



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2024 AT 4.30 PM

**PORTSMOUTH CHANGEMAKER STUDIOS, UPPER SECOND FLOOR,
PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL, GUILDHALL SQUARE PO1 2AB**

Telephone enquiries to Karen Martin 023 9284 1704
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Membership

Group A Representatives - One representative of each of the religions and other bodies listed in the constitution

Baptist - Geoff Wheeler
Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas
Humanist - Barbara Spiegelhalter
Humanist - Geoff Wade (nominated reserve)
Muslim - Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo
Methodist Church – Revd Ray Goddess
Jewish – Michael Zeffertt
Quaker - sarah coote
Sikhism - Jaswant Singh-Digpa
United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan

Group B Representatives - Church of England

Sue Bowen
Revd Sam Duddles
Jane Kelly

Group C Representatives - Six teachers representing the various key stages and an association recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation.

Kari Laing - Post-16 Representative
Helen Reeder - Teacher Liaison Panel Representative
Beth Smith - Secondary School Representative
Fiona Kelly - Primary School Representative

Group D Representatives - Four representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the Authority

Taki Jaffer
Councillor Benedict Swann
Councillor Asghar Shah
Councillor Abdul Kadir

Co-opted members

Jessie Wilson - Council of Portsmouth Students representative

(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

A G E N D A

DIRECTIONS TO THE VENUE

Upon arrival at the Portsmouth Guildhall main door entrance (underneath the big stairs), please turn left and go through to the Guildhall Reception/Box Office where you'll need to sign-in as a Visitor. Then make your way up the stairs or in the lifts to the Upper Second (U2) floor, go through the double doors on the left. Just past the Council Chamber (on your left), turn left and take the long corridor to the end. Turn right, up a few stairs and through the double doors where you'll come into the Unloc Offices. Keep walking until you reach the Changemaker Studios. Upon leaving the Guildhall, please remember to sign out.

Directions to the Guildhall are attached.

- 1 Welcome and Introductions**
- 2 Moment for Quiet Reflection**
- 3 Apologies for Absence**
- 4 Declaration of Members' Interests**
- 5 Election of Vice Chair of SACRE**

Purpose:

To seek nominations for, and elect, a Vice Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE.

The election for the Vice Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE will be made by a way of a nomination and seconding procedure, followed by a majority vote decision. Those nominated must be aware of their nomination. If more than one nomination is made, an election will be held with each Group (A, B, C and D) having one vote. In the event of a 2:2 vote, there is no casting vote, and the status quo will be maintained until such time as a majority decision is reached. No other persons shall be entitled to vote. If one nomination is received, a vote will not be required.

The role of the Vice Chair includes:

- Contributing appropriate time, effort and skills to support the Chair of SACRE so that the Portsmouth SACRE fulfils its statutory duties and responsibilities.
- Taking the chair at SACRE meetings if the Chair of SACRE is unavailable.
- Being a member of, attending and contributing to, SACRE Monitoring Group meetings.

RECOMMENDED that the SACRE elects a Vice Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE for 2 years with immediate effect.

6 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 1 November 2023 (Pages 9 - 16)

The SACRE is asked to:

- a) Agree the draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2023.
- b) Discuss any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda including:
 - i) Advice to schools - Ramadan
 - ii) SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 Update
 - iii) SACRE Constitution Review Update
 - iv) Withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship Survey 2024
 - v) Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP)

7 Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS)

Representatives of the Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS) will give a presentation.

8 Interfaith Week 2024

Purpose

Inter Faith Week will take place 10-17 November 2024. At its last meeting SACRE resolved to discuss Inter Faith Week and future plans at this meeting.

9 School Website Monitoring Update

Verbal update by SACRE's Professional Advisor.

10 SACRE Membership and Member Training report (Pages 17 - 24)

Purpose

This report updates SACRE regarding its membership, training and other opportunities for the membership.

RECOMMENDED - that the SACRE:

- a) **Acknowledges and gives thanks for the contribution Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) made to SACREs at a national, regional and Portsmouth level over several decades.**
- b) **Notes that Rachael Osbourne, Primary Headteacher representative (Group C) resigned on 1 March 2024, that it conveys its thanks to her for her significant contribution to the Portsmouth SACRE in recent years and requests that the Authority seeks a replacement Group C representative.**
- c) **Notes the membership vacancies set out in paragraph 4 of this report and that the Authority has approached relevant nominating bodies with a view to appointing additional members.**
- d) **Notes that the SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE for the current academic year, that this allows members to attend its training sessions (set out in Appendix B to this report) free of charge and that members should take advantage of opportunity.**

11 SACRE Monitoring Group Report (Pages 25 - 28)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of the findings and discussions that took place during the meeting of the SACRE Monitoring Group on 21 February 2024.

The group received updates on professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE and an update on results from the GCSE examination series in 2023. An update on implementation of Living Difference IV, including training in RE, was received.

RECOMMENDED - that the SACRE notes the findings of the Monitoring Group meeting.

12 SACRE National and Local RE Matters report (Pages 29 - 30)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key national and local RE developments.

RECOMMENDED - that the SACRE notes the report

13 Venues for future meetings (Pages 31 - 32)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to summarise the views of Portsmouth SACRE members on venues for meeting and to make suggestions for this going forward.

RECOMMENDED - that the SACRE notes the report and approves the recommendations which are:

- a) **That the SACRE continues to meet in a variety of venues during the year and to promote the work of SACRE across the Local Authority, schools and colleges and different faith and belief groups.**
- b) **If there is a talk or a tour of the venue, this takes place at 4.00 pm prior to the meeting starting at 4.30 pm.**
- c) **Where possible, a Teams link will be offered to an individual if they cannot attend in person.**

14 NASACRE Conference - Monday 20 May 2024 (Pages 33 - 34)

To seek volunteers to attend the NASACRE Conference due to be held on Monday 20 May 2024 at the Hilton, York. Theme: How can SACREs support high quality RE and Collective Worship?

Conference Programme attached.

15 Dates of future meetings

It is proposed that the next meeting will take place at **4.30pm on Wednesday 12 June 2024** at St Swithun's Catholic Primary School.

Future dates (venues to be confirmed):

Wednesday 6 November 2024
Wednesday 12 March 2025
Wednesday 2 July 2025
Wednesday 12 November 2025

All meetings will take place at 4.30pm. If no venue is available, meetings will take place remotely on Teams.

Members of the public are 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.

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Agenda Annex



YOUR VISIT TO THE GUILDHALL

Set out below are some useful information notes which we hope will assist you in your visit to the Guildhall.

CAR PARKING

You will need to make your own parking arrangements if you travel by car. If you have used one of the on-street or off-street parking facilities (such as in King Henry I Street), please remember to pay for sufficient parking time to cover the length of time you are likely to be in the Guildhall.

The Isambard Brunel multi storey car park (468 spaces) is situated only 200 metres from The Guildhall and there is also a smaller surface only car park (58 available spaces) situated in Alec Rose Lane. In addition, the car park behind St John's Catholic Cathedral offers a good value all day option - as does the Council's park & ride facility - the cost of which includes a bus fare into the City Centre.

ENTRY TO GUILDHALL

You should enter the Guildhall through the central doors located under the arch, (or under the Guildhall steps as you face the building). Please sign in at the reception desk. The Committee Rooms are on Floor 3 of the Guildhall and can be accessed via the lifts or stairs (turn left out of the lifts and then almost immediately right through some double doors).

DISABLED PROVISION

The Committee rooms in the Guildhall are accessible for those with disabilities via the lifts.

TOILETS

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TRAVEL BY TRAIN

Portsmouth and Southsea Station is close by and offers routes to local and national destinations. Please see map overleaf.

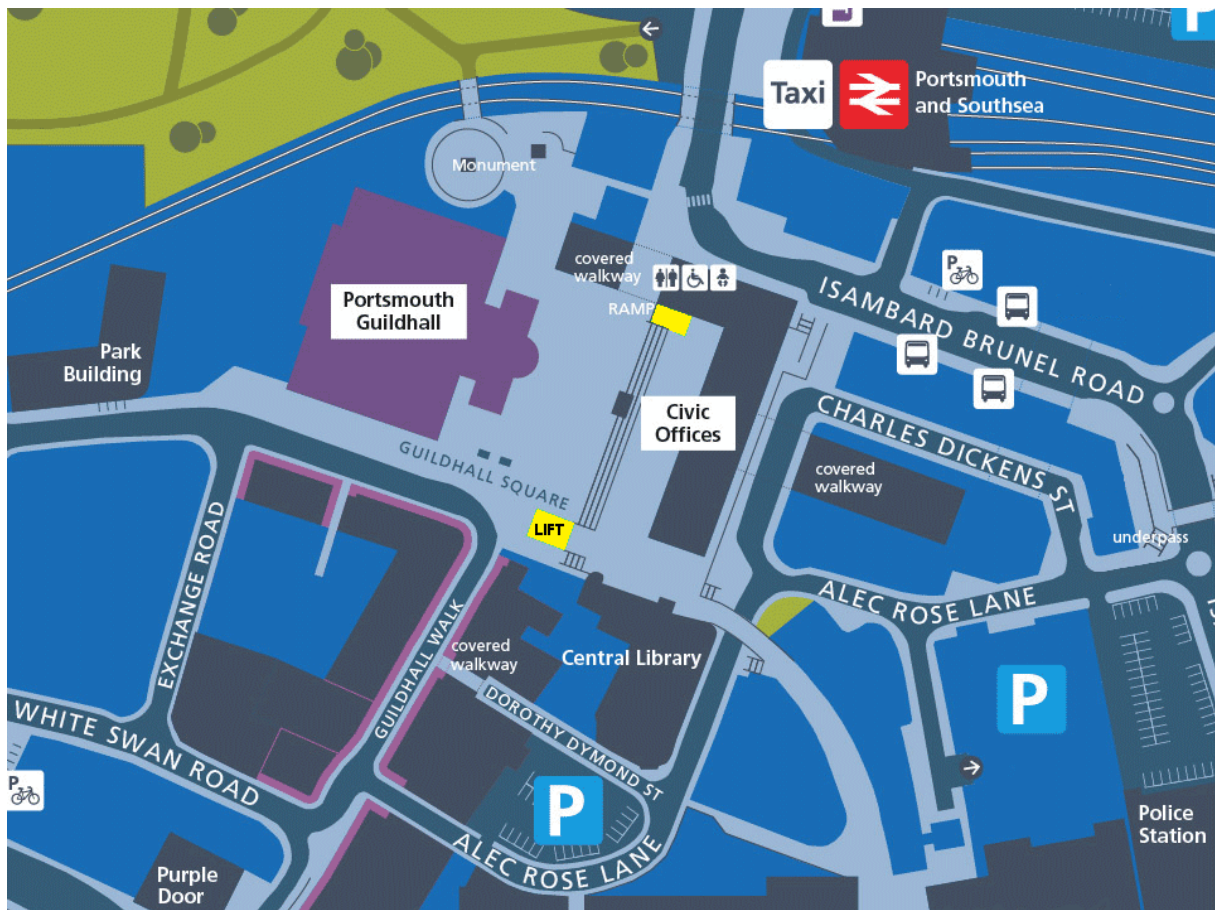
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In the event of an emergency evacuation, you will hear an intermittent ringing of alarm bells, following by a continuous ring. Once the ring becomes continuous, you must leave the building immediately, using the stairs situated at either end of the corridor, not the lifts. Please assemble at Queen Victoria's statue in front of the Civic Offices.

See map below for location of Portsmouth Guildhall.



Agenda Item 6

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 4:30pm at Mayfield School, Mayfield Road, Portsmouth PO2 0RH.

Present

Group A Representatives - One representative of each of the religions and other bodies listed in the SACRE constitution

Baptist - Geoff Wheeler
Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas
Humanist - Barbara Spiegelhalter
Jewish – Michael Zeffertt
Quaker - Sarah Coote
United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan

Group B Representatives - Church of England

Revd Sam Duddles (Chair)
Jane Kelly

Group C Representatives - Six teachers representing the various key stages and an association recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation

Beth Smith - Secondary School Representative

Group D Representatives - Four representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the Authority

Councillor Abdul Kadir

Also in attendance:

Justine Ball, Professional Advisor
Chris May, Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE
Karen Martin, Local Democracy Officer, SACRE Clerk

24. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Justine Ball, Professional Advisor, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25. Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies had been received from Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A), Revd Ray Goddess (Group A), Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoos (Group A), Sue Bowen (Group B), Kari Laing (Group C), Fiona Kelly (Group C), Rachael Osborne (Group C), Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D), Councillor Benedict Swann (Group D), Taki Jaffer (Group D) and Jessi Wilson, CoPS (Co-opted member).

Cllr Kadir apologised he would have to leave at 5.30pm.

26. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 3)

The moment for quiet reflection was taken by Priv Mudada RE teacher and second year ECT. She asked those present to reflect and be grateful for good things large and small over the past incredible year. She gave thanks for the unique opportunity to teach and respond to experiences and she noted that gratitude and thankfulness is reflected in all great religious traditions.

The Revd Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair, thanked Priv Mudada for her thought provoking words.

The short reflection was followed by a presentation by Sharon Rich, the Head of RE at Mayfield School.

The Revd Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair, thanked Sharon Rich for her presentation. Justine Ball thanked Portsmouth and the Head of School of Improvement for their support in enabling Chris May, Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE, to spend time with the school developing the RE curriculum.

27. Declarations of Members' Interest (AI 4)

There were none.

28. Election of Chair (AI 5)

A valid proposal nominating Revd. Sam Duddles had been received from Councillor Benedict Swann (Group D) and seconded by Michael Zeffert (Group A). As this was the only valid nomination, no vote was required, and Revd. Sam Duddles was duly elected Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE for a further two year term.

Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A) proposed thanks to Revd. Sam Duddles for her chairmanship to date and this was endorsed by the SACRE.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **Elect Revd. Sam Duddles (Group B) as Chair of the Portsmouth for a two year term SACRE with immediate effect.**
- b) **Thank Revd. Sam Duddles for her Chairmanship over the past two years.**

29. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 14 June 2023 (AI 6)

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2023 as an accurate record.

30. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 7)

The following items from the previous minutes were raised:

Minute 20 Monitoring Group Report - Mosque visits for teachers and Ramadan advice Councillor Kadir (Group D) confirmed that Mr Ali of the Muslim Academy in Buckland is happy to set up a meeting to discuss the welfare of Muslim students during Ramadan. It was agreed this would take

place on a Monday or Wednesday and Councillor Kadir will arrange a date with Revd. Sam Duddles.

Minute 20 MG Report - Teacher training and recruitment - Following a question from Michael Zeffert (Group A), Chris May informed the SACRE that there are a mix of specialist and non-specialist teachers teaching RE in Portsmouth and that recruitment and retention is not an active concern currently. Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement agreed, noting that the city has 14 MATS and currently two LA maintained schools - Mayfield School and St Edmund's Catholic School. Justine Ball, SACRE Advisor commented that the recently announced bursary should encourage more teachers to join the profession. She added that the SACRE would continue to monitor the situation and Revd. Sam Duddles added that this matter is discussed at the confidential Monitoring Group meeting.

Actions:

- i. Meeting to take place at Muslim Academy to discuss the welfare of students in Ramadan - Councillors Kadir and Shah (Group D) and Revd. Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair.*

31. SACRE Code of Conduct 2023-24 (AI 8)

Justine Ball, Professional Advisor, introduced the item, reminding the SACRE that it was first adopted on 28 March 2023 and that its presence on the agenda was an opportunity for all members to review and agree to standards of professional conduct for example in relation to school visits. She added that this is an annual item. She took the opportunity to remind SACRE members that RE Hubs provides visitors to schools to undertake training for accreditation which is useful.

RESOLVED that SACRE endorses the Code of Conduct and the principles it espouses for the next 12 months and that it is considered again at the first SACRE meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.

32. SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 (AI 9)

Justine Ball, Professional Advisor introduced the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23. She explained that it is a chance for the SACRE to review the report which all SACRE's are required to produce. She confirmed that the report followed the new NASACRE template which allows the national organisation to compare information.

Justine Ball explained that highlights from the past year, set out in the Annual report, included:

- Advice to schools which is a strength of the Portsmouth SACRE.
- The SACRE Monitoring Group which provides an opportunity to monitor RE delivery in schools and Collective Worship.
- The Directory of Places of Worship which is now on the National RE Hubs website.
- The Review of school websites which the SACRE undertook last year and which was a useful exercise.

- The annual review on withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship which will be repeated this year.
- Primary network meetings which are useful.
- The grant obtained and which enabled a session for teachers to attend a CPD event about Christianity and Diversity.

During discussion, Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A) enquired about whether pupils studying RE at GCSE were generally from a faith or non-faith background. Beth Smith, RE teacher at Mayfield School and Group C member, informed the SACRE that although she could not speak for schools in Portsmouth generally, at Mayfield they are generally non-religious with a very small minority coming from a faith background.

RESOLVED to:

- Adopt the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23.**
- Recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education notes the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 by 31 December 2023.**
- Make a copy available for public inspection (on the Portsmouth City Council website) and sends a copy to the Secretary of State for Education and relevant organisations including NASACRE.**

The Clerk confirmed that the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education would receive a copy of the SACRE Annual Report for noting at her meeting on 14 December 2023.

33. Membership and Training report (AI 10)

Justine Ball, Professional Advisor introduced the report which had been circulated with the agenda.

Regarding vacancies, it was noted that there are vacancies in Group A for representatives from Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Office, Buddhist, Hindu, Salvation Army, Islam and other Christian denominations (1 each); Group B has one CofE vacancy; Group C has a vacancy for an Early Years representative and there were no current vacancies in Group D. The SACRE has been carrying these vacancies for some time.

It was noted that the appendix which set out the training opportunities from NASACRE had been appended to the item relating to the Annual Report (at pages 35-36 of the agenda pack). NASACRE training is really helpful and has Collective worship training on 20 November.

Actions:

- Regarding the vacancy for a church of England representative (Group B) an approach to the Dioceses will be made - Jane Kelly (Group B)**

RESOLVED that the SACRE:

- a) Appointed Mr Michael Zeffert, as Jewish representative (Group A) following the resignation of Samuel Hilsenrath which was noted at the last meeting.**
- b) Noted the membership vacancies set out in paragraph 4 of this report and asks the Local Authority to approach relevant appointing bodies for representatives.**
- c) Noted that the SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE for the current academic year, that this allows members to attend its training sessions (set out in Appendix A to this report) free of charge and that members should take advantage of opportunity.**

34. Monitoring Group Report (AI 11)

Chris May, Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE and Justine Ball, SACRE Professional Advisor, introduced the report which had been circulated with the agenda.

Updates on 2023 GCSE Religious Studies examinations and known results

Chris May explained that Portsmouth specific data is not yet available but there is some information available for the Hampshire geographical area. Although GCSE entries nationally are up slightly, in Hampshire the number of entries has shown a slight downward trend for RE. An area of concern is that Hampshire is towards the bottom of the list of counties for uptake at GCSE and A Level. However, on outcomes, Hampshire is doing much better and is slightly above national average at GCSE. The problem therefore is declining number of entries, and this links back to the shortage of specialist RE teachers. More specific data will be available for the next cycle of SACRE meetings in the Spring term.

Other matters considered by the Monitoring Group

Justine Ball informed the SACRE that:

- The SACRE and Monitoring Group are always looking to support teachers' CPD and sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE.
- Living Difference IV is now halfway through its lifecycle and she and Chris May will be starting work reviewing the syllabus with a focus on the golden threads and pondering time.
- There have not been many Ofsted reports which mention RE, and it is therefore hard to pull out themes. However, where RE is mentioned, the comments are positive.
- Anecdotally, there have been reports that the number of withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship have increased and the survey to track this will therefore be undertaken once again just after Christmas.

In discussion there were several questions, and the following information was provided:

- With fewer mainstream schools offering RE at GCSE and therefore, fewer entering, those who do sit exams are more likely to do better than a bigger

cohort. However, students are expected to perform as well in RE as they do for other subjects, while a previous history of less curriculum time on the subject can result in some pupils being less confident.

- There is no information yet in the data on the difference in uptake or outcomes between genders. However, it was reported that at Mayfield School there is a 50:50 split between the genders studying RE in Year 10 in 2023/24.
- Pondering time is delivered very well by special schools and in most secondary schools. Primary schools need additional support in developing opportunities for pondering time and this is being addressed through the Primary Network alongside the development of resources and guidance how to deliver pondering time.

Revd. Sam Duddles, Chair SACRE, thanked Justine Ball and Chris May for all they are doing to support schools in Portsmouth.

The SACRE RESOLVED to note the findings of the Monitoring Group meeting.

35. Annual Review of the SACRE Constitution (AI 12)

Justine Ball, SACRE Professional Advisor, informed the SACRE that its Constitution was agreed and was last reviewed in 2019 and that it was good practice to review it regularly. A copy of the current Constitution was included with the papers for the meeting. Justine Ball noted that the SACRE could either agree to confirm it (with the minor typing error correction) or take the opportunity of reviewing it particularly in relation to the membership of Groups B and C including considering Census or pupil data in relation to Group A.

Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A) agreed that the areas for possible review as set out in the covering report seemed sensible. It was proposed that the SACRE membership be approached about creating small working groups to address each area and that these smaller group meetings could be held on Teams.

RESOLVED that SACRE:

- a) Invited SACRE members to participate in small working group meetings on Teams to considers the membership for each Group (Group A members to consider Group A membership; Group B to review Group B membership etc).**
- b) Invited each working group to make recommendations to the SACRE about whether they would like to make amendments to the membership for their Group.**
- c) Noted that any amendments to the SACRE constitution will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education.**
- d) Confirmed the SACRE Constitution (previously agreed on 20 November 2019) subject to the words "stated in 4.1" in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 should be changed to read "stated in 3.1".**

It was noted that if it is not possible to find volunteers from each Group to review the membership of each Group, the SACRE constitution will be brought back for review in the Autumn term of 2024.

Please also see minute 38 below regarding the involvement of young people in a Youth SACRE.

36. Annual Review of SACRE Allowances Policy and Procedures (AI 13)

Justine Ball, SACRE Professional Advisor, reminded the SACRE that many members are volunteers and that attracting new members to join the council could be encouraged if the opportunity to claim legitimate expenses incurred on SACRE business was made available.

RESOLVED that SACRE adopts the SACRE Allowances Policy and Procedures for the next 12 months and that it is further reviewed at the first SACRE meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.

37. National and Local RE matters (AI 9)

Chris May, Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Advisor, introduced the report which had been circulated with the agenda. He noted the following highlights set out in the report:

- At the last SACRE meeting, the picture for encouraging new RE teachers into the profession looked bleak. Now, following a campaign by a number of organisations including NATRE, a Bursary has been announced, an open letter to the Secretary for Education has been published and a select committee has met to discuss recruitment and retention of RE teachers. It was conformed that the Bursary is £10,000.
- Culham St Gabriel's Trust continues to offer several initiatives including its leadership programme and C-teach and that these comprise high quality opportunities for RE teachers to develop.
- The RE Hubs project is growing and provides useful information in the local area. There is a link to RE Hubs in the report.
- Other useful resources (set out in the report) include the British library and the Jewish Museum in London
- GCSE results taken from NATRE - links there if want more detail on data currently available.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

38. Brief updates or notifications of items to be brought to a future meeting (AI 15)

It was noted that SACRE meeting dates for the 2024/25 academic year will be proposed at the next meeting. In subsequent discussion, it was noted that the current meeting date in the Autumn term does not allow for involvement by the Council for Portsmouth Students (CoPS) as they do not elect their SACRE representative until late November. It was agreed however, that it was not possible to move the date of the SACRE meeting to early December. Revd Sam Duddles agreed to meet with CoPS in early January 2024 and it was noted that there is an ambition to develop a Youth SACRE in Portsmouth.

Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement commented that pupils beyond CoPS could be interested in a Youth SACRE. Justine Ball suggested that the involvement of young people should be included in the review of the constitution (see minute 35 above).

Actions:

- i. Meeting with CoPS to take place in early January 2024 to discuss involvement in SACRE in medium to long term, including the potential for a Youth SACRE in Portsmouth - Revd Sam Duddles.***

39. Date and venue of the next meeting and future meeting dates (AI 16)

It was confirmed that the next meeting will take place at **4.30pm on Wednesday 20 March 2024.**

In discussion about the venue for the next meeting, Michael Zeffert (Group A) suggested that neutral venues were preferable. During discussion other members of the SACRE felt that it was important for members to visit different places of worship and experience alternative perspectives. Barbara Spiegelhalter (Group A) also noted that humanists do not have a place of worship. Jane Kelly (Group B) commented that the SACRE also visits schools and has held meetings at Portsmouth Guildhall in the past. Revd. Sam Duddles commented that the SACRE actively encouraged schools to visit places of religion and she felt that it was best practice for the SACRE membership to be open to such visits.

Actions:

- i. SACRE members be invited to contribute their views about places of worship as venue for SACRE meetings - SACRE Clerk.***

Christine McMillian (Group A) noted that 12-19 November is Interfaith Week and that the SACRE had not discussed it. Revd Sam Duddles noted that as Chair one of her roles is to be the public face of the Portsmouth SACRE, representing it at public events, including interfaith events, and being a champion for religious education and collective worship in the local authority and its schools. She explained that there have been attempts to bring together faith representatives from across the city, but these had not been successful.

RESOLVED to discuss Interfaith Week 2024 and future plans at the next meeting.

Christine McMillan had brought along some leaflets a leaflet of interfaith prayers and reflections in celebration of the Week of Prayer for World Peace (15-22 October 2023) and invited members to take a copy.

The meeting concluded at 6.18pm.



Agenda Item 10



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting:	20 March 2024
Subject:	Membership and Member Training Report
Report by:	Justine Ball, Portsmouth SACRE Advisor

1. Purpose of report:

This report updates SACRE regarding its membership, training and other opportunities for the membership.

2. Background:

SACRE's membership is comprised of 4 groups; more detail is available in SACRE's constitution:

Group A: Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.

Group B: The Church of England with representatives nominated by the diocese.

Group C: Teacher and Head teacher representation.

Group D: The Local Authority: appointed by the Local Authority.

Each group has one vote in the case of a voting matter. In addition, SACRE can co-opt members, who do not have voting rights.

SACRE is continuing to develop its collaborative work between the Council for Portsmouth Student (CoPS) and SACRE.

It is not the role of SACRE to find its own members, but it can make recommendations to the Local Authority if its representatives feel that a group should be represented in one of its groups (as set out above). The SACRE Constitution is currently being reviewed and the membership of the SACRE is being considered as part of the review and in the light of 2021 Census data. Meetings are being held and it is intended to bring a report to the next SACRE meeting (Summer 2024). NASACRE produces a useful guide to the development and content of SACRE constitutions which may be found at the following link: [SACRE-constitution.pdf \(nasacre.org.uk\)](https://www.nasacre.org.uk/SACRE-constitution.pdf).

3. Recommended that SACRE:

- a) **Acknowledges and gives thanks for the contribution Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) made to SACREs at a national, regional and Portsmouth level over several decades.**
- b) **Notes that Rachael Osbourne, Primary Headteacher representative (Group C) resigned on 1 March 2024, that it conveys its thanks to her for her significant contribution to the Portsmouth SACRE in recent years and requests that the Authority seeks a replacement Group C representative.**



- c) **Notes the membership vacancies set out in paragraph 4 of this report and that the Authority has approached relevant nominating bodies with a view to appointing additional members.**
- d) **Notes that the SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE for the current academic year, that this allows members to attend its training sessions (set out in Appendix B to this report) free of charge and that members should take advantage of opportunity.**

4. Current SACRE Vacancies and meeting attendance:

4.1 Current vacancies

- Group A** Baha'i Faith, The Roman Catholic faith, Buddhist, Hindu, Salvation Army, Islam and other Christian denominations (1 each)
- Group B** CofE representative (1)
- Group C** Primary Headteacher representative (1) and Early Years representative (1)
- Group D** None (0) - current appointees may be subject to change following the local elections in May 2024 and appointments will be confirmed at the Cabinet meeting in June 2024.

4.2 Attendance at meetings

Autumn Term meeting - 1 November 2023

Group A = 60%	6/10
Group B = 66%	2/3
Group C = 20%	1/5
Group D = 25%	1/4

The SACRE Clerk has written to relevant SACRE members in relation to non-attendance at three consecutive SACRE meetings. This is because the SACRE wishes to ensure that SACRE's deliberations and decisions are informed by involvement from all its constituent bodies, and it is committed to carrying forward its work together as effectively as possible. Please note that SACRE is happy for members to nominate substitutes who may take their place at any given meeting, provided that their nominating body approves. Where a member feels they are no longer able to attend as a member of SACRE, even with the support of a substitute, the SACRE will approach the sponsoring body for the nomination of a new member to represent it.

5. South West SACRE Conference 2024, Monday 4 March 2024

All SACRE members were invited to attend the conference which organised by Ed Pawson and took the theme: *SACREs, working to develop high quality curricula for the study of Religion and Worldviews.*



See flyer attached as Appendix A.

6. SACRE training:

- a) Portsmouth SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE's annual training programme so that all its members may join any of its virtual training sessions FREE. Please see 2023-24 training programme attached as Appendix B.

Please contact the SACRE Clerk, Karen Martin at karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk to sign up for training sessions.

- b) Attendance at training events since the last meeting:

Training provider	Date	Topic	Attendees from Portsmouth SACRE
NASACRE	4-5.30pm, Monday 20 November 2023	Collective Worship (joint with AREIAC) virtual training session. This session shared the present legal position of the government on collective worship and then share what several SACREs are doing to support collective worship practice in their schools.	Christine McMillan (Group A) Debbie Anderson, PCC Head of School Improvement
NASACRE	Tuesday 5 December 2023, 7-8pm	How may SACREs effectively monitor schools? Led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton. This session provided a chance for SACREs to come together and hear about a range of strategies and practices that build relationships with schools and enable SACREs to monitor RE and CW.	Christine McMillan (Group A) Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A) Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D) Debbie Anderson, PCC Head of School Improvement
NASACRE	Thursday 22 February 2024, 4-5:30pm	Being an effective SACRE clerk, part 2 - SACRE clerks to reflect on their present practice and share with other clerks around the country some top tips for fulfilling the SACRE clerk's role.	Karen Martin, SACRE Clerk
	Monday 26 February 2024 7-8pm	Dealing with beliefs and practices about loss & death in your Agreed Syllabus - Led by: Denise Chaplin and Paul Smalley. This session	Christine McMillan (Group A) Beth Smith (Group C) Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D)



		aimed to help SACREs to reflect on what they do a present to cover this aspect of the curriculum in schools. It will provide input from the national body of funeral directors, as well as examples from 2 different SACREs of their support work around these issues within their Agreed Syllabus.	
NASACRE	12 March 2024 7-8pm	Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference – legalities and processes. This session shared the legal process and best practice suggestions for convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for the SACRE.	Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D) Justine Ball, Professional Advisor
HIAS	Thursday 18 April 2024 at 10.00am on Teams	Training on the Living Difference IV syllabus for school speakers - hosted by Justine Ball, Hampshire County Inspector for History and RE	
NASACRE	21 September 2023 (recording available)	So you've joined your local SACRE - Aims to help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.	The SACRE Clerk will provide a link to a recording of this session on request. It will be re-run on 26 June 2024

Recordings of NASACRE training events are available on its website. If members would like to view any of the training sessions above on 'catch-up', please contact the Clerk, Karen Martin at karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk for the log in details.

Appendix A - South West SACRE Conference 2024, Monday 4 March 2024

Appendix B - NASACRE training opportunities 2023-24

South West SACRE conference 2024

SACREs, working to develop high quality curricula for the study of Religion and Worldviews

1:00 - 4:00pm Mon 4th March 2024 (via Zoom)

Keynote speaker: Jen Jenkins

Team leader for REC Religion and Worldviews curriculum framework project

Developing a religion and worldviews syllabus

Workshops offering 'something for everyone' across the whole range of SACRE membership groups:

- **What is the National Content Standard for RE ([NCS](#)) and why is it so important** (Deborah Weston, REC and RE Policy Unit)
- **So, you've joined your local SACRE** (Belinda Twiggs, Devon SACRE)
- **Developing and engaging with SACRE membership** (Jeremy Roberts and Ed Pawson, Devon SACRE)
- **Interfaith and SACREs: how to build relationships with faith and belief groups in the community** (Julia Watts, South Glos SACRE)
- **NASACRE: community, coherence and creativity** (Linda Rudge et al, NASACRE)
- **Using the [Big Ideas for RE](#) to plan a Religion and Worldviews curriculum** (Dave Francis)

Cost: £15 per delegate

To register for the conference, contact your SACRE clerk who will arrange bookings. Alternatively, contact Ed Pawson directly: efpawson@gmail.com

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NASACRE 2023-24 virtual training programme

We are delighted to announce that NASACRE is running another year of webinars to support SACREs in their practice. NASACRE-subscribed SACREs have unlimited access for all their members to each and every webinar for £50 annually which represents incredible value for professional development. SACREs may also book for individual sessions – prices are below.

- 1. Thursday 21st September 2023, 6:30-8pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...***
Led by Denise Chaplin, Catherine Hughes & Claire Clinton
Description: This session will help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to this work.
Free session.
- 2. Monday 16th October 2023, 7-8:30pm: *Applying for and gaining a Westhill/NASACRE award***
Led by Linda Rudge & Anne Andrews
Description: This session will help SACREs to consider the opportunity afforded by applying for and gaining an award. Hear from successful SACREs sharing what the award has enabled their SACRE to do.
Free session.
- 3. November 2023 – dates TBC in each region, 6:30-8pm: *Regional meetings - for SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs, LA officers and professional support officers, working with their RE Hub lead and a NASACRE Exec member***
Description: This session taking place in regions will allow for a smaller number of SACREs to come together; it continues NASACRE's conversation with our membership, to share good practice, national and local news and giving time for SACRE leadership teams to raise, discuss and help to support each other.
Free session.
- 4. Tuesday 5th December 2023, 7-8pm: *How may SACREs effectively monitor schools?***
Led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton
Description: A chance for SACREs to come together and hear about a range of strategies and practices that build relationships with schools and enable SACREs to monitor RE and CW.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*
- 5. Thursday 18th January 2024, 6:30-8pm: *Using data effectively as a SACRE***
Special guest: Deborah Weston
Description: This session will help SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs and professional support officers to make effective use of the data that NATRE, NASACRE and the DfE provides, ensuring local data can be drawn upon.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*
- 6. Thursday 22nd February 2024, 4-5:30pm: *Being an effective SACRE clerk, part 2***
Led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton
Description: This session will help SACRE clerks to reflect on their present practice and share with other clerks around the country some top tips for fulfilling the SACRE clerk's role; it will focus on minute-taking, SACRE's constitution/terms of reference and composition.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*

7. **Monday 26th February 2024 7-8pm: *Dealing with beliefs and practices about loss & death in your Agreed Syllabus***
Led by: Denise Chaplin and Paul Smalley
Description: This session will help SACREs to reflect on what they do a present to cover this aspect of the curriculum in schools. It will provide input from the national body of funeral directors, as well as examples from 2 different SACREs of their support work around these issues within their Agreed Syllabus.
Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

8. **Tuesday 12th March 2024, 7-8pm: *Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference – legalities and processes***
Led by: Paul Smalley with Linda Rudge
Description: This session will share the legal process and best practice suggestions for convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for your SACRE.
Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.

9. **Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...***
Hosted by Exec members
Description: A rerun of the September session, to help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.
Free session.



Agenda Item 11



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 20 March 2024

Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report

Report by: Chris May, SACRE Advisor

1. 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 Group on 21 February 2024.

The group received updates on professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE and an update on results from the GCSE examination series in 2023. An update on implementation of Living Difference IV, including training in RE, was received.

2. Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the findings of the Monitoring Group meeting.

3. Background: The Monitoring Group met at 4.30 pm on 21 February 2024. Present:

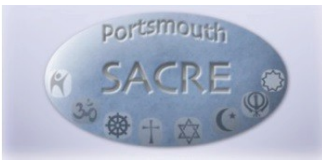
Present: Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A), Revd. Samantha Duddles (Group B), Jane Kelly (Group B), Kari Laing (Group C), Taki Jaffer (Group D) and Councillor Benedict Swann (Group D).

Also in attendance: Justine Ball (SACRE Professional Advisor), Debbie Anderson (Head of School Improvement), Chris May (Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE), Karen Thomas (EMAS Manager and Lead Adviser) and Karen Martin (SACRE Clerk).

The meeting was chaired by Chris May.

4. Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS)

Karen Thomas informed those present that EMAS provides schools with Adviser support, including pupil assessments and CPD (Continuing Professional Development), Bilingual Learning Assistants to support EAL pupils in their first language and resources for teachers and pupils. She added that 20% of pupils in the city speak another language; almost 29% are from an ethnic minority background; and there are 106 languages spoken in the city - up from around 40 just 7 years ago.



Karen Thomas explained that EMAS has four main strands of work:

- a) Adviser support on working with pupils who are Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) or who have English as an additional language (EAL). The Advisory team also provides support to schools and training for staff as well as school improvement work.
- b) Bilingual Learning Assistants (BLAs) support pupils in schools and some nurseries with EAL in their first language in class and develop home school links.
- c) EMAS creates, collects, and collates resources and guidance materials in different languages which are then provided to schools.
- d) EMAS supports unaccompanied asylum seekers.

It was noted that there is a strong link between the work EMAS does in school and SACREs work including in relation to how RE is taught and how families view RE in schools.

Karen Thomas explained further that EMAS is seeing increasing queries from schools about religion and belief in relation to the curriculum or collective worship which was a concern. EMAS is responding by advising schools to talk to parents and invite them into the school to observe lessons and encouraging schools to liaise with community groups. EMAS Bilingual Learning Assistants are being upskilled and this will include a session by Justine Ball on Living Difference IV and the role of RE in providing support with many of these issues.

Justine Ball suggested that it may be helpful to have religious texts in different languages and that schools could be encouraged to use the SACRE boxes more as not all schools are aware of them. She also noted that when talking about different religions in RE and Collective Worship it is important to first emphasise the similarities between religions and to also talk about "some", "many", or "a few" for example, so that there is a good understanding that there is not just one way to be a religious or non-religious person.

5. Inspector/Adviser Updates:

Justine Ball informed the Group that five primary school visits had been undertaken and that the general themes explored during the visits included emphasising the similarities and differences in different religions and non-religious beliefs and encouraging schools to look at the religious population of the school and reflect this in their teaching.

Justine Ball noted that the Jerusalem Trust may provide up to £600 per school in a grant for resources to support the teaching of Christianity and the Cullum St Gabriels Trust may also have some funding available which could be used to fund school visits to places of worship.



In response to a question about why there were no visits to secondary schools in this academic term, Chris May informed the Group that there are several factors including the education landscape in the city. There are currently only two LA Maintained secondaries in Portsmouth and Chris May noted that he is in regular contact with one of these schools.

Chris May added that secondary schools also tend to have specialist RE teachers and subject leads, and this is often not the case in primary schools. Primaries are therefore very keen to take up support as they do not have subject specialism and it is very positive that they want to take up the support offered.

6. Updates on Portsmouth 2023 GCSE Religious Studies examinations:

Chris May talked through the GCSE Results data for Portsmouth. In summary, analysis of the data shows:

- a) Exam entry numbers have increased in contrast to Hampshire and nationally and that although the numbers being entered for public exams are still small, the direction of travel is positive.
- b) Across schools in the city attainment is below national scores on average. Chris May highlighted schools where attainment is above the national average.
- c) The gap in attainment for SEN and Pupil Premium pupils is smaller than nationally.
- d) Overall, in 2023 pupils performed less well when compared to 2019 levels and when compared to national scores but does have increasing entry numbers.

7. Other sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE:

- a) Chris May noted that while there had been no Deep Dives into Secondary RE in Ofsted inspections, where reports did reference RE, these comments were positive.
- b) Justine Ball updated the group on Primary Ofsted inspection visits noting that there have been several which include reference to RE and that these generated positive comments which were set out in the report.
- c) Justine Ball added that the much awaited RE Subject report from Ofsted had still not been published. She explained that although Amanda Spielman's comments in early December about national RE had been generally gloomy, in Portsmouth, when mentioned in Ofsted inspections, RE generates positive comments.
- d) Information from other HIAS discussions with Primary & Secondary subject leaders was shared and it was noted that where HIAS had visited the school, it was more likely that staff would then attend Primary RE Network meetings, and the membership of the Network was growing.

8. Update on ECT and subject training offer:

Chris May reported that:



- a) He monitors recruitment websites and was not aware of any current vacancies for RE teachers being advertised.
- b) In terms of teacher training at Winchester only one student this year has chosen to take RE as their primary subject in the humanities PGCE course offered by the University. Others have chosen to take RE as their secondary subject, but this is of concern as it may lead to a shortage of RE specialist teachers in the area in the future.
- c) However, the bursary is now in place, and this may have a positive impact in the future.

9. Potential changes to the SACRE constitution

Justine Ball reported that this action from the last SACRE meeting is underway, and she is in touch with representatives from the SACRE groups about possible updates. She added that a report on proposed changes is likely to be presented to the SACRE at its meeting in the summer term.

The current Portsmouth SACRE Constitution can be viewed at [Portsmouth SACRE Constitution](#)



Agenda Item 12



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 20 March 2024
Subject: SACRE National and Local RE Matters Report
Report by: Chris May, Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Advisor

1 Purpose of report:

The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key national and local RE developments.

2 Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the report.

3 Executive Summary:

This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national developments, for example the work of the Religious Education Council (REC), NASACRE, the RE Hubs project as well as the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

4 NASACRE is running its annual Westhill/NASACRE award and has invited SACREs to submit their applications for an Award. The £4000 (max) award is intended to fund a SACRE-led project that will enhance the quality of RE and or collective worship in local schools, with the potential to have wider, lasting impact. The theme for this year is *Education into Diversity*. The [Westhill website](#) and the NASACRE website has further information. **The closing date for applications is 31 March.**

5 The NASACRE annual conference is **Monday 20 May 2024. It is in York, but also available online for SACRE members. The theme is:**

How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?

SACRE members are invited to contact the SACRE clerk if they wish to attend and there is a maximum of 2 delegates per SACRE.

6 There is one further NASACRE webinar coming up this year:

Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm: So, you've joined your local SACRE...

Please contact the SACRE clerk if you wish to attend this event.

7 The Portsmouth SACRE monitoring report reveals positive comments from Ofsted reports about RE in Portsmouth schools. In contrast nationally, the Ofsted Annual Report from the Chief Inspector for the year 2022/23 refers to RE being of poor quality across England. The report can be referenced here: [The Annual Report of His](#)



[Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2022/23 -](#)

[GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) . SACRE members are encouraged to read the report and be aware of the national picture, although it is not reflected locally. The Ofsted subject report on RE is due out shortly and this will be circulated as soon as it is available.

- 8 RE Hubs continue to run FREE Places of Interest and School Speaker training (POI&SS). The next dates for training are, 26 March, 18 April 2024 and all are online. SACRE members are encouraged to register for training if they have not already and to pass the details onto other school speakers they might know. Further details are available here: [Register as a school speaker \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk)

- 9 NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) has produced a toolkit for schools on bullying and belief:

'This Bullying and Belief toolkit is a resource to support schools to deal with the topic of religious bullying. It contains five 60-minute lessons for Primary and Secondary schools, with resources and films on which to base your teaching within RE lessons. Alternatively, the five lessons have been planned so that they can run as a drop-down day or be used in tutor time or in PSHE sessions. The toolkit also contains resources for organising assemblies around this theme.'

It is available for free on the NATRE website: [Bullying and belief Toolkit Booklet Aug 2020.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](https://natre.org.uk/Bullying%20and%20belief%20Toolkit%20Booklet%20Aug%202020.pdf)

- 10 Culham St Gabriel's continues to run a national RE Leadership Programme, aiming to support teachers developing their RE leadership beyond their own school, the deadline for entries this year is 22nd March.
- 11 The University of Nottingham is running a film making competition for GCSE and A-Level RE students. The theme this year is "Our Changing World: Census 2021 and Religion". There is a prize of £100 for the winning GCSE and A-Level entrant. More information can be found here: [David-Garlick-Prize-Competition-2024 \(nottingham.ac.uk\)](https://nottingham.ac.uk/David-Garlick-Prize-Competition-2024)
- 12 AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and AULRE (Association for University Lecturers in Religion and Education) will be holding a joint conference on June 20th-21st at Newman University, Birmingham.
- 13 AREIAC will be running a webinar 'Handling Sensitive Issues around Religion in Schools' on Monday 29th April 2024 1600-1730.



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 20 March 2024

Subject: SACRE meetings through the year

Report by: Justine Ball Hampshire County Inspector for RE and History

1 Purpose of report: The purpose of this report is to summarise the views of Portsmouth SACRE members on venues for meeting and to make suggestions for this going forward.

2 Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the report and approves the recommendations which are:

- that the SACRE continues to meet in a variety of venues during the year and to promote the work of SACRE across the Local Authority, schools and colleges and different faith and belief groups.
- If there is a talk or a tour of the venue, this takes place at 4.00 pm prior to the meeting starting at 4.30 pm.
- Where possible, a Teams link will be offered to an individual if they cannot attend in person.

3 Executive Summary:

This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of the views of members about where the SACRE should meet and how presentations and tours of meeting venues might be arranged for SACRE in future.

4 Background:

At the last SACRE meeting in November 2023, a suggestion was made that neutral venues for SACRE meetings be considered going forward. During discussion, other members of the SACRE felt that it was important for members to visit different places of worship, schools and colleges, venues with no faith links and Council offices to experience alternative perspectives. The chair of SACRE commented that the SACRE actively encouraged schools to visit places of religion and that it was best practice for the SACRE membership to be open to such visits. SACRE members were asked to send in their views following the meeting.

5 Views of SACRE members:

A large number of SACRE members responded (10 in total) and all wished to continue the custom and practice of meeting in a variety of places, including places of worship, council offices and venues with no faith links, and schools and colleges in Portsmouth, seeing this as an important part of SACRE's role. A summary of members' reasoning here was:



- it enhances members' knowledge and understanding of places of worship of faiths other than their own
 - through conversations with members of the faith community hosting the meeting and observations at the place of worship it helps to gain a deeper appreciation of the religious practices
 - the meeting provides a persuasive reason for visiting places of worship of other faiths than one's own. Ordinarily in busy schedules people may not easily find the time or convenience to do so on their own. It is an added value for experiences of SACRE members
 - To promote the work of SACRE to a wider audience
 - NASACRE encourages holding SACRE meetings in schools or local places of worship ([20-ideas-for-SACREs.pdf \(nasacre.org.uk\)](#))
- 6 A few members suggested that a tour and talk about the venue be held separately to the main SACRE meeting, to ensure this did not take time away from the main SACRE meeting. For example, holding a tour and talk at 4 pm before the meeting starts at 4.30 pm. This had been done in previous years and therefore could be done again going forward.
- 7 It was also suggested that if possible, the opportunity to attend a SACRE meeting remotely via MS Teams be considered if the venue or circumstances make the meeting difficult for a member to attend.
- 8 In conclusion, it is proposed that the SACRE continues to meet in a variety of venues during the year and to promote the work of SACRE across the Local Authority, schools and colleges and different faith and belief groups including those of no faith. It is also proposed that if there is a talk or a tour of the venue, this takes place at 4 pm prior to the meeting starting at 4.30 pm. Where possible, a Teams link will be offered to an individual if they cannot attend in person.

Agenda Item 14

2024 CONFERENCE & AGM

How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?



Monday 20 May 2024, 10:30-15:30
[Hilton York](#)

Twitter handle: [@NASACRE](#)
 Tag us: #NASACRE24

Time	Details	
10:15	Arrival, refreshments and networking	
10:30	Registration desk	Loop of Exec members on screen in Conference room
11:00	Welcome and introduction from the Chair - Linda Rudge Message from Our Patron - Charles Clarke	
11:10	Session 1: A year in the world of RE	
11:30	Table discussion	Blank question cards
11:45	Session 2 - Keynote speaker: Dame Rachel de Souza Children's Commissioner for England <i>Dame Rachel was appointed as Children's Commissioner in 2021. In this role she has unique legislative powers, is an advocate for children across the country, and represents children's needs across Government. As a teacher, head and multi-academy trust founder, Dame Rachel built a reputation for turning around failing schools in deprived parts of the country.</i>	
12:15	Qs to keynote speaker from Young Ambassadors for RE	
12:30	Table discussion Opportunity for Q/A/comments from the floor	Blank question cards
12:45	Introduce nominees for election (<i>notified by 5 pm, Friday 10 May 2024</i>)	
12:50	Voting for elections and networking	
LUNCH	There is a space available for prayer during lunchtime	
13:45	Session 3 - Keynote speaker: Lat Blaylock <i>Lat has been an RE adviser to several SACREs over the years. He is the former editor of REtoday magazine. He has written many RE resources including 'Picturing Christianity', 'Big, Big Questions' and 'Spiritual Engagement' (a folder of ideas for 16-19 RE), training many thousands of teachers.</i>	
14:15	Table discussion Opportunity for Q/A/comments from the floor	Blank question cards
14:40	Westhill Awards 2024 winners announced	
14:50	Business meeting	Includes announcement of new Exec Legal Entity New Constitution AOB (notified by 5pm, Friday 10 May 2024)
15:25	Closing comments from the Chair	
15:30	Refreshments	Page 33 Clear by 16:00

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