

Annual report August 2017-December 2018



1. Chairs introduction and context

The Southampton SACRE continues to strengthen in terms of working proactively and supportively with its schools and community to ensure it is representative of the city of Southampton and has a sound knowledge of Religious Education and Collective Worship in Southampton. The year has been another busy one. It has continued to be busy in terms of the SACRE monitoring visits to schools, 38 schools have now been visited in the current cycle of monitoring for those who could follow the locally agreed syllabus. The SACRE has once again commissioned training for Primary RE leaders and has continued to develop its resource development with students at Solent University. A web space has been developed for the SACRE to host information on for schools including the Locally Agreed Syllabus. New elections brought new elected representatives.

SACRE members have supported the first two “One city, no barriers” events for Year 8 pupils across all schools in November 2017, and November 2018. This was organised and run by the Heads of RE but gave the opportunity for pupils to meet and discuss pre-prepared questions with a wide range of people from faith and non-faith backgrounds. This has been very successful in establishing greater connection between schools and SACRE.

Southampton SACRE remains a member of the South Central hub and is working strongly in partnership with other SACREs and Local Authorities. With some building practice on good practice shared by Southampton SACRE in terms of advice to schools.

The SACRE, following a request from its Humanist (co-opted member) has taken advice from the Local Authorities legal team and is in the process of considering if changes to its constitution can be made so that the Humanist representative can become a full member. It is anticipated that this decision will be reached during the academic year 2018/19, or early 2019/2020.

2. Advice to Local Authority

The SACRE has a budget plan up to April 2019 in place to enable its statutory work to occur. The SACRE has needed to re-establish clerking arrangements and appropriate LA officer time for professional advice and monitoring visits is secured.

The SACRE revises its Advice document for schools around questions that schools may come across regarding a range of faiths annually- February 2018. This was undertaken with a range of people from the original working group, it continues to be available on the website. It has also been shared more widely with other LAs and it is planned that it will be reviewed in spring term each academic year.

SACRE also advised the Local Authority that advice for schools around Collective Worship was required to enable it to be have impact more effectively as evidenced through monitoring visits. A guidance for schools document was developed between the professional adviser and SACRE members. All Southampton schools were provided with a hard copy at the Southampton Education Leadership Forum in September 2018, this is also available online through the SACRE website.

3. Advice to schools

The advice document for schools as well as a guidance for Collective Worship as outlined above have been well received by schools and feedback for both documents has been that the documents have been helpful.

The system of monitoring visits to schools has been continued. Up to December 2018 38 schools have received a SACRE monitoring visit, 54% of schools who could follow the locally agreed syllabus. These include maintained primary, secondary and special schools as well as academies.

The working group for monitoring evaluates that we need to carry out another cycle of monitoring over the coming year, with the same protocol, but with increased focus upon the impact of training, planning and assessment in RE, and RE in secondary sector focus. It has agreed to include recording of requests for withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship as a part of this visit.

The schools audit March 2015 indicated that training and resources were areas for development in RE for schools. The SACRE response has been to develop some short films in collaboration with Solent University and Southampton schools. These have been developed to generate discussion around when children begin to notice difference and wider faith based issues. This has resulted in short films that are available to schools via the SACRE website. This work will continue over the next year and expand into secondary targeted films.

Training for secondary teachers continues to be signposted. The RE network (Heads of RE) is a proactive group that the professional adviser is able to support. Training for Primary staff commissioned by SACRE through the Local Authority has been well attended and members are beginning to see the impact of the training when on monitoring visits.

4. Locally Agreed Syllabus

The current agreed syllabus was approved by the SACRE in September 2016 and was launched to schools in November 2016. Review will therefore be undertaken in 2020-2021 unless SACRE decide to request an early review.

5. Collective Worship including determinations or complaints

The SACRE has not had any withdrawal or complaints referred to them during this year. Though it has been able to draw schools attention to queries schools have received through the Advice Document originally published in March 2016.

Collective worship is included within the monitoring visits to schools. The cycle for monitoring has continued as planned.

In general schools monitored have broadly met the daily act of collective worship criteria and teach RE using the Locally Agreed Syllabus well, although there is some inconsistency. An area to develop has emerged in that schools would like more support in identifying and contacting people from across a range of faiths and non-faith who could visit schools to support/lead RE lessons and /or Collective Worship. SACRE arranged a local faith walk for Secondary RE leaders – to take in visits to three local places of worship. Feedback from leads was that it was helpful as most don't live in the city so there is not a strong awareness of local places of worship.

A letter to head teachers reminding them of the criteria set out in the protocol and inviting any head teachers to request a monitoring visit (one of the criteria), will be sent to all schools in September. Additional criteria are also applied by the working group when selecting schools; for example, Ofsted actions, a drop in GCSE/A' level results, or appointment of a new head teacher/

RE leader. Monitoring includes the observation of RE teaching and observing a Collective Worship. Opportunities for pupil and staff voice are built into the monitoring. This has allowed the SACRE to refer any concerns they have to the Local Authority for action and the Local Authority is able to include this information in its wider requirement of “knowing its schools”.

	GCSE Full course (entries)		GCSE short course / ELQ Band C	
	National	Southampton	National	Southampton
2015	269284 (44.0%)	756 (39.6%)		
2016	268435 (44.8%)	852 (43.6%)	16322 (2.7%)	12 (6%)
2017	248060 (46.9%)	497 26.9%		
2018	176,160 (33.6%)	485 25.63%		3 0.16%

One school has received support from the Local Authority officer who provides professional advice to the SACRE, This was for specifically developing RE. Two schools have had school to school support commissioned to support their further development. Through its monitoring visits the SACRE has a good understanding of where local good practice is and is able to recommend these to the Local Authority for school to school support to be brokered, and for suggestions when schools are developing links or have new staff in place for RE.

The SACRE has recommended that guidance for Collective Worship is required to develop their advice about expectations. It will ask the Local Authority to support the development of this advice over the coming academic year.

6. GCSE RE entries and outcomes as set out in the table below:

	GCSE full course grades (%)					
	National			Southampton		
	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+
2015	29.7	71.9	97.9	30.4	67.2	98.1
2016	27.7	70.4	97.7	30.8	71.5	97.5
2017	27.7	70.3	97.9	43.3	82.9	98.4
Grade change	9-5	9-4	9-1	9-5	9-4	9-1
2018	58.8	70.78	97.97	66.6%	77.7	97.7

Outcomes at GCSE level remain above national for GCSE passes – at grades 9-5 strong pass +, and also grades 9-4, standard pass+, This continues to strengthen Southampton’s performance when compared to National indicating that developments across the city have enabled strengthened performance for those pupils taking GCSE RE.

In 2018 the number of entries in Southampton decreased by 1.27%, whereas nationally entries decreased by 13.3% meaning the gap to national for entries reduced in 2018, but is still 7.97%.

7. Summary

The SACRE continues to maintain the profile of RE and Collective Worship across Southampton schools. It has a well-established system for monitoring across schools in partnership with the professional adviser to the SACRE. It has identified continued work to further strengthen RE locally in conjunction with the launch of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus. It has also developed stronger links across the local community, with other SACRE's and is able to respond to queries with good knowledge and experience base as a result of this.

8. Membership of the SACRE September 2017- December 2018

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 (part way through time for report)
The Baptists	Chris Davies
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	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

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

Baha'i	Elizabeth Jenkerson
Buddhist	David Vane (Stepped down in year)
Hindu	Priti Dave (stepped down in year)
Jewish	Dr Gil Jenkel
Muslim	Anas Al-Korj
Sikh	Harmeet Singh Brar

GROUP B

(Four representatives of the Church of England)

Rev Duncan Jennings

Allan King

Sam Jordan

From diocesan education team:

Richard Wharton

GROUP C

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

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

Jackie Meering

The National Association of

David Parrott (not attended 2017-2018)

Schoolmasters/ Union of Women

Teachers (NASUWT)

Voice

Dr R Palmer (not attended in 2014-18)

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers

VACANCY

Association of School and College Leaders
(ASCL)

VACANCY

National Association of Head teachers
(NAHT)

VACANCY

GROUP D

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

Cllrs – Cllr Payne

Cllr Baillie

Cllr Jordan

Cllr Laurent

(Cllr Kataria since election)

GROUP D SUBSTITUTE

Mrs. K. Martin

OTHERS (Non-voting)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Professional adviser	Alison Philpott
South Hampshire Humanists	Mary Wallbank
Primary School RE Teacher rep	Susannah Woodman
Representative of Teachers' Subject Network, Secondary (RE)	Suzanne Underwood

ASC Group (in addition to SACRE members)

None current – no ASC in 17/18