



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2018 AT 4.30 PM

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM, FLOOR 3 OF THE GUILDHALL,
PORTSMOUTH

Telephone enquiries to Joanne Wildsmith (023) 9283 4057

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Membership

Councillor Ryan Brent (Chair)

Councillor Suzy Horton (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

Sarah Coote 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 meetings - 21 February 2018 (and 8 November 2017) (Pages 5 - 10)

Minutes of the Special Meeting of SACRE held on 21st February 2018 are attached, to be agreed as a correct record.

Members attending the meeting of 21st February approved the actions within the minutes of 8 November 2017, but it was asked that these be brought back to this meeting to allow all members of SACRE to raise any matters arising.

RECOMMENDED the minutes of the special meeting held 21 February 2018 be approved as a correct record and the minutes of 8 November be noted and agreed as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising from the minutes of 8 November 2017 and 21 February 2018

Members are invited to raise any matters from both sets of 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 - 18)

The purpose of the report by the Professional Adviser is to inform SACRE of the findings and discussions that took place during the meeting of the SACRE monitoring sub-group on 22nd February 2018. 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 received an update regarding primary Ofsted reports mentioning RE or SMSC or preparing children and young people for life in modern Britain,

findings of 9 visits to Portsmouth Primary schools as well as analysis of Portsmouth 2017 GCSE Religious Studies data.

Recommended: That SACRE receive the report and in addition:

- (i) **SACRE's professional adviser writes to school leaders, including in Academy Trusts, where there is concern about their primary RE**
- (ii) **SACRE congratulates Portsmouth Schools that have achieved well in RS GCSE in 2017.**
- (iii) **SACRE's professional adviser writes to all Portsmouth secondary head teachers to make enquiries as to what is happening for all students at KS4 in current years 10 and 11. Where there is evidence that GCSE has not been sat by all or most students they should be reminded that if students are not studying for RS GCSE that Agreed Syllabus is available and should be followed at KS4 to ensure the right approach to religious education at this stage of a young person's school career and to ensure an appropriate level of challenge.**

9 South Central HUB (Pages 19 - 22)

The purpose of the report by the Professional Adviser is to inform and update SACRE of the activities of the South Central SACRE RE Hub. The Hub last met on 7th March 2018. The summer meeting will be on 12 June 2018.

RECOMMENDED: That SACRE receive the report and appoint members to represent Portsmouth SACRE at South Central SACRE RE Hub Meetings.

10 Date and venue of the next meeting

To agree the dates of meetings in the next academic year to be at 4.30pm:

Monday 25th June 2018

Wednesday 14th November 2018

Wednesday 20th March 2019

SACRE members are asked to suggest or volunteer a venue for the next 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 nor 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.

Agenda Item 5

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, 21 February 2018 at 5.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Group A Representatives

(Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations)

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Sarah Coote, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Tom Blair, Roman Catholic Church

Group B Representatives (Church of England)

Jane Kelly

Revd Sam Duddles

Group C Representatives (Teachers)

Sandra Gibb

Group D Representatives (Group D)

Councillor Ryan Brent (in the Chair)

Councillor Suzy Horton

Also in attendance

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director for Education

Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor (HIAS)

Joanne Wildsmith, Democratic Services PCC

1. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Councillor Ryan Brent, as Chair, welcomed everyone to the special meeting and thanked them for attending to ensure this was a quorate meeting to ratify previous decisions. Introductions will be made around the table.

2. Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

These had been submitted by Elizabeth Jenkerson and Sarah Sadler.

3. Declaration of Members' Interest (AI 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the Previous meeting(s) (AI 4)

Councillor Brent explained that the reason for calling the special meeting was to ensure that the actions of the meeting held on 8 November 2017 (which

had been an inquorate meeting) could be progressed. This included the approval of the previous minutes of 13 July 2017 which had been submitted to that meeting (and extra copies were available to read at the meeting on 21 February 2018).

