



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2022 AT 4.30 PM

VIRTUAL REMOTE MEETING

It was clear at the last meeting that SACRE representatives would prefer to meet in person, preferably in the community at a school or faith setting. However, without a firm commitment from a venue to host the meeting and in the light of the pressure of time and resources for many representatives, the decision has been taken to hold this meeting of the SACRE as a virtual meeting using MS Teams once again. As the Places of Worship directory is well underway, it is very much hoped that the Autumn meeting will not only be in person but also at a venue in the community.

Telephone enquiries to Karen Martin 023 9284 1704

Email: karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Membership

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

Sarah Coote, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo, Shia Muslim

Revd Ray Goddess, The Methodist Church

Samuel Hilsenrath, Judaism

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith

Christine McMillan, The United Reformed Church

Jaswant Singh-Digpa, Sikhism

Barbara Spiegelhalter, Humanism

Pastor Chris Thomas, The Evangelical Church

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union

Group B - Church of England

Sue Bowen

Revd Sam Duddles (Chair)

Jane Kelly

Group C - Teachers representing the various key stages and associations recognised by the Local Authority

Kari Laing, Portsmouth College (Post 16) (Vice Chair)

Debbie Lucas, Admiral Lord Nelson School (Secondary)

Rachael Osborne, St Jude's Primary School (Primary)

Helen Reeder, National Education Union

Group D - representatives of the Local Authority

Councillor Ryan Brent

Councillor Tom Coles

Taki Jaffer

Co-opted Representatives

Jessi Wilson, UnLoc and Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS)

(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 Apologies for Absence

4 Declaration of Members' Interest

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

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

5 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2022 (Pages 5 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022.

RECOMMENDED that the SACRE agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2022 as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising from the minutes

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

7 Membership Update (Pages 13 - 14)

To receive a Membership update report.

RECOMMENDED that with their agreement, the SACRE appoints/ re-appoints the following to the Portsmouth SACRE:

Group A

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo, Shia Muslim
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church

Group B

Sue Bowen
Revd Sam Duddles
Jane Kelly

Group C

Helen Reeder, National Education Union (Portsmouth Branch)
Rachael Osborne, St Jude's Primary School headteacher (initial appointment)

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 15 - 16)

To receive a report from the meeting of the SACRE Monitoring Group.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE notes the findings of the Monitoring Group meeting held on 17 May 2022.

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.

RECOMMENDED that the report is noted.

11 National and local updates on RE (Pages 17 - 22)

To receive a report from Patricia Hannam (SACRE's Professional Adviser) on the activities the Religious Education Council (REC) and from SACRE members who attended the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) AGM in May 2022 (see Appendix 1), as well verbal reports from those who

were able to attend the South Central SACRE Hub meetings.

RECOMMENDED that the report is noted.

12 Date and venue of the next meeting

The meetings during the 2022/23 academic year will take place on the following dates.

2 November 2022

28 March 2023

14 June 2023

RECOMMENDED that the meeting dates be noted and the venue of the next meeting be agreed.

Members of the public are 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.

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 9 March 2022 at 4.00 pm as a virtual meeting.

Present

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

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union
Sarah Coote, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datto, Shia Muslim
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church
Barbara Spiegelhalter, Humanist UK (part of meeting)
Samuel Hilsenrath, Jewish

Group B - Church of England

Revd Sam Duddles (Chair)
Jane Kelly

Group C - Teachers representing the various key stages and associations recognised by the Local Authority

Kari Laing, Portsmouth College (Post 16)
Debbie Lucas, Admiral Lord Nelson School (secondary)

Group D - representatives of the Local Authority

Taki Jaffer

Co-opted Representatives

Jessi Wilson, UnLoc and Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS)

Also present:

Pat Hannam, SACRE Advisor
Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement
Karen Martin, SACRE Clerk

1. Welcome (AI 1)

The Chair, Revd Duddles, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited introductions. She offered a particular welcome to Samuel Hilsenrath, Jewish representative, as it was his first SACRE meeting. Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies for absence (AI 2)

Apologies had been received from:

Pastor Chris Thomas, Evangelical Church (Group A)

Sam Bowen, Church of England (Group B)
Councillors Tom Coles and Ryan Brent (Group D)
Hayden Wade, CoPS (Co-opted)

Barbara Spiegelhalter, Humanist UK (Group A), joined the meeting but suffered technical issues and was not able to stay connected.

3. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 3)

The Chair, Revd Duddles (Group B), led the moment for quiet reflection and asked all those present to take a few minutes to reflect on events in the Ukraine and across Europe.

4. Declaration of members' interests (AI 4)

Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) made her standard declaration in that she is a member of the West Hill Panel that judges applications for grants from SACRE's nationally.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting - 3 November 2021 (AI 5)

The Chair noted that there were some typing errors in the draft minutes and said they will be corrected.

RESOLVED that, subject to the minor typing error corrections being made, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 be approved as a correct record.

Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato (Group A), enquired when the minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) held on Wednesday, 3 November 2021 meeting would be discussed as there was an action arising from the meeting. It was noted that the minutes would come forward at the next ASC meeting and it agreed to discuss the action as part of Agenda item 6, Actions Arising.

6. Matters Arising (AI 6)

Agreed Syllabus Conference held on Wednesday, 3 November 2021 - Minute 6 - Adoption of the reviewed and revised agreed syllabus for religious education in Portsmouth: Living Difference IV

Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato (Group A), reminded SACRE representatives that he had asked if the timing of the next review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus could be brought forward so that it is ready for schools to use when they return in September. Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) commented that this would need to be co-ordinated with the other SACRE's using Living Difference and agreed that it would allow schools to be ready to start implementing the new syllabus in a timely way. She suggested that a timetable for the review be brought forward to the Autumn 2024 meeting for discussion and agreement.

RESOLVED to agree that the timetable for the next Agreed Syllabus Conference and review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus will be considered at the SACRE meeting held in the Autumn of 2024.

SACRE meeting, 3 November 2021 - Minute 26 - Election of Vice Chair. Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) informed the SACRE that she had received a serious expression of interest from Kari Laing, Group C representative. She added that Ms Laing had considered the commitment required carefully and had had a conversation with the Chair, Revd Duddles.

Following nomination for the role of Vice Chair by Revd Duddles, Kari Laing provided a brief synopsis of her experience and interests explaining that she was a 6th form teacher of religion and philosophy at Portsmouth College and has been the post-16 representative on SACRE for several years. She also explained that she has considerable experience of working with local schools in Gosport and was increasingly doing so in the city of Portsmouth.

RESOLVED to formally confirm Kari Laing as Vice Chair of Portsmouth SACRE.

7. Membership Update (AI 7)

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor), introduced the report and noted that further work by the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair on recruiting to fill vacancies was continuing. Current vacancies include Catholic, Buddhist and Hindu representatives (Group A) and at least one further teacher representative (Group C).

Ms Hannam informed the SACRE that training for members will be arranged for the summer term in conjunction with Hampshire SACRE and that this would be open to new and existing members of Portsmouth SACRE.

RESOLVED to:

- i) Formally appoint Samuel Hilsenrath as Jewish representative and Rev Ray Goddess, Portchester Methodist Church as Methodist representative to Group A.**
- ii) Reappoint Kari Laing, Portsmouth College, to Group C.**
- iii) Co-opt Hayden Wade, Education officer of Council of Portsmouth Students.**
- iv) Note the report.**

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

No items were presented for consideration at a future meeting.

9. Monitoring Group Report (AI 9)

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor), introduced the report. She reminded SACRE

representatives that the role of the Monitoring Group is monitor the effectiveness of RE in Portsmouth schools and that at least one representative from each Group attends these meeting. Ms Hannam issued an invitation to all SACRE representatives to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend future meetings of the Monitoring Group.

Ms Hannam informed the SACRE that:

- a) The GCSE examination series will take place this year and that data will therefore be available in the Autumn term. She noted that while young people in Portsmouth generally perform well in public examinations, the number of entries in comparison to the number eligible to enter is low, and that raises concerns about access to high quality RE.
- b) Over 350 schools from across the region had attended two successful conferences to launch Living Difference IV and Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement, had also introduced the syllabus at events for Headteachers and Governors. There will be another half day conference in June for any other teachers wishing to attend.
- c) It was necessary to make a minor amendment to Living Difference IV (set out in the report) to take account of the Ofsted Handbook and the updated version will be circulated once this has been made.
- d) Volunteers to help with monitoring the effectiveness of RE, including by reviewing school websites, will be sought at the June SACRE meeting.
- e) Justine Ball (Hampshire Inspector and Advisor for Religious Education in Primary Schools) will be doing survey relating to the monitoring of Collective Worship in the summer term which will dovetail with previous initiatives by Portsmouth SACRE to monitor numbers of requests to withdraw from Collective Worship or RE.
- f) Revd Duddles had been working on the Directory of Places of Worship and had developed a questionnaire including the name of person as faith leader, contact details, greetings and name preferences, rooms available, parking and so on.

In relation to the Directory, Revd Duddles explained that the questionnaire will be circulated to SACRE representatives, the deanery, members attending inter-faith events and so on. Ms Hannam sought support from Debbie Anderson and the Local Authority for help with adding clickable links and formatting. Taki Jaffer (Group D), offered his support with this aspect and it was suggested that Hayden Wade (Co-opted) could provide a useful perspective from a young person.

In relation to Ofsted inspections and monitoring of RE, Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement, explained that not all the information discussed between the school and inspectors is included in the published report. She acknowledged that she would have greater oversight of information relating to RE and spiritual work in LA maintained schools than academies.

Actions:

- **Clerk to forward the Directory questionnaire to all SACRE representatives for completion (if relevant).**

- **Revd Duddles to circulate via the Deanery and at an Inter Faith event she is attending.**

RESOLVED to note the report.

10. Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS) and SACRE (AI 10)

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) introduced the item saying that going forward there would be a standing agenda item for CoPS and that the appointment of Hayden Wade, Education Officer on CoPS presented a very exciting opportunity for the SACRE. She invited Jessi Wilson, Programme Facilitator - Leadership Skills & Student Voice UnLoc, to provide information about CoPS.

Ms Wilson had prepared a PowerPoint presentation which provided an introduction to Unloc and CoPS which together aim to empower young people to be innovator change mentors and develop their skills. The SACRE noted that:

- a) Student Forums enable young people to work collaboratively to improve schools.
- b) Some 11 institutions are directly involved, and 59 students actively participate - the youngest in Year 7 and the oldest in Year 11 although previously participants have included students in Years 12 and 13.
- c) CoPS members work with Link Teachers either online or in school.
- d) Action group meetings also take place, are led by students and there are four action group themes this year - climate change/ diversity/ life skills and careers/ mental health and wellbeing.
- e) The CoPs Executive Group have regular in person meetings and Hayden Wade is a member of the Executive as Education Officer. Executive member roles are gained by election.
- f) The Education Officer is a new role which was developed with SACRE in mind. Hayden will attend SACRE meetings and report back to the Executive.

The Chair noted that Hayden had been unable to attend this meeting as he was unwell and sent SACRE's best wishes to him. She thanked Ms Wilson for her presentation which gave the SACRE some background into the inspiring work being achieved and offered to meet with Hayden before the next meeting.

Taki Jaffer (Group D) welcomed the opportunities being given to young people through the initiative, adding that the opportunity to take part in meetings would stand them in good stead for their future lives.

Following a question from Jane Kelly (Group B), Ms Wilson informed the SACRE that there are Student Forums at primary and secondary level in schools and that the primary version is a slimmed down version of CoPS. It meets twice a year and three primary schools sent student participants to the meeting in November 2021. The objective is to support schools bring about change through the student voice with the long term vision is to see primary CoPS members grow up into secondary CoPS.

Pat Hannam noted that the SACRE would welcome Hayden's ideas how his role with SACRE could develop.

11. National and local updates on RE

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) introduced the item which covered:

- a) The Religious Education Council is an umbrella organisation with a membership drawn from many faiths and organisations including the Association of RE Advisors (see [here](#) for more information). The Council initiated the 2019 report which was considered when developing Living Difference IV and it is now developing an optional framework for future local syllabus's though this will not be ready until 2024.

Action: SACRE Group A representatives could check that their faith has representation on REC.

- b) Portsmouth SACRE is seeking representatives to attend the NASACRE AGM on Monday 23 May, at the Burlington Hotel (was the Midland Hotel) across road from New Street Station in Birmingham.

Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) informed the SACRE that it was expected that the keynote speakers will include Dr Richard Kueh (Ofsted's subject lead for Religious Education), Ed Pawson and David Hampshire, that there will be grouped table discussions rather than workshops and that workshops will instead take place during the evening in the two weeks following the conference.

Action: Clerk to send further details when available. SACRE representatives to indicate their interest in attending to the Clerk at karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk .

- c) Elizabeth Jenkerson noted that NASACRE has online training courses available free to all members of the Portsmouth SACRE. There is one for new SACRE members, though she commented that existing members of SACREs have also found it helpful (see details below):

*29 June 2022, 7:00-8:30pm: **So, you've joined your local SACRE...** This online session will help new SACRE members understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to this work. Free online session.*

Action: SACRE representatives to contact the Clerk if they would like to attend at karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk .

- d) South Central SACRE Hub Meeting Update - Elizabeth Jenkerson commented that it is interesting see how differently SACREs operate. Revd Duddles agreed and noted that inclusion and diversity was discussed at the last meeting. Jane Kelly (Group B) added that this work built on the 'Angel Just Like Me' project at Christmas to help decolonise the curriculum in

primary schools, that its resources link to the Living Difference IV work on angels and that it encourages children to think about inclusion and diversity.

RESOLVED that SACRE noted the information shared during the meeting.

12. Date of next meeting

The Chair informed the SACRE that the next scheduled meeting will be on 7 June 2022 at 4.30pm and that whether it will be held in person or virtual will be decided nearer the time. She then sought feedback from those present about their preferences for the meeting.

Christine McMillan (Group A) sought clarification about the start time. It was noted that the meeting will start at 4.30pm allowing an opportunity for a tour of the venue at 4.00pm if appropriate.

Geoff Wheeler (Group A) commented that meetings in places of worship or schools were preferable to in person meetings at the Guildhall and this was agreed by other representatives.

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) sought suggestions for a venue for the meeting and Revd Duddles offered St Nicholas Church; Kari Laing (Group C) offered Portsmouth College.

Action: SACRE representatives to suggest venues for the next meeting (or future meetings) by contacting the Clerk at karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

RESOLVED to note the date of the next meeting which will take place 4.30pm on Tuesday 7 June 2022, venue to be advised.

13. Congratulations

The Chair informed the SACRE that Lisa Gallacher who has been the Clerk for the Portsmouth SACRE for the past couple of years is away on maternity leave having recently had a baby boy. SACRE representatives sent their congratulations to Lisa and her family.

Action: SACRE representatives wishing to send a message to Lisa Gallacher to forward these to the Clerk at karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

The meeting concluded at 5.25pm.

.....
Revd Sam Duddles
Chair of SACRE

This page is intentionally left blank



Agenda Item 7



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 7 June 2022
Subject: Membership Report
Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** This report updates SACRE regarding its membership.

2. **Recommendations:** That with their agreement, the SACRE appoints/ re-appoints the following to the Portsmouth SACRE:

Group A

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo, Shia Muslim
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church

Group B

Sue Bowen
Revd Sam Duddles
Jane Kelly

Group C

Helen Reeder, National Education Union (Portsmouth Branch)
Rachael Osborne, St Jude's Primary School headteacher (initial appointment)

Note: Group D appointments will be made by the Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 28 June 2022

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.



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 autumn term. It is hoped this can be face to face in Winchester and the date will be circulated later the summer term.

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

.....
Signed by:



Agenda Item 9



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: Wednesday 7 June 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 May 2022.

The group received updates on the GCSE examination series in 2022 and future plans for 2023, professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE. An update on implementation of Living Difference IV, including training in primary and secondary schools was received. Also an update on progress on updating the Portsmouth SACRE directory of places of worship and visitor publications was considered.

- 2. Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting and requests SACRE volunteers to work with the Monitoring Group in the autumn, to monitor the LA school's websites.
- 3. Background:** The monitoring group met at 4.00pm on 17 May 2022.

Present: Sam Duddles (SACRE Chair), Debbie Anderson (arrived later due to another meeting), Jane Kelly, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Debbie Lucas and Kari Lang (part time sure to tech issues)

- a. Update on 2022 GCSE Religious Studies examinations:** the summer series taking place during the period surrounding the minoring meeting. There has been some reduction in the amount of material young people should study. However it is felt that highest achieving schools will still teach the full specification to enable young people to access the highest grades. This is different from other subjects where whole papers have sometimes been cut.
- b. Monitoring of Portsmouth City Council school websites:** The city Council School improvement officer has given wording to LA schools for what is expected on the RE page on website. However schools will still need to make the curriculum to be taught according to Living Difference IV. Monitoring this can be taken to SACRE now for action - ie. monitoring school web pages. Noted that should be commenced in Autumn term as Living Difference IV should be being used by then. Acknowledged that will take time to undertake this process. Agreed to ask SACRE in June for volunteers to do it in the Autumn.



c. Update on RE professional education:

- i. Update and feedback from primary and secondary professional education opportunities -

Portsmouth primary network group is still taking place, free for staff to attend as funded by LA. Dates are publicised through the weekly bulletin, on the PEP website and is usually well attended.

Secondary RE Network (virtual) meeting on taking place on 14th June - can be booked in through the Learning zone - spring and summer meetings will be virtual and face to face in Autumn.

Cross Phase conference taking plan on 12 October. It is hoped Portsmouth schools will attend.

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

- i. Ofsted Inspections. Discussion took place regarding what is anticipated in a 'Deep Dive', emphasising this is not a subject inspection, but part of the inspection methodology.
- ii. It was noted that in the period being considered in this meeting, there had been very few Ofsted Inspections in Portsmouth and no deep dives for RE.

f. Update on ECT appointments and subject training offer. Teacher appointments and any known vacancies:

ECT = early career teachers

Numbers applying nationally for RE PGCE courses is very low this year nationally. This is of great concern for the future of the profession. AULRE is taking a lead on this concern nationally together with Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

g. Portsmouth religious places of worship and visitor publications:

Progress has been made with this. SACRE Chair is working with city Council School Improvement Partner to ensure a Digital PDF copy will be on the PCC website

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

.....
Signed by:



Agenda Item 11



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Wednesday 7 June 2022

Subject: National updates Report

Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of national RE events and activities since the last meeting
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the report.
3. **Background:** This report enables SACRE to be appraised of national RE matters and events
4. **NASACRE Conference**
SACRE members attended the NASACRE Conference on 24 May 2022. Their report is attached as an appendix, and they will speak to this report in the meeting.

5. Religious Education Council Annual General Meeting

The Religious Education Council (REC) is an membership organisation that brings together about 80 organisations that have an interested position in relation to religious education. It was the REC that funded and initiated the Commission on RE (CoRE) which reported in the autumn of 2018. The REC is working hard to ensure that the recommendations of the CoRE are enacted and to this end has ensured a number of funded projects in relation to a key proposal to change the name of the subject. A document in relation to this – especially for SACREs was launched at the AGM on 5th May. More details can be found here: [Projects - The Religious Education Council of England and Wales](#)

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:

Report from 24 May NASACRE Conference
by SACRE Attendees, Jane Kelly & Sam Duddles

Keynote Speaker 1 : Ed Pawson: Working Together for High Quality RE in Religion and Worldviews

The REC [Draft Handbook on Religion & Worldviews](#) was published May 2022, and is intended for syllabus writers and curriculum developers, including SACREs. It translates the REC vision for Religion and Worldviews into practical teaching resources. He argued that Religion & Worldviews is not so much a change of name as a change of approach, reflecting a more inclusive emphasis. The REC will be campaigning for a name change that reflects Britain in the twenty first century.

According to Ed, World Religions paradigm implies that religions are static, with borders, while a R&WV paradigm reflects religion in the real world. A significant number of SACRES have adopted a R&WV approach to their new agreed syllabi and the REC has received bids to write exemplar curricula.

The Handbook promotes the idea of a National Statement of Entitlement (NSE) setting out the purpose of RE, especially in light of academisation. There will be a need for clear accountability for RE, regulating standards and expectations in academies and free schools.

The REC is also campaigning for significant investment in training high quality RE teachers, and pressing the government to reinstate the ITT bursary.

Keynote Speaker 2: Richard Kueh HMI for RE: 'The substance of the curriculum'.

Richard Kueh noted the publication of 12 May 2021 produced by OFSTED which was a research review. To see this document visit this link:

[Research review series: religious education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

He mentioned that there is to be a *subject report* published but gave no information about what would be in it or when it would be published. He went on to describe the challenges of RE in a multi-religious and multi-secular society and acknowledged that poses difficulties for schools where many faith groups are represented by the school communities and the fact that it is impossible for schools to cover every faith group in a way that would be scholarly.

He described the forms of knowledge which support good practice in RE:

1) **Substantive** – content and concepts – the raw material and aspects relating to a faith group

2) **Ways of knowing** - How to know about religious and non-religious views – this is at a scholarly level.

3) **Personal knowledge** – Pupils own awareness of their own spirituality and religious/non-religious practice.

He spoke in more depth about the way schools select the curriculum and the ways that RE needs to be scholarly.

Richard Kueh elaborated further about **Substantive knowledge** and was clear that *'being inclusive is not a guarantee of high quality teaching'* and that the danger is that an overloaded curriculum can contribute to reinforcing stereotypes which is so unhelpful. His encouragement to those who teach RE is that they give themselves permission to work on the principle of *'collectively enough'* and encouraged us all think about focussing on depth of knowledge where there could be a move away from teaching "all people of this faith group believe...." To acknowledging the potential variety of ways of being e.g. *'non practising Catholics, 'secular Jews', 'cultural Muslims' and 'holding Christian values but not going to church'*. Through this approach the *'bigger picture can only be gained by depth of knowledge of RE and world views'*

He acknowledged that there is always going to be limitations to any approach. In relation to **Scholarly knowledge** this is knowledge based on research from authentic sources; he expressed the need for educators to encourage learners to take time to look more deeply into *'subject matter that is cognate and connected'* this is also something he feels is extremely important to the high quality teaching of RE. This will then mean that teachers will not make the mistake of making *'vivid claims'*. There is the danger that non specialist RE teachers have not had the opportunity to ensure their knowledge base is appropriate for the scholarly teaching of RE. He told us of a brilliant metaphor that he learned from a colleague. The danger is that *'ignorance and fear in the teaching of RE obstructs a way forward for really high quality teaching'*. His colleague gave this metaphor: Scholarship and value are found if the environment at University level is like *'percolating coffee'*. That is *'fresh coffee grounds immersed in hot water and we know it fresh coffee because it produces a distinctive identifiable aroma'* so therefore *'High quality teaching of RE needs to be like percolated fresh coffee is wonderfully percolated at University level and its rich aroma makes it way into the classroom'*. Through this connected scholarly learning the knowledge base is accurate, precise and the subject matter that is taught is authentic.

In the breakout room after his speech, the group I was with found it very difficult to answer the question we were given about approaching RE in a scholarly way and I took the opportunity to highlight Pondering time that is inserted into the Living Difference iv agreed syllabus for Hampshire schools!

Panel Questions

Paul Smalley answered a question about the White Paper, emphasising that these were his own views, not those of NASACRE. He is currently writing a paper about the impact of academisation and is concerned about the implications for RE and SACREs. He suggested that individual MATs will set their own curriculum and argued that local syllabi are already irrelevant, as some LAs share their syllabus with LAs in other areas, and many use a common syllabus. The white paper recommends regional hubs for Maths and English and this might work for RE. Wales has effectively introduced a national curriculum for RE, but he thinks that the government will be reluctant to change existing legislation. He spoke of the danger that SACREs will still be meeting in 30 years' time, but with no real purpose or responsibility.

Other: The [NASACRE website](#) has been updated.

This page is intentionally left blank