



## **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 towards 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



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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 begun 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.



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### **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



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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



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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)



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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