



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Wednesday 7 June 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 May 2022.

The group received updates on the GCSE examination series in 2022 and future plans for 2023, professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE. An update on implementation of Living Difference IV, including training in primary and secondary schools was received. Also an update on progress on updating the Portsmouth SACRE directory of places of worship and visitor publications was considered.

- 2. Recommendations:** That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting and requests SACRE volunteers to work with the Monitoring Group in the autumn, to monitor the LA school's websites.
- 3. Background:** The monitoring group met at 4.00pm on 17 May 2022.

Present: Sam Duddles (SACRE Chair), Debbie Anderson (arrived later due to another meeting), Jane Kelly, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Debbie Lucas and Kari Lang (part time sure to tech issues)

- a. Update on 2022 GCSE Religious Studies examinations:** the summer series taking place during the period surrounding the minoring meeting. There has been some reduction in the amount of material young people should study. However it is felt that highest achieving schools will still teach the full specification to enable young people to access the highest grades. This is different from other subjects where whole papers have sometimes been cut.
- b. Monitoring of Portsmouth City Council school websites:** The city Council School improvement officer has given wording to LA schools for what is expected on the RE page on website. However schools will still need to make the curriculum to be taught according to Living Difference IV. Monitoring this can be taken to SACRE now for action - ie. monitoring school web pages. Noted that should be commenced in Autumn term as Living Difference IV should be being used by then. Acknowledged that will take time to undertake this process. Agreed to ask SACRE in June for volunteers to do it in the Autumn.



c. Update on RE professional education:

- i. Update and feedback from primary and secondary professional education opportunities -

Portsmouth primary network group is still taking place, free for staff to attend as funded by LA. Dates are publicised through the weekly bulletin, on the PEP website and is usually well attended.

Secondary RE Network (virtual) meeting on taking place on 14th June - can be booked in through the Learning zone - spring and summer meetings will be virtual and face to face in Autumn.

Cross Phase conference taking plan on 12 October. It is hoped Portsmouth schools will attend.

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

- i. Ofsted Inspections. Discussion took place regarding what is anticipated in a 'Deep Dive', emphasising this is not a subject inspection, but part of the inspection methodology.
- ii. It was noted that in the period being considered in this meeting, there had been very few Ofsted Inspections in Portsmouth and no deep dives for RE.

f. Update on ECT appointments and subject training offer. Teacher appointments and any known vacancies:

ECT = early career teachers

Numbers applying nationally for RE PGCE courses is very low this year nationally. This is of great concern for the future of the profession. AULRE is taking a lead on this concern nationally together with Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

g. Portsmouth religious places of worship and visitor publications:

Progress has been made with this. SACRE Chair is working with city Council School Improvement Partner to ensure a Digital PDF copy will be on the PCC website

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

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Signed by: