

Southampton SACRE

Annual Report: August 2024 - July 2025

1. Chairs Introduction & Context

It has been my privilege to continue to chair Southampton SACRE this year.

There have been some changes in membership - we formally thank those members who have stepped down over this period and hope for their continued support to gain new members in their place.

Continuing with the work from last year, we have worked on ensuring we have robust systems in place – an induction process to support new members of SACRE and for monitoring of RE and collective worship in schools. We are really pleased that we have been able to restart in-person monitoring through SACRE and thank the schools for their support and collaborative efforts.

2. Advice to Statutory Bodies

i. Local Authority

Implementation of reviewed Locally Agreed Syllabus: Living Difference IV. The locally agreed syllabus (Living Difference IV) was adopted at the Agreed Syllabus Conference held in November 2021. During this period of reporting, the SACRE has provided advice on the implementation of the syllabus to the Local Authority. It has been able to ensure that high quality advice is available to schools in several ways:

- SACRE officers have made face to face visits to a small selection of primary and secondary schools during this period. Reports on these visits are regularly made to SACRE.
- SACRE officers have continued to work with heads of department in secondary schools and subject leaders in primary schools through Subject Network meetings.
- SACRE Members undertook monitoring visits alongside LA officers in two settings.
- Portsmouth and Winchester DBE – the professional adviser is a board member representing Southampton LA.

ii. Schools

Where appropriate, information and guidance has been distributed to schools over the past year. This has included several elements including updates on local religious events and signposts to continuous

professional developmental materials. Advice and support also offered through local Secondary RE network – supporting events with members to meet and work with pupils on specific activities.

iii. Local Community/ Wider Interests

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

Southampton Council of Faith (SCOF) chair and vice-chair have attended as co-opted members on SACRE with the aim to connect the work of the two bodies where it is relevant to. SCOF have continued to work with SACRE and LA to establish a CPD provision for schools covering all faiths represented in Southampton.

iv. Government

The annual report was submitted as expected within the statutory duties and guidance. The Ofsted subject report for RE 'Deep and Meaningful' was released and shared with SACRE during this period.

v. Response to advice given

There is still continuing work on creating robust systems for monitoring. This includes training members of SACRE to ensure there is greater knowledge of the syllabus, but also of how schools deliver RE and CW within schools. The professional advisor has been continuing to promote work between RE networks, and RE leads with additional RE provisions within the city through SACRE. This has also included the linking of schools across the city outside of formal trust/group agreements to support subject leads.

NASACRE has updated reports and information which is published on their website.

3. Standards & Quality of provision of RE

i. Public Exams

GCSE Results				
758 pupils were entered into an exam				
Results from 2023/24 academic year				
	4+ (Number of pupils)		5+ (Number of pupils)	
LA	74.8% (758)		63.2% (479)	
National	73.2%		56.5%	
School breakdown of entrants				
School	4+ Grade	Entered into exam	Not Entered	Total Number of Pupils
1	58.8%	34	322	356
2	64.1%	64	184	248
3	100%	1	170	171
4	66.7%	6	165	171

5	79.5%	39	166	205
6	46.7%	31	185	216
7	61.8%	152	36	188
8	89.4%	179	19	198
9	86.2%	203	11	214
10	57.1%	28	189	217
11	100%	3	162	165
12	44.4%	18	158	176

ii. Quality of RE

During this period formal monitoring restarted with 2 schools visited. Members of SACRE, as part of the monitoring group, undertook monitoring of a secondary school and a primary school. Both visits were half day visits which included book looks, lesson observations, observations of collective worship, discussions with senior leaders and subject leads. The reports from these visits were shared with the monitoring group and then anonymised reports shared with SACRE.

Whilst this was only two schools visited in person, due to the status of schools and their position within local trusts/groups that practice is shared across more than the schools seen. This approach was combined with online monitoring of websites to give a more comprehensive understanding of RE across the schools.

From this monitoring, SACRE were able to be assured that RE teaching is taking place across the city in line with the agreed syllabus. Settings recognised the importance of RE for their pupils and teachers and subject leads were passionate about their subject. There are challenges facing schools with the recruitment and retention of highly knowledgeable or specialist teachers for RE. This may be having impacts on the consistent quality of teaching and learning but also the offer which is available for some students at KS4. Time pressures are also being felt for collective worship – whilst in most cases this has been managed, there are some circumstances where this is being raised as a future risk and SACRE will need to keep monitoring to ensure this is sustained across all schools.

iii. Withdrawal from RE

No notifications of withdrawal have been received during the period of this report.

iv. Complaints about RE

No complaints have been received about RE under the local statutory complaint's procedure during the period of this report.

4. Agreed Syllabus

i. Review

There was no review of the Agreed Syllabus during the period of this report.

ii. Next review

The next review process will begin during the next reporting period.

5. Collective Worship

i. Compliance with statutory requirements

ii. Quality of CW

The quality of collective worship seen in schools was assured through a process of discussions with schools, the professional advisor observing collective worship whilst working in schools and monitoring from SACRE.

iii. Complaints about Collective Worship

No complaints have been received about RE under the local statutory complaint's procedure during the period of this report.

6. Management of SACRE

i. Attendance at SACRE

Over the report period the following meetings were held (attendance is listed on each report):

Meeting	Agenda link	notes
9 Sept 2024	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 9th September, 2024, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	
11 Nov 2024	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 11th November, 2024, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	
10 Feb 2025	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 10th February, 2025, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	
28 April 2025	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 28th April, 2025, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	
23 June 2025	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 23rd June, 2025, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	

ii. Membership & Training

Membership and training have become a focus area for SACRE over this period. Due to changes in membership, combined with the disruption caused by COVID-19, many of the members have not had

access to the regular training which would benefit SACRE members. Consequently, NASACRE training has been highlighted to members.

In some areas, membership posts are still unfulfilled and even some areas where members are named attendance has not been as strong as hoped. Contact has been made with several of the representatives asking for a 'second/deputy' who would be able to deputise where needed. SACRE have also approached groups where membership has been unfilled. These discussions are currently on-going.

iii. Complaints about RE and CW

No complaints have been received about RE or CW under the local statutory complaint's procedure during the period of this report.

7. Members of SACRE

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP August 2024- July 2025

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 Matthew Stone

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

Muslim Imam Sayfullah

Sikh VACANCY

South Hampshire Humanists Mary Wallbank, (full member from November 2022)

Southampton City Mission:

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

GROUP D SUBSTITUTE

OTHERS (Non-voting) CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Silas Bingley (Since February 2024)

Southampton City Mission, Ellie Cousins when moved into Group A in-year (*ASC)

Southampton Council of Faith Chair David Vane Summer 22 , vice chair Tim Tofts

ASC Group

No ASC during this report period

DRAFT