It was therefore RESOLVED that the actions from 8 November 2017 be ratified which included:

- (1) Minute 5 - the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- (2) Minute 7 - an invitation to be extended to the Islamic Shi'a denomination
- (3) Minute 11 - SACRE Annual Report:
 - (i) delegated authority be given to the professional adviser to amend in consultation from with the Chair and Vice-Chair to finalise the Annual report 2016/17 and;
 - (ii) the final Annual Report be sent to the agreed circulation list

Patricia Hannam asked that the minutes of 8 November 2018 be submitted to the full SACRE on 14 March, to allow all members to raise any queries or matters arising.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 5)

There were no further matters arising.

6. Date and venue of the next meeting (AI 6)

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 14th March at 4.30pm in Portsmouth Guildhall (The Executive Meeting Room, Floor 3).

The meeting concluded at 5.12 pm.

Councillor Ryan Brent
(Chair)

PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 8 November 2017 at
4.30 pm in Conference Room A, 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

Ruth Guyer, Judaism

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Renuka Vyas, Hinduism

Syed Aminul Haque, Islam

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist

Sarah Coote, Society of Friends (Quakers)

Representatives of the Church of England

(Group B Representatives)

Brian Hay, Anglican Diocese

Reverend Jane Ball

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

(Group C Representatives)

None.

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

(Group D Representatives)

Councillor Ryan Brent (Chair)

Councillor Suzy Horton (Vice Chair)

Councillor James Fleming

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

The Clerk identified to members of SACRE that as there were no representatives from Group C (Teachers) the meeting was not quorate. The meeting may continue however, all decisions made by the Council will be subject to ratification by a later quorate meeting.

1 Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, Councillor Ryan Brent welcomed everybody to the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

2 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Peter Davies led the moment of reflection, focusing on acts of remembrance. Drawing firstly on the recent 5th November, "Guy Faulk's night" and upcoming Armistice Day on 11th November, both acknowledged differently, through bonfires and fireworks and the latter wearing of a poppy.

The act of remembrance is of central importance to religious groups, through anniversaries, holidays and other ways of recognising important aspects of one's faith or belief.

Peter Davies continuing his theme asked for members to reflect on five things to remember?

The Chair thanked Peter Davies.

3 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Captain Teresa Everett, Honorary Alderman Tom Blair, Sue Bowen, and Councillor David Tompkins.

4 Declaration of Interests

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

5 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Thursday 13 July 2017

RESOLVED (subject to ratification) that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising

None identified

7 Brief Updates or Notifications of items to be brought to a future meeting

It was proposed by Elizabeth Jenkerson and Seconded by Reverend Jane Ball that a represented from the Islamic, the Shi'a denomination religion be added to the SACRE constitution membership list.

SACRE members felt that in addition it would be appropriate to encourage all groups to undertake an action to engage with the public, about SACRE.

RESOLVED (subject to ratification) that

- (1) The Islamic Shi'a denomination be added to the SACRE constitution membership list and;**
- (2) An invitation be extended to appoint a representative**
- (3) All groups to actively engage with the public about SACRE**

8 Monitoring Group Report

SACRE received a written report by Patricia Hannam from the new monitoring group.

SACRE members continued to be disappointed in that Ofsted report almost never refer to Religious Education explicitly, unless a longer report is produced. It was noted that Religious Education and the teaching thereof maybe only normally discerned through either SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) or British Values elements of short reports.

Reverend Jane Ball indicated that there may be value in including a regular review of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) reports.

ACTION - Reverend Jane Ball to provide Patricia Hannam with these reports.

It was agreed that SACRE notes the Monitoring report

9 Update regarding the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

Patricia Hannam gave a verbal update sharing that more offers of training for both Primary and secondary schools have been made. Confirming the distinction that whilst those schools who are Academies may follow Living Difference III, those schools under Local Authority control must do so.

SACRE welcomed the news that Patricia's colleague Justine Ball is planning on visiting 10 primary schools early in the new year. Members of SACRE were asked to indicate their availability if they are able to join Justine in the school visits.

Ruth Guyer strongly endorsed participation in school visits and shared that in her experience some children may not necessarily be religious but show high moral character and thoughtfulness. SACRE member agreed also with concept that an important element of good RE is both the ethos and the head teacher of the school.

It was agreed that

- (1) Patricia Hannam be thanked for her update and;**
- (2) SACRE members contact either the clerk or Justine if they are available to visit a school.**

10 Report on the interim report of the Commission on RE

Patricia Hannam presented her report on the interim report on the Commission on RE. Patricia reported that the interim report of the 2 year project has many significant recommendations and is seeking all stakeholders to respond to their consultation. Patricia highlighted a number the recommendations and discussion points within the report, such as:

- A national entitlement for religious education
- Renewed and expanded role for SACRES

- The Right of withdrawal (from RE)
- A National plan for improving teachers and learning in RE

SACRE members discussed the topics in the report and raised a number of ongoing regular concerns, such as:

- teacher recruitment/training to specialist level (& bursaries)
- the question of a national curriculum verses a locally agreed syllabus
- the importance of a positive school culture from the top down

SACRE members agreed that whilst the consultation allows for a joint response from SACRE as a whole entity, owing to differing viewpoints that members should respond individually.

ACTION: All SACRE members are encouraged to respond to the consultation.

Resolved that

- (1) the report by the Patricia Hannam be noted and;**
- (2) the interim report of the Commission on RE recommendations be noted and SACRE members encouraged to respond to the consultation before 9am on 4th December 2017.**

11 SACRE Annual Report

Patricia Hannam presented her draft Annual report, highlighting that the report is a factual representation of the 2016/17 year.

SACRE members were very encouraged to hear that RE results (shown in appendix E) were very positive and showed an improving trend. Further that Portsmouth is above the national average figures.

ACTION: the Chair, Councillor Ryan Brent to write to secondary schools to congratulate them (to be drafted by the Professional Adviser).

Resolved (subject to ratification) that

- (1) delegated authority be given to the professional adviser to amend in consultation from with the Chair and Vice-Chair to finalise the Annual report 2016/17 and;**
- (2) the final Annual Report be sent to the agreed circulation list (Appendix D).**

12 Date and venue of the next meeting

The next SACRE meeting will be on Wednesday 14 March 2018, starting at 4:30pm, venue to be confirmed by the clerk.

The meeting concluded at 5:41pm.

Chair



Agenda Item 8



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Wednesday 14th March

Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report

Report by: Patricia Hannam

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 sub-group on 22nd February 2018. 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 received an update regarding primary Ofsted reports mentioning RE or SMSC or preparing children and young people for life in modern Britain, findings of 9 visits to Portsmouth Primary schools as well as analysis of Portsmouth 2017 GCSE Religious Studies data.

Recommendations: (see section 4 and agenda)

2. **Background:** The monitoring group met on 22nd February 2018 at 15.30.

Present:- Cllr Ryan Brent (SACRE Chair who chaired the meeting), Councillor Suzy Horton, Mike Stoneman, Sam Duddles, Jane Kelly, Patricia Hannam, Joanne Wildsmith.

Apologies :- Elizabeth Jenkerson & Sarah Sadler.

3. **Evidence considered**

3.1 Ofsted Visits: the group were reminded about the different Ofsted visits and the various reports that may be written following these visits. Longer reports written after a 2 day visit are more likely to mention RE specifically or infer something about RE through mention of a schools requirement to



promote children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development or with regard to preparing them for life in modern Britain. In the period examined no Portsmouth secondary schools had received an Ofsted visit and 1 primary school had been visited for a full (section 5) inspection (2 days). Two further primary schools had a monitoring visit, none of which mentioned RE explicitly.

3.2 SACRE Monitoring Visits:

- 3.2.1** In this period, SACRE Advisers have made visits to 9 Portsmouth Primary schools together with a members of SACRE, one further visit is planned. The experience of visiting these 10 schools will give SACRE a good base-line understanding of the situation regarding RE across the City moving forward into the new period of academisation. Several SACRE members have had an opportunity to accompany one of these visits, therefore deepening SACRE's understanding of what RE looks like in Portsmouth Primary Schools. 1 visit was made to a combined Primary and Secondary school, 4 visits to through Primary schools, 2 visits to Junior schools and 3 visits to infants schools.
- 3.2.2** All schools visited, bar one, were planning and teaching RE to their children and were using the Portsmouth Locally Agreed Syllabus, *Living Difference III*. The only exception to this was a converter academy school which taught RE using *some* of the ideas from Living Difference III as well as other ideas and a different assessment model. Although, their RE was thoughtful and well planned, it did not follow the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Therefore it was advised that they should either fully adopt the Locally Agreed Syllabus or spend further time creating their own RE syllabus, which as an academy they could do.



