



**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

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**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](mailto: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	<b>Collective Worship</b> (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	<b>How may SACREs effectively monitor schools?</b> 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	<b>Being an effective SACRE clerk, part 2</b> - 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	<b>Dealing with beliefs and practices about loss &amp; death in your Agreed Syllabus</b> - 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	<b>Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference – legalities and processes.</b> 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	<b>Training on the Living Difference IV syllabus for school speakers</b> - hosted by Justine Ball, Hampshire County Inspector for History and RE	
NASACRE	21 September 2023 (recording available)	<b>So you've joined your local SACRE</b> - 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](mailto: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