



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 12/6/24

Subject: SACRE National and Local RE Matters Report

Report by: Chris May, Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Advisor

- 1 Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key national and local RE developments.

Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the report.

- 2 Executive Summary:**

This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national developments, for example the work of the Religious Education Council (REC), NASACRE, the RE Hubs project as well as the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

- 3 Ofsted has published the RE Subject Report.** The headlines outlined in the report show that nationally there are some real concerns with RE provision, however, we know that locally Living Difference IV is a comprehensive syllabus which actively addresses the curriculum recommendations outlined in the report. Additionally, we know from RE mentions in Ofsted reports over the previous two years, that **the local picture does not reflect these national trends**. In response to this report and to continue to provide support to schools the following webinars exploring the report and Ofsted inspection framework for RE are available:

- Monday June 17th 9:30-12:00.
- Tuesday 1st October 2024 9:00-11:30

While these webinars are run by Hampshire, they will be advertised to Portsmouth schools as well. SACRE members who wish to attend should contact Justine or Chris.

- 4 AREIAC will be running a webinar looking at sensitive issues on Tuesday 11th June from 4.00 until 5.30 pm.** It will be focused on the work of the Faith & Belief Forum.
- 5 The RE Council has published the 'Religion and Worldviews Approach to RE Toolkit'.** This has been endorsed by AREIAC and contains a handbook for curriculum developers along with curriculum frameworks and the National Content Standard. There is a focus on lived experience within this that resonates with Living Difference IV, and these documents give a useful update on national developments.



The documents can be found here: [Welcome to the Religion and Worldviews Approach to RE Toolkit – REC \(religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk\)](https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk)

- 6 There is one further NASACRE webinar coming up this year:

Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm:
So, you've joined your local SACRE...

Please contact the SACRE clerk if you wish to attend this event.

- 7 Nationally, the number of students taking GCSE RS has remained stable with a slight 0.3% increase on last year. However, the number of hours taught by teachers with no post A-level qualification remains one of the highest at 26%. This remains a concern nationally, and locally. More information on this can be found here: [Religious Studies remains a popular GCSE despite specialist teacher recruitment challenge – REC \(religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk\)](https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk).
- 8 RE Hubs continue to run FREE Places of Interest and School Speaker training (POI &SS). The next dates for training are, **24th June and 11th July 2024** and all are online. SACRE members are encouraged to register for training if they have not already and to pass the details onto other school speakers they might know. Further details are available here: [Register as a school speaker \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://www.re-hubs.uk)
- 9 Winchester University, as the closest ITT provider for RE has begun to secure trainees for RE next academic year.
- 10 There is a dedicated RE podcast series available here: [Religion | The RE Podcast](https://www.religionpodcast.com). This produces weekly podcasts in an interview format. Guests include faith representatives and a range of speakers from across RE and education. Topics vary from teaching and leading RE to subject knowledge development.
- 11 From April this year, RE Subject Knowledge Enhancement course funding has been withdrawn. These courses support those wishing to train in RE, but with qualifications in other areas. This is a further concern for recruitment given only 26% of the recruitment target for 2024-5 has been secured. Further information can be found on the NATRE website here: [NATRE calls for funded subject knowledge enhancement courses to be retained after April 2024](https://www.natre.org.uk)
- 12 The **RExChange Conference** organised by Culham St Gabriel's will run Friday 18th October-Saturday 19th October 2024. This aims to bring together teachers and researchers in RE and has a wide selection of keynote speakers and seminars. More information can be found here: [RExChange 2024 - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](https://www.reonline.org.uk)
- 13 AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and AULRE (Association for University Lecturers in Religion and Education) will be holding a



joint conference on **June 20th-21st** at Newman University, Birmingham. Both Justine Ball and Chris May will be presenting at the conference.