



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

**Date of meeting:** 6 November 2024

**Subject:** Membership and Member Training Report

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

---

**1. Purpose of report:**

This report updates SACRE regarding its membership, training and other opportunities for the membership.

**2. Background:**

SACRE's membership is comprises 4 groups as set out in SACRE's constitution:

Group A: Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.

Group B: The Church of England with representatives nominated by the diocese.

Group C: Teacher and Head teacher representation.

Group D: The Local Authority: appointed by the Local Authority.

Each group has one vote in the case of a voting matter. In addition, SACRE may co-opt members, who do not have voting rights.

**3. Recommended that SACRE:**

- a) **Notes the membership vacancies set out in paragraph 4 of this report and that the Authority continues to approach relevant nominating bodies with a view to appointing additional members.**
- b) **Notes the appointment of Captain Sarah Listers (Salvation Army) to Group A and James Newsam (St Swithun's Catholic Primary School) to Group C.**
- c) **Notes that the SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE for the current academic year, that this allows members to attend its training sessions (set out in Appendix A to this report) and that it is good practice for members to take advantage of training opportunities when possible.**

**4. Current SACRE vacancies and meeting attendance:**

**4.1 Current vacancies**

**Group A** Baha'i Faith, The Roman Catholic faith, Buddhist, Hindu, Islam and other Christian denominations (1 each)

**Group B** CofE representative (1)



**Group C**      None (0)  
**Group D**      None (0)

The SACRE Clerk has written recently to the nominating bodies for the Baha'i Faith, The Assemblies of God, Buddhist and Hindu faiths seeking a representative for the Portsmouth SACRE. Currently, no nominations have been forthcoming.

4.2 Attendance at meetings - last three meetings

Autumn Term meeting - 1 November 2023

Group A = 60%	6/8
Group B = 66%	2/3
Group C = 20%	1/6
Group D = 25%	1/4

Spring Term meeting - 20 March 2024

Group A = 60%	6/8
Group B = 66%	2/3
Group C = 33%	2/6
Group D = 75%	3/4

Summer Term meeting - 12 June 2024

Group A = 75%	5/10
Group B = 100%	3/3
Group C = 83%	5/6
Group D = 25%	1/4

The SACRE Clerk has written to relevant SACRE members in relation to non-attendance at three consecutive SACRE meetings. This is because the SACRE wishes to ensure that SACRE's deliberations and decisions are informed by involvement from all its constituent bodies, and it is committed to carrying forward its work together as effectively as possible.

Please note that SACRE is happy for members to nominate substitutes who may take their place at any given meeting, provided that their nominating body approves. Where a member feels they are no longer able to attend as a member of SACRE, even with the support of a substitute, the SACRE will approach the sponsoring body for the nomination of a new member to represent it.

**6. SACRE training:**

6.1 NASACRE Training Opportunities

Portsmouth SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE's annual training programme so that all its members may join any of its virtual training sessions FREE.



The Programme of training events 2024/25 is now available and is attached as an Appendix to this report.

Please contact the SACRE Clerk, Karen Martin at [karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) to sign up for training sessions.

6.2 Attendance at training events since the last meeting:

Training provider	Date	Topic	Attendees from Portsmouth SACRE
NASACRE	21 September 2023 (recording)	<b>So you've joined your local SACRE</b> - Aims to help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.	Captain Sarah Listers (Group A) Zoe Killick (Group C) Trish Gumede (Group C)
NASACRE	24 September 2024	<b>So you've joined your local SACRE</b> - Aims to help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.	Jaswant Singh-Digpa (Group A)

Recordings of NASACRE training events are available on its website. If members would like to view any of the training sessions on 'catch-up', please contact the Clerk, Karen Martin at [karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) for the log in details.