

# Public Document Pack

MEETING	<b>STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)</b>
DATE	<b>Monday, 8th November, 2021 5.30 pm</b>
VENUE	<b>CONFERENCE ROOM 3 AND 4 - CIVIC CENTRE</b>
ENQUIRIES	ALISON PHILPOTT Email: <a href="mailto:alison.philpott@southampton.gov.uk">alison.philpott@southampton.gov.uk</a>
MEMBERS	SEE ATTACHED LIST



## A G E N D A

### 1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP**

To receive any apologies and changes to membership.

### 2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

### 3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING** (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 7 June 2021 and 27 September 2021, as attached.

### 4. **SACRE ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 11 - 20)

To consider the SACRE Annual Report for approval.

### 5. **UPDATED TRAINING OFFER - PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR VERBAL REPORT**

### 6. **DEVELOPMENT PLAN WITH COSTING** (Pages 21 - 24)

To receive and approve the SACRE Action Plan and Costing.

### 7. **MONITORING GROUP VISITS 2021/2022** (Pages 25 - 30)

To receive and approve the Monitoring Group visit plan and template for 2021/2022.

### 8. **AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING** (NOTIFIED TO PROFESSIONAL ADVISER OR CHAIR AT LEAST THREE WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING) **Date of next meeting: 7 February 2022**

# STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## MEMBERSHIP

### **GROUP A**

#### **Christian Denominations\***

*(\* Religions and other bodies listed in the SACRE Constitution)*

The Roman Catholic Church	Steve Deadman	
The Baptists	Chris Davis MBE	
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	<b>VACANCY</b>	
The Greek Orthodox Church	<b>VACANCY</b>	
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Ruth Gill	
The Methodist Church	<b>VACANCY</b>	
The United Reformed Church	Susanne Dawson	
The Assemblies of God	Neil Maddock	
The Salvation Army	<b>VACANCY</b>	

#### **Other Religions**

*Religions other than Christianity (as listed in the SACRE Constitution) – Baha'i, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism = 6*

Baha'i	Elizabeth Jenkerson	
Buddhist	<b>VACANCY</b>	
Hindu	<b>VACANCY</b>	
Jewish	Dr Gil Dekel	
Muslim	Anas Al-Korj	
Sikh	<b>VACANCY</b>	

### **GROUP B**

*(Four representatives of the Church of England)*

#### **The Church of England**

Lucy Hepinstall	
<b>VACANCY</b>	
Liz Allen	

#### **From diocesan education team:**

Richard Wharton	
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### **GROUP C**

*(Six teachers representing associations recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation)*

National Education Union (NEU)	Amelia Day
The National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)	Suzanne Underwood
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)	<b>VACANCY</b>
National Association of Head teachers (NAHT)	Sian Carr

## **GROUP D**

(4+substitute) - *Four representatives of Southampton City Council, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the City Council*)

Councillor Matthew Bunday	
Councillor Toqeer Kataria	
Councillor Valerie Laurent	
Councillor Matthew Magee	

<b>GROUP D SUBSTITUTE</b>	Mrs. Kate Martin
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## **OTHERS (Non-voting)**

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Representative	Mary Wallbank	South Hampshire Humanists
Professional Advisor	Alison Philpott	Southampton City Council
Secondary RE Lead Rep	Suzanne Underwood	Bitterne Park Secondary School
ASC	Amelia Day	Newlands Primary School
ASC	Suzanne Underwood	Bitterne Park School
ASC	Chloe Foster	The Polygon School
The Church of England	Sam Jordan	
Southampton Council of Faiths	Carol Cunio	
Southampton City Mission	Matt Gwyn	

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### STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 June 2021

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Present:

Group A –

Christian Denominations

The Roman Catholic Church - Steve Deadman

The Baptists – Chris Davies

The Religious Society of Friends – Vacancy

The Greek Orthodox Church – Vacancy

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches - Ruth Gill

The Methodist Church - Vacancy

The United Reformed Church – Susanne Dawson

The Assemblies of God - Neil Maddock

The Salvation Army - Vacancy

Other religions

Baha’I – Elizabeth Jenkerson

Buddhist – Vacancy

Hindu – Vacancy

Jewish- Dr Gil Dekel

Muslim – Anas Al-Korj

Sikh – Vacancy

Group B – Church of England

Rev Duncan Jennings

Liz Allen

From Diocesan Education Team

Richard Wharton

Group C – Teachers

National Union of Teachers - Amelia Day  
The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women  
Teachers – Voice – Suzanne Underwood  
The Association of Teachers and Lecturers Vacancy  
Association of School and College Leaders – Vacancy  
National Association of Head teachers – Sian Carr

Group D – Members of the Council

Councillors Baillie, Bunday, Kataria and Laurent

Group D Substitute – Kate Martin

Also, in attendance:

Others co-opted (Non-Voting)

South Hampshire Humanists – Mary Wallbank  
Southampton City Council, Professional Advisor – Alison Philpott  
ASC teacher representatives – Susannah Woodman, Suzanne  
Dawson  
Church of England – Sam Jordan  
Southampton City Mission – Matt Gwyn

1. MEMBERSHIP

AP repeated a previous request for SACRE members to make nominations for the Faith Group Reps and asked to be informed of any nominees considered suitable to join any of the SACRE groups where there was a vacancy.

