



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 4.30 PM

MAYFIELD SCHOOL, MAYFIELD ROAD, PORTSMOUTH PO2 0RH

Telephone enquiries to Karen Martin 023 9284 1704

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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 – Michael Zeffertt

Quaker - sarah coote

Sikhism - Jaswant Singh-Digpa

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

Helen Reeder - Teacher Liaison Panel Representative

Beth Smith - Secondary School Representative

Fiona Kelly - Primary 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 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Moment for Quiet Reflection**
- 4 Declaration of Members' Interest**
- 5 Election of Chair of SACRE**

Purpose: To seek nominations for, and elect, a Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE.

The election for the Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE will be made by a way of a nomination and seconding procedure, followed by a majority vote decision. Those nominated must be aware of their nomination. If more than one nomination is made, an election will be held with each Group (A, B, C and D) having one vote. In the event of a 2:2 vote, there is no casting vote, and the status quo will be maintained until such time as a majority decision is reached. No other persons shall be entitled to vote. If one nomination is received, a vote will not be required.

The role of the Chair includes:

- Ensuring that the Portsmouth SACRE fulfils its statutory duties and responsibilities by having a clear grasp of the nature and make up of SACRE, what it is responsible for and what it can do beyond its statutory

functions.

- Taking a leading role in the Portsmouth SACRE's on-going process of self-evaluation and development.
- Ensuring the smooth and efficient running of SACRE meetings including making sure that the business of the meeting is dealt with and that all members can participate and contribute fully.
- Being the public face of the Portsmouth SACRE, representing it at public events, including interfaith events, and being a champion for religious education and collective worship in the local authority and its schools.

RECOMMENDED that the SACRE elects a Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE for 2 years with immediate effect.

6 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 14 June 2023 (Pages 7 - 14)

The SACRE is asked to agree the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2023.

7 Matters Arising from the minutes

8 SACRE Code of Conduct 2023-24 (Pages 15 - 18)

Purpose of report:

Many SACREs find it useful to have their own Code of Conduct in place and in Portsmouth the SACRE has agreed to adopt the NASACRE exemplar code.

This report accompanies the current Code of Conduct and seeks its endorsement for a further academic year.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE endorses the Code of Conduct and the principles it espouses for the next 12 months and that it is considered again at the first SACRE meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.

9 SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 (Pages 19 - 34)

Purpose of report:

This report provides the SACRE with an opportunity to agree its Annual Report for the academic year 2022-23.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE:

- a) Adopts the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23.**
- b) Recommends that the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education notes the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 by 31 December**

2023.

- c) Makes a copy available for public inspection (on the Portsmouth City Council website) and sends a copy to the Secretary of State for Education and relevant organisations including NASACRE.**

10 SACRE Membership and Member Training report (Pages 35 - 40)

Purpose of report:

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

Recommended that SACRE:

- a) Appoints Mr Michael Zeffert, as Jewish representative (Group A) following the resignation of Samuel Hilsenrath which was noted at the last meeting.**
- b) Notes the membership vacancies set out in paragraph 4 of this report and asks the Local Authority to approach relevant appointing bodies for representatives.**
- c) Notes that the SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE for the current academic year, that this allows members to attend its training sessions (set out in Appendix A to this report) free of charge and that members should take advantage of opportunity.**

11 SACRE Monitoring Group Report (Pages 41 - 44)

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 11 October 2023.

The group received updates on professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE and the first national results from the GCSE examination series in 2023. An update on implementation of Living Difference IV, including training in RE, was received.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE notes the findings of the Monitoring Group meeting.

12 Annual Review of the SACRE Constitution (Pages 45 - 52)

Purpose of report:

This report provides the SACRE with the opportunity to review its constitution

with a view to ensuring that it fulfils its functions and reflects the Portsmouth area. The SACRE constitution was approved on 20 November 2019.

Recommended that SACRE:

a) **Considers whether the SACRE Constitution requires amendment or updating and, if so, appoints a Sub-Committee to oversee the work before making recommendations to the SACRE and thereafter the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education.**

OR

b) **Confirms the SACRE Constitution (previously agreed on 20 November 2019) subject to the words "stated in 4.1" in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 being changed to read "stated in 3.1" and to further review in the Autumn term of 2024.**

13 Annual Review of SACRE Allowances Policy and Procedures (Pages 53 - 60)

Purpose of report:

This report provides the SACRE with an opportunity to review its agreed Allowances Policy and Procedures.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE adopts the SACRE Allowances Policy and Procedures for the next 12 months and that it is further reviewed at the first SACRE meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.

14 SACRE National and Local RE Matters report (Pages 61 - 64)

Purpose of report:

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

RECOMMENDED that SACRE notes the report.

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

16 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place at **4.30pm on Wednesday 20 March 2024** - venue to be agreed.

Future dates:

Wednesday 12 June 2024 (venue to be confirmed)

Wednesday 6 November 2024 (venue to be confirmed)

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.

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 6

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 14 June 2023 at 4:30pm at Al Mahdi Centre, Fontley Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 6QR.

Present

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

Baptist - Geoff Wheeler
Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas
Humanist - Barbara Spiegelhalter
Muslim - Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo
Jewish – Michael Zeffert
United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan

Group B Representatives - Church of England

Sue Bowen
Revd Sam Duddles (Chair)
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

None

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

Taki Jaffer

Also in attendance:

Dr Muhammad Abbas Jaffer, Hon Secretary, Wessex Jamaat
Zahra Asharia, Wessex Jamaat
Naznin Houda, Wessex Jamaat
Justine Ball, Professional Advisor
Chris May, Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE
Karen Martin, Local Democracy Officer, SACRE Clerk

12. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

The Hon Secretary, Dr Muhammad Abbas Jaffer, formally welcomed SACRE members and officers to the Al Mahdi Centre on behalf of the Wessex Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat, noting that they had last hosted a meeting of the SACRE in 2015.

The Revd Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo, Dr Muhammad Abbas Jaffer and the other representatives of the Wessex Jamaat present for welcoming the SACRE to the Al Mahdi Centre for its meeting.

13. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)

The moment for quiet reflection was taken by Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo which included readings from the Qur'an in its original Arabic. He explained that in the Muslim lunar calendar this year 14 June corresponds to the 25th day of Dhulqa'dah, the 11th month in the calendar and that it is an important date. It is observed as Earth day highlighting Man's responsibility of stewardship and conservation of environment. Sheikh Fazle went on to inform those present that the current mosque had been built with the environment in mind, it uses solar panels, a ground source heat pump and is a reserve for foxes, deer, snakes, and many other creatures. He asked that everyone, of faith or no faith, to take care of planet earth, reminding us that it is the only source of chocolate.

The Revd Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair, asked all those present to take a few minutes to reflect on these wise words.

14. NASACRE 30th Anniversary Award

The Revd Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair, informed the SACRE that following its nomination to NASACRE, Taki Jaffer (Group D) had been recognised as a SACRE member who has made a significant impact in the Portsmouth area.

The Revd Sam Duddles presented Taki Jaffer with a certificate from NASACRE to commemorate the award which had been made as part of the organisation's 30th Anniversary celebrations. She also read a message of congratulation from Councillor Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education:

My entire career has been in Education; as a primary school teacher and deputy head, delivering teacher and teaching assistant training, and as a lecturer at Portsmouth University. I was also privileged to be the Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE between 2016 and 2021 where I saw first-hand the dedication of members of the SACRE to our wider community as well as to the important work of the SACRE itself.

In my current role as Portsmouth's Cabinet Member for Education, I have visited most of the schools in the city and understand the challenges they, parents and children face. I am a firm believer in facilitating positive change in schools, enhancing young people's learning, and empowering them to be in the driving seat of the decisions they make - and studying RE can help them achieve this. Through its support to schools, SACRE helps teachers create compelling learning experiences that are relevant to issues in our complex society, deepening pupils' understanding of faiths and beliefs through education and first-hand encounters with communities and people of faith, including through visits to places of worship.

For many years, Elizabeth and Taki have been front and centre of this work and I would like to thank them both for all their tireless effort, support and dedication to the Portsmouth SACRE. I would also like to send my congratulations to Taki for his recent award from the NASACRE on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

In reflecting on the achievements of the Portsmouth SACRE's achievements over the last 30 years, the Revd Sam Duddles noted that Elizabeth Jenkerson had also made a significant contribution in the Portsmouth area, as well as on other SACRE's and nationally over many years. The Revd Sam Duddles added that Elizabeth is not well, and that in her absence, she wanted to thank her for her considerable service to the SACRE, adding that she was keeping her and her family in her prayers.

15. Apologies for Absence (AI 3)

Apologies had been received from Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A), Christine McMillan (Group A), sarah coote (Group A), Revd Ray Goddess (Group A), Samuel Hilsenrath (Group A), Rachel de la Rue (Group C), Kari Laing (Group C), Councillor Abdul Kadir (Group D), Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D), Councillor Benedict Swann (Group D) and Jessi Wilson, CoPS (Co-opted member)

Apologies had also been received from Fiona Kelly, nominated as Group C member (replacement for Rachel de la Rue, Primary Teacher representative Group C).

Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement also sent apologies due to an Ofsted inspection at one of the city's primary schools.

It was noted that Michael Zeffert was present as the nominated reserve for Samuel Hilsenrath (Group A).

16. Declarations of Members' Interest (AI 4)

There were none.

17. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 28 March 2023 (AI 5)

It was noted that Jane Kelly had sent apologies for the previous meeting which had not been noted. It was agreed to amend the minutes accordingly.

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 as an accurate record, subject to this amendment.

18. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 6)

There were no items from the previous minutes arising from the previous minutes not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

19. Membership and Training report (AI 8)

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

Membership Update

It was noted that Rachel de la Rue, primary teacher representative (Group C) from Cottage Grove Primary School had resigned. The SACRE agreed to appoint Fiona Kelly, St Swithun's Catholic Primary School as primary teacher representative.

It was also noted that Samuel Hilsenrath, Jewish representative (Group A) has resigned. Michael Zeffert, present at the meeting was considering whether he can take on another commitment having previously served on the Hampshire SACRE for seven years.

The SACRE agreed to record its thanks to Rachel de la Rue and Samuel Hilsenrath for their support to the SACRE.

SACRE Allowances Policy and Procedure

Justine Ball noted that it was important for SACRE representatives to be able to volunteer their time and effort without impediment or at financial cost to themselves. A copy of a draft Allowances Policy and Procedure had been produced by the Head of School Improvement and the Business Manager for Children, Families and Education Directorate.

Revd Sam Duddles explained the process by which SACRE members would be able to claim expenses in the future, including the importance of seeking permission from the Chair in advance. The Clerk clarified that it is likely this could be done at the beginning of each academic year.

Following questions from Taki Jaffer (Group D) and Geoff Wheeler (Group A), it was confirmed that claims will be made against the SACRE Budget held by the Council and that a more detailed description of the process for making claims could be added to the document.

The SACRE asked for its thanks be conveyed to Debbie Anderson, Head of School improvement and Rachel McKeever, Business Manager, for the work done to produce the Policy.

Membership Working Group

Justine Ball noted that it was proposed that a small working group be established to help boost membership of the SACRE. The Chair added that it was important that the membership of the Portsmouth SACRE appropriately reflects the principal religious traditions or beliefs in our area and that it was intended that the group would brainstorm outreach and other methods to attract new faith and education representatives to the SACRE. The Revd Sam Duddles volunteered herself as a member of this group. Lacking other volunteers at the meeting it was agreed to send an email to all members seeking help with this short-term project.

Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP)

Justine Ball noted that the commitment for a SACRE member on the PCSP as outlined in the report. The Chair added that the representative sought was for a representative other than Anglican and that it was important for underrepresented groups to have a presence of the PCSP to act as a link between the Board and the community.

There were questions from members about the qualifications needed and it was noted that many SACRE members are already very busy and are often fully committed to other responsibilities.

Record of training

The record of training, including the session run by Justine Ball on Living Difference IV, was noted. It was also noted that NASACRE will be running its annual training programme from September 2023.

The SACRE RESOLVED to:

- a) **Offers its thanks to Samuel Hilsenrath, Jewish representative (Group A) and Rachel De La Rue, Primary Teacher representative (Group C) for their support to the SACRE.**
- b) **Appoint Ms Fiona Kelly, St Swithun's Catholic Primary School as Primary Teacher representative (Group C) to fill the Primary Teacher vacancy.**
- c) **Agree the DRAFT SACRE allowances policy and procedure subject to further detail relating to the process.**
- d) **Note that it is still seeking a small number of volunteers to form a Membership working group to help the SACRE recruit new members which appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions or beliefs in our area.**
- e) **Seek further information before nominating a named representative to the Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Partnership (PCSP).**

ACTIONS:

- i) ***Clerk to email all SACRE members asking for (say two) more volunteers to join Rev Sam Duddles on a Teams meeting to brainstorm new member recruitment avenues.***
- ii) ***Clerk to circulate further information about the PCSP to SACRE members.***
- iii) ***Clerk/ Head of School Improvement to ask whether the SACRE could nominate someone from the community rather than a SACRE member to the PCSP.***
- iv) ***Clerk to circulate NASACRE training programme 2023/24 when available.***

20. Monitoring Group Report (AI 7)

Justine Ball, SACRE Professional Advisor, introduced the report which had been circulated with the agenda. She informed the SACRE that the Monitoring Group had met on 24 May 2023 and that those present had reviewed the 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.

RE and Collective Worship Withdrawal Survey

Justine Ball noted that 19 schools had responded to the survey and that no children were withdrawn from the whole of RE. She explained that very low

numbers of children were partially withdrawn from RE and Collective Worship, that the schools 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 Monitoring Group asked that the survey is repeated in the Spring term of 2024. She informed the SACRE that nationally the number of withdrawals for RE and Collective Worship seem much higher than in Portsmouth.

It was clarified that all families have a right to withdraw their children from part of all or RE and/ or Collective Worship. This is separate from the process whereby a Local Authority school can apply to the SACRE for an exemption from the requirement to provide Collective Worship that is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" in respect of some or all the pupils in a school. A school would apply for this exemption in circumstances where, for example, their pupils are predominantly from non-Christian faiths. This does not remove the requirement to hold a daily act of Collective Worship.

It was noted that the Portsmouth SACRE has a Determination Policy which is available on the Council's website at: [DeterminationsPolicyupdated.pdf \(portsmouth.gov.uk\)](#)

Ofsted reports mentioning RE

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. She added that anecdotally, it was becoming clear that schools are more conscious of the costs of school visits.

Teacher training and recruitment

Chris May informed the SACRE that few candidates are coming forward for training as RE or RS teachers and that this a national concern. It was noted that although there are not any secondary vacancies for RS specialist teachers in Portsmouth, Secondary schools generally are struggling to recruit across all subject areas. He explained that he had recently attended the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) conference in Birmingham and there had been much discussion of these topics.

Chris May noted that UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service in the UK) had recently sent emails to all third year students studying appropriate subjects encouraging them to consider teaching RS or RE as a career. He also noted that Culham St Gabriel's Trust and other national bodies are continuing their work in supporting training specialist RE teachers.

Mosque visits for teachers and Ramadan advice

Justine Ball explained that a lunchtime visit to the Muslim academy in Buckland is to be set up with the help of some of the Group D Councillors. She noted

that this would be a good starting point for other initiatives to encourage visits to other places of worship.

Sue Bowen (Group B) informed the SACRE that part of her job involves helping advise governing bodies on the recruitment headteachers to church schools. She explained that this process always involves asking candidates to perform an act of Collective Worship, usually based on a theme of the Christian values of the school. For the last six months however, they have been invited to use the theme of diversity and that as this has generated some very interesting results among the children, she will be continuing to use this theme.

Taki Jaffer (Group D) noted that when the links between religions are seen, like the overlapping circles in a Venn Diagram, very impressive outcomes can be the result. The Chair agreed, adding that diversity goes to all faiths and none.

The SACRE RESOLVED to:

- a) Note the findings of the Monitoring Group meeting.**
- b) Ask for the withdrawal survey to be repeated in the Spring of 2024 and then be discussed at the Summer term SACRE meeting.**
- c) Note that an initial meeting be set up to discuss widening visits to Mosques.**
- d) Note that advice be provided to the Monitoring Group on Ramadan and support for schools for consideration.**

21. National and Local RE matters (AI 9)

Justine Ball introduced the report which had been circulated with the agenda. She noted that from all the items and initiatives set out in the report it was clear that there is more joined up thinking in RE world than a few years ago. She highlighted the free training opportunities in the report, noting that these are available to teachers, governors and others. She specifically mentioned the Culham St Gabriel's Trust, NASACRE (training for SACRE members) and the new website RE Hubs.

Justine Ball noted that the SACRE can add information to the new RE Hubs website and that a link to the Directory of Places of Worship is already there. She encouraged SACRE members to take up the opportunity for training by RE hubs to become accredited speakers in schools. She noted that schools will be encouraged to use the website as a source of information and access to accredited speakers. She is aware that RE Hubs has already worked with Humanists, the Jewish Board of Deputies and will be approaching mosques.

It was agreed to ask the Head of School Improvement to add information and a link to RE Hubs on the weekly newsletter for the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP). It was noted that the SACRE had submitted information about World Humanism Day (21 June) for inclusion in the newsletter.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

ACTIONS

- j) Head of School Improvement to submit information and a link to RE Hubs to the PEP newsletter.***

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

The Clerk noted that the SACRE had approved a new Code of Conduct at its meeting in March 2023 and that this is being sent to all new members of the SACRE. It is intended that it will be brought to the first SACRE meeting of each academic year for endorsement by all members of the SACRE.

ACTIONS:

- j) Clerk to circulate a copy of the Code of Conduct in advance of the Autumn term meeting.***

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

The next meeting will take place at **4.30pm on Wednesday 1 November 2023.**

Mayfield School was suggested as a possible venue, with parking being made available at St Nicolas Church.

Future dates:

Wednesday 20 March 2024 (venue to be confirmed)

Wednesday 12 June 2024 (venue to be confirmed)

Wednesday 6 November 2024 (venue to be confirmed)

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.

ACTIONS:

- i) Chris May to contact Mayfield School about the potential to host the Autumn Term meeting scheduled for Wednesday 1 November.***
- ii) All SACRE members to consider offering a venue for future meetings.***

POST MEETING NOTE: Mayfield School has agreed to host the next meeting. Further details will be provided nearer the time of the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.44pm.



Agenda Item 8



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 1 November 2023

Subject: Annual Review of the SACRE Code of Conduct

Report by: Justine Ball, Portsmouth SACRE Advisor

1. Purpose of report:

Many SACREs find it useful to have their own Code of Conduct in place and in Portsmouth the SACRE has agreed to adopt the NASACRE exemplar code.

This report accompanies the current Code of Conduct and seeks its endorsement for a further academic year.

2. Background:

The SACRE's agreed its Code of Conduct at its meeting held on 28 March 2023 (minute number 8).

At the SACRE meeting on 14 June 2023 (minute no. 22), the SACRE noted that the Code of Conduct would be brought to the first SACRE meeting of each academic year for endorsement by all members of the council.

A code has value as both an internal guideline and an external statement of values and commitments as well as linking them with standards of professional conduct - for example in relation to school visits.

3. RECOMMENDED that SACRE endorses the Code of Conduct and the principles it espouses for the next 12 months and that it is considered again at the first SACRE meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.

Appendix A - SACRE Code of Conduct, agreed 28 March 2023.

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Portsmouth SACRE Code of Conduct

General principles

Portsmouth 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 Portsmouth

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 Professional Advisor 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



Agenda Item 9



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting:	1 November 2023
Subject:	SACRE Annual Report 2022-23
Report by:	Justine Ball, Portsmouth SACRE Advisor

1. Purpose of report:

This report provides the SACRE with an opportunity to agree its Annual Report for the academic year 2022-23.

2. Background:

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on its schools. For Religious Education (RE), SACRE advises community, voluntary controlled and Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation. For Collective Worship SACRE advises the LA on community, Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

SACREs have a duty to publish an annual report, ideally by the 31 December each calendar year but, if necessary, in the following calendar year. This report must be sent to the Secretary of State for Education as well as to key partners, including schools, teacher training institutions, libraries, and councillors. 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 that was responded to; this includes advice on RE and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

NASACRE, the national association of SACREs introduced a new template for annual reports in 2022 so that it can provide a snapshot of the work of the local bodies to the Department for Education. The Portsmouth SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 is based on the new template and:

- i) Specifies any matter on which it has advised and/ or supported the Local Authority.
- ii) Broadly describes the nature of that advice and / or supported the Local Authority.
- iii) Sets out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to in the first place by the Authority.

3. RECOMMENDED that SACRE:

- a) Adopts the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23.
- b) Recommends that the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education notes the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 by 31 December 2023.



- c) Makes a copy available for public inspection (on the Portsmouth City Council website) and sends a copy to the Secretary of State for Education and relevant organisations including NASACRE.**

Appendix A - SACRE Annual Report 2022-23

SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Annual Report 2022/2023

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3. Complaints about Religious Education
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6. Determinations
7. SACRE links with other bodies
8. SACRE contribution to supporting schools through events and training
9. SACRE's own arrangements

Appendices

1. SACRE membership
2. List of organisations receiving Annual Report

SECTION 1: CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this report as the Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE and to offer my thanks to all members of Portsmouth SACRE and the teachers and community members who have worked so hard to support RE in Portsmouth in the year covered by this report.

The 2022-23 academic year was another atypical year for our SACRE following a slow return to normal following the pandemic. We did however return to the practice of in person meetings during the year and I know that our members welcomed the opportunity to get together at Portsmouth College, St Jude's CE Primary School and at the Al Mahdi Centre.

SACRE has continued with its work to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally as well as academically. During the year, the SACRE has conducted its own surveys to monitor Collective Worship and withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship and we also monitored school websites for how they teach RE and refer to Living Difference IV, our locally agreed syllabus. From these initiatives we know that our schools are working hard to deliver RE, though local worries about the number of specialist RE teachers, the amount of curriculum time devoted to RE and lower than desirable entries into public examinations reflect national concerns on these issues. However, we know that when our pupils do study RE at GCSE and A Level they do well. In addition, the SACRE is continuing its exciting collaboration with the Council for Portsmouth Students (CoPS) and aims to develop these links to ensure that the student voice on RE and collective worship in primary and secondary schools is heard across the city.

We continue to follow with interest developments in RE nationally and locally including the recently launched RE Hubs. Our Directory of Places of Worship continues to develop and has garnered the attention of others who seek to do something similar. Our SACRE actively seeks to ensure all children in Portsmouth have access to high quality and challenging RE and we provide support to primary RE subject leaders through teachers' network meetings which take place online and we urge school leaders to recognise the importance of allocating school time for staff to attend. We also contribute to the Portsmouth Education Partnership newsletter which signposts resources, draws attention to issues of interest in the RE world and highlights forthcoming festivals among other features. Pupils' learning in RE has been enhanced by visits including through our 'visit a mosque' initiative and such visits have allowed our children to experience exciting learning opportunities while promoting an ethos of respect for others. They have built on their understanding of their own and other cultures and beliefs while also celebrating the religious and cultural diversity found in the city.

A highlight of the year was the opportunity for me to present Taki Jaffer (Group D) with a certificate from NASACRE on its 30th Anniversary recognising the significant impact he has made in the Portsmouth area. In July, Councillor Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education also noted the tireless effort, support and dedication Taki Jaffer and Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) have made to the Portsmouth SACRE over many years.

I remain indebted to Justine Ball who, in her role as Professional Advisor, gives invaluable support to both the SACRE and to me as well as working hard to provide as much support as possible to schools. We are pleased that our locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV, continues to be well received and the golden threads it espouses are helping ensure progression in RE. I continue to be grateful also to Debbie Anderson, Portsmouth Head of School Improvement, who assists SACRE in delivering a high level of support to Portsmouth schools, and to Karen Martin, our Clerk.

Revd. Sam Duddles
Chair, Portsmouth SACRE

INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

1.1 Duty to establish a SACRE

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

1.2 What does a SACRE do?

SACRE is a unique body; it is set up by the LA but is independent of it, with the role to give advice to that LA. The law states that Religious Education must be taught in all maintained schools² and a SACRE's role is to advise what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area.

The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how the LA responded to that advice. This includes advice on Religious Education and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

1.3 Composition of SACRE

There are four groups or committees, as below:

- A: The Christian denominations and other religious denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.
- B: The Church of England
- C: Teacher and head teacher associations
- D: The Local Authority

¹ Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

² School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

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

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

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

1.4 Membership of SACRE

The names of the SACRE members and the religious denominations for Group A can be found at Appendix A.

1.5 SACRE Functions

- To advise the LA on collective worship and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the LA that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations).
- To report to the LA and the Department for Education (DfE) on its activities on an annual basis.

1.6 Census data on Portsmouth 2021 shows that:

47.1% have no religion
39.4% are Christian
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

SECTION 2: STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF PROVISION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN 2022/23

Within Portsmouth, advice is available to schools about RE in four ways:

- The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV
- The Hampshire RE Moodle which contains the syllabus, advice and both long term and medium term planning for teachers

- The SACRE RE Advisor and the Hampshire Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Adviser
- Regular CPD opportunities for RE

The standards and quality of provision for Religious Education is regularly reviewed and agreed by the SACRE monitoring group, which meets before the full SACRE each term and feeds back to the main SACRE.

The SACRE has made available to schools a Portsmouth Places of Worship Directory to help the teaching of Religious Education, which is now freely available on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website and is also available on the national RE Hubs website [Explore RE in your Region \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://www.re-hubs.uk).

The monitoring group conducted a review of school websites to see what information was made available on the teaching of Religious Education and a summary of the information was provided to the full SACRE. 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 SACRE meeting that it is not required to publish an RE policy on a school website. These findings were reported to the Local Authority's Head of School Improvement.

A survey on withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship was sent to Headteachers of all Portsmouth schools in this reporting period and 19 schools responded. Of these schools, the SACRE 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 and where particular events were held in places of worship. Schools were very positive in the survey about the support they received for RE and Collective Worship.

Meeting Training Needs

- The duties on schools regarding Religious Education is raised regularly at head teachers' meetings and in other ways through SACRE's strong links with the authority's school improvement service and Director of Education. Academies are not obliged to follow the Agreed Syllabus; however, SACRE is keen for all schools in the Authority to use the syllabus to ensure consistency of educational experience for children across the Authority, regardless of where they go to school. Training for Religious Education is offered to all schools, whether part of a Multi Academy Trust or LA Maintained. SACRE is keen to impress on Academies however, that it is vital schools use Living Difference IV with integrity.

Resourcing Living Difference IV

- Primary RE News on-line publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors, continues to be available for Portsmouth schools to subscribe to. Teachers

are also aware of the other published resources available to support the teaching of Living Difference IV through the Hampshire RE Centre in Winchester.

- SACRE's artefact loan collection continues to be available to schools and is maintained by the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) and the Authority's despatch team deliver/collect boxes for schools.

Monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus

A monitoring group has met virtually each term in advance of the full SACRE meeting during the period of this report in order to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus. The group seeks to be comprised of at least one representative of each of the 4 SACRE groups, including the Chair. The group reviews Ofsted reports from Portsmouth schools, together with other data such as KS4 GCSE results.

GCSE Religious Studies examination results 2020 and 2021: overall findings

- Only one school in the city entered students for GCSE RE. The SACRE discussed why this was and considered that schools faced pressure to deliver good results in core subjects. It was felt that this may be a contributing factor in dropping numbers studying GCSE RS in this area (although it was noted that 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 was and is a concern for high quality Religious Education for the SACRE.
- SACRE remains concerned about the low numbers of young people in Portsmouth who are entered for the full course RS GCSE and therefore concerned to ensure through all means possible that in other ways young people are able to access their entitlement for religious education at Key Stage 4.

SECTION 3: COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SACRE has received no formal complaints about religious education in the past year.

SECTION 4: STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF PROVISION FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Within Portsmouth advice is available to schools around CW through three forms:

- Hampshire's published advice on CW in schools (available from the Hampshire RE centre)
- The SACRE RE consultant and
- An annual collective worship course run by Hampshire County Council.

Monitoring Collective Worship

Ofsted reports sometime mention collective worship in relation to evidencing that a school is promoting children's SMSC development and personal wellbeing. The comments viewed have been positive.

SECTION 5: COMPLAINTS

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship in schools.

SECTION 6: DETERMINATIONS

No requests for determination have been submitted to SACRE and there are no current determinations for review.

SECTION 7: LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

The LA consultant is a member of the AREIAC executive. SACRE members have also attended the NASACRE virtual monthly training programme which has helped maintain links with NASACRE.

SACRE members have made contributions to teacher CPD by coming to sessions run by Justine Ball, the SACRE RE consultant, to talk to teachers about their religious practices and beliefs. Some of the SACRE members have hosted school visits to their places of worship throughout the year. SACRE members have also gone into schools to lead collective worship times as well as being a school faith visitor.

Locally, 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. It maintains close links to the Portsmouth LA by the consistent attendance of the Head of School Improvement at the monitoring group and full SACRE meetings.

7.1 Links with other Authorities and SACREs

Portsmouth retains strong links with the Hampshire SACRE through members who are on both bodies and through the SACRE adviser and the Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Adviser. Portsmouth SACRE is also represented at the South Central SACRE Hub meetings in Winchester.

7.2 NASACRE

Portsmouth SACRE is a member of NASACRE and NASACRE bulletins are regularly circulated to all SACRE members by the Clerk. SACRE members have also attended the following NASACRE training during the year:

NASACRE 7-8pm, 17 November 2022 SACREs – a way forward...? (White Paper) Chaired by Linda Rudge and Paul Smalley, attended by Christine McMillan (Group A) Jane Kelly (Group B) Councillor Asghar Shah (Group 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, attended by Sam Duddles (Group B)

NASACRE 7-8.30pm, 19 January 2023 Being an effective Chair part 2 Chaired by Linda Rudge, attended by Sam Duddles (Group B)

NASACRE 4-5.30pm, 21 February 2023 Being an effective SACRE Clerk Hosted by Exec members, attended by Karen Martin (Clerk)

NASACRE 7-8pm, 14 March 2023 What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations? Hosted by Lesley Prior, attended by Christine McMillan (Group A)

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

7.3 South Central RE/SACRE Hub

Portsmouth SACRE members are invited to the South-Central Hub meetings during the period of this report. During the period of this report the SACRE hub meeting was held virtually and this has enabled SACRE members to attend more frequently.

SECTION 8: SACRE's CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORTING SCHOOLS THROUGH EVENTS AND TRAINING

The SACRE consultant has provided training this year on the content of the RE syllabus for members of the SACRE and 3 members attended this. She has also made members aware of the RE Hubs free training on hosting school visits to their places of worship and speaking to schools on RE and so far, 1 member of the SACRE has enrolled on this training.

- Primary network meetings have been held virtually each term in this reporting year. Secondary RE Subject leaders been encouraged to attend the virtual Secondary RE Networks that are enabled through the Hampshire Learning Zone platform. It is extremely useful for Portsmouth teachers to meet with colleagues in Hampshire, since Living Difference IV is shared across the authorities.
- Portsmouth SACRE was awarded a Culham St Gabriels' Trust grant for Christianity in October 2022. This provided free of charge CPD training for Portsmouth Primary schools at Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral on the diversity within Christian traditions. Three of the SACRE were present at this and two spoke at it as well as the Inspector/Adviser.

SECTION 9: SACRE's OWN ARRANGEMENTS

Meetings and attendance:

- SACRE has met three times during this period.
- SACRE seeks to ensure that all four groups are well represented at all meetings.
- Teacher representatives from primary schools, secondary schools as well as post-16 providers have attended SACRE during this period.
- Reports have been regularly presented to SACRE to ensure that SACRE is well informed about local and national matters in relation to religious education.
- Where members have been able to attend local, regional or national events held virtually during this period, this has been facilitated, for example the termly South Central SACRE Hub meetings.
- A pre SACRE meeting with the Chair or Vice Chair and SACRE Professional Adviser has taken place prior to SACRE meetings during this period.

The three occasions SACRE met during the academic year 2022-23 were:

2 November 2022
28 March 2023
14 June 2023

All the meetings were in person and two took place in schools and one at a place of worship in the region.

Minutes of all SACRE meetings and the current membership are available from the Portsmouth City Council website: [Committee details - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education \(SACRE\) Portsmouth City Council](#)

SACRE during this reporting period has been seeking representatives from the following:

- Group A** Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Office, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Salvation Army, Muslim and other Christian denominations (1 each)
- Group B** CofE representative (1)
- Group C** Early Years representative (1)
- Group D** None (0) current appointments run to May 2026

The percentages attendance 2022/23 per group is as follows:

Autumn - 2 November 2022

Group A = 50%	5/10
Group B = 66%	2/3
Group C = 60%	3/5
Group D = 75%	3/4

Spring - 28 March 2023

Group A = 50%	5/10
Group B = 66%	2/3
Group C = 40%	2/5
Group D = 50%	2/4

Summer - 14 June 2023

Group A = 50%	5/10
Group B = 100%	3/3
Group C = 0%	0/4
Group D = 25%	1/4

APPENDIX 1 - PORTSMOUTH SACRE MEMBERS 2022-23

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

Baha'i - Elizabeth Jenkerson (reappointed June 2022)
Baptist - Geoff Wheeler
Buddhism - vacant position
Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas
Hinduism – vacant position
Humanist UK - Barbara Spiegelhalter
Humanist UK Geoff Wade (nominated reserve Humanist representative)
Muslim - vacant position
Methodist Church – Revd Ray Goddess (appointed March 2022)
Muslim - Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato (reappointed June 2022)
Judaism – Samuel Hilsenrath (appointed March 2022)
Quakers - Sarah Coote
Roman Catholic – vacant position
Sikh - Jaswant Singh-Digpal
The Assemblies of God - vacant position
United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan (reappointed June 2022)

Group B Representatives - Church of England

Sue Bowen (reappointed March 2022)
Revd Sam Duddles (reappointed March 2022)
Jane Kelly (reappointed March 2022)

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 (reappointed March 2022, appointed Vice Chair March 2022)
Rachael Osborne - Primary Headteacher Representative (appointed June 2022)

Helen Reeder - Teacher Liaison Panel (reappointed June 2022)
Debbie Lucas - Secondary School Representative

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

Maria Cole (to November 2021)
Taki Jaffer (reappointed June 2022)
Councillor Tom Coles - (to May 2022)
Councillor Ryan Brent (to May 2022)
Councillor Benedict Swann (appointed June 2022)
Councillor Asghar Shah (appointed June 2022)
Councillor Abdul Kadir (appointed June 2022)

Co-opted members

Jessie Wilson - Council of Portsmouth Students representative

Officers in Attendance:

Justine Ball (HIAS), Professional Adviser
Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement
Karen Martin, PCC Democratic Services

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF ORGANISATIONS RECEIVING THIS REPORT

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies. This report will be available on the Local Authority and NASACRE websites for interested parties to download.

Director of Children, Families and Education, Portsmouth City Council

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

Cllr Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, Portsmouth City Council

The Department for Education (Central Government)

NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all Portsmouth Schools

All members of SACRE

The Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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Agenda Item 10

nasacre

National Association of
Standing Advisory Councils
on Religious Education

NASACRE 2023-24 virtual training programme

We are delighted to announce that NASACRE is running another year of webinars to support SACREs in their practice. NASACRE-subscribed SACREs have unlimited access for all their members to each and every webinar for £50 annually which represents incredible value for professional development. SACREs may also book for individual sessions – prices are below.

- 1. Thursday 21st September 2023, 6:30-8pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...***
Led by Denise Chaplin, Catherine Hughes & Claire Clinton
Description: This session will help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to this work.
Free session.
- 2. Monday 16th October 2023, 7-8:30pm: *Applying for and gaining a Westhill/NASACRE award***
Led by Linda Rudge & Anne Andrews
Description: This session will help SACREs to consider the opportunity afforded by applying for and gaining an award. Hear from successful SACREs sharing what the award has enabled their SACRE to do.
Free session.
- 3. November 2023 – dates TBC in each region, 6:30-8pm: *Regional meetings - for SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs, LA officers and professional support officers, working with their RE Hub lead and a NASACRE Exec member***
Description: This session taking place in regions will allow for a smaller number of SACREs to come together; it continues NASACRE's conversation with our membership, to share good practice, national and local news and giving time for SACRE leadership teams to raise, discuss and help to support each other.
Free session.
- 4. Tuesday 5th December 2023, 7-8pm: *How may SACREs effectively monitor schools?***
Led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton
Description: A chance for SACREs to come together and hear about a range of strategies and practices that build relationships with schools and enable SACREs to monitor RE and CW.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*
- 5. Thursday 18th January 2024, 6:30-8pm: *Using data effectively as a SACRE***
Special guest: Deborah Weston
Description: This session will help SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs and professional support officers to make effective use of the data that NATRE, NASACRE and the DfE provides, ensuring local data can be drawn upon.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*
- 6. Thursday 22nd February 2024, 4-5:30pm: *Being an effective SACRE clerk, part 2***
Led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton
Description: This session will help SACRE clerks to reflect on their present practice and share with other clerks around the country some top tips for fulfilling the SACRE clerk's role; it will focus on minute-taking, SACRE's constitution/terms of reference and composition.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*

7. **Monday 26th February 2024 7-8pm: *Dealing with beliefs and practices about loss & death in your Agreed Syllabus***
Led by: Denise Chaplin and Paul Smalley
Description: This session will help SACREs to reflect on what they do a present to cover this aspect of the curriculum in schools. It will provide input from the national body of funeral directors, as well as examples from 2 different SACREs of their support work around these issues within their Agreed Syllabus.
Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

8. **Tuesday 12th March 2024, 7-8pm: *Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference – legalities and processes***
Led by: Paul Smalley with Linda Rudge
Description: This session will share the legal process and best practice suggestions for convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for your SACRE.
Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.

9. **Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...***
Hosted by Exec members
Description: A rerun of the September session, to help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.
Free session.



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 1 November 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.

It is not the role of SACRE to find its own members, but it can make recommendations to the Local Authority if its representatives feel that an important group should be represented in one of its groups (as set out above).

3. Recommended that SACRE:

- a) **Appoints Mr Michael Zeffert, as Jewish representative (Group A) following the resignation of Samuel Hilsenrath which was noted at the last meeting.**
- b) **Notes the membership vacancies set out in paragraph 4 of this report and asks the Local Authority to approach relevant appointing bodies for representatives.**
- c) **Notes that the SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE for the current academic year, that this allows members to attend its training sessions (set out in Appendix A to this report) free of charge and that members should take advantage of opportunity.**



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 2024 and appointments will be confirmed at the Cabinet meeting in June 2024.

6. SACRE training:

a) Attendance at training events since the last meeting:

NASACRE	7.00-8.30pm, 26 June 2023	So, you've joined your local SACRE... Hosted by Exec members	Christine McMillan (Group A)
HIAS	10.00-11.30am, 18 September 2023	Training on the Living Difference IV syllabus for school speakers - hosted by Justine Ball, Hampshire County Inspector for History and RE	Apologies Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo (Group A) and Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D). The session will be re-run in the Spring term.

b) Portsmouth SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE's annual training programme so that all its members may join any of its virtual training sessions FREE.

In addition to the courses set out in Appendix A to this report, NASACRE will also be running the following session which is free for Portsmouth SACRE members:

Collective Worship (joint with AREIAC) virtual training session: Monday 20 November, 4-5.30pm

Description: This session will share the present legal position of the government on collective worship and then share what a number of SACREs are doing to support collective worship practice in their schools.

- Official -



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

Appendix A - NASACRE training opportunities 2023-24

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Agenda Item 11



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 1 November 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 11 October 2023.

The group received updates on professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE and the first national results from the GCSE examination series in 2023. An update on implementation of Living Difference IV, including training in RE, was received.

- 2. Recommendations:**

That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.

- 3. Background:** The monitoring group met at 4.30 pm on 11 October 2023.
Present:

Present: Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A), Revd. Samantha Duddles (Group B), Jane Kelly (Group B), Kari Laing (Group C) and Taki Jaffer, Councillors Asghar Shah and Benedict Swann (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).

The meeting was chaired by Justine Ball.

- 4. Inspector/Adviser Updates:**

Primary phase

In June 2023, 12 primary and special teachers visited the Mosque. This visit and the visit earlier in the year to the Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral provided CPD opportunities for the teachers involved. It was agreed that repeating the opportunity to other places of worship would be beneficial.

The Primary RE Network met online earlier in the term and the focus this year aimed to support planning good RE for the year. 13 teachers and RE leads had attended. Discussion at the meeting included the RE research review and Ofsted deep dives for RE. There have been relatively few Ofsted deep dives on RE -



approximately 5% for England in both primary and secondary (where it is also bottom of the subject list for deep dives). There was also a focus on different religions in RE and the opportunities to do light touches on these to support the delivery of Living Difference IV.

There is not a Secondary Network due to the numbers involved.

Actions:

It was agreed that an opportunity to visit a different place of worship for secondary, primary and special school teachers would be set up to include CPD opportunities by the two SACRE advisers.

5. Updates on Portsmouth 2022 GCSE Religious Studies examinations and known results:

Chris May reported that data for individual schools is not yet available, and Debbie Anderson confirmed that all data is subject to verification.

Chris May talked through the national data and information for the geographical area of Hampshire, which includes Portsmouth and Southampton. This indicates that:

- a) Since 2010 GCSE entries for RE have gone up, although short course entries are down by 92% as these do not contribute to school performance data.
- b) Nationally there is an upward trend for History and Geography entries where other humanities subjects are stable. Hampshire is 37th out of 47 counties for uptake of RE at GCSE, though in terms of grades achieved the region is ranked 22nd for grades 4-9.
- c) For A levels - Hampshire is 44th out of 47 counties for uptake of RE at A Level and is ranked 23rd for achieving grades A* for C.
- d) Where students are entered for GCSE or A Level example, the performance is in line with national trends but not enough students are entering public exams.

In discussion it was noted that the situation is the result of a number of factors including: the low number of RE teachers available and their capacity to offer RE and curriculum time given to RE; the real impact of excluding RE as an EBacc subject for assessment purposes; and the lack of Ofsted deep dives in RE.

Justine Ball reported the government had recently published a list of bursaries on 10 October and this included bursaries of £10,000 for RE teacher training from 2024-25.

6. Other sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE:

Justine Ball introduced this item, explaining that Living Difference IV was now halfway through its life having been adopted in 2021 and needing review in 2026. She added that the priority this year is to start gathering evidence on the Locally Agreed Syllabus in schools to see the training needs of teachers. She noted that in networks and on visits, teachers liked the approach of the cycle of enquiry, concepts and the pedagogy to teaching RE. Living Difference IV introduced the



idea of golden threads - belonging, community, special and love - which are revisited as different religions are studied and RE is taught at different age groups. A useful result of the golden threads approach is that teachers are reporting that it is excellent for planning the curriculum, as it provides links between units, continuity and progression and sets up building blocks in RE.

An area for future development within Living Difference IV is on pondering time - and the opportunity for self-study. Justine Ball noted that Special schools are very good at planning pondering time and many secondary schools are too, but that more could be done to help primary schools consider the different ways this could be planned in school. It is proposed to develop case studies of schools that have implemented pondering time well and these will go on the Hampshire Moodle.

Chris May commented that where the benefits of utilising golden threads to support progression has been explained to secondary school RE leaders, they are keen to adopt it. He added that the flexibility offered by Living Difference IV is embraced by teachers.

7. Ofsted Reports

Justine Ball confirmed that although there had been no deep dives in RE on recent Ofsted visits, the reports were generally positive. Links had been made between RE and British values and respect for others. Debbie Anderson explained that links to personal development and inclusivity and preparing children for the wider world had been a common theme.

8. Update on ECT and subject training offer:

Chris May reported that the biggest news is in relation to the announcement on RE bursaries. He noted that this had been campaigned for over a long period of time by AULRE, Culham St Gabriel's and others had been subject to an open letter to Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education of the United Kingdom. NATRE had been represented Deborah Weston at an education Select Committee hearing on 12 September 2023 when RE had been discussed as a shortage subject. Following the announcement of the RE bursary, it is hoped that the situation relating to RE specialist teachers will improve.

Chris May reported that Winchester has already moved to offering combined humanities subjects for its PGCE courses and that History and RE is a popular combination. He reported that he was not aware of any ECT or other RE teacher appointments in Portsmouth.

9. Withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship

Withdrawal from RE and/or Collective Worship was discussed as there seemed to be some anecdotal evidence that withdrawals are happening more than previously. Justine Ball commented that the findings of the survey in Portsmouth last year indicated very low levels of withdrawal but noted that not all schools had completed the survey. It was noted by members of the Group that where withdrawal requests



are made, schools work with families to increase their understanding of the value of RE and Collective Worship and this can ensure children stay in and participate.

Actions:

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Collective Worship survey would be sent to all schools after Christmas and early in the Spring 2024 term - by Justine Ball, SACRE Advisor and Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement.

10. Other areas discussed

There was agreement that EMAS should be invited to a future meeting as their visits to schools and 1:1 work with children provides valuable information. EMAS representative/s will therefore be invited to attend the next Monitoring Group meeting by Justine Ball, SACRE Advisor.

The Revd. Sam Duddles, SACRE Chair, reported that she had recently had a meeting with Jessi Wilson of CoPS. Last year CoPS appointed their diversity representative to work with SACRE; this year the ambition is to elect a young person to sit specifically with SACRE. This individual will be tasked with a specific piece of work to present to and challenge SACRE at the Spring term meeting. Revd. Duddles reported that the long term aim is to set up a youth SACRE in the city and that she is hoping to meet with the youth parliament with a view to raising the profile of RE with them.

Revd. Sam Duddles noted that there was an outstanding action from the last meeting and that was for herself and Councillor Abdul Kadir and Councillor Asghar Shah to set up an initial meeting with Mr Ali at the Muslim Academy in Buckland with a view to further meetings with other mosques and a future full SACRE meeting being held at one of the Portsmouth mosques. Councillor Shah undertook to set this up alongside Councillor Kadir.

Councillor Asghar Shah reported that he had recently given a talk in a local school about Islam, that he was in touch with 3-4 other local schools and that he would be happy to visit other schools to talk on this subject. This was welcomed by the SACRE Chair who said that she would be able to help facilitate this.



Agenda Item 12



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting:	1 November 2023
Subject:	Annual Review of the SACRE Constitution
Report by:	Justine Ball, Portsmouth SACRE Advisor

1. Purpose of report:

This report provides the SACRE with the opportunity to review its constitution with a view to ensuring that it fulfils its functions and reflects the Portsmouth area. The SACRE constitution was approved on 20 November 2019.

2. Background:

SACRE's membership is comprised of 4 groups as set out in the 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.

The Constitution was last reviewed at the SACRE meeting of 20 November 2019 (minute no. 51). The minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2019 state that the SACRE previously asked that further consideration be given to amending part 6 of the constitution to allow for a mechanism for deciding membership requests that are not straightforward replacements by established member organisations. The Portsmouth SACRE Constitution was previously updated at the meeting of 14 November 2018.

At its meeting in November 2019, the SACRE was informed that legal advice had been sought and that it was recommended that the constitution be amended to reflect that:

- The SACRE has the power to appoint members to a sub-group/working party to consider such matters (including membership and pre-appointment issues) as and when it sees fit.
- The sub-group can then make recommendations to the full SACRE.
- The terms of reference and membership of such sub-groups will be set by the SACRE as and when required.
- The sub-group would ordinarily be an advisory body, not a decision making body so that the final decision is still made in accordance with the Act's required voting/quorum provisions.

This process was agreed on 20 November 2019 with other minor updates to the constitution.



The SACRE may be interested to note that at the SACRE meeting in 2019, there was a further discussion regarding whether membership should be extended to parent governors and young people. It was felt however that the responsibility for teaching RE lay with the schools.

