



**Title of meeting:** Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

**Date of meeting:** 6 November

**Subject:** Annual Review of the SACRE Code of Conduct

**Report by:** Chris May, Portsmouth SACRE Adviser

---

**1. Purpose**

The Portsmouth SACRE adopted its Code of Conduct in March 2023. The Code of Conduct is based on the NASACRE exemplar and agreement is sought for SACRE members to agree to its principles for a further academic year.

**2. Background**

The SACRE's agreed its Code of Conduct at its meeting held on 28 March 2023 (minute number 8). At the SACRE meeting on 14 June 2023 (minute no. 22), the SACRE noted that the Code of Conduct would be brought to the first SACRE meeting of each academic year for endorsement by all members of the council.

A code has value as both an internal guideline and an external statement of values and commitments as well as linking them with standards of professional conduct - for example in relation to school visits.

**3. Recommendations:**

- a) **That SACRE members individually and collectively endorse the Code of Conduct and the principles it espouses for the next 12 months.**
- b) **That the Code of Conduct is considered again at the first SACRE meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.**

Appendix A - SACRE Code of Conduct, agreed 28 March 2023.



## **Portsmouth SACRE Code of Conduct**

### **General principles**

Portsmouth SACRE encourages all its members to:

- Attend all SACRE meetings and take a full and active part in its work
- Participate in and review the work of SACRE for the benefit of the whole community
- Listen with respect to the views of other members and where a situation of disagreement occurs, disagree respectfully
- Express views and opinions openly, honestly and sensitively, always recognising others may have views different to one's own
- Assume at all times that other members of SACRE are honourable and concerned with the best interests of SACRE
- Seek reasoned consensus where views diverge and never disrespect the views of other SACRE members or seek to convert them to a different belief stance
- Actively consult with, and report back to, the membership body which they represent so that debate is fully informed
- Actively challenge and resist stereotyping
- Remember that the central aim for the SACRE is to improve the quality of provision in RE and collective worship for all pupils in Portsmouth

### **Visiting schools**

From time to time, SACRE members may have the opportunity to visit schools. SACRE Members should remember that it is a privilege to visit a school. They are there as invited guests, not to make judgements about the school or to "inspect" RE and collective worship.

Members should:

- Only visit a school when invited
- Inform the clerk of SACRE and the SACRE's Professional Advisor of any invitation received and visits made
- Ensure that you do not say or do anything, which could be viewed as denigrating any religion or ethical belief system
- Avoid being critical of others or imposing their own views
- Any confidential information disclosed should not be passed on but along with any possible concerns or confusions about what may have been seen should be discussed with the la officer and re professional before being reported back to SACRE

## **Visiting schools as a representative of a faith community**

Some faith community representatives may be more regular visitors to schools and invited to support RE and/or collective worship. Visitors should be well-supported by the class teacher who should always be present, taking an active role in question and answer sessions, and ensuring visitors are well-briefed before a visit.

SACRE members visiting a school to share their beliefs, values and experiences should:

- Have a clear, mutually agreed understanding of the purpose of the visit before it takes place
- Appreciate that they are not there to convert or proselytise, avoiding being critical of others or imposing their own views
- Be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies in re and collective worship;
- Have an understanding of where the lesson will fit into the unit of work from the agreed syllabus and what the learning objectives are
- Use a variety of teaching and learning methods and approaches, but at no time touch pupils or behave favourably towards pupils of particular faiths, ethnic groups or genders
- Ensure that pupils understand that the visitor is representing a particular faith view and their own personal interpretation of it and therefore that others from the same faith may not always interpret ideas in exactly the same ways
- Ensure that they do not say or do anything, which could be viewed as denigrating
- Communicate at an appropriate level for the age group concerned

Agreed by the SACRE, 28 March 2023