RESOLVED that the following changes to membership were noted:

- Liz Allen and Rev Tony Palmer were welcomed as C of E reps at the February meeting.
- Following Jackie Meering's step down from the role, Amelia Day was welcomed as the new NEU rep. AD was introduced as the RE Lead at Newlands Primary school.
- Suzanne Underwood, Head of RE at Bitterne Park, was appointed as the new NASUWT member. SU was previously a co-opted SACRE member and had worked in the Agreed Syllabus Group.
- Rev. Duncan Jennings informed members that he was retiring from full time ministry in September 2021 and was sadly leaving Southampton to move to Bristol. After 21 years on SACRE he said he had found it a privilege to be part of an active group and to see the relationship with schools grow and flourish. Rev Jennings thanked AP for all her support and AP expressed SACRE's gratitude for all that DJ had done over the years.
- The Diocese nominated a replacement rep Lucy Hepinstall, Foundation Governor at Highfield and the RE Lead at Bassett Green. LH was nominated to replace Rev DJ from September 2021.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that as Group D member appointments would not be confirmed until the Cabinet meeting later in June, nominations were accepted but voting was re-scheduled for the September 2021 meeting.

RESOLVED that Ruth Gill was nominated to stand as Chair and Elizabeth Jenkerson was nominated as Vice Chair. No other nominations were received. SACRE members were reminded that there is one vote per group.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

RE Quality Mark

Formerly, Regents Park school had applied for and won the Gold award. Other Southampton schools had used the App tools but not applied for the award. More recently however, Banister primary school had undertaken the assessment process and had achieved the Gold Quality Mark. Bannister primary school teachers KV and EB made a presentation to SACRE to raise the following points:

- The RE Quality Mark could be used to; benchmark RE, receive external validation, or to strengthen the RE subject area.
- Balancing religious and non-religious perspectives in class time, gave all views equal opportunity to be heard, and so met one of SACRE's targets.
- At Banister RE was used a way of understanding the world and the people around it. The school had worked hard using that as the driver for its ethos and culture.
- Banister was fortunate to be a diverse school. Children use fifty-six languages (the highest proportion being 46% English), and had a diverse range of experience and religions.
- A new concept had been introduced called 'RE in a Minute', where Year 5 & 6 children were set a question and given time to formulate answers. Children were encouraged to express themselves and explore religious and non-religious ideas and interpretations. This gave the school the confidence to explore the wider concepts of interpretation and to allow the children to guide what they wanted to learn. Children were found to make better connections with other religions after the lesson when given time to process using the 'Pondering' concept.
- There would be an opportunity at a future time for SACRE members to view a video of the children participating, which could not be shared at the public meeting.

AP and EJ extended congratulations to Banister school on its achievement of the RE Quality Mark. It was agreed that AP would write to the school on behalf of SACRE to extend SACRE's congratulations.

NASACRE Conference

AP reported that the NASACRE conference had been a useful, rich experience with a broad spectrum. It was attended by 100 people, mainly professional advisers and country wide SACRE members, sharing useful practice at a very well-managed online event.

AP stated that other SACRES had shown interest in Southampton's Advice

document, which might lead to potential additions to the document from other SACRES. AP recommended attendance at future conferences.

#### World Views Workshop

AP explained that the World Views Issue and the Theos paper (Agenda item 6) were linked and anticipated that more papers would follow, which was welcomed. It had become clear, particularly while working on the Locally Agreed Syllabus Review, that clarity and definition were needed to ascertain a common countrywide understanding.

#### RE Network Event

AP explained that the Year 8/9 event would take place in the Autumn. As previously, this would be a fact-finding activity for pupils during the morning with cross-school group presentations in the afternoon. It was agreed that AP would confirm the date of the event once it had been scheduled and would add the item to the September SACRE agenda. Further, it was agreed that SACRE members would inform AP if they could take part in and support the event.

### 5. NASACRE REPORT ON SACRE BUDGET – PROFESSIONAL

- EJ apprised members about Deborah Weston, Religious Education Consultant, who had recently retired to Hampshire. SACRE members were likely to encounter Ms. Weston as she was active with NASACRE and had previously assisted the Department of Education, where she was highly respected.
- Regarding Southampton SACRE following the recommendations in the report, AP explained that SACRE was meeting its statutory requirements by reviewing the syllabus and monitoring at schools. Monitoring was instrumental in understanding strengths and areas that needed development.
- AP confirmed that Southampton is 2% below the recommended SACRE budget. The previous year, the budget was 1.3% below. AP explained that it varied from year to year but due to a request, in the current budget year, for teacher release time to carry out reviews, AP advised budget spending would be higher in the current fiscal year. AP had done more monitoring and review work in previous non-Covid years, which had not always been taken out of budget. It was noted that no monitoring visits had been carried out during the Covid related closures and that had reduced the budget spend. EJ added that because AP is professional advisor, there was no additional cost attached for her additional work. AP confirmed that the budget was around £25-26K budget per year, which roughly equated to 20 days of AP's time.
- Clerking time and work on the Advice document and other meeting attendance was also included in budget costs.
- The response rate for the report from local authorities was high (130 of 152 responded) meaning that the information was a reliable indication country wide.

### 6. DISCUSSION REGARDING PAPER PUBLISHED BY THEOS ON WORLDVIEWS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- EJ clarified that the intention of the Commission on Religious Education's core document was to teach that other people are exposed to multiple influences in life. And, that any number of things might influence someone's world view, belief systems, behaviour, interests and interactions. Further, the aim was to understand how one's own views might be influenced and affected and the difference this might make in the way one perceives the world and its events.



- AP observed that this was central to the Theos report conclusions and also linked to the work at Banister primary school, in particular the change in use of the term 'All' to 'some, many, most, few' etc., in order to clarify that not all people think or believe the same thing. AP stated that contextualising this concept was central and would strengthen teaching.
- AP suggested that this was possibly the strongest issue to be promoted from a syllabus perspective, and it would be expected as a minimum in teaching, and, as such, Southampton's SACRE training would advocate that.

