

DOCUMENT APPROVED BY PORTSMOUTH SACRE 14 NOVEMBER 2018

SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Annual Report 2017/18

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

This year 2017/18 has particularly involved embedding Portsmouth's Agreed Syllabus *Living Difference III* into practice while there have been an increasing numbers of academy schools in the Authority. Nevertheless we find that the syllabus is still much appreciated and well used in our schools, giving clear guidance to teachers about how to teach high quality RE.

We have continued to participate in regional and national RE meetings and events, and we have also followed with interest the work of the Commission on RE during this period.

We thank Patricia Hannam as professional adviser to SACRE as well as Justine Ball, who as primary inspector/adviser in Hampshire has run primary RE network meeting. We are especially grateful for the continued provision of excellent clerking support from within the Authority and have valued working with Joanne Wildsmith during this period.

We plan to continue working with Portsmouth teachers in order to ensure children in Portsmouth continue to have access to high quality and challenging Religious Education, as the implementation and now evaluation of the effectiveness of Living Difference III proceeds. We anticipate continuing our partnership with Hampshire, Southampton, and now the Isle of Wight, and continue to welcome the opportunity to participate in national work with NASACRE as well as in regional initiatives such as the South Central SACRE Hub.

Once more I offer my sincere thanks to all who work so hard to support RE in Portsmouth and especially to all the members of the Portsmouth SACRE.

Councillor Ryan Brent Chair, Portsmouth SACRE

SECTION 1: 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

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

- Fifteen members of other religious groups.
- Four representatives of the Church of England.
- Six representatives of teachers' associations.
- Four 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 Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

² School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

1.6 Meetings and attendance

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2017-18:

- 8th November 2017
- 14th March 2018
- 27th June 2018

Minutes of all SACRE meetings and the current membership are available from the Portsmouth City Council website: http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=174

SACRE is supported by a clerk from the Councils' Democratic Services, as well as a professional adviser Patricia Hannam.

The percentages attendance per group is as follows:

Autumn 8th November 2017 (at Civic Offices)

Group A = 78%

Group B = 66%

Group C = 0 (so meeting inquorate)

Group D = 75%

<u>N.B.</u>

A special meeting was held on 21st February 2018, with reduced numbers but all groups were represented. This was to ensure that the actions of 8th November meeting were approved as this has been an inquorate meeting.

Spring- 14th March 2018 (at Civic Offices)

Group A = 55%
Group B = 50%
Group C = 33%
Group D = 50%

Summer - 27 June 2018 (at St.George's CoE Beneficial School)

Group A - 55%

Group B - 25%

Group C - 33%

Group D - 75%

1.7 Action Plan

SACRE 3-year action for 2016 -18 can be found in Appendix B.

1.8 Circulation of Annual Report

A list of the organisations receiving this report can be found in Appendix D.

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF SACRE'S WORK in 2017/18

2.1 Agreed Syllabus, revision and implementation (see Action Plan point 1)

- The reviewed and revised agreed syllabus *Living Difference III* was adopted by the Agreed Syllabus Conference in October 2016.
- SACRE together with the Local Authority continue to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and through a newly constituted monitoring group that meets at some point before each SACRE meeting, SACRE is now better able to monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III.

2.2 Meeting Training Needs (see Action Plan point 2)

 Following the initial programme of briefing sessions for head teachers and senior leaders and teachers, the duties on schools regarding religious education is raised regularly at head teachers' meetings. Although Academies are not obliged to follow the Agreed Syllabus SACRE is pleased to enable schools in the Authority to use the syllabus with integrity. Primary network meetings continue to be held once each term and are well attended. Secondary RE Subject leaders have the opportunity to attend Secondary RE Networks as well as the annual conference offered in Hampshire, where the same Agreed Syllabus is shared.

2.3 Resourcing Living Difference III (see Action Plan point 3)

- The Primary RE News on-line publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors continued to be provided to all Portsmouth schools. Teachers are also aware of the other published resources available to support the teaching of Living Difference III through the Hampshire RE Centre in Winchester.
- SACRE's artefacts collection continues to be maintained by the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS). Information relating to the religious and cultural artefacts available to schools from SACRE is available to schools from Portsmouth City Council through EMAS located in the basement room at the Civic Offices. The council's despatch team currently deliver/collect the boxes without charge. EMAS continues to offer support to schools in their appreciation of a range of religions and cultures through Festival and Language Packs.

2.4 Monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus (see Action Plan point 4)

- A SACRE Monitoring group has been convened and now meets once each term some time before presenting a written report to the full SACRE. Terms of reference have been agreed by the full SACRE and the first meeting was held in July 2017. This meeting has the specific purpose of considering a range of data in order to ensure SACRE is well informed about the effectiveness of its Agreed Syllabus *Living Difference III*.
- SACRE Monitoring group has considered Ofsted reports mentioning or alluding to Religious Education
- SACRE monitoring group and full SACRE have considered KS4 data.

• Monitoring visits made to primary schools have given a base line understanding f the picture of RE across Portsmouth Primary Schools. This, in addition to the network meetings means it is possible to say that RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools is continuing to thrive in most cases.

2.5 Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness (see Action Plan point 5)

- SACRE has met three times during this period
- SACRE has sought to ensure that all four groups are represented at meetings. One of the meetings in this period was not quorate. New teacher representatives have been sought including from a primary school and 6th form college. Secondary participation is still sought
- Training was been offered to all SACRE members in September 2017 to ensure all members have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Portsmouth: Living Difference III
- 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 reports have been presented back to SACRE
- A pre SACRE meeting with the Chair, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Adviser has taken place prior to all SACRE meetings

2.5 Other Issues:

- **Collective Worship:** A survey of the position on Collective Worship in Portsmouth schools is still to be undertaken and will be completed in 2018/19
- SACRE has noted that any academy or free schools in Portsmouth has the
 opportunity to teach religious education using Living Difference III. SACRE is keen to
 ensure that schools that are teaching in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus have
 the opportunity to access high quality training whilst being aware that there are now a
 rapidly increasing number of academies in the authority. SACRE is seeking the cooption of additional representatives from a Portsmouth Primary and Secondary
 Academy so that its support and influence both reflects and contributes to ensuring
 high quality RE is received by all children and young people in Portsmouth.

SECTION 3: STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

3.1 Commentary on GCSE examination results in Religious Studies

This report offers an overview and brief analysis of the 2017 GCSE data available regarding full course GCSE Religious Studies (RS) in Portsmouth. Clear comparisons between each year cannot be made absolutely since it is not the same group of students and not always the same teachers teaching in each year being compared.

Background information

- The GCSE sat in 2017 was the last year of this particular specification
- The GCSE Full Course, called Religious Studies (RS) is in general intended to be a 2 year course sat at the end of year 11, however some schools teach the GCSE RS over three years, beginning in year 9.
- The GCSE is planned to be taught in 120 hours. Usually in two lessons per week over 2 years.

- It is important to note that some schools teach RS GCSE in one lesson per week over two or three years. Usually in these schools teachers are non-specialist teachers.
- Schools which have the best results for RS are those which enable students to access the full time recommendation for the GCSE and to be taught by specialist teachers.
- The existing GCSE was first available for examination in 2011, and is being replaced by a new course which was available for examination for the first time in 2018.
- Assessment Objectives for the GCSE Religious Studies course sat in 2017 were : AO1 Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding 50% AO2 Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights, and differing viewpoints 50%.
- RS GCSE tests not only knowledge but the capacity to *analyse* and *to use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate*. Teaching must enable students to do this. RS GCSE success is about higher order thinking, not just facts. Challenging children to analyse evaluate and in other ways reason well at KS3 and KS4 is known to raise standards at GCSE.

Overall findings

- Entries for GCSE Full Course in Portsmouth reveal that out of a cohort in 2016 of 1729, 670 students sat Full course GCSE. In 2017 this was 332 entries out of a cohort of 1633.
- There has been a large reduction in the number of entries across the authority in 2017. This raises a concern regarding what the other students are doing whilst in KS4 to ensure they are accessing their entitlement to religious education (RE) during this key stage.
- A further 83 students sat the Short Course GCSE RS examination in one school in 2017.
- It is important to note that despite the reduction in numbers of entries, overall students undertaking Full Course RS GCSE in Portsmouth have done well compared to the national. Overall young people have achieved 75% A*-C translating to an average points score of 5.1 (70% A*-C and points score of 4.7 is the national figure). This is important since the mechanism for 'points scoring' has changed.

	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G
Portsmouth	61.7%	96.5%	68.7 %	97.2 %	73.9%	97.5%	73.2 %	98.4 %	75%	tbc
National (all schools)	72.2%	98.4%	70.4 %	97.9 %	72.2%	97.9%	71.7 %	97.8 %	70%	tbc

Where young people are entered for GCSE adequate time must be given to teaching the GCSE RS teaching. Further, where GCSE is not taught at KS4, SACRE would want to encourage schools to ensure all students can access a rich religious education curriculum at KS4 that meets the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus and ensures schools meet OFSTED requirements for religious education as set out in the Ofsted Handbook.

3.3 Quality of Teaching and Leadership in Religious Education

In addition to monitoring GCSE Full Course results, Portsmouth SACRE seeks to fulfil its duty to monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in a number of ways.

Although there is rarely specific reporting about Religious Education in Ofsted reports, Portsmouth SACRE Monitoring Group has looked at reports where pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development (SMSC) has been noted. In addition to this the group has considered reports where how a school is preparing children for life in modern Britain has been noted. Although it is not possible to be certain that there is a definite link between these judgements and the quality of Religious Education, reports can give an indication that there is some provision as frequently religious education can be inferred as contributing to this judgement. Short one-day OFSTED inspections of schools already judged as good or better almost never mention these things, limiting SACRE's capacity to draw any conclusions about RE from these reports . The full and short reports are available on the Ofsted website.

The LA commissioned a small number of SACRE visits to primary schools in 2017/18 to augment previous visits to secondary schools made some years ago.

SECTION 4: COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There have been no formal complaints about Religious Education to SACRE in the past year.

SECTION 5: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

5.1 Monitoring Collective Worship

Ofsted reports sometime mentioned collective worship in relation to evidencing that a school is promoting children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and preparing children for life in modern Britain. The SACRE monitoring group will monitor, consider and report on this in future

5.2 Complaints

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship in schools.

5.3 Determinations

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

SECTION 6: LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

6.1 Links with other Authorities and SACREs

Portsmouth retains links with the Hampshire SACRE through members who are on both bodies. Members of Portsmouth SACRE also attend South Central SACRE Hub meetings in Winchester.

6.2 NASACRE

Members of the Portsmouth SACRE were able to attend the 2018 NASACRE national meeting and AGM. NASACRE offers support and guidance to the Portsmouth SACRE.

6.3 South Central RE/SACRE Hub

Portsmouth SACRE members are invited to the South Central Hub meetings where further support and advice, including development of RE research, development of leadership capacity and local support booster courses are discussed. These meetings were reconvened during this period and have been attended by a SACRE member from Group A.

