



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Wednesday 9 March 2022

Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report

Report by: Patricia Hannam

- 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 17 February 2022.

The group received updates on the forthcoming GCSE examination series in 2022, professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE and Collective Worship. An update on Living Difference IV and the directory of places of worship and visitor publications was received.

- 2. Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.
- 3. Background:** The monitoring group met at 4.00pm on 17 February 2022.

Present: Sam Duddles (SACRE Chair), Debbie Anderson, Jane Kelly, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Debbie Lucas (arrived 4.26pm) and Jessi Wilson (observing).

- a. Update on 2022 GCSE Religious Studies examinations:** the Summer 2022 examination series will be formal examinations. On 7 February an announcement was made by the DfE with some adjustment to specification and reduction in material to be studied to allow for the impact of the pandemic. RS GCSE is affected. SACRE's professional adviser ran a training session with secondary leaders, and it was concluded that high level responses to question would not be possible unless everything has been studied. SACRE should have school level data to analyse in the autumn. It was noted that the impact of COVID continues to put significant pressure on staff in light of illness levels in schools. The monitoring sub-group registered its concerned about the impact of the pandemic on the full exam series on staff and pupils in the summer.
- b. Update on launch conferences and minor adjustments to Living Difference IV:**
 - i.** Two major, well attended launch conferences took place in November and January hosted by the HCC Learning Zone. Portsmouth teachers were able to attend.



- ii. SACRE Professional Adviser has presented to Portsmouth head teachers' meeting
- iii. Governors have received a briefing
- iv. A small adjustment needs to be made on page 3 of the syllabus. Advice has been taken and the words '*and the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)*' will be removed from the third line of the third paragraph. Whilst this wording is not strictly inaccurate, SACRE does not want schools to be of the view that they do not also need to take into account the latest Ofsted Handbook at the time, were they to receive an Ofsted Inspection. This adjustment will be made, and an updated version of Living Difference IV circulated with the addendum noted. This does not impact the syllabus in any other way.

c.

- d. Monitoring of Portsmouth City Council school websites:** To take this forward, a model assessment tool from Bournemouth will be amended for use in Portsmouth. The form will be sent to LA schools after the SACRE meeting - then we can have a look at the websites before the next meeting in June.

Website should include "clear reference to Living Difference IV" or "cites Living Difference IV". Long term overview of the RE curriculum should also be on the school website. Parents need to be able to appreciate what RE is about from the website. It was noted that lead inspectors will look at the website before an Ofsted visit. A link to Living Difference IV also should also be included. Some celebration of children's work and visits would be ideal - SACRE is looking for gold standard which would generate a letter of congratulation. If not up to scratch then SACRE would approach governors as they are responsible for the website. Need to keep it simple for schools.

Three key things to include:

Reference to and link to Living Difference IV

Purpose of RE

Outline/overview of curriculum for RE the school

- e. Update on RE professional education:**

- i. Update and feedback from primary and secondary professional education opportunities -
Portsmouth primary network group continues to run and is free for staff to attend as funded by LA. Teachers are advised of dates through the weekly bulletin, on the PEP website and is usually well attended.
Secondary RE Network meeting on 10 March - can be booked in through the HCC Learning Zone. In 2022, the spring and summer meetings will be virtual and face to face meetings will resume in the Autumn.
ECT subject specific training offer was discussed.



A further half day LDIV virtual launch conference is planned for June 14th 2022. Booking through the HCC Learning Zone.

e. Other sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE including:

Reports from secondary and primary Ofsted visits that have taken place since the last meeting were considered. It was noted that there had been no Deep Dive for RE during this time. RE was not mentioned specifically in any of the reports.

f. Monitoring Collective Worship: SACRE has a responsibility to monitor collective worship and a survey of withdrawal from Portsmouth Schools will take place when there is less pressure due to Covid-19, perhaps in the summer term.

g. Portsmouth religious places of worship and visitor publications:

In light of the impact of Covid-19 progress with developing the e-document has been slower than hoped. It is hoped to include the SACRE stone logo on the document and then issue it through the interfaith network and CofE deanery. A draft will be circulated to SACRE members as soon as possible. It is intended to have a final copy ready for the June SACRE meeting. The final copy will be a Digital PDF on the PCC website.

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

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: