



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 4.30 PM OR ON THE RISING OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

COUNCIL CHAMBER - SECOND FLOOR, PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL

Telephone enquiries to Lisa Gallacher (023) 9283 4056

Email: lisa.gallacher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Information with regard to public access due to Covid precautions:

- Attendees will be requested to undertake an asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting.
- If symptomatic you must not attend and self-isolate following the stay at home guidance issued by Public Health England.
- All attendees are required to wear a face covering while moving around within the Guildhall (requirement of the venue)
- Although it will no longer be a requirement attendees may choose to keep a social distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection
- Hand sanitiser is provided at the entrance and throughout the Guildhall. All attendees are encouraged to make use of hand sanitiser on entry to the Guildhall and are requested to follow the one way system in place.
- Attendees are encouraged book in to the venue (QR code). An NHS test and trace log will be retained and maintained for 21 days for those that cannot or have not downloaded the app.

Membership

Reverend Sam Duddles (Chair)

Councillor Tom Coles

Maria Cole

Taki Jaffer

Councillor Ryan Brent

sarah coote

Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo

Jaswant Singh-Digpal

Barbara Spiegelhalter

Geoff Wade

Sue Bowen

Jane Kelly

Kari Laing

Syed Aminul Haque
Elizabeth Jenkerson
Christine McMillan
Geoff Wheeler
Pastor Chris Thomas

Aasha Small
Debbie Lucas
Gemma Self
Ali Beechurst
Jessi Wilson

(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 Moment for Quiet Reflection

3 Election of Vice Chair

The position of Vice Chair was left vacant at the June meeting. Members are asked to propose and second a member of SACRE to fill this position.

4 Apologies for Absence

5 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.

6 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 16 June 2021 (Pages 5 - 10)

RECOMMENDED the SACRE agrees the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 June 2021 as a correct record

7 Matters Arising from the minutes

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

8 Membership Update (Pages 11 - 12)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor to present report.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE approves the membership report.

9 Brief updates or notifications 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

10 Monitoring Group Report (Pages 13 - 18)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor to the SACRE, to present the report of the monitoring sub group held on 20 October 2021.

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

11 Update on the Locally Agreed Syllabus and significant National RE matters (Pages 19 - 20)

To receive a report from Patricia Hannam (SACRE's Professional Adviser) regarding developments regarding the Locally Agreed Syllabus, South Central SACRE Hub and activities of the Religious Education Council (REC), The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and Ofsted developments in relation to RE.

RECOMMENDED that the report from the Professional Adviser is noted.

12 SACRE Annual Report 2020/2021 (Pages 21 - 34)

Purpose

To present to SACRE its annual report of activities undertaken in 2020/21.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE receive the report and forward to the relevant national and local bodies.

13 Date and venue of the next meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday 9 March at 4pm in the Council Chamber.

The Summer meeting will take place on Tuesday 7 June at 4pm in the Council Chamber.

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Agenda Item 6

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 4.00 pm as a virtual meeting.

Present

Councillor Suzy Horton (Group D)

Group A - Elizabeth Jenkerson, Pastor Chris Thomas, Sandra Teacher, Geoff Wheeler, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato, Barbara Spiegelhalter

Group B - Sue Bowen, Jane Kelly, Revd Sam Duddles (Chair)

Group C - Debbie Lucas

Group D - Taki Jaffer

Co-optees - Jessi Wilson Council of Portsmouth Students

Debbie Anderson, Patricia Hannam & Lisa Gallacher

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Tom Coles, Maria Cole, John Mills, Christine Mcmillan and Kari Laing

12. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Councillor Horton, as Chair welcomed everyone and introductions were made. She particularly welcomed new members Barbara Spiegelhalter, Humanist representative and Jessi Wilson from the Council of Portsmouth Students.

13. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)

Elizabeth Jenkerson led the moment for quiet reflection. She explained she was of Baha'i faith and read out a letter from the Baha'i International Community who were quoting from a letter from their governing body about what they thought religion means.

Members of the SACRE reflected on this for a couple of minutes.

14. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (AI 3)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor explained that there were local council elections in May which have led to some changes as well as the constitutional arrangements that already exist for SACRE.

Councillor Horton explained that the current Chair and Vice Chair were appointed in June 2019 for a period of two years in accordance with the SACRE Constitution. She explained that she would not be putting herself forward to Chair SACRE for a further two years. She also would be taking the opportunity to step back from the SACRE due to her stretched responsibilities as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education. She had thoroughly enjoyed being part of the SACRE and said that her first responsibility as a new teacher was for RE in a school which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Patricia wished to place on record SACRE's immense thanks to Cllr Horton for her commitment to SACRE over the last few years and said that she would be missed but she completely understood her decision.

Patricia explained that the Council's outside body appointment to SACRE was due to be decided by Cabinet on 22 June. She asked SACRE if they wished to postpone making an appointment of Chair and Vice Chair until the autumn meeting in light of this.

Members felt that it was important to have continuity and to confirm the position of SACRE Chair so that a Chair was in place for the summer.

- Reverend Sam Duddles was nominated by Elizabeth Jenkerson and seconded by Debbie Lucas to be appointed as Chair of SACRE for a 2 year period.
- The position of Vice Chair be filled at the November SACRE meeting.

15. Apologies for Absence (AI 4)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Tom Coles. John Mills and Maria Cole. Kari Laing had also submitted apologies during the meeting.

16. Declaration of Members' Interest (AI 5)

Elizabeth Jenkerson made her standard declaration that she is on the West Hill Panel that judges grants for SACREs.

17. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 3 March 2021 (AI 6)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

18. Matters Arising from the minutes of 3 March 2021 (AI 7)

There were no matters arising.

19. Membership Report (AI 8)

Patricia Hannam presented the report. SACRE was pleased to reappoint Barbara Spiegelhalter as Humanist representative on group A with Geoff Wade as the reserve Humanist representative member. SACRE also formally co-opts Jessi Wilson from the Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS) to SACRE. Patricia said this was very exciting for the SACRE as for a number of years the SACRE had been trying to have some direct contact with young people with a view to stabling a SACRE Youth Voice.

SACRE continues to seek a representative from Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Office and also seeks a Hindu representative (following indication that SACRE's current representative wishes to step down) and Buddhist representation on Group A. Since the report had been published there had been a further resignation from John Mills who was the Group A Methodist representative, as he was moving away. A new Methodist representative of SACRE would be sought.

In response to a question from Pastor Chris Thomas, Barbara Spiegelhalter said she was part of the SACRE representing non-religious people and was pleased to be included in Group A as Humanism is seen as a set of beliefs. Patricia Hannam added that this was part of the SACRE Constitution and this had been reflected upon within the last two years.

The new members were welcomed.

20. Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting (AI 9)

Patricia Hannam said that the next SACRE meeting in November would be preceded by an Agreed Syllabus Conference where the proposed Living Difference VI syllabus would be presented. The agreed syllabus had been reviewed over the last 18 months and many of the SACRE members had been involved in this over a number of different meetings. The heart of the syllabus remains the same in a cycle of enquiry as the building block of agreed syllabus to make a unit of study. In Key Stage 3 a unit of enquiry usually comprises a term. The purpose statement will also remain the same.

To give SACRE the opportunity to make sure that they hear what is proposed for the revised syllabus, there is a virtual meeting on **Wednesday 14th July from 9am-12pm**, which will be attended by representatives from all four SACREs adopting the syllabus (Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight and Hampshire). If any members of SACRE are interested in attending they are advised to contact the SACRE clerk who will then pass the meeting details onto SACRE members. She said would like as many people to be as well informed as possible before the Agreed Syllabus conference in the Autumn.

Training for new SACRE members would take place on **Monday 13 September at 9am** and she strongly recommended SACRE members attend this. This would cover the history, function and role of the SACRE. If members were interested they should contact the SACRE clerk. This would be held virtually and existing SACRE members were also welcome if they felt they would like an update.

21. Monitoring Group Report (AI 10)

Patricia Hannam, as Professional Advisor presented her report summarising the discussions of the Monitoring Sub Group which had been held on 27 May 2021.

Continue to call this religious education but will have an extended appendices thoroughly reference that explains the position of LDIV in relation to the religion and worldviews discussion. This is about a shift in the approach to teaching RE. The move to a changing approach is already encompassed in the approach to teaching RE in Portsmouth. There will also be an appendix explaining the educational position.

Sandra Teacher, who also sits on the Religious Education Council, said that until the law is changed we are still teaching RE according to the agreed syllabus and said this is something to be mindful of. At the moment there is no national entitlement as the law has not changed. Patricia added that the intention is to share a draft of the appendix at the meeting on 14th July for comment.

(Jane Kelly left the meeting at this point)

In response to a question from Chris Thomas as to why racism and xenophobia are included in the appendix and no other issues. Patricia said this was a good point and if SACRE members felt strongly this should not be in the appendix this would be considered. She said that when writing a syllabus this is in a particular context and point in time and there is no doubt that the two issues mentioned have come into the public domain in the last two years in relation to religion. Patricia said this has led us to think it is important to have a mention to it and related to the Ofsted review of RE to the representation of religion. Chris Thomas said that LDIV will govern the next five years and felt that other pressing ethical and practical needs will come up. He felt those specifications should be left out as in five years' time it may be unsuitable. Patricia said this would be taken into account and it may be that the appendix could be better framed as to how teachers make policies.

The monitoring report was noted.

22. Update on National Religious Education Matters (AI 11)

Patricia Hamman presented the report and gave a brief summary of the Religious Education Council. It works with others to keep RE in the national mind of government and one of its most recent things was to commission the

commission on RE report which was published in 2018. The full RE Council meets twice a year, the last meeting was in May. The RE Council have been taking an initiative to look at how the recommendations of the commission report can be implemented and this is ongoing.

Sandra Teacher added that there was a strategy meeting yesterday and there was a new Chair and Deputy Chair. The main focus of the strategy meeting was about how it could engage with the members in a greater way in order to make them feel more valued and also how the REC can have greater impetus with SACREs. She felt the organisations greatest advantage is its diversity of faiths, non-faiths, world beliefs and how they all get on so well together.

NASACRE is a member of the RE Council so there is an interconnection there. She recommended that members of the SACRE read the report by NASACRE (link in the papers) regarding the funding of SACREs. She felt though that in Portsmouth the SACRE functions well, with the three corners - Democratic Services as clerk, Professional Advisor to SACRE and a Chair. This means the SACRE is in good order in Portsmouth but this is not always the case elsewhere in the country.

Councillor Horton agreed that we are in a strong position with how the SACRE functions and felt there was a fourth corner which was a representative from the local authority education team, Debbie Anderson to look at standards, improvement and school curriculum. The Chair agreed with this.

Debbie Anderson thanked Cllr Horton for this comment and agreed that our SACRE and working with schools is in a strong place. She felt that officers do value RE teaching highly in Portsmouth and part of that included commissioning Patricia and her colleague Justine to do some training in schools and lead a termly primary RE subject leaders network which is funded by the school improvement budget and is free for schools to attend. This has been very well attended.

NASACRE Annual conference on 24 May

Elizabeth Jenkerson said that there were over 200 attendees when normally there are under 100. This goes to show that virtual meetings do help with attendance. There was problem with one of the workshops and because the topic was so interesting, the workshop will be replayed on 22 June and attendees had been sent details of this.

The Chair said that she attended and said it was an extraordinary day despite its challenges being a virtual meeting and the chat rooms not going to plan. She attended two seminars, the details of which are on the NASACRE website. One seminar was about Hermeneutics and about how religious texts are useful or not useful for our learning and understanding of religions. The presenter was saying how difficult it is to really assess the impact and usefulness of RE to the individual child's learning. He proposed looking at individual texts as if teaching RE if want the child to learn something lifelong, it would be more memorable if taught through storytelling and narrative. The other session was about setting up a places of worship website. She heard

that they had created films of interviews of individuals talking about what their faith means to them. She had sent a suggested form about how to ask for information to create a directory of places of worship in Portsmouth.

In response to a question from Sheikh Fazle Abbas, Patricia said that in terms of Portsmouth academies, all schools in Portsmouth are welcome to use the locally agreed syllabus if they choose as their guiding force for RE. Many academies will attend the network meeting and all Portsmouth schools are welcome to attend. Sandra Teacher who works for Ofsted, added that academies are not duty bound to be part of SACRE but they are accountable to Ofsted.

Patricia then shared some slides about Ofsted Subject Reviews which had also been shared with schools. The slides would be shared to all SACRE members. She felt it was a very useful document if Ofsted inspectors are well trained.

(Debbie Lucas left the meeting at this point)

Sandra Teacher said she was happy to help anyone if they want any further information on the Ofsted Review.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

23. Date and venue of the next meeting (AI 12)

The next scheduled meeting is 3 November 2021. The Agreed Syllabus Conference will take place at 3:30pm at the SACRE main meeting will commence at 4:30pm (or at the conclusion of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, whichever is earlier).

This date was noted.

Sandra Teacher said that she lives in London so attending a face to face meeting would be difficult for her. Members of the SACRE agreed to wait until the beginning of October to decide whether to hold this meeting virtually or in person, depending on the current situation with Covid.

The meeting concluded at 5.25 pm.

Councillor Suzy Horton
Chair of SACRE



Agenda Item 8



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 3 November 2021
Subject: Membership Report
Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** This report updates SACRE regarding its membership.
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE notes this report
3. **Background:** SACRE’s membership is comprised of 4 groups; more detail is available in SACREs constitution: Group A: Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area. Group B: The Church of England with representatives nominated by the diocese. Group C: Teacher and Head teacher representation. Group D: The Local Authority: appointed by the Local Authority. Each group has one vote in the case of a voting matter. In addition, SACRE can co-opt members, who do not have voting rights.

Group A: continues to seek a representative from the Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Office and also seeks a Hindu representative (following indication earlier in the year that SACRE’s current representative wishes to step down) and Buddhist representative. SACRE also seeks a representative from the Methodist church following the previous representative stepping down after the June meeting. SACRE seeks a Jewish representative since the return to face to face meetings.

Group B: SACRE is seeking a fourth representative from the Church of England.

Group D: SACRE welcomes the appointment of Cllr Ryan Brent to Group D

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
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The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
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Agenda Item 10



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Wednesday 3 November 2021
Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report
Report by: Patricia Hannam

- 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 20th October 2021. 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 GCSE examination series in 2021 as well as teacher network meetings that have taken place since our last meeting. An update on the revision of the locally agreed syllabus was received and the directory. The Annual Report was considered, and adjustments made.
- Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.
- Background:** The monitoring group met on 20 October 2021 at 16.00.

Present: Sam Duddles (SACRE Chair), Debbie Anderson, Jane Kelly, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Kari Lang, Taki Jaffer

Apologies: Debbie Lucas

- 3.1 GCSE in summer 2021:** GCSE grades were award 2021 on the same basis as in 2020; through teacher assessments. There is no subject level data for analysis locally and school level data must not be used for



accountability purposes. Information available publicly on the Ofqual website shows that the three authorities together of Portsmouth, Hampshire and Southampton have achieved GCSE results above the national [Map of GCSE \(9 to 1\) grade outcomes by county in England \(ofqual.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofqual.gov.uk/publications/2021/04/map-of-gcse-9-to-1-grade-outcomes-by-county-in-england/).

