



## Southampton SACRE Annual Report: September 2021-July 2022

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### Words from the chair

Southampton SACRE has continued to meet during this reporting period over Microsoft Teams and face to face. 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) re-establishment of full in person meetings and activities has been a priority and managing change with a number of new members and representatives reflecting on what has again been a challenging year for everyone.

Also, just prior to this period there was 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 towards gold. The school continues to provide excellent RE for its pupils, which is now rightly recognised and is now active in supporting others as well and sits on SACRE. Further thanks should also go to the school who had an Ofsted Inspection with a deep dive in RE and provided a really useful presentation regarding the process and their experience to SACRE.

We paused some of the work we anticipated re-establishing in order to focus on the completion of the ASC (November 2021) and the related launch activities (Autumn and Spring 21/22). So, it has been a much quieter year in some aspects, but with greater focus on ensuring that the launch of the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus was successful given so many of the schools in Southampton continue to use the syllabus as well as supporting implementation of the syllabus in schools by September 2022 in acknowledgement of the recovery phase many were in.

The Self-evaluation tool is a priority for SACRE to use over the coming year so as to ensure full 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. A proposed new member for a non-religiously affiliated representative to be included in Group A was taken forward (2/11/21) and applications were opened for applications from interested persons. One application was successful, and the person

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took up the position on a year's fixed term position. Further discussion between the LA and Local Humanists representatives continue and further review will be undertaken at the next review in November 2022 when it is hoped that 2021 Census data will be available.

It continues to be 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 SACRE's.

### Meeting overview

Meeting	Agenda link	notes
September 2021	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 27th September, 2021, 4.00 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	ACTION PLAN AND UPDATE MONITORING GROUP 2021- 2022 AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE UPDATE FEEDBACK ON EVENTS
November 2021	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Tuesday, 2nd November, 2021, 5.00 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	Extraordinary meeting – membership
November 2021 ASC	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 8th November, 2021, 4.00 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	PRESENTATION REGARDING THE REVISED SYLLABUS and VOTING
November 2021	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 8th November, 2021, 5.30 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	SACRE ANNUAL REPORT UPDATED TRAINING OFFER - PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR VERBAL REPORT DEVELOPMENT PLAN WITH COSTING MONITORING GROUP VISITS 2021-2022
February 2022	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 7th February, 2022, 4.30 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	MONITORING UPDATE ASC IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UPDATE COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE
June 2022	<a href="#">Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 6th June, 2022, 4.30 pm   Southampton City Council</a>	TRAINING VISITS UPDATE

### Agreed Syllabus Conference

In September 2020 we convened the Agreed Syllabus conference requesting the Local Authority reviewed the Locally Agreed Syllabus, as did other SACREs we work closely with in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight in the 5 year statutory timeframe for review (Last review 2015-16)



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The four areas have worked regularly together for slightly over a year (September 2020 – November 2021), 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 aspects with pupils providing valuable feedback as the review continued, despite the challenging times schools have faced during this period.

The review was completed on time, and the revised syllabus put forward in November 2021. The recommendations that the Local Authority promotes schools to plan and implement the revised syllabus by September 2022 was taken up.

Some of the information and themes the review 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 Underwood, RE Lead, Bitterne Park School  
Ruth Gill – SACRE member, now chair of SACRE  
Elizabeth Jenkerson – SACRE member, Bahai representative  
Richard Wharton – Church of England 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 and Ellen Brodigan - 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 nationally published data for this exam period.



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The Locally Agreed Syllabus has been reviewed during this report period as outlined above.

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 to provide key themed foci for learning and through the phases, 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 across the Local Authority. All maintained schools use "Living Difference III transitioning into Living Difference IV in their planning" 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 indicating they will continue into Living Difference IV. The only schools within this LA boundary who do not use the Locally Agreed Syllabus are three Secondary academies with a national 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 transition period of the syllabus but a small number, 4, requested their visit this year. Monitoring visits, capacity and purpose will be a focus for action plan 2022-23.

Where good practice is observed on monitoring visits, 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 also continues to be used for brokering school to school support where it is needed. This work has been taken on by the professional adviser with a small number of SACRE members. 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. This year one school who had recently had an Ofsted inspection with a deep dive in RE has visited SACRE to discuss their experience and the process it undertook. .

Advice and signposting has been offered to all schools, maintained and academies via the professional adviser during the year, including focussing on key knowledge and aspects which require discussion to support parents at this time. Further advice has been provided to schools on request in terms of developing their RE curriculum, implementation of Living Difference IV, CPD for staff and planning documents.

Withdrawals have not been as robustly monitored during this reporting period due to less school visits having taken place but discussions and support has been provided where this has been needed to schools and families.



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One school, Banister Primary School achieved RE Quality Mark GOLD just before this reporting period, and a further school is also working towards GOLD re-accreditation. The self-evaluation tool for REQM is shared with all schools who request or take-up a monitoring visit also.

CPD for RE leaders commissioned by SACRE has continued over this period with a mixed delivery via Teams and face to face with three twilight sessions delivered over the year covering the RE curriculum and intent of the revised syllabus, cycle of Enquiry, planning, and assessment as foci. This has engaged some cross phase RE teachers but has mainly focussed on Primary with Secondary colleagues supported through the RE network and wider CPD through HIASS.

### **3. Collective Worship**

Both RE and Collective Worship aspects are monitored jointly during SACRE visits. This monitoring includes discussion regarding 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, this has focussed on clarifying the process for requesting and making a determination. This will be issued in the coming year.

There continues to be no requests for Determination made to SACRE.

### **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

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.





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### **5. Other interests**

Over the reporting period

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 and will move to be reviewed in the coming years action plan.

Discussions have also begun regarding the mapping of Places of Worship, and providing contact details in light of feedback that many teachers don't know which Places of Worship are where in the city or they are hard to make contact with.

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, NASACRE training programme subscription was taken up. Opportunity for discussions for new members has been provided as well as training regarding the ASC responsibilities for SACRE members. This 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 an action plan priority in 2022-23 as a number of member places remain unfilled since before the pandemic. It has been most successful where there has been notification from the member prior to resignation at least a meeting in advance and there is active engagement with the local/national group they represent, 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.



## **Southampton SACRE Annual Report: September 2021-July 2022**

Circulation for this report is to:

- Councillors
- All schools and chairs of governors
- Southampton Council of Faith
- The DfE as per statutory duty
- NASACRE
- All SACRE members and co-opted members

All head teachers in Southampton, includes 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 Professional Adviser

Cabinet member for Education, via briefing by Professional Adviser

Southampton Council of Faith via the chair, with an open invitation co-opted to SACRE

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

#### **MEMBERSHIP September 2021- August 2022**

##### **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)



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Buddhist VACANCY

Hindu VACANCY

Jewish Dr Gil Jenkel

Muslim Anas Al-Korj (stepped down July 22)

Sikh VACANCY

Non-affiliated member From January 2022 – Mary Wallbank, South Hampshire Humanists

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

Lucy Heptinsall (\*ASC)

Liz Allen (\*ASC)

Vacancy

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 at start of report, changes can be found in minutes)**

Cllr Kataria

Cllr Baillie (J)

Cllr Bunday

Cllr Laurent





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

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

Professional adviser Alison Philpott (\*ASC)

South Hampshire Humanists Mary Wallbank (moved to Non-affiliated member January 22)

Southampton City Mission Matt Gwyn, replaced by when moved into Group A January 22 (\*ASC)

Southampton Council of Faith Chair Carol Cunio, became David Vane Summer 22

### **ASC Group**

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

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