

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

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