SACRE monitoring group is grateful to teachers for the great effort made to prepare teacher assessed grades in 2021.

3.2 Ofsted inspections and SACRE Monitoring Visits:

Ofsted have recommenced face to face Section 5 inspections from September 2021.

The letter following such visits however is directed to parents and rarely reveals information about RE. No monitoring visits have been made in the period since the last SACRE meeting.

3.3 Other opportunities for assuring the quality RE in LA schools:

Regular general briefings are made to head teachers. These do give an opportunity to discuss religious education. It is intended that an opportunity will be made to present Living Difference IV to heads teachers shortly.

Links are maintained with RE leaders in LA schools. Opportunities for training are offered through primary RE network meeting in Portsmouth and secondary RE network in Hampshire that teachers can book into through the Hampshire Learning Zone.

3.4 Review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus: Living Difference IV:

The review process has completed, and Living Difference IV presented to the Agreed Syllabus Conference. Professional development and resource opportunities are available to Portsmouth teachers to support the implementation of the syllabus.



3.5 Living Difference IV Cross Phase Launch Conferences: Cross-phase launch conferences for LDIV are being arranged for teachers and others responsible for leading and managing RE. The first of these scheduled for 30th November is already at capacity. A second event has been arranged for 12th January and bookings can be made through the Hampshire Learning Zone. Flyer for this event is attached.

3.6 Directory Document: Rev Sam Duddles is continuing to take forward the development of this document which will be hosted online.

3.7 3-year Action Plan: A draft document will be brought to SACRE in early 2022 to ensure coherent implementation and monitoring of Living Difference IV.

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

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Cross-phase conference: Launch of *Living Difference IV*



This second event has been arranged to meet demand; if you have already attended the Launch conference on 30 November 2021, you do not need to attend this event.

Presented by the HIAS RE team, this virtual one-day conference will offer an overview of and training in *Living Difference IV*, the revised locally agreed RE syllabus for Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight schools.

Essential aspects of *Living Difference IV* will be introduced, including key changes from the existing syllabus. Keynote presentations from national RE figures as well as phase-specific briefings and workshop-based sessions led by County Steering Group members will ensure delegates are confident to fully implement the syllabus in your school.

Aimed at headteachers and senior leaders with curriculum responsibility, primary subject leaders and secondary heads of RE departments, this is a key CPD event which will inform schools' RE for the next five years.

Delegates will:

- gain an understanding of the legal requirements for RE
- gain an understanding of the requirements of *Living Difference IV*
- attend workshops relevant for your school and sector, to include EYFS, SEND, KS1, KS2 and secondary phase.

Book via the Learning Zone, using the search term *Living Difference IV*.

Date/time: 12 January 2022 09:00 – 15:30

Location: Virtual

Cost: Standard rate: £108
Subscriber's rate: £90
SLA element: £65

For booking information go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/LearningZoneGuidance>

Use the key words or course name to search for this learning item in our catalogue.

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Agenda Item 11



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 3 November 2021

Subject: National RE issues

Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** This report updates SACRE regarding local and national RE issues, including the Locally Agreed Syllabus and activities of the Religious Education Council (REC), the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE) and Ofsted’s work in relation to Religious Education

2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the report.

3. **Background:**

NASACRE is the membership organisation representing the interests of SACREs to national bodies. NASACRE holds an annual meeting in May and publishes a regular mailing that is circulated to SACRE members. SACRE members are strongly recommended to read this and engage in the issues raised.

Religious Education Council (REC) The REC is an umbrella organisation bringing together many organisations with an interest in religious education. The Second Regular General Meeting (SRGM) of the year is taking place on 16th November. The general meetings bring together representatives of all the constituent organisations. Since the COVID-19 pandemic these have been virtual meetings. The REC has a new chair – Sarah Lawn-Cawte and vice chair – Ed Pawson. Professor Trevor Cooling completed his term of service as chair of the REC during this critical period where the REC is taking forward the recommendations of the Commission on RE (CORE) report.

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



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Signed by:



Agenda Item 12



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Wednesday 3 November 2021
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 2020/21
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE receive the report and forward to the relevant national and local bodies.
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

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SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
 Annual Report 2020/21

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

To Be Added

Rev. Sam Duddles
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:

- Representatives of Christian denominations and other religious groups reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area
- Four representatives of the Church of England.
- Six representatives of teachers' associations.
- Four representatives of the local authority, at least two of whom should be 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).

¹ Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

² School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

- To report to the LA and the Department for Education (DfE) on its activities on an annual basis.

1.6 Meetings and attendance

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2020/21

- 12 November 2020 (Virtual meeting due to Covid-19)
- 3 March 2021 (Virtual meeting due to Covid-19)
- 16 June 2021 (Virtual meeting due to Covid-19)

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, during this reporting period has been seeking representatives from the following local communities: Roman Catholic, Jewish, & Buddhist.

The percentages attendance 2020/21 per group is as follows:

Autumn - 12 November 2020 (virtual meeting due to COVID restrictions)

Group A = 44%	4/9
Group B = 100%	3/3
Group C = 50%	3/6
Group D = 100%	4/4

Spring - 3 March 2021 (virtual meeting due to COVID restrictions)

Group A - 73%	8/11
Group B - 100%	3/3
Group C - 16%	1/6
Group D - 75%	3/4

Summer – 16 June 2021 (virtual meeting due to COVID restrictions)

Group A - 55%	6/11
Group B - 100%	3/3
Group C - 16%	1/6
Group D - 50%	2/4

1.7 Action Plan

In light of Covid-19 SACRE is reviewing it's 3-year action plan and putting in place anew for 2021/22 – 2024/25 following revision of Locally Agreed Syllabus.

1.8 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 2020/21

- ***Living Difference III: Implementation and Locally Agreed Syllabus review and revision***
- *Living Difference III* was adopted by the Agreed Syllabus Conference in October 2016. This syllabus is shared by Portsmouth, Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight local authorities.
- SACRE together with the Local Authority has continued to support the implementation as indicated through the activities discussed below from 2.2 – 2.5.
- In June 2020 Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened and agreed to move to review *Living Difference III*.
- In this reporting year the review and revision has taken place. Following a joint SACRE meeting in July 2020, teachers and other have regularly had the opportunity to engage with other across the four authorities to discuss the revision and adjustments being made.
- In light of COVID-19 all meetings have taken place virtually.

2.2 Meeting Training Needs

- The duties on schools regarding religious education is raised regularly at head teachers' meetings and in other ways through SACRE's strong links with the authority's school improvement service and Director of Education. 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. SACRE is keen to impress on Academies however, that it is vital schools use *Living Difference III* with integrity. Primary network meetings have been held virtually in this reporting year. Secondary RE Subject leaders been encouraged to attend the virtual Secondary RE Networks that are enabled through the Hampshire Learning Zone platform. It can be extremely useful for Portsmouth teachers to meet with colleagues in Hampshire, since *Living Difference III* is shared across the authorities.

2.3 Resourcing *Living Difference III*

- Primary RE News on-line publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors continues to be 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. However, during the period of this report, in light of Covid-19 there have been some changes to this service.

2.4 Monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus

A representative monitoring group has met virtually during the period of this report, at a suitable time before each full SACRE meeting in order to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus. The group seeks to be comprised of at least one representative of each of the 4 SACRE groups, including the Chair. The group usually reviews Ofsted reports from Portsmouth schools, together with other data such as KS4 GCSE results. However during the period of this report no subject level data has been available for consideration due to the impact of COVID-19.

2.5 Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness

- SACRE has met three times during this period. All meetings have been held virtually.
- SACRE seeks to ensure that all four groups are well represented at all meetings. Recruitment from some faith groups in Portsmouth continue to be challenging.
- Teacher representatives from primary schools, secondary schools as well as post-16 providers have attended SACRE during this period.
- Training was offered to SACRE members in September 2020 and undertaken virtually, 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 held virtually during this period, this has been facilitated, for example the NASACRE AGM in May 2021 and termly South Central SACRE Hub meetings.
- A pre SACRE meeting with the Chair or Vice Chair, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional 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

Background information

- 2020 and 2021 should have been the third and fourth years respectively of the 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.
- 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 2020 and 2021: overall findings

- In the summers of both 2020 and 2021 GCSE examinations were suspended and grades awarded to students on the basis of teacher assessments. There has been no verified school level data available to local authorities for either year.
- SACRE remains concerned about the low numbers of young people in Portsmouth who are entered for the full course RS GCSE and therefore concerned to ensure through all means possible that in other ways young people are able to access their entitlement for religious education at Key Stage 4.

3.3 Quality of Teaching and Leadership in Religious Education

During Covid-19 and the period of this report, SACRE has continued to fulfil its duty to monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in a number of ways, including examining school websites

During the period of this report, in light of Covid-19 the manner of Ofsted inspections has been curtailed. It has therefore been impossible to gather any information about the situation of RE through these reports.

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 mention collective worship in relation to evidencing that a school is promoting children's SMSC development and personal wellbeing.

5.2 Complaints

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship in schools.

5.3 Determinations

Determinations procedure has been reviewed and agreed during the period of this report. 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. During the period of this report the SACRE hub meeting was held virtually and this has enabled SACRE members to attend more frequently.

APPENDIX A - SACRE MEMBERS 2020/21

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

Baha'i - Elizabeth Jenkerson
Baptist - Geoff Wheeler
Buddhism - vacant position
Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas
Hinduism – vacant position
Humanist UK - Barbara Spiegelhalter
Humanist UK Geoff Wade (nominated reserve Humanist representative)
Muslim - Mr Syed Aminul Haque
Muslim - Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo (from June 2018)
Judaism – Sandra Teacher (temporary representative for March and June 2021 meetings)
Quakers - Sarah Coote
Roman Catholic – vacant position
Sikh - Jaswant Singh-Digpal
United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan
Methodist Church – vacant position

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)
Aasha Small Primary School Rep
Gemma Self Early Years Rep
Helen Reeder Teacher Liaison Panel
Debbie Lucas Secondary School 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 (appointed by Portsmouth City Council to May 2021. Stepped down May 2021) Chair June 2019-May 2021
Councillor Tom Coles - (appointed by Portsmouth City Council June 2019)
Councillor Ryan Brent (appointed by Portsmouth City Council October 2021)

Officers in Attendance:

Patricia Hannam (HIAS), Professional Adviser (from Jan 2017)
Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement
Lisa Gallacher, PCC - Democratic Services (clerk from September 2020 – current date)

APPENDIX B:

Professional development opportunities offered in 2020/21 for Schools leaders and subject leaders to ensure effective implementation of Living Difference III across the authority

Following the distribution to all schools regarding the new agreed syllabus Living Difference III, the following support took place during the school year 2020/21

1. **Support for Headteachers** opportunities were sought through this period to keep in contact with head teachers of schools, in a time when more have become academies. Separate briefing sessions have not taken place during this time.
2. **Secondary RE HoDs are encouraged attend CPD opportunities for secondary RE teachers that run in Hampshire.**
3. **Primary network meetings** were held virtually once each term during the period of this report in September 2020, January 2021 and June 2021. Attendance remains good.

APPENDIX C: 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, Families and Education Portsmouth City Council

Deputy Director of Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education - Education, Portsmouth City Council

Cllr Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and 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