



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: 1 June 2024

Subject: Proposed revisions to the Portsmouth SACRE Constitution

Report by: Justine Ball

1. Purpose of report:

A SACRE's constitution is broadly determined by the Education Act 1996, Sections 390–399 and Statutory Instrument 1994 Number 1304: The Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994.

SACREs need to have constitutions which should conform to the legislation.

2. Recommendations:

- a) **To agree the draft Portsmouth SACRE Constitution attached as Appendix B to this report, subject to any amendments by the Authority's legal advisors.**
- b) **To recommend to the Local Authority that it accepts the request by the SACRE to revise its Constitution and that the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education endorses the revised Portsmouth SACRE Constitution.**
- c) **To publish the agreed SACRE Constitution on the Authority's website so that it is available to SACRE members and members of the public.**

3. Background:

3.1 SACRE's Constitution was last reviewed at its meeting of 1 November 2023 (minute no. 35). At that meeting, the SACRE resolved to:

- a) Invite SACRE members to participate in small working group meetings on Teams to consider the membership for each Group (Group A members to consider Group A membership; Group B to review Group B membership etc).
- b) Invite each working group to make recommendations to the SACRE about whether they would like to make amendments to the membership for their Group.
- c) Note that any amendments to the SACRE constitution will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education.

It also noted that the previously agreed version of the Constitution included an incorrect paragraph number given in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2. These should refer to



paragraphs 3.1 rather than 4.1 (in the original) and it was agreed that this typographical error be corrected immediately.

- 3.2 The Professional Advisor to the SACRE set up Teams meetings and/ or consulted members of each Group by email to seek a consensus about the future membership of each Group.
- 3.3 The Professional Advisor and Clerk have also conducted a best practice review of the constitutions of other SACREs including those of the Isle of Wight, Southampton, Newham, Lewisham and Bristol. This review identified several areas where clarity on matters of procedure within the Constitution could be made and these have been included.

Appendix A - DRAFT Portsmouth SACRE Constitution, dated June 2024 with new or amended text highlighted in red typeface.