



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2022 AT 4.00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Telephone enquiries to Karen Martin 023 9284 1704
Email: karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Membership

Reverend Sam Duddles (Chair)

Vacancy (Vice-Chair)

Group A - Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area

Group B - Representatives of the Church of England

Group C - Teacher representatives

Group D - Representatives of the Local Authority

(Full membership located on Portsmouth City Council Website)

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

(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**

4 Declarations of members' interests

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

Note: Should any indication of an interest arise during the meeting, members are asked to declare at that time, as soon as is practicable.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November 2021 (Pages 5 - 8)

RECOMMENDED the SACRE agrees the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November 2021 as a correct record.

6 Matters arising from the minutes of 3 November 2021

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

7 Membership update (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive the Membership Report.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE notes the report.

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 11 - 14)

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

10 Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS) and SACRE

To receive a verbal update from Patricia Hannam (SACRE's Professional Adviser) regarding the development of more formal links between the Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS) and SACRE.

11 National and local updates on RE

To receive a report from Patricia Hannam (SACRE's Professional Adviser) on the activities the Religious Education Council (REC) and to appoint representatives to attend The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) AGM in May as well verbal reports from those who were able to attend the South Central SACRE Hub meetings.

RECOMMENDED that the report is noted and representatives appointed to attend NASACRE AGM in May.

12 Date and venue of the next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is 7 June 2022, starting at 4:30pm.

The decision regarding whether the meeting will take place virtually or face to face, will be taken closer to the date of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the date and venue of the next meeting be noted.

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

This page is intentionally left blank

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, 3 November 2021 at 4.30 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Reverend Sam Duddles (in the Chair) - Group B

Councillors Taki Jaffer - Group D
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo - Group A
Elizabeth Jenkerson - Group A
Christine McMillan - Group A
Chris Thomas - Group A
Barbara Spiegelhalter - Group A
Sue Bowen - Group B
Jane Kelly - Group B
Kari Laing - Group C
Jessi Wilson - Co-opted member

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Tom Coles, Maria Cole, Ryan Brent, sarah coote, Geoff Wheeler and Debbie Lucas

24. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Revd Duddles, as Chair welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

25. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)

Patricia Hannam led the moment of quiet reflection and said that on this occasion she thought it was an idea to have a moment of quiet to reflect on the work before us now that there is a new Agreed Syllabus.

26. Election of Vice Chair (AI 3)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor explained that the position of Vice Chair was left vacant at the June meeting. Nominations were invited today to fill this role. Patricia then went on to outline the role of the Vice Chair and Revd Duddles explained some of the duties she had undertaken as Vice Chair prior to becoming Chair of SACRE.

There were no nominations or expressions of interest today so Patricia advised members to give it some thought and an expression of interest email would be sent out to SACRE members.

27. Apologies for Absence (AI 4)

Apologies for absence had been received from sarah coote, Maria Cole, Geoff Wheeler, Cllr Brent, Cllr Coles and Debbie Lucas

28. Declaration of Members' Interest (AI 5)

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

29. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 16 June 2021 (AI 6)

A typing error in minute 19 (page 3 of the minutes) was pointed out. The last sentence of paragraph 1 should read '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 **establishing** a SACRE Youth Voice'.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 be approved as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

30. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 7)

Minute 22 - Patricia explained that she had followed up the conversation with Sandra Teacher regarding deep dives for RE. Debbie Anderson added that she works as an Ofsted inspector at times and was able to talk to Patricia about her experiences of deep dives.

31. Membership Update (AI 8)

Patricia Hannam presented the report and outlined the vacancies on SACRE. Work would take place before the next meeting to try and fill these vacancies. Councillor Brent had now been appointed to Group D. Patricia thought it would be sensible to review the members in Group C as several were unable to attend meetings. It was agreed that it would be good to get a headteacher/deputy representative as part of Group C on SACRE.

Christine McMillan said that John Mills the former Methodist SACRE representative had been replaced and it was agreed that she would talk to his successor to see if he was interested in joining SACRE.

Revd Duddles said that she would speak to Anna Potten who is a reformed Jew and involved with the Interfaith Network to see if she would be interested in filing the Jewish vacancy.

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

Patricia Hannam explained that this item was an opportunity for SACRE to raise any areas of work they would like to look at in the future.

Chris Thomas said it would be useful to have a short presentation from a primary/secondary school teacher to say how they are finding the new Agreed Syllabus. It was noted that pre covid SACRE used to visit schools but it was agreed it would be helpful to hear from the teachers. Patricia and Debbie would look to arrange this.