#### 7. AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE UPDATE - PROFESSIONAL ADVISER

- AP explained that teachers and schools' input into the latest review was dealt with slightly differently in view of Covid. One aspect of the review, which was in addition to the Cycle of Inquiry, was to question whether the concept of 'Pondering time' (title to be discussed), would be beneficial for children's learning. 'Pondering time' provided children with the opportunity to explore a concept they had been learning about, beyond the Cycle of Inquiry, and beyond the minimum requirement for the school delivery of the locally agreed RE syllabus. It would facilitate children to explore, think critically, and expand upon a subject they were interested in knowing more about.
- AP explained that there would be a remote meeting on Wednesday 14 July 2021, for teachers and Heads across Southampton, Portsmouth, Hants and IOW to be involved in finalising the cycle and assessment part of the review. SACRE members were invited to attend. It was agreed that SACRE Members who wished to join would email AP.

#### 8. ACTION PLAN FOR 2021-2022 - PROFESSIONAL ADVISER

- The development the new Action Plan, (due in January 2021), was delayed because of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Due to falling numbers in the Monitoring Group, AP stated it would be helpful to have a broader number of members established at the start of the 5-year cycle and invited SACRE members to volunteer for monitoring visits. AP hoped to negotiate release time for teachers new to SACRE to go into other schools.
- Rev DJ encouraged members to volunteer explaining that monitoring was generally a very interesting and positive experience for everyone involved. Schools appreciated the interest and the honest feedback of observations linked with the Agreed Syllabus.
- Further, having two reviewers allowed consideration of a wider scope of materials. Schools had previously welcomed the reviews as a positive experience. For the reviewers it was useful to see excellent examples of RE work going on in the city and in Collective Worship. SACRE members therefore

#### RESOLVED that:

- Any SACRE member who would like to join the monitoring group would inform AP as soon as possible.
- AP and RG would consult with RG's Head Teacher regarding teaching release time for RG.

RESOLVED that all proposed points for the Action Plan be approved and that SACRE take the following action: -

- SACRE would work on a 2-year Action Plan.
- The Plan would include the launch of Locally Agreed Syllabus in November 2021, and training for primary and secondary school teachers would be the top

priority for subsequent 12 months.

RESOLVED that in addition to the proposed points, the following be added to the Action Plan: -

- Monitoring group decisions
- Decisions about how to prioritise the visits
- RE Quality Mark
- SACRE training and induction: Following SACRE member training on 27 September 2021, SACRE would ensure annual training for SACRE members.
- Places of worship mapping: MG to coordinate a group (to include SU and AD). And to include information needed before a visit. MG felt that this was one of the projects that Solent Film could do at some point in the future. AP noted secondary and primary leads would be interested.
- CPD for Agreed Syllabus for both primary and secondary colleagues.
- Visits to schools from Faith Groups: CD, MG and SJ to work on this.
- SACRE annual reports: template to be developed for all reports.
- Advice Document Review: AP advised that a review was due in 2022 Spring term, of the statutory guidance advice document (1) General, and (2) Relationships and Sex Education, from a faith perspective. It was hoped that the reviews would form a broader piece of work for others to draw upon. It was agreed that the proposal to add the reviews to the Action Plan on an annual basis was approved.

The Following was noted for action:

- SACRE members would inform AP of any other awards that schools could use as external markers.
- AP would confirm the ASC Launch meeting date. Potentially, Monday 8 November 2021.
- AP would send out a schedule of work with a request that members join where other members had left.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND NOTIFIED AOB (NOTIFIED TO PROFESSIONAL ADVISER OR ACTING CHAIR AT LEAST THREE WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

- EJ informed members that it was essential that SACRE was quorate for the September meeting. Members were asked to inform AP or MM if they were unable to attend.
- The Chair thanked the Reverend Duncan Jennings and wished him the very best for the future.

**Monday 27 September 2021**

**4pm – 6pm**

**Venue: Virtual Teleconference**

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3



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## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 September 2021

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#### Present:

##### Group A –

##### Christian Denominations

The Roman Catholic Church      Steve Deadman

The Baptists      Chris Davis MBE

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches      Ruth Gill

The Assemblies of God      Neil Maddock

##### Other religions

Baha'i Elizabeth Jenkerson

Muslim      Anas Al-Korj

##### Group B – Church of England

Liz Allen

##### GROUP C

(Six teachers representing associations recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation)

National Education Union (NEU)      Amelia Day

The National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)      Suzanne Underwood

National Association of Head teachers (NAHT)      Sian Carr

##### GROUP D

Four representatives of Southampton City Council, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the City Council)

Councillor Toqeer Kataria

Councillor Valerie Laurent

Councillor Matthew Magee

##### Also in attendance:

Mary Wallbank      South Hampshire Humanists

Alison Philpott      Professional Advisor, Southampton City Council

Suzanne Underwood      Bitterne Park Secondary School

Amelia Day Newlands Primary School  
Chloe Foster The Polygon School  
Carol Cunio Southampton Council of Faiths  
Matt Gwyn Southampton City Mission

Apologies

Councillor Matthew Bunday, Susanne Dawson, Sam Jordan, Kate Martin, Rev, Tony Palmer and Richard Wharton

10. **CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

RESOLVED that Ruth Gill be elected as Chair for the remainder of the Municipal Year and that Elizabeth Jenkerson be elected as Vice Chair for the same period.

11. **ACTION PLAN AND UPDATE**

AP gave a verbal report on the Action Plan, which included the agreed actions from June 2021 meeting.

