

Portsmouth City Council

ITEM 4

SACRE

2 March 2005

Monitoring sub-group report

Report of the County Education Officer

Contact: Clive Erricker, County Inspector for Religious Education (02392 441459)

A. SUMMARY

B. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That SACRE consider and note the report.

C. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following documents disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

NB The list excludes:

1. Published works.
2. Documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.

SACRE

2 March 2005

**Report on Conference on National Developments and the work of
SACREs**

Report of the County Education Officer

Contact: Clive Erricker, County Inspector for Religious Education (02392 441459)

A. Summary

1.1 On 9 December 2004 the delegate of SACRE attended a conference on National Developments and the work of SACREs

1.2 The first issue discussed was the role of the new non-statutory National Framework in relation to the future possibility of a National Curriculum for RE and the review of locally agreed syllabuses for religious education. Ofsted's chief inspector for RE spoke in favour of the new framework being the basis for a future national curriculum. The Chair of NASACRE spoke in favour of using the national framework to help shape the review of locally agreed syllabuses rather than adopting the new framework as the locally agreed syllabus.

1.3 The second issue discussed was how SACREs should respond to the new Ofsted inspection framework in relation to monitoring religious education. The Ofsted advice given was that monitoring could be carried out by SACREs through school self-evaluation.

1.4 The third issue discussed was the lack of provision for RE in the 16-19 phase of education. Nationally, very few colleges include RS/RE as a substantive subject. QCA is addressing this issue and the Chair of SACRE has been asked to attend a meeting in March 2005.

B. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That SACRE note the report. and consider the feasibility of monitoring RE through school self-evaluation

C. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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report or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

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4. OFSTED inspection reports on Portsmouth schools.

Portsmouth City Council

SACRE

ITEM 6

2 March 2005

New Agreed Syllabus and the non-statutory National Framework

Report of the County Education Officer

Contact: Clive Erricker, County Inspector for Religious Education (02392 441459)

A. SUMMARY

1.1 The Church Times published an article on 29 October 2004, following the launch of the non-statutory national framework for RE, indicating that there was some conflict between Hampshire producing a new agreed syllabus and the launch of a non-statutory National Framework (Appendix 1)

1.2 Hampshire SACRE responded with a letter to the Church Times, as did the SACREs of Portsmouth and Southampton (Appendices 2,3,4)

1.3 Hampshire County Council responded with a press release (Appendix 5)

1.4 The editor of the Church Times responded to the County Inspector for RE by e-mail inviting him to submit a letter to be considered for publication (Appendix 6). A letter was submitted and published (Appendix 7)

B. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That SACRE notes the report and consider whether it wishes to take any further action

C. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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Portsmouth City Council

SACRE

ITEM 7

2 March 2005

Ofsted Report on the inspection of SACREs

Report of the County Education Officer

Contact: Clive Erricker, County General Inspector for Religious Education
(02392 441459)

A. SUMMARY

1.1 Ofsted published a report on the 26 November 2004 based on evaluating the work of 19 SACREs in England and Wales. The report presented the following findings:

1.2 that local education syllabuses for Religious Education vary in quality and are insufficiently focused on raising achievement in RE and improving the quality of teaching and learning

1.3 that some SACREs are becoming actively involved in the provision of support for RE and collective worship and are playing a wider role in supporting social inclusion

1.4 that in the most effective partnerships SACRE is fully integrated into the LEAs professional structure

1.5 that the strength of SACREs lies in their multi-faith, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural composition and that several are now developing a role as an advisory group to the LEA in this respect

1.6 that SACREs should start to use the new non-statutory framework for RE to ensure less variation and more consistency in standards in RE

2. Ofsted Recommendations

2.1 that SACREs work is included in the LEA development plan

2.2 that the impact of the agreed syllabus is kept under review

2.3 that priorities be improving RE and collective worship

2.4 that collaboration with other SACREs be undertaken

B. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That SACRE note the report and include discussion of its findings and recommendations within its self-evaluation

C. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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Portsmouth City Council

SACRE

ITEM 8

2 March 2005

Sub-Group report on the evaluation of SACRE's activities

Report of the County Education Officer

Contact: Clive Erricker, County General Inspector for Religious Education
(02392 441459)

A. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The SACRE self-evaluation sub-group met for the second time on the 3 February 2003
- 1.2 The group agreed to conduct its procedures using the self-evaluation tool devised by AREIAC (attached as Appendix 9) in collaboration with Ofsted. This asks SACREs to assess their performance under 4 headings: Developing, Established, Advanced and Exemplary.
- 1.3 During its meeting the sub-group dealt with the first of the key questions provided, divided into five sub-sections (A-E) concerned with Standards and Quality of Provision in RE (How effectively does SACRE, in partnership with the LEA, monitor and evaluate standards and the quality of provision for RE in schools? How effective are the strategies to improve standards and the quality of provision?)
- 1.4 The group rated SACRE's provision across these five sub-sections as:

Standards and Quality of Provision in RE	SACRE Self-evaluation
Compliance and time allocation for RE	Established
Standards and Achievement:	Established
Quality of Teaching, Leadership and Management	Advanced
Recruitment and Retention	Exemplary
Resources	Established

1.5 The sub-group resolved to meet on two further occasions during the academic year 2004-5, to further the self-evaluation, and made the following recommendations to SACRE on its work completed so far, as listed below, according to the evidence available to it and the judgements made as a result.

B. RECOMMENDATION(S)

(1) that the SACRE requests the LEA to provide:

- evidence of the level of compliance regarding the legal requirement for RE in Portsmouth schools;
- exemplification of the strategies used to address weaknesses in relation to standards in RE in Portsmouth schools;
- an annual summary to the SACRE Monitoring Sub-Group on the quality of teaching, leadership and management in Portsmouth Schools;
- information on the provision of RE subject leadership in primary schools;
- a report on RE resource provision in Portsmouth Schools;

(2) that SACRE receives a programme of presentations from teachers in Portsmouth schools.

C. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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ITEM 9

2 March 2005

Equalities issues and the work of SACRE

Report of the Principal Equalities Adviser

Contact: Mo Love, Principal Equalities Adviser
(02392)

A. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Equalities issues are germane to the work of SACRE and inform its responsibilities in relation to religious education
- 1.2 The work of the Equalities Service develops an understanding of how to address both social cohesion and interfaith communication to raise awareness of community plurality and tolerance
- 1.3 As part of its work to address the above issues the Equalities Service has produced a publication and presented a workshop on 'One City Many Cultures' that has been revised to put greater emphasis on religious faith

B. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That SACRE note the report and respond to it within the procedures of SACRE's self-evaluation

C. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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ITEM 10

2 March 2005

Young People's Faith Forum

Report of the County Education Officer

Contact: Clive Erricker, County General Inspector for Religious Education
(02392 441459)

A. SUMMARY

- 1.1 NASACRE is promoting SACREs setting up young inter-faith projects funded with a grant from the Westhill Trust
- 1.2 Bids for monies to initiate a project are invited from SACREs by 18 March 2005
- 1.3 Projects can be submitted by individual SACREs or by joint bids
- 1.4 Funding of £5,000 for each successful bid is being made available in 2004-5, from an overall budget of £20,000. Funding will also be available in 2005-6
- 1.5 Bids should explain how the project will promote dialogue between young people of different faith positions, achieve community benefit, might be sustained beyond the initial period of funding (Appendix 10)

B. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That SACRE submit a bid for funding to set up a project in 2004-5 in conjunction with Hampshire and Southampton SACREs

C. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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