Taki Jaffer said that whilst having a youth SACRE is a good idea he saw challenges. He noted that there used to be the Portsmouth Interfusion Forum however without somebody to bring them together and to organise and facilitate the meetings it is very challenging. Revd said in her role as youth chaplain there was an appetite for this, but this needed to be carefully stewarded. It would be explored but specific boundaries would need to be put in place about respect and care. It was agreed having a youth voice would be great for SACRE.

Christine McMillan said that nationally there was talk about the ways in which council's fund SACREs and it was recommended that this should be looked at. It was agreed this would come to a future meeting.

33. Monitoring Group Report (AI 10)

Patricia Hannam introduced the report summarising the discussion of the Monitoring Sub Group which had been held on 20 October 2021. She added that the Sub Group had agreed to look at information on school websites regarding the RE curriculum. This would be undertaken before the next meeting and an advisory document for schools would come to the next meeting, which would advise schools what should be on their website. They will give them some time to complete that and then scrutinise their websites.

Debbie Anderson added that schools are very wary about what they should say so if they receive some text on what they should say the schools can embellish on that. This would only be for Local Authority maintained schools. The same advice however could be sent to academy/private schools as it would be good for all schools to use Living Difference IV. Debbie Anderson advised that the authority work with all schools across the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP). There is a PEP strategic board where all the academy boards are invited as well as the independent sector and it is up to them whether they attend. Revd Duddles said that Living Difference IV could be offered to private schools and Taki Jaffer said he was happy to take this up for one private school and he would update the Chair on how these conversations are received.

RESOLVED that the Monitoring Group report be noted.

34. Update on the Locally Agreed Syllabus and significant National RE matters (AI 11)

Patricia Hannam introduced the report and said she strongly recommended members engaging with the NASACRE content on their website. PCC has subscribed to NASACRE and the log in details would be recirculated to all. Over the last few years NASACRE has done a great deal of work with the

Department for Education (DfE) to highlight RE on behalf of SACREs. NASACRE have also prompted the DfE to take a greater interest in the SACRE annual reports.

The date of the NASACRE Conference in 2022 was 23 May and would be held in Birmingham. The Chair added that at these meetings members find out how the Westhill money is spent and the initiatives and projects that have been invested in. This might inspire the Portsmouth SACRE to think of an initiative in Portsmouth and look for funding through the Westhill project.

Elizabeth Jenkerson advised that NASACRE have a national training programme which local authorities can pay a small fee to access all sessions for the year and there is no limit to the number of SACRE attendees. She drew attention to the one on Worldviews on 10 November starting at 7pm. The SACRE clerk said she had received details of this earlier today and would forward the details to SACRE in case any members were interested attending.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

35. SACRE Annual Report 2020/2021 (AI 12)

Patricia Hannam introduced the report and explained that the annual report details the work of the SACRE for the period September 2020-September 2021. This will then go to the Department for Education and to NASACRE be published on the PCC website.

Members of SACRE were very content with the report and thanked Patricia for taking the time to write this.

RESOLVED that the SACRE Annual report be approved and forwarded to the relevant national and local bodies.

36. Date and venue of the next meeting (AI 13)

SACRE noted that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday 9 March at 4pm and the Summer meeting will be on Tuesday 7 June at 4pm, both meetings would take place in the Council Chamber.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

Reverend Sam Duddles
Chair of SACRE



Agenda Item 7



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 9 March 2022
Subject: Membership Report
Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** This report updates SACRE regarding its membership.
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE appoints Samuel Hilsenrath as Jewish representative and Rev Ray Goddess, Portchester Methodist Church as Methodist representative on group A. That SACRE reappoints Kari Laing, Portsmouth College, to group C. That SACRE also co-opts Hayden Wade, Education officer of Council of Portsmouth Students to SACRE.
3. **Background:** SACRE's membership is comprised of 4 groups; more detail is available in SACRE's constitution: Group A: Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area. Group B: The Church of England with representatives nominated by the diocese. Group C: Teacher and Head teacher representation. Group D: The Local Authority: appointed by the Local Authority. Each group has one vote in the case of a voting matter. In addition, SACRE can co-opt members, who do not have voting rights.

SACRE continues to seek a representative from Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Office and also seeks Buddhist and Hindu representatives for Group A. SACRE is seeking an additional CofE representative for Group B and also additional teacher representative for Group C. SACRE is delighted to now have a student representative on SACRE from the Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS) and look forward to further collaborations and communication between CoPS and SACRE.
4. **SACRE training:** A date for SACRE training for new members as well as for existing members who would like to update themselves about Living Difference IV is being arranged by Hampshire SACRE in the summer term. It is hoped this can be face to face in Winchester and the date will be circulated later in March.

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

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



Title of document	Location

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

.....
Signed by:



Agenda Item 9



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Wednesday 9 March 2022
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 17 February 2022.

The group received updates on the forthcoming GCSE examination series in 2022, professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE and Collective Worship. An update on Living Difference IV and the directory of places of worship and visitor publications was received.

- 2. Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.
- 3. Background:** The monitoring group met at 4.00pm on 17 February 2022.

Present: Sam Duddles (SACRE Chair), Debbie Anderson, Jane Kelly, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Debbie Lucas (arrived 4.26pm) and Jessi Wilson (observing).

- a. Update on 2022 GCSE Religious Studies examinations:** the Summer 2022 examination series will be formal examinations. On 7 February an announcement was made by the DfE with some adjustment to specification and reduction in material to be studied to allow for the impact of the pandemic. RS GCSE is affected. SACRE's professional adviser ran a training session with secondary leaders, and it was concluded that high level responses to question would not be possible unless everything has been studied. SACRE should have school level data to analyse in the autumn. It was noted that the impact of COVID continues to put significant pressure on staff in light of illness levels in schools. The monitoring sub-group registered its concern about the impact of the pandemic on the full exam series on staff and pupils in the summer.
- b. Update on launch conferences and minor adjustments to Living Difference IV:**
 - i.** Two major, well attended launch conferences took place in November and January hosted by the HCC Learning Zone. Portsmouth teachers were able to attend.



- ii. SACRE Professional Adviser has presented to Portsmouth head teachers' meeting
- iii. Governors have received a briefing
- iv. A small adjustment needs to be made on page 3 of the syllabus. Advice has been taken and the words '*and the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)*' will be removed from the third line of the third paragraph. Whilst this wording is not strictly inaccurate, SACRE does not want schools to be of the view that they do not also need to take into account the latest Ofsted Handbook at the time, were they to receive an Ofsted Inspection. This adjustment will be made, and an updated version of Living Difference IV circulated with the addendum noted. This does not impact the syllabus in any other way.

c.

- d. Monitoring of Portsmouth City Council school websites:** To take this forward, a model assessment tool from Bournemouth will be amended for use in Portsmouth. The form will be sent to LA schools after the SACRE meeting - then we can have a look at the websites before the next meeting in June.

Website should include "clear reference to Living Difference IV" or "cites Living Difference IV". Long term overview of the RE curriculum should also be on the school website. Parents need to be able to appreciate what RE is about from the website. It was noted that lead inspectors will look at the website before an Ofsted visit. A link to Living Difference IV also should also be included. Some celebration of children's work and visits would be ideal - SACRE is looking for gold standard which would generate a letter of congratulation. If not up to scratch then SACRE would approach governors as they are responsible for the website. Need to keep it simple for schools.

Three key things to include:

Reference to and link to Living Difference IV

Purpose of RE

Outline/overview of curriculum for RE the school

- e. Update on RE professional education:**

- i. Update and feedback from primary and secondary professional education opportunities -
Portsmouth primary network group continues to run and is free for staff to attend as funded by LA. Teachers are advised of dates through the weekly bulletin, on the PEP website and is usually well attended.
Secondary RE Network meeting on 10 March - can be booked in through the HCC Learning Zone. In 2022, the spring and summer meetings will be virtual and face to face meetings will resume in the Autumn.
ECT subject specific training offer was discussed.



A further half day LDIV virtual launch conference is planned for June 14th 2022. Booking through the HCC Learning Zone.

e. Other sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE including:

Reports from secondary and primary Ofsted visits that have taken place since the last meeting were considered. It was noted that there had been no Deep Dive for RE during this time. RE was not mentioned specifically in any of the reports.

f. Monitoring Collective Worship: SACRE has a responsibility to monitor collective worship and a survey of withdrawal from Portsmouth Schools will take place when there is less pressure due to Covid-19, perhaps in the summer term.

g. Portsmouth religious places of worship and visitor publications:

In light of the impact of Covid-19 progress with developing the e-document has been slower than hoped. It is hoped to include the SACRE stone logo on the document and then issue it through the interfaith network and CofE deanery. A draft will be circulated to SACRE members as soon as possible. It is intended to have a final copy ready for the June SACRE meeting. The final copy will be a Digital PDF on the PCC website.

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

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

Title of document	Location

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

.....



Signed by: