

## **Annual report January 2019-July 2020**



### **1. Chairs introduction and context**

The Southampton SACRE continues to work 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. This has been another busy time for visits to schools in 2019 but in 2020 the planned completion of visits to all schools within the syllabus cycle was curtailed due to school closures for the pandemic. We also have some local schools, who do not have to follow the locally agreed syllabus, planning visits with SACRE to aid in understanding the wider picture for school delivery and expectations for RE across, for example, two MATs locally. 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 continued to be developed for the SACRE on which to host information for schools including the Locally Agreed Syllabus. New city council elections again brought new elected representatives for whom training has been provided. The chair role has been undertaken by the vice chair when required throughout this report period.

SACRE, full and co-opted, members have supported the first three “One city, no barriers” events for Year 8 pupils across all schools in November 2017, 2018 and 2019. 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. This is a helpful group for connection and collaboration. Over the year there have been discussions including about Agreed Syllabus reviews and determination processes.

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. This decision has been hindered by the COVID period and will be picked up in the coming academic year.

## **2. Advice to Local Authority**

The SACRE has a budget plan up to April 2020 in place to enable its statutory work to occur. The SACRE has needed to re-establish clerking arrangements and ensure appropriate LA officer time for professional advice and monitoring visits is secured. The Agreed Syllabus Conference will need to be convened and appropriate work carried out in 2020-2021 and is being planned.

The SACRE revises its Advice document for schools around questions that schools may come across regarding a range of faiths annually. This was most recently 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 the spring term each academic year. In Autumn 2019 SACRE, together with a range of stakeholders produced local advice regarding the statutory Relationships, Sex and relationships guidance from September 2020 to support school and faith groups with queries surrounding this.

SACRE also advised the Local Authority that advice for schools around Collective Worship was required to enable it to have more effective impact 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 continues to be available online through the SACRE website. Determination processes are to be reviewed during 2020-21.

### **3. Advice to schools**

The advice document for schools as well as a guidance for Collective Worship as outlined above have continued to be well received by schools and feedback for both documents has been that the documents have been helpful. Determination will be reviewed in the coming year.

The system of monitoring visits to schools has been continued. Up to December 2019 41 schools had received a SACRE monitoring visit; 60% 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 advises that SACRE and the Local Authority 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 continue 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 related 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 if possible.

Training for secondary teachers continues to be signposted. The RE network (Heads of RE) is a proactive group that the professional adviser is available to support. Training for Primary staff commissioned by SACRE through the Local Authority has been well attended (17 Primary schools) 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 decides to request an early review. The Agreed Syllabus conference meeting was postponed due to COVID meeting requirements and will be tabled at the first meeting in 2020- September.

#### **5. Collective Worship including determinations or complaints**

The SACRE has not had any withdrawal or complaints referred to it during this year. However, it has been able to draw schools' attention to queries others 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; a review of guidance is due next year.

In general, schools that have received monitoring visits have broadly met the daily act of collective worship criteria and teach RE using the Locally Agreed Syllabus well, although there is some inconsistency. A very small number of schools do not deliver the Locally Agreed Syllabus as per their school status. An area of continuing challenge is that schools would appreciate 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; this has contributed to that theme.

A review of monitoring visits will be undertaken in the coming year due to those visits planned for 2019-2020 being postponed due to COVID closures. The monitoring group will meet in Autumn to address any changes required given visiting schools will be not be business as usual for some time yet.

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 was required to develop their advice about expectations and this occurred. It will discuss the need to review this alongside the review of monitoring visits in Autumn. It will ask the Local Authority to support the development of any further advice over the coming academic year.

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

	<b>GCSE Religious Studies full course grades (%)</b>						
	<b>National</b>			<b>Southampton</b>			
	<b>A+</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>G+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>G+</b>	
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	
2019	60.4	71.5	98.3	64.4	75.4	98.1	
2020	NO full set of data is available for comparison nationally or locally						

	<b>GCSE Full course Religious Studies (entries)</b>		<b>GCSE short course / ELQ Band C</b>	
	<b>National (state funded)</b>	<b>Southampton</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Southampton</b>
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%)
2019	164,130 (30.2%)	536 (39.3%)		
2020	No full set of data available for comparison nationally or locally			

Outcomes at GCSE level remain above national for GCSE passes – at grades 9-5 strong pass +, and also grades 9-4, standard pass+, although 2019 results were closer to national than in 2018. This continues Southampton’s position of relative strength in outcomes performance when compared to National indicating that developments across the city have enabled strong attainment for those pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies in the city compared to peers nationally.

In 2019 the number of entries for full course GCSE Religious Studies in Southampton increased to 39% (an increase of 13.67%), whereas nationally entries decreased to 30.2% (down by a further 3.4% from 2018 when a significant national drop of 13.3%. 2019 was the first year the number of entries in Southampton have been proportionally above national.

## **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 Agreed Syllabus Review over the 2020-21 academic year. It has also developed stronger links across the local community, with other SACRE’s, and is able to respond to queries with a good knowledge and experience base as a result of this.

The forthcoming year will see continued work to fill vacancies for membership and also consideration given to the required changed meeting and working arrangements considering the COVID-19 closures and risk assessments for visitors to schools.

## **8. Membership of the SACRE January 2019- July 2020**

### **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
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	VACANCY
Hindu	VACANCY
Jewish	Dr Gil Jenkel
Muslim	Anas Al-Korj
Sikh	Harmeet Singh Brar
	(stepped down mid report timing) now VACANCY

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

Rev Duncan Jennings

Allan King (stepped down July 2020)

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 now NEU) Jackie Meering

The National Association of Schoolmasters/  
attended 2017-2020) Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) David Parrott (not

Voice Dr R Palmer (not  
attended in 2014-20)

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers VACANCY

Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) VACANCY

National Association of Head teachers (NAHT) Sian Carr (joined mid  
report timing)

**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 Kataria

Cllr Baillie

Cllr Renyard

Cllr Laurent

(Cllr Kataria since May 2019 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
Southampton City Mission	Matt Gwyn
Southampton Council of Faith Chair	Carol Cunio (Spring 2020)

### **ASC Group (in addition to SACRE members)**

None (no ASC in report time frame)