



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 4.00 PM

VIRTUAL REMOTE MEETING - REMOTE

Telephone enquiries to Lisa Gallacher (023) 9283 4056

Email: lisa.gallacher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Membership

Councillor Suzy Horton (Chair)

Reverend Sam Duddles (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Tom Coles

Maria Cole

Taki Jaffer

sarah coote

Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo

Syed Aminul Haque

Elizabeth Jenkerson

Christine McMillan

Geoff Wheeler

John Mills

Pastor Chris Thomas

Akshat Metha

Sue Bowen

Jane Kelly

Sandra Gibb

Helen Reeder

Kari Laing

Aasha Small

Debbie Lucas

Gemma Self

Paula Withers

Ali Beechurst

Ryan Brent

(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

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Revd Sam Duddles to lead.

4 Declaration of Members' Interest

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

Note: should any interest arise during the meeting, members are asked to declare at that time.

5 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 20 November 2019 (Pages 5 - 10)

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising from the minutes of 20 November 2019

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

7 Membership update (Pages 11 - 12)

RECOMMENDED: That SACRE actively seeks to fill the vacancies for Roman Catholic, Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist and Humanist members and asks SACRE Professional Adviser to contact the Catholic Diocesan Office and Board of Deputies (for Jewish Representative) as well as local Buddhist, Sikh and Humanist organisations to recommend new members.

8 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.

9 Monitoring Group Report (Pages 13 - 16)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser to the SACRE, to present the report of the monitoring sub group held on 22 October 2020.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.

10 National and local updates on Religious Education (Pages 17 - 18)

This report updates and informs SACRE of key national developments, for example the work of the Religious Education Council and NASACRE as well as national RE Research as well as local RE matters.

RECOMMENDED That SACRE notes the report and recommends that named members of this SACRE are booked to attend the meeting and that SACRE members express interest in attending the South Central SACRE hub meeting.

11 Determinations Policy (Pages 19 - 24)

RECOMMENDED: That SACRE agree to adopt the procedures for Determinations and place this on the Portsmouth City Council website.

12 Annual report 2019/20 (Pages 25 - 38)

The purpose of this report is to present to SACRE its annual report of activities undertaken 2019/2020.

RECOMMENDED:

(1) That SACRE receive the report.

(2) That SACRE's annual report is forwarded to relevant national and local bodies and

(3) That SACRE convenes a small group to develop a new 3-year Action Plan 2021-2023.

13 Date and venue of the next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday 3 March 2021, starting at 4:00pm.

The spring meeting will most likely be held virtually

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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, 20 November 2019 at 4.30 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Suzy Horton (in the Chair) (Group D)

Group A - sarah coote, Elizabeth Jenkerson
Christine McMillan, Geoff Wheeler
John Mills, Chris Thomas, Akshat Metha

Group B - Jane Kelly & Revd Sam Duddles (Vice-Chair)

Group C - Aasha Small, Debbie Lucas
Group D - Maria Cole

Mike Stoneman, Patricia Hannam & Joanne Wildsmith

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Tom Coles, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo, Syed Aminul Haque, Bowen, Sandra Gibb, Ali Beechurst and Ryan Brent

42. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Councillor Horton, as Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked Aasha Small for taking members on a tour of Medina Primary School. SACRE members appreciated seeing the hard work going into the teaching of RE and were impressed by its evident application.

Introductions were then made around the table.

43. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)

Aasha Small led the reflection, using the example of the representations of Brahmen in the Hindu faith and the qualities embodied in the most well known gods and goddesses and asking everyone to think of those who turn to them for different things.

44. Apologies for Absence (AI 3)

Apologies had been received from Councillor Tom Coles, Sandra Gibb, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo, Sue Bowen, Helen Reeder, Ryan Brent and Syed Aminul Haque.

45. Declaration of Members' Interest (AI 4)

Elizabeth Jenkerson is on the West Hill Panel that judges grants for SACREs.

46. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 26 June 2019 (AI 5)

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

47. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 6)

- i) Artefact boxes used by schools (Min 37) - in response to questions
Mike Stoneman reported that Portsmouth schools should be aware of this resource through EMAS and as part of their signing up to traded services. It was suggested that if there were items missing that the appropriate faith groups could be contacted to ask if they would be willing to replace these. Mike would ask Karen Thomas and Rubi Giles to take forward this suggestion.
- ii) Pat Hannam reported that contact with secondary heads was going forward (action in Min 38) and also that she was still pursuing contact with charitable trusts to help fund cover for teachers attending courses.

