



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2023 AT 4.30 PM

AL MAHDI CENTRE, FONTLEY ROAD, FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE PO15 6QR

Telephone enquiries to Karen Martin 023 9284 1704

Email: karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

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 Dattoo

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

- 1 Welcome and Introductions**
- 2 Moment for Quiet Reflection**
- 3 Apologies for Absence**
- 4 Declaration of Members' Interest**
- 5 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 28 March 2023 (Pages 5 - 14)**
- 6 Matters Arising from the minutes**
- 7 SACRE Membership and Member Training report (Pages 15 - 24)**

Purpose of report:

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

Recommended that SACRE:

- a) **Offers its thanks to Rachel De La Rue, Primary Teacher representative (Group C) for her support over the last 18 months following her resignation from the SACRE.**
- b) **Appoints Ms Fiona Kelly, St Swithun's Catholic Primary School as Primary Teacher representative (Group C) to fill the Primary Teacher vacancy.**

- c) **Agrees the DRAFT SACRE allowances policy and procedure (Appendix A).**
- d) **Seeks volunteers to form a 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.**
- b) **Nominates a named representative to the Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP).**

8 SACRE Monitoring Group report (Pages 25 - 28)

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 Group on 24 May 2023.

Recommendations:

- a) **That SACRE notes the findings of the Monitoring Group meeting.**
- b) **That SACRE asks for the withdrawal survey to be repeated in the Spring of 2024 and to be discussed in the May 2024 SACRE meeting.**
- c) **That an initial meeting be set up to discuss widening visits to Mosques for teachers.**
- d) **That advice be provided for the Monitoring Group to consider regarding Ramadan and support for schools.**

9 SACRE National and Local RE Matters report (Pages 29 - 32)

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

The next meeting will take place at 4.30pm on Wednesday 1 November 2023.
The venue is to be confirmed.

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 Tuesday 28 March 2023 at 4:30pm at St Jude's CE Primary School, St Nicholas Street, Old Portsmouth.

Present

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

Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas

Humanist - Barbara Spiegelhalter

Sikhism - Jaswant Singh-Digpa

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

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 Asghar Shah

Also in attendance:

Justine Ball, Professional Advisor

Chris May, Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE

Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement

Karen Martin, Local Democracy Officer, SACRE Clerk

Izzy Lewis, Deputy Headteacher, St Jude's CE Primary School (Item 1 only)

Victoria Nash, RE Leader, St Jude's CE Primary School (Item 1 only)

1. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

The Revd Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Rachael Osborne, Headteacher for making St Jude's CE Primary School available to the SACRE for its meeting.

There was a short presentation by Victoria Nash, RE Leader, St Jude's CE Primary School on 'Making RE Engaging'. She informed the SACRE that St Jude's has developed a bespoke curriculum to cover a wide range of religious viewpoints, linking these to Christian and other festivals across the calendar year and reflect the Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV. In the Summer term there is a focus on Dharmic religions across the school. Living

Difference IV allows the school to focus on big questions around faith delivered through creative lessons, visitors, and experiential RE where possible including workshops for all year groups which have been developed with the church. Interfaith Days are planned annually where children investigate a concept in several religious beliefs including through inviting visitors in and taking part in art projects, food tasting, storytelling and music workshops.

Taki Jaffer offered to help the school including making the link between Islam and other religions and he invited Victoria Nash to visit the Mosque in Fareham at next meeting.

2. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)

The moment for quiet reflection was taken by Rachael Osborne, Headteacher, St Jude's CE Primary School. She explained that she would be leaving St Jude's at the end of term for another headteacher appointment and that there had been several discussions about the forthcoming change of leadership in the school. She read a prayer Year 4 children had written about the challenges this change would bring and their wishes for the future for all the children and staff at the school as well as Mrs Osborne herself.

3. Apologies for Absence (AI 3)

Apologies had been received from Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo (Group A), Revd Ray Goddess (Group A), Kari Laing (Vice Chair) (Group C) and Rachel de la Rue (Group C).

