



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 12 June 2024

Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report

Report by: Chris May, SACRE Advisor

- 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 22 May 2024.

The group received updates on professional RE education and monitoring the effectiveness of RE and a summary of the Ofsted Subject Report for RE. An update on implementation of Living Difference IV, including training in RE, was received.

- 2. Recommendations:**

That SACRE notes the findings of the Monitoring Group meeting.

- 3. Background:** The monitoring group met at 4.30pm on 22 May 2024.

Present: Pastor Chris Thomas (Group A), Revd. Samantha Duddles (Group B), Jane Kelly (Group B), Kari Laing (Group C)

Also in attendance: Justine Ball (SACRE Professional Advisor), Debbie Anderson (Head of School Improvement), Chris May (Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE) and Karen Martin (SACRE Clerk).

The meeting was chaired by Chris May (Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE).

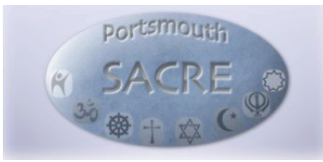
- 4. The Ofsted RE Subject Report**

The link to the report is at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/subject-report-series-religious-education>

Chris May (Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE) presented a summary of the report and thoughts. This included the following:

- Features identified in the report as representing strong RE provision
- Areas of weakness at the national level
- Actions and points to consider for Portsmouth RE as a result of the report

A written report will be included in the pack for the full SACRE meeting on Wednesday 12 June 2024.



5. Withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship Survey

Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement presented the survey findings.

It was noted that responses reflected the educational landscape in Portsmouth ie. maintained and academy schools, primary and secondary schools, small and large schools. Overall, the response was positive and schools who responded commented that they get the support they need.

A verbal report will be provided at the full SACRE meeting on 12 June 2024.

6. Inspector/ Advisor Updates including Monitoring Visits

Chris May (Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE) and Justine Ball (SACRE Professional Advisor) provided a verbal update and feedback from primary and secondary visits since the last meeting.

It was noted:

No Secondary visits have taken place since the last meeting, but that Chris May is in regular email contact with Portsmouth secondary schools.

Two very positive Primary visits have taken place since the last meeting. Justine Ball also conducted a training session with Bilingual Assistants at EMAS since the last meeting and this was an excellent session.

7. Update on RE Professional Education

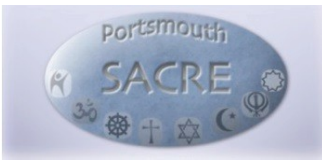
Chris May (Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE) and Justine Ball (SACRE Professional Advisor) provided a verbal update as follows:

- Webinars are available and will be advertised.
- There is a joint conference in June (AULRE and AREIAC) at which Justine Ball and Chris May will both be presenting.
- Currently there are no advertised RE teacher vacancies in Portsmouth.
- This year, Winchester Humanities PGCE has started to recruit for students with RE as their main subject.

8. Other sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE:

Chris May (Hampshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser for RE) and Justine Ball (SACRE Professional Advisor) provided a verbal update on Ofsted inspections and website monitoring as follows:

- a) No Secondary Ofsted Inspections have taken place in Portsmouth schools; Primary inspections have taken place at three schools. Where comments about RE are made they tend to be positive especially where schools are engaging with the Primary Network and other support.



- b) Website monitoring (report circulated) showed that most school websites had a statement or explanation of how RE is taught; some provided a link to Living Difference IV; and most demonstrated curriculum progression in RE. A report will be available in the pack for the full SACRE meeting on 12 June 2024.

In discussion it was noted that websites with photos and examples of children's work helped make RE look alive and vibrant.

Justine Ball offered to ask attendees at the next Primary Network meeting to bring along good examples of Collective Worship for discussion.

9. SACRE Constitution Update

A proposed revised version was circulated. The Monitoring Group noted the proposed amendments to the Constitution and agreed that it should be presented to the SACRE for consideration and recommended for adoption.