portsmouth SACRE is asked to consider producing its own Guidance document.

*Note: Justine Ball works for HIAS with Patricia Hannam.

Recommendation that Portsmouth SACRE develops its own Guidance document for schools.

12 Appointment of SACRE member to serve as our representative at the South Central HUB

A member of SACRE is sought to volunteer to be Portsmouth's SACRE representative at the South Central HUB.

Patricia Hannam to provide overview and expected commitment requirements (plus a requirement for rep to provide a short written brief to be presented at the next available SACRE meeting).

Recommended that a SACRE member be appointed

13 The Hallmarks of a successful SACRE (Pages 25 - 28)

SAC RE are to review the report from Patricia Hannam on the Hallmarks of a successful SACRE.

Recommendation that SACRE receive the report and considers forming a Youth SACRE

14 Election of Chair

Following changes to the Local Authority Representatives, made by Portsmouth City Council's full Cabinet meeting held on 29 June 2017, Councillor Neill Young is no longer a member of SACRE, therefore cannot hold position of chair.

Nominations are invited for the Portsmouth SACRE Chair position for a period no longer than 2 years, as per SACRE constitution (s/he may be re-appointed).

In the event of a contested position, nominations for Chair will be given 5 minutes each to address members of SACRE prior to a ballot vote taking place.

Recommended that a new Chair be proposed, seconded and appointed for a period no longer than 2 years.

15 Date and venue of the next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday 8 November 2017, starting at 4:30pm.

SACRE members are asked to suggest or volunteer a venue for this meeting, returning to the previously established of hosting at least one meeting a year at a faith venue, a school and the Civic Offices.

Recommended that the date and venue of the next meeting be noted.

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

5 July 2017

Agenda Item 5

PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Thursday 1 March 2017 at
4.30 pm in Ground Floor Meeting Room 5, Portsmouth Civic Offices.

Present

Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area

(Group A Representatives)

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith (In the Chair)

Ruth Guyer, Judaism (Vice-chair)

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union

Sarah Coote, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Representatives of the Church of England

(Group B Representatives)

Rev. Jane Ball, Anglican Diocese

Brian Hay, Anglican Diocese

Teachers representing the various key stages and an association recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation

(Group C Representatives)

Sarah Sadler, Primary School Representative

Sandra Gibb, Primary School Representative

Representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the Authority

(Group D Representatives)

Councillor Ryan Brent

Councillor Neill Young

Councillor David Tompkins

Also in Attendance

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director for Education

Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor (Hampshire
Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS))

Peter Smith-Parkyn, Clerk, Democratic Services, PCC

1 Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Brian Hay led the moment of quiet reflection with a brief explanation of Anglicanism, the importance and meaning of Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

3 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Honorary Alderman Tom Blair; Reverend Alice Wood, Siôn Reynolds, Captain Teresa Everett, Syed Aminul Haque, Sue Bowen, Beverley Millsom and Councillor Suzy Horton

4 Declaration of Interests

Elizabeth Jenkerson declared a non-prejudicial interest in that she is on the selection board for Westhill grants.

5 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 6 October 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the addition that Jane Lewis was in attendance.

6 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7 Chair's announcements

The following items were reported:

(a) Upcoming NASACRE AGM

Elizabeth reported that the next NASACRE AGM is expected to be held in York on 16 May 2017. Members were invited to express their interest if they wish to attend. Funding for travel only was confirmed to be available.

(b) All Parliamentary Party Group (APPG)

Elizabeth reported that APPG was quite active a few years ago and is encouraged to hear about their interim report on Religious Literacy. Elizabeth also informed members of SACRE that the focus of APPG for this coming period is working with the business community.

(c) RE publications and teachers' packs from the RE Centre

Elizabeth brought in a number of RE publications and teacher packs for SACRE members to view.

The updates were noted.

8 Monitoring of the Agreed Syllabus

Patricia Hannam confirmed that one of the first newly appointed monitoring sub-committee meetings shall review their Terms of Reference, which shall be brought to the next full meeting of SACRE for ratification and endorsement.