4. Declarations of Members' Interest (AI 4)

There were none.

5. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 2 November 2022 (AI 5)

It was noted there was some yellow highlighting on bullet points in Item 34 and that this should be removed.

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2022 as an accurate record, subject to the amendment above.

6. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 6)

Item 32 - The Chair noted that at the last meeting she had mentioned meeting with Jessi Wilson, CoPS and that there would be a presentation on CoPS under item 10 later in the meeting.

Item 32 iii) - Justine Ball reported that it had not been possible to hold the training session on Living Difference IV, on 8 December as planned and it had now been rescheduled for Monday 17 April 2023 at 10.00am on Teams.

ACTIONS:

- i) Clerk to issue Teams invitation to all SACRE members for the training session on Living Difference IV at 10.00am on Monday 17 April 2023.**

7. **Monitoring Group Report (AI 7)**

Justine Ball, SACRE Professional Advisor, introduced the report which had been circulated with the agenda.

Volunteers for Monitoring Group

Justine Ball reminded members of the SACRE that volunteers willing to join the Monitoring Group would be very welcome and that anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

Portsmouth GCSE results

Chris May, Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE commented there are not many schools with GCSE entries in Portsmouth. He was working closely with one school to build up its RE curriculum and encourage more entries and he hoped there would be greater numbers of RE GCSE entries going forward.

National Campaign to recruit RE specialist teachers

Justine Ball noted that national campaigns to tackle the lack of numbers of RE specialist teachers by the Association of University Lecturers in RE (AULRE) and the National RE Council were gaining traction. Chris May added that a recent webinar for prospective teachers was attended by 100 people, and he hoped that was a reflection that the campaign is beginning to work.

School website monitoring

Justine Ball explained that following a review of LA school websites and the Monitoring Group had an interesting discussion on what could and should be on school websites and noted that they are not required to have all their policies on their website. A lot of positive information about RE was available on many websites and many also referenced progression. There was less information on the right to withdraw, collective workshop and British Values but this is not mandatory.

In response to a question by Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A) about how British Values links to RE, Justine Ball acknowledged they are separate but form part of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development which is an essential part of whole school life. It was explained that all schools are required to promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The Chair commented that she does not like the word tolerance and prefers encouraging more active interest and engagement in different faiths and beliefs.

It was noted that some websites are harder to navigate than others. Overall, this had been a useful exercise and will be repeated at some stage in the future.

Ofsted Reports

Justine Ball noted that two schools had been inspected recently and one reported that its RE deep dive had been a positive experience.

Survey on RE and Collective Worship

Justine Ball reported that this survey had been sent out just before the last Monitoring Group meeting and aimed to monitor the number of children being withdrawn for parts or all of RE and/ or Collective Worship. It is intended to bring the full results to the next SACRE meeting.

Census 2021 results

Justine Ball reported that a Census 2021 breakdown for religion in Portsmouth had been published in November 2022. This information is being used when visiting RE leaders to ensure that curriculum planning and delivery reflects the locality.

Monitoring Group Terms of Reference (ToR)

Justine Ball informed the SACRE that the ToR had been attached to the agenda with slight suggestions highlighted in red type. The Clerk noted that the ToR had last been agreed in 2017 and it was good practice to review them periodically.

RESOLVED:

- a) **SACRE noted the Monitoring Group meeting report.**
- b) **SACRE requested volunteers to join the Monitoring Group in the Summer term 2023.**
- c) **SACRE approved the Terms of Reference for the Monitoring Group as amended (attached as Appendix A).**

ACTIONS:

- i) ***Volunteers willing to join the SACRE Monitoring Group (3 Teams meetings per year) to contact the Clerk at Karen.Martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk***
- ii) ***School Website Monitoring Survey will be undertaken again in the Spring 2024.***
- iii) ***Results of the survey on RE and Collective Worship (including withdrawals) to be brought to the next full SACRE meeting in June 2023.***

Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A) asked for the SACRE's appreciation for all the work of the Monitoring Group to be recorded. This was agreed.

