

# SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education  
Annual Report 2022/2023

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## **SECTION 1: CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this report as the Chair of the Portsmouth SACRE and to offer my thanks to all members of Portsmouth SACRE and the teachers and community members who have worked so hard to support RE in Portsmouth in the year covered by this report.

The 2022-23 academic year was another atypical year for our SACRE following a slow return to normal following the pandemic. We did however return to the practice of in person meetings during the year and I know that our members welcomed the opportunity to get together at Portsmouth College, St Jude's CE Primary School and at the Al Mahdi Centre.

SACRE has continued with its work to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally as well as academically. During the year, the SACRE has conducted its own surveys to monitor Collective Worship and withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship and we also monitored school websites for how they teach RE and refer to Living Difference IV, our locally agreed syllabus. From these initiatives we know that our schools are working hard to deliver RE, though local worries about the number of specialist RE teachers, the amount of curriculum time devoted to RE and lower than desirable entries into public examinations reflect national concerns on these issues. However, we know that when our pupils do study RE at GCSE and A Level they do well. In addition, the SACRE is continuing its exciting collaboration with the Council for Portsmouth Students (CoPS) and aims to develop these links to ensure that the student voice on RE and collective worship in primary and secondary schools is heard across the city.

We continue to follow with interest developments in RE nationally and locally including the recently launched RE Hubs. Our Directory of Places of Worship continues to develop and has garnered the attention of others who seek to do something similar. Our SACRE actively seeks to ensure all children in Portsmouth have access to high quality and challenging RE and we provide support to primary RE subject leaders through teachers' network meetings which take place online and we urge school leaders to recognise the importance of allocating school time for staff to attend. We also contribute to the Portsmouth Education Partnership newsletter which signposts resources, draws attention to issues of interest in the RE world and highlights forthcoming festivals among other features. Pupils' learning in RE has been enhanced by visits including through our 'visit a mosque' initiative and such visits have allowed our children to experience exciting learning opportunities while promoting an ethos of respect for others. They have built on their understanding of their own and other cultures and beliefs while also celebrating the religious and cultural diversity found in the city.

A highlight of the year was the opportunity for me to present Taki Jaffer (Group D) with a certificate from NASACRE on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recognising the significant impact he has made in the Portsmouth area. In July, Councillor Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education also noted the tireless effort, support and dedication Taki Jaffer and Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) have made to the Portsmouth SACRE over many years.

I remain indebted to Justine Ball who, in her role as Professional Advisor, gives invaluable support to both the SACRE and to me as well as working hard to provide as much support as possible to schools. We are pleased that our locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV, continues to be well received and the golden threads it espouses are helping ensure progression in RE. I continue to be grateful also to Debbie Anderson, Portsmouth Head of School Improvement, who assists SACRE in delivering a high level of support to Portsmouth schools, and to Karen Martin, our Clerk.

Revd. Sam Duddles  
Chair, Portsmouth SACRE

## **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.<sup>1</sup>

### **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 schools<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

<sup>2</sup> School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

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.

#### **1.5 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 Census data on Portsmouth 2021 shows that:**

47.1% have no religion  
39.4% are Christian  
4.9% are Muslim  
0.8% are Hindu  
0.5% are Buddhist  
0.2% are Sikh  
0.1% are Jewish  
0.6% are Other Religion

## **SECTION 2: STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF PROVISION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN 2022/23**

Within Portsmouth, advice is available to schools about RE in four ways:

- The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV
- The Hampshire RE Moodle which contains the syllabus, advice and both long term and medium term planning for teachers

- The SACRE RE Advisor and the Hampshire Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Adviser
- Regular CPD opportunities for RE

The standards and quality of provision for Religious Education is regularly reviewed and agreed by the SACRE monitoring group, which meets before the full SACRE each term and feeds back to the main SACRE.

The SACRE has made available to schools a Portsmouth Places of Worship Directory to help the teaching of Religious Education, which is now freely available on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website and is also available on the national RE Hubs website [Explore RE in your Region \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk).