Patricia confirmed that the one of the purposes of monitoring sub-committee will be to meet SACRE's statutory duty to monitor Religious Education. The

sub-committee shall consist of a least one representative from each group on SACRE (including the Chair and Vice-Chair). The sub-committee will be able to review sensitive information frankly and shall provide a written report of their findings at a next full SACRE meeting.

The monitoring sub-committee shall also discuss and direct monitoring visits to schools, of which all members of SACRE shall be able to be a part of, not just those appointed to the sub-committee. Patricia confirmed that funding has made provision for four school visits for 2017/18. Patricia also confirmed that it is important that monitoring visits is working with schools that monitoring reports will always be shared with the relevant Headteacher.

On the questions of which schools will be selected to visit and whether Academies should be included for planned monitoring visits. There was general consensus that both schools who demonstrate good practice and those schools in need for improvement will be selected, to allow for the widest spectrum of data to be gathered. There was also a desire to include Academies in monitoring visits (particularly if they are using Living Difference III), keeping both Academies involved and looking towards the future of possibly having no non-academy schools. It was noted that Roman Catholic schools would not be included.

The Chair sought volunteers to sit on the monitoring sub-committee, with only Group B representative short, the clerk would contact all Group B representatives and will advise at the next meeting.

It was agreed that

- (1) the Monitoring sub-committee will meet and provide their Terms of Reference to the next full meeting of SACRE for approval and;**
- (2) the Monitoring sub-committee provide a written summarised report of their reviews to SACRE and;**
- (3) the report of any school visit will be shared, for comment, by the relevant headteacher of the school visited and;**
- (4) the following members be appointed to the Monitoring sub-committee Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A), Sarah Sadler (Group C), Councillor Neill Young (Group D) and both the Chair and Vice-Chair be ex-officio.**
- (5) The clerk seek and report back on the Group B vacancy**

9 Report regarding the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

Patricia Hannam reported that a number briefing sessions being held both in Portsmouth and outside of Portsmouth have been arranged. After a short discussion, it was agreed that Mike Stoneman and Patricia Hannam would work together to ensure we have full coverage of all Portsmouth schools.

It was agreed that Mike Stoneman and Patricia Hannam will liaise to ensure full coverage of the Living Difference III syllabus.

10 Update on the National Position of Religious Education

Patricia Hannam report to SACRE that the RE Council have funding for their review on legal, education and policy frameworks for Religious Education, of which it is expected that their interim report will be published at the end of 2017, with the final report being published 2018.

SACRE members expressed their interest and look forward to the seeing report.

Resolved that

- (1) the update be noted and;**
- (2) Patricia Hannam will provide the clerk for circulation the links to the 3 key reports "Westminster Faith Debate", "Wolf report" and Professor Adan Dinham's report.**

11 Religious Education, the wider curriculum and engagement with parents

Patricia Hannam shared copies of the Southampton document entitled "Advice for schools and community groups". Patricia further explained that Portsmouth SACRE may wish to consider producing its own version as the demographics of Portsmouth is different from that of Southampton. The Southampton document may be useful as a template. Patricia stressed that whilst the guidance document is helpful, each situation should be resolved on a "case-by-case" basis.

Resolved that

- (1) the Clerk circulate to all members of SACRE the Southampton guidance document and;**
- (2) the Monitoring sub-committee consider the matter of producing our own version of a guidance document.**

12 South Central HUB

Elizabeth reported that teachers have the free opportunity to attend Winchester for the Reading and Research Group on 30 March 2017 at 5pm (until 6:30pm). Subjects to be covered are: Hinduism and culture and talk on Christian ethics. Elizabeth confirmed that teachers may gain University credits towards their Master's degree by attending.

Resolved that the update be noted.

13 Updates or notifications from Members of SACRE

Members expressed their disappointment at not hearing about the Christmas service.

Resolved that the Clerk to contact the Music Hub and to ensure all SACRE members are informed of the details of Christmas Service.

14 Date and venue of next meeting (include schedule for 2017/18)

Sarah Sadler tentatively offered Highbury Primary School as the venue of the next meeting scheduled for the 7 June 2017, starting at 4:30pm.

Resolved that the Clerk contact the school and confirm arrangements

15 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Councillor Neill Young was proposed as Chair and Councillor Ryan Brent was proposed as Vice Chair, upon a vote both were elected to the positions respectively.