**Action:** AP to share document

**Induction and training** - AP reported that work was complete.

**Mapping Places of Worship** - Members noted that the working group would focus on Places of Worship as that was within SACRE's remit.

**Action:** MG, AD and SU to form a working group.

**SACRE Advice Document**

**Action:** AP to add to November 2021 SACRE agenda. SACRE to form a working group to take work forward in Spring 2022.

**November School Learning Event** - Members noted that the event organised by SU had been rescheduled for Spring 2022 and that it would be helpful for SACRE members to support it.

**Action:** SU to share information with SACRE when available.

**Monitoring Group Visits** - See Agenda item.

*[Anas Al-Korj left the meeting]*

**Promotion of RE Quality Mark** - AP reported that this tied in with monitoring visits. She had signposted this as a national tool, which had been available for 8 years, particularly as an auditing tool.

- LA – The diocese had informed the school about the Global accreditation for NSPCC, and information had already been sent out to the church schools.
- SC - Townhill had used the tool this year, which helped in writing the school's RE action plan.
- AP suggested that as information was not up to date, an update needed to go out quickly. Ideally in line with the changes to the syllabus.

- AP confirmed that the diocese was promoting the tool for the Church of England schools, and that the Catholic Diocese also had a tool that they used with their schools. In addition, there was the RE Quality Mark. It was important that schools were using something to support their thinking and development but not to double up by using more than one tool.

[Suzanne Underwood left the meeting]

**Annual report.** AP reported that RG, AP, and EJ would work on the Annual Report.

**NASCRE** – AP reported that NASACRE was offering a training access subscription for the year, which would include training for new chairs (7 Oct 2021 + January 2022). A membership fee of £50 for the year would give SACRE members access to listen to experts and explore concepts, such as World Views. Training would be offered around self-evaluation, which AP was keen for members to explore later in the year. AP suggested that it would be sensible to take up the NASACRE offer and advised that sessions were very focussed and useful (some sessions had to be paid for individually). No-one objected to the use of the SACRE budget to pay for the training.

**Action:** AP to circulate dates and information to everyone and to subscribe to NASACRE.

## 12. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record at the next meeting.

## 13. **MONITORING GROUP 2021- 2022**

Members noted that the Monitoring Group Visits had been on hold during Covid-19. AP reported that once SACRE members had confirmed they were content with the provision, the visit paperwork would be ready to be dispatched to schools. Members noted the one amendment, an addition of a sentence that stated '*SACRE acknowledges that schools are in a recovery position. The New Syllabus is expected in November 2021, so the expectation is that schools would be working towards implementation for September 2022*'.

- There were no changes made to selection criteria.
- The aim was to offer every school a monitoring visit within the five-year cycle.
- A monitoring group would be convened in November 2021, to begin visits in the spring half term, which would give schools and the monitoring group time to prepare.

The following points were raised in discussion for later consideration:

- Schools to be told that it is not expected that all schools would have been able to organise Collective Worship but to focus on where they are now.
- Opportunity to test and think about how to move forward, given the new syllabus and significant aspects such as *Golden Threads* to ensure commonality in learning across schools.
- Schools to consider the impact of Covid quarantine and certain concepts for pupils, whether they had RE or not during Lockdown, and how schools are dealing with that?

- How have concepts such as 'special' changed over the Covid lockdown period?
- Monitoring visits should not be looking backwards. Need to move forward positively with schools not worrying about what they had/had not done.

**Action:** AP to share the draft protocol document for member feedback

The following members volunteered to join the monitoring group: EJ, KM, LH, CD, MG, SD, RG (RG to fit in around work, aiming for 1 or 2 visits during the year as SACRE Chair).

AP proposed that the monitoring group meet in advance of Spring term to go through protocol, the schedule, and information needed for visits. It would likely mean 2 visits each. Training would be heavily focussed on the new syllabus.

**Action:** Everyone on the monitoring group to let AP know their DBS status and if on the DBS Update Service.

14. **AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE UPDATE**

AP advised that changes regarding concepts were to be interwoven through each Key Stage to help junior and secondary colleagues draw upon common threads in previous learning. A full presentation would be made at the November ASC meeting, including a discussion within groups to recommend the agreed syllabus to the local authority.

15. **FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

EJ informed everyone that NASACRE was updating its website but that the National Convention would take place in Birmingham on 23 May 2022 and encouraged members to attend.

16. **AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

MG asked how one would move from being a co-opted member to a full member of SACRE and made a formal request that Southampton City Mission become a full member of SACRE. CD stated that Southampton City Mission had a big place in RE provision to warrant a full place on SACRE as it was working in 50 or more schools. AP advised that there was a constitution review due in November. She would look at presenting a position paper on how to become a member of SACRE and how decisions are made.

**DNM: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November – 2 meetings 1. ASC – (4-5pm) and 2. SACRE 5-6pm**



## Southampton SACRE Annual Report: August 2020-July 2021

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### Words from the chair

Southampton SACRE has continued to meet during this reporting period over Microsoft Teams and we have all learnt many new skills because of this. We are thankful for the technical support afforded to us whilst recognising many members found this challenging.

Having been voted in as new chair (September 2021) this is my first action to work with the professional advisor on the Annual Report reflecting on what has been a challenging year for everyone.

We have said goodbye to some long-standing, highly valued members in this period – Jackie Meering, Duncan Jennings, and Alan King –to all of whom we give thanks for their long service and commitment to the SACRE in Southampton.

Also, over this period there has been our first Primary school success to achieve GOLD RE Quality Mark. A school who received a monitoring visit from SACRE previously and then had continued to work to wards gold. The school continues to provide excellent RE for its pupils, which is now rightly recognised.

We paused some of the work we would normally do over this period such as monitoring visits to schools as it would not have been appropriate to have carried this work out within the government guidelines at the time. So, it has been a much quieter year in some aspects, but as we opened the Agreed Syllabus conference in September 2020, as we would reach the 5 year timeframe by November 2021 we have focused more on this over the year.

The Self-evaluation tool is a priority for SACRE to use over the coming two years so as to ensure recovery from the pandemic period is effective and SACRE remains an effective body.

Recruitment of new members has continued to be difficult for some existing groups over this period, despite connections to local groups and Southampton Council of Faiths.

We have considered a request to change co-opted status for a Humanist rep into full membership at the time of our constitution review. Group A were not able to reach a decision in line with the



## Southampton SACRE Annual Report: August 2020-July 2021

constitution, and recommendation was made to the Local Authority to retain co-opted status at this time, which the Local Authority agreed in November 2020, further discussion has continued between the LA and Humanists representatives at this time and further review will be undertaken at the next review in November 2021.

It was recognised by SACRE and the council during this time that national advice would be helpful for all SACRE's on this matter so as to protect the decision-making processes of SACREs.

### Meeting overview

Meeting	Agenda link	Attendance	notes
September 2020	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 21st September, 2020, 4.00 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	Quorate	TEAMS meeting with some technical challenges, many items forwarded to next meeting. Decision from Group A regarding Humanist full voting member request.
November 2020	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 30th November, 2020, 4.00 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	Quorate	Items held over to following meeting due to pandemic related delays in meeting and taking interim actions forward at this time.
February 2021	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 1st February, 2021, 4.00 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	Not quorate whole meeting	Items held over to following meeting
June 2021	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 7th June, 2021, 4.00 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	Not quorate	Items held over for next action plan. Not quorate as councillors had not all been allocated to committee's post-election.

Most items on the action plan, other than the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus were paused during this reporting year.

### Agreed Syllabus Conference

In September 2020 we convened the Agreed Syllabus conference to request the Local Authority reviewed the Locally Agreed Syllabus, as did other SACREs we work closely with in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight.

The four areas have worked regularly together over the year, sharing expertise, collectively drawing upon evaluations of monitoring visits and nationally published information such as the Ofsted subject review for RE to inform the review and revisions. SACRE members, Local teachers and Southampton City Mission who deliver some RE across the city were drawn into the ASC group working with colleagues from across the areas. Representatives from Primary, Secondary and Special Schools have also been able to connect in with the review and pilot some of the new





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aspects with pupils providing valuable feedback as the review continued, despite the challenging times schools have faced during this period.

The review is on track to complete in November 2021. It has been recognised that schools will continue to be in a recovery period once the review is complete and it is therefore current thinking that the ASC will make recommendation to SACRE that the Local Authority provides time for schools to plan and implement the revised syllabus by September 2022.

Some of the information ad themes the review has considered include:

- Coherence through and across the phases
- National and international publications since the previous review in 2016
- Discussion with a range of scholars, Faith and Humanist representatives
- RE Knowledge as well as the skills of Inquiry, including child-led inquiry
- Meaningful assessment

The Agreed Syllabus conference groups representatives are:

Alison Philpott – Professional Adviser to SACRE  
Amelia Day – RE leader, Newlands Primary School  
Chloe Foster – RE Leader, Polygon School  
Suzanne Dawson, RE Lead, Bitterne Park School  
Ruth Gill – SACRE member, now chair of SACRE  
Elizabeth Jenkerson – SACRE member, Bahai representative  
Richard Wharton or person representing the diocese  
Matt Gwynn – Southampton City Mission

SACRE Would like to thank the schools who have also piloted or feedback about some of the changes also, including:

Sarah Roughton – RE lead, Moorlands Primary  
Kate Vincent - Banister Primary School  
Secondary RE network

## **2. Religious Education**

There is no GCSE or A 'Level data included in this report as there is no published data for this exam period nationally.

The Locally Agreed Syllabus – Living Difference III is in place and the review of the syllabus has been undertaken during this reporting period. It is on track to be completed by November 2021 as planned.



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Themes reviewed within the Agreed Syllabus meetings during this time period have included:

Concept review, developing greater coherence across the primary-secondary phases and the development of golden concepts, re-visiting assessment guidance and recommendations, consideration of provision for non-GCSE Key Stage 4 students, consideration of the findings of the Ofsted subject review report, worldviews and beliefs updates, types of knowledge for deep learning and progression in RE, awareness for CPD offer that the pandemic has changed children's experiences – for example what is special to children who are in Years R,1 and 2 is significantly different to the experiences of these years groups before the pandemic and needs to be considered when planning.

During this reporting year the use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus remains high. All maintained schools use "Living Difference III" in line with their statutory duty, and the majority of academies and free schools also choose to use it and engage in local training and networks together. This represents 88% of schools locally using Living Difference III. The only schools who do not are three Secondary academies with a MAT syllabus, one Secondary academy who use their own arrangements, one academy special school and the five Catholic diocese schools.

Monitoring visits have been paused during the time period of this annual report due to the pandemic. SACRE was on track to have offered monitoring visits to all maintained, faith, free and academy schools during the cycle of the syllabus. It had achieved 54% of schools visited prior to the pandemic pause which began last academic year.

Where good practice is observed, this is noted in the report the school receives and SACRE would also indicate to a school if they would recommend or support an application for external award also. This is also used for brokering school to school support where it is needed. This work has been taken on by the professional adviser during the pandemic due to the situation with government advice and pressure on schools. SACRE invites schools to present about aspects of their work that has been highlighted as good practice in at least one meeting of the year.