- 3.2.3** Of the other 8 schools who were using the Locally Agreed Syllabus well, 5 had received training by attending the Portsmouth RE network meetings. The monitoring visit revealed that these 5 schools had a clearer understanding of the syllabus and contained examples of good practice. Accessing training through the initial implementation courses available to schools following the adoption of Living Difference III, as well as the on-going network groups, is clearly effective in ensuring good RE across the City.
- 3.2.4** None of the schools visited had any problems with withdrawal from RE. All of the schools had very few queries and where they did, these were from withdrawals for reasons to do with religious convictions (such as Jehovah's Witness families not wanting the school to teach their child about Christianity). There were no concerns in this area.
- 3.2.5** In all schools the RE was either wholly blocked (as recommended) or mostly blocked and teachers were teaching RE, not cover teachers or HLTA's, which is recommended.
- 3.2.6** Overall 4 of the schools were found to already have strong provision for RE. 3 of the schools visited revealed good RE with some development areas. 2 schools were giving cause for concern. One of these has been mentioned in 3.2.2 above and the other school has yet to appoint a subject lead for their primary RE work.
- 3.2.7 Conclusion:** The visits overall give a very positive endorsement of the way Living Difference III has been implemented across Portsmouth since its adoption in 2016. The profile of RE seems high in the primary schools and all schools visited were keen to meet with the SACRE members and adviser as well as being keen to discuss how to improve RE in their schools. There were no concerns with regard to withdrawal. It was evident that the better understanding and practice came from those schools attending



regular training. An LA school must use the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Academies should be advised that they are welcome to use Living Difference III in its entirety, but that they cannot partially use the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Schools should make sure they have accessed training in order to understand the working of the syllabus as well as the law regarding RE in a clear manner.

3.3 GCSE Results: Introduction: Data from 2017 GCSE examination series, regarding full course and short course Religious Studies (RS) entries from Portsmouth schools was considered. Although it is difficult to make clear comparisons year on year, since it is not the same group of students and not always the same teachers teaching the GCSE being compared, it is useful to consider how the subject is developing across the authority as this gives some indication of the religious education students are receiving in KS4 and how provision may be changing. However, it is also important to consider the results a year at a time.

Examination of the results reveals that there has been a substantial reduction in the number of schools in Portsmouth entering young people for GCSE in 2017 over 2016. However where young people are being entered, all are achieving well including students disadvantaged students. However the reduction in GCSE RS entries reveals a concern about what the majority of young people in Portsmouth are able to access regarding RE at KS4.

Background information

- The GCSE Full Course examination sat in 2017, and called Religious Studies (RS), is in general intended to be a 2 year course sat at the end of year 11, however some schools teach the GCSE RS over three years, beginning in year 9.
- This GCSE RS Full Course is planned to be taught in 120 hours, Ideally in three lessons per fortnight, over 2 years.



- Some schools have taught RS GCSE in one lesson per week over two or three years, occasionally with teachers are non-specialist teachers. Under these circumstances it is harder for young people to achieve well.
- Schools which have the best results for RS are those which enable students to access the full time recommendation for the GCSE and to be taught by specialist teachers. This was probably how RS was taught in Portsmouth schools entering students for GCSE in RS in 2017
- The RS GCSE sat in 2017 was first available for examination in 2011, this is the last year of this GCSE reporting grades at A*-C. A new RS course is in place now which teachers have been teaching over the past 2 years. This will be examined for the first time in 2018 and graded 9 (highest grade) – 1 (lowest).
- Assessment Objectives for the current GCSE Religious Studies course are : AO1 Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding 50% AO2 Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights, and differing viewpoints 50%.
- RS GCSE tests not only knowledge but the capacity to *analyse* and to *use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate*. Teaching must enable students to do this. RS GCSE success is about higher order thinking, not just facts. Challenging children to analyse evaluate and in other ways reason well at KS3 and KS4 is known to raise standards at GCSE.
- However, the new GCSE is more 'knowledge heavy' and is putting different demands upon teachers and also students. SACRE may want to be alert to a further possible reduction in entries for 2018.
- Criteria referencing has disappeared from the way the GCSE is marked and been replace by 'norm referencing'. There are no longer any precise grade boundaries. These will only be determined after the examinations have all been marked. The grades will be distributed proportionally and grades given 9-1 (not A*-G as previously).



Overall findings

- Entries for GCSE Full Course in Portsmouth reveal that out of a cohort in 2016 of 1729, 670 students sat Full course GCSE. In 2017 this was 332 entries out of a cohort of 1633. There has been a large reduction in the number of entries across the authority in 2017. This raises a concern regarding what the other students are doing whilst in KS4 to ensure they are accessing their entitlement to religious education (RE) during this key stage. A further 83 students sat the Short Course GCSE RS examination in one school in 2017.
- It is important to note that despite the reduction in numbers of entries, *overall* students undertaking Full Course RS GCSE in Portsmouth have done well compared to the national. Overall young people have achieved 75% A*-C translating to an average points score of 5.1 (70% A*-C and points score of 4.7 is the national figure). This is important since the mechanism for 'points scoring' has changed.

Key points from Monitoring Group for SACRE to consider:-

- Portsmouth Schools that have achieved well in RS GCSE in 2017 should be congratulated.
- However, RE should be taught at all key stages, preferably by RE specialist teachers or teachers who have access on going CPD in religious education, in order to ensure high achievement and engagement in the subject at KS4 whether or not students are studying for the GCSE.
- Where GCSE is not taught at KS4, students should have access to a rich religious education curriculum that not only meets the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus but also ensures schools meet the OFSTED requirements for religious education as set out in the Ofsted Handbook in summer of 2016.
- The Monitoring Group recommends that SACRE's professional adviser writes to all Portsmouth secondary Head teachers to make enquiries as to what is happening for all students at KS4 in current years 10 and 11. Where there is evidence that GCSE has not been sat by all or most students they should be reminded that if they are not



undertaking GCSE that the Agreed Syllabus is available and should be followed at KS4.

4. Recommendations:

That the report is received and in addition:

- (i) SACRE's professional adviser writes to school leaders, including in Academy Trusts, where there is concern about their primary RE
- (ii) SACRE congratulates Portsmouth Schools that have achieved well in RS GCSE in 2017.
- (iii) SACRE's professional adviser writes to all Portsmouth secondary head teachers to make enquiries as to what is happening for all students at KS4 in current years 10 and 11. Where there is evidence that GCSE has not been sat by all or most students they should be reminded that if students are not studying for RS GCSE that Agreed Syllabus is available and should be followed at KS4 to ensure the right approach to religious education at this stage of a young person's school career and to ensure an appropriate level of challenge.

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



.....
Signed by:



Agenda Item 9



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Wednesday 14th March

Subject: South Central SACRE RE Hub Report

Report by: Patricia Hannam

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- 1. Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to inform and update SACRE of the activities of the South Central SACRE RE Hub. The Hub last met on 7th March 2018. The summer meeting will be on 12 June 2018.

RECOMMENDED: That SACRE receive the report and appoint members to represent Portsmouth SACRE at South Central SACRE RE Hub Meetings.