Councillor Neill Young proposed sincere thanks to both Elizabeth Jenkerson and Ruth Guyer for their hard work and dedication as the retiring Chair and Vice Chair. SACRE member whole-heartily agreed and shared their thanks also.

Councillor Neill Young explained that his background covered working for various not-for-profit organisations. Further for his dissertation for his degree in Journalism was on Religious broadcasting and is an active member of his local church.

Councillor Ryan Brent explained that he is a teacher at Portsmouth College and undertakes one-to-one mentoring for troubled children.

Resolved that

- (1) Councillor Neill Young is elected as Chair of SACRE for the period of 2 years and**
- (2) Councillor Ryan Brent is elected as Chair of SACRE for the period of 2 years and**
- (3) It is placed on record SACRE's sincere thanks to both the retiring Chair Elizabeth Jenkerson and Vice Chair Ruth Guyer for their dedication and hard work during their term of office.**

The meeting concluded at 5:47pm.

Chair

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Agenda Item 8



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Thursday 13 July 2017
Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report
Report by: Patricia Hannam

- Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of the findings and discussions that took place during the meeting of the SACRE monitoring sub-group on 15th June 2017. The group is working to support SACRE in fulfilling its duty to ensure the effectiveness of RE through the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus
The group discussed its' terms of reference for agreement by SACRE. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus various sources of information are considered. For example the group received an update on the current situation regarding RS GCSE and primary and secondary Ofsted reports mentioning RE or SMSC were looked at together with secondary school GCSE data from 2016.
- Recommendations:** That SACRE receive the report and agree terms of reference for the monitoring group.
- Background:** The monitoring group met on 15th June 2017 at 09.00.

Present:- Cllr Ryan Brent (SACRE Vice-Chair and chaired the meeting), Sarah Sadler, Mike Stoneman, Patricia Hannam, Peter Smith-Parkyn.

Apologies :- Elizabeth Jenkerson, and Councillor Neill Young

- 3.1 Portsmouth GCSE results from 2016 and GCSE Update:** That 2017 would be the last year that GCSE data would be received in an A*-C format was discussed. In future GCSE RS from 2018 will be graded 9-1. Maths



and English in 2017 will already be graded 9-1 and the implications for schools were considered. Further the impact of the EBacc on GCSE RS entries was discussed together with GCSE examinations moving from a 'criteria' based system to a 'norm' based system in terms of grade allocation. GCSE results in Portsmouth reveal a positive story in terms both of the number of young people being entered for the GCSE as well as a results, both of which are above the national. The few schools where entry numbers are non-existent or particularly low will be followed up and information gathered reported to the next monitoring group. This is important to ensure that all students at KS4 are able to access their entitlement to RE whether through taking a GCSE course or otherwise.

3.2 Ofsted Visits: the group heard that the type of visit a school will receive from Ofsted is dependent on their existing Ofsted status. Where a school is already 'good' then usually the visit will be a single day and rarely is RE mentioned in this case. However if a school is likely to be moving categories in any direction, then there will be a two day inspection and a longer report. The longer reports are more likely to mention RE but usually in relation to the way in which a school is promoting children or young people's Spiritual, Moral, Social or Cultural (SMSC) development which is a requirement for schools. A school's promotion of children and young people's SMSC development is also regarded as a key way in which a school can be judged as teaching 'British Values' and preparing children for life in modern Britain. Several reports were considered in light of this.



3.3 Monitoring Visits: No monitoring visits have been undertaken in this period; however SACRE has the opportunity to make a number of visits before April 1st 2018. SACRE Advisers will be making arrangements and contacting members to accompany them in due course. Reports regarding these visits will be considered at the forthcoming autumn and spring monitoring meetings.

4. Reasons for recommendations:

That the report is received and terms of reference accepted

Appendices: Appendix 1 - SACRE Monitoring Group Terms of Reference

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE) MONITORING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Role and purpose of the SACRE Monitoring Group

The SACRE Monitoring Group is a group that exists to support Portsmouth SACRE to fulfil its duty to monitor the effectiveness of the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus.