Advice has been offered to all schools, maintained and academies via the professional adviser during the pandemic, including focussing on key knowledge and aspects which require less discussion to support parents at this time. Further advice has been provided to schools on request in terms of developing their RE curriculum, CPD for staff and planning documents. Withdrawals are usually routinely monitored during monitoring visits to schools – these have not happened during this reporting year, so withdrawals have not been monitored also during this period.

One school, Banister Primary School have achieved RE Quality Mark GOLD during this reporting period.

CPD for RE leaders commissioned by SACRE has continued over this period via Teams with three twilight sessions delivered over the year covering the RE curriculum and intent of the syllabus, cycle of Enquiry, planning, and assessment as foci.



## **Southampton SACRE Annual Report: August 2020-July 2021**

### **3. Collective Worship**

Monitoring visits, as for RE have been paused during this period. Both aspects would usually be monitored jointly. This monitoring would usually include withdrawals routinely. Good practice is always identified in the report the school receives post visit.

The Local Authority guidance for Collective Worship has been updated during this period and will be presented to SACRE in the coming years meetings for issuing to all schools, this has focussed on clarifying the process for requesting and making a determination. This will be issued in the coming year.

### **4. Links with other bodies**

Local Secondary RE network – supporting events with members to meet and work with pupils on specific activities

South Central Hub – Southampton SACRE members attend and participate in this group

Southampton Council of Faith chair has a co-opted member place on SACRE with the aim to connect the work of the two bodies where it is relevant to

Reading and Research group Winchester University – events are always publicised to schools and members are invited to attend also if they wish to

Southampton Solent University – media and film departments – on relevant projects, currently on a project that came from the advice document SACRE produced from a faith perspective regarding the statutory Relationships Education – identified a need for faith and culturally sensitive puberty media resources so a working group has been facilitated to explore taking this forward.

NASACRE – advice and guidance from the website is sought regularly

Portsmouth and Winchester DBE – the professional adviser is a board member representing Southampton LA.

Local Mosques have worked together with SACRE on the advice document for schools on the statutory Relationships Education advice document from a faith perspective as have other bodies.

### **5. Other interests**

Over the reporting period

SACRE have facilitated teachers and Solent University staff on exploring the possibility of a film project to produce a media resource that is culturally and faith sensitive regarding puberty.



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SACRE have continued to make available the SACRE advice document drawn together from issues raised by parents or schools regarding a range of questions relating to faith. This is signposted for Head teachers and governors.

Discussions have also begun regarding the mapping of Places of Worship in light of feedback that many teachers don't know which Places of Worship are where in the city.

Discussions have also begun regarding training for visitors to schools in managing assemblies, question and answer sessions and things schools must consider.

Both of the last two points have been carried forward onto the next years SACRE action plan.

### **6. SACRE arrangements**

Meeting support arranged on-line meetings, agenda's and minutes for the majority of this period.

Professional advice was provided by the School improvement team during this period.

Training provided during this period has been reading provided and on-line sessions. It included the opportunity to attend the NASACRE Annual conference for members, opportunity for discussions for new members whilst new member training was planned for September to include the ASC responsibilities for SACRE members, training was open for members and co-opted members.

The NASACRE conference on-line provided helpful information and guidance and prompted discussion and agenda items following attendance. It also raised awareness of the NASACRE training offer available.

Recruitment remains difficult with some member groups, despite contact with a range of regional representative groups and Southampton Council of Faith some vacancies remain. This will need to be a priority in 2022 as a number of member places remain unfilled since before the pandemic. A sub-group is likely to be needed to establish a way forward for recruitment onto SACRE. It has been most successful where there has been notification from the member prior to resignation at least a meeting in advance, this has allowed some new members to attend as observers or speak to other members about the work and responsibilities of SACRE prior to becoming nominated.

Over this reporting period the funding for SACRE has been skewed to prioritising the review of the Syllabus. As much of the usual work of SACRE was paused for the academic year the plans originally drafted were not seen through, and much has been carried forward into the new years action plan to be agreed in Autumn term meetings to recover and recommence activities such as monitoring visits to schools post- February half term 2022.

Circulation for this report is to:

The DfE as per statutory duty



## **Southampton SACRE Annual Report: August 2020-July 2021**

NASACRE as requested

All SACRE members and co-opted members

All head teachers in Southampton, including faith schools and academies who do not follow the Locally Agreed Syllabus for awareness of SACREs work

All LA Education managers and senior team Childrens Services via Director of Wellbeing

Cabinet member for Education, via briefing by Professional Adviser

Southampton Council of Faith via the chair, co-opted to SACRE

### **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **MEMBERSHIP July 2021**

##### **GROUP A Christian Denominations\*(\* Religions and other bodies listed in the SACRE Constitution)**

The Roman Catholic Church Steve Deadman

The Baptists Chris Davies (\*ASC)

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) VACANCY

The Greek Orthodox Church VACANCY

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Ruth Gill (\*ASC)

The Methodist Church VACANCY

The United Reformed Church Susanne Dawson

The Assemblies of God Neil Maddock

The Salvation Army VACANCY

##### *Other Religions*

Religions other than Christianity (as listed in the SACRE Constitution) –

Baha'i, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism = 6

Baha'i Elizabeth Jenkerson(\*ASC)

Buddhist VACANCY

Hindu VACANCY

Jewish Dr Gil Jenkel



## **Southampton SACRE Annual Report: August 2020-July 2021**

Muslim Anas Al-Korj

Sikh VACANCY

### **GROUP B (Four representatives of the Church of England)**

Rev Duncan Jennings (\*ASC)

Lucy Heptinsall (\*ASC)

Liz Allen (\*ASC)

From diocesan education team:

Richard Wharton (\*ASC)

### **GROUP C (Six teachers representing associations recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation)**

National education Union (NEU) Amelia Day (\*ASC)

The National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) Suzanne Underwood (\*ASC)

Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) VACANCY

National Association of Head teachers (NAHT) Sian Carr (\*ASC)

### **GROUP D (4+substitute) - Four representatives of Southampton City Council, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the City Council)**

Cllr Kataria

Cllr Baillie (J)

Cllr Bunday

Cllr Laurent

GROUP D SUBSTITUTE Mrs. K. Martin (\*ASC)

### **OTHERS (Non-voting) CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Professional adviser Alison Philpott (\*ASC)



## Southampton SACRE Annual Report: August 2020-July 2021

South Hampshire Humanists Mary Wallbank

Southampton City Mission Matt Gwyn (\*ASC)

Southampton Council of Faith Chair Carol Cunio

### **ASC Group**

Noted as (ASC) and listed in Agreed Syllabus Conference section of report

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**SACRE action plan September 2021-July 2022 (costed 25.10.21 AP)**

Action	Costs above voluntary time	Lead	Timeframe	Notes	Outcome
SACRE members training and induction	Cost for training £500, plus £300 annual training subscripton	A Philpott and M Mackay	<p>Training regarding ASC and responsibilities Sept 2021</p> <p>Induction for new members – available once a year jointly with other local SACREs / use NASACRE training offer</p> <p>Induction for monitoring sub-group members before joining first visit (meeting planned January/February 2022) – including advise AP of DBS update service or not.</p>	<p>All members have had opportunity to receive training around ASC responsibilities before ASC November 2021</p> <p>Induction for members to be refreshed in December 2021</p> <p>Sub-group members have clarity on role and responsibility, templates and feedback before the first visit of the year – DBS check also completed prior to visit 1</p>	Training undertaken 9/9/21 on Teams
Places of worship mapping	Possible publication needs £200	M Gwynn with A Day and S Underwood	By end of summer term -July 2022 a map of local places of worship with contacts to be compiled and distributed to all RE leads	Sub-group to organise own timeframe within the year. May want to link with SCOF to complete	
SACRE advice regarding relationships, sex education from faith perspective	One day professional adviser £900	A Philpott plus working group	Revision to be completed Spring 2022, Head teachers and faith reps to contribute and questions for inclusion in the review by end of December	Advice updated and re-issued Summer term 2022- also published on SACRE site Young Southampton	
Events – with Secondary RE network	na	S Underwood	To be agreed at Network meeting and communicated with SACRE for members to support – later in year to be advised by SU	SACRE members will support Secondary RE events over the year to enable the RE network “One City, One vision” to further develop	
Review SACRE Advice document	One professional adviser £900	A Philpott with working group	Revision to be completed Spring 2022, Head teachers and faith reps to contribute and questions for inclusion in the review by end of December	Advice updated and re-issued Summer term 2022- also published on SACRE site Young Southampton	

Monitoring group visits	15,300 (17 days) 15 days monitoring, half day induction, half day prep for visits letters, half day DBS, half day review end of year	A Philpott with monitoring group	Monitoring visit criteria reviewed Sept SACRE meeting. Invitation for HT requests sent October 2021, Requests for visits received by November SACRE meeting, Visits confirmed to all by end of December .	Monitoring criteria, and priority schools need to be identified by SACRE Dates for visits agreed in Spring/Summer terms 2021 Induction and DBS checks for group completed by January 2022	Letters distributed October 2021 inviting expressions of interest
Promotion of REQM	1 day update of Audit £900	K Martin/ R Gill	Actions to be agreed in SACRE meeting January 2022  Discussion at January SACRE meeting to prepare for 2022-2023 REQM/ Local audit	Local audit will require updating (AP to update prior to letter to heads re monitoring visits)	
Review determination process and re-issue	Half day £450	A Philpott	January SACRE meeting – agenda item as review complete	Documentation requires update prior to publication	
Agreed Syllabus Conference	3 twilights for training £3000 ASC work days £3600, Launch January 2022 £3000	A Philpott and ASC group	Review completed across LA's by end of September Final version ready by October half term ASC held November 2021 – Launch Jan 2022 Soton CPD planned together with 3 other local SACRES November 2021 and additional launch for Soton Spring 2022	Documents need sign off – ASC completed. If approved – LDIV recommended to LA- Cllr briefing and comms to follow in line Communications reminder Summer 2022 re implementation	

			Schools to work to full implementation by Sept 2022 CPD for RE leads to be planned Jan-July 2022		
Visits to schools guidance	1 day professional adviser and publication £1400	Working group to be convened	Working group to be established to identify helpful guidance for adults visiting schools to talk to pupils as a part of faith awareness – Spring to complete guidance by Summer 2022	May require hard copies/ web-based guide and range of languages	
Annual report	£1800 adviser time	A Philpott and Chair	AP training October 2021 By November 2021 for December deadline	Requires approval then share to stakeholders and DFE and NASACRE	
TOTAL projected	£32,250		Projected Professional adviser costs included , Democratic services costs not included		

## Protocol for SACRE monitoring visits to Southampton Schools



### 2021-2022

#### **Why should the SACRE carry out monitoring visits in partnership with schools?**

The statutory SACRE role is to:

- to advise Southampton City Council upon matters connected with religious worship in community schools and in foundation schools which do not have a religious character.
- to advise Southampton City Council on teaching methods, choice of materials and teacher training in religious education and collective worship
- to produce an annual report to LA and DfE
- to require Southampton City Council to review the locally agreed syllabus for religious education at least every five years (revision in 2020-21)
- to consider applications made by a head teacher to release some, or all, of the pupils in a particular school from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- to report to the LA schools which cause concern for example, with regard to non-compliance with for example -not fulfilling the requirement for collective worship of wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; not following Locally Agreed Syllabus delivery if appropriate to school, reducing numbers of entries/standards at GCSE in Religious Education. The LA must investigate and where necessary pass the SACRE concern to the DfE/RSC through the relevant process.

