



Southampton SACRE Annual Report: August 2022-July 2023

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Words from the chair

Southampton SACRE has continued to meet during this reporting period face to face.

Having been voted in again as chair, reviewing the constitution, filling membership vacancies and agreeing activities has been a priority. Managing further change with a number of new members and representatives reflecting on what has again been a challenging year for everyone. 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.

Greater focus on ensuring that the Locally Agreed Syllabus was successfully embedding in schools and establishing the work and focus of the SACRE with so many new members have both been priorities.

The Self-evaluation tool has been utilised this year and it is noted that in some cases previous strengths were needing to be re-established and therefore that again has meant different work being undertaken.

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 also considered a request to change co-opted status for our Humanist rep into full membership for the South Hampshire Humanists at the time of our constitution review which was agreed by the Local Authority.

It continues to be recognised by SACRE and the council during this time that national DfE advice would be helpful for all SACRE's on the matter of groups who may not present themselves as a religion but who have a set of beliefs/ belief system that the Human Rights Act and other legal positions may need to be considered, so as to protect the decision-making processes of SACRE's.



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Meeting overview

Meeting	Agenda link	notes
September 2022	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 12th September, 2022, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	Meeting postponed
November 2022	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 21st November, 2022, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	Meeting held
February 2023	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 6th February, 2023, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	Meeting held
July 2023	Agenda for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) on Monday, 10th July, 2023, 4.30 pm Southampton City Council	Meeting held

Agreed Syllabus Conference

There has been no Agreed Syllabus conference within this reporting period.

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.

During this reporting year the use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus remains high across the Local Authority. All maintained schools use "Living Difference IV" 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 IV indicating. The only schools within the 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 difficult to re-establish during the time period of this annual report due to the transition period of the syllabus and schools staffing, absence and implementation of the new elements of the revised syllabus. One visit was undertaken.

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 taking place but discussions and support has been provided where this has been needed to schools and families.



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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.

SACRE remains concerned about the access to RE for pupils at Key Stage 4- for those who do not take GCSE RE as an option. There is mixed offerings in schools from Full cohort GCSE RE to limited take-up option subjects. SACRE will continue to request information from the Local Authority and looks forward to the return of published exam results to support this discussion.

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. 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 (SCOF) chair and vice-chair have begun to attend as co-opted member place on SACRE with the aim to connect the work of the two bodies where it is relevant to. SCOF are planning to evolve the work they are able to do with schools and are planning this in line with the principles of Living Difference IV.

NASACRE – advice and guidance from the website is sought regularly

Portsmouth and Winchester DBE – the professional adviser is a board member representing Southampton LA.

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.



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Discussions have also moved forward 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.

SACRE are signposting training for visitors to schools in managing assemblies, question and answer sessions and things schools must consider via HIASS services.

6. SACRE arrangements

Democratic services have taken the clerking role back on the team during this reporting period.

Professional advice was provided by the SCC 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. This was open for members – new and existing and co-opted members.

The NASACRE conference on-line provided helpful information and guidance and prompted discussion and agenda items following attendance.

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 continue be an action plan priority in 2023-24 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 prioritised CPD for teachers to implement and embed the revised syllabus, ensuring the professional advisor role and clerking role is fulfilled. Funding remains sufficient for SACRE to undertake the necessary activities to meet their duties.

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



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Cabinet member for Education, via briefing by Professional Adviser
Southampton Council of Faith via the chairs co-opted status.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP August 2022- July 2023

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 (new rep name to be added)

Muslim Imam Sayfullah (surname to be added)

Sikh VACANCY

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

Southampton City Mission:



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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 Mrs. K. Martin (*ASC) stepped down Summer 2023

OTHERS (Non-voting) CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Professional adviser Alison Philpott (*ASC)

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