2. Scope of the SACRE Monitoring Group

The SACRE Monitoring Group will scrutinise, for example, the following information in a rotation through the year and other information as required in order to fulfil the purpose of the group:

- Findings of Ofsted visits where religious education is mentioned
- GCSE Data
- Findings of SACRE Monitoring visits to primary and secondary schools
- Findings from targeted school improvement visits to schools by Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance (on behalf of the LA)
- Quantitative and qualitative Surveys of those using the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus
- Findings from the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
- Findings from the Prevent Education Officer

The SACRE Monitoring Group will provide regular feedback to the full SACRE.

The SACRE Monitoring Group will encourage and oversee peer reviews between schools.

3. Membership

Members of the Monitoring Group will be appointed by the Chair of SACRE and will normally include:

- (a) Chair and/or vice Chair of SACRE
- (b) Officers to SACRE
- (c) Members from each of the four groups of which SACRE is comprised

Additional members may be appointed as appropriate e.g. Prevent Education Officer.

The Monitoring group will appoint its own chair.

4. Method

The SACRE Monitoring Group will meet once each term to consider evidence that will support SACRE in reaching a judgement regarding the effectiveness of the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus at any point in time. Where the Monitoring Group requires more information in order to pursue the purpose of the group, and as outlined in the scope, such information will be requested.

5. Meetings

The SACRE Monitoring Group will hold three meetings a year sufficiently in advance of the full SACRE meeting to be able to prepare a report for the full SACRE meeting.

6. Code of Conduct

Any Members of the monitoring group shall comply with the Portsmouth City Council Code of Conduct applicable to members

7. Reporting

The Monitoring Group will provide regular written report to Portsmouth SACRE on the matters that are within the scope of the group. Such reports will be in the public domain and should be finalised in time to allow the publishing of the reports with the full SACRE agenda.



Agenda Item 9



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Thursday 13 July 2017
Subject: Implementation of the Agreed Syllabus
Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of activities that are taking place regarding the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III

2. **Recommendations:** (i) That SACRE receive the report and considers next steps for further implementation and monitoring (ii) a programme for initial training in Living Difference III is planned in the forthcoming academic year. (iii) New SACRE members attend a SACRE training being offered in Winchester in 19th September

3. **Background:** The Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III was adopted by SACRE in the autumn of 2016. Since that time two senior leader briefing sessions have taken place for head teachers and other school leaders. A day + half day training was offered for primary subject leaders and a termly network is now running for primary RE subject leaders. Offering initial training in the Agreed Syllabus in the next academic year will be important since there is regular turn-over of senior staff as well as subject leaders. Secondary teachers are able to join the network meeting that runs once each term in Horndean Technology College. The senior leader briefing sessions are



especially important since we know that RE works best in schools where the head teacher and other senior leaders fully understand :-

- (i) what the syllabus what it looks like in the classroom
- (ii) what is required to be in place in terms of planning by the subject leader/ head of department
- (iii) the contribution RE makes to the whole school curriculum and the wider educational experience children and young people receive

4. Reasons for recommendations: Ensuring implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and its effectiveness is a key duty for the SACRE

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

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Agenda Item 10



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Thursday 13 July 2017

Subject: The Commission on RE

Report by: Patricia Hannam

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1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of the Commission on RE
 2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE receive the report and consider inviting a Commissioner to the SACRE
 3. **Background:** The Commission on RE is a high-profile independent Commission with a remit to make recommendations designed to improve the quality and rigour of religious education, and its capacity to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. It began its work in 2016 and will be producing an interim report that will be published in the autumn of 2017 for further consideration. The final report is intended to be published in the autumn of 2018 with recommendations on matters such as the right to withdraw from RE as well as the wider legal framework within which RE in England sits. The terms of reference for The Commission are attached to this report and further information for example about the people who are serving as commissioners and the mechanisms for gathering evidence can be accessed through the website: <http://www.commissiononre.org.uk/>



4. Reasons for recommendations:

The Commission on RE is currently a highly significant activity currently taking place in England in relation to RE and it is essential that SACRE is well informed with regard to its activities nationally and locally.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: The Commission on RE Terms of Reference

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

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The Commission on RE: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the Commission on Religious Education:

i. Name of Commission:

Commission on Religious Education

ii. The purposes of the Commission:

To review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE, by a wide-ranging, inclusive and evidence-based process designed to inform policy makers about these areas. The ultimate aim will be to improve the quality and rigour of religious education and its capacity to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

iii. Remit of the Commission:

- To consider the nature, purposes, and scope of religious education.
- To identify the enabling factors that currently promote high quality RE, and the barriers that currently limit it.
- To identify what changes are needed to ensure the highest quality provision of RE.
- To ensure that recommendations focus on realistic and specific proposals aimed at both immediate and long-term implementation in the context of continuing educational reform.

In considering the above 4 tasks, the REC has identified the following areas for the Commission to consider:

- The quality of teaching and learning in RE
- The legal and structural arrangements
- The public and professional profile of the subject
- Recruitment, Initial Teacher Education and Continuous Professional Development
- The range of school settings in which RE should be required
- The age range for which RE should be required
- The right to withdraw (parents or carers, pupils and teachers)
- Whether or not there should be a common entitlement in RE, and if so what the entitlement should be

The REC expects the Commission to make explicit the evidence base for the recommendations they make, and ensure the conceptual clarity of any key terms used.

iv. Parameters of the Commission

The Commission should consider RE in all schools and colleges in England that educate pupils of any age up to 19, irrespective of whether they are mainstream, special or alternative provision, independent or maintained, and of a religious character or not.

The Commission should not consider:

- Admissions policies in schools of a religious character
- Employment of staff on the basis of their religion
- Collective worship

v. About the REC

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales was established in 1973 to represent the collective interests of a wide variety of professional associations and faith communities in deepening and strengthening provision for religious education. It provides a multi-faith forum where national organisations with an interest in supporting and promoting religious education in schools and colleges can share matters of common concern. The REC's vision is that every young person experiences a personally inspiring and academically rigorous education in religious and non-religious worldviews. It seeks to work in a way that embodies values of cooperation, collaboration, openness, mutual respect and critical engagement.



Agenda Item 13



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Thursday 13 July 2017
Subject: Hallmarks of a successful SACRE
Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report: The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of the qualities of a Good SACRE**
2. **Recommendations: That SACRE receive the report and considers forming a Youth SACRE**
3. **Background:**

This report is based on a presentation given by Paul Smalley Chair of NASACRE at the launch of Living Difference III in December 2016 and discussed what it is that is important for an LA to have an effective SACRE as well as what it is that makes a SACRE successful and strong. Paul writes “One of the strengths of the SACRE model is that it includes representation from faiths, teachers and the authority. A strong SACRE has good representation on all four committees, who attend regularly and actively engage in the work of the SACRE, so that the whole community is represented. Where local diversity means that Group A (faiths and denominations other than the Church of England) is underrepresented in an area the SACRE works to ensure that expertise from a wide variety of faiths is able to contribute to the workings of the SACRE and the Syllabus. These can be useful fora for much inter-faith dialogue, remembering that SACRES



are places where faiths can work alongside one another to benefit the children.

Healthy SACREs are timely in reviewing their Agreed Syllabus, and in the strongest SACREs there will be a distinctive nature to the syllabus, that has been developed locally, often together with other SACREs in the Area.

Where the syllabus has a history of excellence this will mean a revision of the existing syllabus, rather than a wholesale baby and bathwater rewriting.

Collaboration at a regional level is increasingly common including through the sort of Regional Hub model which Hampshire (and Portsmouth) has been central to here. The best SACREs also work in close partnership with local Dioceses and with Higher Education Provision, such as the University of Winchester (and Portsmouth).

Good SACREs have systems in place to monitor the RE in their area, and they know what the strengths of schools are – where the best RE is taught in primary and secondary schools and special schools across the authority.

They will facilitate schools working together to develop the RE in the very local area to share good practice. The very best SACREs have put in place mechanisms for young people themselves to contribute, with RE

Ambassadors from schools contributing to a form of Youth SACRE or some similar grouping.

4. Reasons for recommendations:

Portsmouth SACRE has many of the characteristics of an effective SACRE. Involvement of young people could be a valuable next step across the authority.



Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

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