48. Membership Update (AI 7)

The resignations of long-standing members Tom Blair (Roman Catholic) and Ruth Guyer (Judaism) were noted. The appointment of Ali Beechurst to Group C as a Primary Representative was welcomed.

As Ruth Guyer had been heavily involved in school visits and had been a previous Vice-Chair a card would be sent to thank her for her good services and her best wishes to the SACRE were reported.

Pat Hannam reported that efforts were being made to secure new replacement members.

49. Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting (AI 8)

Maria Cole reported that a directory of contacts for places of worship had previously been made available for schools; Mike Stoneman undertook to look into and asked if a copy of the old directory could be sent to him and Pat with a view to providing an updated electronic document. This could sit alongside the recent guidance document that had been published (refer to item 55).

50. Monitoring Group Report (AI 9)

Pat Hannam, Professional Adviser, explained for newer members the role of this group in looking at the effectiveness of the implementation of the agreed syllabus Living Difference III and to look at Ofsted findings and GCSE results.

Under the new Ofsted framework only 1 report had been available but RE was going to be considered more by their inspectors in the future. All school inspection visits will now be 2 days, with some receiving "deep dive" closer interrogation. Mike Stoneman reported that the Section 8 reports seen so far were very slim.

Pat Hannam reported that the inspectors want to check that the curriculum is taught with coherence and will look at the impact and intention of teachers. The indications are that RE will be reported back better and Pat was aware of more teachers being interested in attending RE courses. Debbie Lucas reported that Admiral Lord Nelson School had received a practice inspection, but this had not resulted in written feedback. There is a Specialist Advisory Group so that the inspectors would be more knowledgeable in their subjects with one subject advisor for RE, half of their time would be used to train inspectors. In response to questions it was further reported that there is a South East region for Ofsted and that the inspectors were unlikely to challenge the syllabus (which had been checked with the Hampshire County Council Legal Team), which was highly regarded and used by other local authorities.

Mike Stoneman reported that there would be an analysis of GCSE data once it was available, which was later this year.

SACRE received the monitoring group, as updated at the meeting, and noted the findings.

51. Constitution Revision - membership (AI 10)

When the SACRE had previously looked to update its constitution the issue of agreeing membership (particularly to Group A) for less established faith groups had been identified as needing further consideration. The need for membership to be valid had been discussed. Therefore the wording on the agenda had been suggested, in liaison with Portsmouth City Council's Legal Services, to be added to the amended constitution. SACRE members were supportive of this wording being reflected in the constitution, and there would be clarification that it related to the 1996 Education Act. **This process for using a membership sub group as and when needed was agreed.**

There was a further discussion regarding whether membership should be extended to parent governors and young people. It was felt that the responsibility for teaching RE lay with the schools.

52. Update regarding the forthcoming review of the Agreed Syllabus (AI 11)

Patricia Hannam, as Professional Adviser, wished to give advance notice that with the Agreed Syllabus needing to be adopted every 5 years (the current one was adopted in 2016 so would need updating in 2021) a review meeting was needed in 2020. It was suggested that the 4 local authorities review their joint syllabus together. Therefore there is a need to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference, which would be immediately prior to the next full SACRE meeting, at which the 4 groups would need to discuss the minutes of

the previous meeting and then meet together to approve these. It was therefore imperative that all 4 groups would be represented to ensure a quorum was reached.

Patricia Hanna undertook to make known the date of the Hampshire meeting on the syllabus as she would be making a presentation there.

53. National and local updates on Religious Education (AI 12)

- i) Annual NASACRE Conference - Monday 18 May in London - at the next meeting volunteers would be sought to attend to represent Portsmouth SACRE. Elizabeth Jenkerson would be attending as a member of the national executive and she gave further details on keynote speakers and sessions; full details are available to view on the NASACRE website which all members would be reminded of logon details.

- ii) Commission on RE - the full report can be viewed here:
<https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/>

Research projects were being planned for looking into what the term "world views" means with a report due to be presented in the Spring and a 2 day conference in June for the REC.

- iii) Religious Literacy - The summary of the report had been sent out with the agenda. Patricia Hannam expanded on the report's findings, with the term 'religious literacy' being used loosely. Researchers had worked on an extended review looking at what literacy entails, from the historic context of the 1870 Elementary Education Act of functional literacy, which was different to critical literacy which had emerged and had been witnessed in the Civil Rights movement. She commended the report and some members of SACRE would look at this further in a reading group which Revd Sam Duddles offered to host.

54. Annual report 2018/19 (AI 13)

The draft annual report was circulated with the agenda. Discussion took place regarding the setting of the 4 distinct SACRE membership groups as part of the 1988 Act, with the Church of England having 4 representatives from the established church (which was different to the arrangements in Wales). It was reported that for the Hampshire SACRE the Humanist representative was co-opted and was non-voting.

It was suggested that the report be amended slightly at 1.3 regarding composition to be in line with the Portsmouth SACRE constitution, to show that the 4 the local authority (Group D) should include at least 2 elected members (not necessarily all). At 1.5 a function of SACRE is to recommend to the LA that the current agreed syllabus should be reviewed.

Patricia Hannam had included the detailed Action Plan, and one of the actions was to ensure that replacement members are found to fill vacancies. Aasha Small offered to get in touch with the local Gurdwara regarding the Sikh vacancy.

John Mills asked why there was no mention of the short RE course; Patricia Hannam responded that this had ceased to count towards accountability measures.

RESOLVED that the Portsmouth SACRE Annual Report, as amended, be received and forwarded to the relevant national and local bodies.

55. Guidance Document (for information) (AI 14)

Mike Stoneman presented the document which Justine Ball of HIAS and a working group including SACRE members had contributed towards, which was now published to provide guidance to schools. This had been sent to all schools and was published on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website, and this was receiving positive feedback from the headteachers. Aasha Small concurred that this was a useful reference point and her school would be sharing this with colleagues at a staff meeting to raise awareness. Patricia Hannam felt that this would also be useful for the professional development of staff.

The availability of the guidance document was welcomed and noted.

56. Policy for Determinations on collective worship (AI 15)

Patricia Hannam explained the background to this item. There had been no requests from schools in recent years for determination of withdrawal from collective worship in LA schools and academies where these are not schools of religious character, as for all the other schools this should be broadly Christian. If a school has sufficient numbers of children who are not Christian it is possible for a local authority school to make a request to the SACRE that this is set aside (if agreed collective worship still takes place but it is not broadly Christian). For academies the request goes to the Department for Education.

Therefore an up to date procedure should be in place to deal with requests for determinations from schools (it cannot be by individual parents) who have consulted with their governors. Patricia Hannam was taking advice from London Boroughs, where requests were more prevalent, and would like to meet with a one-off sub group to discuss a draft procedure before it is taken to the full SACRE for ratification.

Geoff Wheeler suggested that in fulfilling the SACRE role of monitoring collective worship a questionnaire could be sent to schools.

It was therefore **AGREED that:**

- i) A small sub group look at a draft policy for determination in January; volunteers included Aasha Small, Jane Kelly, Debbie**

Lucas, Elizabeth Jenkerson and Sam Duddles, to report back to SACRE.

ii) Mike Stoneman and Patricia Hannam would look at questions for schools on collective worship (and withdrawals).

57. Date and venue of the next meeting (AI 16)

The next meeting (including a short separate meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference) would take place on Tuesday 18th March 2020 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall.

Venues for future meeting were discussed and it was hoped that a visit to a mosque could be arranged for the June meeting (Debbie Lucas offered to make contact once a date was confirmed).

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.

Councillor Suzy Horton
Chair of SACRE



Agenda Item 7



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 12 November 2020

Subject: Membership Report

Report by: Patricia Hannam

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1. **Purpose of report:** This report updates SACRE regarding its membership.
 2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE actively seeks to fill the vacancies for Roman Catholic, Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist and Humanist members and asks SACRE Professional Adviser to contact the Catholic Diocesan Office and Board of Deputies (for Jewish Representative) as well as local Buddhist, Sikh and Humanist organisations to recommend new members.
 3. **Background:** SACREs membership is comprised of 4 groups. Group A has several vacancies.

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

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

Title of document	Location

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



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Signed by:



Agenda Item 9



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 12 November 2020

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 October 2020. The group is working to support SACRE in fulfilling its duty to ensure the effectiveness of RE through the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE receive the report
3. **Background:** The monitoring group met on 22nd October 2020 16.00-18.00

Present: - Suzy Horton (Chair), Sam Duddles (vice Chair), Ali Beechurst, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Debbie Anderson, Lisa Gallacher (SACRE Clerk) and Patricia Hannam (SACRE Professional Adviser)

Apologies: Jane Kelly, Debbie Lucas, Aasha Small, Sandra Gibb.

3.1 Update on GCSE Religious Studies (RS) examinations 2020 and plans

for 2021: National data for the 2020 RS GCSE examinations series was considered in light of there being no local subject level data available in 2020.



3.2 Update on review process for Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference III:

Members of IoW SACRE were able to attend joint SACRE meeting in July where elements being considered for revision were discussed. Portsmouth teachers were able to attend meeting in October and a further meeting is planned for January 2021 where teachers will have an opportunity to consider proposals. Portsmouth teachers will have the opportunity to be involved in the writing process which will take place between January and May 2021. A further Joint SACRE meeting will be held in June where the amendments will be presented for final discussion.

3.3 Monitoring RE in primary and secondary LA schools: No monitoring visits had been undertaken place however ongoing support is being made available. At this meeting, the monitoring group reviewed websites of LA schools regarding what is being made available about a school's RE provision. Some concerns were noted for action – for example to encourage schools to mention clearly that their RE is planned according to the Portsmouth Locally Agreed Syllabus: Living Difference III.

3.4 Ofsted: Ofsted have not been making visits in the usual way since March 2020. However some visits names as Section 8 visits are taking place in order to assist Ofsted gain a sense of how things are in schools in light of Covid-19. The findings of these visits are being published in the form of an informal letter on the Ofsted website. Schools data is not being taken into account, instead curriculum provision is of more interest.

3.5 Update on RE ITE provision and teacher recruitment: The increased number of students on local RE PGCE courses was discussed, meaning



there should be a good number of new specialist RE teachers emerging into employment in the next academic year. However, it was noted that their teaching experience will have been limited by the Covid-19 situation.

Concern was also raised about the disappearance of the bursary for RE Teacher training (PGCE) in 2021/2022.

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:

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Signed by:

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Agenda Item 10



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 12 November 2020

Subject: National and Local update

Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** This report updates and informs SACRE of key national developments, for example the work of the Religious Education Council and NASACRE as well as national RE Research as well as local RE matters.
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the report and recommends that named members of this SACRE are booked to attend the meeting and that SACRE members express interest in attending the South Central SACRE hub meeting.
3. **Background:** SACREs are represented nationally by to National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). The Umbrella body of all organisations with an interest in RE is known as the Religious education Council. This report updates SACRE of activities in relation to these bodies and how it impacts in Portsmouth as well as other local matters.

3.1 The Religious Education Council (REC) is an 'umbrella' body made up of members from many organisations in England and Wales with an interested position in relation to RE. It has taken on a particular significance in the last three years as the body that initiated the independent 'Commission on RE' (CoRE). The final report of which was published in September 2018. The most recent meeting of the REC was held virtually on November 10 2020 and discussions were held in groups regarding the next phase of the Worldviews Project. SACRE Professional Adviser is a member of the REC Board and REC Education Committee and was also part of the Academic Group considering the literature review of Worldviews. All this will be taken into account in the review of the Agreed Syllabus and be taken into account in the development of Living Difference IV.

3.2 National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). NASACRE is the national body representing and leading on SACRE's interests. A regular newsletter is circulated to SACRE members through their SACRE. NASACRE as a constituent member of the REC has been working with the education committee on CoRE proposals that would particularly impact SACREs. The NASACRE AGM was cancelled in May du2 to Covid-19,



however an EGM is taking place virtually on 17 November 10.00am-12.00am places must be booked by 13 November.

3.4 South Central SACRE hub. The next meeting of the South Central SACRE Hub is taking place virtually on November 16 10.00-12.00.

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

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

Title of document	Location

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

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Signed by:



Agenda Item 11



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Thursday 12 November 2020
Subject: Monitoring Report
Report by: Patricia Hannam

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1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is for SACRE to consider a proposal for SACRE's procedures for Determinations.
 2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE agree to adopt the procedures for Determinations and place this on the Portsmouth City Council website.
 3. **Background:** Draft procedures for Determinations attached in Appendix 1

At its meeting in November 2019 SACRE agreed a small subgroup should look at a draft procedure for determination before bringing to SACRE. This draft document is as a result of considerable research regarding Determinations procedures existing nationally. In addition, the document attached here has also been considered by Portsmouth City Council Legal team.

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:

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Signed by:

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Portsmouth SACRE:

BACKGROUND AND PROCESS FOR A SCHOOL TO GAIN A DETERMINATION^{i ii}

Background

All maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship (CW). The act of CW must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". For some schools this may not be appropriate, for example, if their pupils are predominantly from non-Christian faiths.

A Local Authority (LA) schoolⁱⁱⁱ can apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for an exemption from the requirement to provide CW that is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" in respect of some or all of the pupils in a school. This does not remove the requirement to hold a daily act of CW. This application will be assessed by the SACRE who will come to a "determination" on whether an exemption can be allowed. A determination lasts for five years. Schools may apply to SACRE to change or revoke a determination at any time during that five year period.

This process does not apply to LA maintained voluntary controlled or voluntary aided schools, since the character and content of CW in these schools is determined by the governing body.

An Academy must apply for a determination from the DfE.

The Process

Any LA school seeking to apply for a determination should complete the attached form and send it with the required accompanying documents to the address provided, for consideration by SACRE.

Completed applications should be with the SACRE Clerk at least SIX weeks before the SACRE meeting that will consider the application. SACRE meeting dates are published here xxx. SACRE will seek to respond within 3 weeks of that meeting. The response will either be to grant or deny the determination or may request further information. Schools are strongly advised to have consulted with SACRE's professional advisers in advance of making an application.

The Application

Applications for a determination can only be made by the head teacher of the school.

If a school is considering making an application the head teacher must consult the school's governing body, who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. It is advised that this consultation is undertaken with the involvement of SACRE professional advisers. There is no set period for any consultation to have taken place, but the school should provide appropriate guidance for those involved which explains what the proposed changes would mean. It is important that enough time is given for all concerned to respond. Head teachers, together with the governing body, should take the results of the consultation into account when deciding whether to proceed with their application.

Applications received will be assessed based on the following evidence, to include:

- An explanation of why a determination is needed
- A current analysis of the religious diversity of the pupils at your school
- Evidence of consultation with the governing body, including a section from the governing body minutes where approval was granted
- Evidence of consultation with parents of children currently attending the school
- Information on what the school's policy on collective worship is now going to be, how it will be managed and details of the form it will take

How SACRE will make a decision

Once the application and accompanying documentation has been received by the SACRE Clerk, a small group of SACRE members will hold a preliminary meeting before the Chairman's briefing preceding the next SACRE. This group will be convened as required by the Clerk to SACRE and consist of a representative of each of SACRE group/committee + one co-opted member + SACRE Professional Adviser(s). If there is insufficient time to convene this group before the next SACRE meeting, then a recommendation regarding the determination will be put before the following SACRE meeting.

If a determination is granted, any request for renewal of an existing determination must be submitted by the head teacher to SACRE for review **at least 6 months prior** to the lapse of the determination. This review should follow the same process as the initial application. This timescale is to safeguard, assuming all circumstances remain the same as before, there is no break in the determination.

ⁱ This document known as 'Circular 1/94', pp. 20-25, contains explanation of the relevant statutes pertaining for Collective Worship and applications for determinations:

<http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/dfe/circular1-94.pdf>

ⁱⁱ This process does not apply to Local Authority maintained Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, see bullet point 84 of Circular 1/94:

<http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/dfe/circular1-94.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ See footnote i above

SACRE heading

APPLICATION FOR AN 'EXEMPTION FROM BROADLY CHRISTIAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (DETERMINATIONS) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE appropriate education acts (e.g. SCHOOL STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORK ACT 1998 + Education Act 1996, section 394(1)?)

School:

DfE number:

Headteacher:

Tel. no.

Date of application for determination:

Please provide:

1. Explanation why a determination is needed
2. A current analysis of the religious diversity of the pupils at your school
3. Evidence of consultation with the governing body
4. Evidence of consultation with parents of children currently attending the school if sought by the governing body

Head teachers may also choose to provide Information to SACRE on what the school's policy on collective worship is going to be, how it will be managed and details of the form it will take

SACRE can provide further advice if required.

Please return this form and any relevant attachments to:

Clerk to Hampshire SACRE

or by e-mail to:

xxx@portsmouth.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 12



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Thursday 12 November 2020
Subject: SACRE Annual Report
Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to present to SACRE its annual report of activities undertaken 2019/2020.
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE receive the report. That SACRE's annual report is forwarded to relevant national and local bodies and that SACRE convenes a small group to develop a new 3-year Action Plan 2021-2023.
3. **Background:** SACRE's annual report is attached in Appendix 1

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

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

Title of document	Location

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

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Signed by:

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SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Annual Report 2019/20

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The year 2019-2020 has been perhaps one of the most unusual years Portsmouth SACRE has experienced. As the year began in the autumn of 2019, SACRE was anticipating the commencing the review of its Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference III. This syllabus is shared with neighbouring authorities, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Hampshire. However the rapidly changing situation with regard to Covid-19 in March 2020, meant that the SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) planned for March could not take place. Although we were able to hold the Agreed Syllabus Conference in June SACRE was not able to meet in the summer.

Nevertheless SACRE has managed to continue with maintaining its responsibilities to monitor the effectiveness of its agreed syllabus. This is thanks to on-going contact with its professional adviser Patricia Hannam as well as Justine Ball, who as primary inspector/adviser in Hampshire has maintained contact with primary schools where possible. Continued monitoring reveals that despite the ongoing academisation of schools in Portsmouth, the syllabus is well used and respected as giving clear guidance to teachers about how to teach high quality RE.

We are especially grateful for the continued provision of excellent clerking support from within the Authority and valued working with Joanne Wildsmith during this period.

We have participated in regional and national RE meetings and events, including NASACRE AGM the South Central SACRE Hub and continue to follow with interest developments following the publishing of the report from the Commission on RE.

SACRE seeks to ensure all children in Portsmouth have access to high quality and challenging Religious Education. In the coming year we are looking forward to strengthening our partnership with Hampshire, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight as we review our agreed syllabus.

I offer my sincere thanks to members of Portsmouth SACRE and all others who work so hard to support RE in Portsmouth.

Cllr Suzy Horton
Chair, Portsmouth SACRE

SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

1.1 Duty to establish a SACRE

Since the Education Reform Act of 1988, all Local Education Authorities (LAs) have been required by law to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.¹

1.2 What does a SACRE do?

SACRE is a unique body; it is set up by the LA but is independent of it, with the role to give advice to that LA. The law states that Religious Education must be taught in all maintained schools² and a SACRE's role is to advise what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area.

The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how the LA responded to that advice. This includes advice on Religious Education and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

1.3 Composition of SACRE

There are four groups or committees, as below:

- A: The Christian denominations and other religious denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.
- B: The Church of England
- C: Teacher and head teacher associations
- D: The Local Authority

The Local Authority has determined that the SACRE should comprise of:

- Fifteen members of other religious groups.
- Four representatives of the Church of England.
- Six representatives of teachers' associations.
- Four elected members.

Other members may be co-opted from time to time as appropriate for all or part meetings

1.4 Membership of SACRE

The names of the SACRE members and the religious denominations for Group A can be found at Appendix A.

1.5 SACRE Functions

- To advise the LA on collective worship and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the LA that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations).
- To report to the LA and the Department for Education (DfE) on its activities on an annual basis.

¹ Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

² School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

1.6 Meetings and attendance

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2018-19:

20 November 2019

20 March 2020 (meeting cancelled due to Covid-19).

6 July 2020

Minutes of all SACRE meetings and the current membership are available from the Portsmouth City Council website:

<http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=174>

SACRE is supported by a clerk from the Councils' Democratic Services, as well as a professional adviser Patricia Hannam.

SACRE is currently seeking representatives from the following local communities: Roman Catholic, Jewish Sikh, Humanist & Buddhist.

The percentages attendance 2019/2020 per group is as follows:

NB there are vacancies being carried in Group A for Sikhism, Humanist, Buddhism, Roman Catholic & Judaism

Key

Group A = Religious/Faith Groups

Group B = Church of England

Group C = Teachers

Group D = Local authority appointed, including councillors

Autumn (at Medina Primary School)

Group A = 78% 7/9

Group B = 50% 2/4

Group C = 25% 2/8

Group D = 50% 2/4

Spring (Civic Offices) -18 March 2020 meeting **cancelled** due to Coronavirus restrictions after publication of papers

Summer - meeting did not take place due to Coronavirus restrictions*

*Whilst SACRE was cancelled an Agreed Syllabus Conference with SACRE members took place on 6th July 2020 with reduced membership as a virtual meeting with all 4 groups represented.

Summer – 6 July 2020 (ASC)

Group A - 22% 2/9

Group B - 67% 2/3

Group C - 38% 3/8

Group D - 25% 1/4

1.7 Circulation of Annual Report

A list of the organisations receiving this report can be found in Appendix D.

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF SACRE'S WORK in 2019/20

This has been an extraordinary year for Portsmouth SACRE with two of its three anticipated meetings cancelled due to Covid-19. Despite this, SACRE has continued to undertake its responsibilities especially with regard to monitoring the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus: Living Difference III. In addition, the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) has met in July. The Agreed Syllabus is now under review, in a timely fashion, together with neighbouring authorities (Hampshire, Southampton and the Isle of Wight) who share the same syllabus. A joint SACRE meeting was held virtually in July 2020 as part of the review process.

2.1 Agreed Syllabus implementation

- Following the reviewed and revised agreed syllabus *Living Difference III* being adopted by the Agreed Syllabus Conference in October 2016, SACRE together with the Local Authority continue to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus.

2.2 Meeting Training Needs

- The duties on schools regarding religious education is raised regularly at head teachers' meetings. Academies are not obliged to follow the Agreed Syllabus, however, SACRE is keen for all schools in the Authority to use the syllabus to ensure consistency of educational experience for children across the Authority regardless of where they go to school. However, it is vital schools use Living Difference III with integrity. Primary network meetings have not been held in this year. Secondary RE Subject leaders have the opportunity to attend Secondary RE Networks as well as the annual conference offered in Hampshire, as Living Difference III is shared across the authorities.

2.3 Resourcing Living Difference III

- Primary RE News on-line publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors is available for Portsmouth schools to subscribe to. Teachers are also aware of the other published resources available to support the teaching of Living Difference III through the Hampshire RE Centre in Winchester.
- SACRE's artefact loan collection continues to be available to schools and is maintained by the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) and the Authority's despatch team deliver/collect boxes without charge.

2.4 Monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus

- A representative group, comprised of at least one representative of each of the 4 SACRE groups, including the Chair and vice Chair has continued to meet at a suitable time before each full SACRE meeting. This is in order to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus. Through regular examination of Ofsted reports from Portsmouth schools, together with other data such as KS4 GCSE results, SACRE is able to take a systematic approach ensuring it has an overview of religious education across the authority.

2.5 Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness

- SACRE has met twice times during this period. The spring 2020 meeting had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The summer 2020 meeting, held immediately after the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus Conference, was held virtually in July.

- SACRE seeks to ensure that all four groups are well represented at all meetings. Recruitment from some faith groups in Portsmouth has been difficult. A replacement for the longstanding Jewish representative who stood down earlier in 2019 has yet to be found.
- Teacher representatives from primary schools and secondary schools have attended SACRE during this period.
- Training was offered to SACRE members in September 2019 and ran in Winchester, bringing together SACRE members from the 4 local authorities who use Living Difference III locally.
- Reports have been regularly presented to SACRE to ensure that SACRE is well informed about local and national matters in relation to religious education.
- Where members have been able to attend local, regional or national events this has been facilitated.
- In this period the NASACRE AGM had to be postponed due to Covid-19.
- A pre SACRE meeting with the Chair or Vice Chair, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Adviser has taken place prior SACRE meetings during this period.

SECTION 3: STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

3.1 Commentary on GCSE examination results in Religious Studies

This report offers an overview and brief analysis of the 2019 GCSE data available regarding full course GCSE Religious Studies (RS) in Portsmouth.

Background information

- This is the second year of data from a new RS GCSE specification that first became available for examination in the summer of 2018.
- Grades are awarded in the form of 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest); grade 4 regarded as a 'standard pass' and grade 5 as a 'good pass'.
- The GCSE RS full course is intended to be taught over 2 years, sat at the end of year 11 and to be taught in 120 hours of teaching time.
- Schools which have the best results for GCSE RS are those which enable students to access the full amount of time recommended and taught by specialist teachers.
- RS GCSE tests not only knowledge but the capacity to *analyse* and *to use evidence and logical chains of reasoned argument to evaluate*. Teaching must enable students to do this as well as remember subject knowledge. RS GCSE success has a high demand in terms thinking as well as writing. Where young people are given the opportunity to analyse, evaluate and in other ways reason well at KS3 standards are higher at GCSE.

GCSE Religious Studies examination results 2019: overall findings

- In 2019, from LA maintained schools in Portsmouth out of a cohort of 1647, 300 young people were entered for GCSE RS full course. This compares to 2016 when out of a cohort in of 1729, 670 students sat full course GCSE and in 2017 when there were 332 entries out of a cohort of 1633 and in 2018 out of cohort of 1687 345 young people were entered.

- 2019 therefore marked another small decline in the percent of the cohort being entered for GCSE. This is considerably lower as compared to the national where around 30% of the cohort sitting GCSE RS in England.
- A large reduction in the percentage of Portsmouth young people being entered for the full course RS GCSE was observed in 2017 as compared to 2016 and earlier years although there is some stability over the last 3 years.
- Achievement in this small cohort continues to be very good. Portsmouth 4+ GCSE result in 2019 was 78.8% (up from 76% 4+ in 2018 and 75% A*-C in 2017). The 2019 result was well above the national for 2019 (at 71.4).
- SACRE has therefore been pleased to note that despite the low percentage of young people undertaking full course RS GCSE in Portsmouth, achievement for those who do sit RS GCSE is strong compared to the national.
- There is a wide variation between schools hidden in that data. Although those who sit GCSE Full Course in Portsmouth overall in some schools achieve well, there is still concern about the number of young people who do not have the opportunity to study religious education at all at KS4. The professional adviser runs a secondary network meeting once each term in the Havant area to which Portsmouth schools are welcome to attend.
- One reason for not making the RS GCSE available in a school can be because there is not a suitably qualified teacher to lead the course, and funds are not available for such an appointment.
- SACRE continues to be concerned about how schools are ensuring all young people can access their entitlement to religious education (RE) during key stage 4.

3.3 Quality of Teaching and Leadership in Religious Education

In addition to monitoring GCSE Full Course results, Portsmouth SACRE seeks to fulfil its duty to monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in a number of additional ways.

Specific reporting about RE in Ofsted reports is extremely rare however for its November meeting Portsmouth SACRE Monitoring Group examined reports where RE had been noted for example in relation to the promotion of pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development (SMSC). In addition, reports have also revealed RE is being evidenced to support the way a school is preparing children for life in modern Britain. Although it is not possible to be certain that there is a definite link between these judgements and the quality of religious education, reports can give an indication that there is some provision. Since March 2020 there have been not further Ofsted reports to examine in relation to RE because of Covid-19 and Ofsted not visiting schools during the summer term in 2020

SECTION 4: COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SACRE has received no formal complaints about religious education in the past year.

SECTION 5: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

5.1 Monitoring Collective Worship

Ofsted reports sometime mentioned collective worship in relation to evidencing that a school is promoting children's SMSC development and preparing children for life in modern Britain.

5.2 Complaints

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship in schools.

5.3 Determinations

No requests for determination have been submitted to SACRE and there are no current determinations for review.

SECTION 6: LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

6.1 Links with other Authorities and SACREs

Portsmouth retains links with the Hampshire SACRE through members who are on both bodies. Portsmouth SACRE is also represented at the South Central SACRE Hub meetings in Winchester.

6.2 NASACRE

Portsmouth SACRE is a member of NASACRE and NASACRE bulletins are regularly circulated to all SACRE members by the Clerk.

6.3 South Central RE/SACRE Hub

Portsmouth SACRE members are invited to the South-Central Hub meetings during the period of this report. In the summer of 2020 the SACRE hub meeting was held virtually and this enabled more SACRE members to attend.

APPENDIX A - SACRE MEMBERS 2019/20

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

Baha'i - Elizabeth Jenkerson
Baptist - Geoff Wheeler
Evangelical - Pastor Chris Thomas
Hinduism – Akshat Mehta
Islam - Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo (from June 2018)
Methodist - John Mills
Quakers - Sarah Coote
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 (from April 2018 with Sarah Hanley Post 16 Rep until March 2018)
Sandra Gibb Primary School Representatives
Aasha Small Primary Representative
Gemma Self Early Years Representative
Helen Reeder Teacher Liaison Panel
Debbie Lucas Secondary Rep from June 2019
Paula Withers Secondary Rep
Ali Beechurst, Primary School Rep

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

Maria Cole (appointed as of 19 June 2018 by Portsmouth City Council)
Taki Jaffer (appointed as of 19 June 2018 by Portsmouth City Council)
Councillor Suzy Horton (reappointed by Portsmouth City Council June 2018) (Vice Chair from July 2017) - Appointed Chair June 2019
Councillor Tom Coles - (appointed by PCC June 2019)
Councillor Ryan Brent (reappointed by Portsmouth City Council June 2018) (Chair from July 2017)

Officers in Attendance:

Patricia Hannam (HIAS), Professional Adviser (from Jan 2017)
Debbie Anderson, PCC - Head of School Improvement

Lisa Gallacher, PCC - Democratic Services (clerk from August 2020)

APPENDIX B: LIST OF ORGANISATIONS RECEIVING THIS REPORT

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies. This report will be available on the Local Authority and NASACRE websites for interested parties to download.

Director of Children's Services, Portsmouth City Council

Deputy Director of Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education, Portsmouth City Council

Cllr Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Education, Portsmouth City Council

The Department for Education (Central Government)

NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all Portsmouth Schools

All members of SACRE

The Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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