2. Background

- 2.1 The South Central SACRE RE Hub is one of around 14 RE Hubs nationally; each one is different. The idea of the RE Hubs emerged from the Religious Education Council RE Review in 2013.
- 2.2 The South Central SACRE RE Hub has grown out of the long standing regional (Joint) SACRE meetings. A small grant from the Culham St. Gabriel's Trust in 2013/14 enabled a 'hub' of SACREs to work together. This is a collaborative venture to enable SACREs to better support a range of opportunities for building RE leadership capacity in both primary and secondary religious education (RE) across the area of the hub.
- 2.3 This Hub remains a joint SACRE initiative with strong links back to several individual SACREs, including Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight, and others. Following the review of the Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Agreed Syllabus *Living Difference III* which the Isle of Wight have also adopted, the group has been meeting regularly once more. Other SACREs that are members of the hub include East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey, Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset. Membership of the hub also include teachers from different phases and different status' of school (LA and Academy as well as Teaching Schools) and from The University of Winchester and where possible the University of Chichester. Constituent Hub members aim work together in various ways to share good practice and engage in activities that are better done together rather than alone.
- 2.4 Hub activities and plans: The Hub has three broad and interconnecting elements form the focus of the South Central Hub's work.



- i. The first element is the formation of a Reading and Research group. This is actively managed jointly by Hampshire Inspector/Adviser for RE (HIAS) and the University of Winchester. The Reading and Research group aims to create an opportunity for teachers working across all phases of RE to explore current research and initiatives, as well as to develop research potential in schools. Flyer for the 2017/18 series of talks is attached to this report.
- ii. The second element aims to build leadership capacity for RE through linking existing, and developing new, networks of teachers that exist across the hub area. It will be a mechanism to cascade new ideas and consolidate and share good practice. The Portsmouth network meetings are included as part of this initiative.
- iii. The third element of work is aimed at responding to the known need for subject booster opportunities. The South Central RE Hub recognises the range of differing needs of specialist and non-specialist RE teachers, and intends to build capacity for both. Four aspects to this work were clarified:
 - (i) Basic subject knowledge booster courses for non-specialist and specialist teachers of RE, across phases. Capacity exists for these to run through Hampshire teaching and leadership college (HTLC).
 - (ii) More advanced subject booster sessions for specialists dealing with controversial areas. Regular training is offered for teachers in Philosophy for Children (P4C) and RE.
 - (iii) The possibility of a subject specialist (secondary) RE conversion course, in conjunction with The University of Winchester is being investigated.
 - (iv) A programme of informal meetings with people of faith has been considered

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

.....
Signed by:

Interested in engaging in dialogue around Religious Education?

If so, then the Research and Reading Group is for you!

Calling all primary school and secondary school teachers who have a passion for RE - come and join a group of like-minded individuals who share your enthusiasm for outstanding RE, to discuss and debate areas of shared interest!

In our meetings we try to engage with current initiatives in the world of RE, host leading experts in the field to engage in discussions, as well as sharing our own experiences – perhaps of some class based research that we might have been carrying out.

In the coming year we plan to engage with key subject knowledge input as well as engaging with current research and initiatives.



South Central RE Hub: Reading and Research Group

Wednesday 27th September 2017

Justine Ball: Hampshire Inspector/Adviser Primary RE

“Talking about God in school?” Justine will discuss the history of talking about God referring especially to the three Abrahamic religions and discuss how this should influence RE

Thursday 30th November 2017

Luke Donnellan, Education Officer of the British Humanist Association: Teaching Humanism

Wednesday 17th January 2018

Dr Maya Warriar: HoD Theology, Religion and Philosophy Department Winchester University: Teaching Buddhism

Thursday 15th March 2018:

Professor Denise Cush: Buddhism is not a religion, but Paganism is: the applicability of the concept of ‘religion’ to Dharmic and Nature-based traditions, and the implications for religious education.

Wednesday 9th May 2018:

Dr Farid Panjwani: Senior Lecturer and Director, Centre for Research and Evaluation in Muslim Education UCL/IoE London: Teaching plurality in/of Islam

The reading and research group is a key initiative of the South Central RE Hub - a group consisting of representatives from SACREs in the region, and aims to provide opportunities for the development of outstanding RE leadership in all phases of education.

For more information contact: patricia.hannam@hants.gov.uk or justine.ball@hants.gov.uk or rhiannon.love@winchester.ac.uk or alasdair.richardson@winchester.ac.uk



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