APPENDIX A - SACRE MEMBERS 2017/18

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

Baha'i - Elizabeth Jenkerson Baptist - Geoff Wheeler Evangelical - Peter Davies Hinduism - Renuka Vyas Islam Mr Syed Aminul Haque and Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo (from June 2018) Judaism - Ruth Guyer (Vice Chair to March 2017) Quakers - Sarah Coote (as from January 2017) Roman Catholic - Honorary Alderman Tom Blair Salvation Army - Captain Teresa Everett United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan (from June 2018)

Group B Representatives - Church of England

Reverend Jane Ball Sue Bowen Revd Sam Duddles (appointed Feb 2018) Jane Kelly (appointed February 2018) (Brian Hay resigned February 2018)

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

Paula Withers, Secondary Teacher Representative Kari Laing, Post-16 Representative (from April 2018 with Sarah Hanley Post 16 Rep until March 2018) Sarah Sadler and Sandra Gibb, Primary School Representatives Gemma Self, Early Years Representative Helen Reeder, Teacher Liaison Panel Beverley Millson, Special Schools Rep (resigned March 2018)

<u>Group D Representatives</u> - Four representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the Authority.

Maria Cole (appointed as of 19 June 2018 by Portsmouth City Council)
Taki Jaffer (appointed as of 19 June 2018 by Portsmouth City Council)
Councillor Suzy Horton (reappointed by Portsmouth City Council June 2018) (Vice Chair from July 2017)
Councillor Ryan Brent (reappointed by Portsmouth City Council June 2018) (Chair from July 2017) (Councillor David Tompkins from 9 June 2016 until May 2018)
(Councillor Jim Fleming from 9 June 2017 until May 2018)

Officers in Attendance:

Patricia Hannam (HIAS), Professional Adviser (from Jan 2017)
Mike Stoneman, PCC - Deputy Director of Education
Joanne Wildsmith, PCC - Democratic Services (clerk from December 2017)

APPENDIX B – ACTION PLAN FOR 2016, 2017, 2018

Glossary of abbreviations

FBV	Fundamental British Values
CPD	Continuing Professional Development (staff training)
DfE	Department for Education
EMAS	Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
EO	Education Officer
IOW	Isle of Wight
LA	Local Authority
LDR11	Living Difference Revised (in 2011) the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus from 2011-2016
LDRIII	Living Difference III the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus from Autumn 2016
RAG	RAG rated, R = Red, not achieved; A = Amber - partially achieved; G = Green - fully
NAG	achieved
SACRE	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
SEF	School Evaluation Form
SLT	Senior Leadership Team (in schools)
SMSC	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

Portsmouth SACRE 3 year Action Plan 2016, 2017 & 2018

No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating			
1.	Agreed Syllabus revision and implementation							
1.1	SACRE to have new (revised) Agreed Syllabus	SACRE	Autumn 2016	<i>Living Difference III</i> to have been adopted by ASC for Portsmouth	Green			
1.2	SACRE communication strategy across authority ensuring <i>Living Difference III</i> in all schools	LA with SACRE support	Autumn 2016	Communication strategy to have been agreed and executed	Green			
2.	Meeting Training Needs							
2.1	Implement a programme of briefings for head teachers regarding <i>Living Difference III</i> across the Local Authority and sequence of RE Primary Network meetings taking place once each term	LA with SACRE adviser	November 2016 and ongoing	Agreed Syllabus to be in place and implemented well in schools using <i>Living</i> <i>Difference III</i>	Green			
2.2	Review effectiveness of initial implementation programme and use to inform the development of a further wave of training in <i>Living Difference III</i> during 2017/18.	SACRE Adviser together with SACRE Monitoring Group	Summer 2017	Maintain standards for RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools	Green and ongoing			
2.3	Working with existing Hampshire and Southampton documents, prepare Portsmouth advice for head teachers on religious observance that may impact children and young people's dress or school attendance	SACRE Adviser together with appointed SACRE 'task and finish' group	Summer 2018	Contribute to ensuring children and young people's safety in Portsmouth and promote religious literacy in Portsmouth Schools	Green – in final stages before publishing			

No.	Actions	Who	Target Completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
3.	Resourcing Living Difference 2016				
3.1	Portsmouth to provide the Hampshire Religious Education Curriculum Update 'Primary RE News' for a further year 2016-2017 to LA schools and follow up the impact of this to support RE teaching through visits and surveys	Portsmouth LA and SACRE Adviser	Summer 2017	Maintain standards for RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools	Green and on- going
3.2	Identify further training needs and make recommendations to LA Education Service, as appropriate.	SACRE, SACRE Adviser and Monitoring Group	November 2017	Maintain standards for RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools	Green
3.3	Make adjustments to resources as appropriate (artefact loan items available to teachers)	SACRE Adviser	December 2017	Maintain standards for RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools	Ongoing
4.	Monitoring the effectiveness of the	Agreed Syllabus			
4.1	Monitoring Group to meet once each term	SACRE Monitoring group with SACRE Adviser	Once each term	For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective	Ongoing
4.2	Monitoring visits to take place in schools	SACRE Monitoring group with SACRE Adviser	Ongoing rolling programme presented to Monitoring Group once each term	Monitoring visits take place each financial year, detailed findings considered by Monitoring GROUP and overall findings presented to SACRE	Ongoing
4.3	Monitoring and reporting of GCSE results including paying attention to the % of entrants.	SACRE Monitoring group with SACRE Adviser	Once each year	Verified results to have been considered by Monitoring Group once each year and findings presented to SACRE	Ongoing
4.4	Continue to monitor Ofsted Inspection Reports mentioning or alluding to RE.	SACRE Monitoring group and SACRE Advisers	Once each term	Findings considered and presented to SACRE	Ongoing

No.	Actions	Who	Target Completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
4.5	Monitoring group to provide written report to SACRE noting key points discussed	SACRE Monitoring group and SACRE Advisers	Once each term	Findings considered and presented to SACRE	Ongoing
5.	Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness				
5.1	SACRE to meet once each term and be quorate	SACRE Adviser and SACRE Clerk	Once each term	For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective	Ongoing
5.2	Representative appointments to all four Groups of SACRE to be in place SACRE Chair and Clerk to be appointed	SACRE Adviser and SACRE Clerk	When necessary	For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective	Ongoing
5.3	Regular training available to new SACRE members when necessary	SACRE Adviser	When necessary	For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective	Ongoing
5.4	Training to be offered to all SACRE members following the implementation of <i>Living Difference</i> <i>III</i> and regularly thereafter when enough new members of SACRE Warrant	SACRE Adviser	Offered before and following adoption of Living Difference III	For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective	Offered in September 2017 and ongoing
5.5	Written reports presented to SACRE noting key local and national issues related to Religious Education (including SMSC) and collective worship in schools.	SACRE Members, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Adviser	Once each term and when otherwise necessary	For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective	Ongoing
	Where members have been able to attend relevant events (e.g. South Central SACRE Hub or NASACRE AGM) they should report back, as appropriate, working with SACRE Adviser.				
5.6	Pre-meeting with SACRE Chair, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Adviser and others as required to take place before each full SACRE meeting	SACRE Chair SACRE Clerk and SACRE Adviser	Once each term	For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective	Ongoing

APPENDIX C:

Professional development opportunities offered in 2017/18 for Schools leaders and subject leaders to ensure effective implementation of Living Difference III across the authority

Following the distribution to all schools regarding the new agreed syllabus Living Difference III, the following support took place during the school year 2016-17.

- 1. <u>Briefing for Headteachers</u> RE and Living Difference III is identified at Authority general Head teacher briefings.
- 2. <u>Secondary RE HoDs are encouraged attend CPD opportunities for secondary</u> <u>RE teachers that run in Hampshire.</u>
- 3. <u>Primary network meetings</u> were held once each term during the period of this report in September 2017, January 2018 and June 2018. Attendance increased considerably to around 16/17 schools in the second and subsequent meetings.

APPENDIX D: 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's Services, Portsmouth City Council

Deputy Director of Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education, Portsmouth City Council

Cllr Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for 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