8. Membership and Training report (AI 8)

Justine Ball, Professional Advisor thanked the Clerk for her help in providing information for the report.

Membership Working Group

Justine Ball reported that the list of vacancies was set out in section 4 of the report, and it was recommended that a small working group be established to address this. It was proposed that the 2021 Census results be used to ensure this is reflected in the membership and that adverts be considered. The Clerk noted that the endorsement or nomination of relevant faith groups would need to be sought.

Christine McMillan noted that there was no mechanism for claiming expenses such as travel to meetings, and this may be an impediment for some. It was agreed that there should be a facility to claim reasonable expenses. Chris May, Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE noted that NASACRE states that supply cover was a reasonable expense to encourage teacher participation in SACRE activities. Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement agreed to investigate how this could be done. The Chair noted that it could be possible to advertise via the Hive.

Non-attending members

It was agreed that SACRE members who have not attended three meetings be contacted to establish their interest in remaining a member of the Council.

Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP)

A SACRE representative to join this body was sought. No one volunteered in the meeting. A reminder to be sent to all SACRE members.

NASACRE Conference and AGM

Volunteers to attend the conference in London on 22 May 2023 were sought. Reasonable expenses agreed in advance will be paid.

SACRE members were asked to nominate people who have contributed to Portsmouth SACRE as part of the NASACRE 30th anniversary celebrations. Nominations to the Chair or Clerk within by 11 April 2023.

Training opportunities

Justine Ball highlighted the following training opportunities:

- Living Difference IV briefing on 17 April (on Teams)
- "So you've joined your local SACRE" delivered by NASACRE on 26 June 2023 (remote learning)
- Free speaker training by RE Hubs

SACRE Code of Conduct

Justine Ball asked members to read the proposed Code of Conduct attached to the agenda. It was agreed to adopt this subject to the word 'Portsmouth' being inserted as relevant.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **Establish 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.
- b) Agreed to ask the Clerk to contact SACRE members who have not attended three consecutive meetings.
- c) Seek up to two representatives to attend the NASACRE Conference and AGM on 22 May 2023.
- d) Agreed to adopt the NASACRE Code of Conduct (amended to include Portsmouth).

ACTIONS:

- i) Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement to look at the potential for SACRE members to claim reasonable expenses to facilitate meeting attendance.*
- ii) Members of SACRE to volunteer to form a small, informal Membership Working Group by contacting the Clerk.*
- iii) Members of SACRE to inform the Clerk if they would like to represent the SACRE on the Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP).*
- iv) Members of SACRE to let the Clerk know if they wish to attend the NASACRE Conference and AGM on 22 May 2023.*
- v) Members of SACRE wishing to nominate someone who has had a significant impact on the Portsmouth SACRE to contact the Chair (Revd Sam Duddles) or the Clerk by 11 April 2023.*
- vi) Clerk to update the Code of Conduct.*

The Clerk can be contacted at Karen.Martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

9. National and Local RE matters (AI 9)

Justine Ball introduced the item highlighting the following from the report which had been circulated with the agenda. She drew particular attention to Culham St Gabriel's Trust initiatives including its RE leadership programme, promotional films which are useful for parent's evenings etc., a parental survey on RE and REONLINE, a website to teachers.

Justine Ball also informed the SACRE that the National RE Hubs project aims to create a national RE website to link bodies across England and Wales. There are nine regions in England and each will hold events etc. The project has offered free speaker training 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.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

10. Brief updates or notifications of items to be brought to a future meeting (AI 10)

Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS)

The Chair invited Jessi Wilson, Unloc Programme Facilitator - Leadership Skills and Student Voice and Simran Bansil, Year 8 student at Portsmouth Grammar School and CoPS Diversity Advisor to make a presentation to the SACRE on the work of the Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS). They informed the SACRE that CoPS is one of the Student Forums facilitated by Unloc, another being the Primary Council of Portsmouth Students (PCoPS) and that the student representatives wholly shape their Forum each academic year. The CoPS Mission statement (developed by young people) is:

"The Council of Portsmouth Students, facilitated by Unloc, is a student forum for young people across the city of Portsmouth to collaboratively work together to drive institution improvement in their community and the city. Our mission is to elevate young people, enhance their learning, and empower them to be in the driving seat of the decisions they make. We want to revolutionise the future of Portsmouth, to improve how things are done, and generate leaders to choose their own pathways and create change for themselves and others."

In Portsmouth, 10 institutions are involved this year with 55 students (Years 7-11) participating across a range of activities including 3 Summits, three Executive Group meetings, one Institution Group Check-In and a Student Voice Celebration Day. In addition, there are five action groups: climate change/ eco-friendly; diversity and inclusion group; life skills and careers; mental health and wellbeing; sexism and stereotypes. Each action group has three priorities and has developed an action plan to deliver on those priorities.

Simran was elected to the post of Diversity Advisor on the Executive Committee and is also a member of the Diversity and Inclusion action group. This group's priorities are: Educating young people on the meaning and impact of using slurs; campaigning for greater diversity and inclusion in school-based resources including books, class handouts and guests; and lobbying for gender neutral toilets and other facilities in all schools. Simran's role as Diversity Adviser includes attending additional meetings outside of CoPS including City Council, Youth Cabinet, SACRE etc and to report the outcomes of these meetings to the Forum.

In answer to a question from Beth Smith, Jessie Wilson said that Mayfield would be welcome to join CoPS; that the programme runs for each academic year and involves buy in. Beth Smith commented that she would follow-up as she could identify several students at the school who would benefit from participating in the programme.

Taki Jaffer (Group D) enquired what had made Simran join CoPS. She replied that she had participated in her school's Middle School Council, Jessi had visited to talk about CoPS and she had been inspired to take part. She had then stood for election as Diversity Advisor, which was a new role this year, and had been elected. In response to a further question from the Chair, Simran explained that the action group aimed to help educate young people about the meaning of slurs, encourage greater diversity and inclusion (including neuro diversity eg. dyslexia) and gender neutral facilities.

Justine Ball (SACRE Advisor) commented that the link between RE and collective worship and general work on diversity was interesting. Jessi Wilson added that CoPS could help by going to young people who are making their GCSE options and ask if they were going to choose RE and if not, why not? They added that young people wanted to be heard, we just need to ask right questions.

Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A) enquired how CoPS is publicised at schools. Jessi Wilson explained that Unloc is in contact with School Councils across the City and that once involved schools get a certificate to display in their reception area.

The Chair thanked Simran and Jessi Wilson for the presentation and all the information provided. Taki Jaffer noted that the next meeting is scheduled to take place at the Mosque and that when it was built 12 years ago it was the most environmentally friendly Mosque in Europe. He invited members of CoPS to attend the meeting or arrange a separate visit.

RESOLVED: To note the information provided to the SACRE.

11. Date and venue of the next meeting and future meeting dates (AI 11)

The next meeting will take place at **4.30pm on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at Al Mahdi Centre, Fontley Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 6QR**. Taki Jaffer and Revd. Sam Duddles offered to take people to the meeting.

It was noted that it is intended that 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.

SACRE noted the following meeting dates:

Wednesday 1 November 2023 (venue to be confirmed)

Wednesday 20 March 2024 (venue to be confirmed)

Wednesday 12 June 2024 (venue to be confirmed)

Wednesday 6 November 2024 (venue to be confirmed)

ACTIONS:

- i) Any members needing transport to the next meeting at Al Mahdi Centre, Fontley Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 6QR to contact Taki Jaffer or Revd. Sam Duddles.***
- ii) All SACRE members to consider offering a venue for future meetings.***

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm.

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Agenda Item 7



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 14 June 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) **Offers its thanks to Rachel De La Rue, Primary Teacher representative (Group C) for her support over the last 18 months following her resignation from the SACRE.**
- b) **Appoints Ms Fiona Kelly, St Swithun's Catholic Primary School as Primary Teacher representative (Group C) to fill the Primary Teacher vacancy.**
- c) **Agrees the DRAFT SACRE allowances policy and procedure (Appendix A).**
- d) **Seeks volunteers to form a 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.

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

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) Primary teacher (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.

The SACRE has received a nomination for Ms Fiona Kelly, Primary Teacher at St Swithun's Catholic Primary School to replace Rachel De La Rue, Primary Teacher representative (Cottage Grove Primary School) who resigned on 24 May 2023.

5. Portsmouth SACRE allowances policy and procedure

At the SACRE meeting on 28 March 2023, the Head of School Improvement agreed to investigate the potential to offer expenses to SACRE members. Following work with the Business Manager, Children, Families and Education directorate, a DRAFT SACRE allowances policy and procedure has been produced. This is attached as Appendix A to this report.

6. Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP)

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

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. SACRE training:

a) Attendance at training events since the last meeting:



NASACRE	7-8pm, 14 March 2023	What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations? Hosted by Lesley Prior	Christine McMillan (Group A) Sue Bowen (Group B) Sam Duddles (Group B) Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D) (recording) Taki Jaffer (Group D) (recording)
HAMPSHIRE	10.00am, 17 April 2023	An introduction to Living Difference IV for new SACRE members Justine Ball, SACRE Professional Advisor	sarah coote (Group A) Christine McMillan (Group A) Cllr Asghar Shah (Group D)

b) Forthcoming training events:

NASACRE	7.00-8.30pm, 26 June 2023	So, you've joined your local SACRE... Hosted by Exec members	Christine McMillan (Group A)
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c) 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.

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Portsmouth SACRE allowances policy and procedure



Contents

1. Aims
2. Background
3. Guidance
4. Overview
5. Monitoring arrangements

Aims

Portsmouth SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) has decided to pay reasonable allowances from the SACRE's delegated budget from Portsmouth City Council to cover any costs that SACRE members incur through carrying out their duties.

This policy sets out the terms on which such allowances will be paid.

By adopting this policy, we will ensure that no member of the community is prevented from becoming a member of the Portsmouth SACRE on the grounds of cost.

Background

2.1 Duty to establish a SACRE

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

2.2 What does a SACRE do?

SACRE is a unique body; it is set up by the LA but is independent of it, with the role to give advice to that LA. The law states that Religious Education must be taught in all maintained schools² and a SACRE's role is to advise what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area. The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how the LA responded to that advice. This includes advice on Religious Education and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

2.3 Composition of SACRE

There are four groups or committees, as below:

A: The Christian denominations and other religious denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.

B: The Church of England

¹ Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

² School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

APPENDIX A

C: Teacher and head teacher associations

D: The Local Authority

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

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

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

Guidance

This policy has been written in line with Portsmouth City Council's policy for Travel and Subsistence.

- **Public transport** - claims can be made for reasonable public transport fares for travel undertaken as part of the role of the volunteer
- **Parking** - claims can be made for parking fees incurred while undertaking duties which form part of the role of the volunteer
- **Mileage** - Mileage will be paid at the rate of 45p per mile for travel undertaken as part of the role of the volunteer. Mileage claims must be supported by VAT fuel receipts.

EXPENSES - This guidance relates to approved circumstances in which a PCC volunteer/placement student may claim expenses and the nature of expenditure that may be claimed. Portsmouth City Council (PCC) reserves the right to refuse an incomplete claim or defer until resolution. Claims must be submitted using the Portsmouth Link Volunteer Expenses Claim Form, available from the clerk to SACRE.

Overview

Members of the SACRE may claim allowances to cover expenditure necessary to enable them to perform their duties. This does **not** include an attendance allowance, or payment to cover loss of earnings.

Non-teaching members of the SACRE may claim allowances by completing a claim form and submitting it to the clerk to the Portsmouth SACRE.

Teaching members of SACRE should complete any claims via their school/college and then liaise with clerk to the Portsmouth SACRE.

Allowances will only be paid on the provision of a receipt and will be limited to the amount shown on the receipt. All travel claims must be submitted within 3 months of the journey occurring, in accordance with PCC Financial Regulations.