3. Recommended that SACRE:

- a) **Considers whether the SACRE Constitution requires amendment or updating and, if so, appoints a Sub-Committee to oversee the work before making recommendations to the SACRE and thereafter the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education.**

OR

- b) **Confirms the SACRE Constitution (previously agreed on 20 November 2019) subject to the words "stated in 4.1" in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 being changed to read "stated in 3.1" and to further review in the Autumn term of 2024.**

4. Matters for possible review

The SACRE will want to note that there is an incorrect paragraph number given in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2. These should refer to paragraphs 3.1 rather than 4.1 and it is proposed that this typographical error is corrected.

Matters the SACRE may wish to consider in reviewing its constitution:

Section 2 - Membership

- a) Consider whether a review of Census 2021 and pupil data could be helpful in establishing the membership of Group A (see paragraph 2.1(a)). Group A comprises representatives of Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations and should reflect the principal religious traditions and the wider 'belief' systems of the area.
- b) Consider whether it would be helpful to further define the membership of Group B (set out in paragraph 2.1(b)) to clarify that the relevant nominating body for Group B is the Diocese/ Diocesan Board of Education for the area and that representatives could include: local clergy; teachers (including teachers from Church of England schools); governors; and members of local Anglican congregations.
- c) Consider a review of the membership of Group C (see paragraph 2.1(c)) to ensure that it reflects the education community in the city. Traditionally, membership of this Group has been interpreted to mean teachers from the different teaching unions, but it might also mean those who come from local head teacher groups or networks of RE teachers in the authority. Some SACREs include teachers from academies in Group C, particularly where those academies have chosen to adopt the locally agreed syllabus. Although it is not a legal requirement to do so, many



LAs have a policy of ensuring that all strands of education are represented on their SACRE, appointing teachers to Group C who come from EYFS, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, including alternative provision. Group C might also include a representative of a local university department leading on Theology and Religious Studies or involved in training RE teachers. Qualified teachers working as education officers in major places of worship, galleries, museums and other relevant sites locally where learning in RE takes place might also serve on this group.

- d) Consider whether the SACRE would benefit from co-opting additional representatives from local organisations (see paragraph 2.2) and whether it is appropriate to specifically include mention of Interfusion as an example of a local organisation.

5. Next steps

Legal advice on any changes to the current constitution should be sought. In law it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to decide which communities and organisations should have representation on its SACRE and it is the responsibility of the LA to approve the nominees of the relevant sponsoring bodies.

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PORTSMOUTH

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - CONSTITUTION

Constituted under the Education Act 1996, this body shall be the Portsmouth Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Throughout this constitution it shall be known as 'The Council' and 'The Authority' shall refer to the Portsmouth City Council

1. FUNCTIONS

The Council Shall:

- (a) advise the Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in city schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to the Council, and as the Council may consider appropriate;
- (b) advise the Authority regarding its statutory duty to review its agreed syllabus every five years and to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference;
- (c) determine any application from the headteacher of a city school following consultation with the governing body, for an amendment to the requirement that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- (d) publish an annual report which:
 - i. specifies any matter on which it has advised and / or supported the Authority
 - ii. broadly describes the nature of that advice and / or supported the Authority
 - iii. sets out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to in the first place by the Authority.

In addition to making the report available for public inspection, a copy shall be sent to other organisations, as the SACRE considers appropriate for example, NASACRE, HMI/Ofsted, the Cabinet Member for Education, the Director of Children's Services and the elected member representatives on the SACRE.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Council shall comprise four groups of members constituted by the Authority as specified below¹:

¹ In accordance with the Education Act 1996, Section 390



(a) Group A

One representative of each of the religions and other bodies listed below:

Representatives of: Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area:

The Roman Catholic Church	The Methodist Church
The Baptist Union	The United Reformed Church
The Religious Society of Friends	The Assemblies of God
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	The Salvation Army

Other Religions represented include:

Judaism	Islam
Hinduism	Sikhism
Buddhism	Baha'i Faith

Other Bodies:

Humanism

(b) Group B

Four Representatives of the Church of England

(c) Group C

Six or more teachers representing the various key stages and an association recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation.

(d) Group D

Four representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the Authority.

2.2 Co-opted persons may be appointed by SACRE for example, teachers from local schools, or members of local organisations such as Interfusion.

2.3 For a meeting to be quorate there shall be at least one representative present from each of the four groups A, B, C and D.



3. VOTING

- 3.1 On any question to be decided by the Council only the representative groups on the Council shall be entitled to vote, and each representative group A, B, C and D shall be entitled to one vote. No other persons shall be entitled to vote.
- 3.2 In the event of a 2:2 vote, there be no casting vote and the resolution put before the council not be carried and the status quo be maintained until such time as a majority decision is reached.

4. DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Members of the Council shall be appointed for four years.
- 4.2 Any member of the Council may at any time resign from office.
- 4.3 A member of the Council appointed by the Authority may be removed from membership by the Authority at any time if in the opinion of the Authority the person ceases to be representative of either the denomination or association to which the member was appointed. Subject to the conditions of this section of the constitution, members of the Council having served the full term are eligible for re-appointment.
- 4.4 Co-opted members to have a specified period of office, to be no longer than the standard 4 year term of office (which can be linked to the duration of a particular event or project).

5. PRE-APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP SUB GROUP

- 5.1 Before appointing the Council shall take all reasonable steps to assure themselves that the nominees are a representative of the religion, denomination or associations in question.
- 5.2 To help decide membership requests that are not straightforward replacements by established member organisations, the SACRE has the power to appoint members to a sub-group/working party to consider such matters (including membership and pre-appointment issues) as and when it sees fit. The sub-group can then make recommendations to the full SACRE. The terms of reference and membership of such sub-groups will be set by the SACRE as and when required. The sub-group would ordinarily be an advisory body, not a decision making body so that the final decision is still made in accordance with the Act's required voting/quorum provisions

6. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 6.1 The Chairman, being a member of Group A, B, C or D shall be elected by the members of SACRE in accordance with the voting procedure stated in 4.1 above for a period of two years or until the person elected ceases to be a member of the Council, whichever is the sooner.



- 6.2 The Vice-Chairman, being a member of Group A, B, C or D, shall be elected by the members of SACRE in accordance with the voting procedure stated in 4.1 above for a period of two years or until the person elected ceases to be a member of the Council, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.3 Persons continuing to be members of the Council are eligible for re-appointment to the position of Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

- 7.1 The SACRE may alter this constitution at any time, but will consult the Authority before doing so.
- 7.2 The Council shall review its constitution annually on the occasion of the presentation of its annual report. The Council may make such recommendations for amending the constitution, as it deems appropriate.

Revised November 2019



Agenda Item 13



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 1 November 2023
Subject: SACRE Annual Report
Report by: Justine Ball, Portsmouth SACRE Advisor

1. Purpose of report:

This report provides the SACRE with an opportunity to review its agreed Allowances Policy and Procedures.

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.

Many members of the SACRE are volunteers. Prior to the adoption of the Allowances Policy and Procedures document in June 2023, there was no process in place whereby members of the SACRE could make a claim for legitimate expenses which they incurred on SACRE business. This includes the attending meetings of the SACRE which are generally held around the city at places of worship or in education settings.

The SACRE recognised that the lack of an Allowances Policy may be an impediment to the recruitment of new members of the SACRE.

3. RECOMMENDED that SACRE adopts the SACRE Allowances Policy and Procedures for the next 12 months and that it is further reviewed at the first SACRE meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.

Appendix A - SACRE Allowances Policy and Procedures, agreed 14 June 2023.

Appendix B - SACRE Volunteer Claim form

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PORTSMOUTH SACRE ALLOWANCES POLICY AND PROCEDURE



Contents

1. Aims
2. Background
3. Guidance
4. Overview
5. Submitting a claim
6. 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 (LEAs) 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

C: Teacher and head teacher associations

D: The Local Authority

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

¹ Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

² School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

- 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. Formally Co-opted members may also claim allowances to cover expenditure necessary to enable them to perform their duties on behalf of the SACRE.