The monitoring group conducted a review of school websites to see what information was made available on the teaching of Religious Education and a summary of the information was provided to the full SACRE. A large majority of LA schools published a statement about how RE was taught on their websites. Over three quarters referred to Living Difference IV (LDIV) and provided a link. Generally, schools showed some progression in RE, though in some places it would have benefited from more information. Only one third of schools referred to the right to withdraw, though it was acknowledged in the SACRE meeting that it is not required to publish an RE policy on a school website. These findings were reported to the Local Authority's Head of School Improvement.

A survey on withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship was sent to Headteachers of all Portsmouth schools in this reporting period and 19 schools responded. Of these schools, the SACRE noted that very low numbers of children were partially withdrawn from RE and Collective Worship and that there were no children withdrawn from the whole of RE. The schools all knew the reasons for withdrawal and the reasons were varied but often due to the religious belief of the family and where particular events were held in places of worship. Schools were very positive in the survey about the support they received for RE and Collective Worship.

### **Meeting Training Needs**

- The duties 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. Academies are not obliged to follow the Agreed Syllabus; however, SACRE is keen for all schools in the Authority to use the syllabus to ensure consistency of educational experience for children across the Authority, regardless of where they go to school. Training for Religious Education is offered to all schools, whether part of a Multi Academy Trust or LA Maintained. SACRE is keen to impress on Academies however, that it is vital schools use Living Difference IV with integrity.

### **Resourcing Living Difference IV**

- Primary RE News on-line publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors, continues to be 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.

- 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 for schools.

### **Monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus**

A monitoring group has met virtually each term in advance of the full SACRE meeting during the period of this report in order to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus. The group seeks to be comprised of at least one representative of each of the 4 SACRE groups, including the Chair. The group reviews Ofsted reports from Portsmouth schools, together with other data such as KS4 GCSE results.

### **GCSE Religious Studies examination results 2020 and 2021: overall findings**

- Only one school in the city entered students for GCSE RE. The SACRE discussed why this was and considered that schools faced pressure to deliver good results in core subjects. It was felt that this may be a contributing factor in dropping numbers studying GCSE RS in this area (although it was noted that there was a small increase of 1.7% nationally). It was also noted that nationally and in this area, there is a lack of trainee RE teachers and that RE has arguably a higher proportion of non-specialists teaching RE than other subjects. This was and is a concern for high quality Religious Education for the SACRE.
- 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.

## **SECTION 3: COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

## **SECTION 4: STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF PROVISION FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Within Portsmouth advice is available to schools around CW through three forms:

- Hampshire's published advice on CW in schools (available from the Hampshire RE centre)
- The SACRE RE consultant and
- An annual collective worship course run by Hampshire County Council.

## **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. The comments viewed have been positive.

## **SECTION 5: COMPLAINTS**

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship in schools.

## **SECTION 6: DETERMINATIONS**

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

## **SECTION 7: LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES**

The LA consultant is a member of the AREIAC executive. SACRE members have also attended the NASACRE virtual monthly training programme which has helped maintain links with NASACRE.

SACRE members have made contributions to teacher CPD by coming to sessions run by Justine Ball, the SACRE RE consultant, to talk to teachers about their religious practices and beliefs. Some of the SACRE members have hosted school visits to their places of worship throughout the year. SACRE members have also gone into schools to lead collective worship times as well as being a school faith visitor.

Locally, the SACRE has been asked to nominate a representative for the PSCP Main Board. The aim is to appoint a suitable representative from faith communities (other than Anglican diocese which is already represented) to attend the PSCP. It maintains close links to the Portsmouth LA by the consistent attendance of the Head of School Improvement at the monitoring group and full SACRE meetings.

### **7.1 Links with other Authorities and SACREs**

Portsmouth retains strong links with the Hampshire SACRE through members who are on both bodies and through the SACRE adviser and the Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Adviser. Portsmouth SACRE is also represented at the South Central SACRE Hub meetings in Winchester.

### **7.2 NASACRE**

Portsmouth SACRE is a member of NASACRE and NASACRE bulletins are regularly circulated to all SACRE members by the Clerk. SACRE members have also attended the following NASACRE training during the year:

NASACRE 7-8pm, 17 November 2022 SACREs – a way forward...? (White Paper) Chaired by Linda Rudge and Paul Smalley, attended by Christine McMillan (Group A) Jane Kelly (Group B) Councillor Asghar Shah (Group D)

NASACRE 7-8pm, 6 December 2022 How to effectively use pupil and teacher voice in your SACRE? Hosted by Sukaina Manji and Claire Clinton, attended by Sam Duddles (Group B)

NASACRE 7-8.30pm, 19 January 2023 Being an effective Chair part 2 Chaired by Linda Rudge, attended by Sam Duddles (Group B)

NASACRE 4-5.30pm, 21 February 2023 Being an effective SACRE Clerk Hosted by Exec members, attended by Karen Martin (Clerk)

NASACRE 7-8pm, 14 March 2023 What's happening to Collective Worship beyond determinations? Hosted by Lesley Prior, attended by Christine McMillan (Group A)

NASACRE 7-8.30pm, 26 June 2023 So, you've joined your local SACRE, attended by Christine McMillan (Group A)

### **7.3 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.

## **SECTION 8: SACRE's CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORTING SCHOOLS THROUGH EVENTS AND TRAINING**

The SACRE consultant has provided training this year on the content of the RE syllabus for members of the SACRE and 3 members attended this. She has also made members aware of the RE Hubs free training on hosting school visits to their places of worship and speaking to schools on RE and so far, 1 member of the SACRE has enrolled on this training.

- Primary network meetings have been held virtually each term in this reporting year. Secondary RE Subject leaders been encouraged to attend the virtual Secondary RE Networks that are enabled through the Hampshire Learning Zone platform. It is extremely useful for Portsmouth teachers to meet with colleagues in Hampshire, since Living Difference IV is shared across the authorities.
- Portsmouth SACRE was awarded a Culham St Gabriels' Trust grant for Christianity in October 2022. This provided free of charge CPD training for Portsmouth Primary schools at Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral on the diversity within Christian traditions. Three of the SACRE were present at this and two spoke at it as well as the Inspector/Adviser.



## SECTION 9: SACRE's OWN ARRANGEMENTS

Meetings and attendance:

- SACRE has met three times during this period.
- SACRE seeks to ensure that all four groups are well represented at all meetings.
- Teacher representatives from primary schools, secondary schools as well as post-16 providers have attended SACRE during this period.
- 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 termly South Central SACRE Hub meetings.
- A pre SACRE meeting with the Chair or Vice Chair and SACRE Professional Adviser has taken place prior to SACRE meetings during this period.

The three occasions SACRE met during the academic year 2022-23 were:

2 November 2022  
28 March 2023  
14 June 2023

All the meetings were in person and two took place in schools and one at a place of worship in the region.

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:

- Group A** Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Office, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Salvation Army, Muslim and other Christian denominations (1 each)
- Group B** CofE representative (1)
- Group C** Early Years representative (1)
- Group D** None (0) current appointments run to May 2026

The percentages attendance 2022/23 per group is as follows:

### **Autumn - 2 November 2022**

Group A = 50%	5/10
Group B = 66%	2/3
Group C = 60%	3/5
Group D = 75%	3/4

**Spring - 28 March 2023**

Group A = 50%	5/10
Group B = 66%	2/3
Group C = 40%	2/5
Group D = 50%	2/4

**Summer - 14 June 2023**

Group A = 50%	5/10
Group B = 100%	3/3
Group C = 0%	0/4
Group D = 25%	1/4

## **APPENDIX 1 - PORTSMOUTH SACRE MEMBERS 2022-23**

### **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  
Buddhism - vacant position  
Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas  
Hinduism – vacant position  
Humanist UK - Barbara Spiegelhalter  
Humanist UK Geoff Wade (nominated reserve Humanist representative)  
Muslim - vacant position  
Methodist Church – Revd Ray Goddess (appointed March 2022)  
Muslim - Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato (reappointed June 2022)  
Judaism – Samuel Hilsenrath (appointed March 2022)  
Quakers - sarah coote  
Roman Catholic – vacant position  
Sikh - 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:**

Justine Ball (HIAS), Professional Adviser

Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement

Karen Martin, PCC Democratic Services

## **APPENDIX 2: 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 - 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