



SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Annual Report 2021/2022

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

I would like to begin my introduction by offering sincere thanks to all members of Portsmouth SACRE, and many others including teachers and community members, who have work so hard to support RE in Portsmouth in the year covered by this report. We must acknowledge also that the year 2021/22 has been another extraordinary year in light of COVID-19. I would also like to thank members of SACRE for their willingness to embrace the technology necessary to meet 'virtually' and to show such enthusiasm for training events and conferences that have been made available through our membership of national organisations. Continuing Profession Development Training has continued to be offered to primary and secondary teachers through our links with Hampshire inspectors/ advisers. SACRE receives professional advice from Patricia Hannam and Justine Ball, who as primary inspector/adviser in Hampshire has also maintained contact with primary schools where possible during this period.

In November 2021 the Portsmouth SACRE agreed a new local syllabus, Living Difference IV, and were delighted to welcome over 350 schools from across the wider region to conferences to launch the syllabus to our schools. In addition, Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement in Portsmouth, launched Living Difference to governors in the city.

SACRE has continued with its monitoring responsibilities and has much planned to support the implementation of the new agreed syllabus Living Difference IV. This year there has been a particular focus on compiling the Places of Worship directory for RE teachers across the city, the form to support the planning of visits the Golden Threads within the agreed syllabus Living Difference IV.

SACRE continues to ensure members are able to participate in regional and national RE meetings and events. In the period of this report, this has included attending the virtual South West AREIAC SACRE conference, NASACRE AGM as well as the regional South Central SACRE Hub meetings. SACRE continues to follow with interest developments following the publishing of the report from the Commission on RE (CoRE) in 2018. SACRE places the concern to ensure all children in Portsmouth have access to high quality and challenging Religious Education at the heart of all its work. SACRE is grateful also for the opportunities our partnership with Hampshire, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight continues to offer teachers and our children and young people alike. In addition, the SACRE has embarked on an exciting collaboration with the Council for Portsmouth Students (CoPS) and will be continuing to develop these links to ensure that the student voice on RE and collective worship in primary and secondary schools across the city.

This year we have said farewell to Patricia Hannam as Hampshire advisor to Portsmouth SACRE and have thanked her for her dedicated service to SACRE and over five years of professional advice and support which have been highly valued by us all. SACRE continues to receive excellent clerking support from within the Authority and valued working with Lisa Gallagher and Karen Martin.

Rev Sam Duddles
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:

- 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 Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

² School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

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 Meetings and attendance

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2021-22 - including a meeting to consider the adoption of a revised agreed syllabus for religious education in Portsmouth

Wednesday 3 November 2021 (Agree Syllabus Conference)

Wednesday 3 November 2021 (in person meeting)

Wednesday 9 March 2022 (virtual meeting)

Tuesday 7 June 2022 (virtual meeting)

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 local communities: Roman Catholic, Buddhist, Muslim (Sunni), and Hindu. There is one place vacant on Group B.

The percentages attendance 2021/22 per group is as follows:

Autumn - 3 November 2021 (in person meeting)

Group A = 44%	5/9
Group B = 100%	1/3
Group C = 50%	1/5
Group D = 100%	1/4

Spring - 9 March 2022 (virtual meeting)

Group A - 73%	7/10
Group B - 100%	2/3
Group C - 16%	2/5
Group D - 75%	1/4

Summer - 7 June 2022 (virtual meeting)

Group A - 55%	7/10
Group B - 100%	2/3

Group C - 16%	2/4
Group D - 50%	1/3

1.7 Action Plan

In light of Covid-19, SACRE is reviewing its 3-year action plan and putting in place a new plan for 2021/22 – 2024/25 following revision of Locally Agreed Syllabus.

1.8 Circulation of Annual Report

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

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF SACRE'S WORK in 2021/22

2.1 Agreed Syllabus adoption and implementation

- A significant part of SACRE's work in this period following the adoption of Living Difference IV in November 2021 has been ensuring information reaches all schools facilitating its implementation.
- In light of continuing concerns regarding COVID-19, apart from the ASC in November 2021 to adopt Living Difference IV and the immediately following SACRE, all meetings in this reporting period have taken place virtually. *Living Difference IV* was adopted by the Agreed Syllabus Conference in November 2021. This syllabus is shared by Portsmouth, Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight local authorities.
- SACRE together with the Local Authority has continued to support the implementation as indicated through the activities discussed below from 2.2 – 2.5.

2.2 Meeting Training Needs

- The duty 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. Many schools in Portsmouth are now Academies. Although these schools are not obliged to follow the Agreed Syllabus, SACRE is keen for all schools in the Authority to use the syllabus. This is to ensure consistency of experience in religious education for all children across the Authority, regardless of where they go to school. SACRE is keen to impress on Academies, that it is vital schools use Living Difference IV with integrity. Primary network meetings continue to be held. Secondary RE Subject leaders are encouraged to attend Hampshire Secondary RE Networks that can be booked through the Hampshire Learning Zone platform. Teachers from Portsmouth participated in review and revision meetings.

2.3 Resourcing Living Difference IV

- Primary RE Curriculum Update publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors, is 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. Materials on the Hampshire RE Website are also available to Portsmouth schools as a subscription service. There are other materials available openly on the Hampshire RE Moodle.

- 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 without charge. However, during the period of this report, in light of Covid-19 there have been some changes to this service.

2.4 Monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus

- A representative monitoring group has met virtually during this reporting period. It meets at a suitable time before each full SACRE to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus. The group is comprised of at least one representative of each of the 4 SACRE groups, including the Chair. Materials used to judge effectiveness include Ofsted reports from Portsmouth schools, together with other data such as KS4 GCSE results. During the period of this report, for a second year no subject level data has been available for consideration due to the impact of COVID-19. SACRE is also mindful that Ofsted reports are aimed at parents and rarely mention religious education.
- An innovation during this reporting period, has been establishing criteria to assist schools in ensuring their websites accurately represent what is taking place for religious education. Subsequent reports will include analysis of information gathered from the examination of schools' websites.

2.5 Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness

- SACRE has met three times during this period. One meeting was held in person in the Guildhall and two have been held virtually.
- SACRE seeks to ensure that all four groups are well represented at all meetings. Although new representatives in some groups have been made recruitment from some faith groups in Portsmouth continue to be challenging.
- Teacher representatives from primary schools, secondary schools as well as post-16 providers have attended SACRE during this period.
- Two virtual launch conferences have taken place for Living difference IV during this period and SACRE were encouraged to attend.
- 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 South west AREIAC conference in March 2022, NASACRE AGM in May 2022 and termly (virtual) South Central SACRE Hub meetings.
- A pre-SACRE meeting with the Chair or Vice Chair, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser has taken place prior to SACRE meetings during this period.

2.6 Website Advice to Schools

- Advice has been developed and shared with schools regarding what should be mentioned for Religious Education on their website.

2.7 Advice regarding visits to Portsmouth places of worship

- SACRE has worked together during this period to update and republish online its advice to schools regarding visiting local places of worship. This is now available to all schools and forms an important part of community building across the authority.

SECTION 3: STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

3.1 Commentary on GCSE examination results in Religious Studies

Background information

- GCSE Examinations in 2021 should have been the fourth year of the RS GCSE specification first available for examination in the summer of 2018.
- Since 2018 GCSE grades are awarded in the form of 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest); grade 4 regarded as a 'standard pass' and grade 5 as a 'good pass'.
- The GCSE RS full course is intended to be taught over 2 years, sat at the end of year 11 and to be taught in 120 hours of teaching time.
- RS GCSE tests not only knowledge but the capacity to *analyse* and *to use evidence and logical chains of reasoned argument to evaluate*. Teaching must enable students to do this as well as remember subject knowledge. RS GCSE success has a high demand in terms thinking as well as writing. Where young people are given the opportunity to analyse, evaluate and in other ways reason well at KS3 standards are higher at GCSE.

3.2 GCSE Religious Studies examination results 2021: overall findings

- In the summers of both 2020 and 2021 GCSE examinations were suspended and grades awarded to students on the basis of teacher assessments. No verified school level data has been available to local authorities in 2021.
- 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.

3.3 Quality of Teaching and Leadership in Religious Education

- During Covid-19 and the period of this report, SACRE has continued to fulfil its duty to monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in a number of ways. An innovation in 2021/22 has been establishing criteria for what should be

included on a school website. This has been communicated to schools through the School Improvement Service.

SECTION 4: COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

SECTION 5: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

5.1 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.

5.2 Complaints

- There have been no complaints about Collective Worship in schools.

5.3 Determinations

- Determinations procedure was agreed in 2021. No requests for determination have been received by SACRE during this period.

SECTION 6: LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

6.1 Links with other Authorities and SACREs

- Portsmouth has links with Hampshire SACRE through members on both bodies. Portsmouth SACRE also takes an active part in South Central SACRE Hub meetings.

6.2 NASACRE

- Portsmouth SACRE is a member of NASACRE, subscribes to the NASACRE training and SACRE members attend its training courses. NASACRE bulletins are regularly circulated to all SACRE members by the Clerk. SACRE members attend conference and AGM.

6.3 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.

APPENDIX A - PORTSMOUTH SACRE MEMBERS 2021-22

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
Buddhist - vacant position
Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas
Hindu - vacant position
Humanist - Barbara Spiegelhalter
Humanist UK Geoff Wade (nominated reserve Humanist representative)
Muslim - Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato (reappointed June 2022)
Muslim (Sunni) - vacant position
Methodist Church – Revd Ray Goddess (appointed March 2022)
Jewish – Samuel Hilsenrath (appointed March 2022)
Quaker - Sarah Coote
Roman Catholic - vacant position
Sikhi - 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:

Patricia Hannam (HIAS), Professional Adviser (to June 2022)

Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement

Lisa Gallacher, PCC - Democratic Services (clerk to February 2022)

Karen Martin, PCC - Democratic Services (clerk from March 2022)

APPENDIX B:

Professional development opportunities offered in 2021/22 for Schools leaders and subject leaders to ensure effective implementation of Living Difference IV across the authority

Following distribution of links to the new agreed syllabus Living Difference IV to all schools, the following support took place during the school year 2021/22

1. **Support for Headteachers** opportunities are made available through strong links with the Local Authority school improvement service to ensure good contact with head teachers in Portsmouth. SACRE professional adviser contributed to a head teacher briefing session, updating head teachers regarding Living Difference IV.
2. **Secondary RE HoDs are encouraged attend CPD opportunities for secondary RE teachers taking place in Hampshire.**
3. **Primary network meetings** have taken place once each term during the period of this report. Attendance remains good.

APPENDIX C: 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 - 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