



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2023 AT 4.30 PM

ST JUDE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST NICHOLAS STREET, OLD
PORTSMOUTH PO1 2NZ

Telephone enquiries to Karen Martin 023 9284 1704

Email: karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Please note: There is parking on Pembroke Road that can be paid via cash or RingGo. If anyone wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

Membership

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

Baha'i - Elizabeth Jenkerson

Baptist - Geoff Wheeler

Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas

Humanist - Barbara Spiegelhalter

Humanist - Geoff Wade (nominated reserve)

Muslim - Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo

Methodist Church – Revd Ray Goddess

Jewish – Samuel Hilsenrath

Quaker - sarah coote

United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan

Group B Representatives - Church of England

Sue Bowen

Revd Sam Duddles

Jane Kelly

Group C Representatives - Six teachers representing the various key stages and an association recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation.

Kari Laing - Post-16 Representative

Rachael Osborne - Primary Headteacher Representative

Rachel de la Rue - Primary RE Teacher Representative

Helen Reeder - Teacher Liaison Panel Representative

Beth Smith - Secondary School Representative

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

Taki Jaffer
Councillor Benedict Swann
Councillor Asghar Shah
Councillor Abdul Kadir

Co-opted members

Jessie Wilson - Council of Portsmouth Students representative

(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

A G E N D A

Presentation

Short presentation by Victoria Nash, RE Leader, St Jude's CE Primary School on 'Making RE Engaging'

1 Welcome and Introductions

2 Moment for Quiet Reflection

3 Apologies for Absence

4 Declarations of Members' Interest

5 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 2 November 2022 (Pages 5 - 12)

To agree the draft minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2022.

6 Matters Arising from the minutes

To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2022.

7 Monitoring Group report (Pages 13 - 18)

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 22

February 2023.

Members shared ways to widen the membership of the group and the Terms of Reference for the monitoring group were discussed. The group received updates on professional RE education, monitoring the effectiveness of RE and an update of results from the GCSE examination series in 2022. Further updates on the 2021 census results on religion, the monitoring survey for RE and Collective Worship and the recent website monitoring activity for Local Authority schools was discussed.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1. That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting and requests SACRE volunteers to join the Monitoring Group in the Summer term 2023.**
- 2. That SACRE notes the amended Terms of Reference for the Monitoring Group and approves them (attached as Appendix A).**

8 Membership and Training report (Pages 19 - 34)

Purpose: To receive a report on membership, training and associated matters.

Recommended that SACRE:

- a) Considers the establishment of a membership working group to:**
 - i) Review the 2021 Census (see Appendix A) in relation to ensuring that the membership of the Portsmouth SACRE appropriately reflects the principal religious traditions or beliefs in our area.**
 - ii) Consider outreach and other methods to attract new faith and education representatives to the SACRE, noting that the Council shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the nominees are a representative of the religion, denomination or association in question.**
 - iii) Report back to the SACRE on actions and progress to widen representation of the SACRE.**
- c) Agrees to contact SACRE members who have not attended three consecutive meetings.**
- e) Nominates a named representative to the Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP).**
- f) Seeks up to two representatives to attend the NASACRE Conference and AGM on 22 May 2023.**
- g) Considers the adoption of the NASACRE Code of Conduct (or an amended version).**

9 National and Local RE Matters (Pages 35 - 36)

Purpose of report: The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key national and local RE developments.

Recommendations: That SACRE notes the report.

10 Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting

11 Date and venue of the next meeting and future meeting dates

It is intended all meetings will take place at 4.30pm at a place of worship or school. If no venue is available, meetings will take place remotely on Teams.

The next meeting will take place at **4.30pm on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at Al Mahdi Centre, Fontley Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 6QR**

Proposed future meeting dates are:

Wednesday 1 November 2023

Wednesday 20 March 2024

Wednesday 12 June 2024

Wednesday 6 November 2024

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.

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 2 November 2022 at 4:00pm at the Portsmouth College, Tangier Road, Portsmouth.

Present

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

Baptist - Geoff Wheeler
Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas
Methodist Church – Revd Ray Goddess
Quaker - sarah coote
United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan

Group B Representatives - Church of England

Sue Bowen
Revd Sam Duddles (Chair)

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 (Vice Chair)
Rachael Osborne - Primary Headteacher Representative
Beth Smith - Secondary School Representative

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

Taki Jaffer
Councillor Benedict Swann
Councillor Asghar Shah

Also in attendance:

Justine Ball, Professional Advisor
Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement
Karen Martin, Local Democracy Officer, SACRE Clerk

24. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

The Revd Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25. Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies had been received from Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A), Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo (Group A), Jane Kelly (Group B), Rachel de la Rue (Group

C) and Jessi Wilson, CoPS (Co-opted). The following had offered apologies for lateness Taki Jaffer (Group D).

26. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 3)

The moment for quiet reflection was taken by Revd Sam Duddles which considered the cost-of-living crisis and the pressures on children in the community.

27. Declarations of Members' Interest (AI 4)

There were none.

28. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 7 June 2022 (AI 5)

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022 as an accurate record.

29. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 6)

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting on 7 June 2022.

30. Chair's announcements (AI 7)

There were no announcements from the Chair.

31. Monitoring Group (AI 8)

Justine Ball, SACRE Professional Advisor, introduced the report which had been circulated with the agenda. She informed the SACRE that she would be holding a training session on 8 December (on Teams) for anyone wishing to know more about the SACRE and Living Difference IV, particularly new SACRE members.

Justine Ball informed those present that the Monitoring Group is a sub-committee of the SACRE and she asked if members of the SACRE would be interested in joining the group. It meets three times a year on Teams shortly before the main SACRE meeting.

Justine Ball highlighted the following from the report:

- A full analysis of GCSE RE results will be provided at the next SACRE meeting in March 2023.
- The Monitoring Group has been considering website monitoring, a template devised by the Head of School Improvement would be used and feedback will be provided at the next meeting.
- Primary RE Network meetings take place termly and are well established. It was suggested that additional RE teachers could be encouraged to join through RE News which is free for schools.
- It is hoped that a recent free of charge CPD offer for Portsmouth Primary schools at Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral on diversity in Christian traditions will be extended to other religions. It was noted however, that additional funding would need to be sought to repeat the event.
- NASACRE is holding a training event on 17 November on the 'Opportunities for all' White Paper (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/opportunity-for-all-strong->

[schools-with-great-teachers-for-your-child](#)) and this is free to SACRE members to attend (contact Karen Martin, SACRE Clerk). It was also noted that a debate on this has been initiated and that back bench Members of Parliament had held an event at Westminster Hall earlier in the week.

- Ofsted reports are monitored for references to RE, but it is not often mentioned and it was noted that inspection reports are written for parents not schools.
- Monitoring Collective Worship is one of the responsibilities of the SACRE.
- The lack of recruitment of students into studying RE at secondary level was of concern and it was noted that Winchester University now only offers PGSEs in Humanities rather than RE as a separate subject.

Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement confirmed that:

- Detailed information on GCSE results was not yet available.
- Website monitoring would not add pressure to schools which was a positive benefit of this form of monitoring.
- Primary RE Network meetings are funded out of the School Improvement Budget which she manages.
- Collective Worship is not specifically assessed as part of Ofsted inspections, although Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural (SMSC) development is in the inspection framework and information about this is available online.
- It was not in the Ofsted framework to look for fundamental British Values in Collective Worship and she believed it was a fallacy that inspectors were unable to go into Collective Worship unless specifically invited by headteachers.

The Chair commented on the recent CPD event at the Cathedral, stating that the event had unpacked different perspectives of Christianity and that RE teachers attending the event had realised this could be a template for all faiths. As a result of the event, she had been invited into several Portsmouth schools.

Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A) asked if the SACRE could ask NASACRE for support in monitoring Collective Worship. Sue Bowen noted that Collective Worship policies were included on school websites and could be monitored this way.

In relation to RE specific PGCEs, Beth Smith (Group C) noted that she had completed her PGCE in RE at Winchester (before the change to Humanities) and it was very beneficial for her to do it in RE only, especially as it attracted a bursary which has now been removed. She added the bursary had made a big difference to her personally and noted that an umbrella title of 'humanities' would inevitably mean less time being given to RE in schools.

The Chair reported on progress made with the Portsmouth Places of Worship Directory, stating that it is now on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website and had been shared with Hampshire. She added that it aimed to provide teachers with easy access to places of worship, highlighted the golden threads set out in Living Difference IV and informs places of worship what kind

of visits school expect. Justine Ball reported that it had been welcomed as a useful resource at the recent CPD event held at the Cathedral.

Taki Jaffer (Group D) arrived 5.12pm

SACRE members had been asked to read pages 105-107 of the syllabus at <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/HIAS/living-difference-IV-2021.pdf> before the meeting to inform the discussion around the approach to religion in Living Difference IV. Justine Ball noted that what makes high quality RE is clearly defined in the syllabus and the Appendix draws attention to what is important in teaching RE and emphasises that there are many different views on what it means to be religious and non religious.

Kari Lang (Group C) noted that the Portsmouth College, following a re-branding of RE as Philosophy RE and Ethics, had seen the numbers of students enrolling on the subject increase by 300% and parental resistance to what was previously considered a 'non-academic' subject had reduced even though the syllabus was unchanged. She explained that some pupils who had studied RE at GCSE did not want to go on to further RE studies until the re-branding. Beth Smith (Group C) agreed that there was a need to change perceptions and that parents of Year 6 pupils (for Year 7 next year) asked 'what is the point of RE?' Justine Ball noted that the Cullum St Gabriel Trust features several films on 'Why study RE?' on its website at [Homepage - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://Homepage - Culham St Gabriel's (cstg.org.uk).).

Geoff Wheeler (Group A) enquired about parent and pupil rights to opt out of RE and Collective Worship. Justine Ball explained that there is a parental right to withdraw their child from all of or parts of RE and/ or Collective Worship until age 16, when the right to withdraw becomes the child's right. Taki Jaffer (Group D) noted that breaking down perceptions about religious differences can help reduce the number of withdrawals.

As SACRE Professional Advisor for Hampshire and IoW SACRE's, Justine Ball noted that she had used a survey form to help monitor withdrawals which could be adapted for use in Portsmouth.

ACTIONS:

- i) Encourage RE teachers in primary schools to attend Primary Network meetings through RE News.**
- ii) SACRE members wishing to join the Monitoring Group should contact Karen Martin, SACRE Clerk.**
- iii) Website monitoring will be actioned and feedback provided at the next SACRE meeting (28 March 2023).**
- iv) Professional Advisor to consider survey to monitor withdrawals in Portsmouth.**

32. Membership report (AI 9)

The Chair welcomed Justine Ball as SACRE's new Professional Advisor and Revd Ray Goddess (Group A), Beth Smith (Group C) and Councillors Ashgar Shah and Benedict Swann (Group D) to their first SACRE meeting.

Justine Ball reported that the SACRE was looking for Roman Catholic, Buddhist and Hindu representatives to join Group A and an additional Church of England member to join Group B of the SACRE. There is also a vacancy in Group C for an Early Years representative. Councillor Benedict Swann reported that he was aware that efforts were being made to recruit a Catholic representative.

The Chair reported that she had recently met with Jessie Wilson (Council of Portsmouth Students) about the role of a young person from CoPS to work with SACRE. This will be developed further but was likely to be as a diversity advisor for CoPS and schools with the aim of developing an inter faith event, enhance student voice and tackle topics such as how to articulate faith. The Chair reported that there would be a follow-up meeting in January. Taki Jaffer (Group D) stated that he would like to support the young person as the role was developed.

Justine Ball highlighted training opportunities for SACRE members organised by NASACRE (see flyer circulated for the meeting), noting that these are free for Portsmouth members. She also reminded members that there would be a training session on 8 December 2022 and this would include a briefing on Living Difference IV.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **Note that Debbie Lucas, Secondary School representative (Group C) resigned on 10 October 2022 and thank her for her significant contribution to the Portsmouth SACRE in recent years.**
- b) **Appoint Beth Smith (Mayfield School) as Secondary School representative (Group C).**
- c) **Appoint Rachel De La Rue (Cottage Grove School) as Primary Teacher Representative.**
- d) **Welcomed Justine Ball, SACRE's new Professional Advisor.**
- a) **Welcomed Councillors Abdul Kadir, Ashgar Shah and Benedict Swann to the Portsmouth SACRE following their appointment to Group D by the Cabinet (21 June 2022).**
- b) **Noted Taki Jaffer was reappointed to Group D as a Local Authority representative by the Cabinet on 21 June 2022.**

ACTIONS:

- i) **Training opportunities offered by NASACRE are free to SACRE members and anyone wishing to attend should contact Karen Martin, Clerk.**
- ii) **Training will be added to the agenda as a standing item for future SACRE meetings.**
- iii) **SACRE members wishing to attend the event being organised for 8 December 2022 by Justine Ball should contact Karen Martin, Clerk.**

33. SACRE Annual Report 2021-22 (AI 10)

Justine Ball introduced the SACRE Annual Report 2021-22 which she stated covers the last academic year and the summer 2021 exam results.

The Chair enquired if a recess would be necessary for the Groups to confer before a vote on whether to agree the Annual Report. After brief consultation it was noted that this would not be necessary, and members of each Group present indicated their agreement to accept the Report as an accurate reflection of the work undertaken during the academic year 2021-22.

RESOLVED to agree the Portsmouth SACRE Annual Report 2021-22 subject to the correction of typographical errors.

ACTIONS:

- i) **SACRE Clerk to arrange for publication on the SACRE page of the PCC website at [Browse meetings - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education \(SACRE\) Portsmouth City Council](#)**
- ii) **Head of School Improvement to arrange for the Annual Report to be published on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website at [Home - Portsmouth Education Partnership](#)**
- iii) **SACRE Professional Advisor to arrange circulation to the distribution list set out in Appendix C of the Annual Report.**

34. National RE matters (AI 11)

Justine Ball introduced the item highlighting recent debates about Worldviews and Religious Education in National Training events including:

- RExchange, a teaching RE conference and the research behind it, had taken place recently and would be run again in two years.
- The annual National RE leadership programme by Cullum St Gabriel which helps fund places for people to be trained as RE leaders and advisor. Recruitment opens in January. Kari Lang and Beth Smith (Group C) expressed an interest in the programme. It was agreed that the link would be shared, and the Head of School Improvement would also share it through the Portsmouth Education Partnership website and Justine Ball will promote to the Primary Network. See link at: [Blog - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](#)
- Farmington Scholarships are available to headteachers and UK secondary and primary school RE teachers, teachers of RE to children with Special Educational Needs for funded time to research an aspect of RE to impact children in the classroom. Further information available at [Farmington Scholarships – Farmington Institute](#)
- The NASACRE Conference will take place in London on 22 May 2023. SACRE members interested in attending should contact the Clerk initially. SACRE will refund reasonable expenses (discussed in advance) relating to the conference.

ACTIONS:

- i) **Members wishing to attend the NASACRE Conference on May 2023 should contact the Clerk with an expression of interest.**

35. South Central SACRE Hub (AI 12)

Justine Ball introduced the item, stating that the South-Central SACRE RE Hub met termly as an informal online gathering to share ideas, resources and to discuss matters of interest. She added that at the last meeting topics had included:

- Ideas for RE monitoring including sharing templates for monitoring.
- The White paper and the future of RE and SACREs
- Monitoring questions for undertaking visits in schools relating to RE and Collective Worship
- Diversity in RE

Justine Ball noted that the next meeting will take place in January 2023 and that everyone from the SACRE would be welcome to join.

ACTIONS:

- SACRE members wishing to attend the South Central SACRE Hub meeting to contact Justine Ball for the link.**

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

It was agreed that the opportunity to meet face to face was very welcome. Possible venues for future meetings included the Wessex Jamaat Al Mahdi Centre in Fareham and St Jude's CE Primary School. Kari Lang informed the SACRE that it was welcome to return to the Portsmouth College in the future.

SACRE noted the following meeting dates:

- South Central SACRE Hub - January 2023 (virtual)**
- Monitoring Group meeting - 4.00pm on 22 February (on Teams)**
- SACRE Meeting - 4.30pm on 28 March 2023 (venue to be confirmed)**

The meeting concluded at 5.57pm:

This page is intentionally left blank



Agenda Item 7



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 28 March 2023

Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report

Report by: Justine Ball, SACRE Advisor

- 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 22 February 2023.

Members shared ways to widen the membership of the group and the Terms of Reference for the monitoring group were discussed. The group received updates on professional RE education, monitoring the effectiveness of RE and an update of results from the GCSE examination series in 2022. Further updates on the 2021 census results on religion, the monitoring survey for RE and Collective Worship and the recent website monitoring activity for Local Authority schools was discussed.

- 2. Recommendations:**

That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting and requests SACRE volunteers to join the Monitoring Group in the Summer term 2023.

That SACRE notes the amended Terms of Reference for the Monitoring Group and approves them (attached as Appendix A).

- 3. Background:** The Monitoring Group met at 4.00pm on 22 February 2023.

Present: Sam Duddles (SACRE Chair and group B), Jane Kelly (group B), Elizabeth Jenkerson (A), Taki Jaffer (group D) and Councillor Asghar Shah (group D)

Also in attendance: Justine Ball (SACRE Professional Advisor), Debbie Anderson (Head of School Improvement), Chris May (Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE), and Karen Martin (SACRE Clerk).

Apologies were received from Kari Lang (Group C) and Councillor Benedict Swann (Group D).

- 4. Inspector/Adviser Updates:**

Monitoring Group Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the group were reviewed and updated by the group.



It was agreed that the Terms of Reference for the group and a draft SACRE Code of Conduct¹ for all members would be circulated to the full SACRE to be reviewed and agreed at the next full SACRE meeting. Once reviewed and agreed by the membership, all members would be invited to sign it (as will new members). The Code of Conduct will then be circulated at the Autumn Term SACRE meeting each year for collective agreement.

5. Updates on Portsmouth 2022 GCSE Religious Studies examinations

Chris May informed the Group that there had been a drop in GCSE RE entries nationally and this was of concern. Following discussion, it was noted that only one school in the city was currently entering students for GCSE RE. Schools faced pressure to deliver good results in core subjects and this may be a contributing factor in dropping numbers studying GCSE RS in this area (there was a small increase of 1.7% nationally). It was also noted that nationally and in this area, there is a lack of trainee RE teachers and that RE has arguably a higher proportion of non-specialists teaching RE than other subjects. This is likely to have an impact on teaching to GCSE level.

Justine Ball noted dropping numbers of RE specialist teachers was a national concern. The Association of University Lecturers in RE (AULRE) and the National RE Council were raising awareness of the benefits of teaching RE.

It was agreed that the RE Lead at St Jude's CE Primary School be invited to give a short presentation on how she makes RE engaging before the full SACRE meeting in March.

6. School Website Monitoring

A review of the Local Authority (LA) school websites had been undertaken by members of the group and the results were discussed. It was noted that:

- A large majority of LA schools published a statement about how RE was taught on their websites.
- Over three quarters referred to Living Difference IV (LDIV) and provided a link.
- Generally, schools showed some progression in RE, though in some places it would have benefited from more information.
- Only one third of schools referred to the right to withdraw though it was acknowledged in the meeting that it is not required to publish an RE policy on a school website.
- The information on Collective Worship (CW) tended to be less than RE and only one third of schools published a CW policy on their website (again not a requirement).
- Although British Values is still required, it was given less emphasis.
- Notwithstanding this, two third of LA schools highlighted British Values on their website.

¹ Attached as **Appendix C** to the Membership and Training Report



- Some of the websites were difficult to navigate and it was hard to find information.
- It was also acknowledged that schools may well have policies for RE and CW which are not on their website.

7. Other sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE:

The Inspector/adviser reported that there were very few mentions for RE specifically in the Ofsted reports for Portsmouth. One school had received an RE deep dive and this was a positive experience for the RE leader who had provided feedback to the SACRE adviser on this.

8. Monitoring RE and Collective Worship (CW) Survey:

A survey had been sent to Headteachers of LA maintained schools on 20 February. The survey will also be included in the Portsmouth Education Partnership newsletter on 24 February and all schools will be invited to submit returns. The survey sought information including: the number of pupils on roll, how many are withdrawn for all or parts of RE, how many are withdrawn for all or parts of CW and what further advice/ help schools would like.

A summary report will be produced once all the responses have been received.

9. School visits:

School visits were discussed. These had a focus on the RE curriculum to explore how the subject is engaging, meaningful and interesting for all children. Work was discussed mapping golden threads in schools to ensure more rigour, show progression and be engaging.

Revd Sam Duddles offered to help with school visits by visiting herself or finding others to visit. She noted that she is in the process of launching a community project including working on a sanctuary garden with a pizza oven to feed local people.

10. UK Census 2021

Justine Ball introduced a report on religious activity in our area drawn from the 2021 UK Census, which had been prepared and circulated. She stated that she shared this information with schools at the recent RE network.

It was agreed that looking for, and promoting, positive examples of faith in the community could be developed through the full SACRE before being shared with RE teachers (through Networks and school visits), noting that this would tie in with the golden threads in the Living Difference IV syllabus.

This page is intentionally left blank



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MONITORING GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Role and purpose of the SACRE Monitoring Group

The SACRE Monitoring Group is a **working** group that exists to support Portsmouth SACRE to fulfil its duty to monitor the effectiveness of the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus.

2. Scope of the SACRE Monitoring Group

The SACRE Monitoring Group will scrutinise **in confidence**, for example, the following information in a rotation through the year and other information as required in order to fulfil the purpose of the group:

- Findings of Ofsted visits where religious education is mentioned
- GCSE Data
- Findings of SACRE Monitoring visits to primary and secondary schools
- Findings from targeted school improvement visits to schools **by Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance** (on behalf of the LA)
- Quantitative and qualitative Surveys of those using the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus
- Findings from the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
- Findings from the Prevent Education Officer/ Prevent Officer

Meetings of the SACRE Monitoring Group will be held in private.

The SACRE Monitoring Group will provide regular feedback to the full SACRE.

The SACRE Monitoring Group will encourage and oversee peer reviews between schools.

3. Membership

Members of the Monitoring Group will be appointed by the Chair of SACRE and will normally include:

- (a) Chair and/or vice Chair of SACRE
- (b) Officers to SACRE
- (c) Members from each of the four groups of which SACRE is comprised

Additional members may be **appointed co-opted** as appropriate eg. Prevent Education Officer/ Prevent Officer.



The Monitoring Group will appoint its own Chair.

4. Method

The SACRE Monitoring Group will meet once each term to consider evidence that will support SACRE in reaching a judgement regarding the effectiveness of the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus at any point in time. Where the Monitoring Group requires more information to pursue the purpose of the group, and as outlined in the scope, such information will be requested.

5. Meetings

The SACRE Monitoring Group will hold three meetings a year sufficiently in advance of the full SACRE meeting to be able to prepare a report for the full SACRE meeting.

6. Code of Conduct

Any Members of the monitoring group shall comply with the Portsmouth City Council Code of Conduct applicable to members

7. Confidentiality

All information, whether written or oral, shared at meetings of the Monitoring Group shall be confidential to the Group.

8. Reporting

The Monitoring Group will provide regular written report to Portsmouth SACRE on the matters that are within the scope of the group. Such reports will be in the public domain and should be finalised in time to allow the publishing of the reports with the full SACRE agenda.



Agenda Item 8



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 28 March 2023

Subject: Membership and Member Training Report

Report by: Justine Ball, Portsmouth SACRE Advisor

1. Purpose of report:

This report updates SACRE regarding its membership, training and other opportunities for the membership.

2. 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 is continuing to develop its collaborative work between the Council for Portsmouth Student (CoPS) and SACRE.

3. Recommended that SACRE:

a) Considers the establishment of a membership working group to:

- i) Review the 2021 Census (see Appendix A) in relation to ensuring that the membership of the Portsmouth SACRE appropriately reflects the principal religious traditions or beliefs in our area.**
- ii) Consider outreach and other methods to attract new faith and education representatives to the SACRE, noting that the Council shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the nominees are a representative of the religion, denomination or association in question.**
- iii) Report back to the SACRE on actions and progress to widen representation of the SACRE.**

c) Agrees to contact SACRE members who have not attended three consecutive meetings.

e) Nominates a named representative to the Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP).



- f) **Seeks up to two representatives to attend the NASACRE Conference and AGM on 22 May 2023.**
- g) **Considers the adoption of the NASACRE Code of Conduct (or an amended version).**

4. Current SACRE Vacancies:

Group A	Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Office, Buddhist, Hindu, Salvation Army, Islam and other Christian denominations (1 each)
Group B	CofE representative (1)
Group C	Early Years representative (1)
Group D	None (0) - current appointees may be subject to change following the local elections in May 2023 and appointments will be confirmed at the Cabinet meeting in June 2023.

5. Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP)

The SACRE has been asked to nominate a representative for the PCSP Main Board. The aim is to appoint a suitable representative from faith communities (other than Anglican diocese which is already represented) to attend the PCSP.

The commitment is to attend four 3 hour meetings per year, to read the agenda and papers ahead of the meeting and be prepared to join in discussion relating to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Portsmouth. Where appropriate the PCSP would ask the representative to speak to members of their community prior to these discussions so that their contribution is representative of them as a whole (rather than a personal opinion). Similarly, the PCSP would like the representative to take back any relevant information to disseminate to their community while understanding the limitations of confidentiality and that occasionally there may be conversations that they are asked not to share.

6. NASACRE Conference and AGM

The NASACRE Conference and AGM will take place at Fishmongers' Hall, London on Monday 22 May 2023 (10.30am to 3.30pm). The theme is 'Celebrating 30 years: SACRE's for the future. In addition to attending the event on the day, each delegate may choose to attend two virtual workshops between 5-15 June. Further details about the Conference, AGM and workshops are attached as **Appendix B**.

Please note that members of NASACRE are also being asked to nominate someone who has had a significant impact on their local SACRE.

7. Code of Conduct (Minute 20, meeting of 7 June 2022)

At the SACRE meeting held on 7 June 2022, it was agreed "to consider a draft Code of Conduct at a future meeting." At that meeting, Patricia Hannam (the then SACRE Advisor) informed those present that SACRE representatives are sometimes invited into schools as a SACRE representative or in another capacity as a faith representative. She explained that it was important for faith representatives to be clear about the basis of their visit and that it may be useful for the SACRE to consider



agreeing a Code of Conduct to cover such visits. NASACRE has produced a template Code of Conduct, and this is attached as **Appendix C** for comment.

8. SACRE training:

a) Attendance at training events since the last meeting:

NASACRE	7-8pm, 17 November 2022	SACREs – a way forward...? (White Paper) Chaired by Linda Rudge and Paul Smalley Special guest: Charles Clarke	Christine McMillan (Group A) Jane Kelly (Group B) Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D) Please see feedback form attached as Appendix D
NASACRE	7-8pm, 6 December 2022	How to effectively use pupil and teacher voice in your SACRE? Hosted by Sukaina Manji and Claire Clinton	Sam Duddles (Group B)
NASACRE	7-8.30pm, 19 January 2023	Being an effective Chair part 2 Chaired by Linda Rudge	Sam Duddles (Group B)
NASACRE	4-5.30pm, 21 February 2023	Being an effective SACRE Clerk Hosted by Exec members	Karen Martin (Clerk)
NASACRE	7-8pm, 14 March 2023	What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations? Hosted by Lesley Prior	Christine McMillan (Group A)

b) Forthcoming training events:

NASACRE	7-8.30pm, 26 June 2023	So, you've joined your local SACRE...	Christine McMillan (Group A)
---------	------------------------	--	------------------------------



		Hosted by Exec members	Please see NASACRE training flyer attached as Appendix E
--	--	------------------------	---

- c) A date for SACRE training for new members as well as for existing members who would like to update themselves about Living Difference IV has been arranged by Hampshire SACRE for **Monday 17 April 2023 at 10.00am on Teams**.
- d) Portsmouth SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE's annual training programme so that all its members may join any of its virtual training sessions FREE.

Please contact the SACRE Clerk, Karen Martin at karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk to sign up for training sessions.

2021 Census Results

The recent national and different local results on religion from the census can be found at this link:

[Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/religiousbeliefsandethnics/bulletins/religiousbeliefsandethnicsinenglandandwales/2021)

The key headline results were that:

- Less than half of the population (46.2%, 27.5 million people) described themselves as “Christian”, a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% (33.3 million) in 2011; despite this decrease, “Christian” remained the most common response to the religion question.
- “No religion” was the second most common response, increasing by 12.0 percentage points to 37.2% (22.2 million) from 25.2% (14.1 million) in 2011.
- There were increases across other religious groups.

Portsmouth In the Census

47.1% have no religion (higher % than the national)

39.4% are Christian (lower % than the national)

4.9% are Muslim

0.8% are Hindu

0.5% are Buddhist

0.2% are Sikh

0.1% are Jewish

0.6% are Other Religion

We will discuss the data and using this in RE training with teachers and when considering the RE curriculum in Monitoring Group meetings.

This page is intentionally left blank



2023: SACREs for the Future

Celebrating 30 years: SACREs for the Future

Date: Monday, 22 May 2023

Time: 10:30am -15:30pm

Venue: [Fishmongers' Hall, London](#)

Twitter tag: #NASACRE2023

After three years of being unable to meet face to face, we are delighted that we shall finally be able to hold our Conference in London and catch up with colleagues and friends – old and new!

We aim to bring together many RE professionals, academics and those who champion RE and support SACREs, to celebrate **30 years of NASACRE** – our **Pearl Anniversary**.

The programme for the conference can be found [here](#).

Pricing: Prices are per delegate – maximum 2 per SACRE, after which a waiting list will be offered.

Subscribed SACREs:

£120 per delegate. Each delegate may choose 2 virtual workshops delivered in June.

Bonus deal for subscribed SACREs

For £170, one delegate at conference plus 2 additional SACRE members (not attending conference) may each choose 2 virtual workshops in June.

Non-subscribed SACREs:

£160 per delegate. Each delegate may choose 2 virtual workshops delivered in June.

WORKSHOPS

Each delegate may choose 2 [virtual workshops](#) delivered between Monday 5 June to Thursday 15 June '23. You will be asked for your workshop preferences once you have booked a place at the conference.

ELECTIONS

At the AGM, we hope to elect our Vice Chair, and we have vacancies for up to 5 Executive members. This is a golden opportunity for your SACRE members to offer to contribute their skills and experience to the work of NASACRE. SACREs may nominate up to 2 candidates for election. Further details of the roles and nomination forms may be found [here](#). Nominations to secretary@nasacre.org.uk must be received by **5pm on Friday, 12 May 2023**.

AWARDS

We'll be celebrating 30 years as an organisation, and as part of that, we'd like to recognise SACRE members who have played a special part in the life of your SACRE over the last 30 years. We will share a PowerPoint at the Conference and later upload it to our website.

We're inviting SACREs to nominate, with a photo (jpeg) of the nominee and your reasons for selecting them. (Please ensure you have permission for us to display the image.)

Kindly nominate your member(s), past and present, under the 2 following categories:

- Most active SACRE member
- A SACRE member who has made a significant impact in your area

Please send any nominations via email to: admin@nasacre.org.uk by **5pm on Friday, 12 May 2023**.

30 YEAR MEMORY TIMELINE

To mark the 30 years celebration, we ask SACREs to send in photo/s (jpeg), so we can play a presentation during arrival and break time.

Any SACRE wishing to add their memories must send photos with a short message by **5pm on Friday, 12 May 2023**, via email to: admin@nasacre.org.uk.

This page is intentionally left blank

Code of conduct

This generic code of conduct has been drawn together from consideration of various existing codes and provides an example for SACREs to use or adapt.

General principles

xxxxx SACRE encourages all its members to:

- attend all SACRE meetings and take a full and active part in its work
- participate in and review the work of SACRE for the benefit of the whole community
- listen with respect to the views of other members and where a situation of disagreement occurs, disagree respectfully
- express views and opinions openly, honestly and sensitively, always recognising others may have views different to one's own
- assume at all times that other members of SACRE are honourable and concerned with the best interests of SACRE
- seek reasoned consensus where views diverge and never disrespect the views of other SACRE members or seek to convert them to a different belief stance
- actively consult with, and report back to, the membership body which they represent so that debate is fully informed
- actively challenge and resist stereotyping

Remember that the central aim for the SACRE is to improve the quality of provision in RE and collective worship for all pupils in xxxxx.

Visiting schools

From time to time, SACRE members may have the opportunity to visit schools.

SACRE Members should remember that it is a privilege to visit a school. They are there as invited guests, not to make judgements about the school or to “inspect” RE and collective worship.

Members should:

- only visit a school when invited
- inform the Clerk of SACRE and the SACRE's RE Professional of any invitation received and visits made
- ensure that you do not say or do anything, which could be viewed as denigrating any religion or ethical belief system

- avoid being critical of others or imposing their own views
- any confidential information disclosed should not be passed on but along with any possible concerns or confusions about what may have been seen should be discussed with the LA Officer and RE Professional before being reported back to SACRE

Visiting schools as a representative of a faith community

Some faith community representatives may be more regular visitors to schools and invited to support RE and/or collective worship.

Visitors should be well-supported by the class teacher who should always be present, taking an active role in question and answer sessions, and ensuring visitors are well-briefed before a visit.

SACRE members visiting a school to share their beliefs, values and experiences should:

- have a clear, mutually agreed understanding of the purpose of the visit before it takes place
- appreciate that they are not there to convert or proselytise, avoiding being critical of others or imposing their own views
- be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies in RE and collective worship;
- have an understanding of where the lesson will fit into the unit of work from the Agreed Syllabus and what the learning objectives are
- use a variety of teaching and learning methods and approaches, but at no time touch pupils or behave favourably towards pupils of particular faiths, ethnic groups or genders
- ensure that pupils understand that the visitor is representing a particular faith view and their own personal interpretation of it and therefore that others from the same faith may not always interpret ideas in exactly the same ways
- ensure that they do not say or do anything, which could be viewed as denigrating
- communicate at an appropriate level for the age group concerned

NASACRE 2022-23

virtual training programme



22 September 2022, 7-8:30pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...*

Hosted by Denise Chaplin & Claire Clinton

Free online session

13 October 2022, 7-8:30pm: *Applying and gaining for Westhill/NASACRE award*

Chaired by Linda Rudge & Anne Andrews

Free online session

17 November 2022, 7-8pm: *SACREs – a way forward...?*

Chaired by Linda Rudge and Paul Smalley

Special guest: Charles Clarke

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

6 December 2022, 7-8pm: *How to effectively use pupil and teacher voice in your SACRE?*

Hosted by Sukaina Manji and Claire Clinton

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

19 January 2023, 7-8:30pm: *Being an effective Chair part 2*

Chaired by Linda Rudge

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

21 February 2023, 4-5:30pm: *Being an effective SACRE Clerk*

Hosted by Exec members

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

14 March 2023, 7-8pm: *What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations?*

Hosted by Lesley Prior

£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

26 June 2023, 7-8:30pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...*

Hosted by Exec members

Free online session

Subscribed member SACREs can get unlimited access for their entire SACRE membership to each and every webinar for an annual one off £50 fee!

Feedback from last year's training:

"Great way to see and be part of the bigger picture."

"I think the programme has been excellent this year, relevant and well paced. Circulating materials afterwards has been productive and a useful aide memoire."

To book a place on any session, or to purchase our training package, please email admin@nasacre.org.uk

Visit our training and support page on the NASACRE website for more information
www.nasacre.org.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



SACRE Training Feedback Form

Training provider	NASACRE
Course title	SACREs – a way forward...? Chaired by Linda Rudge and Paul Smalley Special guest: Charles Clarke
Date	17 November 2022
Your name	Jane Kelly

Please provide a short summary of your experience of the session and sharing any information/ learning you feel would benefit other members of the Portsmouth SACRE.

This was an update on the implications for SACREs and NASACRE of the government's white paper on academisation.

Charles Clark MP (patron of NASACRE) noted that since the white paper was published, the government has been in a period of instability and that they are very unlikely to make any changes before the next general election. The current education secretary, Gillian Keegan, is focussing on technical education and skills rather than the academisation agenda. Equally it is highly unlikely that there will be any changes to Collective Worship legislation before the next election.

In the meantime SACREs should focus on the quality of RE education and the RWV (religion & worldviews) curriculum, and try to keep the needs of RE on the agenda (e.g. the problems with teacher training and teacher supply.)

Linda Rudge and Claire Clinton shared that the DFE and NASACRE have regular meetings and that they are particularly interested in SACRE annual reports. Local SACRES were encouraged to use these to celebrate good practice locally, e.g. work on religious literacy and preventing extremism. SACREs were also encouraged to upload any useful documents onto the [NASACRE shared space](#), e.g. advice on Ramadan or withdrawal letters.

There was a discussion about the proposed national standards for RE and it was noted that funding and effectiveness of SACREs across the country is a very mixed picture. Stephen Pett and the RE Council have produced a [report](#) on a worldviews approach to RE, which could be a way forward.

They also discussed the possibility of forming regional SACREs, which would help with resourcing RE support. Local SACREs often don't have the capacity to support and monitor RE.

It was a useful information session, although it was acknowledged that at the moment we can only speculate about the schools bill and the future of RE.



The questions below may help structure your feedback:

- Did the session meet your expectations (if yes, how/ if no, why not?)
- How engaging would you say the overall content was?
- Was the content in-depth enough/ would you like to learn more about this topic?
- Would you recommend this session to a SACRE colleague?
- Do you feel that your knowledge or skills have improved?
- How do you think your contribution to the Portsmouth SACRE will benefit?
- Any other useful information.



Agenda Item 9



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 28 March 2023

Subject: SACRE National and Local RE Matters Report

Report by: Justine Ball, SACRE Advisor

1. Purpose of report: The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key national and local RE developments.

2. Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the report.

3. Executive Summary:

This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national development, for example the work of the Religious Education Council (REC) and NASACRE as well as the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

4. Culham St Gabriel's Trust initiatives: Portsmouth SACRE members will be interested in several initiatives that are being funded by the Culham St Gabriel's trust; the largest grant giving body supporting religious education [Homepage - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://www.cstg.org.uk) .

These include:

- (i) The National RE Leadership programme: for RE teachers who are beginning on their journey of RE advising. The deadline for this is the end of March 2023 and the link for stage 1 and for stage 2 of the programme is here: [Leadership Scholarship Programme - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://www.cstg.org.uk)
 - (ii) Promotional films for RE events, such as parents' open evenings, teacher CPD and SACRE work. The link for the films is here: [Promotional film collection - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://www.cstg.org.uk)
 - (iii) Parental survey on RE: Parent's views on RE can be found here: [Parent Survey - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://www.cstg.org.uk)
 - (iv) REONLINE: a significant website for teachers offering among other things support for subject knowledge enhancement: [Home - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](https://www.reonline.org.uk)
- 5. The National RE Hubs Project** is a new national project that aims to create a national RE website to link Local Authorities, Universities, SACREs, Museums, ITT providers, RE groups and RE advisors across England and Wales. The website will have 9 English regions and 1 for Wales. Each area will have events, regional RE



news, RE blogs, job vacancies, resource centres, places of interest and school speakers and space for local groups. The project has offered free places of interest and school speaker training with dates throughout the year and further information can be found here [RegionalREHubs training \(natre.org.uk\)](https://natre.org.uk). The Primary RE adviser is the South East lead for this project.

6. The Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) is still leading on the matter of issues in relation to Secondary Initial Teacher Education (ITE). Recruitment for 2022/23 is considerably reduced and efforts are ongoing to ensure increased recruitment for 2023/24 intake. AULRE is raising awareness of this issue nationally and working with a range of groups to increase numbers on RE and ITE courses.
7. National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). NASACRE is the national body representing and leading on SACREs interests. A regular newsletter is circulated to SACRE members through their SACRE. In addition, a series of training sessions are offered for SACRE members to attend. The NASACRE Annual Conference and AGM will be held on 22 May 2023 in London. SACRE members are invited to consider whether they would like to attend.