APPENDIX A

Members of the SACRE may only claim for:

- Travel and subsistence costs
- Childcare
- Care for elderly or dependent relatives
- Extra costs incurred because they have a special need

Claims will be paid in arrears on a case-by-case basis. Reimbursable costs should be agreed in principle by the chair of the SACRE **before** they are incurred.

Travelling expenses incurred by a member of SACE in the performance of their official duties will be reimbursed after authorisation by the named Portsmouth City Council local authority link officer.

The chair of SACRE (or the clerk, where appropriate) may initially investigate claims that appear excessive or inconsistent. All claims will be subject to an independent audit.

Travel expenses where a governor uses their own vehicle must not exceed the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) approved mileage rates (see appendix 2).

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed when the constitution is reviewed by SACRE. Any amendments will be presented at a meeting of the full SACRE.

Agreed: Date

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Supervisor/manager (member of Portsmouth City Council Staff)

I have checked the above expenses claim and I am satisfied that the expenses have been incurred on Portsmouth City Council business and in accordance with the expenses guidelines below. Accordingly, I approve the claim.

Signature of supervisor: Print name: Date:

Position:

Total authorised claim:

Claims over £50 must be authorised by Chris Ward - Director of Finance or Julian Pike - Deputy Head of Finance

Authoriser (Print Name) Authorisers signature: Date:

Description:

Entity			Cost Centre				Account				Local Cost Centre				Local Account				Asset	Spare	Amount	VAT Rate % 20% / 5% / NO VAT	NET	VAT		
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Agenda Item 8



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 14 June 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 24 May 2023.

Members shared the monitoring group Terms of Reference, considered the most recent Ofsted reports which mentioned RE, discussed teacher training and vacancies, explored national and local initiatives for RE, considered wider visits to Portsmouth mosques and Ramadan advice for teachers and then discussed the recent withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship survey completed in Portsmouth.

Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.

That SACRE asks for the withdrawal survey to be repeated in the Spring of 2024 and to be discussed in the May 2024 SACRE meeting.

That an initial meeting be set up to discuss widening visits to Mosques for teachers.

That advice be provided for the monitoring group to consider regarding Ramadan and support for schools.

- 2. Background:** The monitoring group met at 4.30pm on 24 May 2023.
Present:

Sam Duddles (SACRE Chair and group B), Jane Kelly (group B), Kari Laing (group C), Councillor Abdul Kadir 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 Elizabeth Jenkerson (group A), Pastor Chris Thomas (group A), Taki Jaffer (group D) and Councillor Benedict Swann (Group D).



3. Inspector/Adviser Updates:

Justine Ball informed the group that there were a small number of Ofsted inspections in the local area recently but that there was only one Ofsted report that had specifically mentioned RE. The comments were very positive and especially so on the importance of visits to places of worship. It was noted by the group that RE can play a large role in the outcomes of an Ofsted inspection and that diversity within modern Britain is an important part of the Ofsted framework and is being noted by inspectors.

Justine Ball and Chris May updated the group on the situation with Religious Studies (RS) teacher training and teacher vacancies in the local area. The advisers informed the group that local Initial Teacher Education providers had mentioned that very few candidates are coming forward for training as RE or RS teachers and that this a national concern, which has been noted in previous SACRE meetings. It was noted that the group were not aware of any secondary vacancies for RS specialist teachers in Portsmouth although it was commented upon that Secondary schools are also struggling to recruit across all subject areas currently. Chris May had recently been to the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and there had been much discussion of these topics, including the comment that although there are specific issues relating to RE teacher vacancies, recruitment is difficult across all subjects. Culham St Gabriels Trust and other national bodies are continuing their work in supporting training specialist RE teachers and the group will be informed about their work regularly through the year.

Chris May informed the group about his work in two secondary schools and Justine Ball informed the group that she would be working with some primary schools on their RE curriculum in the coming Summer and early Autumn term.

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

A survey on withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship had been sent to Headteachers of LA maintained schools on 20 February and 19 schools had responded. Of these schools, the group noted that very low numbers of children were partially withdrawn from RE and Collective Worship and that there were no children withdrawn from the whole of RE. The schools all knew the reasons for withdrawal and the reasons were varied but often due to the religious belief of the family. Schools were very positive about the support they receive for RE and Collective Worship and the group asked that the survey is repeated again in the Spring term of 2024.

5. Visits to Portsmouth Mosques:

The group discussed further interaction between Portsmouth mosques and the SACRE going forward and this was welcomed by all. There was some discussion about the best way to move forward with this and it was agreed that a lunchtime visit to the Muslim academy in Buckland would be a good starting point. It was hoped that visits to other mosques would follow. It was agreed that the Chair of SACRE together with some of the group D Counsellors would set up an initial meeting to begin this important work.



The group also discussed further support for schools during Ramadan, particularly in relation to multi faith prayer rooms and PE. It agreed to investigate providing information to schools and to see what further local and national advice was available.

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Agenda Item 9



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 14 June 2023

Subject: SACRE National and Local RE Matters Report

Report by: Justine Ball, SACRE Advisor

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- 1 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.

- 2 Executive Summary:**

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

- 3 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 \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://cstg.org.uk) .

These include:

Regular promotion of a national teacher recruitment campaign for RE. Further information on the campaign can be found below:

[New RE teacher recruitment campaign kicks off as popular GCSE subject faces staff shortage - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://cstg.org.uk)

Virtual RE courses that are free to all on different aspects of RE. These are especially useful to new teachers, those teaching with no background in RE and those simply wishing to know more about the current world of RE. These can be found here:

[E Learning - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://cstg.org.uk)

- 5 RE Hubs –** This project was introduced to the SACRE last term and the website for this has just been launched. On the page for the South East, the link is given for the Portsmouth Directory of Places of Worship. There is the potential for a wide range of resources to be uploaded onto the website which will be of real interest and use to the SACRE and to Portsmouth teachers, including information on further places of



worship, speakers and training and CPD that are available for all. There is a need for more RE Hub accredited speakers in our area and speakers are accredited after completing the initial training. They can then advertise on the website. A flyer for the training is attached to this report and further information can be found here:

[Explore RE in your Region \(re-hubs.uk\)](http://re-hubs.uk)

- 6 Sacred Texts British Library
Resources created by the British Library have become available online for all KS2 teachers on a range of different religions and these can be accessed here:
[Discovering Sacred Texts: Key Stage 2 teaching resources | The British Library \(bl.uk\)](http://discovering.sacredtexts.org.uk)
- 7 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) and the Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser attended their national conference recently.
- 8 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. SACRE members are invited to note the last in series of training events this year which is mentioned in the membership report and to contact the SACRE clerk if they wish to attend.



Do you work at a place of worship, at a museum, or are you a school speaker?



If so, join our kitemark accreditation online training to get tips on how to work well with schools. Whether you are hosting visits, visiting schools, or delivering a speech, this training can give you the confidence to ensure you are providing the best experience for schools.

The webinars are being led by professionals in RE, RE Hubs Director Claire Clinton, and RE Hubs Leads.

These are free to attend and will be ran on a monthly basis for you to select a session that fits your schedule.

**To book a date visit:
<http://bit.ly/3lqzN91>**

RE Hubs is a new project seeking to build relationships between Advisers, Dioceses, Universities, SACREs, LAs, Governors, MATs, Teaching school Hubs, places of worship, school speakers and more.

Delegates that have signed up to our agreed principles for working with schools, will then be accredited with our RE Hubs Kitemark.



Webinar dates

- 2023**
- **Thursday 23 March 2-3:30pm**
 - **Tuesday 18 April 9:30-11am**
 - **Wednesday 17 May 11-12:30pm**
 - **Tuesday 20 June 10-11:30am**



To book a date visit:
<http://bit.ly/3lqzN91>



AULRE



Page 32