#### **Monitoring Visits are offered so that Southampton SACRE can carry out its functions to report on RE and Collective Worship in Schools.**

Southampton SACRE is proposing that it will continue to offer a cycle of monitoring visits to all schools regarding its Collective Worship and RE (for Maintained, Academy and Free schools) on a date and time to be agreed with the school. This would be for approximately 15 schools per year in a 5-year cycle. **The purpose of visit** is to:

- a- Provide advice and ensure compliance with relevant statutory aspects such as delivery of locally agreed syllabus/ or academy own syllabus
- b- Provide contacts and advice where appropriate for RE and Collective Worship
- c- Gather information for its statutory annual report

This would take the form of a ½ day visit from up to 3 SACRE members depending on school size and members induction requirements.

**During the visit** the following activities would be included:

- Observation of collective worship
- Pupil discussion forum/s to gather pupil views regarding Collective Worship and RE
- Professional discussion with lead/s for Collective Worship and/ RE and Head teacher
- Learning walk visiting RE lessons led by subject lead
- Discussion with governor/s regarding Collective Worship and RE

**Following the visit** SACRE will produce a visit report for the school about their observations and information gathered which the school may use with Governors, Inspection teams, other stakeholders for which they see fit. It will record compliance status with provision for RE and Collective Worship. A copy will be provided to the head teacher and chair of governors in line with other LA report processes. The report will also go to the SACRE sub-group responsible for monitoring visits – this will be a confidential document to this group for the purposes of advising SACRE regarding trends/ patterns and any improvement needs for the City.

Head teachers will be asked to feedback to the SACRE sub-group any information they feel is important regarding the visit.

A combined summary report of any monitoring visits will be submitted from this group to the SACRE as a standing agenda item at SACRE meeting. Any non-compliance issues will be actioned by the professional adviser to SACRE.

Schools selected for monitoring will be written to stating the reason for selection by the end of Autumn term. The school does not have to accept a monitoring visit, however the SACRE would not expect a school to request non-participation/deferment more than once especially as it is hoped that this will be a supportive, developmental and sharing good practice tool that schools will be able to draw upon to support their own development and will enable SACRE to meet its statutory functions.

In 2021-22 it is to be noted that schools are working in a covid recovery phase, as well as working towards implementing Living Difference IV by September 2022. Visits will take account of this.

**Criteria for selection for a visit are:**

- Head teacher request for a visit
- Application received for determination
- Action points for a school from Ofsted
- Local knowledge of innovation/good practice around Collective Worship (or RE)
- Complaints received by SACRE/ LA about RE or Collective Worship
- Falling GCSE standards/numbers of entries for RE

- Place in 5-year cycle

Updated September 2021 A Philpott; Professional Adviser to SACRE

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**SACRE Collective Worship Monitoring visit** School \_\_\_\_\_ SACRE reps: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of visit \_\_\_\_\_

Points to consider	Evidence from Staff/Adult	Evidence from Children	Evidence from observation	Evidence from website/publicly available documents
Is there evidence of daily Collective Worship?				
Is there evidence of planned CW that is of a broadly Christian Character?				
How is CW planned and how do staff ensure it is age appropriate?				
What training is provided/ expectations set out?				
Who is involved in the delivery of CW? Are visitors checked/monitored?				
Is there an appropriate promotion of values?				
Is there evidence that CW is linked to/influenced by wider world issues?				
Is there appropriate time for thought/ reflection/ prayer? Is it effective?				
What resources are used for CW?				
How engaged are the children in CW?				
Is there evidence of CW influencing improvements/ maintenance in wider issues for individuals or groups?				
Have there been any withdrawals? How are they managed?				
Is there a policy/ statement to demonstrate aim of CW at the school? Is this agreed by governors and shared with parents and prospective parents? Inc withdrawal request process				
How was CW affected over covid and what has been learnt from that?				

Appendix 1

<b>Points to consider</b>	<b>Evidence from Staff/Adult</b>	<b>Evidence from Children</b>	<b>Evidence from observation</b>	<b>Evidence from website/publicly available documents</b>
Is RE taught by specialist teachers?				
Has there been appropriate training to support HQ teaching?				
Is the Locally Agreed Syllabus (own/other if applicable) being followed/planned for? Is there sufficient inclusion of religious & other non-religious/world views evident in the planning?				
Does the website hold specific information about the RE curriculum that is easy to understand for a parent?				
What are the challenges for the delivery of HQ RE?				
How is RE provision organised?				
Are the pupils actively engaged in the lesson?				
Are pupils able to recognise the aspects of the cycle of Enquiry? And the skills they are developing? Are pupils able to draw on prior learning and knowledge retained as they move through the KS?				
Is there evidence of progress building over time? Do pupils know & remember more and apply this to their own lives?				
Can pupils recognise where RE is being taught? And what they are learning?				
Are there visits to local places of worship as a part of the provision?				
Are there planned opportunities for visitors?				
Who can follow an accredited course in RE (if approp.)? Is take up sustained/increasing/ limited in some way?				
Have there been any requests for withdrawal? How are they managed?				
Is there a policy/ statement to demonstrate aim of RE at the school? Is this agreed by governors + shared with parents+prospective parents?				
Is there a subject specific self-eval+ improvement plan?				
How was RE impacted over covid and what has been learned from that?				