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 SACRE member
- **Parking** - claims can be made for parking fees incurred while undertaking duties which form part of the role of the SACRE member
- **Mileage** - Mileage will be paid (usually at the rate of 45p per mile - see section below on Submitting a claim for other rates) for travel undertaken as part of the role of the SACRE member. Mileage claims must be supported by VAT fuel receipts.

This guidance relates to approved circumstances in which a SACRE member 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.

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

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.

Members of SACRE should always consider car-sharing for travel to meetings where possible.

Reimbursable costs should be agreed in principle by the Chair of the SACRE **before** they are incurred. If the SACRE member intends to seek reimbursement for attendance at SACRE meetings (3 per annum), they may seek prior approval from the Chair of the SACRE for all three meetings. This approval should be sought in advance of the first meeting of each academic year (namely the Autumn term).

Approval for all other claims (eg. attendance at NASACRE's annual AGM and Conference) must be agreed by the Chair of SACRE in advance. Claims will be paid in arrears on a case-by-case basis.

Travelling expenses incurred by a member of SACRE in the performance of their official duties will be reimbursed after authorisation by the named Portsmouth City Council Local Authority Link Officer.

The Portsmouth Link Officer may authorise payments up to £50. Claims over £50 must be authorised by PCC's Director of Finance or Deputy Head of Finance.

Submitting a claim

In order to process expenses claims, the claimant will need to provide the following details:

- Name
- Address of payee
- Bank
- Account name
- Account number
- Sort Code

These details should be submitted with each claim form to the Clerk of SACRE who will liaise with the Business Manager for PCC Children, Families and Education.

It is important to submit the claim promptly for payment into your bank account one month in arrears. Late claims will be paid up to a maximum of three months in arrears, but anything beyond this period will not be paid.

- All mileage should be rounded up or down to the nearest mile – for example, if you travel between 2.1-2.4 miles that should be recorded as 2 miles, and travel between 2.5-2.9 miles should be recorded as 3 miles.
- Copies of petrol/diesel VAT receipts must be submitted with your business mileage claims, to enable the Council to reclaim the VAT. These should be dated no more than three months prior to the journey and total at least 50% of the amount of mileage to be reimbursed. If submitting a claim by email, an electronic copy of a VAT receipt will be accepted.
- Mileage rates:

Bicycle – 20p per mile
Motorcycle – 24p per mile
Car Petrol, diesel, Hybrid or LPG – 45p per mile
Car Electric 20p per mile
Car All other fuel types: 14p per mile).

To determine the mileage incurred, note the actual mileage travelled from the vehicle's odometer. All return trip journeys must be claimed as one journey rather than a separate journey for each leg of the round trip.

Travel expenses where a SACRE member uses their own vehicle must not exceed the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) approved mileage rates (detailed above).

Claims may be submitted on paper by post or by email to:

The SACRE Clerk
c/o Democratic Services
Portsmouth City Council
Floor 3, Core 2-3
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth PO1 2AL

democratic@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

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.

Monitoring arrangements

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

Agreed: 14 June 2023

Portsmouth City Council Expenses Claim Form - volunteers, placement students and other non-staff



Name (captials).....

Period of Claim.....

Department

A RECEIPT FOR EACH ITEM CLAIMED MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS CLAIM FORM

Date	Journey details (start point-destination-finish point and purpose)	Total mileage (max 60 miles return journey)	Other expenses (include details, for example: lunch, bus fare)	Amount

Declaration of Claimant: I confirm I have read and that I have adhered to the expenses guidelines on this form.

By claiming mileage, I confirm I hold a valid driving license, that my car is taxed and insured and that it has a current MOT Certificate.

Signature of Claimant: Date:

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.

Subsistence - The maximum amount that you can claim for subsistence is: breakfast £5.75; lunch £7.94; evening meal £9.83. Subsistence may only be claimed if you are attending an event, conference, meeting or training course as part of your volunteering/placement and are away from your normal volunteering/placement base for more than five hours. Meals and childcare expenses should only be claimed if you have contributed more than eight hours continuous work at your volunteering/placement base.

Public transport - claims can be made for reasonable public transport fares for travel undertaken as part of the role of the volunteer or placement

Parking - claims can be made for parking fees incurred while undertaking duties which form part of the role of the volunteer or placement

Mileage - Mileage will be paid at the rate of 45p per mile for travel undertaken as part of the role of the volunteer or placement. Mileage claims must be supported by VAT fuel receipts.

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		
																			0	0		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
																			0	0		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
																			0	0		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
																			0	0		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Total:																										



Agenda Item 14



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 1 November 2023
Subject: SACRE National and Local RE Matters Report
Report by: Chris May, Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Advisor

- 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:**
Culham St Gabriel's Trust continues to be involved in a number of initiatives and is the largest grant giving body supporting religious education [Homepage - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://www.cstg.org.uk) .

These include:

Active engagement in the 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://www.cstg.org.uk)

Providing a range of 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. They include new 'Primary Beginning Teacher' courses. These can be found here:

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

- 4 RE Hubs –** This project was introduced to the SACRE last year. The South East section includes the Portsmouth Directory of Places of Worship. The range of resources on the website continues to expand 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. As noted in the previous National and Local Matters report, 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. Further information can be found here:

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

5 Sacred Texts British Library

Resources created by the British Library were reported at the previous meeting and are a useful resource available online free of charge for all KS2 teachers on a range of different religions. They can be accessed here:

[Discovering Sacred Texts: Key Stage 2 teaching resources | The British Library \(bl.uk\)](https://www.bl.uk/learning/religious-studies)

6 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 training program for 2023-4 is available on the NASACRE website here: [Virtual-training-programme-23-24.pdf \(nasacre.org.uk\)](https://www.nasacre.org.uk/virtual-training-programme-23-24.pdf)

7 NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) is the professional body for RE teachers and has produced reports on the initial GCSE and A-Level data. As part of this, numbers for both grades and uptake of RE are broken down by county (not by Local Authority). Unfortunately, this means there is not currently Portsmouth specific data available, but it does give an important picture of the results and uptake in the region as a whole, including Portsmouth schools. For GCSE Hampshire ranks 37th out of 47 counties for percentage uptake with just 15.9% of students opting for GCSE RS. The percentage of students gaining a grade 4-9 is at 72.9% ranking 22nd and slightly above the national average of 72.2%. For A-Level, the picture for uptake is worse and perhaps reflects the low GCSE uptake. Hampshire ranks 44th out of the 47 counties for uptake. Hampshire ranks 23rd for achieving grades A*-C at 77.7%, which is slightly below the national average of 79%. The reports suggest a continuing trend of lower uptake noted in GCSE data analysis last year and is of concern. The reports can be found here: [Report-on-GCSE-Religious-Studies-2023.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/report-on-gcse-religious-studies-2023.pdf)
[Report-on-A-level-Religious-Studies-2023.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/report-on-a-level-religious-studies-2023.pdf)

8 An open letter was sent to the Education Secretary Gillian Keegan in September and published in the Telegraph. This was signed by a group of cross-party peers and MP's. Of particular note is the claim that RE provision is "a postcode lottery", in which some children are receiving a comprehensive and well-taught education, while others receive "either tokenist RE or none at all" with 51% of children being taught by teachers without a specialism in RE. It also highlights that only 44% of the recruitment target for RE teachers will be met. The letter calls for teacher training bursaries for RE and a request for the government to set out what it is doing



to improve RE teacher recruitment. [Pupils receive a tokenistic religious education, cross-party MPs and peers tell Gillian Keegan \(telegraph.co.uk\)](#).

- 9** NATRE, represented by Deborah Weston, also represented RE at an Education Select Committee hearing on recruitment and retention on 12th September where RE was formally described as a shortage subject by the committee. The transcript can be found here: [12 September 2023 - Teacher recruitment, training and retention - Oral evidence - Committees - UK Parliament](#)
- 10** The Jewish Museum has produced a range of clips and resources for teaching inclusive Judaism. It aims to promote an authentic representation of Judaism in the classroom and make sure that the Jewish community is presented as a diverse living tradition. [Inclusive Judaism - The Jewish Museum London](#)
- 11** On 10 October, it was announced that for the year 2024-2025, a £10,000 bursary for trainee teachers of RE will be introduced. This is very welcome news but concerns still remain about the recruitment crisis in the profession.

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