



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 16 June 2021

Subject: Update on National RE Matters

Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** This report updates SACRE regarding National RE matters including activities of the Religious Education Council (REC), the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE) and Ofsted's latest report in relation to Religious Education
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the report.
3. **Background:**

The Religious Education Council (REC) Annual General Meeting was held on 11th May 2021. The REC is a membership organisation comprised of well over 60 organisations each of whom have an interested position in relation to religious education. In addition to the regular business of the organisation discussions were held in the afternoon regarding the Vision and Mission statements as well as the values of an organisation that brings together such a wide range of members together seeking to campaign for high quality religious education for all children in our schools. The REC Commissioned the Commission on RE (CoRE) report published in 2018.

National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

On the 17 May 2021 NASACRE published a research report into SACRE Funding. This report can be accessed here: [1-376-nasacre-report-on-sacre-funding-in-england-2021.pdf](#) and has 5 key recommendations. The first two in relation to SACREs and their LAs and the second two in relation to the DfE and Ministers. Portsmouth SACRE is well supported currently with a Clerk, Chairman and professional advisers available to support development of RE. NASACRE, the national body for SACRE's held its AGM on 24th May. Portsmouth SACRE was represented.

Ofsted and Religious Education.

Ofsted published a Review of religious education on 12 May 2021 and available here: [Research review series: religious education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). A key aspect of the report is to emphasise that RE in LA maintained schools must follow the agreed syllabus and that Academies (without a religious designation) must also arrange for RE to be taught to all pupils. This can either be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus or in some other way ensure equally high-quality curricular provision. The report



acknowledges the usefulness of the Agreed Syllabus in ensuring high-level outcomes, recognising that subject leaders find them helpful as they design their school RE curriculum. The report emphasises that RE teachers and leaders must be clear about the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus, where it applies. Ofsted notes that most locally agreed syllabuses are constructed on the assumption that the amount of curriculum time given to RE is at or above 5%. The review of Living Difference III will be taking into account this report. NASACRE has noted that some of the issues raised in the Ofsted Report have implications for the resourcing of RE.

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document | Location |
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The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: